**ELIMINATION OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST LEPROSY AFFECTED PERSONS AND THEIR FAMILY MEMBERS**

**Questionnaire for**

**NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS**

1. Are you aware of the Principles and guidelines for the elimination of discrimination against persons affected by leprosy and their family members adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in December 2010 (resolution 65/215)? If yes, how did it come to your attention?

Response: Yes, information has received from WHO information leaflets and also from Regional Symposium organised by Sasakawa Memorial Health Foundation (SMHF).

1. What mechanism has the Government (Federal or State level) put in place to disseminate the Principles and Guidelines to its citizens? e.g. translation into national and local languages; media; or any other mechanism?

Response: No action has taken place.

1. Have any policies, action plans or any other measures been taken at the national level to promote awareness-raising of the issue of discrimination against leprosy affected persons and their family members? Please provide details on measures taken.

Response:

* Community awareness on the issue of discrimination against people affected by leprosy has been included in the texts of the national strategy.
* There is no such specific action has taken in the field, NGOs are conducting limited actions on leprosy awareness in the community.

1. What measures have been taken (Federal or State level) to modify, repeal or abolish discriminatory laws, policies or practices, including terminating forced segregation, in order to eliminate discrimination against persons affected by leprosy and their family members? Is freedom to choose where to live ensured for persons affected by leprosy and their family members?

Response: *The National Parliament has repealed Lepers Act 1898 on 24th November 2011*

1. Which is the terminology originally used in your native language in respect of persons affected by leprosy? Please also provide, aside from the specific terminology in your native language, a translation of it in English. Are there any popular myths associated with persons affected by leprosy? Please provide a short description.

Response:

In the rural northern part of Bangladesh, people affected by leprosy are called “Kurier” and in the tribal language of Chittagong Hill Tribal Area the people affected by leprosy are called “FARAUNGEE”

1. Are those affected by leprosy and their family members being consulted with and/or actively participating in the decision-making processes that deal with matters related to them?

Responses: The NGO efforts in improving awareness of human rights focus on working with people affected by leprosy and their family members through a self-help group approach. In these self-help groups, apart from discussing human rights issues, the groups also work on leadership development, livelihoods improvement, advocacy communication, and formation of District Federations to unite people affected by leprosy and other disabilities.

1. What measures have been taken at the national level to ensure persons affected by leprosy enjoy fully and equally rights with others regarding the rights of citizenship; obtaining identity documents; the right to vote; the right to stand for elections; the right to serve the public in any capacity or other civil and political rights?

Response: Formation of a people affected by leprosy (PABL) sub-committee, which conducts regular meetings between member representatives from leprosy background. One member representative from PABL sub-committee attends the Leprosy TB Coordinating Committee (LTCC) meeting at National level.

1. What measures have been taken to ensure persons affected by leprosy enjoy equal rights with others with regard to the rights to work and education; establishing a family; access to public places, including hotels, restaurants; and buses, taxis, trains and other forms of public transport; access to cultural and recreational facilities; access to places of worship or any other economic, social and cultural rights?

Response: There is no such specific action taken at national level. NGOs are taking some initiatives at local level through advocacy, communication and networking activities. People affected by leprosy are experiencing some degree of discrimination when individuals have visible signs or disabilities.

1. What actions have been taken to promote and protect the human rights of (a) women; (b) children; (c) the elderly; (d) members of other vulnerable groups who have or have had leprosy, as well as their family members? Please provide details.

Response: There is no specific plan or intervention taken against discrimination of people affected by leprosy. The Ministry of Social Welfare department has developed a strategy on equality and non-discrimination against people with disability. People with leprosy disability also have access to government disability grant.

1. What actions have been taken at the national level with regard to discriminatory, labelling and offensive languages directed at leprosy affected persons?

Response: no such action taken at national level

1. Have Governments drafted and/or adopted a national action plan to implement the Principles and Guidelines? Please attach a copy. Has a national committee been established? Please provide some details as to its mandate, size and composition of members.

Response: No action taken so far to implement P&G

1. What major obstacles, if any, have Governments faced in implementing the Principles and Guidelines for the elimination of discrimination against persons affected by leprosy and their family members?

Response: NLEP is functioning under Ministry of Health and the actions are limited to healthcare services. Social issues fall under responsibility of Ministry of Social Welfare, but there no linkage between two Ministries.

1. In your view, what follow-up mechanisms should be put in place at the national and international levels to effectively implement the Principles and Guidelines?

Response: Formation of and functioning of a National Committee and Task Force which is required to conduct actions, as well as follow-up mechanism and reporting.

1. Are there any concrete measures taken by Governments at different levels that you can share with us regarding actions taken to eliminate discrimination against leprosy affected persons and their family members in your country?

Response: No such action taken by Government

1. Please provide identified cases of discrimination experienced by leprosy affected persons and their family members in your country, disaggregated by its different forms, including de facto discrimination.