



The Leprosy
Mission
Australia

2023

Annual Report



The Leprosy Mission Australia is proud to partner with a number of organisations in achieving its vision of Transformation: People healed and living in community with dignity, opportunity and hope.



ACFID

The Leprosy Mission Australia (TLMA) is a member of the Australian Council for International Development and is a signatory to the ACFID Code of Conduct. The Code requires members to meet high standards of corporate governance, public accountability, and financial management. TLMA is committed to full adherence to the ACFID Code of Conduct.

More information about the ACFID Code of Conduct may be obtained from The Leprosy Mission Australia website:

www.leprosymission.org.au or
ACFID's website: www.acfid.asn.au.

MAKING A COMPLAINT

If, for any reason, you are not happy with your dealings with TLMA, you may lodge a complaint with us:

By telephone (Freecall):
1800 LEPROSY (1800 537 767)

By email:
hello@leprosymission.org.au

By Post:
Private and Confidential
Chairman of the Board
The Leprosy Mission Australia
PO Box 293
BOX HILL VIC 3128

If you have any concerns that TLMA may not be complying with the ACFID Code of Conduct and would like to lodge a complaint, this can be done in a number of ways:

- Via ACFID's website: www.acfid.asn.au
- By filling in a complaint form or enquiry form and emailing it to: code@acfid.asn.au
- By filling in a complaint form or enquiry form and posting it to:
Chair
ACFID Code of Conduct Committee
c/- ACFID
Private Bag 3
DEAKIN ACT 2600



MISSIONS INTERLINK

The Leprosy Mission Australia is a compliant

Member of Missions Interlink, the Australian network for global mission.

Standards statement: TLMA is registered with the appropriate charity legislation within all states and territories of Australia.



AUSTRALIAN DISABILITY DEVELOPMENT CONSORTIUM

We are committed to disability-inclusive development and contribute to advocacy activities in the Australian Development sector.

The Leprosy Mission Australia complies to the Voluntary Code of Practice for Public Fundraising in Western Australia.



Australian Government
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

DFAT

The Leprosy Mission Australia is an Accredited Australian

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FAIR TRADE ASSOCIATION

The Leprosy Mission Australia is a member of the Fair Trade Association of Australia and New Zealand, a network of

organisations that support fairness in price and wages, improved market access and poverty alleviation.



AUSTRALIAN NGO COOPERATION PROGRAM (ANCP)

Several of our projects are part funded by the Australian Government through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP). For projects part funded by ANCP, The Leprosy Mission Australia raised \$1 for every \$5 provided by the Australian Grant. We are grateful to both ANCP and our supporters who, through their combined funding, increased the impact of our projects. The projects that received contributions from ANCP are identified with the Australian Aid logo above.



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The Leprosy Mission Australia is located on the lands of the Wurundjeri People of the Kulin Nation, and this report was also designed on these lands.

We wish to acknowledge the traditional owners of this land, and give our respect to their Elders past, present and emerging.

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**The Leprosy
Mission**
Australia

Nagammal enjoys her visits from the Mobile Clinic Team in India. This year she is fitted with a cosmetic hand.

*Photo: Daniel Christiansz
Photography*



2023

Annual Report

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WHAT IS The Leprosy Mission Australia ALL ABOUT?

We see Transformation.

People healed and living in community with dignity, opportunity and hope.



Photo: Daniel Christiansz Photography

Our Vision

Leprosy Defeated. Lives Transformed.

Our Mission

Following Jesus Christ, The Leprosy Mission seeks to bring about transformation; breaking the chains of leprosy, empowering people to attain healing, dignity, and life in all its fullness.

Our Values

Because we follow Jesus Christ, we value Compassion, Justice, Integrity, Inclusion and Humility.

TOWARDS ZERO LEPROSY

Working together with supporters, staff and partners, we're not only providing a cure to those people affected by leprosy, but also giving hope and dignity so they can transform their lives.

About The Leprosy Mission

The Leprosy Mission is an international Christian organisation which helps people affected by leprosy.

Founded in 1874, The Leprosy Mission is the oldest and largest leprosy-focused organisation in the world today.

The Leprosy Mission is an international federation of 30 member countries, has over 2,000 staff and implements and supports more than 200 projects in 21 implementing countries.

Our expertise is in the detection, treatment, care and rehabilitation of people and communities affected by leprosy.

The Leprosy Mission works in cooperation with governments, local communities, partner and local health organisations, the World Health Organisation (WHO), local Non-Government Organisations (NGOs), local churches, Christian partners and many others to achieve its vision and mission.

Through media and awareness campaigns, we challenge prejudices and misconceptions about leprosy. We work with community groups to encourage them to join together to find ways to make their needs heard and to become self-supporting.

STRATEGIC AIMS:

The Leprosy Mission Australia will continue to focus on the following Strategic Aims in order to deliver our strategic intent:



Being Christ-centred: The Leprosy Mission Australia is driven to support God's desire for people to enjoy fullness of life in God's presence.



Partnering for Impact: The Leprosy Mission Australia will develop partnerships in Australia and overseas that contribute towards the Triple Zero strategic goals adopted by The Leprosy Mission Global Fellowship (Towards Zero Leprosy Transmission by 2035, Towards Zero Leprosy Disability, Towards Zero Leprosy Discrimination).



Financing: The Leprosy Mission Australia will generate abundant and sustainable finances to facilitate programs and empower our implementing partners to deliver the global Triple Zero strategy.



Advocating for and with people affected by leprosy: The Leprosy Mission Australia will ensure that the voices of people affected by leprosy are heard and listened to in Australia and will reinforce the advocacy activities of implementing partners.



Enabling The Leprosy Mission Australia: The Leprosy Mission Australia invests in developing the skills, resources and environment to empower its people to work towards the Triple Zero strategic goals.

Over the next two years The Leprosy Mission Australia will look to develop the next five year strategy.



CELEBRATING THE CHERISHED LIFE OF *Heather Merle Williams* NOVEMBER 6, 1948 – FEBRUARY 15, 2022

With a heart full of compassion and a spirit committed to service, Heather was a dedicated advocate of The Leprosy Mission Australia for over three and a half decades, and a steadfast patron of The Leprosy Mission Shop. She lovingly upheld the philanthropic tradition initiated by her mother, Doreen Taylor, and as an executor of her mother's estate, she ensured this legacy endured. The reach of Heather's kindness continues to be felt today, as she thoughtfully included a significant amount as a bequest to The Leprosy Mission Australia in her Will.

Photos supplied by Heather's family

Born and brought up in Yarraville, Melbourne, Heather's involvement with The Leprosy Mission took root in her formative years at the Yarraville Baptist Church. Following in her mother Doreen's benevolent footsteps, Heather dedicated herself to perpetuating her mother's charitable trust contributions to the mission, post Doreen's passing in 2015.

Heather's professional journey began at her father Len's printing business, Franklin Web (now known as IVE) which has proudly printed The Mission Shop Catalogue for many years. Heather later served her community as a medical receptionist in a local medical practice.

Our Fundraising and Communications Manager, Paul Andrews, has a shared history with Heather and her family, reminiscing fondly of his time at the family printing business in 1983.

Heather's love story began in Yarraville where she met her husband, Alan Williams. Their marriage in 1988 marked the beginning of a love-filled journey that lasted 30 years, until Alan's sudden death in 2019. This bond led them from Yarraville to their serene retirement abode in Riddell's Creek in 2005.

In her new home, Heather became an enthusiastic member of the Mount Macedon Uniting Church, finding joy and solace in the church services and hymns. The



WE GIVE THANKS

This year we received bequest gifts from the following estates:

The Ida Maud Webster McDonald Perpetual Charitable Trust

Florence Agnes Todd Charitable Trust

The Estate of the late Miss Pauline Fischer Darlington Trust

The Edwin and Elizabeth Batchelder Trust

The Harding Beneficiary Fund

The Estate of the late Jessie May Hall

The Estate of the late Genie Fiebig

The Estate of the late Miss Mary Pearce

The Estate of the late Edith Quick

The Estate of the late Edith Whittingham

The Estate of the late Maureen Thompson

The Estate of the late Heather Merle Williams

The Estate of the late Brian Harding

The Estate of the late Dugald Grant McDougall

The Estate of the late Wilma Caroline Morrison

The Estate of the late Betty Towns

The Estate of the late Ronald Keith White

The Estate of the late Olive Vandenberg

The Estate of the late Margaret Isabell Peden

The Estate of the late Desley Butters-Whitehouse

The Estate of the late Phyllis Audrey Griffiths

church community was a beacon of support for Heather in the aftermath of her profound loss.

Heather's zest for life manifested itself in her love for gardening and baking. Friends and family were often the fortunate recipients of her homemade baked treats - her White Christmas slice, Lemon Slice, Chocolate Mint Slice, and Rocky Road were beloved staples. Alongside Alan, Heather cultivated breathtaking gardens at their homes, her exquisite rose garden offering a serene backdrop for the refreshments after her funeral.

Heather faced chronic leukemia with resilience for 14 years. Her health, unfortunately, began deteriorating in 2021, leading to her peaceful passing in February 2022. Her vibrant spirit is sorely missed by all those who were fortunate to know her.

Today, in union with Heather's family and friends, we celebrate her radiant life and express our deepest appreciation for Heather's tireless support and steadfast commitment to God's healing mission.

Her lasting gift in her Will to The Leprosy Mission Australia is a testament to her compassionate spirit and will contribute significantly to our ongoing mission to overcome this disease globally.

