

**THE RUFJI LEPROSY TRUST  
TRUSTEES' REPORT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2007**

for further details please refer to the Charities' Website:

[www.charitycommission.gov.uk](http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk)

Rufiji Leprosy Trust no 286242

The Rufiji Leprosy Trust (RLT) was founded by a settlement dated 10 October 1982 to continue the work with leprosy patients started by the late Canon Robin Lamburn in 1961, in Kindwitwi Village and the Rufiji District of Tanzania.

While 2006 was marked by a major review of our strategy and priorities, preparation for far-reaching changes in the structure and legal status of Kindwitwi Leprosy Care Centre and the loss of two long-standing Trustees, 2007 saw the inauguration of new legal structures for Kindwitwi, expanded investment in key areas of our work and the addition of two new Trustees.

### **New legal structures and the spirit of partnership**

The inaugural meeting of Kindwitwi Leprosy Care Centre and Development Association Ltd (KLCCDA) was held on 20 January 2007 following its incorporation in Dar es Salaam on 10 December 2006. The establishment of KLCCDA as a Tanzanian not-for-profit company working for the treatment and elimination of Leprosy in Rufiji District was a definitive milestone in the journey of Kindwitwi from its establishment as an old style leper colony to its modern role as a vibrant village community integrated with the life and economy of the surrounding District. This change of status was also a milestone in the life of RLT, marking a transition away from a relatively 'hands on' style of distance management and a recognition of the growing capacity and independence of Kindwitwi, thus providing it with the space and autonomy required to sustain and develop the project over the longer term.

In practice, the new structures have formalised much of what already existed while ensuring greater representation and participation by local community, government and church leaders. Here in the UK, these changes meant that RLT moved into a more clearly-defined partnership role – providing technical and material support alongside the monitoring and accountability required of all donors thus leaving the operational management more clearly in the hands of KLCCDA.

Looking back over this year, what strikes me most is how the change in legal status has resulted in a deeper, more confident, sense of partnership between the Trust and those involved in managing and developing the Kindwitwi leprosy care programme in Tanzania.

### **RLT's work in Tanzania**

Of course, these structural changes are simply a means to an end and, above all, our focus remains

firmly fixed on the health and development challenges that face Kindwitwi Care Centre and its wider village community. In practical terms, this has been reflected in the commitment of RLT funds and technical support in a range of areas. As anticipated in last year's report, this year was one of consolidation:

- The rehabilitation of the TB and Leprosy ward at Utete hospital was completed.
- The outreach activity in case finding, treatment and capacity-building work with the health staff in the District dispensaries went ahead successfully.
- A second round of co-ordination and strategic planning with the Tanzanian Government health services took place as anticipated.
- The first set of three secondary school scholarships was awarded to students from the nearby villages, bringing the total to seven a year, the highest rate of sponsorship in the District.
- The planned expenditures on tractor and laptop computers took place, as well as some major maintenance work on roofs and water-catchment tanks.

Other developments were:

- The appointment of a new Medical Clinical Officer based at the District hospital but working primarily in Kindwitwi.
- Support for HIV awareness, testing and treatment campaigns.
- Facilitation of a link between the local secondary school, Utete, and Queen Elizabeth Community College in the UK. Sponsoring a working party of ten GAP-year students.

These activities were carried out in addition to our regular support for the Leprosy Care Centre and the Village Development Association.

It is also important to highlight the importance of our cooperation with other agencies and individuals: our long-term collaboration with the German Leprosy Relief Association, the Tanzanian Ministry of Health and other government departments, as well as special projects carried out by individuals such as Melanie Bumberger. Grants from the St Lazarus Trust here in the UK have been key to funding aspects of the outreach programme and the rehabilitation of patient facilities.

Three UK-based Trustees made visits to Kindwitwi during this year, two of which were self-funded.

### **The UK end of things**

Here in the UK we have been modifying our own systems and practices in a way that we hope will support the broader changes made recently. These include:

- Exploring methods of transferring funds to KLCCDA more efficiently, and of increasing flexibility of financial management for KLCCDA.
- Appointing two new Trustees: Stephen Plant here in the UK and Burchard Rwamtoga in Tanzania. Stephen has been a long-time supporter of RLT, having been a volunteer in Kindwitwi. He brings a knowledge of charitable issues and continues the link with the Christian ethos. Burchard is an adviser on microfinance loans to the disadvantaged and, having been the Centre Manager for 16 years has, of course, unrivalled knowledge of Kindwitwi itself.
- Developing an RLT website: [www.RufijiLeprosyTrust.org](http://www.RufijiLeprosyTrust.org) to provide web access to current and past reports, information and features, contact details and facilities for making donations.

### **Looking ahead**

We anticipate that our role next year will include: (1) further consolidation of recent developments in our partnership with KLCCDA; (2) funding and facilitating the provision of management support to the Centre Manager and his team; (3) funding staff development, particularly in the area of community-based rehabilitation; (4) supporting Kindwitwi-generated initiatives such as the a home-loans scheme and a library. The overarching aim is to search for new ways of supporting those in Kindwitwi and Rufiji District, helping them to meet the challenges they face and to manage their own development in a rapidly changing environment.

We are keenly aware that all of this work is made possible by the care and generosity of the people who support the work of the Trust through donations, advice, encouragement and practical support – both here and in Tanzania. On behalf of the Trustees, I should like to take this opportunity to extend our heartfelt thanks to all our friends and supporters.

**Geoff O'Donoghue**  
**Chairman, Rufiji Leprosy Trust**