



Activity
report
2022

Persevering for a brighter future

damien 

let's act now,
it's contagious

foundation

Our impact in 2022

> 14

countries where Damien Foundation is active

> 193,969

people successfully treated in the countries where we operate

- Leprosy : 18,186
- Tuberculosis : 169,418
- Tuberculosis multidrug resistant : 3,769
- Leishmaniasis : 2,348

> 257,329

new cases detected in the countries where we operate

- Leprosy : 25,550
- Tuberculosis : 222,654
- Tuberculosis multidrug resistant : 6,004
- Leishmaniasis : 3,121

> 23,382

people affected by a disease who received socio-economic support

- Leprosy : 2,590
- Tuberculosis : 19,126
- Tuberculosis multidrug resistant : 1,633
- Leishmaniasis : 33

> 3

diseases treated

- Leprosy
- Tuberculosis
- Leishmaniasis

> 28,354

people affected by leprosy received medical and surgical care

> 21

ongoing research projects

> 1,060

More than local staff

> 15,000

volunteers worldwide

Damien Foundation, under the patronage of HRH Princess Astrid of Belgium

The magic of connection

“What happens here has an impact elsewhere and vice versa...”

The events of last year are a reminder of how diseases have no borders. While Covid-19 continued to pose a threat worldwide, the WHO reported a significant increase in tuberculosis, including in Europe.

In Belgium, we experienced a series of economic and social crises that are still ongoing. Inflation, increase in the cost of living, high energy prices. Many organisations, including our own, have been severely affected by the consequences of this new reality.

In this difficult situation, Damien Foundation has persevered. The organisation has continued to provide quality medical care to the most vulnerable people around the world. In 2022, we did not stop investing, working hard and making progress with donations that unfortunately - unlike indexation - do not always increase.

In this difficult context, we carried out fundamental work on our organisation to put us on an even financial keel, improve the transparency of our decision-making process and introduce mechanisms to structure our interactions.

This effort led to the creation of a roadmap that will guide us through to 2025 with the goal of increasing information and knowledge sharing between the members of our organisation in Belgium and in our 13 intervention countries.

Leprosy, tuberculosis and leishmaniasis are diseases that primarily affect the world's most vulnerable. In November, I had the opportunity to visit India and to experience first-hand the magical connection that runs through our work.

Beyond the roles and responsibilities, it was the profound humanity that struck me most. It is when we put ourselves in the shoes of a mother at the bedside of her leprosy-afflicted daughter that we become fully aware of the proximity of a situation that, until then, felt far removed from us.

I would therefore like to extend a heartfelt thanks to the donors, volunteers, researchers, doctors and health workers who work with us to combat infectious diseases. Whatever our roles, responsibilities, desires and expectations, we all share the same ambition: to make access to healthcare pave the way toward a more equitable world.

Together, let's continue to weave this wonderful net that protects and changes lives.

Pascale Barnich
Managing Director

Contents

Who we are ?
04

Countries where we work
06

Three infectious diseases
08

Our achievements in 2022
10

Testimonial
23

International chain of solidarity
24

The patient pathway
26

At the heart of research
28

Sustainable partnerships
30

Financial results 2022
32

They are Damien Foundation, and so are you!
36

Testimonial
37

Who we are?

Our mission: to combat three diseases that affect millions of lives

Founded in 1964, Damien Foundation is a Belgian medical non-profit organisation that works to assist people who have leprosy, tuberculosis and leishmaniasis, that particularly affect the most vulnerable communities.

Why? Because every human being has the right to a dignified life and the best possible health.

“It is all the people we manage to help who are our driving force, our motivation. Their recovery is what our work is all about.”

— Luc Comhaire, Brussels



Our fields of action

- Support for national programmes to control infectious diseases
- Treatment and medical follow-up
- Active screening for diseases
- Information and awareness raising
- Education and training
- Innovation and scientific research
- Logistical support
- Socio-economic support (Care beyond Cure)
- Construction of health centres and laboratories

Essential medical assistance

Many factors such as poverty, malnutrition and poor living conditions influence the spread of infectious diseases. To provide every patient with the best possible chance of recovery, in close cooperation with the authorities of the countries in which we operate, we strive to provide them with the **diagnosis, treatment and socio-economic support** they need, including in the remotest of regions.



Comprehensive approach

We work towards a world that guarantees access to healthcare for all, and the general abrogation of precarity for a more equitable world. Operating in 14 countries and on 4 continents, we make a difference in the field through **awareness-raising** among populations, **quality healthcare**, **social reintegration**, **training local staff**, and **scientific research**.

Long-term vision

We have more than a thousand staff members and 99% of them are local. Intervening exclusively **at the request of the countries**, we have a **long-term commitment approach** and **pass the torch to local teams** when they have the resources needed to significantly fight these diseases.

For a future without leprosy, tuberculosis and leishmaniasis

In cooperation with field organisations, public health facilities, the authorities and NGOs in the countries where we are present, we persevere in our actions to ensure a future without leprosy, tuberculosis and leishmaniasis, in line with the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

- A quarter of the world's population lives below the poverty line.
- 3 million people live with a disability caused by leprosy.
- Every 20 seconds, a person dies from tuberculosis.



Our values

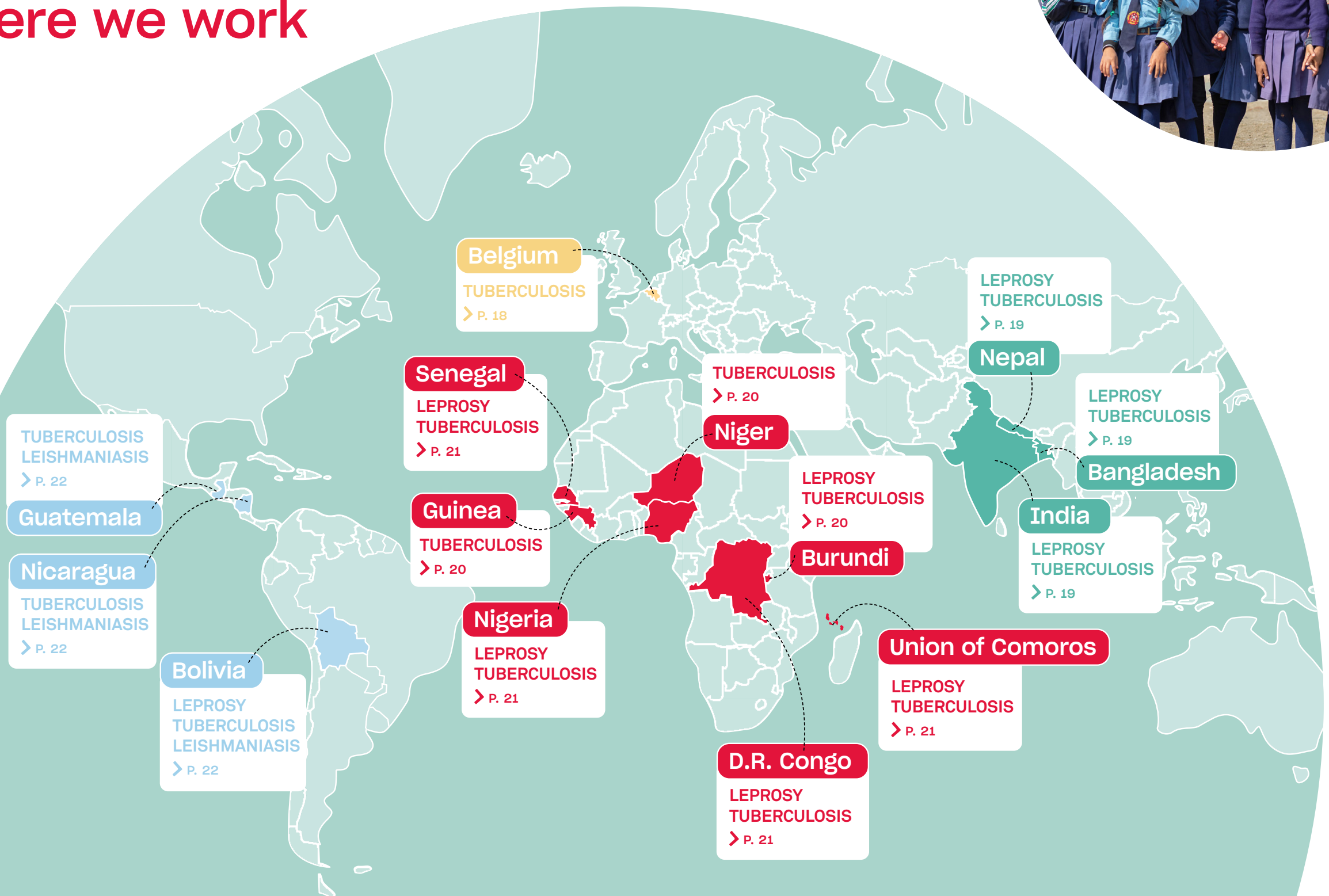
Pluralism > Independence > Responsibility > Integrity > Respect