A year of Challenge and Opportunity

REPORT FROM THE BOARD CHAIR,
JENNY WARD



It is my privilege to bring you my first report as Board Chair. As the Mission entered a post-COVID world in 2023, we anticipated we would need to navigate an unpredictable, fast-changing environment that would provide both challenge and opportunity. What we were certain of in this new world, however, was God's provision and blessing. If I were to summarise what 2023 was all about, the spiritual hymn written by Frances Crosby in 1872 I think captures it all – “To God be the glory great things He has done ...”.

The Mission finished the financial year in a very strong financial position. Total revenue was up 6% from the previous year, and lower than budgeted expenses resulted in a financial surplus of \$356k.

Our fundraising and promotional activities exceeded expectations. Fundraising revenue was \$2.9 million. This is the highest amount raised by The Mission in the past 8 years. All categories of fundraising performed strongly but of note was the continuing growth in appeals and fundraising (+\$26k), sponsorships (+\$32k) and bequest income (total \$1.2m). Whilst the total number of donors fell slightly from 2021, our customer retention rate was 52%, a positive result given the difficult economic challenges facing many donors.

Our social enterprise activities continued to perform strongly. The value of sales and donations made through our social enterprise activities totalled \$2.032m which is almost double pre-COVID levels. The Leprosy Mission Shop continues to be a significant source of donation and pledge donors as well as supplying amazing products for sale.

Our International Programs department has continued to work closely with our Leprosy Mission partners in the delivery of a diverse range of programs in the field. A highlight in 2023 was the commencement of activities in Indonesia. Working in partnership with NLR (No Leprosy Remains), a Dutch-based non-government organisation that has been at the forefront globally in the fight against leprosy, two programs have been planned, including a project in an urban environment. This is an exciting initiative, and we look forward to seeing the results as the project progresses over the next year.

The Programs team were also the recipients of additional funding from DFAT this year which brought our total DFAT funding to \$1.41m, another historical high. This meant we were able to disperse \$2.5m to our projects which is a motivating outcome.

We continue to maintain close links with The Leprosy Mission International (TLMI) and the Global Fellowship. Sheldon and I were able to attend the Global Fellowship meetings in London during October. This was the first



*Students at the Vocational Training Centre in India say "Thank you!" to The Leprosy Mission Australia supporters.
Photo: Daniel Christiansz Photography*

Global Fellowship meeting following the pandemic and it was wonderful to share amazing fellowship with very committed Christian people and hear how the Lord blesses the work of the Mission across the globe.

Our National Council membership continued to change in 2023. We are extremely grateful for the service of Grace Asten after 8 years on the Council and for also serving as a Board member of The Mission. We also share the news of the passing of Brian Stedman who died in December 2022. Brian was the former State Director of Tasmania (2008-2012). We praise God for his life and service, particularly to The Leprosy Mission.

The Board also has undergone changes in 2022. We thank Shivani Singh who resigned from the Board after two years of service. We look forward to her continued support of the Mission as a member of the National Council. In addition, we also wish to acknowledge and thank Steve Meredith for his service to the board, not only as an active board member but also for his leadership in the role of Chair from 2019 through the COVID years until October 2022. In addition to his work with the Mission here in Australia, Steve was active in the Global Fellowship and instrumental in the design and delivery of the Global Strategy which is now in its final year of implementation. Steve remains on National Council but his input at Board and the Fellowship level will be greatly missed.

I would also like to acknowledge the many volunteers and supporters of The Leprosy Mission Australia, involved in Auxiliaries, Support Groups, or as local representatives. Your continued passion for our activities is essential for our success. We thank God that He has challenged the hearts of people to reach out and to show His heart for justice and equity within your communities.

Finally, 2023 marks the final year of service of our CEO Sheldon Rankin, who will retire and step down from the role in July 2023. Sheldon joined The Leprosy Mission Australia in 2015 and we thank him for his energy, wisdom, spiritual leadership, and passion for the Mission over the past 8.5 years. Sheldon has overseen dramatic changes to both the structure and effectiveness of TLMA. He leaves TLMA as an organisation that is strong and resilient and ready for the next phase of its journey to partner with Australians in achieving outcomes for the benefit of people affected by leprosy and disability.

As we move forward with a new CEO and a highly motivated team of staff and volunteers, I look forward to seeing the blessings, which I believe God will provide. Our Saviour healed those affected by leprosy and sent His disciples out to do the same. We are following a great tradition, firmly within God's will, as we seek to serve people who are loved by the Saviour but isolated and stigmatised by their societies. I ask for your continued support and prayers as we move into the next year, trusting in God's grace and favour on our work.

Jenny Ward

Jenny Ward
Board Chair





REPORT FROM THE CEO

The financial year ending 30 June 2023 was another record year in the life of The Leprosy Mission Australia. We enjoyed the highest revenue recorded in the history of the organisation (\$7,866,848). Yet, this positive performance was not simply due to the revenue raised, but also to the number of people who continued to support the work year on year. Over the past five years, not only have we seen our total revenue increase by 45%, but we have also seen our active supporters increase by 30%.

I am struck by the generosity of those who support the work of The Leprosy Mission and the provision of God. One cannot ignore the fact that these results have been achieved in a year of great economic stress. Media reports abound with stories of the cost-of-living crisis. Consumer confidence has also remained in the doldrums – Roy Morgan Market Research Agency reports the 2023 weekly average at 80 points!

The Leprosy Mission Australia has long enjoyed support from churches and related groups. This was one revenue stream that was hard hit by the two years of COVID. Thus, it was reassuring to see this return to our pre-COVID levels.

As you read the Case Studies outlined in this Annual Report, I trust that you will see that our collaborations

with partners in the field have produced some encouraging results and helped restore life in so many ways.

Looking to the coming Financial Year we will continue to focus on the needs of children, women and partner communities affected by Leprosy. This period will also see the development of a new Strategic Plan. We will continue our focus on our most valuable resource – our people. We will ensure that we have an even stronger and more engaged workforce to achieve our vision.

I would like to thank the staff and volunteers at The Leprosy Mission Australia for their tremendous efforts in the past year. I also want to thank our supporters for their crucial contribution in making the lives of children, women, and communities better. Truly we believe that leprosy can be defeated, and lives transformed!

Sheldon Rankin

Sheldon Rankin
Chief Executive Officer



*Students at the Vocational
Training Centre in India
also enjoy cultural
activities together.*

*Photos: Daniel Christiansz
Photography*



YOUR IMPACT

HIGHLIGHTS FROM HOME:



YOUR OVERSEAS IMPACT:



Urmila and her two children thank you for your support which has allowed her to open her own business after her husband passed away.

PROGRAM EVALUATIONS

Evaluations are regularly conducted as part of project implementation to review progress and identify areas of strengths and weaknesses.

These evaluations provide important information for making improvements to ensure projects are as effective as possible.

Evaluations are usually conducted mid-way through a project and at the end of a project. However, additional evaluations can be organised, if felt necessary, to ensure project effectiveness.

Mid-term evaluation for Integrated Mobilisation of People for Active Community Transformation (IMPACT)



Nepal | 2019-2024

Project implemented by The Leprosy Mission Nepal

The IMPACT project targets three districts with high leprosy prevalence, aiming to break active transmission of leprosy by finding new cases early, and promoting the inclusion of people affected by leprosy and disability in their communities through a Self-Help Group (SHG)/Cooperative model.

The project does this through the development of 36 SHGs into independent, sustainable cooperatives, where members are supported to increase their financial skills, leadership skills and skills for business operations.

Additionally, members are taught to consider social and environmental factors affecting their communities, such as disaster preparedness, and how they can address these issues within their communities.

Under the improving community health aspect of the project, the team partners with the local health district to run mini leprosy elimination campaigns to actively screen for leprosy cases. Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) support is provided to SHG members and the wider community through education on different aspects, such as hand washing

Continued over page »

Maya is extremely grateful for the support from people like you to improve the comfort of her basic daily needs by providing a disability accessible toilet through the IMPACT project.



Eva, International Programs Officer with our IMPACT project team

techniques, menstruation hygiene, in addition to the installation of disability accessible toilets and clean water access points.

At the start of the fourth year of the project, a mid-term evaluation was conducted to review the achievements to date and identify any areas for improvement. An initial study was conducted by external consultants but due to some data being missed in the evaluation process an additional data review was conducted by the project team. The findings from both these evaluations were used to identify strengths and opportunities.

Evaluation findings identified that the project is making good progress and is on track to achieving its objectives. The project had made improvements across all their outcome targets, with 67.5% of participants indicating they have no restrictions on their participation in the community, compared to only 0.4% of people reporting this at the start of the project. This means that people with leprosy and other disabilities are participating more in their local communities compared to at the start of the project.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) support is provided to SHG members and the wider community through education on different aspects, such as hand washing techniques, menstruation hygiene, in addition to the installation of disability accessible toilets and clean water access points.

WASH outcomes have improved, with an increased number of poor and marginalised people being able to access safe drinking water. This has resulted in a visible decrease of reported diarrhea cases in the area, from 5.1% at the start of the project to 2% currently. Additionally, the evaluation found that the project's support with WASH facilities has allowed women to bathe with respect and dignity.

The evaluation also identified that the work of the project is recognised and highly regarded by the local government elected members, health workers and others in the community.

Some areas identified for improvement included the need to provide more support to SHGs/cooperatives to ensure their independence and sustainability by the end of the project.

The cooperatives will need to expand into larger businesses that increase income and financial sustainability. More upskilling to strengthen administrative processes within the groups is also required. Additionally, changes in environmental climate have been increasingly felt by the community in recent years. The review identified the need to increase participant skills to adapt to their changing climates if they are to maintain sustainable livelihoods.

