

The Ann, Ciara and Niamh Copeland Trust Fund

The Koraput Centre, Odisha

Update October 2021



Introduction

Project	The Koraput Centre	 <p>A man receives treatment as an out-patient at the Koraput Referral Centre, Sept 2021</p>
Executing Organisation	Lepra India	
Location of Project Activities	6 Districts in Odisha Koraput Nowrangpur Kalahandi Nuapada Sonepur Bargarh	
Project Beneficiaries	People affected by leprosy and lymphatic filariasis	
Funder	The Ann, Ciara and Niamh Copeland Trust Fund	
Reporting Date	October 2021	

1. Project Background

The Koraput Centre is leased from the Government by Lepra, and services are fully integrated into the local Ministry of Health, filling vital gaps where there is no other provision.

It houses a laboratory with a lab technician, a footwear facility employing a designated shoe technician, and a part-time physiotherapy technician. These support activities in 17 blocks across six districts in the State of Odisha, India, covering approximately 2.5 million people (Figure 1).

With an average annual detection rate of 24.2 new leprosy cases per 100,000 people in the six districts, it is expected to have at least 605 new cases each year.

The planned activities for 2021/22 were to reach over 3,000 people affected by leprosy, both existing and new cases, through outreach activities and care in the community. Despite the COVID-19 related lockdowns and temporary closures of the government health centres to non-urgent care, during the first six months over 1,325 people affected by leprosy have already been reached and supported through the project. We are therefore on track towards our plans being realised to reach 3,000 people by the end of the financial year.

We are also delighted to report that as the pandemic eased and the demand for services for people affected by leprosy in Koraput District regained momentum, the Koraput Centre re-opened to out-patients at the beginning of September 2021. The re-opening of the in-patient department (IPD) followed shortly after on 2nd October 2021.



A Physiotherapist is based at the Koraput Centre & covers six Districts



A laboratory with a Lab Technician is based at the Koraput Centre supporting Active Case Finding across six Districts



A footwear workshop with a Shoe Technicians is based at the Koraput Centre and serves three districts



Figure 1: Outreach activities from the Koraput Centre in 2021-22

2. Services Provided between July and September 2021

Despite the ongoing challenges and restrictions presented by COVID-19, the project's activities for the second quarter of 2021/22 are now back on track. That said, there have still been some challenges, particularly as Lepra workers were infected by COVID-19, meaning that the Koraput Centre had to run on reduced staffing for some periods. Thankfully these periods were short lived and all staff are now back to full health.

The laboratory at the Centre supports active case finding activities by providing confirmatory testing for difficult-to-diagnose leprosy cases across the six districts. Field coordinators collect and send samples for slit skin smear tests which the lab technician analyses to provide an accurate leprosy diagnosis, thereby enabling the prescription of an appropriate treatment regime. In spite of disruptions to local courier services carrying test samples, it is amazing to hear that the lab technician has still been able to conduct 37 tests in the last three months – a 23% increase against plan. .

The physiotherapy technician at the Koraput Centre supports self-care camps and 'Disability Prevention and Medical Rehabilitation' (DPMR) clinics at the Government-run District Hospitals in three districts (Koraput, Nabarangpur, and Kalahandi). This involves covering distances of between 5 and 180 kilometres a day, sometimes spending 4 to 5 hours travelling in order to provide services for people affected by leprosy where they are most needed.

In Q2, the technician continued to follow-up with 20 reconstructive surgery patients, most of whom were post-operative, having undergone surgery prior to lockdown. He also made and distributed assistive devices (for example, dynamic splints and footwear with a posterior slab) to a further 51 patients who needed them. These devices enable patients to retain and improve their mobility, aiding the healing process after surgery.



The lab technician prepares to take a slit skin smear sample from a man suspected of having leprosy

Prevention and management of disabilities often require specialised footwear, custom-made by a shoe technician. The shoe technician's work is supported by the field coordinators who collect and send measurements to the footwear workshop at the Koraput Centre. Once made, the field coordinators then distribute the shoes during their visits. It is rewarding to report that the shoe technician has been able to increase his output in Q2, manufacturing a further 309 pairs between July and September.

