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Our Impact on Global Health...

The Task Force promotes health and human development by building coalitions, forging consensus, and leveraging scarce resources. Celebrating our 25th anniversary, the Task Force has grown in reach, range of its programs, and global significance. Beginning with its roots in childhood immunization, the Task Force has served a unique function: promoting collaboration among the critical organizations involved in large-scale global health problems. It has provided an effective platform from which a wide range of public health initiatives can be launched successfully and efficiently. The strength of the Task Force lies in its long history of facilitating and leading discussion and action to promote global health. With this experience, the Task Force acts as a neutral convener and honest broker, as well as an efficient and effective fiscal manager.

The unique organizational attributes of the Task Force are rare among large NGOs, government agencies, or academic institutions. They work equally well for international health initiatives, e.g., the Mectizan Donation Program, Road Traffic Safety or Global Health Collaboration, and for national health initiatives, e.g., the Public Health Informatics Institute, as well as for local health programs like Parenting in the Real World, Suicide Prevention (Columbus, Georgia) the Child Health Awards Program (Georgia), and even for technical health research activities such as the Lymphatic Filariasis Support Center. The flexibility of the Task Force model can promote critical public health programs and simultaneously help develop the academic potential of the community. Our model provides practical public health opportunities for young people while building collaborations with colleagues at universities and in government.

In recent years the Task Force has continued to grow, and its reputation is now attracting significant national and international programs:

- The International Trachoma Initiative (ITI) joined the Task Force, effective March 31, 2009. ITI adds to our complement of programs focused on neglected tropical diseases and benefits from the Task Force experience in this area.
- TEPHINET (Training Programs in Epidemiology and Public Health Interventions Network) became a program of the Task Force in November 2008.
- The Task Force partnered with Johnson & Johnson to initiate MDI (the Mebendazole Donation Initiative), a global de-worming program, and impacting 25 million school-age children in Cameroon, Bangladesh, Zambia and Uganda during the first year of implementation.
- The Lymphatic Filariasis Support Center (LFSC) joined the Task Force in 2006 and recently received significant multi-year funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to pursue eradication of LF.
- The National Viral Hepatitis Roundtable transferred its operations to the Task Force in 2006.

Each of our initiatives not only demonstrates the viability and success of the Task Force's business model but also strongly indicate that it has grown into a vital organization that is intimately connected to the fabric of the global and public health community.

Task Force Programs in Brief

Center for Child Well-being: The Task Force works with the Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) to train child care providers statewide in parenting, social and emotional development of children, and nutrition. The Center also participates in the Early Childhood Comprehensive System and provides statewide training through the Georgia Division of Public Health for state public health workers on the social and emotional development of children and adolescents.

Center for Global Health Collaboration: The Task Force Center for Global Health Collaboration provides training and consultation in coalition-building and collaboration. It draws upon and consults with a worldwide network of partners, established through our work as convener and facilitator for global health. Additionally, the Center works in partnership with the Atlanta Coalition for Global Health, including Rollins School of Public Health, Morehouse Medical School, CARE, CDC, and the CDC Foundation.

Children Without Worms: This is the first entity to focus specifically on global treatment and control of STH infection in children. The program works with local governments to control STH infections by donating Mebendazole, in a partnership with various foundations and through funding from Johnson & Johnson.

Global Polio Eradication: The Task Force brings world-recognized expertise on the eradication of polio, drawing upon decades of research experience of the team and partners. The Initiative works with counterparts representing CDC, WHO, and staff and departments of Emory University.

Global Road Safety: The Global Road Safety Forum at the Task Force brings world-recognized expertise on a critical new global epidemic to the Atlanta community. The Forum works with CDC, CARE, and many different parts of Emory University.

International Trachoma Initiative: The International Trachoma Initiative (ITI) became a program of the Task Force in April 2009. ITI was created through a pioneering public-private partnership of the Edna McConnell Clark Foundation and Pfizer Inc in 1998. Since then, ITI has been the only global organization dedicated exclusively to the elimination of trachoma, the world's leading cause of preventable blindness.

Lymphatic Filariasis Support Center: Since its inception in 2001, the Atlanta Lymphatic Filariasis Support Center (LFSC) has been an integral part of a worldwide effort led by the World Health Organization to eliminate LF by 2020 in all 83 endemic countries where more than 1.2 billion of the world's poorest people are at risk of this disabling infection. The LFSC provides technical expertise, fundraising support, and strategic planning and counsel to partners and endemic countries on issues surrounding the distribution of drugs donated by Merck & Co., Inc. and GlaxoSmithKline for the elimination of LF.

Mectizan Donation Program: MDP was established to support the control of onchocerciasis (river blindness) in Africa, Latin America, and Yemen and the elimination of lymphatic filariasis (LF) in countries co-endemic with river blindness in Africa and Yemen. Mectizan is a very safe and highly effective drug approved for mass treatment for these two disfiguring and disabling tropical diseases. MDP was launched in 1987 when Merck & Co., Inc. committed to donate Mectizan free of charge and for as long as needed in the effort to eliminate river blindness and LF.

Public Health Informatics Institute: The Institute collaborates with Rollins School of Public Health and with CDC on issues of public health informatics. The Institute convenes state and local decision makers to develop best practices and models for creating effective and responsive means of managing public health information.

Training Programs in Epidemiology and Public Health Interventions Network (TEPHINET): TEPHINET is a collaboration among the organizations that sponsor epidemiology programs worldwide, with the goal of strengthening expertise in this field for the benefit of public health. TEPHINET joined the Task Force in 2008.