

AMICI DI RAOUL FOLLEREAU TRUST

Introduction

History of AIFO:

AIFO started in 1961, inspired by the message and work of a French journalist, Raoul Follereau, who attracted the World attention in late fifties and sixties towards the problem of emargination, exclusion and discrimination of millions of persons affected with leprosy in the World.

Raoul Follereau was born in 1903 at Nevers in France. He was only 17 when he wrote his first book "The Book of Love" and thus at a very young age he started his carrier of a writer-poet. During one of his travels in Africa on a newspaper assignment, he came across the problem of leprosy affected persons, which became the mission of his life. For the rest of his life, he organised conferences all over the World to speak about the inhuman life conditions and segregation of Leprosy affected persons. From the funds collected from these conferences, a big leprosy centre was created in Adzope in Ivory Coast.

Raoul Follereau died on 06.02.1977.

GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT AIFO

AIFO is an Italian Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) based in Italy and with the head-office in Bologna. AIFO is recognised by European Union and by the Italian Foreign Ministry for Projects of Development Co-operation and collaborates actively with United Nations and has an official relationship with the World Health Organisation (WHO). It provides support to projects in developing countries.

AIFO with the aim of providing support to the persons affected with leprosy, in late seventies and early eighties, started to integrate its leprosy support work in Primary Health Care services. Now, the majority of projects

supported by AIFO deal with leprosy control at national levels or integrated into primary health care settings.

Activities of AIFO

At present AIFO is involved in more than 200 projects in 67 countries of the world, for supporting three kinds of Projects: leprosy and Primary Health Care; rehabilitation of disabled persons; and support for vulnerable children.

AIFO has traditionally been associated with support for children who were living inside leprosaria. Since, 1992, activities directed at nurturing, care, education and development of children have been enlarged to include all children in vulnerable conditions like war, refugee camps, slums, orphans, etc. AIFO favours projects having a community approach for the projects aimed at children. A very special attention is given to projects dealing with disabled children.

AIFO supported Rehabilitation projects which were directed mainly at leprosy affected persons, were gradually integrated into general rehabilitation projects. In 1988, AIFO started collaborating with the Rehabilitation unit of WHO for promoting the CBR approach and in the last 10 years, this has become one of the major areas of activities for AIFO.

AIFO has other publications related to leprosy, tropical diseases, disability and health issues in developing countries. Limited copies of these publications are available free of charge for project managers in developing countries and for NGOs, international organisations, libraries and documentation centres. They also produce a monthly journal "AMICI di Lebbrosi"(Friends of Leprosy Sufferers), a bimonthly "AIFO Information" for coordination of various group activities, books by Raoul Follereau and audio visuals.

They conceptualise awareness camps, stimulate discussion groups, conferences, and in particular organise the celebrations of World Leprosy Day which is held every year on the last Sunday of January.

AIFO IN INDIA (AMICI)

AMICI was giving aid to NGOs for leprosy control work through GLRA in India. It was in 1979 that Amici appointed Dr. V. Ekambaram as its representative at Madras. Dr. Ekambaram was then the Secretary of Damien Foundation in India. In 1984 Dr. Ekambaram left Damien Foundation and became full time representative of Amici. Amici made contract with Government of India to give financial aid and professional guidance to implement Multi Drug Treatment programme in various districts in the country. Starting with Chittoor district in Andhra Pradesh and extending to Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal

With expansion of support to NGOs and Government in 1989 Dr. Daisy Kandathil was appointed as representative to assist Dr. Ekambaram, who is serving as Special Representative. Beginning AIFO was supporting few missionaries who were working with leprosy affected persons. Most of these projects were taking active role in the National Leprosy Eradication program and few of them were involved in rehabilitation activities.

Responding to the need of the projects Amici extended financial support for the education and care of the Children of few projects. Later on support to vulnerable children were extended to other leprosy projects. In 1996 Amici established its regional office at Bangalore. Amici Di Raoul Follereau Trust was registered in 1998.

