Effect Hope

Global Progress, Local Impact

2025 IMPACT REPORT

Leading Our Team

Board of Directors

As we look back on a year of growth, we're reminded that strong leadership makes bold progress possible. Through their guidance and strategic direction, our Board of Directors helps us turn bold ideas into lasting impact.

Randy Henderson
Chair

Dr. David Williams
Vice-Chair

Joe Tabet
Secretary Treasurer

Dr. Miriam Klassen

Ron Pike

Tammy Wu

Senior Leadership

Guided by the Board's strategic oversight, our senior leadership team brings our vision to life—ensuring our work stays focused, effective, and firmly grounded in our values. Together, we are moving forward, ready to build an even stronger impact in the year ahead.

Kim Evans
CEO

Maneesh Phillip
VP, International Programs

Dr. Anna Wickenden
PhD, VP, Advocacy & Strategic Partnerships

Lee-Anne Teague
Director of Finance & Operations

Breanna Willock
Director of Communications & Marketing

Rebekah Andres
Director of Development

"…what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."

Micah 6:8

Current members of Effect Hope's Board, Corporation and Senior Leadership Team with local project partners, community health workers, and patients outside a community health facility in Bong County, Liberia.

A Year of Change, A Message of Hope:
A Letter from the CEO

Some years show us what is possible when people come together with purpose. 2025 was one of those years. Across our global community, hope took shape through courage, compassion, and collective action.

From one community to the next, progress was evident. People gained access to care that had been out of reach for far too long. Communities stood together to challenge stigma. Local leaders stepped forward to shape solutions rooted in their own contexts and built to endure.

Even as the world around us continued to shift, what stood out most was the resilience and generosity of those committed to ensuring no one is left behind.

At Effect Hope, our work is rooted in our faith in Jesus and our belief that every person is created in the image of God, worthy of dignity, health, and a future with purpose. For more than 130 years, this calling has driven us to confront stigma and walk alongside those affected by neglected tropical diseases.

Thanks to your support last year, essential services continued even as the global health landscape shifted. People received treatment, rehabilitation, and mental health support they might otherwise have gone without. Communities received education that reduced stigma, and health workers were trained to deliver care closer to home.

It is an honour to stand with partners throughout such rapid change and to support them as they strengthen their capacity to lead. Your commitment makes this possible.

Thank you for standing with us through a year of uncertainty and allowing hope to shine where it was needed most. Together, we're opening doors that once seemed closed so that more people can access the care they need, when and where they need it.

Kim Evans

Kim Evans
CEO, Effect Hope

Who We Are

Effect Hope is a Canadian Christian global health organization, and the largest in Canada exclusively focused on serving people affected by neglected tropical diseases (NTDs). We believe every person deserves good health, social well-being, and a life lived with dignity. That's why we work to break down barriers to NTD services, ensuring everyone can access the care they need, no matter how remote or isolated they are.

