

COMMUNITY OUTREACH broadcast—8 STATIONS ONLY (Heritage FM, Jogo FM, Open Gate, Paidha FM, Dunamis FM, Buddu FM, Radio Ssesse, Voice of Tooro)

PURPOSE:

- To inform the audience about Bilharzia—what it is, how it is spread, and how to prevent it.
- To hear from community members about what they are doing to protect themselves from Bilharzia

OBJECTIVES:

After listening to the show, listeners will:

Know

- What Bilharzia is and how it is spread
- How to prevent Bilharzia

Feel

- Concerned about Bilharzia
- Committed to doing something to protect themselves from Bilharzia

Do

- Discuss Bilharzia with their friends and family
- Take some action to reduce their risk of Bilharzia

CONTENT

- This programme will be broadcast live from a community near the radio station.
- Play Bilharzia jingle
- The programme will begin with a short talk by the Expert about Bilharzia, using the Bilharzia flipchart and life cycle illustration.
- Ask a few quiz questions and give out prizes.
- Encourage the audience to ask questions.
- Ask a few more quiz questions and give out prizes.
- Ask the audience to share stories about what they do to PREVENT Bilharzia.
- Ask a few more quiz questions and give out prizes
- Ask the audience to share stories about people who have had Bilharzia, how it affected them, and what they did to treat it.
- Ask Grand Prize question and give out the mobile phone.

- End programme and credit Ministry of Health Bilharzia Prevention Campaign.
- Repeat the call to action:

“We CAN prevent Bilharzia. It’s as easy as 1 -2 – 3:

Step 1: Avoid contact with river, lake, dam, or swamp water.

Step 2: Take the free Bilharzia medicine offered in schools and communities every one or two years

Step 3: Always relieve yourself in a latrine or toilet and never in or near a water body.

Put a stop to Bilharzia before Bilharzia Stops you!”

QUIZ CONTEST

Ask 7 quiz questions from the list provided in the Appendix. Invite audience members to answer each question. Start with easier questions. For each of these 6 questions, the winners will receive a pair of gum boots. Then ask the Grand Prize Question, which is the most difficult question. The winner of this question will receive a mobile phone.

Take each answer one at a time. After each person gives his/her answer, let the Expert tell them whether or not his/her answer is correct. The expert should also correct any incorrect information immediately.

Continue to take answers one by one until one gives the correct answer. Give each prize to the first participant to answer correctly. Do not wait until all questions are answered to give prizes. Give the prize immediately to the first person who answers correctly.

QUIZ QUESTIONS & CORRECT ANSWERS

1. What are the causes of Bilharzia?

Correct answer: Bilharzia is caused by a tiny worm that is found in lakes, rivers, dams and swamps and enters humans through their skin. It is not caused by witch craft.

2. Who is at risk of getting Bilharzia?

Correct answer: Anyone can get Bilharzia as long as they get into contact with lake, river, dam or swamp water that has Bilharzia worms in it.

Additional information to be provided by the presenter/expert: The following people are more likely to get Bilharzia:

- Men, women, and children involved in rice farming or any other farming that requires standing or putting hands and arms into rice paddy, river, lake or swamp waters.
- Men, women and children involved in fishing or snail collection.
- People doing domestic chores in lake, river, dam, or swamp water, such as washing clothes or dishes.
- Children or adults who bathe, play or swim in lakes, rivers, or dams.

3. How does Bilharzia get into the body?

Correct answer: When a person is standing, swimming, bathing or putting any part of their body in water contaminated with Bilharzia, the worms enter through their skin.

Additional information to be read by the presenter/expert: The worms are so tiny that they cannot be seen without the aid of a microscope. Once the worms are in the body, they lay eggs which damage the liver, bladder or other organs. People who have Bilharzia have the eggs in their urine or faeces.

4. How does Bilharzia get into the water?

Correct answer: People infected with Bilharzia can contaminate lakes, rivers, swamps or dams if they urinate or defecate in or near it.

Additional information to be read by the presenter/expert: This is because their urine or faeces contain Bilharzia eggs, which will hatch into worms in the water.

5. Is this statement true or false? Bilharzia cannot be treated.

Correct answer: False. Bilharzia can be treated and cured with medicine that kills the worms inside the body.

Additional information to be read by the presenter/expert: If Bilharzia has damaged the liver or other organs in the body, the medicine cannot repair that damage. It can only kill the worms. So, it is important to get treated early, before the Bilharzia causes serious damage. The Ministry of Health gives Bilharzia medicine to everyone once every year in communities where many people are infected. This medicine kills any worms you may have in your body so that the disease does not become severe. However, the medicine does not protect you from getting

infected again if you come into contact with lake, river, dam or swamp water that is contaminated with Bilharzia.

6. Which of the following is correct?

1. You can prevent Bilharzia by drinking only boiled water.
2. You can protect yourself from ever getting Bilharzia by taking the free medicine that is given in schools and communities.
3. You can protect yourself from Bilharzia by avoiding contact with lake, river, swamp water.

Correct answer: 3 is the correct answer. The only way to protect yourself and your children from getting Bilharzia is to avoid contact with lake, river, dam and swamp water.

Taking the free medicine does not prevent Bilharzia. It treats Bilharzia and gets rid of the Bilharzia worms you might have in your body. So, if you come into contact with water that has Bilharzia worms after taking the medicine, you can get infected again.

Drinking only boiled water is a good way to prevent diarrhea. However, it does not prevent Bilharzia. Bilharzia worms enter the body through the skin, not through the stomach.

GRAND PRIZE QUESTION: What are the 3 ways to stop Bilharzia from spreading in this community?

Correct answer: We can stop Bilharzia from spreading by doing 3 easy things:

- 1) Avoiding direct contact with lake, river, dam, or swamp waters.
- 2) Taking the free Bilharzia medicine provided in communities and schools every one or two years.
- 3) Always using toilets or latrines and NEVER defecating or urinating in or near a lake, river, dam or swamp.