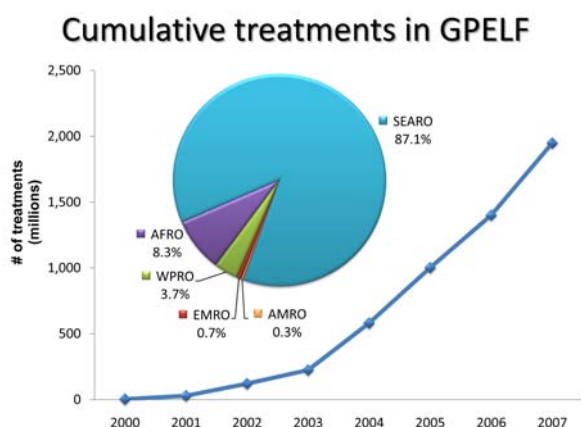


GLOBAL PROGRAMME TO ELIMINATE LYMPHATIC FILARIASIS: HEALTH IMPACT AFTER 8 YEARS

- In 1997, the Global Programme to Eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis (GAELEF) was created in response to World Health Assembly Resolution 50.29 calling for the elimination of lymphatic filariasis (LF) as a public health problem. In support of that resolution:
 - o The World Health Organization had developed a new strategy aimed at achieving LF elimination through 'mass drug administration' (MDA)
 - o WHO received extraordinary pledges from two pharmaceutical companies (GlaxoSmithKline and Merck & Co., Inc.) for drug donations of unprecedented size to support the programme
- Impressive programmatic progress has been documented (see below)
- What is most needed now – for donors, workers and endemic communities – is to understand *what difference* it has made to the health and welfare of at-risk populations: what *impact* has 10 years of focus on LF really had?

