

Ahadi Kenya Trust - Celebrating 10 years



H.E. Margaret Kenyatta
The First Lady of the Republic of Kenya

“The Beyond Zero initiative partnered with Ahadi Kenya Trust to expand health care to rural communities through Ambulance Mashinani.”

As we recognize 10 years of jigger eradication efforts in Kenya, we reflect on the issues that have posed challenges and at the same time celebrate the great gains that have been made. It also provides us with the opportunity to renew our focus for the next 10 years.

Ahadi Kenya Trust was set up to focus its efforts in jigger eradication across the country, and we have worked together in this effort for ten years. There has been nothing predictable in the journey for those working as volunteers, participating in medical camps, or helping to rebuild homes for victims of the jigger menace.

Recognizing that all health issues are interrelated, the Beyond Zero initiative partnered with Ahadi Kenya Trust to expand health care to rural communities through Ambulance Mashinani. I also take this opportunity to thank all the other partners in the public and private

sector who have also contributed towards Ahadi's success; together we have made great progress.

Four years ago, we also launched the shoe distribution project under Ahadi Kenya Trust – this initiative was intended to benefit millions of school going children to prevent and control infestation and keep them in school. In 2015 the Government intensified its efforts to fight the condition through implementation of the National Policy Guidelines on Prevention and Control of Jiggers and has built on this momentum by launching the first ever national Jigger Awareness Day to be held every March 3rd. All these initiatives address one reality—that to win our health battles the spirit of public-private partnerships must be embraced so that together, we can find sustainable solutions to eradicate diseases affecting our communities.

So, as we mark 10 years of the Ahadi jigger initiative, let us remember that the battle is not over yet. We must continue to commit resources, human capacity and compassion. We must find and apply interventions that unlock people from the vicious cycle of poverty and ill health and protect them from social discrimination. Let us join hands to eradicate jigger infestation in Kenya.”

Statement by the Cabinet Secretary for Health on Policy Direction for Jigger Prevention and Control



Dr. Cleopa Mailu, EBS.
Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Health

“The Ministry of Health has prioritised the implementation of the National Policy Guidelines on Prevention and Control of Jigger Infestations.”

Jiggers (*tungiasis*) afflict four percent of the population in Kenya. Another 25 percent, mainly children, are at risk of infestation. Jiggers contribute to significant morbidity and sometimes mortality in endemic counties. Its complications are a leading cause of disability. School age children, the elderly and people with mental illness are particularly vulnerable. Per capita socio-economic losses attributable to the disease have not been computed, but they are considerable. The school hours lost by children infested with jiggers due to inability to walk, the decreased agricultural productivity of infested adults and the loss of social capital due

to stigma associated with jiggers, hamper the victims' participation in nation-building.

As such, jigger infestations frustrate Kenya's attempts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goal on poverty reduction, and as well reduce the pace of national development as envisioned in Kenya's Vision 2030.

However, lack of standardised approaches to prevention, control and treatment, and the widespread use of harmful or ineffective methods, have led the Ministry to develop a policy to guide prevention and control efforts.

The Ministry of Health has therefore prioritised the implementation of the National Policy Guidelines on Prevention and Control of Jigger Infestations.

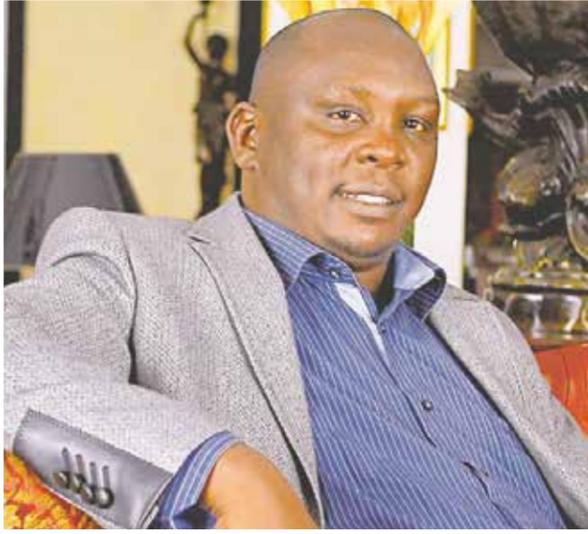
This policy framework is a good capacity building and advocacy tool that the ministry and various stakeholders can use for effective realisation of a jigger-free Kenya.

