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World NTD Day 2027 - Photo Competition

Are you interested in Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) and photography? Then join our Photo Competition for World NTD Day 2027!

The competition is organized by the German Working Group for NTDs of the German Society for Tropical Medicine, Travel Medicine and Global Health (DTG), its a youth initiative, the Young Alliance against NTDs Germany (YANG), the Ugandan NGO, Innovations for Tropical Disease Elimination (IFOTRODE), the Canadian Network for Neglected Tropical Diseases (CNNTD) and Elysium, Noma Survivors Association. It is supported by The Federation of European Societies for Tropical Medicine and International Health (FESTMIH).

Background: NTDs affect over one billion people worldwide, especially vulnerable populations in resource-poor regions. The term NTDs covers a wide range of conditions caused by bacteria, viruses, parasites or even envenoming and irritant soils. Among the most known NTDs are conditions such as Dengue, Scabies or Rabies, while many people may never have heard of NTDs like Mycetoma or Noma. Despite the fact that so many people are affected by NTDs, diagnostics and treatments are not yet good enough or not available for everyone affected. Furthermore, individuals suffering from NTDs are often faced with stigma.

NTDs are therefore shaped by much more than the disease alone. They are linked to the environments in which people live, work, and play; to access to clean water, sanitation, healthcare, and education; to prevention efforts; and to the everyday tools and innovations that help people manage disease and its consequences. Building on the success of [last year's art contest](#) on the topic of stigma, this year's **Photo Competition** takes into account this full spectrum of factors associated with NTDs. It invites participants to explore the many dimensions of NTDs through the lens of a camera, capture what is often overlooked and tell stories that statistics alone cannot convey.

The objective of the Photo Competition is to show how NTDs are affecting people all over the world - from the person directly affected by an NTD in an endemic area, or the person at risk through natural, economic or social aspects, to the researcher studying an NTD in the lab, or the photographer engaging with the topic through this contest: All are welcome to join and tell us their stories through their photos, together with a caption and a short text.

At the end, the photos will take us on a journey around the world.

Motto of the Photo Competition: "NTDs Through the Lens: Stories of Risk, Resilience and Response."

Use the sample pictures on page 3 and 4 and the following prompts as food for thoughts for your photograph:

1. Where do environmental, social, or economic conditions increase the risk of NTDs? And what impact, in turn, do NTDs have on people's daily lives in terms of the economy and society?
2. What does NTD control look like in everyday life? Which tools, practices, or innovations help people prevent, manage, or overcome NTDs and their consequences?
3. How do individuals and communities demonstrate resilience in the face of NTD-related challenges?
4. What story about NTDs do you believe deserves greater visibility?

Send us your photo together with a **title** and a **short paragraph** describing where the photo was taken from, what is depicted, what the association with NTDs is and what inspired you to share this photo in this competition.

We would like to encourage participants from all regions of the world to send in their work!

The submissions will be sent to a jury which is going to decide on one winner photo per each [\(WHO\) region of the world](#). The winners will then be posted on the Social Media accounts of the DTG (LinkedIn) and the CNNTD (LinkedIn, Instagram) on **November 16, 2026** and can then be shared by the photographers, their friends, families, followers, lovers of photography as well as people working with/on NTDs. Thereafter, the

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general public can cast their vote for their favourite photograph via an online voting system until **December 6, 2026**.

Each photographer whose photograph was selected by the jury will receive **100 €** of prize money. The photograph receiving the most votes via the public online voting system will receive **300 €**. The prize money is graciously funded by the **Andreas Ruppel Fund**.

We plan to showcase the submissions at a vernissage for World NTD Day 2027 as well as in future exhibitions and/or as part of a non-medical photo book on NTDs.

*Interested? Then send us your submission by **October 25, 2026** via the following [link](#).
Any remaining questions? Feel free to reach out to us via ntds@dtg.org at any time!*

The Working Group for NTDs (DTG), the Young Alliance for NTDs Germany (YANG), Innovations for Tropical Disease Elimination (IFOTRODE), the Canadian Network for Neglected Tropical Diseases (CNNTD) and Elysium, Noma Survivors Association.

