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Ms Kim Koporc,
Acting Director
Children Without Worms
The Task Force for Global Health
325 Swanton Way
Decatur, Georgia, 30030
USA

Dear Ms Koporc,

Access to Medicines for Neglected Tropical Diseases

At its meeting held on 23 – 24 July 2009, the WHO Working Group on Access to Medicines for Neglected Tropical Diseases identified a need to map large-scale de-worming activities carried out by non-governmental organizations against soil-transmitted helminth infections around the world. This would enable a more accurate estimation of the unmet need for de-worming of pre-school and school-aged children.

Such an inventory should supplement the WHO's global database (PCT Databank on Soil-Transmitted Helminthiasis) which already has data based on figures reported by Ministries of Health on the number of pre-school and school-aged children at risk of STH infections, the number targeted for treatment, and the number treated, the drug used for treatment, as well as on geographical coverage, programme coverage and epidemiological coverage.

As an important non-governmental organization engaged in supporting de-worming activities against soil-transmitted helminth infections around the world, I would like to invite Children Without Worms to take forward this initiative.

Your link persons for this activity will be myself and Dr Antonio Montresor from the WHO's Department of Control of Neglected Tropical Diseases.



Prof Nilanthi de Silva

Chairperson

Working Group on Access to Assured-Quality Essential Medicines
for Neglected Tropical Diseases