



**In the midst of
COVID phase II**

ALERT - INDIA
ACTIVITY REPORT
2021-2022

Leprosy Burden at a Glance: World, India, Maharashtra

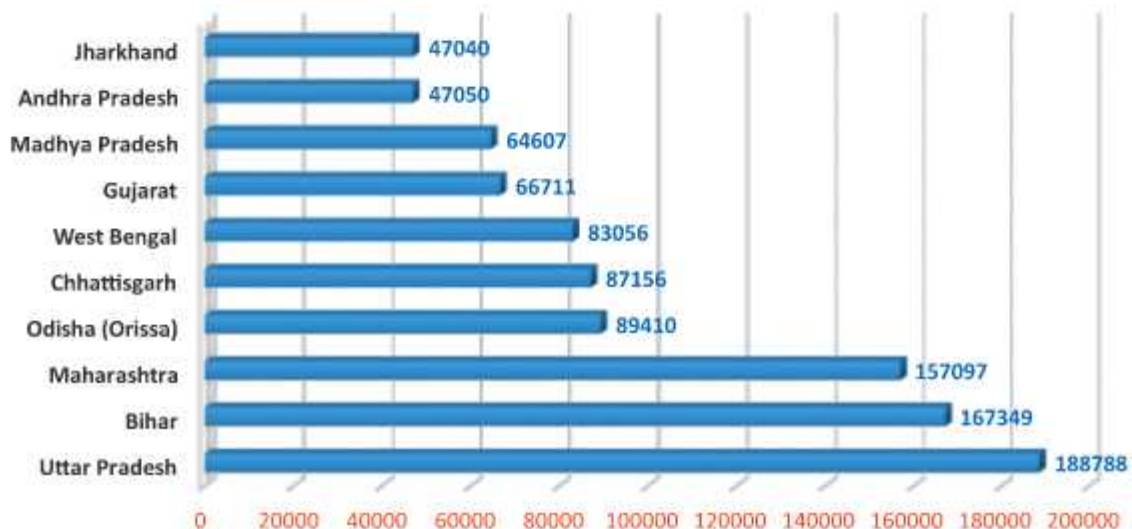
Leprosy : New cases 2012-2022



Grade II Deformity trend - 2012-2022



New Leprosy Cases (2012-22) : 10 Indian states





A. Antony Samy
 Founder, Chief Executive
 ALERT-INDIA

In the midst of COVID phase II ...

ALERT INDIA teams joined the public health COVID warriors in their effort to reach services to the persons affected by leprosy, TB and HIV/AIDS. The health facilities had become alive for emergency admissions and mapping of COVID cases in the community. The ALERT INDIA team operated from the health facilities with special permissions from district authorities.

The joint mobility of the public health workers and ALERT INDIA teams helped to reach out to those who were under medication. The follow up was possible with brief interruptions.

With varied levels of lockdowns, ALERT INDIA teams achieved a greater degree of outreach by way of new case detection. This was possible by ALERT INDIA teams joining the COVID campaign teams attached to the Primary health centres and Urban Health Posts.

Similar opportunity was also availed by way of organising relief work for the needy among the vulnerable communities.

Continuation of service despite several interruptions during the second wave sent a clear message to the patients that ALERT INDIA is available to meet their needs during and beyond COVID period.

The teams worked daringly during this period also had a greater sense of fulfilment and satisfaction of providing services. I applaud them with admiration for their sense of purpose and commitment to the people they serve.

This report covers relief work; leprosy, TB & AIDS control activities of ALERT INDIA teams in urban, rural, tribal geographies across in Maharashtra, Jharkhand and Gujarat.

We thank the donors, who helped ALERT INDIA to survive and serve the afflicted during COVID times.

Sion, Mumbai
 11 October, 2022

Leprosy awareness campaigns in Mumbai : slums, schools, bus depot, railway station, post office etc.

Reached students, dabbawalas, security guards, police, fire brigade staff, naaka and construction workers etc.



