

The Right to a Life of Dignity

Annual Review

2007/08



 THE LEPROSY
MISSION
to Mankind's Touchness + Awareness



Cover Story

Eppli belongs to a family that is experiencing leprosy and facing an uncertain future. But with Eppli's involvement in TLM's Vocational Training programme and the further education made possible, she hopes to set up her own sewing business. With her increased confidence, and advocacy related skills she is also voicing her opinions regarding her rights in society, rather than being stigmatised because of leprosy in her family. Image © Peter Lemieux

The Leprosy Mission New Zealand

Our Vision

A world without leprosy

Our Goal

To eradicate the causes and consequences of leprosy

Our Mandate

The Leprosy Mission New Zealand, relying on the grace of God and motivated by Jesus Christ, exists to join in mutual partnership with individuals, families, communities and organisations to share resources, experience and learning in order to eradicate the causes and consequences of leprosy, and actively supports the right to a life of dignity for all people.

Our Values

Our values are modelled on Jesus and we rely on the grace of God to demonstrate this in our actions and in our prayers. Accordingly we act with:

Courage of conviction, working with integrity, being creative and radical, bold and innovative – without fear of failure – in pursuit of making the greatest possible impact on eradicating the causes and consequences of leprosy.

Transparency and honesty, being professional and accountable at all levels, including to people experiencing the causes and consequences of leprosy, for the effectiveness of our actions and open in our communications with others.

Equity and Justice, requiring us to ensure equal opportunity and human rights of everyone experiencing the causes and consequences of leprosy; irrespective of race, age, gender, sexual orientation, HIV status, colour, class, ethnicity, disability, location and religion.

Humility and mutual respect, in our presentation and behaviour, working in partnerships, listening and learning, recognising that we are part of a wider alliance committed to eradicating the causes and consequences of leprosy.

Solidarity, with people experiencing the causes and consequences of leprosy which will be our only bias as we advocate with them for their human rights, freedom and dignity.

What is Leprosy?

Leprosy, also known as Hansen's Disease, is caused by a bacteria called *M. leprae* which attacks nerves to the hands, feet and face making them numb and without feeling. Due to loss of feeling people damage their hands and feet during day to day activities like cooking over open fires and working bare foot. Untreated leprosy ultimately results in bodily disfigurement including ulcers and further deformities. It can also cause blindness. All of these consequences can be avoided if treated early.

Leprosy is as much a social disease as a medical one due to the social exclusion and rejection faced, often by being disowned by family and friends, and the loss of employment. This means the rights of people experiencing leprosy are violated every day.

Our Contribution to the Millennium Development Goals

Our work directly contributes to the eight Millennium Development Goals:

- Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
- Achieve universal primary education
- Promote gender equality and empower women
- Reduce child mortality
- Improve maternal health
- Combat HIV/AIDs, malaria and other diseases
- Ensure environmental sustainability
- Develop a global partnership for development



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MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Parts of the text show eight logos which demonstrate how we are contributing towards the Millennium Development Goals in our projects. It is often the case that one of our projects contributes to many of these goals.

The United Nations wants to reach eight Millennium Goals by 2015. These goals were formed in 2000 to combat issues of health, poverty and inequality in our world. The Leprosy Mission is working to help achieve these objectives through its projects worldwide.

Fighting Poverty in Chittagong Hill Tracts, Bangladesh

The Leprosy Mission is committed to sustainable community development and poverty reduction.

Our projects address the underlying causes of poverty, not just the symptoms. Small loans through income-generation projects, combined with the solidarity that comes from joining together in the groups that operate to administer the loans and other development activities, brings about a collective strength that individual people alone, in particular, people experiencing leprosy, do not have. This enables people experiencing leprosy, disability and social exclusion to actively participate in their development and to challenge the local causes of poverty which traps them into an ongoing cycle of destitution. Our projects also set ambitions for making a significant impact at an international and national level because we believe that progress at a local level cannot be achieved or sustained without changing unjust structures, policies and laws.