The evaluation also identified the need to increase leprosy active case-finding activities and increase coverage over the project areas.

Recommendations from the mid-term evaluation have been incorporated into plans for the final 2 years of the project.

Thematic evaluation of Vadathorasalur Vocational Training Centre

India | 2018-2022

Project implemented by The Leprosy Mission Trust India

Vadathorasalur Vocational Training Centre (VTC) provides training to students with leprosy, disability and those from under privileged backgrounds aged between 16-40 years. The current phase of the project concluded this year.

An evaluation was conducted across all the vocational training centres in India to review their current progress and effectiveness. Vadathorasalur VTC was evaluated as part of this process.

The review identified a steady rate of admissions of people affected by leprosy and disability to the Vadathorasalur VTC. The centre also overshot their target of enrolments to achieve 113% of the total target for institutional based courses and 107% of their target for community-based courses. The commencement of the College of Wheels mobile education van contributed to the boost in community-based course enrolments.

Vadathorasalur VTC's infrastructure was assessed to be adequate for their particular needs. Their partnerships with local companies, especially with Tata Motors, who assisted in teaching, was identified as a strength that has ensured 100% of students passed their final exam. This demonstrated good quality training methodology and practical training. A Best Principal award was bestowed on the VTC, by the State, for their achievement.

Overall, the evaluation found that the VTC had achieved the majority of their outcomes with 89% of graduates obtaining gainful employment upon graduation.

Whilst many strengths and achievements were identified in the evaluation, areas for improvement are required. The VTC has offerings of good quality courses, however, the majority of courses have not changed since the start of the VTCs. With evolving trends in the job market, it is extremely challenging attracting paying students to the offered courses. This affects the future sustainability of the VTC. The evaluation recommended a change

to the centre structure, providing various suggestions that included offering courses that are unique and align with future job demand trends and upgrading to larger educational institutions.

Sustainability, across finance, programming and environment was identified as an area in need of strengthening. Funding independence and developing plans towards achieving this was seen as crucial. Recommendations were provided based on existing opportunities. These included increasing the effective use of VTC land, starting kitchen gardens to subsidise food costs, reviewing course offerings to attract fee-paying students and leveraging the VTC alumni for student placements and employment opportunities. There were also additional recommendations to increase environmental sustainability of installing solar panels and recycling to increase environmental protection.

Many of the recommendations from the report have now been incorporated into the new phase of the VTC.



Many female students at the Vocational Training Centre in India have chosen the Electrical Engineering course in hope of a good government job after graduation.

Triple Zero

Globally, the Triple Zero strategy unites all organisations working in the field of leprosy to strive toward achieving the same goals:

- **Zero leprosy transmission by 2035**
- **Zero leprosy disability**
- **Zero leprosy discrimination**

These three aspects represent the significant areas of leprosy that need to be addressed in our progress towards disease elimination. Each element must be achieved if we are to succeed in achieving a world free from leprosy. Whilst each element of the Triple Zero strategy is important on its own, they are also inter-related and influence each other.

Similarly, The Leprosy Mission Australia has adopted Triple Zero into our strategy for achieving our vision of leprosy defeated, lives transformed. Each of our projects work towards progress in one or more aspects of Triple Zero.

Photo: Daniel Christiansz Photography



All our projects contribute to at least one element of Triple Zero.

Zero leprosy transmission

Elimination of leprosy cannot occur without stopping the transmission of the disease. To disrupt transmission, cases of leprosy need to be identified early and treated to reduce the risk of spreading. Active case finding and contact tracing of positive cases are imperative to early detection. Additionally, with advancements in research, the administration of preventative medication to close contacts in the form of Post Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) is being explored.

Transmission disruption also requires strengthening health worker and community knowledge of leprosy diagnosis and treatment.

We measure progress towards this aspect through indicators such as monitoring leprosy case numbers, grade of disability at diagnosis, number of people reached with contact tracing and changes in leprosy awareness in the community.

Reduced transmission or early leprosy diagnosis will reduce the risk of permanent disability.



Zero leprosy disability

DISABILITY

Preventing disability or physical deformities will decrease stigma and discrimination

Early diagnosis prevents disability. As more cases are diagnosed early, less people will live with leprosy disability. Unfortunately, for people who are diagnosed too late to prevent disability, this often has significant negative impacts on their lives, affecting their ability to perform daily activities and to work or participate in their communities. Support and treatment is needed to prevent the disability from worsening. Medical care to treat wounds and ulcers is needed to reduce the risk of infection and amputation. Additionally, education and assistive devices are needed to support people to re-engage in the tasks of daily life and their occupations safely.

For more severe mobility impairments such as clawed hands or foot drops, reconstructive surgery and rehabilitation is needed to return function to affected limbs.

Progress towards reducing the impacts of leprosy disability is measured through indicators that monitor wound and ulcer conditions, pre and post education awareness, success rates post-surgery and rehabilitation, and patient independence in conducting self-care activities.

Reduced transmission or early leprosy diagnosis will reduce the risk of permanent disability

Zero leprosy discrimination

Even once leprosy is cured, the fear and negative views surrounding the disease can continue to persist, especially if there is visible disability. This misinformation can result in severe stigma and discrimination that can extend to the entire family and impact all aspects of life.

Stigma creates reluctance for people to actively seek out a leprosy diagnosis early and to share about their diagnosis. This perpetuates the cycle of leprosy disability, lack of community awareness and discrimination.

Dismantling of discriminatory practices and views needs to occur at all levels of society. This requires advocacy at different levels of government for the correction of exclusionary systems. Community education is also needed to correct myths and fears and install a behaviour of proactive support for people with leprosy. Additionally, people with leprosy need encouragement to improve well-being and be supported with opportunities in education and livelihood development that will provide them with opportunities to reintegrate into society.

Progress in this aspect is measured through indicators that monitor improvements in standards of living, financial stability, systemic societal changes and the community participation rates of people with leprosy.

DISCRIMINATION



Home visit by project staff to support a leprosy patient with self-care

PROJECT UPDATES

Improved Leprosy Services (ILS)



Implemented by Misaun Lepra, Timor Leste

Timor Leste | 2019-2024

This project focuses on reducing leprosy transmission through partnering with the Timor Leste Ministry of Health to run activities for leprosy case detection such as mass screening and contact tracing. Additionally, they provide training and supervision to health workers to increase their capacity to detect, treat and manage leprosy.

This year, following the mid-term evaluation, the project narrowed its location from four to two districts to increase effectiveness. This allowed the project staff to establish better relationships with the leprosy control programs in Baucau and Manatuto. They were also able to increase the frequency of follow up with health workers and leprosy patients to monitor and improve standards of leprosy treatment and management.

The project team divided into two groups and based themselves in the districts four days a week to run activities jointly with the leprosy control program department in the respective districts. Activities including mass skin screenings at

health posts, self-care follow up for leprosy patients and contact tracing activities continued this year.

Recognising the need for accurate data reporting, the team focused on providing training and improving accuracy in leprosy case reporting at the health posts. Accurate data reporting is important to inform the national government of the depth of the leprosy concern in Baucau and Manatuto. Additionally, the statistics are used to inform how much Multi-Drug Therapy (MDT) medication should be sent to each health post. Currently, under-reporting of leprosy cases has resulted in inconsistent supplies of MDT.

The project continues to face many hurdles due to the low priority placed on leprosy in the health system, limited funding support from the government and the high turnover of government health staff. Additionally, poor coordination of medical supplies in the country has resulted in a lack of prednisolone to treat leprosy reactions.

Despite these challenges, the team

continue to conduct advocacy work to the government, recognising that if they were not present, leprosy services would be severely diminished.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE YEAR:

- Over 89% of health posts in Baucau and Manatuto are now providing leprosy services to the community.
- 22 laboratory technicians have been trained in conducting slit skin smear tests. As a result, 15 health centres can now provide diagnostic assessments for leprosy.
- Community awareness efforts have resulted in an increasing number of people with suspect skin patches seeking out the project team to assess whether they have leprosy.
- An increasing number of women and girls have been reached with leprosy awareness compared to previously. More than 3,300 women and girls have been reached this year.

Integrated Mobilisation of People for Active Community Transformation (IMPACT)



Australian
Aid

Implemented by The Leprosy Mission Nepal

Nepal | 2019-2024

Through the model of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and cooperatives, the IMPACT project supports livelihood advancement of people with leprosy, lymphatic filariasis, other disabilities and people from marginalised families. The project is now in its fourth year. The original 36 SHGs have now merged into nine cooperatives. This year, the project focused on increasing the independence and sustainability of the cooperatives. Training to upskill group members in leadership, financial management, understanding value chain and business planning were conducted. From these trainings, groups have successfully established businesses such as off-season grain sales, turmeric farming and banana farming.

Additionally, the project recognised the influence groups can have on their communities. Training on social concerns such as increasing awareness of good hygiene and sanitation practices, gender



Fitting leg splints to support a patient to stand

inclusion, environment protection and climate change, were provided. Each cooperative was supported to establish processes and a committee to better prepare for disasters (e.g. flooding) to reduce the impact they have on their businesses and homes. Cooperatives were also encouraged to explore the needs of community members outside their groups and recommend members for foot prosthetics and assistive devices which were then provided through the project.

The cooperatives are now well established and well regarded in the communities. Members of the community, some of whom previously did not want to join, are now expressing interest. The project has begun supporting the cooperatives to establish new SHGs. The increasing number of members will improve sustainability of the groups.