Would you like to find out more?

Visit:
actiondamien.be
damiaanactie.be

Countries where we work



Three infectious diseases...

Leprosy, tuberculosis and leishmaniasis continue to claim many victims to this day. If treated on time, however, these diseases can be cured. To end transmission and contribute to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, Damien Foundation screens, treats and supports people affected by infectious diseases worldwide.

LEPROSY

Leprosy is a chronic infectious disease that mostly affects the skin, the peripheral nervous system, the eyes and the mucous membranes of the upper respiratory tract.



Every year, nearly 210,000 people contract the disease.

Although not fatal, it often causes permanent disabilities and social exclusion.



Every **2 minutes**, a person discovers they have leprosy.



6 million: that's the colossal number of people who suffer disability and discrimination every day due to leprosy.



99 % is the recovery rate if leprosy is diagnosed and treated early.

TUBERCULOSIS

Tuberculosis is a deadly infectious disease if left untreated. It mostly affects the lungs but can also affect other organs and areas of the body.



A quarter of the world's population has latent tuberculosis.

Every year, nearly 10 million people develop active tuberculosis and nearly 1.6 million die from the disease.



3 people die from tuberculosis every minute.



1 in 4 people worldwide carry the bacterium responsible for tuberculosis and are at risk of developing the disease.



95 % is the recovery rate if diagnosed and treated.

LEISHMANIASIS

Leishmaniasis is a parasitic disease transmitted by a small sand fly. The most common form is cutaneous leishmaniasis which causes chronic ulcers and deformities.



It is often confused with leprosy and, like people affected by leprosy, patients suffer stigmatisation and social exclusion.



20 days of treatment is all that is needed to cure cutaneous leishmaniasis. A new and even shorter treatment (heat therapy) is now available, offering encouraging results.



3 forms : cutaneous (the most common), mucocutaneous and visceral (the most fatal).



85 % is the recovery rate for leishmaniasis if diagnosed on time and treated correctly and in the absence of complications.

...various misconceptions!

During awareness-raising and fundraising campaigns, volunteers come across different reactions regarding leprosy, tuberculosis and leishmaniasis. Often poorly understood, these diseases are subject to certain myths or misconceptions. Here are three frequently asked questions asked by citizens in 2022. What would your answer be?

> Why do these diseases concern us?

Leprosy, tuberculosis and leishmaniasis are not distant diseases. They are primarily associated with precarity. Due to rising inequalities, increasing numbers of people are being affected by tuberculosis, including in Belgium where more than 800 cases are diagnosed every year. Yet, in order to develop sustainably, the world needs a healthy population!



> Leprosy still exists?

Yes! Every year, 210,000 cases of leprosy are detected in 150 countries around the world. When it is medically treated, leprosy is not fatal. Unfortunately, many people live with this disease due to lack of information.

To detect and treat leprosy as early as possible, Damien Foundation visits remote villages and detects the disease before complications arise.

> Are these diseases really a public health priority?

Today, tuberculosis is the second most deadly infectious disease in the world after Covid-19. So it is one of the most serious health problems worldwide. To achieve the Sustainable Development Goals set out by the United Nations, the WHO has committed to eliminating tuberculosis by 2035. Through its work, Damien Foundation actively contributes towards achieving this goal.

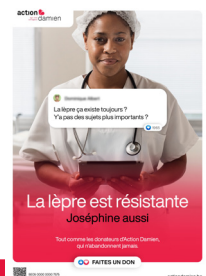
In 2022, Damien Foundation helped diagnose 257,329 new patients in the countries where it operates.

Our achievements in 2022

CAMPAIGN

Leprosy is persistent, but so are we

In January, volunteers were able to return to the streets once again for our annual leprosy campaign. The theme this year? Perseverance.



- Multi-channel awareness campaign
- Estimated audience: 7.6 million people
- 40,889 packets of pens sold

An opportunity to remind the world of the unwavering commitment of the organisation and all the patients, health workers, donors, volunteers and partners who are fighting for a future without leprosy. This disease is persistent, but so are they.

The results were encouraging despite the post-Covid context and the surge in energy prices due to the war in Ukraine. Well done to the teams and thank you to all the donors!



THANK YOU!

At the end of the campaign, our volunteers enjoyed a get-together at the Brasserie Caulier (Péruwelz).

MEETING

Visit from the Nepalese Ambassador

In February, we had the honour of receiving a visit from H.E. Gahendra Rajbhandari, Ambassador of Nepal to Belgium, and Suresh Adhikari, his minister-counsellor, at our offices.

An opportunity for Damien Foundation to strengthen its ties with the international community.

A few weeks later, Damien Foundation received further recognition in the form of the Otsuka Award, issued by the Nepal Anti-Tuberculosis Association (NATA) for the significant work our organisation has carried out in Nepal, particularly in its remotest regions. In 2022, we installed 6 satellite clinics in Sudurpashchim province.



BELGIUM

Treatment and housing for homeless patients



Among those affected by tuberculosis in our country, one in three live in Brussels and one in five are homeless. In 2022, Damien Foundation continued working with several Brussels associations to help the most vulnerable receive treatment.

The objective? To provide patients with appropriate treatment and housing, significantly increasing their chances of recovery. In total, 47 patients benefited from Damien Foundation-funded project, and 9 of those were provided with housing.



EDUCATION

Our educational offer revisited!

Informing people of all ages about themes such as inclusion or access to quality healthcare is also one of Damien Foundation's missions. By raising the awareness of school-aged children to the stigmatisation and discrimination faced by people with leprosy, tuberculosis and leishmaniasis, we encourage young people to become active and responsible citizens of the world.

Naturally, we wanted to keep our educational offer accessible to all, so we are now proposing a new format! All our educational offer can now be downloaded online, except for our new cooperative board game, which you can order in just a few clicks!



Are you a teacher looking for inspiration for your lessons?

