It is my pleasure to present this overview of the work of The Leprosy Mission Global Fellowship in 2018. Working in countries burdened by this ancient disease, we strive to see leprosy defeated and lives transformed; people like Karima in Nigeria and Fulti in Nepal, whose stories you can read in this review.

Our work is made possible through the support and partnership of hundreds of thousands of people around the world who have joined in our mission. Thanks to your help and generosity, a tremendous amount has been achieved. You can read about some of these achievements in the next few pages. These pages look at the work of our previous Global Strategy, which ran from 2014-2018, with a particular focus on 2018.

New times require new approaches, and I am thrilled to inform you that, from 2019, we will be implementing a new five year Global Strategy in order to have a greater impact in the lives of people and families affected by leprosy. Our new strategy is highlighted on the back page of this review, and I look forward to sharing more about the impact your support is having through our new strategy at a later date. Thank you for your partnership and prayers.

With God’s blessing,

Brent Morgan, International Director
LEPROSY SERVICES

We strive to ensure timely access to quality leprosy services that result in improved outcomes for people affected by leprosy.

9,778 patients with leprosy-related complications were admitted into hospitals owned or supported by TLM in 2018

988 people affected by leprosy received eye surgery thanks to TLM, up from 358 in 2017

20% of laws that discriminate against people affected by leprosy have been repealed so far.

Number of people living in the areas covered by TLM's technical assistance

DIGNITY AND EMPOWERMENT

We aim to see marginalised people realising their worth and empowered to overcome challenges.

2,958 self-help groups were supported in 2018, giving people affected by leprosy and persons with disabilities a sense of belonging and a sustainable livelihood

SOCIAL INTEGRATION

We work to influence change in attitudes so that communities no longer stigmatise or discriminate against people affected by leprosy or disability.

88% of people affected by leprosy say they have experienced improved social integration in their community

19,986 children or young people have received formal education supplied by TLM or our partners since the current strategy began in 2014

Number of people affected by leprosy who received vocational training so that they can find employment

RESEARCH AND LEARNING

We seek to be a learning organisation that integrates new medical, social and fundraising knowledge into our policies and practices and shares it with others.

42 research projects were conducted in 2018 so that we can find new life-changing breakthroughs for people affected by leprosy

The Leprosy Mission spent just under £3m on research between 2014 and 2018

RESOURCE MOBILISATION

We resolve to be an organisation well-resourced in prayer, funds, partnerships and people, with all Member countries implementing fundraising strategies for significant income growth.

85,752 new donors to TLM since the strategy began in 2014 - 20,599 joined in 2018

8,591 churches involved in the TLM mission

Number of people praying for TLM
Over the last 15 years, TLM and our partners have published studies in the evidence-base to update the World Health Organisation (WHO) Guidelines for the Diagnosis, Treatment and Prevention of Leprosy. Research projects can take years to perform and effect change. In 2018, TLM's research changed global leprosy policy by providing donors in order to secure funding that could be matched by DfID. The response was fantastic and the UK Government, through DfID, has now matched the money that was generously donated by our supporters, bringing the total to over £4 million. This one campaign across several countries has raised millions of pounds for TLM's work in Nepal by galvanising support from individuals and from the Government. It’s a fantastic step towards our goal of defeating leprosy.

The Leprosy Mission attended this Conference with persons affected by leprosy so that they can have their voices heard. We have worked hard to ensure that people affected by leprosy are able to tackle leprosy-related issues at all levels of government. As well as equipping people to speak with their local and national governments, The Leprosy Mission has also made a space for people affected by leprosy at the United Nations (UN).

This Conference takes place once a year and is an opportunity for persons with disabilities to have their voices heard at the highest levels of government and an opportunity to ensure that states who have signed this UN Convention are living up to their commitment to support persons with disabilities.

In 2018, TLM’s three research sites in Bangladesh, India and Nepal worked on 39 separate research projects covering a wide spectrum of topics, including (but not restricted to) diagnostic test development, leprosy transmission, leprosy reactions, clinical trials, disability, wound care, Community Based Rehabilitation and mental wellbeing.

In 2018, TLM’s research changed global leprosy policy by providing the evidence-base to update the World Health Organisation (WHO) Guidelines for the Diagnosis, Treatment and Prevention of Leprosy.

Research projects can take years to perform and effect change. Over the last 15 years, TLM and our partners have published studies involving post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) - new leprosy patient’s household contacts, family and other contacts receive a single dose of antibiotic (rifampicin). TLM research has proved this to be up to 57% effective in reducing the contact’s risk of developing leprosy within 2 years. Within government programmes, official implementation of PEP has begun to roll out in initial test districts in TLM countries such as India, Indonesia, Bangladesh, Nepal, Ethiopia, and DR Congo; while many others are keen to start across the world.

The Leprosy Mission is committed to making our resources reach as far as possible. Members of the TLM Global Fellowship in the UK recently led the way in this field.

When the UK Government’s Department for International Development (DfID) announced that it would provide UK Aid Match-funding in support of the Heal Nepal campaign, The Leprosy Mission in England and Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland worked together on a large fundraising appeal to all of their donors in order to secure funding that could be matched by DfID.

**KARIMA** lives in Dakwa Community in Nigeria. She began to develop the symptoms of leprosy at the age of 10, but due to ignorance of the disease, her family took her to be treated with herbal medicine and the illness was attributed to ill luck. After the herbal treatment failed she was taken to Babanniga Hospital, where she was able to receive treatment from TLM before leprosy was able to damage her hands too severely.

Karima was a petty trader whose livelihood fell apart due to leprosy. People in the neighbouring communities stigmatised her and people in the leprosy community were too poor to buy from her. Life became very difficult. Fortunately, through vocational training conducted by TLM Nigeria, Karima learnt how to sew and was able to open a successful business. “I don’t know how to begin to thank TLM Nigeria. I cannot believe people queue at my sewing business today. I make clothes for able-bodied people who aren’t affected by leprosy; I make clothes for both adults and children. I am so happy and I pray that God blesses TLM Nigeria and all its partners.”

FULTI is from Humla District in Karnali, Nepal. She was diagnosed with leprosy and although she received MDT treatment and is cured, she was left with disabilities due to nerve damage. Because of her physical appearance, people around her started to avoid her. Soon she found herself living an isolated life in a cold cave across the Karnali River. She had no choice other than begging for food and clothes from a nearby monastery and from a nearby village.

“When I was alone and wanted to have someone by my side to share my feelings, there was no one for me. I used to cry a lot.” Fulti was encouraged to go to The Leprosy Mission’s Anandaban Hospital near Kathmandu and when she arrived she found herself in a totally different atmosphere. “When I found other female friends in the ward, I felt like the sun was shining brightly inside my heart.” Now she is not alone. She found good people who made her realise that she is not the only one battling this illness. Now that she’s at the hospital she looks happy, is receiving the right medications again, and she has a warm bed and clean clothes to wear.

Our leprosy services provide people with the treatments they need, but our support is rarely limited to the physical.
GLOBAL STRATEGY 2019-2023

Our strategy is centred on Christ, with a main priority of reducing transmission of leprosy. Our long term goal is to reach zero leprosy transmission by 2035. This links in closely with the other two focus areas of our strategy: working towards zero leprosy disability and working towards zero leprosy discrimination.

In order to deliver on this strategy, we will intentionally invest in four key enabling areas: Members of and people in our Global Fellowship, fundraising, churches and partnerships, and advocacy. Our aims for 2023 are all significant steps towards our long term ambitions of zero disability, zero discrimination and zero transmission.