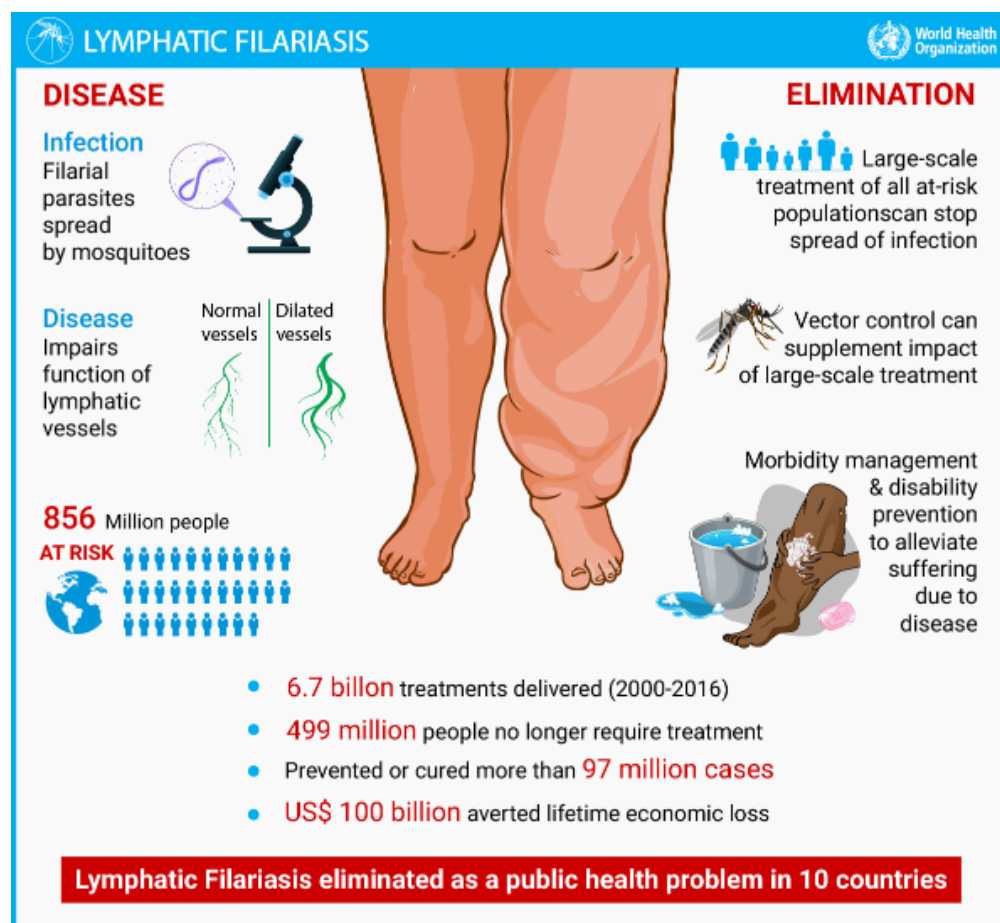


## Lymphatic Filariasis (LF)

### 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 Filarioididae.
- 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).



- **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 \(LF\)](#)