# ZACTIVITY SREPORT





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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

With more than 70 years of commitment to the fight against leprosy, the Foundation marks an important milestone with this annual retrospective, which allows us to measure the progress achieved. It is a precious opportunity to reflect on the impactful moments we have experienced alongside the beneficiaries of our support and to consider the many opportunities to continue our struggle with determination.

The year 2024 holds particular significance: it marks the end of Mr. Thierry Zen Ruffinen's second consecutive term as Chairman of the Foundation Board. On this occasion, I would like to pay him a sincere and heartfelt tribute for his dedication, effectiveness, and unwavering commitment throughout these eight years. The same goes for the professionalism and devotion with which he ensured the transition of the presidency.

As a guarantor of steadfast commitment, Thierry has embodied the spirit of our mission with rigor, humanity, and faith. Thanks to his involvement, the Foundation has been strengthened, structured, and now looks to the future with confidence.

His actions have enabled the Foundation to take decisive steps both strategically and financially, and he leaves us with a living legacy, rooted in the values of service, charity, and fraternity that are at the heart of the Order of Malta. His legacy is not only that of an engaged president but also of a witness of hope, convinced that every human being, even in suffering and marginalization, carries within them an inalienable dignity, a reflection of the image of God (Gen. 1:27).

In this spirit of continuity, but also of adaptation to new challenges, the Foundation looks to the future with ambition. The telemedicine projects currently being developed in South America and Africa represent a major advance in reaching more isolated patients in areas where care is still too inaccessible. This technology, serving health and human dignity, will allow us to optimize medical follow-up, support local health professionals, and strengthen our impact by combining innovation and proximity.

In a world where leprosy remains an often forgotten struggle, our mission retains all its relevance: to give a voice to the invisible, to guarantee them care, but also dignity, recognition, rights, and a future. As Thierry often reminded us: "It's amazing what you can achieve when nobody takes credit." It is with this spirit of selfless commitment that we will continue our work, strengthened by the successes of the past and the hopes of tomorrow.

I thank each and every one of you for your loyalty, your support, and your commitment at our side. Together, we will continue to walk this path of solidarity and hope.

With all my gratitude and dedication,



Pablo Sandonato de León
President, CIOMAL Foundation
Geneva, April 2025



## OBJECTIVES OF THE CIOMAL FOUNDATION

For centuries, the Order of Malta has been tirelessly committed to eradicating Hansen's disease, while also ensuring the care of those affected and addressing all the medical and socio-economic consequences that this disease brings.

The origins of CIOMAL date back to 1958, when the Order of Malta decided to establish an international committee for the fight against leprosy, based in Geneva.

In 1999, it was constituted as a non-profit Swiss foundation, recognized as being of public utility, and adopted the name Fondation CIOMAL de l'Ordre de Malte (International Campaign of the Order of Malta against Leprosy).

Its main objective is to fight leprosy worldwide and all forms of exclusion, whether related to the disease itself or to the disabilities it causes.

Since 2018, it has held special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, one of the six principal organs of the United Nations.

## The CIOMAL Foundation develops projects based on two fundamental pillars:

- Prevention of the disease (prophylaxis and early detection)
- Rehabilitation of cured individuals

## To achieve its objectives, CIOMAL acts on several levels:

- Medical care through multidrug therapy and rehabilitation, treatment of leprosy reactions and their consequences, as well as therapeutic care;
- Prevention of disabilities through training for healthcare staff and people affected by leprosy:
- Early detection through active case-finding campaigns in the most affected regions;
- **Socio-economic rehabilitation** of cured individuals through various means: financial support for micro-enterprises, vocational training, construction or rehabilitation of housing, scholarships, and food aid;
- Awareness campaigns aimed at stopping the spread of the disease and reducing severe disabilities, as well as the stigma faced by people affected by leprosy and their families.



# The sustainable development goals pursued by CIOMAL



#### **Eradicating poverty and reducing inequalities**

People affected by leprosy are among the poorest and most excluded populations. By supporting their inclusion in networks of associations for people with disabilities and enabling them to receive training, the project contributes to eradicating poverty and reducing inequalities.



