Our Annual Impact Review 2015 - 2016

Fighting disease, poverty and prejudice

About Lepra

Our vision is to be a leader in reducing the incidence and impact of leprosy, and other neglected diseases.

Working on the ground in India, Bangladesh and Mozambique, we treat, educate and rehabilitate and through this give a voice to children, women and men living on the margins of society. We have over 90 years' experience and, as you'll read, our strong focus and holistic approach delivers real change to people's lives.

Sarah Nancollas, Chief Executive:

"2015-2016 was a pivotal year for Lepra because we agreed our new five year strategy and significantly scaled up our successful combined leprosy and lymphatic filariasis work.

For us, both activities represent a clear organisational focus on doing all we can to tackle leprosy and make a significant difference to the lives of all at risk of, and dealing with, the consequences of leprosy. In the past three years we have doubled our expenditure on leprosy and been able to reach more people whose lives have been impacted by leprosy and yet there is so much we need to do.

The successes outlined in this document have been achieved in a difficult fundraising environment and it is a tribute to the loyalty of our donors that we have been able to make a real difference to so many. None of this would be possible without their generosity. As we look forward to the next five years and our new strategy, I hope it is a journey we will be able to make together."

Charles Bland, Chair of Trustees:

"Leprosy affects the lives of millions in spite of the fact that it is curable. If diagnosed in time it can be treated without leaving any damage or disability. This is Lepra's focus: early detection of leprosy to prevent disability.

Lepra is a highly efficient charity which aims to make a real difference to the lives of millions. We are proud of our skilled and committed staff and of the innovative projects which they have developed. Through them we build capacity among health workers and in communities so as to develop sustainable and lasting defences against the effects of leprosy and other neglected diseases."

Our staff deliver health education to local communities

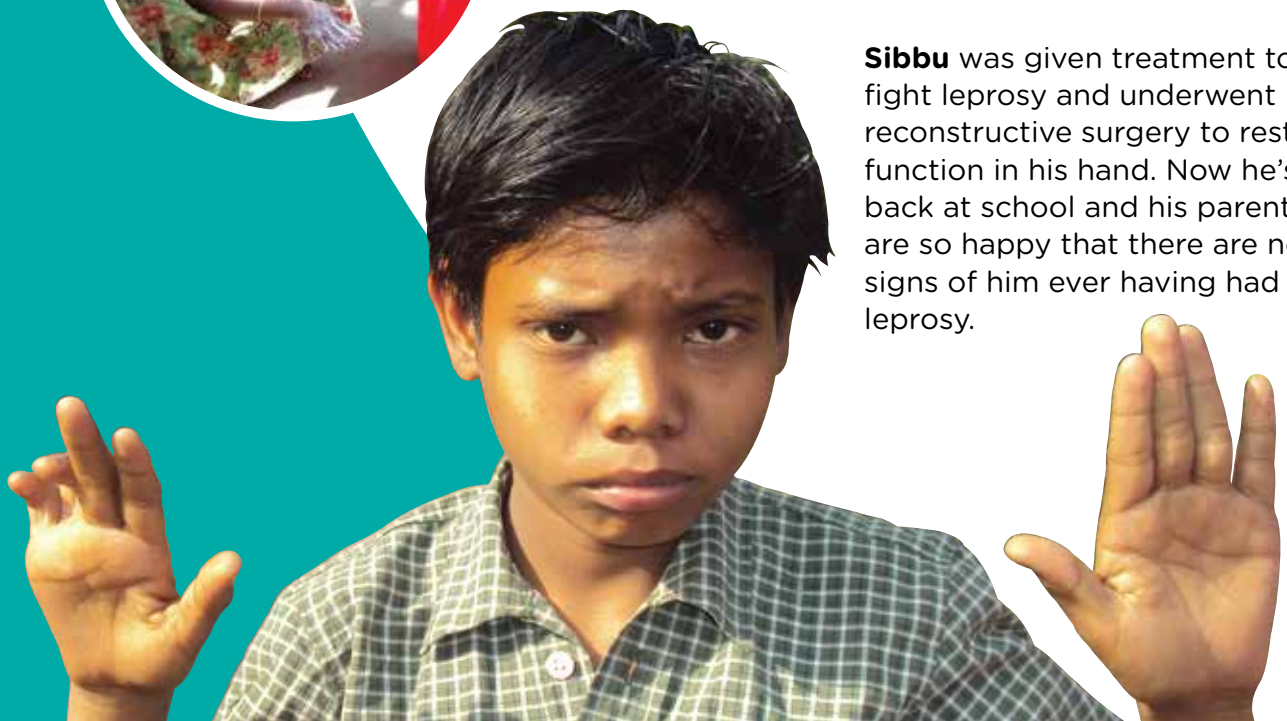
In 2015-2016, these are some of the lives you changed...

