



**CARE  
OVER  
NEGLECT**

TENDING TO OVER A BILLION PEOPLE AFFECTED BY  
NEGLECTED TROPICAL DISEASES IN SOUTH-EAST ASIA REGION



# CARE OVER NEGLECT



**World Health  
Organization**

Regional Office for South-East Asia



*“Neglected tropical diseases maim and kill the people who find it hardest to pay for health services. This is another clear sign how important it is to ensure that everyone can access the healthcare they need, whoever they are, wherever they live.”*

- Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director General





*“ I am more convinced than ever on the elimination of neglected tropical diseases. The quest to achieve universal health coverage and leaving no one behind is incumbent on eliminating NTDs ”*

- Dr Poonam Khetrpal Singh, Regional Director

Care Over Neglect: Neglected Tropical Diseases in South-East Asia Region  
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## Foreword

*It is a matter of great concern that globally, three billion people – almost half the world's population – are at risk of contracting a neglected tropical disease (NTD). Five hundred thousand people die of one or the other NTD every year. But we can solve this huge and frightening problem. Governments, funders and citizens must pay attention to those they have neglected, and make the tiny investment necessary to consign NTDs to history. NTDs are diseases of the socially marginalized and, in a cruel twist, they amplify marginalization.*

*For too long, these diseases have been neglected, in spite of the fact that they cause more grief than malaria or tuberculosis. That is rapidly changing, and the seven diseases mentioned in this book – lymphatic filariasis, soil-transmitted helminthiasis, leprosy, visceral leishmaniasis (kala-azar), yaws, schistosomiasis and trachoma – could all be eliminated in the near future. With WHO's NTD roadmap and the London Declaration of 2012, the world is committed to tackling NTDs in a concerted, collaborative way. For 50 cents per person per year, we can end the despair and deaths. The human potential of helping so many people become healthy is staggering. We have come a long way towards getting there, and we are now at a critical moment. In 2015, over a billion people in 82 countries received preventive treatment for NTDs.*

*With a complex combination of technology, research, human capital, innovation, partnerships, and financial and moral commitments, we have already seen some NTDs being eliminated in some Member States – such as lymphatic filariasis in Sri Lanka, and yaws in India. The good news is that every one of these diseases is easily treated or prevented. About 90% of all NTDs can be treated with medicines that patients need only once or twice a year. And every single one of them has loosened its grip.*

*We can end NTDs in all 11 Member States of the WHO South-East Asia Region. It's epidemiologically, technologically and historically feasible. We know what we need to do. Governments and partners at every level are committed. At this moment in history, we hold future generations' well-being in our hands.*



Dr Poonam Khetrapal Singh  
Regional Director





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