Pan American Health Organization
Regional Office of the World Health Organization

HAITI

PAHO/WHO's Technical Cooperation

in the aftermath of the earthquake 2010

Priority Communicable Diseases: LYMPHATIC FILARIASIS and INTESTINAL PARASITES

Lymphatic Filariasis (LF) affects the Haitian population throughout the entire national territory. A study conducted in 2001-2002 in 119 of the 135 communes in Haiti revealed the presence of LF in the all ten departments and with 10% prevalence rate of the parasite in school age children.

A study of intestinal parasite prevalence carried out in 2002 showed that prevalence reached as high as 70% in some departments. LF and other parasitic intestinal infections have been included in the Neglected Tropical Diseases project, which looks to create an integrated initiative at the national level for mass drug administration on a community scale. The principal goal of the project is to expand the treatment for LF and for parasitic intestinal infections, performing a multiplier effect on the donors' funds in order to reach coverage at the national level.

The National LF program does not have adequate resources. It has been totally funded by partners, mainly the Gates Foundation, Interchurch Medical Assistance (IMA World Health) and the University of Notre Dame.

After the devastating earthquake of 12 January 2010, Filariasis control was critically affected by the destruction of the offices of the National Filariasis Program. Negative consequences on activities in 2010 are to be expected.

Activities carried out between 2008-2009:

- **Development of mass treatment activities** in collaboration with the National Lymphatic Filariasis Program, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and IMA World Health:
  - In 2008, over 3 million people received treatment in four departments.
  - In 2009, the treatment will cover over 4.5 million people in seven Departments.
- Support for the epidemiological data collection, and the development of the annual reports on LF.
- Drug management through PROMESS.

Next interventions:

- Treatment for 8 million people in nine of the ten Departments in 2010.