

S1 Model description

SIMCOLEP is a stochastic individual-based model, which models leprosy transmission in a population structured by household. It simulates the life histories of individuals, the natural history of infection with *M. leprae* and the transmission of *M. leprae* from person to person. The effects of different control strategies, including active case finding, contact screening and chemoprophylaxis, on the transmission and the leprosy incidence can be evaluated and predicted. Since its development, the model has been used in multiple applications.[1-9] A full description of the model is provided by Fischer et al. and Blok et al.[1, 4]

The model was fitted to the leprosy situation in states or districts of seven countries:

- 1) Alta Floresta city and region and Rondonópolis city in Mato Grosso, Araguaína and Colinas do Tocantins in Tocantins, and Petrolina city and region in Pernambuco, Brazil
- 2) Union Territory Dadra and Nagar Haveli, India
- 3) Sumenep district, Indonesia
- 4) Nyaung Oo, Myingyan and Tharyarwaddy Townships, Myanmar
- 5) Jhapa, Morang and Parsa districts, Nepal
- 6) Kalutara and Puttalam districts, Sri Lanka
- 7) Kilombero, Liwale and Nanyumbu districts, Tanzania

These subnational areas are henceforth addressed as Brazil, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Tanzania.

A. Demography

The model was quantified with demographic data including population growth rate, fertility and survival rates, age and sex distribution, the fraction of married population per age group and household size distribution (Table A).

Table A. Demographic data to quantify the model

Country	Parameter	Level	Years	Source
Brazil	Population size	Country District	1872-1991, 1991-2010	IBGE[10-13]
	Survival rates	Country	1965, 1975, 1990, 2000, 2010	NRC[14] WHO[15]
	Age-specific fertility rates	Country	1980, 1991, 2000, 2010	IBGE[11-13, 16]
	Age distribution	Country	2010	IBGE[11]
	Fraction married	Country	1980, 1991, 2000, 2010	IBGE[11-13, 16]
	Household size distribution	Country	2010	IBGE[11]
India	Population size	Country	1901-2011	Census India[17]
	Survival rates	Country	1995, 1999, 2003, 2007, 2011	Census India[18]
	Age-specific fertility rates	District	1990, 1993, 1996, 1999, 2006, 2011	Census India[18]
	Age distribution	District	2011	Census India[19]
	Fraction married	District	1991, 2001, 2011	Census India[19]
	Household size distribution	District	2011	Census India[19]
Indonesia	Population size	Country	1900-1951 1971-2010	Nitisastro[20] Statistics Indonesia[21]
	Survival rates	Country	2000, 2010	WHO[22]
	Age-specific fertility rates	Country	2012	Statistics Indonesia[23]
	Age distribution	Country	2012	Statistics Indonesia[23]
	Fraction married	Country	2010	UN data[24]
	Household size distribution	Country	2012	Statistics Indonesia[23]
Myanmar	Population size	Country	1950-2010	UN[25]
	Survival rates	Country	2000, 2010	WHO[26]
	Age-specific fertility rates	Country	2014	Myanmar Census[27]

	Age distribution	Country	2014	Myanmar Census[27]
	Fraction married	Country	2014	Myanmar Census[27]
	Household size distribution	Country	2014	Myanmar Census[27]
Nepal	Population size	Country	1911-2011	CBS[28]
	Survival rates	Country	2000, 2010	WHO[29]
	Age-specific fertility rates	Country	1996, 2001, 2006, 2011	DHS[30]
	Age distribution	District	2011	CBS[28]
	Fraction married	Country	2011	CBS[28]
	Household size distribution	District	2011	CBS[28]
Sri Lanka	Population size	Country	1901-2012	Dept. Census and Statistics[31]
	Survival rates	Country	2000, 2010	WHO[32]
	Age-specific fertility rates	Country	2006	DHS[33]
	Age distribution	Country	2006	DHS[33]
	Fraction married	Country	2012	Dept. Census and Statistics[34]
	Household size distribution	Country	2006	DHS[33]
Tanzania	Population size	Country	1967-2002,	Agwanda et al.[35]
		District	2003-2013	LPEP database
	Survival rates	Country	2000, 2010	WHO[36]
	Age-specific fertility rates	Country	1996, 1999, 2004, 2010	DHS[37]
	Age distribution	Country	2012	National Bureau of Statistics[38]
	Fraction married	Country	2012	National Bureau of Statistics[39]
	Household size distribution	Country	2010	DHS[37]

1. Initial population

The initial population was set to 20,000 individuals in Brazil, India, Indonesia, Nepal and Tanzania. In Myanmar and Sri Lanka, we increased the starting population to 50,000 individuals, because of low leprosy new case detection rates. The initial population follows the observed age distribution (Fig A) and the sex ratio was set to 50%.

