



**BREAKING THE
INTERGENERATIONAL
CYCLE OF LEPROSY**



INDIA ACCOUNTS FOR

60%

OF NEW LEPROSY CASES IN THE WORLD.

THEREFORE, UNLESS INDIA DELIVERS, THE WORLD WILL NEVER BE FREE OF LEPROSY!

LEPROSY IN INDIA: A LONG WAY TO GO

Leprosy, which was declared eradicated in India one-and-a-half decades ago, has re-emerged in different states, with high intensity.

Health officials and activists celebrated 13 years ago, when India announced that leprosy had been 'eliminated' as a public health concern. However, alarm bells rang out as the Central Leprosy Division of the Health Ministry reported that 135,485 new leprosy cases were detected in India in 2017.

India has the highest number of new leprosy cases in the world. Every year, over 200,000 cases are detected globally and India accounts for 60% of these, according to the World Health Organization.

Yet according to experts in the field, India could have twice as many leprosy cases as reported, even up to four times, considering many people never present for diagnosis.

When India's fight against leprosy stagnates, so does progress towards a leprosy-free world.



THE STIGMA OF LEPROSY

Leprosy is the oldest disease known to man - the earliest written records describing true leprosy came from India around 600 BC. The fear of leprosy is primarily due to lack of understanding and knowledge about leprosy, and leads to various forms of severe stigma. The primary fear being that if you touch a person affected by leprosy, you would become infected.

But on the contrary, leprosy is not contagious through touch, is easy to detect and is completely curable! The introduction of Multidrug therapy (MDT) has been a global game changer - It can cure leprosy at any stage, killing 98% of the bacteria in the body with its first dose. This means that, if diagnosed and treated, leprosy no longer results in deformity. The stigma, however, is crippling. And in a country like India, full of superstitions and ancient beliefs, stigma wreaks havoc on the lives of leprosy-affected people.

They are outcast from society and forced to live in isolated leprosy colonies. They suffer debilitating self-stigma. Their ability to get an education, livelihood skills and dignified employment is hampered. And they are condemned to an intergenerational life of both poverty and disease.

EVERY YEAR **200,000**

CASES ARE DETECTED GLOBALLY & INDIA ACCOUNTS FOR 60% OF THESE.

EVERY **4 MIN**

ONE PERSON IS DIAGNOSED WITH LEPROSY IN INDIA.

ACROSS THE SUB-CONTINENT,

750

LEPROSY COLONIES CONTINUE TO PROVIDE A LIFE OF EXCLUSION, SUB-STANDARD CONDITIONS, STIGMA AND POVERTY FOR APPROXIMATELY 200,000 PEOPLE.

LEPROSY COLONIES – FUELLING THE INTERGENERATIONAL CYCLE OF LEPROSY

Until a few decades ago, there was no effective cure for leprosy, and therefore people affected by the disease were isolated in leprosy colonies or leprosariums. This segregation was often enforced by law.

