

Sightsavers Deworming Program – Cameroon GiveWell Wishlist 5 Schistosomiasis (SCH) / Soil Transmitted Helminth (STH) Project Narrative

Country: Cameroon

Location (region/districts): North, Far North, East, West and Adamaoua Regions

Duration of project: 1 year

Start date: April 2022

Goal

Reduction in the prevalence and intensity of SCH and STH amongst school age children.

Outcome

School aged children (SAC) between 5 - 14 years, within the intervention zone are effectively treated with mebendazole/albendazole and praziquantel as required.

Program implementation areas

Sightsavers began supporting SCH/STH mass drug administration (MDA) in three regions of Cameroon: West, Far North and North in 2018, with funding allocated from the GiveWell quarterly funds. This was increased to 5 regions - Adamaoua, East, Far North, North and West, with funding from Wishlist 3 from April 2019 - March 2022. Two additional implementation areas (Littoral and South regions) were approved in Wishlist 4, for the period of April 2020 to March 2023. The North-West and South-West regions are not currently operational due to ongoing security issues.

Wishlist 5 will extend the support in 5 existing implementation areas (Adamaoua, East, Far North, North and West regions) for an additional year to treat SAC and help control SCH and STH in compliance with the National NTD Program policies and plans, bringing all GiveWell funded deworming activities in the country to the same end date of March 2023.

Table 1 below shows the prevalence of SCH and STH and the treatment schedule in these 5 regions.

Table 1: Prevalence and treatment schedule in program implementation areas

Region / District	SCH prevalence*	SCH treatment schedule	STH prevalence*	STH treatment schedule	Total population 2022 ¹	Total SAC ² 2022
West						
Bafang	1.00%	-	15.30%	-	122,034	30,508
Baham	1.00%	-	10.10%	-	65,160	16,290
Bamendjou	0.00%	-	26.50%	Annual	56,129	14,032

¹ Based on population projections. MOH 2020 Population Projection (except for West where CDD pop was used).

² Based on estimated 25% of population.

Bandja	1.00%	-	8.00%	-	41,463	10,366
Bandjoun	0.00%	-	7.60%	-	145,173	36,293
Bangangte	1.00%	-	14.50%	-	115,217	28,804
Bangourain	1.00%	-	12.00%	-	47,237	11,809
Batcham	1.00%	-	12.20%	-	108,060	27,015
Dschang	0.00%	-	14.20%	-	276,096	69,024
Foumban	2.85%	-	7.27%	-	248,317	62,079
Foumbot	8.28%	-	4.32%	-	110,115	27,529
Galim	1%	-	7.00%	Annual	69,196	17,299
Kekem	7.00%	Annual	21.70%	Annual	47,879	11,970
Kouoptamo	1.79%	-	1.00%	-	90,643	22,661
Malentouen	12.60%	Annual + adults	7.10%	Annual	192,284	48,071
Massangam	3.37%	-	7.90%	-	57,839	14,460
Mbouda	1.00%	-	8.50%	-	228,098	57,024
Mifi	1.00%	-	6.30%	-	374,219	93,555
Penka Michel	1.00%	-	34.80%	Annual	105,759	26,440
Santchou	0.00%	-	15.20%	-	35,350	8,838
Far North						
Bogo	11.25%	Annual	1.28%	Annual	133,500	33,375
Bourha	12.00%	Annual	1.22%	Annual	85,990	21,497
Gazawa	14.00%	Annual	23.00%	Annual	78,857	19,714
Goulfey	2.40%	-	1.00%	-	113,336	28,334
Guere	18.40%	Annual	6.83%	Annual	136,399	34,100
Guidiguis	20.40%	Annual	2.85%	Annual	193,150	48,288
Hina	26.00%	Annual	22.00%	Annual	148,066	37,017
Kaele	10.40%	Annual	21.00%	Annual	127,623	31,906
Kar Hay	18.07%	Annual	5.33%	Annual	142,728	35,682
Kolofata	2.40%	-	1.22%	-	138,036	34,509
Kousseri	11.69%	Annual	1.00%	Annual	416,158	104,039
Koza	16.40%	Annual	2.40%	Annual	215,279	53,820
Mada	31.33%	Annual	22.00%	Annual	170,527	42,632
Maga	28.40%	Annual	1.21%	Annual	201,765	50,441
Makary	3.20%	-	24.00%	Annual	233,381	58,345
Maroua 1	17.60%	Annual	25.00%	Annual	199,143	49,786
Maroua 2	23.36%	Annual	22.00%	Annual	205,871	51,468
Maroua 3	13.00%	Annual	21.00%	Annual	166,106	41,526
Meri	29.32%	Annual	2.43%	Annual	184,519	46,130
Mindif	4.40%	-	1.60%	-	65,720	16,430
Mogode	14.80%	Annual	5.60%	Annual	129,599	32,400
Mokolo	24.00%	Annual	1.22%	Annual	316,092	79,023
Mora	15.20%	Annual	2.86%	Annual	293,673	73,418
Moulvoudaye	24.00%	Annual	81.00%	Annual	161,592	40,398
Moutourwa	8.00%	-	3.20%	-	57,990	14,497

