

## Please join us!

- Funding is critical to start and scale up country programmes to reach everyone at risk.
- Resources are urgently needed to expand services for those already infected and support operational research to maximize programme effectiveness.

A lack of care today will deny millions of people the chance to lead full and productive lives tomorrow. You can join with the Global Alliance to make our vision of a future free of LF a reality. For more information about LF and the Global Alliance, please contact us at our offices or visit our web site: [www.filariasis.org](http://www.filariasis.org)



### *Global Alliance to Eliminate LF Contact Information*

#### *Secretariat*

*Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine  
Pembroke Place  
Liverpool L3 5QA  
United Kingdom  
Tel: +44 (0)151 705 3145  
Email: [gaelf@liv.ac.uk](mailto:gaelf@liv.ac.uk)*

#### *Other Contact Information*

##### *Americas*

*Emory University  
750 Commerce Drive, Suite 400  
Decatur GA 30030  
United States  
Tel: +1 404-371-1460  
E-mail: [gaelf@emory.edu](mailto:gaelf@emory.edu)*

##### *Africa*

*Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research  
University of Ghana Campus  
P.O. Box LG581  
Legon, Ghana (West Africa)  
Tel: +233 (0)21 501178 or 501179  
E-mail: [LFSC@Noguchi.mimcom.net](mailto:LFSC@Noguchi.mimcom.net)*

[WWW.FILARIASIS.ORG](http://WWW.FILARIASIS.ORG)



You Can Change My Life



Lymphatic filariasis (LF), commonly known as elephantiasis, is a disease of poverty, affecting the poorest of the poor. Usually contracted in childhood, often before age five, LF can lead to a lifetime of disability. However, there is hope:

- The cycle of LF transmission can be broken in as little as five years, by treating at-risk communities with safe and effective drugs.
- Future generations can be completely protected, and early treatment can prevent clinical disease.

#### Lymphatic Filariasis Endemic Countries

Lymphatic filariasis is a parasitic disease that afflicts millions in approximately 80 countries around the world.





## Why am I living with this disease?

More than 1 billion people are threatened by lymphatic filariasis, a devastating parasitic infection spread by mosquitoes. The disease currently infects over 120 million people, leaving more than 40 million incapacitated or disfigured. More than 95 percent of those at risk live in low-income countries.

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## Who can help me?

- The Global Alliance to Eliminate LF is a broad partnership that unites national Ministries of Health and more than 40 diverse public and private partners including the World Health Organization, companies within the private sector, international development agencies and foundations, non-governmental organisations, research institutions, and local communities.
- You can help the Global Alliance mobilise political, financial and technical expertise to support the Global Programme to Eliminate LF. Together, we can ensure that the Global Alliance achieves its ambitious goal of eliminating LF worldwide by 2020.

## What makes the programme affordable?

To reach those in need, the programme relies on the generosity of Global Alliance partners, including drug donations and community volunteerism.

- GlaxoSmithKline and Merck & Co., Inc. are donating drugs – albendazole and Mectizan® (ivermectin) – for as long as necessary to eliminate LF as a public health problem.
- DEC, a generic drug used along with albendazole in LF programmes mostly outside Africa, is extremely affordable.
- Programme costs are shared by external partners and national Ministries of Health, which often cover a substantial portion.

## How will my children benefit?

Along with preventing LF, the same drugs also combat intestinal parasites that affect the most vulnerable – especially children who face a high risk of infection and long-term consequences. Living free of intestinal parasites prevents anaemia and improves children's growth and development.

*Mectizan® (ivermectin) has formal regulatory approval for lymphatic filariasis and onchocerciasis and is donated by Merck & Co., Inc. for those indications.*