The project also works towards zero transmission through conducting Mini Leprosy Elimination Campaigns (MLEC) where suspected skin conditions are examined for leprosy. From each MLEC, an average of 2-3 new cases are diagnosed each time.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE YEAR:

- Cooperative members participated in local council elections with some members being successfully elected. In one council area, four out of five elected council members belong to a cooperative established by the project. This council area has plans to conduct a mass leprosy screening activity.
- After training, cooperatives successfully developed group business plans independently. This is a massive achievement for these groups who previously had little knowledge about business processes.
- All cooperatives have now started at least one cooperative business.
- Each cooperative successfully established a disaster stockpile to prepare for disasters.
- Over 3,000 households (10,000+ people) have been screened through MLEC activities.



Goat rearing businesses started by one cooperative

Nepal Tertiary Education Scholarships



Implemented by The Leprosy Mission Nepal

Nepal | 2022-2027

The Nepal Tertiary Education Scholarships project aims to support 12 students affected by leprosy to attend university and graduate with a bachelor's degree. Graduating with a bachelor's degree will increase financial prospects for students and their families and change the social perception that people with leprosy cannot achieve the same things as other people. The project aims to support an equal number of male and female students.

In addition to university fees, the project aims to provide holistic support that includes accommodation assistance, textbooks, stationary, laptops, mental wellbeing assistance and internship placement at the completion of their degree.

The project has commenced its first year. Currently there are six students enrolled – four female and two male students. The students have enrolled in the following degrees:

- One student in Bachelor of Nursing
- Two students in Bachelor of Business
- One student in Bachelor of Hotel Management
- One student in Bachelor Honours in Computing
- One student in Bachelor of Social Work

All students have now completed their first semester, are settled into a daily routine and making friends at their universities.

Additionally, some students have taken on part time jobs which will provide them with experience to increase their employability when they graduate.

Amrita studies a Bachelor of Business. She is the first person in her family to go to college.



Riya, one of our students with her grandparents

Socio-Economic Rehabilitation 2 (SER II): Education program and Self-Care Unit



Implemented by The Leprosy Mission Nepal

Nepal | 2020-2023

SELF-CARE UNIT

Located on the grounds of Anandaban Hospital, the self-care unit provides live-in rehabilitation services to people with leprosy who require ulcer and wound care. The unit provides training to patients on caring for their ulcers and wounds, and strategies to prevent further disabilities. Additionally, the unit provides assistive tools and teaches patients how to use them to decrease the risk of developing injuries during tasks of daily living.

Due to structural damage sustained in the 2015 earthquake, the self-care unit will be demolished and rebuilt. The rebuild allows for opportunities to modernise the unit, increase safety standards and increase disability accessibility within the unit. Plans are underway for the reconstruction that will commence in the second half of 2023.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE YEAR:

- 461 people now have increased knowledge on how to care for their wounds and prevent further disability.
- 141 aids to protect against further disability provided.

EDUCATION SUPPORT

Whilst schooling is free in Nepal, school related expenses such as

uniforms, schoolbooks and stationery are required to be paid by the family. For some families, this amount may be unaffordable.

This year, 93 primary and secondary school students affected by leprosy, with disabilities or from marginalised families were provided with financial support. Approximately \$120 AUD was provided to each student.

Recognising that external factors such as mental health and cultural practices can influence student decisions to attend school, a focus this year was on providing counselling to support student wellbeing and provide education to students and their families on the consequences of dropping out of school for an early marriage.

This year, 11 students successfully graduated from Year 12, and they now have increased opportunities for employment and/or university education.

Gender breakdown of supported students:

Female: 46 Male: 47

This is the final year of this phase of the project. Moving forwards, both components will continue as two separate projects. Modifications will be made to both projects to increase their effectiveness.



Leprosy education at an Islamic school

Jhapa Leprosy Reduction



Implemented by Nepal Leprosy Fellowship

Nepal | 2022-2027

Located in Jhapa, eastern Nepal, the Jhapa Leprosy Reduction project completed its first year.

At the completion of the RECLAIM II project last year, our partner Nepal Leprosy Fellowship identified that child cases of leprosy in the area were significantly higher than the national average. New child cases indicate active leprosy transmission in the area.

As a result, this project was developed, aiming to reduce the number of child cases to less than 10% of all new diagnosed cases in six municipalities in Jhapa. The project aims to do this through three key methods:

1. Providing leprosy education and screening in schools
2. Conducting comprehensive contact tracing of all new cases (tracing a minimum of 50 close contacts).
3. Reviewing old leprosy records and conducting contact tracing for all old leprosy cases.

After a slow start due to delays in approval processes, the project picked up speed and by the end of the year they had caught up on all delayed activities. The project partnered closely with the local governments who welcomed the support in this area. The project's method of school screening for skin conditions was a new strategy that the health clinics had not trialled before and was observed to be highly effective. In addition to government schools, the

project was invited to expand their activities to include Islamic schools (Madrasas) in the region in order to expand their coverage.



A school student learning about leprosy during a school visit by the project team

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE YEAR:

- 25% of all schools in the six municipalities provided with leprosy education and screening.
- Active school screening had positive flow on effects of identifying other skin conditions, vision impairment and other disabilities that were previously missed. The government supported the treatment and onward referral of these students.
- Due to the project's efforts, the local government took an interest in leprosy screening and organised their own leprosy screening events.
- Over 80 new leprosy cases found this year, a sharp increase compared to 23 cases diagnosed in this area in the previous year.



Paul Andrews, our Fundraising and Communications Manager meeting some of the health workers doing leprosy screening signalling 'Triple Zero'.

Urban Leprosy, Kotaku



Implemented by Yayasan
NLR Indonesia

Indonesia | 2022-2025

The Urban Leprosy project kicked off this year with our new partner Yayasan NLR Indonesia. In the past, leprosy control programs had mostly taken place in rural areas through the government run primary health centres. However, population growth in urban areas is expanding rapidly and it is currently estimated that almost half of the Indonesia population live in urban areas. With the rapid expansion of urban areas and the high cost of living, many people live in informal settlements with high density living, poor sanitation and limited access to clean water. These conditions increase the risk of leprosy transmission.

The health system in urban areas is different from rural areas, with the private health sector playing a larger role. As a result, a different strategy compared to rural leprosy programs is currently being trialled through this project in 10 urban

areas in Bekasi district, Java Island. It focuses on increasing the skills of both public and private doctors in leprosy diagnosis and treatment, active case finding in informal settlements, increasing leprosy awareness in communities and improving the leprosy referral system.

The commencement of the project was postponed by approximately six months due to delays in the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding with the government. Despite this, it was an important event that brought awareness to government officials that leprosy still existed in urban areas.

A baseline was completed to assess the leprosy knowledge and stigma in the community. This revealed that private doctors had limited knowledge of leprosy with a moderate level of stigma existing



A mother brings her baby to the leprosy screening day to have suspicious skin patches checked for leprosy

in their profession. Communities in informal settlements had some knowledge of leprosy, but also a moderate level of stigma surrounding the disease.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE YEAR:

- 777 health care workers received training on leprosy.
- 3615 people in three informal settlements screened for leprosy.
- 109 influential community members in three informal settlements trained on leprosy. A positive change in attitude towards people affected by leprosy was observed.

Leprosy Friendly Village, Desaku



Implemented by
Yayasan NLR Indonesia

Indonesia | 2022-2025

The concept of Leprosy Friendly Villages centres on the understanding that leprosy stigma and discrimination create significant barriers to community leprosy awareness, diagnosis and treatment. The project seeks the participation and support of health workers, village leaders, key influential community members and persons affected by leprosy. This will increase leprosy education and financial support in the community, to establish villages who are supportive of people with leprosy and support patients to access health services without stigma and discrimination. This project aims to support 20 villages in Kuningan district, Java Island.

Run jointly with Yayasan NLR Indonesia, a new partner for TLMA, this project has currently completed its first year. The commencement of the project

was postponed by six months due to delays in the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the government. Despite this, the signing of the MoU was an important event that brought leprosy to the attention of the rural province and confirmed the support of the provincial governor.

The start of the project commenced with conducting a baseline assessment, mapping the leprosy

situation, including the stigma levels and community awareness of leprosy. The baseline assessment revealed some knowledge of leprosy in communities. Additionally, people with leprosy knew the name of the disease but did not know the causes or ways that leprosy was transmitted. The baseline assessment also revealed a moderate level of leprosy stigma in the community.