In association with NSS unit of Ramananda Arya DAV college, ADHS Mumbai and MOH-S ward BMC organised **Run for leprosy - Marathon with active participation of ALERT INDIA.**



Covid relief in Vidarbha region with the support of organisation of People Affected by Leprosy

ALERT INDIA during year 2021-22 continued to work with Saksham Kushthanteya Swabhimani Sanstha (SKSS), Nagbhid, Dist-Chandrapur. ALERT INDIA Vidarbha team facilitated two short duration projects undertaken by SKSS with financial support from Sasakawa Health Foundation, Japan.

1. 'Covid 19 support project for Persons Affected by Leprosy' (April to August 2021):

ALERT INDIA and SKSS jointly with NGO AWARD implemented the project.

- **650+** villages / towns in **8** leprosy impacted blocks of Chandrapur and Gadchiroli districts were reached.
- **14** Persons Affected by leprosy were provided **monetary support to start up / rebuild livelihood activity** (self employment); total support was INR 150,000.
- **834** Persons Affected by Leprosy living with disabilities including **686** with visible disabilities were reached through 'Self Care Promotion Drive' by Community Counsellors.
- **67,000+** rural / tribal population was sensitized and educated of leprosy and Covid 19 through house to house campaign by Volunteers.
- **6,200+** rural / tribal population was reached through **24 outdoor Awareness Camps** (mobile Exhibitions) on leprosy and Covid 19 by Project team along with Volunteers and Community Counsellors in addition to members of SKSS.
- **428** key community members, govt functionaries and elected members were reached, sensitized and informed about SKSS, its projects and activities.



2. 'Don't Forget Leprosy Campaign' (January to May 2022):

ALERT INDIA and SKSS jointly with NGO AWARD and Athawale College of Social Work undertook study/survey to assess the impact of leprosy and Covid 19 on persons affected by leprosy and their family members.

- **1,840** sample population was covered. The findings of the study will be presented in 21st ILC 2022 scheduled in Hyderabad during November 2022.

Covid relief in Raigad district

Ration distribution to the leprosy affected was organized by ALERT INDIA with support from Jeevan Vruksha Trust and Jahangir Poonjiaji Trust during July 2021

- **252** Leprosy affected families were given ration at Karjat, Raigad district.
- **150** Leprosy affected families were given ration at Mumbai.



Flood relief

- **103 families** including persons affected by leprosy at Kondivade, Karjat block of Raigad district, Maharashtra were distributed ration and clothes on 7th August 2021 with support from Jeevan Vruksha Trust and Jahangir Poonjiaji Trust.
- These families were the victims of devastation due to heavy rains and cloud burst in Karjat and release of water from Khandala dam.



Leprosy Referral Centres (LRCs)

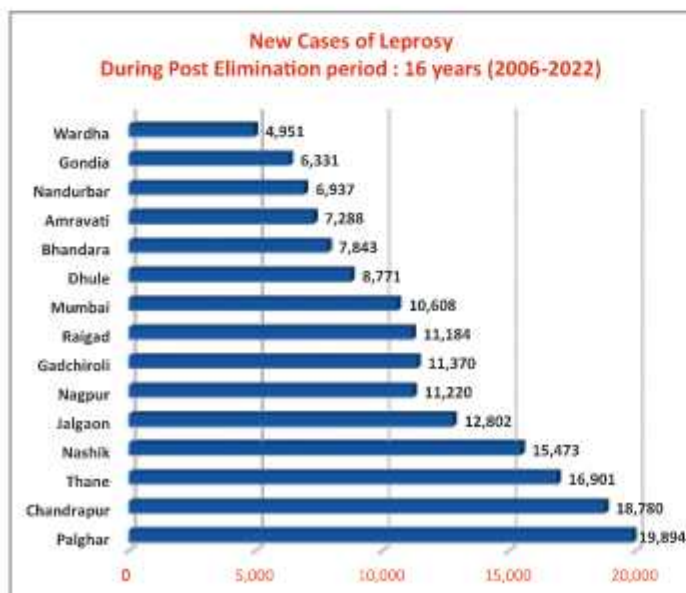
In spite of the difficult situations during the 2nd year of Covid 19 Pandemic, ALERT INDIA team continued services to the persons affected by leprosy at its 45 LRCs in 11 endemic districts (Gadchiroli, Chandrapur, Palghar, Bhandara, Gondia, Nandurbar, Dhule, Raigad, Jalgaon, Thane and Mumbai).

