

2024
Activity
Report

Taking action for the health of all



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

Ethics and governance



By upholding **the right to health for all** at the centre of its project, Damien Foundation contributes to the **Sustainable Development Goals**, and aims to build a fairer society that leaves no one behind.

To ensure our actions have an impact, we believe in an approach based on participation and social emancipation, and thus make decisions that take into consideration those affected by disease as well as their communities.

In order to support national health programs, **we share our expertise** within a close collaboration with international cooperation key players.

Our managerial practices are grounded in **transparency and ethics**. As a result, strict procedures ensure that all expenditures are properly accounted for and systematically controlled. As a member of the non-profit association Récolte de Fonds Éthique –

Ethische Fondsenwerving (www.re-ef.be), Damien Foundation has its own code of ethics. It specifies the behaviour expected of stakeholders in order to **ensure the integrity of the organisation**. Incidents may be addressed to: ethics@damienfoundation.be. The alert received in 2024 in one of our projects was addressed through the implementation of a well-defined process validated by the organisation.

Our organisation ensures that **regular audits** are conducted in Belgium and abroad. In addition, as part of the General Assembly, a financial committee meets every three months to monitor financial and legacy matters.

Management team

- **Pascale Barnich**, General Manager
- **Alberto Roggi**, Head of Health Action & Global Impact
- **Samir Qassemi**, Head of Finance & Supply Chain
- **Greetje Wassenberg**, Head of Engaging & Funding

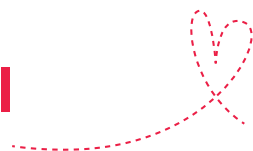
Board of directors

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| • Steven Osaer , President | • Hans De Beenhouwer | • Sarah Van Praet |
| • Wim Beernaert | • Alex Jaucot | • Dirk Vercruysse |
| • Jo Benoît | • Gaëtan Leysen | |
| • Fabienne Bryskere | • Jean-Pierre Schenkelaars | |

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

Damien Foundation is an inclusive organisation that promotes gender equality (m/f/d) and respect for all gender identities, and believes in the importance of diversity and non-discrimination. For the purpose of readability, we have chosen to systematically use the pronouns 'he' and 'his' in this document. These can be substituted for any other gender and gender-neutral pronouns in every instance.

What kind of society will shape the future?



"Some erect walls; we build bridges."

A number of years ago, the United Nations set an ambitious goal: **to end extreme poverty by 2030**. Its strong commitment is grounded in the idea that high-income countries have a responsibility for the future of humanity, and that they must use part of their wealth to that end. Where do we stand today? It is clear that international solidarity, meant to be a pillar of a fairer society, is nowadays more often an empty promise than a unified response.

At Damien Foundation, we continue to uphold solidarity and shared responsibility as values for a more inclusive future. For the past 60 years, we have been committed to advancing **equitable access to health for all**, by developing a **network of trust** with communities, ministries of health and healthcare providers. It is what drives us.

In a time of profound transformation, we have not waited for governments to redefine their priorities in order to substantially address **our strategy**.

In 2024, in a concerted effort and at the request of Damien Foundation teams, we have deployed a **shared governance model and new operational modes**.

In an era of mounting fear and increasingly global challenges, we believe that **collective work** and the **pooling of expertise** are the only ways to reinforce health on a global scale, and to end leprosy, tuberculosis and leishmaniasis epidemics.

Despite current challenges, we are starting 2025 with a balanced budget. To ensure the continuity of our work, we must nevertheless accelerate the implementation of our strategy and revamp our economic model.

Because health is not a privilege but a right, our commitment to human dignity remains fully intact.

