To: GiveWell

From: The United Nations Foundation’s *Nothing But Nets* campaign

Date: January 24, 2014

Subject: **Responses to Investigation Questions**

1. **What processes do you use to ensure that nets reach people who do not already have them?**

*Nothing But Nets* works closely with UN Agencies and other partners engaged in net distribution activities to identify areas that have low coverage of nets or where nets will soon reach the end of their lifespan (roughly 3 years).

One way that we do this is by working with the Alliance for Malaria Prevention (AMP), a partnership focusing on bed net distributions that includes more than 40 organizations engaged in malaria control. AMP provides a quarterly net mapping report on how many nets are currently in place globally (by country) and when these nets were delivered. These reports allow us to prioritize areas for net distribution.

Additionally, we work with partners to provide nets to populations during complex humanitarian emergencies which are clearly not forecasted. *Nothing But Nets* works diligently to identify, with the help of our partners, the most vulnerable and forgotten populations. The campaign strives to provide nets in countries/populations that often do not receive ITNs due to conflict, funding shortages, and political reasons, with the knowledge that other organizations are working in better-known or “popular” countries. Some examples of focus areas for *Nothing But Nets* include the Central African Republic (CAR), Chad, and South Sudan.

*Nothing But Nets* takes great care in identifying projects were the need is greatest during our grant application process. Grantees are required to provide quantitative information on the need for ITNs and the estimated number of beneficiaries of *Nothing But Nets*-funded projects. We then compare applications with data from the wider malaria community to ensure our investment strategy is appropriate in the global context. We also require our grantees to implement fully integrated campaigns that are developed and implemented across partners in the country and the national government (NMCP). In the event that there is evidence that a proposal may cover an area or population that has already received ITNs, we always cross-check AMP data and contact partners in the area who can confirm that there is an ITN/funding gap.

Additionally, AMP has produced globally agreed-upon guidelines in its toolkit for net distribution. We ensure that grant proposals adhere to these guidelines, which lay out the steps for macro and micro-planning distribution, including the household registration process which determines how many nets are received by each household.

We also require grantees to submit interim and final narrative and financial reports, including photo collateral to ensure that programs have been implemented according to the standards set by AMP and as outlined in the proposal. Although we have never needed it, we reserve the right to independently audit any projects.

All of this helps ensure that nets get into the hands of those most in need.

**2. How do you ensure that nets are used properly and used consistently over the long term?**

We use a multistep process to do this. We ensure that enough funding is allocated for ITN procurement and distribution, but also reserve appropriate funding for behavior change communication or education. It is not enough to just buy an ITN but not provide these other services, as only about half of the cost of getting the ITN to the family that needs it is spent on the net itself. In many of our projects, behavior change communication (BCC) or education plays a key role in ensuring that recipients know how to hang their nets, that they should use them every night and how to care for them over time. Again, the standards we require for our project are those set by the Alliance for Malaria Prevention and those that are used across the malaria community.

As we continue to work to ensure that our investments are increasingly impactful, we are exploring the use of rapid mobile phone-based post-campaign surveys to obtain information on ITN use. We supplement this data with information on ITN coverage and use from the Demographic and Health Surveys, Malaria Indicator Surveys, and Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys, which allows us to assess net use in the countries we serve both before and after our campaigns and paint a picture of how much extra emphasis we will need to put on net use education in a particular context.

Grantees are also required to create a monitoring and evaluation plan for their projects, including indicators that they will report to us at the end of the project. As our projects vary significantly, we do not believe in a one-size-fits-all monitoring and evaluation (M&E) approach. For example: a project to distribute ITNs in an urban area is not the same as a refugee camp or a country-wide distribution, which we co-fund with other donors. In the event that a grantee’s methods for BCC and education or M&E are questionable, we work with the grantee on an individual basis to ensure that appropriate methods and tactics are implemented in our projects.

**3. Are you able to share post-distribution surveys with us? What have you learned from your post-distribution surveys?**

Most post-campaign surveys are extremely expensive and are not feasible compared to the scale of our distribution. In addition, our projects are almost always part of a larger project (often at the provincial or country level) where we have helped to bridge the gap between need and supply. We have examples of post-distribution surveys that include *Nothing But Nets* projects, but report on a significantly larger scale. A new methodology called Rapid Mobile Phone-based survey, created by the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), was released this year. It collects all of the Roll Back Malaria Household Survey Indicators for Malaria Control regarding ITNs, but at the fraction of the cost and time needed for a large-scale population-based survey. We are piloting the use of this rapid survey tool in one of our projects in Togo. We hope that this will prove to be a cost-effective tool for gathering outcome data on ITN ownership and use for our projects. We will share the results of this survey with you when they are available.

