



INDIA:

Together against Tuberculosis
in the slums of Mumbai

Aleimar

Insieme ai bambini del mondo

WHO IS ALEIMAR

Aleimar is a voluntary organisation that has believed in a precise objective since 1983: to support children in difficulty without distinction of origin, religion, ethnicity and culture. "Together with the children of the world" is the mission that guides us and leads us to support children in their needs such as health, nutrition and education, helping them in their human, affective, social and cultural growth. We are present in 11 countries around the world, supporting 430 children through Distance Support (SaD) and another 2500 through our Development Projects in favour of families and local communities. In particular, we have been working in Malawi, in the Mangochi district, since 2014.

Together with our local partners, over the years we have supported projects aimed at protecting the rights of children and the weaker sections of the population, improving their living conditions and promoting greater economic self-sufficiency.



INDIA

Tuberculosis still represents one of the top 10 causes of death in the world and it is a major public health problem in India, affecting millions of people every year. In 2021, India accounted for 28% of the global number of TB patients with 2.140.000 cases reported. In the slums this infectious illness is still really common and it is often lethal: a great number of sick people tend to have continuous relapses and to manifest side effects to medicines because of malnutrition.

It is relevant to underline that **TB patients often suffer from malnutrition or undernutrition, which worsens their conditions and reduces their chances of recovery.** Malnutrition is a significant risk factor for tuberculosis infection and mortality. According to a study published in BMC Pulmonary Medicine, one-quarter of TB cases worldwide are due to malnutrition. Improving the nutritional status of the individual decreases the risk of TB. Additionally, malnutrition increases TB relapse and mortality. Tuberculosis mortality rates in different economic groups in a community tend to vary inversely with their economic levels. Similarly, nutritional status is significantly lower in patients with active tuberculosis compared with healthy controls.

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The “Pradhan Mantri TB Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan” is a national initiative launched by the Government of India in 2022 to eliminate TB by 2025. One of the components of this initiative is the “Nikshay Mitra scheme” of which LokSeva Sangam is a part. This is a crowd-sourced program that encourages individuals and organizations to “adopt” TB patients and provide financial support for their nutritional needs and vocational training. In Mumbai, there are about 40,000 TB patients under treatment, out of which almost 80% have signed up for the Nikshay Mitra scheme. **However, there is still a gap between the demand and supply of resources, as well as challenges in ensuring timely and adequate delivery of food baskets to the patients.** The increasing prices of goods of first necessity, of milk and medicines highlight the urgency of the support.

LOCAL PARTNER

Founded in 1976, **Lok Seva Sangam** (www.loksevasangam.org.in) has been working passionately towards better healthcare focusing on the control of Leprosy and Tuberculosis. Every year more than 350 leprosy and 1200 TB patients are treated in 12 clinics of Lok Seva Sangam located in slum area of ward L and M. The organization has partnership with the state and local government, working in synergy with NLEP and NTBEP. Lok Seva Sangam also provides quality education and access to learning for the underprivileged and marginalized section of the society. Moreover, the Organization is dedicated to improve the nutritional level, especially in children, and has an impact on the social and economic development of more than 10,000 needy families through its Family Development Programs (FDP).

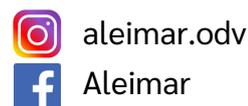
Its approach:

- **PASSION AND DEDICATION:** the primary motivation for its work is the welfare of the people they serve. They work passionately for it;
- **EXPERIENCE AND RELIABILITY:** long years of experience and reliable accounting have given the Organization long-lasting partnerships.
- **SYNERGY FOR SUCCESS:** Lok Seva Sangam believes in the synergy between all stakeholders for sustainable development.



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DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT

Together against Tuberculosis in the slums of Mumbai

AIM OF THE PROJECT

General Objective: improving health conditions of children and their relatives affected by Tuberculosis in the slums of Mumbai.

Specific Objective: reducing malnutrition of children and their relatives in the slums of Mumbai in order to prevent TB and to reduce the risk of relapse.

RECIPIENTS

- **Direct recipients:** 1.200 people affected by Tuberculosis that live in the slums of Mumbai in really insecure conditions. In particular, the project wants to support children and young people (aged between 14 and 30 years old).
- **Indirect recipients:** 1.200 families of the children and young adults supported.

ACTIVITIES

Aleimar, in partnership with LokSeva Sangam, wants to support the recovery of people affected by Tuberculosis during the treatment period and during the following months:

- 1) **Weekly checks** aimed at helping and monitoring the administration of medicines;
 - 2) **Suppling of food rations** to affected people and to their families in order to promote a balanced diet;
 - 3) **Distribution of food supplements** like milk powder in order to ease the physical recovery
- The assistance program usually lasts 6 months, but if the condition of the single person is severe, food supplements can be provided for other 6 months. Recipients will be followed for some years after the treatments in order to avoid possible relapses.

BUDGET

The cost of complete assistance for 1.200 sick people per year is around 23.000 USD / 22.000€.



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