Visit:

<https://actiondamien.be/agissez-avec-nous/sensibilisez-via-l-education/>
<https://damiaanactie.be/kom-in-actie/sensibiliseer-op-school/>

PRESS

Tuberculosis in the news

In March, on World TB Day, Damien Foundation sounded the alarm regarding the increase in tuberculosis cases, including in Belgium. This rise associated with growing precariousness is the result of several factors, such as the increase in energy prices, the consequences of the coronavirus pandemic, and migration flows.

Tuberculosis = the infectious disease with the second highest mortality rate in the world.

In total, more than 24 press articles and several radio interviews relayed the information, effectively spreading the word about this disease, which currently is the world's deadliest infectious disease after Covid-19.



WORLD

The twisted consequences of the pandemic

Tuberculosis is not the only disease to have surged in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic. The successive lockdowns had a drastic impact on the number of new infectious disease cases diagnosed.

In 2022, our screening activities were finally able to resume normally, revealing the extent of the damage. In Bangladesh, Bolivia and Senegal for example, the number of leprosy cases was rising, particularly among children, which suggests recent transmission of the disease. In Bolivia, Nicaragua and Guatemala, leishmaniasis has also wreaked havoc.

Faced with this unprecedented situation, Damien Foundation is not giving up. On the contrary! Our volunteers and doctors continue to work together to regain ground in the fight against disease.

Damien Foundation committed to the SDGs

Through its projects and interventions to tackle three infectious diseases, Damien Foundation contributes to achieving the SDGs.

Find out how our achievements contribute toward improving the prospects of everyone worldwide.

Our achievements in 2022

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY



INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

CEDA in the Democratic Republic of Congo

In April, Damien Foundation received a visit from Heidy Rombouts, General Manager for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid, at the CEDA in the Democratic Republic of Congo.



The Centre d'Excellence d'Action Damien in Kinshasa is a pioneer in the treatment of multidrug-resistant tuberculosis.

At the same time, just a few streets away, solar panels were being installed in the provincial coordination centres for leprosy and tuberculosis.

Thank you to our partner Groep Huyzentruyt for financing them.

1 NO POVERTY



3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



4 QUALITY EDUCATION



DIAGNOSIS

Detecting tuberculosis in children in India

Early detection of tuberculosis in children (0-14 years old) is essential to preventing the development of serious forms of the disease.

In India, Damien Foundation has developed a strategy to detect the disease in children as early as possible.

To facilitate diagnosis, a laboratory equipped with GeneXpert (a diagnosis device that is faster than sputum tests) has been made available. A field coordinator ensures that all at-risk children are fully tested.



In 2 years, this strategy has made it possible to detect and treat 199 new cases of tuberculosis in children.

Thanks to early detection, treatment can be started rapidly and a full recovery can be achieved. This makes it possible for children to continue their education and households to avoid heavy financial burdens.

INNOVATION

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



Intra-lesional leishmaniasis treatment in Bolivia

Farmers in the Bolivian jungle are a perfect target for the fly that carries the Leishmania parasite. Once stung, they develop cutaneous lesions that can worsen and cause deformities.



Damien Foundation has developed different techniques, such as intra-lesional treatment, to ensure their recovery.

Less toxic than the traditional intra-muscular treatment, this innovation was presented at the 7th World Congress on Leishmaniasis before an audience of 1,500 researchers, students and health professionals.

SUCCESS

Heat therapy in Nicaragua



Another alternative treatment for cutaneous leishmaniasis, heat therapy also continued to prove effective in 2022.

Already used in Guatemala, this technique has helped achieve excellent results in Nicaragua with a cure rate of 90%.

SCREENING

Wider use of GeneXpert in Guinea

In Guinea, tuberculosis remains a serious public health challenge. In 2022, Damien Foundation continued its efforts to improve the diagnosis and treatment of diseases through operational research projects conducted with the Institute of Tropical Medicine Antwerp.



In the field, 100% of patients at risk of multi-drug resistant tuberculosis underwent a GeneXpert test (which analyses the DNA of the bacterium). Regarding treatment, adoption of the short regimen along with nutritional support and free transport for patients helped us achieve good results.

What are the SDGs?

SDG is an abbreviation for Sustainable Development Goals.

These 17 goals were defined by the United Nations in 2015, to ensure prosperity for all and to make the world a better place.

More specifically, the SDGs aim to eradicate poverty, preserve the planet and promote peace and well-being of citizens around the world by 2030.

Which SDGs does Damien Foundation contribute toward ?

Damien Foundation contributes toward 12 of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, such as eradicating poverty and hunger (SDG 1 and 2), access to education and professional training (SDG 4), investment in research and innovative procedures (SDG 9), and reducing inequalities (SDG 10).

These goals are part of our organisation's broader mission, particularly access to healthcare for all (SDG 3).

Our achievements in 2022



SOCIO-ECONOMIC SUPPORT

Food parcels

Giving patients a helping hand to give them the strength to fight, is also one of Damien Foundation's missions.

Be it in Nicaragua, Guatemala, Niger, India or Bangladesh, our teams work with cooperatives or local sellers to distribute food parcels to the families most in need.

And this is reflected in the cure rate! In Nicaragua, the mortality rate for people with tuberculosis has been halved.



LEGACIES

Day of the Floralia of Ghent

Some made us the sole beneficiary of their Will, others bequeathed a portion of their estate... They deserve our thanks. After the upheaval of the Covid-19 pandemic, we were able to get together once again and express our gratitude to twenty or so generous donors during an informal gathering at the Floralia of Ghent.

EXPERTISE

Assistance for Guatemala

In the countries in which we operate, our organisation has a reputation we can be proud of.

In Guatemala, Damien Foundation supported the National tuberculosis control programme in treating 107 cases of complicated tuberculosis.

In such cases, the country usually works with national experts.

These experts called on Damien Foundation's Guatemala and Brussels teams for assistance and, naturally, we responded!



CROWDFUNDING

Renovation in Nigeria

A fundraiser that exceeded all expectations! For their departure on retirement, three Damien Foundation colleagues launched a crowdfunding campaign to assist patients affected by leprosy in the village of Ago-Ireti in Nigeria.



They successfully raised 29,000 euros, enough to fund the construction of housing and new sanitary facilities and provide children with school supplies. Thank you to all those who contributed!



DONATIONS

Additional campaign

Following the surge in energy prices and the media focus on the war in Ukraine, total donations received in the first quarter of 2022 were lower than the previous year.

To continue to be able to assist patients and their families, we responded with an additional donation campaign in May.

Thank you to all those who participated!



COOPERATION

Training in Senegal

Involved in scientific research, Damien Foundation invests in training and helps disseminate knowledge in the fight against infectious diseases.

In Senegal, we organised an international training programme on multidrug-resistant tuberculosis which brought together 26 medical participants wishing to develop their skills in treating the disease.

In collaboration with the National leprosy control programme (PNEL), we were also able to train 38 health workers in the diagnosis and treatment of neglected tropical diseases.

An initiative that enabled the detection of 148 new leprosy cases in 2022!



EXPERTISE

Pharmacovigilance guide in Niger

Pioneers in the short regimen for multidrug-resistant tuberculosis, our teams in Niger prepared a pharmacovigilance guide together with the WHO.

The objective? To help health professionals manage the side effect of drugs used to treat this serious form of the disease.



The guide is now widely applied in the French-speaking countries of West Africa.

84%: cure rate for multidrug-resistant tuberculosis in Niger thanks to the short regimen developed by Damien Foundation (compared with 60% worldwide).



EXPERTISE

School

Returning to school is an uphill struggle for a child with leprosy. To combat discrimination, Damien Foundation supports access to education for the most impoverished.