#### Ensuring healthy lives and well-being at all ages

By implementing sustainable and participatory mechanisms to guarantee quality care, strengthening knowledge about leprosy among national healthcare personnel, and supporting early detection, the project helps to promote health and well-being for all, at every age.



#### Ensuring quality education and economic growth

By funding scholarships for students, supporting the creation of production units, and offering training that promotes the integration of people affected by leprosy into social systems dedicated to people with disabilities, the project helps to guarantee equitable education for all and encourages the promotion of inclusive opportunities.



#### **Building partnerships to achieve the goals**

Both in the field and in Switzerland, CIOMAL forges strong partnerships to achieve its objectives, working closely with local associations, national health systems, non-governmental organizations, and state authorities.



## GOVERNANCE

GOVERNANCE

In 2024, several changes were made to the structure of the CIOMAL Foundation in accordance with the statutory term limits:

#### **Appointment of a new President**

After eight years of service, Mr. Thierry Zen Ruffinen's term came to an end, and his contributions to CIOMAL were widely acknowledged by all members of the Board.

To ensure his succession, the candidacy of Mr. Pablo Sandonato de León was presented, as stipulated by the Board of the Swiss Association of the Order of Malta.

Mr. Pablo Sandonato de León accepted this role and was unanimously elected on 4 December 2024.

#### **Board of the Foundation**

Prof. Philippe Jaeger announced the end of his term on the Board after eight years of service. The President thanked him for his availability and commitment to the Foundation throughout these years.

#### Renewal of Mr. Notter's mandate

After completing a first four-year term, Mr. Charles-Louis Notter agreed to continue his commitment for another term.

#### Appointment of an Interim Chief Financial Officer

Following the departure of Mr. Manfredo Radicati di Primeglio, the role of Chief Financial Officer is being fulfilled by Me Charles-Louis Notter.

The Board members accepted this interim appointment pending the formalization of his admission to the Sovereign Order of Malta, expected in the first half of 2025.

## **AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2024,**

#### THE FOUNDATION BOARD IS COMPOSED OF:

**President:** Dr. Pablo Sandonato de León

**Treasurer:** Mr. Charles-Louis Notter

Members: Mr. Hervé Arot

Dr. Laila de Laguiche Mrs. Hélène Genillard Mr. Raymond Loretan Mrs. Verena Vorwerk

**Head of Operations, Cambodia:** Mrs. Carole Vann

**Head of Development:** Mrs. Olivia de Villaine

**Head of Public Relations:**Mrs. Alexandra Lucato



Distribution of rice to a beneficiary family, Kompong Son province, Cambodia.



## **LEPROSY MAPPING**

LEPROSY MAPPING

In the past, leprosy, or Hansen's disease, evoked stories of exile and stigma.

Today, although largely under control, it has not yet disappeared. The World Health Organization (WHO) continues to pursue an ambitious goal: zero leprosy 2021-2030. However, complete eradication remains a challenge.

In 2023, 182,815 new cases were reported worldwide, an increase of 5% compared to the previous year. This figure highlights a concerning trend: while the COVID-19 pandemic led to an apparent decrease in cases from 2019 to 2021, the number of new detections subsequently increased by 30%, indicating underreporting of affected individuals rather than a real decline in the disease.

The geographical distribution of cases remains marked by significant disparities:

- South-East Asia accounts for nearly 72% of new cases. India, Indonesia, and Brazil together report 79.3% of global cases.
- The Americas follow with 13.6%, while Africa represents 11.5%.
- The Eastern Mediterranean and Western Pacific regions each report only 1.5% of cases, while Europe is virtually spared.

One alarming indicator persists: pediatric transmission. **Over 10,000 children** were diagnosed in 2023, representing 5.7% of new cases.

