CNDP Rwanda

1. Yes the institution is aware of the Principles and the 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 65/2015). It came to our attention from the health ministry through the WHO.

2. The Governement disseminates the Principles and Guidelines and messages promoting non-discrimination against leprosy affected persons in local language via the media, local radio stations and the written press.

Moreover, we also disseminate these messages through education sessions on leprosy integrated in the trainings on health and byCommunity health workers.

3. Yes, policies and action plans are regularly elaborated for the promotion of awareness-raising activities on the issue of discrimination against leprosy affected persons and their family members.

Some examples of the objectives integrated in those plans are :

1. To reinforce the quality of services for combating leprosy, and build the capacity of caregivers and community health workers

The interventions aim at reinforcing caregivers' capacity at different levels of the programme and according to their tasks, sensitizing community workers, supporting local patients’ associations, ensuring an efficient and performant referral system, further integrating leprosy in the supervision as is the case for tuberculosis.

1. To Facilitate the medical rehabilitation and socio-economical reinsertion of leprosy affected persons.

This objective incorporates the different interventions that contribut to the total rehabilitation of leprosy affected persons; taking into account medical and socio-economic aspects.

1. To Increase the efforts of sensitization, information and communication, in order to reduce the stigmatisation and discrimination of leprosy affected persons and their family members.

This objective includes educative interventions and advocacy against discrimination and stigmatization of leprosy affected persons and their family members, both in the community and health services.

The National Comission for Human Rights organizes awareness-raising sessions to human rights in general.

4. The measures which have been taken to modify, repeal or abolish discriminatory laws, policies or practices, including abolition of forced segregation, in order to eliminate discrimination against persons affected by leprosy and their family members are:

1. Persons affected by leprosy and their family members are taken care of in health care centers instead of leprosariums.
2. The right to have a health insurance.
3. These persons have the same rights as the rest of the population, right to child's education, right to health care, right to live in decent places and in agglomerations (imidigudu: Villages).

* The Constitution prohibits all forms of discrimination and the Penal Code establishes penalties
* The freedom to choose where to live by persons affected by leprosy and their family members is guaranteed.
* The Comission participates in the review of all laws at the level of House of Representatives (Parliamentarians), to ensure that no law that violates human rights, including those of persons affected by leprosy and their family members, is adopted.

5. The persons affected by leprosy are an integral part of the rest of the community. They participate in the active life of their community, be it communal work for those who do not suffer from any disability, or those who are suffer from the after-effects of the disease participate in the decisions that affect them.

6. The persons affected by leprosy enjoy rights on an equal basis as others.

1. Citizenship: ( v)
2. Obtention of identity documents: ( v)
3. Right to vote: ( v)
4. Right to serve the public in any capacity: ( v)
5. Right to be part of cooperatives: ( v)

7. The measures which have been taken to ensure persons affected by leprosy enjoy rights equally with others are:

1. The right to work: Those without disability can submit their application to all the vacancies according their vocational training. The vacancies state that their is no discrimination.
2. The right to education: There is no discrimination at school against children from families of persons affected by leprosy; while adults can also benefit from adult literacy programmes equally with other adult persons.
3. The right to found a family: The Family Code guarantees the right to found a family for all.
4. The Constitution prohibits all forms of discrimination and makes education an obligation for every child (right to education), and guarantees the right to worship for all persons without any discrimination and the penal code establishes sanctions against those who discriminate

8. At the level of the Ministry for local administration (MINALOC), there is a policy of social protection in which every category of vulnerable persons, affected by leprosy or not (children, women, elderly) find their rights respected.

9. There is a national strategic plan, and yearly action plans where these principles and guidelines are integrated. Those plans are implemented by the Ministry of health troughout its establishments. However, there is still no ad hoc national comittee.

10. In practice, their is no obstacle in implementing the Principles and Guidelines for the elimination of discrimination against persons affected by leprosy and their family members.

11. The follow-up mechanisms which should be put in place:

1. At the national level:
   1. Reinforcing the communication on the issue of combating stigmatization and discrimination
2. At the international level:
   1. Elaborate standard messages which can be disseminated to reinforce the fight
   2. Diseminate good practices of countries so that other countries can be inspired in their fight against discrimination.

12. Some good practices concerning concrete measures taken to eliminate discrimination against leprosy affected persons and their family members.

1. The former patients and their families are grouped into associations, in order to :
2. Organise mutual aid as a group; mutual help to cover health insurance, care services , and child education expenses.
3. Realize income-generating micro projects , which help them to cover some of their basic needs.
4. Choose those most vulnerable and advocate for them so that local authorities could provide some assistance for them, such as support for construction of their house, benefit from livestock and subsidies for agriculture.
5. Local authorities and health structures advocate to find help for persons affected by leprosy.

All these measures value persons affected by leprosy so that they feel valued and ipso facto see themselves as valued by others. This approach eliminates discrimination against them.