

# Neglected! But never by kind people like you.

Three decades ago **cbm** and a handful of other organisations came together in an alliance to eliminate River Blindness and other Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs).

They were considered “neglected”, because the world was barely aware of the misery and harm they were causing millions of people. But they were never neglected by you – our wonderful family of compassionate supporters.

Thanks to determined efforts, **cbm** has been winning the battle against River Blindness. A horrific NTD.

However, **cbm's** mission to wipe out two other NTDs, Lymphatic Filariasis and Schistosomiasis, continues.

You may know of the first, which causes Elephantiasis. The second is often known as Snail Fever.



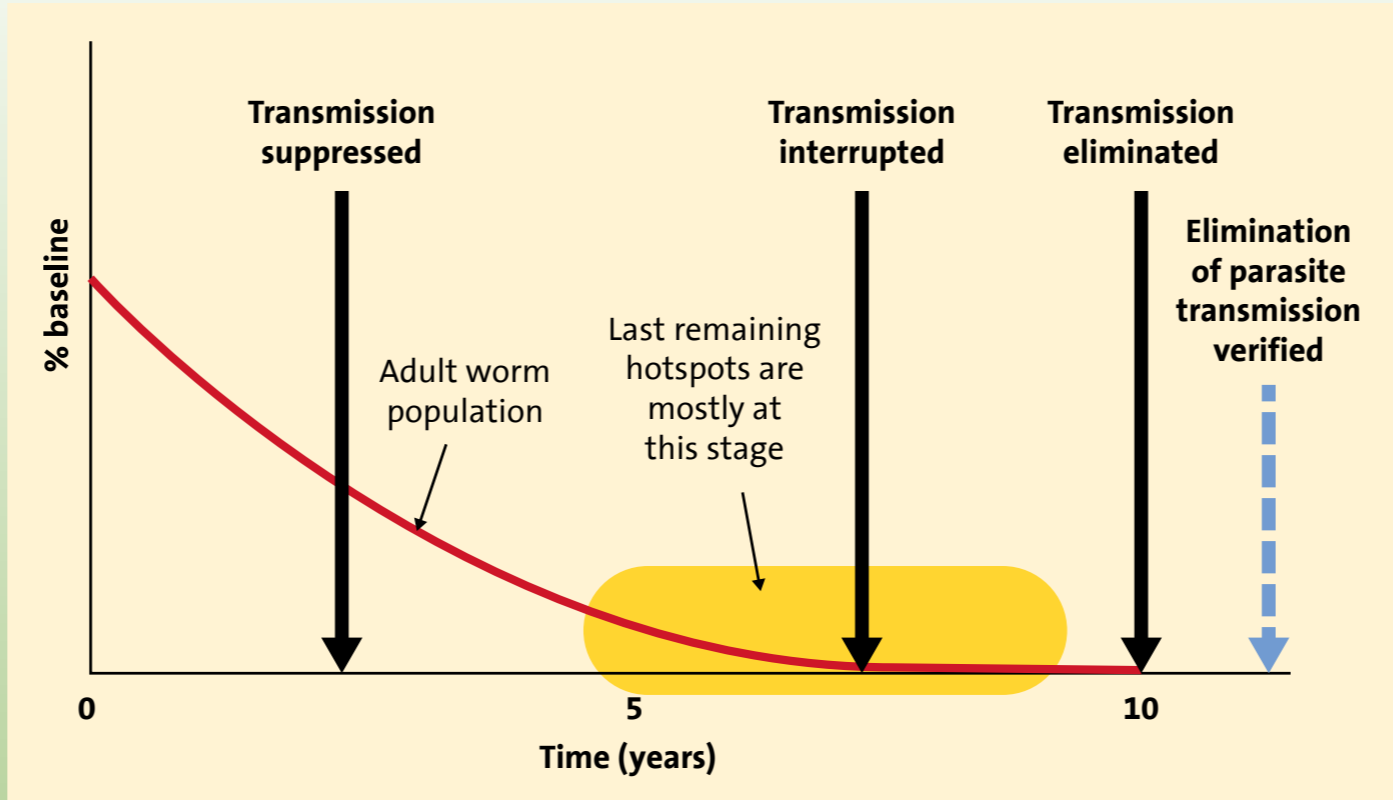
Mama Muni, her daughter Rakiya, and her son Akawu, all went to the river...  
...and all went blind.

Fortunately, both diseases are best countered by mass drug distribution programmes like those **cbm** has been using to beat River Blindness.

**But your generous support will be vital in **cbm's** ongoing mission to eliminate them.**

*“I’ve been blind  
half my life.  
It’s miserable.”*

– Mama Muni prays her grandchildren will never know her fate. Your continuing support will answer her prayers.



This graph shows how a ten-year medication treatment cycle first suppresses, then interrupts, and finally eliminates River Blindness. Surveillance is required to confirm elimination, therefore there is a lag between effective elimination and verified elimination.

Your gift today will help **cbm** go even further in our efforts to eliminate River Blindness for good... please give as generously as you can.



☎ 0800 77 22 64

👉 [cbm.org.nz/river-blindness](http://cbm.org.nz/river-blindness)



SCAN TO DONATE



# GOING FURTHER

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YOUR URGENT RIVER BLINDNESS PROGRESS BULLETIN

## Distance is no barrier, when you help **cbm** go further!

With support from people like you, **cbm** has achieved so much in the battle against River Blindness, but more is needed to help eliminate it for good.

River Blindness has always been most prevalent in remote, hard-to-reach communities. But that has never stopped **cbm's** determination to reach out to adults and children who need them most.

