

March 2019

HIGH COMMISSIONER VISITS LEpra-LED PROJECT IN BIHAR

Sir Dominic Asquith, The British High Commissioner in India, recently visited the city of Samastipur in Bihar to see the success of the continued work carried out by Lepra.

Visiting people affected by leprosy and lymphatic filariasis (LF) in the Morbidity Management and Disability Prevention clinic at the District Hospital in Samastipur, the High Commissioner was able to see the extensive range of vital support that Lepra carries out in the community of Bihar. After visiting the Primary Health Centre at Tajpur, the High Commissioner then met a number of people attending the centre for diagnosis, self-care instruction and counselling.

Aiming to further educate the High Commissioner on the topic of leprosy and to illustrate how Lepra is contributing to changing people's lives, the visit showcased the important work of the five year project in Samastipur District, Bihar. The sustainability of Lepra's activity was also demonstrated by the integration of health resources and training of health workers.

Continuing to highlight the importance of Lepra's work in Bihar, this trip also increased the awareness of UK origin development work carried out in India. The visit also enabled the High Commissioner to witness the success of health support delivered to India by UK NGOs.

Geoff Prescott, Chief Executive at Lepra, says: "It's been great for the High Commissioner to witness the fantastic projects that Lepra sets out to achieve. We hope that the visit was not only inspiring for him and fellow officials, but also provided a first-hand account of how Lepra is working to make life significantly better for those affected with Leprosy."

Kasturi Kilaru, Head of Fundraising LEpra Society India, says: "The visit was inspiring and a success as the High Commissioner and the other visitors could see exactly how leprosy and LF affect people's lives. It's been a great visit and it showcased the lengths that Lepra goes to in supporting those in need."

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Notes to Editors

About Lepra

Lepra is a UK-based international specialist charity that has been working to beat leprosy since 1924. Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II became Patron of Lepra in 1952, shortly after the death of her father King George VI, who had been Lepra's Patron since the charity was founded in 1924.

Leprosy affects over 7 million of the most vulnerable people in the world, causing life-changing disabilities and attracting terrible prejudice and discrimination. **But there is a cure.**

Lepra works to beat leprosy in India, Bangladesh and Mozambique by finding, diagnosing and treating people affected by the disease. By raising awareness, pushing for early detection and supporting people living with disabilities caused by leprosy, Lepra works towards a day when this disease no longer destroys lives.

Last year, the charity reached 301,000 people through diagnosis, treatment and care. It reached a further 1.7 million people through health education and events to raise awareness of leprosy and other neglected diseases.

Find out more about Lepra on its website and social media channels:

Website: lepra.org.uk

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/LEPRAUK/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/LepraUK>

You Tube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/LEPRAHinA>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/LepraUK/>

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/lepra/>