

Project Proposal to the St Lazarus Charitable Trust

From Lalgadh Leprosy Hospital & Services Centre (LLHSC), Nepal Leprosy Trust (NLT)

Dr Graeme A. Clugston – Medical Director, LLHSC 14 October 2021

1. OVERVIEW OF LLHSC'S WORK AND SUPPORT

(You may find it helpful to read this Proposal in conjunction with the LLHSC's more detailed recent Newsletter)
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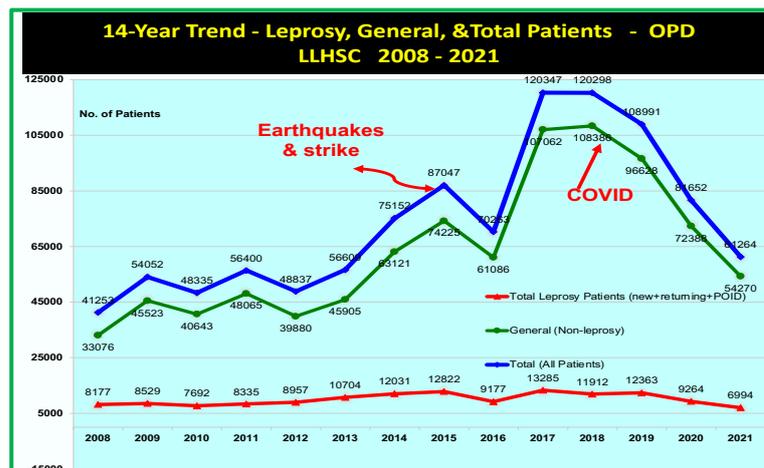
Lalgadh Leprosy Hospital & Services Centre (LLHSC) is one of the world's busiest leprosy hospitals and by far the busiest in Nepal. Situated in Province-2 near the border with Bihar, India, LLHSC is in epicentre of leprosy endemicity for Nepal and North India. Last year's Nepal Government records indicate that 45.2% of all new cases of leprosy in Nepal occur in Province 2. LLHSC's official catchment area for leprosy is Province 2 with its eight Districts and 6.3 million people, although folks also come from further east and north for treatment at LLHSC. Thus LLHSC is a crucial major implementer of Nepal's National Leprosy Programme, working closely collaboratively and supportively with the Government for a distant triumphant goal of a leprosy-free Nepal.

Although LLHSC gets no funding from the Nepal Government, it still manages to provide free hospital and community services to all leprosy patients. And it is our intention to keep it that way. LLHSC manages to generate some 49% of its funding needs from local earnings - clinical support services to the large numbers of non-leprosy patients we treat (pharmacy, laboratory, X-Ray etc, inpatient and outpatient services, and accommodation for trainees and interns). The rest is from donations. LLHSC's total annual budget covering all services, huge patient numbers, free leprosy services, and 121 staff, is US\$ 1.14 million.



2. HUGE PATIENT NUMBERS – AND THE IMPACT OF COVID

Patient numbers – both leprosy and non-leprosy - were progressively increasing year by year for the past 15 years, reaching 120,000 outpatients for the year 2018 - until the COVID-pandemic caused a dramatic drop over the past two years. The COVID-19 pandemic (it's all Delta strain here) and the associated lockdowns, lack of transport, and fears and stigma about COVID, all severely restricted patient visits to LLHSC reducing patient numbers by 45 %, both for Outpatient consultations and Inpatient Hospital admissions. This is now slowly recovering.

