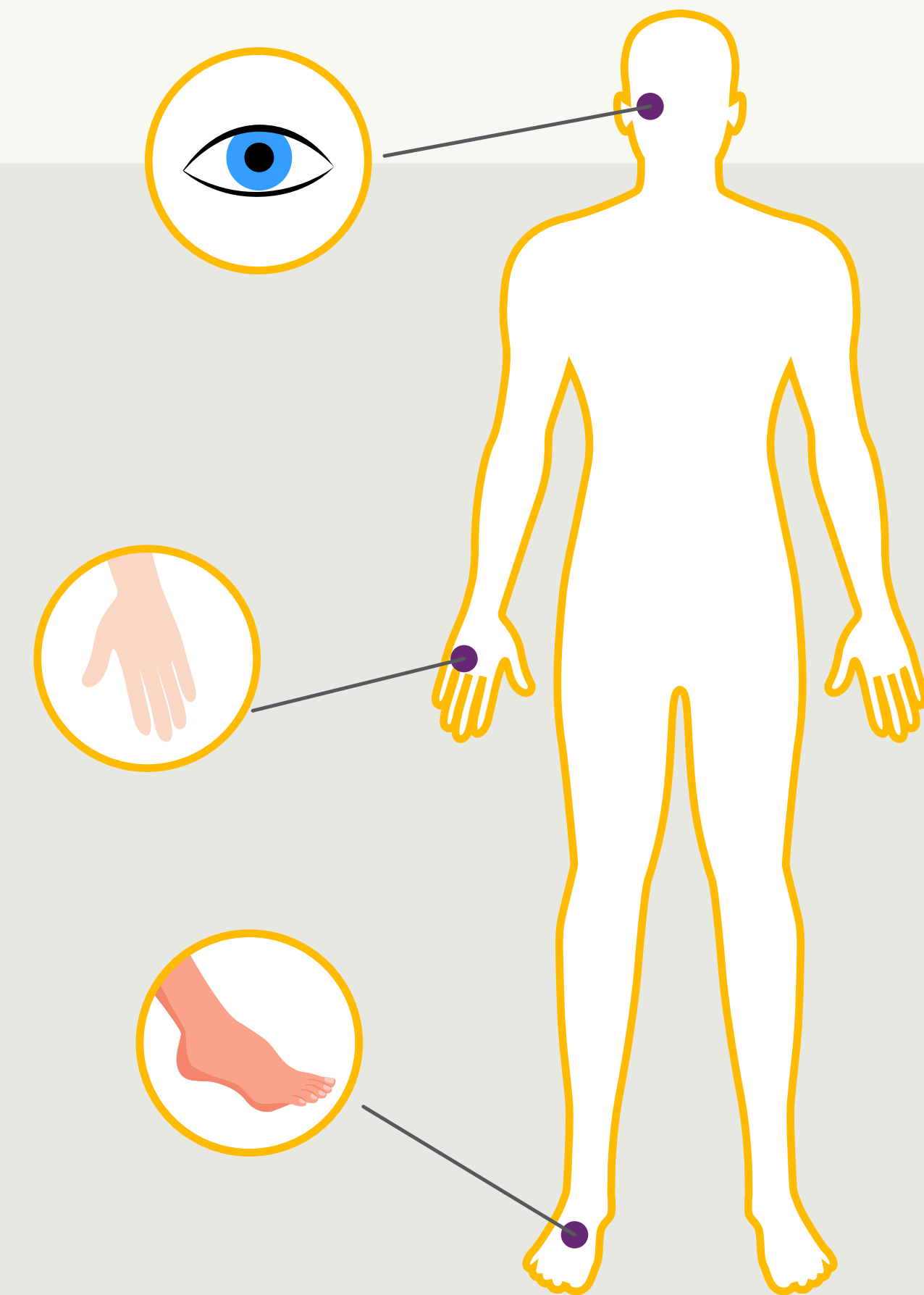


INTRODUCTION



LEPROSY is an infectious, chronic disease that has dermatologic and neurologic signs that can cause physical impairments in the eyes, hands and feet, most of the time, irreversible. If we consider individuals diagnosed in the last 5 years, and that, according to research, 32% develop some type of deformity, the estimated number of people who have physical disabilities caused by leprosy in Brazil is 59 thousand people.

Materials and ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY (AT) devices help prevent, minimize and/or rehabilitate possible morphological changes and provide functionality and independence in routine daily activities.



OBJECTIVE

The objective was to implement an Action and donate materials and assistive technology devices to individuals who have or have had leprosy, as well as fill an existing gap in the public health services in Brazil.