This support covers school bags, uniforms, sandals, school manuals and notebooks, and grants for university and secondary school students. In 2022, more than 850 children and young people benefited from this intervention in Burundi, and 350 in the south-west of Nigeria.



Would you like to know more about these 12 SDGs?

Visit our website : actiondamien.be/odd
damiaanactie.be/sdg

Our achievements in 2022

SELF-FINANCING



Patient associations in Burundi

In the endemic provinces of Burundi, Damien Foundation helps people affected by leprosy rebuild their lives within patient and survivor associations.

We support the creation of income-generating micro-projects, in partnership with a local NGO. Agriculture, livestock, microcredit...

In 2022, 26 associations with a total of 660 members benefited from this support.



RESEARCH



New study in the Comoros

There is not yet a vaccine for leprosy. To try and stop its spread, we are working closely with the Institute of Tropical Diseases in Antwerp to gain a greater understanding of its transmission, find a preventive treatment, and advise policy makers on the best strategies to eradicate leprosy.

As part of these efforts, BE-PEOPLE was created: a new study conducted in the Comoros to prevent people who have been in direct contact with the leprosy bacterium from developing the disease.



Based on a sample of the population treated with rifampicin and bedaquiline, the results are encouraging.

In 2023-2026, the BE-PEOPLE study will assess whether this approach stops the transmission of leprosy and provides better protection than single-dose rifampicin.

SPONSORING

Young volunteers at festivals

In the summer, 170 young people made an incredible contribution at the Dour and Ronquières festivals.

Particularly involved in welcoming festivalgoers, their initiative to support Damien Foundation made it possible to treat 242 patients.

A big thank you to them!

VOLUNTEERS

Damien Foundation Day

This day is a symbol of the effort and perseverance that our volunteers demonstrate in helping Damien Foundation achieve its goals.

In November, this day for volunteers was inspiring for more than one reason! During the event, Dr Nimer Ortuño-Gutiérrez, member of our research team, presented the initial results of the BE-PEOPLE study being carried out in the Comoros.

We also had the opportunity to talk live with Soirfane Ibrahim, a nurse in the field.

A great way to talk about our operational research developments, and also to foster motivation and promote information and knowledge sharing!

TREATMENT



Therapeutic success in Bangladesh

Thanks to the fantastic work by village doctors in Bangladesh, the treatment success rate for tuberculosis hit a new record of 92%.

This is great news given that Damien Foundation detected 36,414 new cases in the country in 2022, which is a 12% increase year on year.

These numbers show the importance of continuing screening, diagnosis and treatment activities to combat infectious diseases in Bangladesh.

This fieldwork will now be coordinated by Dr Mahfuza Rifat, the new representative for the country appointed at the end of 2022.

We wish her a warm welcome!

YA LITERATURE

The Molokai trilogy

Avid readers will be delighted to learn that 2022 saw the release of the second instalment in Guy Didelez' trilogy.

Available in its entirety since January 2023, this saga is a great way to raise young people's awareness about life on the Island of Molokai at the time of Father Damien.

And guess what? The quarantine and social isolation imposed on the islanders is strangely reminiscent of the initial waves of the Covid-19 pandemic.



Want to find out more?

More information at

(only available in Dutch!)



Would you like to associate your company with our organisation by contributing to these SDGs?

Contact us:

+32(0)2 422 59 11

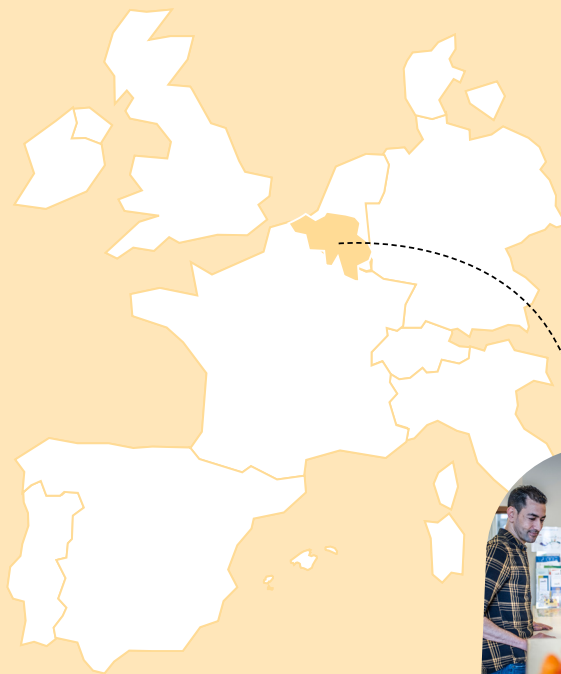
corporate@damienfoundation.be

At the 21st World Congress on Leprosy in Hyderabad on 8-11 November, Pascale Barnich met with local health workers, patients and programme coordinators in India.



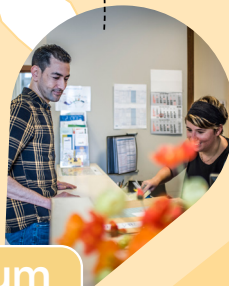
Her mission? To highlight the connections of interdependence that unite all of humanity, strengthen cooperation at every level of the organisation and promote information and knowledge sharing in the countries where Damien Foundation operates.

Europe



“We represent a small, but crucial moment in the life of homeless tuberculosis patients, by guiding them on the road to recovery and independence.”

— Andy Vandermeersch, Vrienden Van het Huizeke



Belgium

➤ **Partner country since**
2015

Local representative
Luc Comhaire

Partners
BELTA & Vrienden van het Huizeke
Tuberculosis programme - Brussels

Budget
€232.375 toward this project

Patients detected during the year
Tuberculosis : 48
Tuberculosis multidrug resistant : 0

People affected by a disease who received socio-economic support
Tuberculosis : 65

Asia



“Nothing pleases me more than to see the people we have helped in good health, independent and active within their community.”

— Dr M Shivakumar



Nepal

➤ **Partner country since**
2017

Local representative
Dr Sushil Koirala

Partners
Ministry of Health, Department of Social Welfare
National control programmes against tuberculosis (NTCC) and leprosy (NLCP)
2 local NGOs: Partnership for New Life (Butwal) and TB-Nepal (Nepalgunj) and 3 local hospitals (Dadeldura, Midpoint and Dhangadhi)

Budget
€328.795 toward this project

Patients detected during the year
Leprosy : 266
Tuberculosis : 850
Tuberculosis multidrug resistant : 60

People affected by a disease who received socio-economic support
Leprosy : 200
Tuberculosis : 92



India

➤ **Partner country since**
1964

Local representative
Dr M Shivakumar

Partners
Ministries of Health of Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh
National leprosy and tuberculosis control programmes
9 NGOs in the states of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Jharkhand, Maharashtra and Bihar

Budget
€1.404.441 toward this project

Patients detected during the year
Leprosy : 21 719
Tuberculosis : 4 791
Tuberculosis multidrug resistant : 1 702

People affected by a disease who received socio-economic support
Leprosy : 175
Tuberculosis : 427