LRC services:

- **7,553** persons identified as leprosy suspects were screened for leprosy in 45 LRCs.
- **1,958** (26 %) confirmed as leprosy at LRCs after physical examination.
- **1,958** persons affected by leprosy were provided Multi Drug Treatment (MDT) in the respective Health Posts & PHCs.

Profile of new cases:

- **210** (11%) Child cases
- **846** (43%) Female cases
- **1135** (42%) Multi bacillary leprosy cases
- **823** (58%) Pauci bacillary leprosy cases
- **246** (13%) identified as Infectious for leprosy after bacteriological examination test
- **364** (19%) with disability – **208** visible (11%) and **156** invisible disability (8%)



POID (Prevention of Impairment and Deformity) services:

- **492** persons with complications were prevented from developing disability with effective management of complications.
- **10,300+** leprosy affected with disabilities are under care including **7,000+** with visible disabilities in eyes, hands and feet.

Aids and Appliances reached:

- **1,093** pairs of MCR footwear
- **548** splints
- **2,292** self-care kits

Geeta's hand saved through Physiotherapy and care



Geeta Bapu Vartha, 22 year old unmarried daughter of a farmer of village-Khandeghar, PHC Kurze was diagnosed PB Leprosy at the Vikramgad LRC, Palghar district. On assessment, she was detected with early nerve function impairment (Abduction deformity – weakness in left little finger).

Along with PB MDT, she was treated with steroids and regular physio therapy; Electric Muscle Stimulation, Wax Therapy – Physio Exercises and Splinting with home based self-care practises. Abduction deformity restored in 3 months. The right time detection and interventions prevented Geeta from a permanent disability saving a life of a marriageable young lady.

Saving Raja Chaitya Sonalkar's eye



Before

Raja Chaitya Sonalkar, 35 yrs, a mason, from village Ambeghar of Vikramgad block, Palghar district was diagnosed as PB Leprosy at Vikramgad LRC in Feb. 22.

He was on PB MDT from local Primary Health Centre, Talwada. He reported at LRC again with complain of severe Type-1 Lepra Reaction after 3 months involving left eye.

He was aptly treated with initial high dose of steroid, to prevent damage to eye, and subsequent doses tapered accordingly while he continued MDT along with regular steroid.

At the reporting time, his reaction is subsided, however, Raja is continuing his steroid course to complete in September 2022. His eye is free from risk of damage disability.



After

Community Based LRC Outreach Surveillance and Advocacy (LORSA)

Components:

- **Incidence based targeted leprosy survey:** Reaching the 'high risk' population - contacts in the families and neighbourhood of leprosy cases registered in tribal areas.
- **Promoting and supporting Home Based Self Care Practices** among leprosy affected living with physical disabilities (eyes-hands-feet) in tribal villages.

Results:

- **31 PHCs in 10 blocks of 3 districts** (Gadchiroli, Chandrapur, Palghar) reached.
- **30** Community Counsellors from local communities trained and engaged.
- **7,25,000+** Rural and Tribal population reached through house-to-house survey.
- **5,01,000+** population screened for leprosy.
- **1,105** persons with suspicious signs of leprosy were identified of which **980** (89%) were validated and **376** (38%) new leprosy cases were diagnosed.

Outcome:

- **86% (324 out of 376)** of the new cases detected at an early stage i.e. less than 1 year of the disease noticed (history).

- **20 out of 376** new cases detected at the early stages of visible disability in eye / hands / feet.
- **7% (26 out of 376)** of the new cases detected were of infectious nature.