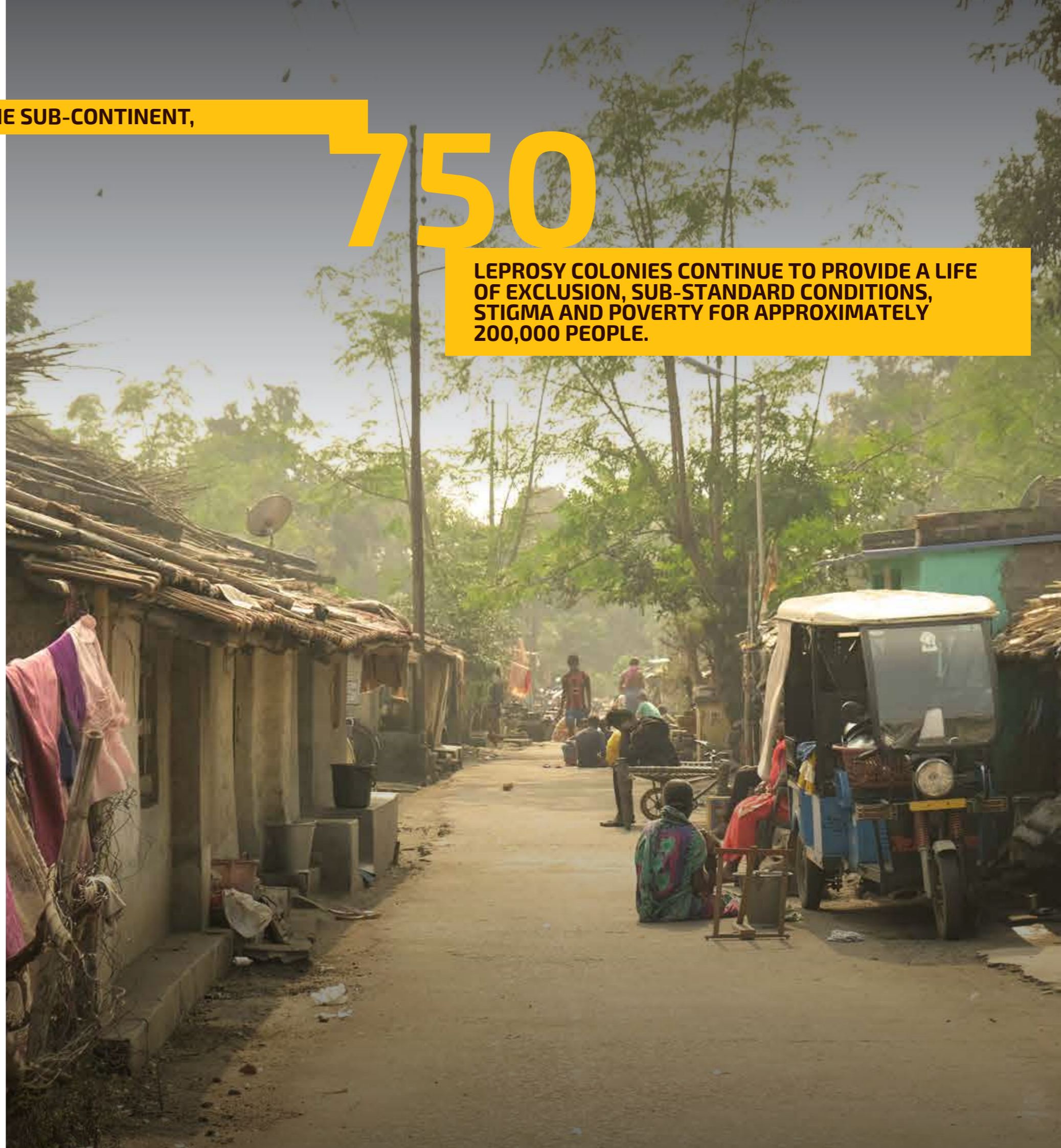
As effective treatment and a cure became available, many of these colonies were closed; but in a vast, developing country like India, they still exist today in large numbers.

Life in a leprosy colony offers few opportunities for the future:

- **Access to education is fraught with challenges**
- **Pathways to livelihood are often limited to ragpicking, daily labouring and begging (for those with deformities)**
- **The future for women is limited to early child marriage, prostitution or becoming a maid**

Conditions here often fuel the spread of disease – cramped, unhygienic living conditions, lack of water and sanitation facilities, lack of proper nutrition, poor education – and other social issues born out of poverty (violence, abuse, alcohol) fester in the close confines of a leprosy colony.

And it is children, who are often the most vulnerable.



CHILDREN:

THE MOST VULNERABLE

THE CHILDREN OF LEPROSY-AFFECTED FAMILIES FACE RISKS AT EVERY TURN.



Risk of Disease – Leprosy is only contagious after prolonged contact with a person who is not undergoing treatment. Children are therefore most at risk of contracting the disease from other family members who they live in close proximity with.



