Subject: Conducting National Deworming Day on 10th February, 2015

Dear Mr. Arsenault,

Soil transmitted helminths (STH) are a significant public health concern for India. Around 241 million (68%) children are estimated to be at risk of parasitic intestinal worm infestation. Evidences have shown detrimental impact of STH infestation on physical growth and cognitive development. Periodic deworming of children together with improvement of water and sanitation, and health education can reduce the transmission of STH infections.

Global experience have shown that launching a high quality nation-wide mass deworming program to reach children and adolescents at scale could dramatically reduce the harm caused by STH on millions of children in India in a cost effective, simple and safe manner. Thus, with an aim to intensify efforts towards STH control, it has been decided to conduct National Deworming Day (NDD) on 10th February, 2015 (Tuesday) followed by a Mop-Up round on 13th February, 2015 (Friday).

Considering the States preparedness for effectively conducting the deworming round, it has been decided to begin with National Deworming Day in selected 12 States namely Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Dadar & Nagar Haveli, Haryana, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Tripura in the first phase.

During the National Deworming Day, all the children of age 1 – 19 years will be provided Albendazole through the platform of school and Anganwadi centers alongwith prior awareness generation activities focusing on benefits of consuming albendazole and adopting sanitation – hygiene practices.

A detailed NDD Toolkit containing Operational framework, monitoring checklists, FAQs and Factsheet etc. is available on website (www.nhm.gov.in). State is requested to gear up the procurement process, ensure drug logistic supply, training efforts, printing of IEC materials, broadcasting of audio-visual materials, printing & distribution of formats upto every school & anganwadi centers and undertake required steps for effective implementation of NDD.

You are requested to closely monitor the activities for National Deworming Day through your State/District RMNCH+A teams and accord high and urgent priority in planning and implementation of National Deworming Day on 10th Feb and 13th Feb, 2015. Enclosed is a one pager Monitoring checklist that would support the field monitors in monitoring the program on the National Deworming Day and Mop-Up day.

Yours Sincerely,

(Dr. Rakesh Kumar)

Mr. Louis-Georges Arsenault,
UNICEF Representative to India
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New Delhi – 110003

Copy to: Mission Director – NHM, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Tripura

Enclosed: Monitoring Checklist for NDD