

SCI support for the distribution of donated drugs in Ethiopia

Oumer Shafi – Federal Ministry of Health
 Mike French – Schistosomiasis Control Initiative
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Background

Ethiopia has a significant burden of schistosomiasis and soil-transmitted helminths (STHs). Political momentum and donor advocacy is building behind large-scale control of many neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) in the country, including schistosomiasis and STHs. The Federal Ministry of Health recently launched the country's national NTD Master Plan in June 2013. In order to support the initiation of control against schistosomiasis the Ministry of Health requested donations of praziquantel and mebendazole to treat schistosomiasis and STHs respectively.

Merck Serono (via the WHO) have donated 3.5 million tablets of praziquantel (sufficient to treat approximately 1.4 million school-aged children) and Johnson and Johnson (via Children Without Worms) have donated 6.8 million tablets of mebendazole (sufficient to treat 6.8 million school-aged children). These drugs are due to expire at the end of October 2013 so it is imperative that they are distributed before then.

Financial Support for Drug Distribution

The SCI has provided \$250,000 directly to the Federal Ministry of Health to support the distribution of these drugs in Amhara, Oromiya, SNNPR, and Somali regions (Dire Dawa and Harrar will support the distribution of the small amount of drugs they have themselves). Of this amount, £223,998 has been distributed to the regions to support these MDA campaigns (89.6% disbursed). In addition, the SCI has provided a grant of \$98,788 to the Nala Foundation to support treatment campaigns in four areas of Tigray region. All the available drugs have now been distributed to the regions, as per the Table below.

Region	PZQ (tablets)	PZQ (treatments)	MEB (treatments)	Financial Support	Notes
Funding Directly to the FMOH					
Amhara	781,644	312,658	1,518,622	\$62,531	
Oromiya	1,307,684	523,074	2,540,644	\$104,615	
SNNPR	500,000	200,000	1,407,212	\$40,000	
Somali	210,648	84,259	409,259	\$16,852	
Dire Dawa	1,000	400	31,503	-	
Harrar	8,700	3,480	16,903	-	
Sub - total	2,809,676	1,123,871	5,924,143	\$223,998	
Funding to the NALA Foundation					
Tigray	690,324	276,130	875,857	\$98,788	1
TOTAL	3,500,000	1,400,000	6,800,000	\$322,786	

Table. The distribution of donated in-country drugs to the regions, with SCI support. Notes: 1. SCI is providing funds directly to Nala Foundation who will co-ordinate implementation in Tigray

All distribution is due to take place in September 2013 when the schools are back in session, and a report of these distribution campaigns will be written at that time.