In 2008 a new project began in the vast Chittagong Hill Tract area, setting up groups and preparing group members for collective action and establishing income generation activities.

Empowerment of women in Muzaffarpur and Purulia, India

Women experiencing leprosy lose the most. Poor women, already battling the deprivations caused by lack of food, clean water, shelter and employment are subject to cruel daily discrimination on the basis of their sex. These commonly include not being allowed to own property, keep the money they earn, or access the education that could offer a better future. Women experiencing leprosy face all of these, plus others such as being immediately divorced by their husband on diagnosis, murdered or committing suicide. Our projects address women's rights issues, and work to achieve gender mainstreaming, which is the process of assessing the implications for women, children, and men in any planned action.

The Women's Empowerment Project in Muzaffarpur and Purulia has enabled the setting up of Women's Self-Help Groups which provide support for women in acute poverty. They have worked to set up small businesses resulting in sustainable livelihoods.

Education for children stigmatised by association with leprosy in the Terai, Nepal

In developing countries more than a hundred million children, especially girls, have no access to education making it almost impossible to break out of the cycle of poverty and disease. Many children from leprosy-affected backgrounds are keen to learn, but stigma and poverty prevent them from doing so. The Leprosy Mission supports children's rights to education, and builds this into projects where and when it is appropriate to do so.

The Community Active Participation (CAP) Project in the Terai, Nepal, has supported primary school children to attend school, with a special emphasis on enabling girls to go to school, and receive formal primary education. Often, to achieve this, families need to increase their livelihood opportunities to free the children from working to contribute to the family income needed to survive.



Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger



Achieve universal primary education



Promote gender equality and empower women



Reduce child mortality



Improve maternal health



Combat HIV/AIDs, malaria and other diseases



Ensure environmental sustainability



Develop a global partnership for development



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Mother and child care in Muzaffarpur, India

Poor maternal health is a serious problem in developing countries. Many thousands of women die unnecessarily each year from pregnancy and childbirth complications. Marginalised women, especially women experiencing leprosy, disability and social exclusion, are even more at risk.

The Leprosy Mission in India is well placed to provide affordable health care for poor and marginalised women in very poor areas in India. Obstetrics and gynaecology care is available, with health education on the importance of antenatal care and how to recognise danger signs during pregnancy, such as high blood pressure, anaemia and eclampsia.

The Muzaffarpur Leprosy Hospital in Bihar State, India, is equipped for childbirth and has the facilities to deal with complications, ensuring safety for both mother and child. This saves lives and equips mothers with the skills to raise healthy children; this is vital for communities with limited access to health services.

Improving living conditions in Ethiopia

People experiencing leprosy are usually the poorest of the poor, living in isolation and in makeshift homes without access to health services, clean water and sanitation. This makes them more susceptible to further disease. The Leprosy Mission works with partners to improve living conditions for these people, including housing, the provision of clean water and sanitation through appropriate means, and mobilising local government to act on their responsibilities. Such activities are incorporated with education about ways of utilising locally sourced materials in ways that promote environmental sustainability.

We are supporting our indigenous partner, ENAPAL, in Ethiopia, to improve the living conditions of their 15,000 members, the majority of whom are living in extreme poverty and social isolation.

Global partnerships in Ethiopia, China and Bougainville

Partnerships are vital to The Leprosy Mission. This includes partnerships with governments, belonging to international umbrella organisations, such as ILEP (International Federation of Anti-Leprosy Associations) to ensure worldwide co-ordination of leprosy work, and with indigenous membership organisations made up of people experiencing leprosy such as ENAPAL (Ethiopian National Association of People Affected by Leprosy) and HANDA (in China).

We partner with governments to train health staff to diagnose leprosy and provide effective treatment and we partner with hospitals to expand access to specialised leprosy services.

We partner with indigenous leprosy membership organisations to advocate for their human rights and to enable their members to become independent and self-sufficient.

We are in partnership with local government of a small Pacific Island (Bougainville) in a post conflict era as it rebuilds its health services in order to achieve healthy communities.