“In the coming financial year, we hope to conduct a comprehensive, nation-wide baseline survey of jigger infested people and households and their characteristics. The results of the study will help us to lay out better strategies and work plans for the control and eventual elimination of jiggers. It will also help identify areas mostly affected by jiggers and the conditions that render some households vulnerability to jiggers infestations.”

Dr. Kepha Ombacho PhD, MBS,
Director of Public Health
Ministry of Health



We have kept the promise, 10 years on...



Dr. Stanley Kamau, HSC
Ahadi Kenya Trust - Executive Founder/CEO

"I am happy that Kenyans in general, the government and other partners have joined the campaign. With the government setting aside March 3rd as the National Jigger Awareness Day."

Today marks a very important milestone for Ahadi Kenya Trust. The anti-jigger campaign celebrates its 10th birthday, and has grown beyond Kenya's borders, hugely impacting societies.

It has been an amazing journey. My initial goal was to give back to community, in aid of some four families in my home village. Little did I know that jiggers were a widespread problem. More people came asking for help. This expanded the reach of the campaign, and inspired Ahadi Kenya Trust to convert its programmes into an NGO.

The anti-jigger campaign has since spread all over Kenya, and has even crossed to our neighbours in Tanzania and Uganda.

The journey has offered successes, challenges and learning experiences. It has opened my

eyes to the problems facing people who are jigger-infested. Those most affected are often at the bottom of the poverty line. They suffer isolation, rejection and physical disabilities.

Previously, these people believed that jigger-infestation was as a result of witchcraft. Therefore, they didn't bother to go to hospital. Instead, they shared pins to remove jiggers.

This practice put them at the risk of contracting tetanus and other infections. Many children feared removing jiggers because the piercing was painful.

For many years, these people suffered social exclusion and stigma. The school drop-out rate of children with jiggers was at 10 percent.

Such children dropped out of school because they could not walk properly, had no shoes and were ridiculed.

Many men and women could not tend to their farms because of the jigger wounds. Others had no confidence to fully participate in the civic space. Because of deformed or wounded fingers, they avoided events that would require taking of fingerprints, such as obtaining identity cards, voting and so on. Even worse, expectant women would avoid ante-natal clinics because of poor mobility and isolation.

These communities suffered in silence. They did not know that jiggers were a medical problem. Hospitals too, had never treated jiggers. Teachers saw it normal that students could have jiggers.

Today, I am happy that Kenyans in general, the government and other partners have joined the campaign. With the government setting aside March 3rd as the National Jigger Awareness Day, what more could we ask for?

Another shot in the arm for the campaign is the move by the Ministry of Health to issue policy guidelines on prevention and control of jigger infestation. Presently, anybody can walk into any hospital and be treated for jiggers.

Ahadi Kenya Trust introduced a new pin-less and painless method of removing jiggers. Infested persons just need to dip their feet in a disinfectant three times a day, for two weeks.

The jiggers will suffocate, dry and fall off.

In the last 10 years, Ahadi Kenya Trust has carried out various prevention interventions. A major one has involved educating children in school, as well as communities, on good hygiene. We have also trained social workers and caregivers in communities. Wearing shoes is very key in fighting jiggers. We want to ensure that all children in Kenya have their feet covered.

Ahadi Kenya Trust has launched Ambulance Mashinani.

The mobile project has enabled jigger-infested expectant mothers to access health care.

We have also introduced portable ultra-sound scanners, with which we test mothers at the comfort of their homes.

This consistency in prevention and control will see us eradicate jiggers in Kenya by 2030. As we head there, we are planning to establish a museum of first-hand information about jiggers, since they will be extinct in the next few years. This will inform future generations of Kenyans about the phenomenon.

But it is the creation of livelihoods that will fight jigger infestation the most. Going forward, our focus will be on eradication of poverty by revamping our livelihood projects in agribusiness. As families earn more, they afford better hygiene, decent housing and high sanitation standards, keeping off jiggers.

They will be healthier and in better positions to invest more in the education of their children.

I attribute all these successes that we celebrate today to the Kenyan people and our partners. To quote from my book, A Jiggered Mind:

"We don't give because we have excess. We give because we have access."

