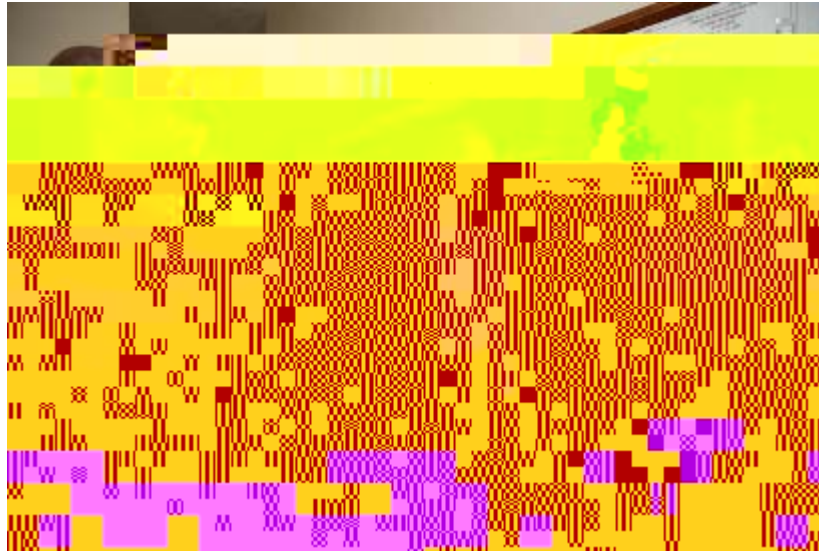


President Carter pushes for malaria elimination in Hispaniola

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By: Tina Flores

President and Mrs. Carter, and The Carter Center's Dr. Donald Hopkins (left) view a map of malaria cases in Dajabón, shown by Dr. David Joa. Photo by Peter DiCampo/The Carter Center

It's 8:30 at night. The smell is unmistakably bovine as we find ourselves next to a sea of cattle enclosed by a scrap-metal fence. It's mosquito-catching time in the Dominican Republic. Armed with plastic tubing and Styrofoam cups laced with netting, three of the country's seven entomologists are hunting for *Anopheles albimanus*, the country's prevailing malaria vector, to test for resistance to insecticides that have been used to treat bed nets. Unlike their African counterparts who prefer to feed on humans, the malaria vector in the Dominican Republic is decidedly zoophilic, which is , wr5(ea o459.72e)-6(f)3(i)-2(nd our)3(s).

Malaria remains a major problem throughout Haiti. Dr. Joanel Mondestin of the nongovernmental organization CDS, which oversees the Haitian portion of the binational program, said Haiti's malaria program was gaining ground until about 10 years ago, when the country's health infrastructure and resources deteriorated. "From 2004-2007, Haiti was a jungle," said Dr. Mondestin, "but right now, it is almost ok." Indeed, the Pan American Health Organization's numbers show that Haiti had about 9,800 cases of malaria in 2001. By 2005 that number more than doubled to 21,700, and in 2006 there were 32,700 cases of malaria in the country. In 2007, the cases of malaria dropped back to 23,400, but most of its population is still considered to be at medium to high risk of contracting malaria.

The Dominican Republic has been fairly successful in controlling malaria, with only

The elephant in the room is Haiti's history of political volatility. Haiti also has an image problem to overcome. It needs to demonstrate opportunities for investment, progress