Malnutrition – Leprosy and poverty go hand in hand. And the first impact of poverty is on the health and nutrition of family members. With leprosy-affected people earning as little as ₹3,000 per month, there is little money for 3 meals a day and everyone in the household suffers as a result.



Lack of Education – Accessing education is fraught with difficulty at every turn: enrolment, transport to and from school, money for educational materials and accessing tutors are hurdles to jump. Leprosy-affected children are ostracised in the classroom by teachers and peers, as well as bullied in the playground – impacting their ability to learn and grow into strong, confident adults.

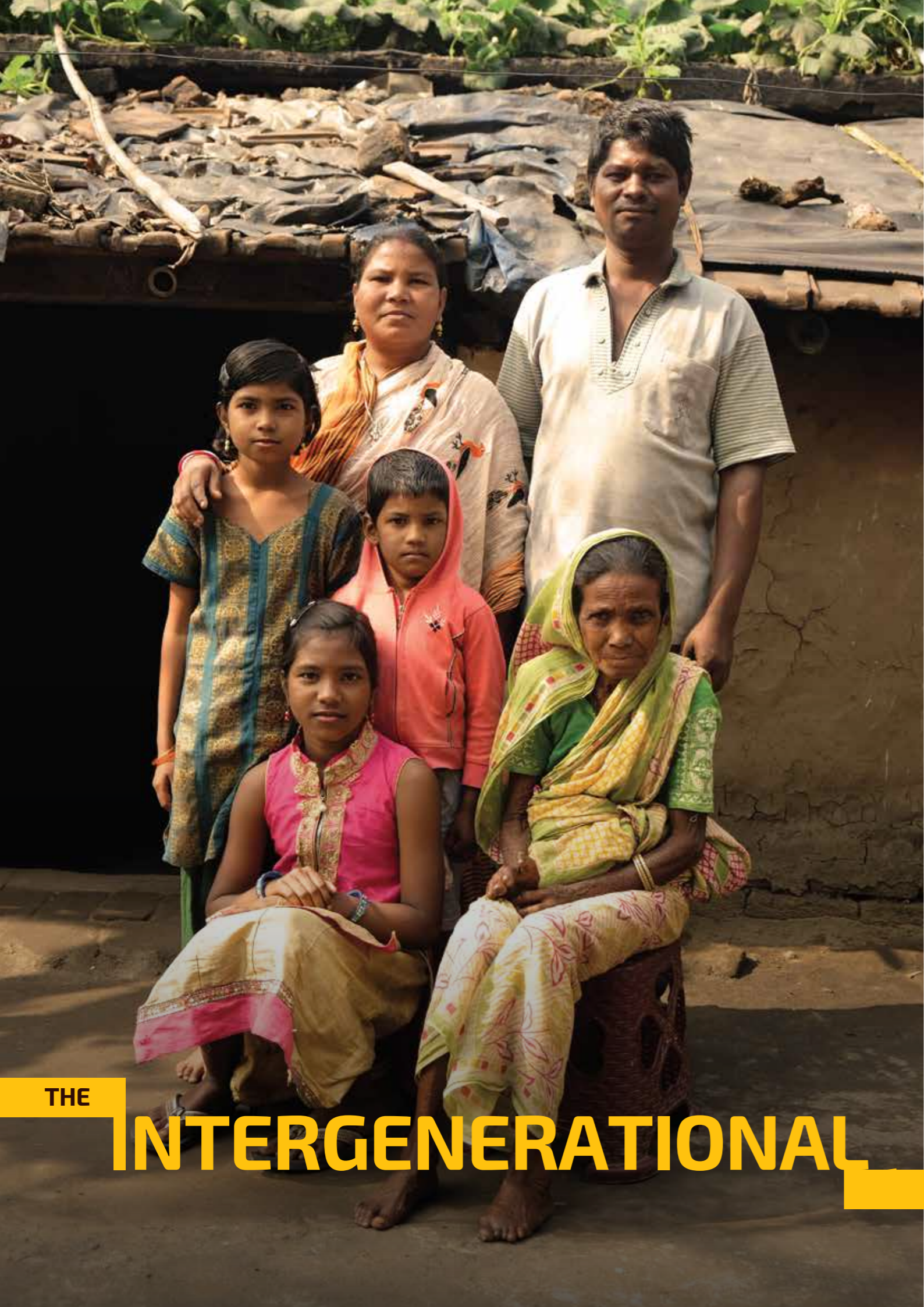


Unsafe Environment – Risks abound in a Leprosy Colony. Girls are vulnerable to being trafficked for prostitution, or face harassment or abuse by older boys. Boys are susceptible to getting up to mischief, falling into alcohol or drugs or into petty crime. Violence is common. Substance abuse rife. A Colony is not a safe place for children to grow up in.



Poverty – Leprosy has long been known as a disease of poverty and then leprosy itself, along with its disabilities and stigma, further pushes them towards poverty. This poverty becomes intergenerational as children are affected by the lack of money, lack of opportunity and the risks that come with poverty.

In order to break the intergenerational cycle of leprosy and poverty, children must be given the chance to rise above leprosy – and Education and Livelihoods provide the key ...



