

Current status of lymphatic filariasis (LF)

- Over 80 endemic countries
- More than 1.2 billion people are at risk worldwide
- Approximately 120 million people are already infected
- More than 40 million people are estimated to have clinical signs of filariasis

Strategy for LF elimination

The strategy of the Global Programme to Eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis is to interrupt transmission through annual mass drug administration using a combination of two drugs, albendazole plus either DEC or Mectizan[®], for at least five years. It is important to treat between 65% and 80% of people living in endemic areas through mass drug administration.

Progress in Worldwide Elimination Efforts

Indicator	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Number of countries conducting mass drug administration (MDA)	12	22	32	36	35*	35*	36*
At-risk population living in areas with MDA (millions)	3.2	31	106	137.6	436	610.8	258.4
Total at-risk population covered by mass drug administration (millions)	2.9	26	95.4	122.5	264.4	381.4	171.4

** Four countries that had carried out MDA in previous years were unable to do so in 2004; 8 countries which had previously carried out MDA did not in 2005; and 8 countries which had previously carried out MDA did not in 2006.*

Programme Status by Region as of 2006

Region	Number of endemic countries in region	Estimated pop. at-risk (millions)	Estimated children at risk (millions)	Number of countries conducting MDA	Total treatments given 2000-2006 (millions)
Africa	39	400	179.3	11	112.1
Americas	4	8.9	3.4	4	5.4
Eastern Mediterranean	3	12.6	5.5	2	13.3
Western Pacific (PacCARE & Mekong Plus)	15	30.1	10.6	18	58.5
South-East Asia	9	803	279.8	9	874.7
Global Total	80	1,254	478.6	44	1,064

Definitions

Endemic country: A country with any designated administrative areas [implementation units (IUs)] known or reported to be endemic since 1980.

At-risk population: Total population in endemic administrative areas [implementation units (IUs)].

At-risk population living in areas with MDA: Total population in endemic areas where mass drug administration (MDA) is being implemented.

At-risk population covered by mass drug administration: Number of individuals reported to have ingested antilarial drugs in the adequate dosage. This number will never equal the population living in areas with MDA because pregnant women, children under two years of age (DEC plus albendazole combination) and children under 90 cm in height (ivermectin plus albendazole), and the very sick are not given drugs.