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Women wait for a medical consultation at a health center in Bogo, Cameroon, on Sept. 2.

Officials: U.S. aid cuts curtail malaria fight

Babies die in Cameroon amid shortage of medicine, health workers

Amindeh Blaise Atabong, Robbie Corey-Boulet and Jennifer Rigby
REUTERS

BOGO, Cameroon – Nine-month-old baby Mohamat burned with fever for three days before his family took him to the closest health center in northern Cameroon, but it was too late. He died of malaria that day.

Mohamat’s death was part of a spike this year in malaria fatalities that local health officials attribute to foreign aid cuts by the United States.

Before the cuts, Mohamat might have been diagnosed earlier by one of more than 2,000 U.S.-funded community health workers who would travel over rough dirt roads to reach the region’s remotest villages.

And at the health center, he might have been treated with injectable artesunate, a life-saving drug for severe malaria paid for by U.S. funds that is now in short supply. But the center had none to give out.

Reuters traveled to northern Cameroon – where the United States had played a leading role in the malaria response for nearly a decade – to document

A worker unloads boxes of the drug artesunate in a warehouse in Maroua, Cameroon, on Sept. 2. The life-saving drug for severe malaria, paid for by U.S. funds, is now in short supply. PHOTOS BY DESIRE DANGA ESSIGUE/REUTERS

ment how the sudden cuts are contributing to delayed malaria diagnoses, inadequate treatment and a growing number of deaths. This story is based on interviews with more than 20 doctors, nurses, community health workers, residents and former U.S. officials involved in malaria programming.

Mohamat’s father, sorghum and banana farmer Alhadji Madou Goni, is mourning a son he had hoped would one

day escape poverty.

“I feel so sad about my loss. I hope no one suffers from this (malaria) again,” Goni, 30, told Reuters as he sat outside his home, his wife next to him holding prayer beads.

“Since there is hardship here, and people don’t have the means, we hope aid comes.”

See MALARIA, Page 2A

Greenville native Rev. Jesse Jackson hospitalized

A.J. Jackson
Greenville News
USA TODAY NETWORK – SOUTH CAROLINA

Greenville native and global civil rights activist, the Rev. Jesse Jackson, was admitted to the hospital on Tuesday, Nov. 12, according to information provided by the Rainbow Push Coalition.

The 84-year-old is currently under medical observation for Progressive Supranuclear Palsy (PSP), a neurodegenerative condition he has managed for more than a decade, according to a communication from his longtime social justice organization.

The group confirmed the Rev. Jackson had previously been diagnosed with Parkinson’s disease, and last April, his PSP condition was also confirmed.

“The family appreciates all prayers at this time,” said the statement from Rainbow Push Coalition.

Born in 1941 to Helen Burns and Noah Louis Robinson, the Rev. Jackson’s origins began in Greenville, where he quickly developed into a star orator, scholar, student, and youth community leader.

He is the prized alumnus of the now-defunct and formerly segregated Sterling High School, class of 1959, and locally known as part of “The Greenville Eight,” a group of Black students who protested segregation at libraries throughout Greenville County in 1960.

To the world, the Rev. Jackson is known for his various roles in worldwide social justice efforts, his two presidential campaign runs in the mid-to-late 1980s, and as the recipient

See JACKSON, Page 2A

Emanuel Flemming Jr., 12, takes a selfie with Reverend Jesse Jackson during a ceremony for a historical marker dedication at the Claussen Bakery Building in Greenville on Jan. 13, 2017.
LAUREN PETRACCA/GREENVILLE NEWS FILE

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