Bangladesh

➤ **Partner country since**
1972

Local representative
Dr Rifat Mahfuza

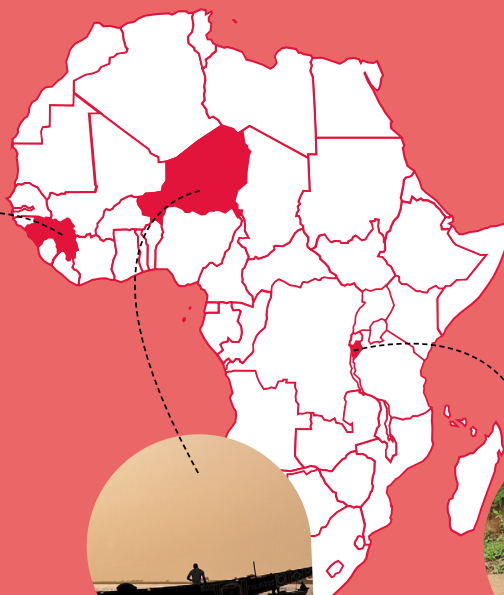
Partners
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
National tuberculosis and leprosy control programme (NTBLCP), National Tuberculosis Control Programme (NTP) and National Leprosy Elimination Programme (NLEP)
DGD, The Global Fund, USAID

Budget
€2.561.557 toward this project

Patients detected during the year
Leprosy : 223
Tuberculosis : 36 416
Tuberculosis multidrug resistant : 299

People affected by a disease who received socio-economic support
Leprosy : 8
Tuberculosis : 16 463

Africa



“The success of our actions is reflected in the lives of the people we assist and which gives us renewed hope.”

— Ivy Sule



Guinea

➤ Partner country since 2007

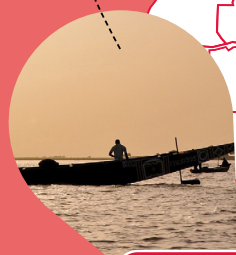
Local representative
Dr Souleymane Hassane Harouna

Partners
Ministry of Health
National tuberculosis control programme (PNALT)
DGD, The Global Fund

Budget
€391.125 toward this project

Patients detected during the year
Tuberculosis : 11 246
Tuberculosis multidrug resistant : 235

People affected by a disease who received socio-economic support
Leprosy : 1 426
Tuberculosis : 487



Niger

➤ Partner country since 2007

Local representative
Dr Mahamadou Bassirou Souleymane

Partners
Ministry of Public Health, Population and Social Affairs
National tuberculosis control programme (PNLT), Regional public health departments of Tillabéri and Maradi
DGD, Fonds Mondial, IMT Anvers, Université Abdou Moumouni de Niamey, Médecins du Monde, Humanité et Inclusion

Budget
€561.326 toward this project

Patients detected during the year
Tuberculosis : 4 150
Tuberculosis multidrug resistant : 121

People affected by a disease who received socio-economic support
Tuberculosis : 121



Burundi

➤ Partner country since 1964

Local representative
Dr Michel Sawadogo

Partners
Ministry of Public Health
National integrated leprosy and tuberculosis programme (PNILT)
DGD, local NGO YEZU MWIZA, WBI

Budget
€463.685 toward this project

Patients detected during the year
Leprosy : 497
Tuberculosis : 7 670
Tuberculosis multidrug resistant : 47

People affected by a disease who received socio-economic support
Leprosy : 1 350
Tuberculosis : 83

➤ Partner country since 2017

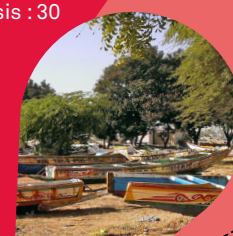
Local representative
Dr Gilbert Batista

Partners
Ministry of Health and Social Action
National tuberculosis control programme (PNT) and the National leprosy control programme (PNEL)
DGD

Budget
€315.413 toward this project

Patients detected during the year
Leprosy : 124
Tuberculosis : 12 164
Tuberculosis multidrug resistant : 83

People affected by a disease who received socio-economic support
Leprosy : 56
Tuberculosis : 30



Senegal

➤ Partner country since 1964

Local representative
Dr Pierre Umba

Partners
Ministry of Health, Hygiene & Prevention, provincial public health units, health zones
National tuberculosis control programme (PNLT), the National leprosy control programme (PNEL)
Local NGOs, FRB, The Global Fund

Budget
€3.694.478 toward this project

Patients detected during the year
Leprosy : 2 275
Tuberculosis : 119 022
Tuberculosis multidrug resistant : 929

People affected by a disease who received socio-economic support
Leprosy : 416
Tuberculosis : 194



Nigeria

➤ Partner country since 1991

Local representative
Ivy Sule

Partners
Ministry of Public Health
National Tuberculosis and Leprosy Control Programme (NTBLCP)
The Global Fund, OMS, Johnson & Johnson

Budget
€454.482 toward this project

Patients detected during the year
Leprosy : 180
Tuberculosis : 20 570
Tuberculosis multidrug resistant : 2 450

People affected by a disease who received socio-economic support
Leprosy : 15
Tuberculosis : 1 550



Union of Comoros

➤ Partner country since 1979

Local representative
Dr Younoussa Assoumani

Partners
Ministry of Public Health
National leprosy and tuberculosis control programme (PNLT)

Budget
€183.608 toward this project

Patients detected during the year
Leprosy : 263
Tuberculosis : 109

People affected by a disease who received socio-economic support
Leprosy : 350
Tuberculosis : 180

Latin-America

“What motivates us is the appreciation expressed by every family we visit.”

— Dr Lourdes Gutiérrez



Guatemala

➤ **Partner country since**
1993

Local representative
Dr Lourdes Gutiérrez

Partners
Ministry of Public Health
Tuberculosis and leishmaniasis control programmes
Local municipalities

Budget
€246.994 toward this project

Patients detected during the year
Tuberculosis : 4 041
Tuberculosis multidrug resistant : 66
Leishmaniasis : 1 437

People affected by a disease who received socio-economic support
Tuberculosis : 488
Leishmaniasis : 4



Nicaragua

➤ **Partner country since**
1990

Local representative
Dr Manuel Bravo Reyes

Partners
Ministry of Health (MINSAL)
National tuberculosis and leishmaniasis control programmes
The Global Fund and PROSALUD (local NGO)

Budget
€1.163.591 toward this project

Patients detected during the year
Tuberculosis : 421
Tuberculosis multidrug resistant : 4
Leishmaniasis : 1 322

People affected by a disease who received socio-economic support
Tuberculosis : 174
Leishmaniasis : 22



Bolivia

➤ **Partner country since**
2016

Local representative
Rebeca Ledezma

Partners
Ministry of Health, (Cochabamba department)
National tuberculosis, leishmaniasis and leprosy control programmes
Biomedical research institute of the University of San Simón (IIBISMED), the Ecole Technique de Santé (ETS) and the Liga Voluntaria Antituberculosa

Budget
€163.265 toward this project

Patients detected during the year
Leprosy : 3
Tuberculosis : 1 156
Tuberculosis multidrug resistant : 8
Leishmaniasis : 362

People affected by a disease who received socio-economic support
Leprosy : 20
Tuberculosis : 405
Leishmaniasis : 7

Testimonial



“I had a strange wound that was hurting more and more...”

— Astrid, patient cured of leishmaniasis in Guatemala

Her name is Astrid and she is 12 years old. A year ago, Astrid contracted leishmaniasis after being stung by an insect. As her older sister had already had the disease, her parents knew what to do and contacted Damien Foundation.

Our local teams immediately administered an injection-based treatment. Today, the girl is fully cured and has a bright future ahead of her. And that is thanks to your support!



"I was really scared when I saw my wound getting bigger. I had been into the jungle with my parents to find cardamom and I got stung. It was itchy and when I went to school, I covered my arm so that the others wouldn't tease me. That situation lasted five months. Then Damien Foundation took care of me. Now, I'm fine and I'm thinking about what I would like to do when I'm older..."