Story of Kashiram's family : migration - multiplied consequences

Kashiram Laxman Kharpade, 44, with multi-bacillary type of leprosy (confirmed infectious by skin test) in Dec. 2018, Dahanu block, Palghar district. He was declared 'Released From Treatment' (RFT) (cured) in Dec. 2019 on completion of 12 months requisite treatment. He lives with his mother, wife and 4 children (2 sons, 2 daughters).

His family was kept under surveillance for periodical contact screening, considering the high exposure and risk of infection to other members in the family. Leprosy infection has a long incubation period.

The first round of contact screening in March 2019 confirmed his mother (60 yrs) as a case of leprosy. His son, Arun was with suspicious lesions & was kept under observation.

Meanwhile, the family migrated in search of livelihood. Subsequently, the family was out of contact due to Covid pandemic restrictions.

In 2021, the house of Kashiram was visited by the Community Counsellor for follow up contact screening. But the house was locked. However, Community Counsellor left a leprosy handbill at the door.

On his return, Kashiram visited Leprosy Referral Centre (LRC) with his family. The clinical examination revealed that all members of his family have developed leprosy.



Result of contact survey / surveillance

Wife (Sunita 38 yrs) & 2 daughters detected with Multi Bacillary (MB) type of leprosy. Arun (10ys) kept under observation in 2019 also developed MB leprosy. All of them were registered and given MDT. Other son Atul (13 yrs) was noticed with suspicious signs, kept under observation. The neighbourhood is also kept under surveillance by ALERT INDIA team.

Revata's chronic non-healing ulcer is no more a problem with daily home based self care during Covid



Before

Educating Revata affected by leprosy with chronic ulcer using educational video on "Home based Self Care". This lady from Saoli block of Chandrapur district followed regular self care practices resulting in healing of foot ulcers.



Healing of ulcer

Production and distribution of Micro Cellular Rubber (MCR) footwear, splints and self-care kits

Micro Cellular Rubber (MCR) footwear are specially made for feet with problems such as loss of sensation, heel pain, corns, cracks and fissures. These footwears are Commonly used by Leprosy & Diabetic persons having sensory Disorders in the sole of the foot, mainly to prevent injuries to the foot. These are of soft & comfort, distributes weight evenly, relieves pain & burning Sensation. It reduces the pressure that cause internal tissue damage risk for developing ulcer in the feet.

12,868 MCR footwear were produced and distributed to states during the year.

Maharashtra*	2,058
West Bengal	8,139
Haryana	974
Uttar Pradesh	651
Assam	128
Chhattisgarh	658
Other States	260
Total	12,868



Self-care kits are used by the leprosy affected persons to care for hands and feet damaged by leprosy.

2,988 Self Care kits were distributed to the leprosy affected for ulcer care.



Maharashtra*	1,112
West Bengal	0
Haryana	365
Uttar Pradesh	480
Assam	304
Chhattisgarh	135
Other States	592
Total	2,988

Splints are of various types such as Gutter Splints, Four Finger Loop, Opponens Loop, Adductor Band, Foot Drop Splints, Malleoli Pad, Lumbrical Pad. The purpose of the splint is to relieve pain and to provide rest and warmth to the affected nerve. The splint also helps support the weak and paralyzed muscles supplied by the nerve.

1,520 Splints were distributed to the leprosy affected.

Maharashtra*	1,048
West Bengal	0
Haryana	0
Uttar Pradesh	37
Assam	0
Chhattisgarh	235
Other States	200
Total	1,520



*In Maharashtra, the footwear, self-care kit and splints are distributed to ALERT-INDIA's Leprosy Referral Centres, OPD patients, ADHS office, and leprosy NGOs.



