

Revive Impact Report 2025

Thank you, The St Lazarus Charitable Trust, for providing dignity, healing and hope for people affected by leprosy in Odisha!

Project Overview

Last year, I shared about the desperate poverty and shocking levels of disability which we found in the leprosy colonies of Odisha. Located in eastern India, many families here live below the poverty line, relying on subsistence farming. Leprosy is a disease of poverty, and so it is no surprise that leprosy rates here are double the national average. Ensnared by poverty, stigma and disability, and with no outside help for over two decades, life in the colonies here was among the worst we had ever seen.



Before we began working in Odisha in 2025, there was very little case detection work happening in these regions, and almost no awareness, even within leprosy colonies themselves. Having gone untreated for decades, many had developed severe disabilities, missing fingers, toes or even limbs. Countless others were wrapping foot injuries in dirty rags or walking through flooded fields with open wounds. This increased the risk of infection, ulcers and amputation.

Living conditions in the colonies compounded the suffering. Houses were on the verge of collapse, with many having rooves of crumbling asbestos or torn sheets of plastic. Monsoon rains flooded people's homes, forcing families to huddle in the corner of what were already cramped spaces. There were no toilets, so people had no option but to brave the elements and wild animals to relieve themselves in the fields. Broken borewells meant long, arduous walks to the river to collect water which made them sick. Begging to survive, many earned less than £1 a day. Others couldn't even beg, as disabilities and old age meant they were unable to walk five or six kilometres to the nearest town.

Our team in Odisha have worked so hard over the past 12 months to address all of these problems. It's wonderful to see the results so far!

Project Achievements

Your kind support has already brought significant change to the lives of people affected by leprosy in Odisha. Below are some of the achievements which you helped make possible last year.

87 leprosy cases found and 9,833 contacts screened

Early case detection is central to breaking the cycle of leprosy and disability. With your help, 87 cases of leprosy were found and given the



cure in 2025. This will help protect them from disability and safeguard their quality of life. Contact-tracing was also carried out to screen close contacts for the disease. A total of 9,833 people were examined as a part of this.

33 leprosy champions and 329 health workers trained

Training local communities and health workers in leprosy has been prioritised from the outset. This is crucial if reliance on our team to find new cases is to be reduced. In 2025, 33 Leprosy Champions from local communities were taught to identify leprosy cases and refer them for diagnosis and treatment. A total of 329 health workers were also trained to diagnose and treat leprosy, as well as its complications.

1,025 pairs of Protective Footwear and 1,316 Self-Care Kits provided

With your help, 1,025 people received protective footwear in 2025. The thick, micro-cellular rubber soles of this footwear will protect people from injury and distribute pressure. This will greatly reduce the risk of ulcers for people who have lost feeling in their feet because of leprosy. In addition, 1,316 people received self-care kits, ensuring that they are equipped to treat their injuries and prevent infection.



33 Prevention of Disability Camps held

In 2025, a total of 33 Prevention of Disability Camps were carried out in collaboration with local government health authorities. These were another crucial part of our work to prevent disability. Not only did they hand out protective footwear and self-care kits, but they were also pivotal for teaching people self-care. This taught people how to use their self-care kits, as well as the need to regularly check their hands and feet for cuts. This is important as many people with leprosy fail to notice and treat their injuries because they can't feel pain. It also taught people the importance of regular soaking and scraping. Keeping skin moist makes it less prone to cracking, and regular scraping removes debris which could cause infection. In total, 1,430 people were trained in self-care through these camps.



30 New Houses and Toilets

In 2025, 30 new houses were built for some of the most vulnerable families. These families now have a secure roof over their heads and no longer have to worry about flooding. Equipped with toilets, these houses also ensure that these families no longer have to go to the toilet in a field. 12 community toilets which had previously been unusable were also renovated in 2025.