CHILDREN BORN INTO LEPROSY-AFFECTED FAMILIES WITHIN LEPROSY COLONIES GET CAUGHT IN A VICIOUS, INTERGENERATIONAL CYCLE OF LEPROSY AND POVERTY.

1. Leprosy – Children of leprosy-affected families, are at risk of contracting the disease due to the close confines they live in with their parents and relatives. Leprosy is transmitted via tiny droplets after prolonged, close contact with sufferers who have not undergone treatment.

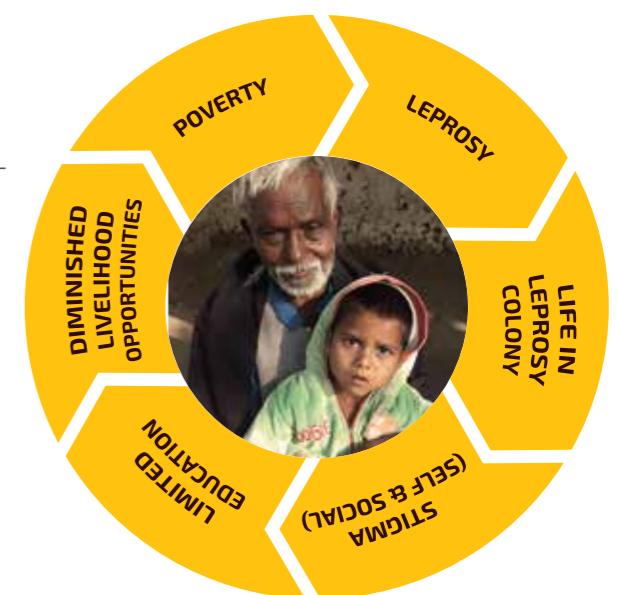
2. Life in a Leprosy Colony – Children grow up in a Leprosy Colony living in sub-standard, unhygienic conditions, where they are at risk of other social evils (abuse and violence), which generates trauma, reinforces self-stigma, inhibits opportunities and exacerbates poverty.

3. Social & Self-Stigma – Throughout their life, children from leprosy-affected families experience social exclusion and stigma – so much so that it manifests in the form of 'self-stigma' where their confidence levels and self-belief become severely impaired.

4. Limited Education – Those lucky enough to access education, do so at local schools where they are bullied and ostracised by both peers and teachers. Many, especially girls, drop out early and are at risk of child marriage or trafficking.

5. Diminished Livelihood Opportunities – With little education and no skills for decent livelihood, income opportunities are limited to options they 'know' and 'see around them' – daily labouring, ragpicking and begging.

6. Poverty – Earning as little as ₹3,000 per month, they become trapped in a life of poverty within the only home they know - the leprosy colony. And as their children enter the world – so the cycle continues.