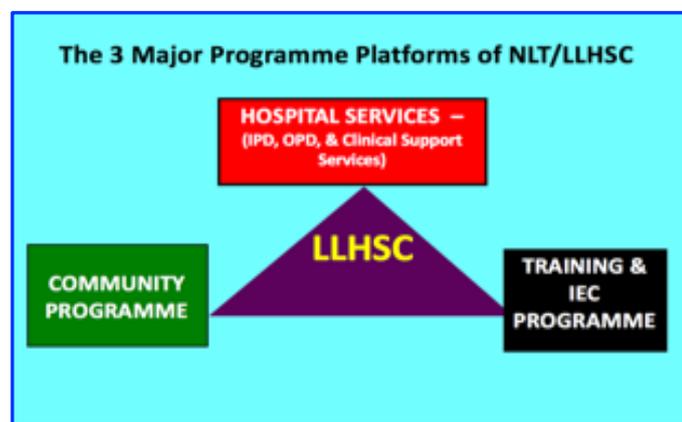


OPD Patient Consultations - 2019, 2020 & 2021			
	July 2018 – 2019	July 2019 - 2020	July 2020 – 2021
New Leprosy	1,089	776	687
All Leprosy (new + returning + POID)	12,363	9,264	6,994
General (incl MCH + Emergency)	96,628	72,388	54,270
Total OPD consultations	108,991	81,652	61,264
Total Children consultations	20,292	14,564	10,105

LLHSC - INPATIENT SERVICES (IPD) - 2019 & 2020		
	Jan - Dec 2019	Jan - Dec 2020
Total Admissions in IPD -	895	457
• Leprosy Patients	690	312 (68%)
• Severe Leprosy Reactions (Type 1, Type 2, Neuritis)		51
• Severe leprosy ulcers		217
• General Patients (including Obstetrics)	205	145 (32%)
• Septic surgery (eg. ulcers)		108
• Major Surgery (eg. reconstructive, orthopedics)		36

3. THE WORK OF LALGADH LEPROSY HOSPITAL

The work of LLHSC is implemented through three main programmatic platforms...



- **Hospital Services** - including **Inpatient care** for hospitalised patients, **Outpatient** daily consultation services, and **Diagnostic Support** services such as Laboratory, X-Ray, Ultrasound and Pharmacy.
- **Community Outreach Programme** – implementing satellite clinics, community development work, water and sanitation projects, COVID relief support, and Self-Help Groups with some 2,300 beneficiaries.
- **Training and Information/Education Programme** - running training courses and workshop for Government Health workers, doctors and nurses, teachers, international students and interns, and community development groups.

PLEASE SEE ANNEX 1. - for a Summary List of LLHSC's Services and Activities in its Three Main Programme Areas



(a) Busy daily Outpatient clinics



(b) Reconstructive hand surgery on a 10-year old leprosy-affected child

4. PRIORITY FUNDING NEEDS

Here are 10 of LLHSC's main priority needs – support for any of these, full or partial, would be very very helpful. They are not in ranked order of priority.

	Priority Funding Needs	Estimated Cost
1.	Funds for a portable X-Ray machine – leprosy patients who are postoperative or very ill, cannot easily be taken to the X-Ray department. Also needed for use in the operating theatre for ensuring correct orthopedic surgery	£ 11,800
2.	Obstetric delivery table – our current one is old and 2nd-hand.	£ 3,600
3.	A basic anaesthetic machine - needed for more major reconstructive surgery when spinal or axillary blocks are not sufficient	£ 7,300
4.	Equipping the LLHSC Physiotherapy department for leprosy care - an essential part of leprosy treatment, especially for pre-operative and post-operative reconstructive surgery, and amputees	£ 5,800
5.	Funds for good quality hospital treatment of leprosy sufferers – especially children and women with severe leprosy complication – for diagnostic tests, hospital inpatient care & treatment, medicines, bandages, reconstructive surgery, septic surgery;	£ 10,000 covers the hospital inpatient management of some 30 patients
6.	Urgently needed building of a Tuberculosis Clinic (DOTS – Directly Observed Therapy) - away from main hospital building because it is so infectious – for multi-drug resistant tuberculosis (\$ 30,000). Quite a number of leprosy patients – who are immunocompromised – also catch tuberculosis	£ 22,000
7.	Scholarship-support for children with leprosy, and for children of leprosy-affected and other poor families	£ 5,200
8.	Funding to support leprosy affected people in the community – for house renovation, well-digging, training in income generating skills, economic support for rehabilitating very poor leprosy-affected people.	£ 3,500 to build a house
9.	Support for staff salaries –(always so hard to raise funds for) – LLHSC's nurses, doctors, health workers are very committed – most salary levels at LLHSC are at only half or three quarters of equivalent posts in other mission hospitals or Government hospitals);	Any amount helps.
10.	Training courses (6-12 months) for staff in areas such as ultrasound and X-Ray use and interpretation, laboratory techniques, practical anaesthetics, dermatology, reconstructive surgery, physiotherapy.	£ 4,400 per doctor/nurse trainee for a 12-month course



