


The Ann, Ciara and Niamh Copeland Trust Fund

The Koraput Care Centre, Odisha

Update May 2023



Introduction

Project	The Koraput Care Centre	
Locations Supported by Project Activities	Six districts in Odisha: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Koraput- Nowrangpur- Kalahandi- Nuapada- Sonapur- Bargarh	
Project Beneficiaries	People affected by leprosy and LF	
Funder	The Ann, Ciara and Niamh Copeland Trust Fund	
Reporting Period	April 2022 – March 2023	

Celebration of LEPRA Society's Foundation Day at the Koraput Care Centre, February 2023

1. Project Background

The Koraput Care Centre building is leased from the Government by LEPRA Society. It provides a whole range of in- and out-patient services for local people affected by leprosy and lymphatic filariasis (LF), as well as acting as a base for outreach support to more remote, rural areas. The holistic services that the Centre provides are fully integrated into the local Ministry of Health, filling vital gaps where there is no other provision, and the staff team work closely with the government's National Leprosy Eradication Programme at district and state level.

Following an 18-month period of closure, the Koraput Centre was re-opened to in- and out-patients in Autumn 2021. It has served the local populace consistently throughout the reporting period (April 2022 to March 2023), staffed by a team



A lady is counselled ahead of being referred for reconstructive surgery, May 2022

comprising of a consultant medical officer, a nurse, a ward attendant, and other support personnel. The in-patient department (IPD) has continued to have capacity for up to five persons, although the need this year has been such that occasionally, six people have stayed in the wards at any one time.

As well as male and female IP wards and treatment rooms, the Centre also houses a laboratory with a lab technician, a footwear facility employing a designated shoe technician, and a physiotherapy technician. They support patients attending the OPD and IPD and deliver outreach activities for people affected by leprosy in 17 blocks across six

districts in the State of Odisha, India, covering approximately 2.5 million people (see Figure 1). All in all, the Centre provides a comprehensive range of services to manage and prevent leprosy-related disabilities, as well as counselling support.

As you will see from the following pages, the Centre has served many people in Koraput District and beyond this last year, providing them with care, treatment and support that they would otherwise struggle to access. The Centre is a vital project, and so LEPRO Society are committed to ensuring its continuation and long-term sustainability.