Our Strategic Plan

The Right to a Life of Dignity

Our newly developed Strategic Plan for the next five years is named "The Right to a Life of Dignity". It is our commitment to walk alongside people experiencing leprosy, disability and social exclusion and to support every step and action they take in claiming their rights.

We take seriously their plea, voiced at the International Leprosy Congress held in Hyderabad, India, in January 2008: "Please don't talk about us and make decisions for us, without us".

We are committed to their full participation as equal partners in discussions and decision-making about their lives and their future.

We place high priority on our partnerships, in particular with grassroots membership organisations made up of people experiencing leprosy.

We strengthen our focus on women's rights because we believe that the eradication of the causes and consequences of leprosy will simply not be possible without ensuring safety, security and dignity for women experiencing leprosy, who otherwise stand to lose the most.

We set ambitions for making a significant impact at an international level because we believe that progress at the local and national level cannot be achieved or sustained without changing unjust structures, policies and laws that are dictated by powerful world players.

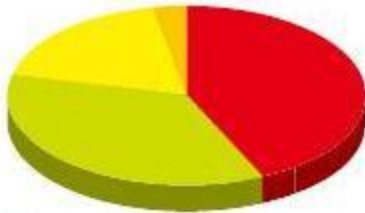
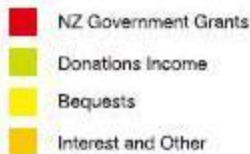
The world around us is changing fast and the context of our work is getting ever more complex. This strategy recognises and responds to the changing context of our work. It is about staying on course with our agenda. Responding to new challenges and bringing focus to our work.

Our Strategic Plan, and the priorities in it, reflects the ambition of us all in The Leprosy Mission New Zealand. Many of us, along with our partners and people experiencing leprosy, contributed to the development of this strategy. Please continue to support us as we translate the strategy into actions and results.

For all enquiries please contact

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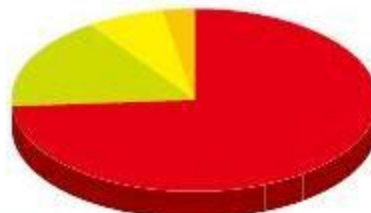
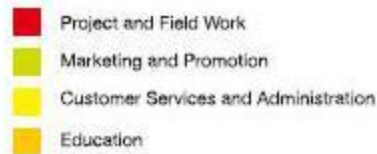
INCOME



Income

NZ Government Grants	\$ 1,851,374
Donations Income	\$ 1,553,840
Bequests	\$ 796,462
Interest and Other Income	\$ 125,026
Total	\$ 4,326,702

RESOURCES EXPENDED



Expenditure

Project and Field Work	\$ 3,655,783
Marketing and Promotion	\$ 797,362
Customer Services and Administration	\$ 345,134
Education	\$ 130,118
Total	\$ 4,928,397

Grants and Expenditure

The Year in Figures

This summary financial information is not the statutory accounts but has been derived from the financial statements, which are audited in July/August annually, and recommended by the TLMNZ Board to the Annual meeting of Members, held in November.

This summary may not contain sufficient information to allow for a full understanding of the financial affairs of this organisation. The full accounts, including the audit report, may be obtained from The Leprosy Mission New Zealand from November 2008.

Resource Raising

Our main income streams continue to be from three main sources:

- Individual giving, support from churches, trusts and other organisations
- Bequests
- Government grants

Thank you to our supporters

The Leprosy Mission New Zealand is sincerely grateful for the support received in the last financial year. We are thankful to each person who has contributed to our work, sharing our vision of a world without leprosy. We remember with respect and gratitude our supporters who passed away and thoughtfully remembered The Leprosy Mission New Zealand in their Will. We also appreciate the opportunities provided by the New Zealand Government for our organisation to access funds for overseas development through NZAID. On behalf of people experiencing leprosy, with whom we interact and work, we say "thank you". Without your involvement with us none of our achievements would be possible.