During the meeting of all the projects supported by AIFO in India in 1993, Dr. Enrico Pupulin and Dr. Sunil Deepak made it clear that in the changing scenario of leprosy, it was appropriate that all the projects incorporate the "leprosy". They also explained the vital role of CBR in the process of taking other "leprosy" according to the spirit of AIFO. 6 of the leprosy NGO projects had taken up CBR

work along with leprosy work. AIFO is supporting for Non leprosy NGOs for CBR programmes.

Since the caseload is still high major emphasis is given for MDT coverage in the National programme. There is much to be done in the field of rehabilitation. Even how many leprosy-cured persons need rehabilitation is not available. AIFO in India can play a major role in this regard through CBR. In view of this AIFO agreed to host a National level seminar of both Government and NGOs working in the field of rehabilitation, in view of sensitizing rehabilitation agencies to include leprosy affected persons in their programme. The seminar is scheduled in January 2001.

AIFO projects in India.

I	Number of Leprosy control projects	21
	Population covered	27,686,130
	Number of patients under treatment	12,889
	Number of persons cured	1,38,197
	Number of Leprosy Rehabilitation Centres	4
	Number of hospital beds for Leprosy patients	156
II	Number of Children's projects	12
III	CBR projects	10
	EENET, inclusive education programmes	2

There is a request from the Government to extend AIFO support to few more MDT districts and to appoint and finance a NLEP Consultant.

AMICI has appointed NLEP Consultant for Karnataka State.

Activities of AMICI

AMICI supports project activities in three main areas:

Leprosy control and Primary Health Care
Rehabilitation of persons with disability
Development activities aimed at vulnerable children.

The Data about the performance of MDT in AIFO project

Total No. of patients started on MDT – 47,196

No. of New Patients added during duration of MDT upto end of 2000 – 86,859

No. of patients relapsed – 92

Total patients load including relapsed cases – 1,77,759

Patients deleted after MDT (ie., RFT cases) – 83,061

Patients dead during MDT – 2991

Patients remaining at the end of 2000 – 11,986.

Events 2000

Dr. Daisy went to Bologna to attend GML and participated in world leprosy day celebrations in the month of January 2000.

Mr. Jose attended the 1 millennium meeting of ILEP representative's held at Delhi from 27th to 28th January 2000.

Dr. Daisy attended workshop on Logistic drug supply held on 18th and 19th February at New Delhi by Government of India.

Mr. Jose attended ILEP meeting held at Hyderabad on 17th April 2000.

Mr. Jose and Mr. Jayanth attended the WHO-AIFO Joint workshop at Geneva from 25th to 27th September 2000. They presented a report on persons living in leprosariums and leprosy colonies and leprosy situation in Karnataka State.

Mr. Jose attended the workshop at Delhi to finalise PIP for second phase of World bank funded Project on 8th July 2000.

The Secretary and Administrator visited various projects during the year.

Training

CBR training was conducted for Assam, Chainpur project. Mr. Jayanth Kumar, CBR coordinator, Mr. Victor and Ms. Sabrina were different resource persons for different training programmes.

Mr. Jose M. V. conducted classes on Leprosy for CBR programme Managers at TRDC, Kanakapura.

A seminar was conducted for all the Medical Consultants of AMICI – MDT Projects for three days from 27th to 29th November 2000. Dr. Raja Rao and Dr. Venugopal Reddy from Lepra India were invited as resource persons. Dr. V. Ekambaram, Special representative was also present.

35 participants from all the projects attended the “Asian Leprosy Congress” from 9th to 13th November 2000 at Agra.

Visitors.

- 1. Ms. Francesca Ortali, CBR Coordinator from Italy came to India to visit various projects during the month of June 2000.**
- 2. Ms. Livia Cattani from Italy came to India during the month of September 2000 to have CBR exposure on field and get knowledge about CBR projects.**
- 3. Mr. Sergio Zovini from Italy**
- 4. Ms. Felicita and Mr. Claudio from Italy came in the month of December for visit of Indian projects**