



WHO global health days



About vector-borne diseases

Vectors are organisms that transmit pathogens and parasites from one infected person (or animal) to another, causing serious diseases in human populations.

These diseases are commonly found in tropical and sub-tropical regions and places where access to safe drinking-water and sanitation systems is problematic.

Vector-borne diseases account for 17% of the estimated global burden of all infectious diseases. The most deadly vector-borne disease, malaria, caused an estimated 627 000 deaths in 2012.

However, the world's fastest growing vector-borne disease is dengue, with a 30-fold increase in disease incidence over the last 50 years.

More information about vector-borne diseases

[Chagas disease](#)

Life-threatening condition transmitted through triatomine bugs, contaminated food, infected blood transfusion

[Chikungunya](#)

Viral disease transmitted to humans by infected mosquitoes

[Congo-Crimean haemorrhagic fever](#)

Severe illness caused by a number of viruses

[Dengue](#)

Mosquito-borne infection that may cause lethal complications

[Dracunculiasis \(guinea-worm disease\)](#)

Infection caused by drinking-water containing water fleas that have ingested *Dracunculus* larvae

[Human African trypanosomiasis](#)

Glossina-borne parasitic infection, fatal without prompt diagnosis and treatment

[Leishmaniasis](#)

Infection is caused if bitten by female sandflies

[Lymphatic filariasis](#)

Infection occurs when filarial parasites are transmitted to humans through mosquitoes

[Lyme disease](#)

Disease caused by infected ticks

[Malaria](#)

Disease caused by a parasite *plasmodium*, transmitted via infected mosquitoes

[Onchocerciasis](#)

Parasitic disease caused by the filarial worm *onchocerca volvulus*

[Schistosomiasis](#)

Parasitic disease caused by trematode flatworms of the genus

[Yellow fever](#)

Viral disease transmitted via *aedes* mosquitoes

Related news

[World Malaria Report 2013 shows major progress in fight against malaria](#)

11 December 2013

[Newly accessible Japanese encephalitis vaccine will make saving children easier in developing countries](#)

9 October 2013

[Yellow fever vaccination booster not needed](#)

17 May 2013

Countdown to World Health Day