

# Project Report

<b>Report period from:</b> January 2017	<b>Report period to:</b> December 2017
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## 1. Project Summary

<b>Project Title</b> (same as in the project proposal)			
Karuna – Stepping Stone Charitable Society			
<b>Project Location: Country</b>	India	<b>Region / District/ Town / Village</b>	Mumbai
<b>Project start date</b>	January 2017	<b>Project end date</b>	December 2017
<b>Fincode</b>			
<b>Report written by</b>	Franco Lonappan	<b>Email address:</b>	francosweets@gmail.com
<b>Date submitted</b>			
<b>Budget summary (Local currency)</b>	<b>Annual Budget</b>	<b>Actual expenditure during the reporting period</b>	<b>Total Expenditure this year</b>
	Rs. 1,800,800/-	Rs. 6,61,416/-	Rs. 1,487,306/-

The Karuna Team with the Van (mobile clinic) is a sight that every patient looks forward to in the different leprosy colonies the team visits. Many of them are not able to access medicines and treatment due to their disabilities and being in a state of having chronic and recurring medical issues. The Van reaching to them at almost their door steps is a big help they said. Particularly the head of a leprosy colony said that if you don't come regularly, we would face many difficulties. This is a big boost to the team's moral as they dedicate themselves to serve a population who face serious psychosocial issues in their day to day life.

The project has provided effective service to 4387 directly affected people throughout the year 2017. Another 1263 have been benefited through general medical treatment; another 75 ladies are receiving inputs through microfinance, tailoring classes and vocational training. 11 children are in Homes in Goa receiving education and 1 youth has been sent from the Borivali Leprosy Colony to Leprosy Mission Vocational Training Center in Nashik to learn computer engineering for 1 year.

Bringing awareness is vital as we are able to detect early symptoms and start early treatment, they by preventing another from going through the ordeal of leprosy and the social stigma attached to it. Over the years, the Awareness Camps have proved a major success. The Goregaon, & Dharavi Awareness Camp commenced in 2015 and we have continued it because of its success. We have conducted Awareness camps in Trombay, Chembur, Dhaisar Khadi, Dharavi, Daulat Nagar, Borivili, Mahalakship and Vasai. The Chembur, an awareness camp was conducted at a government children's home between the ages of 13-15. Dr. Farzana along with Venkatesh explained skin infection causes and how to protect themselves from infections.

25 patients have been referred to various hospitals mostly for their ulcers. 1 man was referred for cataract/eye surgery, 1 lady a leprosy affected person was diagnosed with diabetes as a result her leg was infected would not heal and had to be amputated at KEM Hospital The teams networking with the local leprosy hospitals and organisations comes very handy at the time of referring patients for major or long-term treatment and care. 66 raincoats distributed; 100 protective sheets distributed.

The team also saw the sad demise of 7 patients, mostly due to heart attack and most of them were senior citizens. However, one 48-year-old man died in the early hours of the morning while he was crossing the road he got hit by a speeding car. The team was there to support the existing members and in getting all official paper work done.

The microfinance and the tailoring classes are gaining popularity as more members from the leprosy colonies want to participate. The launch of the Microfinance Program for Ladies in early Jan has proven to be successful, leading to a 3<sup>rd</sup> group being formed in early Dec 2016. This microfinance scheme launched by the government to help those who are lesser privileged in society is a great advantage to the women. Ladies will now have access to loans and other facilities to help improve their livelihood and break the poverty cycle.

The team with the backdrop of the mobile clinic and awareness programme has also received two valuable trainings over four days. We got an opportunity to attend a conference in Sri Lanka which helped in learning new trends and networking with other like minded organisations.

The year ended well with the team enjoying an annual party at various areas with the affected people. The team also got to have a great time with everyone, which was much appreciated by everyone.

We thank TLM for your unwavering support in helping us reach out to those that are infected and affected by Leprosy.

## 2. Project activities

Please provide a clear and concise summary (bullet points, pictures) of the activities carried out in the reporting period and how they contributed to the outputs. Highlight any significant changes to activities that were made and explain why the changes were made. Comment on the progress of any new activities and approaches undertaken. **(Maximum 500 words)**

### 1. Tailoring classes

The Karuna team has started tailoring classes in June 2017. Fifteen women graduated in the month of December 2017. We have four sewing machines and fifteen ladies are learning to tailor. The teacher alternates between theory and practical so that each lady gets an hour on the machine. The ladies are now learning an advance course having completed the basic course. As a result of this course being a success, 10 more women have come forward to learn to tailor at the Trombay colony. The team and the women are very eager to commence the classes. The classes are expected start from April 2018; in the meantime, the team is making arrangement for sewing machines and orienting the new trainees.



