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INMED Plays Key Role in Facilitating First National Deworming Day in Peru

LIMA, PERU: As part of Peru President Pedro Pablo Kuczynski's healthcare revolution and commitment to provide basic health services to every citizen of Peru, Health Minister Patricia Garcia yesterday oversaw the country's first National Deworming Day. INMED Partnerships for Children has played a key role in mobilizing partnerships that have led to this national program to treat soil-transmitted helminths (intestinal parasitic worms), a leading cause of anemia and malnutrition in roughly 600,000 children in Peru.

Yesterday, thousands of Peruvians of all ages lined up at parks, plazas and markets to receive the first of two treatments of mebendazole, administered free of charge by the Ministry of Health (MINSa). Johnson & Johnson Global Health (J&J) has been donating millions of doses of mebendazole for INMED's regional deworming campaigns and will continue to donate the medicine for Peru's national deworming program, "Peru Without Parasites." A major component of MINSa's 5-year "National Plan for the Reduction and Control of Anemia and Chronic Child Malnutrition in Peru," the national deworming days will be held every six months. MINSa's goal is to treat 6 million Peruvians annually.

With the support of J&J, INMED has been facilitating regional deworming campaigns throughout Peru for more than a decade. INMED is known for its unique ability to galvanize multilateral partnerships to solve some of the world's most complex health and development challenges. With MINSa's new national commitment to deworming and INMED's highly successful regional track record, Peru is poised to be the first country in 70 years to eliminate soil-transmitted helminthiasis as a public health problem.

"The reason we've been so effective in reducing parasitic infection in Peru is our ability to catalyze public and private partners to build an infrastructure for sustainability," noted Dr. Linda Pfeiffer, President and CEO of INMED Partnerships for Children. "In addition to providing the necessary deworming treatments, we also provide nutrition and hygiene education and training to community health agents, teachers, parents and others to help children and families change their behaviors. If we don't change the behaviors, the infection will return. Our comprehensive approach promotes lasting positive outcomes."

"This is a very exciting time for our team," added Fernando Pérez Lastra, National Director of INMED Andes. "This national program has been years in the making, and we are proud to have helped make deworming a national priority. Even the Prime Minister and some other ministers lined up for a dose of mebendazole on National Deworming Day."

About INMED Partnerships for Children:

INMED Partnerships for Children is a nonprofit international development organization that has worked in more than 100 countries to create opportunities for children to be safe, healthy, educated and have access to the right resources to thrive. With offices in the USA, Peru, Brazil, Jamaica and South Africa, INMED works toward this mission by mobilizing, supporting and providing expertise to multi-sector partnerships that improve the health and well-being of vulnerable children and families. Through these alliances, INMED builds effective systems that deliver innovative and sustainable approaches to break complex cycles of poverty and generate opportunities for success.

INMED's work in Peru is facilitated by in-country affiliate INMED Andes, which was formally registered as a nongovernmental organization in 2004. INMED Andes has led numerous initiatives focusing on maternal and child health and nutrition, climate change-adaptive agriculture, and disease prevention to create and sustain a higher quality of life for the people of Peru.

For more information about INMED's programs in Peru and around the world, visit <https://inmed.org> and <https://inmedandes.org>.



Photo caption: President of Peru, Pedro Pablo Kuczynski (right), leads the nation in taking deworming treatment donated by Johnson & Johnson on Peru's first national deworming day.

Photo credit: La Republica