



# SASAKAWA HEALTH FOUNDATION

## Monthly Report

To

**Executive Director of Sasakawa Health Foundation**

<b>Title of the Report</b>	Monthly Progress Report
<b>Name</b>	Mrs. Maya Ranavare
<b>Date of Submission</b>	4 <sup>th</sup> November 2024
<b>Reporting Period</b>	October 2024

### 1. Report on activities of APAL State-Level Bodies and APAL Leaders

- On 1st October, a detailed inspection was carried out by the authorities of the Municipal Corporation of Bhimavaram, Andhra Pradesh
- Report on Cleanliness Intervention Led by Mr. Someshwar Dubey at Gandhi Gram Ashram, Mothipur on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2024.
- In furtherance of this initiative, Councilor Vijender Reddy distributed essential ration supplies to the residents of Shantinagar Leprosy Colony and Santosh Nagar Colony
- State Committee in Haryana, in partnership with the Leprosy Society and Rotary Club in Rohtak, conducted a compassionate distribution drive in all leprosy colonies throughout the state
- State Committee in Telangana, in partnership with the LEPRAs Society, hosted a significant Disability Prevention and Medical Rehabilitation (DPMR) Camp
- In collaboration with the Schieffelin Institute of Health – Research & Leprosy Centre, Karigiri, the APAL's State Committee in Andhra Pradesh orchestrated a Health Screening Camp
- This compassionate initiative took place at Santhi Nagar Colony, a locality where many individuals impacted by leprosy reside. During the event, essential supplies such as food grains, clothes, and blankets were distributed to 100 people
- APAL State Committee, led by State Coordinator M. Ramesh, orchestrated a significant humanitarian endeavor aimed at providing assistance to families impacted by leprosy in Shanthinagar Colony, Peddamberpet. This endeavor, which entailed the distribution of essential groceries
- Mr. Madhusudan Tiwari, representing the APAL's State Committee in Jharkhand, and his team from the Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL), formally submitted an application to the Deputy Commissioner of Dhanbad district
- In Gandhi Gram Post Ashram, Motipur, there is a group of 40 leprosy patients, all of whom are ration cardholders and depend on assistance to obtain essential rations
- Mrs. Maya Ranavare had the distinguished privilege of serving as the chief guest at the 150-year celebration of The Leprosy Mission

- APAL's State Committee in Telangana in collaboration with Sri Sharada Seva Trust organized a heartwarming initiative to distribute essential commodities
- Maya Ranavare, President of the Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL), recently participated in the ILEP Advisory Panel Meeting
- State Committee of APAL (Association of People Affected by Leprosy) in Bihar recently conducted a humanitarian initiative at Gandhi Gram Kushth Ashram, Motipur, Muzaffarpur. The organization distributed essential general medicines
- Maya Ranavare participated in a working session with ILEP (International Federation of Anti-Leprosy Associations) member organizations in Ethiopia
- Mr. Jawahar Ram Paswan, Vice President of the Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL), honoured Dr. Sahir Pal, the Civil Surgeon of East Singhbhum, along with District Leprosy Prevention Officer
- Mr. Ramavarai Sah, Joint Secretary of APAL, recently visited the Chanpatiya colony in Bihar to conduct a survey of the living conditions in the area
- Under the leadership of State Coordinator Maniyada Ramesh and committee member K. Anusuya, the initiative aimed to provide essential support and care to those in need. The team distributed blankets to 25 families
- The State Committee of APAL (Association of People Affected by Leprosy) in Bihar, in collaboration with the Government, successfully organized a UDID (Unique Disability ID Card) camp
- Recently, the Tamil Nadu state committee, in partnership with generous contributors, distributed essential food grains to 55 families residing in the Mother Teresa Leprosy Colony
- On the auspicious occasion of Deepawali, the APAL State Committee in Madhya Pradesh, in collaboration with the NGO Khushiyon Ke Pal, undertook the distribution of ration kits to 62 families
- The APAL Executive Committee and the Sasakawa Health Foundation convened a productive meeting in Delhi on October 31, 2024

***On 1st October, a detailed inspection was carried out by the authorities of the Municipal Corporation of Bhimavaram, Andhra Pradesh***

On 1st October, a detailed inspection was carried out by the authorities of the Municipal Corporation of Bhimavaram, Andhra Pradesh, revealing critical issues in local infrastructure that were directly affecting the residents' quality of life. The inspection focused on several major areas, including drainage, electricity, and road conditions, all of which were found to be in need of urgent attention.