Pascale Barnich
General Manager

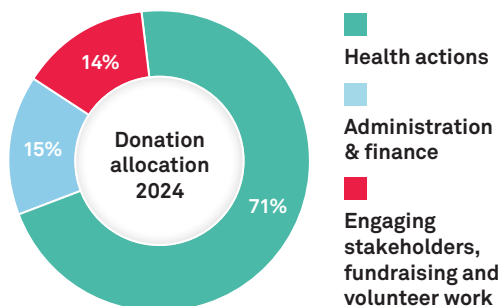


Our impact in the world in 2024

- **303,000** early diagnoses of leprosy, tuberculosis or leishmaniasis
- **294,000** people received high-quality healthcare
- **11,000** people received socio-economic support
- **24** research projects
- **14** publications of study results
- **14** countries where we are active

Promoting human and humanitarian medicine

For over 60 years, Damien Foundation has been internationally renowned for its **medical expertise** in support of vulnerable people affected by **tuberculosis** and skin-related neglected tropical diseases such as **leprosy** and **leishmaniasis**. We forge close and equitable partnerships in order to share our **public health** expertise across the communities we support and where we can advance research.



To address complex global health challenges

- **We support national health authorities, at their request, in 14 countries around the world.**
Every time you donate €100 to Damien Foundation, **€71** is allocated to our overall **health actions**, that we conduct among vulnerable populations with locally recruited staff. In addition to research and the development of prevention and treatment strategies, we conduct on-the-ground awareness-raising activities, early screening and high-quality medical care. This includes the purchase of medicines and equipment, training of medical staff, employee salaries, food assistance to people affected by disease, and initiatives to promote their social and socio-economic reintegration.
- **We rely on a robust and resilient organisation that can adapt to the realities of the health systems of each country, and to evolving standards in the non-profit sector.**
Every time you donate €100 to our organisation, **€15** is used to ensure high-quality interventions and management, by placing decision-making at the appropriate level.
- **We ensure the lasting effects of our actions by mobilising the necessary resources and funds to carry out our mission.**
This includes appealing to the public's generosity, developing partnerships with institutional funding organisations, raising awareness among the general public, mobilising volunteers, and promoting inclusion and global citizenship in schools. This represents **€14** of a €100 donation.

Subject to the approval of our financial statements by the General Assembly on 14 June 2025.

Our mission is to provide equal access to robust health services throughout the world, and to ensure that no one suffers or dies from diseases that can be prevented and cured.

We work in close collaboration with our partners (local authorities, public health facilities, foundations and companies, national and international NGOs, universities and research institutes) **to reduce mortality and disease.**



- At Damien Foundation, all our activities are closely monitored in order to ensure **that every euro invested generates maximum impact.**
- Our expenditures are controlled by a financial committee, by institutional funding organisations, the Directorate-General for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid (DGD) and the Federal Public Service Finance of Belgium.
- Our accounts are reviewed by an administrative body and approved by the General Assembly. They are also submitted to the BDO accounting firm for auditing.
- Damien Foundation is a member of the non-profit association Récolte de Fonds Éthique (RE EF) and complies with its code of ethics, which includes the right to information.

An intervention model based on 3 operational areas

Today, leprosy, tuberculosis and leishmaniasis are treatable. Unfortunately, these diseases mainly affect communities living in precarious conditions, affected by malnutrition, poor sanitation and overcrowding. By providing **vital medical care** based on an integrated approach that places people and their dignity at the centre, we help make **progress in public health**.

- **Health actions**

Damien Foundation works hand in hand with local authorities to support health systems. We are committed to **sustainable involvement** in the countries where we operate. Our interventions strive to reduce mortality and morbidity associated with tuberculosis, leprosy and leishmaniasis. Given that **poverty** is one of the main barriers to accessing healthcare, we make sure to provide every individual with the social support and financial or material aid crucial to successful treatment.

We also carry out **technical support missions**, upon request and on a more ad-hoc basis, in order to support capacity building for institutions that request it. In such cases, we act as technical experts and are not involved in deployment. These missions are based on our field experience and combine public health issues with our human-centric vision of healthcare. In 2024, we helped the Togo government elaborate an action plan to eliminate leprosy.

- **Innovation and research**

At the core of our work, innovation and research are key to leverage progress in eliminating diseases.

Our fields of study cover technological innovations (geospatial tools, artificial intelligence, new diagnostic methods...) as well as prevention, diagnoses, treatment (particularly side effects of drugs and drug resistance), the organisation of health and healthcare systems, as well as patient recovery (reconstructive surgery) and socio-economic reintegration.

