

**Supplementary Table 1: Primers and probes used in the multiplex real-time PCR for detection of parasites**

<i>Organism</i>	<i>Gene</i>	Primer/Probe name	Sequence
<i>Giardia lamblia</i>	ss-rRNA	Forward primer	GACGGCTCAGGACAACGGTT
		Reverse primer	TTGCCAGCGGTGTCCG
		Probe	FAM-CCCGCGGGCGGTCCCTGCTAG-DDQ1
<i>Cryptosporidium</i> spp.	COW P	Forward primer	CAAATTGATACCGTTTGTCTTCTG
		Reverse primer	GGCATGTCGATTCTAATTCAGCT
		Probe	TexasRed-TGCCATACATTGTCCTGACAAATTGAAT-DDQ2
<i>Entamoeba histolytica</i>	ss-rRNA	Forward primer	AACAGTAATAGTTTCTTTGGTTAGTAAAA
		Reverse primer	CTTAGAATGTCATTTCTCAATTCAT
		Probe	Hex-ATTAGTACAAAATGGCCAATTCATTCA-Dark Quencher
<b>Organism</b>	<b>Gene</b>	<b>Primer/Probe name</b>	<b>Sequence</b>
<i>Giardia lamblia</i>	ss-rRNA	Forward primer	GACGGCTCAGGACAACGGTT
		Reverse primer	TTGCCAGCGGTGTCCG
		Probe	FAM-CCCGCGGGCGGTCCCTGCTAG-DDQ1
<i>Cryptosporidium</i> spp.	COW P	Forward primer	CAAATTGATACCGTTTGTCTTCTG
		Reverse primer	GGCATGTCGATTCTAATTCAGCT
		Probe	TexasRed-TGCCATACATTGTCCTGACAAATTGAAT-DDQ2
<i>Entamoeba histolytica</i>	ss-rRNA	Forward primer	AACAGTAATAGTTTCTTTGGTTAGTAAAA
		Reverse primer	CTTAGAATGTCATTTCTCAATTCAT
		Probe	Hex-ATTAGTACAAAATGGCCAATTCATTCA-Dark Quencher

**Supplementary Table 2: Comparison of DNA concentrations for Chelex and Qiagen DNA extraction methods on parasite-positive stool samples stored on Whatman protein saver cards**

Application Method	DNA extraction protocol	<i>G. lamblia</i> (n=20)	<i>Cryptosporidium</i> (n=20)	<i>E. histolytica</i> (n=20)
		Average DNA concentration ( <u>Min-Max</u> )	Average DNA concentration ( <u>Min-Max</u> )	Average DNA concentration ( <u>Min-Max</u> )
Stool stored on Whatman PSC	Qiagen	76.2 (65.4 – 86.9)	33.3 (28.0 – 38.6)	29.4 (20.1 – 38.6)
	Chelex	831.3 (769.6 – 893.1)	429.6 (393.4 – 465.7)	710.4 (663.8 – 756.9)
Stool suspension stored on Whatman PSC	Qiagen	75.8 (68.8 – 82.8)	19.9 (16.4 – 23.4)	30.7 (21.1 – 40.3)
	Chelex	466.3 (421.7 – 510.9)	230.0 (204.3 – 255.7)	354.1 (325.0 – 383.1)