



SWISS EMMAUS LEPROSY
RELIEF WORK - INDIA

Dear Friends,

Greetings from Swiss Emmaus India! As always, it's a pleasure to continue our bond and strengthen our ties by frequently communicating about the significant contributions that you've made to the lives of people affected by Leprosy during 2013. It is unfortunate but true that Leprosy leaves an indelible impression on people, firstly, because of the deformity and subsequently that leads to sustained stigma and discrimination as a result of Leprosy related deformity.

I'm pleased to share with you that Swiss Emmaus India was able to pilot

an innovative project namely, Prevention of Impairment and Disability (POID), in 2 high endemic districts of Andhra Pradesh only because of your kind support. The prime goal of the project was to diagnose early cases of Leprosy and facilitate treatment thereby preventing visible deformities especially among young children. I'm proud to share with you that over 3 years of pilot my team was able to successfully diagnose 3,802 people with grade-0 deformity

Facts about Leprosy

Grades of Deformity in Leprosy:

- **Grade-0 (gr-0):** no anesthesia, no visible deformity or damage.
- **Grade-1 (gr-1):** anesthesia present, but no visible deformity or damage.
- **Grade-2 (gr-2):** visible deformity or damage present.

(please refer to the text box), which resulted in preventing visible deformity and its consequences amongst a large section of people.

One of the key successes of this project is the involvement of the local Indian Public Health Systems of the Government of India (GoI), where the Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHA) were involved in referring people to the primary health care (PHC) centers that confirmed diagnosis and initiated treatment. My team also ensured in forming synergies with other local government departments that provided social



Picture-1: Young Boy getting checked, during the POID Camp.

security, transport concessions, livelihood support, and formation of self-care groups where members of the community were involved in caring for their own, which provided the much wanted psycho-social support.

This way the project attained self-sustenance and the government structures are providing the much needed care and services to the people.

Finally, I'm equally pleased to share with you that the outcomes of the POID project was accepted as an oral presentation at the recently held International Leprosy Congress (ILC) held in Brussels during Sept. 2013, where it won the 'Young Scientist Award' (please see picture-2).



Picture-2: 'Young Scientist Award' to Swiss Emmaus India for the POID Project in AP

This was only possible because of your generous support. Please join me in continuing to create a 'world without Leprosy'.

Thank you,

Sincerely,



(John Kurian George)
CEO

PS: The biggest disease today is not leprosy or tuberculosis, but rather the feeling of being unwanted. – Mother Teresa

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