



School-based deworming at EBU Miguel Antonio Mango school and Djumbembe school, Farim – Guinea Bissau

This album presents photos from Sightsavers' GiveWell funded school-based deworming activity in Guinea Bissau



Ernesta Adolfo Lopez, Embessal Moreira and Rosa Camara are three of the teachers responsible for the Mass Drug Administration at EBU Miguel Antonio Mango school, Farim, Guinea Bissau



School staff using the measuring dose pole so as to give the correct dose of drug to the children.



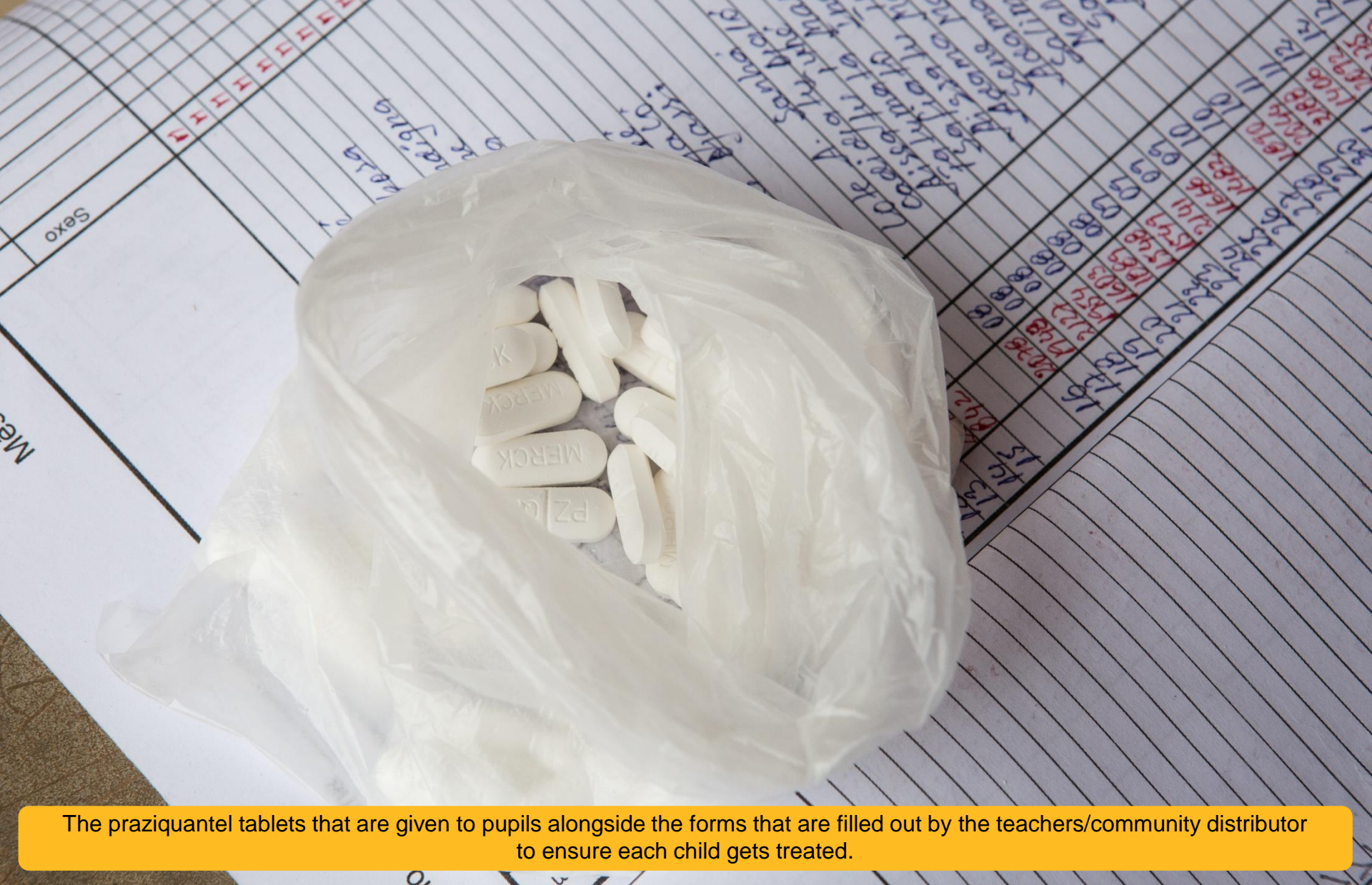
"I am happy to take the medicine, it is going to prevent the disease".
Nine year old Salimata Cande from EBU Miguel Antonio Mango school:



Ernesta and Rosa providing MDA for schisto at EBU Miguel Antonio Mango school, Farim



Twelve year old Adame Sane receives schistosomiasis medicine (praziquantel) from Ernesta and Rosa during MDA at his school



The praziquantel tablets that are given to pupils alongside the forms that are filled out by the teachers/community distributor to ensure each child gets treated.