TB control activities

PPSA (Patient Provider Support Agency) Private Sector Engagement in Maharashtra

- For effective delivery of free diagnostic and treatment services for TB patients, engaged:
 - **828** private practitioners,
 - **142** formal providers (MBBS),
 - **686** informal providers (Ayush),
 - **195** Hub Hospitals
 - **46** private labs in the 4 wards of Mumbai
- **2,500** monthly Hub visits and regular CMEs for Continuous engagement of private sector providers.
- **18,083** presumptive patients registered by the private providers; **8,880** patients provided free chest X-ray facility in the Private labs; **26%** showed positive for TB.
- **10,153** samples collected and transported to public sector CBNAAT Labs for Microbiological testing.
- **5,266** patients availed CBNAAT services in public sector.
- **1,737** TB patients were notified for CBNAAT services by private provider as per the mandatory gazette notification.

PPSA Private Sector Engagement, TB HIV linkages and DRTB activities in Jharkhand

Overall aim of PPSA is to "Promote Standards of TB Care in India (STCI) and Support NTEP in achieving Universal Access to TB Care (UATBC) in Jharkhand State".

PPSA team were with the patients during the 2nd wave of COVID and provided medicines and did specimen collections from their homes.

Programmatic Reach		
1	TB Case Notifications	16,452
2	Drug Susceptibility Testing	8,411
3	Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)	13,947
4	HIV Testing	13,498
5	Diabetes Testing	13,375
6	Successful Treatment Outcomes	13,142



DRTB (Drug Resistant TB) patients notification from private to public sector facilities in Maharashtra

- **408** patients diagnosed with MDR, ensured DRTB linkages for PTE (Pre Treatment Evaluation) and treatment initiation in the Public sector services.
- **5,320** TB patients seeking care in the private sector reached.
- **4,621** (87%) FDC (Fixed Dosage Component) issued by engaging 22 private pharmacists.
- **88%** patients of **4,621** completed treatment & cured. **3.5%** expired. Some patients lost to follow up. **4203** (73%) patients facilitated for DBT (Direct Beneficiary Transfer - incentive for TB patients completing treatment - Rs. 500/- per month).
- **89** patients from **4** wards were formed into patient support groups.

TB HIV linkages in Maharashtra

26 TB-HIV linkages for TB patients with co-infections were retested and initiated ART (Anti-Retroviral Therapy) in Public sector.



Care & Support Centre - Vihaan

Vihaan CSCs are committed to the health and well being of all PLHIV and their affected families, with special effort to reach those from underserved populations, including women, children and members of high-risk groups, such as female sex workers (FSWs), men who have sex with men (MSM), transgenders, hijras and people who inject drugs (PWID).

Coverage: Municipal Corporation of Navi Mumbai, Thane and Palghar.

Services rendered

- 736 tested for HIV
- 1,043 Tracked for lost to follow up
- 12 Support group meetings organised
- 17,689 patients Counselling for treatment adherence
- 16,233 patients were Counselling for screening
- 181 persons referred for Social welfare schemes
- 281 persons received Nutrition support through private donors

Targeted Interventions in Brothel based, home based, street-based Sex workers & Bargirls communities in Navi Mumbai (Turbhe & Vashi)

Coverage: Brothels in areas of Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation, Vashi, Turbhe, Kopar, Koparkhairane, Sanpada, Nerul, Shiravane, Ghansoli & Belapur.

Services rendered

- 13,767 persons reached through medical check-up camps
- 4,742 persons screened for HIV at ICTC
- 3,784 persons screened for HIV at Clinic
- 91 persons tested for STI
- 13,767 persons given education and awareness on TB.
1,004 persons tested for TB
- 16,437 patients Counselling for treatment adherence
- 6,77,985 Condoms distributed
- 3,188 persons referred for Social welfare schemes
- 940 persons received ration supplies through private donors

APOLLO TYRES Health Care Centre

Coverage: Mumbai, Thane, Bhiwandi, Navi Mumbai, Panvel, Raigad.