Leprosy screening day at the health clinic

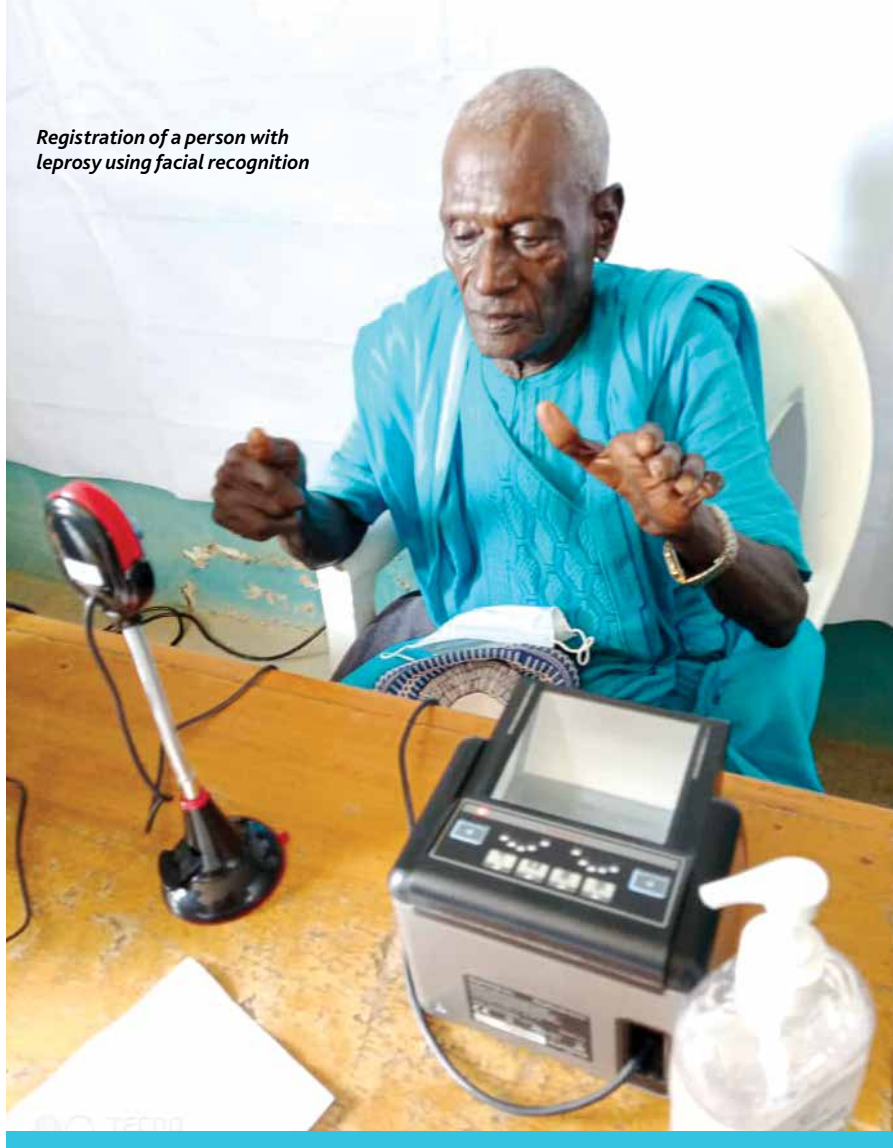


A girl with leprosy reactions getting her patches assessed at the health clinic

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE YEAR:

- High motivation from health workers to contribute to the leprosy program.
- 342 health workers received training in leprosy diagnosis, treatment and management.
- 248 influential community members trained in leprosy awareness.
- 1513 community members screened for leprosy.

Registration of a person with leprosy using facial recognition



A person affected by leprosy interviewed about his experience after successfully registering to vote.



INCLUSION OF PEOPLE WITH LEPROSY IN THE VOTING SYSTEM:

Successful advocacy and training of the Independent National Electoral Commission staff to support people with leprosy to register to vote. The commencement of training of electoral staff received media coverage across Nigeria, thus increasing awareness of the need for inclusion of people affected by leprosy. On the day of election, voting booths were set up in leprosy colonies to increase access for the communities. Over 500 people affected by leprosy were officially registered and could exercise their vote on election day.

Strengthening Integrated Neglected Tropical Diseases Control in Zamfara State (SINTDC)



Implemented by
The Leprosy Mission Nigeria

Nigeria | 2019-2024

Working in the socially disadvantaged and water poor area of Zamfara in northern Nigeria, the project works closely with the Zamfara Ministry of Health to strengthen local health services in the diagnosis and treatment of leprosy and other Neglected Tropical Diseases. Additionally, the project supports community development through improving water, sanitation and hygiene practices, increasing disability inclusion, Self-Help Group (SHG) development and advocacy activities.

Insecurity in the region continues

to be a challenge, limiting staff movement and the safety of project participants. Additionally, the rising cost of living, particularly dramatic increases in fuel prices, has significant impacts on affordability and project implementation.

Despite the challenges, the project continued to make significant gains. This year, the project focused on increasing integration of leprosy into various aspects of health services and societal systems. Through all activities, increasing the participation of women and girls was a key underlying aspect. Some of the key highlights include:

PROSTHETIC LEG PRESENTATION:

47 people received a customised prosthetic leg in this outreach activity. It was attended by key influential leaders and was televised, thus drawing attention to the work of The Leprosy Mission in Nigeria. This increased awareness resulted in people from the community contacting The Leprosy Mission to seek support for a leg prosthetic.

RENOVATION OF A TWO-ROOM WARD IN A TERTIARY HOSPITAL:

The project supported a key leprosy referral hospital, where leprosy patients with complications from Zamfara visit to receive treatment. Previously, due to limited bed space, some patients were unable to receive treatment. Now, with the newly renovated ward, more patients can receive leprosy treatment as required.

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE INTEGRATION:

The project supported the integration of mental health services in certain public health facilities across the state. As a result, whole communities can now access mental health services when they visit their local health centres. SHG members supported by the project were screened for anxiety and depression. A large proportion were identified as requiring counselling services. As a result, support groups were established, and peer counsellors trained to provide regular support to members. A referral process was established for onward referral of severe mental health concerns.



Congratulations to The Leprosy Mission Nigeria team who received an award for their work in increasing mental health services in Nigeria



Nagammal can stand on her own two feet thanks to custom 3D printed protective sandals provided by supporters like you.

Photo: Daniel Christiansz Photography

Inclusive Empowerment



Implemented by The Leprosy Mission Trust India

India | 2019-2023

Located in Tamil Nadu, the Inclusive Empowerment project provides holistic support to people affected by leprosy from disability management through to livelihoods. The aim of the project is to increase participation of people with leprosy in sustainable livelihoods, increase their inclusion in leadership roles and find dignity in living. Support in two key aspects is provided: disability management and developing sustainable livelihoods. Progress in these two areas over the past 12 months are explained below:

1. DISABILITY MANAGEMENT

People with leprosy and other disabilities, living in rural and remote areas, have limited access

to suitable health services or must travel long distances to reach their nearest health service. The mobile rehabilitation van provides much needed services to people living in the communities in Cuddalore and Villupurum, which they can access without leaving their villages. Services include rehabilitation, disability assessment, specialist consultations and assistive devices. The mobile team also supports the establishment of community-based disability rehabilitation services such as therapy units for children, where community members are encouraged to manage the groups independently whilst the mobile team provide a supporting role.

Continued over page »

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE YEAR:

- The mobile van, and its range of services, was a feature at the International Leprosy Congress held in Hyderabad. Many delegates inspected the van and commented favourably.
- 1,190 people with leprosy and disabilities accessed services from the mobile van.
- Five therapy units supported 479 people with leprosy and disabilities with rehabilitation services in their communities.
- 918 medical students were provided with training on leprosy disability management.
- The project team, who have become leaders in 3D technology within TLM India, continue to innovate and conducted a specialist workshop to train other TLM staff.
- 334 assistive devices were provided – including artificial limbs, orthotics, hand splints and adaptive devices.
- 139 people received 3D printed customised footwear.

2. LIVELIHOODS

Stigma and discrimination can continue to impact the job and income generation opportunities of people affected by leprosy even after they are cured. This aspect of the project supports people affected by leprosy and other disabilities to establish independent sustainable livelihoods that provide them with a respectable income. This is done through the establishment of producer groups who engage in specific trades. Each individual involved in the producer groups is a shareholder of their company.

This year, the project established a further seven trades, bringing the total to 15 trades, which are run by the producer groups. Partnering with the College on Wheels component of the Vadathorasalur Vocational Education Centre (VTC), the project supported the establishment of 18 women's Self-Help Groups, consisting of 240 women who attended various short skill development courses in making aloe vera products, food production and farming.

Throughout the year, the project provided trainings such as business management, marketing, and sales. As the skills of producer groups increase, they begin to take over business operations in different stages of their production, from raw material sourcing to product marketing.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE YEAR:

- 332 households reported an increased in their income
- 206 households reported that their current income is able to meet the needs of the family
- The producer company has now successfully built up their membership to 575 members, which has allowed them to be recognised by the government. As a result, they are eligible to receive future financial and business support from the government. This group is run and managed by people affected by leprosy, other disabilities and women from marginalised families.

Practicing self-care

Photo: Daniel Christiansz Photography



Through the Vadathorasalur Vocational Training Centre in India, students are able to receive training in the discipline of their choice.

Photo: Daniel Christiansz Photography



Vadathorasalur Vocational Training Centre



Implemented by The Leprosy Mission Trust India

India | 2023-2028

The Vadathorasalur Vocational Training Centre (VTC) began a new phase of their project, continuing to offer vocational training to young adults between 16-40 years affected by leprosy, disability and those from marginalised families. All courses offered by the VTC are trades in high demand in Tamil Nadu, including sewing technology, motor mechanics, automobile and electrical trades.

In this new phase, the VTC will have an increased focus on financial sustainability through establishing their own income streams. They aim to do this through exploring new opportunities for fee paying trades, the establishment of production units and better utilisation of their land for agricultural businesses.

This year a college on wheels program was established to support groups of women living in rural and remote areas to access short courses in food production making in their communities. The

Inclusive Empowerment project supported the establishment of the women's groups.

The VTC has also expanded their production units and now has production units for beeswax wraps, and samosa making.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE YEAR:

- 374 students were supported with vocational training.
- 89% of graduates found employment.
- Two students in the sewing technology trade topped the state in their final exams.
- Expansion of in-house activities in order to be more environmentally sustainable such as growing of timber and fruit trees, animal husbandry and solar panels.
- The VTC was named by the government as one of the best private independent training institutes in Tamil Nadu.

