

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Global Forum of People's Organizations on leprosy/Hansen's disease**

#### **Action Plan for capacity-building, development and empowerment of the organizations of persons affected by leprosy/Hansen's disease**

**Bali, July, 2025**

We, the organizations of persons affected by leprosy/Hansen's disease gathered together in Bali on the 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> of July, at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Global Forum of People's Organizations on Hansen's disease facilitated by Sasakawa Leprosy (Hansen's disease) Initiative.

Before coming to Bali, we undertook a needs assessment within our organizations to identify gaps and strategic areas for the further development of our organizations. Based on those findings and the discussions held among us during the 3<sup>rd</sup> Global Forum, we identified the main needs of our organizations, which should be taken into consideration by all stakeholders when working with us, especially in the fields of capacity-building, empowerment and institutional strengthening.

Experience has shown that there won't be zero leprosy without our involvement and participation in program design and implementation. However, for us to effectively contribute to that, our capacities must be enhanced, our voices respected and fully integrated into decision-making. Our autonomy should also be promoted. That is the main problem which this action plan aims at addressing. Our goal is to be able to effectively contribute to change systems in such a way as to free our territories from leprosy and the discrimination associated with it.

Hence, we call upon all stakeholders to recognize our knowledge, realities and necessities as the point of departure for any capacity-building, which should take a bottom-approach and guarantee our right to participation in the design and implementation of same programs. We urge all stakeholders to start by recognizing us as equal partners. That is why, we expect stakeholders to commit to strengthening our organizations and action by designing programs together with us and implementing those before the next International Leprosy Congress. Such programs should respect the necessities we identified and that fall under the following lines:

1. Strengthening collaboration with stakeholders, universities, media, and relevant institutions and connecting us to regional and global networks so we can learn and share experiences;
2. Securing flexible, long-term and sustainable funding (minimum 5 to maximum 10 years) and supporting the development of our strategic plans, which should come with a timeline and benchmarks;
3. Supporting more reliable funding streams and reduce dependence on foreign donors through training on local resource mobilization;
4. Supporting stronger governance and help building advisory boards, clarify roles and plan for smooth leadership succession;
5. Training in leadership (including young people, girls and youth with disabilities), management, fundraising, monitoring and evaluation and digital skills;
6. Training in human rights, advocacy, lobbying and on how to engage with national and international monitoring mechanisms;
7. Mentoring us in writing proposals and in tracking our impact through the development of simple systems to measure and communicate progress;
8. Supporting us to engage in data collection to inform strategic planning and evidence-based advocacy;

9. Supporting the development of simple handbooks or toolkits in local languages so members can understand their rights, but also organizational rules and how to participate actively;
10. Supporting basic infrastructure as many organizations lack office space, connectivity, and equipment.

We count with the Global Forum's Oversight Committee to monitor the efforts taken by leprosy stakeholders to work with us as equal partners and contribute to strengthening our action in our territories with programs that facilitate our access to knowledge and resources. Our expectation and demand are that by the time of the next International Leprosy Congress our organizations will be working in a more effective manner and that our right to participation will be fully ensured by all leprosy stakeholders.