




AFRICAN LEPROSY CONGRESS

SYMPOSIUM ON REACHING THE UNREACHED

Moderator: J Kawuma, GLRA



PREAMBLE

- The present leprosy control strategy centers on early case detection and prompt treatment of leprosy with MDT.
- In countries and regions there are pockets of patients that cannot be easily accessed through routine leprosy control programmes.
- Introducing MDT alone, even with claims of high “geographical” coverage did not solve that problem.


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PREAMBLE

- An innovative approach-SAPEL- spearheaded by WHO to provide MDT services to hard to reach population groups recorded some successes.
- LECs to rapidly diagnose and treat cases of consequence also recorded some successes; and some more with repeated LECs.

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PREAMBLE

- BUT number of new cases still high; varying proportions with Gr 2 disabilities.
- CASES HAVE OCCURRED BUT THEY ARE NOT YET DETECTED
Why?
 - with disease and yet to report (not aware, too far, too costly, unwelcome diagnosis, low priority..)

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PREAMBLE

- With disease and have presented but some people **LOOK and DO NOT SEE**.
- How many are the “unreached”? How can we know without reaching?
- THE QUESTIONS?
 - a. Were the SAPEL and LEC done in the past sufficient?
 - b. Should they be repeated?

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PREAMBLE

- c. Should we find other innovative approaches?
- d. If “yes”, which ones?

OR SHOULD WE CONSIDER THIS ADVICE?

- P. Krishnamurthy: *Lepr Rev (04) 75, 303-305: Hidden Leprosy – who is hiding from whom?*
 - “We cannot detect all cases that occur in a community.
 - “we cannot avoid over diagnosis
 - “there will always be undetected or hidden cases
 - “ we should be aware of these
 - “ should not give undue importance to one or the other
 - “ effective MDT service will ensure they are not significant”

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PRESENTATIONS

Chair : Nigeria (*J Cukwu*)

1. An overview of strategies to reach the unreached. (*Landry Bide, WHO/AFRO*)
2. The uneven distribution of leprosy cases in Tanzania .(*Njako B, Tanzania*)
3. Country experiences:
 - a. Ethiopia *Mitiku Ensermu*
 - b. D R Congo *J N Mputu*
 - c. Madagascar *S H Andrianarisoa*
4. General discussion : ALL
5. Summary and lessons learnt.

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And now

is the time to LISTEN
and
to HEAR....

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