

## **Memorandum of Understanding with WHO and AHM to fight Leprosy (1997)**

**Memorandum of Understanding for the involvement of the World Organisation of the Scout Movement in the implementation of the Strategy for the elimination of leprosy as a public health problem with the support of the World Health Organisation (Action Programme for the Elimination of Leprosy) and the AHM Leprosy Relief Organisation Munich.**



This Memorandum is concluded between the World Organisation of the Scout Movement (hereinafter referred to as WOSM or as World Scouting), P.O. Box 241, 1211 Geneva 4, Switzerland,

and

The AHM Leprosy Relief Organisation Munich e.V. (hereinafter referred to as AHM), Tenettistrasse 45, D-80337 München, Germany

with the support of

The World Health Organisation (Action Programme for the Elimination of Leprosy), (hereinafter referred to as WHO), 1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland.

### **1. The Challenge**

The goal of eliminating leprosy as a public health problem by the year 2000 has been established by the World Health Organisation. WHO has estimated that, to achieve this goal, endemic countries must detect two million patients and treat them with multidrug therapy (MDT) during the coming three years. This is a very ambitious goal – yet one that is possible to reach. However, leprosy is not only a medical problem but also a social problem, because of the stigma attached to it. Both aspects – medical and social – require the mobilisation of the international community and the dedicated commitment and participation of many partners. World Scouting is firmly committed to take part in this fight against leprosy, not only in its cure but also in helping people develop a sense of tolerance and to overcome prejudices. This is a challenge for every man and woman with a sense of solidarity and thus for all Scouts, especially in those countries where leprosy still exists and Scouting is strong.

### **2. The partners**

WOSM is an educational organisation which is voluntary, non-political and non-governmental. Its main purpose is to contribute to the integral development of young people, as individuals and as responsible citizens in the local, national and international communities.

The World Health Organisation is a specialised agency of the United Nations, whose main purpose is the attainment by all peoples of the highest possible level of health, as one of the fundamental rights of every human being.

The AHM Leprosy Relief Organisation Munich is an organisation whose main purpose is to fight Leprosy, from both the medical and social aspects. It has been AHM's policy for 25 years to promote Leprosy Awareness and arouse public interest. Over the past years AHM has produced several innovative approaches to effectively deal with leprosy and its negative social consequences not only for the person affected but also for his family and the community.

For the past 15 years, several National Scout Organisations members of WOSM have been active in leprosy work, in many cases, with the support of AHM. This has created between the two organisations a long-standing partnership, relations of mutual confidence, and the desire to put together their energy and commitment to deal with the problem of leprosy from a global point of view.

### **3. The aim**

Building on those achievements, the aim of this Memorandum of Understanding is to develop the capacity of selected National Scout Organisations to carry out effective leprosy awareness,

detection and treatment programmes with the support of WHO and AHM in their respective fields of competence.

#### **4. Key elements of the strategy**

The Strategy is based upon three key elements:

- identification of the selected countries
- preparation of country plans at national level, and
- sponsorship provided by AHM

The procedure for those elements is outlined below.

#### **5. Identification of countries**

The three partners have identified 10 countries where, as a group, the prevalence rate of leprosy is 4.7 per 10,000, which is five times higher than the elimination target established by WHO, and where the National Scout Organisations members of WOSM are strong enough to make a significant contribution to the leprosy elimination goal.

Those countries are listed here following the order of registered cases of leprosy: India, Brazil, Indonesia, Nepal, Bangladesh, Philippines, Zaire, Madagascar, Sudan and Tanzania.

#### **6. Preparation of Country Plans**

Country plans will be prepared at national level by the National Scout Organisations, in consultation with the National Leprosy Programme.

WHO will ensure that the proposals are realistic and efficient to meet the health needs of the population concerned and, in particular, the goal of elimination of leprosy as a public health problem. The WSB will ensure that activities carried out within the context of the present agreement have an educational impact on Scouts involved and are in accordance with Scout principles and method.

#### **7. Sponsorship provided by AHM**

When the WHO and the WSB have satisfied themselves that the criteria requested by each of them under article 6 above have been met, the national plans shall be submitted by the National Scout Organisations to AHM, on a country-by-country basis.

AHM shall endeavour to find resources for sponsorship of those country plans.

#### **8. Documentation**

In order to facilitate the work of National Scout Organisations involved in this project, WHO (Action Programme for the Elimination of Leprosy) will prepare relevant educational materials. The "prototype" of those documents will be prepared by WHO, reviewed by WOSM and sent to one or several National Scout Organisations concerned for translation into local languages and testing. With the feed-back from those tests, a revised version (or revised versions) will be prepared in printed form.

#### **9. Responsibilities of WOSM**

In the implementation of the present Memorandum of Understanding, WOSM shall:

- remind National Scout Organisations of the Resolution adopted by the World Scout Conference held in Oslo in 1996 urging "... all National Scout Associations concerned to involve their members in working towards elimination of leprosy in coordination with WHO Leprosy Authorities and ministries of health",

- open doors and facilitate access of AHM to the 10 selected National Scout Organisations,
- motivate National Scout Associations to involve themselves in leprosy prevention and leprosy awareness activities.

WOSM takes no financial responsibility in the matter.

## **10. Responsibilities of AHM**

AHM will:

- assist WHO and the WSB in the establishment of basic documentation,
- assist each country in the establishment of its own National Plan,
- endeavour to find the financial means to implement such National Plans.

## **11. Responsibilities of WHO**

WHO undertakes to:

- prepare the above-mentioned documentation, with the support of WOSM and AHM,
- examine each National Plan and give it, after necessary changes, its approval.

## **12. Consultation and cooperation**

In order to achieve the objectives established in the present Memorandum of Understanding, the three partner organisations agree:

- to consult with each other whenever necessary in order to coordinate action,
- to keep each other informed on any new developments which may affect the implementation of the project,
- to hold an evaluation session once a year in order to review progress accomplished and coordinate planning and implementation of the project.

## **13. Global Development Village (GDV)**

The three partners shall endeavour to provide the maximum possible visibility to their partnership and make it an instrument to contribute to the educational efforts of World Scouting in the field of leprosy awareness. One ideal opportunity would be the 19<sup>th</sup> World Scout Jamboree to be held in Chile from 27<sup>th</sup> December 1998 to 6<sup>th</sup> January 1999, and particularly the Global Development Village. This educational activity, located in the centre of the Jamboree and at the core of the Jamboree's programme, will provide an opportunity for young people to participate in workshops, simulation games, demonstration projects, exhibitions and many other activities intended to highlight young people's contribution to development.

WOSM shall provide an invitation and adequate facilities for WHO (Action Programme for the Elimination of Leprosy) and AHM to be present and active during the GDV. AHM, supported by WHO, will prepare a workshop and an interactive exhibition.

#### **14. Termination of Agreement**

Either party may at any time send the others, by registered mail, a notice of termination of this Agreement. Termination shall take effect 30 days after receipt of the notice or upon the date specified in the notice, whichever is the latest.

Signed on behalf of the

#### **World Organisation of the Scout Movement (WOSM)**

Dr. Jacques Moreillon  
Secretary General  
Geneva, 3 July 1997

Signed on behalf of the

#### **AHM Leprosy Relief Organisation Munich e.V.**

Mrs. Mathilde Gruner  
Managing Director

Signed on behalf of the

#### **World Health Organisation (Action Programme for the Elimination of Leprosy) (WHO)**

Dr. S. K. Noordeen  
Director, Action Programme for the Elimination of Leprosy