Thank you for enabling Ahadi Kenya Trust to deliver its promise to Kenyans.

Happy 10th birthday, Ahadi Kenya Trust!



"People who have recovered from jigger infestations have the power to change the world. Many lives have been changed. We could not have done that without the help of our volunteers and partners. Thank you for your support."

Miss World Kenya 2005

Cecilia Mwangi, HSC

Ahadi Kenya Trust - Anti-jigger Campaign Ambassador



"From my political background and work with grassroots communities, I thought I had gone to the lowest of the lowest until I joined the anti-jigger campaign 10 years ago. The level of poverty I have witnessed has taught me to appreciate how privileged I am and so are many other Kenyans and how much all of us have to share with the less privileged"

Mr. Joseph Mathai

Ahadi Kenya Trust - Programmes Director

Activity H

01 Awareness and Advocacy



A jigger infested foot.

Ten years ago, only the affected knew about the jigger menace in Kenya. This has been done through electronic and print media, and also through community groups like churches. Ahadi Kenya Trust has also helped the public can seek advice on jigger-related issues

02 Intervention



Jigger infested children being treated during a medical camp.

The treatment of jigger-infected persons was a key objective of Ahadi Kenya Trust. Before Ahadi, victims used pins and other sharp objects to extract jiggers, which exposed them to other infections like tetanus. Ahadi Kenya Trust pioneered a 'pin-less and painless' method of suffocating the parasites, whereby the patients dip the infested areas in a disinfectant three times a day for two weeks. We also undertook fumigation of both homes and schools to get rid of the jigger-causing flea. In cases of severe infection, Ahadi Kenya Trust referred the victims to hospitals for specialised treatment. Jigger-infected people are often at the bottom of the poverty cycle. Most cannot afford decent food and clothing. Ahadi Kenya Trust has been distributing foodstuff, beddings, sanitary towels, and clothes to the affected families

03 Capacity Building



Volunteers being trained on prevention and control of jiggers.

When we realised that the number of those affected are in millions, and in every county, Ahadi Kenya Trust came up with capacity-building programmes. We trained Community Health Workers, NGOs, school communities, care givers, social workers and thousands of volunteers. Today, we have people in every county who are conversant with jigger eradication methods. Ahadi Kenya Trust came up with educational materials and implemented Hygiene Clubs in schools. The success of the capacity building programmes is evident from the number of NGOs that have adopted jigger eradication projects, since 2007.

04 Prevention and Control



School going children displaying their new shoes during a shoe distribution campaign.

One of the major causes of infestation among school-going children is lack of footwear. Ahadi Kenya Trust launched a project 'Fukuza Funza na Kiutu', whereby we gift pupils from poor families with new pairs of shoes. Ahadi Kenya Trust, together with other organisations, have so far distributed millions of shoes. Our target is to ensure that no child goes to school barefoot. Ahadi Kenya Trust also came up with the 'Usafi Bora' campaign, which educates the school community and the general public on good hygiene practices in their classrooms, homes and environment.

05 Access to Healthcare

During our home visits, Ahadi Kenya Trust came across jigger-afflicted young expectant mothers who had never accessed pre or anti-natal care. This was due to immobility occasioned by jigger infestation. Others that had been lucky to be taken to public hospitals had been transported there on motorbikes, wheelbarrows or carried on sacks, causing more injuries to the patients. We devised a more dignified way of transporting the expectant mothers dubbed 'Ambulance Mashinani' (Village Ambulance). This is an innovation where a light-weight caravan (equipped with a First Aid kit and stretcher) is powered by a motorcycle and is thus able to access any location, especially those prohibitive to motor vehicles. Some of these ambulances are fitted with ultra-sound machines which can be used to examine patients at the comfort of their homes.



A pregnant mother undergoing anti-natal care screening and testing in her home.

Highlights

Ahadi Kenya Trust has created awareness locally and community fora, public health/hygiene campaigns, and opened information centres countrywide, where the

Poverty is a major cause of jiggers. To break the poverty cycle, Ahadi Kenya Trust has initiated various livelihood projects that continue to empower communities through self-reliance and sustainability. The income-generating projects include banana farming, chicken rearing, rabbit-keeping, apiary and weaving. We have also created value-addition for their farm produce. The formerly jigger infected people are today able to buy clothes, food and educate their children.

