

The Worm Project

Combating World Hunger Through Parasite Removal

Newsletter

Issue No. 26 Fall 2024

Albendazole Improves the Quality of Life for Children in Uganda

Photos © Vitamin Angels

Buteme, a mother of two, cleaned the local dirt trenches near her home every Saturday to reduce the spread of disease in her Ugandan community. To protect the health of her boys, Jonathan and David, she ensured they received vitamin A and deworming from Vitamin Angels. Buteme reported that they had been in excellent health ever since. She credited Albendazole (deworming medicine) with relieving the abdominal pain that once plagued the boys. David, her eldest, had just started his first year of school, while Johnathan was set to begin the following term.



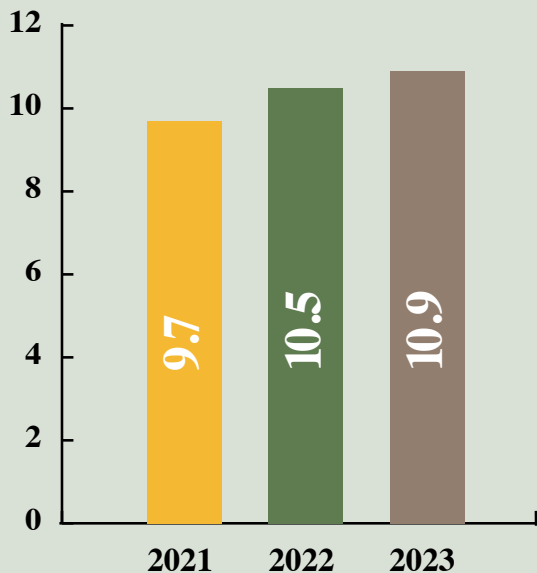
Jonathan sits in his mother's lap, with his brother, David, standing by their side.

(continued on page 2...)

In 2023, your donations purchased medicine to treat almost 11 million children

The Worm Project Medicine Donations

Albendazole 400mg (millions of tablets)



One Tablet Treats One Child

You're Invited to our Free Benefit Banquet

6:00 pm Saturday, Oct 26

Franconia Heritage Restaurant
508 Harleysville Pike,
Telford Pa

Keynote speaker:
Howard Schiffer, President &
Founder of Vitamin Angels

THE MEAL IS FREE
but donations will
be accepted.



*Photo © Vitamin Angels
Sophia Billikopf SV16*

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

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

**RESERVATIONS REQUIRED –
no later than October 20**



A typical meal in Uganda: beans and cassava root cooked in a banana leaf over a fire.

Intestinal worms, transmitted through contaminated soil, thrive in rural Uganda, especially among those who are barefoot during work or play. Ascaris, whipworm, and hookworm together constitute Soil-Transmitted Helminthiasis (STH). Schistosomiasis, another worm infection, spreads through contaminated water by freshwater snails that host the disease.

Together, these worm infections are known as Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs). Often overlooked and underfunded, they are responsible for over 150,000 deaths each year. To call attention to the issue, NTDs are featured in the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals under target #3: Good Health and Well-being.

Infections are prevalent among the one-third of people in sub-Saharan Africa, Asia, and the Americas who earn less than \$2.00 per day. Misconceptions about how the infections are spread, limited resources and social stigma are the main obstacles to eradication. For instance, some Ugandans attribute schistosomiasis to witchcraft instead of contaminated water, hindering efforts to change the unsanitary habits that lead to infection.

Intestinal worms are endemic in many of the same low- and middle-income countries where childhood vitamin A deficiency is prevalent. Albendazole, an antiparasitic medication, expels worms from the body, allowing children to better absorb available nutrients. Giving Albendazole and vitamin A together is a simple and effective way to improve children's health.

Working with over 30 program partners throughout Uganda, Vitamin Angels supplied 7,857,000 doses of Albendazole over the last two years with the support of The Worm Project. Thank you!

