

HAI Snakebite Programme - Sub-Saharan Africa

Fact Sheet | Updated 21 November, 2018 | [Download PDF](#)

ABOUT SNAKEBITE ENVENOMING

- Conservative global estimates show that snakebite envenoming kills 81,000–138,000 people every year and permanently disables 400,000 more.
- In sub-Saharan Africa, snakebite is estimated to cause about 32,000 deaths and 6,000 amputations a year.
- The economic burden from snakebite envenoming in sub-Saharan Africa is largely under-researched and unknown, but likely high. A study showed that snakebite treatment costing GBP3 is unaffordable in developing countries. Yet, treatment and transport costs often add up to several years of income.
- The World Health Organization (WHO) and Member States have started prioritising snakebite envenoming. The WHO added snakebite to its high-priority ('Category A') list of neglected tropical diseases in 2017; the 71st World Health Assembly adopted a Resolution on Snakebite Envenoming in 2018.

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