War-Torn Yemen Gets First Mass Treatment for Trachoma

In Yemen’s “forgotten war,” a troop of health workers recently braved their way into remote villages carrying medicines provided by The Task Force’s International Trachoma Initiative (ITI) for the country’s first ever mass treatment of trachoma — the world’s leading infectious cause of blindness. More
Blog: The Task Force Launches Focus Area on Compassion and Ethics

What happens when global health programs and organizations, which often focus on the health of populations, lose sight of the “faces” – the dignity and essential humanity – of individuals? More

Blog: On ‘Spanish Flu’ Centennial Year, New Funding Renews Push for Universal Flu Vaccine

A new $12-million pledge by the Gates Foundation and the Page Family for a “universal” flu vaccine reflects renewed commitment to finding a better way to prevent a major cause of death and illness worldwide. More

Podcast: Fighting Childhood Mortality

The Child Health and Mortality Prevention Surveillance (CHAMPS) Network aims to reduce childhood mortality around the world
by identifying what exactly is killing children under five years of age. CHAMPS Senior Manager for Information Technology Patrick Caneer recently spoke about it. Listen

IN THE NEWS: Nepal became the first country in South-East Asia to eliminate trachoma. The Task Force’s International Trachoma Initiative has managed Pfizer’s donation of more than 15 million doses of trachoma drug to Nepal for mass treatments to eliminate the disease -- the world’s leading infectious cause of blindness.

PUBLISHED: Eric Ottesen, MD, Director of the Task Force’s Neglected Tropical Diseases Support Center (NTD-SC), has co-authored a paper in Tropical Medicine and Health about the elimination of lymphatic filariasis (LF) as a public health problem from the Cook Islands. More

MEETING NOTES: Two Task Force program heads organized a panel discussion at a conference on Haiti’s National State of Health Congress at Port-
au-Prince. Med Surplus Alliance Director Lori Warrens and Public Health Informatics Institute Director Vivian Singletary, MBA, led a panel discussion about improving the supply chain for medical products. More

PUBLISHED: The Task Force’s Mectizan® Donation Program Director Yao Sodahlon, MD, co-authored a paper in the journal, Parasites and Vectors, about (LF) surveillance after stopping mass drug administration in endemic districts of Togo. More

AWARDS: Task Force program, TEPHINET, was recently honored with an award from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for its excellent collaboration work in the Dominican Republic.

PUBLISHED: Kira Barbre, MPH, who provides technical support to operational research projects at NTD-SC, co-authored a paper on Equatorial Guinea’s interruption of onchocerciasis transmission in Bioko island – the only island in the world where river blindness is endemic. More

CONFERENCE: TEPHINET held its 10th Regional Scientific Conference of the Americas at Cartagena, Columbia, from May 15-18. More

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