

Object of various debates. Is Leprosy Eliminated!?

The debate continues despite the fact - the project is over:

The community including policy makers could only take the word "Eliminated" into consideration (not realizing the catch /definition behind the statement mentioning that leprosy is no longer a public health problem), considered that all is over and need not worry about leprosy any more.

There are volumes of communication going on - challenging and debating about the results of Elimination strategy: Let the concerned department's debate, while we as common man have a responsibility - "Share the feelings - which means love" as said by our Roul Follereau .

We need not only participate in the debate or thrive to provide comforts for our beloved persons suffering due to leprosy but most important is, making small efforts to minimise their sufferings and misery made by we people!

We hear from many asking us isn't "Leprosy gone down!" for which I look search down and down and down and never found it!

Look around instead -we will find leprosy - people affected due to leprosy are still there—let us continue our mission with our vision.....wipe their tears and help them to access what they were denied "Their Rights" . Eliminated or not !
The Elimination project is over ..more details in the next issue

.....

Common man you will be able to understand better than.....for a start shall we try making people understand and feel not use the 5letter word "L" (Lep**).

Speak simple, like a simple common Man , for simple common people.

Sorrow in Italy: L'Aquila earthquake

The 2009 L'Aquila earthquake that occurred in the central Italian region of Abruzzo, Italy on 6 April 2009, it caused damage to between 3,000 and 11,000 buildings in the medieval city of L'Aquila Several buildings collapsed. About 297 people were killed Around 66,000 people were made homeless.. Restlessness and sufferings persist .

This is the news we hear and our feelings of sorrow go for all the persons affected there.

With sorrow and grief : Editor

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We will be very pleased and happy to have your contributions , which would help us to know about happenings around, sharing and learning from experiences – Keeping in touch
Thanking you : Amici news lines.



A letter from our AIFO President



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Bologna 17/11/2008
Prot: PE/FO/fv 628

Bologna 17/11/2008
Dear Jose,

This is a very unfortunate letter we have to write to you all and for that reason we need your full co-operation and understanding.

As you may know the financial/economic situation world wide is seriously recessionary. Italy as well as other European countries is experiencing a progressive recession and this falls back immediately upon donations which, this years, have dropped frantically.

AIFO, to face this situation, has to take some unpleasant steps and cut down budgets.

In other words, we will be in no position to grant budgets deliberations for the years to come. The best we hope we can do, will be to grant a part of the yearly budget required by your project and leave the remaining part as a common objective.

That means we have to find **common strategies, common methodologies and common fund raising activities.**

That means we have to find common strategies, common methodologies and common fund
We are partners and, as partners, we think we must reciprocate help in case of need. This is the moment for you to help us, sure that together we can win.
So, we ask you a big step forward, think positive and be actively responsible of your future, creatively searching, as we do here, ways and funds to implement all the activities that AIFO cannot grant you.

There is no other way to face it and we apologize to come to such an abrupt solution, we wouldn't have possibly done it if avoidable.

Sure of your kind comprehension and at your disposal for any clarification or suggestion you think will be usefully done it if avoidable.

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Very warm regards,

Dr Francesco Colizzi
AIFO President

Associazione Italiana Amici di Raoul Follereau

Organizzazione per la Cooperazione Sanitaria Internazionale

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Riconosciuta ufficialmente dalla Organizzazione Mondiale della Sanità (OMS)

Membro: Volontari nel mondo - FOCSIV - ILEP - International Leprosy Federation - Cercle de Solidarité Follereau - Damien - IDDC - International Development Disability Consortium
Riconosciuta giuridicamente con D.P.R. n. 561 del 03/07/1979 - Organizzazione Non Governativa (ONG) idonea ad operare nei Paesi in via di Sviluppo con Decreto M.A.E. del 2/02/78
Considerata ONLUS, art. 10 c. 8 D. Lgs 460/97.

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During difficult times very specially and specifically with effects of global recession, and/or sometimes when mistakes are made may reflect badly on our system. , We shall over come with common strategies, common methodologies and common fund sharing ,raising, spending activities - for improved quality of life of all persons affected.....

We do understand the present situation globally ,which affects all of us. But we are positive to deal with the present crisis. Certainly we shall not demand from AIFO that we must be given our due .In this condition as you have called for corporate responsibility we too feel the same .We assure you that we shall go out of our way to help in whatever we can to help to tide over the present situation of economic crisis.

This crisis also has made us to think seriously about the sustainability locally .We hope that creative solutions will be made to face the grim situation.

