

What we do

The Nippon Foundation and its affiliate Sasakawa Health Foundation work to eliminate leprosy and its associated stigma and discrimination.

Major Contributions and Achievements

US\$200 Million in Funding



Supporting WHO's Global Leprosy Programme since 1975 including free distribution of multidrug therapy (MDT) from 1995 to 1999.

Currently Operating in 15 countries



Initiatives focusing on early detection, social and economic rehabilitation, and improving the lives of persons affected by leprosy.

Promoting Human Rights



Advocacy leading to adoption of landmark 2010 UN General Assembly Resolution on elimination of discrimination against persons affected by leprosy and their family members

- Resolution on Elimination of discrimination against persons affected by leprosy and their family members adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2010.



- Accompanying Principles and Guidelines



Honors



Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, President, Shri Ram Nath Kovind

Recent honors include:

- 2018 Gandhi Peace Prize (Awarded in 2019)
- 2017 Health and Human Rights Award, International Council of Nurses
- 2017 Health-for-All Gold Medal, WHO
- 2014 The Rule of Law Award, International Bar Association
- 2010 Ordem de Timor-Leste, Timor-Leste
- 2007 International Gandhi Award (Awarded in 2006)

Leprosy Today



@SasakawaYohei



WHO Goodwill Ambassador
for Leprosy Elimination

YOHEI SASAKAWA



We need new strategies to accelerate our efforts if we are to complete the “last mile” of leprosy elimination.



WHO Goodwill Ambassador for Leprosy Elimination is appointed by the World Health Organization's Director General to contribute to its efforts to raise awareness of leprosy related problems and solutions.

In his capacity as the Goodwill Ambassador since 2001, Mr. Yohei Sasakawa has visited more than 90 countries and met a total of 150 national leaders such as Presidents and Prime Ministers as well as other influential leaders in the world, sharing his thoughts with them to gain their understandings and commitments toward the efforts on leprosy.



- Advocates for leprosy to be given priority on the health agenda
- Raises the profile of leprosy in the media
- Promotes efforts to end leprosy-related discrimination
- Hears directly from persons affected by leprosy about the issues they face

**Leprosy is curable.
 Treatment is free.
 Discrimination has no place.**



Mr. Antonio Guterres, the UN Secretary General (New York, USA, Feb. 2019)



With Pope Francis The Vatican (Jun. 2016)



Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor of Myanmar, Mr. Ichihiko Maruyama, Ambassador of Japan (Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar, Dec. 2018)

The disease and the discrimination it causes are the two wheels of a motorcycle.

“I think of the disease and the discrimination it causes as the two wheels of a motorcycle. The front wheel represents efforts to cure the disease, and the back wheel the fight against stigma and discrimination. Both wheels must turn at the same time if we are to make progress toward our goal of a leprosy-free world.”

