



### PEOPLE LIVING WITH RHD



Rheumatic heart disease (RHD) is a **preventable, treatable** form of cardiovascular disease affecting **over 32 million people** around the world and killing 275,000 of them each year.



**Heart screening with echocardiography** has made it possible to more accurately diagnose RHD before symptoms begin. The 2013 Global Burden of Disease study estimates that, of the 32 million people living with RHD, **55% have severe disease.**

# 80%

of people living with RHD are in **developing countries**; the remainder live in vulnerable communities in high-resource countries.

### DEATHS AND DISABILITY FROM RHD



An estimated quarter of a million people die of RHD annually. However, these estimates do not include deaths from the complications of RHD: **stroke, heart rhythm abnormalities, heart valve infections, and maternal death.**

*“Much uncertainty remains for trends in mortality caused by rheumatic heart disease, partly because endemic populations are concentrated within poorer subnational regions where data collection is limited and rheumatic heart disease might not always be coded as the underlying cause of death.”*

– Global Burden of Disease Study, 2013



In 2013, RHD accounted for **473,200 years of life lived with disability (YLD)**. This does not include people living with a history of rheumatic fever who also require ongoing secondary prophylaxis.

### COST OF RHD

The economic impact of premature death from RHD in low- and middle-income countries in 2013 was estimated at

# \$56 billion.

A community-based program on primary and secondary prevention in Cuba reduced the incidence of acute rheumatic fever by **87%** and direct medical costs by **90%**. The program was estimated to cost **merely \$0.07** (US 2010) per at-risk child per year.

#### References

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3. GBD 2013 Mortality and Causes of Death Collaborators. Global, regional, and national age–sex specific all-cause and cause-specific mortality for 240 causes of death, 1990–2013: a systematic analysis for the Global Burden of Disease Study 2013. *The Lancet*. 2015; 385(9963): doi: 10.1016/S0140-6736(14)61682-2.