The Second Global NGO Deworming Inventory: Assessing Soil-Transmitted Helminthiases Treatment Reporting

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SUMMARY
Affecting nearly one billion children globally, soil-transmitted helminthiases (STH) is the most common parasitic infection. To combat the disease, the World Health Organization (WHO) target for 2020 is to reach 75% of children at-risk of STH with regular preventive chemotherapy (PC). Ministries of health (MoHs) provide routine STH treatment reports to the WHO PCT Databank to monitor treatment coverage. In 2014, 47% of at-risk children were targeted to receive PC. Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) also directly administer PC. However, according to the first Global NGO Deworming Inventory (DI), over a third of the NGO-administered treatments were unreported to WHO in 2010. To assess NGO-MoH WHO coordination in reporting of STH treatments, a second DI was conducted. From August to October, 2015, 200 NGOs and academic institutions were surveyed, of which 17 (9%) reported administered STH treatments in 2014. NGO-administered treatments were again compared with those reported by MoHs to WHO. Comparing 2010 to 2014, the total number of reported STH treatments increased from 261 million to 447 million globally; treatments delivered by NGOs increased from 65.4 million (25%) to 158 million (35%); and the number of NGO treatments unreported to WHO decreased from 23.3 million (36%) to 13.5 million (9%). The NGO unreported treatments constitute 3% of the global total in 2014, compared to 9% in 2010. These findings demonstrate improved NGO-MoH data reporting and collaboration at the country level.

THE NGO DEWORMING INVENTORY
The Global NGO Deworming Inventory is a collaborative effort of the WHO, the STH Coalition, and the Global Schistosomiasis Alliance, in partnership with Children Without Worms. The Inventory complements the WHO Preventive Chemotherapy and Transmission Control (PCT) Databank and collects geographically specific treatment data in order to:
- Quantify the contribution of NGOs to national and global deworming treatment coverage.
- Ensure that NGO-administered deworming treatments are accurately reflected in the WHO-managed PCT Databank.
- Identify deworming treatment coverage gaps.

HISTORY OF THE INVENTORY
2011 First NGO Deworming Inventory: 2010 Treatment Data
Systemic improvements for treatment coordination:
- WHO/UNICEF Joint Reporting Process: jointly collect information through a standard questionnaire
- Joint Request for Selected PC Medicines (JRSMS): assist countries in quantifying PC medicines needed
- Joint Reporting Form (JRF): assist countries in reporting annual treatments
2015 Second NGO Deworming Inventory: 2014 Treatment Data

LIMITATIONS OF THE INVENTORY
- Not a census of all NGOs involved in STH deworming.
- Low response rate from NGOs surveyed.
- Confirmation on ‘treatment’ vs. ‘donation’ are made by the NGO.
- MoH reports to WHO do not indicate NGOs-administered treatments.

RESULTS
- Quantify the contribution of NGOs to national and global deworming treatment coverage

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NGOs surveyed on treatments administered:</th>
<th>All Children (ages 1-14):</th>
<th>School age (ages 5-14):</th>
<th>Preschool age (ages 1-4):</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NGOs targeted</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>113</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NGOs responding (%)</td>
<td>20 (17%)</td>
<td>20 (10%)</td>
<td>14 (13%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NGOs reporting treatments</td>
<td>14 (13%)</td>
<td>17 (9%)</td>
<td>11 (10%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Countries with treatments</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treatments reported (million)</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>158</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Ensure that NGO-administered deworming treatments are accurately reflected in the WHO-managed PCT Databank

- Identify deworming treatment coverage gaps

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Countries reporting treatments for school age children:</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>56%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WHO 2020 target to treat 75% of children at-risk of STH infection</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

DISCUSSION
- Increased confidence in accuracy of national treatment coverage reporting for school children:
  - 88% reduction in the proportion of unreported school age children treatments compared to only 14% reduction for preschool age children treatments.
- Increased contribution of NGOs to national and global deworming for preschool children:
  - Proportion of NGO-delivered treatments to all reported treatments for school age children decreased by 45% compared to a 262% increase for preschool age children.
- Improved NGO-MoH data reporting and collaboration:
  - More countries reported treatments.
  - More NGO treatments included in National Joint Reporting Forms.
  - Although some data are received via UNICEF-WHO Joint Reporting Process, data for preschool age children need to be incorporated at national level in Joint Reporting Forms of NTD programmes.