



Key Issues in Leprosy control : An ILEP Perspective

Mr Rigo Peeters
ILEP President

17th International Leprosy
Congress, Hyderabad



What is ILEP?

- An international federation of 14 autonomous non-governmental organisations that work together for the common goal of “*a world without leprosy*”



Partnership

- ILEP Promotes and stimulates collaboration with all stakeholders
- Works closely with governments, NGOs and associations of affected people
- Maintains an evidence-based and patient-centred, holistic approach



Achievements of ILEP

- Working in over 80 countries
- Expenditure of over €60million p.a.
- Over €3 million per year on research
- Preventing disability
- Reducing stigma and discrimination
- Restoring dignity



Global Strategy

- Global Strategy for Further Reducing the Leprosy Burden and Sustaining Leprosy Control Activities: 2006 -2010
- Global Strategy: Operational Guidelines



Key Elements

- Maintenance of essential leprosy services
- Emphasis on indicators of New Case Detection and Treatment Completion



Key Elements

- Emphasis on quality targets
- Increased efforts to prevent disability, assist with rehabilitation and fight stigma



Research

Scientific Research remains a vital element of ILEP supported work

- Basic
- Applied
- Operational



Human Rights

Human rights are central to the approach of ILEP Members and much more can be done to make use of legislation :

- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural rights (1966)
- UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities (2007)



Millennium Development Goals

Poverty and leprosy are linked and ILEP promotes broader support to UN development goals, especially those concerning the

- Fight against poverty related disease,
- Promotion of Gender equality, and
- Eradicating extreme poverty and hunger



The Future

- Efforts of ILEP and its partners will need to be strengthened
- Achievements to date must not be allowed to lead to complacency, neglect and eventual re-emergence of leprosy as a major public health problem



New Paradigms for Action

Our future efforts will need to focus on:

- Quality, accessible services at all levels
- Human rights and the participation of those affected
- Tackling both the physical and social consequences of the disease



Take Home Messages

- Clear support for the sustainable and integrated approach of the WHO Global Strategy will be vital.
- Reconfirm political commitment and effective partnerships to sustain effective and quality assured leprosy control.