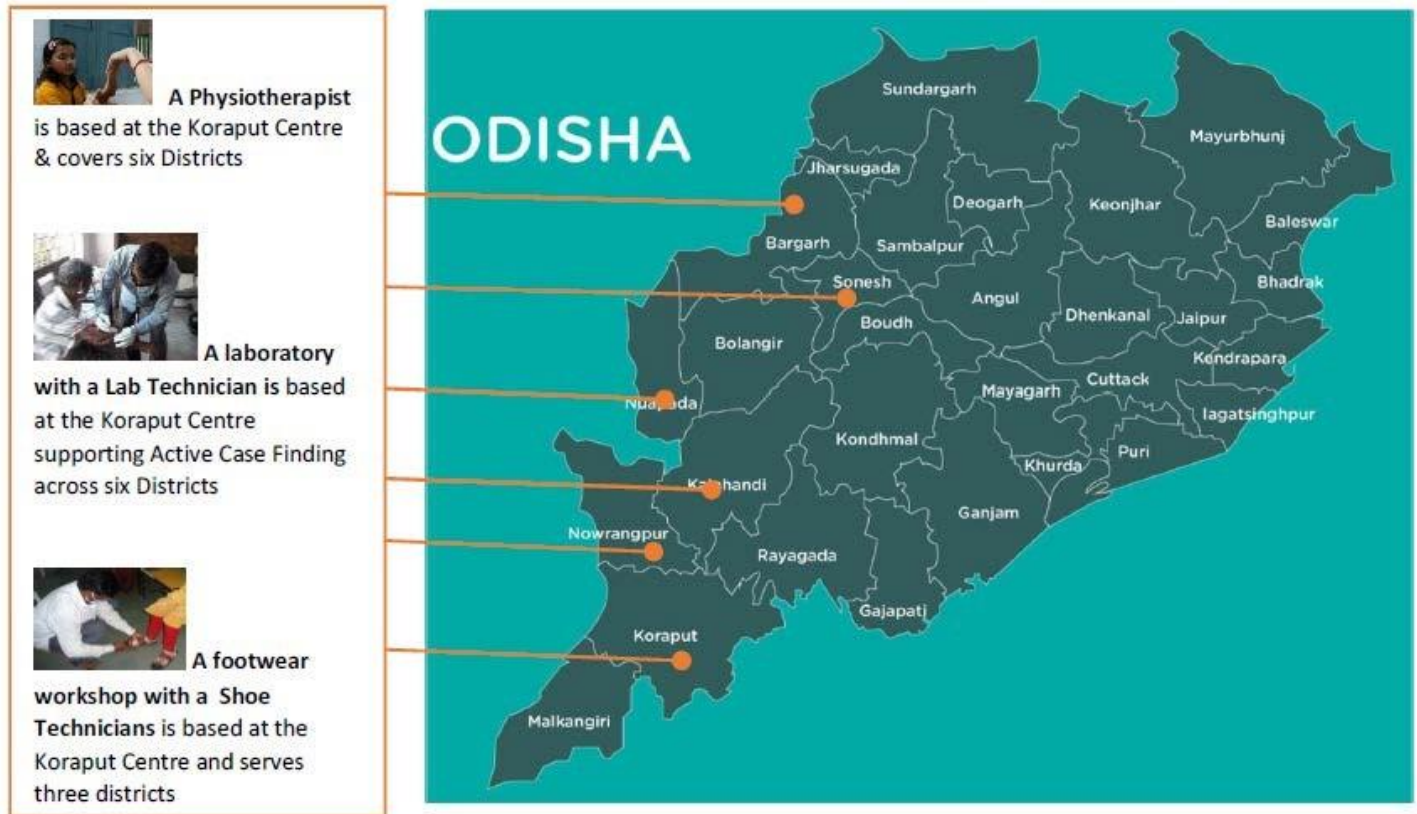


Figure 1: Outreach activities from the Koraput Centre in 2022-23 (as per the previous year)

2. Project Impact: April 2022 to March 2023

2022/23 was, in some ways, an easier year than 2021/22, thanks in part to COVID-19 no longer causing disruptions and difficulties. Autumn 2022 also represented the one-year anniversary since the Centre re-opened: its services are now very much re-established and functioning effectively, providing access to vital healthcare for local people affected by leprosy and LF.

Please see Table 1 (on page 4) for an overview of the services provided by the Koraput Care Centre during the year. Some highlights include the following:

- The OPD was expected to receive up to 500 people over the course of the year which proved a fairly accurate prediction. It is fantastic to report that **498 people, including nine children, dropped into the OPD** to access services including diagnostic testing, ulcer care, treatment for reactions, physiotherapy, and socio-economic support. This really goes to show how valuable it is to have a functioning and specialist leprosy OPD where anyone is able to access holistic care, should they need it.
- The IPD was equally in great demand during 2022/23. In total, **185 people were admitted to the IPD** for a variety of reasons, with **the average length of stay being 10 days**. This meant that the Centre occasionally had more patients than beds, with a bed occupancy rate of 106.5%. Nevertheless, bed space was found, and the staff team did everything to ensure patients had a comfortable stay and received the treatment and care they needed.

- Pre- and post-operative physiotherapy support has been particularly important this year, reflecting the backlog in the demand for reconstructive surgery following the pandemic. The staff team **referred 34 individuals for surgery**, of whom 28 underwent operations during the year – 14 for hand surgery, 9 to correct “foot drop”, 4 for eye surgery, and 1 for nerve de-compression.
- **68 people attended the IPD for complex ulcer care** which was also greater than had been expected. This might also be explained by the impact of COVID-19 restrictions in previous years: people were less able (and less likely) to seek healthcare when experiencing non-life-threatening conditions, and so may only have sought it when problems – like ulcers – were more advanced. They therefore needed a higher level of care than they might otherwise have required if their ulcers had been treated earlier.
- Whenever possible, Lepra staff ensure that those they are supporting are linked to government social security schemes. Many people affected by leprosy are entitled to a disability pension of 500 Indian rupees per month, and / or housing benefit, both of which can make a huge difference to a person’s quality of life. Of those who attended the Koraput Centre during the year, **Lepra assisted 31 people to apply for social security entitlements** which they had not previously been claiming. 6 are now receiving their social security pensions, whilst Lepra continues to support the others as they work through the process of obtaining necessary certificates and application.

It is clear from these figures just how important the Koraput Centre is in providing vital healthcare for those affected by leprosy in Koraput District and further afield. You will see from Lobo’s story (see below) how the Centre often plays an integral role in a person’s recovery from the disease. Without the services it provides, and the support of the staff team, many families would simply not receive the quality of healthcare and treatment for leprosy that they need and deserve.