By consolidating our achievements, it allows us to continue to influence global health policies with regards to diseases about which we know a great deal.

- **Global Citizenship and Solidarity Education (GCSE)**

Our actions in global and solidarity citizenship education aim to facilitate understanding of global health challenges and encourage international solidarity.

They help deconstruct prejudices and beliefs surrounding diseases and health systems. Becoming aware of global issues and their impact encourages individuals to question their own model and relationship with diseases, leading to building a more equitable society.

Education is essential to improving health: understanding what a disease is, how to treat it, basic hygiene, and fighting against prejudices must be taught from a young age. Our local teams work every day to strengthen this knowledge and slow the spread of diseases.





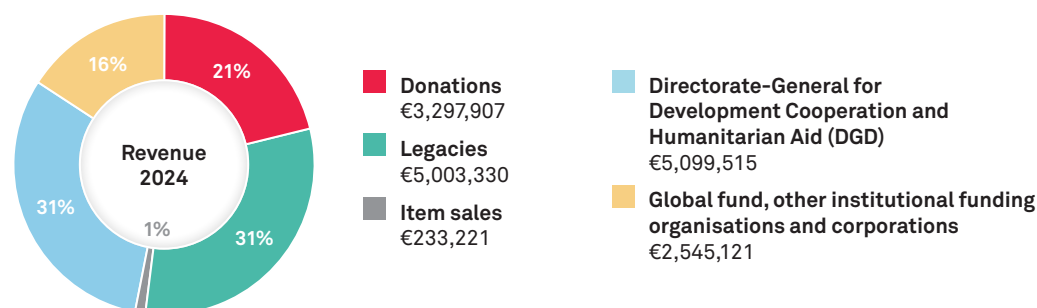
“Disease is not inevitable. By carefully addressing the needs of populations with our local partners, anything is possible!

—
Dr Rifat Mahfuza,
Physician and Damien Foundation
representative in Bangladesh

Funding to fulfil our commitments

In an ever-changing environment, Damien Foundation is fully committed to **ensuring stable financial resources**, vital to the continuity and development of its healthcare actions. Leprosy and leishmaniasis still affect the daily lives of thousands of children, women and men; and every 20 seconds, someone dies of tuberculosis. **Every euro counts to give the most vulnerable a chance to heal.**

What enabled our work in 2024



Financial report highlights

- For the second year in a row, the **positive results** of our organisation encourage us to continue building a **financially sustainable future**.

This performance is rooted in rigorous management and constant attention to budgetary balance. The organisation's **solvency remains excellent** — a reflection of sound financial governance and a strong foundation of trust for the future. However, this requires ongoing vigilance in controlling expenditures, closely linked to Damien Foundation's revenue analysis. While such discipline is necessary, it does **impact the visibility** of our organisation and our **ability to invest in promoting our work**.

Inflation in certain countries and wage indexation in Belgium also continue to require our full attention.

- We are seeing a continued **decline in support** from the **Belgian public**, both in terms of donations and product sales. Revenues from legacies, however, remain a valuable source of support and help offset this decline. Still, the growth trend we are observing raises the question of how to engage the active population in meaningful and solidarity-based causes,

in a globally worrying and anxiety-inducing environment.

- Our strategy of **diversification of funding** sources is proving **successful**: for the third year in a row, institutional funding has increased, particularly for tuberculosis-related programmes. This trend confirms the relevance of our strategic choices and the **recognition of our expertise** by institutional partners. At the time of writing this report, however, the Belgian and international context calls for great caution about the prospects of the international cooperation sector.
- Lastly, the economic environment has a direct impact on our teams. Staff turnover and the difficulty in recruiting for certain profiles put additional pressure on our employees, straining an already fragile balance. Yet, the **commitment of our teams** is a **fundamental pillar** of our action.
- Consult our full 2024 financial statement at <https://consult.cbso.nbb.be/consult-enterprise/0406694670> or at NGO-Openbook, a portal for Belgian NGOs: <https://ngo-openbook.be/overview>.

