2021/22

Annual Review

The Leprosy Mission
England and Wales

Welcome

Micah 6 verse 8 says 'what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.' This has been a special verse for me, ever since I made the lifechanging decision to apply for the role of Chief Executive here at The Leprosy Mission.

As I recall the events of 2021, and as you will read in this Annual review, this verse is lived out by our incredible supporters, the team here and overseas, and by amazing volunteers who give their time freely to serve people affected by leprosy.

Last year it would have been a much easier option to just focus on our personal needs in the face of continued lockdown, sickness, and grieving for lost family and friends. Yet churches, groups and individual supporters who couldn't meet face to face continued to give so generously. You ensured justice for some of the most marginalised communities in the world.

Mary Verghese, who sadly had to resign as Country Leader for The Leprosy Mission India due to the long-term effects of Covid, said "In spite of being far away in the UK, you empathised with us, you understood our pain and showed such gracious generosity". You'll read more about Mary in this Review, but her sentiment is echoed around the globe from the people you support.

Sadly, overseas conflicts and Covid lockdowns brought many projects to a standstill. This meant that there were 75,000 fewer leprosy cases treated globally at the start of the pandemic, as reported by the World Health Organisation. Women in particular, were even less likely to receive leprosy care because of gender imbalance.

I am thankful to share that because of your kindness, we are well placed to accelerate our work in 2022 and find as many of those missing cases as possible. This will minimise the risk of future disability. You have enabled us to fund even more vital work in 2022, finding people who desperately need to be cured.

The poorest communities are already being affected by climate change and rising sea levels. We were thankful to have a voice at the COP26 global conference, attended by world leaders in 2021. James Pender, who works in the Peterborough team shared how we can strengthen resilience for communities affected by leprosy globally.

Please read on to see how your support and kindness for The Leprosy Mission has transformed lives in Mozambique, India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Nigeria, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Niger, Ethiopia and Myanmar.

We are so grateful to partner with you in this vital work. I am reminded of a phrase people affected by leprosy use to encourage our partnership with them "do nothing about us without us". In the same way, I know that we can do nothing without you, our wonderful supporters.

Thank you so much for your kindness, and your shared heart for justice for people affected by leprosy.

Peter

Peter Waddup
Chief Executive

RIGHT: CHIEF EXECUTIVE PETER WADDUP OPENS A NEW WELL FOR A FAMILY AFFECTED BY LEPROSY IN SRI LANKA

Photography © Ruth Towell

The race to find the lost leprosy cases

Leprosy should not exist in the 21st century, but it is still prevalent because of a lack of access to healthcare and deep-rooted prejudice surrounding the disease.

Since 1982, leprosy has been completely curable with Multidrug therapy (MDT), a combination of three drugs that fight the leprosy bacteria. MDT is donated by the pharmaceutical company Novartis. However, it costs a global average of £24 to administer and transport MDT to a person with leprosy and provide a diagnosis at a hospital or clinic.

With your support, together we will achieve our shared goal of ending leprosy once and for all. We serve ten countries across Asia and Africa, in areas where there are high rates of leprosy or very limited health services. Our staff and partners work tirelessly to raise awareness and dispel harmful myths about the disease. Your generosity enables them to find and treat people showing the early signs of leprosy. By catching the disease quickly, a person is spared a lifetime of disability.

There is now a greater urgency than ever to find and cure people living with leprosy. You will not be surprised to learn that this is because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Latest statistics published by the World Health Organization (WHO) reveal the number of people treated for leprosy fell by 37 per cent, from 202,488 in 2019 to 127,396 in 2020. In India, home to half the world's leprosy cases, the drop in people treated was even steeper. It plummeted by a staggering 43 per cent from 114,451 in 2019 to 65,147 in 2020.

It would be encouraging to think this is because there are fewer people needing leprosy treatment. However, the opposite is true. Even before the pandemic, evidence suggested that for every person treated for leprosy there were another 19 undiscovered cases. This drop is attributed to lockdown restrictions and governments prioritising Covid response.

We are acutely aware that there is a greater number of people living with untreated leprosy. They are at high risk of developing disabilities, including blindness, as the disease tightens its grip. We are now in a race against time to stop preventable disability by providing them with the cure. Our colleagues and partners are working harder and more innovatively than ever to reach these people.

Covid and crisis

In 2021 the world was battered by wave after wave of Covid. Barely a nation escaped its devastating consequences. What began as a public health emergency soon snowballed into widespread economic hardship. Millions of people were plunged into extreme poverty. Lockdowns imposed to stop the spread of the virus prevented day labourers from working. As a result, severe hunger ensued. To make matters worse, many of the countries in which we work were rocked by political instability.

As seen throughout history, extraordinary times spark remarkable courage. It is thanks to your heart of compassion that Leprosy Mission staff and partners were able to reach out to people across Asia and Africa. As with tenacious NHS staff, our medical teams risked their own lives caring for people critically ill with Covid around the world. They compromised their own safety by stoically working in conflict zones. They remained steadfast and resolute in their quest to help the very people that society all too often deems unworthy.

TAKING OUR FIGHT TO THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

Alice Cruz is the United Nations Special Rapporteur for people affected by leprosy. In June, she voiced her concern to the Human Rights Council over the drop in new leprosy cases being treated because health workers struggled to reach communities during lockdowns. Alice said that people affected by leprosy were all too often 'invisible and forgotten'.

> **"There is no building back better if states fail to put those who have been systematically pushed furthest behind at the centre of recovery efforts."**
>
> *Alice Cruz, United Nations Special Rapporteur*

Photography © Fabeha Monir

Working in Conflict Zones

Violence and political instability were a defining feature of 2021. A coup in Myanmar in February saw the uprising of the People's Defence Force. Civil war followed as the military deployed armoured tanks across cities to silence the demonstrators.

The collapse of Myanmar's health system placed unprecedented strain on Mawlamyine Christian Leprosy Hospital. This hospital has cared for leprosy patients for more than a century. Medics worked around the clock treating and caring for local people through the darkest days of the pandemic. At a time of great need, you provided oxygen cylinders, ventilators and oximeters for patients.

Last year, the incredible ongoing work to end leprosy in Mozambique took place against a backdrop of violence. Conflict between insurgents and Mozambique's security forces in Cabo Delgado, the country's most northern province, intensified in 2021. So much so that Leprosy Mission staff working out of an office in the provincial capital of Pemba had to be relocated for their safety. They continue to work from a base in the neighbouring province of Nampula.

During the latter half of 2021, Ethiopia was ravaged by a civil war between Tigrayan and government forces. The work you help to fund in Ethiopia is primarily in Amhara, a region in the north near to the epicentre of the violence. During the fighting, homes were razed to the ground and hospitals destroyed. We are currently deploying a humanitarian response to help people living in communities affected by leprosy.

In another corner of Africa, a military coup took control of the Sudanese Government in October. This sparked violent clashes between civil protesters and the military. The Leprosy Mission's Aburoff Clinic in Khartoum was forced to close for weeks. However, despite lingering tensions, clinic staff began treating patients again in November. The reopening of the clinic brought relief and comfort to people affected by leprosy.

BELOW: A WOMAN WALKS AMONG THE REMAINS OF THE FARMING TOWN OF ATAYE IN THE AMHARA REGION OF ETHIOPIA. MORE THAN 100 CIVILIANS DIED, AND 1,500 BUILDINGS WERE TORCHED, DURING VIOLENT ATTACKS IN 2021

Helping the people of India in their hour of need

2021 saw a brutal second wave of Covid sweep across India. In April we watched, aghast, as scenes of hospitals running out of beds, medicine and oxygen were beamed into our living rooms. There was desperation and heartache on India's streets as people fought for lifesaving treatment for their loved ones. More harrowing scenes followed, this time of makeshift funeral pyres. It was no longer possible to formally cremate the sheer number of bodies of those who had succumbed to the virus.

