ABOUT leprosy

ST FRANCIS LEPROSY GUILD

Every two minutes someone is diagnosed with leprosy. That's over seven hundred people a day, including 9,000 children each year. Half of all countries in the world today report leprosy.*

Leprosy affects the poorest and most disadvantaged people in the world.

Leprosy is curable using an antibiotic treatment called Multidrug Therapy. But anyone living with undiagnosed leprosy is at risk of developing visible, life-changing disabilities (including clawed hands, drop-foot, blindness and tropical ulcers). They are also at risk of spreading the disease.

Prodip Shing, a patient at Dhanjuri Leprosy Centre, Dinajpur, Bangladesh

A lack of understanding about leprosy leads to stigma and social isolation for those with the disease. Leprosy is one of the most stigmatised diseases in the world. In some legal systems, the suspicion alone that someone has the disease results in rejection. Today, across the world, there are still over 80 apartheid-style laws which lead to the violation of civil, political and social rights of those with leprosy.**

We think there are up to four million people worldwide today who are affected by leprosy, either undiagnosed, or living with disabilities caused by leprosy, or subject to leprosy stigma.

Multidrug Therapy

Will you help us find, diagnose, treat and care for people with leprosy and see an end to this terrible disease?

Dindigul Village

*World Health Organization WER September 2025

** Special Rapporteur on discrimination against persons with leprosy (Hansen's disease), OHCHR