

ECOSOC
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Leadership Dialogue Raising the profile of the neglected tropical diseases

Anne Mills
Professor of Health Economics and Policy

The second issue I want to address is that of the drug supply and distribution system. One of the greatest challenges to community based delivery is ensuring a regular supply of drugs. I want to mention 2 levels of attack.

(a) Through the private sector. Private outlets for drugs are spread throughout low income countries including local shops and market places. They can

crises demonstrates that the poorest lose out the most and that focused efforts are needed that help the poorest. Strengthening health systems with a focus on NTDs would achieve this emphasis on the poorest.

Finally I want to stress the need for evaluation. Well conducted evaluation can be a powerful tool in publicising the success of a programme. I would urge that well designed evaluation be included in any new initiatives. This is especially important for new delivery approaches. Delivery systems have been a neglected area of research and yet such research is vital to ensure that treatments reach those who need them.