Neither has it slowed down the incredibly generous support for the mass distribution programme of medication, which has so generously been donated since 1996.

Over the last three decades **cbm**, and partner organisations, have achieved something remarkable in the historic battle to make River Blindness a thing of the past.

In fact, thanks to support like yours, **cbm** is now on the brink of eliminating it for good.

Today, the only pockets of infection left are those furthest from civilisation, in the hardest-to-reach communities, often unconnected by road to the rest of the world.

**WHERE THE ROAD ENDS, RIVER BLINDNESS BEGINS...**

And in the world's poorest places, the risk is even higher, because people must all draw water from the same source, where the flies that spread River Blindness live.

**Strengthening our efforts together**

With your generous support, **cbm** cannot and will not let distance or remoteness stop us.

**cbm** plans to go further, getting sight-saving medication into the hands of the men, women and children who need it most. Ensuring that all people can be safe, and stay safe, from this horrifying disease.

**cbm** will not rest until the last parasitic worm carrying this infection has been wiped out, so that the individuals, families and communities in the most remote places where **cbm** works can be free from its devastating effects forever.

**Elimination**

Thank you so much for your continued support in this final push.

Together we will win the fight against River Blindness, sparing countless generations and communities from the ravages of this horrific disease.



YOU'RE PART OF A HISTORIC WIN!

*"I lost hope. All my dreams disappeared."*

- Masu (40) who was a promising student with top marks when he went blind at just 22.

**With your help, this misery will end!**

Together, we have achieved so much in the battle against River Blindness in the communities **cbm** works in, but we must do everything in our power to wipe out every last pocket of infection.

We cannot afford to let River Blindness cling on anywhere. If we do, it could surge back and begin destroying lives all over again.

It takes a full ten-year treatment cycle of medication in a community to completely interrupt the lifecycle of the parasitic worms that cause River Blindness, by killing their larvae. Only then can it be declared eliminated from that community.

This is why your generous support is so badly needed right now - together, we can make the final push needed to eliminate River Blindness for good.



The parasitic worms that cause River Blindness also cause intense itching and skin disfiguration.



For every life destroyed by River Blindness, children like Kabiru (10) have to spend their days leading blind relatives when they should be in school.



HOTSPOT BY HOTSPOT

## This is how you're making history...

Your ongoing support is sending **cbm** community-based workers out into the most remote and hard-to-reach hotspots of stubborn River Blindness infection.

Once a community has received a full ten-year course of treatment, **cbm** knows that the larvae that cause the disease have all been killed and elimination has been achieved.

Thanks to you, **cbm** will continue getting sight-saving medication into the hands of the people who need it, to protect them from this disease.



A **cbm** community-based worker arrives in a remote, hard-to-reach village to distribute sight-saving medicine.

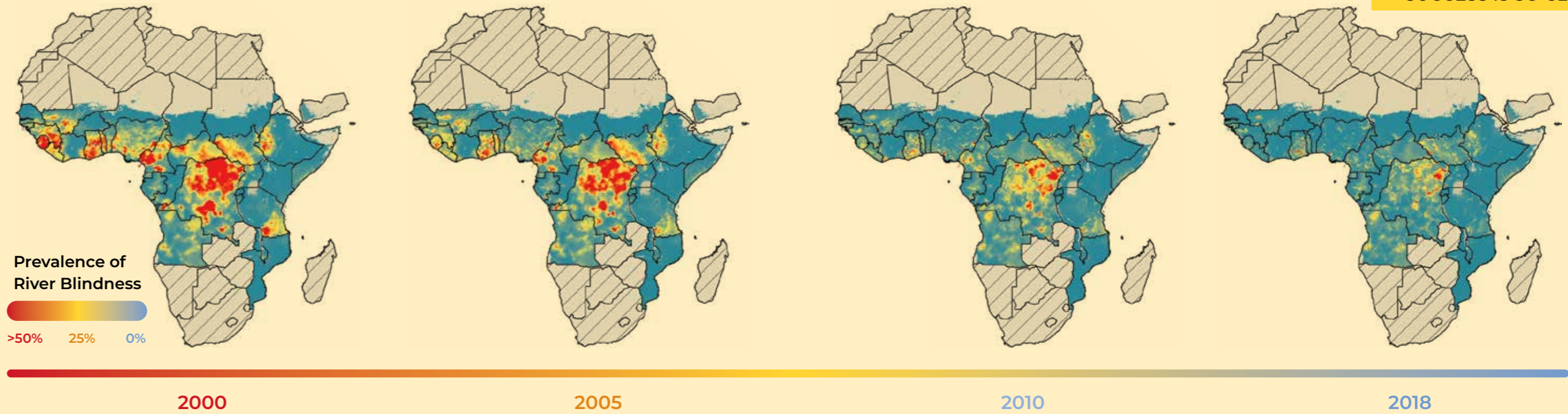


A child receives a dose of medicine - once an affected hotspot has been successfully treated, River Blindness is eliminated.



With regular, ongoing treatment, people are protected from the bites of infected blackflies.

SUCCESS IS SO CLOSE



**An achievement you can be proud of!**



River Blindness used to be widespread across equatorial regions of Africa. The map above shows how the generosity of wonderful people like you has almost wiped the threat out over the last 25 years.

It also shows how there are still stubborn hotspots left. With your support **cbm** must finish the job off or this horrific disease could easily surge back, once again threatening people with irreversible blindness.

**Your gift today** will help eradicate River Blindness for good, so no one has to suffer its blinding misery ever again.