— In Guatemala, children afflicted with infectious diseases like leishmaniasis are often rejected, even within their own families. Edgard goes into the mountains to treat them and inform their parents.



International chain of solidarity: the invisible connections that unite us

In 2022, our organisation continued to persevere against infectious diseases. In the field of health, we are all interdependent.

Thank you to the doctors, nurses, laboratory technicians, physiotherapists, drivers, project managers, volunteers, donors and partners who support people affected by disease in providing them with medical, moral and financial support.

Together, we continue to work to drive back leprosy, tuberculosis and leishmaniasis and build a fairer world. Let's take a closer look at this amazing chain of solidarity in which everyone contributes, beyond their role and responsibilities, toward a common destiny.

Patients > Health workers > Damien Foundation team > Volunteers > Donors

People affected by infectious diseases

Without their courage, nothing would be possible. Often excluded and stigmatised, patients need quality healthcare to ensure their recovery and resume a dignified life, supported by an economic activity and reintegration into society.



“Leprosy turned my life upside-down, but I kept going until I got my diploma. Soon, I'll be able to start higher education.”

— Fenuga, former leprosy patient in Nigeria

Damien Foundation's teams in the countries where we operate

The beating heart of our organisation, Damien Foundation's field teams are mainly made up of health workers. Doctors, nurses, physiotherapists or researchers, they use their medical skills to help the most vulnerable communities. Their mission? To detect, treat, train and inform... without discrimination or prejudice.

“We spent two months in Guinea and the people here are incredibly caring. If Damien Foundation teams weren't there, thousands of people would die of tuberculosis!”

— Léa and Carlyne, nursing interns in Guinea



Damien Foundation's teams at the Brussels office

Staff at Damien Foundation offices in Belgium coordinate research, contribute internationally as medical experts, run visibility campaigns and fundraising initiatives, recruit and coordinate volunteers in Belgium, and coordinate the programmes in the partner countries.

Volunteers

Ambassadors of our organisation around the world, volunteers contribute toward the organisation's mission to provide vital assistance to the most vulnerable populations. Determined, they are a never-ending source of ideas to provide tangible support to the association, carry out awareness-raising actions, or raise funds to help people affected by infectious diseases.

“It all started in 2009, on a trip with some pupils. As a result of this experience, KarmaTeam was created: an amazing team that raises funds every year for Damien Foundation. I'm delighted to lead this initiative. The pupils are always coming up with new ideas, such as the KarmaQuiz, the KarmaParty or the KarmaCafé... My role is to help them make these ideas reality!”

— Tom, volunteer and teacher at Sint-Jan Berchmanscollege in Diest



In Nepal, we work with **Female Community Health Volunteers**, a group of volunteer women who form the link between the health services and people affected by disease in remote communities.



Are you interested in skills-based volunteering?

There are several ways to save lives!
Do you have expertise or a specific interest (finance, IT, administration, languages, etc.)?
Do you have a few hours a week or month to spare?

Contact us:
volunteers@damienfoundation.be



The patient pathway

There are several steps that must be taken to recover from a disease. Some are easily overcome while others are more difficult. This is known as the “patient pathway”.

To remove the barriers that may be encountered along this path, Damien Foundation takes a holistic approach that goes well beyond treatment. The challenge? To enable everyone to regain their health and their dignity.

7 steps to recovery



1

Health awareness

“Before, I loved to jump, run, paint and draw... But I had to stop because of the wounds on my hands and feet.”

— Adela, patient affected by leprosy in Bolivia



Obstacles : lack of information and awareness of the disease



2

Health seeking

“Here in Nepal, patients are too afraid to visit their local clinics, because they are afraid that people they know will find out about their condition.”

— Dr Alberto Roggi, medical advisor for the Damien Foundation's Nepalese projects



Obstacles : social stigmatisation, cultural beliefs



3

Access to health

“My father did not have the means to pay for my medical care. I lost both of my legs to the disease.”

— Abdoul, patient affected by leprosy in Senegal



Obstacles : lack of resources, social inequality, geographical distance



In Belgium, the last law discriminating against people affected by leprosy was only revoked in 2003. Today, there are still 139 such laws around the world.



4

Correct diagnosis

“I was told I had Covid-19, but after several negative tests, I found out that I had tuberculosis.”

— Traoré Alpha, patient affected by tuberculosis in Belgium



Obstacles : lack of laboratories and qualified staff, confusion with other diseases



5

Appropriate and effective treatment

“I had lost the use of my hand. Thanks to surgery and some physiotherapy exercises, I regained flexibility in my fingers.”

— Rejani, patient cured of leprosy in India



Obstacles : lack of medicine, incorrect treatment, lack of follow-up, loss of attention



6

Recovery

“When you see the condition that patients are in when they first come to us, it seems that they will never recover, but thanks to the medicines and the advice we give them, they do!”

— Juliette, health worker in the Democratic Republic of Congo



Obstacles : interrupted treatment or development of drug resistance (in the case of tuberculosis)

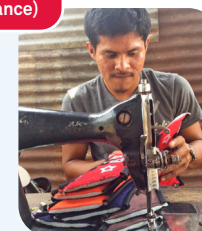


7

Reintegration into society (via socio-economic and medical assistance)

“Thanks to Damien Foundation, I was able to open my children's clothing shop and I now make slippers. I can now provide for my family.”

— William, patient cured of tuberculosis in Guatemala



Obstacles : social stigmatisation, effects of the disease, lack of income

At the heart of research

To achieve the objectives of national programmes to control leprosy, tuberculosis and leishmaniasis, Damien Foundation provides support through its research unit.

Coordinated by Dr Nimer Ortuño-Gutiérrez, this unit gathers medical advisers, representatives of the countries in which we operate, and external researchers from the Institute of Tropical Medicine, the WHO and Médecins Sans Frontières.

Their missions? To increase the quality of the healthcare provided and develop innovative preventive or screening activities on a global scale and based on our local experiences.



Eliminating leprosy in the Comoros is my main motivation

Dr Zahara is a dermatologist participating in the BE-PEOPLE (Bedaquiline Enhanced Exposure Prophylaxis for Leprosy) study in the Comoros, in the Indian Ocean. Every week she visits villages on the island of Anjouan where she goes door-to-door to examine people who have been in contact with new leprosy cases in order to detect the disease.

«The BE-PEOPLE research is extremely important because it will assess a preventive treatment to prevent the spread of leprosy. If the results are conclusive, it will enable players in the fight against leprosy to apply them to other countries in order to prevent the chain of transmission. The goal is to eradicate leprosy as a public health problem. Leprosy is not a disease to be ashamed of. Full recovery, without after-effects, is possible if diagnosis and treatment are performed quickly. That is why we cannot wait for patients to seek us out. We must go and look for them in the villages.»

— Dr Zahara Salim, leading female dermatologist in the Union of the Comoros and head of the dermato-physiology department at Anjouan hospital.

“When the doctors come to our village, everyone knows about it straight away! And if someone is sick or has marks on their skin, they are quickly taken to see Dr Zahara.”

— Kayel, 9-year-old child affected by leprosy



In 2022

In 2022, Damien Foundation's research unit was involved in 21 operational research projects worldwide.

