

Raising community awareness of what lymphatic filariasis is, what is involved in the efforts to eliminate the disease and how the disability and suffering associated with it can be prevented and alleviated is a key element in the success of mass drug administration campaigns and in LF elimination programmes as a whole. To this end, this comic book targets schoolchildren in LF-endemic countries of sub-Saharan Africa, and through them, their teachers and families. It can be adapted to suit particular country needs in terms of local language and customs, where required.

Drawings: Mohamed Aouamri

Scenario: Francesco Rio

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Lymphatic Filariasis



World Health Organization

OK WHAT IS LF?
WELL, IT'S A DISEASE CAUSED
BY TINY WORMS.

WHEN A MOSQUITO SUCKS
BLOOD FROM
SOMEONE AL-
READY INFECTED
WITH FILARIASIS
...

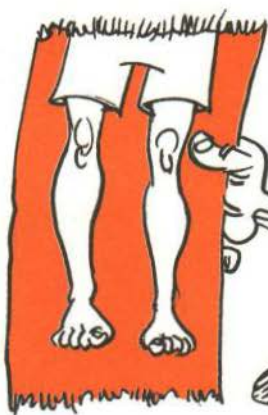


"... IT GETS INFECTED TOO!
THEN, WHEN IT BITES ANO-
THER, HEALTHY PERSON THAT
PERSON CAN ALSO
BE INFECTED.

BUT REMEMBER
PEOPLE ONLY CATCH
LF FROM MOSQUITOES
NOT FROM OTHER
PEOPLE WHO HAVE
LF

THAT'S
HOW THE
INFECTION
SPREADS.





LOOK,
THAT'S HOW A HEALTHY
LEG CAN GET
DEFORMED.



OH GOSH !!
DOES THE DISEASE
ONLY AFFECT YOUR
LEGS ?..



NO IT ALSO
AFFECTS OTHER
PARTS OF THE
BODY...

YOU SHOULD ALSO KNOW
THAT THERE ARE MANY
PEOPLE WHO LOOK HEALTHY
BUT HAVE LF IN THEIR
BLOOD EVEN THOUGH THEY
DON'T HAVE DEFORMED
LEGS, OR AT LEAST,
NOT YET.



BUT IS
THERE STILL
HOPE FOR THESE
PEOPLE WITH LF ?



THERE SURE
IS: BUT LET'S
TALK A BIT
FURTHER
AWAY.



OK
THIS MAN
WAS BITTEN ON
HIS NECK, BUT
THAT DOESN'T STOP
THE LITTLE WORMS
FROM GOING EVERY-
WHERE ELSE IN
THE BODY,
TOO.

AND DON'T
FORGET THAT AN
INFECTED PERSON
CAN LOOK NORMAL
FOR A LONG TIME,
SO WATCH OUT,
IT'S A TRICKY
DISEASE,

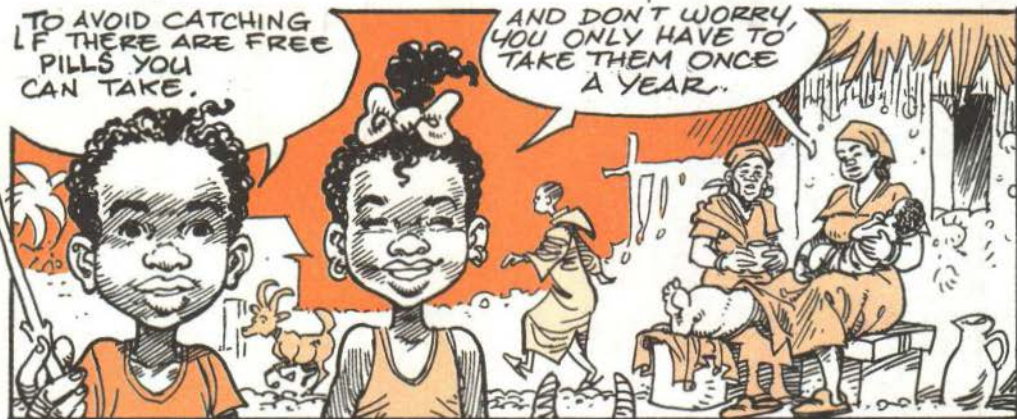
2000

ONE DAY IT
COULD AFFECT
YOU SEVERELY
LIKE IT DID
THIS MAN...