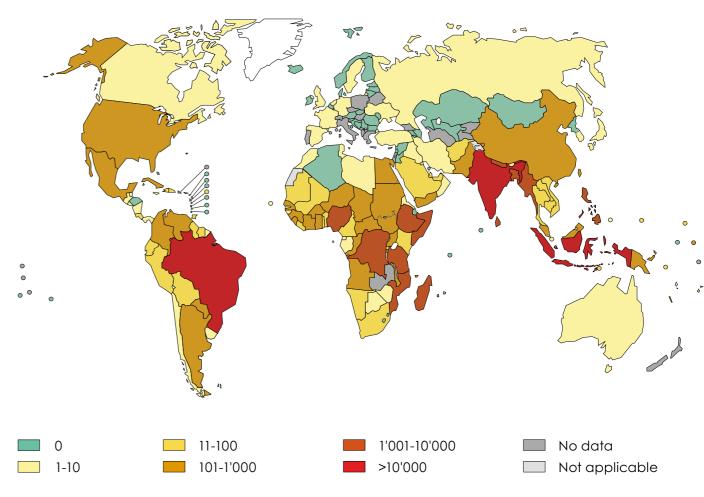
South-East Asia alone accounts for **70.8%** of pediatric cases, signaling a concerning persistence of transmission.



Leprosy awareness in communities, Kompong Peu province, Cambodia.

CIOMAL's action remains essential in the early detection and socio-economic rehabilitation of thousands of families affected by this stigmatizing disease.

#### Geographical distribution of new leprosy cases, 2023



Map: Control of Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTD) programs.

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Source – OMS - WEEKLY EPIDEMIOLOGICAL RECORD, NO 37, 13 SEPTEMBER 2024

https://www.who.int/fr/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/leprosy

1. Cambodia



### 1. Cambodia

## In 2024, CIOMAL's activities in Cambodia continued along the following lines:

#### Detection and retrospective research of leprosy

The second cycle of active retrospective contact case-finding and post-exposure prophylaxis for leprosy (LPEP) continued. During six screening campaigns conducted in 16 districts across four provinces, 26 new cases of leprosy were detected, including 14 men, 11 women, and 1 child.

The decrease in new cases is explained by the combination of LPEP activities, effective awareness-raising, and economic migration out of the country.

At the same time, the CIOMAL team examined 326 former patients, 721 family members, and 3,531 neighbors

#### Socio-Economic rehabilitation

To combat the consequences of leprosy and its stigma, CIOMAL continued its social and economic reintegration program for people affected by the disease in 2024, focusing on the following areas:

• **Scholarships:** 58 young people affected by leprosy or from affected families benefited from sponsorship and personalized support, including 4 university students, 40 secondary school students, and 14 primary school students.



Student who received a scholarship, Preah Vihear province.

• Cow-Banking program: 4 families received two cows on loan to strengthen their self-sufficiency.



"Cow-banking", Kampot province.

- **Emergency Aid:** 55 food aid packages were distributed to beneficiaries in situations of extreme hardship.
- **Microloans:** 29 active loans were granted to encourage the creation of micro-enterprises.
- Housing Renovation: 5 sanitary facilities were built, as well as 9 houses (built or renovated), 2 wells were drilled, and 20 water filters distributed to improve access to drinking water.



Construction of a house, Prey Veng province.

#### Capacity building and awareness-raising

In 2024, CIOMAL continued its efforts to improve the management of self-care among people affected by leprosy (PAL).

Self-care plays a crucial role: effective wound management, use of assistive devices, and application of preventive techniques enable people affected by leprosy to better manage their lesions and avoid worsening their condition. These measures can be implemented individually or in groups and patients learn an adapted daily routine, including:

- Adopting preventive measures in daily life activities.
- Inspecting and caring for wounds and infections often painless due to nerve damage.
- Caring for feet and hands including soaking, oiling and moisturizing to prevent dryness and skin cracks.
- Practicing stretching exercises to maintain flexibility and prevent stiffness and contractures.

Capacity building in self-care for PAL was carried out by the CIOMAL team during home visits. A total of 372 PAL and 485 households were trained in self-care.

Additionally, 102 former patients from the PAL Association attended various training sessions, including the development of annual work plans. CIOMAL staff benefited from language skills training.

Orthopedic assistant training continued, with the production of 4 pairs of sandals and the management of 27 clubfoot cases.



Food aid to a couple of patients, Kratie province.

Capacity-building activities also involved 8 provincial supervisors, 21 district supervisors, 526 health personnel, and 480 village health support groups.

Awareness campaigns were conducted in 18 provinces to raise awareness about leprosy, combat stigma, and promote access to care.