Pette	25.70%	Annual	2.02%	Annual	65,035	16,259
Roua	9.20%	-	3.21%	-	102,517	25,629
Tokombere	6.80%	-	8.10%	-	162,265	40,566
Vele	41.77%	Annual	1.00%	Annual	164,197	41,049
Yagoua	34.00%	Annual	1.20%	Annual	269,542	67,385
North						
Bibemi	13.7%	Annual	4.4%	Annual	179,264	44,816
Figuil	5.2%	-	23.0%	Annual	112,057	28,014
Garoua I	4.0%	-	3.2%	-	337,119	84,280
Garoua II	9.6%	-	1.0%	-	348,582	87,146
Gaschiga	9.6%	-	1.0%	-	149,586	37,397
Golombe	22.4%	Annual	1.0%	Annual	74,032	18,508
Guider	20.4%	Annual	23.0%	Annual	273,552	68,388
Lagdo	35.6%	Annual	25.3%	Annual	229,142	57,286
Mayo Oulo	21.6%	Annual	1.0%	Annual	155,595	38,899
Ngong	13.2%	Annual	2.4%	Annual	282,272	70,568
Pitoea	22.0%	Annual	1.0%	Annual	177,115	44,279
Poli	35.2%	Annual	7.7%	Annual	121,244	30,311
Rey-Bouba	22.8%	Annual	4.8%	Annual	193,077	48,269
Tchollire	19.2%	Annual	1.6%	Annual	194,815	48,704
Toubooro	28.8%	Annual	4.8%	Annual	293,488	73,372
Adamaoua						
Bankim	6.0%	Every 3 years	27.2%	Annual	118,858	29,714
Banyo	14.9%	Annual	4.5%	Annual	163,482	40,870
Djohong	4.4%	Every 3 years	6.8%	Every 3 years	62,658	15,665
Meiganga	7.4%	Every 3 years	11.6%	Every 3 years	168,199	42,050
Ngaoundal	15.0%	Annual	21.0%	Annual	92,415	23,104
Ngaoundere Urbain	11.4%	Annual	5.4%	Annual	327,632	81,908
Ngaoundere Rural	4.4%	Every 3 years	3.8%	Every 3 years	237,756	59,439
Tibati	3.7%	Every 3 years	15.3%	Every 3 years	111,585	27,896
Tignere	28.0%	Annual	15.3%	Annual	134,248	33,562
East						
Abongmbang	0.0%	-	41.7%	Annual	92,855	92,855
Batouri	2.1%	Every 3 years	25.8%	Annual	115,813	115,813
Bertoua	6.5%	Every 3 years	29.6%	Annual	309,015	309,015
Betare-Oya	1.2%	Every 3 years	11.6%	Every 3 years	119,222	119,222
Doume	8.1%	Every 3 years	43.2%	Annual	55,302	55,302
Garoua Boulaye	1.0%	Every 3 years	4.5%	Every 3 years	68,805	68,805
Kette	3.6%	Every 3 years	6.0%	Every 3 years	69,741	69,741
Lomie	1.0%	Every 3 years	89.6%	Annual	38,786	38,786
Mbang	1.0%	Every 3 years	79.0%	Annual	33,967	33,967
Messamena	0.0%	-	70.8%	Annual	30,808	30,808
Mouloundou	1.0%	Every 3 years	83.7%	Annual	49,676	49,676

Ndelele	1.6%	Every 3 years	41.7%	Annual	68,172	68,172
Nguelemendouka	1.0%	Every 3 years	61.0%	Annual	39,112	39,112
Yokadouma	1.0%	Every 3 years	82.2%	Annual	116,125	116,125
Total					13,360,099	4,276,967

Grey highlighted lines are for districts scheduled for MDA in Year 6 as part of Wishlist 5

Prevalence and treatment strategy

GiveWell's continued support will enable an additional year of SCH and STH MDA in accordance with the WHO-defined minimum thresholds for MDA eligibility.

In the case of SCH, we will implement MDA activities as per the 'Cameroon Ministry of Health requirements' column in the table below.