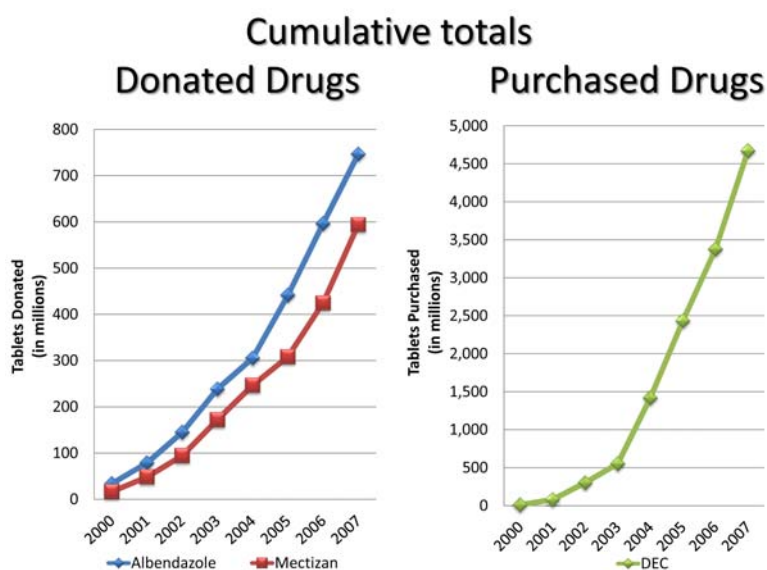
PROGRAMMATIC PROGRESS: 2000-2007

- **Treatments delivered:** more than 1.9 billion treatments in 48 countries



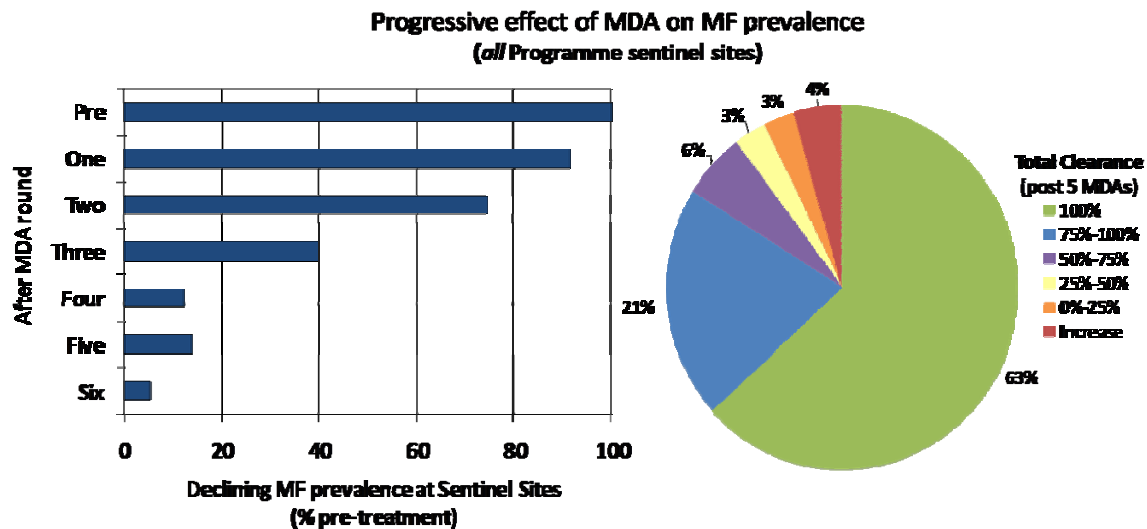
AFRO – Africa Regional Office
 AMRO – Americas Regional office
 EMRO – Eastern Mediterranean Regional; Office
 SEARO – South East Asia Regional Office
 WPRO – Western Pacific Regional Office

- **Drugs Donated up to end 2007:**
 - o More than 745 million tablets of albendazole by GlaxoSmithKline
 - o Nearly 600 million tablets of Mectizan® by Merck & Co., Inc
- **Drugs Purchased:**
 - o Over 4.7 billion tablets of DEC by WHO, bilateral donors and endemic countries



PROGRAMME EFFECTIVENESS IN DECREASING LF PREVALENCE

- > 10-fold reduction of micro filarial (life stage of LF)-prevalence in sentinel-site communities that received 6 rounds of MDA
- Total clearance of micro filaria in almost 2/3 of sentinel communities after 5 rounds of MDA



HEALTH IMPACT: LF RELATED

- Disease prevented over a lifetime in babies born into areas freed of LF transmission
 - o Of 66 million newborns in areas protected by global programme to eliminate LF (GPELF), 10% (6.6 million) would have developed chronic disease. For their lifetimes, GPELF has therefore averted:
 - 1.4 million hydroceles, 800,000 lymphedema cases and 4.4 million cases of subclinical disease
 - 6 million Disability Adjusted Life Years (DALYs)
- Arrested progression from subclinical to overt disease
 - o 9.5 million individuals *infected but without clinical disease* were protected by GPELF:
 - 6 million cases of hydrocele & 3.5 million cases of lymphedema prevented
 - 26 million DALYs averted

HEALTH IMPACT: 'BEYOND LF' BENEFITS

- Treatment of soil-transmitted helminth (STH) infections through national programs to eliminate *LF*
 - o >170 million treatments for STH (albendazole) given to 56 million children by GPELF, resulting in:
 - Increased appetite, weight gain and growth
 - Greater eye-hand coordination, learning ability and concentration
 - Better school attendance, cognitive testing, fitness scores and spontaneous play activity
 - o >140 million treatments for STH (albendazole) given to 44.5 million women of childbearing age by GPELF, improving nutritional status and iron stores and leading to:
 - *Increased infant birth-weights* by as much as 50 grams
 - *Decreased infant mortality* by as much as 40% and decreased maternal mortality
- Treatment of onchocerciasis, scabies, and pediculosis (lice) with ivermectin* through the GPELF in Africa
 - o >149 million treatments (ivermectin) given by GPELF in coordination with APOC to >45 million in African communities
 - Millions of people living in onchocerciasis-endemic areas not previously treated received ivermectin through coordination between GPELF and APOC.
 - o Ivermectin's long-lasting impact on scabies dramatically reduces community prevalence after 1 cycle and almost completely eliminates it after 2 or more treatments:
 - Improved sleep patterns and overall wellbeing
 - Protection from post-streptococcal renal disease induced by group B streptococcus skin infections that often complicate chronic scabies infection.