LEPROSY

Elimination Initiative 30+

Impact goal

Interruption of transmission and **elimination** of the disease

Elimination targets

Interruption of transmission: Zero new autochthonous cases of leprosy in children <15 years of age for at least five consecutive years

Disease elimination: Zero new autochthonous cases for at least three consecutive years after reaching interruption of transmission

Programmatic targets

No new cases with grade 2 disability due to leprosy

All eligible contacts **receive post-exposure prophylaxis**

Action steps to achieve elimination

Best buys

1. **Expand prevention and active case detection:**
   - Conduct contact-tracing for all new cases; scale up prophylaxis for eligible contacts; and carry out integrated active case-finding in high-risk groups

2. **Ensure comprehensive management and disability prevention:**
   - Detect and diagnose early; start WHO-recommended multidrug therapy promptly; manage reactions, neuritis, and disability-related complications; provide access to referral care; support self-care; and promote mental health through counseling

3. **Strengthen primary health care and surveillance:**
   - Integrate leprosy services into primary care; improve case-based reporting, mapping, and surveillance systems

4. **Combat stigma and promote inclusion:**
   - Engage persons affected in planning and monitoring; eliminate discriminatory laws; implement community-based tools to reduce stigma associated with leprosy; and ensure access to social protection and rehabilitation

More information

- Pan American Health Organization. Leprosy (Hansen disease). Washington, D.C.: PAHO; 2025 [cited 29 May 2025]. Available from: https://www.paho.org/en/topics/leprosy-hansen-disease.
- World Health Organization. Towards zero leprosy. Global Leprosy (Hansen's disease) Strategy 2021–2030. New Delhi: WHO, Regional Office for South-East Asia; 2017. Available from: https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789290228509.
- World Health Organization. Interruption of transmission and elimination of leprosy disease – Technical guidance. New Delhi: WHO, Regional Office for South-East Asia; 2023. Available from: https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789290210467.

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