What We Do

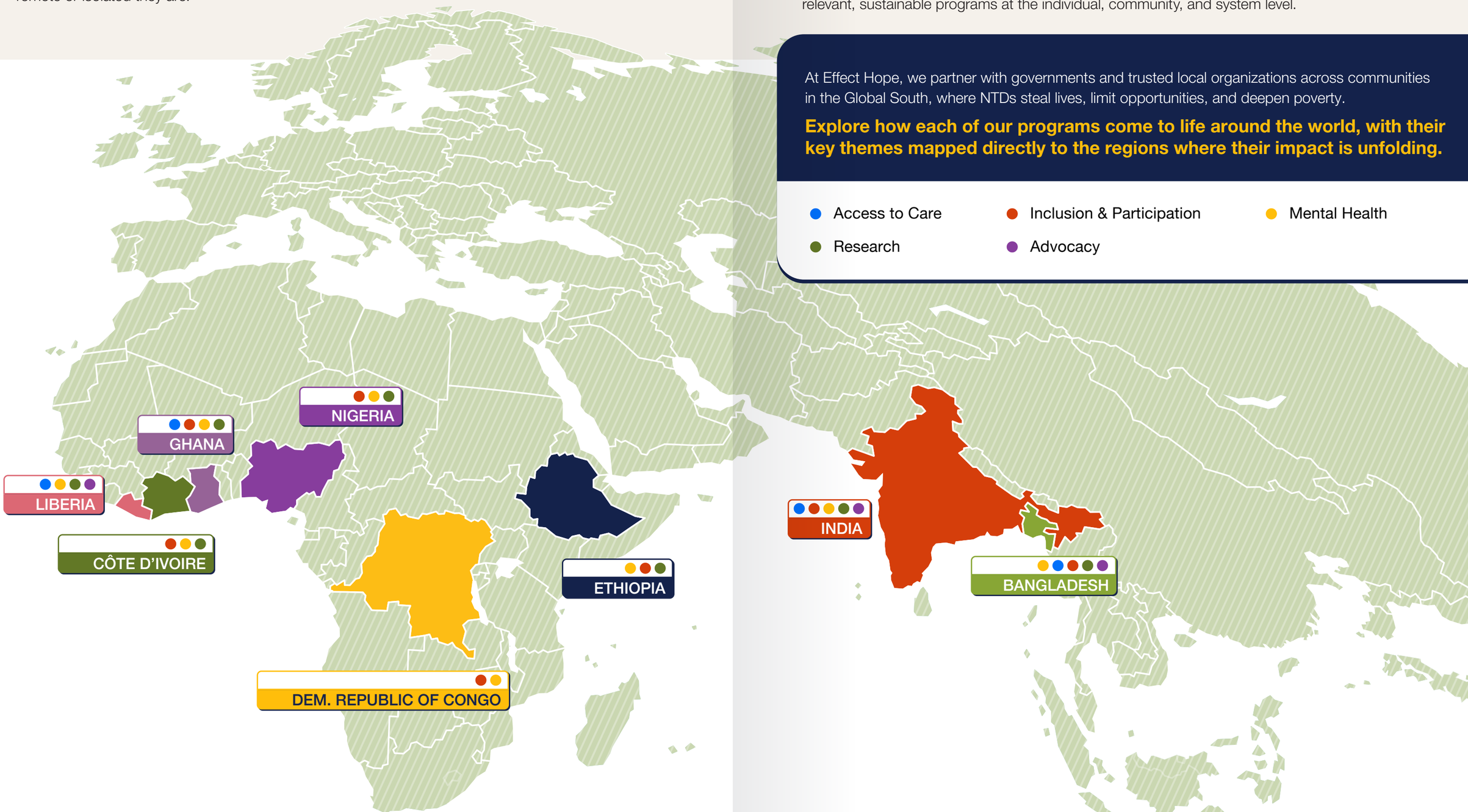
We are committed to supporting people's health and wellness, while honouring their independence and self-sufficiency. In 2025, Effect Hope worked in 8 countries to fight disease, disability and discrimination, strengthening health systems where care is hardest to access.

By partnering with global and local leaders and communities, we design and implement culturally relevant, sustainable programs at the individual, community, and system level.

At Effect Hope, we partner with governments and trusted local organizations across communities in the Global South, where NTDs steal lives, limit opportunities, and deepen poverty.

Explore how each of our programs come to life around the world, with their key themes mapped directly to the regions where their impact is unfolding.

- Access to Care
- Inclusion & Participation
- Mental Health
- Research
- Advocacy



Behind the Numbers

When One Woman Refuses to Be Defined by Stigma

Meet Hosneara. Once pushed to the margins after her own experience with leprosy, she made a powerful choice — not just to heal, but to rise and help others do the same.

Back in her community in Bangladesh, those affected by leprosy were excluded from disability and old-age allowances. Many lived under the weight of stigma, rejected from opportunities and social acceptance. Basic hygiene and sanitation were lacking, leaving families vulnerable.

But change was already beginning to take root.

What her community didn't yet realize was this: Hosneara would transform her experience into a force for dignity, inclusion, and change.

Through programs supported by a global community of compassion, she stepped into leadership — helping others access the care, resources, and recognition they deserve.

As a community group leader, she helped community members access disability allowance, arranged old age allowances, secured sanitation support, and ensured adolescent girls received hygiene kits.

Hosneara's leadership has strengthened dignity, inclusion, and wellbeing across her community.

Her story is a powerful reminder that when one person is empowered, entire communities begin to move forward.

Because of your support, misinformation is being replaced with facts and stigma is being challenged. In 2025, we reached **105,719 people** through health education and awareness initiatives.