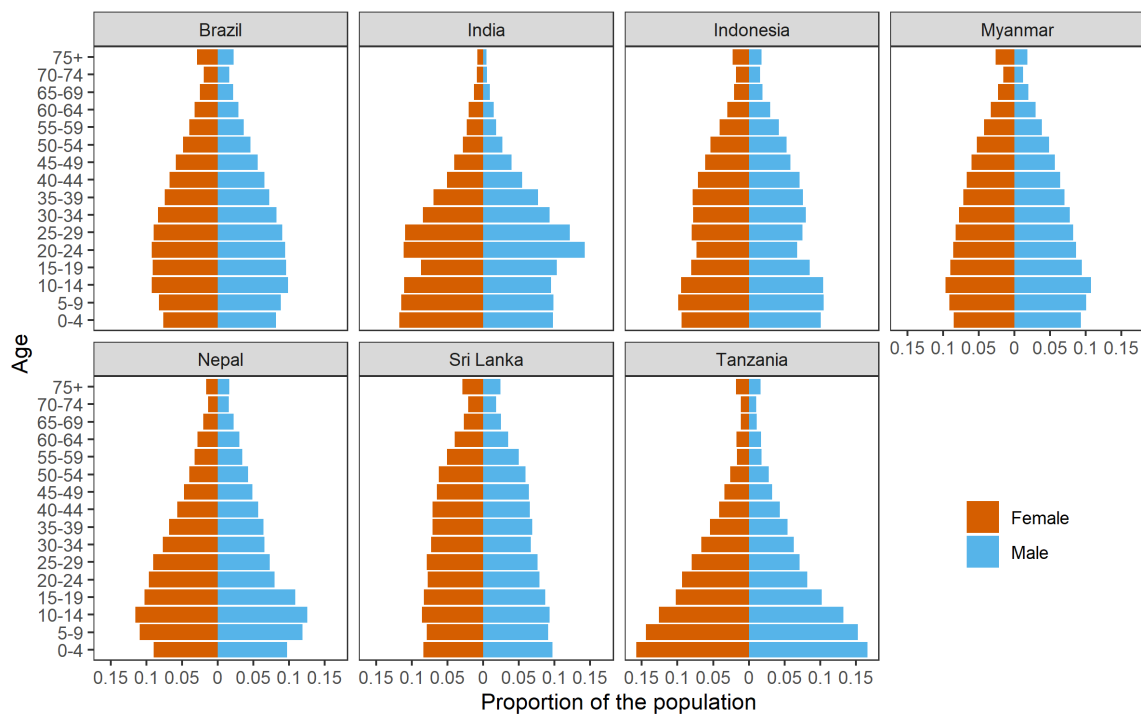


Fig A. Age distribution used to quantify the model.

2. Population growth

During the simulation, the population grows with a time-dependent growth rate (Fig B). In 2015, the simulated population size was 407,000 in Brazil, 108,000 in India, 127,000 in Indonesia, 148,000 in Myanmar, 99,000 in Nepal, 290,000 in Sri Lanka and 63,000 in Tanzania.