The Centre really does make a difference – supporting people through their journey with leprosy, preventing disabilities from developing, and working to interrupt the transmission of the disease through early diagnosis. These things are essential, both individually for people affected by the disease, and collectively in the fight against leprosy.



A group practice hydratherapy self-care, under the supervision of Dr Pattanayak, the Medical Officer, and other staff

Table 1: Overview of OPD attendances and IPD admissions at the Koraput Care Centre in 2022/23

Activity 2022/2023	2022/2023		Notes
	Annual Target	Achievement	
Out-Patient Services			
Total OPD Attendances *	500 *	498 *	341 persons were already registered as being affected by leprosy 157 persons were newly registered as being affected by leprosy / difficult to diagnose
...men		352	
...women		137	
...children		9	
Difficult to diagnose (slit skin smear tests)	80	57	22 were confirmed as leprosy
Ulcer care	80	135	80 men, 55 women 105 have since healed
Nerve Function Impairment (NFI) / Reaction management	20	44	36 men, 8 women All were provided with steroid therapy, and 6 have since recovered
Physiotherapy: mobilisation for reconstructive surgery	15	12	These individuals were referred to the local hospital for assessment for reconstructive surgery
Physiotherapy: post-operative follow-up	20	20	Surgery has been successful in all cases, restoring functionality Healing / appearance is also assessed
Physiotherapy: Eyes Hands Feet disability assessments	300	400	These assessments monitor changes in individuals' level of disability
Socio-economic linkages	20	31	Amongst these individuals, 6 are now receiving a pension entitlement, whilst further support is being given to the others as they continue to go through the application process
Provision of customized footwear	200	223	58 pairs of shoes included customised podiatric appliances to aid mobility
Provision of adoptive devices	50	137	Provided to 56 persons, including 23 women These devices help to prevent further injury / disability and enable people to maintain their balance and muscle tone
In-Patient Services			
Total IP Admissions	164	185	
Complications / ulcer care	50	68	
NFI / Reaction management	40	24	
Pre- / Post-operative care / Physiotherapy	30	66	
Provision of customized footwear / Social & economic rehabilitation / Others	44	27	

* Total number of admissions is less than the sum of the numbers attending OPD activities as patients regularly access more than one service per visit

Real life story: Lobo

Lobo is a 22-year-old from near Jeypore, Koraput District. He is a general labourer, earning about Rs. 4,500 per month, and lives with five members of his family.

A few years ago, Lobo developed a numb, red patch on his right thigh, but he just ignored it as it was not affecting him. However, soon after, he started to experience weakness in one of his feet, and also in one of his eyes. He visited two doctors, but to no avail as they failed to diagnose him, and the medicines they provided were ineffective.

It was only in 2019 when Lobo had a slit skin smear test at the Koraput Centre that he was properly diagnosed with leprosy by LEpra Society. He was immediately registered with the District National Leprosy Eradication Programme (NLEP) team and began MDT along with steroids.

As he started his treatment, Lobo was admitted to the IPD at Koraput for assessment, monitoring, and additional support. He had two stays, totalling 28 days, and the staff team provided him custom-made footwear with posterior slab support, as well as protective devices to enable him to continue working without further damaging his foot or eye.

In October 2022, Lobo returned to the Koraput Centre, receiving wraparound care and support as he underwent reconstructive surgery on his foot at the government hospital in Koraput. He then had further surgery in March 2023 to correct the lagophthalmos in his right eye.

Lobo and his family are immensely grateful for the care that he has received from LEpra Society through the Koraput Centre. As a result, he can continue working and supporting his family.



3. Future Plans

Lepra is committed to strengthening the local health system and to securing a long-term sustainable solution for the Koraput Care Centre. Ultimately, our aim is that it might be incorporated into the government-run healthcare system, as an extension of the nearby S.L.N. Medical College and Hospital, who would take overall responsibility to fulfil the requirements of the Clinical Establishment Act, including staffing and clinical oversight. In doing so, this would further embed care for people affected by leprosy into the local public health system. Lepra would continue to support other core services: physiotherapists, a shoe technician, a lab technician and if necessary, non-staffing costs of the in-patient ward.

Since the last annual report, LEpra Society have continued to engage with local government officials and senior management of the S.L.N. Medical College and Hospital, as well as other stakeholders. Unfortunately, no progress has been made towards realising our long-term aim for the Koraput Care Centre. However, we will continue to work towards this end and liaise with local officials on a regular basis.

