

Partners in the fight against Schistosomiasis

For 50 years now, the City of Mwanza, Tanzania has been the partner city of Würzburg. The offices of the Medical Mission Institute (MI) and the DAHW *German Leprosy and Tuberculosis Relief Association* are located here and both organizations have been committed to the fight against poverty-related diseases for many years.

The goal of this joint project by the MI and the GLRA is to render assistance to those people affected by Schistosomiasis. On the occasion of this Jubilee Year, the Lord Mayor of Würzburg, Mr. Christian Schuchardt has taken over the patronage.

How to help?

Treatment per adult	10,- Euro
Treatment for 10 pupils	50,- Euro
Information on the disease and prevention per village	400,- Euro
Latrine facility for a school with 300 pupils	4.200,- Euro

Even a small contribution can help!



Account for donations and contact details:

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Catholic Advisory Organisation
for International Health



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Stop
leprosy and
tuberculosis

The invisible danger



Schistosomiasis

More than 250 million people infected,
every year more than 280,000 people
die from this dreadful disease.

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DAHW
Stop
leprosy and
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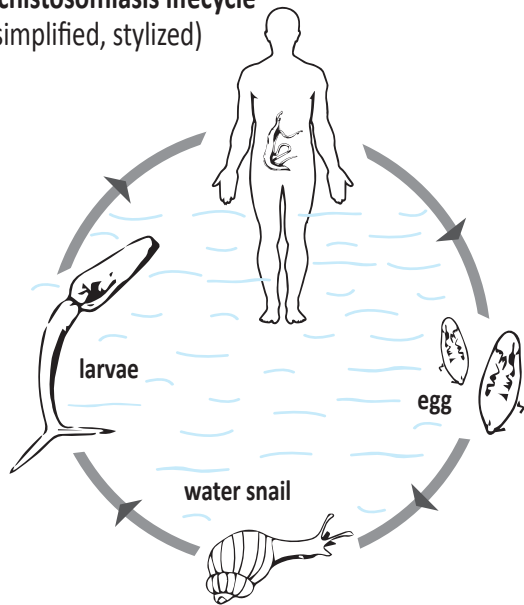
What is Schistosomiasis?

Schistosomiasis is an infectious disease caused by parasitic worms. Transmission takes place through contact with fresh water, e.g. during personal body care, bathing, washing clothes, fishing or getting into a boat. Small parasites at larval stage penetrate the skin and mature to adult worms. These parasites produce thousands of eggs, which are subsequently excreted by humans through feces and urine.

Due to poor hygienic conditions these eggs can be released through human feces into the fresh water which is occupied by a special species of snails where the larvae will develop further. Finally, larvae that have been released into the water are now infectious for humans. The cycle will start all over again.

Affected persons will suffer from damage to the intestines and urinary tract as well as to the genitals, liver and spleen. If not treated in time, this can cause permanent damage or even lead to death.

Schistosomiasis lifecycle (simplified, stylized)



Unprotected contact with water can be life-threatening

The facts

More than 250 million people in 78 countries are affected by Schistosomiasis. About 280,000 people die from the consequences of the disease every year.



The danger is invisible

The Mwanza challenge

The area around Lake Victoria and the City of Mwanza can be called an epi-centre of Schistosomiasis. A current study showed that 97 % of pupils in two schools in this region were infected with Schistosomiasis.



Infection is possible just when fetching water

What do we want to achieve?

The disease can be cured in most cases with a consequent treatment with the drug Praziquantel. Furthermore, it is also possible to interrupt the cycle of infection by improving the hygienic conditions. The most important prerequisites are the supply with clean water and construction of latrines. One significant prevention method is also awareness-raising among the affected population.

School toilets are urgently required

