

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Capacity-Building Pilot for Associations of Persons Affected by Leprosy

Global Partnership for Zero Leprosy (GPZL)

At a Glance

Who can apply?	Associations of persons affected by leprosy that are small, new, or have had limited access to external support.
What will be offered?	Capacity-building support throughout 2026, with possible extension to 2027 subject to budget availability.
How many will be selected?	One (1) association for this pilot.
Submission deadline	20th May 2026
Where to submit	admin@zeroleprosy.org

About GPZL

The Global Partnership for Zero Leprosy (GPZL) is a global coalition working to end leprosy — a disease that still affects hundreds of thousands of people each year. GPZL brings together associations, governments, researchers, and people affected by leprosy to achieve a world with no disease, no disability, and no discrimination.

About This Opportunity

The 3rd Global Forum, held in Bali, calls for stronger support to associations led by persons affected by leprosy. This pilot is the first step: a capacity-building engagement with one association throughout 2026, designed to be a learning experience for GPZL and a model that can be repeated and scaled.

This pilot is specifically for associations that are small, new, or that have not had access to structured external support. **If your association is already well-established and receiving support from an international programme, this particular call is not aimed at you.**

Key Objectives

The pilot aims to strengthen the selected association in a practical and sustainable way. The key objectives are:

- To enhance associational leadership, governance, and internal management systems.
- To strengthen understanding and application of human rights approaches for persons affected by leprosy.
- To build practical digital capacity for communication, visibility, and outreach.
- To improve the association's ability to engage with national, regional, and global networks.
- To develop a tailored, needs-based capacity-building model that can be adapted and scaled in future GPZL initiatives.

What Your Association Will Receive

Support will be delivered throughout 2026, with possible extension to 2027, and will focus on four core areas:

Leadership	Strengthening how your association is governed and led, including support for youth, women, and senior leaders.
Human Rights	Understanding the rights of persons affected by leprosy and how to advocate for them.
Digital Skills	Practical help with tools your association can use, such as building a website or creating social media accounts.
Connecting to Networks	Linking your association to regional and global platforms so you are not working alone.

The specific focus within these areas will be decided together with your association at the start of the programme — based on a diagnosis of your current situation and your priorities, not on a fixed curriculum.

How the Programme Works

1. Diagnosis	The programme begins with a structured diagnosis of the selected association — understanding its current situation, strengths, and specific needs. This ensures all support is tailored, not generic.
2. Planning	Based on the diagnosis, a support plan for 2026 is agreed collaboratively with the association and its local resource person.
3. Implementation	Capacity-building activities are delivered — primarily through the local resource person, with remote support from GPZL partners where needed.
4. Review & Close	Regular check-ins throughout the year, with a final review and case study documenting lessons learned for future rounds.

A dedicated support person at GPZL will be responsible for accompanying the selected association throughout the programme, coordinating resources and ensuring the association is not left alone with implementation questions.

Monitoring and Success Indicators

Monitoring Indicators

Progress throughout the programme will be tracked using qualitative and quantitative indicators, including:

- Completion of associational diagnosis and agreed capacity-building plan.
- Number and type of capacity-building sessions delivered.
- Participation levels of association members (including representation of women, youth, and leadership).
- Improvements in associational systems (e.g., governance structures, documentation, communication practices).
- Adoption and use of digital tools (e.g., website, social media presence, communication platforms).
- Engagement with networks (e.g., participation in meetings, collaborations initiated).
- Regular progress reports and check-ins completed as planned.

Success Indicators

By the end of the pilot, success will be reflected through:

- Demonstrable improvement in associational capacity in at least two of the four support areas.
- Increased confidence and effectiveness of leadership and members.
- Functional systems in place (e.g., basic governance processes, communication tools, or advocacy approaches).
- Active use of at least one digital platform for outreach or engagement.
- Evidence of strengthened connections with external stakeholders or networks.
- A documented case study capturing lessons learned and outcomes.

Sustainability

This pilot is designed not only to build capacity during 2026 but to ensure lasting impact beyond the programme period. Sustainability will be supported through:

- Co-creation of a tailored capacity-building plan based on the association's priorities and context.
- Strengthening internal systems and leadership to enable continued growth without external dependence.
- Engagement of a local resource person to ensure contextually relevant and ongoing support.
- Development of practical tools, templates, and processes that remain with the association.
- Encouraging network connections that provide continued learning and collaboration opportunities.
- A requirement for applicants to outline how they will continue applying the knowledge and systems after the programme ends.

How to Apply

Send us a short document or presentation — no more than two pages or five slides — in any language. Tell us:

- Your association's name, country, and year it was registered.
- How many active members you have and where you work.
- A copy of your registration certificate and confirmation of your bank account.
- A short description of your current challenges and why this support would make a difference.

- The name and brief background of your **Local Resource Person** — someone based in your country who can deliver training in your language and work with your association throughout 2026. (This is a required part of the application.)
- A brief statement on how your association plans to maintain the benefits after the programme ends.
- A letter of recommendation from another association of persons affected by leprosy, a national health authority, or a civil society association is welcome but not required.

Who Can Apply

Your association must:

- Be an association of persons affected by leprosy — led by and made up primarily of affected persons.
- Be officially registered as a legal entity.
- Have an active bank account in the association's name.
- Have a functioning board or leadership structure.
- Not currently be participating in an ongoing, multi-session capacity-building programme run by an external association.

There are no country restrictions. Associations from any region may apply.

How Applications Will Be Assessed

Applications will be reviewed by GPZL's Prioritising People Working Group. We will first check that the basic requirements above are met. We will then assess applications based on:

- How much the association would benefit from this support — associations most in need will be prioritised.
- The credibility and feasibility of the local resource person proposed.
- The sustainability plan — how the association intends to build on the programme after it ends.

We are not looking for the most experienced or best-resourced association. We are looking for the one where this pilot will make the biggest difference.

Program Oversight, Reporting and Review

The implementation of this pilot will be supported through structured oversight, regular reporting, and ongoing engagement with GPZL.

- The Prioritising People Pillar Working Group will provide overall oversight and strategic guidance, ensuring the pilot remains aligned with GPZL's priorities and learning objectives.
- The selected association will be expected to submit brief, regular progress updates (monthly or as agreed), highlighting key activities, achievements, challenges, and any support required.
- Monthly progress review meetings will be organised between the association, the local resource person, and GPZL representatives. These meetings will serve to review progress, address challenges, and adjust the support plan where needed.

This structured approach is intended to ensure accountability, continuous learning, and practical support throughout the pilot.

Questions?

Send your questions to admin@zeroleprosy.org by 10th May 2026. We will respond to all queries.