A total of 505 families in 85 villages were visited to inform communities about symptom recognition, potential complications, and available treatments.

#### **Advocacy activities**

Members of the PAL Association participated in workshops and meetings on disability and leprosy.

World Leprosy Day and International Day of Persons with Disabilities were celebrated with the participation of 55 PAL during solidarity lunches organized by CIOMAL.

FIELD ACTIONS

FIELD ACTIONS

1. Cambodia

1. Cambodia

## **TESTIMONY**

## LOVE STORY IN BATTAMBANG

Cham Samnang and Sim Ra, both affected by leprosy, met each other in Phnom Penh at the former rehabilitation centre of Kien Khleang, supported by CIOMAL.

Cham Samnang quickly noticed the pretty and discreet Sim Ra in the hospital corridors. Thus began a devoted courtship. Sim Ra, initially reluctant, eventually succumbed to her suitor's patience.

Sim Ra was barely 17 years old when the first symptoms of the disease—white spots—appeared on her body. Thirteen years later, a doctor sent her to the rehabilitation centre. There, she underwent several operations on her fingers, which had become twisted, and her eyes, whose eyelids could no longer close.

Today, she has regained her mobility but must remain vigilant, as large areas of her legs and arms have become numb. She therefore risks burning or injuring herself without noticing, which could then become dangerously infected.



It was at Kien Khleang that she met her husband, Cham Samnang. He suffers even deeper aftereffects. When white spots appeared on his body as a child, he was given penicillin. His world collapsed around him when the diagnosis came: leprosy. His face and hands were already affected, his feet had become numb and hung limply, preventing him from walking.

His father heard about the Kien Khleang centre and sent him there. For five years, he underwent surgeries and treatments, as Cham Samnang also developed several foot ulcers from injuries sustained while working in the rice fields.

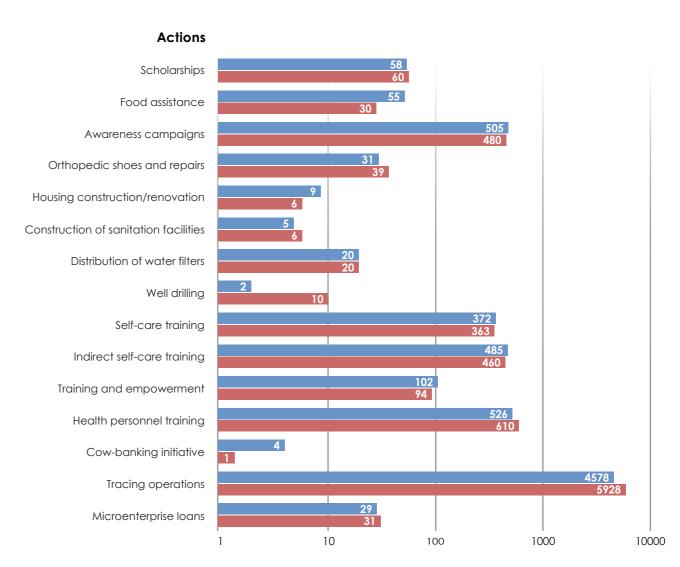
The couple settled in Battambang, in a small house made of wood and bamboo, covered with corrugated iron. From their union, a boy, Chan Visal, was born. At first, the couple lived together unmarried, but Cambodian belief holds that such couples are visited by ghosts. As soon as he was able, Cham Samnang gave his wife a religious ceremony to drive evil spirits away from their house.

Another child was born afterwards. Sim Ra works as a cleaner at the tuberculosis clinic in Battambang for \$140 per month. Cham Samnang works as a motorcycle taxi driver, earning about \$2.5 per day.

The CIOMAL teams visit the couple regularly and sponsor their children's schooling.

## Actions carried out in Cambodia by CIOMAL

## in 2023 and 2024



**Beneficiaries** 

FIELD ACTIONS

FIELD ACTIONS

2. Brazil



## 2. Brazil

Of the 182,815 new cases of leprosy recorded in 2023, 13.6% originated from the American continent, of which 92% were from Brazil.