Leprosy Mission hospital and community staff responded immediately to the crisis. Thanks to you, urgent food parcels were distributed in communities experiencing the worst hunger in decades. You enabled emergency care to be rolled out in neighbourhoods where public transport was suspended.

All this was happening at a time when we, in the UK, had renewed hope. Our Covid vaccination programme was gaining momentum. It had already given protection to millions of older and vulnerable people. Now it was the turn of younger adults in the UK who attended clinics in their droves, buoyed by the prospect of returning to normality.

Meanwhile in India, only a tiny fraction of the population had been vaccinated. Your generous support enabled residents of communities affected by leprosy to be transported to vaccination centres. You helped 6,031 of the most vulnerable to get Covid jabs, people whose lives would otherwise have been at risk. Funds to cover daily wages lost because of travel for vaccinations were given to those struggling to feed themselves. These are the people most at risk from the virus, their immune systems already weakened by living in poverty.

It is only thanks to you that we were able to make such a difference in India when it was needed the most. We knew it was in your heart to support the relief effort, as well as in the hearts of our medical teams. They were able to establish and equip Covid isolation wards at Leprosy Mission hospitals across India. The exemplary clinical care given by the medics saved many lives.

Unsurprisingly, the number of new leprosy cases diagnosed and treated in India plummeted during the pandemic. This was because of lockdowns imposed to curtail the spread of Covid.

The need to find and cure people of leprosy has once again become our main priority. The number of mobile clinics in India has been increased, along with media campaigns to address prejudice against leprosy and signpost people for fast treatment. The team in India is doing everything possible to find people with untreated leprosy before disability sets in.

As a result of the pandemic, millions more people have tragically been plunged into extreme poverty. Yet we are determined this must not undo decades of progress made in helping people to live healthier and more prosperous lives. It is only through you that the life-changing work to cure leprosy and prevent disability is happening. We cannot thank you enough.

Above: 16-year-old Maya had reconstructive surgery on her hand. Leprosy had caused her fingers to stiffen and curl inwards, but thankfully an operation has successfully straightened them. Maya was able to return to school and is now preparing for her final exams. Leprosy is a chapter firmly in Maya's past as she looks forward to all the future has to offer.

Thanks to you people like Maya, pictured here with her grandma Munni, 211 people were able to have reconstructive surgeries in India in 2021. The operations took place at four hospitals you support across India.

Photography © Smita Sharma

LEFT: TEAMS OF FEMALE VOLUNTEER HEALTH WORKERS HAVE BEEN TRAINED IN NEPAL TO DETECT CASES OF LEPROSY

Photography © Tom Bradley

Bridging the gender health gap

Through the Heal Nepal project, you helped a total of 10,218 people in 2021, 59 per cent of whom were women.

There is no medical evidence to suggest that men are more susceptible to leprosy than women. Yet every year statistics published by the WHO reveal that more men than women are being cured of the disease. The latest data from 2020 shows that just 39 per cent of new leprosy cases diagnosed and treated were women.

Why should women be left living with leprosy longer than their husbands, fathers, brothers and sons? Their health is in jeopardy and they risk a lifetime of disability through no fault of their own.

Thankfully you are helping overturn this injustice through our outreach projects. At the very heart of communities, newly trained outreach workers are going door-to-door. They are finding the women who so desperately need leprosy treatment. Thanks to you, in 2021 there was a significant breakthrough in closing the gender health gap.

We are now two thirds of the way through our three-year Heal Nepal project to find, cure and care for people with leprosy. Funded through the UK Aid Match scheme, with every pound you gave being matched by the UK government, the project finds hidden leprosy cases in remote areas of Nepal.

In some of the cultures in which we work, many women feel uncomfortable about being physically examined by a male health worker or doctor. This is why female volunteer health workers were recruited and trained in Nepal to detect the early signs of leprosy. As a direct result, a total of 1,490 new cases of leprosy were found and treated.

Many of the people identified were taken to The Leprosy Mission's Anandaban Hospital for specialist medical care and help for emotional trauma. At Anandaban, some had surgery to restore movement to hands, feet and eyelids damaged by leprosy. Others were given mobility aids, including bespoke prosthetic limbs.

LEFT: LEPROSY OUTREACH WORK UNDERTAKEN BY WOMEN HEALTH WORKERS IN BANGLADESH HAS BEEN CREDITED FOR MORE WOMEN BEING TREATED FOR THE DISEASE

Photography © Tom Bradley

Reaching women

The support you provide is reassuringly bridging the gender health gap. Men and women now have an equal opportunity to live their lives free from the physical and emotional burdens of leprosy.

There is significant research to show that women are more likely to be deserted by their husbands because of leprosy than vice versa. A woman affected by this disease can be seen as worthless. This is particularly the case when her disabilities prevent her caring for children and doing household chores.

Accessing treatment is more difficult for women. Often, they must get permission from their husbands to see a doctor. There can be such prejudice surrounding leprosy that, understandably, a woman hides the early signs of the disease. She does this to protect her marriage and family life.

Tragically a leprosy diagnosis often results in devastating consequences such as being cast out from her community and left with life-changing disabilities. No longer able to support herself, she is left destitute.

In 2021 an effort to address the gender inequality in leprosy treatment was made in Bangladesh. In the Meherpur district, 344 female and 303 male government health workers were trained to detect the early signs of leprosy. In the early weeks following their training they went on to find 437 new cases of the disease, with women making up 51 per cent of those treated.

LEFT: KUNAM HAS BEEN GIVEN TREATMENT FOR LEPROSY, INCLUDING A LEG AMPUTATION AFTER HIS BURNS BECAME SEVERELY INFECTED. YOUR SUPPORT PROVIDED KUNAM WITH 36 COCONUT TREES, WHICH ENABLE HIM TO MAKE A LIVING SELLING COCONUT PRODUCTS

Photography © Ruth Towell

Sowing the seeds of a new life

Communities affected by leprosy are among the worst hit by extreme weather caused by climate change. In recent years, they have witnessed death and widespread disruption because of flooding, drought, and cyclones. As a consequence, people affected by leprosy have been plunged even deeper into poverty and often go without food.

World leaders have a collective responsibility to slow the warming of our planet. They must help the world's most vulnerable people adapt to the challenges of climate change. We must act together to protect our common home.

As the eyes of the world watched the UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) in Glasgow, we were able to raise the voice of people affected by leprosy.

Our Programmes and Advocacy Officer for Asia, James Pender, shone a light on leprosy and disability in an event organised by Bond, the UK international development network. The network brings together organisations like The Leprosy Mission to eradicate global poverty, inequality, and injustice. Together we called for the governments of richer nations to help developing countries cope with climate change.

At the conference, James showcased our work in Sri Lanka, where 24,429 people were able to strengthen their resilience to climate change in 2021. As a result, these people now have a wider variety of food.

This work took place in northern Sri Lanka last year when 38 families affected by leprosy were given native trees, seeds and plants and, importantly, agricultural training.

A total of 130 wells were dug for families affected by leprosy. Not only do they now have clean and safe water to drink, but they also have easy access to water to irrigate their crops.

