Here, *International Innovation* characterises the 17 conditions, classified by the World Health Organization (WHO) as ‘neglected tropical diseases’ that are especially prevalent in low-income populations in Africa, Asia and the Americas. In most cases treatments are relatively inexpensive, and thus associated morbidity and mortality is preventable, but insufficient funding means that these conditions are poorly controlled and affect the lives of millions of at-risk individuals.

**Buruli Ulcer**
- **Pathogen name:** Mycobacterium ulcerans
- **Transmission:** Unknown
- **Scale:** 5,000-6,000 cases annually

**Chagas disease**
- **Pathogen name:** Trypanosoma cruzi
- **Transmission:** Through the infected faeces of triatomine bugs; mother-to-foetal; contaminated food
- **Scale:** 7-8 million infected

**Dengue fever**
- **Pathogen name:** Dengue virus
- **Transmission:** By the Aedes aegypti mosquito
- **Scale:** 50-100 million cases annually

**Dracunculiasis**
- **Pathogen name:** Dracunculus medinensis or Guinea-worm
- **Transmission:** Drinking water contaminated with larvae
- **Scale:** 542 cases in 2012; 96 per cent in South Sudan

**Echinococcosis**
- **Pathogen name:** Tapeworm species *Echinococcus granulosus* causes cystic echinococcosis, and *E. multilocularis* causes alveolar echinococcosis
- **Transmission:** Through ingestion of dog or fox faeces infected with parasite eggs; contaminated soil, water or food
- **Scale:** >1 million infected worldwide infected

**Foodborne trematodiases**
- **Pathogen name:** Trematodes (flatworms or flukes)
- **Transmission:** Ingestion of contaminated raw fish, crustaceans or aquatic vegetables
- **Scale:** >56 million infected

**Human African trypanosomiasis (sleeping sickness)**
- **Pathogen name:** Trypanosoma brucei rhodesiense/ T.b. gambiense
- **Transmission:** By the bite of the tsetse fly
- **Scale:** <10,000 annual cases following effective eradication programmes
**Lymphatic filariasis (elephantiasis)**

- **Pathogen name:** Three species of nematode worm: *Wuchereria bancrofti*, *Brugia malayi* and *B. timori*
- **Transmission:** Worms are transmitted by mosquitoes and enter the body across the skin
- **Scale:** 120 million infected

**Onchocerciasis (river blindness)**

- **Pathogen name:** The filarial worm *Onchocerca volvulus*
- **Transmission:** Bites of infected blackflies of *Simulium* species
- **Scale:** Half a million people are blind or visually impaired due to the disease in Africa

**Taeniasis/cysticercosis**

- **Pathogen name:** *Taenia solium* (pork tapeworm) and *T. saginata* (beef tapeworm)
- **Transmission:** Ingestion of tapeworm cysticerci in undercooked pork or beef
- **Scale:** Lack of reliable information on the geographical distribution and burden

**Trachoma**

- **Pathogen name:** *Chlamydia trachomatis*
- **Transmission:** Spread through contact with eye discharge from infected people (on towels, handkerchiefs, fingers etc.) and through eye-seeking flies
- **Scale:** 21.4 million infected; 2.2 million are visually impaired and 1.2 million are blind

**Yaws (endemic treponematoses)**

- **Pathogen name:** *Treponema pallidum* subsp. *pertenue*
- **Transmission:** By skin contact with an infected individual in conditions of overcrowding, poor personal hygiene and poor sanitation
- **Scale:** Global prevalence is unknown

**Leishmaniasis**

- **Pathogen name:** Protozoa belonging to the genus *Leishmania*
- **Transmission:** By the bite of an infected female Phlebotomine sandfly
- **Scale:** 12 million infected; 1-2 million new cases each year

**Soil transmitted helminthiases**

- **Pathogen name:** Most commonly: roundworms (*Ascaris lumbricoides*), whipworms (*Trichuris trichiura*) and hookworms (*Necator americanus* and *Ancylostoma duodenale*)
- **Transmission:** Through contact with water or soil contaminated with infected human faeces in areas where sanitation is poor
- **Scale:** 2 billion people affected; 24 per cent of the world’s population

**Rabies**

- **Pathogen name:** Rabies virus
- **Transmission:** By the bite of an infected dog or bat
- **Scale:** Kills 60,000 people each year, mainly in Asia and Africa

**Schistosomiasis**

- **Pathogen name:** Several blood fluke species of the genus *Schistosoma*,
- **Transmission:** Through drinking water infected with the larval forms of the parasite
- **Scale:** 240 million infected; kills 200,000 in sub-Saharan Africa each year

**Leprosy**

- **Pathogen name:** *Mycobacterium leprae*
- **Transmission:** Unknown – suspected transmission via droplets from the nose and mouth during close contact with untreated cases
- **Scale:** <190,000 cases at the end of 2012 with 233,000 new cases reported that year

**Trachoma**

- **Pathogen name:** *Chlamydia trachomatis*
- **Transmission:** Spread through contact with eye discharge from infected people (on towels, handkerchiefs, fingers etc.) and through eye-seeking flies
- **Scale:** 21.4 million infected; 2.2 million are visually impaired and 1.2 million are blind