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### **Introduction:**

As an integral part of the program strategy, Swiss Emmaus India conducts need assessment prior to start of any new community based development projects to develop a good understanding of the disease epidemiology, health systems performance and community needs. A need assessment is a systematic procedure to determine and address the needs of a community and the stakeholders to plan a strategy in order to improve the performance as well as fixing any defects that may occur in any project.

Swiss Emmaus India conducted a needs assessment before designing a new project to develop a good understanding of the disease epidemiology, health systems performance and community needs in Durg district of Chhattisgarh state of India.

### **Methodology:**

The rapid Health Needs Assessment (rHNA) used a mix-methods design (Qualitative & Quantitative) and primary and secondary data available in the public domain and from the NLEP program.

### **The key areas of enquiry for the rHNA were:**

- Trends in leprosy and other NTDs
- Gaps and challenges in access to quality services for leprosy patients.
- Priorities for the government, communities, and other stakeholders
- Potential project partners and opportunities for collaboration
- Possible synergies with government departments and programs other than health.

### **The Outcome:**

The findings from study are presented under the following broader themes:

- Leprosy Disease Trends
- Policy and planning
- Health Infrastructure
- Human Resources for Health Status
- Service delivery
- Program Monitoring
- Information, Education and Communication
- Community Engagement

### **Limitations:**

- ✓ It being a rapid assessment, sampling may not be representative.
- ✓ The respondents interviewed and the facilities visited were purposive to some extent and based on the availability and constraints of time for field work.
- ✓ Disaggregated service data by facilities and demographics was not available for a detailed analysis.

### **Conclusion:**

Based on the findings of this assignment, SEI organised a participatory meeting with all the stakeholders involved in the need assessment and developed a new project for the district addressing all the challenges that came out in the need assessment.