# Fondation Kalipa

Presentation of the Organisation who responded:

The organisation is called "Fondation Kalipa pour le Développement", it is a non-profit and apolitical organization founded by the Ministerial Decree of Justice No. 79 / CAB / MIN / J / 2009 of 3 July, 2009. It is a local civil society organization based in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Answer 1. No, the principles have not been popularized yet by our country, nevertheless, our organization is seeking to work on this theme but is often limited in terms of means, principles, expertise and support from international organizations.

Answer 2. In our country, in accordance with national health policy, a primary health care charter is implemented, but the detailed provisions of the policy on endemic diseases remain a dead letter without any popularization of the issue, nor monitoring of activities in the field. Only civil society organizations take action on this isse, but they are limited in terms of tools and support from international partners.

Answer 3. There is a policy on the elimination of leprosy but only at the national level, and the issue of discrimination remains yet to be addressed. Policy makers should consult with local communities to get their views on the question of persons affected by leprosy, since operational plans made by international organizations are sometimes contrary to these views and considerations.

Answer 4. No measures have been taken in the DRC (as far as our organization is aware of) on combating discrimination against leprosy affected persons and their family members. It would be better if this issue is addressed in a concise manner and popularized throughout the country.

Answer 5. The terms "mtu mtu wa akuma no muchas sana" means that a person living with leprosy is a person without hygiene. According to this belief/culture the person should be isolated, as white people from the colonial period were doing. For instance, a person affected by leprosy should construct his building far away from the rest of the population.

Answer 6. No, even for other endemic diseases, the persons or their family members are not consulted before any intervention whatsoever. Even for the case of tuberculosis, we have information that some victims had refused to take drug treatment, because they have false assumptions about the treatment.

Answers 7 to 10. No action has been taken by the national government; this is a big challenge for the international community dealing with human rights.

Answer 11. According to the radio, it is true that there are guidelines for combating leprosy but the popularization is very low; we must promote the popularization of legal texts in our country, this is really a big challenge.

Answer 12. I think that it is unwillingness, since the government has the means but they choose not to implement the Principles and Guidelines. We, civil society organizations, often denounce this situation with the government.

Answer 13. An inclusive approach with all stakeholders is needed for a pragmatic planning of actions on combating discrimination against leprosy affected persons and their family members. Only civil society organizations can provide proper guidance on which follow-up mechanisms should be put in place and should be involved in the process since they know the situation on the ground and are in touch with victims and the local community.

Answer 14. No action has been taken by the national government; it is a big challenge for the international community dealing with human rights.

Answer 15.

Cultural discrimination: A person affected by leprosy has no right to marry or to be married, otherwise the curse will pass to the family of the healthy spouse; the person has no right to cultural participation.

Social discrimination: Leprosy affected persons are not allowed to belong in any recreational or religious group to avoid contaminating others; they should not bathe in the same water basin/pond as other healthy people.

Economic discrimination: Persons affected by leprosy represents an expense for the family while it is considered to be a non-curable chronic disease.

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