

Lymphatic Filariasis Elimination Program

THE
CARTER CENTER



The Carter Center works with countries to eliminate new cases of the parasitic disease lymphatic filariasis from areas of Ethiopia and Nigeria and the Caribbean island of Hispaniola.

ABOUT THE CARTER CENTER

A nongovernmental organization, The Carter Center has helped to improve life for people in more than 80 countries by resolving conflicts, advancing human rights, preventing diseases, and improving mental health care.



Schoolchildren in central Nigeria line up for a blood test. The results later verified that the parasite that causes lymphatic filariasis was not present.

WHAT IS LYMPHATIC FILARIASIS?



Lymphatic filariasis is caused by **thin parasitic worms** transmitted to humans by the bites of mosquitoes in tropical and subtropical regions. These worms damage the lymphatic system, resulting in fluid collection in the tissues—most commonly the legs and genitalia—causing severe swelling and periodic fevers.



If not treated, lymphatic filariasis causes elephantiasis, in which there is a permanent, often extreme, **enlargement of the limbs** and hardening of the skin. The disease ruins the quality of life of patients, impacting them physically, emotionally, and economically.

OUR STRATEGY



The Carter Center fights lymphatic filariasis in four countries—Nigeria, Ethiopia, Haiti, and the Dominican Republic—helping to protect millions. The Center assists with distribution of the drugs Mectizan,[®] albendazole, and DEC (donated by Merck & Co., Inc., GSK, and Eisai, respectively). These **medicines are taken in combination**, depending on location, to stop transmission of the parasite from infected to uninfected people.



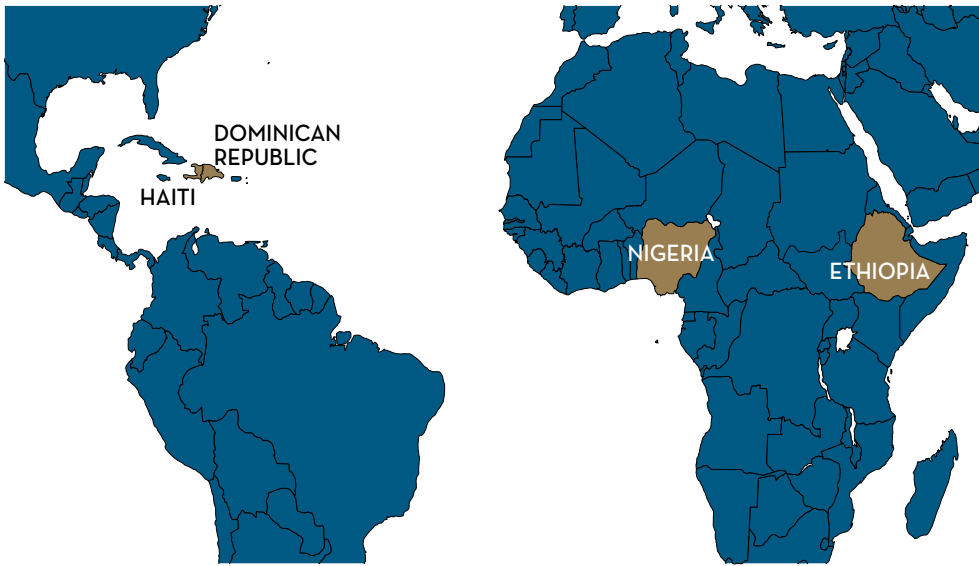
The Center facilitates **support groups** to provide mental health care for patients of this stigmatizing disease. In addition, The Carter Center supports hydrocele surgeries in Nigeria's Plateau and Nasarawa states.



The Center periodically supports the distribution of **long-lasting insecticidal bed nets** to further protect communities. These nets also protect against other mosquito-borne diseases.

The Carter Center is a leader in the elimination and eradication of neglected tropical diseases.

WHERE WE WORK



Globally, about 120 million people are infected with lymphatic filariasis, and nearly 900 million are at risk. The Carter Center works in Nigeria, Ethiopia, and on the island of Hispaniola, shared by Haiti and the Dominican Republic.



In Nigeria's southern Imo state, a community drug distributor administers preventive treatment for lymphatic filariasis.

RESULTS AND IMPACT

153 million+ drug treatments

delivered in Nigeria since 2000 with assistance from The Carter Center

7.3 million no longer at risk in Nigeria

in areas served by The Carter Center

9.6 million drug treatments

delivered in Ethiopia since 2009 with assistance from The Carter Center

1.2 million no longer at risk in Ethiopia

in areas served by The Carter Center

100% of formerly endemic districts in the Dominican Republic

and

86% of districts in Haiti

have met criteria to stop mass drug administration for lymphatic filariasis

NIGERIA

Through a combination of more than 36 million drug treatments between 2000 and 2012 and widespread distribution of bed nets, lymphatic filariasis was eliminated as a public health threat in Plateau and Nasarawa states in 2017.

With support from The Carter Center, the Nigeria Federal Ministry of Health integrated its lymphatic filariasis and malaria programs. The initiative was the first of its kind in Africa.

ETHIOPIA

In 2009, The Carter Center began integrating mass drug administration to prevent lymphatic filariasis with river blindness and malaria control in the Gambella region. The program later expanded to parts of other regions, providing 9.6 million treatments for lymphatic filariasis through 2020.