

April 2015 Schistosomiasis and STH treatment campaign

Summary Report

Federal Ministry of Health, Ethiopian Public Health Institute, Schistosomiasis Control Initiative.

Summary

- 3.90 million school-aged children targeted for treatment against both schistosomiasis and STH
- **2.88 million school-aged children treated in 109 highest prevalence districts in six regions of Ethiopia**
- Treatment coverage of 74.0%
- 2.31m enrolled and 571,000 non-enrolled school-aged children received treated with donated praziquantel and mebendazole
- **7,202 teachers** and **3,606 Health Extension Workers** trained to distribute treatment.

Treatment campaign

A treatment campaign against both schistosomiasis and STH was conducted in Ethiopia in April 2015. This was implemented under the leadership of the Federal Ministry of Health (FMOH) in partnership with the Federal Ministry of Education.

Funding was provided by The END Fund, DFID, and Schistosomiasis Control Initiative (SCI) private donors. Technical Assistance to the programme was provided by the SCI and Evidence Action.

The main campaign targeted 99 woredas (districts) in 5 regions (Oromiya, Amhara, Benishangul-Gumuz, Somali, and SNNPR).

These five regions were invited to a central level training of trainers and microplanning workshop which was held in Adama in January 2015. This workshop marked the beginning of a training cascade, with subsequent training sessions at the regional, zonal, and district levels. Health Extension Workers (HEWs) and teachers representing every school being targeted were invited to district level training. It was here that they learned the approaches and protocols for distributing treatment effectively.

The campaign was launched with a media event at a school outside Adama, in the Wonji woreda of the Oromia region of the Ethiopia (Photos 1-6). The launch event was attended by media, journalists, and FMOH and FMOE officials.

In addition to the five regions highlighted above, 10 woredas in Tigray region were also treated at the same time. The implementation of treatment in Tigray was co-ordinated by the Nala Foudation (who have experience in the region and a strong footprint) with funding from the SCI (Table 1, Figure 1).

The results from the two concurrent campaigns are summarised below. In total 2.9 million school-aged children received treatment against both schistosomiasis and STH (coverage of 74.0%), comprised of 2.3m enrolled SAC and 571,000 non-enrolled. These numbers are currently being validated using coverage validation surveys in representative districts. These results will be presented as soon as the data is analysed.

The size of the treatment round was constrained by the amount of praziquantel available through the Merck KGaA / WHO donation.



Photo 1. Schoolchildren meeting to be introduced to deworming



Photo 2. The Federal Ministry of Health NTD Team Leader, Oumer Shafir, briefing the media about the campaign



Photo 3. The first treatments of the campaign being administered.

Region	Districts	Targeted			Treated			Treatment coverage ²	% Female
		Enrolled SAC ¹	Non-enrolled SAC	Total SAC	Enrolled SAC	Non-enrolled SAC	Total SAC		
Oromiya	27	644,156	425,871	1,070,027	535,761	207,861	743,622	69.50%	45.40%
Amhara	35	1,121,932	263,910	1,385,842	870,207	164,571	1,034,778	74.67%	50.20%
Somali	5	158,828	32,358	191,186	135,243	27,572	162,815	85.16%	44.80%
Benishangul - Gumuz	14	160,993	55,905	216,898	92,968	32,968	125,936	58.06%	47.10%
SNNPR	18	436,918	140,559	577,477	296,236	138,286	434,522	75.24%	47.10%
Tigray	10	453,884		453,884	380,496		380,496	83.83%	
Total	109	2,976,711	918,603	3,895,314	2,310,911	571,258	2,882,169	73.99%	47.90%

Table 1. Summary of April 2015 treatment round. 1. SAC: School-aged children. 2. Treatment coverage figures to be checked through coverage validation surveys to be implemented in July 2015

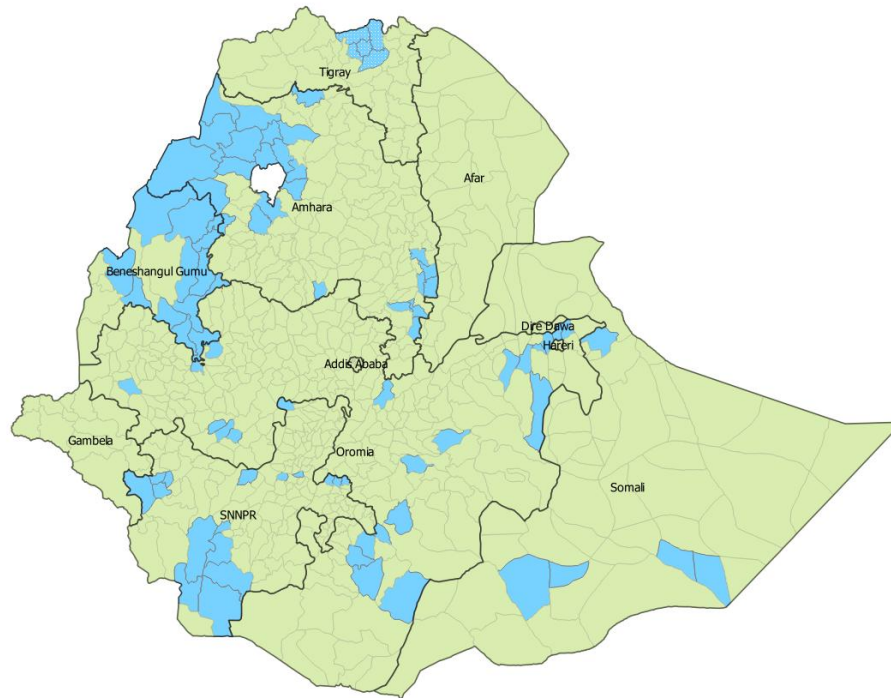


Figure 1. Map of districts treated against both schistosomiasis and STH in the April 2015 treatment campaign. Blue indicates treated districts

- **Numbers trained: 10,808 drug distributors** were trained to conduct this treatment round; comprised of 7,202 teachers (2 per school) and 3,606 health extension workers (1 per school).

Monitoring and Evaluation activities

- **Sentinel sites:** Demographic and parasitological data were collected from 22 sentinel sites prior to the April 2015 campaign. Each sentinel site comprised of a school, with 125 children recruited from each school. Each child provided stool and urine samples on two consecutive days in order to estimate the level of parasite prevalence and average intensity of infection. These 22 sentinel sites will be supplemented by a further 15 sites prior to the October 2015 round of treatment to complete the picture on the baseline level of infection. These schools will be followed up annually, just prior to treatment, to understand changes in infection across the course of the programme.



Photo 4. Banner announcing the launch of the campaign in Wonji Woreda

Photo 5. Post deworming smiles



Photo 6. A typical schistosomiasis transmission site. The woman washing and the children playing in the background provide idea opportunities for schistosomiasis transmission