

India

EXPENSES 2007: 1.335.150 €

SUPPORT TO THE NATIONAL LEPROSY AND TUBERCULOSIS PROGRAMS VIA DISTRICT PROGRAMS (BIHAR, DELHI, ANDHRA PRADESH, KARNATAKA AND KERALA) AND PROJECTS MANAGED BY LOCAL NGOS (MAINLY IN SOUTH INDIA)

CO-FINANCING *DGDC (28 districts in Bihar)*

LOCAL PARTNERS *Ministry of Health (Delhi), State Health Ministries of Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Kerala, 11 local NGOs*

THE DAMIEN FOUNDATION'S REPRESENTATIVE *Dr. P. Krishnamurthy*

PERSONNEL UNDER LOCAL CONTRACT *291*

Damien Foundation India Trust (DFIT) has been guiding the national health programs, and notably leprosy and TB control, at various levels. Through its projects and teams, DFIT has been striving to bring about change in the status of the people affected by leprosy or TB, to promote integration, improve quality and contribute to sustainability.

The projects supported by DFIT are involved in management of leprosy with complications, reconstructive surgery, and training of the general health staff. DFIT supported management of TB with or without complications and of TB / HIV co-infection through the Tuberculosis Unit and Designated Microscopy Centres approved by the Government of India, and provided support to TB control through its consultancy teams.

DFIT has three kinds of projects: those which are directly operated by the organisation called "own projects", projects operated by other NGOs and supported by the organisation called "NGO projects" and those which provide support to the government, known as "support projects". There are 2 own projects (Delhi and Nellore), 11 NGO projects (Ambalamoola, Arisipalyam, Aundipatty, Amda, Chilakalapalli, Dindigul, Fathimanagar, Kavali, Nagepalli, Pavagada and Trivandrum) and 34 support projects (28 in Bihar, 3 in Andhra Pradesh, 2 in Karnataka and 1 in Kerala). Some of them do only leprosy or TB work, some do both and yet others focus on TB and HIV/AIDS.

Those projects involved in leprosy control manage persons living with leprosy-related disabilities in small geographic areas, or support the program in a district with the main focus on prevention of disability. Others provide secondary care services to those with complications like reactions or disabilities. Some projects get full support and yet others partial support related to jointly identified activities.

TB activities consist of running a Designated Microscopy Centre (DMC) for a population of about 100,000 or a TB Unit (TU) with fully-fledged basic and supervisory staff for a population of about 500,000 or providing technical support through consultancy teams.

Since last April, as part of an agreement between ILEP and the Government, there has been a change

in the nature of involvement of DFIT in leprosy control. Support to leprosy control at the district and state level in the States of Bihar, Jharkhand and Andhra Pradesh is provided not through District Technical Support Teams, but through resource persons mobilised whenever and wherever needed in thematic areas identified jointly by the Government and ILEP including DFIT. The focus is mainly on providing facilitation and learning materials for training and promoting introduction of referral services including prevention of disability in the general health system through mobile experts and resource persons.

DFIT along with other ILEP partners have trained the key district staff known as District Nucleus and continued to support the promotion of reconstructive surgery services in two medical college hospitals, one at Patna and the other at Dharbanga, in Bihar. The surgeons trained by DFIT did reconstructive surgery for 69 patients.

DFIT also managed leprosy patients in three districts in Bihar as part of the WHO co-sponsored Uniform MDT project. The NGO and own projects managed 99 patients with reaction and did reconstructive surgery for 92 cases. The projects also provided special footwear to 2,121 patients. A total of 3,122 leprosy cases (Projects: 253, South DTST: 263 & Bihar DTST: 2,606) were detected in the projects supported by DFIT.

The second most important activity of DFIT is support to TB control. The Foundation has been supporting TB control in 34 districts in four States for periods ranging from three to seven years. The main focus of DF intervention is on strengthening the DOT (Directly Observed Treatment) supervision through proper identification of DOT providers from the community, on providing training and supervision so as to achieve good cure rates especially for New Sputum Positive cases; on assisting the staff in ensuring that a follow-up sputum examination is done for all cases; on disseminating correct messages among the community; on interacting with the ANMs at the PHCs to ensure that the cards are updated; and on assisting the DTO in training all key staff. Each of these districts has a team made up of a Senior Medical Consultant with two to three supervisors with mobility support. A total of 69,868 TB cases (Projects: 3,181, South DTST: 23,706 & Bihar: 42,981) were detected in the projects supported by DFIT.

Other activities carried out by the Damien Foundation include continuing medical education through prize examinations for undergraduate medical students in Tamil Nadu, seminars and symposia for post-graduate medical students and also through the medical bulletin "ILEP INDIA UPDATE" published on behalf of ILEP; construction of PHC and laboratory building for supporting general health and TB control in Bihar; publication of learning materials as a joint action of ILEP; and social and economical rehabilitation of leprosy-affected individuals and families.

More info : <http://www.damienfoundationindia.org>