Rahima's husband left her because she had leprosy and shortly afterwards her baby died. She's been treated and has become a member of one of our self-help groups. Through the group she's learnt how to rear animals and was able to buy a goat with a small loan from the group's fund.

12 year old **Samapravin** completed her course of multi-drug therapy and no longer has leprosy. She was treated just in time and has no permanent disability. Samapravin's mother has started working to raise awareness of leprosy within their community so that others can be treated as quickly and effectively.

Assuate Mussa underwent surgery and no longer has to live with hydrocele (the swelling of the testes caused by lymphatic filariasis). He's been able to go back to his farming work and says his life has completely changed. "Everything has improved, I am healthy now."

Shapla began treatment for leprosy and became a Lepra community champion treating others with neglected diseases and helping to raise awareness of treatment.



Sibbu was given treatment to fight leprosy and underwent reconstructive surgery to restore function in his hand. Now he's back at school and his parents are so happy that there are no signs of him ever having had leprosy.

The Numbers:

We reached

279,971

children, women and men directly through diagnosis, treatment and care.

That's **10%** more people than last year

We reached a further

2,376,344

people through health education and events to raise awareness of diseases

25,888 pairs of shoes helped prevent further disability and improved existing disability in those with LF or leprosy

222,502

children were reached with our health messages by visiting schools

41,235

people affected by neglected diseases took part in meetings to help them advocate for their rights

We trained

20,710

health workers, volunteers, doctors, ASHAs (Accredited social health activists) and teachers and **1,925** government health staff

We diagnosed

41,257

people with a disease and provided them with access to treatment

594 lives were changed through **reconstructive surgery**

We helped

1,476

people access government grants and services for the first time

We found

12,332

new cases of LF

We were able to find **2,921** new cases of leprosy

1,251 men underwent hydrocelectomies surgery to reduce testes swelling)

Almost **double** the number of people accessed our diagnostic services for leprosy and LF compared to last year

Fighting **disease**, **poverty** and **prejudice**

We are driven by the needs of the people we work with and that means not only addressing disease, but also looking at how we can reduce the associated issues of poverty and prejudice.

Community champions in Bangladesh learn to detect the signs of leprosy

Health education

By providing information on neglected diseases, the symptoms and where to access treatment we are increasing the likelihood of earlier diagnosis and also reducing stigma. This encourages those affected to come forward at an earlier stage and decreases their chances of having to live with a permanent disability. In 2015-2016, we reached 2,376,344 people through our health education messages.

Our programmes in schools are particularly effective because children can be strong advocates for change. This year we reached 222,502 children with informative messages on neglected diseases, educating them and dispelling any prejudicial attitudes.

Self-help and self-care

We look to improve lives beyond the point of treatment and some of the ways we achieve this is through self-help and self-care groups.

This year we trained 27,619 people in self-care techniques to improve overall hygiene, keep affected body parts infection free and reduce swelling. This alleviates some of the physical burden and allows a person to continue to work. On average, people affected by leprosy in India lose 9 days a month of work which has a devastating impact on income for daily wage labourers.

Self-help groups provide vocational training, information on advocating for rights and establish loan funds to fight against the poverty disease can bring. Projects like "Empowering 22,200 poor and marginalized people with a disability to improve their economic status" in Bangladesh, use the groups to help more than double individuals' average daily income (from 0.68 GBP/day at the beginning of the project to 1.82 GBP/day).

