



World Health  
Organization

## Buruli ulcer: a pocket guide for community health workers



**Buruli ulcer is a disease** caused by a germ which affects mainly the skin, but it can also affect the bones.

Buruli ulcer is found in many places around the world often **near water** (in lakes, rivers ...).

The exact **mode of transmission** of the germ from the environment to humans is not known.

Buruli ulcer **can affect anyone** at any age, but children are most often affected.

Buruli ulcer mainly affects the arms and legs; but it can affect **any part of the body**.

**Buruli ulcer is treated** in hospital with specific drugs and by surgery.

Buruli ulcer **disability can be prevented** through early interventions.

**Early diagnosis and treatment** of Buruli ulcer are very important in preventing serious complications.

*your community should know that...*

## Buruli ulcer is a disease caused by a germ

- ● ● ● **Buruli ulcer is not** caused by witchcraft
- ● ● ● **Buruli ulcer is not** due to a curse
- ● ● ● **Buruli ulcer is not** a punishment
- ● ● ● **You cannot** get Buruli ulcer through contact with an affected person

## Buruli ulcer: global distribution



© WHO/Global Buruli Ulcer Initiative – Map: after Public Health Mapping & GIS, WHO Communicable Diseases 2005

- ● ● Today, Buruli ulcer has been reported in **30 countries** but the disease is not well-known and is therefore under-reported.
- ● ● Within each country, Buruli ulcer occurs in some specific places, often in wet areas.
- ● ● The Ministry of Health in your country will provide information on where Buruli ulcer occurs and how many cases have been reported.

# environmental factors



Nyong River, Cameroon – Credit: Dr A. Um Boock



Nyong River, Cameroon – Credit: Dr A. Um Boock

- ● ● Buruli ulcer often occurs in places near **water bodies**, for example slow-flowing rivers, ponds, swamps, lakes...
- ● ● The germ that causes Buruli ulcer lives in a wet environment but the exact place is not known.
- ● ● It is suspected that some water insects may transmit the disease.

# nodule



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[https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportid=5\\_29944](https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportid=5_29944)