**Key Findings and Challenges**

1. **Drainage Obstruction:** The drainage systems were significantly obstructed by overgrown vegetation and accumulated debris. This blockage resulted in unsanitary conditions, posing health risks for the residents. The poor drainage infrastructure had led to stagnant water, which can be a breeding ground for various diseases and exacerbate sanitation challenges in the community.

2. **Unreliable Electricity Supply:** The electricity supply in the area was found to be inconsistent, further complicating the daily lives of the residents. This unreliability in electricity service impacted not only residential comfort but also limited the functionality of other critical services that rely on stable power.
3. **Access to Clean Water:** Access to clean and potable water was sporadic, adding to the daily hardships faced by the community. Inadequate water supply is a major concern in any community, as it affects health, sanitation, and overall quality of life.
4. **Damaged Roads:** The roads within the locality were in a state of disrepair, making transportation difficult and posing safety hazards, especially during the rainy season when potholes and uneven surfaces become even more problematic.

## **Community Engagement and Immediate Response**

During the inspection, municipal officials engaged directly with the colony's residents, enabling them to understand the specific challenges the community was facing. This direct interaction was instrumental in identifying actionable steps to address these pressing issues, which had long been overlooked. The government representatives committed to prioritizing these issues and addressing them promptly, which instilled a renewed sense of hope and reassurance among the residents.

## **Government Actions and Intervention**

Following the inspection, the government took decisive actions to address the identified infrastructure issues. Some of the key steps included:

- **Clearing Vegetation and Debris from Drainage Systems:** Efforts were promptly initiated to clear the overgrown vegetation and debris from the drainage systems, improving sanitation and reducing health risks associated with stagnant water.
- **Planning for Essential Service Enhancements:** Plans were laid out for further improvements in essential services, which included stable electricity supply, consistent access to clean water, and the repair of damaged roads. These plans aim to bring long-term relief to the community.

## **Acknowledgment of Advocacy and Community Impact**

The Andhra Pradesh Association of Leprosy-Affected (APAL), alongside community leaders, expressed their gratitude for the timely intervention by the government. Mr. Prakash and the APAL State Committee of Andhra Pradesh received special commendation for their persistent advocacy efforts, which were crucial in ensuring that the voices of the leprosy-affected community were heard and addressed.

## **Conclusion**

The collaborative efforts between APAL, colony leaders, and the government mark a meaningful step toward improving living conditions for a historically marginalized community. The interventions not only addressed immediate infrastructure issues but also highlighted the power of community advocacy in driving positive change. This initiative represents a significant accomplishment in enhancing the well-being of the residents, setting a foundation for continued support and development in the area.



## ***Report on Cleanliness Intervention Led by Mr. Someshwar Dubey at Gandhi Gram Ashram, Mothipur on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2024.***

**Introduction** Mr. Someshwar Dubey, the State Coordinator of the Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL), has taken a significant step in advancing the well-being of the residents of Gandhi Gram Ashram in Mothipur. Recognizing the vital role of a clean and hygienic environment for the health and morale of the community, Mr. Dubey spearheaded a cleanliness intervention aimed at revitalizing the neglected areas of the Ashram. This report outlines the details and impact of the initiative led by Mr. Dubey.

**Background** The Gandhi Gram Ashram in Mothipur is home to residents affected by leprosy, many of whom face socio-economic challenges. Over time, the condition of the Ashram had deteriorated due to neglect, resulting in the accumulation of litter, debris, and overgrown vegetation. Understanding the unique challenges faced by the residents, Mr. Dubey aimed to empower them through active participation in the cleanup effort, fostering a sense of unity and responsibility.

**The Cleanliness Initiative** The initiative, organized by Mr. Dubey, involved mobilizing the residents to engage in a comprehensive cleanup of the Ashram. The intervention included:

- **Removing debris** and accumulated waste from common areas and living spaces.
- **Clearing overgrown vegetation** to improve accessibility and aesthetics.
- **Restoring hygiene** across the premises to promote a healthier living environment.

The entire process was community-driven, with Mr. Dubey leading by example and inspiring others to take part. The residents of the Ashram showed remarkable enthusiasm and commitment, contributing their efforts to transform their living conditions.

**Community Response and Participation** The response from the residents was overwhelmingly positive. Demonstrating a strong sense of solidarity, they joined Mr. Dubey in working diligently to achieve the shared goal of a cleaner and more habitable space. This collaborative effort not only addressed the physical neglect of the Ashram but also boosted the morale of the community, giving them a sense of pride and renewed ownership over their surroundings.

