

A conversation with Linda Naugle on May 29, 2013

Participants

- Linda Naugle – Director, Northwest Region, U.S. Fund for UNICEF
- Elie Hassenfeld – Co-Founder and Co-Executive Director, GiveWell
- Timothy Telleen-Lawton – Research Analyst, GiveWell

Note: This set of notes was compiled by GiveWell and summarizes the major topics covered in our conversation with Ms. Naugle.

Summary

GiveWell spoke with Linda Naugle as part of its ongoing search for charities and projects that might qualify for a top-ranking. The main subjects of discussion were transparency, restricted funds, and specific projects of The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). UNICEF has many projects that fall within GiveWell's "priority" program areas, and Ms. Naugle suggested several for us to consider. We focused primarily on its maternal and neonatal tetanus immunization program.

Transparency

UNICEF is dedicated to transparency and supports GiveWell's effort to share as much information as possible. One challenge is that GiveWell's process requires a significant time commitment from the organizations' staff to answer its questions.

Restricted Funds and the issue of fundability

UNICEF implements many different projects. Funding a particular project, even with restricted funds, may theoretically increase funding for that project by less than the nominal amount of the gift, since it may reduce other funding allocations to that project in favor of a less-well-funded project. Ms. Naugle will aim to identify someone within UNICEF with whom to discuss how GiveWell might anticipate or measure this effect.

Specific Projects

Ms. Naugle mentioned 5 projects that GiveWell might be interested in. We spent the majority of the meeting discussing the first bullet point below.

- Global Maternal and Neonatal Tetanus Elimination Program (MNT).
 - Ms. Naugle told us that this program faces significant funding constraints and additional funding is necessary to support this immunization program
 - According to Ms. Naugle, at one point the program was going to have to scale back and GAVI stepped in and gave \$5 million to the program, allowing it to move forward. This was the beginning of approximately \$62 million that GAVI gave over multiple years to global MNT elimination program. Ms. Naugle will provide more details.
 - To eventually recommend an MNT project, GiveWell would still need to complete an assessment of the evidence for and cost-effectiveness of the MNT intervention (independent of UNICEF's particular implementation).

- The Eliminate Project is the name of the partnership between UNICEF, the U.S. Fund for UNICEF and Kiwanis International, a civil society organization of volunteers who are actively fundraising at the grassroots level to support UNICEF's MNT Elimination program. It is this program that we hope GiveWell will – after research and interviews – ultimately recommend.
- Note that in June 2012, GiveWell spoke with Rownak Khan, a Senior Health Specialist at UNICEF about regarding the MNT program. Notes from that conversation are available at <http://www.givewell.org/files/DWDA%202009/MNT/Conversation%20with%20UNICEF%20re%20MNT%202012%2006%2022%20final.pdf>
- The Malaria Initiative: Combatting Malaria in sub-Saharan Africa
- Global Oral Cholera Vaccination
- Eradicating Polio in Pakistan
- The Bridge Fund: Impact investing for Emergency Relief

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