Highlights

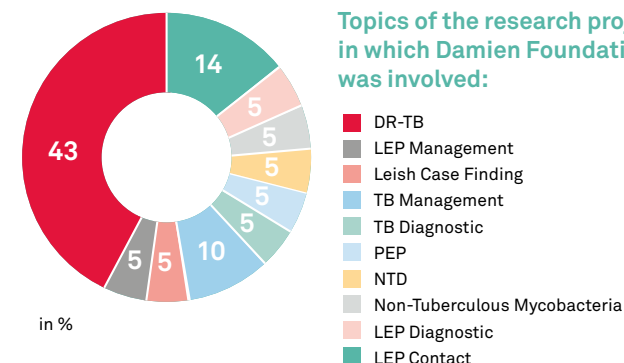
- Our projects were carried out in 11 of our partner countries, including 4 in Bolivia.
- These studies are conducted in cooperation with international research institutions, national programmes and local research institutions.
- The research themes are aligned with the global research programme.
- This research led to the publication of 15 scientific articles.
- Thanks to our partnership with the Institute of Tropical Medicine in Antwerp (ITM), we continued 2 studies into the genetic and molecular characteristics of strains of multidrug-resistant tuberculosis.



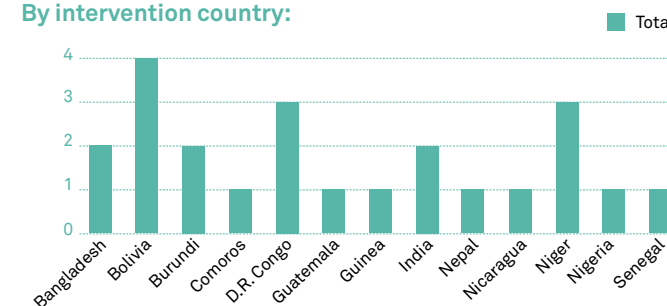
— In the Comoros, the health of people affected by leprosy is encoded online so that Damien Foundation and its research partners can closely monitor the evolution of the disease in the archipelago.



Topics of the research projects in which Damien Foundation was involved:



By intervention country:



Two key fields:

Treatment of multidrug-resistant tuberculosis (9 studies in 2022)

Multidrug-resistant tuberculosis is a form of tuberculosis that is resistant to medicines. It requires treatment regimens based on the pharmacoresistance profile. Damien Foundation has conducted numerous studies in this field. In 2022, we demonstrated the effectiveness of bedaquiline in the therapeutic regimen for tuberculosis resistant to rifampicin, isoniazid and fluoroquinolones.

Detecting leprosy in contact cases (3 studies in 2022)

In the fight against leprosy, screening people who have been in contact with newly detected cases in endemic regions is a major challenge. In 2022, our researchers published the findings of their study aimed at improving active screening in the north-east of India, a region particularly affected by the disease.



Thanks to your support, Damien Foundation invested €393,339 in research in 2022.

THANK YOU

Sustainable partnerships

Damien Foundation works closely with public health organisations, local authorities, national and international NGOs, universities and research institutes. Their perseverance in 2022 should also be highlighted.

It is only thanks to the help of these institutions and private and public partners that we can achieve our mission. Together, we can eradicate leprosy, tuberculosis and leishmaniasis. **Thank you to everyone!**

Our partner organizations in 2022:



Tilman laboratory, partner since 2008

Tilman laboratory is a family business in Baillonville, Luxembourg. A specialist in phytotherapy and medicinal plants, it has more than 200 employees and sells its products in 30 countries worldwide. Working alongside Damien Foundation for 15 years, it supports us daily in a solid and sustainable partnership.

"We began our partnership with Damien Foundation in 2008. The principle is simple. Every time a box of Biolys tea is sold, we give €0.50 to the association. It is not much, but it adds up! Because with 50 euros, Damien Foundation can save a life. Which is fantastic! Thanks to our cumulative contributions, we are proud to have been able to save more than 10,123 lives. And we have every intention of continuing! The work accomplished by the Damien Foundation teams is fundamental because they enable people to get treatment and recover, and that is wonderful!"

— Jean-Noël Tilman, pharmacist
and CEO of the Laboratoire Tilman

*"Our existence only
has meaning if it
helps improve that
of others."*



*Thank you to our partner
businesses for their
precious contribution
toward achieving
our objectives!*



Would you like to support
a specific project or make
a spontaneous donation in your
company's name?

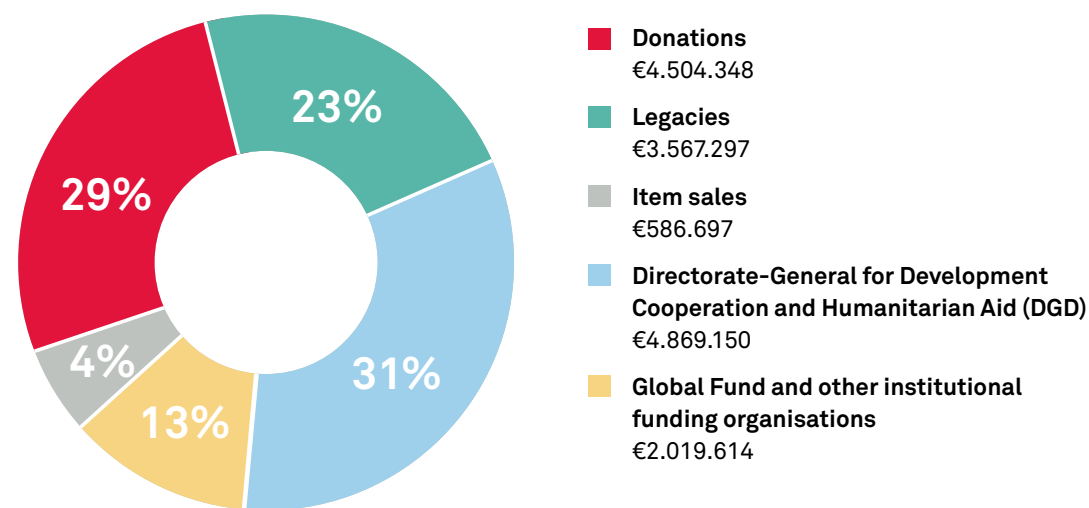
Visit:
actiondamien.be/entreprises
damiaanactie.be/bedrijven



Financial results 2022

A challenging year as for all actors involved in international solidarity.
With working perspectives resolutely turned towards the future.

INCOMES 2022



Like many players in the international solidarity sector, Damien Foundation's income decreased significantly over the course of the 2022 financial year.

At the end of the year, income stood at €15.6 million, down €3.6 million compared to 2021.

This decrease was primarily due to a decrease in income from legacies (€-2 million compared to 2021), donations (€-340,000) and institutional funding (€-561.000).

In a difficult economic and political context, rising energy bills and inflation have undeniably changed donors behaviour.

According to the information platform Fundraisers.be, the generosity of Belgians decreased by 8.5% in 2022.

For Damien Foundation, other factors such as unfavourable exchange rates and Belgian salary indexation also had a serious impact.

The same applies to income from legacies, which is volatile and decreased following a drop in the total amount of legacies received.

Despite these difficulties, Damien Foundation managed to maintain its spending at the same level as the previous year.

Thanks to our reserves, we were able to honour our commitments and continue to strive to give people affected by leprosy, tuberculosis and leishmaniasis access to healthcare and a dignified life.

However, stabilising the organisation's financial situation in such turbulent times requires a more in-depth approach.

For this reason, Damien Foundation decided to carry out substantial work to balance the budget by 2025.



Three objectives to achieve by 2025

- **Manage our income** by diversifying our project funding.
- **Reduce costs**, as long as this does not interfere with the health and well-being of people affected by leprosy, tuberculosis, leishmaniasis and other infectious diseases.
- **Develop a new vision** that takes into account the changes in our times and in the sector, while remaining true to Damien Foundation's primary mission.

