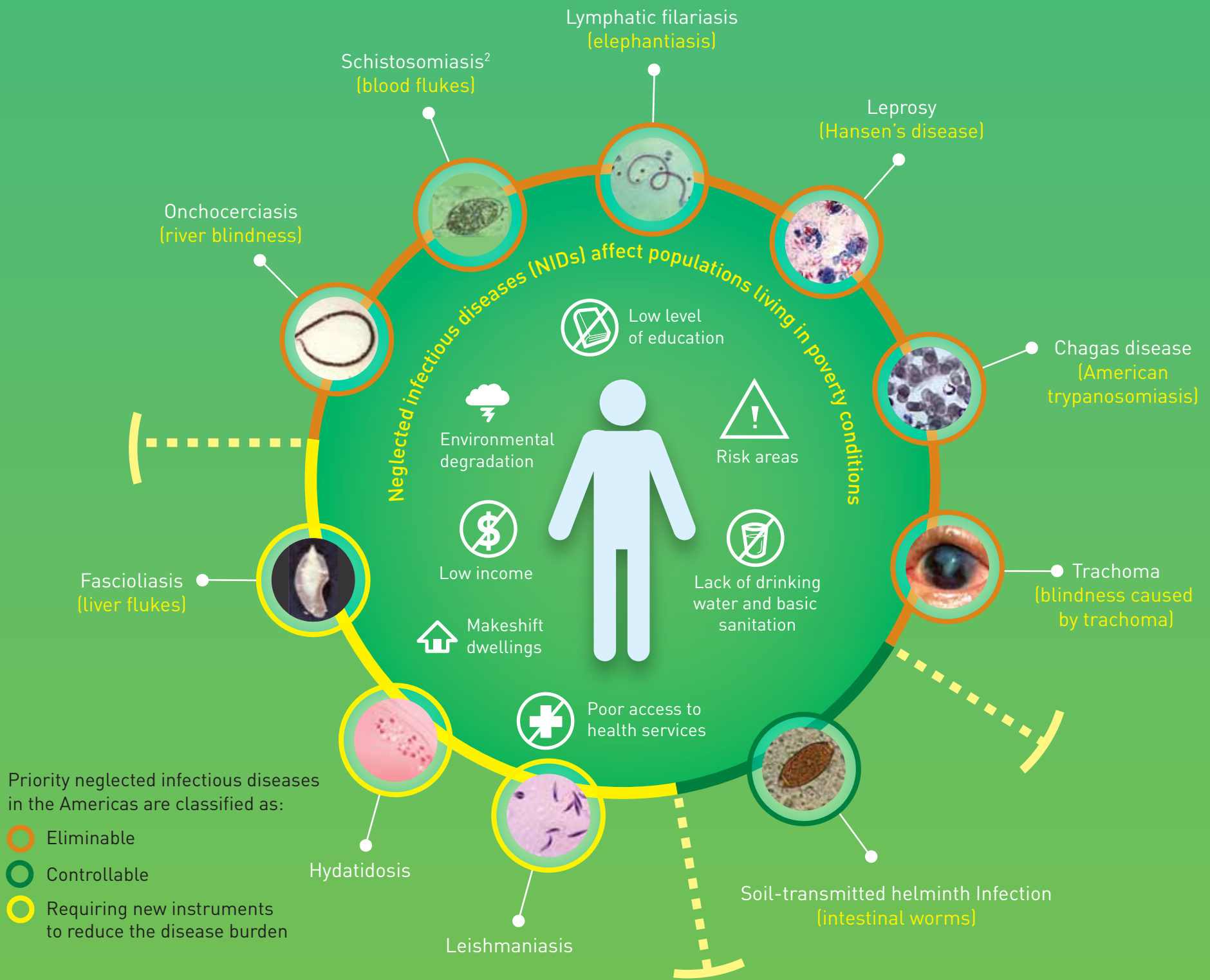


Neglected infectious diseases in the Americas



What are neglected infectious diseases and how do they impact the health and well-being of the population?

Neglected infectious diseases (NIDs) are a set of infections, many of them parasitic, caused by various microorganisms. They mainly affect populations living in poverty, with poor access to health services¹.



Health and economic impact of NIDs:

+100 million people in the Region of the Americas suffer from at least one neglected infectious disease. **Approximately one in six persons.**

NIDs are chronic and have lasting effects on health. They affect growth, physical and intellectual development, and learning ability, and reduce labor productivity and opportunities to earn sufficient income.

What is PAHO doing to address NIDs?

PAHO has a technical cooperation program to design and implement comprehensive national plans to control and eliminate NIDs and to strengthen national surveillance and control of these diseases.

Department of Communicable Diseases and Health Analysis
Neglected, Tropical and Vector Borne Diseases Unit
Neglected Infectious Diseases Program
www.paho.org/neglecteddiseases

¹ Resolution CD49.R19 on the elimination of neglected diseases and other poverty-related infections adopted by the Directing Council of PAHO in October 2009 includes five other diseases with elimination targets that are not mentioned in this diagram because WHO/PAHO has specific programs to address them. These are malaria and neonatal tetanus (in the Immunization Program); congenital syphilis (in the HIV/AIDS Program); rabies transmitted by dogs, and plague (in the PAHO/PANAFTOSA Veterinary Public Health Program).

² WHO Resolution WHA65.21 on the elimination of schistosomiasis (May 2012). Since 2012 WHO has classified schistosomiasis as a disease that can be eliminated rather than merely controlled.