

Setting the scene within leprosy

Prevention of disability



Hugh Cross BSc PhD - American Leprosy Missions, Technical Consultant

Challenges

Making leprosy related POD an integral component of health service provision



Epidemiology of Leprosy related disability



More dialogue with program managers and field personnel



More dialogue with people affected by leprosy



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Immediate Actions

Advocacy

Ensure the accessibility of Government programs to POD consultants and advisors



Training, mentoring and resource development



Generate and participate in operational research



Promote the ICCC



Publications



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Terms of Reference for the CDC Working Group

Make contact with national programs, in order to identify someone with responsibility for POD, who can act as an advocate for improved POD coverage in that country; it may be the program manager initially, but many programs are now appointing people specifically for this.

Initiate a dialogue in order to assess the current situation in the country and develop locally appropriate initiatives for improving coverage; this should include some operational research projects, in which ideas are tested in pilot areas.

Gather information and case studies about places and programs where things work well and make these available to others, ideally through peer-reviewed publications.

Involve WHO and ILEP members to support new POD initiatives, including operational research.



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Current Initiatives

Building a database of information relating to developments and current activities in diverse countries

Objective assessment of health workers knowledge and skill



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