Training

Our research shows that 41% of those affected by leprosy have seen 3 or more doctors prior to reaching Lepra facilities. 57% of those people have a permanent disability by the time they reach us. 37% of those who have visited one or two doctors before Lepra also display a disability.

With relevant knowledge, healthcare workers are able to detect signs of diseases and refer people for treatment much earlier, before disability has a chance to set in. We continue to invest in the training of health professionals and community champions and have done so by training 22,635 people this year.

Our research shows that **41%** of those **affected by leprosy** have seen **3 or more doctors** prior to reaching our healthcare workers.

Innovation

This year we became the first organisation to adopt a strategic approach that tackles leprosy and LF simultaneously.

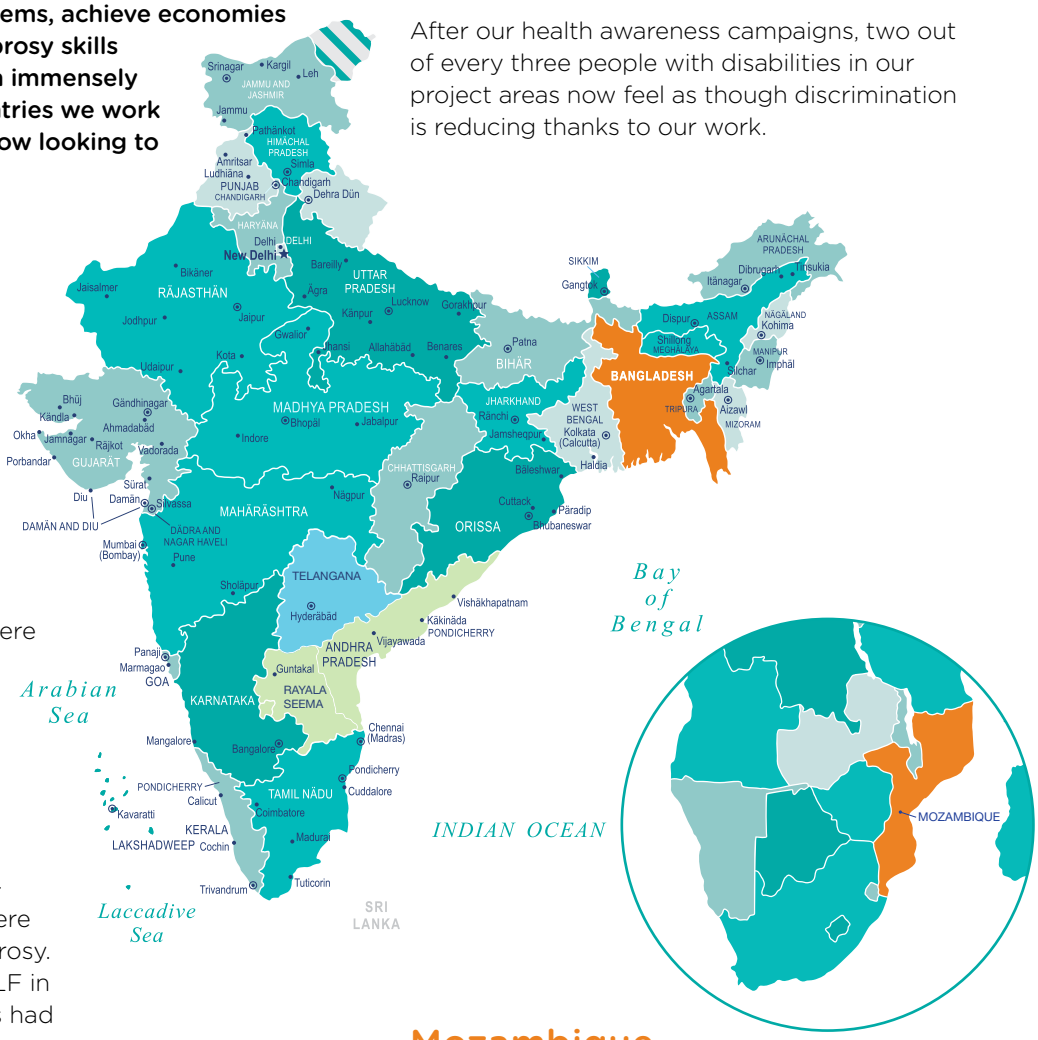
Those affected by these diseases benefit from the same self-care practices, self-help groups and diagnostic services. By combining our work in the two diseases, we have been able to provide services to more people, improve existing healthcare systems, achieve economies of scale and ensure that vital leprosy skills are not lost. So far, this has been immensely successful across the three countries we work in and many organisations are now looking to learn from our experience.

