

Priority Actions to Reduce the Global Burden of Leprosy

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Leprosy: Definition

- Leprosy is a chronic, mildly infectious disease caused by *Mycobacterium leprae*
- Leprosy affects the skin, the **peripheral nerves**, and other structures
- The medical outcome of leprosy depends on the host **immune response**
- The social outcome depends on **community attitudes**



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Burden of Leprosy

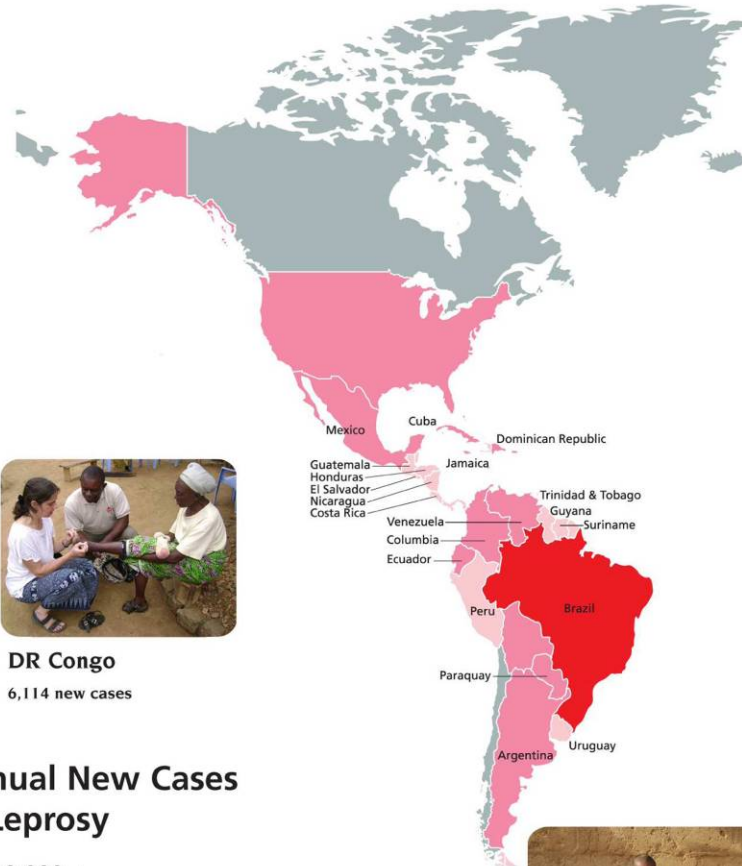
- **Disease of poverty**
- **250,000 new cases per year**
- **122 countries endemic, with 16 having >1,000 cases**
- **15 million completed treatment**
- **3 million + with continuing disability**
- **reported cases lower in women**



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Where leprosy is found today



