D. R. CONGO

DETECTION OF HIDDEN CASES OF LEPROSY IN DR CONGO

AFRICAN LEPROSY CONGRESS

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PLAN OF PRESENTATION

- Country profile
- National Leprosy Elimination Program
- Situation of leprosy in DRC
- Problems or challenges
- Strategies adopted
- Results
- Lessons learnt
- Recommendations

NATIONAL LEPROSY ELIMINATION PROGRAM

- NLEP : 20 L-T Provincials Coordinations (PC)
- 2 NEWS L/T PC :
  - WEST KATANGA
  - WEST BANDUNDU
- 2 L/T PC WITH A POOR COVERAGE :
  - OCCIDENTAL KASAI : 21%
  - ORIENTAL KASAI : 15%
- 2 L/T PC IN WAR SITUATION
  - ITURI
  - NORTH KIVU

Area : 2,345,000 km square
LEPROSY SITUATION IN 2003

- Registered cases: 7,173
- New cases: 7,472
- Preval. rate: 1.24
- Det. rate: 1.29
- % Child among N.C.: 12.90
- % Disab. gr. II / N.C.: 12.20
- P/D ratio: 0.96
- Geogr. Coverage: 63%

PROBLEMS

- Poor leprosy program coverage:
  - Lot of health districts are not functional (war, lack of partners and national budget)
  - Lack of ILEP partners to assist our program in some provinces and or districts
- Poor commitment of community specially in villages to participate in leprosy elimination activities
- Lot of leprosy endemic sub-provinces

We have many leprosy hidden cases
STRATEGIES ADOPTED

• INCREASE THE GEOGRAPHIC LEPROSY PROGRAM COVERAGE BY:
  - Strengthening the integration of leprosy activities in all health centers and structures.
  - Utilisation of innovative approaches with volunteers in area without health structures.

• SOCIAL MOBILISATION:
  - Authority
  - Community (village, street and avenue)

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SITUATION OF LEPROSY UP TO 31 SEPT 2004

• New Cases: 8,462
• Det. Rate: -
• Reg. Cases: 8,568
• Prev. Rate: 1.56 per 10,000
• %Child /NC: 12.69%
• %Dis.gr.II/NC: 9.86%
• P/D: -
• Geogr. Cov.: -

DIFFICULTIES MET

• Volunteers and Community Agents (Relais communautaires) need salary or bonus
• The new cut up of health districts (515 previously 307)
• Insecurity in some health districts
• Destruction of health infrastructure and roads because of war
• Delay in mobilisation of resources
LESSONS LEARNT

• Mobilisation of resources must be soon
• Community agents (Relais communautaires) must be chosen by population
• Motivation must be planned in the project for all persons who are involving in the intensification project
• Utilisation of posters and leaflets with local images or black leprosy patients

RECOMMENDATIONS

• Increase the leprosy program coverage by integrating leprosy elimination activities in all health centers
• Strengthening of involvement of community in leprosy elimination activities (with utilisation of Community agents - Relais communautaires, in every village)
• Involvement of Volunteers, after some days of training, in areas without health centers
• It is desirable to get all resources before start the implementation of leprosy intensification activities project.