

# TUNGIASIS IN TRANS NZOIA COUNTY

## A Persistent NTD: Implications for Disease Control and Environmental Health

Ministry of Health,  
Trans Nzoia County,  
Kenya

### BACKGROUND

- Tungiasis is caused by the sand flea *Tunga penetrans*, affecting about 1.4 million people in Kenya.
- The disease spreads quickly in places with poverty, weak housing, and limited sanitation.
- It remains a persistent challenge in communities with poor living conditions.

### METHODS

- Study Type: Descriptive cross-sectional.
- Study Area: Rural and peri-urban areas, Trans Nzoia County, Kenya
- Sample Size: 50 households
- Data Collection: Household surveys, direct observations, Community Health Volunteer interviews

### KEY FINDINGS

Most affected: Children aged 5–14 years + elderly individuals

Footwear among surveyed:

- 40% sandals
- 40% shoes
- 10% barefoot

Open footwear offers insufficient protection against *Tunga penetrans*.

Household prevalence: 16% (8/50 households)

Earthen floors: 12% of cases

Plastered floors: 4% of cases

1.4  
MILLION  
AFFECTED  
IN KENYA

CLOSED  
FOOTWEAR =  
PROTECTION

16%  
HOUSEHOLD  
PREVALENCE

PEAK SEASON: APRIL  
– JUNE

PLASTER FLOORS =  
8% LOWER RISK

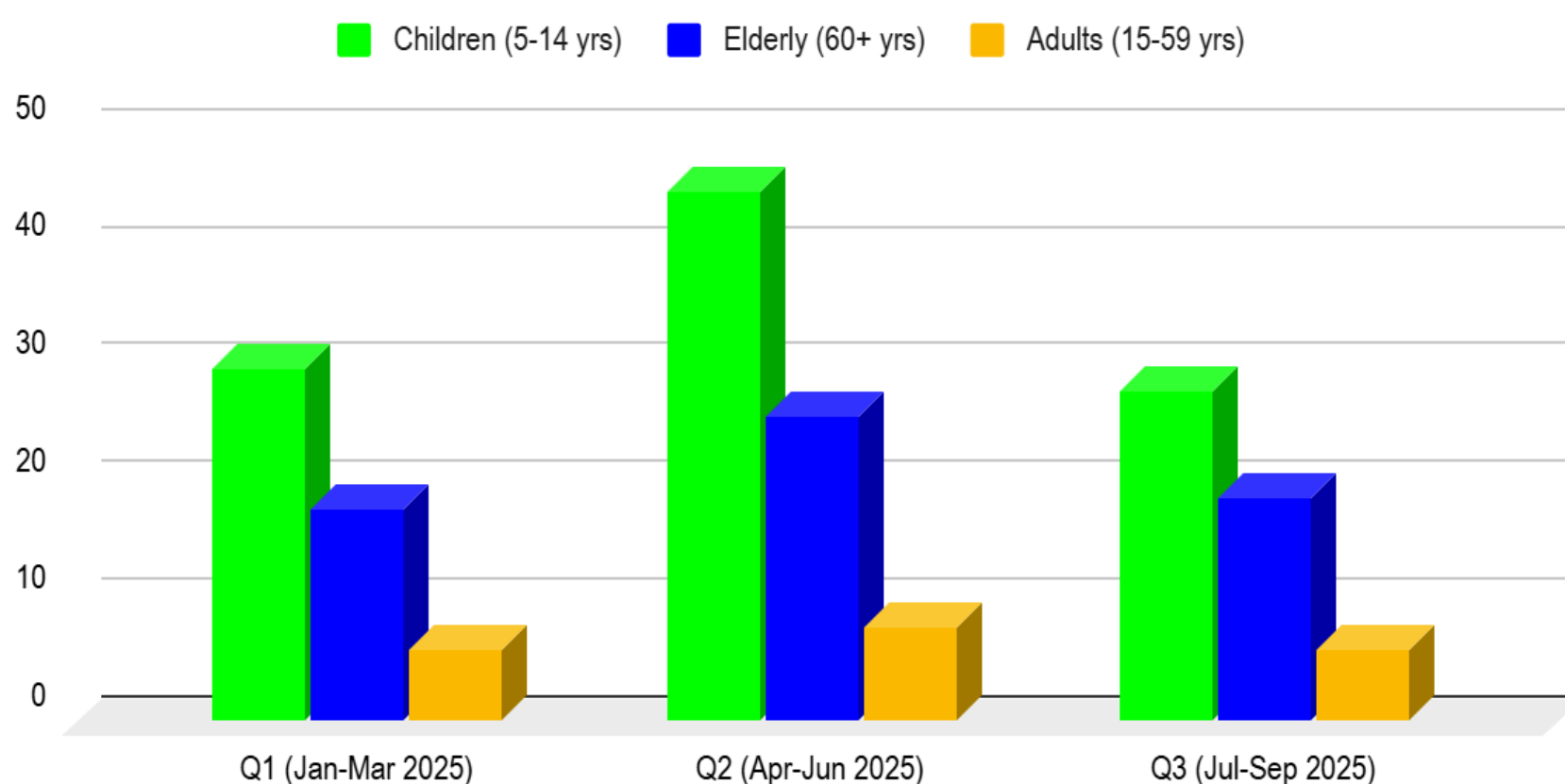
### QUARTERLY CASE TRENDS (2025–2026)

- Q1 (Jan–Mar 2025): 54 cases
- Q2 (Apr–Jun 2025): 79 cases ← PEAK SEASON
- Q3 (Jul–Sep 2025): 53 cases

### INTERVENTION STRATEGIES

1. Implement community-wide floor improvement programs in high-risk areas with earthen floors.
2. Distribute closed footwear and conduct health education campaigns before peak transmission season (April–June).

Children (5-14 yrs), Elderly (60+ yrs) and Adults (15-59 yrs)



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