This work is headed up by Reverend Joshua Sivagnam, one of 12 international farmers to benefit from the Marshal Papworth scholarship in 2019. The scholarship enabled Rev Joshua to attend ten weeks at farming school in England where he studied sustainable agriculture.

The timing was impeccable. Almost as soon as Rev Joshua returned to Sri Lanka, the Covid pandemic hit. During the lockdowns Rev Joshua was able to implement what he had learnt in England. The need for people to grow their own food had never been greater as the restrictions on movement prevented many from working, leaving them struggling to feed their families.

Northern Sri Lanka has the unfortunate combination of poor soil and being prone to drought. Rev Joshua has worked with communities to encourage composting and growing traditional plants to improve soil quality. He holds cookery demonstrations to show people how to prepare dishes made from traditional ingredients, including wild vegetables and leafy plants. He teaches them how this improves their nutrition and immune systems, helping to protect them from diseases including leprosy and Covid.

The legacy of this work will help future generations mitigate the effects of climate change. It would not be possible without you, and we can't thank you enough for supporting the people of Sri Lanka.

> **"During lockdown people affected by leprosy, many of whom are widowed women living under the poverty line, learnt to grow their own food. They were then able to provide produce for their neighbours and communities.**
>
> **Because of lockdown, our country is now facing a financial crisis. The government has no money to import food, so we are relying on Sri Lankan produce. This is an opportunity for those who have started home gardens. Now they will not only be able to feed themselves but also their communities.**
>
> **Without the challenges Covid has created, we would not have had this opportunity for people affected by leprosy. Every challenging moment can be a positive experience, and I am so thankful for the dedication of the Sri Lankan team in serving people affected by leprosy."**
>
> *Reverend Joshua Sivagnam, who heads up The Leprosy Mission's work in Northern Sri Lanka*

Thank you for helping to protect our world in 2021

In Mozambique, communities are using improved farming methods that conserve the soil and help increase crop yields

A new system of rice farming has been introduced in Myanmar, reducing the release of harmful greenhouse gases

In Niger, in order to prevent soil erosion and provide nutrients so that other plants can grow, trees are being planted around leprosy communities

In the UK, we have phased out plastic envelopes for our newsletter mailings in favour of ones made of compostable potato starch

LEFT: MARIA IN CABO DELGADO, MOZAMBIQUE, HAS BEEN TREATED FOR LEPROSY. SHE HAS BEEN TRAINED IN SUSTAINABLE FARMING PRACTICES TO INCREASE RESILIENCE TO CLIMATE CHANGE

Above: You'd struggle to find a nurse with a better bedside manner than Kashi. His deep sense of compassion is borne out of his own struggle with leprosy as a child. As well as enduring terrible prejudice, leprosy made his fingers curl because he wasn't cured quickly. He had reconstructive surgery at Anandaban Hospital, where he has since worked as a nurse for the past 30 years. Kashi loves his job and his patients love him. So much so that he is known as 'Kashi Uncle' on the wards by patients and colleagues alike. People affected by leprosy and disability have gifts and talents just like everyone else, they just need the opportunity to use them. Thanks to the work of the FOUND project, they have the opportunity to thrive as hardworking and respected members of society.

Photography © Sabrina Dangol

A focus on ability, not disability, in the workplace

The world would be a better place if we focused on a person's abilities as opposed to their disabilities.

Too often people affected by leprosy and disability are excluded from the job market. This has a catastrophic effect on their capacity to feed themselves and provide for their family. It steals independence and destroys self-esteem. Not only is this an injustice, but it is also an extraordinary waste of talent.

The project 'Fuelling Opportunities to end Unemployment for Nepalis with Disabilities' (FOUND) works by challenging stigma and demonstrating the skills of people with disabilities. It opens doors to work opportunities, paving the way to a more fulfilled and dignified life.

In 2021, the FOUND project team joined with the Chamber of Commerce in Nepal to form a Disability Confident Employers' Movement. The movement showcases the skills and talents of people affected by leprosy and disability. There is now a plan to scale up this work across Nepal.

FOUND was originally funded by UK Aid. We were devastated when it fell victim to government cuts in 2021. But despite UK Aid money being pulled, amazingly, the work was able to continue. The Kirby Laing Foundation kindly took over the project after learning of its life-changing impact.

We are hugely grateful to the Kirby Laing Foundation for their heart of generosity. Despite the delays caused by Covid, 1,382 people with disabilities were helped to secure paid work in Nepal, changing the course of their lives and those of their families.

> **"Having my own pharmacy has increased my confidence and I now feel like I'm living my life. Being independent helps me live a dignified life and be part of society."**
>
> *Prima, a pharmacist in Kapan, Kathmandu*

'Being independent helps me live a dignified life and be part of society'

Prima was the youngest of six children growing up in poverty in the remote Rolpa district of Nepal. When she began to show symptoms of leprosy at the age of 11, her family banished her to the cowshed. Her late father and grandfather both had leprosy, and had tragically died of infections as a result. Because of the family history, Prima's relatives and neighbours were incredibly fearful. They wished Prima dead and told her she should never have been born.

Although Prima's treatment by her relatives seems diabolical to us, it is not unusual for leprosy to cause such intense fear and discrimination. Fortunately, Prima was eventually taken for leprosy treatment by some kind people in her village. She spent the rest of her childhood in and out of hospital due to ongoing medical issues caused by the disease. Understandably, Prima welcomed the long hospital stays as a way of escaping the hatred directed towards her at home.

When she was 21, Prima was given the opportunity to start school. She was a bright young woman and studied hard. She achieved her School Leaving Certificate with top grades. Afterwards she was awarded a scholarship to study for a diploma in pharmacy.

Despite her academic success, Prima says she continued to carry the shame of leprosy. She thought she would always remain an outcast. However, against the odds she displayed remarkable resilience, setting up and registering her own pharmacy in Kapan, Kathmandu. Last year the FOUND project helped her to buy medicines and equipment and now, aged 39, she has a thriving business!

Prima graciously continues to visit her family in Rolpa, disregarding the cruel treatment she received from them. She says everything is different now that she is a respected member of society.

A beacon of light on the roof of the world

In 2021, Anandaban Hospital was a beacon of light to so many during a time of national crisis.

By June last year, the people of Nepal were in the same desperate Covid situation that had played out in neighbouring India just a couple of months earlier. Although Nepal had been under national lockdown since April, it did not prevent a second deadly wave of Covid from sweeping the country.

The crisis deepened in Nepal when India stopped exports of oxygen and the vaccine because of their own Covid situation. At the time fewer than one in ten people in Nepal had received their first Covid jab.

Echoing their response to the Nepal earthquakes of 2015, medical teams at the mountaintop hospital were once again on the frontline. Anandaban Hospital is a registered Covid Vaccine Centre and had been rolling out first doses of the vaccine since January 2021. However, by the time the second wave took hold, there were no supplies of the vaccine left.

You may remember Nepal's Prime Minister making an urgent plea for vaccines. Mercifully, supplies from COVAX began to reach Anandaban soon after his desperate appeal.

Dr Pradip Sapkota, Anandaban's Medical Superintendent, led the vaccination programme. He appealed to us for urgent help for his medical team to provide as many vaccinations as they could.

You did not hesitate in responding to this humanitarian crisis. It is thanks to you that the most vulnerable people from a vast area surrounding Anandaban were vaccinated. Your timely response undoubtedly saved countless lives.

Because of you, an amazing 9,195 people received their Covid vaccinations either at Anandaban or through medical teams providing outreach to remote communities. We honestly cannot thank you enough for your heartfelt response to this most urgent crisis.