Legacies: long-lasting commitment

Legacies are an important element of support for Damien Foundation interventions. They help us sustain and develop increasingly effective **prevention and treatment strategies**. We are very grateful to those who choose to include Damien Foundation in their will. Simply seeing how the people we care for find hope and gradually gain autonomy is enough to grasp the extent of legacy donor support.

Is it important to you to ensure access to healthcare and create a fairer world? Donating a part of your estate ensures that your contribution will go beyond an **immediate response to emergency crises**. For more information, our legal advisers will readily provide impartial guidance: legs@damienfoundation.be

“Vulnerable children and families deserve protection. By including Damien Foundation in my will, I will continue to improve their well-being in the future. This makes me happy.

Lucienne F.



Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)

A great many companies choose to work with NGOs, and to focus on a sustainable and responsible approach as part of the **Sustainable Development Goals**. By supporting Damien Foundation, they actively participate in **improving public health** and creating a positive and sustainable impact, in Belgium and abroad. We are grateful to the private sector organisations that put their trust in us. Beyond mere support, their commitment helps us to enhance our actions, and mobilise the stakeholders of these companies around a strong societal project.

International cooperation budgets, institutional funding, and the solidarity of the **private sector** and the general public are vital to strengthening health systems in countries where access to healthcare is not a reality. Thank you for your generosity!



Watch the testimonial of Mr Naveen Prakash, Global Logistics co-founder, on his company's collaboration with Damien Foundation. Are you looking to find out more about collaborative opportunities with Damien Foundation? Let's meet!

Stronger health systems for a sustainable future

By supporting national programmes aiming to eliminate leprosy, tuberculosis and leishmaniasis, Damien Foundation invests in the foundations of our health.

Our action is based on well-established **medical expertise**, robust **community involvement** and solid **partnerships** with ministries of health. This helps us to leverage and contribute to the **structural strengthening of health systems**, including those in complex security and political landscapes. At the same time, we promote the sharing of knowledge, data and best practices in order to improve the quality of our operations, enhance capacities, and best anticipate public health crises.

Preventing health risks

Complex global health challenges, such as **the spread of infectious diseases or drug resistance**, make it vital, now more than ever, to strengthen global health systems. Through our support to **national health programmes**, Damien Foundation strongly values the power of collaboration in order to prevent health risks, provide equitable access to robust health throughout the world, and lay the groundwork for a future rooted in solidarity.

In **India**, where leprosy and tuberculosis remain significant health issues, we train community health workers to detect initial signs of disease and to orient patients to the appropriate services. We enhance capacities of health centres by upskilling doctors and medical staff with regards to diagnosis and treatment. We support referral hospitals to help them provide specialised treatment, such as reconstructive surgery and care for leprosy-related ulcers. To best tackle tuberculosis, we also set up laboratories for prompt diagnoses of drug-resistant strains. Finally, to ensure sustainability of actions resulting from international cooperation, we make sure to identify and **share best practices** among the various health stakeholders.



Healthcare continuum

Leprosy affects hundreds of thousands of people every year. In order to eliminate it, Damien Foundation takes daily action to **prevent the disease, stop its spread, ensure effective treatment and healthcare continuum.** It also focuses on tuberculosis, the world's deadliest infectious disease, including the drug-resistant form which represents a major global public health threat.

In **Niger**, despite political unrest in the past several years, Damien Foundation has collaborated with the country's referral health structures to treat persons affected by tuberculosis and guarantee continuous medical care. Weekly video surveillances with the heads of health centres have enabled us to discuss the ongoing treatment of patients and make up for the inability of our teams to be on the ground. This collaborative approach has helped reduce the mortality rate of tuberculosis in Niger by nearly 60% over an 8-year period.

“ Whenever we make progress in the realm of public health, we contribute to sustainable society as a whole.

–
Ivy Sule,
Damien Foundation representative
in Nigeria

We may think tuberculosis only affects people in faraway countries. On the contrary, it is an issue close to home. The disease is indeed present in **Belgium**, mainly in Brussels. More than **850 new cases are diagnosed every year.** Most people affected by the disease live in hardship and poverty, without a fixed address, and have a weakened immune system. In conjunction with our partner, we provide shelter and socio-economic support which significantly increases their chances of recovery.