**Outcomes and Impact** The successful completion of the cleanup initiative resulted in multiple benefits:



- **Improved Living Conditions:** The Ashram's environment was significantly cleaner and more sanitary, reducing potential health risks associated with unkempt spaces.
- **Empowerment and Unity:** The residents experienced a heightened sense of community and empowerment, realizing the power of collective action.
- **Inspiration for Other Communities:** The initiative served as a model for other leprosy-affected communities, demonstrating that impactful change is possible through collaborative efforts.

**Conclusion:** Mr. Someshwar Dubey's leadership in organizing the cleanliness drive at Gandhi Gram Ashram highlighted the importance of community involvement in overcoming local challenges. His approach underscored the value of self-reliance and collective action, showing that even the most marginalized groups can make meaningful progress when united by a common purpose. This intervention not only enhanced the physical conditions of the Ashram but also strengthened the residents' resolve to maintain a dignified and healthy living environment.



***In furtherance of this initiative, Councilor Vijender Reddy distributed essential ration supplies to the residents of Shantinagar Leprosy Colony and Santosh Nagar Colony***

On the 1st of October 2024, the Children of Deccan Foundation organized a special event to commemorate the International Day of Older Persons. Malkanna, the Foundation's Chairman, spearheaded the program to recognize and provide assistance to the elderly population. In furtherance of this initiative, Councilor Vijender Reddy distributed essential ration supplies to the residents of Shantinagar Leprosy Colony and Santosh Nagar Colony, highlighting the Foundation's dedication to assisting underprivileged communities, particularly those who have been marginalized due to age, health, or social circumstances.

Apart from Malkanna and Councilor Reddy, the event witnessed the participation of other prominent figures. Mr. Ramesh, the State Coordinator of APAL, and Samuel, the leader of the Colony, lent their support to the cause. At the same time, Pooja played a pivotal role in ensuring the seamless execution of the program. Collectively, they emphasized the significance of providing care and resources to the elderly and vulnerable populations, advocating for the dignity and rights of older persons and individuals affected by leprosy, especially those contending with illnesses and residing in challenging conditions.



***State Committee in Haryana, in partnership with the Leprosy Society and Rotary Club in Rohtak, conducted a compassionate distribution drive in all leprosy colonies throughout the state***

On the 2nd of October 2024, in observance of Gandhi Jayanti, the APAL (Association of People Affected by Leprosy) State Committee in Haryana, in partnership with the Leprosy Society and Rotary Club in Rohtak, conducted a compassionate distribution drive in all leprosy colonies throughout the state. This initiative encompassed the distribution of MCR (Micro Cellular Rubber) footwear, essential for individuals affected by leprosy, as well as the provision of food grains to the residents, ensuring their comfort and well-being.

The event underscored the benevolent endeavours of the Leprosy Society and Rotary Club members, whose invaluable support significantly contributed to the success of the initiative. The festivities within the colonies cultivated a sense of inclusivity and concern within the leprosy-affected community, epitomizing the ideals of Mahatma Gandhi, who ardently advocated for equality and dignity for all.

APAL expresses profound gratitude to the Rotary Club members for their altruistic service. Special acknowledgement is also extended to Mr. Govind Swamy and the executive members of APAL for their devoted and proactive contributions to the community. Their relentless efforts persist in uplifting the lives of individuals affected by leprosy, promoting dignity and solidarity within society.



***State Committee in Telangana, in partnership with the LEPRO Society, hosted a significant Disability Prevention and Medical Rehabilitation (DPMR) Camp***

On 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2024, On the occasion of Mahatma Gandhi Jayanthi, the APAL's (Association of People Affected by Leprosy) State Committee in Telangana, in partnership with the LEPRO Society, hosted a significant Disability Prevention and Medical Rehabilitation (DPMR) Camp. This event took place at Shanthi Nagar Colony in Rangareddy District, demonstrating a strong commitment to social welfare and community health. The primary objective of the camp was to address the medical requirements of individuals affected by leprosy, providing a platform for disability prevention and rehabilitation. With the collaboration of local stakeholders, this endeavour exemplified Gandhiji's vision of equality, health, and inclusion for all, particularly for marginalized communities.