Rules and regulations for participating in the art competition:

- 1) Participants under 18 years of age must include a [completed consent form](#) signed by a parent or legal guardian with their application.
- 2) Creativity knows no bounds. Therefore, we won't restrict you in your choice of scene, but you should comply with the following regulations regarding quality, size and length:

Images:

- **Quality:** The photo you submit should ideally be **high quality (minimum resolution of 1920 × 1080 pixels (Full HD))** in **.jpg, .png or .tif** format.
- **File size:** The size of your photograph should not exceed **35 MB** (ideally it should be up to 10 MB, but in case of submissions requiring a bigger size, up to 35 MB will be accepted).
- **Originality:** All content must be original and created by the submitting photographer. **The use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) is not permitted for generating or editing your submission.**
- **Consent:** If you plan to take photographs that include people, please obtain their consent to have their picture taken and published. Photographs of children/adolescents < 18 years of age showing identifiable information will not be accepted for the competition.

Title/Text:

- The title should be short and concise and spark the viewer's interest.
 - The description should **not exceed 100 words**.
 - Both the title and the description should be written **in English**. If you want, you can add both of them in your native language, too.
 - Both the title and the description will be taken into account in the evaluation process, together with the photograph itself.
- 3) Your photo should be sent via [Google Forms](#). Depending on the size of the artwork, we ask you to:
 - Send us a link to the photo in an e-mail for files **>10 MB** size using the cloud-based file transfer service [WeTransfer](#) or send us a link via your Google Drive.
 - If the file is **up to 10 MB** in size, you can send us the photo directly as an attachment in the submission form.
 - 4) By sending in your photograph, you agree that the organizers of the photo competition (Working Group for NTDs/DTG, YANG, IFOTRODE, CNNTD and Elysium) may publish the photos made by you on their social media pages, newsletters and homepages. This consent includes:
 - (a) *The condition and permission to include your name when using the photograph*
 - (b) *The permission to use your photograph in their publications and other print media (newspapers, magazines, etc.), on television, radio and electronic media (including the internet) and/or in mailings or adverts for educational and publicity purposes.*

The organizers of the art competition guarantee that the material will not be used for commercial purposes.

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Below you find three sample images as well as an overview of all NTDs for further background information.

Sample images:



© Claire Jeantet - Fabrice Caterini / Inediz

Title:

Restoring Dignity: the journey of Balkisu, a noma survivor

Description:

Balkisu, a 41-year-old **noma** survivor from Bauchi State, is pictured holding with pride her portrait captured one year before, during a screening session at the Sokoto Noma Hospital in northwest Nigeria. She was affected by this neglected tropical disease when she was 4 years old and has been suffering from pain and discomfort most of her life. Months later, she is coming back to the hospital for another round of surgery and she has gained weight and confidence thanks to the holistic treatment provided. Balkisu is married and a mother of 5 daughters.

This is an example of a photograph needing a consent form from the person photographed, because the person is identifiable.



© Marlene Thielecke

Title:

A safety pin as a typical but risky treatment tool

Description:

An elderly woman in a Kenyan village in Kakamega County wears a safety pin on her shirt. It is used to remove sand fleas (the cause of **tungiasis**, also known as sand flea disease) embedded in the skin of the feet of those affected, mostly children. This is usually a painful, traumatic procedure, with the pin typically not being cleaned between extractions.

This is an example of a photograph that would not need a consent form of the person photographed, because the person is not identifiable.



© Marlene Thielecke

Title:

Standing water – Ideal for rice and freshwater snails

Description:

A person works in a flooded rice paddy on the Indonesian island of Sulawesi. The standing water can serve as a habitat for specific freshwater snails, which may act as intermediate hosts for *Schistosoma japonicum*, a parasitic worm that causes **schistosomiasis**. Despite a dramatic reduction in human infection rates to below 1% in Central Sulawesi through mass drug administration campaigns, transmission persists due to animal reservoir hosts.

This is an example of a landscape photograph. There is no need for a consent form of the person photographed, because the person is not identifiable.

