

THE COVID-19 CRISIS AND PERSONS AFFECTED BY LEPROSY

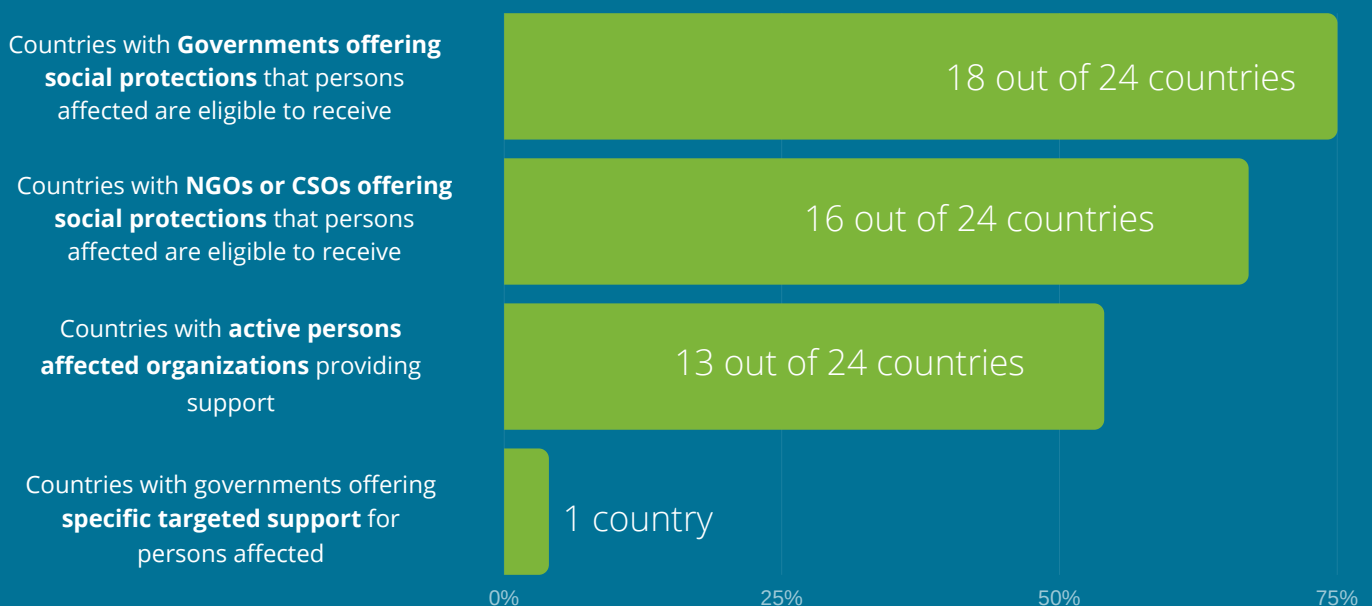
Are persons affected by leprosy being impacted by COVID-19?

The economic, social, and health impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic have led to a significant increase in the need for humanitarian aid and social protection measures. Persons affected by leprosy have been especially impacted by the worst consequences of the pandemic, due to preexisting vulnerabilities and economic precarity.

Who is providing assistance to persons affected?

Governments, NGOs, civil society organizations, and organizations of persons affected by leprosy have enacted policies and programmes intended to support persons affected during this crisis, although there are still gaps. To support the effectiveness of these interventions, and to help raise awareness of resources available to persons affected, the Global Partnership for Zero Leprosy's COVID-19 Emergency Advocacy Working Group and UN Special Rapporteur Alice Cruz, gathered data on available programmes and resources.

The following information was gathered from 100+ persons affected and partners representing 24 countries.



	Government offering social protections that persons affected are eligible to receive	NGOs or CSOs offering social protections that persons affected are eligible to receive
Brazil	✓	✓
Cambodia	✗	✓
Chad	✓	✗
Colombia	✓	✓
DRC*	✓	✓
Ecuador	✗	✗
Gabon	✓	✗
Ghana	✗	✓
India	✓	✓
Indonesia	✓	✓
Mexico	✗	✗
Mozambique	✓	✓
Myanmar	✓	✓
Nepal	✓	✓
Nigeria	✓	✓
Pakistan	✓	✗
PNG*	✗	✓
Philippines	✓	✗
Senegal	✓	✓
Sierra Leone	✓	✓
South Sudan	✓	✓
Togo	✓	✓
Venezuela	✓	✗
Yemen	✗	✗

DRC* is Democratic Republic of the Congo; PNG* is Papua New Guinea
 The situation in countries is constantly changing. This factsheet will be updated regularly. If you have an update on these country data, please send your information to: info@zeroleprosy.org

Out of all countries represented in the data collection process, only Myanmar reported action taken by the government to specifically meet the needs of persons affected. All other reported social protection measures and aid from the government was not targeted to persons affected, but was general aid, and in practice, was not equally accessible to all persons affected.

Some of the reported social protection measures were cash transfers, or income replacement for lost livelihoods, but temporary food aid was the most common measure. Many of these measures have expired after the initial outbreak response in April and May, but the needs of persons affected persist. **None of the represented countries reported the needs of persons affected are being entirely and adequately met by governments and NGOs.** Many respondents expressed concern for the long term, sharing fears that current planning and social protection measures would not be adequate in the future.

There is reason to fear that the greatest consequences of this global health crisis are ahead for persons affected. "Families in poverty have by now used up whatever reserves they had, and sold their assets," said Mr. Olivier De Schutter, UN Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights, in a press release issued on September 11, 2020. "The worst impacts of the crisis on poverty are still to come."

Governments and NGOs need to act to shore up social protection measures and increase collaboration, to ensure that all persons affected are able to access the support they need.

More information about each country represented in these data, and the work of our partners in these and other countries can be found at zeroleprosy.org/covid-data