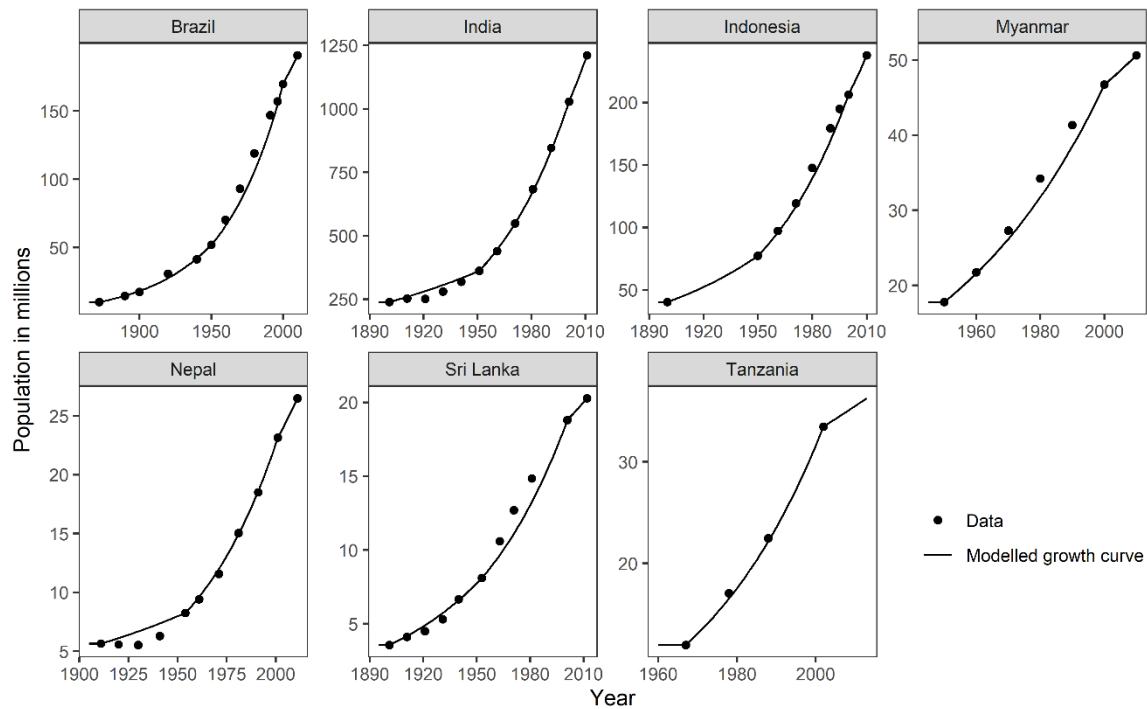


Fig B. Population size of Brazil, India, Indonesia, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Tanzania. The solid line is the exponential growth curve used as input for the model. The data points are population estimates. Annual growth rates: 1) Brazil: 0.021 (1872-1950); 0.024 (1950-2000); 0.012 (2000-2010)[10-13]; 2) India: 0.008 (1901-1951); 0.021 (1951-2001); 0.016 (2001-2011)[17]; 3) Indonesia: 0.013 (1900-1950); 0.020 (1950-2000); 0.014 (2000-2010)[20, 21]; 4) Myanmar: 0.019 (1950-2000); 0.008 (2000-2010) [25]; 5) Nepal: 0.009 (1911-1954); 0.022 (1954-2001); 0.013 (2001-2011) [28]; 6) Sri Lanka: 0.016 (1901-1953); 0.018 (1953-2001); 0.007 (2001-2012) [31]; 7) Tanzania: 0.029 (1967-2003); 0.007 (2003-2013) [35].

3. Birth and Death

The number of new births is determined by the difference of the current population size and the expected population size accounting for population growth. At birth, a new individual is created and the age of death is determined by sex-dependent survival curves (Fig C).

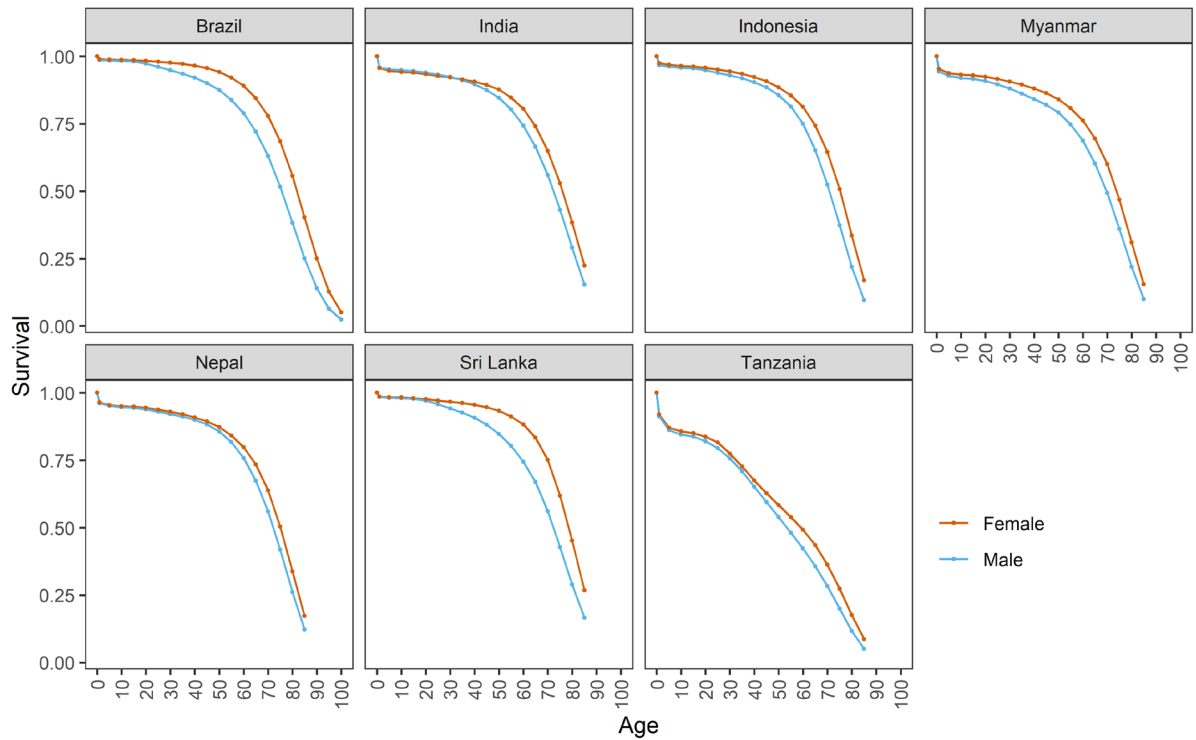


Fig C. Survival curves for males and females used to quantify the model. Data shown from Brazil (2013)[14, 15], India (2011)[18], Indonesia (2010)[22], Myanmar (2010)[26], Nepal (2010)[29], Sri Lanka (2010)[32] and Tanzania (2010)[36].