MATERIALS AND METHODS

Physicians, Occupational Therapists, Physiotherapists and Nurses who assist people who have or had leprosy, identify disabilities and, by completing a form on the site.

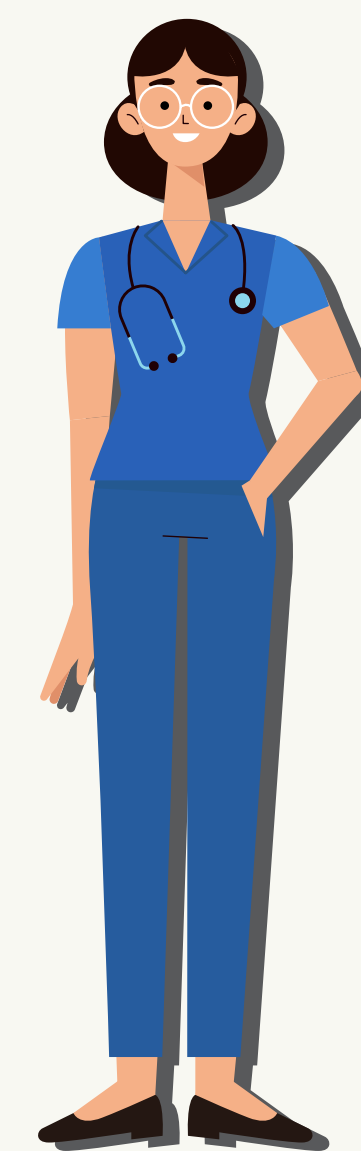
They list the materials and devices that help prevent injuries and/or improve functionality of these individuals.

Upon receipt of the form, the material is sorted and sent free of charge to the address indicated in the registration.

PATIENT AND PROFESSIONAL SIGN THE TERM OF FREE AND INFORMED CONSENT/ASSENT.

The entire process respects the General Data Protection Law and ethical rigor in research.

Upon receiving the materials, the professional who requested the materials guides the patient so that he/she can efficiently use the materials intended for them.

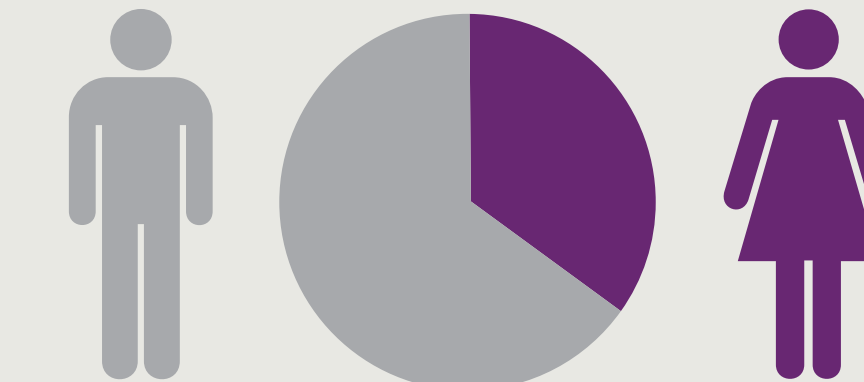


RESULTS

From August/21 to March/22

AGE AVERAGE
▶ 52.7 (min 11 and max 92)

113 men (64.2%)
63 women (35.8%)
were reached



THE MATERIALS WERE REQUESTED by 43 professionals

14 nurses (32.6%), 14 occupational therapists (32.6%), 10 physiotherapists (23.3%) and 5 physicians (11.5%)

1404 AT devices were donated across 13 states in Brazil (48.1%)



THE MOST REQUESTED WERE

- Thermal glove (n=179)
- Grip aid in strips of different measures (n=155)
- Eye drop lubricant (n=102)
- Silicone sponge (n=99)
- Sunglasses (n=98)
- Objects (n=92)
- Polyamide spoon (n=74)

THE MOST FREQUENT INJURIES/ALTERATIONS/SEQUELAE WERE

- Decrease or loss of sensitivity of the cornea, palm of the hands and or the soles of the feet
- Movable and/or rigid claw of the fingers,
 - Lagophthalmos
 - Foot drop
- Dryness of the nasal mucosa
- Obstruction in breathing
- Perforation of the nasal septum
- Neural inflammation (neuritis)



CONCLUSION

The materials selected to be donated are not covered by the Brazilian Public Health System and, in most cases, patients and/or health services are unable to acquire them, due to the cost and retail purchase difficulty. The Action proved to be promising as it collaborates with the third pillar of the Global Leprosy Strategy 2021-2030 which deals with managing leprosy and its complications and preventing new disabilities, in addition to offering functionality in daily activities and improving the quality of life of these individuals.