Understand and act on the root causes

Markedly reducing the number of new cases of tuberculosis and neglected tropical diseases, such as leprosy and leishmaniasis, is one of the United Nations goals for 2030. This entails strengthening bonds between public health structures and advocating for an **integrated and coordinated approach** to tackle **complex** global health **challenges**.

Disease knows no borders

The COVID-19 pandemic showed us that the spread of disease does not respect geographical boundaries. This is particularly true for **infectious diseases** such as tuberculosis and leprosy. To protect vulnerable populations and stop the spread of disease, Damien Foundation works on multiple fronts. **Prevention** is one of them.

As the result of a study conducted in the **Comoros**, in collaboration with the **Institute of Tropical Medicine in Antwerp**, we have shown the importance of preventive treatment in at-risk contacts of leprosy patients. By preventatively administering antibiotics to household members or those in close contact with people affected by leprosy, we were able to reduce the risk of infection by 44%. Used in **Senegal**, in the **Democratic Republic of the Congo** and in **Bolivia**, this preventive strategy was an important step in protecting local communities against leprosy.

In addition to this approach, Damien Foundation and its partners are conducting research on another preventive treatment based on the use of a different combination of medicines. Expected in 2027, study results could be an important step while we wait to reach the global health strategy goal: zero cases of leprosy.

Working together with our partner organisations helps us strengthen health systems. Discover these partners here:



French



Dutch





Leprosy is an infectious disease that affects the skin and the nervous system. Although preventable and curable, it is present in 124 countries throughout the world. **Every year, more than 200,000 people** find out they have leprosy. If not treated in time, the disease may cause irreversible disabilities. Today, **3 million people** live with a disability caused by leprosy. Sequelae and invalidity lead to stigma and social exclusion of affected individuals.

“ The WHO (World Health Organisation) set an ambitious goal to reduce new cases of leprosy in the world by approximately 70% by 2030. This entails taking preventive measures to contain the spread of the disease. Although the means exist, maintaining public funding to meet the challenge is crucial. Otherwise, thousands of people who lack access to healthcare structures will not be diagnosed or treated.

Pascale Barnich,
Damien Foundation General Manager

In 2024, Dr Younoussa Assoumani, Damien Foundation representative in the Comoros, received the prestigious Anne Maurer-Cecchini Award at the Health Forum (Geneva) for his exceptional work to end leprosy.

Overcoming socio-cultural barriers

Numerous social factors related to poverty can hinder access to healthcare and reduce chances of recovery. Precarious living conditions, poor hygiene and malnutrition have a direct impact on the **immune systems** of individuals in the communities we support. Such factors are compounded by lack of financial means, prejudice surrounding the disease and fear of what people will think, which often dissuades people from seeking treatment.

To overcome barriers, Damien Foundation promotes **inclusive health** and ensures that its work focuses on individuals and their communities. In concrete terms, that means going beyond medical care and taking into consideration **the reality of every individual** in order to increase chances of recovery and socio-economic reintegration.

One-stop diagnostics

In 2024, teams trained to diagnose **several neglected tropical skin diseases** conducted **integrated diagnosis** campaigns in remote villages of the Equateur province in the **Democratic Republic of the Congo**. These coordinated diagnoses (leprosy, yaws, Buruli ulcers...) enables patient referral to the appropriate levels of care. As a result, intervention effectiveness has improved. People in close contact with leprosy patients receive preventive treatment. In addition, geospatial software helps provide accurate epidemiological mapping. The goal is to ensure targeted actions against leprosy in the country and to deploy **locally suited solutions**.

A differentiated and inclusive approach

In **Bangladesh**, local health workers trained by Damien Foundation carried out **awareness** and **active screening** campaigns during public events such as local festivals and markets. This initiative is an example of our determination to work at grassroot level with **local populations**. It is a fact that diseases such as tuberculosis affect people of all ages and walks of life. Everyone, however, does not have equal access to healthcare. We therefore adapt our approach to the realities of the field so that every individual can benefit from **early diagnosis** and avoid serious complications. In this region of Bangladesh, 43% of tuberculosis cases were diagnosed during community gatherings.

