



Preparing and Implementing a National Plan to Eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis

(in countries
where onchocerciasis
is *co-endemic*)



World Health Organization
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PREFACE

This document is a guideline for managers for planning and establishing a programme for the elimination of lymphatic filariasis.

It is intended for use by national programme managers, programme officials and consultants to the ministries of health in countries where lymphatic filariasis is known, or suspected, to be endemic, but not for use in countries where onchocerciasis is co-endemic with lymphatic filariasis or where the use of diethylcarbamazine citrate (DEC) is contraindicated. National programme managers of these countries may consult the respective guideline relevant to onchocerciasis co-endemic countries. The epidemiology and clinical manifestations of lymphatic filariasis are not described in this document as extensive information on the subject is readily available elsewhere.

Throughout this document, the terms “region” and “district” are used to describe administrative divisions. Each country may have its own nomenclature to describe them. Some comparable terms are listed below:

Region	District
State	Local government area (LGA)
Province	sector

Some countries have advanced into implementation of LF programmes while others have yet to start programmes using the revised recommended strategies. This guide is written in a logical order of programme development and implementation so as to be helpful to programme managers in different situations. The guide is structured so that it may also be used as a reference manual.

The manual will be adapted and changed as the LF community “learns-by-doing”, and all comments and suggestions for changes to the manual are welcome. Suggestions should be addressed to filariasis@who.int. (or, WHO, 1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland, through the relevant WHO Regional Office).

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