The camp received substantial support from Mr. M. Ramesh, the State Coordinator of APAL in Telangana, whose leadership and dedication played a crucial role in its success. Under his



guidance, the DPMR Camp offered essential medical services, rehabilitation support, and preventive care to those in need. Through the partnership with the LEPROA Society, a renowned organization in the leprosy and healthcare field, APAL's State Committee ensured that individuals affected by leprosy in Shanthi Nagar Colony received appropriate treatment and support. This initiative not only advanced the well-being of the community but also furthered the mission of raising awareness about leprosy and preventing disabilities associated with the disease.



***In collaboration with the Schieffelin Institute of Health – Research & Leprosy Centre, Karigiri, the APAL's State Committee in Andhra Pradesh orchestrated a Health Screening Camp***

On 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2024, In collaboration with the Schieffelin Institute of Health – Research & Leprosy Centre, Karigiri, the APAL's State Committee in Andhra Pradesh orchestrated a Health Screening Camp at the Ananth Sayanam, Jyothi, and Anand Leprosy Colonies in Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh. The camp aimed to deliver vital health services to individuals affected by leprosy, with a focus on ulcer care, eye care, and the provision of aids and appliances. Moreover, essential medications were distributed to enhance the residents' quality of life. A significant outcome of the camp was the identification of a pressing need for a Reconstructive Surgeon (RCS) to manage complications arising from leprosy, as three new cases requiring specialized reconstructive surgery were identified. These individuals also required MCR (Microcellular Rubber) footwear and various aids to facilitate their daily lives. The primary objective of the camp was to provide comprehensive healthcare, ensuring that those affected by leprosy receive the necessary support to improve their overall well-being.

APAL expresses sincere gratitude to Dr. Jerry and the entire team from the Schieffelin Institute for their exceptional services during the camp. Their dedication and medical expertise significantly alleviated the suffering of those impacted by leprosy, particularly in the Leprosy Colonies, where their compassionate care has brought renewed hope to the residents. APAL also acknowledges and deeply appreciates the substantial contributions of Mr. Sayilu, Mr. Prakash, and Mr. Danunjay Naidu from the APAL State Committee. Their relentless efforts in organizing and coordinating the camp were pivotal to its success, ensuring that the affected individuals received the care and support they needed. Their commitment to the cause of leprosy care and rehabilitation has had a profound impact on the community, fostering a sense of hope and empowerment among those affected by the disease.



***This compassionate initiative took place at Santhi Nagar Colony, a locality where many individuals impacted by leprosy reside. During the event, essential supplies such as food grains, clothes, and blankets were distributed to 100 people***

On 4<sup>th</sup> October 2024, APAL's State Committee in Telangana, in collaboration with Sai Seva Samiti, organized a significant humanitarian effort aimed at supporting individuals affected by leprosy in Hyderabad. This compassionate initiative took place at Santhi Nagar Colony, a locality where many individuals impacted by leprosy reside. During the event, essential supplies such as food grains, clothes, and blankets were distributed to 100 people, helping to alleviate some of the hardships they face in their daily lives. Volunteers from Gandhinagar, Musheerabad, and Secunderabad came together for this noble cause, ensuring that those in need received the necessary resources to improve their quality of life.

APAL extends its heartfelt gratitude to Sai Seva Samiti for their invaluable service and dedication to supporting individuals affected by leprosy. Their active involvement in the distribution of essentials is a testament to their commitment to community welfare and service. Additionally, APAL would like to offer special thanks to Mr. Ramesh, the State Coordinator for Telangana, for his continuous and significant contributions to this cause. His tireless efforts in coordinating such initiatives have been instrumental in ensuring that those affected by leprosy receive the care and assistance they need. This collaborative endeavor highlights the importance of unity in service, bringing hope and relief to a vulnerable community.





***APAL State Committee, led by State Coordinator M. Ramesh, orchestrated a significant humanitarian endeavor aimed at providing assistance to families impacted by leprosy in Shanthinagar Colony, Peddamberpet. This endeavor, which entailed the distribution of essential groceries***

On the 5th of October 2024, the APAL State Committee, led by State Coordinator M. Ramesh, orchestrated a significant humanitarian endeavor aimed at providing assistance to families impacted by leprosy in Shanthinagar Colony, Peddamberpet. This endeavor, which entailed the distribution of essential groceries, was executed in collaboration with the Society of Rural Development (SRD), an organization dedicated to uplifting underprivileged communities and ensuring access to necessities for those in need. The initiative served as a crucial support system for these families, who often encounter social stigma and economic hardships due to their condition.

