

The Worm Project

Combating World Hunger Through Parasite Removal

Newsletter

Issue No. 22 Fall 2022

The importance of deworming medicines

Story courtesy of Dr. Herman Sagastume, Director, Healthy Niños Honduras

Photos © Healthy Niños Honduras



Many years ago, in one of The Worm Project Communications, I shared about my personal experience living and growing up in a low-income family in Honduras where malnutrition and intestinal parasites were evident all around me (and even with me). Consuming contaminated water was a daily occurrence and a source of intestinal parasites. What was a problem for me and my relatives at that time continues to be a public health problem today, especially in developing countries with a tropical climate.

Intestinal parasites are a public health problem as they impose a considerable social and medical burden both at the individual and population levels. In turn, the prevailing inequities in endemic countries exacerbate the problem: food insecurity, insufficient access – and often absent – to health resources, barriers to obtaining essential medicines, and difficulties in obtaining a good education, are all factors strongly linked to the exposure and morbidity of these infections. When these conditions converge, the child population experiences the greatest risk of being parasitized. In fact, most *A. lumbricoides* and *T. trichiura* infections

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12th Annual Worm Project Benefit Banquet

6:00 pm Saturday,
October 22

The Franconia Heritage Restaurant
508 Harleysville Pike, Franconia Pa



Hear the inspiring first-hand stories from our partners working all around the world!

THE MEAL IS FREE although donations will be accepted.

For reservations, contact us with your name and number of people by:

E-mail: info@wormproject.org
or Phone: 267-932-6050 Ext. 201

Reservations are required and need to be submitted by October 16

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occur in children under 15 years of age due to the habits of their age, which involve greater contact with the ground, and probably because they have not yet acquired partial immunity, which is reached with age. It has been shown that schoolchildren attending schools that lack clean water, latrines and sanitation facilities are even more at risk of becoming infected.



Since 2001 World Health Organization (WHO) has recommended the use of deworming medicines such as Albendazole in massive campaigns, with the idea of

reducing the prevalence of intestinal parasites, especially in children. It has been shown that a dose of Albendazole every 6 months together with the consumption of safe water, hygiene, and education, has succeeded in reducing the parasite load in many endemic areas of poor countries.

Today, more than ever, it is important to continue supporting organizations like The Worm Project. An Albendazole tablet can make a big difference in the lives of the neediest people.

Note: The Worm Project recently donated 1 million tablets of deworming medicine to Healthy Ninos Honduras which they will share with other partner organizations in Honduras.”

Healthy Niños Honduras and the Fight Against Worms

Story courtesy of Healthy Niños Honduras

Photo credits: Healthy Niños Honduras

Healthy Niños Honduras (HNH) continues the work that MAMA Project started in Honduras many years ago. One of the continued programs is the distribution of Albendazole, thanks to the support of The Worm Project.

Even though the WHO had already recommended in 2001 to carry out massive campaigns for the distribution of deworming in many poor countries, it did not begin to be implemented until several years later. In 2007 we began working with the Ministry of Public Health in Honduras to promote the idea of a massive distribution of Albendazole.

It wasn't until 2009 that through the First Lady's Healthy School Program, 1.5 million tablets of Albendazole were distributed in public schools in Honduras.



People in medical brigade receiving their deworming pill.

Healthy Niños Honduras has developed a network of contacts with different non-profit organizations that collaborate with the distribution of Albendazole. One of them is Madre Feliz (Happy Mother) a clinic near us coordinated by Dr. Robin Garcia (shown below). They serve many communities in the Lake Yojoa region in Honduras.



Left: Dr. Robin Garcia receiving the donation of Albendazole from Dr. Sagastume (HNH).

With your contributions to The Worm Project, we can continue to support Madre Feliz and many other organizations that are trying to improve the living conditions of many in need every day.

With great satisfaction we can say that we continue with the dream of Claude Good, founder of The Worm Project.

