

## Genieri Collections - Newsletter No.32 – October 2023

Some time ago we mentioned an exercise to get a small amount of money more directly to the point of use, ie. to the babies via the 28 mums.

Perhaps the images below demonstrate just how well the gift was received, all at the princely sum of about £2.60 per mum per month.



What they're waving is the 200 Dalasi Notes, which are running at about D.76/£1.

Better feeding and medication are just that little bit more affordable for them, and from what we're told they're very grateful. It seems so little, but really does make a big difference in such an impoverished land.

For a point of reference rice costs them about D.40 per Kg. against a daily wage of about D100 - D120, call it about 3Kg for a full day's work. By comparison we pay about £1.60 per Kg. and that's a yield of about 7Kg.PER HOUR at the minimum living wage. It's unimaginable just how much food stress



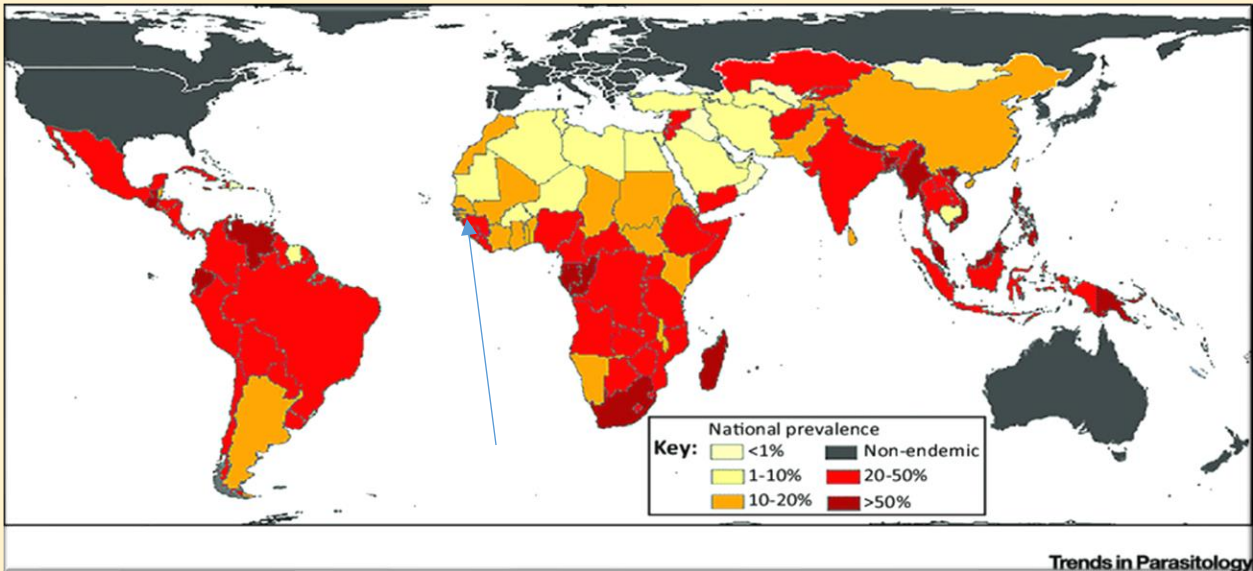
and insecurity they live under, and all with a beaming smile. Your wee donation does make a real difference to them.

We've budgeted this allowance in, and we're comfortable that it's sustainable for the next year, so general health should be improved over the period. The better feeding, no matter how small, brings a sure-fire improvement to infant immune systems, with all the benefits that it brings long-term.

### Medical Issues with the children.

On the health front we're informed that there's been a rather nasty outbreak of anaemia within the children, and this is generally closely associated with infections of intestinal worms.

These nasty parasites, known as Helminths, "are one of the leading causes of morbidity in the developing world with over two billion people affected, and infection can cause physical, nutritional and cognitive impairment in young, developing children".



As you'll see from the map the children we look after lie in a high impact area.

We've looked into this (known locally as Helmet Infection), and with a sister charity we've provided appropriate medication to bring it under control.

According to the WHO there's a close link between such infections and a deficiency in Vitamin A which is not good at all for the health of both vision and developing immune systems, so it's clearly better treated than left to get worse.

Treatment involved a single dose of the de-worming medication Mebendazole, which is exceptionally effective and very safe. When coupled with high dosage Vitamin A supplementation (to bolster their immune system), it should bring great benefits. For a total of less than £170 95 children are now better protected for about the next 6 months. De-worming was done quickly, and within 5 – 6 days they should be entirely clear of these parasites.

It's especially important, as babies and infants do crawl about, and the major reservoir is in soil.

Money permitting we'll make this a formal 6 monthly exercise. Early figures suggest that periodic treatment is a lot more affordable than prevention, given that ordinary soap, whilst generating a 68% reduction in infections, is well outside their means at about D90 (£1.15), per bar.

We'll look at this whole issue with specific focus applied to hygiene behaviour surrounding the meal we provide them at lunchtime. There may be something we can do, but poor sanitation, habit and cultural issues may well be problematic.

That' all for now folks, and we'll surely make contact with you again before Christmas.

**Jim, Sophie and Bob**