Reconstructive surgery and socio-economic support

Leprosy is preventable and curable. Unfortunately, if not treated at an early stage, it can cause irreversible damage. That is why Damien Foundation takes into account **comprehensive patient care**: medical, social and economic. We use the same approach in every country we work in, including **India**, where we carry out reconstructive surgery for people living with disabilities caused by leprosy. Such interventions help people regain use of a hand or a foot, or even their sight. This facilitates **rehabilitation**. They regain autonomy and are no longer dependent on others for their livelihood. Given that people affected by leprosy often lose their jobs due to disability or social exclusion, we also help them to **regain professional activity**. Whenever possible, we provide them with seed capital to start a small business or set up a fruit and vegetable stand.

“ Addressing the social dimensions of individuals is as vital as their medical care.

—
Dr M. Shivakumar,
Physician and Damien Foundation
representative in India



Our resolve to eliminate leprosy, tuberculosis and leishmaniasis entails integrating a global policy on **diversity, equity and inclusion** that guides our decisions, and which applies to our organisation and to the systemic analysis of needs and health actions. It calls specifically for a zero-tolerance policy that safeguards **integrity**.

Access to medical advancements

Although health is a fundamental right, it remains out of reach for many people, especially in countries with limited resources. Poverty, education and gender inequality, and lack of information are some of the **barriers** to accessing healthcare. To turn healthcare access into reality, Damien Foundation practices a **human-centred and humanitarian** approach to medicine. Wherever we operate, we promote a community-based approach, we ensure high-quality integrated healthcare – from prevention to socio-economic reintegration – and guarantee that communities have access to the latest scientific advancements.

In **Senegal**, local health workers trained by Damien Foundation use **artificial intelligence** to improve the reliability of skin lesion diagnoses. The digital application is a diagnostic aid: it compares images of skin lesions with millions of other images of skin diseases including leprosy and generates a diagnosis reliability rate. If leprosy is identified, the person is oriented to the nearest health centre for appropriate care.



The perseverance and solidarity values of Father Damien (1840-1889) still inspire our actions today.

Impacts of climate change

We know for a fact that **global warming** has an impact on many areas including public health. Due to rising temperatures and changing climate conditions, diseases once limited to tropical regions such as South America are spreading to areas that used to be disease free. One example is leishmaniasis, a tropical parasitic disease spread by sandflies (phlebotomine), which is now present in France, Spain, Italy, Morocco and Croatia, popular holiday destinations for Belgians. Compounded by an **increase in global mobility**, this phenomenon is likely to increase the spread of infectious diseases, thus adding strain to health systems.

Thermotherapy in the treatment of leishmaniasis represents a major advancement. Recognised by the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), this **novel treatment** works by using heat to destroy the parasites in skin lesions. In 2024, our teams used this therapy in **Guatemala** and **Nicaragua**. Practically painless, and non-toxic, it is particularly suited to young children and pregnant women. In view of its effectiveness, it may soon be used in **Belgium** to treat patients returning from at-risk areas.

Leishmaniasis is a serious tropical **parasitic** disease that causes extremely painful skin lesions. It is not spread person-to-person. It is passed to humans by the **bite of a sandfly**. Such insects live mainly in regions where the weather is hot and humid. According to estimates, every year leishmaniasis affects **between 600,000 and 1 million people throughout the world**.



Tackling antimicrobial resistance

Antimicrobial resistance represents a **major challenge** in the management of infectious diseases. Antimicrobial resistance occurs when bacteria, for example, evolve and no longer respond to the drugs normally used to eliminate them. This is the case with tuberculosis, which can progress to a **more severe** form of the disease called multidrug-resistant tuberculosis.

Multidrug-resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB) is mainly the result of poor-quality antibiotics, or of treatment taken incorrectly or stopped too soon. Poverty forces patients who lack the resources to access suitable healthcare to opt for risky drugs bought on the black market. Others stop treatment too soon through lack of information, or by being forced to choose between getting treatment and meeting basic needs.

