

Snakebite envenoming is a neglected tropical disease affecting poor people in rural communities, particularly people of working age and children.

Disabilities from snakebite envenoming

THE HIDDEN CRISIS

Each year, nearly 5.4 million people are bitten by snakes worldwide, resulting in over 80,000 deaths and leaving three times that number of survivors with disabilities.

Prompt administration of antivenoms can save lives and limit the long-term consequences of envenoming.

Disabilities from snakebite envenoming may be:

- Physical – amputations, infections, pain, disfigurement, impaired mobility
- Neurological – paralysis, nerve damage, seizures, cognitive impairment
- Psychological – post-traumatic stress disorder, depression, anxiety

27 new victims every hour!

Each year, over 240,000 people end up with disabilities caused by snakebites. This represents nearly 657 new cases of long-term disabilities around the world, each day.

Better estimates and understanding of these disabilities are needed

Unfortunately, victims are rarely followed-up to assess their long-term outcomes, because of:

Limited access to timely healthcare in rural locations

Stigma discouraging victims from seeking follow-up care

Under-resourced facilities with limited outreach capacity

Lack of healthcare worker awareness and training

CALL FOR ACTION!

Uncover the true impact of snakebite disabilities

Follow up with the victims to make sure their stories are heard

REPORT

Establish snakebite as a reportable disease in national surveillance systems.

FOLLOW-UP

Extract frequencies and types of disabilities by establishing follow-up guidelines: visits, calls, and referrals.

PROMOTE

Encourage patients self-reporting after discharge via phone-based apps, text messages, or calls.

REACH OUT

Enhance healthcare and community services member training to reach out to disabled victims and connect them with support networks.

SUPPORT

Empower communities with engagement and education to promote timely treatment and reduce stigma and discrimination against disabled.

VICTIMS, FOLLOW-UP WITH YOUR DOCTOR

Let your story count and help drive change