

SOIL-TRANSMITTED HELMINTHIASIS



+ Impact goal

Elimination as a public health problem

+ Elimination target

Prevalence <2% of moderate and severe infection due to *A. lumbricoides*, *T. trichiura*, and hookworms in school-age children (5–14 years)

+ Programmatic targets

Regular preventive chemotherapy (PC) using albendazole or mebendazole to at least 75% of all populations at risk of morbidity in endemic areas

Action steps to achieve elimination

Best buys

1 Mass drug administration:

–Ensure at least 75% PC coverage using albendazole or mebendazole among preschool, school-age children, and women of childbearing age, in areas where soil-transmitted helminthiasis prevalence exceeds 20% with annual or biannual treatment based on prevalence

2 Water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH):

–Improve access to potable water for handwashing and cleaning of foodstuffs to minimize the risk of reinfection
–Improve latrines and wastewater management in risk areas

3 Monitor and evaluate:

–Implement sentinel sites and prevalence and intensity of infection surveys in risk areas to adjust treatment frequency and optimize intervention strategies

4 Strengthen intersectoral coordination:

–Integrate work between health, education, and sanitation sectors to ensure sustainable elimination efforts

More information

· World Health Organization. Assessing schistosomiasis and soil-transmitted helminthiasis control programmes: Monitoring and evaluation framework. Geneva: WHO; 2024. Available from: <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240099364>

· Pan American Health Organization. Operational guidelines for the implementation of deworming activities: A contribution to the control of soil-transmitted helminth infections in Latin America and the Caribbean. Washington, D.C.: PAHO; 2015. Available from: <https://iris.paho.org/handle/10665.2/31345>



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