

## The leprosy burden at the end of 2006

During 2007, statistical reports on the leprosy situation were received from 109 countries and territories. As shown in the table below, the global registered prevalence of leprosy at the end of 2006 was 224,717 cases while the number of new cases reported during the year 2006 was 259,017. Note that this table excludes the small number of cases reported from Europe. Rates of prevalence and new case detection (shown in parentheses) were calculated based on population data for the year 2006 from *World Population Prospects: the 2004 Revision*, United Nations Population Division, Volume 1, comprehensive table A20)

WHO Region	Registered prevalence (rate per 10,000 population)	New cases in 2006 (rate per 100,000 population)
Africa	29,548 (0.55)	27,902 (5.15)
Americas	64,715 (0.76)	47,612 (5.58)
South-East Asia	116,663 (0.70)	174,118 (10.51)
Eastern Mediterranean	3,986 (0.09)	3,261 (0.71)
Western Pacific	9,805 (0.06)	6,124 (0.35)
<b>Total:</b>	<b>224,717</b>	<b>259,017</b>

Global new case detection continues to show a sharp decline, falling by over 40,000 cases (13.4%) during 2006 compared to the new cases reported during the year 2005. The table below shows the burden of the disease for the top four endemic countries, which taken together represent about 23% of the global new case detection in 2006 and 34% of the global registered cases at the end of 2006/beginning of 2007. The significant rise in registered prevalence observed in Brazil may be due to statistical errors and is still subject to government verification.

### Countries that have yet to reach elimination of leprosy at the national level, beginning of 2007

WHO Region	Registered prevalence <sup>1</sup>			New case detection 2004-2006 <sup>2</sup>		
	Start 2005	Start 2006	Start 2007	During 2004	During 2005	During 2006
Brazil	30,693 (1.7)	27,313 (1.5)	60,567 (3.21)	49,384 (26.9)	38,410 (20.6)	44,436 (23.53)
D.R. Congo	10,530 (1.9)	9,785 (1.7)	8,261 (1.39)	11,781 (21.1)	20,737 (18.7)	8,257 (13.92)
Mozambique	4,692 (2.4)	4,889 (2.5)	2,594 (1.29)	4,266 (22.0)	5,371 (27.1)	3,637 (18.04)
Nepal <sup>3</sup>	4,699 (1.8)	4,921 (1.8)	3,951 (1.43)	6,958 (26.2)	6,150 (22.7)	4,253 (15.37)
<b>Total:</b>	<b>50,614</b>	<b>46,908</b>	<b>75,373</b>	<b>72,389</b>	<b>70,668</b>	<b>60,583</b>

#### Notes:

1) Prevalence rates (cases per 10,000 population) shown in parentheses

2) New case detection rates (cases per 100,000 population) shown in parentheses

3) Nepal: new case detection reporting period for 2005 is mid-November 2005 to mid-November 2006

Note: These tables were originally published in the *Weekly Epidemiological Record* of 22 June 2007 (No.25, 2007, 82, 225-232). Individual country data, using updated population data from *World Population Prospects: the 2006 Revision*, United Nations Population Division 2007, can be accessed from <http://www.who.int/lep/situation/en/> (see "Regional Situation" in right column).

**Global data for the year 2007 will not be available until mid-2008.**