Overview of the NTDs:

NTD	Information
Buruli ulcer	Skin NTD, caused by the bacterium <i>Mycobacterium ulcerans</i> ; unknown transmission, no prevention.
Chagas disease	Caused by parasite <i>Trypanosoma cruzi</i> ; transmitted by the triatomine bug, orally, from mother to child, blood products or organ transplantation. If not treated early, it can lead to heart failure, gastrointestinal and neurological problems. Prevention: vector control and testing strategies.
Dengue and Chikungunya	Viral infections, transmitted via mosquitoes. Prevention: vector control. Vaccinations (not yet available everywhere) No specific treatment.
Dracunculiasis	Also called “Guinea-worm disease”. Caused by the parasite <i>Dracunculus medinensis</i> . Transmission through contaminated water. Causes a blister from which the parasite emerges.
Echinococcosis	Caused by the parasites <i>Echinococcus spp.</i> Transmission through contaminated food, water, soil, contact with infected animals (ingestion of parasite eggs). Prevention: deworming of dogs, education, hygiene. Medical and surgical treatment.
Foodborne trematodiasis	Group of diseases that are transmitted by food (e.g. raw fish). They cause lung and liver disease. Prevention and treatment with medication.
Human African trypanosomiasis	Also known as “sleeping sickness”. Caused by parasites <i>Trypanosoma spp.</i> , difficult to treat; fatal without treatment.
Leishmaniasis	Caused by parasites (<i>Leishmania spp.</i>) which are transmitted by sandfly bites. Can develop into cutaneous leishmaniasis (skin NTD) or visceral leishmaniasis (affecting the organs), depending on the species.
Leprosy	Caused by the bacterium <i>Mycobacterium leprae</i> . Affects mainly skin and nerves. Can cause severe disabilities if untreated. Curable with medication.
Lymphatic filariasis	Also known as “elephantiasis”. Caused by parasites (filarial worms) that are transmitted through mosquito bites. Leads to impairment of the lymphatic system. Prevention: preventive chemotherapy.
Mycetoma, chromoblastomycosis and other deep mycoses	Group of skin NTDs caused by bacteria and/or fungi. Can lead to severe infections and disabilities. Prevention: e.g. wearing shoes.
Noma	Caused by polymicrobial organisms, mainly affects young

	children and leads to severe infection and gangrene of the mouth and face. Risk of disfigurement and impairments. Treatment with antibiotics.
Onchocerciasis	Also known as “river blindness”. Caused by the parasite <i>Onchocerca volvulus</i> . Transmitted via blackflies. Leads to itching, skin disease, visual impairment and blindness. Medication for treatment and prevention available.
Podoconiosis	Non-infectious “elephantiasis” caused by long-term barefoot exposure to irritant volcanic soils. Leads to chronic swelling of the lower legs, pain and disability. Prevention/treatment: wearing shoes, foot hygiene, swelling management.
Rabies	Viral disease, in 99% transmitted via infected dogs. Prevention: vaccination. No treatment. Fatal in case of infection.
Scabies and other ectoparasitoses	Group of parasitic diseases that affect the skin. Person-to-person transmission, outbreak potential. Treatment available.
Schistosomiasis	Caused by the parasites <i>Schistosoma spp.</i> Transmitted via contaminated water. Can affect the intestine and urogenital tract. Medication for prevention and treatment available.
Soil-transmitted helminthiases	Caused by a group of parasitic worms. Transmission: faecal-oral (via eggs in the stool of infected people). Medication for prevention and treatment available.
Snakebite envenoming	Non-infectious NTD. Prevention: e.g. wearing shoes. Treatment with antivenom or symptomatically.
Taeniasis/cysticercosis	Caused by tapeworms (parasites). Transmission through ingestion of infected undercooked pork. Infection of the intestine and the central nervous system is possible. Medication for prevention and treatment is available.
Trachoma	Eye disease caused by the bacterium <i>Chlamydia trachomatis</i> . Leads to visual impairment and blindness if untreated. Transmission through e.g. contact with contaminated hands, clothes or surfaces. Medical and surgical treatment.
Tungiasis	Ectoparasitic NTD caused by the sand flea <i>Tunga penetrans</i> (also known as jiggers), which burrows into the skin. Causes painful lesions, walking impairment and secondary infections. Treatment: topical treatment with dimeticone oils, wound care.
Yaws	Bacterial infection that can lead to infection and ulcers of the skin and swelling of the long bones / fingers. Antibiotic treatment.

For more details please refer to the WHO fact sheets on specific NTD: [Fact sheets](#)