

Beauty Against jiggers

SYOPSIS

Beauty comes with responsibility, whether at a personal or beyond. Cecilia Mwangi, Miss World Kenya 2005 has devoted her limelight-life to fighting a somewhat disregarded health menace that has afflicted Kenya's poor families leaving them helpless and unproductive: jiggers. Jiggers as they be are a result of poor hygiene and poverty according to this beauty queen who has since established a trust for the anti jigger campaign called AHADI (Swahili translation for 'hope') Kenya Trust. In this story, we accompany Cecilia to a poor area in Kenya's Eastern Province.

RUNTIME:03:44

COUNTRY: KENYA

FILMING LOCATION:

LANGUAGE: KISWAHILI, ENGLISH

SOURCE: A24 MEDIA

SCRIPT

Cecilia Mwangi has dedicated her life to ridding poor Kenyan Communities of jiggers. This time, she is going to a place called Mbee in Kathiani District of Eastern Kenya. Here People are poor and jigger infestation is at its fiercest. Poor families in this area have little time keeping themselves clean but rather spend most of their time searching for food and water. It is a dry, dusty and windy place.

Jackson Nzeki's family is feeling the jigger pinch, right from father to the children. Their feet have been churned by these bugs and rendered them less productive. Jackson is a typical example of the many Kenyan families that have been affected by this infestation and Cecilia is here to help them.

Cecilia spends her time researching on jiggers and looking for areas that are worst affected then moves, with the help of her friends, to help eradicate them by washing the affected people with specialized disinfectants .She also educates the afflicted families on how to keep the jiggers away, which is mainly, maintaining high hygienic standards.

Cecilia says she was forced to act after noticing that” many people were suffering and their voices fell on deaf ears. ”She says she had a belief that as a beauty queen, she stood a chance to be heard and took the initiative.

He trust, which was founded by a former jigger-infested victim, Stanley Kamau, depends on donations from non-governmental organizations and well wishers ad has since been successful in pursuing its mission for a better and healthier life.

SHOT LIST

01:00 VARIOUS SHOTS OF A POOR FAMILY IN THEIR GRASS THATCHED HOUSE IN KATHIANI, EASTERN PROVINCE

01:08 SHOT OF JACKSON NZEKI AND HIS FAMILY WALKING

01:20 CLOSE-UP SHOT OF JACKSON NZEKI’S JIGGER-INFESTED FOOT

01:24 SHOT OF BEAUTY QUEEN CECILIA MWANGI PREPARING TO CLEAN NZEKI’S FAMILY

01:30 ITV, CECILIA MWANGI, BEAUTY QUEEN &ANTI-JIGGER CAPMAINGER (KISWAHILI)

“I discovered that there were very many people who were suffering and even if they speak, no one is there to listen to them. I thought that being a Kenyan beauty queen I was better placed to speak on their behalf and its true, it has come to pass. Many Kenyans have now acknowledged that this was a problem that had been disregarded because it has been there even as early as the 60s and 50s.Jiggers have been there and I thought that if I wont speak, it may never be addressed, You see, the are small things that bug us in life and may go overboard and as a result stall development. “

02:04 VARIOUS SHOTS OF CECILIA MWANGI AND COLLEAGUE WASHING THE FEEET OF AFFECTED PEOPLE

02:15 CLOSE-UP SHOT OF AN INFECTED MALE KID WITH HER FEET IN A TROUGH

02:17 VARIOUS SHOTS OF CECILIA MWANGI AND COLLEAGUE AT WORK

02:22 CLOSE-UP SHOT OF INFESTED FEET

02:26 VARIOUS CLOSE-UP SHOTS OF CECILIA MWANGI’S COLLEAGUE CLEANING AN INFESTED CHILD’S HAND

02:31 ITV, CECILIA MWANGI, BEAUTY QUEEN &ANTI-JIGGER CAPMAINGER (KISWAHILI)

“Jiggers are brought about by poverty and poor hygiene and this is a problem all over Kenya. Such are the things we emphasize every time we go around talking about jiggers and how we can eradicate them. So it’s all about hygiene, and also how we are going to salvage people from poverty.”