Whilst the targets for the first quarter of the financial year were hindered due to COVID-19 disruptions, Q2, activities at the Koraput Centre are now back to capacity which is wonderful news. Consequently, planned targets for the second quarter have been exceeded (see Table 1 below).

Table 1: Overview of completed and planned activities by the Koraput Centre for 2021/22

Activity 2021/2022	2021/2022		Q2: July - September 2021		Notes
	Annual Target	Progress To Date	Target	Achieved	
Customised footwear	1,800	828	250	309	Footwear manufacturing increased in Q2 to make up the shortfall in Q1.
Adaptive devices	350	95	40	51	
Slit skin smear	200	55	30	37	
# patients supported through DPMR at Govt clinics by Koraput-based Lepra staff	720	336	120	202	
# patients treated by physio in community / as out-patients for pre- / post-operative RCS follow-up	25	20	14	20	Earlier RCS cases were also followed up
# in-patients attending for pre- / post-operative RCS or complicated ulcer care	82	N/A	N/A	N/A	Opened from 2nd October 2021. Bed occupancy to increase over time. See sections 3 and 4.



The shoe technician's workshop at the Koraput Centre, Sept 2021



The physio technician carries out a pre-operative assessment, Aug 2021

Table 2: Overview of completed and planned activities for the out-patients and in-patient departments at the Koraput Centre from 1st September 2021 to 31st March 2022

Activity 2021/2022	Overall Target for 2021/22	Sept 2021 Target	Achieved
Out-Patient Services (commenced 1st September 2021)			
Total OPD Attendances	180	30	32
Difficult to diagnose	35	5	4
Ulcer Care	42	6	12
NFI/Reaction management	35	5	5
Physiotherapy	42	6	6
Socio Economic linkages	21	3	4
Provision of Customized Footwear	35	5	7
In-Patient Services (commenced 2nd October 2021)			
Total IP Admissions	82	-	-
Complication Ulcer Care	25	-	-
Nerve Function Impairment / Reaction Management	20	-	-
Pre- / Post-Operative Care	15	-	-
Provision of Customized Footwear / Social & Economic Rehabilitation / Others	22	-	-

Out-patient services at the Koraput Centre were re-initiated at the beginning of September. Patients are now visiting the Centre for services such as management of nerve function impairments (NFI) and reactions, ulcer dressings, physiotherapy, and training in ulcer care.

As can be seen from Table 2 (above), a total of 32 patients attended the out-patients department in its first month of operation.

- Those who reported to the Centre for ulcer care were provided with ulcer dressings, training in self-care, and a dressing kit for home care. The Koraput staff team will follow-up with these patients during their outreach visits in communities to check on their wellbeing and the healing of their ulcers, to distribute further care kits, and provide additional self-care training.
- Six physiotherapy patients were assessed as to their needs and provided with adaptive aids which play a vital role in reversing disabilities, preventing them from worsening, or converting them into abilities. For example, patients may be provided with protective devices such as gloves and eye shields, adaptive devices such as grip aid spoons (for clawed hands) and splints to enable mobility, or slabs to support a foot or hand following surgery. Along with the device, Lepra provides counselling and training on how to use them, and the team follow-up with patients on a regular basis to assess how they are getting on.
- People who have suspected leprosy but whose cases are difficult to diagnose also attended the Centre to be examined and have slit skin smear samples collected and tested. Three people who were found to have leprosy were referred to their nearest government-run Community Health Centre for ongoing treatment. One man was found not to have leprosy, so the staff provided him with counselling and referred him to a nearby hospital for further diagnosis.

