

About the rights of people affected by Chagas disease

Complete treatment of people affected by Chagas disease (carriers and infected people) involves primary health-care providers and specialists in areas including health (medical and psychological) as well as social and legal spheres.

We assert the ability and the rights of people to decent working conditions and social protection guarantees with the aim of eliminating prejudice, social stigmatization and discrimination (of any kind).

No one should be obligated, under any circumstance, to be tested for Chagas disease or to have their test results disclosed and/or used against them.

No one should be discriminated against for having Chagas disease.

People living with Chagas disease have the right to be accompanied by their family during the process of diagnosis, treatment and supportive care.

Those living with Chagas disease, including their families and friends, are not alone. The local association and the international Federation are here to support and defend the human rights of everyone affected by the disease.

About us

- ▶ **We represent a group of people** with Chagas disease, family, friends and people affected by the disease, working in collaboration with multidisciplinary teams.
- ▶ **We recognize that information, education and communication** are essential tools to increase awareness of the disease, to fight stigmatization and indifference and to guarantee human rights, including prevention and treatment of Chagas disease.
- ▶ **We demand continuity** and strengthening of prevention initiatives.
- ▶ **We advocate universal access** to clinical and laboratory diagnosis.
- ▶ **We urge universal access to full treatment** and follow-up during the acute and chronic phases of the disease.
- ▶ **We support research and development of optimal technologies for the prevention, treatment and control of Chagas disease.**
- ▶ **We maintain that Chagas disease is not a death sentence.** It is necessary to know, face and spread the challenges of people living with the disease. Initiatives to break the cycle that links poverty and disease should be implemented.

www.findechagas.org



FINDECHAGAS
STRENGTHENING COLLECTIVE
ACTION

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About the Federation

The International Federation of Associations of People Affected by Chagas disease (FINDECHAGAS) was founded in October 2010 and comprises more than 20 associations worldwide (Argentina, Australia, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Italy, Mexico, Spain, Switzerland, the United States of America and Venezuela).

FINDECHAGAS is a non-profit organization that aims to create, promote and disseminate the principles and guidance as set forth in the **Declaration of Uberaba*** adopted at the first meeting of associations of people affected by Chagas in the Americas, Europe and the Western Pacific (Minas Gerais, Brazil, October 2009).

“ On the basis of solidarity and commitment, we affirm in this Declaration, the creation of a global network of people living with Chagas disease.

We look forward to the cooperation of the governments of all nations in the world to work together to offer a better life to Chagas disease carriers or affected people, family and friends.

FINDECHAGAS is the way to strengthen collective action, to promote social control and to extend political representation in order to guarantee fundamental rights and full exercise of citizenship.

* This flyer reproduces the main points of the Uberaba Declaration.

About Chagas disease

10 MILLION

Estimated number of people infected worldwide

21

associations in the Americas, European and Western Pacific regions



TODAY, CHAGAS DISEASE IS NOT ONLY A RURAL ISSUE BUT ALSO AN URBAN AND GLOBAL PUBLIC HEALTH PROBLEM

Distribution of associations of people affected by Chagas disease

Distribution of Chagas disease cases

Chagas disease is an infection caused by *Trypanosoma cruzi*, a parasite that is transmitted...



... through the infected faeces of blood-sucking insects*;

... by ingesting food and drink contaminated with faeces of these insects;



... in some cases, during pregnancy or labour of an infected mother to her baby;

... by blood transfusion and organ transplantation from infected donors, when there is no screening during the process.



- » People with Chagas disease are trypanosome-carriers; however, they are not always ill nor are they always aware of having the parasite in their body. This is one of the reasons why only 10% of people are diagnosed at an early stage of the disease.
- » Three out of 10 of these people may develop the disease 20 to 30 years after contracting the parasite.
- » The heart, oesophagus and large intestine are the organs that may be affected.
- » **Access to diagnosis, control, treatment and follow-up improve the quality of life of those affected by Chagas disease.**

VERY IMPORTANT!

The causative parasite of Chagas disease is not sexually transmitted, nor is it transmitted by saliva or breastfeeding.

*The insects have different names depending on the region: "vinchucas", "chinchus", "barbeiros", "kissing-bugs", etc. They are born healthy and become infected only after biting an infected person or animal.