**4. What would you do with more funding? Do you have an idea of which countries or agencies you would support with more funding?**

The Global Malaria Action Plan estimated that between $5.0 and $6.2 billion is required per year between 2010 and 2015 to scale up and sustain control and progress toward malaria elimination globally. While funding for malaria has increased significantly over the past decade, less than half of this need is filled. With more funding *Nothing But Nets* would continue funding ITNs in sub-Saharan Africa where need is greatest. Because we partner with a variety of organizations that have the capacity to scale-up their programs rapidly, more money would quickly translate into more nets protecting more people. It would allow us to fill more gaps in coverage and get closer to the target of universal coverage; that is, one net for every two people.

In terms of specific countries, we carry out a prioritization exercise each year to determine our focus countries using data from the Alliance for Malaria Prevention Net Mapping Project. Generally, these countries change somewhat each year to reflect the needs on the ground. Refugees and IDPs have an almost constant need for malaria control measures, so we would likely utilize additional funding to protect these highly vulnerable populations.

**5. If there were a pressing need for funds in another UN Foundation program, would funds be moved from *Nothing But Nets* for that program?**

Nothing But Nets funds are reserved for the campaign’s projects. UNF cannot take reserved funds for other uses.

*ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS PREVIOUSLY POSED BY GIVEWELL* **GiveWell: It is my understanding that *Nothing But Nets*' role is to raise funds that are granted to other organizations to buy and distribute nets in conjunction with Measles vaccination campaigns. Is that a correct and complete summary?**

Yes, *Nothing But Nets* grants funds to other organizations such as UNHCR and UNICEF, who are experts in ITN distribution, as well as other partners from the malaria community. We rigorously review grant applications to ensure that proposed methodologies are in line with global standards and that a comprehensive approach, including not only procurement but also distribution and education, is employed. In order to do all of this, *Nothing But Nets* works mostly in the United States to mobilize individuals to join a growing movement of people who care about protecting the world from this deadly disease.

The average person doesn’t often know much about malaria, despite the fact that it kills a child every 60 seconds. But when they learn how deadly the disease actually is and how easily it can be prevented, they are urged to contribute in whatever way possible. *Nothing But Nets* is a vehicle for these caring people to contribute to a much needed cause, with $10 donations and their voices. *Nothing But Nets* aggregates these grassroots contributions and uses them to fill gaps in funding across sub-Saharan Africa where bed nets are needed most.

We also mobilize our supporters to use their voices by telling Congress how important its role is in the fight against malaria. While *Nothing But Nets*’ projects are vital to ensuring that vulnerable populations receive bed nets, it is just one small part of the larger effort to eliminate the disease. Programs such as the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB, and Malaria and the Presidents Malaria Initiative are the two biggest funders of malaria control, and the US Government is the largest donor to these programs. It is vital that Americans urge the government to fully fund these programs. Both aspects of our mission work in tandem to ensure that people in need are protected from malaria.

**GiveWell: Do you know why some countries wouldn't receive funding from those two sources?**

All of the countries where we invest receive funding from other partners. In fact, we often coordinate with these partners to ensure that ITN gaps, which they do not have the resources to cover, are filled. We also work with partners to ensure that we are not duplicating efforts. The President’s Malaria Initiative funding is part of the bi-lateral aid provided by the US Government to 19 focus countries. While these are high-burden countries, many other countries are not reached through this initiative and thus cannot access these funds. The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria, which provides 50% of the global funding for malaria, has grants in 151 countries and thus a much broader coverage. Sometimes there are gaps in funding for ITNs between the Global Fund grant cycles. We try to help fill these when possible.

**GiveWell: Do agencies come to you or do you go to them?**

We have long-standing relationships with organizations that distribute ITNs and invite them to submit proposals for ITN distribution in priority locations each year.

**[Added by Nothing But Nets] How does my $10 donation get to Africa?**

*Nothing But Nets* works with UN agencies and other implementing partners to purchase the nets and distribute them to families. Net distributions are typically part of a wider public health effort within a country coordinated by local ministries of health and public health organizations. Our implementing partners and local governments have expertise in accessing remote, hard-to-reach areas throughout Africa.   
  
*Nothing But Nets* identifies areas of greatest need across sub-Saharan Africa and works to fill gaps in funding.  Our priorities are constantly changing to address countries and populations most in need.  The campaign targets populations that are particularly vulnerable to malaria, such as refugees, internally displaced people (IDPs), and other often overlooked demographics. Our implementing partners, including the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), as well as others, work closely with local Ministries of Health to determine which countries and populations will receive bed nets.

Countries are chosen based on the prevalence and spread of disease, the number of years since the last campaign, and the willingness and preparedness of local governments and Ministries of Health. This process is necessary to ensure that each campaign is efficient, effective, and sustainable.

All of the planning, coordination, cooperation, implementation and education ensure that a bed net will make it into the hands of a family in need, into a home, and over a bed to protect the life of the people sleeping under it.

This entire process is accomplished for just $10. By simply donating a net through *Nothing But Nets,* you set all the gears in motion to get a net to where it is needed most.