For now, the Centre is operating as a project affiliated to the District Leprosy Office, rather than being registered as a 'Clinical Establishment', as is usually required for health settings with in-patient wards. In theory, the government health authorities could enforce its requirement to register as a Clinical Establishment. If this happens, it would significantly increase the costs of running the Centre as more staff would have to be employed to ensure provision of round-the-clock medical supervision, as well as an increase in other medical expenses. However, please be assured that the likelihood that this will happen is negligible – LEpra Society are running the Koraput Care Centre with the full knowledge and support of the district health authorities, whom they consulted about this matter, and with whom they liaise on a regular basis. Indeed, the District's Chief Medical Officer endorses the Centre, recognising that local people affected by leprosy greatly benefit from its services.

To reiterate, Lepra is committed to ensuring the continuity of both out-patient and in-patient services at the Koraput Care Centre. Together with the generous support of The Ann, Ciara & Niamh Copeland Trust, we are providing the funding required to maintain its operation as an affiliate of the District Leprosy Office. This means that the IPD can continue to host five patients at any one time, but there still remains an ambition for the facility to increase to 20 beds to meet local needs if / when it is adopted by the local hospital, and government funding is secured.



Koraput Care Centre's nurse cleans and dresses a man's foot ulcer



A young man has his plaster cast removed following reconstructive surgery on his hand, April 2022

4. Expenditure Report for 2022/23

The cost of running the Koraput Centre in 2022/23 was approximately 4.6% over-budget at £12,383 for the year, against a budget of £11,840. This is primarily on account of increased utility costs and staffing. The latter was needed due to the bed occupancy rate being in excess of 100% (budgeted at 80% occupancy).

Please see Annex 1 for a summary breakdown of expenditure in 2022/23 and how the £6,000 donation received from The Ann, Ciara & Niamh Copeland Trust in June 2022 was allocated accordingly.

5. Budget for 2023/24

The confirmed total budget for the Koraput Centre for the 2023/24 financial year is £13,203. Please see Annex 2 for a full breakdown of the forecast costs. This is more than last year's budget primarily due to salary inflation.

6. Allocation of The Ann, Ciara & Niamh Copeland Trust Fund's Restricted Donation

As per the wishes of The Ann, Ciara & Niamh Copeland Trust to support the in-patient services at the Koraput Centre, if a donation is forthcoming in 2023/24, we propose to allocate the full amount to the costs of staffing the IPD and providing patient supplies. At the end of the year, we will be happy to report back on expenditure against the budget.

Lepra has committed to fulfilling any financial shortfalls in this project, thereby ensuring that the IPD remains open to provide its vital work. We will continue engaging the government with our future plans for the IPD, including our request for public funding and increasing capacity at the Centre. As a result, if the financial needs of the Koraput Care Centre change, please be assured that Lepra will be in contact with The Ann, Ciara & Niamh Copeland Trust Fund to ensure that their fundraising achievements are recognised and deployed efficiently and effectively.

THANK YOU

**The Ann, Ciara & Niamh Copeland Trust Fund
has been a great, and very valued supporter of the Koraput Centre over the years.**

**Thank you so much for your continued generosity and support in 2022/23
for people affected by leprosy in Odisha State!**

**If you have any questions about the contents of this report, the Koraput Centre, or our wider work, please
do not hesitate to get in touch as we would be more than happy to discuss them with you.**

Together, we will beat leprosy.



LEPRA Society's trainee physio care assistants from across India visited the Koraput Care Centre to learn from the expertise of the staff

ANNEX 1

Expenditure Report for the Koraput Centre, April 2022 – March 2023

(Based on GBP £1 = INR 100)

Expenditure Heads	Budget (£)	Actual Spend (£)	Copeland Trust Contribution (£)
(A) HR COSTS			
Nurse-1no.	1,440	8,253	5,000
Medical Officer-1no.	2,400		
Admin Support-1no.	1,680		
Cook-1no.	960		
Ward Attendant-1no.	840		
Sanitisation Support Staff-1no.	720		
Staff Welfare	902	1,385	
(A) Sub-Total	8,912	9,638	5,000
(B) PATIENT SUPPLIES			
Assistive Devices	30	2,076	1,000
Self-care Kit	480		
Other Medical supplies	50		
Patient transportation	50		
Diet for IP ward Patients	1,460		
Maintenance of ward	50		
(B) Sub-Total	2,150	2,076	1,000
(C) PATIENT RECORDS			
Printing of IP ward & OPD Forms, etc.	40	40	
(C) Sub-Total	40	40	0
(D) IEC ACTIVITIES / MONITORING & EVALUATION			
Awareness Camps / Coordination Meetings with Govt. & Stakeholders	240	68	
(D) Sub-Total	240	68	0

