Deworm the World
Advances since Dalian

Why school-based deworming?

- Approximately 400 million school-age children worldwide are infected with worms (soil-transmitted helminths or schistosomes).
- In 2001, the World Health Organisation (WHO) set a target of deworming 75% of at-risk children by 2010. However, in 2006, only 10% of children had been treated.
- Mass-school based deworming is the most cost-effective intervention to increase school attendance at <50c per child per year. Moreover, it is a safe, simple and highly effective intervention which can be delivered by teachers.
- Deworming will assist efforts to attain Education for All (EFA) and the education-related Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Why Deworm the World?

At the February 2007 World Economic Forum, the Education Task Force of the YGLs Forum launched Deworm the World ( DtW) an initiative with the aim of:
- Leveraging the networks and talents of the YGLs to promote the mass scale-up of school-based deworming.
- Support governments and coordinate implementers to develop systematic, sustainable and scaled-up school-based deworming strategies.
- Seek financial and in-kind support for deworming.

Advances since Dalian

- DtW has been formally established as a legal entity and is applying for 501c3 status (tax-exemption in the US for receiving donations).
- A Board of YGLs has been established to set strategic direction for the DtW initiative.
- A full-time Executive Director, Dr Lesley Drake, has been appointed. Dr Drake comes to DtW with a breadth of knowledge and experience in operationalising sustainable, large-scale school health and nutrition (SHN) programmes, including school-based deworming.
- DtW has received generous financial contributions from HRH Prince Alwaleed bin Talal Kingdom Foundation, the Douglas B. Marshall Family Foundation, and private donors which have helped the initiative establish a secretariat as well as provide catalytic funds for deworming.

Progress in-country

Guyana: DtW was able to brief the President of Guyana, Mr Bahram Jagdeo, a fellow YGL, on the merits of school-based deworming and this is now a national priority with implementation plans being developed.

Kenya: Deworming continues to be rolled out in Coast Province and progress is being made towards plans for a much larger scale up.

Ethiopia: Support from DtW means over 1 million children will be dewormed in-country by the end of 2008.

Ghana: DtW has raised funds to help support a national deworming program that utilizes a network of NGOs that reached out to DtW for support.
DtW is working to coordinate action to deworm in 19 countries - Watch this space!

DtW has been working with the Clinton Global Initiative (CGI) to secure 300 million tablets, donated by Feed the Children (FTC) to deworm school-age children in up to 19 countries (see map). DtW has identified school-based programmes in need of support and was requested to coordinate the allocation of these drugs among implementing partners including, Save the Children US, the World Food Programme (WFP), American Institutes for Research (AIR), REACH, and national governments.

The in-kind donation of mebendazole tablets from FTC has the potential to deworm 75 million children for soil-transmitted helminths over 3 years. Four countries can deworm immediately with the drug donations alone, reaching 1.8 million children in year 1. In other countries, the costs of additional inputs, for example, shipping and teacher training costs, must be covered for this donation to have maximum effect. There is the potential to reach over 10 million children in 2008-2009 if these funding gaps can be met!

Next Steps: DtW in Delhi

With high rates of intestinal worms, India is a key target for scaled-up deworming programs. DtW plans to use the upcoming WEF meeting in Delhi to highlight the issue with a kick-off deworming day. YGLs interested in being part of the plan should contact DtW below.

For more information on the Deworm the World initiative, please visit www.dewormtheworld.org or www.younggloballeaders.org or email: contact@dewormtheworld.org