In October 2020, a ten-bed Covid isolation unit opened at Anandaban Hospital. This was made possible by a £200,000 grant from the UK government's Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO). The money was used to repurpose existing hospital space and purchase a ventilator, four respirators and PPE for frontline staff.

A total of 115 Covid patients were treated in the isolation ward in 2021. In addition, 1,240 PCR tests were processed.

With your help, and the excellence and commitment of the medical teams, Anandaban has again earned its description as a beacon of light.

LEPROSY PATIENT SHOVA IS GIVEN HER FIRST COVID VACCINE AT ANANDABAN HOSPITAL

LEFT: KRISHNA DEVELOPED LEPROSY REACTION WHILE BEING TREATED FOR THE DISEASE IN 2021. LEPROSY REACTIONS ARE PAINFUL AND CAN LEAD TO NERVE DAMAGE AND DISABILITY. KRISHNA SPENT MANY MONTHS AT ANANDABAN HOSPITAL

Photography © Sabrina Dangol

Care and compassion at a time of crisis

Although Covid took hold of the world in 2020, it wasn't until spring 2021 that it raged through Nepal unleashing its greatest destruction. There was a sharp increase in patient numbers at Anandaban Hospital in 2021. This was despite national lockdowns and travel restrictions being in force.

It is thanks to you that this amazing hospital built on a mountainside in Nepal was there for everyone who sought its care and services. This was poignant at a time of national crisis when many people affected by leprosy experienced new levels of hardship and isolation.

As well as providing Covid vaccines to the most vulnerable, you also made the following possible at Anandaban Hospital in 2021:

29,725 visits to the Outpatients' Department

1,179 people were cared for as inpatients

102 reconstructive surgeries took place to restore movement to hands, feet and eyelids

1,112 pairs of specialist footwear were made and provided to protect feet made numb by leprosy

2,341 physiotherapy sessions took place

Thank you for making this happen at Anandaban in 2021!

Matching your donations with UKaid

Hope, healing and connection

Hubs of Hope are to be constructed across northern Mozambique, giving hope, healing and connection to remote communities.

The Hubs are places where everyone is welcome and the fight against leprosy is led.

Thank you so much for believing in the change that Hubs of Hope will bring. You made the Unconditional Appeal our most successful fundraiser to date! Thanks to UK Aid Match, every pound you gave was matched by the UK government.

Your compassion will help end leprosy in Mozambique and bring prosperity to communities for generations to come.

Pilot hubs have already become the beating hearts of rural communities. A hub gives each village a place for people to come together, end leprosy and encourage one another.

HUBS OF HOPE, LIKE THIS ONE ALREADY OPERATING IN KATAPUA IN CABO DELGADO, ARE TO BE CONSTRUCTED ACROSS NORTHERN MOZAMBIQUE

Photography © Ricardo Franco

We would like to give you a glimpse of just how special these places are. Here is a typical week at a fully operational Hub of Hope:

MONDAY & WEDNESDAY, 8AM

A self-care group meets at the hub. Friendships are made as people check each other's hands and feet for injuries. They sing together as they soak their feet, keeping the skin supple. A health worker is available to dress any ulcers. This work is so important as it stops people affected by leprosy from developing disabilities.

WEDNESDAY, 10:30AM

Community leaders meet to tackle their shared challenges together. These include issues relating to health, education and climate change.

TUESDAY, 3PM

A savings group meets to help support anyone in the community who has a financial emergency. This might include funding the cost of a funeral or mitigating a farming disaster. Individuals are also encouraged to save whatever they can to help them manage any future challenges.

In a country where there is no benefit system and people live hand-to-mouth, saving for hard times is crucial. Without a savings group, if a crop fails or a farmer is too sick to work, families frequently go hungry.

TUESDAY & THURSDAY, 8PM

A leprosy management committee holds training sessions for new volunteers. This teaches them to go back to their villages and change the culture and beliefs surrounding leprosy. Only through tackling prejudice at the heart of each community can Mozambique finally stamp out leprosy.

Those attending the training include religious leaders as well as traditional healers like Rosalina. For centuries, traditional healers have been the first port of call for health issues. They often try to cure leprosy with herbs, a remedy which simply does not work.

Your kindness means that Rosalina now knows to refer people showing the early signs of leprosy to a health worker or hospital to be cured quickly.

TRADITIONAL HEALER ROSALINA IS NOW A LEPROSY CHANGEMAKER AFTER BEING TRAINED TO SPOT THE EARLY SIGNS OF LEPROSY.

Photography © Ricardo Franco

LEPROSY CHANGEMAKER MARIO'S HANDS WERE ALREADY DISABLED BY THE TIME HE WAS FINALLY TREATED FOR THE DISEASE. HIS PERSONAL EXPERIENCE DRIVES HIM TO HELP OTHER PEOPLE SEEK EARLY TREATMENT.

Photography © Ricardo Franco

MONDAY & FRIDAY, 3PM

Your generosity sends Leprosy Changemakers like Mario out to remote, rural villages. He teaches people about leprosy through song and dance, making sure that everyone has fun while they learn this important message. Mario makes sure everyone understands that leprosy is entirely curable, but must be treated quickly to avoid disability.

WEDNESDAY, 2PM

Farmers return from the fields and come together as a group to discuss how to market their produce and maximise their income. Living standards are being raised across whole communities as a result.

THURSDAY, 2PM

Numeracy and literacy classes are open to everyone. Adult literacy levels are very low in Cabo Delgado, particularly among women who are less likely to go to school for cultural reasons.

SATURDAY, 9AM

A Christian group meets to talk about leprosy in the Bible. This is a special time of fellowship and learning.

DAILY SCREENING AT SUNDOWN!

Everyone looks forward to 6pm when a film is screened at the hub. It's a time to relax and come together as a community. Sometimes an educational film is shown, on other days it's a local theatre production. No-one misses out as people can also tune in on their radios or watch on a Smartphone.

Dame Darcey Bussell

We were honoured to have Dame Darcey Bussell, one of the most celebrated ballerinas of our time, as the face of the Unconditional Appeal. As well as making a film for us to share with you, Darcey voiced a BBC Radio 4 Appeal. This reached an audience of more than nine million people and became the best performing BBC Radio 4 Appeal to date! We are so grateful to Darcey for sharing her story of seeing The Leprosy Mission's work first-hand in Mozambique.

CENTRE: DAME DARCEY BUSSELL AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE PETER WADDUP MADE A FILM TO SUPPORT THE UNCONDITIONAL APPEAL AT THE ROYAL ACADEMY OF DANCE IN LONDON.

"We met some lovely friends from our local church who introduced us to people in Pemba in northern Mozambique. They were working with people with leprosy.

Although we were in Mozambique on holiday, I was so pleased that we had an opportunity to meet people affected by leprosy and spend time talking with them in their community.

It was a big wake up call for my family. It was heartbreaking to see young people who had been disabled by leprosy. I didn't somehow expect that it would affect people so young and that was really upsetting.

When our two teenage daughters saw people coping with this disease in their communities, they were really shocked.

I think it was hard for them to know how to react and what to feel, to really understand what these people were going through.

But it was important for them to see how strong people carried the burden of something so tough and disabling put upon them through no choice of their own. It was on all our minds afterwards and it still is."

Dame Darcey Bussell

LEFT: SAMAH HAS BEEN SUPPORTED THROUGH HER LEPROSY JOURNEY BY JOHN AND SEELA AT THE ABUROFF CLINIC IN KHARTOUM.

