

2020 STH Advisory Committee Meeting Conclusions & Recommendations

1. The Strongyloidiasis agenda has progressed and a diagnostics approach identified. This should now pave the way for further evidence from the pilot and subsequent mapping data towards National Program Guidance.
2. Recognizing the significant progress in collecting STH program data during the last 3 years, there remains an unmet need on clear Monitoring & Evaluation guidance for increasing numbers of countries with advanced programs. As global STH programs mature, there is a greater need for technical expertise and support. The STH Advisory Committee (STHAC) offers support to the WHO in the development of an expert group with the STH Coalition, (including experts and implementing partners) to start addressing this M&E gap. This guidance should be linked to the developing WHO NTD M&E framework.
3. Given its widespread endemicity, STH can be positioned as an indicator disease for measuring health systems equity. Upcoming opportunities for new COVID-19 funding should be leveraged for health systems positioning inclusive of STH & NTDs. Existing health systems platforms should be optimized for STH& NTD intervention delivery.
4. STHAC members noted several additional, important issues that need policy-makers' attention as below:
 - With 1.6 billion schoolchildren out of schools due to COVID-19, what is the role of the education sector in continuing/future school-based deworming? Should we be re-engaging in this partnership across the health and education sectors in a more meaningful manner? Communities could take a lead role in school health programs.
 - Leverage the STHAC members' positions to strengthening national capacity for quality research and initiate cross-sectoral research linkages through partnerships with national research institutes.
 - STHAC to develop a paper on STH research gaps that are linked to the 2030 roadmap goals. Issues of drug efficacy, generic drugs, availability mapping, unprogrammed deworming drivers, modeling women of reproductive age lifetime deworming, and the effects of climate change on STH & NTDs are some important themes to consider. Research partnerships (above) can enable this agenda with minimal seed funding.

The STH Advisory Committee (STHAC) is a group of independent research and national program leaders with expertise in public health, STH research, water, sanitation and hygiene, diagnostics, and child and school health. CWW is the secretariat of the STHAC. The 2020 meeting report is available [here](#).