NTD Plans of Action

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A key World Health Organization (WHO)-defined STH milestone is that 100% of countries requiring preventive chemotherapy (PC) for STH have NTD plans of action (POA) by 2015. To measure this indicator, between December 2014 and August 2015 CWW collected national NTD POAs from WHO, national programs, and implementing partners. CWW was able to confirm POAs for 41 (39%) countries requiring PC for STH in 2014 (N=106) (Figure 1) of which 11 expired before December 31, 2014.

All confirmed NTD POAs included STH control, but a substantial proportion did not address important aspects of control efforts. For example, many plans failed to indicate a role for key sectors including WASH, nutrition, and education (Figure 2). In addition, only 16 (39%) NTD POAs had monitoring and evaluation plans. Given the growing global consensus that STH control should target both preschool (1-4 years old) and school age children (5-14 years old), it is notable that 16 (39%) POAs focused exclusively on school age children.

All countries requiring PC need POAs and many such countries need to strengthen existing plans. Children Without Worms is ready to work with any country, who so requests, to ensure such planning takes place in 2016.

Figure 1. NTD plans of action received with respect to countries requiring PC for STH in 2014 (N=106)

Figure 2. STH-specific roles for public health sectors mentioned in NTD plans of action (n=41)