In this country, where leprosy cases continue to rise, regions such as Mato Grosso are experiencing endemic proportions. Most diagnosed individuals live below the poverty line, isolated from healthcare systems and exposed to the inherent complications of the disease.

With our local partner, the Alliance Against Leprosy Institute (AAL), founded in 2018, CIOMAL has focused its efforts on sustainable solutions: training healthcare professionals, disseminating information, and assisting people suffering from physical disabilities caused by the disease.

The year 2024 was marked by excellent results:

#### The TECHansen Initiative

Launched in 2021, this initiative has distributed over 5,000 assistive devices in less than five years to people with disabilities resulting from Hansen's disease. In 2024, 2,188 assistive tools were provided to 732 patients, helping them regain greater autonomy.



Health professional specialized in neurofunctional assessment of leprosy patients, Brazil.

#### The DOCHansen Project

Thanks to this free teleconsultation service, collaboration between general practitioners and specialists has been strengthened, resulting in more effective diagnosis and treatment. The free virtual platform helps healthcare professionals manage complex leprosy cases nationwide. To date, 192 healthcare professionals are involved, and 204 have expressed interest in receiving this training.

Faced with the shortage of specialized doctors and growing needs, the president of the AAL Institute, Dr. Laila de Laguiche, wishes for consulting physicians specialized in leprosy to receive greater recognition in the job market.

Buoyed by its success, this methodology aims to expand in the future to other Portuguese-speaking countries in Africa (Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, and Angola), and a study is currently underway to provide access for healthcare professionals in these regions

#### The FEETHansen Initiative

This project focuses on manufacturing orthopedic shoes for people with disabilities. Nearly 200 pairs are distributed each year. In 2024, AAL inaugurated orthopedic workshops at Paraná Hospital and the Lauro de Souza Institute in Bauru to meet the needs of many patients.

In parallel, the production of 3D-printed shoes, fully funded by CIOMAL, enabled the distribution of 33 pairs of digital shoes and 128 orthopedic insoles to patients suffering from peripheral neuropathy caused by leprosy, with or without foot disabilities.



Special orthoses and custom handmade shoes produced at the AAL shoemaking workshop in Bauru, São Paulo State.



Orthotist specialized in making custom handmade shoes, Brazil

#### Recognition

In February 2024, the AAL Institute reached the finals of the 2023 Best NGO Award in Brazil, ranking among the top 250 out of 800,000. It scored higher than the top 100 NGOs in 46 of the 56 evaluation criteria, demonstrating remarkable achievement.

## THE NEED FOR A HUMAN RIGHTS-BASED APPROACH TO LEPROSY

Brazil has one of the most advanced legal frameworks for combating discrimination against people affected by leprosy and their families. The country stands out for its ban on discriminatory language associated with the disease and the absence of exclusionary laws against affected individuals and their families. Furthermore, it is the only country to recognize the harm caused by policies of forced internment and segregation of people affected by leprosy and their children. In addition to reparative legislation, other laws contribute to a positive impact on the lives of those affected, such as legislation on the social inclusion of people with disabilities.

However, despite legislative progress, Brazil still ranks second worldwide in new case detection, accounting for 92% of cases in the Americas. Social inequality, lack of information, and stigma remain major challenges to eliminating discrimination and achieving full integration of affected individuals into society. Effective implementation of existing laws, combined with more inclusive and cross-sectoral public policies, is essential to consolidate progress and ensure full respect for the human rights of vulnerable populations.

Commitment to dignity, equality, and respect must guide public policies and concrete actions, reaffirming that no one should be defined by a disease, but by their humanity.

Ambre Bigot, Political Science student at Sciences Po Rennes (France) and intern at AAL, with Dr. Laila de Laguiche.