THE

INTERGENERATIONAL

CYCLE OF LEPROSY

WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE TO

BREAK THE CYCLE

LEPROSY-AFFECTED PEOPLE HAVE FOUR PRIMARY NEEDS TO LIVE A FULL AND MEANINGFUL LIFE:



- **Medical Care (detection, treatment, prevention)**
- **Survival & Security (education, livelihood & housing)**
- **Psychological Rehabilitation (support to overcome self-stigma)**
- **Social Acceptance (legislative reforms, advocacy & awareness)**

Whilst there is a need for medical care in detecting, treating and preventing the spread of the disease, the overwhelming gap in service provision in India is in the area to support the 'Survival & Security' of the leprosy-affected.

People affected by leprosy, particularly children, need education, somewhere safe to live and grow, and a strong livelihood to stand on their own two feet in life. For with a strong livelihood, the leprosy-affected have the means to rise above leprosy, its stigma and life in a leprosy colony, so that the next generation can finally break free ...





FOR THE LAST

50

YEARS,

UDAYAN HAS PROVIDED THOUSANDS OF CHILDREN FROM LEPROSY COLONIES ACROSS WEST BENGAL WITH AN EDUCATION, AND GATEWAY TO LIVELIHOOD.

Udayan is a home and school for children whose families are affected by leprosy. Based on the outskirts of Kolkata, West Bengal in India, Udayan provides 300 children with an oasis - an 8-acre campus of lush green land, on which they can live, learn and grow - a place that each of them can call home.

Udayan provides children with all the essentials of life - safe shelter, wholesome nutritious food, clothes, medical care and opportunities for formal schooling, professional courses and vocational training.

It is our aim to take these children from 'childhood to livelihood' in an environment free from the stigma of leprosy - to mainstream them back into society, and break the intergenerational cycle of leprosy once and for all!

Vision

Children from leprosy-affected families in India are embraced by society. They flourish, and lead healthy, happy, productive and dignified lives.

Mission

Udayan breaks the cycle of intergenerational leprosy. We empower the children of leprosy-affected families, by providing a safe space to grow, learn and become self-reliant. Through education, personality development and pathways to livelihood, we enable these children and their families to 'rise above leprosy'.

HOME HEALTH & WELLBEING

A photograph of a dormitory room with several sets of blue metal bunk beds. A young boy in a red checkered shirt is sitting on the lower bunk in the foreground, smiling at the camera. Another boy is sitting on a bunk bed in the background. A third child is visible on the top bunk of a nearby set of beds. The room has a simple, clean appearance with a white wall and a ceiling light fixture.

Udayan is a home away from home for the children of leprosy-affected families. Our primary aim is to provide a safe, secure and conducive environment which helps them to grow as normal, healthy children and go on to become productive, contributing members of the society.



Homecare & Supervision

We provide homecare and supervision in the absence of parents, to our children. House Brothers and Mothers care for the children and guide them through childhood.



Nutrition, Health & Hygiene

Health is of utmost importance at Udayan and children receive the best of care via visiting doctors, specialist camps and our on-campus health practitioners. We also ensure good nutrition and hygiene practices to ensure children grow up strong and healthy.



Mental & Emotional Well-Being

Many children suffer self stigma and come from troubled homes. We provide mental and emotional counselling services to foster holistic wellbeing, along with weekly yoga and meditation practices.



Morals, Ethics & Values

Morals, Ethics and Values are critical to ensuring our children grow into good, well-meaning human beings - we imbibe these in everything we do.

Education provides the foundation from which our children can build strong futures and livelihoods, and, at Udayan, we encourage our children to study hard, enjoy learning and foster meaningful aspirations in life.



Primary Education

Udayan Vidyalaya is our very own primary school for Class KG to Class IV. Our dedicated school teachers ensure multigrade teaching methodology and adopt a 'joyful learning' approach to educating children. A special focus is provided to the slow learners through remedial classes.



