

EISAI ENTERS GLOBAL AGREEMENT WITH BROAD INSTITUTE TO DEVELOP

[Notes to editors]

1. About Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs)

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), NTDs blight the lives of more than 1 billion of the world's poorest 2.4 billion people. There are 149 countries and territories where NTDs are endemic, at least 100 of which are endemic for 2 or more of these diseases, and 30 countries and territories of which are endemic for 6 or more. These diseases not only survive and spread in conditions of poverty but also anchor large populations in poverty.

(NTDs designated by WHO for control or elimination: Buruli ulcer, Chagas disease, cysticercosis / teniasis, dengue / severe dengue, dracunculiasis [guinea-worm disease], echinococcosis, food-borne trematodiasis [fascioliasis], human African trypanosomiasis [sleeping sickness], the leishmaniasis, leprosy, lymphatic filariasis, onchocerciasis [river blindness], rabies, schistosomiasis, soil-transmitted helminthiasis, trachoma and yaws [endemic treponematoses])

2. About Chagas Disease

Transmitted by the bite of the assassin bug or *vinchuca*, Chagas disease is a public health problem, particularly in poorer areas of Latin America and the Caribbean. About 8 million people are believed to carry the disease and 100 million people are estimated to live in endemic areas. Furthermore, the number of diagnosed cases has been increasing in recent years due to population mobility to areas classified as being nonendemic for Chagas disease such as Australia, Canada, Europe, Japan, and the United States.

Chagas disease has acute, asymptomatic and chronic phases; the chronic phase falls into a chronic asymptomatic phase and a chronic phase with organ dysfunction. The acute phase usually occurs unnoticed, but in cases of symptomatic acute Chagas disease, nonspecific symptoms such as fever, fatigue and swollen lymph nodes develop, which resolve spontaneously within about 4 to 6 weeks. In the asymptomatic phase, no apparent symptoms are observed and it often takes decades to develop,