06 Economic Empowerment



Fully recovered jigger victims carrying bananas from their farms.

07 Capacity Building

Jigger-infected people are often isolated, stigmatised and neglected. After treating and empowering them, Ahadi Kenya Trust helps rehabilitate and re-integrate them to the community. We take the initiative of bring them together to form useful groups and/or SACCOs. They are trained on how to invest and start new programmes with the funds derived from livelihood projects. Ahadi Kenya Trust also helps in taking pupils who had dropped out due to jiggers back to school. Ahadi Kenya Trust, with partners, has also helped in building decent homes and sanitation facilities.



A house constructed for a needy family.

08 Democracy and Governance



Recovered jigger victims displaying their voter cards during a voter registration exercise.

Severe jigger infestation causes disability. Most people who were disabled by jiggers had been denied their basic civil rights e.g. voting. Ahadi Kenya Trust launched a civic education guide on how such victims can participate in the governance of the country by engaging in the electoral process and vying for elective positions. We have also been motivating them to register as voters. Hundreds of thousands of jigger victims had not been exercising their democratic rights. This year, the majority of those who have recovered will be able to vote for their preferred leaders.

09 Partnerships



Corporate partners marching during the jigger staircase relay to lobby the Government for a policy.

Ahadi Kenya Trust has created partnerships with government bodies, county governments, NGOs, organised groups, corporate and individuals. The different roles they play have enabled us to achieve our objectives over the last 10 years. Their contributions include provision of medical/fumigation materials, shoes, food and other donations, both in cash and kind including volunteering.

10 National Policy and Jigger awareness Day



The 1st Lady of Kenya, H.E. Margaret Kenyatta, CS for Health Mr James Macharia, and Ahadi Kenya Trust CEO during the launch of the policy and jigger awareness day.

From inception, Ahadi Kenya Trust lobbied the government for a policy to guide on tackling the jigger menace in Kenya. In 2015, the government, through the Ministry of Health, launched the National Policy Guidelines on Prevention and Control of Jigger Infestation. At the same time, the government gazetted 3rd March every year as a National Jigger Awareness Day.



“Everybody comes from a village and a community that has transformed them. The best thing that we can do for our communities is to give back to them. I want to thank Ahadi Kenya Trust for coming today to give shoes.”

H.E Mrs Rachael Ruto

Speaking during an anti-jigger medical clinic and shoe distribution camp in Kakamega County in 2016.

“ We have to individually talk to our governors, and I am glad that the senate is here to make sure that they understand that this is a problem we have to deal with. His Excellency the President; he called me about jiggers and said, “What are you going to do about eradicating this menace?”

James Macharia, CS Ministry of Transport & Infrastructure

Speaking during the launch of the policy as Cabinet Secretary for Health in 2015.



“County Directors of Education who are here, who are listening to me, you should begin to map out your counties... tell us the schools that are affected by jiggers because we will only do reasonable things if we map out all these areas... We are reviewing our curriculum so that we have a new curriculum and prepare our children for the 21st century. How can we prepare our children for the 21st century but they have jiggers?”

Dr. Fred Matiangi,CS, Ministry of Education, Science and Technology

Speaking during an anti-jigger medical clinic and shoe distribution camp in Kakamega County in 2016.

“Where did we go wrong that jiggers can still torment people in the 21st century?”

H.E. Daniel arap Moi, Former President Kenya

Speaking during the Kenya we Want conference at KICC in 2010.



“Our partnership in Education and Enterprise Development continues to impact and empower grassroots communities. We applaud and acknowledge the commendable contribution of Ahadi Kenya Trust towards eradicating rural household poverty, and commit to a continuous and sustainable partnership”

Pauline Ndonga- Gakuo, KCB Foundation

Speaking while presiding over an empowerment project in Murang'a County in partnership with Ahadi Kenya Trust in 2014.

“It was an honour partnering with you in the fight against jigger infestation and eradication programme in various communities in Kenya as we implemented our corporate social responsibility role.”

Dr. Anthony Omerikwa, Ag.CEO/Managing Trustee, NSSF

When commenting on their partnership with Ahadi Kenya Trust in 2016.



