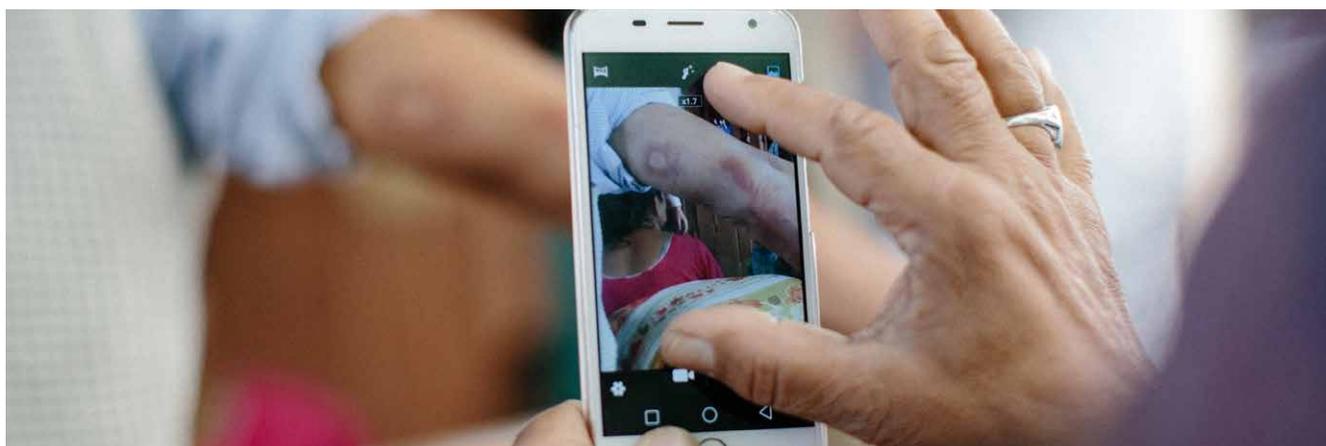


# Leprosy Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (LPEP) Initiative

Accelerating leprosy elimination through preventive treatment



**Despite being curable, leprosy continues to affect over 200,000 people each year, with ongoing transmission driven by delayed diagnosis and untreated contacts.**

The LPEP initiative demonstrated that providing preventive treatment to close contacts of newly

diagnosed leprosy patients can significantly curb transmission. Implemented with Ministries of Health and partners across eight countries, the program screened more than 170,000 contacts, with approximately 150,000 receiving preventive treatment.

## ? What changed?

- Demonstrated the effectiveness of post-exposure prophylaxis in reducing transmission
- Evidence published in The Lancet Global Health
- LPEP included in the WHO Global Leprosy Strategy (2016–2020)
- Operational learnings enabled national-level implementation in multiple countries



## Why this matters for our work today

LPEP showed how evidence-based, scalable interventions, co-designed with countries, can shift global strategies and accelerate disease elimination.

## Key partners

Ministries of Health; ILEP members; Erasmus University Medical Center; Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute