



ALARMING HEALTH AND EDUCATION STATUS

- Diarrhea and respiratory tract infections are leading causes of death ¹
- 66% of children are infected with intestinal worms ²
- 97% have tooth decay ³
- 35% drop out from elementary school ⁴

Hygiene deficiency diseases are very common, considered 'normal', socially accepted and therefore neglected. Such a problematic environment impacts on child health as well as on school attendance and academic performance and keeps children trapped in a cycle of diseases and poverty for a lifetime.

REFERENCES 1) Department of Health (2008) <http://www.doh.gov.ph> / 2) Belizario VY, de Leon WU, Wambangco ML et al. Baseline assessment of intestinal parasitism in selected public elementary schools in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao. Acta Medica Philippina 2005 39:11-21 / 3) Department of Education, Health and Nutrition Center. National oral health survey among the public school population in the Philippines, 2006. Manila, Philippines, 2008. / 4) DepEd, HNC, Annual Report 2007

www.fitforschool.ph

FIT FOR SCHOOL INC.
 4th Floor Mothers Haus Building
 Mortola St. cor. Hayes Street
 9000 Cagayan de Oro City
 +63 88 857 21 46
info@fitforschool.ph



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About “Fit for School”

‘Fit for School, Inc.’ is a Philippine NGO committed to support the health and education sectors in delivering school-based health interventions at large scale. Fit for School concept promotes the simple and cost-effective ‘Essential Health Care Program’ (EHCP), which addresses high-impact childhood diseases in the Philippines. This program of the Philippines’ Department of Education (DepEd) consists of daily group handwashing with soap, daily group toothbrushing with fluoride toothpaste and bi-annual deworming of children attending public schools and day care centers.

This innovative and award-winning program is making a significant contribution towards the following Millennium Development Goals:

- Achieving universal primary education
- Reducing major childhood diseases
- Developing global partnership for development
- Ensuring environmental sustainability

HEALTH AND EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES

After one year of implementation, a scientific study shows

- 50% lower prevalence of high intensity worm infections
- 40% of oral infections prevented
- 30% lower absenteeism
- 20% fewer malnourished children

STRATEGY

- Use schools and day care centers as venues for health promotion and behavior change, as they are the most appropriate places to reach children in a structured and organized way.
- Institutionalize basic hygiene practices as daily routine.

COVERAGE

In its second year of national implementation, the Essential Health Care Program with the support from Fit for School has reached more than 1 million children in more than 4,000 schools



IMPROVED HEALTH IS AFFORDABLE:

The price for materials (1 toothbrush, 60 ml toothpaste and 40 grams of soap) is 25 pesos per child for the entire school year. Based on the partnership between LPP, DepEd and Fit for School, LGUs are responsible for financing these interventions, while DOH is providing the deworming drugs.