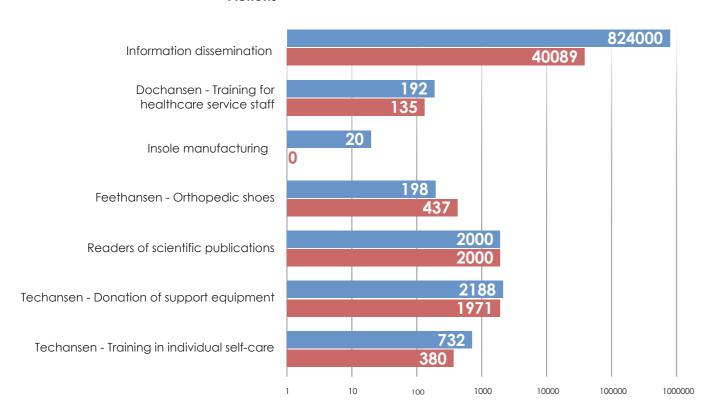


2. Brazil

## Actions carried out in Brazil by CIOMAL

## in 2023 and 2024

#### **Actions**



**Beneficiaries** 



## FIELD ACTIONS

## 3. Vietnam

Since 2023, in collaboration with the Order of Malta France, CIOMAL has been actively engaged in the production of custom-made orthopedic shoes, manufacturing approximately 2,200 pairs per year. Project Supervision and Field Operations

Under the supervision of Mr. Martin Do Try, who initiated the project, a team of five qualified technicians travels within an 85 km radius to reach the most remote regions. Among the 1,900 people affected by leprosy, 900 require specialized foot care, particularly for the prevention of ulcers.

On site, the technicians measure the patients' arches and create plaster molds for significant lesions. The patients' records are then brought back to the workshop for shoe fabrication. The team also provides self-care training to help prevent the worsening of wounds and injuries.

In 2024, the project achieved the following:

- 800 pairs of preventive sandals were given to 400 patients with insensitive feet.
- 900 pairs of shoes for deformed feet were distributed to 300 patients.
- 500 pairs of custom-molded shoes for mutilated feet were provided to 167 individuals with severe lesions.

This initiative demonstrates a comprehensive approach, combining technical expertise, outreach to isolated communities, and patient education to improve quality of life for people affected by leprosy.



Wound care and self-care awareness, Vietnam.



## INTERNATIONAL OUTREACH

## 1. Global Appeal 2024 - Switzerland

This event, held on January 21, 2024, at the WHO headquarters, brought together the World Health Organization and the Sasakawa Leprosy (Hansen's Disease) Initiative as part of the "Don't Forget Leprosy" campaign. The initiative aims to promote a world where people affected by Hansen's disease are no longer stigmatized or isolated, especially now that treatment is accessible to all.



Numerous personalities and representatives of organizations spoke sharing their testimonies. A discussion took place between Mr. Yohei Sasakawa, WHO Goodwill Ambassador for Leprosy Elimination, and Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General of WHO, on actions needed to end discrimination and exclusion of those affected.

Mr. Yohei Sasakawa (left) and Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus (right).

At the close of the event, the declaration of the Global Appeal was read and signed by Dr. Tedros and Mr. Sasakawa. CIOMAL Foundation was represented by Thierry Zen Ruffinen

# 2. Participation in the European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases Course – Norway



As the leading society for clinical microbiology and infectious diseases in Europe, this organization focuses on advancing the sciences of microbiology and infectious diseases through education, research, and collaboration among professionals in the field.

Dr. Laila de Laguiche, President of the AAL Institute and member of the CIOMAL Foundation Board, participated in the event "Leprosy: Back to the Future," an international training course on Hansenology where experts discussed new strategies for the prevention and treatment of leprosy. The event was held in Bergen, Norway, from May 20 to 22, 2024, and featured promising portable diagnostic equipment for field use.

Participants also had the opportunity to visit the Bergen Museum of Hansenology, in the city of Armauer Hansen, discoverer of the bacillus responsible for leprosy.

## 3. National Conference of Bishops - Brazil

The President of the AAL Institute meets the National Conference of Bishops of Brazil (CNBB) to strengthen the fight against leprosy in Brazil.

In September, Dr. Laila de Laguiche traveled to the headquarters of CNBB in Brasília for a strategic meeting with the institution's leaders. The aim of this visit was to raise the CNBB's awareness of the reality of leprosy in the country and to strengthen alliances in the fight against the disease.

During the meeting the leprosy specialist presented an overview of the challenges posed by leprosy in Brazil, emphasizing the importance of awareness, early diagnosis, and access to appropriate treatment for patients. The partnership with the CNBB represents a fundamental step in improving the visibility of the issue and mobilizing efforts to combat the disease.