School children queue to receive schistosomiasis medicine in Farim



Adulai and Boubacar are teachers in Djumbembe school, in the village of Farim preparing for the drug administration. Sightsavers' team previously organized training sessions for the teachers. Adulai, on the right, said: "We were trained to identify the symptoms of the diseases, and now I can look at a child and identify if they are infected or not. They also taught us how to use the measuring pole to deliver doses and how to fill in the forms properly".



Aminata, Braima and their son Aruna, a 12-year-old pupil attending Djumbembe school.

According to his mother Aminata, he's a very lively boy and enjoys going to school, however at times he refused to go because he was in too much pain. Aruna's parents did not know, but he was infected with schistosomiasis. It gave him great stomach pain and he was urinating blood. Missing school because of health problems was becoming very concerning for Aminata.

"We were very afraid that he could not attend school, we wanted Aruna to be able to graduate and hopefully continue his studies abroad, and then come back to help our community. Without an education, we were scared for his future", Aminata said.

Sightsavers' team and partners came to Aruna's school in order to establish a mapping of schistosomiasis and soil transmitted helminths amongst school children, and the testing came back positive for Aruna. He was then given the drug during a mass drug administration.

"We want to thank the people who made it possible. Since he was given the drugs, Aruna has not complained of stomach aches and he has not missed school once. We are all really happy now", Aminata says.



“I am in Class 3 and my favorite lesson is Portuguese. I want to be a doctor when I grow up, so it is important that I go to school and stay healthy. I remember having headaches and stomach aches, and then I got tested and took the medicine. I feel well now, I am not falling sick anymore” 12 year old Aruna

Audulai has been working as the head teacher in the primary school of Djumbembe for 12 years. There are 192 students in this school, for only two teachers. He told us:

“Children are important for the future of Guinea Bissau because they are the next generation. They need to go to school and get an education, so that they will be able to carry on the future affairs of the country. Health and education are linked: unhealthy children have a reduced capacity to learn at school – it’s important for them to be physically and psychologically fit, in order for them to learn.

When the team first came here to map the village, 90% of the children who were tested were positive for schistosomiasis. I was really surprised, I did not know about this disease in this village. It made me sad to learn the prevalence of the disease, especially as it affects school children I work with every day. I was very happy to know the children would get the medicine after the mapping.

Treating children in the school is very convenient. We know all the children, we have sensitized the community, and made sure each child who is attending the school is treated. Most of the children who were treated have told me they have stopped urinating blood.

I have also noticed some changes in the children’s behavior, too. Those who were sick were always so quiet in class, and now they are active and participating. This program is very positive, it is really helpful for the community. I thank the donors and hope they will continue to support our community for all to be happy and healthy.”





Boubacar and Adulai administering medicine to their pupils.



Boubacar is a teacher in Djumembe school. He became a teacher because he wants to contribute to his community. He believes education is extremely important for a child to grow up well and healthy. He told us:

“During the mapping, the team came to this village, they took samples and showed us the parasite in the microscope, so we have seen this disease. It was the first time I heard about it, and when they told us about the symptoms – the stomach pains and swells, the fever - I recognized some of the symptoms in the children I teach. It has a negative effect on the children, they can't understand when I am teaching, and it stops them from quickly capturing the information. Without a treatment, some children would not be able to continue attending school, they would not be able to carry on their normal activities, and eventually they could even die.

I feel very proud knowing the community will be treated. It is very important because it will enable the children to grow healthy. I would like to thank the organizations that have supported this activity, and I hope they continue to support us. Getting rid of these diseases would have a huge impact on our community: everyone would be healthy and the country would develop.”



Jessica Carlos Cabi is a 11 year old attending Djumembe school: "I like coming to school to learn what the teachers teach us. I used to get sick sometimes, I had headaches and stomach aches. I had to miss school twice. I took the medicine, and I feel better now".