



**2020**

**IMPACT REPORT**



## LETTER FROM OUR LEADERSHIP TEAM CHAIR

The Global Partnership for Zero Leprosy (GPZL) has just concluded its first three years. Our vision, to achieve a world with zero leprosy, is both ambitious and realizable. Partners from all over the world have become members, and key stakeholders have joined the Leadership Team. With the launch of the first national road map to zero leprosy in Ghana in late 2020, our shared dream of making strides toward zero leprosy by 2030 is underway.

Our new Secretariat Director, [Bill Gallo](#), brings decades of experience at the US Centers for Disease Control to the Partnership, and he approaches challenges in meaningful ways. Reaching zero leprosy is a lofty goal, but one that can be accomplished when all stakeholders are working together. This past year has provided further evidence that real progress is possible.

**Bill Simmons**, Chair of the GPZL Leadership Team

# ABOUT GPZL

The Global Partnership for Zero Leprosy (GPZL) is a coalition of people committed to ending leprosy, also known as Hansen’s disease. GPZL facilitates alignment of the leprosy community to accelerate effective collaboration toward the goal of zero leprosy. GPZL consists of nearly 50 partner organizations and 500 individual members.

## LEADERSHIP TEAM

The Leadership Team (LT) is composed of leaders from partner organizations and stakeholders engaged in zero leprosy research, programming, and advocacy. The LT provides direction, oversight, and support to the Secretariat to meet strategic plan objectives, engage working groups, and advocate with key stakeholders.

## SECRETARIAT

The GPZL Secretariat, located at the Task Force for Global Health, supports partnership work through coordination of leadership team meetings, working group facilitation, and collaboration with groups working in disability, mental wellbeing, NTDs, and other infectious diseases in the global health field.

## WORKING GROUPS

The Leadership Team establishes working groups to address priority areas. Experts from the global leprosy community participate in GPZL working groups.

## ACTION FRAMEWORK

GPZL coordinates action in three areas: supporting National Leprosy Programmes, accelerating research, and increasing advocacy and resource mobilization.



# OUR WORK IN 2020



In early 2020, the Partnership shifted attention to COVID-19-related challenges facing the leprosy community. The formation of emergency response working groups coincided with ongoing country work, research efforts, and resource mobilization.

## COUNTRY WORK

### NEW COUNTRY PARTNERS

In July, GPZL announced 10 new country partners in addition to a continued partnership with Nepal. Following examination of 23 applications based on indicators for readiness, in-country partner networks, program needs, and political criteria, GPZL selected the following countries to implement the Zero Leprosy Country Model: Cambodia, Côte d'Ivoire, Federated States of Micronesia, Ghana, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Mozambique, Nigeria, Tanzania, and Uganda.



### COUNTRY MODEL IMPLEMENTATION IN GHANA

In November, GPZL launched the Zero Leprosy Country Model in Ghana. A country review was requested by Ghana's National Leprosy Programme, headed by Dr. Benedict Quao. Regional experts conducted the review with remote support from the GPZL Secretariat, taking stock of the program's current status and defining key priorities for the future.



### SDR-PEP WEBINAR SERIES

GPZL, in partnership with WHO, conducted two webinars on single-dose rifampicin post-exposure prophylaxis (SDR-PEP). The first webinar explored the process of starting SDR-PEP implementation for National Leprosy Programmes. The second webinar addressed the role of persons affected by leprosy in successful SDR-PEP implementation.





## LETTER FROM GHANA

Ghana's National Leprosy Programme was pleased to partner with GPZL as we began the implementation of the Zero Leprosy Country Model in November 2020. The GPZL Secretariat provided remote support while regional and local experts and cross-sectoral stakeholders convened in Accra. The experts, who had conducted field visits across different regions in the country, oversaw the country programme review and were on-hand to facilitate the development of a road map to zero leprosy for Ghana.

This roadmap will inform our strategic planning and programming for the upcoming decade, starting from 2021, as we continue working with GPZL. With the Ghana Health Service leadership's commitment, the level of stakeholder engagement, this road map, and clear next steps outlined in the Zero Leprosy Country Model, I am confident that, together, we will meet Ghana's leprosy programme targets.

**Benedict Quao**, Programme Manager of the National Leprosy Elimination Programme of Ghana, Member of GPZL Leadership Team

# OUR WORK IN 2020



## RESEARCH

### RESEARCH AGENDA PUBLISHED

The Zero Leprosy Research Agenda, which was published in *Infectious Diseases of Poverty*, identifies key themes necessary for researchers and donors to pursue to reach zero leprosy.

### RESEARCH AGENDA PRIORITIZATION

GPZL presented the prioritized Zero Leprosy Research Agenda at the WHO Global Consultation on Global Leprosy Strategy 2021 – 2030. GPZL is moving forward by landscaping ongoing research.

### LEPROSY DIAGNOSTIC WORKING GROUP

The Leprosy Diagnostic Working Group is developing a target product profile (TPP) for a leprosy diagnostic product to improve the accuracy and efficiency of leprosy diagnosis.

## RESOURCE MOBILIZATION & ADVOCACY

### LEPROSY MODELING PROJECT

GPZL undertook a project to model various scenarios of leprosy control and prevention in the 10 partner countries to generate powerful tools for advocacy and resource mobilization.

### TOP 100 FOR MACARTHUR FOUNDATION'S 100 & CHANGE

GPZL's joint proposal, created in collaboration with partners, was selected as a top 100 proposal. The proposal was added to the Bold Solutions Network, a website and fundraising campaign created by the Foundation to connect donors with viable, vetted funding opportunities.

# OUR WORK IN 2020



## COVID-19 EMERGENCY RESPONSE WORKING GROUPS

### THE LEPROSY EMERGENCY OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

sought to understand and address multi-drug therapy (MDT) distribution issues and other challenges facing national leprosy programs during the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic to ensure that leprosy patients could access the care they need. A report on their survey process, analysis, and results was published in [\*Leprosy Review\*](#).



### THE EMERGENCY ADVOCACY FOR PERSONS AFFECTED WORKING GROUP

consulted with 125+ persons affected by leprosy from 20+ countries to gather information about the leprosy community's needs during the pandemic and advise NGOs and governments on how to meet these needs. GPZL published [questionnaire results](#) and a [fact sheet](#) with information from the calls. The group's findings and recommendations were published in a report in [\*Leprosy Review\*](#). This working group also partnered with women affected by leprosy to produce a [video](#) about the report findings.

### THE POST COVID-19 WORKING GROUP

met to discuss a path forward for the leprosy community in a post-COVID-19 world through conversations with stakeholders, increased collaboration, and stronger alignment of the leprosy community in preparation for future challenges. These discussions are on-going.



## LETTER FROM OUR SECRETARIAT DIRECTOR

The Partnership took important steps forward in the past year. At the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, we shifted attention to address emerging challenges identified by the leprosy community. By mid-year, we completed the prioritization of the Zero Leprosy Research Agenda. And in November, GPZL implemented our Country Model with Ghana's National Leprosy Programme.

Since joining the Secretariat, I have been both impressed and energized by the dedication and expertise that comprises GPZL. The Partnership's first three years laid the groundwork by reaching consensus within the scientific community, developing and piloting the Country Model, and documenting tools that will help National Leprosy Programmes and partners achieve zero leprosy. We are eager to continue to implement these developments in the year ahead.

**Bill Gallo**, Secretariat Director