02:52 SHOT OF CECILIA MWANGI DISINFECTING A JIGGER INFESTED HOUSE

02:57 VARIOUS SHOTS OF A BEDROOM WITH TATTERED BEDDINGS

03:05 CLOSE UP SHOT OF A FEAMLE CHILD

03:07 VARIOUS SHOTS OF CECILIA MWANGI AND HER COLLEAGUE
CLEANNG A CHILD INFESTEDWITH JIGGERS

03:27 VARIOUS CLOSE-UP SHOTS OF A MATURE JIGGER REMOVED FROM
ACHILD'S FOOT

03:33 VARIOUS SHOTS OF CECILIA MWANGI AND HER COLLEAGUE
CLEANING AN INFESTED WOMAN'S FEET

03:54 ITV, STANLEY KAMAU, FOUNDER/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (AHADI
TRUST KENYA (ENGLISH)

“What we have done to days is that we have just done what we call intervention. We have cleaned them, we have given them foodstuff, as you can see, they are very hungry, and in the next few weeks we are going to do a follow-up. We going to appoint someone in this division who will be following up on all the families that we are going to attend to.”

04:16 VARIOUS SHOTS OF A YOUNG MALE CHILD LIMPING AS A RESULT OF
JIGGER INFESTATION, JACKSON NZEKI'S FAMILY)

END

Facts about Jiggers

The Female

Tunga penetrans is known as the chigger, jigger, chigoe, bicho do pé or sand flea. The head is angular, it has no comb of spines, and the thoracic segments are narrow at the top. The female feeds by burrowing into the skin of its host. The abdomen becomes enormously enlarged between the second and third segments so that the flea forms a round sac with the shape and size of a pea.

The impregnated female *Tunga* embeds itself in the skin under the toenails and fingernails of man - where the resultant sores may fill with pus and become infected. Other victims can be dogs, cats, rats, pigs, cattle and sheep.

The first evidence of infestation by this sand flea is a tiny black dot on the skin at the point of penetration. Because the flea is a poor jumper, most lesions occur on the feet, often on the soles, the toe webs, and around or under the toenails. A small, inflammatory papule with a central black dot forms early. Within the next few weeks, the papule slowly enlarges into a white, pea-sized nodule with well-defined borders between 4-10mm in diameter. This lesion can range from asymptomatic to pruritic to extremely painful. Multiple/severe infestations may result in a cluster of nodules with a honeycomb appearance.

Heavy infestations may lead to severe inflammation, ulceration, and fibrosis. Lymphangitis, gangrene, sepsis, the loss of toenails, autoamputation of the digits, and death may also occur. In most cases, however, this lesion heals without further complications.

Nonetheless, the risk of secondary infection is high. Tetanus is a common secondary infection that has reported associations with death.

Symptoms

An infestation begins to irritate and itch when is almost fully developed. Sometimes it causes severe inflammation and ulceration. If the female flea dies in the skin, it may cause a secondary infection, which, if ignored, could lead to tetanus, gangrene and even loss of a toe. Natural extrusion of the eggs sac or removal of the jigger with a dirty pin or needle leaves a tiny pit in the skin, which may develop, into a sore. The sore may extend and develop into a septic ulcer. An infection under a toenail may cause pus to form.

Causes of the jigger infestation

The major cause, after this research was discovered to be poor hygiene conditions.

Effects of the attack

1. A clear effect of the attack is the inability to walk easily due to pain in the affected areas of the legs
2. Inability to carry out normal day to day activities (work)
3. Stigmatization by their neighbours
4. Low self esteem resulting from the stigmatization
5. Infections such as HIV/Aids are passed from person to person due to sharing of pins

Source: <http://www.jigger-ahadi.org/jiggers.html>
