



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

NATIONAL LYMPHATIC FILARIASIS ELIMINATION PROGRAM BRUNEI DARUSSALAM (NLFEP)

1. What is Lymphatic Filariasis (LF)?

Lymphatic Filariasis (LF) is a parasitic worm infection that affects the lymphatic system.

2. How can someone get infected with LF?

The disease is transmitted through mosquito bites. A mosquito that bites a person infected with LF carries the filarial worms (vector) in its body. When this mosquito bites another person, it can transmit the worms.

3. What are the symptoms of LF?

Most LF cases do not show signs or symptoms. However, complications may include lymphoedema (swelling of the limbs) and hydrocele (swelling of the scrotum), which can lead to severe disability and permanent loss of function. These conditions can significantly impact the health and well-being of affected individuals.

4. Is there treatment for LF?

There are medications that can reduce the number of worms in the body. However, if complications such as lymphoedema or hydrocele occur, surgery or long-term care may be required.

5. What initiatives has the Ministry of Health taken to control LF in Brunei Darussalam?

The National Lymphatic Filariasis Elimination Programme is the Ministry of Health's initiative to stop the transmission of the disease. This includes the implementation of Mass Drug Administration (MDA) as recommended by the World Health Organisation (WHO) apart from conducting continuous surveillance of LF cases in the country. MDA has also been implemented in many other countries.

6. What is Mass Drug Administration (MDA)?

MDA involves giving medication once a year to residents living in at-risk areas even if they do not show symptoms of LF. This large-scale programme aims to reduce the number of worms in the body among at-risk populations to a very low level. This helps interrupt transmission and protects the entire community from LF infection.

7. Do I need to participate in MDA?

If you are a resident in the selected area and are eligible to receive the medication, your participation is very important. The programme will only be successful if a high proportion of residents takes the medication. By participating in MDA, you not only protect yourself but also help protect your family and the entire community from LF.

8. What medicines will be used in the MDA programme?

Three types of tablet medications will be given during MDA are Diethylcarbamazine (DEC), Albendazole, and Ivermectin. This combination of medicines has been proven effective in eliminating filarial worms and improving overall health.

9. Are these medicines safe?

Yes. MDA medications have been widely used around the world for the elimination of LF.

10. Will MDA medicines be given to everyone?

Individuals living in the selected areas are eligible to receive MDA medications. However, children under 2 years old, pregnant women, mothers who have recently given birth and are breastfeeding young infants, and individuals with certain medical conditions are excluded.

11. Are there any side effects from the MDA medicines?

Side effects are generally mild and temporary. They may occur as the medicine works to eliminate the worms in the body. Possible symptoms include fever, chills, headache, dizziness, fatigue, stomach pain, nausea, or mild swelling in certain parts of the body.

12. What should I do if I experience side effects?

Most side effects will resolve on their own. However, if you experience severe or prolonged symptoms, please seek treatment at the nearest health centre or hospital. For more information, refer to the *Medicine Information Leaflet* provided during the MDA medications distribution.

13. Which areas have been selected for the implementation of MDA?

Currently, several mukims in the Tutong District have been selected for the implementation of MDA.

14. When will the programme be conducted?

The MDA programme in Tutong District is expected to begin around May 2026 and will be conducted again the following year. However, the exact dates for each location will be confirmed closer to the time.

15. How will I know the date and location for MDA?

The Ministry of Health will inform residents about the dates and locations through *penghulu* and *ketua kampung* and residents will also receive updates through banners placed in their respective areas.

16. Where will the MDA medicine distribution take place?

Several locations, such as community halls, mosques, and school halls, have been designated as distribution points for the public.

17. What should I do during MDA?

When you arrive at the MDA distribution site, health staff will record your identification details and measure your body weight to determine the correct dosage. The MDA medicines will then be given and taken under the supervision of health staff. The entire process takes about 15–20 minutes per person.

18. What should I do if I cannot attend the MDA session?

Please contact your village head and provide your contact details. The Ministry of Health will make every effort to ensure that all eligible individuals receive the MDA medications. This is important to ensure full programme coverage so that no one misses protection from LF.

19. Where can I get more information about MDA?

Please scan the QR code below or visit <https://moh.gov.bn/resources/> for more information on the Ministry of Health website, or follow Instagram @mohbrunei. For enquiries, you may contact Talian Darussalam at 123.