*I close this letter assuring our support and prayers,
Fr.Vincent Crasta sj
Project Executive,*

While taking the opportunity to thank Fr. Vincent Crasta, for his kind and encouraging words, I would also like to thank all our partners who had personally called me to assure that they will not compromise with care for all the persons affected and would provide to them all the best they can have for them, and since the sufferings do not compromise with recession effects, we all need to have a focused attention all the time. I would like to take your words and support to our President and all those good hearts in Italy willing to share their love with us.

Thanking you all

Mr. M. V. Jose.
Representative AIFO.
Bangalore



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Bangladesh:



Bangladesh Visit: 15th to 20th November 2008.

Mr.M.V.Jose and Dr.N.Manimozhi made a visit to Bangladesh to review our project activities at Khulna. A very good progress is been made by the project specially towards tuberculosis. Keeping in view of AIFO's commitment towards leprosy discussions were held to focus and back on to leprosy. Our Pine Sisters and their dedicated staff need a lot of praise and appreciation for their commitment. A Leprosy re-orientation programme was felt necessary and was conducted along with suggestions to improve quality leprosy services from the project.

A talk with participants from the Red Crescent Khulna, a little more about leprosy and its effects specially in relation to disabilities and deformities



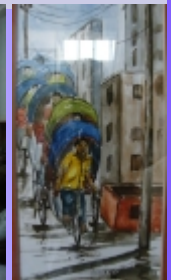
Health education programme with support from the women:

Women's strength: Charavathi Handicraft centre where nearly about 150 women are benefited socio-economically. They show keen interest to know about health and disease issues. The show keen interest in knowing facts about leprosy.



Spiritual touch to the NLEP at Imam Training Academy Khulna.

Mr. Md. Omar Farook, training coordinator helped in organizing the health education Programme (leprosy). The participants agreed to provide spiritual support to all persons affected by leprosy and bring them back into the main stream within the community. Mr. Khan Administrator, takes keen interest in these activities



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We need to make our own indicators to measure our sufferings and happiness.

**Does recessions , and its global effects concern to Us.
Our life in our hands.....difficult times ahead!**



Workshop for Programme Manager's : LEPROSY.

WHO organized a workshop for Programme Managers at ALERT Ethiopia for the African regions- May 2008. Our Dr. P.L Joshi India National Programme manager, DDG (L), Mr. Doug Soutar ILEP General Secretary, Dr. Manimozhi (AIFO) attended the workshop as observers. Dr. V.K. Pannikar and his team had developed a module which was utilized during this workshop which had learning material and content—just suitable for Programme Managers new to the field of leprosy.



Workshop for State Leprosy Officers Leprosy Eradication Programme for North East States India: Guwahati, 23 – 26 June 2008

Our DDG(L) Dr.P.L.Joshi recognized the need for an orientation training programme in leprosy for the State leprosy Officers of North Eastern States,. ILEP - India responds and a workshop was conducted along with the support from WHO. AIFO coordinated the workshop. The module developed by the WHO was suitably modified and used which made the training programme interesting.

- Most of the State Programme officers had very minimal exposure to the National Leprosy Programme.
- There was participation from the Central Leprosy Division, WHO and ILEP as Participants or Observers
- Guwahati Medical College Dermatology Department had its Head of the Department and Post graduate participation in the programme providing patients for case studies.
- Self evaluation by the participants showed results as more than satisfactory.



Leprosy Rehabilitation Home, and training centre in Boku, Kamrup district Assam: There are about 6 inmates now residing in this facility.

Rajiv Gandhi Leprosy Training Centre was once carrying out training programmes in leprosy and both centres are run by the State Government. Some little effort and support is in need to improve and restart activities.

Dr. Ekka, IAS is the Mission Director of Assam National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), with Dr. Bora as the Programme Officer. The role of AIFO / ILEP was briefed to them in the context of Partnership with NLEP and support. Discussions are held with these important officers seeking priority status for leprosy under NRHM. Medical Coordinator AIFO during his visits to the state ensures to meet them updating the progress. Further efforts took place to involve them in North East States review meeting scheduled to take place in the Union Territory of Andaman Islands

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AIFO Support to Assam /Orissa NLEP



20 to 23rd December: Assam meets Orissa

Exchange programme :

Field visits to observe and experience:

- Leprosy Integrated services at peripheral health units and Primary health Centre
- Referral system and referral centres for quality leprosy services through General System
- Implementation and management of Simplified Information System NLEP
- Reconstructive Surgery services and other activities



Dr. B. Taid, State Leprosy Officer Assam, discussing with the Director of Health Orissa during their visit to Orissa during the exchange programme.

