

THE BELLAGIO DECLARATION

Every girl and every woman of reproductive age who is infected with soil-transmitted helminths has the right to be treated.

Because ... intestinal worm infections of moderate and heavy intensity, especially hookworm and whipworm infections, cause substantial morbidity in girls and women of reproductive age.

Because ... treatment is safe and effective at reducing morbidity, including during pregnancy (after the first trimester) and during breastfeeding.

Because ... girls and women of reproductive age living in areas endemic for soil-transmitted helminth infections who present to a health service should be treated on a case-by-case basis.

For logistic and cost-effective reasons, where the prevalence of soil-transmitted helminth infection in a community equals or exceeds 20%, targeted preventive chemotherapy of all girls and women of reproductive age in the community is recommended. Preventive chemotherapy targeted to this group at risk can be delivered through many different venues including schools, households, health facilities such as antenatal care clinics, and other appropriate venues.

