COUNTRY REPORT ON LEPROSY CONTROL PROGRAMME IN PAKISTAN. (IN BRIEF)

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1. COUNTRY INFORMATION:
Sq. Kms: 796,095
Population: +/- 119 Million.
Consisting of: 4 Provinces (N.W.F.P., Balochistan, Sindh & Punjab.
2 Disputed areas (Azad Kashmir & Northern Areas)

2. FACILITIES OF THE NATIONAL LEPROSY PROGRAMME:
Organized Leprosy Control Measures were started in 1968.
2.1 Organization:
Leprosy Control measures are part of the Provincial Health Services, administratively integrated, professionally vertical. Each Provincial Health Department works in counterpart arrangement with one N.G.O. Marie Adelaide Leprosy Centre, the largest of the NGOs, is managing in addition the Greater Karachi Leprosy Control Programme independently in the Provinces where Leprosy has been or is being controlled, additional health tasks have been taken on by the Leprosy staff: Prevention of Blindness (in Balochistan and N.W.F.P.)
Tuberculosis Control in Azad Kashmir and Northern Areas.
2.2 Staffing:
The combined Leprosy Programme are staffed by 896 workers, of them 39 Medical Officers (18 full time)
388 Paramedical and other medical staff.
40 other technical staff.
429 supportive and administrative staff.
39% of the staff is NGO employed, the remaining are Govt: workers.
2.3 Leprosy Units:
Total 125 Field Units of them
114 Government Units and
11 N.G.O Units.
2.4 Leprosy Hospital/Training Institutions:
9 Leprosy Hospitals are in existence with 430 beds and 3618 admissions. The National Training Institute is managed by Marie Adelaide Leprosy Centre at karachi.
2.5 Transport:
The Programme is operating 74 four wheel vehicles, 119 motorcycles and 9 bicycles.

3. DISTRIBUTION OF LEPROSY:
In Pakistan Leprosy is found in markedly focal pattern. The original prevalence of the disease has been well known, ranging from 35 per thousand in isolated foci (Mirpur Mathelo in Sukkur and Rani Kot of Mehal Kohistan in Dadu Districts of Sindh Province) to 0.1 per thousand in Punjab Province.
Leprosy belts did stretch from Azad Kashmir over Northern Areas and N.W.F.P. to the Northern parts of Balochistan and along the Seashore to the border of Iran. Punjab has very low prevalence of disease. In the last 5 years Leprosy prevalence rate have gradually declined, while in Sindh the disease is declining though the target has not yet been achieved in all districts. Urban Leprosy is still ripe in Karachi and Hyderabad districts in Sindh.
4. LEPROSY PATIENTS SERVED (31-12-1992):

Patients registered in the National Register: 39,500
Under Chemotherapy: 8,002
Under Surveillance (after Monotherapy and MDR): 13,793
Under care: 1,287
Number of untreated cases detected in 1992: 1,493
Patients discharged from Chemotherapy in 1992: 1,442

5. MULTIPLE DRUG REGIMEN (31-12-1992):
Under treatment: 3,760
Regular (96% of all treatments taken in time): 95%
Irregular: 1%
Discontinued: 4%
Relapse (1992): 25

M.D.R. Discharged (1992): 1,381
Total Discharged after completion of M.D.R. treatment: 8,710
of them re-examined clinically: 32%
bacteriologically: 24%

With the exception of greater Karachi, all provincial programmes have adopted the policy to no longer treat any patient with Monotherapy MDR coverage in Pakistan has subsequently improved from 28% to 56% the majority of patients not yet receiving MDR, are not known. The prevalence Rates have declined while incidence rates have remained stationary in Pakistan, with an average annual case detection rate of +/−1500.

6. REHABITATION OF LEPROSY PATIENTS:
11,493 Leprosy patients have been benefitted of psychological, physical, educational, social and economical rehabilitation from Rehabilitation services.