(cont'd)

Expenditure Heads	Budget (£)	Actual Spend (£)	Copeland Trust Contribution (£)
(E) OFFICE UTILITIES & EXPENSES			
Upkeep & Maintenance of Ward	90	326	0
Electricity Expenses	180		
Telephone Expenses	30	235	0
Printing, Courier & Photocopy	30		
Office Utility & Misc.	60		
(E) Sub-Total	390	561	0
TOTAL (A + B + C + D + E)			
	11,840	12,383	6,000
Human Resource Costs (A)	8,912	9,638	5,000
Non HR costs (B + C + D + E)	2,928	2,745	1,000

Annex 2

Confirmed Budget for the Koraput Centre, April 2023 – March 2024

(Based on GBP £1 = INR 100)

Budget Heads	Total (£)	Particulars
(A) HR COSTS		
Nurse-1no.	1,940	One Nurse @ ~ Rs.16,200/pm
Medical Officer-1no.	1,600	Consultancy service-part-time @ Rs.20,000/pm for 8 months (cost of other 4 months covered by Swabhiman project)
Admin Support-1no.	2,210	One Admin Support @ ~ Rs.18,400/pm
Cook-1no.	1,420	One Cook @ ~ Rs.11,800/pm
Ward Attendants-1nos.	1,290	One Ward Attendant @ ~ Rs.10,700/pm
Sanitisation Support Staff-1no.	740	One Sanitisation Support Staff @ ~ Rs.6,200/pm
Staff Welfare	1,097	
(A) Sub-Total	10,297	
(B) PATIENT SUPPLIES		
Assistive Devices	30	60 Patients provided with adoptive devices, material cost @ Rs.100/each (i.e. 60 units X Rs.50)
Self-care Kit	390	260 persons will be provided with self-care kits @ Rs.200/per Kit (i.e. 260 unit X Rs.150)
Other Medical supplies	50	Purchase of laboratory materials: surgical blades, ulcer dressings, slit skin smear slides, etc.
Patient transportation	50	Local transportation costs given to needy cases
Diet for IP ward Patients	1,460	Diet for IP Ward Patients of 5 bed occupancy @ 80% X 365 days @ Rs.100/patient (i.e. 5 bed X 80% occupancy X 365 days X Rs.100)
Maintenance of ward, washing linen & other supplies etc. (other than food)	120	Maintenance cost of ward, washing linen etc. @ Rs.1,000/month
(B) Sub-Total	2,100	
(C) PATIENT RECORDS		
Printing of IP ward & OPD Forms, etc.	50	Printing of IP Ward and OPD Forms, Assessment Forms, IP Patients Files, etc.
(C) Sub-Total	50	
(D) IEC ACTIVITIES		
Awareness Camps	240	Per month 1no. Awareness Camps organised at Field level @ Rs.2,000/per camp (i.e. Rs.2000 X 12 months)
(D) Sub-Total	240	

(cont'd)

Budget Heads	Total (£)	Particulars
(E) MONITORING & EVALUATION		
Monitoring & Coordination Meetings	60	Co-ordination meeting with Govt & stakeholders every quarter @Rs.1,500/meeting (i.e. Rs.1500 X 4 meetings)
(E) Sub-Total	60	
(F) OFFICE UTILITIES & EXPENSES		
Upkeep & Maintenance of Ward	120	Upkeep & Maintenance of Ward @ Rs.1,000/pm for 12 months (i.e. Rs.1,000 X 12 months)
Electricity Expenses	180	Electricity expenses @ Rs.1,500/pm for 12 months (i.e. Rs.1,500 X 12 months)
Telephone Expenses	36	Telephone expenses @ Rs.300/pm for 12 months (i.e. Rs.400 X 12 months)
Printing, Courier & Photocopy	60	Printing, Courier & Photocopy expenses @ Rs.500/pm for 12 months (i.e. Rs.500 X 12 months)
Office Utility & Misc.	60	Office Utility & Misc. expenses @ Rs.500/pm for 12 months (i.e. Rs.500 X 12 months)
(F) Sub-Total	456	
TOTAL BUDGET	13,203	(A + B + C + D + E + F)
Human Resource costs (A)	10,297	
All other costs (B + C + D + E + F)	2,906	