Philadelphia Leprosy Hospital Salur & Kothara Community Hospital



Implemented by The Leprosy Mission Trust India

India | 2023-2028

Salur and Kothara Hospitals continued to provide free specialised services to leprosy patients this year. Additionally, both hospitals continued to provide relevant health services to the surrounding communities and tribal groups. In this post-COVID period, outreach services resumed and both hospitals focused on improving their partnerships for outreach camps. These outreach camps provide much needed health services to rural tribal areas where health services are extremely limited. The number of patients coming to the hospital for services slowly increased during the year, returning to similar levels prior to COVID. Between the two hospitals, a total of 42,820 patients were seen.

Both hospitals continued to strengthen their relationship with the government and other relevant non-government organisations to reinforce referral systems and holistic patient care.

This year, Salur Hospital became one of the first private health care facilities in the district to successfully gain registration with the state insurance scheme. As a result, the hospital now receives financial support from the government to support socially disadvantaged patients.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE HOSPITALS:

- 6,631 people with leprosy supported.
- 1,445 eye surgeries conducted.
- 10,329 people with skin conditions treated.



When you Shop to Stop Leprosy, you are not only purchasing beautiful products, you are helping to achieve all of the following:



- Providing livelihoods for artisans affected by leprosy, disability or disadvantage;
- Supporting organisations that help people affected by leprosy and disability;
- Supporting The Leprosy Mission projects in partner countries;
- Improving standards of living for communities in developing countries;
- Supporting Fair Trade and anti-slavery initiatives;
- Supporting local Australian businesses;
- Supporting sustainable products and practises for a positive effect on the environment.

A student at The Leprosy Mission Trust India Vocational Training Centre in Vadathorasalur makes beeswax wraps for sale in The Leprosy Mission Australia Shop.

Photo: Daniel Christiansz Photography

Achievements from the past year include:



\$203K
purchases that helped artisans



\$306K
purchases that supported Australian local businesses



\$10K
purchases from artisans that are directly linked to TLMA projects



\$46K
purchases from organisations that work with leprosy and disabilities

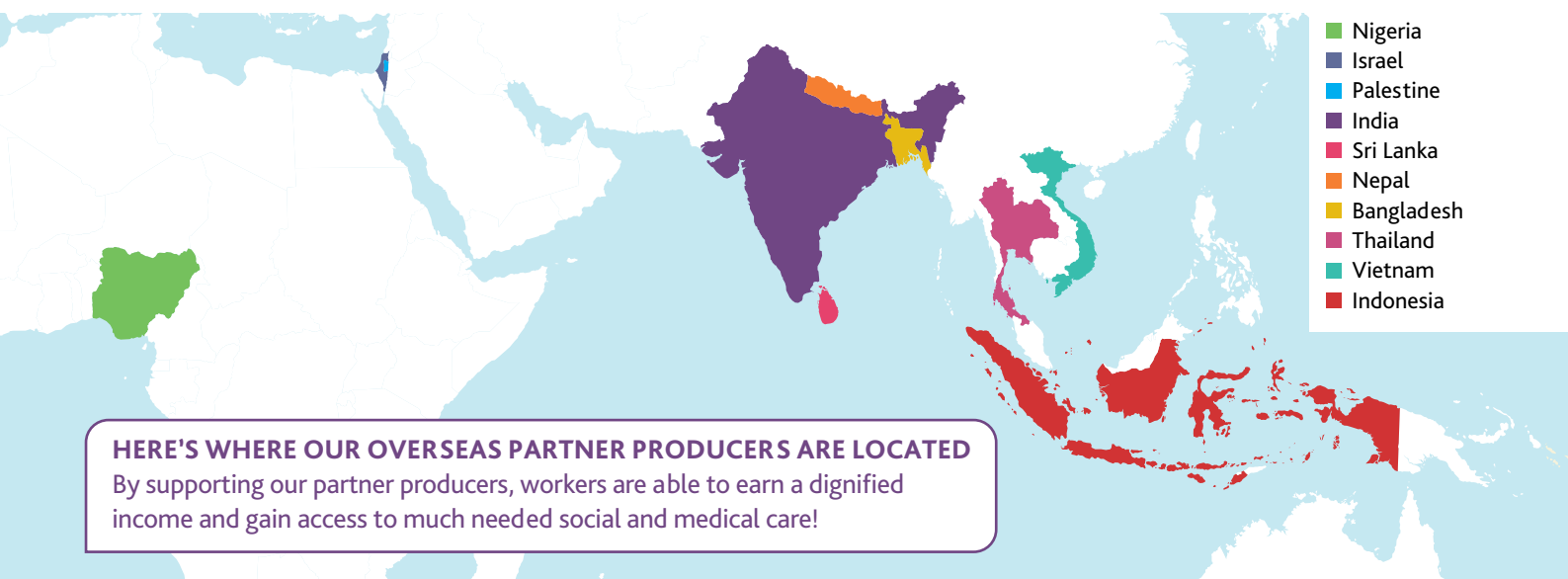


32%
of overseas artisans products



\$87K
sustainable products that directly support the environment

Thanks also to all our producers and artisans who share and support our vision of fair trade and transforming lives through shopping. Bless you!



- Nigeria
- Israel
- Palestine
- India
- Sri Lanka
- Nepal
- Bangladesh
- Thailand
- Vietnam
- Indonesia

HERE'S WHERE OUR OVERSEAS PARTNER PRODUCERS ARE LOCATED

By supporting our partner producers, workers are able to earn a dignified income and gain access to much needed social and medical care!

Thank you

Together we have been supporting fair wages that help artisans transform their lives and give them hope for a better future, including artisans like Mina in Nepal.

Thanks to your support Mina's been riding high with New SADLE since 1999!

Many of the beautiful gift items supporters choose from the gift catalogue have been made by artisans like Mina. Mina works at New SADLE (New Skill And Development Learning Experiences). A not-for-profit fair-trade organisation in Nepal that helps rehabilitate people affected by leprosy and provides training and employment.

Mina is happily married to Bishnu, the storekeeper at New SADLE. They have their own home on land that was supplied by the company. Working in the tailoring department for over 20 years has really formed and underpinned Mina's life for the better.

Since the age of 14, when Mina first contracted leprosy, she has found help and support through the affiliated leprosy organisations in and around Kathmandu. She left her village, accompanied by a relative, to travel to The Leprosy Mission's Anandaban hospital to receive months of treatment. Finally, she was cured.

Thanks to Leprosy Mission supporters from across the globe, Mina also received surgery on a finger of her left-hand twice and toes from her right foot. Throughout the years she has needed to go to the hospital for medical checkups from time to



time and continues to do so. It's reassuring to know that the Anandaban hospital facilities are financed by Leprosy Mission supporters. The specialist care and support she needs is always there.

Mina started at New SADLE in 1999. There she found love and married her first husband, the Late Palat Paswan. They have three children together. Recently their older son completed a 6-month course on ground handling at the airport and is now working there.

Their daughter is studying for her bachelor's degree. After a number of years, Mina then married Bishnu and they had their son. Mina is so proud of all her children and is so happy to be able to support them.

Thank you for supporting artisans affected by leprosy like Mina. You help them earn a dignified income and enable them to live a life in all its fullness. Your gifts give twice! God bless you.

NATIONAL BOARD

The Leprosy Mission Australia is governed by a Board of Directors comprised of members from various fields of expertise within the community. Members include representatives from international development, mission, financial, human resources, medical promotional and marketing fields.

Jennifer Ward

**MBA, BEcon (HONS),
Post Grad Dip, GAICD**

- Appointed Director 23 October 2016
- Appointed Board Chair 15 October 2022
- Member of the Governance and Risk Committee
- Member of Finance & Audit Committee



Jenny has over 25 years' experience in international business, economics, and human resource management to bring to her role. She has held a variety of senior executive roles both in Australia and internationally (Japan, China, USA, Asia Pacific) with large global organisations including BHP Billiton and World Vision Australia. Jenny is a qualified Company Director, has a Masters of Business Administration and a post graduate degree in Economics. She brings broad governance, cross cultural, business and human resource management experience to the Board.

Paul de Mare

**B.Comm, Higher Dip: Accounting,
M.Comm: Tax, CA**

- Appointed Director 10 October 2020
- Appointed Finance Director 7 December 2020
- Chair of Finance & Audit Committee
- Chair of Investment Committee



Paul has some 25 years business experience having worked as a Corporate and International Tax expert for a multinational based in South Africa for some 20 of these years. He led a team and, together with the team, managed the tax affairs of the multinational's African group for the last 10 years prior to moving to Australia. On moving to Australia in 2010, his focus changed, and he has been working in the Christian Not for Profit sector, working for Arrow Leadership and for the last 9½ years, Korus Connect as their Chief Operating Officer and Company Secretary.

Adam Walker

**BA LLB (Hons) LLM (Commercial Law)
AGIA**

- Appointed Director 21 October 2013
- Appointed Deputy Chair 12 October 2019
- Chair of Governance & Risk Committee



Adam is a Partner with the law firm, Gadens. A broad-based commercial and regulatory lawyer and credentialed corporate governance professional, Adam provides experience in matters of law, governance, risk and compliance.

Jennifer Cavanough

**MEd (Counselling), Grad.Dip.Except.
Ch, BEdSt, Cert IV Training
& Assessment**

- Appointed Director 10 October 2020
- Member of Governance & Risk Committee



Jennifer's professional experience over 30 years has been in supporting vulnerable children and their teachers in the disability sector in Education in a teaching role and working with vulnerable adults and adolescents as a clinical counsellor in both private practice and for a non-profit organisation. Jenn also lectured in Family Systems Theory for Tabor College, Hobart. Jenn was an active volunteer for Scripture Union for many years, as well as in her local church, and has served on the Board of a non-profit organisation.

