March

au: CIOMAL - Ch. du Pt.-Saconnex 28 A - 1209 Genève / Abonnement annuel: CHF 1.-/ No.142 - march 2019

JAB CH-1209 G

Genève

CIOMAL®

Quaterly Bulletins - March 2019 - N°142



Beauty Contestants Show No Fear or Blame In The Face of Leprosy

Dear donor,
Today, leprosy is 100% curable with a
medical treatment. But even when they
are healed, those who were affected often
continue to suffer severe disabilities.
Together with their families, they are
excluded from society, lose their jobs
and houses, are rejected by hospitals,
or are unable to send their children to
school. These multiple forms of exclusion
represent serious violations of their
fundamental rights.

from the world but also to put an end to the discrimination against those that were affected and their families. It is crucial that people carrying the marks of leprosy be perceived as "disabled persons" and not as "lepers" anymore.

Your generous support helps them regain dignity and find their place in society. We thank you most sincerely for supporting us in our fight against this often neglected disease.







For the 66th World Leprosy Day, the CIOMAL Foundation organised an open house morning in Phnom Penh on 30th January.

Two hundred visitors joined the event, including university students and professors, representatives of national and international org anisations, as well as about one hundred people affected by leprosy.

Opened in 2000 on the island situated across from the Cambodian capital's historic heart, the Kien Khleang Leprosy Rehabilitation Center was particularly busy on that day.

At the start of the morning, CIOMAL members and patients put together a funny performance to communicate one of the most important messages about leprosy: the disease can be cured and nothing justifies the stigmatisation of those affected. By way of demonstration, Miss Cambodia and her runners-up paraded in the middle of the audience before having long exchanges with persons affected by leprosy.

Today, leprosy affects over 3 million people (sick or recovering) around the world. The neglected tropical disease mostly hits the poorest areas. More than **240,000 new cases** are detected every year, 5% of which are children under the age of 15.

Because it leaves marks on the skin, leprosy also results in **social exclusion**, particularly in schools, workplaces and health centers.

A key player for over 60 years, the CIOMAL Foundation is active in Cambodia on several fronts: prevention and awareness-raising, early detection of the disease, medical and surgical treatments, socio-economic rehabilitation, local capacity-building.

In 2018, the Kien Khleang center opened a new orthopedic department. The CIOMAL teams also supported the creation of the first Cambodian association of persons with leprosy-related disabilities, a way to make their voices heard in Cambodia as well as at the international level.

In the same year, the Kien Khleang center provided 5,611 people (including 1,373 children) with free dermatological consultations. More than 758 persons affected by leprosy were treated, including 166 patients who received surgery. Its rehabilitation programmes helped 38 families secure microcredit, as well as 32 school children and 6 students receive scholarships. In addition, awareness-raising activities reached 56,610 garment workers in 12 factories.







CIOMAL is certified by ZEWO



28A, ch. du Petit-Saconnex CH-1209 GENÈVE

TEL +41 (0)22 733 22 52 FAX +41 (0)22 734 00 60

www.ciomal.org - info@ciomal.org

To donate : n° CCP 12-13717-1