SCH endemicity	Cameroon Ministry of Health (MoH) requirements	WHO strategy ³
High risk ($\geq 50\%$)	Treat SAC every year	Treat SAC every year
Moderate (≥ 10 but $< 50\%$)	Treat SAC every year	Treat SAC once every two years
Low (≥ 0 but $< 10\%$)	Treat SAC once every three years	Treat SAC twice during their primary schooling years (every three years)

Adult treatment, which is recommended by WHO in areas of high SCH prevalence ($> 50\%$), is required, should drugs be available, as part of this program for one district in the West Region.

Please see the attached spreadsheet, 'Prevalence and treatments Wishlist 5', for the full prevalence detail and treatment targets by district.

Outputs

Output 1: Train health workers, teachers and community members to deliver SCH/STH MDA to schools and endemic communities.

Output 2a: Treat school aged children between 5-14 years for SCH/STH MDA.

Output 3: Ministry of Health coordinates and supports targeted regions/districts to implement the National NTD Plan with focus on SCH/STH.

Key output indicator targets

	Year 6 Apr'22 - Mar'23
No. of teachers trained on SCH/STH MDA	7,536
No. of health workers trained on SCH/STH MDA	642
No. of CDDs trained on SCH/STH MDA	8,628
No. of children aged children between 5-14 years treated for STH	1,841,236
No. of children aged children between 5-14 years treated for SCH	1,709,951
No. of adults treated for STH	0
No. of adults treated for SCH	10,308

³ [Helminth control in school age children: a guide for managers of control programmes, Second edition](#), 2011, page 74-75

Summary of planned budget

	Year 6 2022/2023
Planned program costs	\$1,153,629

Please see attached 'Wishlist 5 budget' for more detail.

Implementation

Implementation of SCH/STH MDA in North, Far North, East, West and Adamaoua regions will continue to be carried out through Sightsavers' program staff and in collaboration with the MoH and other partners. Health workers, community drug distributors (CDDs) and teachers will be trained to ensure the smooth implementation of plan activities.

Activities will be supervised by trained health workers and a hybrid campaign of both school and community distribution will be used to ensure optimal coverage. At the end of this one-year period, a total of 1,841,236 school aged children are expected to be treated, 1,841,236 against STH and 1,709,951 against SCH.

Monitoring and evaluation

Treatment coverage surveys (TCS), will be used to indicate the success of MDA, and will be implemented after each GiveWell funded MDA.

An additional Quality Standards Assessment Tool, (QSAT), used to appraise a program's performance, will be scheduled to take place in 2023.

Inputs from key partners, governments, and other stakeholders

Partner	History of work with Sightsavers	Role in the program
Ministry of Public Health	Partnership since 1996	Coordination Implementing partner
Ministry of Basic Education	Partnership since 2011	Coordination Implementing partner
Ministry of Secondary Education	Partnership since 2011	Coordination Implementing partner
Pharmaceutical companies	Pharmaceutical companies have been donating drugs to the MoH	Will supply the quantity of drug requested by the MoH on time.
GiveWell	Supported program since 2017 (SCH and STH)	Donor
Communities	CDDs support MDA. Community led sensitization since 2011	Volunteer support Beneficiaries
Helen Keller International (HKI)	NGO partner since 1996	Collaborating partner
International Eye Foundation (IEF)	NGO partner since 1996	Implementing partner for South Region
Perspectives	NGO partner since 1996	Implementing partner for Littoral Region

Other funding opportunities

At the end of 2017, USAID deworming funding was discontinued, leaving a large funding gap. This drop in funding came at a time when the National NTDs program and other stakeholders had reoriented their strategic plan towards the control and elimination of SCH.

Of the SCH/STH endemic regions in Cameroon, the Centre region has been able to secure deworming funding from GoodNeighbours NGO whilst Sightsavers through GiveWell are currently supporting the other seven endemic regions.

The World Bank is looking to fund a performance-based financing (PBF) Health System Performance Reinforcement Project for refugees and host communities in Cameroon, along its borders with Nigeria and CAR. One element of the project will be to provide clinic based deworming treatments, targeting under-fives and pregnant women only. From the conversations between Sightsavers, the MoH and the World Bank, it is understood that there are currently no plans by the World Bank to fund SCH/STH MDA for school aged children in Cameroon, or to deliver deworming treatments outside the areas impacted by conflict and the refugee crisis. The World Bank is also in the process of planning analytical work on deworming in Cameroon, to which Sightsavers has already offered to collaborate. Sightsavers will continue to closely monitor the situation in Cameroon and aims to continue to be in contact with the World Bank in the coming months to understand their future plans / aspirations regarding Cameroon.

The need to provide an additional year of treatment in North, Far North, East, West and Adamaoua regions came as a result of helping control SCH and STH in compliance with the National NTD Program policies, bringing all GiveWell funded deworming activities in the country to the same end date of March 2023.

Sightsavers continues to encourage the MoH to allocate funding to deworming; however, any additional support from the MoH will have limited geographic scope.