



Beneficiaries of AIFO Supported Projects in 2003



Introduction

This report presents a synthesis of persons benefiting from different services offered globally by AIFO supported projects in the world. This report is based on the information collected from different projects for the year 2003.

These numbers can give only a partial idea of impact of the projects supported by AIFO. For each of the significant projects supported by AIFO, there are more detailed specific project reports and sometimes, independent evaluation reports that can be consulted for more information.

The data presented in this report is approximate because of several factors, such as:

- Some beneficiaries may be counted more than once as they may be benefiting from different services of the project. For example, some leprosy affected persons may receive specific anti-leprosy treatment, may also benefit from activities of socio-economic rehabilitation.
- Some beneficiaries may not be counted. For example, for activities like repairs of houses, one beneficiary is calculated while in reality, the actual number of persons benefiting from this activity may be much more.
- Beneficiaries of some activities such as health education are difficult to count.
- At the time of preparing this report, information from some projects or some of their activities was not received.

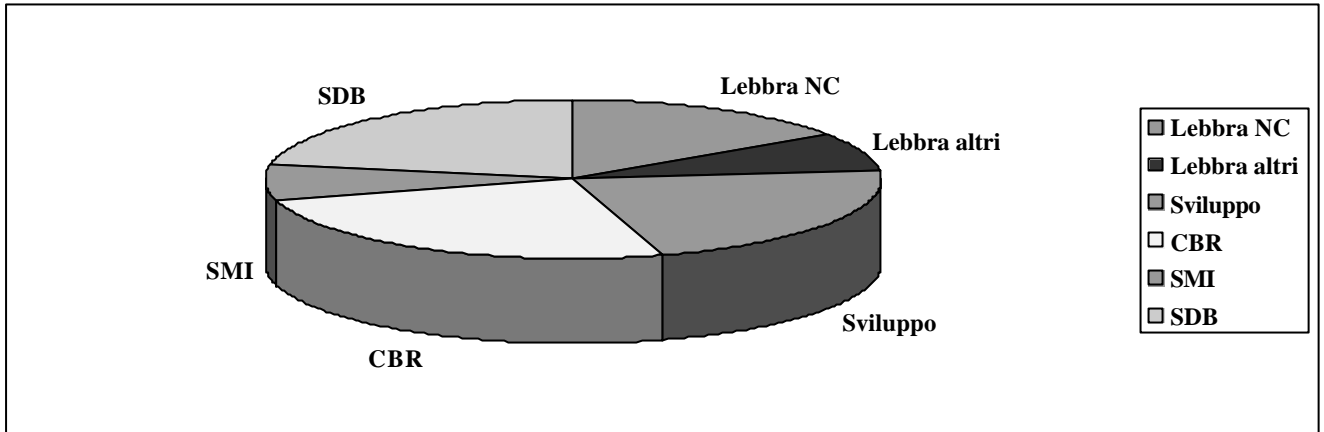
The major activities supported by AIFO through the projects include diagnosis and treatment of leprosy patients, prevention of disabilities, medical rehabilitation and socioeconomic rehabilitation activities related to leprosy affected persons, primary health care activities, community based rehabilitation activities, community development and activities related to vulnerable children.

The fight against leprosy, prevention of disabilities due to leprosy and medical and socioeconomic rehabilitation of persons affected with leprosy is the centre of AIFO's work. Over the past decade, AIFO has been promoting integration of all leprosy related activities in primary health care and community-based rehabilitation, specifically by promoting human rights and community based participatory approaches in which communities and local organizations play a key role.



Dr Enzo Zecchini, Vice President of AIFO, explaining AIFO's fundamental values to partners in Luanda province (Angola)

Beneficiaries of Different Kinds of Interventions Supported by AIFO



Globally, through the project supported by AIFO during 2003, a total of 324,258 persons were benefited in the following manner:

- **New Cases of Leprosy:** 49,573 new cases of leprosy were diagnosed in AIFO supported projects during the year. All these persons were treated with MDT. (in the graph, "**Lebbra NC**")
- **Other Activities related to leprosy:** (in the graph, "**Lebbra altri**") Other leprosy affected persons benefiting from these projects including ex-patients and persons having complications due to leprosy, were 23,013 persons.
- **Development:** (in the graph, "**Sviluppo**") 70,925 persons benefited from development related activities including activities of socio-economic rehabilitation. These include many leprosy affected persons as well.
- **CBR** – Activities of community-based rehabilitation (CBR) reached 82,435 persons.
- **Mother and Child Health** : (in the graph, "**SMI**") – Mother and child health activities through primary health care reached 23,013 persons.
- **Other Primary Health Care activities:** (In the graph, "**SDB**") benefited 72,173 persons.