Healthy School Program

Story courtesy of Healthy Niños Honduras

Photo credits: Healthy Niños Honduras

The Healthy School Program is coordinated through the office of the President of Honduras. It is a program that promotes the reduction of child malnutrition, dropout, and repetition, increasing attendance and school performance of students in favorable environments for life with active participation of parents and the community.



HNH began a network relationship with this program and the Presidential Staff in 2007. One of the initiatives of this program works with the public education system in Honduras, especially at the primary school level. Another focus is on deworming, due to the known connection through how intestinal parasites can affect a child’s ability to focus and learn.

In March of 2022, the Board of Directors of Healthy Niños visited Honduras and had the privilege of meeting with the staff of the Healthy School Program. They requested a donation of Albendazole to help with their country-wide campaign.

When we received out to The Worm Project about this need, they gladly came alongside us to make this a possibility. On behalf of the people of Honduras, I thank you for this support.

Supporting Children’s Health and Wellbeing Worldwide

Story courtesy of Vitamin Angels

Photos © Vitamin Angels MX / Rohit Jain IN21

Each year, over 1.5 billion people worldwide are affected by soil-transmitted helminth (STH) infections. STH tends to affect low-resource populations around the globe, particularly in areas where water, sanitation, and hygiene services are poor.

In Nigeria, in particular, millions of children live in rural areas where soil-transmitted helminths (STH) are intensively transmitted, leaving them in need of deworming treatment and other preventive interventions. Children affected by STH can suffer from malnutrition and anemia, leading to illness, increased school dropout rates, and even death.

The government has been working to provide albendazole (deworming) tablets to combat parasitic infection. However, Nigerian government agencies have limited resources to reach the country’s hinterlands, putting those communities at an increased risk.

To reach communities that are underserved, Vitamin Angels partners with local organizations like Our Lady of Perpetual Help Initiative (OLPHI). The organization, founded in 1999, aims to provide aid to the disadvantaged, underserved, and socially excluded populations in Nigeria’s rural communities.

In complement to the Nigerian government’s efforts, OLPHI distributes the albendazole provided by Vitamin Angels to children aged 11-59 months in hard-to-reach areas. The team at OLPHI shares information with caregivers on the benefits of deworming for children’s health and provides nutritional counseling to Nigerian women. Taking it a step further, OLPHI also offers introductory training on how to grow nutritious foods around the community compounds.

Since 2014, the partnership with OLPHI has helped to further efforts to offer deworming coverage to Nigerian children. In a recent update, their team advised that the partnership “has been a welcome development, appreciated by the children and communities. Stakeholders call on us to come back and serve them.”



Yet, as OLPHI aims to expand its efforts, more support is needed. “As we move into more communities, the demands for [albendazole] are on the increase by the day. Hence there is a need to increase the supply to us.”

With the support of The Worm Project and our continued partnership with OLPHI, we can continue to reach underserved populations and provide quality deworming coverage for children across Nigeria and around the world.

Thank You to Our Business Sponsors



Dr. Clarence Freed
Plastic Surgery



The Worm Project: What we do:

The Worm Project buys medicine to treat children infected with parasitic worms in the poorest countries of the world.

- Over 800 million children (roughly 1/4 of the world's children) are at risk of being infected with parasitic worms
 - Parasitic worms cause physical and cognitive impairment in children due to malnutrition
- The Worm Project purchased and distributed enough deworming medicine to treat almost 10 million children in 2021
- Each deworming tablet costs less than 3 cents and treats one child for parasitic worms
 - One tablet kills virtually all the worms living in children
 - Medicine is extremely effective and safe
- All-volunteer Christian organization is extremely cost effective
 - Expenses are extremely low
 - Donations are tax deductible

*"... Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."
(Matthew 25:40 NIV)*



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Contact Us

Web: wormproject.org
 Email: Info@wormproject.org
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You Can Help!

Charitable donations can be made by check or through our website at wormproject.org. Debit or credit card and PayPal options are available by clicking on the **Donate** button on our website.

Checks should be made payable to:
The Worm Project
 and sent to:

The Worm Project
Mosaic Mennonite Conference
 1000 Forty Foot Road, Suite 100
 Lansdale, PA 19446

