

Strengthening Leprosy Referral services

GLRA India Implementing a project titled "Niramaya II" comprehensive Leprosy care by strengthening referral services in six secondary and tertiary care hospitals and an urban leprosy program in 4 Indian states (Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu & Telangana). These hospitals are well-recognized centres for Leprosy by the respective district, state and central governments. The project is based on the Hub and Spoke model for end-to-end leprosy care including reconstructive surgeries, management of complications, and physiotherapy besides providing leprosy training for the frontline health workers. Niramaya II project takes a leap forward to strengthen early leprosy case detection, improve treatment adherence and streamline referral and reverse referral mechanisms with local government health facilities for the early referral of leprosy-related complications and their quality management in addition to networking to leverage the public schemes to benefit the target beneficiaries.



Disha continues to support initiatives that drive informed action against TB, moving closer to a healthier and TB-free society.



Awareness for Combating Gender-Based Violence, Barwani, Madhya Pradesh

In a proactive move to address Gender-Based Violence (GBV), GLRA's partner SASSS organized a women's awareness program in a Sindhi village in the Barwani district, Madhya Pradesh. This initiative kicked off by involving the elected Panchayat leaders/ representatives for emphasizing the urgency of countering GBVs and domestic violence and for the communities overall well-being. The discussions were participatory by exchanging life stories and ways for collaborative efforts for reducing GBVs and endorsing gender equality. This successful program established a secure platform such as Panchayat level Protection Committees for reporting, and access to free and fair legal aid. A united commitment emerged, nurturing a safer, more inclusive community and the ongoing awareness programs and preventive actions in two blocks (Pati & Pansemal) in the districts are now pivotal in sustaining these transformative efforts.

Leprosy Awareness Program, Palghar, Maharashtra

Raising awareness about leprosy among children, its sign and symptoms is a need of the hour and GLRA's partner, Dayanand Hospital, Palghar organized a health talk/leprosy screening at ZariAshram School on July 8, 2023. The event aimed to spread knowledge and dispel myths surrounding leprosy. A total of 597 students screened, 3 presumptive cases were identified. Swift action was taken by referring them to Zari Primary Health Center for further evaluation and care. This initiative highlights the importance of early detection and proper medical attention in combating leprosy. DH Palghar's commitment to community well-being is evident in its proactive approach to health education and outreach. Such initiatives serve as a reminder that awareness and early intervention can make a significant difference in improving the lives of those affected by leprosy



NEWS

School Survey Raises Leprosy Awareness, Mumbai, Maharashtra

Vimala Dermatological Centre's (GLRA Partner NGO in Mumbai) recent school survey at Tata Compound Municipal School in Andheri West aimed to raise leprosy awareness. On 8/8/2023, the survey team shared the information with the students and teachers on the signs and symptoms of leprosy, the diagnosis and free-of-cost treatment services by the National Leprosy Eradication Program (NLEP), witnessing their enthusiasm for learning about the disease. Grateful for the school staff's support, we remain devoted to education and medical aid. The survey and health talk resulted in identifying two new child cases of leprosy, reinforcing the need for awareness for early detection and care. As we continue our efforts, we'll closely monitor these cases until the children complete the treatment. Together, we can combat leprosy and foster a healthier future for all.



TB-Free Initiative in Gurugram, Haryana

In support of the GLRA's TB and Lung Health Screening project, under the initiative "It's a FIGHTBACK" campaign, the project team along with the funding partners made a visit to Fauji Colony, a slum near Khoh village in Gurugram. This collaborative effort aimed to combat tuberculosis in the slums through community engagement and with the government health care system. Insights and perspectives were exchanged during the visit, fostering valuable interactions and constructive feedback. This endeavour underscores the commitment to making TB-free India, illustrating the power of partnership in the pursuit of public health goals.



Informative Group Meeting, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh

With the slogan "On the Road to End TB" - Project Nai Disha (New Directions) recently organized a comprehensive group meeting to promote health awareness for truckers, helpers and allied populations in Lucknow. The gathering was aimed at raising awareness about TB, its prevention, and treatment with a focus on symptoms, transmission, and the importance of early detection. The team shared insights on TB's impact on personal life, well-being of the family and public health strategies including preventive therapies for eliminating the disease. The event fostered a collaborative atmosphere, encouraging attendees to spread knowledge in their communities. Project Nai



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NLEP Review Meeting & Training Workshop, Madhya Pradesh