Beneficiaries of Leprosy Related Activities

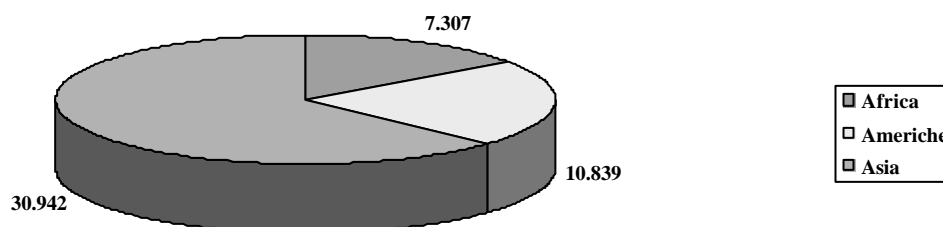


Overall, in projects supported by AIFO, during 2003 a total of 49,573 **new cases of leprosy** were diagnosed. Among them, 25,787 were paucibacillary cases (52%) and 23,786 were multibacillary cases (48%).

Among the new cases, there were 5,334 children (11%), while 1,751 persons (3.5%) had visible disabilities at the time of diagnosis. However, the data about disability among new cases is not complete since in a number of national and state level programmes, such information is not always collected.

Among the 49,573 new cases of leprosy, 485 cases were in projects managed by other ILEP members, to whom AIFO gave some support. The remaining new cases in projects managed directly by AIFO were from the following geographical areas:

Geographical Area	New PB	New MB	Total New	Cases registered for MDT (31.12.03)
Africa	2.505	4.802	7.307	7.186
Latin America	4.786	6.053	10.839	18.198
Asia	18.328	12.614	30.942	24.094



The beneficiaries of other activities linked to leprosy

During 2003, the projects supported by AIFO provided different kinds of care to 24,475 ex-leprosy patients. These included the following specific activities: 1,527 persons admitted for reactions and other complications, 11 persons for reconstructive surgery and 26 persons for ocular surgery. Information about these activities is partial since it is not always collected by national or state level programmes.

In these projects, 293 cases of relapse of leprosy were registered during 2003. Even this data is partial since many projects do not record this information.

Activities of Development & Socio-economic Rehabilitation

The beneficiaries of development and socio-economic rehabilitation activities include persons affected with leprosy, their families and other poor families. During 2004, a total of 70,925 persons benefited from these activities.



Different activities carried out and their respective beneficiaries under Development and Socio-economic Rehabilitation were as follows:

- ✓ Occupational training courses: 1.501 persons
- ✓ Rotating credit funds and other activities aimed at improving economic self-sufficiency: 2.174 persons
- ✓ Loans and contributions for building or repairing houses: 222 houses
- ✓ Informal education courses for adults: 50.733 persons
- ✓ Support for formal education of children: 1.835 children
- ✓ Support for old leprosy affected persons in leprosariums: 7.014 persons
- ✓ Food supplements: 7.446 families

Activities of Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR)

During 2003, the CBR projects supported by AIFO followed 82,435 disabled persons, including 53,643 children (65%) through home visits and training for activities of daily living, prevention of disabilities, construction of mobility aids, etc. These projects are also involved in community development and socio-economic rehabilitation activities, and promote awareness campaigns in communities, along with training of school teachers, community volunteers, health workers, etc.

Community and Primary Health Care Activities



In all the projects supported by AIFO, the Association promotes holistic approaches that look at the persons globally and that promote community health and primary health care activities, integrating the fight against leprosy in integrated programmes.

Activities related to mother and child health: The different activities and their beneficiaries include 11,740 vaccinations, 5,462 ante-natal check-ups, 1,022 assisted child births and treatment for 4,789 persons with anaemia and malnutrition for a total of 23,013 persons.

Other Primary Health Care activities: During 2003, 72,173 persons benefited from these activities in the following manner:

- ❑ Care for tuberculosis patients: During 2003 there were 3.700 new cases of TB, diagnosed and treated in AIFO supported projects, many of them with HIV.
- ❑ Respiratory infections: 8.782 persons
- ❑ Gastroenteritis and Diarrhoea: Together with respiratory infections, diarrhoea is one of the principal causes of infant mortality. During 2003, 7,837 cases of gastroenteritis e diarrhoea were treated in AIFO supported projects.
- ❑ Care of other tropical diseases: These include yellow fever, leishmaniosis, onchocercosis, etc. and in 2003 a total of 465 persons were treated for such diseases.
- ❑ Dermatological diseases: The projects following leprosy patients are usually offering services for other dermatological diseases as well. During 2003, a total of 37,547 persons benefited from these services.
- ❑ Antiretroviral treatment for AIDS patients: In AIFO supported projects, 918 persons received ARV-treatment during 2003. For supporting the WHO initiative of providing ARV treatment to at least 3 million persons by 2005, a number of AIFO supported projects are collaborating with their national governments to extend these services with additional funding support from Global Fund.

- ❑ Malaria: Malaria continues to be one of the leading cause of morbidity and mortality, specially in the sub-Saharan Africa. During 2003, a total of 12,924 persons received anti-malaria treatment in AIFO supported projects.

Conclusions

AIFO has chosen to focus its work on poorest and most vulnerable population groups. In different countries, projects supported by AIFO are in isolated and difficult to access areas. With time, increasingly AIFO supported projects are involved in promoting integrated activities where the fight against leprosy is linked with community health and primary health care activities. During 2003, more than 320,000 persons benefited from the different projects supported by AIFO in the developing world.