



Neglected Tropical Diseases in Latin America and the Caribbean

230 MILLION people suffer from the burden of NTDs in Latin America and the Caribbean

The Global Network for Neglected Tropical Diseases and its collaborators are dedicated to ending the suffering and death caused by neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) through strategies to advocate for and implement NTD control and elimination programs.



The Seven Most Common NTDs

Soil-Transmitted Helminths (intestinal worms)

At least **26 MILLION children at risk.**

Intestinal worms include **ascariasis, hookworm, and trichuriasis.** Transmission occurs with lack of access to clean water and sanitation. These infections in children cause anemia, vitamin A deficiency, stunted growth, malnutrition and impaired physical and cognitive development.

Schistosomiasis (snail fever)

Approximately **1.8 MILLION infected, 25 MILLION at risk.** Infection is caused by a blood-borne fluke found in freshwater, which leads to anemia and impaired growth and development in children. In adults, life-threatening conditions of liver and spleen disease may develop. Globally, 280,000 people die from schistosomiasis each year, making it the most deadly of the NTDs.

Onchocerciasis (river blindness)

While successful work has been done to control river blindness in the Americas, an estimated **500,000 people are still at risk.** Infection is caused by a parasitic worm transmitted by bites from black flies. Symptoms include intense itching, disfiguring skin conditions and eye lesions that can result in blindness.

Lymphatic Filariasis (elephantiasis)

Approximately **720,000 infected, 11 MILLION at risk.** Infection is caused by a mosquito-borne parasitic worm that damages the lymphatic system, causing gross disfiguration and incapacitation from swollen limbs and thickened, rough skin.

Trachoma (blinding trachoma)

Approximately **1.1 MILLION infected, 50 MILLION at risk.** The world's leading cause of preventable blindness is a bacterial infection spread through flies and poor hygiene. Over time, the upper eyelid develops scar tissue, eventually turning inward and causing the eyelashes to scratch the cornea, resulting in blindness.

What are NTDs?

Neglected tropical diseases are disabling, disfiguring, and deadly diseases impacting more than 230 million people in the Americas. These bacterial and parasitic infections are widespread among people in poor, rural communities, and urban slums—the majority of whom live on less than \$1.25 per day. NTDs impair physical and cognitive development, cause adverse pregnancy outcomes, and limit adult productivity in the workforce. As a result, they cause billions of dollars in lost wages, all but ensuring that those at risk of infection remain trapped in a cycle of poverty and disease.

Rapid-Impact Package

- 4 drugs to treat 7 NTDs
 1. Albendazole (GSK) /Mebendazole (J&J)
 2. Diethylcarbamazine/Ivermectin (Merck)
 3. Praziquantel
 4. Azithromycin (Pfizer)
- Majority of drugs donated
- One or two doses per year

Approximately **50 cents** per person per year will provide:

- + Rapid-impact package drugs
- + delivery
- + equipment
- + health education materials
- + training of personnel
- + monitoring and evaluation

\$ 0.50 per person per year