Madhya Pradesh State Government in collaboration with Central Leprosy Division has organized a NLEP Review Meeting & training workshop for the district leprosy officers in Indore, Madhya Pradesh on 6th and 7th July 2023. This event marked a significant step towards advancing leprosy elimination efforts and strengthening healthcare systems across MP state. The workshop had a series of engaging training sessions aimed at enhancing the capabilities of District Leprosy Officers on various topics including an overview of NLEP, National Strategic Plan 2023-2027, early detection and prevention, healthcare system strengthening, and data digitalization (Nikusht 2.0). On behalf of GLRA India, Dr Srilekha Penna (ILEP India Coordinator) and Dr Debajit Sarkar (Medical Advisor) were invited to this workshop as expert trainers to provide insights into the topics of the meeting. This 2-day meeting provided a unique networking opportunity for state and district Leprosy Officers, experts from CLD, WHO, and ILEP members. Collaborative discussions, brainstorming sessions, and interactive workshops facilitated the exchange of ideas and experiences, fostering a sense of unity in the mission to eliminate leprosy from India.



Leprosy Case Detection Campaign Monitoring Visit to Tamil Nadu



Leprosy Case Detection Campaign was conducted in the state of Tamil Nadu between 17th July 2023 to 1st August 2023 for promoting early case detection and treatment to prevent further transmission of Leprosy. In this regard, to strengthen and monitor the LCDC activities in the state, Dr Srilekha Penna (ILEP India Coordinator – GLRA India) and Dr Lily Gangmei (Chief Medical Officer, Central Leprosy division) visited Tamil Nadu as Central Monitors from Central Leprosy Division. The central monitors visited various villages (door-to-door visits), Primary and secondary healthcare centres, tertiary care hospitals, and medical colleges in a total of 5 districts (Madurai, Virudhunagar, Tenkasi, Thirunelveli, and Kanyakumari). Several meetings were conducted with key stakeholders including community members, non-medical supervisors, medical officers, professors, dermatologists, DLOs, and SLO on discussing the need for active case detection approaches and providing PEP to contacts. A final review and feedback meeting was organized on the last day of the visit with DLOs from 21 districts to disseminate the findings from LCDC monitoring.

Empowering Health Heroes: Yogendra Singh's Dedication

Mr Yogendra Singh Shaktawal is an enthusiastic force in GLRA India's team in the Mandsaur district, Madhya Pradesh. He firmly believes in empowering frontline health workers for the effective implementation of National health programs. His "Triple AAA Approach" involves engaging ASHA, Anganwadi, and ANM - the grassroots health heroes. Not stopping there, he's also guiding Community Health Workers (CHOs) to tackle TB through the National TB Elimination Program (NTEP) and leveraging Village Health Committees for a "TB Mukta Panchayat" that educates communities about TB elimination. Recognized as a "District TB Warrior" by District NTEP, Mr Singh's outstanding efforts exemplify grassroots health empowerment for a healthier nation.



CASE STORY

A Journey of Recovery and Resilience

In the face of adversity, a story of victory emerges. Diagnosed with leprosy, I embarked on a quest for healing that reach over various hospitals and treatments. When everything failed, my fingers started crippling and my hopes drips, I discovered Sivananda Rehabilitation Home (SRH) in Hyderabad. Through the care I received, my hopes returned. Continues physiotherapy and surgeries breathed new life into my hands and legs. Today, I stand tall, fully recovered, and ready to conquer challenges new. With gratitude to the compassionate hearts at Sivananda, I now embrace a future bright with possibilities, including pursuing my degree's final year exams.



SPECIAL DAY

World Lung Cancer Day 2023

World Lung Cancer Day is observed on August 1, 2023, and rallies medical experts, researchers, and advocates to spotlight the ongoing global struggle against lung cancer. This collaborative effort seeks to highlight the disease's prevalence, risk factors, and preventative steps. Given its status as a major contributor to cancer-related fatalities worldwide, the day underscores the significance of early detection and treatment advancements. Through educational initiatives and community engagement, World Lung Cancer Day empowers people to make informed choices about their lung health, fostering a planet where the disease's impact is minimized.

This year, the focus is on a vital theme: forging a healthier future by quitting smoking and tobacco. By collectively championing lung cancer prevention through heightened awareness, we tackle the root cause of the problem: tobacco use. This World Lung Cancer Day, let's join forces to disseminate the message that quitting is attainable. Through awareness-raising, resource provision, and unwavering support for those on the path to tobacco cessation, we can significantly curb lung cancer rates.

Let's unite to nurture lung health and overall well-being universally.

Article by Ms Shabinda Rahman

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GLRA INDIA

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Account No: 1345967218
Bank Name: KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK
IFSC Code: KKBK0000469
Branch: Block Q-100, Plot No 3698, 3rd Avenue, Anna Nagar, Chennai 600040, Tamil Nadu

Designed and Curated by Shabinda Rahman- Communications & PR Officer
(with the support from Communication Department - Ms Geetanjali Kaushik -
Manager PR & Communications and Ms. Nameera Nawaz Khan -
Communications & PR Officer)

