



The World Health Organization (WHO) together with the Federal Ministry of Health, Government of Gezira State, and Merck launched a campaign to fight schistosomiasis in Sudan on 27 August 2013. An estimated 5.8 million people in Sudan – around 15% of the total population – require schistosomiasis treatment.

WHO received a donation from Merck of six million praziquantel tablets for large-scale treatment of schistosomiasis in the country. The total value of the medicines is around 2.4 million Sudanese pounds (more than € 400 000).

The Under Secretary of the Federal Ministry of Health, Dr Isam M. Abd Allah, welcomed the donation, emphasizing that “After malaria, schistosomiasis is considered the most prevalent tropical disease in Africa. This worm disease is also widespread among children in Sudan.”

Schistosomiasis is transmitted in all of Sudan’s 18 states. An estimated 5.8 million people in the country – around 15% of the total population – require treatment; the majority of those infected are children.

WHO Representative in Sudan Dr Anshu Banerjee said, “The World Health Organization has set itself the goal of controlling or eliminating neglected tropical diseases, among them schistosomiasis, by 2020 in order to improve and save the lives of hundreds of millions of people around the world. Therefore, we welcome every sustainable initiative that supports our efforts in the fight against tropical diseases.”



The distribution of AM, with the assistance of the local health workers, in the school in the village of Gopu, [Bahr el Jebel, Sudan, EMRO region, 25th April 2010](#)