Photography © Ala Kheir

The gift of sight

The Aburoff Clinic in Khartoum is a unique and special place. It is the only specialist leprosy centre in Sudan. The clinic is run by John Kuku and Seela Kajo. The tenacious duo are known for their kindness, expertise and resilience throughout Sudan.

Despite civil unrest on the streets of Khartoum, John and Seela managed to keep the Aburoff clinic open for a large part of 2021. They were forced to close for just a few weeks in October. This was during a time of violent clashes between civil protesters and the military. John and Seela reopened the clinic's doors as soon as they were able to, even risking their own lives for those they serve.

The Aburoff Clinic provides specialist care, including the cure for leprosy, eye care and the treatment of ulcers and wounds. In 2021, 169 patients were diagnosed with leprosy and started Multidrug therapy treatment. A total of 153 wounds caused by leprosy were treated and 77 eye clinics were held. As a result, 13 patients went on to have life-changing eye surgery.

We cannot thank you enough for helping to prevent blindness in people like Samah, pictured here with her son Ameen.

Leprosy causes nerve damage to the face which paralyses the eyelids and makes blinking impossible. If you cannot blink, your eyes can easily become dry and infected. Tragically, over time, this can lead to blindness.

Through your kindness, you have helped to restore the eyesight of people affected by leprosy. This was achieved through a simple surgical procedure to reinstate the blink mechanism. It's such a simple action, but blinking is so essential to maintain healthy eyes.

It is vitally important that a person has the surgery before they lose the ability to blink. In many of the countries where we work, you can appreciate how dust from dry land can irritate eyes.

Thank you for giving the most precious gift of sight.

> **"The first time I came to the Aburoff Clinic, I looked so different, like a lion. I looked horrible. I had a severe fever regularly and I was very tired. I don't tell people I had leprosy, even my husband who is travelling abroad does not know because I know women are divorced because they suffer from leprosy."**
>
> *Samah, a patient at The Aburoff Clinic*

ABOVE: A FAITH LEADER TALKS TO MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY ABOUT LEPROSY IN SRI LANKA.

Leading by faith

With faith comes the will to reach the most marginalised. In 2021, religious leaders across Asia and Africa stepped up the fight against leprosy. Christian, Muslim, Buddhist and Hindu leaders are a powerful and trusted voice in the communities they serve. They lever significant influence and are able to dispel the many harmful myths surrounding leprosy. This includes the dangerous yet prevalent belief that leprosy is a curse for something a person has done in a past life.

Faith leaders are perfectly placed for leprosy detection work. Leprosy is found in the poorest communities, home to the very people religious teachings encourage a heart of compassion for.

The Leprosy Mission's interfaith work began in Sri Lanka in 2014. In its early days, pastors and church leaders were trained to hold leprosy awareness Sundays. This was initially a scheme run in the evangelical churches of Sri Lanka. However, a passion was ignited when leaders of other denominations and faiths saw the powerful effect these Sundays had. Soon leaders of all faiths wanted to help make leprosy history!

In 2021, the interfaith network took its mission to end leprosy to a new level. The first 45 faith leaders were trained to screen people for symptoms of leprosy. Previously their role was simply to raise awareness and quash stigma. As a result of the training, 1,068 people living in hard-to-reach communities in Sri Lanka were screened for leprosy. In one village alone, nine new cases were confirmed. More interfaith leaders are being trained to screen for leprosy and will reach many new communities in 2022.

In Niger, a high number of people newly diagnosed with leprosy are already disabled by the disease. It is always distressing to hear of these cases, as early treatment for leprosy prevents permanent damage to the body.

Niger is a country where there is widespread poverty and insufficient healthcare. There is also a lack of understanding and unhelpful prejudice surrounding the disease. These are the main reasons why someone with leprosy delays coming forward for treatment.

The team in Niger is working tirelessly to cure people with leprosy before disability sets in. In 2021, 13 religious leaders, ten traditional healers and 20 community volunteers were trained to detect early symptoms of the disease. By the end of the year, 15 suspected cases had already been referred to health centres. To ensure an accurate diagnosis, a total of 79 government health workers were also trained to diagnose and treat leprosy.

This innovative work is teaching people about the importance of prompt treatment for leprosy. This will reduce the number of people developing preventable disability, so they can go on to live a healthy life and embrace all the future holds.

> **"The Inter Religious Peace Foundation is grateful to have witnessed first-hand our faith leaders teaching community members about leprosy, the signs, symptoms and cure. This work to defeat leprosy has also visibly reduced division between inter-religious leaders. These strengthened relationships are promoting peace in the country."**
>
> *Jayaweera Kohombange, Executive Secretary of the Inter Religious Peace Foundation*

Dr Mary's story

Dr Mary Verghese is our loyal and steadfast friend and was a colleague in India for more than 15 years. She had the enormous responsibility of heading up The Leprosy Mission Trust India for five years before taking early retirement in 2021. This followed her own personal battle with Covid which left her fighting for life. While she is yet to make a complete recovery, Dr Mary says she is among the fortunate ones. Despite there being no intensive care bed for her, after 22 days she was well enough to be discharged from hospital, albeit with an oxygen supply. She said of The Leprosy Mission's work in India during the pandemic:

> **"If I were to summarise what The Leprosy Mission stands for, it is compassion and empathy for people affected by leprosy and the marginalised."**
>
> **"I want to thank each one of you who supported the work of The Leprosy Mission in India during the pandemic. In spite of being far away in the UK, you empathised with us, you understood our pain and showed such gracious generosity."**
>
> **"I experienced this very compassion and empathy when I was in hospital. Patients were unable to move an inch. Each one encouraged the other. The empathy of the healthcare workers touched our inner being. They were in their PPE suits, visors and double masks. Despite being hampered by all the protective measures, they provided exemplary care. It's the same in our Leprosy Mission hospitals, vocational training centres and community projects. Our colleagues risked their lives in the most difficult of times."**
>
> *Dr Mary Verghese, former Executive Director of The Leprosy Mission Trust India*

Increasing awareness about leprosy

'Working Together to End Leprosy' on the streets of London

'Working Together to End Leprosy' was a theme at the very heart of the Lord Mayor's Show in London on 13 November. The City of London elected Alderman Vincent Keaveny as their 693rd Lord Mayor. Alderman Keaveny, a senior member of the Order of St Lazarus of Jerusalem, is a long-time supporter of The Leprosy Mission.

To mark the occasion, we were delighted to partner with the Order of St Lazarus for the annual Lord Mayor's Parade. The Military and Hospitaller Order of St Lazarus of Jerusalem was founded over 900 years ago. It began with the construction of a leprosy hospital outside the walls of Jerusalem in the early 12th century.

Under the banner of 'Working Together to End Leprosy', representatives rode on an open-top vintage bus from Mansion House to the Royal Courts of Justice. On board were Dan and Babs Izzett, a couple who have lived with the effects of leprosy for 50 years. A service of thanksgiving followed the next day at St Pancras Old Church where Dan shared the couple's story.

THE PARADE AT THE LORD MAYOR'S SHOW IN LONDON ON 13 NOVEMBER

LEFT: DAN AND BABS IZZETT HAVE LIVED WITH THE EFFECTS OF LEPROSY FOR 50 YEARS

Photography © Ruth Towell

Speaking from experience

Dan and Babs Izzett retired to Taunton, Somerset, from their native Zimbabwe to be near their two sons and grandchildren. Dan is a unique member of our volunteer speaker team as both he and Babs have been treated for leprosy. For many years Dan has been telling his story in churches and community groups across the Southwest and at our annual carol service at St Giles in the Fields in London.