### 2. Microfinance

We currently run 3 microfinance groups two Ujwal and Pragati (meaning light and progress) in the Colony and one Karuna Mahila Bacht Gat at the other Colony. Thirty-two women are part of these three groups. Microfinance which was started in the year 2016 has completed two year and making progress. As a result of the 2 year completion the government microfinance body would gift Rs.20000.00 to both groups for the purposes of other conducting small scale businesses in the area of their interest. The Karuna team is monitoring and supporting them closely and encouraging them for better prospects.

### 3. Vocational Training

Karuna Team has sent one student from the Borivali Leprosy Colony to Vocational Training Center in Nashik for computer engineering for 1 year. The course commenced from 14<sup>th</sup> August 2017 and he will be completing the course in July 2018. He has completed 12<sup>th</sup> standard previously.



#### 4. Diabetic Camp

The Karuna Team organized a Diabetic camp on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2017 in Dhaisar khadi about 40 patients were checked up for the same and 10 were diagnosed being Diabetic and 30 patients showed no symptoms. The 10 people that were diagnosed were referred to the local hospital for follow up. Local area leaders were present at the camp.



#### 5. Staff Training

Karuna staff was sent to Delhi for Project Management Training organized on 4<sup>th</sup> To 6<sup>th</sup> October 2017. The camp helped him how to plan, monitor, and evaluate the Project. The staff shared his learning with the rest of the team and encouraged to them to increase better monitoring of the work



#### 6. Skin Awareness Camp

Karuna Team arranged a Skin Awareness Camp on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2017, were a new 19 year old patient was diagnosed for Leprosy. She was living with her husband and 2 children. Her husband left her and took away their 2 children with him and has gone to his village. Her loneliness has affected her psychologically. Team Karuna took immediate action and took her to Bombay Leprosy Hospital where she was treated for 6 months and she was completely healed and we encouraged her to lead a new life, now she is slowly recovering from her emotional shock and she is working in a garments company, leading an independent and content life. 79 people attended the camp.



#### 7. Tuberculosis Awareness meeting

The Karuna Team in partnership with the local municipality has conducted a combined Tuberculosis awareness programme at the Leprosy colony about the Symptoms of TB and ways of spreading. The municipal Doctors explained what action and precautions they need to take if cough remains for more than 10 days and also explained about living in a congested and polluted area can help spread the bacteria for various diseases.



#### 8. Mahalaxmi Clinic Visit

The Karuna Team on their routine visit to Mahalaxmi came across a new patient who was later diagnosed with Leprosy, and he was found to be in the initial stages. He was started on a six months course of M.D.T. immediately.



## 9. New case

At one of our clinic in Mumbai a 9 year old boy was brought to the clinic on 15th December 2017 from a local orphanage complaining of a patch on the face. The team suspected that he could be infected and so we sent him to the government hospital for smear test and report came positive and they immediately started treatment. The timely action helped heal the boy and save the rest of the 500 children in orphanage from getting infected.



## 10. Staff training on advocacy, human rights and justice

During the month of Oct 2017 a 2 days training with the Karuna staff on advocacy , human rights and justice. It was a great time of vision casting and motivation for the staff. We can do much by empowering the people affected by leprosy and teaching them to fight for their own causes in areas of education, jobs, housing and medical treatment.



## 11. Staff Annual Party

The staff and volunteers gathered for a time of celebration. The staff and the volunteers were appreciated for all that they had accomplished during this year and for all the efforts put in by everyone.



## 14. Vasai Medical Camp

The Karuna Team conducted a Skin awareness camp at the Vasai Suburb, 110 people attended the camp. We diagnosed mostly people having lot of skin infections like scabies and fungal infection they were promptly treated by the team doctor. We also diagnosed many with calcium and vitamins deficiencies. We provided calcium tablets and multi-vitamins to the patients.



## 15. Trombay Medical & Awareness Camps

A medical Camp was conducted in a school, 54 children were treated for fungal infection in the skin. Lack of water and poor hygiene was the main reason for children suffering from fungal infection. Another Awareness camp was conducted but no treatment was given but the children were given lot of helpful information on personal hygiene and cleanliness. 150 children attended the awareness camp.

## 16. Goregaon Medical Camp

On 13<sup>th</sup> April, a medical camp was conducted at Goregaon since a request was made at the previous camp. 66 men and women attended and they were treated for various skin infections; fungal, bacteria, scabies and ring worm.

**Were there any unexpected results, either positive or negative?**

One major positive response that we received at the Awareness Camps is that family members after receiving awareness responded by saying that their family members that are affected with leprosy need not live separate or be isolated. A lady who attended the Awareness camp, thought leprosy, was a curse. The team helped her realize that anyone can be affected by leprosy. The team also addressed the cultural stigma through role playing and demonstrating that people affected by leprosy can live together with their families, they need not be separated. This lady was surprised and felt she gained new knowledge through the awareness camp.