Secondary Education

Older children get admission in nearby Government Secondary Schools at Class V, following Bengali or Hindi medium curriculum as per their choice. Udayan supports them with school fees, school uniforms, school bags, books and stationery items.



Private Study & Tuition

The Udayan tuition support system helps children to understand their lessons better and prepare for their examinations. A variety of subject-specific tutors help them overcome the key challenges they face in different subjects.



Foundational Literacies

We place a special focus on developing Foundational Literacies among our children – including literacy, numeracy, science, digital learning, spoken English, financial literacy and civic and cultural literacy – all fundamental in securing good jobs and advancing in life.



EDUCATION

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Via a wide range of extracurricular activities (sports, music, arts), Udayan fosters self-confidence, facing fears, teamwork, healthy competition, and the development of crucial social skills. The self-confidence a child gains in their formative years plays a key role in shaping them into a self-assured, positive, and outgoing adult.

At Udayan, we provide children with opportunities for:



Physical Development

Sport is a great outlet and Udayan children regularly play cricket, football and basketball at the Udayan playground with guidance from expert coaches. Udayan children excel in athletics and sports, winning many of the prizes at sports and cultural activities at outside schools – providing platforms and opportunities to participate in representative level sports.



Cultural Development

Children at Udayan have the opportunity to participate in a variety of cultural classes and activities across art, music and dance – enabling them to express themselves and hone new skills.



Cognitive Development

Karate and self-defence are taught to all children. This ancient martial art helps promote discipline, strength and protection. Additionally, all the children participate in weekly yoga and daily meditation to foster a calm, balanced, healthy mind, body and spirit.

The ultimate goal at Udayan is a dignified livelihood. And to achieve this, Udayan charts each and every child's pathway via individualised Child Plans. Udayan ensures that each student transitions from school into either vocational or professional courses to ensure each child reaches their potential and stands on their own two feet in life - lifting their families out of poverty.



Aspiration Building & Career Counselling

Udayan builds aspirations and provides career counselling to all children to help guide them into the right profession. A Career Development Plan for each child is prepared to help them achieve their career goals.



Vocational Education

Udayan guides children into vocational training courses to obtain job-relevant skills that will help them secure dignified jobs in the organised sector.



Professional Education

Scholarship support to pursue professional courses is provided to those children who have completed their studies and excelled. Many Udayan students have gone on to study Nursing, Physiotherapy, Social Sciences, Computers and other professional courses.



Placement Support

Udayan provides handholding support to ensure good quality placement of our children in meaningful, well-paid jobs.



EMPLOYABILITY

KALPANA'S LIFE (name changed)

The daughter of leprosy patients, Kalpana grew up uneducated and living in poverty – soon falling victim to the disease herself.

At 17, she fell in love with a factory worker and married – but the marriage soured when her husband learned of her history of Leprosy – beating her over the smallest of matters.

Building up courage to leave him, she found herself pregnant, alone and vulnerable. It was not long before a Dalal (brothel madam) had her in her sights.

With a 3-month-old son, Kalpana was lured with the promise of a 'good job' to Sonagachi in Kolkata – the largest brothel area in Asia. With no money, ID, or clothes, she was trapped.

For 2 years, she worked in abysmal conditions, earning just ₹15 per client, before being moved to Lachhipur Red Light Area in Asansol.

A toddler now, her son would 'play with clients' while they waited – growing up vulnerable and at risk, in the grim surrounds of the red light area.

Fortunately in 2018, Kalpana found a way to break free from the Dalal and her life of prostitution – returning to her parents and hoping always to forget the horror her life had become.

Kalpana's son was admitted to Udayan in 2011 and today, is Leprosy free.

UNEDUCATED



LALITA'S LIFE

Lalita is one of the 6 children, whose leprosy-affected parents put rice in their bellies by begging daily.

Her life took a turn when she was admitted to Udayan at the age of 5, and as one of the very first girls at Udayan, she experienced a safe and nurturing childhood.