- The staff at the Centre also endeavour to assist people affected by leprosy in their social and economic rehabilitation so as to support their wellbeing more holistically. As such, in September, four people were linked to the District Social Security Office in order to claim a pension to which they were entitled. This demonstrates another way that Lepra is able to make a significant difference to the lives of people affected by leprosy. The bureaucratic processes involved in claiming welfare support (such as a pension or housing allowance) mean that people often do not know they are entitled to it and / or they are unable to access it. However, with the facilitation and support of Lepra staff, people are empowered to secure their entitlements and subsequently, a boost to their incomes which can make a huge difference to their lives and overall wellbeing, as can be seen from the quote, right.

"Due to lack of knowledge, I did not suspect that I had the early signs of leprosy and due to the delay in detection, I suffered from disability to my eye and foot. [After I was diagnosed], Lepra's staff regularly visited our house and provided me with physiotherapy and training on self-care. They also facilitated reconstructive surgery of my eye and foot at Koraput. Now, I am able to do my routine activities as usual. During my stay at Koraput, I got a disability certificate with the help of Lepra staff. They also facilitated me to get a pension of Rs 500 every month. I got a nice house last year under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana scheme [a Government housing scheme]. So, my overall wellbeing has improved. I lead a life full of hope and dignity. I thank Lepra staff for their contribution to bringing about such a change in my life."

Purandara Pujari – An in-patient at Koraput RC in 2018
Dedaspali, Nabarangpur District



A lady practices self-care before having her foot ulcer dressed by the physio technician outside the Koraput Centre, Aug 2021

3. Re-Establishment of In-Patient Services

In April 2021, recognising the value of Lepra's former in-patient ward, the district authorities invited Lepra to submit a fresh proposal for re-opening an IPD at the Koraput Centre to provide pre- and post-operative surgical care, physiotherapy and complex ulcer care. The case for long-term hospital stays for patients undergoing reconstructive surgery is clear, with such stays ensuring the length of physiotherapy is not compromised, which could otherwise affect the healing process and thereby the short and long-term success of reconstructive surgery.

Lepra's State Coordinator and the Government's State Leprosy Officer are working closely together to ensure public funding is received within the next few months to support an IPD at the Koraput Centre and to ensure its long-term



The first patients arrive at the newly re-opened In-Patients Department at the Koraput Referral Centre – 2nd October 2021

Since the last quarter's report, the plans for the remainder of 2021/22 have been revised and refined. As such, the ward currently has five beds to accommodate patients who require ulcer care and reaction management over short-term stays (up to 10 days). It is staffed by a newly employed nurse, another physiotherapy technician, and the consultancy services of a medical officer. In due course, people undergoing reconstructive surgery (which is carried out at the District Hospitals) will also be received for pre- and post-operative surgical care which will require longer stays of one month or more. The target for the remainder of 2021/22 is to receive a total of 82 in-patients at the Centre (as set out in Table 2).

In 2022/23, the intention is for the facility to increase to 20 beds at 80% occupancy rate in order to provide physiotherapy support for 96 patients undergoing reconstructive surgery per year, plus 60 patients with complex ulcers / reactions.

sustainability. This will ultimately see the Centre incorporated into the Government-run District Hospital who will take overall responsibility to fulfil the criteria of the Clinical Establishment Act, including staffing and clinical oversight.

In the meantime, and in recognition of the existing level of need, Lepra committed to providing the necessary funds to ensure the in-patient ward was able to re-open. We are delighted to report that this went ahead, as planned, on Saturday 2nd October 2021 – a significant day as it was also the 31st anniversary of the Centre's foundation.



The IPD re-opening was marked with a ribbon-cutting ceremony



The Koraput Centre IPD staff team immediately got to work providing care for the people affected by leprosy who had arrived for treatment

4. Longer-Term Plans

Lepra is committed to securing a long-term *sustainable solution* for the Koraput Centre with government support for in-patient care. Lepra will continue to support the delivery of other core services: physiotherapists, a shoe technician, a lab technician and if necessary, non-staffing costs of the in-patient ward. As the need evolves going forwards, Lepra will remain in close contact with The Ann, Ciara & Niamh Copeland Trust to ensure that their fundraising achievements are recognised and are deployed efficiently and effectively.