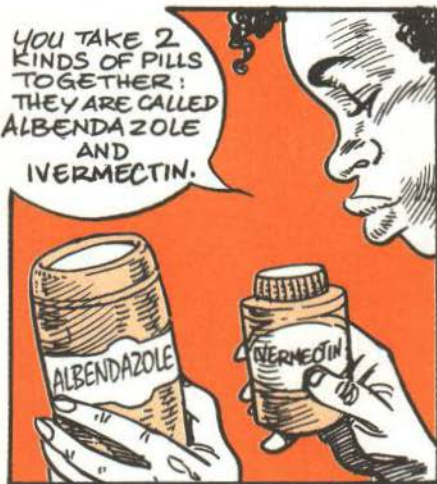
IT IS VERY IMPORTANT TO TAKE THE PILLS.

TO AVOID CATCHING
IF THERE ARE FREE
PILLS YOU
CAN TAKE.

AND DON'T WORRY,
YOU ONLY HAVE TO
TAKE THEM ONCE
A YEAR.



YOU TAKE 2
KINDS OF PILLS
TOGETHER!
THEY ARE CALLED
ALBENDAZOLE
AND
IVERMECTIN.

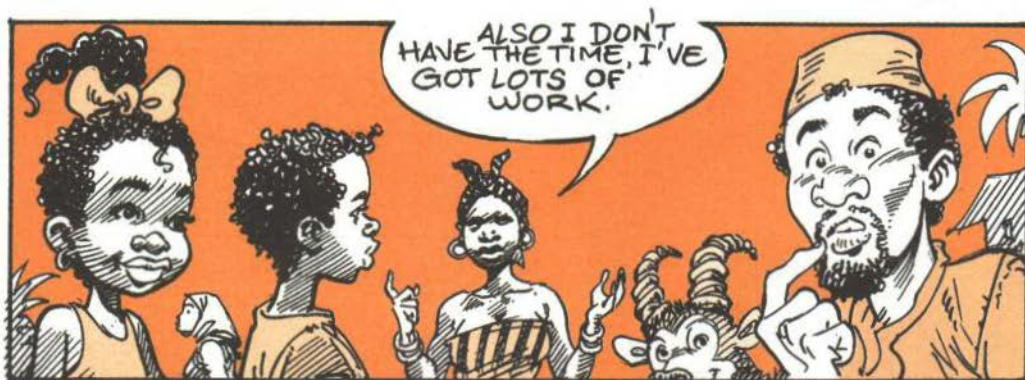


BUT, WHAT IS VERY
VERY IMPORTANT IS
THAT THE WHOLE VILLAGE
HAS TO BE TREATED AT THE
SAME TIME.

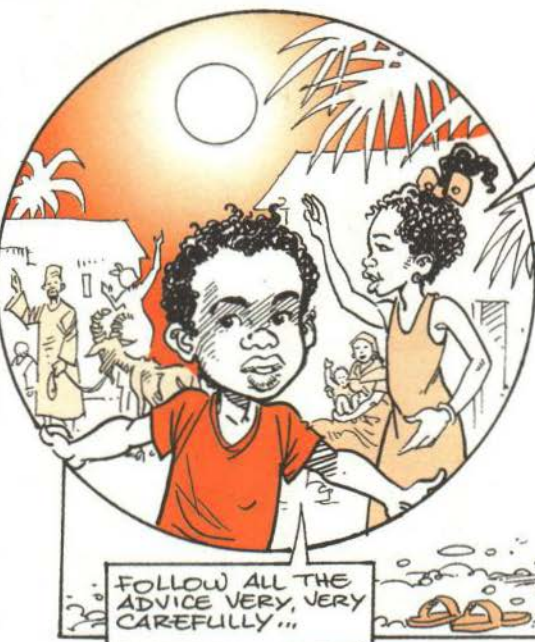
HEY,
NOT SO FAST,
I'M HEALTHY!

THAT'S WHAT YOU
THINK, BUT THESE
LITTLE WORMS MAY
ALREADY BE
INSIDE YOU.





NEW HOPE FOR SICK PEOPLE



WHEN LF BECOMES VISIBLE,
YOU HAVE TO CHANGE THE
WAY YOU LIVE. IF YOU KEEP
YOUR BODY AS CLEAN AS
POSSIBLE EVERY DAY, THE
DISEASE WILL GET MUCH BETTER
AND MAKE LIFE EASIER.