The teams from APAL and SRD distributed food supplies to 28 families, ensuring that each household received adequate rations to sustain them. This distribution of groceries not only addressed immediate needs but also represented a compassionate gesture that underscored the commitment of APAL and SRD to the welfare of leprosy-affected communities. Through such outreach, M. Ramesh and the team aimed to provide relief and demonstrate solidarity with individuals affected by leprosy, reinforcing a sense of dignity and inclusion within the broader community.

This collaborative initiative underscores the impact of organizations like APAL and SRD in rural and marginalized areas. By addressing food security concerns for these families, APAL's State Committee and its coordinator are contributing to a broader societal objective of breaking the cycle of neglect and stigma often associated with leprosy. Through these actions, they aspire to create a more inclusive and empathetic society, paving the way for a future where all individuals, regardless of their circumstances, can access basic resources and lead dignified lives.



***Mr. Madhusudan Tiwari, representing the APAL's State Committee in Jharkhand, and his team from the Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL), formally submitted an application to the Deputy Commissioner of Dhanbad district***

On October 5, 2024, Mr. Madhusudan Tiwari, representing the APAL's State Committee in Jharkhand, and his team from the Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL), formally submitted an application to the Deputy Commissioner of Dhanbad district under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) scheme. This initiative is aimed at providing permanent housing for 627 families residing across 16 leprosy colonies within the district. The PMAY scheme, a flagship program of the Indian government, is dedicated to offering affordable and safe

housing for underprivileged citizens. Through this application, APAL seeks to ensure that these families, many of whom have faced social stigma and economic challenges due to their conditions, can access secure and dignified living conditions, a fundamental need and a long-overdue right.

The application underscores the urgent need for permanent housing for these communities, which have often been marginalized and lack adequate access to basic amenities. By facilitating this process, Mr. Tiwari and APAL aim to uplift the affected families, offering them a stable foundation that fosters self-reliance and a sense of belonging within society. It is anticipated that the Deputy Commissioner will respond positively, recognizing the importance of inclusive development. If successful, this endeavour will not only enhance the living standards of these families but also reaffirm their rightful place in society, reinforcing the government's commitment to social equity and housing for all.



***In Gandhi Gram Post Ashram, Motipur, there is a group of 40 leprosy patients, all of whom are ration cardholders and depend on assistance to obtain essential rations***

On 7<sup>th</sup> October 2024, In Gandhi Gram Post Ashram, Motipur, there is a group of 40 leprosy patients, all of whom are ration cardholders and depend on assistance to obtain essential rations. These individuals, due to their particular circumstances, receive their ration supplies based on verification of identification by Vikas Mitra, a community-level facilitator appointed to assist marginalized groups. Unlike the standard procedure for ration distribution, these ration cardholders are exempt from the usual KYC (Know Your Customer) process, as their identification and entitlement verification rely solely on Vikas Mitra's confirmation. While effective for these patients, this setup deviates from the broader ration distribution system.

To formalize this arrangement and ensure its continuity, all the cardholders recently submitted a memorandum through the M.O. and B.D.O. (Block Development Officer) of Motipur. The initiative was spearheaded by Someshwar Dubey, APAL's State Coordinator in Bihar, who advocated for the interests of the leprosy-affected group. This memorandum seeks

official recognition of the current distribution method, enabling them to continue accessing rations without the need for KYC. In response, local authorities have pledged to forward the memorandum to the district administration. Any requisite directives will be issued at the district level to institutionalize this arrangement, thereby ensuring uninterrupted access to essential rations for these patients.



***Mrs. Maya Ranavare had the distinguished privilege of serving as the chief guest at the 150-year celebration of The Leprosy Mission***

On the 7th of October 2024, Mrs. Maya Ranavare had the distinguished privilege of serving as the chief guest at the 150-year celebration of The Leprosy Mission (TLM) in Maharashtra. This significant event, hosted at the historic HIL project, brought together prominent dignitaries from Maharashtra and Karnataka, underscoring TLM's pivotal role in combatting leprosy in India. Mrs. Ranavare's presence underscored her dedication to health initiatives and advocacy for the well-being of communities affected by leprosy. In her address, she lauded TLM's relentless efforts over the past 150 years, highlighting the remarkable accomplishments that have positively impacted numerous lives and advanced leprosy awareness, treatment, and rehabilitation.

