

**WORLD HEALTH  
ORGANIZATION**

*Regional Office*  
for the Eastern Mediterranean



**ORGANISATION MONDIALE  
DE LA SANTÉ**

*Bureau régional*  
pour la Méditerranée orientale

REGIONAL MEETING ON LEPROSY  
Mogadishu, 25 - 28 February 1980

EM/MTG.LEP./17  
February 1980

**THE ROLE OF INTERNATIONAL AND  
NON GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS IN LEPROSY CONTROL  
PROGRAMMES**

by

**Dr K.S. Seal**  
WHO Temporary Adviser \*

---

\* Former Assistant Director (SEARO) and  
Member (Secretariat) of the 1976 WHO  
Expert Committee on Leprosy

(Outline)

THE ROLE OF INTERNATIONAL AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL  
ORGANIZATIONS IN LEPROSY CONTROL PROGRAMMES

by

K.S. Seal

1. Consideration of the series of World Health Assembly Resolutions from 1974-1979

- expressing the concern of Member States that urgent action be taken to control the disease
- requests to the Director-General to intensify coordination with international organizations and with bilateral and multilateral agencies with a view to mobilizing the necessary resources in support of leprosy control programmes

Analysis of the Assembly recommendations and injunctions - represents a full appreciation of the necessity of cooperation.

2. Brief historical review of aid to leprosy patients

Three phases: (a) Pre-sulfone phase - with rudimentary or no organized health services

(b) Introduction and widespread use of sulfones - Early phase of communicable disease control effort and developing basic health services

(c) Present - Combined therapy

Trend towards integrated services and primary health care.

3. Mobilization of resources by co-ordination with other international organizations and agencies

3.1 United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

Past assistance and present policy.

3.2 Voluntary Fund for Health Promotion - Special Account for the Leprosy Programme

A Special Account from which allocations are made to Regions for sub-allocation for inter-country purposes or to promote national programmes.

Technical cooperation countries provided under following components:

- Manpower formation
- Programme formulation and implementation

### 3.3 Cooperation with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and multilateral agencies

#### 3.3.1 Non-governmental organizations

International Leprosy Association and WHO in close relationship in respect of technical policies.

The International Union against Tuberculosis and relationship with either tuberculosis/leprosy combined activities, or integrated public health programmes with tuberculosis and leprosy components.

#### 3.3.2 Voluntary agencies

The International Federation of Antileprosy Associations (ILEP) - representing more than 24 voluntary agencies from 16 donor countries and operating in more than 70 countries.

Nature of aid given:

- (a) Financial to needy causes; consultants, drugs, equipment and supplies.
- (b) Support for specific government projects - Maldives
- (c) Training projects: Three institutions providing courses at international level by cooperative effort - Ethiopia (ALERT), India (Vellore) and Liberia (Ganta)
- (d) Field projects at country or local level - about 700 projects - at a cost exceeding \$30 million

#### 4. National leprosy programmes and voluntary agency field projects

Invaluable contribution of VAs now commonly extended to leprosy control with systematic case-finding, early diagnosis and conscientious case management.

4.1 Coordination with defined national leprosy control programmes -  
project area responsibility - e.g. State Leprosy Control Services

4.2 National health programmes with ill-defined leprosy component

4.2.1 Advantages of a formulated programme to government. Plans of action  
(see LEP/79.1)

4.2.2 Advantages to cooperating voluntary agencies

4.2.3 Advantages to coordinatory bodies