To stem this phenomenon and limit the spread of resistant strains of the disease on a global scale, Damien Foundation proposes a strategy to **reduce diagnosis delays** and **enhance monitoring** of patients affected by multidrug-resistant tuberculosis.

Mainly affecting the lungs, **tuberculosis** is the deadliest infectious disease in the world. Every year, **10.8 million people** develop tuberculosis and **1.25 million people** die from the disease throughout the world. To limit the spread of the disease, Damien Foundation integrates **scientific advancements into the reality of field**. In **Burundi**, our treatment strategy against multidrug-resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB) has helped achieve a 92% treatment success rate, well above the global average.

“ We cannot tackle multidrug-resistant tuberculosis without taking into account the barriers that prevent access to appropriate healthcare. Poverty, limited sanitary resources, irregular availability of appropriate drugs and insufficient knowledge about the disease among populations are but a few examples. The only sustainable solution is an ambitious and inclusive health policy grounded in equitable collaboration between different parties and intent on ensuring that people affected by the disease lead a dignified life.

—
Dr Alberto Roggi,
Head of Health Action & Global Impact,
and tuberculosis expert

In the many countries in which we operate, we are conducting research to **improve treatment tolerance** and monitor antimicrobial resistance. We are examining shorter treatment schemes and ones with fewer side effects. In **Niger, Bangladesh, Guinea, Guatemala** and **Nicaragua**, we have deployed new tools that will help identify initial adverse effects on patients and reduce risk of complications.

As part of our **close-knit partnerships** with ministries of health, **we share knowledge, data and best healthcare practices with the scientific community**. In 2024, Dr Alberto Piubello, international tuberculosis expert and medical adviser for Damien Foundation, and Dr Bassirou Souleymane, Damien Foundation representative in **Niger**, organised a 4-day training programme on multidrug-resistant tuberculosis in Niamey, Niger. 19 healthcare professionals from Niger and Burkina Faso were trained to diagnose and treat multidrug-resistant tuberculosis. A similar training programme was held with 55 professionals in **Bolivia**.





Better understanding, better support

To be able to recommend **efficient prevention and care strategies**, we must, above all, understand and listen to the people we support. Leprosy, leishmaniasis and tuberculosis can lead to disabilities. These diseases and the associated preconceptions are highly stigmatised. Affected people often face discrimination and social exclusion.

To accept and properly follow their treatment plan, patients need their loved ones and the surrounding community to be involved. Their acceptance of the disease is part of the treatment process. For these reasons, we raise awareness among family members and friends about the importance of their support role in the healing process. Considering **transmission patterns**, community-based support is also vital to ensure appropriate diagnoses.

In 2024, we interviewed 300 patients about their **mental health**. The results of this unprecedented study, conducted in **Nepal**, will help improve support systems for people affected by leprosy throughout the world, and will draw attention to the psychological consequences of the disease, such as anxiety, depression or alcohol abuse.



“ Respect and attentive listening are the foundations families can rely on when they choose to place their trust in us.

—
Dr Michel Sawadogo,
Physician and Damien Foundation
representative in Burundi

Damien Foundation relies on thousands of volunteers who support our health actions in Belgium and internationally.



Thank you for your support!

We would like to thank our staff and the numerous volunteers from around the world, our one-off and regular donors, those who support us through their will, companies that provided contributions, as well as the research institutes, organisations and associations with whom we work.

This year, thanks to each and every one of you, Damien Foundation helped individuals in vulnerable circumstances to heal!



French



Dutch

On the cover - Histori (20) was treated by Damien Foundation's staff at Nellore Hospital in India.

"Doctors were reassuring. Leprosy can be cured. My medical expenses were taken care of."

Discover her story

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

Boulevard Léopold II 263
1081 Brussels
www.actiondamien.be
info@actiondamien.be
+32 2 422 59 11

Follow us on social media



Action Damien - Damiaanactie



[damien.foundation.belgium](https://www.instagram.com/damien.foundation.belgium)



Damien Foundation

Health is a fundamental right

To keep supporting our health actions, please send your donation to this account: BE05 0000 0000 7575.
Please include following structured banking message: +++000/0000/50924+++.