Pre-retirement Jenn worked in the safeguarding children's role in the Tasmanian Anglican Diocese.

Rev. Kevin Keegan

Grad.Cert.NFP Management; Grad. Dip. Th, B.Th, TAE40110 Cert IV Training & Assessment, Cert.Ministry Consultancy, Cert.Ordination

- Appointed Director 9 February 2015
- Member of Prayer, Engagement and Fundraising Committee



Kevin is the CEO/National Director of FEBC Australia and an Member of FEBC International. An ordained Baptist minister with qualifications in theology, non-profit management, consultancy and training. Kevin has 25 years of senior church leadership/pastoral experience and fourteen years mission leadership experience. Kevin brings leadership, strategy, theological thinking, cross-cultural awareness and mission experience to this position. His practical and insightful acumen, along with witty and outgoing personality makes for healthy Board functioning and interaction.

Dr Judy Louie

PhD(Acc), MBus(Acc), Grad.Dip(Acc), BSc, CPA

- Appointed Director 23 October 2016
- Member of Finance & Audit Committee



Judy has more than 20 years of knowledge and experience in accounting and information technology. She completed her PhD degree in accounting. She was previously a lecturer in accounting at La Trobe University for 11 years and a lecturer in information technology at Sunway University in Malaysia for 4 years. Judy is a CPA and has strong industry background, having worked in an accounting firm, a religious institution and non-profit organisations for more than 11 years. She had served for 7 years as a leader in Navigators, a University Christian student group, to help meet the various needs of students from overseas.

Dr Angeline Low

PhD, M Mgt, B.Econ (Hons), MAICD

- Appointed Director 25 June 2018
- Chair of International Programs Committee
- Member of Finance & Audit Committee



Angeline has more than 30 years on the Board of Directors in international charity and development organisations. Her significant Board appointments include Family Planning NSW, Northern Sydney Area Health Service, ChildFund Australia and Action on Poverty. In addition, she has many years of professional and business experience. Angeline's last corporate appointments were as a Partner of Deloitte Malaysia and Director of Asia-Pacific Consulting in Deloitte Sydney. On an international level, Angeline is an active participant and speaker in various international engagements on gender, leadership and economic inclusion of women. She had been the guest of the European Union, the OECD and the ILO on a number of occasions to deliberate on gender issues in entrepreneurship and in senior management. She holds a PhD in entrepreneurship research. Today Angeline manages her private investments and spends the rest of her time in philanthropic work.

Dr Mark Morley

BA (Arabic), BComm, MInt'lBus, SJD (Law).

- Appointed Director 27 September 2021
- Chair of Prayer, Promotion & Fundraising Committee



Mark has a strong consulting background, and extensive experience in Australia and abroad. He was a senior diplomat in Egypt and Saudi Arabia, and then in India, Bangladesh and Pakistan, and has worked at Regional Development Victoria and Telstra in executive roles. Mark holds a Bachelor of Commerce, a Bachelor of Arts in Arabic, a Master of International Relations, and a doctorate in law at Monash University, on Islamism and its influence on Christian minorities in Pakistan. Mark has also published a book on the subject. Mark currently works on a consultancy basis with an international not-for-profit agency in leadership development and serves as an independent director at Bendigo Community Health Services (BCHS), Regional Partnerships Victoria, and the Anglican Diocese of Bendigo (and its subsidiary arms: Bencourt and New Horizons). Mark calls Bendigo home and was raised in regional Victoria and in Melbourne. He is married to a clinician, has had four children, and worships at Holy Trinity Anglican Church in Bendigo.

Dr Colin Martin

**GAICD, MB.BS, DRANZCOG,
Grad.Dip. FM, MPH&TM, FRACGP
General Medical Practitioner (Retired)**

- Appointed Director 12 July 2012
- Member of Prayer, Engagement and Fundraising Committee
- Member of International Programs Committee
- Member of the TLM International Board since 2019 Member of the TLM Timor Leste Board (as Global Fellowship Representative) since 2019



Colin practised as a rural procedural GP and practice administrator for 35 years, with a focus on people in need. He retired from practice in June 2016. His field work experience in Nepal over a period of 12 months, from 2009-2019, allowed him to develop an understanding of the problems and issues facing that country in the implementation of leprosy related services and programs. He has also been able to see the work of The Leprosy Mission Australia and its partners in Papua New Guinea, Timor-Leste, India, and Thailand.

Fifi Rashando

**MBA (IntBus), GradDipMin,
BA (English Literature)**

- Appointed Director 25 June 2018
- Member of International Programs Committee



Fifi is the Director of Sustainability Development Services (SDS), providing consulting services and end-to-end project management in ESG, impact investing, and/or sustainable development services to organisations in the public, private, and social sectors.

Fifi is a member of Australian Institute of Company Directors and holds a Strategic Leadership for Inclusive Finance certificate from Harvard Business School, as well as an MBA in International Business from University of Wollongong.

She has over 20 years of governance, management, and consulting experience in inclusive finance, ESG, impact investment, international development, and humanitarian sectors. She has contributed towards the growth of reputable organisations to build inclusive economies, ensuring participation of marginalised people including women and people with disabilities.



Staff and National Council Members
at the National Conference 2022

Thanks

Our thanks go to the following members who stepped down from the Board during the financial year:

- Steve Meredith – Board Chair (resigned October 2022)
- Shivani Singh (resigned March 2023)

The Leprosy Mission Australia is one of 29 member countries which make up the Global Fellowship of the international organisation of The Leprosy Mission. Each country has the same vision — a world without leprosy — but works to fulfil this vision in different ways. We are part of a worldwide organisation with over 1,700 staff with almost 150 years of experience in working with leprosy in over 30 countries worldwide.

The member countries include both Supporting Countries (those that raise funds for projects overseas) and Implementing Countries (those that receive TLM funds for use in TLM projects). Some countries, while implementing projects, are also raising money in country. Currently, India is the Implementing Country with the largest number of TLM projects.

Australia, a Supporting Country, focuses its work on funding projects in Nigeria, Timor Leste, Nepal, and India. It also supports leprosy work through other organisations in Indonesia and Nepal.

National Council General Members

Grace Asten
(resigned 8/3/2023)
Warwick Britton
Jennifer Cavanough
Paul de Mare
Peter Geddes
Kevin Keegan
Stephen Lockrey
Judy Louie
Angeline Low
Colin Martin
Steven Meredith
Mark Morley
Pam Packett
Fifi Rashando
Chrisy Savvides
Denise Scott
Shivani Singh
Margaret Thompson
(resigned 2022 AGM)
Adam Walker
Jennifer Ward

National Council State Representatives

NEW SOUTH WALES
Sally Martin
Janet Walmsley

QUEENSLAND
Lyn Backhouse
(resigned 2022 AGM)

Derek Hume
Judy Satish

SOUTH AUSTRALIA
Kathrine Jaeschke
David Marshman
Jenny Marshman

TASMANIA
Margaret Mead

VICTORIA
Joe Bast
Maria Bast

WESTERN AUSTRALIA
Heather Newton

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CHAIR
Steven Meredith
(resigned 2022 AGM)
Jennifer Ward
(elected Chair 2022 AGM)

DEPUTY CHAIR
Adam Walker

FINANCE DIRECTOR
Paul de Mare

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE
OFFICER**
Sheldon Rankin

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Margery Bonsor
Tom Broderick
Stuart Brown
Martry Cole
Robert Cole
Russell Conway
Jenny Davis
Ron Dawes
Barry Edwards
Ken Martin
Shirley Martin
Barbara Maxwell
Joan Moulton
Pam Packett
Jean Porteous
Murray Sandland
Jan Saunders
Margaret Schneebeli
Denise Scott
Audrey Sheffield
Heather Smith
Trevor Smith
Anne Steed
Jack Torrance
Janet Torrance
Grace Warren
Peter Warren
Ruth Wheatley

The Leprosy Mission Australia

ABN: 52 354 004 543

Independent Audit Report to the members of The Leprosy Mission Australia

Opinion

The summary financial statements, which comprise the summary statement of financial position as at 30 June 2023, the summary income statement and summary statement of changes in equity for the year then ended are derived from the audited financial report of The Leprosy Mission Australia for the year ended 30 June 2023.

In our opinion, the accompanying summary financial statements are consistent, in all material respects, with the audited financial report.

Summary Financial Statements

The summary financial statements do not contain all the disclosures required by the Australian Accounting Standards – Simplified Disclosures and the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*. Reading the summary financial statements and the auditor's report thereon, therefore, is not a substitute for reading the audited financial report and the auditor's report thereon. The summary financial statements and the audited financial report do not reflect the effects of events that occurred subsequent to the date of our report on the audited financial report.

The Audited Financial Report and Our Report Thereon

We expressed an unmodified audit opinion on the audited financial report in our report dated 25 September 2023.

Directors' responsibility for the Summary Financial Statements

The directors are responsible for the preparation and presentation of the summary financial statements.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on whether the summary financial statements are consistent, in all material respects, with the audited financial report based on our procedures, which were conducted in accordance with Auditing Standard ASA 810 Engagements to Report on Summary Financial Statements.



Saward Dawson



Peter Shields
Partner

Blackburn

Date: 27 September 2023

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FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Finance overview for the financial year ending 30 June 2023

The Leprosy Mission Australia (TLMA) achieved a surplus for the year of \$356,716 (2022: \$392,602 which includes a non-monetary gain adjustment of \$110,955 (2022: loss of \$125,287) to reflect its Financial Assets at its fair value at year end.

