

3rd Global Forum of People's Organizations on leprosy/Hansen's disease

Action Plan for capacity-building, development and empowerment of the organizations of persons affected by leprosy/Hansen's disease

Bali, July, 2025

We, the organizations of persons affected by leprosy/Hansen's disease gathered together in Bali on the 4th, 5th and 6th of July, at the 3rd Global Forum of People's Organizations on Hansen's disease facilitated by Sasakawa Leprosy (Hansen's disease) Initiative.

Experience has shown that there won't be zero leprosy without our involvement and participation in program design and implementation. However, for us to effectively contribute to that, our capacities must be enhanced, our voices respected and fully integrated into decision-making. Our autonomy should also be promoted.

Hence, we call upon all stakeholders to recognize our knowledge, realities and necessities as the point of departure for any capacity-building, which should take a bottom-up approach and guarantee our right to participation in the design and implementation of some programs. We urge all stakeholders to start by recognizing us as equal partners, as well as our priorities, which are as follows:

- Strengthening collaboration with stakeholders, universities, media, and relevant institutions and connecting us to regional and global networks so we can learn and share experiences;
- Securing flexible, long-term, reliable and sustainable funding (minimum 5 to maximum 10 years), as well as supporting the development of our strategic plans (which should come with a timeline and benchmarks), basic infrastructure and the reduction of dependence on foreign donors through training on local resource mobilization;
- Supporting stronger governance and help building advisory boards, clarify roles and plan for smooth leadership succession, together with the development of simple handbooks or toolkits in local languages so members can understand their rights, but also organizational rules and how to participate actively;
- Training in: leadership (including young people, girls and youth with disabilities); management; fundraising; writing proposals and tracking our impact; data collection to inform strategic planning and evidence-based advocacy and lobbying; monitoring and evaluation; digital skills, human rights and monitoring mechanisms.

The Global Forum's Oversight Committee is ready to assist the organizations of persons affected by leprosy in amplifying their needs, as well as to monitor response of leprosy stakeholders to the action plan.

Our expectation and demand are that by the time of the next International Leprosy Congress our organizations will be working in a more effective manner and that our right to participation will be fully ensured by all leprosy stakeholders.