



Health Worker
Holding Leprosy
Pamphlet
— Uttar Pradesh,
India

through Block POD² Camps in which patients are taught about self-care.

3. Continued IEC to Facilitate Early Case Detection and Prompt MDT Treatment:

Four nationwide Modified Leprosy Elimination Campaigns (MLEC) have been carried out by all regions since 1997-98. Each time, the number of new cases detected has declined, as follows: 4.63, 2.13, 1.65 and 1.02 lakhs³. The positive benefits of community education, detecting hidden leprosy cases and prompt application of MDT treatment are clearly apparent.

Each State has been encouraged to draw up district and urban-specific plans for IEC for the year 2003-04.

4. SAPEL⁴ / LEC⁵:

The Special Action Plan for Elimination of Leprosy in rural areas and the Leprosy Elimination Campaign in urban areas are covering identified groups that are normally inaccessible due to location or other complicating circumstances.

5. Prevention of Disability (POD) & Care:

The training of General Health Services staff for POD, education of patients for self-care, and reconstructive surgical services for patients with deformities are all being continued. This is being carried out through specialized NGO institutions, district hospitals and tertiary referral centers.

6. Monitoring and Evaluation:

The Government of India has recently developed a Simplified Information System under the National Leprosy Eradication Programme. This has been implemented in the country since October 2002. With the Simplified Information System, the country is now equipped with an inbuilt information system for monthly monitoring, feedback and timely corrective actions at various levels.

Involvement of Partners for Elimination in India

India's Programme for Leprosy Elimination continues to be a combined effort of all the regions of India and the various organizations involved, e.g. the World Bank,

WHO and DANLEP. Support received from the Novartis, The Nippon Foundation, and Sasakawa Memorial Health Foundation have been of tremendous help.

NGOs have been involved in the cause of leprosy elimination for many decades and their contributions have had a strong, positive impact. More than 290 NGOs are working in the field of leprosy throughout the country. The roles and responsibilities of the NGOs have recently been redefined, with a new focus on the integration of leprosy services into General Health Care Services.



Efforts have also been made to invite NGOs from different health fields to take appropriate actions towards leprosy elimination.

The International Federation of Anti-Leprosy Associations is actively involved as an NLEP partner and supports 145 District Technical Support Teams around the country. These are assisting in the integration of leprosy services into General Health Care Services. In addition, the International Leprosy Association, in collaboration with Sasakawa Memorial Health Foundation and other NLEP India Partners, is organizing National Conference on the Elimination of Leprosy — India, planned for December 19th - 22nd, 2003, in Raipur, Chhattisgarh. Active participation of a large number of regional level NLEP managers will further enhance their involvement and commitment towards achieving the national goal of leprosy elimination in India. □

2 POD — Prevention of Disability

3 One lakh = 100,000

4 SAPEL — Special Action Plan for Elimination of Leprosy

5 LEC — Leprosy Elimination Campaign