We have raised \$7,866,848 in total revenue through our faithful and generous donors who have supported us in donations, bequest gifting and buying merchandise from our shop, which also included a grant of \$1,410,005 from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Revenue had increased 6% against last year.

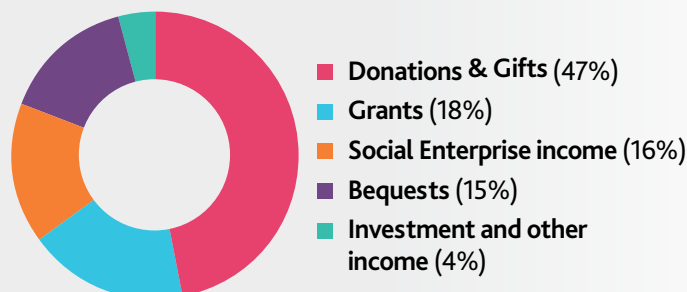
This financial year, the Company increased its support to international projects by \$209,605 to six countries – India, Indonesia, Nepal, Nigeria, PNG, Timor Leste. Due to the increased funding, we were able to spend \$2,938,210 (2022: \$2,689,312) on program implementation and \$944,491 (2022: \$840,983) in community education. This has enabled our project partners to provide aid to help people affected by leprosy and disabilities.

Our overall financial health

We are thankful that the financial health of the Company is sound with a strong balance sheet (as summarised in the Statement of Financial Position) with net assets of \$11,820,026 including cash equivalents of \$2,823,313 and financial assets of \$2,877,539 which are ungeared and actively managed using specialist advice to achieve long term market growth with competitive returns.

Our financial objectives in 2023-24 are to focus on building and sustaining the Company's capacity to meet our project commitments and operations. In these uncertain and challenging times, we will keep a tight control on non project expenditure to maximise effective use of resources. Together with our supporters and partners, we will defeat leprosy and transform lives affected by leprosy.

Revenue Source – FY2023



Source: Audited TLMA Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2023, amounts are in Australian Dollars

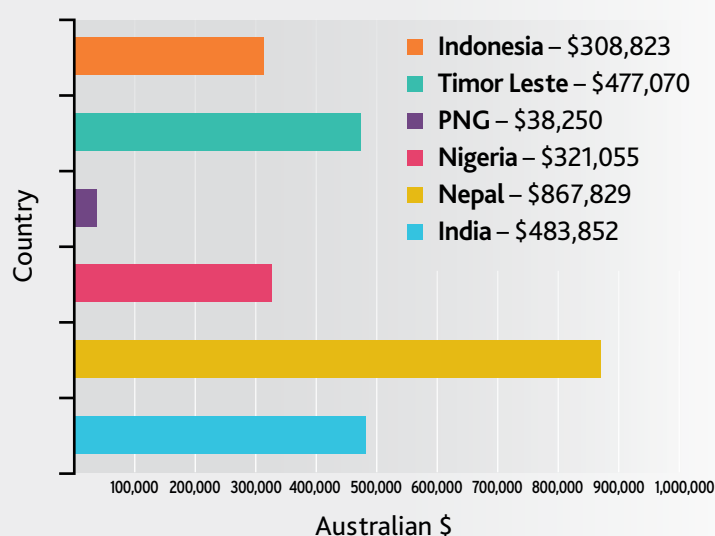
Our Spend – FY2023



Source: Audited TLMA Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2023, amounts are in Australian Dollars

The charts represent our income and expenditure as a proportion of the totals. Each category is adapted from the summary financial statements within this report and is based on the definitions approved in the ACFID Code of Conduct.

Remittance by Country



Source: Audited TLMA Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2023, amounts are in Australian Dollars.

Statement of Income and Expenditure

For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

Amounts shown in Australian Dollars.

REVENUE	2023	2022
Donations & Gifts		
Monetary	3,660,217	3,648,121
Bequests and Legacies	1,181,879	1,101,261
Grants		
• DFAT	1,410,005	1,156,922
Commercial Activities Income	1,272,525	1,426,621
Investment Income	325,857	1,493
Other Income	16,365	61,724
TOTAL REVENUE	7,866,848	7,396,142

EXPENDITURE	2023	2022
International Aid and Development Programs Expenditure		
International Programs		
• Funds to International Programs	2,496,879	2,287,274
• Program Support Costs	441,331	402,038
Community Education Costs	944,491	840,983
Fundraising Costs		
• Public	962,640	944,486
• Government, Multilateral and Private	8,069	8,207
Accountability and Administration	743,789	689,348
Total International Aid and Development Programs Expenditure	5,597,199	5,172,336
International Political or Religious Adherence Promotion Programs Expenditure	84,082	73,439
Commercial Activities Expenditure	1,795,571	1,718,913
Other Expenditure	33,280	38,852
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	7,510,132	7,003,540
SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR	356,716	392,602

These summary financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the requirements set out in the ACFID Code of Conduct. For further information on the Code, please refer to the ACFID website www.acfid.asn.au. For a copy of The Leprosy Mission Australia (TLMA) full audited financial statements or further information, please contact our team on 1800 537 767 or visit our website www.leprosymission.org.au

Statement of Financial Position

As at 30 June 2023

Amounts shown in Australian Dollars.

ASSETS	2023	2022
Current Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	2,823,313	2,528,621
Trade and other receivables	70,689	93,480
Inventories	353,279	343,389
Financial assets	2,877,539	2,681,769
Other assets	85,894	298,940
Total Current Assets	6,210,714	5,946,199
Non-current Assets		
Right-of-use assets	540	7,030
Property, plant and equipment	6,033,453	6,076,787
Intangible assets	52,023	86,849
Total Non-Current Assets	6,086,016	6,170,666
TOTAL ASSETS	12,296,730	12,116,865

LIABILITIES	2023	2022
Current Liabilities		
Trade and other payables	178,330	339,668
Borrowings	—	10,000
Short-term provisions	281,157	269,023
Lease liability	573	6,763
Total Current Liabilities	460,060	625,454
Non-Current Liabilities		
Long-term provisions	16,644	27,528
Lease liability	—	573
Total Non-Current Liabilities	16,644	28,101
TOTAL LIABILITIES	476,704	653,555
NET ASSETS	11,820,026	11,463,310

EQUITY	2023	2022
Reserves	6,761,657	6,761,657
Retained earnings	5,058,369	4,701,653
TOTAL EQUITY	11,820,026	11,463,310

Statement of Changes in Equity

For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

Amounts shown in Australian Dollars.

2023	RETAINED EARNINGS	ASSET REVALUATION RESERVE	TLMA INVESTMENT FUND	TOTAL
Balance at 1 July 2022	4,701,653	5,637,237	1,124,420	11,463,310
Surplus for the year	356,716	—	—	356,716
BALANCE AT 30 JUNE 2023	5,058,369	5,637,237	1,124,420	11,820,026

2022	RETAINED EARNINGS	ASSET REVALUATION RESERVE	TLMA INVESTMENT FUND	TOTAL
Balance at 1 July 2021	4,309,051	5,637,237	1,124,420	11,070,708
Surplus for the year	392,602	—	—	392,602
BALANCE AT 30 JUNE 2022	4,701,653	5,637,237	1,124,420	11,463,310

Jesus said:

"The Spirit of the Lord is on me because He has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour."

Amen.

THE MODERN SLAVERY ACT

The Leprosy Mission Australia is committed to adhering to the standards of the Modern Slavery Act.

There are more slaves in the world today than at any time in the past. The 2023 Global Slavery Index states that globally an estimated 50 million individuals are subject to conditions of modern slavery*. In 2018 the Australian government adopted the Modern Slavery Act (No.153) to join other nations around the world in the effort to eliminate slavery. Under current regulatory standards, The Leprosy Mission Australia is not required to submit a statement but has chosen to do so voluntarily since 2020.

Staying true to our commitment to following Jesus Christ, The Leprosy Mission Australia does not want to see people trapped in slavery. We choose to be an active participant in preventing slavery in all aspects where it may intersect with our organisation.

The Leprosy Mission acknowledges that several regions that we support through our programmatic partnerships are in high-risk areas for modern slavery, and The Leprosy Mission Shop, which in essence seeks to provide artisans in underprivileged situations with sustainable incomes, also faces risks of modern slavery in its supply chains.

Over the last 12 months, since opportunities to travel have returned post COVID, several site visits have been made to our suppliers and artisans in high-risk locations including Nepal, India, Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh. Following



One of our producers at work making a body scrubber out of hemp

up on information provided through our ongoing Supplier Self-Assessments, we have been able to discuss issues of modern slavery with suppliers to continue to mitigate the risks in our own supply chains.

Closer to home, in Australia, we acknowledge the risk areas we engage with including subcontracting cleaners, mail-houses, and our share investments. When reviewing our suppliers, we ensure that we are engaging with companies that are aware of their modern slavery obligations. In the last 12 months, we have engaged with a cleaning contractor that specifically empowers people who are seeking asylum to become financially independent.

As The Leprosy Mission Australia undertakes action to mitigate the risks of modern slavery in its supply chain, we are aware that this is a continuing process and will continue to work towards eliminating modern slavery in our areas of impact. The Modern Slavery Statement will be available on The Leprosy Mission website after submission.

Sheldon Rankin

Sheldon Rankin
Chief Executive Officer



*FairSupply, Time to Act: An Overview of the 2023 Global Slavery Index & Modern Slavery Reporting Regimes, May 2023

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