FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:
Nancy Baker, INMED Communications Director, 540-533-7490, nbaker@inmed.org
Zarela Bravo, Programs & Projects Director, INMED Andes, +51 990626950, zbravo@inmed.org

March 18, 2018

2nd National Deworming Day

Families lined up for health across Peru as INMED, Johnson & Johnson and government partners facilitated treatment and education to help eliminate STH as a public health problem in children.

More than 3,000 deworming campaigns were held in all regions of the country, where health professionals doled out millions of doses of free treatment donated by Johnson & Johnson.

INMED Partnerships for Children, in partnership with Johnson & Johnson, has mobilized diverse multi-sector partnerships to facilitate deworming campaigns in all 25 regions of the country. Deworming has been adopted by the national government as a cornerstone of its National Plan for the Reduction and Control of Maternal and Child Anemia and Chronic Childhood Malnutrition 2017-2021, which is administered by the Ministry of Health.

Soil-transmitted helminths (otherwise known as STH or intestinal worms) are one of the leading causes of anemia, malnutrition and stunted growth among Peruvian children. Former Minister of Health Dr. Abel Salinas Rivas called on local governments to join the fight against this insidious public health problem by holding their own deworming campaigns and educating children and their families about proper hygiene, food handling and nutrition.

The National Government has established two national deworming days annually for the next five years, thanks to a commitment from Johnson & Johnson to donate enough medication to treat at least 75% of the population and from INMED to facilitate the effort and work with schools and communities. With INMED’s help, Peru is poised to become the first endemic country in 70 years to eliminate STH as a public health problem in children. Learn more at https://inmedandes.org