The event was graced by key TLM members and government officials, including the Additional Joint Secretary of Maharashtra and Dr. Kanule, whose collective support has been instrumental in advancing the mission's objectives. Senior TLM leaders, Ms. Tina and Dr. Jaya Deepa, also played a pivotal role in the festivities, showcasing the organization's extensive influence and sharing compelling narratives of resilience and recovery among patients. Their presence alongside the TLM teams from Karnataka and Maharashtra symbolized a unified front, collaborating closely with government representatives to reaffirm their dedication to eliminating leprosy and ensuring the social and economic inclusion of affected individuals.





***APAL's State Committee in Telangana in collaboration with Sri Sharada Seva Trust organized a heartwarming initiative to distribute essential commodities***

On 13th October 2024, APAL's State Committee in Telangana in collaboration with Sri Sharada Seva Trust organized a heartwarming initiative to distribute essential commodities (ration) to 50 leprosy-affected families residing in the Shantinagar Leprosy Colony and Santosh Nagar Colony. This charitable effort reflects the trust's ongoing commitment to uplifting marginalized communities and supporting those in need.

The ration distribution was led by the Chief Trustee, P. Sharada Garu, along with other dedicated members of the trust, including Sri Lakshmi, Prasulamba, Bhavani Prasad, Thyagaraju, Dakshina Murthy, and Praveen. Their active involvement made the event meaningful and impactful for the beneficiaries.

Mr. Ramesh, APAL's State Coordinator in Telangana, also graced the occasion with his presence. He praised the Sri Sharada Seva Trust for extending assistance to these disadvantaged communities. He expressed gratitude on behalf of people affected by leprosy living in the colonies, emphasizing how such acts of kindness foster a sense of belonging among residents.

Several elders from the colonies, including Mr. Samel, V. Dom Nik, Rahimatullah, J. Pullaiah, and Amrut Raj, participated in the event, adding a sense of community and solidarity. The trust members responded positively to the feedback and reinforced their commitment to continuing such initiatives in the future.

The event not only provided essential support to the leprosy-affected families but also highlighted the importance of compassion, care, and unity in addressing social challenges.



***Maya Ranavare, President of the Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL), recently participated in the ILEP Advisory Panel Meeting***

On 14th October 2024, Maya Ranavare, President of the Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL), recently participated in the ILEP Advisory Panel Meeting, in Ethiopia where she contributed valuable insights representing the voice of individuals impacted by leprosy. The meeting facilitated strategic discussions among international stakeholders working toward the elimination of leprosy-related discrimination and the enhancement of healthcare access. Maya's participation underscored APAL's commitment to amplifying the concerns of those directly affected and promoting inclusive policies in global forums.

During her visit, Maya also engaged with the Ethiopian National Association of Persons Affected by Leprosy (ENAPAL). This interaction provided a unique opportunity to exchange experiences, share best practices, and strengthen collaboration between the organizations. The organizations emphasized the importance of empowering individuals affected by leprosy through community-led initiatives and capacity-building programs. Their discussions laid the foundation for deeper partnership in advocacy efforts across borders.

In addition, Maya had a meaningful meeting with Dr. Alice Cruz, the former UN Special Rapporteur on the Elimination of Discrimination against Persons Affected by Leprosy and family members. As a gesture of appreciation and to highlight APAL's achievements, she presented Dr. Cruz with APAL's Annual Report for 2023-2024. The report encapsulates the organization's efforts, challenges, and successes over the past year, reflecting its dedication to improving the lives of people affected by leprosy through advocacy, education, and outreach. This interaction reinforced the shared commitment to advancing human rights and ensuring no one is left behind in the fight against leprosy.



***State Committee of APAL (Association of People Affected by Leprosy) in Bihar recently conducted a humanitarian initiative at Gandhi Gram Kushth Ashram, Motipur, Muzaffarpur. The organization distributed essential general medicines***

On 16th October 2024, the State Committee of APAL (Association of People Affected by Leprosy) in Bihar recently conducted a humanitarian initiative at Gandhi Gram Kushth Ashram, Motipur, Muzaffarpur. The organization distributed essential general medicines to individuals affected by leprosy residing in the ashram. This outreach reflects APAL's commitment to improving the health and well-being of marginalized communities, particularly those battling leprosy, who often face social and medical neglect.

The provision of these medicines is crucial, as many residents struggle with limited access to healthcare. Beyond managing the effects of leprosy, the initiative aimed to address common ailments, thereby ensuring a holistic approach to their health. The gesture was well-received by the ashram's residents, reinforcing the importance of community support in empowering individuals affected by this stigmatizing disease. APAL's efforts not only provided medical relief but also brought hope, dignity, and solidarity to the people of Gandhi Gram Kushth Ashram.



