

45 years of independence...

“ Jiggers know no constituency boundaries.”
Francis Ole Kaparo
Former National Assembly Speaker

ABOUT AHADI KENYA

Ahadi Kenya is a not for profit organization established last year with the aim of eradicating jiggers among poor communities in Kenya. Ahadi Kenya objectives are promotion of good health practices among poor Kenyan communities; advocacy for the health rights of poor communities; mobilization of resources in support of good health practices for the poor. This is guided by Ahadi Kenya's vision of *a better and healthier life for the poor*.

WHY THIS STATEMENT

Some of our top leaders have become inaccessible hence this serves as a brief to them on the issue of jigger infestation in Kenya. At the same time create the awareness to Kenyans who do not believe jiggers are still a problem after Forty five (45) years of independence.

ABOUT THE JIGGERS

As societies seek to develop, they often tend to forget the key elements, which if addressed, could make the societies really match their goals.

In the Kenyan case, as we seek to attain Vision 2030, through which the country hopes to achieve more than a 10 percent economic growth and, therefore, eradicate poverty, this truism cannot be more apt.

A strange, though not-so-strange, phenomenon, which could derail our stated aim, seems to have been forgotten in the din over our professed preparedness and ability to reach the aforesaid goal.

A pest- a small pest- is at the centre of this observable fact that could put a brake on Kenya's advance towards economic self-actualization. Millions of Kenyans are living with jiggers in their bodies.

CAUSES OF THE JIGGER INFESTATION

The major causes are poverty and poor hygiene conditions.

Poor people living in unhygienic dwellings get jiggers because of the unsanitary nature of those dwellings. Effects of the infestation lower economic activity among such people. This renders the poor unable to rise out of poverty or makes them even poorer. They are trapped inside the vicious cycle of poverty

The vicious cycle that jigger infestation triggers on may trap people in poverty for a long time unless timely and appropriate intervention breaks the cycle at one or at several points.

The jigger is a parasite capable of visiting untold misery on its victims, especially children. Yet the jigger vicious cycle is among the easiest to break because it mostly afflicts small populations of the uneducated poorest of the poor within the endemic areas. The jigger and poverty vicious cycle can be broken through cost-effective intervention at almost any point.

2, 000,000 No. of people estimated to be jigger infested country wide

800,000 No. of people who could not vote due to jigger infestation last year.

50,000 No. of children out of school due to jigger infestation.

EFFECTS OF JIGGER INFESTATION

The jigger is a parasite that lowers the quality of life of its victim in many ways and knowing the way it is distributed in Kenya is a first important step towards its eradication. Jiggers harm their victims in the following ways:

HIV/AIDS - Removal of jiggers with shared pins and other unsterilized removing equipments spread HIV/AIDS and other communicable diseases. Jigger infestation creates wounds that act as entry points for microbial infection

Low education standards - It affects the education of children for they are unable to walk to school, write properly, or participate in normal learning activities on the same level with other unaffiliated children. It lowers the dignity of the victim, with children, for instance, facing ridicule both in and outside school

Poverty - People afflicted with jiggers are less economically active, which raises poverty levels. Since jiggers are usually a result of already existing poverty, their infestation perpetuates the vicious cycle of poverty where the poor are unable to rise out of poverty or actually often sink deeper into it. This frustrates Kenya's attempts to achieve the Millennium Development Goal, which aims at reducing levels of poverty in the country by a half by year 2015. Jigger removal is a laborious process that consumes time needed for economic activity and the education of children

Civil rights - People afflicted with jiggers are unable to participate fully in the democratic process to influence politics in their favor, which may marginalize them even further.

Low self esteem - The parasite causes pain in affected parts and injury that seriously impede movement and performance of many of life's chores, making a person dependent on others who may themselves be unable to help due to their own affliction within the family. Jigger infestation and the process of their physical removal, as practiced in the villages, is a painful and traumatic experience, especially for children, lowering their quality of life.

OUR STUDY

Areas affected

Jigger infestation is in all parts of the country and no province is spared according to our study.

No. of people infested-The total Number of those infested with jiggers countrywide is unknown as no comprehensive baseline survey has been done either by Ahadi Kenya or the Government but we estimate those affected to be more than Two(2) Million

Hospitalization

More than **40 people** have been hospitalized in different parts of the country for the last one year with serious jigger infestation.

Deaths

12 people are confirmed dead after jigger related complication this year alone.

HIV Aids

13 families in only one location in Murang'a have contacted HIV Aids though sharing of pins in the process of removing jiggers. We fear that many more people all over the country are at risk.



...and still at the mercy of jiggers
www.jigger-ahadi.org

OUR APPEAL

1. To the **President** and the **Prime Minister** for support and recognition of the campaign as a national concern.
2. The **Government Ministries** for partnership.
3. **Members of Parliament** to stop feeling embarrassed and join us in the fight against jiggers in their respective constituencies.
4. **Corporate, The media, NGO's, private sector, individuals and well wishers** for any kind of support including; disinfectants, soap, washing basins, shoes and clothing, foodstuffs, transport, volunteers or any other contribution that will help turn their lives around. Together we can. It takes Ksh 5,000 only to fully treat and rehabilitate a child back to school.

Seen and acted:

THE MEDIA

We would like to appreciate the role played by both the Print and electronic media in highlighting this menace. Some politicians had denied the existence of jigger infestation until the members of the fourth estate came on board.

CORPORATES

Through the support of corporates we have been able to achieve a lot by treatment, fumigation, education & training, foodstuffs, shoes & clothing and rehabilitation of jigger victims. Special thanks to; **Kenya Airways, KCB Bank, Real Insurance, NIC Bank, Family Bank, Johnson\$Johnson, EABL Foundation, Colgate Pamolive, Haco industries, Halisi Water, Kenya Dairy board, Riara Group of Schools, Nairobi City Council, Parapet cleaning services, Maendeleo Ya wanawake, Print Xpress and Blue Sun Africa.**

OUR LEADERS

- Thanks to His Excellency the Vice President Hon. Kalonzo Musyoka for recognizing this campaign and his personal contribution of 100,000 and another 100,000 from his friends.
- Minister for Public Health and Sanitation Hon. Beth Mugo for her Ministry's support and her concern to those affected.
- Assistant minister for Medical Services Hon. Danson Mungatana for physically been there to wash and clean the victims.
- Hon. Uhuru Kenyatta - Deputy Prime Minister
- Hon. Charity Ngilu - Minister for Water
- Hon. Bishop. Dr. Margret Wanjiru -Ast. Minister for Housing
- Hon. George Thuo - Chief Whip
- Hon. Amina Abdalla - Nominated Member of Parliament
- Hon. Clement Muchiri - MP Mathioya
- Hon. Lewis Nguyai - MP Kikuyu
- Hon. Jamleck Kamau - MP Kigumo

WELL WISHERS

We would also like to thank all individuals who have continued to support and contribute to this worthy course.



'you too can help remove a jigger'

Cecilia Mwangi
Miss World Kenya 2005
The anti-jigger Campaign Ambassador

This advertisement is sponsored by concerned Kenyans

For more information and / or support, kindly contact us
Ahadi Kenya Trust
P.O.Box 73453-00200, Nairobi
Hotline: +254 20 2020881
House No.J2, Jamhuri Crescent, off Kabarnet ROAD, Ngong Road ,
Nairobi, Kenya.
E-mail: admin@jigger-ahadi.org Website: www.jigger-ahadi.org

