

Deworm the World at Clinton Global Initiative 2008 Annual Meeting: Up to 10 million children to benefit from deworming!

New York City

Among the key 2008 commitments announced at last week's Clinton Global Initiative (CGI) Annual Meeting was the education mega-commitment on school feeding and deworming aimed at improving the education and health of millions of children worldwide. During a plenary session, featuring Senators John McCain and Barack Obama, President Clinton announced the mega-commitment which is composed of 16 individual commitments including a Global School-based Deworming commitment. School-based deworming is the most cost-effective method of improving school participation at a cost of <50¢ per child per year and potentiates the benefits gained through school feeding programs. Under this commitment, Deworm the World, together with Feed the Children (FTC), American Institutes for Research (AIR), the World Food Program (WFP), and the World Bank (among others), will expand deworming programs to reach up to 10 million children in 19 countries in 2008-2009. FTC has committed to donate 300 million deworming tablets to be distributed over 3 years. Deworm the World will coordinate action among implementing partners to link these drugs to in-country programs and raise additional funds for their distribution where required. With this extra funding there is the potential to reach up to 75 million children, increasing worldwide treatment coverage from 10% to 30% over 3 years.

Why school-based deworming?

- Over 400 million school-age children worldwide are infected with parasitic worms.
- Worm infections can negatively affect all aspects of a child's development: health, nutrition, cognitive development, learning and educational access and achievement.
- In 2001, the World Health Organisation (WHO) set a target of deworming 75% of at-risk children by 2010. In 2006, only 10% of children had been treated.
- Mass-school based deworming is the most cost-effective method of improving school participation at <50¢ 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)

About the Clinton Global Initiative

Established in 2005 as a project of the non-partisan William Jefferson Clinton Foundation, the CGI Annual Meeting convenes global leaders to devise and implement innovative solutions to some of the world's most pressing challenges. Since 2005, CGI members have made nearly 1,000 Commitments to Action valued at upwards of \$30 billion to improve more than 200 million lives in over 150 countries around the world. Through past Annual Meetings, CGI has brought together more than 80 current and former heads of state, hundreds of top CEOs and non-profit leaders, major philanthropists, and 10 of the last 16 Nobel Peace Prize laureates.

About Deworm the World

The Deworm the World initiative was launched at the February 2007 World Economic Forum, by the Education Task Force of the Young Global Leaders (YGLs) Forum. Deworm the World aims to:

- Leverage 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.

Latest news

- Deworm the World team invited to assist the World Bank/World Food Programme training program (Washington DC, Nov 13th) on how countries can better use the \$1.2 billion in Global Food Crisis Facility funds for school feeding and deworming programs.
- American Institutes for Research (AIR) to house the Washington Office of Deworm the World from October 2008!

For more information about Deworm the World's 2008 CGI Commitment, please visit the CGI website at the address given below and enter Deworm the World in the search box:

<http://www.clintonglobalinitiative.org/NETCOMMUNITY/Page.aspx?pid=2612&srcid=2386>

For more information on the Deworm the World initiative, please visit:

www.dewormtheworld.org or email: contact@dewormtheworld.org