From survivor to community leader, Hosneara is helping others access the support and dignity they deserve.

Watch our story of hope

Through community-based groups, **5,773 people** like John found connection, support, and renewed hope.

With the support of a caring community, John is rebuilding his life after a painful battle with Buruli ulcer.

Care in Community: Where Healing Becomes Possible

It started as a small swelling on his foot. At first, it did not seem like something that could change a life.

For a young man in his early twenties, what began as a small swelling on his foot slowly turned into a wound that refused to heal — a wound that threatened not just his mobility, but his future. In his community, Buruli ulcer had already affected many friends, stolen livelihoods, and left families grieving.

John was living that fear. As the swelling worsened, his foot became unbearably painful. Ointments provided no relief. Walking became so difficult that he had to rely on crutches. Each day felt heavier than the last, and his world felt like it was shrinking.

But his story did not end there.

Everything changed when John was connected to care and found a community who understood what he was going through.

For the first time, he received the medical care he needed — treatment that stopped the disease from progressing and allowed his body to begin healing. But his transformation didn't end with medicine.

John was welcomed into a peer support group, a space where others understood his struggles, his fears, and hopes. There, he found connection, encouragement, and the strength to believe in a new beginning.

Today, John is rebuilding his life with renewed confidence. **His journey reflects the power of community-centred care and healing that goes beyond the physical.**

The Power of Being Seen

Loss often begins quietly. For Kimbamba, it started with a single nodule on his face.

Before Kimbamba found support, his world began to collapse around him. Living with the visible impacts of leprosy meant his community didn't want to interact with him. Friends drifted away. Work became impossible. People stopped coming to his market stand, where he sold food and basic goods, because of his deformed face and swollen limbs. He stayed indoors more frequently, unsure if life would ever return to what it once was.

Everything changed when he was connected to EMPOWER.

For the first time, he received not only medical care, but kindness. People were seeing the man behind the diagnosis. **Treatment helped return him to health, but it was the emotional support that renewed his confidence.**

Slowly, he began to step back into the world that had once turned away from him.

With renewed strength, his life began to change. Through the EMPOWER program, Kimbamba started a palm-oil business, earning an income and supporting his family with pride. He then experienced a full-circle moment, choosing to give back as a peer helper and offering support to others facing the same stigma and uncertainty he once endured.

Kimbamba's story is a testament to what dignity, understanding, and community can restore. **From isolation to leadership, he now stands as a living reminder that when stigma is confronted with compassion, lives can be rebuilt.**

Kimbamba is one of **over 200 peer counsellors** trained in providing mental health support.

Surrounded by people who finally saw him, not his diagnosis, Kimbamba began rebuilding his life with courage.

Explore more stories of hope

For John, healing began with being seen, heard, and supported. Last year, **567 people** accessed life-changing mental health counselling — strengthening resilience, wellbeing, and self-belief.

John (12) with counsellor Kumari, whose guidance is helping him rediscover confidence and imagine a brighter future.

No Child Should Have to Face This Alone

At twelve years old, John was already carrying a burden far beyond his years.

After being diagnosed with leprosy, John was receiving treatment at a clinic that was a great distance from his home.

When the distance became overwhelming, he stopped treatment early. For a while, he felt better, until the symptoms returned, stronger than before. By the time he came back to the clinic, he was more withdrawn, carrying a weight no child should bear.

That's when counsellor Kumari Bharti, who has been supporting patients since 2020, stepped in. Kumari's goal was to break through his fear — gently, patiently, and with compassion.

With John, she focused on rebuilding trust. She explained why completing treatment mattered, reassured him that nothing was his fault, and made sure he felt safe enough to share his worries. She also worked with local health workers to make his follow-up visits more manageable, reducing the burden of travel that had once pushed him away from care.

Slowly, John began to open up again. He smiled more. He talked about the things he loved, especially singing. And when Kumari asked him about his future, he answered without hesitation: he wants to be an engineer.

Because of this holistic support, more children like John are able to continue treatment with confidence and care, not fear and isolation.

John's story shows why a holistic approach matters. Medicine can cure disease, but counselling helps protect dignity, confidence, and determination to keep going. For children like John, that support can be the difference between stopping treatment and completing it — between fear and possibility.

With the right care, John isn't just healing. He's beginning to imagine a future again.

