

Health

- Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) are remarkably disfiguring and disabling
- Soil transmitted helminths (STHs) cause stunting, inhibited cognitive ability and decreased school performance in children
- STHs cause anemia; the risk of dying during pregnancy in anemic women is 3.5 times higher than in non-anemic women
- Deworming and resulting reduction in anemia improve the chances of surviving severe malaria

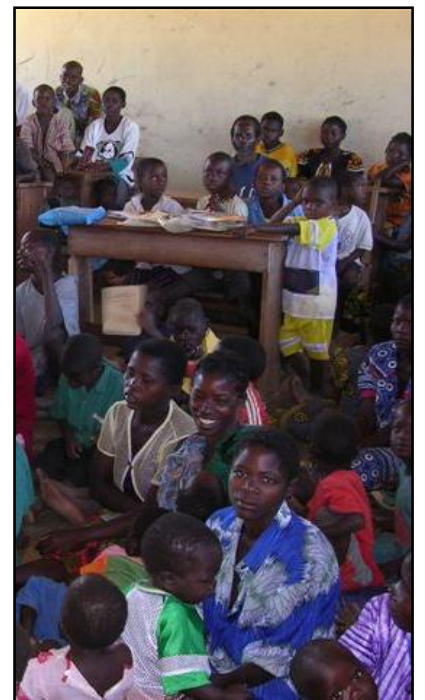


Economic

- The disabling effects of NTDs have a enormous impact on the work force and productivity of communities, hookworm is estimated to cause a 40% reduction in future wage earnings
- In Kenya, deworming could raise per-capita earning by 30%
- In India, lymphatic Filariasis causes a \$1.5 billion loss in GNP per year
- In Japan, successful deworming programs in the 1950's are one of the reasons for their subsequent economic boom

Education

- Deworming is the most effective means of improving school attendance
- Children with hookworm have shown a 23% drop in school attendance
- Worm infections cause 16 million cases of mental retardation in children in developing countries
- Worm infections cause 200 million years of lost primary schooling



Social

- The disfiguring qualities of NTDs cause people to be heavily stigmatized and often ostracized from the community