"Our story is unusual in the fact that leprosy is a disease that thrives where there is poverty. But this certainly wasn't the case for us. It wasn't even a disease that was hugely prevalent where we lived in Zimbabwe.

"When I first lost feeling in my fingers in 1960, I ignored the problem. I was only 13 at the time. Then in 1970 the doctors incorrectly diagnosed the rash all over my body as syphilis! In February 1972, I was finally and correctly diagnosed with leprosy.

"I told Babs that I would understand if she wanted to have the marriage annulled because I had this disease. But she replied that, firstly, she loved me and secondly, we had made a vow before God at our wedding to stay together 'through sickness and in health'.

"We often sat down and racked our brains as to how I contracted the disease. We just didn't fit the stereotype.

"I was working as a civil engineering technician at the time and was incredibly fortunate to be able to pay for treatment.

"Babs was diagnosed with leprosy in 1977. Thankfully it was treated at an earlier stage than my leprosy and she has no disabilities.

"My fingers are clawed and I have no feeling in any of them. Two years ago, I had a finger amputated which had become infected following a burn. My right leg was amputated from below the knee many years ago. I mistakenly bathed my numb foot in a basin of scalding water. When it became infected it had to be amputated.

"Once you have leprosy you do struggle for the rest of your life. Only the other day I went for a cup of tea with a friend and still have a blister on my finger where it was resting on the side of the teacup. These little things happen the whole time."

Meet the newest members of our family

Ram Gidoomal CBE

We were delighted to welcome on board two new trustees in 2021; Ram Gidoomal and Zoica Bakirtzief. Both Ram and Zoica have extraordinary life stories and a real heart for the marginalised. Through their experience and networks, they raise the profile of people affected by leprosy. We are so grateful for their passion and for all they bring to The Leprosy Mission.

Ram Gidoomal CBE has served as a Vice-President of The Leprosy Mission for many years now. We were honoured when he agreed to increase his support in 2021 by also serving on the Board of Trustees. Ram began his life in England as a 17-year-old refugee. Born in Kenya to an Indian family, he and his family were forced to leave Africa in 1967. The family of 15 made their home in Shepherd's Bush in London and ran a corner shop. Ram, a bright pupil, was encouraged to go to university. His family, however, could only afford five pence for his travel expenses. He applied to study physics at Imperial College in London so that his five pence allowance could cover the number 49 bus fare from Shepherd's Bush to High Street Kensington.

After graduating, Ram's entrepreneurial spirit emerged. He went on to become UK Group Chief Executive of the Inlaks Group, a multinational business with 7,000 employees. In 1987, Ram visited the slums of Mumbai where he encountered the devastating effects of poverty and leprosy. The experience changed his life. He abandoned his business focus in favour of philanthropy. He then founded the Christmas Cracker project which raised more than £5 million for good causes overseas. Ram has twice stood as a London mayoral candidate.

Zoica Bakirtzief

Zoica Bakirtzief is a psychology professor and holds a special place on our Board of Trustees as someone personally affected by leprosy. Zoica was diagnosed with leprosy in 2003 after working in her native Brazil with the American Leprosy Mission. This was shortly after completing her PhD in psychology.

Zoica has always demonstrated great compassion in her work with people affected by leprosy. She said, however, that it was after being treated for the disease herself that she developed a real empathy for patients' stories. Zoica is a powerful advocate of improving understanding of the medical and psychological effects of leprosy.

LEFT: THE FUNDRAISING TEAM AND TRUSTEE ANNE FENDICK AT THE CHARITY TIMES AWARDS CEREMONY.

Recognition of our work

We were excited to raise the plight of people affected by leprosy at two prestigious award ceremonies in London in September.

Our fundraising team was awarded the 'Fundraising Team of the Year' accolade at the Charity Times awards. We were commended for our portrayal of people affected by leprosy and for telling their stories with dignity.

Our Digital Innovation Manager, Hannah Mudge, was named 'Digital Champion of the Year' at the Third Sector awards. This was in recognition of driving forward our work on digital platforms.

Signature Awards 2021

We were honoured to be the charity partner at The Signature Awards London 2021, a prestigious VIP event celebrating excellence in British business. The ceremony was held in the Grand Ballroom at the Hilton in London on 5 November. We would especially like to thank Ninder Johal DL for this wonderful opportunity.

Our CEO, Peter Waddup, and Head of Fundraising, Louise Timmins, shared the story of someone affected by leprosy and invited attendees to provide the cure for £24. Our Vice President and Trustee, Ram Gidoomal, a businessman and philanthropist also attended. Thanks to the generosity of the guests, a total of £11,000 was raised on the night. This included £3,000 from The Vitabiotics Foundation. We're looking forward to partnering with The Signature Awards London again this year.

LEFT: EVERY DAY, BEFORE THE DOCTORS START MORNING WARD ROUNDS AT DBLM HOSPITAL IN BANGLADESH, PATIENTS SOAK THEIR FEET IN WARM WATER AS PART OF THEIR SELF-CARE ROUTINE

Photography © Fabeha Monir

> **"Leprosy is a Neglected Tropical Disease which can have devastating consequences for people. Part of our study is community action to improve the lives of people affected by leprosy."**
>
> *Richard Lilford CBE, Professor of Public Heath at the University of Birmingham*

Research to reduce disability

Investment in research and innovation is the only way to end leprosy in our lifetime. Thanks to you, Leprosy Mission research teams continue to make scientific breakthroughs to improve leprosy diagnosis and treatment.

For many people living with leprosy, life is tragically and irreversibly changed. As leprosy spreads and damages the nerves in the hands and feet, the gift of pain is lost. Everyday tasks like cooking food and walking to collect water become fraught with danger. Burns to the hand from a hot pan or cuts on feet from walking long distances go unnoticed. Wounds ulcerate and infections can become so serious that amputation is the only option.

Thank you for supporting preliminary research into improving ulcer treatment at Anandaban Hospital in Nepal. The initial findings have since become part of a wider research project run by the University of Birmingham. Funded by the National Institute for Health Research, the project will continue for two more years.

This research is headed up by Richard Lilford CBE, Professor of Public Health at the University. Professor Lilford worked with staff from Leprosy Mission projects in India, Nepal and Nigeria in 2021 to formulate a set of self-care guidelines for ulcer care.

The guidelines were published in Leprosy Review, an open access peer review journal in December 2021. They are now going to be translated into different languages, so people affected by leprosy globally can learn more effective self-care techniques.

Our staff and partners across Asia and Africa have run self-care groups for many years to help people affected by leprosy protect their hands and feet. These groups are a lifeline to so many. Not only do they prevent disability, but they are also where important health education takes place, and where friendships are formed. Too often, people affected by leprosy struggle alone because of the prejudice surrounding the disease.

A self-care group provides a shared opportunity for people affected by leprosy to come together. They soak their feet in water and rub in oil to keep skin supple. This prevents skin from cracking and makes it less prone to blisters and injuries. Members of the group then examine each other's feet for injuries. Any open wounds are dressed to prevent infection.

It sounds simple, but the set of guidelines will explain the process step by step. It will also provide advice on how to motivate people to come to a self-care group. The guidelines will be shared with healthcare staff, community group leaders and volunteers. All of this will go a long way to reduce the number of people affected by leprosy who become disabled.