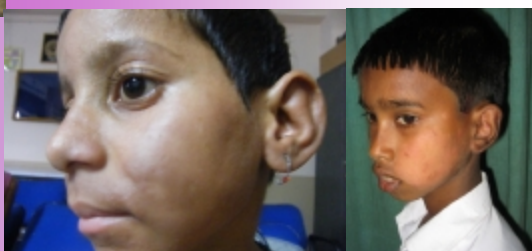


District Nucleus the back bone of leprosy programmes in the Districts:

District of Denkanal in Orissa is supported by AIFO in collaboration with Lepra as the State Coordinators.

- Seen in this picture are Dr.S.N.Pati (ILEP State Coordinator explaining to the visitors from Assam , while Dr.Mohanty the District Nucleus Officer looks on. Dr.Mohanty takes all pride, interest and concern for the People Affected by leprosy. He is known more for his interest to learn more and more about leprosy. An asset to the programme and need to be acknowledged.

- Early and late case finding among children: Assam NLEP plans for result based NLEP activities with support from partners (WHO/ILEP) Lepra and AIFO collaborate their efforts to support NLEP Assam



AIFO special Meet at Bangkok, Thailand:

AIFO projects around the world (with only one sky) had their representatives, coordinators, and others participating in the workshop. It was full of sharing experiences and concern. AIFO special meeting was very crucial during which the members and our President briefed out the present prevailing economic crisis suggesting possibilities to effectively utilize the funds ultimately to provide relief and happiness to the sufferers while the projects take up the challenge and handle the situation efficiently. Ultimately the message was clear—work under pressure and pleasure. Things should change for better.

Long live Roul Folleareau thoughts



CBR and Mental Health were the main topics which went on for discussions and presentations. Experts, facilitators, Programme managers, Persons affected due to various problems , WHO/ILEP members participated in this programme. The workshop/conference was scheduled during 2008 December and had to be postponed due to unavoidable circumstances.

Thank you very much Mr.Marcello Carrozzo, your tips for us about photography during the workshop had helped us a lot, you can see and feel results of your help . He was with us through out the programme ! May be he is also trying to understand Re-Sessions.



Sustained enthusiastic action with unflagging vitality and efforts of Dr.Sunil, his team and friends—CBR workshop could happen in Bangkok, Thailand



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During the CBR, Mental Health and Leprosy workshop– Bangkok, 5 papers were presented by AIFO /India delegation:

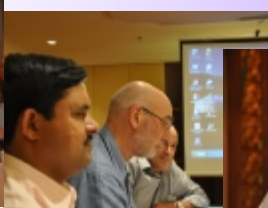
- Mental Health Issues in AIFO supported CBR programme in India and Rights based approach and Disabled people Organizations: Mr. Jayanth CBR Coordinator.
- CBR and Psychosocial disabilities/Mental Health: Dr. Alice Joseph, IMA Cochin.
- Inclusion of people with disability due to leprosy in CBR and vice versa: Mr. Jose M.V. AIFO, India/Bangladesh
- Additional factors of vulnerability among Persons affected by leprosy influencing Integration: Dr.N.Manimozhi Medical Coordinator AIFO



Mr.Jose making his points during discussions



Dr.Sunil



Mr.Jayanth



Ms.Tulgamaa



Mr.Jayanth



Very attentive Dr.Alice and Sr.Leela

Understanding the Role & Impact of CBR in Mandya District of Karnataka a Research Initiative

Dr.Sunil Deepak as a part of research initiative facilitated a meeting of Scientific Advisory Group at AIFO Office, Bangalore on 15th to 17th April 2009. Experts representing different fields attended the meeting to discuss issues related to Community-Based Rehabilitation.

This research initiative is coordinated by A I F O as part of joint work plan along with WHO,DAR, University of Florence along with two CBR projects (SRMAB and MOB) operating in Mandya ,Karnataka state in India



Joined at AIFO Bangalore: Welcome Mr. Nyjil George and Dr.Parthipan Ramasami.
Dr.Parthipan will be operating for the CBR Research Project as Assistant Research Officer.
Mr. Nyjil George will be taking care of Secretarial activities and IT.

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We feel very sad and regret to announce the demise of our dear Fr.Colombo.



He said “Good Bye” to us on 30th August 2009.



We will miss you so much Father Colombo. For many years we have valued the friendship, kindness and thoughtfulness. We will miss your sense of humor and warm smile. We are fortunate to have been able to work along side for so many years. Your beloved persons affected due to leprosy will miss you a lot.....

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