Over 1 billion people at risk in endemic areas

Visceral leishmaniasis

- A large proportion of infected people stay asymptomatic
- Others develop one of the three forms of the disease:
  - Visceral (kala-azar)
  - Cutaneous
  - Mucocutaneous

Cutaneous and mucocutaneous leishmaniasis

Severe skin lesions leaving life-long scars and serious disabilities (including the destruction of mucous membranes of the nose, mouth and throat for the mucocutaneous form)

600 000–1 000 000 new cases estimated each year, worldwide

The challenges

- Limited and non-optimal diagnosis and treatment currently available
- Programme implementation difficult in countries with resource-limited settings

Success story!

Kala-azar elimination programme in South-East Asia

90–97% survival chance with timely treatment

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