Our 2025 Impact in Numbers

1.4 MILLION LIVES CHANGED

ACCESS TO CARE

1,282,574
People screened for skin-NTDs

123,064
People received medical treatment

5,008
People diagnosed with an NTD

3,013
People received self-care training

645
Outreach workers trained to spread awareness about symptoms and treatments for NTDs

1,374
Surgeries provided to help people regain mobility and independence

3,817
Health care professionals trained across formal and informal health systems

INCLUSION AND PARTICIPATION

5,773 People participated in a community-based group to spread awareness about NTDs

540 Children received education support

3,579 Pairs of customized footwear provided to support mobility

1,140 people accessed government grants/support

4,665 People received added support through vocational training, counselling, and advocacy

MENTAL HEALTH

567 People received mental health counselling

209 Peer counsellors trained in mental health support

RESEARCH

2 Peer-reviewed research papers published

2 Presentations and workshops led at global health conferences

ADVOCACY

105,719 Population covered through awareness and education campaigns in the communities where we work

201 Senior government and policy stakeholders engaged

1.3 million Canadians reached by advocacy and awareness campaigns

Financial Summary

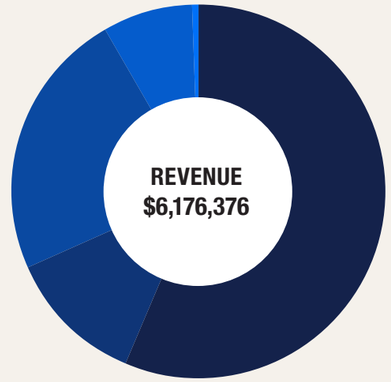
Your generosity has a lasting impact!

The impact stories within this report are a testament to the power of collective action. None of this would be possible without you.

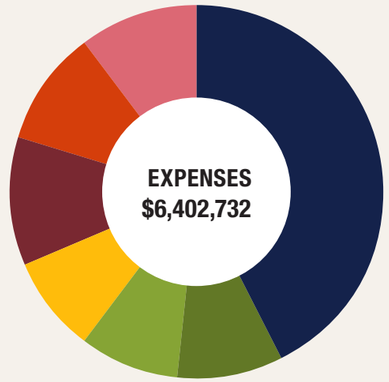
Please visit our website for more details, including audited financial statements.

Statement of Operations
Year ending December 31, 2025

Revenue	2025 Total CAD $
Contributions	3,483,453
Institutional funding	1,446,956
Legacies	743,877
Investment income	484,037
Sundry income	18,053
	6,176,376



Expenses	2025 Total CAD $
Strengthening health systems	2,735,213
Activating and equipping communities	576,562
Carrying out research	553,895
Advocacy, policy and partnership	535,083
Constituency education	708,171
Administration	651,463
Promotion	642,345
	6,402,732



How we used your donations in 2025:

MINISTRY
Health Systems Building and Advocacy

ADMINISTRATION
Essential Support and Accountability

PROMOTION
Working to Raise More Resources

Last Year's Defining Moments

Stronger Systems, Stronger Communities: A New Era of Detection and Care

In India, the ASPIRE project has completed its first phase in Jamui District, Bihar, reaching communities directly and actively searching for people affected by five skin-NTDs. ASPIRE is helping uncover illness that was previously going unseen.

In many rural communities, people were living with symptoms without knowing what was causing them, or where to turn for help. Through house-to-house visits, the project has identified two to three times more cases of leprosy, lymphatic filariasis, and scabies than earlier reporting captured. These visits raise awareness while also identifying, diagnosing, and referring people for treatment.

As the project transitions toward a sustainable, government-led system for early detection and follow-up, ASPIRE is preparing health workers to take over routine screening activities. Alongside this, over 80 Community-Based Groups of people affected by Skin NTDs are supporting long-term care, stigma reduction, and awareness in their own communities.

These efforts are strengthening the health system and preparing for Phase 2 in 2026, when government provides leadership and our project staff step into a support and monitoring role.

Global Voices, Shared Vision: The Future of NTD Programming:

The 2025 Neglected Tropical Diseases NGO Network (NNN) conference in Uganda brought together over 50 countries to advance sustainable, people-centered innovations in the fight against NTDs. A major theme was integration—how individual programs can work together to build stronger, more resilient health systems.

