
17 Neglected tropical diseases

- Affect 1,4 billion people in 149 countries
- 100% of low income countries are affected simultaneously by more than five diseases
- Those affected are the poorest, often living in the remote rural areas or urban slums
- The diseases flourish under conditions linked with poverty – unsafe water poor sanitation, understandard housing and reservoirs for insects and other disease vectors
- Children are most likely to be affected and may suffer lifelong consequences including severe pain, irreversible disability and gross disfigurement. If the diseases are left untreated the children may die.
- Social stigmatization and discrimination compound these consequences