***Maya Ranavare participated in a working session with ILEP (International Federation of Anti-Leprosy Associations) member organizations in Ethiopia***

On 17th October 2024, Maya Ranavare participated in a working session with ILEP (International Federation of Anti-Leprosy Associations) member organizations in Ethiopia, along with the German Leprosy and Tuberculosis Relief Association and The Leprosy Mission. This educational meeting aimed to review, discuss, and align the activities implemented by both organizations toward combating leprosy and its associated challenges.

During the session, Maya contributed by engaging in discussions on best practices, monitoring ongoing projects, and identifying areas for improvement. The collaborative nature of the meeting highlighted the importance of multi-organizational efforts to enhance healthcare delivery, promote social inclusion, and reduce the stigma associated with leprosy. Her involvement reflects a commitment to strengthening partnerships and supporting the global goal of eliminating leprosy through awareness, early intervention, and effective program implementation.



***Mr. Jawahar Ram Paswan, Vice President of the Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL), honoured Dr. Sahir Pal, the Civil Surgeon of East Singhbhum, along with District Leprosy Prevention Officer***

On 17th October 2024, During a ceremony, Mr. Jawahar Ram Paswan, Vice President of the Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL), honoured Dr. Sahir Pal, the Civil Surgeon of East Singhbhum, along with District Leprosy Prevention Officer Dr. Mrityunjay Dhauriya and District Leprosy Consultant Dr. Rajiv Lochan Mahato.



This recognition also included the participation of heads of various leprosy ashrams. The medical professionals were acknowledged for their exceptional efforts in healthcare services and were presented with plants as a symbol of appreciation. Their noteworthy initiative in ensuring the regular operation of a Mobile Medical Unit, which provides essential medical care to patients residing in leprosy ashrams every Thursday, was particularly highlighted. The ceremony underscored the positive impact of their dedication and emphasized the importance of such initiatives in enhancing the well-being of people affected by leprosy.



***Mr. Ramavarai Sah, Joint Secretary of APAL, recently visited the Chanpatiya colony in Bihar to conduct a survey of the living conditions in the area***

On 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2024, Mr. Ramavarai Sah, Joint Secretary of APAL, recently visited the Chanpatiya colony in Bihar to conduct a survey of the living conditions in the area. What he discovered was deeply concerning. The colony, which consists of 45 houses, is predominantly in a state of disrepair. An alarming 35 of these homes have broken asbestos roofs, creating significant safety hazards for the residents. The dilapidated conditions highlight the urgent need for intervention, as families struggle to find adequate shelter in an environment that should be a source of security and comfort.

In light of these pressing issues, APAL is taking decisive action to support the community. Next month, we will be mobilizing resources to provide assistance through the involvement of investors, facilitated by the generous efforts of Sister Alexandra. This initiative is designed to enhance the living conditions for families in Chanpatiya by supplying safer and more durable roofing materials. Sister Alexandra's support is not only pivotal in securing the necessary funds but also symbolizes a collective commitment to rebuilding this community. Through these efforts, we aim to restore a sense of security and dignity to the residents, helping them regain hope for a better future.



***Under the leadership of State Coordinator Maniyada Ramesh and committee member K. Anusuya, the initiative aimed to provide essential support and care to those in need. The team distributed blankets to 25 families***

On October 22, 2024, APAL, in collaboration with its State Committee in Telangana (SLAP\_TS), made a significant impact in the lives of leprosy-affected families in Balaji Nagar Mother Teresa Leprosy Colony, Hyderabad. Under the leadership of State Coordinator Maniyada Ramesh and committee member K. Anusuya, the initiative aimed to provide essential support and care to those in need. The team distributed blankets to 25 families, ensuring warmth and comfort during the cooler months, which is particularly crucial for vulnerable populations.

In addition to the blankets, the team organized a heartfelt lunch for the families, serving delicious biriyani that not only nourished but also uplifted spirits. This gesture of kindness was met with gratitude and joy from the residents of the colony, fostering a sense of community and solidarity. APAL expresses its heartfelt thanks to the Telangana State Committee for their dedication and tireless efforts, with special recognition to Maniyada Ramesh and K. Anusuya for their unwavering commitment to enhancing the lives of those affected by leprosy. Their contributions are a testament to the power of compassion and community action in making a difference.