The Catholic Church, with its presence throughout the country, plays an important role in promoting health and supporting social initiatives in various communities, helping to disseminate information and reinforce actions to fight the disease.



Dr. Laila de Laguiche and the Secretary General of the CNBB, H.E. R. Dom Ricardo Hoepers, Auxiliary Bishop of Brasília.

#### **GENEVA**

## 1. United Nations Human Rights Council

During the sessions of the United Nations Human Rights Council, Mr. Hervé Arot, a member of the Board of the ClOMAL Foundation of the Sovereign Order of Malta, spoke to reaffirm the Foundation's commitment to combating leprosy (Hansen's disease) and the associated discrimination. He also emphasized the importance of upholding the rights of those affected, particularly in Asia, Latin America, and Africa.

On February 27, 2024, during the 55th session and as part of a meeting on global development financing with the President of the United Nations General Assembly, Mr. Dennis Francis, Mr. Hervé Arot advocated for a combined public, private, and civil society approach at the level of each member state. This strategy aims to ensure local proximity to the specific needs, capacities, and resources of each community.

On June 21, 2024, during the 56th session and in the context of the interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the elimination of discrimination against persons affected by leprosy (Hansen's disease) and their family members, Ms. Beatriz Miranda-Galarza, he emphasized two priorities:

- 1. Facilitating the submission of complaints by victims of human rights violations related to leprosy.
- 2. Strengthening and making international cooperation more effective through data sharing and directing available funding towards priority leprosy control programs.

Drawing on its field expertise, CIOMAL Foundation thus reaffirmed its commitment to coordinated and inclusive action.

## 2. Women's Lunch

On May 30, CIOMAL organized its first-ever Women's Lunch, a unique event aimed at honoring the commitment of women within the Foundation and fostering exchanges around ongoing projects.

On this occasion, Dr. Laila de Laguiche, Council member and President of the AAL Institute in Brazil, presented TECHansen, an innovative program designed to provide free assistive tools and occupational therapy devices to people with disabilities.



Women's luncheon at Cercle de la Terrasse

This project was born out of the field observations of Dr. Laila de Laguiche in Brazil, where she noted a glaring lack of rehabilitation programs despite access to care for people affected by leprosy.

For her part, Carole Vann, CIOMAL's Development Manager in Cambodia, shared her experience and testified to progress made in raising leprosy awareness, particularly in the country's remote provinces where information and access to care remain limited.

This lunch was a valuable opportunity to increase CIOMAL's visibility, spark new collaborations, and mobilize potential donors in support of the fight against leprosy and the improvement of living conditions for affected individuals.

## 3. Circle of Benefactors Dinner

On December 4, 2024, the CIOMAL Circle of Benefactors gathered for its third annual dinner held at the Le Lyrique restaurant in Geneva.

This event, marked by gratitude during the Advent season, allowed us to thank donors for their unwavering support.

The evening featured speeches by several members of the Foundation Board and representatives of the Sovereign Order of Malta, covering various themes related to the fight against leprosy.

A retrospective of the year's achievements highlighted the Foundation's advances and actions.

## 4. Charity Auction

CIOMAL Foundation was generously bequeathed a magnificent collection of jewelry and precious objects, which were auctioned by Genève Enchères during an exceptional sale held in September 2024.

All proceeds will support tangible efforts for people affected by leprosy and the implementation of sustainable measures benefiting CIOMAL's recipients in Cambodia, Vietnam, and Brazil.



## TRIP TO CAMBODIA

Outgoing President Mr. Thierry Zen Ruffinen traveled to Cambodia in October to evaluate CIOMAL's activities, particularly following the closure of Kien Khlang Hospital in 2021. He praised the excellence of operations despite the country's challenging environment.

During this trip, he met with leprosy patients who benefited directly from CIOMAL's aid through the construction or renovation of homes and access to potable water.

In the absence of the Swiss Ambassador, who was detained in Thailand, a lunch was organized with Mr. Christian Disler, head of the local cooperation mission, who underlined Switzerland's intention to end financial support to Kantha Bopha Hospital by 2027.