“In the past decade, you have gained much-deserved recognition locally and abroad. We wish you success for the next 10 years, and hope you grow even more.”

Brian Waluchio,Chairman, Lotto Foundation

Speaking about their partnership with Ahadi Kenya Trust in 2017.

“It's important to think good, speak good, and do good. If we want to see positive change in the world, then we need to connect to goodness. Ahadi Kenya Trust has influenced us all to doing good to make a positive change in our communities in the space of upholding dignity and good health.”

Alex Nyaga, Group CEO Parapet Cleaning Services

Speaking during an anti- jigger event in 2011.



“Nimefurahi sana na maendeleo hii ya Ahadi Kenya, naomba serekali ya Kenya isaidie.”

Mama Sarah Obama

Speaking during shoe distribution exercise in Siaya county in 2015.

“If jiggers can totally disable you so that you are unable to go to school, then this is very sad because Kenya is a very progressive country. We need to watch out as a nation.”

Dr Edah Gachukia, Educationalist

Speaking while handing over assorted items donated by pupils of Riara Group of Schools in 2012.





Your support is a gift generously given, happily accepted and deeply appreciated by all beneficiaries of the Anti-jigger campaign.

I would like to thank all Ahadi Kenya Trust staff, social workers and interns from all our offices for your hard work, dedication and selfless devotion.

My sincere appreciation to all our volunteers, well wishers and friends of the anti-jigger campaign, you gave generously.

To our esteemed partners, we recognize and appreciate your giving and support.

Cecilia Mwangi

Miss World Kenya 2005
Anti-jigger Campaign Ambassador - Ahadi Kenya Trust

Thank you for your support;

Administration Police
Alive and Kicking
All 47 County Government's
Amadeus Group
Ashleys
Athletics Kenya
BAKE
Beyond Zero
Bidco
Blue Sun Africa Ltd
Canon
CITI Group
CMC Motors
Coca-cola Kenya
Compuera
Consolidated Bank
Digital Divide Data
DiMaye Media
EABL
Eco Bank Kenya
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Family Bank
Fanisi Company Ltd
Fast Energy
First Ladies 47 County
Gorvernments
Ford Foundation
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Gaspo Women Football club
Getrude Childrens Hospital
Gulf Energy
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HP Kenya
IMG
Interconsumer Products Ltd
Inua Dada Initiative
Jaguar Youth Empowerment
Foundation
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Jipsy Contractors

Jordia Enterprises
Joywo Organization
KASNEB
KCA University
KCB Foundation
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Kenya Charity Sweepstake
Kenya Dairy Board
Kenya Orient
Kenya Ports Authority
Kenya RedCross
KICC
Kikuyu District Citizen Initiative
Kirawa Road Primary School
KWAL
Laico Regency
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Mama Sarah Obama Foundation
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Ministry of Health
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Radborne Clark
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Rafiki Microfinance
Raha Kids
Real Insurance Ltd
Resolution Health
Rhino Special Products
Rotary Club of Kenya
Royal Media Group
Safaricom Foundation
Samsung Kenya
Sanlam Group
SAP Group
Sarova Hotels
Sasini Tea
Scan Group
Sidian Bank
SMEP Microfinance
SOS Children's Village
SouthWest Airlines
Spero Africa
SportPesa
St. Mary's School Nairobi
Standard Media Group
Sunny Money
Telkom
The Convention Place
The Kenyatta Trust Foundation
The Nairobi Water Company
The Nairobi Womens Hospital
Therapies for kids
Three Cube
Tile and Carpet Center
TOMS
Uniliver
Valentine Cake House
World Vision
Wrigleys Kenya

...you helped remove a jigger!

“On 1st April 2017, Ahadi Kenya Trust marked 10 years of jigger eradication by organising a mass wedding for ten jigger recovered couples. This is one way of rehabilitating and integrating them back to the society. They can now go out and get involved in community service and seek leadership roles after undergoing rejection, trauma and isolation for many years.”

Dr. Stanley Kamau Maina, HSC
Ahadi Kenya Trust Executive Founder/CEO



ahadi KENYA TRUST

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**ORESHA
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EMPOWERING OUR
COMMUNITIES TO READ

**DIGNITY
PACK** ♀

Usafi Bora-Zuia Funza

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