VILLAGERS QUEUE UNDER THE SHADE OF A TREE TO SEE MEDICS ON BOARD THE MOBILE CLINIC IN YANGOJI, A LEPROSY VILLAGE CLOSE TO NIGERIAN CAPITAL ABUJA

Wheels that Heal

A mobile health clinic has been welcomed with open arms by people affected by leprosy, disability and terrorism in Nigeria.

The Wheels that Heal Clinic enables residents of disadvantaged communities to see a doctor locally for the first time.

Medics on board treated and prescribed medicines free of charge to 820 people living in the Federal Capital Territory Abuja in 2021. One of the destinations is a displaced people's camp set up in the wake of Boko Haram attacks in Northeast Nigeria.

The Wheels that Heal Clinic serves people who have very little money and resources. There are major obstacles which prevent them from getting even basic healthcare. Travel costs alone can prevent them from going to a government clinic or health post. If you have a disability, it's even harder to get to a clinic. You can imagine the warm welcome these communities give to staff on board the Wheels that Heal Clinic! They are so grateful for this service which makes them feel cared for and valued.

The generosity of the people of the Isle of Man has made this life-changing work possible. A grant from the island's government and donations from the Manx people provided a van for our team in Nigeria. This was then kitted out with ramps, steps, and partitions. Funding also bought medical equipment. This included thermometers, blood pressure monitors, weighing scales and blood sugar testing devices. The mobile clinic is stocked with bandages for dressing ulcers caused by leprosy, as well as a range of medicines.

Two Leprosy Mission specialist doctors run the mobile clinic. They are supported by two nurses and a pharmacist seconded from the Nigerian Government.

We are incredibly thankful to the people of the Isle of Man for reaching out and caring for people with some of the greatest needs in Nigeria.

Opening minds in Nigeria

FUNDED BY COMIC RELIEF

Can you imagine being rejected or abandoned as a child by your parents and friends? Just because you have a disease, and despite the fact that it can be cured easily? The cruelty experienced by many young people because of leprosy leaves deep emotional scars. If they are not given the support to work through this trauma, it can negatively impact the rest of their life.

It is thanks to Comic Relief funding the Open Minds project in Nigeria that a total of 563 children and young people affected by leprosy were screened for mental illness in 2021. A total of 169 of the youngsters, aged from eight to 15, were found to have symptoms of moderate to severe anxiety or depression. As a result, 88 were referred to for specialist care and support. The other 81 received counselling to aid their healing process.

No child should have to go through the pain these children and young people have experienced. We are so thankful that they have been given a chance to move forward and live happier futures.

NINE-YEAR-OLD YAHRAH HAS BEEN TREATED FOR LEPROSY

Photography @ Dora Ngozi Nwachukwu

What's next?

Paralympian Stef Reid championed the Greater Heights campaign at the beginning of 2022. The campaign is to build a new Research Centre at Anandaban Hospital in Nepal.

The current research labs at Anandaban are no longer fit for purpose. They were badly damaged in the 2015 earthquakes and will not pass an upcoming Nepali Government inspection. It is only through cutting-edge science that we can pave the way to ending leprosy. If the research labs are forced to close, the chance to end leprosy in our lifetime will be lost.

Stef is a passionate advocate for people affected by leprosy, and she has spent time with patients at Anandaban. As a biochemistry graduate, she was also keen to meet and listen to the researchers in the outdated and run-down labs.

Stef said it was her time in Nepal that made her fully appreciate the opportunities that paved her way to the Paralympics, and ITV's Dancing on Ice.

> **"Visiting Anandaban Hospital in Nepal was an amazing and unforgettable experience for me,"**
>
> **"Many of the patients I met were amputees because their leprosy was treated too late. When they saw that I too was an amputee, there was an instant connection. Overriding any language barrier was an understanding that we had experienced similar pain.**
>
> **"I have been blessed with opportunity and this is what I want for each and every person affected by leprosy and disability."**
>
> *Stef Reid, Paralympian*

PARALYMPIAN STEF REID KEEPS UP WITH HER TRAINING BY RUNNING UP THE 365 STEPS TO THE HILLTOP ANANDABAN HOSPITAL IN NEPAL

Diagnosing leprosy on a smartphone

It takes a high level of clinical skill to diagnose leprosy. There is a myriad of skin diseases, such as dermatitis, that can present in a similar way to leprosy.

Each year, Leprosy Mission staff train thousands of health workers and volunteers to diagnose leprosy. However early cases can be extremely difficult to diagnose. In the early stages of leprosy, a skin smear or biopsy is often needed to confirm a diagnosis. However, lab facilities are few and far between in the mountainous areas of Nepal.

A research project is underway at Anandaban which could enable leprosy to be diagnosed on a smartphone. An adjusted smartphone camera would determine whether a skin lesion has been caused by leprosy.

The results could be a game changer. More and more cases of leprosy could be found and treated in the early stages than ever before.

The project has already secured funding from the Neglected Tropical Disease Innovation Prize and The Leprosy Mission New Zealand. It is thanks to a £5,479 grant from St Francis Leprosy Guild that the research can be completed. We are hugely excited by the potential of smartphone diagnosis.

SFLG
ST FRANCIS
LEPROSY GUILD

Trusts and foundations

Support from trusts and foundations is vital to our work. We would like to thank the following organisations for their generosity in 2021:

- Allan and Nesta Ferguson Charitable Trust
- The Agape Family Trust
- The Guthrie Essame Charitable Trust
- Haverstock Charitable Trust
- The Kirby Laing Foundation
- ShareGift The Orr Mackintosh Foundation
- St Francis Leprosy Guild
- The St Lazarus Charitable Trust

> **"As a great advocate of education, it made sense to me to support the work of The Leprosy Mission's vocational training centres. These provide support and training to enable those affected by leprosy pursue jobs and careers.**
>
> **This is an amazing charity that works tirelessly through research and education in finding ways to defeat leprosy and its consequences. I am pleased to continue with my support with this work."**
>
> *Amir Butt, ANB Law, Peterborough*

ANB LAW
Solicitors

ABOVE: THE WINNING TEAM FROM RAMSEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL AWARDED THE ONE WORLD CHALLENGE 2021 FOR THEIR PRESENTATION ON THE WORK OF THE LEPROSY MISSION.

PICTURED WITH THE SIXTH FORMERS IS PAUL HALLIDAY (LEFT) AND GRAEME EASTON, TRUSTEES FOR THE LEPROSY MISSION ISLE OF MAN AND VOLUNTEER SPEAKER CHRISTINE SUGDEN OF RAMSEY METHODIST CHURCH

Thank you!

Every day that goes by we remember that, without you, none of this life-changing work is possible. We are so incredibly thankful to every individual, church, community group and volunteer for giving healing and hope in 2021.

Inside this Annual Review is just a snapshot of the thousands of lives that you have changed for the better. It is only through your compassion that this is possible. We are simply the conduit, providing a way to reach people in Asia and Africa with some of the greatest needs on earth. Your generosity will make a difference for generations to come.