***The State Committee of APAL (Association of People Affected by Leprosy) in Bihar, in collaboration with the Government, successfully organized a UDID (Unique Disability ID Card) camp***

The State Committee of APAL (Association of People Affected by Leprosy) in Bihar, in collaboration with the Government, successfully organized a UDID (Unique Disability ID Card) camp on 25th October 2024 at Chauradano Block, East Champaran, Bihar. This initiative aimed to streamline the process of obtaining UDID cards, which serve as a vital tool for persons with disabilities to access various government benefits, schemes, and entitlements. The camp witnessed enthusiastic participation, ensuring that individuals affected by leprosy were able to apply for their UDID cards with ease.

APAL extends heartfelt gratitude to the Government for its valuable services and cooperation throughout the event. The smooth execution of the camp was made possible by the dedicated efforts of the Bihar State Committee of APAL. A special note of appreciation goes to Mr. Brij Kishore for his unwavering support and commitment to the welfare of persons affected by leprosy. His active involvement was instrumental in ensuring that the camp reached those in



need, furthering APAL's mission of empowering marginalized communities through improved access to essential services.



***Recently, the Tamil Nadu state committee, in partnership with generous contributors, distributed essential food grains to 55 families residing in the Mother Teresa Leprosy Colony***

On 29<sup>th</sup> October 2024, The Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL), in collaboration with local donors, has taken meaningful steps to support families impacted by leprosy. Recently, the Tamil Nadu state committee, in partnership with generous contributors, distributed essential food grains to 55 families residing in the Mother Teresa Leprosy Colony in Vadathorasalur, Tamil Nadu. This initiative reflects APAL's ongoing commitment to improving the lives of individuals affected by leprosy, ensuring they receive vital support during challenging times.

APAL extends heartfelt gratitude to the donors for their invaluable contributions, which have made a significant difference in the lives of these families. The organization also offers special thanks to Mr. A. Rajendiran, the State Coordinator of APAL, for his dedicated efforts in mobilizing and coordinating this initiative. His active involvement and commitment to the leprosy community have been instrumental in the success of this program. Through such collaborative efforts, APAL continues to foster hope, dignity, and empowerment among individuals affected by leprosy.



***On the auspicious occasion of Deepawali, the APAL State Committee in Madhya Pradesh, in collaboration with the NGO Khushiyon Ke Pal, undertook the distribution of ration kits to 62 families***



On 29<sup>th</sup> October 2024, On the auspicious occasion of Deepawali, the APAL State Committee in Madhya Pradesh, in collaboration with the NGO Khushiyon Ke Pal, undertook the distribution of ration kits to 62 families affected by leprosy. The beneficiaries were associated with the Sant Dnyaneshwar Seva Samiti and Sai Ram Kusht Seva Samiti, both situated in Indore, Madhya Pradesh. This initiative was designed to foster joy and ensure that these marginalized families could celebrate the Festival of Lights with dignity and happiness.

The event was attended by colony residents and various dignitaries, including Sarang, the Secretary of APAL, as well as Raju Rathore and Gopal Shinde from the Sahayog Kusht Nivaran Sangh. Their participation significantly enhanced the occasion, as they not only distributed the kits but also engaged with the residents, thereby promoting a sense of community and inclusion. Such initiatives reflect the unwavering commitment of these organizations to uplift underprivileged sectors of society, ensuring that no individual is overlooked during the festive season.



***The APAL Executive Committee and the Sasakawa Health Foundation convened a productive meeting in Delhi on October 31, 2024***

The APAL Executive Committee and the Sasakawa Health Foundation convened a productive meeting in Delhi on October 31, 2024, to discuss future activities and initiatives aimed at the socio-economic empowerment and welfare of persons affected by leprosy and their families. The session focused on strengthening ongoing support for the Association of People Affected by Leprosy (APAL) and evaluating future plans to uplift leprosy-affected communities.

Both organizations expressed their satisfaction with the coordination and structure of the meeting. They commended APAL for its dedicated service to the leprosy community, noting the significant impact these efforts have had on the quality of life for affected individuals. APAL authorities, in turn, provided a comprehensive overview of the current situation within leprosy colonies, shedding light on the unique challenges faced by those affected by the disease and their families.

In conclusion, the meeting highlighted a shared commitment to advancing the welfare of leprosy-affected persons through collaborative planning and continued support.



**Mrs. Maya Ranavare**  
**President, APAL**