(a) All four ladies, in LLHSC at present, have had reconstructive surgery for leprosy. (b) Orthopaedic surgery for leprosy

LLHSC serves huge numbers of poor, sick, leprosy-affected, disabled and needy patients. When the COVID pandemic is over, patient numbers will rapidly return to well over 100,000 patient visits each year. This will again include some 12,000 leprosy patients and over 20,000 sick children. LLHSC reaches out compassionately with free or low-cost services to the leprosy-affected, poor and needy, the vulnerable and marginalised population groups. It supports and facilitates 112 Self Help Groups across Districts in Province-2. All three of LLHSC's programme areas – Hospital Services, Community Outreach, and the Training programme – strive to meet to the enormous challenges ahead, to help conquer and eliminate leprosy and other diseases of poverty, and help meet the health, faith, and development needs of the families, communities and populations of this very poor region of Nepal.

ANNEX 1.

Here Is a Summary List of LLHSC's Services and Activities in its Three Main Programme Areas

1. Hospital Services: 4 arms:

- **Inpatient care and treatment:** medical care of leprosy patients (ulcers, neuritis, lepra reactions); medical care of general patients, reconstructive surgery; septic surgery; orthopaedic and amputation surgery; obstetric services inpatient-literacy and health education classes.
- **Outpatient services:** daily patient clinics, accident & emergency service, wound care clinic, antenatal and maternal-child health clinics. POID satellite clinics in community. Currently 400-650 patient per day, normally 110,000 per year in non-COVID year. .
- **Diagnostic and supportive services** - laboratory services, pharmacy, scanning (X-ray, ultrasound, ECG), counselling, wheelchairs, crutches, prosthetics, appliances, footwear and orthotics; physiotherapy and rehabilitation
- **Research:** multicounty 3-yr double-arm research study on Post-exposure rifampicin for leprosy contacts (PEP++)

2. Community Programme - outreach covers 2.5 million population in 4 adjacent Districts of Nepal, eventually to cover 6.3 million in Province-2. 2 arms:

Community Empowerment & Rehabilitation (CBER); Socioeconomic Rehabilitation (SER)

- Self-help groups (SHGs) – formation, mobilization and support – currently 112 groups
- Activities aimed at stigma elimination
- Community clinics for prevention/management of impairment and disability from leprosy
- WASH - drinking water, hand-pumps and wells and latrines in poor communities.
- Micro-credit programme
- Land purchase
- Income generation and support packages - rickshaws, animal purchase, sewing machines
- Literacy programme - especially for women and children
- Mother's Groups empowerment
- School support programmes in poor/marginalized/remote communities
- Counselling
- Construction/renovation of low-cost housing for leprosy affected families
- Scholarships – children with leprosy and of leprosy-affected families
- Subsistence & living allowances for the very needy and disabled
- Care Haven – a live-in facility, caring for the severely leprosy-affected, blind & disabled
- Participatory community health & development projects

3. Training and Capacity Building:

- Self-Care Training Unit (SCTU) - runs courses for people affected by leprosy
- Street dramas, videos, radio spots
- Comprehensive leprosy training for government health workers
- Leprosy training courses for post-grad doctors
- Leprosy orientation courses for community people, leaders, teachers
- Training in rights-based approaches, and empowerment initiatives
- Vocational and skills training in self-help group management, book-keeping, literacy, veterinary skills etc
- Prevention and management of disability training courses
- Internships for overseas medical student, nurses and podiatrists

Any support you can offer to collaborate and partner with us in this tremendous struggle to conquer leprosy, will be ever so gratefully received.

Thankyou and warmest wishes from all the NLT/LLHSC-Team here.

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How to support Lalgadh Leprosy Hospital?

<http://www.nepal-leprosy.com/support-us.html>