The new Koraput Centre IPD Lepra staff team

5. Updated Project Budgets for 2021/22

The confirmed total budget for the Lepra project called Swabhiman 2.0, of which the Koraput Centre is a part, is £47,396 for 2021/22, although this figure excludes the costs of the IPD. Within this, the annual budget for the Koraput Centre alone is £14,575, or about 30% of the overall Swabhiman 2.0 budget. (See Annex 1)

Lepra's agreed budgeted costs of running the IPD from October 2021 to March 2022 are set out in Annex 2. Please note that this budget has been refined over the past quarter and therefore differs slightly from that included in the previous report.

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

Please see Annex 3 for a summary of how Lepra proposes to allocate The Ann, Ciara & Niamh Copeland Trust's funds for this financial year. As per the wishes of the Trust to prioritise in-patient services at the Koraput Centre, we propose to re-allocate the majority (87%) of the Trust's generous donation to the current costs of running the IPD. The balance of the Trust's restricted contribution (13%) will remain directed to other essentials needed by the Koraput Centre, including drugs and ulcer care kits (as per the budget in Annex 1).

As you are aware, Lepra has committed to fulfilling any other financial shortfall in this project, thereby ensuring that the IPD is open and providing its vital work. As can be seen from the budget in Annex 2, and following the agreements with the local government, extra spending is not currently required. If this situation changes, we will of course provide the additional funds. Rest assured that the IPD is therefore operating and funded, with the majority of the Trust's generous donation allocated to it as outlined above.

We are currently waiting for formal government approval of our plans for the IPD for the next financial year, but are assured that this is in process. If there are any changes in the current and future plans for the IPD at the Koraput Centre, please be assured that Lepra will contact The Ann, Ciara & Niamh Copeland Trust Fund immediately. In addition, should the Trust be so generous as to consider Lepra again next year, then in good time, we will discuss with you the options for how your 2022/23 donation is allocated.

Lastly, a huge thank you to all the trustees and supporters of The Ann, Ciara & Niamh Copeland Trust Fund for your support for people affected by leprosy and the Koraput Centre over many years. We hope that this update is sufficient for your needs, but if you have any further questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact us.

ANNEX 1

The Annual Koraput Centre Budget 2021/22. (excluding IPD costs)

Budget Head	Total (£)	The Copeland Family Trust Fund (£)	Lepra (£)
PROGRAMME EXPENDITURE			
Programme Staff			
Lab Technician	1,459		1,459
Physiotherapist	3,269		3,269
Shoe Technician	1,189		1,189
Staff Welfare	947		947
Other drugs	2,871	1,129	1,742
Patient Supplies			-
Assistive Devices	188		188
Transportation Cost (e.g. patients and home-based follow-up by Field Coordinators and a physiotherapist to District DPMR clinics)	54		54
Microcellular rubber footwear	1,882		1,882
Training and assessment of RCS patients (e.g. training for patients and their carers on self-care and exercises, in Koraput Centre and through home-based follow-up)	914		914
Patient financial assistance: salary loss for RCS patients who live under poverty line	798		798
Other Supplies	226		226
Patient Records	161		161
Total Programme Expenditure	13,958	1,129	12,829
ADMINISTRATION EXPENDITURE			
Utilities & repairs (as per terms of leasing Government premises in India)	487		487
Office Expenses	129		129
Total Administration Expenditure	617	0	617
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	14,575	1,129	13,446

Annex 2

Confirmed Budget for the IPD at Lepra Koraput Referral Centre, October 2021 – March 2022

