

# LEPROSY



## + 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

### 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

## Best buys

### 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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