



INMED
Partnerships for Children
Healthy Children, Bright Futures



[WHO WE ARE](#) | [WHAT WE DO](#) | [WHERE WE WORK](#) | [PARTNERS](#) | [NEWS & EVENTS](#) | [GET INVOLVED](#)

[CONTACT US](#)

SEARCH THE SITE



TAKE ACTION

Donate Now

Get Email Updates

« [Transformations: Clients Overcome Difficult Times; a Void Filled for a Case Manager](#) | [Main](#) | [Students: We Want Our Vegetables](#) »

JULY 16

Treatment to Fight Parasitic Worms a Gateway to Health, Trust for Change

Johnson & Johnson, Janssen-Cilag keep up fight against worms with donated medicine.

Ashburn, Virginia (July 16, 2009) — Parasitic worms have been a part of life for millions of children in developing and emerging nations worldwide. So too have been the resulting lethargy, inattention and poor performance in school that they have suffered through.

But all that – and more – is changing.

With medicines donated to INMED Partnerships for Children over more than 20 years, more than 5 million children in 15 countries have been freed from infection with multiple types of intestinal worms.

One of the current focus areas for INMED's deworming program is Brazil, where in some locations more than four out of five children have tested positive for worms. Yet with medicine donated to INMED from Johnson & Johnson and its affiliate, Janssen-Cilag, children can expel the majority of these worms within days. From there, other dramatic differences soon unfold.

Suddenly, children possess a zest for life their parents and teachers rarely saw in them. And just as suddenly, for many communities, they understood: Their children weren't under-achievers. They were sick.

This revelation, and the determination to prevent these devastating infections from happening again, opens the door for critical health, education and sanitation measures to combat the spread of intestinal worms and improve the overall health and well-being of the community.

In poor communities throughout Brazil with a high prevalence of intestinal parasites, INMED administers mebendazole, the deworming drug donated by Johnson & Johnson twice annually to children for a period of at least three years. In some communities, more than 80 percent of children are infected when INMED first arrives. That number generally drops to below 30 percent after two years.

Embassy of Brazil Polo Cup



Benefiting INMED

YOU CAN HELP!



Learn more about ways to make an impact.

THE LATEST BUZZ

At the Embassy of Brazil Polo Cup in Poolesville, MD. It's a beautiful afternoon to be raising money for the children!

@INMEDChildren

The medicine's effectiveness has also helped overcome widespread misinformation about and indifference toward the parasites. Seeing that something could be done about the worms, entire communities have stepped forward to combat what once seemed like a lost cause, from learning how the worms are contracted to developing community programs and school curricula centered on prevention.

"That's when you can really address the underlying causes of a problem," said INMED Brasil's president, Joyce Capelli, "starting with the school children and working outward to involve the entire community to a point where eventually the medicine is no longer needed."

"It really is a transformation," she added.

And one not limited to worms. The success of the deworming program has laid the foundation for INMED to partner with communities to address other issues affecting their children's well-being and long-term opportunities, such as literacy and basic education, violence prevention, hunger and nutrition, and HIV/AIDS prevention.

Working to both treat the problem and address the underlying causes with entire communities, such as Francisco Morato on the outskirts of São Paulo, the intestinal worms that were once a horrific problem are now under control. INMED has since been able to address broader health, hygiene and education issues in the community, with remarkably positive outcomes on all fronts.

"That, of course, is our ultimate goal," INMED President and CEO Linda Pfeiffer affirmed. "We are working ourselves out of a job in Francisco Morato, and that's a good thing. Our goal is to introduce programs that address health, education and safe communities for children and help communities become self-reliant to achieve the lasting change that will benefit today's children and those of the future."

While continuing the work in Brazil, INMED is also focusing on a major deworming campaign in the Amazon region of Peru, where Johnson & Johnson has donated more than 800,000 doses of mebendazole over the last two years.

"The medicine has been such an incredible entry point to introduce other types of long-term change," Pfeiffer said. "It really is working."

CONTACT INFO:

INMED Partnerships for Children
Mary-Lynne Lasco, Director of Development
281-465-4693, or contact@inmed.org

[SHARE ARTICLE](#) | [EMAIL ARTICLE](#)



1

0



about a day ago



Follow @INMEDChildren

↓ MORE INFORMATION

[PRIVACY POLICY](#) | [CONTACT](#)

Copyright © 2011, INMED Partnerships for Children.
All Rights Reserved.

↓ FOLLOW INMED

