

**Newsmaker Interviews:
Awa-Marie Coll-Seck, M.D., Ph.D.
Fourth MIM Pan-African Malaria Conference
and RMB Forum V
Yaounde, Cameroon
November 17, 2005**

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PLEASE NOTE: The audio of this conference was intermittent and the webcasts have been transcribed as best as possible.

[START RECORDING]

JILL BRADEN BALDERAS:: Dr. Awa- Marie Coll-Seck, executive secretary of Rollback Malaria, thank you so much for joining us today!

AWA-MARIE COLL-SECK, M.D., Ph.D.: Thank you.

JILL BRADEN BALDERAS:: Please explain to us who is involved in the Rollback Malaria Partnership.

AWA-MARIE COLL-SECK, M.D., Ph.D.: I would like first to say that we started in '98 [inaudible] UNICEF [inaudible] and it was UN family and the work was more to put malaria on the agenda and they did a lot of advocacy but in 2002, 2003, it was a new type of partnership because more open, not just a UN family but also the private sector, [inaudible], the foundations, but also [inaudible] countries, and [inaudible] countries, and this is very important because before there were like recipients but today they are their to take decision, to [inaudible] if they want to do that to give advice and [inaudible] they are not just recipients, and this is very important and the last we have also in this partnership, the Global Fund, as the main financial

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[inaudible]. This is just to say that it is really to tackle malaria [inaudible] multi-sector upwards. It is why things are changing today and it is just an evolution from a U.N. family to now a broad partnership with more than hundreds partnered there and it is [inaudible] because it is more structured, [inaudible]. This is a new [inaudible] of the partnership.

JILL BRADEN BALDERAS:: All of those sectors that you just described are going to be meeting here in Yaounde, Cameroon as a part of the forum five. What do you expect to happen and come out of the forum five?

AWA-MARIE COLL-SECK, M.D., Ph.D.: First of all, it is the first time all these people will meet together because it is the first time you have a forum after this [inaudible] of the partnership, but also we have the resources together meeting for four days before the forum and they will come to the forum with all the new ideas and evidence based strategies to [inaudible] what we are doing because we are now altogether wanting to apply our global strategy. What we are expecting from this forum is really to have more people buying in but also [inaudible] the strategy. It is not a strategy for a group of elite people but for everybody, [inaudible] people, community people, to the ministers, and they will all work together and at the end, we will have a

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course of action because now really is the time of action, [inaudible] strategies. We know how to control malaria. We have more money, not enough, but we have money. We have also the political [inaudible], we have the structure, now it is just to skill it, and [inaudible] of prevention is what we would like to have at the end of this meeting and the end of this forum is everybody ready to do that.

JILL BRADEN BALDERAS:: You said that we know how to control malaria. What are the stumbling blocks and what are the top challenges that are keeping that from being implemented the control of malaria?

AWA-MARIE COLL-SECK, M.D., Ph.D.: First of all, all this is known today and it was [inaudible] but all this has been [inaudible] showing that it is possible. We have also an example today of thousand strategies as been implemented in countries and we learn from that. We have also countries like [inaudible], where [inaudible] the strategies are implemented but are working and we have in fact, in every [inaudible] today, malaria was the first killer for children like in other countries in Africa. Today, it is going to the AIDS physician because they have used these strategies, [inaudible] strategies but it is very clear that it is possible. Why now we were not able to do that for all the countries? It was first because we have a challenge to

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overcome, it was the financial challenge. You know, when the real fight started in '98, it was rollback malaria, we had 60 million [inaudible] to fight the disease a year and we know that we need 2 billion. Just that is a big problem, how you can control a disease if you have no means to do that?

