



The Vicious Worm - a cysticercosis advocacy information tool

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The Vicious Worm - A cysticercosis advocacy information tool

The **AIM** of the project is to create an information tool to advocate for prevention and control of *Taenia solium* cysticercosis – a vicious worm disease, that is widespread in many low income countries and is reemerging in developed countries due to immigration.

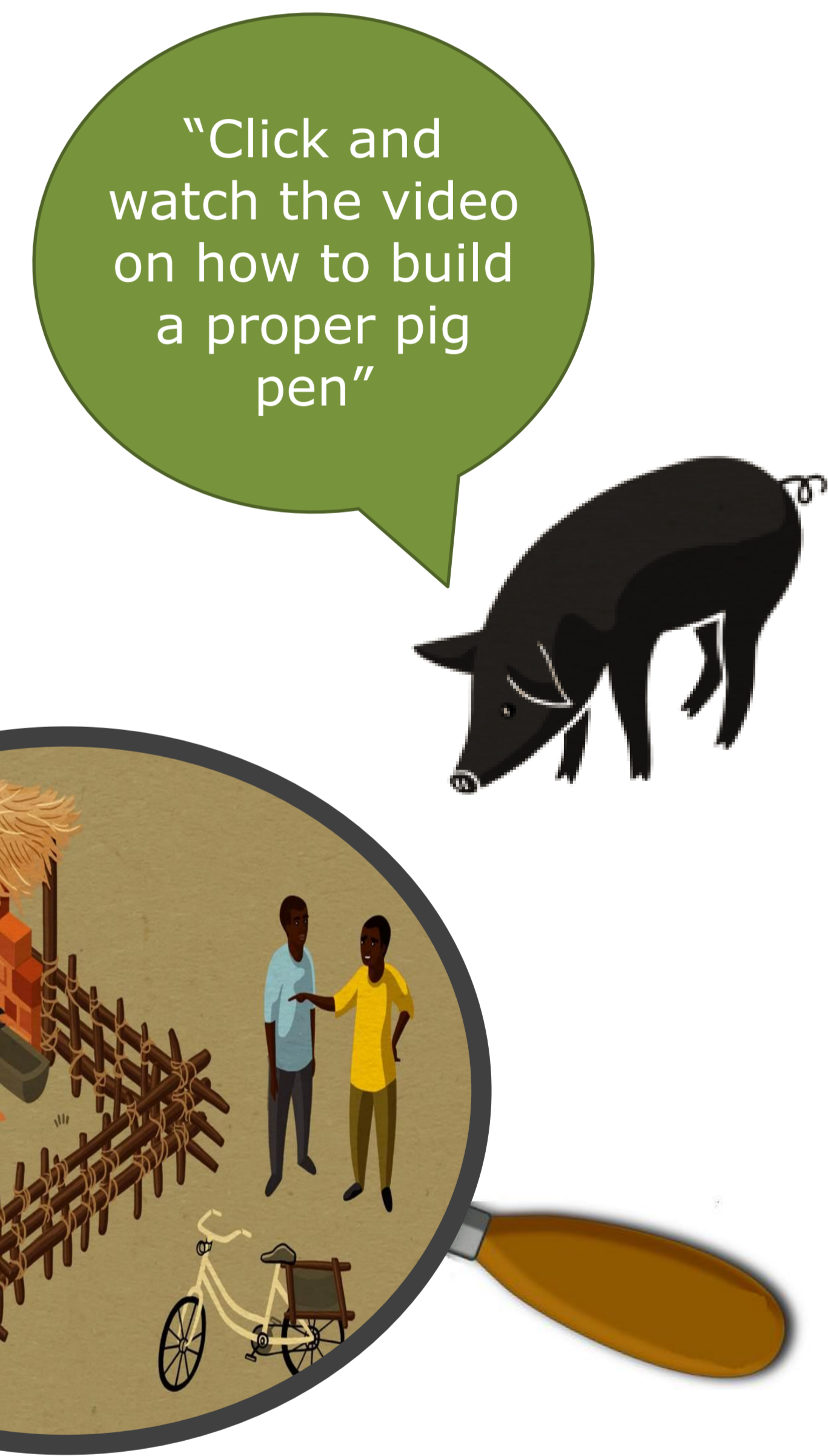


- Distributed on a USB flash drive
- Interactive map illustrating a village, town and city with information targeted at three levels of stakeholders
- At each of the three levels information on how to diagnose and treat the disease in both pigs and humans, its impact on people's livelihood and possible control and intervention strategies will be provided using different ways of communication according to the targeted level

Clicking the VILLAGE will provide knowledge relevant to laymen in the villages using animations, short stories, videos, quizzes and games.

Clicking the TOWN will provide supporting information for practitioners (medical doctors, veterinarians, meat inspectors and agricultural extension officers) using videos, pictures and text.

Clicking the CITY will provide a policy brief with key information for decision makers.



The vicious worm - *Taenia solium*

- Transmitted between humans and pigs
- Affects millions of people in sub-Saharan Africa
- Pigs become infected by eating faeces of a person with the worm
- The larval form of the parasite develops in the pig as small cysts
- People become infected with the worm (taeniosis) by eating infected raw or undercooked pork

- People can become infected with the larval form by ingesting worm eggs
- The cysts can develop in the human brain (neurocysticercosis)
- Symptoms like epileptic seizures and severe headaches are common
- The disease limits the patients ability to work and lead to social stigmatization
- Serious public health risk
- Societal burden is unknown but expected to be very high

Key solutions to control

- ✓ Stop open defecation
- ✓ Confine all pigs at all times
- ✓ Ensure proper meat inspection
- ✓ Condemn infected pork
- ✓ Cook pork properly
- ✓ Wash hands before food preparation
- ✓ Educate all stakeholders
- ✓ Provide clean drinking water to pigs and people



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