To reconcile these three key goals, an integrated and coherent approach is essential. It is clear that, at this stage, massive budget cuts would be detrimental to our beneficiaries and are therefore not an option.

However, ignoring the profound changes happening in society would be irresponsible. That is why we have created a special committee made up of people from each department and from the Board of Directors to achieve our new goal and make the subsequent changes to our association.

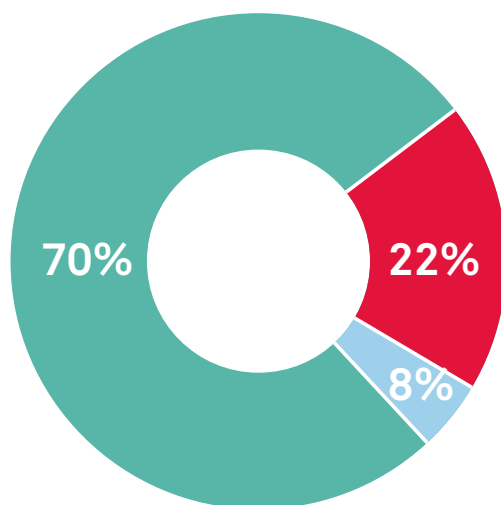
In a world where the quest for performance has become the norm, Damien Foundation's objective is more pressing than ever before.

We are therefore confident in our capacity to reinvent ourselves and to continue to live up to our values in Belgium and abroad.



What do we do with your donations?

DONATION ALLOCATION 2022



- Programmes
- Administration & finances
- Communication, fundraising & volunteers

Damien Foundation manages its available funds in a transparent manner. Our financial accounts are reviewed by the Board of Directors and approved by the General Assembly.

They are also verified by our auditors, Mazars, who annually assesses the conformity of all the organisation's financial data according to legal standards.

All expenditure is carried out according to strict procedures. A financial committee of 4 unpaid members and 2 staff members (the general manager and the finance manager) oversees compliance with these procedures and with the approved budget.

Additionally, the institutional funding organisations that finance our projects, the Directorate-General for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid (DGD) and the Federal Public Service Finance, carry out regular audits.



Damien Foundation is also a member of the Association for Ethical Fundraising (AERF) and complies with the AERF's code of ethics.

Did you know?

Damien Foundation also has its own code of ethics and does its utmost to ensure they are correctly applied.

In 2022, two integrity issues reported in several programmes abroad were dealt with.

Both cases were followed up and appropriate measures were taken. Naturally, we remain vigilant and are pursuing efforts to implement qualitative solutions in the event that our integrity policy is breached, both in Belgium and as part of our programmes abroad.

When you give €100 to Damien Foundation, this is how your generosity is used:

€70 goes directly to our projects

Damien Foundation makes a real difference in the lives of the most vulnerable people around the world.

The majority of your donations are used to provide quality medicines and medical equipment and to train staff such as nurses, laboratory technicians and doctors.

Your support also makes it possible to provide technical assistance, share best practices and carry out quality audits, which guarantee that every euro invested has the greatest possible impact.

A considerable portion of this budget is also allocated to operational research.

€22 is dedicated to fundraising expenses

Fundraising campaigns, efforts to find institutional funds, communication tools... In order to get donors' attention, we need the means to be seen and heard.

A portion of your donation is therefore used to raise awareness about our work among the public. But that's not all!

Your contribution also allows us to coordinate the network of volunteers and carry out educational activities in schools against stigmatisation and for global citizenship.

In all instances, for every action we undertake, a thorough cost-benefit analysis is carried out.

€8 is used to ensure the smooth running of the association

If we want to ensure our action is long-term and achieve the transparency required by our funders, we must have quality accounting, logistics, human resources and IT. This work is carried out by our team members at the Brussels office.

View our full Balance Sheet 2022 at

<https://consult.cbso.nbb.be/consult-enterprise/0406694670>

or on the portal for NGOs recognised by the Belgian government
www.ong-livreouvert.be

They are Damien Foundation, and so are you!

Would you like to take action for a fairer and more equitable world?

Join Damien Foundation's chain of solidarity.

Become a volunteer

There are three opportunities:

Share your skills

Are you interested in project management, finance, healthcare, content creation, languages or photography? Your talent can help our organisation.

Educate and raise awareness

Are you a teacher, instructor or former scout leader? Become an animator and raise children's awareness of our work.

Fundraising

Would you like to organise your own event, sell pens, or get sponsorships for your sporting endeavours? Welcome!

The Volunteering & Education team would be happy to help you with your project.

Send an email to volunteers@damienfoundation.be or fill in the online form:

<https://portal.damienfoundation.be/contactus> (French)

https://portal.damienfoundation.be/nl_BE/contactus (Dutch)

Give once or every month...

Either way, you will be helping us to save lives. No amount is too small. Any and every donation counts...

Our bank account number:
BE05 0000 0000 7575

For any gift of over €40 a year, you will be eligible for a tax deduction of up to 45%.

Include Damien Foundation in your will or make a generous donation

Would you like to play a role in the fight against leprosy, tuberculosis and leishmaniasis by making a sizeable donation, or even when you are no longer with us? It's a wonderful gift that you can offer those affected by these diseases.

Greetje Wassenberg will be happy to answer your questions in total confidentiality on +32 (0) 2 422 59 11 or by email:
greetje.wassenberg@damienfoundation.be

A free brochure is also available on request.

Let's work together to help those most in need.



Testimonial



"I made a bequest to Damien Foundation because I know the challenges they deal with."

— Tine Demeulenaere, retired medical advisor and volunteer

Tine has dedicated her life to fighting leprosy and tuberculosis within vulnerable populations. Medical advisor for more than 20 years with Damien Foundation, she retired in 2022. Today, she has chosen to include our association in her Will. Her gift will enable health workers to continue to change lives, in countries where needs are gigantic.

"Over the course of my career, I have worked with many associations and I can say that Damien Foundation makes a genuine difference in the field. By enabling early diagnosis and treatment of infectious diseases and by making a long-term commitment, it is an organisation that provides effective support in the countries where it operates. That is why I wanted to bequeath part of my estate to Damien Foundation. I'm 65 and hope to enjoy many more beautiful experiences, but I don't have any children. I want my money to enable Damien Foundation to continue to change the lives of those living in precarious situations and those who are left behind. My family know of my intentions and approve!"

Every year, Damien Foundation successfully treats a quarter of a million people affected by infectious diseases worldwide!

Thank you to all our donors and volunteers!



Our Board of Directors in 2022

Alex Jaucot

Dirk Vercruysse

Guido Knops
(up to May 28th 2022)

Hans De Beenhouwer

Jean-Pierre Schenkelaars

Jo Benoit

Sarah Van Praet

Xavier Ortegat
(President - up to the
November 26th 2022)

Steven Osaer
(President – as from
November 27th 2022)



Contact us

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BE05 0000 0000 7575
Company number: 0406.694.670

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General Manager

Ariane Kina
Head of people & organization development

Greetje Wassenberg
*Head of fundraising, communication
& volunteering*

Lena Fiebig
Head of programs

Donors department

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Legacies and Major Donors Department

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Volunteering & Education Department

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 damien.foundation.belgium

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Your support is essential

THANK YOU to all staff members and volunteers worldwide, occasional or regular donors, those who leave us a gift in their will, companies who contribute, as well as the research institutes, organisations and associations with which we work...



It is thanks to your efforts and your donations that Damien Foundation saves lives!

damien 
let's act now,
it's contagious **foundation**

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