

Neglected tropical diseases

Neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) are a diverse group of diseases with distinct characteristics that thrive mainly among the poorest populations. The 17 NTDs prioritized by WHO are endemic in 149 countries and affect more than 1.4 billion people, costing developing economies billions of dollars every year. In May 2013, the 66th World Health Assembly adopted resolution WHA66.12 which calls for intensified, integrated measures and planned investments to improve the health and social well-being of affected populations. WHO is working with Member States to ensure implementation of WHA66.12.

These diseases often do not kill; they simply destroy a person's ability to function in society and often require intensive care. They are called "neglected" because while a great deal of attention is given to diseases like malaria, these diseases do not receive the same kind of attention. Fortunately, there is medicine that can prevent many of these diseases from occurring and it costs only 25¢ per year. In Guilford Rotary, periodically Rotarians are asked to empty their pockets of loose change to provide some funds for this purpose.

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The neglected tropical diseases result from four different causative pathogens:

Protozoa

- [Chagas disease](#)
- [Human African trypanosomiasis \(sleeping sickness\)](#)
- [Leishmaniasis](#)

Bacteria

- [Buruli ulcer](#)
- [Leprosy \(Hansen disease\)](#)
- [Trachoma](#)
- [Yaws](#)

Helminth

- [Cysticercosis/Taeniasis](#)
- [Dracunculiasis \(guinea-worm disease\)](#)
- [Echinococcosis](#)
- [Foodborne trematodiasis](#)
- [Lymphatic filariasis](#)
- [Onchocerciasis \(river blindness\)](#)
- [Schistosomiasis](#)
- [Soil-transmitted helminthiasis](#)

Virus

- [Dengue and Chikungunya](#)
- [Rabies](#)