After passing her Class 12 exams, she was accepted at the Apollo College of Nursing and became a Graduate Nursing Assistant (GNA). She has since flourished both professionally and personally – working at two reputed hospitals in Durgapur before securing a lucrative Government job at Berhampur Medical College – earning ₹37,000 per month.

Lalita has used her career to uplift her family - helping secure a good marriage for her sister, ensuring a good education for her brother, and helping improve the standard of living.

In 2021, she married a healthy man from outside the leprosy community, and together they are saving to buy land and build a home. She dreams of moving her family out of the Leprosy colony, and providing a safe and secure childhood for her future children.

EDUCATED

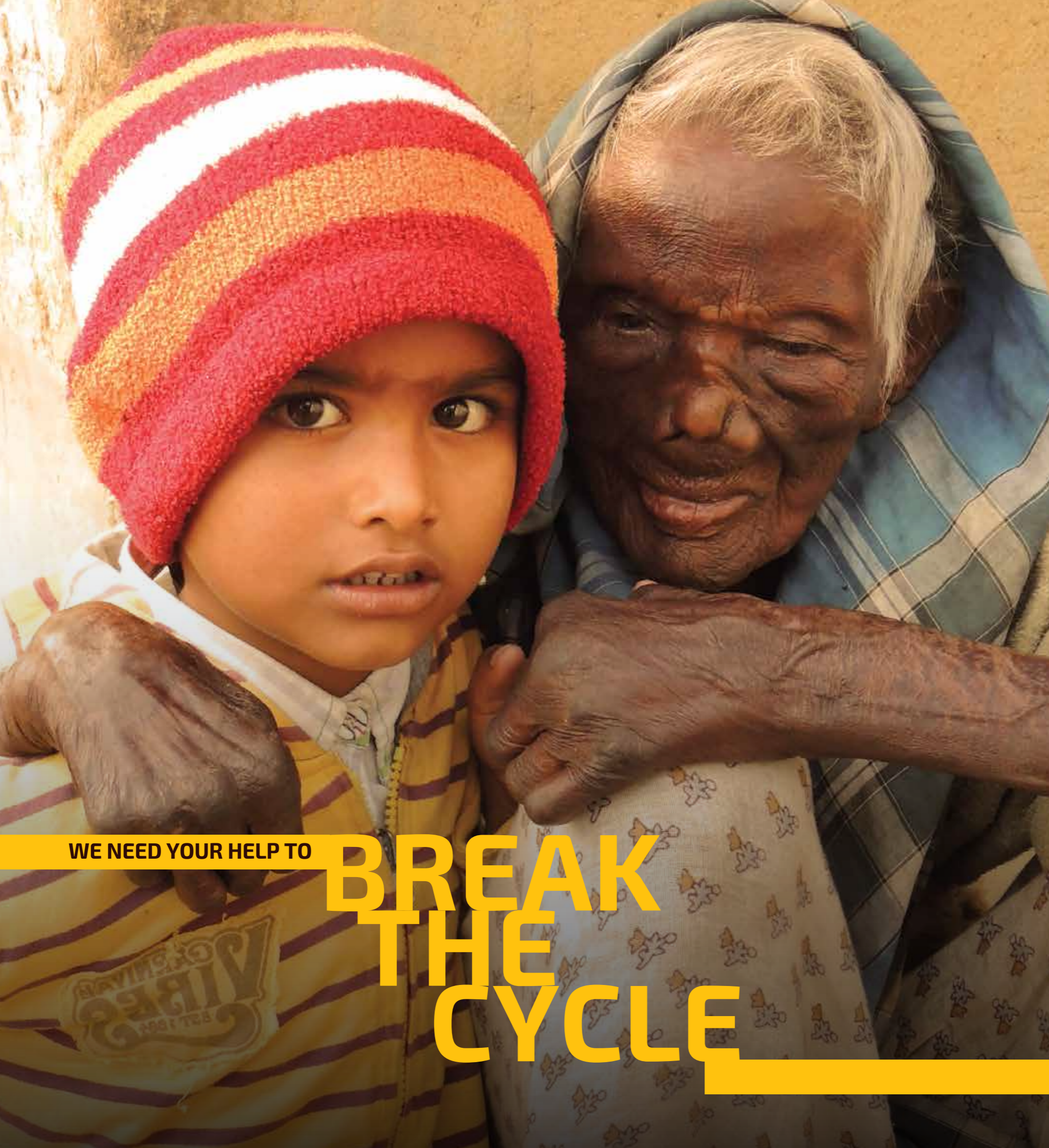


ADVANTAGE



FOR THE LAST 50 YEARS, UDAYAN HAS BEEN WORKING WITH CHILDREN AFFECTED BY LEPROSY, AND ON THIS JOURNEY HAS DEVELOPED A SET OF STRONG SKILL SETS AND COMPETENCIES THAT SUPPORT ON-GROUND IMPACT.

- We work with a group of people and a **cause that is 'shunned'** by others – people shy away from working with this group. According to Mother Teresa, the children of leprosy-affected are the 'most marginalised'.
- We have been recognised, and supported, by the **International community** for over 50 years.
- We have **renowned Patrons** – Dominique La Pierre, Steve Waugh and Shamlu Dudeja.
- Our geographic presence is where the need is the greatest – **West Bengal is a priority state in relation to leprosy.**
- We have a **strong presence, and deep ties,** within the key leprosy colonies of West Bengal.
- **Over 10,000 children have 'graduated' from Udayan,** and gone on to live productive lives – uplifting their families out of poverty.
- Our staff are very **passionate, dedicated and committed** to providing loving care to the Udayan children.
- We are located on **8 acres of lush green, beautiful land** – an idyllic setting for our Residential Campus and for children to grow!