Effect Hope played an active role throughout the conference. Our team co-led workshops, contributed research, and facilitated discussions that centered on the lived experiences of people affected by NTDs. Through the insights shared from Effect Hope programs including ASPIRE, UPLIFT, and TRANSFORM, a key theme emerged: **programs are strongest when community voices lead the way.**

Feedback gathered during integration sessions emphasized several priorities for future planning:

- Engage government stakeholders early and consistently, **a key learning from ASPIRE.**
- Ensure lived experience drives program design, not just consultation, **a core principle of UPLIFT.**
- Human rights and dignity should be at the center of all NTD responses, **reinforcing TRANSFORM's focus on equity and justice.**

Together, these contributions and the voices behind them are shaping a clearer path forward. Deeper collaboration, stronger alignment, and inclusion are essential to lasting change, and Effect Hope is committed to advancing them.

Mary Ellen Sellers (Senior International Programs Manager) speaking on a workshop panel.

Breanna Willock (Director of Communications & Marketing) with other conference attendees at the Effect Hope booth.

Strengthening Bangladesh's Leprosy System for the Future

The PROYASH project has made significant progress to ensure people affected by leprosy in Bangladesh can access reliable, long-term care close to home. Even during a period of political instability and government transition, your support strengthened local health services. As a result, people affected by leprosy are now more likely to be identified early and with dignity.

Through PROYASH, government clinics have become far more capable of providing everyday leprosy care. Health workers can now diagnose cases earlier, manage basic complications, and guide patients through routine treatment. This has reduced dependence on outside organizations and helped place care where it belongs, within the public health system that communities rely on every day. Because of this shift, many people affected by leprosy are beginning to have a different experience when they seek care. More people are receiving treatment through mainstream services, closer to home, and with greater consistency. Improved communication and information sharing among health professionals has strengthened continuity of care and is helping to challenge stigma.

This progress reflects years of close collaboration with local partners and sustained investment in people and systems. Working alongside The Leprosy Mission International – Bangladesh and Lepra Bangladesh, health workers received hands-on training and ongoing mentorship that strengthened their ability to deliver quality care close to home.

As the project approaches its planned conclusion in 2026, Effect Hope's role evolves to support a responsible handover. Government health services will be increasingly positioned to lead routine leprosy care, with continued technical support available for complex cases. This approach is intended to help ensure care continues and strengthens over time.

Beyond the Cure: Redefining Life after Care

Many people affected by leprosy struggle with their mental health long after they have been cured due to years of isolation, rejection and cultural stigma. Effect Hope is undertaking a new research study to explore what "care after cure" should look like in India. The research team is developing practical, time specific checklists to guide holistic follow-up care—addressing mental health, stigma, economic challenges, and ongoing physical symptoms.

The goal is to shift leprosy care toward a broader concept of healing, empowering people to live well even with persistent effects. This work is funded by a Leprosy Research Initiative (LRI) research grant and developed in collaboration with The Leprosy Mission (TLM) Trust India, Stanley Brown Laboratory (SBL) and Effect Hope.

Empowering Livelihoods Post-Treatment

In Côte d'Ivoire, a vocational training centre within the RESTORE program is opening the door to real, long-term opportunities for people affected by neglected tropical diseases. Rather than being held back by stigma or disability, participants gain practical skills, build confidence, and access pathways to sustainable income that help them rebuild their lives with dignity and independence.

Co-funded by Leprosy Relief Canada, the centre provides hands-on skills training for patients undergoing treatment. Participants also receive a starter kit with the essential tools and materials they need, enabling them to begin their own small businesses as soon as they return to their communities.

As the project moves into its final phase, ending in December 2026, the focus is on setting the centre up for long-term success. This includes pursuing sustainable funding, strengthening oversight, and supporting local government leadership, with Effect Hope remaining involved through the steering committee.

Located in Adzopé and Bouaké, the goal is a self-sustaining centre that continues to empower people affected by NTDs long after external funding ends.

Turning Policy Into Action in Liberia

What it takes to make an invisible condition part of everyday care

The water hides it, but her body carries. It isn't rare; it's simply been unseen.

Female Genital Schistosomiasis (FGS) is estimated to affect over 56 million women and girls worldwide. It's invisible at first, but over time it can cause chronic pain, infertility, and social stigma. Despite its impact, FGS remains largely misdiagnosed and untreated within the health system. Access to proper care is further complicated by the fact that FGS presents in similar ways to sexually transmitted diseases.

