

# UNDERSTANDING THE IMPACT OF SICKLE CELL DISEASE

### What is Sickle Cell Disease?



#### SCD is a blood disorder

Sickle Cell Disease (SCD) is an **inherited blood disorder** that affects red blood cells. Normal red blood cells are round and flexible, which lets them travel through small blood vessels to deliver oxygen to all parts of the body.



#### **Causing misshapen blood cells**

SCD causes red blood cells to **form into a crescent shape**, like a sickle.



#### **Creating painful complications**

The sickle-shaped red blood cells break apart easily, clump together, and stick to the walls of blood vessels, **blocking the flow of blood**, which can cause a range of serious health issues.

### In the United States, it is estimated that:

SCD occurs in **1 in 365** AFRICAN-AMERICAN BIRTHS SCD affects approximately **100,000** INDIVIDUALS Approximately **3,000,000** HAVE SICKLE CELL TRAIT

## **SCD** Today

adulthood in resource-poor countries.

Though individuals with SCD are living longer, many are unable to access quality care. There is also a lack of treatment options to effectively address their condition.



are born with SCD in Africa every day, and more than half will die before the age of five.

with SCD expected globally by 2050.

For a more detailed look at the state of SCD, and how a coalition of groups with an interest in SCD are working to improve care worldwide, visit **scdcoalition.org**