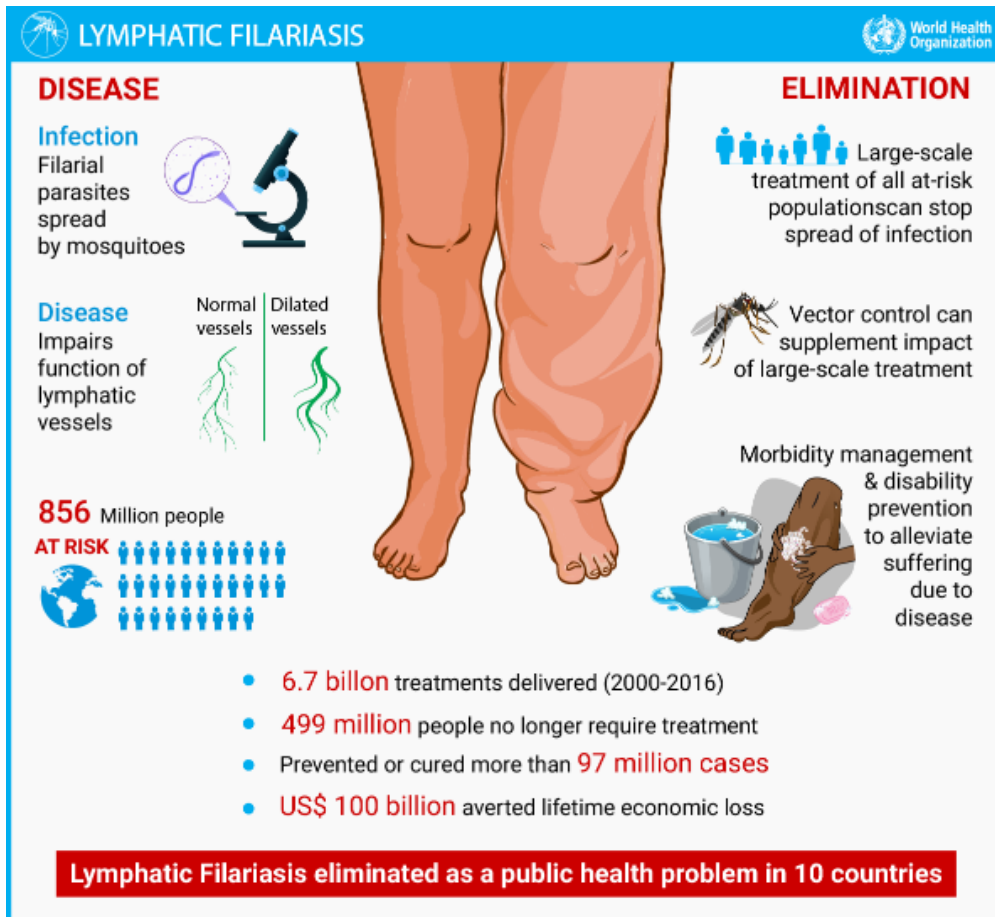


Lymphatic Filariasis (LF)

Why in News?

Union Health Minister launched National Mass Drug Administration (MDA) campaign for the elimination of Lymphatic Filariasis (LF) across 13 identified LF endemic states.

- **Lymphatic filariasis (LF)** - It is a ***Neglected Tropical Disease (NTD)***.
- **Caused by** - Parasites classified as **nematodes** (roundworms) of the family Filarioididea.
- There are 3 types of these thread-like filarial worms
 - *Wuchereria bancrofti*, which is responsible for 90% of the cases
 - *Brugia malayi*, which causes most of the remainder of the cases
 - *Brugia timori*, which also causes the disease.
- **Causes** - It damages the lymphatic system and the kidneys and alter the body's immune system.
- It is commonly known as ***Elephantiasis or Hathi Paon***.
- **Symptoms** - Asymptomatic, acute and chronic conditions which leads to,
 - Lymphoedema (tissue swelling) or elephantiasis (skin/tissue thickening) of limbs and hydrocele (scrotal swelling).



LYMPHATIC FILARIASIS World Health Organization

DISEASE

Infection
Filarial parasites spread by mosquitoes

Disease
Impairs function of lymphatic vessels

856 Million people AT RISK

ELIMINATION

Large-scale treatment of all at-risk populations can stop spread of infection

Vector control can supplement impact of large-scale treatment

Morbidity management & disability prevention to alleviate suffering due to disease

- 6.7 billion treatments delivered (2000-2016)
- 499 million people no longer require treatment
- Prevented or cured more than 97 million cases
- US\$ 100 billion averted lifetime economic loss

Lymphatic Filariasis eliminated as a public health problem in 10 countries

- **Transmission** - It enters to human body through the bites of infected mosquitos to humans.
- **Transmitted by** - Different types of mosquitoes,
 - **Culex** - Widespread across urban and semi-urban areas.
 - **Anopheles** - Found in rural areas.
 - **Aedes** - Endemic in the islands of Pacific.
- **Risk factors** - It is usually acquired in childhood.
- **Treatment** - It is possible to stop the spread of the infection through preventive *chemotherapy*.
- **WHO recommendation** - It recommended chemotherapy strategy for lymphatic filariasis elimination is *Mass Drug Administration (MDA)*.

Mass Drug Administration (MDA) involves administering an annual dose of medicines to the entire at-risk population.

- 5-pronged strategy to ensure that Lymphatic Filariasis (LF) is eliminated much ahead of the Sustainable Development Goal of 2030.

Mass Drug Administration (MDA) Campaign in India

- **Goal** - To reduce the spread of LF by eliminating the microscopic filarial parasites present in the bloodstream of infected individuals.
- **Coverage** - 111 endemic districts across *13 states*,
- Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal.
- **Medication regimen - Double Drug (DA)** - Diethylcarbamazine Citrate (DEC) and Albendazole.
- **Triple Drug (IDA)** - Ivermectin, Diethylcarbamazine Citrate (DEC), and Albendazole.

References

1. [PIB| Mass Drug Administration \(MDA\) Campaign for Lymphatic Filariasis \(LF\)](#)
2. [WHO| Lymphatic Filariasis \(LF\)](#)