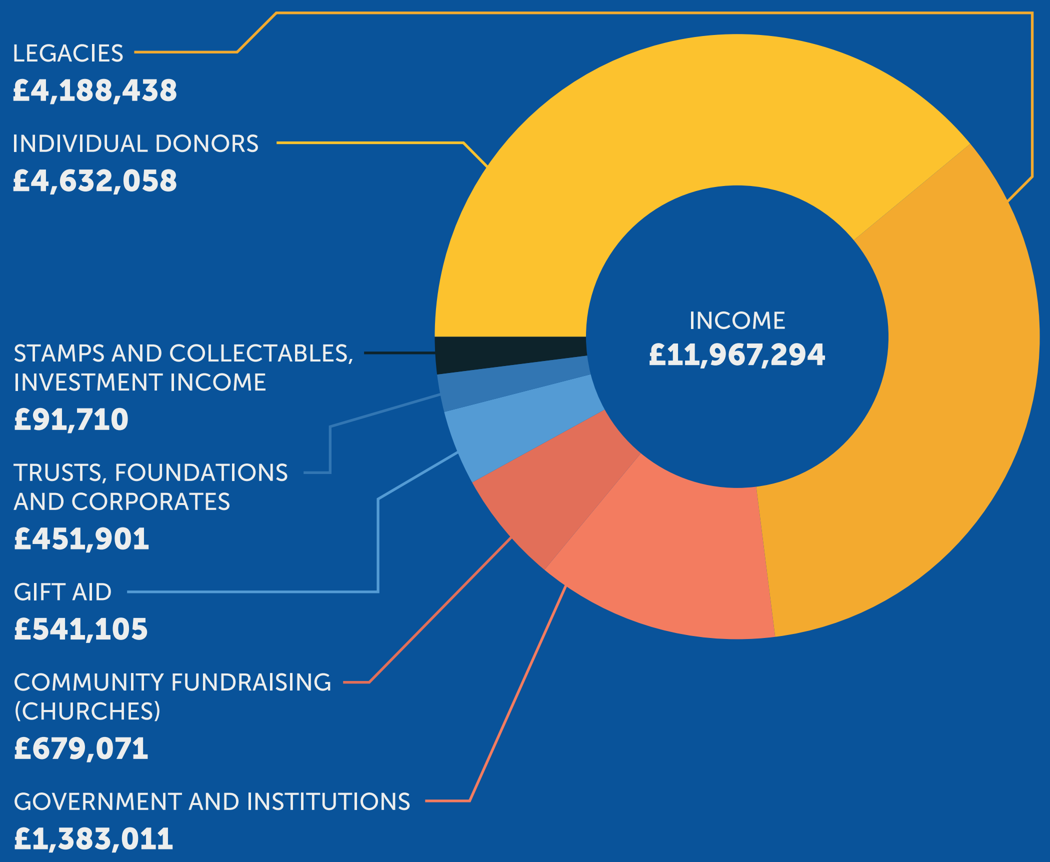
There are so many special thanks to say. We're so grateful for every member of a church congregation, Rotary and group who generously gave to the Unconditional Appeal during the lockdown of early 2021. We are humbled to remember that this was a time when we, in the UK, weren't even able to meet in our churches and groups. Despite suffering loneliness, illness and even bereavement, it remained on your heart to help people in Asia and Africa. The same goes to every person who made a gift after reading our letters relaying situations reported by our colleagues overseas. We can never thank you enough.

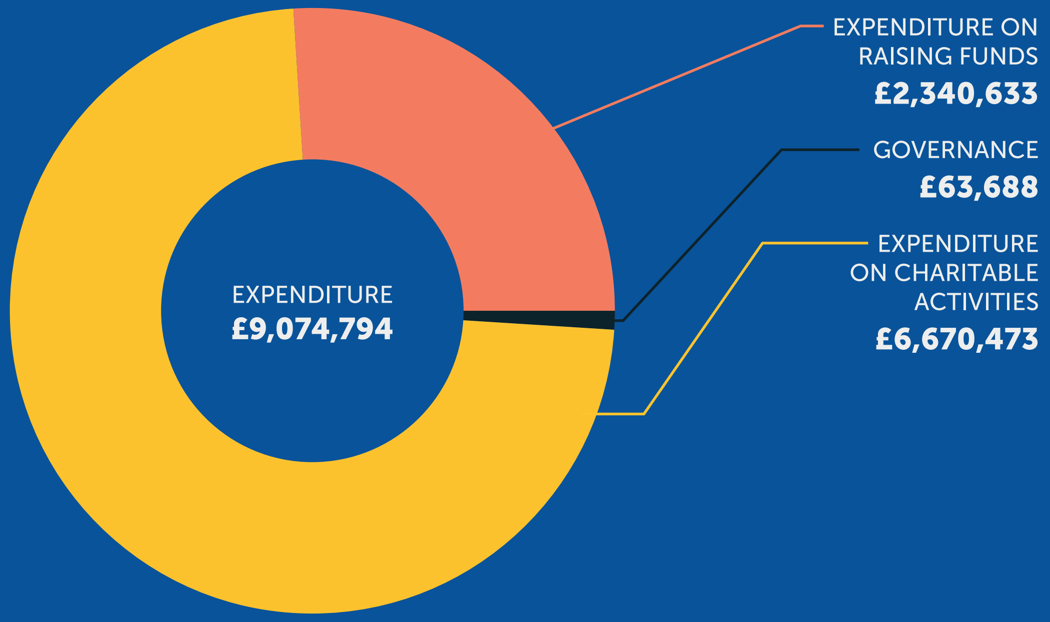
To everyone who held a fundraising event, we thank you for supporting and raising the voice of people affected by leprosy. We'd like to give a special mention to a group of lovely sixth formers in the Isle of Man, for raising the plight of people affected by leprosy.

The students from Ramsey Grammar School won the One World Challenge 2021 for their talk on how leprosy affects the lives of young people. They were awarded a £5,000 cheque to The Leprosy Mission as a prize. We are so grateful to these young people and to every supporter and volunteer whose heart was moved by the needs of people affected by leprosy in 2021.

Financial Statement

	2021	2020
INCOME		
Donations	6,372,452	4,701,610
Legacies	4,188,438	3,876,726
Government grants	1,383,011	1,279,357
Income from investments	16,809	15,037
Other income (JRS)	6,585	116,704
Total income	**11,967,295**	9,989,434
EXPENDITURE		
Expenditure on raising funds	2,340,633	2,024,136
Expenditure on charitable activities	6,734,161	5,656,494
Total expenditure	**9,074,794**	9,989,434
Gain on investments	**184,844**	72
Net income	**3,077,345**	2,308,876
Total funds brought forward as at 1 January	**7,132,957**	4,824,801
Total funds carried forward as at 31 December	**10,210.302**	7,132,957





TANIA (FRONT COVER), 27, IS THE MOTHER OF TWO CHILDREN. HER TWO-YEAR-OLD SON IS PICTURED WITH HER.

“WHAT IF OUR CHILDREN SUFFER FROM THIS DISEASE? IT'S MY BIGGEST NIGHTMARE, I JUST CANNOT IMAGINE IT. SO, I HOPE AND PRAY RESEARCH WILL BE DONE, AND TREATMENT WILL BE THERE SO THAT THERE WILL BE NO LONGER BE ANY UNTREATED CASES OF LEPROSY IN OUR COUNTRY OR THE REST OF THE WORLD."

“BECAUSE OF THE DOCTORS AND NURSES WE ARE ABLE TO RETURN HOME TO OUR FAMILY HAPPY. I WANT TO LIVE FOR MY CHILDREN AND I AM NOT GOING TO GIVE UP ON LIVING.”

Photography © Fabeha Monir

The Leprosy Mission
England and Wales

Registered with FUNDRAISING REGULATOR

The Leprosy Mission England, Wales, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man,
Goldhay Way, Orton Goldhay Peterborough, PE2 5GZ

☎ **01733 370505**
post@tlmew.org.uk
leprosymission.org.uk

The Leprosy Mission England & Wales
@leprosytalk
leprosymission

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