



## **Description of Sightsavers' approach to deciding where to support deworming programs, including how Sightsavers balances disease prevalence, government capacity, and Sightsavers' capacity**

Sightsavers takes an integrated approach to NTD elimination, as it is the most cost-effective, efficient and sustainable approach. Sightsavers has well established programmes supporting the elimination of river blindness, trachoma and LF, and is leading efforts to scale up where needed, and to integrate deworming where possible. We integrate deworming into programmes where we are able to meet two key criteria:

1. That evidence from mapping on co-endemicity with other NTDS demonstrates that it is desirable and feasible to integrate deworming, thus improving quality of life and school attendance, as well as equitable access to medicines and the cost-effectiveness of the programme.
2. That Sightsavers is able to source the funding required to integrate deworming into the programme. Like many NGOs, Sightsavers' unrestricted income is under substantial pressure and is subject to competing priorities. We are therefore better able to integrate deworming activities into programmes if we have restricted funding available for deworming activities. This is a key reason why the support of GiveWell would make a significant difference to our ability to deliver deworming activity on a larger scale.

Before Sightsavers commences support to any partner, including government partners, it undertakes a due diligence assessment in a participatory manner with the partner. We use tools we have developed which have been tested and modified over a number of years. The tools assess the vision, goals, human resource, financing and risks of the partner, and are shared with them in advance of the assessment.

During the assessment, we ask the partner a series of questions, review the evidence and jointly grade the answers using a grading scale. After the assessment a strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) analysis is undertaken and a capacity development plan is developed, with timelines. Capacity development is then assessed annually to determine progress to ensure the partner is empowered to deliver on agreed objectives and systems are established to minimise risks.

We assess Sightsavers' capacity to implement in terms of skills, human resource and the availability of funding (see point 2 above). Where necessary, we recruit additional project staff to support implementation for the period of the project and identify institutions, consultants and coalitions with whom we wish to work for technical support.