TO FREE INDIA, AND THE WORLD, FROM LEPROSY, WE MUST INVEST IN THE CHILDREN OF LEPROSY-AFFECTED FAMILIES, AND GIVE THEM A CHANCE OF A LIFE BEYOND LEPROSY.

But we must act now to stop the disease in its tracks, before numbers swell and take off.

INVESTING IN MEDICAL TREATMENT SOLVES ONLY HALF OF THE PROBLEM. WITH STIGMA AND DISCRIMINATION RIFE, THERE IS A NEED TO ALSO INVEST IN OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHILDREN TO BREAK FREE FROM THE CYCLE OF DISEASE AND GROW UP TO LIVE A NORMAL, PRODUCTIVE LIFE – WHICH SO MANY OF THEM HAVE THE ABILITY TO DO IF ONLY GIVEN THE CHANCE.

There is a role for everyone to play – individuals, corporates, non-profits, governments. But we must work together to break the cycle of leprosy and poverty and free this country, indeed the world, once and for all from the disease of leprosy.

We urge you to join us in our mission ...

WE NEED YOUR HELP TO

**BREAK
THE
CYCLE**

HOW CAN YOU

HELP?

1 Sponsor a Child or Youth

2 Program Grants

3 Corpus

4 Infrastructure Support



Sponsor a Child or Youth – You can take an Education Sponsorship, Home Sponsorship, Full Child Sponsorship (Education + Home), or Youth Skill Training Scholarship



Program Grants – We need support for our Foundational Literacy Programs, Employability Program, Leprosy Colony Balwadi Program, Community Outreach Program and Vocational Training for Boys



Corpus – We aim to increase our corpus to ₹2.5 crores over the next 3 years. Interest on Corpus Funds will support our annual expenses, and provide us with enhanced financial security.



Infrastructure Support – Help us with Kitchen and Dining Hall Renovation, School Upgrade, Repainting of Boys Cottages, Renovation of Jodhpur Park Flats, New Girls Wing, Sports Facilities (Refurbish Basketball Court, Cricket Practice Nets and Volleyball Court, Gymnasium Equipment), TV Set, Airconditioners, RO Water System and Solar Panels on all Buildings.



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