

Conference «Philanthropy in Global Health: Governance and Effectiveness Criteria» | April 10-11 2008 | UBS Training Centre Basel, Switzerland

## **Avoiding pouring money down the rathole**

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I would like to relate my experiences with a polio vaccination team in northern Nigeria to show how corruption, even over amounts as small as \$2, can undermine a public health drive.

In this context, I will describe different models I see that public health drives use in trying to avoid corruption, and point out their pitfalls. We will look into the old colonial model, the missionary model, the Global Fund model and the PEPFAR model.

Furthermore, I will suggest a few principles I think essential for success, including, for example, getting the personal support of the President. The cases of Yoweri Museveni of Uganda and Thabo Mbeki of South Africa will serve as examples.

Another subject to be considered: the obstacles that modern funders of public health, like Bill Gates, face. A contrast will be drawn to those facing earlier generations of funders and scientists, using John D. Rockefeller and his hookworm campaign and Maurice Hilleman and his mumps vaccine as examples.

As a wrap-up I will dare to make some predictions about what can/will be done to defeat different diseases – AIDS, TB, malaria, polio, guinea worm, etc. and where money might most sensibly be spent.