Through advocacy with the local government, 138 people affected by leprosy received land rights from the government. Each person was allocated 200 square yards of land, amounting to a total of 27,600 square yards in all. This has an estimated value of 48.3 million rupees (£439,000). This gives these families the security of legal ownership and makes it possible for us to build houses for them.

6 Wells and 9 Borewell Platforms Repaired

With your help, six wells and nine borewell platforms were repaired in 2025. This will ensure access to clean water and protect people from disease. The repair of these platforms will also ensure that people don't have to put their freshly-cleaned cooking pots onto dirty ground.



Sustainable Livelihoods

Before we began working in Odisha, many colony residents had no choice but to beg to survive. They couldn't meet basic needs and could only afford one bowl of rice each day. It has therefore been a priority to provide training and resources so that people affected by leprosy can produce their own food and generate an income. So far, 55 chickens, 69 goats and 2 cows have been handed out to a total of 126 people. This will enable them to benefit from the eggs and milk which this livestock will produce.



Kitchen gardens have been established for 1,338 households, and a further 24 gardens have been established for entire communities. These will enable people affected by leprosy to grow fruit, vegetables and nuts for food and income generation.



Our small team trained Leprosy Champions to advocate for people with the disease. This will help to ensure that they get rice rations, disability pensions and other government entitlements.

Finally, ten young people living in the colonies were referred to The Leprosy Mission's vocational training centre in Champa. This will enable them to receive free training in a trade of their choice, such as mechanics, computing or electrics.

Inner Wellbeing Support

Many people in the colonies had suffered from extreme stigma and marginalisation. Many had been rejected by their friends and families and thrown out of their communities. We made sure that people were supported by setting up 23 peer support groups. Everyone was so grateful to be able to share experiences together. It helped them to know that they were not alone! 406 people were trained in inner wellbeing and 33 were referred to mental health services through links with the government.

Anjali Update

You may remember that last year I shared Anjali's story. Anjali grew up in a house filled with fear. Her grandfather was the head of the family, and his power, influence and cruelty caused her to shrink from his presence from an early age.

When Anjali was just 11, pale patches began to appear on her skin. Too frightened to acknowledge what she was seeing, she hoped that they would go away. But they didn't. To her horror, they started to spread, covering more and more of her body. She couldn't understand what was happening to her.



Her mother managed to persuade her uncle to take her to the hospital, and it was here that the diagnosis finally came. Leprosy. She should have been given the cure immediately, but she was sent home without any medicine. Without the cure, leprosy tightened its grip on Anjali's body, deepening her troubles.

By 14, nerve damage had robbed her of sensation. One evening, while draining rice, boiling water cascaded over her hand and up her arm but she felt nothing. Her mother took her from one traditional healer to another, desperate to find a solution. But Anjali's grandfather had lost his patience. Behind closed doors, he began to whisper death threats to her. He poisoned her food and even tried to push her in front of a train. Terrified, Anjali confided in her mother, but no one dared challenge him.

Then came the day he promised to take her for treatment. After driving for two hours, far from anywhere Anjali knew, he abandoned her at a leprosy colony. Anjali cried after him, but he didn't look back. That was the last Anjali ever saw of her family.

An elderly couple in the colony took pity on her, and slowly she rebuilt her life as best she could. At 19, she married a man from another colony, and together they now have two sons, aged 14 and 17.

When we first met Anjali, her house was collapsing and liable to flooding. She spoke of how she had no money because no one would employ her because of her leprosy. Even begging was a challenge, as seeing her disabled hands, many refused to go near her. Her one desire was for her sons to have a better life than the one she had had.

Thanks to your support, Anjali's dream is becoming a reality! Her and her husband now have legal ownership of the land they are living on, and their new home is under construction. They have also received a cow and a calf for milk, as well as crops so that they can plant their own kitchen garden. This will greatly improve Anjali's quality of life and realise her dream for her children!



Thank you for changing lives like Anjali's. Your support is making such a difference!