**ELIMINATION OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST LEPROSY AFFECTED PERSONS AND THEIR FAMILY MEMBERS**

**Questionnaire for**

**NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS**

**1.** Are you aware of the Principles and guidelines for the elimination of discrimination against persons affected by leprosy and their family members adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in December 2010(resolution 65/215)? If yes, how did it come to your attention?

- Yes. It came to our attention through web, Infolep, WHO goodwill Ambassador’s Newsletter…

**2.** What mechanism has the Government (Federal or State level) put in place to disseminate the Principles and Guidelines to its citizens? e.g. translation into national and local languages; media; or any other mechanism?

- It consolidated the existing State level’s efforts for elimination of discrimination against persons affected by leprosy and their family members that included already almost all key points of the above Principles and guidelines.

**3.** Have any policies, action plans or any other measures been taken at the national level to promote awareness-raising of the issue of discrimination against leprosy affected persons and their family members? Please provide details on measures taken.

- Persistent and diversified IEC activities about leprosy & effective leprosy control, promoting societal inclusion through addressing all forms of discrimination and stigma.

**4.** What measures have been taken (Federal or State level) to modify, repeal or abolish discriminatory laws, policies or practices, including terminating forced segregation, in order to eliminate discrimination against persons affected by leprosy and their family members? Is freedom to choose where to live ensured for persons affected by leprosy and their family members?

- State level has working towards abolishing discriminatory laws and promoting policies facilitating inclusion of persons affected by leprosy for several decades. Concerning focus control, since many years the leprosy new cases have been managed at home by a well-established leprosy control network, combined with the Dermato-Venereology from the national to district levels and fully integrated in the general health service at commune level. Regarding the focus care/rehabilitation, there are two developments: mainly reversal functional rehabilitation and normal socio-economic rehabilitation. The former leprosy villages/colonies/treatment centers have been progressively adapted through reversal integration: facilitating the residents’ societal inclusion, especially their next generations, providing dermatological or even general health services for the surrounding communities, becoming normal communities.

**5.** Which is the terminology originally used in your native language in respect of persons affected by leprosy? Please also provide, aside from the specific terminology in your native language, a translation of it in English. Are there any popular myths associated with persons affected by leprosy? Please provide a short description.

- Very long ago the terminology used in Vietnamese in respect of PALs was “hủi” (ugly) in the North, “phong” in the Central and “cùi” (mutilation of extremities) in the South. Since many years the term “bệnh nhân phong” (leprosy patient) or “người bị ảnh hưởng bởi bệnh phong” (people affected by leprosy – PAL) are commonly & officially used. Some popular myths associated with PALs such as ‘leprosy due to heredity’, ‘leprosy due to debauched life’… now become a thing of the past.

**6.** Are those affected by leprosy and their family members being consulted with and/or actively participating in the decision-making processes that deal with matters related to them?

- Yes. They are empowered and strengthened to participate actively in the decision-making processes to deal with matters related to them e.g. case holding, surveillance, POD, social protection (health insurance, income generation, occupation training, education, housing…)…

**7**. What measures have been taken at the national level to ensure persons affected by leprosy enjoy fully and equally rights with others regarding the rights of citizenship; obtaining identity documents; the right to vote; the right to stand for elections; the right to serve the public in any capacity or other civil and political rights?

- In the Human rights and Rights of citizenship chapters of the Constitution, the law on election of deputies to the national assembly and people councils, the Civil Code … there‘s no discrimination against PALs.

**8.** What measures have been taken to ensure persons affected by leprosy enjoy equal rights with others with regard to the rights to work and education; establishing a family; access to public places, including hotels, restaurants; and buses, taxis, trains and other forms of public transport; access to cultural and recreational facilities; access to places of worship or any other economic, social and cultural rights?

- Law on people with disability as well as other related laws assure those rights for everybody, no discrimination against PALs.

**9**. What actions have been taken to promote and protect the human rights of (a) women; (b) children; (c) the elderly; (d) members of other vulnerable groups who have or have had leprosy, as well as their family members? Please provide details.

- Discrimination against PALs and their family members has been abolished in Children law, Law on the elderly people, Law on gender equality, law about people with disabilityand all other laws related to other vulnerable groups who have or have had leprosy, as well as their family members.

**10**. What actions have been taken at the national level with regard to discriminatory, labelling and offensive languages directed at leprosy affected persons?

- Discriminatory, labelling and offensive languages directed at leprosy affected persons are not acceptable in all political system since many years.

**11**. Have Governments drafted and/or adopted a national action plan to implement the Principles and Guidelines? Please attach a copy. Has a national committee been established? Please provide some details as to its mandate, size and composition of members.

- The current Constitution, Laws and more concretely the objectives of the National Leprosy Control Program in Vietnam already covered almost all key points of the Principles and Guidelines.

**12.** What major obstacles, if any, have Governments faced in implementing the Principles and Guidelines for the elimination of discrimination against persons affected by leprosy and their family members?

- No major obstacle but with one major advantage: Vietnam became member of UN Human Rights Council since 2013.

**13.**  In your view, what follow-up mechanisms should be put in place at the national and international levels to effectively implement the Principles and Guidelines?

- Periodical assessment of the activity limitation, the social participation restrictions and the quality of life of PALs as well as the perceived stigma towards PALs by sampling surveys using appropriate scales

**14**. Are there any concrete measures taken by Governments at different levels that you can share with us regarding actions taken to eliminate discrimination against leprosy affected persons and their family members in your country?

- To eliminate discrimination against leprosy affected persons and their family members, there is a need of a long-term action: an effective leprosy control with convincing implementation and outcomes. This will positively influence on the community awareness, as well as the whole political system including the legislators.

**15**. Please provide identified cases of discrimination experienced by leprosy affected persons and their family members in your country, disaggregated by its different forms, including de facto discrimination.

- Since many years the National Leprosy Control Program didn’t identify any obvious case of discrimination experienced by PALs and their family members.