

## Workshop for Training on Regional Guidance for Implementation of Integrated Deworming Actions

Bogotá, Colombia 13 -15 May 2013

### BACKGROUND

In the Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) region at least 180 million people live below the poverty line. These impoverished and marginalized populations are often heavily burdened with neglected infectious diseases (NIDs) and other poverty related infectious diseases. This group of diseases continue to take a measurable toll, not only on families and communities, but on the socioeconomic development of nations.

The three common types of Soil-Transmitted Helminthiases - STH (*Ascaris lumbricoides*, *Trichuris trichiura*, and the human hookworms *Ancylostoma duodenale* and *Necator americanus*) are considered to be present in all the LAC Region's countries, with prevalence varying. In 2010, the Pan America Health Organization (PAHO) prepared a report analyzing progress in control and elimination of five NIDs amenable to preventive chemotherapy (lymphatic filariasis, onchocerciasis, trachoma, schistosomiasis and soil-transmitted helminthiases), identifying that if actions were focused on 18 countries; 94% (12,088,816) of Pre-school Age Children (PSAC) and 93.5% (29,927,933) of School Age Children (SAC) population at risk for STH in LAC could be reached with deworming activities (PAHO 2010). In 2012, PAHO updated these estimates based on the methodology described by the World Health Organization (WHO), concluding that 13.8 million PSAC and 35 million SAC are at risk of STH infections in the Region, according to the most updated data of access to basic sanitation and safe water.

Epidemiological information on STH is sparse, as these infections are not reportable; however, in PAHO's review of published prevalence rates, some surveys have indicated prevalence higher than 50% in some groups of SAC and indigenous populations. In addition, these results demonstrated that although intensity of infection is infrequently reported, it has been high enough to be associated with adverse health effects like anemia and physical and cognitive development impairment. Thus, and according to WHO recommendations, the Region's high-risk countries are being encouraged and supported to scale-up STH deworming efforts to reach all vulnerable populations.

As stated in PAHO's Resolution CD49R.19 of 2009, PAHO Member States at risk must reach a deworming coverage of at least 75% of SAC at risk in LAC by 2015 to contribute to achieving the goal of controlling STH. Countries, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), faith based organizations (FBOs), and other partners in LAC have made advances in the integration of deworming into other programs (intra and inter-sectoral approach), however; these actions have been planned and implemented without the existence of guidelines for the integration of deworming into other programs. Therefore, PAHO in 2011 started the process of developing regional guidelines that could serve as an instrument to facilitate the integration of deworming activities into existing platforms such as the Expanded Program for Immunizations (EPI), Integrated Management of Childhood Illnesses (IMCI), nutrition activities, malaria and tuberculosis control, and Healthy Schools, among others. In addition, these guidelines will

facilitate the implementation, enable the effective monitoring and evaluation of deworming, supporting the goal of increasing and sustaining deworming coverage in PSAC and SAC at local level. Moreover in 2011, PAHO, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), and the Global Network for Neglected Tropical Diseases, a program of the Sabin Vaccine Institute, (Global Network), issued a joint policy paper in 2011 titled “A Call to Action: Addressing Soil-transmitted Helminths in Latin America & the Caribbean” which reports on the devastating impact of intestinal worm infection in LAC and also highlights multiple opportunities to scale up deworming programs at low cost with great returns to the economic health and well-being of children and adults throughout the Hemisphere, through both intra- and intersectoral approaches.

To incorporate the best practices and state of the art of integrating deworming programs into health and education programs and through intersectoral action in our regional context, and also make alive and concrete the recommendations in the joint policy paper, PAHO has completed a document on “Regional guidance for implementation of integrated deworming actions” and will implement its first training workshop with participation of MoH and MoE delegates from priority countries, PAHO officers at country level and delegates from PAHO regional programs, with the aim to promoting country ownership of the guidance documents and increasing the likelihood that these actions will be implemented effectively in the countries and the Region.

#### **GENERAL OBJECTIVE**

This workshop will aim to promote country ownership to intensify integrated efforts for controlling Soil-Transmitted Helminthiasis infections, and specifically to promote the implementation of integrated deworming actions within preexistent health platforms in the Region of the Americas, as part of the goals for the control and elimination of Neglected Infectious Diseases established by countries in PAHO Directing Council Resolution CD49.R19 of 2009 and the WHO Roadmap on NTDs of 2012.

#### **SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE**

To train country facilitators on the guidance document for implementation of integrated deworming actions in order to: 1) improve the effectiveness of interventions and to speed up and scale up the control and elimination of Neglected Infectious Diseases in the Region, and 2) complete outlines of operational plans and roadmaps for its implementation in prioritized countries.

With deworming plans available, countries would be able to complete applications for albendazole or mebendazole donations, and in turn, increase deworming coverage and advance towards the STH control goals proposed for 2015.

#### **DATE AND VENUE**

13 to 15 of May 2013, Bogotá, Colombia, Cosmos 100 Hotel, <http://www.cosmos100.com/>

Address: Calle 100 # 21A – 41, Bogotá, Colombia

Contact Center: + (571) 6444000

#### **EXPECTED RESULT**

Facilitators trained by country, outlines and a “roadmap” by country describing the main lines of action and activities to complete an operational plan to implement and increase deworming coverage, and also to reach regional goals stated in PAHO’s resolution CD49.R19. PAHO will do

follow-up on every country roadmap and will provide technical cooperation after the workshop as requested by each country.

### **CONTACT INFORMATION**

Fidel Villegas, Regional Program for Neglected Infectious Diseases, PAHO: [fvillegas@paho.org](mailto:fvillegas@paho.org)

Martha Saboyá, Regional Program for Neglected Infectious Diseases, PAHO:  
[saboyama2@paho.org](mailto:saboyama2@paho.org)

Visit PAHO's website at [www.paho.org/neglecteddiseases](http://www.paho.org/neglecteddiseases)

Visit [www.neglecteddiseases.net](http://www.neglecteddiseases.net)

### **VISA INFORMATION AND REQUIREMENTS**

For visa information and requirements please visit

<http://www.cancilleria.gov.co/en/services/colombia/visas>

*Please note that each participant should review and complete by himself/herself all visa requirements according to regulations of the Government of Colombia applicable to the participant's own country. PAHO is not able to assist with this process.*

### **INTERPRETATION**

English Interpreter services will be provided throughout the meeting.