...FIRST OF ALL, IF IT'S
THE LEG THAT IS
AFFECTED, WASH IT
VERY WELL.



FOLLOW ALL THE
ADVICE VERY, VERY
CAREFULLY ...

...CLEAN WELL
BETWEEN YOUR
TOES ...



...RINSE WELL ...



...THEN DRY WELL WITHOUT
MISSING THE LEAST LITTLE WRINKLE
OF SKIN ...



...CUT YOUR TOENAILS
REGULARLY ...



...AND LAST OF ALL,
WEAR CONFORTABLE
SHOES, PREFERABLY
SANDALS ...



A
LITTLE
LATER

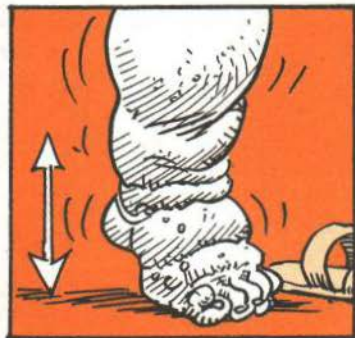
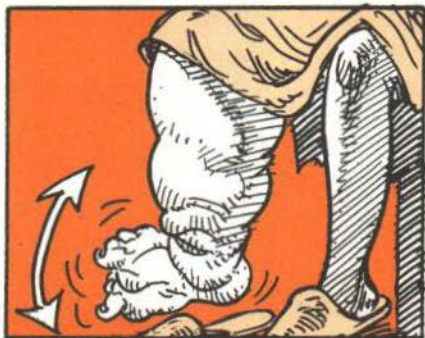
LOOK, OUR
NEIGHBOUR IS
GIVING HER LEG
A THOROUGH
WASH.



...WE
ALREADY TOLD
HER THAT SHE
MUST SLEEP WITH
HER LEG
RAISED...



...AND SHE ALSO
KNOWS HOW IM-
PORTANT IT IS
TO DO LITTLE
EXERCISES AS
WELL.



SHE EVEN TOLD ME
THAT SHE FEELS MUCH
BETTER EACH TIME SHE RESTS
HER LEG, AND HER LEG IS
GETTING BETTER
TOO !..



GAME "TRUE OR FALSE"?

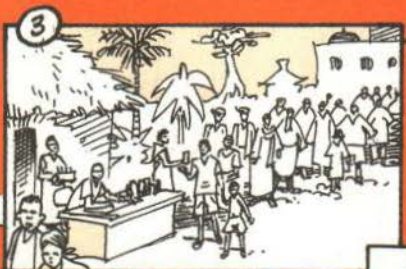
NOW HERE
ARE A FEW
PAGES OF
GAMES FOR
YOU TO PLAY
WHILE WE GO
TO MEET OUR
GREAT UNCLE
...



1 - Daily washing and care will make L.F. better.



2 - You catch filariasis by touching an elephant.



3 - You avoid L.F. by taking pills once a year.



4 - You catch L.F. by walking on thorns.



5 - You have to keep the affected leg up whenever it is possible.



6 - You don't have to take the free pills if you feel perfectly healthy.



7 - Wear appropriate footwear. You should wear shoes or sandals all the time.



8 - You can catch the disease by helping some one who has

PUT A "T" FOR
TRUE AND AN
"F" FOR FALSE
IN THE LITTLE
SQUARE BE-
LOW EACH
PICTURE...
SEE YOU
LATER!

THE MAZE

CAN YOU SHOW
ME THE PATH THAT
LEADS TO THE PLACE
WHERE PILLS
ARE BEING GIVEN
OUT..?



CHOOSE THE RIGHT COURSE OF ACTION TO LOOK AFTER AN AFFECTED LEG.

DESCRIBE WHAT IS HAPPENING AND WRITE IT ABOVE EACH PICTURE. THEN COLOUR THE LITTLE CIRCLES AT THE BOTTOM OF THE PICTURES. BLUE FOR THE RIGHT COURSE OF ACTION AND RED FOR THE WRONG ONE.



OR



OR



OR



OR



PILLS

CHOOSE THE RIGHT COURSE OF ACTION ABOUT TAKING THE FREE PILLS.

