

Situational Aims

- To examine the cultural logics and social and economic contexts of the two diseases
- To understand the dynamics and dimensions of stigma
- To investigate how the two diseases are conceptualized at the national and international policy levels
- To evaluate existing interventions in areas in which they have already been developed

Strategic Aims

- To refine a framework developed to identify gaps in understanding of the social contexts and consequences of the two diseases
- To develop a comprehensive intervention strategy for each disease

Capacity Building Aims

- To support endemic-country training posts (PhD and postdoctoral)
- To facilitate South-South and North-South sharing of best practice in research



PODOCONIOSIS

a progressive, debilitating form of leg swelling experienced by individuals who walk barefoot

EXPECTED IMPACTS

Our ultimate impact is to end neglect of two conditions (podoconiosis & scabies) through bringing the social sciences to bear on these conditions with specific impacts at three levels:

Macro-level (Clear steps towards policy change, increased focus of social sciences and stigma in the NTD agendas)

Meso-level (Strategies on social science interventions for implementers, increased awareness and lower stigmatisation of these conditions within endemic communities, more acceptable and feasible community engagement pathways)

Micro-level (Reduced stigma and improved well-being experienced by affected people, more effective tools to measures experienced stigma and life quality of affected people)

5S Foundation Ethiopia Project

Fighting stigma against Podoconiosis & Scabies in Ethiopia (2020 – 2023)

Background

The 5S is a research project implemented by the department of Global Health and Infection at Brighton and Sussex Medical School (BSMS), in collaboration with the Organisation for Social Science Research in Eastern and Southern Africa (OSSREA). The project will work on the two conditions (podoconiosis and scabies) in Ethiopia.

The research will transform the health and wellbeing of people affected by podoconiosis and scabies diseases by identifying interventions informed by social science perspectives at the level of the affected people (micro), the community (meso) and national policy (macro) in Ethiopia.

The project will develop social science capacity on a range of local health priorities, including NTDs, through training PhDs and Post doc.

SCABIES

a common infectious condition caused by burrowing mites leading to intensely itchy lesions on the skin of the affected people

How can social sciences contribute?

Social sciences (Medical Anthropology) contribute in public health by:

- Contextualizing the problem
- Getting the people's perspective
- Paying attention to the complexity
- Helping to develop culturally informed interventions



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