Spotlight on...

India

We have continued working across the states of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, New Delhi, Odisha and Telangana in 26 referral centres. Across these locations, 35,193 people began treatment for a disease. 11,838 were screened and diagnosed with LF which is a 139% increase compared to last year, showing the positive effects of our combined approach to LF and leprosy.

We trained 22,106 people in self-care methods, 15,016 of those were affected by LF and 6,206 by leprosy. As a result, 86% of people with LF in India reported that their wounds had healed after they had learnt to care for them with Lepra. This means there is a reduced risk of fever caused by infection, mobility is improved and the number of days an individual takes off work due to disability is decreased.



Bangladesh

It's been an exciting year in Bangladesh as we launched 3 new projects. These helped us to reach 100,310 children, women and men through diagnostic screening, treatment and education and test double the amount of people for leprosy compared to last year.

Through our 255 self-help groups we were also able to provide 1,692 people with skills training and loans that would help them to rebuild their lives.

After our health awareness campaigns, two out of every three people with disabilities in our project areas now feel as though discrimination is reducing thanks to our work.

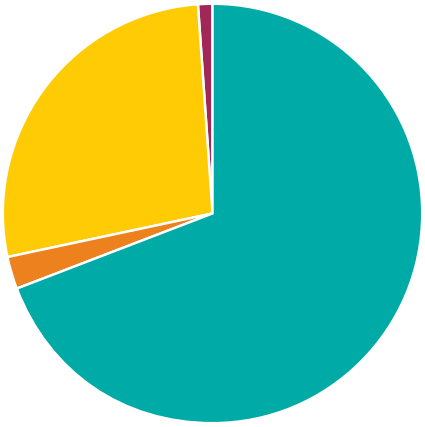
Mozambique

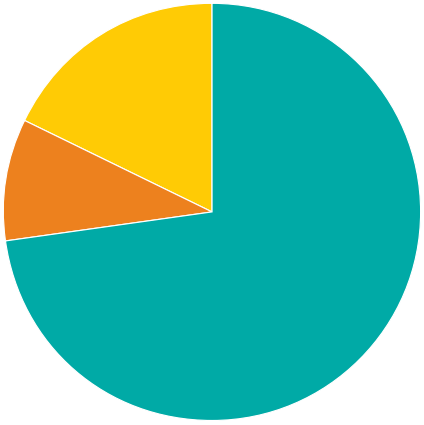
We have continued to work in the Zambezia province of Mozambique partnering with the Netherlands Leprosy Relief and focusing on finding those experiencing either LF or leprosy. Of the people we have reached this year, 52% were affected by leprosy while 45% were affected by LF.

Of those new cases we detected, one fifth presented with disabilities that could have been prevented had their diseases been detected earlier. We performed 419 hydrocele surgeries, provided 400 people with protective footwear and trained 180 community champions to detect cases of leprosy and teach self-care practices.

Where **your** money goes

Total Income	**£5,941,504**	
Public support	£4,124,458	69.4%
Trusts and business	£135,216	2.3%
Statutory grants and charitable acts	£1,620,544	27.3%
Sales, investments and other	£61,286	1.0%





Total Expenditure	**£5,053,532**	
Projects and programmes	£3,690,478	73.0%
Research, education etc.	£470,307	9.3%
Fundraising	£892,747	17.7%

The financial information has been audited and will be presented to Trustees in October 2016.

We are delighted to be **Asian Wealth Magazine's charity partner** for a second year.

We received more than **£4.1 million** from individual donors. This continued support allows us to **transform many lives**.

