

Publication

"Koko et les lunettes magiques": an educational entertainment tool to prevent parasitic worms and diarrheal diseases in Côte d'Ivoire

JournalArticle (Originalarbeit in einer wissenschaftlichen Zeitschrift)**ID** 4064850**Author(s)** Essé, Clémence; Koffi, Véronique A.; Kouamé, Abel; Dongo, Kouassi; Yapi, Richard B.; Moro, Honorine M.; Kouakou, Christiane A.; Palmeirim, Marta S.; Bonfoh, Bassirou; N'Goran, Eliézer K.; Utzinger, Jürg; Raso, Giovanna**Author(s) at UniBasel** [Sólveig Palmeirim, Marta](#) ; [Utzinger, Jürg](#) ; [Raso, Giovanna](#) ;**Year** 2017**Title** "Koko et les lunettes magiques": an educational entertainment tool to prevent parasitic worms and diarrheal diseases in Côte d'Ivoire**Journal** PLoS Neglected Tropical Diseases**Volume** 11**Number** 9**Pages / Article-Number** e0005839

Integrated control programs, emphasizing preventive chemotherapy along with health education, can reduce the incidence of soil-transmitted helminthiasis and schistosomiasis. The aim of this study was to develop an educational animated cartoon to improve school children's awareness regarding soil-transmitted helminthiasis, diarrheal diseases, and related hygiene practices in Côte d'Ivoire. The key messages included in the cartoon were identified through prior formative research to specifically address local knowledge gaps.; In a first step, preliminary research was conducted to assess the knowledge, attitudes, practices, and beliefs of school-aged children regarding parasitic worm infections and hygiene, to identify key health messages to be included in an animated cartoon. Second, an animated cartoon was produced, which included the drafting of the script and story board, and the production of the cartoon's initial version. Finally, the animated cartoon was pilot tested in eight selected schools and further fine-tuned.; According to the questionnaire results, children believed that the consumption of sweet food, eating without washing their hands, sitting on the floor, and eating spoiled food were the main causes of parasitic worm infections. Abdominal pain, diarrhea, lack of appetite, failure to grow, and general fatigue were mentioned as symptoms of parasitic worm infections. Most of the children knew that they should go to the hospital for treatment if they experienced symptoms of parasitic worm diseases. The animated cartoon titled "Koko et les lunettes magiques" was produced by Afrika Toon, in collaboration with a scientific team composed of epidemiologists, civil engineers, and social scientists, and the local school children and teachers. Pilot testing of the animated cartoon revealed that, in the short term, children grasped and kept key messages. Most of the children who were shown the cartoon reported to like it. Acceptance of the animated cartoon was high among children and teachers alike. The messaging was tailored to improve knowledge and practices for prevention of helminthiasis and diarrheal diseases through prior identification of knowledge gaps. Integration of such education tools into the school curriculum, along with deworming campaigns, might improve sustainability of control and elimination efforts against helminthiasis and diarrheal diseases.

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