The Worm Project Continues to Partner with MAMA Project

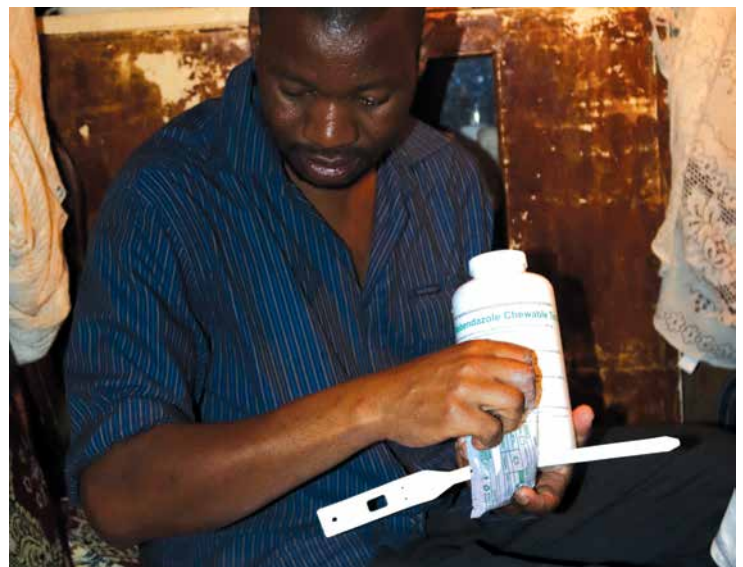
Editor's Note: The Worm Project continues to work closely with MAMA Project as they help people living in the Kibera slums on the edge of Nairobi, Kenya. Kibera is considered the largest slum in Africa. Over the last four years, The Worm Project has supported their efforts by donating 900,000 Albendazole deworming tablets.



MAMA Kenya team ready for deworming.

"For many years, The Worm Project has donated deworming meds to MAMA Project. This helps promote the activity of health workers going door to door to deworm families, and while they are in the home, they assess the children for malnutrition. As a result of our joint efforts, GOOD THINGS HAPPEN! Thank You to The Worm Project!"

– From Priscilla Benner, MD – Director of MAMA Project



Community Health Worker Patrick Malaki in the home ready to deworm.

The Worm Project partners with Vitamin Angels in Nigeria

Photos © Vitamin Angels

Editor's Note: The Worm Project donates millions of Albendazole Tablets (deworming medicine) to Vitamin Angels each year. With our partnership spanning over 20 years, The Worm Project appreciates Vitamin Angels focus on those most vulnerable, children under age 5 in poor communities, that are underserved by existing systems.



Infection with intestinal parasites is endemic in Nigeria and is especially damaging to infants and young children there. Left untreated, these intestinal worms compete for the micronutrients infants and children consume and can cause severe and debilitating micronutrient deficiencies, malnutrition, illness, and irreversibly impede growth and development.

But intervention is simple. Just a single dose of deworming treatment twice a year can help to eradicate the parasitic worms. Deworming treatment is a powerful, simple, and safe way to improve the overall health and nutrition of millions of children in Nigeria and throughout the world.

While the intervention itself is simple, reaching the children who are most in need may not be. Vitamin Angels reaches millions of children under age 5 who are underserved by existing systems with deworming treatment and helping to eradicate intestinal parasite. Our deworming work in Nigeria began in 2011 and has helped to improve the lives of 67,860,500 children there.



We would like to introduce you to Rabbi. Rabbi's parents are farmers who produce rice, yam, groundnut, beans, tomatoes, pepper, and maize. Rabbi's family lives in a big house made of brick, cement, and mud. Rabbi and her family eat three meals each day together, which mostly consist of rice and yams. Her mother, Bilkisu, believes that nothing is possible without health, and she would like her daughter to become a doctor or a nurse when she grows up.

Rabbi's community commonly faces typhoid and chronic fevers. By age four, Rabbi had received vitamin A and deworming treatment three times. Her mother, Bilkisu, noted that before receiving the intervention, Rabbi would fall ill with malaria at least once a year. After she received these interventions, Bilkisu noticed that Rabbi was stronger, her energy had increased, and she experienced fewer fevers. They looked forward to each distribution when Rabbi would receive deworming treatment.

Rabbi is just one of millions of children who will have a better chance at a healthy and productive life due to one simple but mighty intervention, one dose of deworming treatment just twice a year. Together, we can improve lives and build a better future for millions of children across Nigeria and around the world.



Thank You to Our Business Sponsors



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 deworming medicine to treat almost 11 million children in 2023.
- 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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Web: wormproject.org
 Email: Info@wormproject.org
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You Can Help!

Charitable donations can be made by check or on our website at wormproject.org. Just click on the **donate** button.

Please consider making a tax exempt donation from your Individual Retirement Account (IRA)

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