From afternoon teas to India cycles, our events fundraisers brought in **£43,500**. That is an amazing figure exceeding last year's total by almost **£6,000**.

Community fundraisers throughout the UK gave 413 talks to schools and other community groups which meant we reached **80,800** children. Together they were able to raise over **£815,000**. If you'd like Lepra to visit your school or organisation, please get in touch.

Ten of our long-term supporters took to the roads of Madhya Pradesh earlier this year for a fundraising ride. They cycled 500km across the state in memory of their much-loved previous group members, Bob Littledale and Liz Kennedy.

One of the riders, **Graham**, said:
"A highlight of the trip was when a passer-by saw our t-shirts and van slogans and found the courage to show us the patches on his body and arms. The doctor diagnosed leprosy there and then, and the man was told what to do and where to go for treatment. A life of misery was avoided and in an instant our whole trip was justified."

Ten cyclists took to the roads in India to raise money for Lepra

Project focus: Community Action for **Health** and **Hygiene**

A lack of knowledge about good hygiene practices and sanitation, together with an absence of the means to stay clean can lead to infections and secondary disabilities in people affected by leprosy and lymphatic filariasis (LF).

Our Community Action for Health and Hygiene project in Bogra, Bangladesh shared key hygiene messages to reduce the likelihood of infection and improve people's wellbeing.

What did we do?

- constructed latrines
- constructed safe drinking water facilities
- provided healthcare education
- launched a campaign to promote better sanitation practices among communities

What difference did we make?

- Almost double the number of households now report using 'safe drinking water' (34% to 57%)
- The average time people spend fetching water every day reduced from 30 minutes to 5
- Almost half the amount of people who used an open pot without a lid for their water (49% to 26%) now use one, which reduces the risk of water contamination
- Double the amount of people now 'hand-wash prior to cooking'; 'hand-washing after the use of toilet' also increased and 'hand-washing after handling waste' quadrupled.

All of this means we've enabled two thirds of people involved in the project to take better care of their pre-existing health condition. We've also had a direct impact on the health of half of the people we work with and hopefully these good hygiene practices will continue to make a difference.

Leader in the field

Mobile technology

We have introduced new mobile technology to improve the quality of data we are able to collect from our projects. Already we're learning things about the people we work with that we didn't know before. This is enabling us to identify what really needs to be done and where. For example, we can now see how many days of work are lost due to disease and where the highest levels of misdiagnosis are.

Mayarani is one of our Bangladesh staff members and says that aside from the access to more in-depth information about the people we support, it's also making a real difference practically.

"It is more efficient and saving more time in collecting information. It is easy to share project information and the project's impact with others and that data is easy to analyse and explore."

ILEP board

Rachna Kumari, one of our India staff members, now sits on the International Federation of Anti-Leprosy Associations' (ILEP) advisory panel giving a voice to those affected by the disease on the global stage. She is able to draw on her own experiences with leprosy and have a say on how the wider leprosy community can work towards a world where leprosy is a disease of little consequence.

South-south co-operation

This is the concept of encouraging sharing of knowledge among countries in the global south. Over the last 12 months we have facilitated learning between countries and projects for our staff from India, Bangladesh and Mozambique. They've been able to explore each other's methods and draw on the teams' expertise to further develop the work we do.

We would like to **thank all** those who have **supported us** throughout the year including our **wonderful staff** in the **UK** and **overseas**.

We'd also like to thank...

...our trustees:
Charles Bland
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RDRS Bangladesh
Sightsavers
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...as well as the donors, trusts and foundations who have enabled us to transform more lives, including:
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Signtsavers International
Simon's Charity
Sir Jamsetji TATA Trust
Souter Charitable Trust
State AIDS Control Society for Odisha, Bihar, Telangana
State TB Control Society - Government of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana
Swire Charitable Trust
Tanner Trust
The Nini Isabel Stewart Trust
Thomas Lilley Memorial Trust
Thomas Sivewright Catto Charitable Settlement
TLMI
Traynor Foundation
Tregelles Trust
Udimore Charitable Trust
UK aid
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Westwood Charitable Trust
White Family Charitable Trust
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