

Research Meeting
April 11, 2013

Elie said that he recently reached out to Deworm the World to explain GiveWell's current requirements for the materials an organization needs to provide in order to be considered for a potential recommendation. Deworm the World implements deworming, an intervention that GiveWell believes to be fairly cost-effective and have relatively strong evidence. These factors make Deworm the World an organization that GiveWell would consider for a top recommendation were it to meet GiveWell's other criteria.

Elie has similarly reached out to other "top contenders" such as the Centre for Neglected Tropical Diseases at the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine (which focuses on lymphatic filariasis control) and New Incentives (an organization that provides conditional cash grants).

Staff decided that Holden would revisit the list of organizations that GiveWell had reviewed in the past to decide whether to reach out to these organizations as well. One example is Project Healthy Children, an organization that implements food fortification, and that Giving What We Can recently posted an initial report on:

http://www.givingwhatwecan.org/sites/givingwhatwecan.org/files/attachments/phc_writeup_march20.pdf.

GiveWell's current list of priority interventions is available at <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/pub?key=0AsozgwTXYV1wdGpRSnE5UFREZTRsbEY2Q3IRS0FEZ3c&output=html>

Elie also gave an update on Benjamin Soskis's work on the history of philanthropy project. He is reviewing the literature, which can be divided into 3 categories:

1. Independent publications about the work of funders
2. Information from the perspective of groups "on the ground"
3. Foundation self-reports

Of these three categories, Benjamin has so far reviewed the literature for the first category and shared with us a working annotated bibliography.

Staff then discussed GiveWell's confidentiality policy.

Staff also went around to highlight the main projects that they are working on:

Elie: see above

Eliza: preparing an update on GiveDirectly's progress since November

Cari: pursuing potential co-funding opportunities

Holden: continued, preliminary work on political advocacy and scientific research

Natalie: administrative tasks including preparing materials for the audit and improving GiveWell's donation processing system; initial research into question of whether bed nets reduce immunity and cause delayed mortality effects

Alexander: research and conversation on climate change, calls with experts for meta-research

Tim: water purification intervention report

Jonah: notes from GiveWell's conversations with experts and charity representatives