

What is an NTD and why should YOU care?

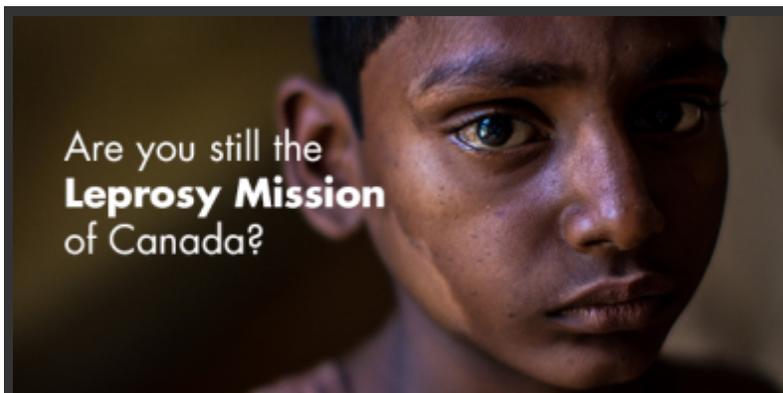
1 message

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Leprosy & Other NTDs
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Last week a group from effect:hope accompanied Zeela Zaizay, a first-responder to the Ebola outbreak in Liberia, on a cross-Canada tour meeting with our donors to provide a country update ([watch Zeela's video](#)). A question that came up a few times was "Are you still helping people with leprosy and why are you taking on all these other diseases?"

First of all, YES we still help people with leprosy! Our mission is to eliminate leprosy (learn more about our [Leprosy Elimination Plan](#)). Thanks to your support we are in the position of seeing the control of Leprosy across the world in our lifetime and as an organization we had to decide what God was calling us to do. It says in 1 John 3: 17 "If anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him?". Based on this challenge we looked at what Leprosy really is from a global view and it is a neglected tropical disease (NTD).

What is an NTD really? It's simple. It's a disease that generally targets the poorest of the poor, occurs in tropical areas like sub-Saharan Africa or India, and doesn't have the funding that well-known diseases like Malaria has. Leprosy is an NTD. Buruli ulcer is an NTD. Hookworm is an NTD. More than 1.6 billion people around the world are affected by NTDs.

This is why we changed our name to effect:hope. It conveys the message of what we do, what YOU do, which is to bring hope to these 1.6 billion people. Thank you for asking questions, being engaged, and showing your love to the forgotten and neglected.

NTDs

neg·lect·ed trop·i·cal
di·seases *noun*.

The Eternal Sore

In the native Liberian language, Buruli ulcer translates to "eternal sore". It is seen as a permanent curse on the person.

Buruli ulcer is a NTD that causes extreme pain, disability, and permanent physical disfigurement. It presents as a skin rash and, if untreated, it becomes an open wound. It can be effectively treated with antibiotics, but physical and psychological impacts remain. BU survivors have a difficult time finding work and face stigma in their communities. Education is needed for the communities in order for them to realize that BU survivors are not a threat.

Click to learn more about the disease and Annie, a girl who had to endure the pain.

[LEARN MORE](#)



Watch Zeela Zaizay, a first-responder to the Ebola outbreak in Liberia, deliver a country update on his recent cross-Canada tour.

IMPACT UPDATE



775 Canadian Churches joined together for World Leprosy Day on January 31 in support of those most marginalized by leprosy. This is a participation growth of 6% from 2015. We are encouraged and very grateful that more Canadians have full hearts for this important day of outreach. For more information about World Leprosy Day 2017 and how your Church can get involved, contact Laura at [905-886-2885 Ext. 2006](tel:905-886-2885) or lbickle@effecthope.org.



A warm thank you to all our supporters who gave the gift of protection this past Mother's Day for the Protect a Child initiative. Together we raised \$4,500! With the 3x match from the Government of Canada, a total of \$18,000 will go towards the Protect a Child initiative. Children and pregnant women in need will be given de-worming treatments and Vitamin A supplements, thanks to your generosity!



A major problem with the health care system in Liberia is that funding goes to the major diseases like Malaria and NTDs like Leprosy are ignored. effect:hope, with MAP International, recently submitted the Strategic Plan for Integrated IDM NTD Case Management to the Liberian government. This plan will integrate NTDs and work to provide training and resources to strengthen the health care system.

Have a question?

If you have any questions or concerns about this newsletter, please contact Andrea Onley at aonley@effecthope.org or [1-888-537-7679 ext. 2038](tel:1-888-537-7679) and she will be happy to help you.

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