DR Congo
6,114 new cases



Nigeria
4,899 new cases



Myanmar
3,365 new cases



India
134,184 new cases



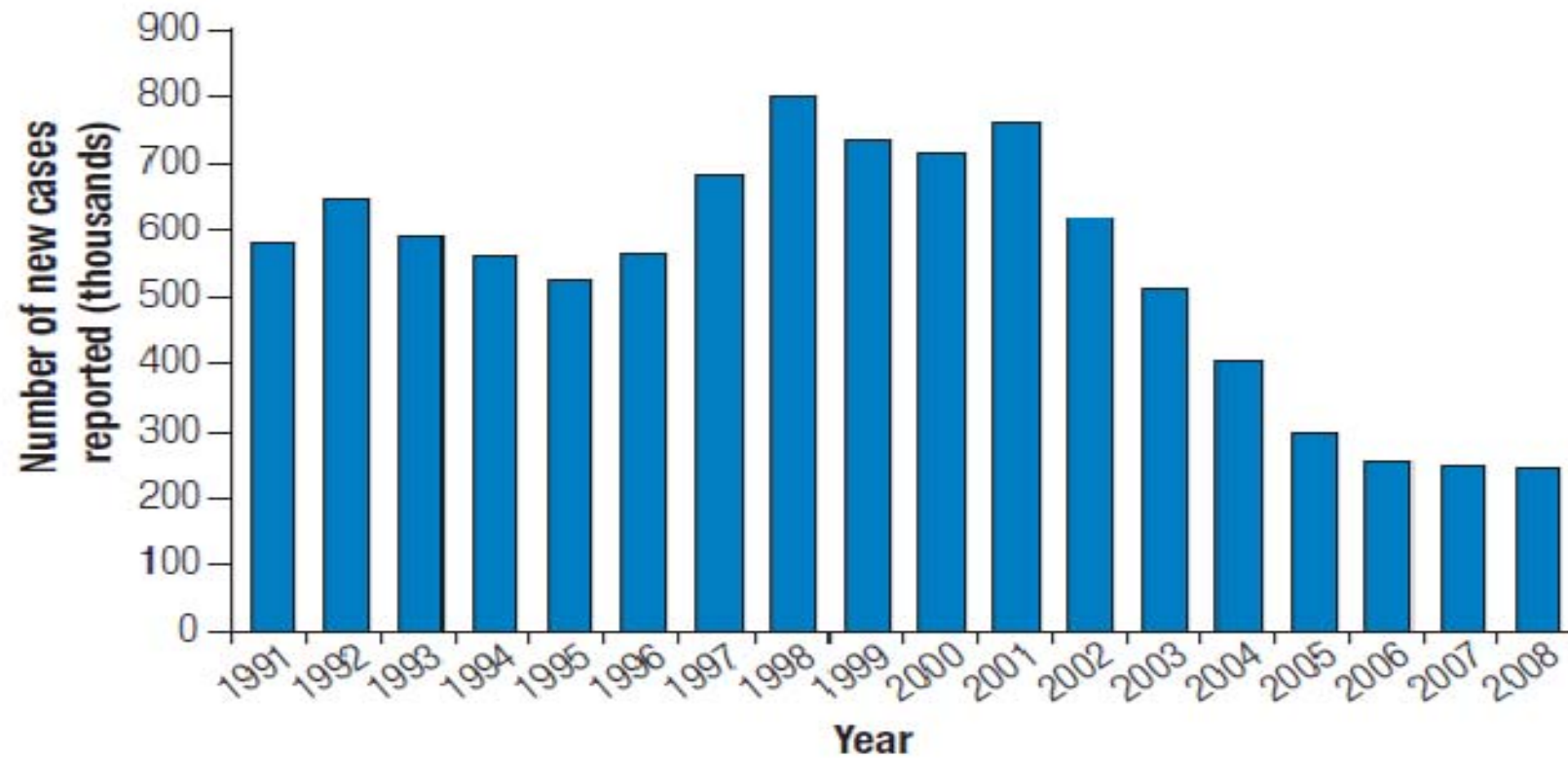
Mozambique
1,313 new cases

Annual New Cases of Leprosy

- 10,000 +
- 100 – 9,999
- Less than 100
- No data available

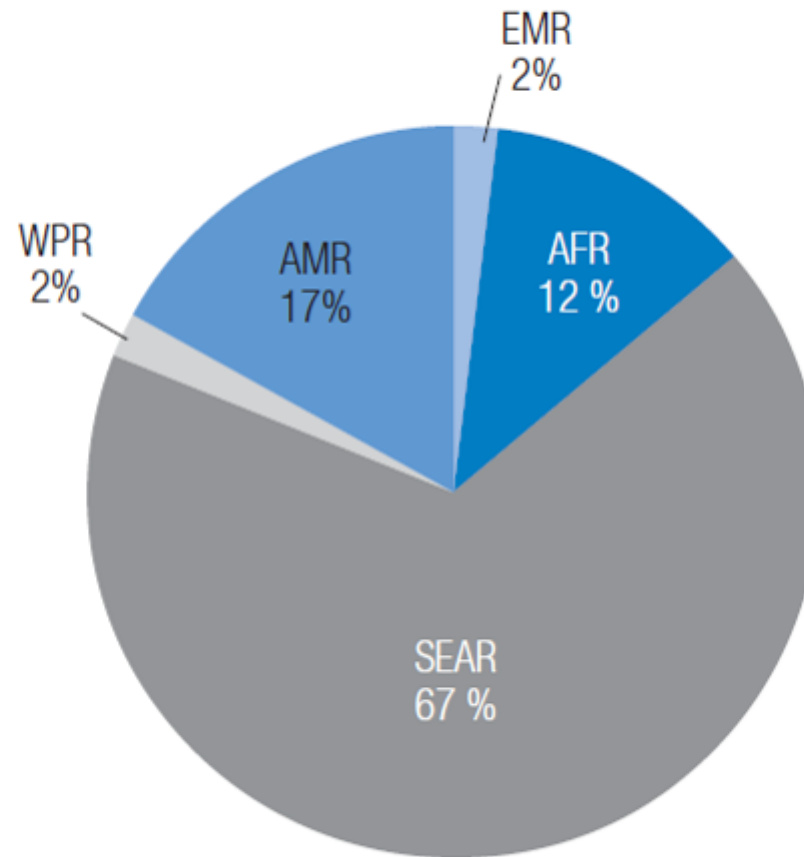
SOURCE: WHO 2009

Number of new cases of leprosy reported to WHO, worldwide, 1991–2008



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Distribution of new cases of leprosy reported to WHO,
by WHO region, 2008



AFR – African / AMR – The Americas / EMR – Eastern Mediterranean / SEAR – South-East Asia / WPR – Western Pacific



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Enhanced Global Strategy (2011-15)

- **2015 target to reduce new cases with visible disability by 35%**
- **Early case detection and treatment**
- **Threat of drug resistance**
- **Household contact surveillance +/- chemoprophylaxis**
- **Prevention of disability**
- **Community based rehabilitation**
- **Sustainability of leprosy services**
- **Research - new drugs, new diagnostic tests**
- **Equity, social exclusion, human rights, discrimination**



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MDG 6 : Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other diseases

- One of 17 NTDs - not mentioned in MDG targets or indicators
- Keeping the Promise
Outcomes Document
- Disability



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MDG 1 : Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

- Addressing stigma
- From begging to sustainable livelihoods
- Human dignity



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MDG 2 : Achieve universal primary education

- **Discrimination in education establishments**
- **Children affected by leprosy denied an education**
- **Need to address misconceptions**



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MDG 3 : Promote gender equality & empower women

- **Lower number of cases diagnosed in women**
- **Late diagnosis common**



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MDG 5 : Improve maternal health

- **Specialist treatment for pregnant women affected by leprosy**
- **Maternal Health Strategies**



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MDG 8 : Develop a global partnership for development

- **Novartis**
- **WHO, Governments, Specialist NGOs, Leprosy People's Organisations, Research Institutes**
- **Developing capacity and sustainable leprosy services**



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Priorities for Action

- **Leprosy & NTDs** - explicitly included in MDG Action Plans and the indicators of post 2015 plans
- **Sustainability of leprosy services and research**
- **Women and leprosy** – the double jeopardy – focus on empowerment and maternal health
- **Support inclusion of people affected by leprosy in society and mainstream development programmes**
- **Human rights** – implementation of UN Principles and Guidelines for the Elimination of Discrimination Against People Affected by Leprosy and their Family Members – notification, isolation, exclusion



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