

## Today 600 people will be diagnosed with leprosy, more than 50 of these will be children.

### Devastating impact

Evidence shows **over 3 million** people are living with undiagnosed leprosy and **over 4 million** people are living with a life-changing disability caused by leprosy. Although **curable**, many people are unable to access treatment, even though the cure is free. Lepra works to **find, treat and rehabilitate** these hidden people and promote their rights in India, Bangladesh, Mozambique and Zimbabwe.



### Discrimination

Due to misunderstanding, lack of information and incorrect beliefs, **people affected by leprosy can experience severe discrimination and prejudice** when they show symptoms, or when a diagnosis is confirmed. The consequences can be devastating; people are often shunned by their community or even their own family, they may lose their livelihoods and they can even experience thoughts of suicide. They are left to endure a lifetime of abuse, isolation and shame. During the difficult times of the Covid-19 crisis, so many of us in the UK can resonate with such feelings of isolation with social distancing measures we are experiencing; though this is hopefully a relatively short term restriction compared to that of a leprosy sufferer for whom isolation may last a lifetime.



### Lives changed

The lives of many people have been changed thanks to the generosity of supporters like you. In the 96 years since our founding we have helped millions of people affected by Neglected Tropical Diseases such as leprosy. There is now a cure for leprosy, however with prejudice, discrimination and a lack of healthcare and resources not everyone can receive this in time to prevent disabilities. As health services in the countries we work in have closed during the Covid-19 outbreak, we are stepping in wherever we can and will continue to fight prejudice and discrimination against those affected by leprosy who may also be affected by Covid-19. We are supplying appropriate medications such as MDT (multi drug therapy) and steroids and providing emergency food supplies to those in dire need. Due to the importance of Covid-19 testing, with help from our supporters we have purchased a PCR machine for our Blue Peter Public Health and Research Centre in Hyderabad, India as well as provision of a similar testing machine for use in the many rural communities we work with.



### You can make a difference

Our mission is to beat leprosy – so that all cases are easily diagnosed and treated and leave no disability or discrimination. We are working towards a day when leprosy no longer destroys lives; **with your support we can achieve this sooner.**

Please help us **beat leprosy** – even the smallest contribution can help treat and rehabilitate people trapped by this disease. <https://donate.lepra.org.uk/LepraDonate>

