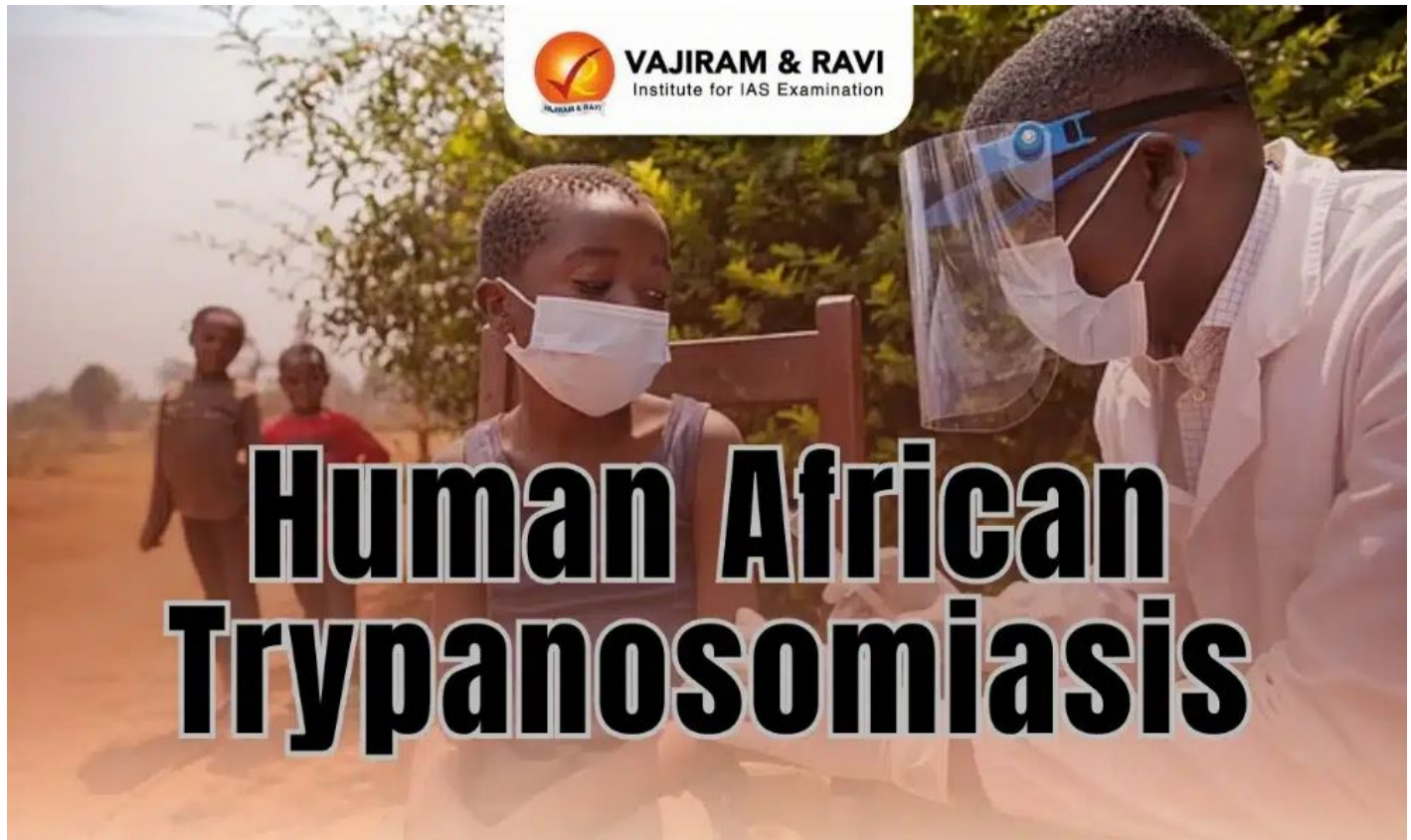


Human African Trypanosomiasis (HAT)

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Human African Trypanosomiasis Latest News

Recently, the World Health Organisation (WHO) certified Kenya as having eliminated human African trypanosomiasis, also known as sleeping sickness.

About Human African Trypanosomiasis

- It is a **parasitic disease** transmitted through the **bite of infected tsetse flies**.
- It is also known as sleeping sickness and is endemic in sub-Saharan Africa.

Symptoms of Human African Trypanosomiasis

- It shows initially symptoms such as **fever, headaches, and joint pain**, but can progress to neurological issues like **confusion, disrupted sleep, and behavioural changes**.
- First signs and symptoms emerge a few weeks or months after infection. The disease develops rapidly with multi-organ invasion, including the brain.
- It takes 2 forms, depending on the subspecies of the infecting parasite:

- **Trypanosoma brucei gambiense:** It is found in **24 countries of west and central Africa**, currently accounts for 92% of reported cases and causes a chronic illness.
 - A person can be **infected for months or even years** without major signs or symptoms. When evident symptoms emerge, often the disease is advanced with the central nervous system already affected.
 - **Trypanosoma brucei rhodesiense:** It is found in 13 countries of eastern and southern Africa, accounts for 8% of reported cases and causes an acute disease.
- **Who is at risk?** It is more **prevalent amongst rural populations** which depend on agriculture, fishing, animal husbandry or hunting are the most exposed.
 - Till today, WHO has validated the elimination of the gambiense form of HAT in seven countries: Togo (2020), Benin (2021), Ivory Coast (2021), Uganda (2022), Equatorial Guinea (2022), Ghana (2023), Chad (2024) and Guinea (2025).

Source: News on air

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/human-african-trypanosomiasis-hat/>

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