

# BURULI ULCER

A guide for  
field health workers

Recognize

Act now!



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# PURPOSE OF THE DOCUMENT

The purpose of this document is to contribute to improved recognition of Buruli ulcer (*Mycobacterium ulcerans* infection) and encourage greater efforts in detecting cases at an early stage of infection. Today, patients can be cured with antibiotics if diagnosed early, thus avoiding unnecessary suffering and disability. We hope that all users of this document will help to achieve these objectives.







# BASIC INFORMATION

- Buruli ulcer is caused by a germ that mainly affects the skin and bone.
- Buruli ulcer often occurs in communities near particular water bodies (for example in lakes, swamps, ponds and rivers).
- Buruli ulcer germs are transmitted from the environment to humans, but the exact mode of transmission is not known.
- Buruli ulcer affects people of all ages, sex and colour, but in Africa, children aged under 15 years are the most affected.
- Buruli ulcer mainly occurs on the arms and legs but it can affect any part of the body.
- Buruli ulcer can be treated in health centres or hospitals with specific



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