In Liberia, the risk of FGS remains high, where access to clean water and adequate sanitation is still a challenge in many communities.

Together with the Ministry of Health and schistosomiasis expert Unlimit Health, Effect Hope is coordinating a ground-breaking initiative to bring FGS care into Liberia's national health system.

This is the first time FGS has been formally recognized and addressed within a national health policy, anywhere in the world.

In November 2025, we came to you with an ask: help Liberia bring FGS care into the mainstream. You responded with incredible generosity, raising over $100,000 to begin this groundbreaking work.

Thanks to your support, an integrated strategy to bring FGS care into Liberia's national health system was finalized – the first of its kind anywhere in the world. Rather than tackling one piece of the problem in isolation, this approach opens the door to comprehensive care for every single woman and girl at risk in Liberia.

FGS care will now be built directly into Liberia's national health system, woven into existing services that women already rely on. This includes cervical cancer screening, HIV/AIDS programs, and sexual and reproductive health care. That means every woman seeking help can walk into any point of care and receive the right diagnosis, treatment, and coordinated support she needs.

The next step is to introduce these services in a small number of counties. This means bringing prevention, screening, diagnosis, treatment, referrals, and community outreach together in one place. What we learn from this work will help show what works best, so the approach can be expanded across the country.

At the same time, we're working to build stronger political and financial support by improving coordination, strengthening reporting, and making the case for long-term national funding.

Through this work, Liberia is showing what is possible in the fight against one of the most overlooked diseases affecting women and girls. Over time, these efforts will help ensure that every woman and girl at risk of FGS, wherever she lives, can get the care, support, and protection she deserves.

Learn more about this groundbreaking work

As she carries out her daily chores in Liberia's waterways, women like her are finally gaining access to the FGS care they've long been denied.

The Year Ahead: What's Next

Future Direction for ASPIRE in Bihar

ASPIRE has shown that it is possible to find and treat multiple diseases more effectively by working in an integrated way. Building on what has already been learned, the project is now ready to move beyond a pilot and into a model that can work in everyday community settings across more communities in Bihar state, India.

In this next phase, government health services will increasingly take the lead. Effect Hope will shift into a technical support role, helping strengthen the public health system, share learning, and ensure the approach is practical and sustainable.

Expanding ASPIRE to additional districts creates the potential for many more individuals and families to be identified sooner and connected to care before conditions worsen. In Bihar alone, millions of people are at risk of leprosy and other neglected tropical diseases, yet many still lack access to services that can address complications early and effectively. Testing the model in different communities will help strengthen and refine the approach, ensuring it can respond to diverse needs while remaining practical and effective.

Sustaining Community Care Through Stronger CBG's

Backed by the Leprosy Research Initiative, Harmonised Model for Optimizing Peer Support Group Effectiveness (HOPE) is a research project focused on strengthening the long-term sustainability of Community-Based Groups (CBGs) involved in NTD care.

People living with these diseases often face serious challenges beyond physical symptoms,

Gathered in their community-based group in Côte d'Ivoire, these women turn shared struggles into strength, building a future where no one faces NTDs alone.

such as social exclusion and limited healthcare services including mental health support. CBGs have been shown to help, by offering emotional support and building community. But there's a problem: many of these groups don't last. Once outside funding or support from NGOs ends, the groups often fall apart.

In Nigeria and Côte d'Ivoire, the HOPE project is exploring what makes a CBG sustainable.

Over the past year, CBGs have shared their experiences, challenges, and hopes through focus group conversations. These insights are now being translated and documented so the voices of community members in Côte d'Ivoire and Nigeria directly shape what comes next.

The findings will be brought back to the CBGs themselves to co-design the next phase of the project, building practical solutions based on what they know works best in their communities. Looking ahead, the project will track progress and lessons learned to develop clear, practical guidance that can strengthen CBGs in these countries and beyond, equipping them with evidence based tools to remain resilient and effective over time.

We Couldn't Do This Without You!

Together, we are turning global progress into local impact — ensuring more people receive the care, support, and dignity they deserve.

Donate today by mail, phone or online at
TheImpactOfHope.ca

@effecthope

Select photos courtesy of Tom Bradley

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