



International Federation of  
Library Associations and Institutions

# Public Access to Health Information





International Federation of  
Library Associations and Institutions

# Infectious Diseases

(Tuberculosis, Malaria and others)



# Information and Infectious Diseases

- Whilst most infectious diseases are curable, the best alternative is prevention.
- This depends on:
  - Good information on transmission
  - Advice about preventive measures, and
  - Information on treatment.



# Information on transmission

- Although Malaria, Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS are the main killers, there are many other such as: cholera, typhoid, typhus, meningitis, STIs, and influenza.
- Transmission can be through contact with infected people and animals, contaminated water, parasites such as ticks and mosquitoes.
- Traditional medicine is notoriously inaccurate on this (blaming the wrong sort of mangoes for malaria for instance).

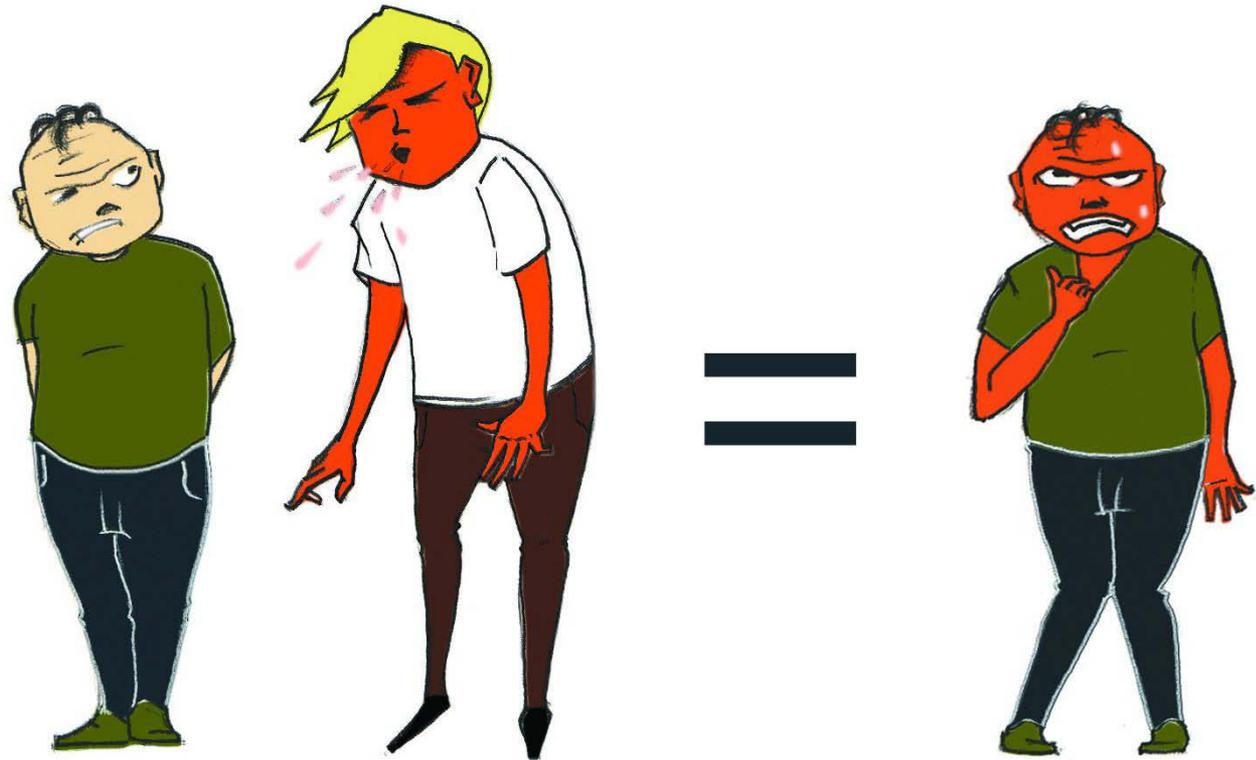


# Tuberculosis (TB)

- The important information is that although it is infectious and contagious, there can be a long incubation period before symptoms occur.
- Avoiding contact with body fluids from infected people can prevent transmission
- Carriers of the infection can be tracked and identified
- Immunisation with BCG vaccine can prevent the worst forms of the disease (it is 80% effective for 10 years).



# Transmission of TB



# Malaria

- Malaria is passed on by the Anopheles Mosquito
- Preventive health campaigns can
  - Disinfect the mosquito habitat with larvicides
  - Drain and fill puddles
  - Screen blood products
- Individuals can
  - Use mosquito nets
  - Use insect repellents and insecticides
  - Take prophylaxis (quinine related drugs)







# A library Infectious Diseases Programme

- In addition to stocking relevant information materials, the library can:
  - Partner in information campaigns on particular conditions
  - Display and help users to interpret posters
  - Organise learning groups at which relevant health messages can be transmitted.

