How to deworm school-age children

Instructions for Teachers
Drug distribution
Introduction

Most of the children in developing countries are infected with worms and/or schistosomes.

The distribution of drugs presented in this booklet aims to reduce the number of parasites in each child.

A child that is regularly treated for worms

- Is more active in school
- Grows and learns better
- Is more resistant to other infections
Materials needed

To give the drugs to the children you need

- The tablets
- Drinking water
- Forms to register the children treated
- Weighing scale or “tablet pole” if praziquantel is distributed
The following drugs can be used for deworming:

- **Albendazole 400 mg** (single dose)* for the worms that are transmitted through contaminated soil
- **Praziquantel 40 mg/kg** for the schistosomes that are transmitted through contaminated water

These drugs are extremely effective and safe. Several million children have already been treated without problems.

Teachers can easily and safely distribute these drugs.

* as an alternative:
  - mebendazole 500 mg (single dose)
  - levamisole 80 mg (single dose for school-age children)
  - pyrantel 10 mg/kg can also be used
Steps for the administration of the drugs
Step One

Ask all the children to stand in a queue.
Step Two

Register the name of each child to be treated on the form provided.
Step Three

Skip this step if you are not distributing praziquantel

If praziquantel is distributed, a scale or tablet pole is needed to determine the number of tablets that will be given to each child.

See table on page 20
Step Four

Give one tablet of albendazole to every child.
Step Five

Provide water and make sure that every child swallows the tablet(s).
Treating non-enrolled children

The teacher can also treat children who are not enrolled in school.
Tablet pole for determining number of tablets to be given.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Body weight in kg</th>
<th>Tablets</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10 – 15</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 – 22.5</td>
<td>1 1/2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22.5 – 30</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 – 37.5</td>
<td>2 1/2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37.5 – 45</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45 – 60</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt; 60</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>