



# Leprosy People Association Sri Lanka

Responsible Person: Mrs Debora – Director LPA -Sri Lanka

website:



facebook:



Supported by



## 1 The Voices from the Grassroots

### Methods:

- Moderated Focus Group Discussions led by persons affected by Hansen's disease
- Community-based participatory surveys



### Reach Summary:

- Total reached: 249people
- Women: 120 / Children: 40 / Teenagers: 35 / Older people: 74
- 82% from rural villages / 12% from urban areas

## 5 ORGANIZATIONAL NEEDS ASSESSMENT

### Methods Used:

- Districts Assembly with regional representatives

### Participants:

- From Anti Leprosy Campaign as guest /observer –
- 01 Dr Dilini Wijayasegara
  - 25 Executive Board members from Districts committees
  - 09 National board members from local self-help groups.
  - Faith leaders -04
  - Media & reporters -02
  - Medical staff -04 ( Anurathpura district only)
- 4facilitator from 04 NGO



## 2 PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH RIGHTS FINDINGS

### Key Results:

- 48 out of 125 had no help with mental health related issues.
- 07 out of 125 said excellent, 12 out of 125 said good, 26 out of 125 said Not respect for these questions, do you think family or community members respect people affected by leprosy?
- 31 out of 125 said excellent, 08 out of 125 said good 55 out of 125 said No role to following question, how do people affected by leprosy distinguish their role in the health system regarding mental health?



## 6 GAPS & OPPORTUNITIES

### Key Findings:

- 1- Leprosy Association Sri Lanka need to establish standardized anti-discrimination guidelines aligned with Sri Lanka's National Human Rights Action Plan.
- 2- Leprosy Association Sri Lanka need Digital Reporting Platform to secure, multilingual mobile/web application for real-time discrimination reporting with geo-tagging capabilities.
- 3- Leprosy Association Sri Lanka need some Specialized Trainers to Certified human rights educators with Sinhala/Tamil bilingual capacity for village-level training
- 4- Leprosy Association Sri Lanka need Legal Support Team
  - On-call attorneys for handling reported discrimination cases (especially for women/PWDs)



## 3 HUMAN RIGHTS & DISCRIMINATION FINDINGS

### Key Results:

- Do you have an Equal Opportunity as Your Peers to Find Work?  
06 out of 87 said No, 02 out of 89 said sometime, 76 out of 89 said Yes.
- Do you face social discrimination in your family or community because you are affected by leprosy?  
62 out of 87 said YES , 25 out of 89 said No,
- Do children affected by leprosy face difficulties attending school because of their condition?  
78 out of 87 said YES , 09 out of 89 said No,
- As a woman affected by leprosy, do you face additional discrimination in areas like marriage or employment?  
62 out of 87 said YES , 25 out of 89 said No,
- Do you contribute to the household economically in a similar way to your peers?  
84 out of 87 said YES , 03 out of 89 said No,



## 7 Capacity Building Programs Recommendations



Leprosy Association Sri Lanka need proposal Writing and English Language Skills Training for Advocacy Work Development

## 4 LESSONS & SOLUTIONS

### Lessons for the World:

- Discrimination is deeply embedded within Sri Lanka's health and social systems.
- Rural women experience the most severe forms of exclusion.
- They face multiple barriers across economic, social and healthcare sectors.
- This systemic marginalization perpetuates cycles of poverty and inequality

### Recommendations:

- Implement Nationwide Community Reporting Systems –
- Establish anonymous, accessible discrimination reporting mechanisms in all 25 districts of Sri Lanka, with:
  - 1- Multilingual hotlines and mobile platforms
  - 2- Dedicated officers at Divisional Secretariats
  - 3- Quarterly public hearings to review cases.
- Mandate Human Rights Training for Frontline Workers
- Conduct certified training programs for all public health staff, social workers, and Grama Niladhari ( officers covering,
  - 1- Rights of marginalized groups (women, PWDs, ethnic/religious minorities)
  - 2- Non-discriminatory service delivery protocols
  - 3- Practical inclusion strategies for rural contexts

## 8 WISHLIST BEFORE NEXT ILC

- 1- Multilingual hotlines and mobile platforms in all districts in Sri Lanka
- 2- Dedicated officers at Divisional Secretariats to deal leprosy patients related problems.
- 3- Quarterly public hearings to review cases.
- 4- Mandate Human Rights Training for Frontline Workers in all divisional office level meetings.
- 5- All district government health officials should know about Rights of marginalized groups (women, PWDs, ethnic/religious minorities)
- 6- Discriminatory legislation against person with affected by leprosy must remove from Sri Lanka's law.
- 7- Collaborative action is needed to address issues faced by persons affected by leprosy. Not only the health department but all relevant departments must work together to implement practical inclusion strategies for rural contexts