Services rendered

- 15,953 persons reached through awareness sessions
- 3,696 persons benefited from Medical Health Camps
- 363 persons benefited from Eye Check-up Camps
- 55 patients treated for low vision with spectacles
- 3,585 persons availed general health services at Apollo Clinic
- 9 patients treated for STI
- 41 persons tested for TB
- 2,123 persons availed counselling services
- 2,849 patients availed referral services

Community events are conducted for truckers through various camps (Swastha Sarthi Camp, Satellite Camp) to provide health care services. Engaged the trained Peer educators in awareness campaigns to increase referrals.

Family Development Program

Coverage: 8,000 families in Thane (Kalwa east : Bhaskar nagar slum - 5,000 houses; Mumbra : Charnipada slum -3,000 houses)

- 460 families visited
- 977 families reached through 59 awareness meetings
- 7 Early Childhood Development Groups formed reaching 80 mothers covering 111 children
- 8 Adolescent Groups formed reaching 67 adolescents (Boys and girls)
- 520 families reached Guidance Centre
- 142 families received E-shram card
- 72 families Aadhar card linked with the new contact numbers



TB, HIV Control & Family Development Projects





Leprosy Education - Detection - Treatment



Thank You!

Sincere thanks to our donors and well-wishers.

Your support is valuable to us to reach the needy and bring change in their lives.

International donors



National donors : CSR partners, Philanthropists and Trusts

Mr. Sameer Bhakhri
Philanthropist



IVDP Krishnagiri, TN



S N Iyer QC

N. V. Raman

Network of Maharashtra
By People Living with
HIV/AIDS (NMP+)

Inner Wheel Club

Veeraraghavan (HUF)

Government schemes



COVID Relief



Jeevan Vruksha Trust

Jahangir Poonjiji Trust



*Dr. P. H. Maniar
Hon. Chairman
Leprologist*



*Ms. Kishwar Nensey
Hon. Vice Chairman
Trainer & Consultant*



*Mr. George Thomas
Hon. Secretary
Film Maker*



*Ms. Leena Joshi
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*Dr. Sharmila Patil
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Dermatologist*



*Mr. Balakrishnan Mangad
Member
Leprosy Professional*



*Mrs. Stella Mancheril
Co-Opted Member
Leprosy Professional*



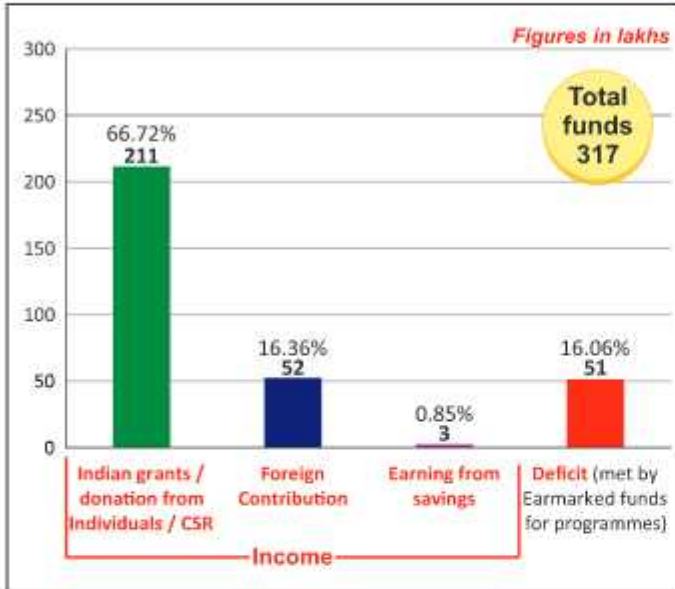
*Dr. Waman S. Bhatkij
Co-Opted Member
Leprologist*