Thierry Zen Ruffinen surrounded by Carole Vann and the CIOMAL team in Cambodia.

Mr. Thierry Zen Ruffinen praised the major role played by Ms. Carole Vann and her entire team over many years in serving people affected by leprosy. On behalf of H.H.E. the Prince and Grand Master Fra' John Dunlap, the special "Covid-19" medal of the Order pro Merito Melitensi was awarded to her in recognition of her outstanding work during the pandemic period.

Thierry proudly highlighted the work accomplished by CIOMAL in Cambodia for over 25 years and previously by Malteser Hilfsdienst e.V., which had already been present since 1979 and has now become Malteser International.

In 2024, our actions benefited thousands of people affected by leprosy and their families, confirming the legitimacy of our strategy and field operations.

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# IX

## LIST OF BENEFACTORS

## **Private**

- Mr. Jean-Pierre Amann
- Mrs. Ursula Ammann Schärer
- Mr. and Mrs. Andrea Amico
- Mr. and Mrs.
  - Jean-Marc Annicchiarico
- Mrs. Patricia Antonini Dainesi
- Mr. and Mrs. Hervé Arot
- Mr. and Mrs. Gabriel Aubert-Lebet
- Mrs. Barbara Audrin-Tessier
- Mrs. Liliane Avondet
- Mrs. Geneviève Babel
- Mrs. Ana Luisa Bachmann
- Mr. and Mrs. Max Barouch
- Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Barragan
- Mr. Marc-André Baschy
- Mrs. Elvira Baumann
- Mrs. Monique Bédert
- Mrs. Rosa Beeler
- Mr. and Mrs. Pierre Béné
- Mrs. Florine Beney
- Mrs. Jacqueline Berclaz-Parisod
- Mrs. Colette Berger
- Mr. and Mrs. Claude Berney
- Mrs. Valeria Bertarelli
- Mr. le Curé Léonard Bertelletto
- Mr. Virgilio Bertoli
- Mr. Carlo Antonio Bertolo
- Mr. André Besse
- Count and Countess
   Guillaume du Bessey de

   Contenson
- Mr. Michel Bettin
- Mrs. Annamaria Biber
- Mr. Damiano Binzoni
- Mrs. Anne Blankart-de Palézieux
- Mr. Josef Blättler
- Mr. and Mrs.
- Georges-Antoine de Boccard
- Mr. Laurent de Boccard
- Mrs. Geneviève de Boccard
- Mr. and Mrs. Raymond de Boccard
- Mr. Antoine Boissier

- Mr. Jacques Boissonnas
- Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Bolliger
- Mr. and Mrs. Jacques Boppe
- Mr. Yves Bordier
- Mr. Géo Borgeat
- Mr. Giuseppe Botte
- Mr. Jacques Bouillot
- Mr. Jean-Marc Bovio
- Mr. Riccardo Braglia
- Mrs. Gabrielle
- Brandt Kuun d'Osdola
- Mr. Ettore Brenni
- Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Brücker
- Mr. Giovanni Brullo
- Mr. Richard Brun
- Mrs. Magda Brunella
- Mrs. Coralie Brunner
- Mr. Jean-Pierre Brunod
- Mrs. Inge Buchel
- Mr. and Mrs.
- Charles Busson-Rey de Rudder
- Mr. and Mrs.
- Mario Calcagno-Sertori
- Mrs. Michèle de Candolle
- Mrs. Anita Campana
- Mr. Giovanni Canova
- Mr. Alexandre Cartier
- Mr. Lino della Casa
- Mr. and Mrs. Emmanuel Casalis
- Mr. Arsène Chaney
- Mr. and Mrs. Edmond Charbonnaz
- Mr. Bruno Charriere
- Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Christe
- Mr. Bertrand Clavien
- Mr. Enrico Cohen
- Mrs. Janet Coleman
- Mrs. Giuseppa Comotti
- Mr. l'Abbé Jean-Pierre Courtois
- Mrs. Marie-Antoinette Crelier
- Mrs. Simone Crelier
- Mr. Massimiliano Cremasco
- Mr. Pierre Darbellay
- Mrs. Susanna Deidda-Boller

- Mrs. Angèle Denis
- Mrs. Maria Derber
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