IN THE LITTLE RECTANGLE AT THE BOTTOM OF EACH PICTURE WRITE "GOOD" FOR THE RIGHT COURSE OF ACTION AND "BAD" FOR THE WRONG ONE.

WHAT?
PILLS!
NO, I DON'T
HAVE TIME...
AND ANYWAY I'M
PERFECTLY
HEALTHY.



A MEDICAL
TEAM, GREAT...
I'M GOING TO GET
MY PILLS.



NO, NO, NO!
COME BACK
ANOTHER TIME,
I DON'T HAVE
TIME NOW.



OH THANK YOU!!
IF ONLY I HAD KNOWN,
I WISH I COULD HAVE
TAKEN THE PILLS
BEFORE MY
LEG BECAME SO
BADLY AFFECTED.



NOW, BACK
TO OUR
FRIENDS.

AH, IT'S YOU
CHILDREN
THANK YOU
FOR COMING
...



...AS WE
PROMISED
UNCLE!



A FEW
MINUTES
LATER...



WE'RE GOING
TO HELP YOU
TO DO THE
SHOPPING



I SEE THAT
YOU ARE STILL
DOING YOUR
EXERCISES,
UNCLE!

YES
EVERY
CHANCE
I GET.



IT MAKES
MY LEG FEEL
LIGHTER,
AND I FEEL
BETTER.





... IF I AM ABLE TO HAVE A NORMAL SOCIAL LIFE TODAY, IT'S BECAUSE I REGULARLY TAKE GREAT CARE OF MYSELF...



IN THE PAST, MANY FAMILIES WERE TORN APART BY THE DISEASE...



... THE SHAME OF SHOWING YOURSELF IN PUBLIC...

... AND MOST OF ALL, THE PHYSICAL PAIN.



BUT NOW WITH THE NEW PILLS
AND TREATMENT ALL THAT HAS CHANGED!...
AND WE HAVE HOPE AGAIN! THAT IS WHY
WE MUST TAKE THE PILLS WHEN
THEY ARE DISTRIBUTED IN THE
VILLAGE.

EVEN IF YOU ARE IN
GOOD SHAPE...MAYBE
ESPECIALLY IF YOU ARE
IN GOOD SHAPE SO YOU
CAN STAY THAT WAY.



YES, BECAUSE IT IS
THIS SIMPLE ACT THAT
WIPES OUT LF AND ALL
THE BAD THINGS IT
BRINGS.

BESIDES
YOU ONLY
HAVE TO TAKE
THEM ONCE A
YEAR...



...AND DON'T
FORGET YOUR
EVERYDAY
EXERCISES
THAT MAKE YOU
FEEL BETTER.



LET'S SUM UP.
IT'S IMPORTANT
FOR EVERYONE
TO TAKE THE
FREE PILLS
ONCE A YEAR...



GET USED TO
REGULAR AND
THOROUGH
WASHING...

HELP
THOSE
WITH LF
AND SHOW
THAT YOU
WANT THEM
TO BE PART
OF OUR COM-
MUNITY LIFE.



IT'S TIME
FOR US TO
SAY GOOD-
BYE...

AND TO
LET YOU
CHECK YOUR
ANSWERS.



ANSWERS TO THE GAMES.

Game about taking the free pills (page 13)
The correct answers are:
Top picture: Bad
Middle picture: Bad
Bottom left picture: Bad
Bottom right picture: Good

Game about looking after an affected leg (page 12)
The correct answers are:
1st row, picture on right: (1) T
2nd row, picture on left: (2) F
3rd row, picture on left: (3) T
4th row, picture on right: (4) F
5th row, picture on right: (5) T
6th row, picture on right: (6) F
7th row, picture on right: (7) T
8th row, picture on right: (8) F

True or false game (page 10)
The correct answers are:
(1) T
(2) F
(3) T
(4) F
(5) T
(6) F
(7) T
(8) F

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For further information, please contact:
World Health Organization
Communicable Diseases
Information Resource Centre
1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland
e-mail: cdsdoc@who.int



...CLEAN WELL
BETWEEN YOUR
TOES...



...RINSE WELL...



...THEN DRY WELL WITHOUT
MISSING THE LEAST LITTLE WRINKLE
OF SKIN...



...CUT YOUR TOENAILS
REGULARLY...



...AND LAST OF ALL,
WEAR COMFORTABLE
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