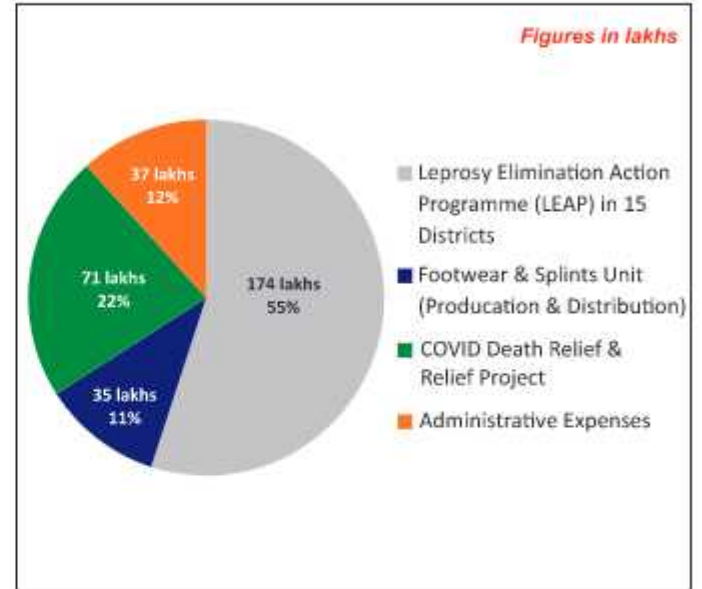
*Mrs. Veera M. Rao
Co-Opted Member
Consultant*

Leprosy Control Project

Sources of funds

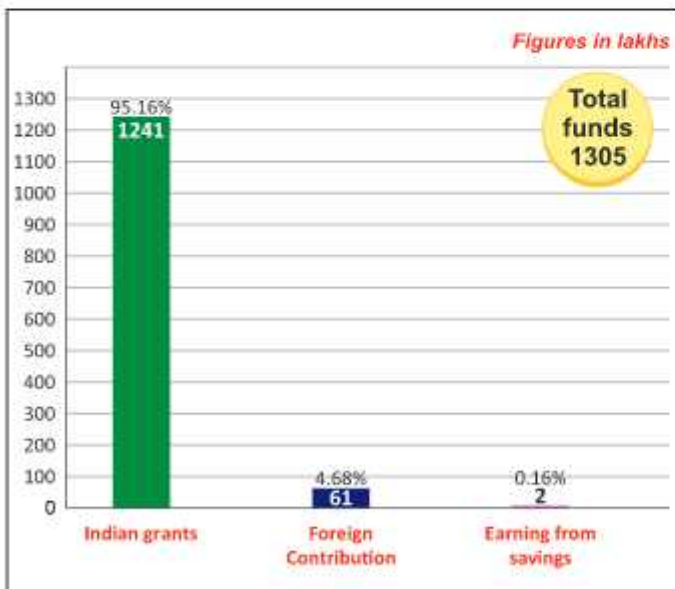


Deployment of funds

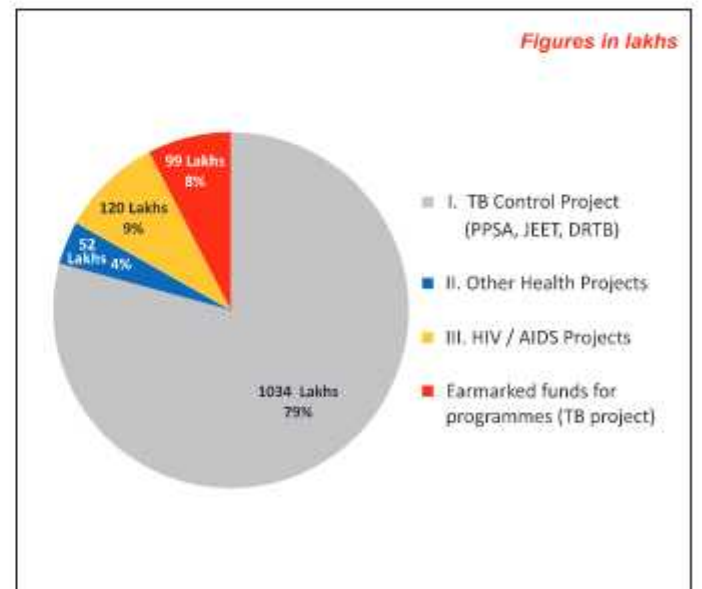


TB, HIV/AIDS Control / Health Projects

Sources of funds



Deployment of funds



Your support to ALERT-INDIA's projects made a difference!

