

# Laikipia Antivenom Fund

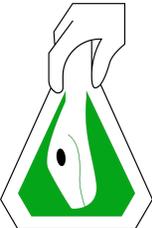
## 2023 Impact Report

Laikipia Antivenom Fund Inc.

*Dedicated to alleviating the burden of snakebite  
in Laikipia County, Kenya.*

[antivenomfund.org](http://antivenomfund.org)





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## Cobra Bite Treatment

This year, we funded our first patient's treatment; an adult man was sleeping in his bed when a red spitting cobra, *Naja pallida* (pictured right | C: R. Wilson, Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine) entered his bed and bit him on



the upper torso. This is a common occurrence in arid regions wherein the red spitting cobra is endemic. Red spitting cobras frequently enter underneath poorly sealed doors in search of rodents that cohabitate human dwellings, emphasizing the need for greater community education programs on how to 'snake-proof' one's home.

The patient had a severe envenomation, and required 5 vials of polyvalent antivenom (PANAF), coming out to a cost of KSH 48 000 (\$315 USD). As the patient met the criteria for the Laikipia Antivenom Fund's coverage, the antivenom was provided at no cost to the patient.

## 13th Annual East African Snakebite Conference

In September, we found ourselves in Watamu, on the Kenyan Coast, attending the 13th Annual East African Snakebite Conference, hosted by the Global Snakebite Initiative. This event saw clinicians, legislators, environmentalists, and educators congregate to outline treatment plans, policy changes, and conservation directives to decrease the global burden of snakebite and elucidate a path forward to improve health and human-snake conflict in endemic regions of the world.

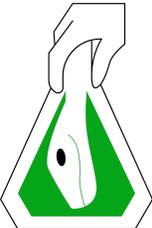
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13th Annual East African Snakebite Conference | Global Snakebite Initiative

Not only was this conference an outstanding opportunity to network in the growing world of snakebite research and outreach, but the Global Snakebite Initiative provided a clinical training breakout group to instruct local clinicians on the most current practices for snakebite management, including antivenom administration guidelines. We were privileged to be able to support the attendance of Njeri, a Clinical Officer from the incredible Laikipia-based [Leo Project](#)'s health clinic, who attended the breakout group and was able to confer with other clinicians working in areas with high snakebite incidence.

At this conference, a representative of Kenya's Ministry of Health stated that antivenom treatment will be included in the national insurance in the future. This is a monumental feat and great step forward by the Kenyan Government to combat snakebite, but will require a substantial amount of time before clinics have sufficient antivenom stockpiles. Consequently, the Laikipia Antivenom Fund will continue to alleviate the financial burden of antivenom treatment among low-income snakebite patients, until such time that service is no longer required. Our mission focus will then be primarily on community and healthcare worker education.



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Both the treatment of envenomation patients and the funding of clinician and community education highlight our mission to alleviate the burden of snakebite in Laikipia County. In 2024, we aim to continue this mission by expanding our funding of community and clinician education programs.

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