



The Damien Foundation in China

Improved access

The Damien Foundation support to the leprosy programme is totally different than the one to the tuberculosis programme in their approaches and contents. The cure rates for patients with tuberculosis are good and those for patients with leprosy excellent. However, much remains to be done. The whole population should have access to good-quality health care. This is extremely difficult to achieve in the provinces and regions in which the Damien Foundation is active because of the great size of these areas in geographic terms, their sparse population and the scarcity of qualified workers.

The fastest-growing project

China is undeniably the fastest-growing among the projects we have covered in the past few years, and also one of the four most important ones. However, the Damien Foundation was not really being efficient on its own. So for China, our Foundation made agreements to cooperate with local partners and international donors elaborating a joint programme to fight tuberculosis at regional and provincial levels.

What do our actions consist in?

On the whole, the Damien Foundation trains, supervises and monitors medical health care teams to enable them to take up challenges in current and future programmes. In addition, we help to improve the quality of laboratory services and supply management. Lastly, the Damien Foundation is particularly interested in plans to develop the human resources potential. We try to progressively give our partners more responsibility on technical and financial aspects of leprosy and tuberculosis programmes.

Major success and future challenges

Most patients suffering from leprosy undergo Multi-Drug Therapy. The cure rate is extremely high. Today at this stage in the programme, we have to ensure the continuity of the anti-leprosy efforts by incorporating them into the health care structures and through the physical rehabilitation and social and economic reinsertion of patients.

In three years, the tuberculosis projects DFB is supporting have spread the use of DOTS to all provinces and regions included in the project. However, we now have to improve on this and heighten the quality of DOTS. Moreover, Multi-Drug Resistant tuberculosis and increased risk of

tuberculosis/HIV co-infection are serious challenges which we will have to face in the coming years.

Summary

Start of the project	1982
Local partner	Ministry of Health
Project type	Only leprosy at first Leprosy and tuberculosis since 1995 Currently, leprosy in Guangxi Tuberculosis in Tibet, Inner Mongolia, Qinghai and Guizhou
Population covered in 2006	1,002,976
Patients detected and treated in 2006	72,196 tuberculosis patients 85 leprosy patients
Expenditure in 2006	€ 1,002,976