Donations exempted under sec. 80-G of I.T. Act, 1961

ALERT-INDIA: Abridged Financial Statements 2021-22

Balance Sheet as of March 31, 2022	2021-22 Rs. In lakhs		2020-21 Rs. In lakhs	
Source of Funds				
Trust Fund		14.93		14.93
Income and expenditure surplus		62.54		62.12
Earmarked funds and reserves		331.16		294.23
Total		408.63		371.28
Application of Funds				
Fixed Assets		203.84		201.62
Investments				
Corpus Fund		-		-
Gratuity Fund		-		-
Temporary Reserves with Scheduled Banks	7.80	7.80	38.49	38.49
Loan and advances: Refund due (IT)		51.92		49.87
Cash & Bank Balances		145.07		81.31
Total		408.63		371.28
Income & Expenditure as of March 31, 2022				
Income				
Grants / Donations				
For Leprosy control project	186.79		262.04	
For Covid Relief Fund	76.49		-	
For TB / HIV-AIDS / other Health Projects	1,302.56	1,565.84	818.95	1,080.99
Self Generated (Interest on Investments/Banks)		4.76		11.63
All Fixed Assets / Funds		1,440.61		1,126.21
Total		3,011.21		2,218.84
Expenses				
Programme Expenses				
Leprosy Control Project				
Leprosy Elimination Action Programme (LEAP)	211.48		203.94	
Footwear & Splints Unit	34.58		27.43	
COVID Relief Project	70.83	316.88	60.73	292.11
TB / HIV-AIDS / Health Projects				
HIV / AIDS Project	120.13		104.20	
TB Control Projects	1,058.81		759.83	
Family Development Project	26.46	1,205.40	31.51	895.55
Depreciation		10.97		10.91
Transfer from Assets / Funds		1,477.55		1,012.33
Surplus for the year		0.42		7.95
Total		3,011.21		2,218.84

We have examined the above abridged financial statements for the year 2021-22 and certify that the statements have been summarised from the Audited Balance Sheet and Income & Expenditure Account referred to in our report dated 1st August 2022.

Auditors: R.K. Karanth & Co., 62, Bombay Mutual Building, Fort, Mumbai - 400 001.

Banks : Central Bank of India, Sion; SBI Chembur & Delhi; BOB Sion & Wadala; PNB Vashi; Abhyudaya Co-op Bank, Vashi; IDBI Sion, Kotak Mahindra Bank Sion & HDFC Sion.

For R.K. Karanth & Co.,
Chartered Accountants
(Regd. No. 104831W)

- Note: 1. Accounts are prepared on cash basis
2. Fixed Assets other than immovable properties are stated at actual cost less accumulated depreciation.
3. Depreciation is charged on Movable Assets on the written down value basis
4. With effect from 1.4.06 depreciation on immovable properties is calculated on written down value basis and set aside to a Depreciation Fund.
5. Estimated gratuity liability is set aside to Gratuity Reserve
6. Complete audited statement of accounts is available on request



Deepak S. Karanth
Proprietor
Membership No. 39945

Padma Shri Dr. V. V. Dongre



President Shri. Ram Nath Kovind presents "Padma Shri 2022" to Dr. Vijaykumar Vinayak Dongre for Medicine.

This recognition is for his contribution in the area of Survey, Education, Treatment and rehabilitation of persons affected by leprosy across India.

Dr. V. V. Dongre,

Senior Consultant, ALERT-INDIA.

He guided establishing of Leprosy Referral Centres (LRCs) in rural Maharashtra from 2006.

He was the principal trainer at ALERT-INDIA's Continuing Medical Education (CME) for doctors, medical and paramedical staff.





ALERT - INDIA

Association for Leprosy Education, Rehabilitation and Treatment - India

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