STEPS TO ERADICATE JIGGERS

History

Poverty and poor hygiene are the major causes of jiggers. To completely eradicate jiggers, Ahadi Kenya has been undertaking different activities to change the lives of those affected. The activities include; identifying those infested with jiggers, intervention methods, training and educating the community, empowering the communities and finally rehabilitating the victims back to normal lives. Through all this activities, the main objective is to eradicate poverty, reverse and halt the spread of jiggers.

1 Identification

Ahadi Kenya has identified more than 2.5 million Kenyans infested with jiggers. Out of these, 1.6 are children. These group lacks good housing and sanitation facilities. Most of the body parts that get infested include hands, knees, legs, private parts and to an extent their whole body.

2 Intervention

With the help of corporates well wishers and volunteers, Ahadi Kenya has managed to wash and treat those affected as well as fumigate their homes to rid off the jigger causing fleas. The process involves, cleaning the feet and other affected areas with clean water, dipping the affected areas in a medical solution for 15 minutes and then apply petroleum jelly.

3 Training

Ahadi Kenya undertakes training and education especially to the community, care givers and partners. This is to educate them on management and prevention of the menace. It is also a way of building capacity. After training, the groups are able to carry on with the project without relying on Ahadi Kenya.

4 Empowerment

Poverty is a major cause of jiggers. To break the poverty cycle, different projects have been launched as a way of empowering the community so as to be self reliant. Such projects include, banana farming, bee keeping, rabbit farming and weaving. They are aimed at improving the lives by creating income and food security. For the children, Ahadi Kenya distributes books and other education materials for them to attend school.

5 Rehabilitation

With income and food security, the recovered jigger survivors are able to lead a normal life. They can now attend to their farms and afford simple sanitation and medication materials such as basins, shoes, clothing, soap etc. The children are able to attend school and play with others without feeling embarrassed or stigmatized. Ahadi Kenya also constructs homes and improves on their sanitation successful rehabilitation, jiggers are fully eradicated.

Vicious Cycle of Poverty

Poor people living in unhygienic, unsanitary dwellings.

Get Jigger infestations resulting from low levels of hygiene and sanitation in their dwellings.

Economic activity reduced by poor health due to jigger infestation, making people poorer and/or unable to rise out of the poverty.