**Case studies and Photographs: Case studies help us to see the impact of our work with real people. They may also be used by the Mission to publicise our work and raise awareness about what we do. Kindly provide at least one case study with two or three (high resolution) photographs illustrating change as a result of this project.**

The Sarpanch (Colony Head) said the Karuna Project Ambulance (Mobile Clinic) is a big help to the residents with leprosy at Colony. He said that many are alive and healthy because of the regular treatment given by the team. The patients are very pleased with the services provided, they requested that we continue providing these medical services.



Another patient said that accessing treatment has become easy for everyone because of the regular services provided by the mobile clinic. He said he also appreciates that the team not only provide treatment but also counsel and relate to everyone who visits the clinic. He really looks forward each week for the van and the team.



One other patient had a major wound and it was not healing. He was very concerned and he was also admitted in the hospital for a long time with no relief. However, when the Karuna team met him and started treating his wound he said he found great relief. After being treated regularly by the Karuna doctor and dressing of his wound regularly by the team his wound is now almost healed. He has now resumed work which he previous could not do because of the wound.

The members from the microfinance group said that until now we stayed within the four walls of our house but ever since the Karuna team introduced microfinance to us we are now active even outside the house. We are getting good exposure to life outside our home as we get to meet many people outside our former sphere of life. We are learning so many new things like interacting with other women and visits to the bank. This is a newly formed micro-finance group in the leprosy colony by Karuna team.

**Plastic and rain sheets**

125 raincoats were distributed and 66 plastic sheets were distributed in 4 different areas to protect the leprosy affected people from the monsoon rains.



**3. Annual Report – only complete section 5 at the end of the reporting year.**

**3.1. Direct clients that have been assisted by this project during the reporting year**

	People directly affected by leprosy				Family members of people affected by leprosy				Persons with disabilities				Others				Total			
	Male		Female		Male		Female		Male		Female		Male		Female		Male		Female	
	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual	Planned	Actual
Child < 18yrs		12		10										50		75		62		85
Adult 18- 59 yrs		2192		2098				75						576		562		2768		2735
Adult >60yrs																				
<b>Total</b>		<b>2204</b>		<b>2108</b>				<b>75</b>						<b>626</b>		<b>637</b>		<b>2830</b>		<b>2820</b>

### 3.2. Lessons learnt during the reporting year

#### **What lessons have been learnt that can be built upon in the remainder of the project / in future projects?**

One lesson the team has learnt are the needs are enormous for those affected by leprosy. The Karuna Team is working out a plan for 2018 where more volunteers can be involved to teach life skills and literacy to help the needy. Advocacy rights is also a major focus for the following year, currently the microfinance program is the first step in advocating financial support for the leprosy affected that is initiated and supported by the government.

#### **Coordination & Partnership: How is the engagement of other organisations (e.g. government, NGOs and other stakeholders) in the implementation, management and monitoring of the project during the year working?**

The Karuna Project has maintained good partnership with Vimla Hospital, Acworth Municipal Hospital for Leprosy and JJ Government Hospital. The team has been referring patients who need hospitalization. New detections are sent to Bombay Leprosy Hospital for further test and treatment. Nirmay Niketan leprosy home in Trombay have been caring for patients who are homeless those that have been referred by the team. Our Project coordinator has met with District Leprosy Officer of Mumbai city twice in the last six months and presented a report on what we are doing and how the leprosy sufferers are being blessed through the project.

#### **Participation: How have you engaged the target population and the wider community in the implementation, management and monitoring of the project during the year?**

Self care groups have been initiated in every colony to help one another on days that Karuna van is not present. One person at each site is given responsibility to encourage each one to look after their wounds in the community and assist with any dressing. The Microfinance groups are headed by the target population, this involves collecting contributions from individuals, depositing money and keeping account of all money received. The local political heads who themselves are affected engage in communicating and gathering the patients on clinic days and for other activities. They also help in granting permission to utilise community halls and office for clinics, programmes and tailoring classes.

#### **Capacity: Do you, or the implementing partner, have the right capacity in place to implement the remainder of the project? If not, what else is needed?**

Yes, currently the team, van and facilities in place are adequate to continue to achieve the goals and visions of this project. The team is on the lookout for new sewing machines to help start another tailoring class in the Trombay colony. The team is looking out for more manpower specially to implement microfinance, tailoring classes and small sustainable business. The team requires further training in community development and engaging with the local government to increase advocacy. We are also on the lookout for a qualified Project Leader to lead the team on behalf of Franco Lonappan who has been leading it for the last 18 years. Franco Lonappan has been very busy with various responsibilities and does not have the time to directly lead it and take it further. We are confident that by March-April 2018, we will have someone to take that post which will further strengthen the team.

