



National Association of Persons Affected by Leprosy Sierra Leone- NAPAL-SL

Responsible Person: Mr. Brima Kpeh

Website:



Supported by



1 Needs Assessment for Persons Affected by Leprosy and their Organization Sierra Leone.

Methods Used:

- Focus Group Discussions in Koinadugu, Masanga, Falaba, Kono, and Makeni
- Moderated by Persons Affected by Leprosy Organization.
- Participatory storytelling and semi-structured interviews



Reach Summary:

- Total Reached: 176 persons affected by leprosy
- Women: 70, Men: 44 Children: 15, Teenagers: 26, Older People: 21
- 89% from rural settings, 11% from urban townships



2 PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH FINDING

- Leprosy medication access is severely limited in all the five districts that we visited.
- No access to rehabilitation services for all PALs in the five districts that we visited.
- Over 50 PALs experienced untreated pain, swelling, or nerve damage
- Many health facilities falsely claim leprosy is extinct and they have no idea of the disease.
- Mental health services are absent in every district assessed
- Emotional distress, shame, and social withdrawal are widespread



3 HUMAN RIGHTS AND DISCRIMINATION FINDINGS

- Over 85% of PALs experienced stigma in the hospitals and clinics
- Discrimination in churches, mosques, markets, and schools
- 60% report being denied access to water, sanitation health facilities
- Family rejection and verbal abuse are common
- No awareness of specific legal protections for leprosy-affected persons



4 LESSONS AND COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS

- Discrimination is deeply rooted in family, religious, and health institutions
- Access to treatment depends on personal connections or payment
- Family and peer support are often the only emotional resources

Recommendations:

- Training health workers in leprosy response and human rights
- Training of the social workers who are working with the people affected organization
- Fund mobile clinics with specialized leprosy care
- Provide psychosocial support via trained mental health workers
- Launch national awareness campaigns to reduce stigma



5 ORGANIZATIONAL NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Methods used:

Executives Meeting with all the representatives from the seven districts

Participants:

Total: 15

- 5 Executives Members
- 3 Executives Board Members
- 6 NAPAL District social workers
- 1 Communication and Media Officer



6 GAPS AND OPPORTUNITIES

- Leprosy communities lacked trained advocates and project managers
- Strong grassroots unity but weak formal partnerships
- Lack of proposal writing skills in the organization
- Lack of management skills for the organization
- Lack of Financial training skills for the organization
- Lack of financial tools
- Lack of reporting skills for the social workers in the field
- Lack of communication tool for reporting
- Great commitment from the district social workers but limited training skill



7 CAPACITY BUILDING RECOMMENDATIONS

- Provide training in proposal and report writing
- Deliver digital literacy and mobile documentation tools
- Conduct peer exchange visits with other countries/regions
- Host legal literacy workshops on rights and protection
- Provide financial training for the organization
- Provide Managerial training for the organization's staff
- Provide reporting tools for the organization
- Provide a financial manual for the organization
- Provide training in stigma and advocacy for the social workers.



8 WISHLIST BEFORE NEXT ILC

- Leprosy-affected women and youth access dignified housing and livelihood
- Persons affected organization should be the front-forward runner
- Person-affected organizations should be strong in supporting their people
- Persons-affected organizations should be financially supported to carry on their activities.
- Persons Persons-affected organizations should be trained in all aspects to be able to carry on their managerial work.
- Free and regular access to leprosy treatment and reaction care
- Professional mental health services available in all treatment districts
- Community-level legal redress mechanisms for discrimination in healthcare
- Recognition of leprosy-related disability rights in national law

