

TLMTI's contributions in bringing about change in the lives of people affected by leprosy

Throughout its 143 years of existence, TLMTI has addressed the needs of tens of thousands of people affected by leprosy. In the last five years (2012-16) its programmes have:



Benefitted more than
3.2 million
patients



Equipped more than
5,600
people with livelihoods skills



Provided financial assistance for education to more than
8,700
students affected by leprosy/ disability



Empowered more than
2.2 million
people through community development interventions

TLMTI's strategic engagement with policy makers in 2014-15 resulted in the Law Commission of India submitting its Report No. 256 (Eliminating Discrimination against Persons Affected by Leprosy) to the Government of India. Along with its report and recommendations on the issue, the Law Commission has prepared model draft legislation, titled 'Eliminating Discrimination against Persons Affected by Leprosy (EDPAL) Bill, 2015'. This draft law contains principles of non-discrimination and equal protection before the law that must be guaranteed to all persons affected by leprosy or members of their family. It also seeks to promote the social inclusion of persons affected by leprosy and their family members through affirmative action.



ABOUT THE LEPROSY MISSION TRUST INDIA

The Leprosy Mission Trust India (TLMTI), founded in 1874, is the largest leprosy-focused non-governmental organisation (NGO) in India. TLMTI is registered as a Society, under Societies Registration Act, 1860, and is headquartered in New Delhi, India.

TLMTI has its programmes operational in nine states of India, namely, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal.

Presently, there are around 900 staff working in various capacities in its institutions and projects.

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All donations made to The Leprosy Mission Trust India are tax exempt under Section 80-G of the Income Tax Act, 1961.

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THE LEPROSY MISSION TRUST INDIA

Portrait of a century and a half-old commitment

Leprosy:

an ancient disease that haunts mankind even today!

Leprosy is an ancient, infectious, neglected tropical disease (NTD) with multidimensional consequences. Researchers believe leprosy has existed since at least 4000 BC. A potentially crippling disease, leprosy affects millions even today, trapping them in a web of poverty, disability and social exclusion.

There are many myths associated with leprosy, evolved through centuries, and because of this, there is a strong, deep-rooted stigma attached to the disease. The stigma attached to leprosy creates barriers to early diagnosis and treatment of leprosy patients. Leprosy, if not diagnosed and treated early, can cause nerve damage resulting in irreversible loss of sensation in hands, feet and eyes. This is followed by a loss of muscle function and paralysis affecting hands, feet and eyes, which can lead to permanent disabilities.

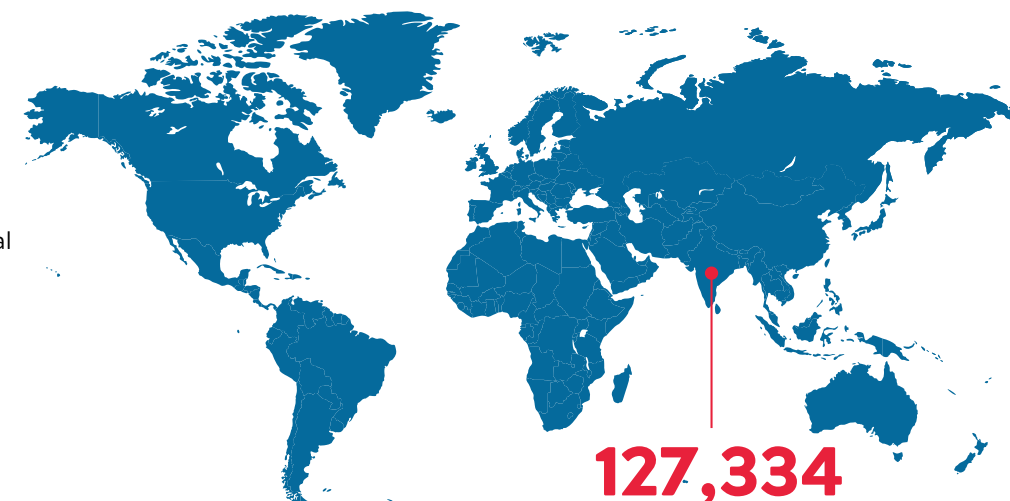
Because of the strong stigma attached to the disease, people affected by the disease, even after they are cured, are excluded from society. The hardships suffered by people affected by leprosy are many, ranging from medical, social and psychological to economic and legal.

Current leprosy situation

World Health Organization reported that in 2015, a total of 211,973 new leprosy cases were reported from 108 countries worldwide.* Data from the National Leprosy Eradication Programme (NLEP) of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, shows that 127,334 new leprosy cases were detected in India during 2015-16.**

* http://www.who.int/neglected_diseases/news/Leprosy_lessons_to_be_learned/en/
** <http://nlep.nic.in/pdf/revise%20annual%20report%2031st%20March%202015-16.pdf>

According to WHO
211,973 new leprosy cases were reported worldwide in 2015



127,334

cases were detected in India during 2015-16 (60% of the global leprosy load)



The fight against leprosy: TLMTI in the forefront for over 140 years

The Leprosy Mission Trust India (TLMTI) works with people affected by leprosy and other neglected tropical diseases (NTDs), people with disabilities, and marginalised communities. TLMTI works to eradicate leprosy and the stigma it evokes through a diverse set of programmes in nine states of India



HEALTHCARE: Through this programme TLMTI provides specialised leprosy care to persons affected by leprosy, and healthcare to the general public in various medical specialities. The programme is implemented through 14 hospitals and a clinic spread across nine states of India.



SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOOD: The programme provides institution-based job-oriented technical skills and employment opportunities to young boys and girls affected by leprosy/disability, through six vocational training centres spread across six states of India. It also provides community-based vocational training to marginalised women and girls from rural communities.



COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT: Through this programme TLMTI works with persons and communities marginalised due to leprosy, disability, gender, and poverty. It aims to bring their economic development and social inclusion through activities, such as awareness raising on health, human rights, and social issues; and skills building for sustainable livelihood. Apart from the



14 hospitals and six vocational training centres, the programme is implemented through eight community empowerment projects spread across eight states.

ADVOCACY: Through this programme, TLMTI addresses the development needs of people affected by leprosy through a rights-based approach. It engages with various ministries and departments of the central and state governments for creating an enabling policy and legislative environment for people affected by leprosy to live as equal citizens of the country.



RESEARCH AND TRAINING: Through the multidisciplinary and multi-centre research carried out in the laboratory, hospitals and the field, TLMTI generates evidence-based knowledge in immunology, molecular biology, clinical, social and operational aspects of leprosy to eradicate the cause and consequences of leprosy. With the aim of developing and retaining expertise in leprosy and other NTDs, WASH, and disability, it builds the capacity of external stakeholders and its staff.