Budget Heads	Total (£)	Particulars
(A) HR COSTS		
Nurse-1no.	720	One Nurse @ Rs.12,000/pm
Physio-Technician-1no.	1,080	One Physio-technician @ Rs.18,000/pm
Medical Officer-1no.	1,200	Consultancy service-part-time @ Rs.20,000/pm
Admin Support-1no.	720	One Admin Support @ Rs.12,000/pm
Cook-1no.	480	One Cook @ Rs.8,000/pm
Ward Attendants-2nos.	840	Two Ward Attendants @ Rs.7,000 each/pm
Sanitisation Support Staff-1no.	360	One Sanitisation Support Staff @ Rs.6,000/pm
(A) Sub-Total	5,400	
(B) PATIENT SUPPLIES		
Assistive Devices	30	30 Patients provided with adoptive devices, material cost @ Rs.100/each (i.e. 30 units X Rs.100)
Self-care Kit	240	120 persons will be provided with self-care kits @ 200/per Kit (i.e. 120 unit X Rs.200)
Other Medical supplies	30	Purchase of laboratory materials: surgical blades, ulcer dressings, slit skin smear slides, etc.
Patient transportation	40	Local transportation costs given to needy cases
Diet for IP ward Patients	732	Diet for IP Ward Patients of 5 bed occupancy @ 80% X 183 days @ Rs.100/patient (i.e. 5 bed X 80% occupancy X 183 days X Rs.100)
Maintenance of ward, washing linen & other supplies etc. (other than food)	30	Maintenance cost of ward, washing linen etc. @ Rs.500/pm (i.e. Rs.500 X 6 months)
(B) Sub-Total	1,102	
(C) PATIENT RECORDS		
Printing of IP ward & OPD Forms, etc.	30	Printing of IP Ward and OPD Forms, Assessment Forms, IP Patients Files, etc. @ Rs.500 X 6 months
(C) Sub-Total	30	
(D) IEC ACTIVITIES		
Awareness Camp	120	Per month 1no. Awareness Camps organised at Field level @ Rs.2,000/per camp (i.e. Rs.2000 X 6 months)
(D) Sub-Total	120	

(cont'd)

Budget Heads	Total (£)	Particulars
(E) REHABILITATION & SKILLS DEVELOPMENT		
Provide support & Training to IP ward patient	500	Skills development training to be provided to IP Patients on candle making, phynile making, green leaf plate making, etc.
(E) Sub-Total	500	
(F) MONITORING, EVALUATION & CO-ORDINATION		
Co-ordination meeting with Govt & stakeholder	90	Co-ordination meeting with Govt & stakeholders each month @ 1,500/per meeting (i.e. Rs.1,500 X 6 meetings)
(F) Sub-Total	90	
(G) OFFICE UTILITIES & EXPENSES		
Upkeep & Maintenance of Ward	90	Upkeep & Maintenance of Ward @ Rs.1,500/pm for 6 months (i.e. Rs.1,500 X 6 months)
Electricity Expenses	180	Electricity expenses @ Rs.3000/pm for 6 months (i.e. Rs.3,000 X 6 months)
Telephone Expenses	30	Telephone expenses @ Rs.500/pm for 6 months (i.e. Rs.500 X 6 months)
Printing, Courier & Photocopy	30	Printing, Courier & Photocopy expenses @ Rs.500/pm for 6 months (i.e. Rs.500 X 6 months)
Office Utility & Misc.	60	Office Utility & Misc. expenses @ Rs.1000/pm for 6 months (i.e. Rs.1,000 X 6months)
(G) Sub-Total	390	
TOTAL BUDGET	7,632	(A + B + C + D + E + F + G) (Based on GBP £1 = INR 100)
Human Resource Costs (A)	5,400	
All other costs (B + C + D + E + F + G)	2,232	

Annex 3

Summary of The Ann, Ciara & Niamh Copeland Trust Funding 2021-22

Item	Period	Amount (£)	% of Trust's total funding
Koraput Referral Centre IPD	October 2021 – March 2022	7,632	87%
Koraput Centre Programme	April 2021 – March 2022	1,129	13%
TOTAL	F/Y 2021-2022	8,761	100%