Without some ideas of strategies but you have no money for that. Today things are moving in a good direction because we have at the end of 2004 some \$600 million, and this year we have seen a lot of new commitment from the World Bank, from the U.S., the presidential initiative on malaria, the [inaudible] Foundation, we have really a lot of things ongoing, and we are expecting that we will have more money next year. This money is available. Countries can [inaudible]. The global fund is here. Now the issue of money exists but we cannot say that it is because of money. You can lose this money and show that you can have results and I am sure that with results, the money will come more but you have also human resources as a problem. We know that in a lot of countries because of [inaudible], because of AIDS, because of a lot of [inaudible] strains like the [inaudible] strain coming from [inaudible] or some [inaudible] institution, [inaudible] on countries to have more stuff in the public sector, all this has been very difficult for countries to have a strong health sector and human resources

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to deal with that, and it is important to have people to implement the strategies and this is also something we are all together trying to overcome but it is difficult to have [inaudible] intervention if you don't have [inaudible] enough [inaudible] enough people [inaudible], and it is why we are using community involvement to fight the disease because we see that [inaudible] seen and overcome at community levels and the human resources are also really a problem and a lot of new initiatives are being taken for that. We can see also that the global strategy has been finalized this year. It was just everybody was going in different directions, now things are in [inaudible], everybody can follow and partners agree upon. Harmonization is also an issue, and we have money, more [inaudible] partners, but we need to harmonize our [inaudible], we need to harmonize [inaudible] if we don't want these countries who want to help to be overdriven by all these people and all this money coming with a lot of [inaudible] and a lot of difficulties, and also often the countries will not [inaudible]. The leadership of countries is very clear now and we are all ready to uprise [inaudible] also malaria and these are a lot of constraints we can overcome today.

JILL BRADEN BALDERAS:: You mentioned the example of [inaudible] and how they brought their malaria rates in

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children down on the list of the number one killers, what do you see as the way forward to reduce the mortality rates among children for malaria?

AWA-MARIE COLL-SECK, M.D., Ph.D.: What I think very important is integrated upwards. Malaria need to be part of the package for children. We don't need to have things in [inaudible]. We can use the package for children to put there what we need to do for malaria and this is a prevention [inaudible] using [inaudible] but also more global [inaudible] when people are doing [inaudible] it is a benefit to the children but the package itself can be prevention and treatment measures in the packet that people are giving to the children, but also using all the opportunities, immunization campaign an example, [inaudible] is really the support of a lot of partners, particularly the Red Cross of a lot of countries, Canada, U.S., Norway, they were all there to support [inaudible] to use the [inaudible] campaign to just distribute freely [inaudible] to children under five and the coverage went from 2 to 5 percent to more than 90 percent. This is also a success story and what I would like to say is that we need to hear more success stories [inaudible]. What we are fighting [inaudible] we are not succeeding and we need to agree and I think that [inaudible] for me is [inaudible] for a lot of people to say you can do

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that and why not? And just [inaudible] be positive and fight to succeed, fight to save lives, and all together, with this spirit, we can fight malaria and we can win the disease but we need to do that [inaudible] and the children are really key because they are vulnerable, they are really the target population for us as a population also need care like pregnant women and those who are working because we know that Africa is losing every year 12 billion [inaudible] because of malaria and this is more than [inaudible] they need also to be protected, the children, 1 million children dying every year and it is more than four tsunami a year. We need to know that.

JILL BRADEN BALDERAS:: As a former health minister yourself [inaudible] what advice would you give other health ministers who are fighting malaria and malaria endemic countries to give them this hope that you think is so necessary?

AWA-MARIE COLL-SECK, M.D., Ph.D.: I think that first of all, ministers of health need to know that [inaudible] overcome this disease, they will never, because [inaudible], they need to drive people. They need to drive the other sectors but they need to involve them in the fight. This is for me the first very important point. The second is that particularly community need to be involved and the minister

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of health need to see how to have local to stimulate local response in the fight against malaria. The people at community levels [inaudible], where they will agree that they want to use the [inaudible], they want to have [inaudible], they need to learn the strategies and we need to empower them to do this job and this is [inaudible] two things we need to have as a way to [inaudible] as minister of health. The leadership is there. We need and the ministers need to be the leaders but open to all the possibilities and to all the partners that they need the thing, it is important an open mind is [inaudible] something [inaudible] in this fight.

JILL BRADEN BALDERAS:: Dr. Awa-Marie Coll-Seck, executive secretary of Rollback Malaria, thank you so much for joining us today.

AWA-MARIE COLL-SECK, M.D., Ph.D.: Thank you so much also to help us in this fight. We have a very important role to play also.

JILL BRADEN BALDERAS:: Thank you.

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