4. Household size distribution

The model was fitted to the observed household size distribution in each LPEP study area. In the model, household formation, changes and dissolution are determined by three processes: 1) random movements by individuals; 2) marriage or relationships and 3) newborns.

Only a fraction of the population moves randomly. Based on previous modeling studies, we assume that the age of random movement is chosen randomly from a uniform distribution between 12 and 22 years of age, representing movement out of parental household or movements to other family members. This assumption was based on previous modeling work.[4] A small fraction will create their own household, while the remainder will move into an existing household. The size of the household to move to is randomly determined following a triangular distribution. At marriage, a fraction of couples creates a new household, while the other couples will become a member of the household of the male. In the latter case, the household will split up after 12 years on average (exponential distributed). After the death of a married person, the surviving spouse is again a candidate for marriage again. If the surviving spouse is left alone, he/she will move to the household of one his/her children.

In the model males and females can be coupled such that the proportion of married males and females in each age group matches data (Fig D). Newborns are placed in a household of a married female. The married female (i.e. mother) is randomly selected based on the age specific birth rates (Fig E).

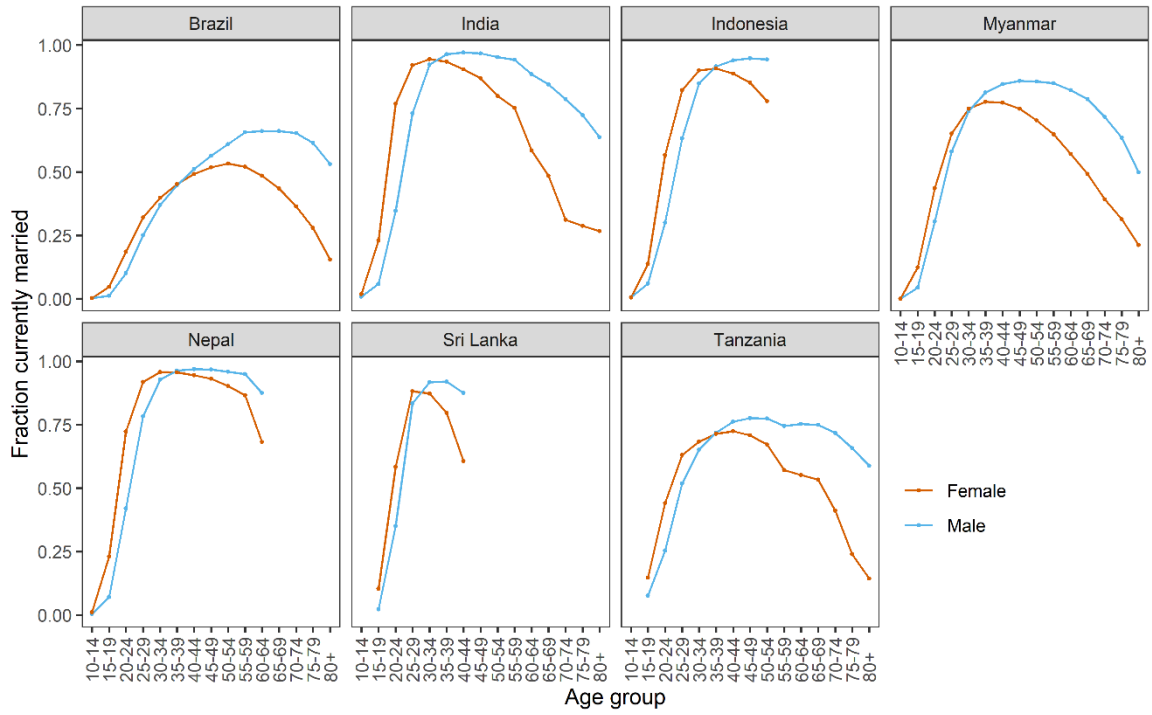


Fig D. Fraction of males and females per age group currently married used to quantify the model. Data from Brazil (2010), India (2011), Indonesia (2012), Myanmar (2014), Nepal (2011), Sri Lanka (2012) and Tanzania (2012).

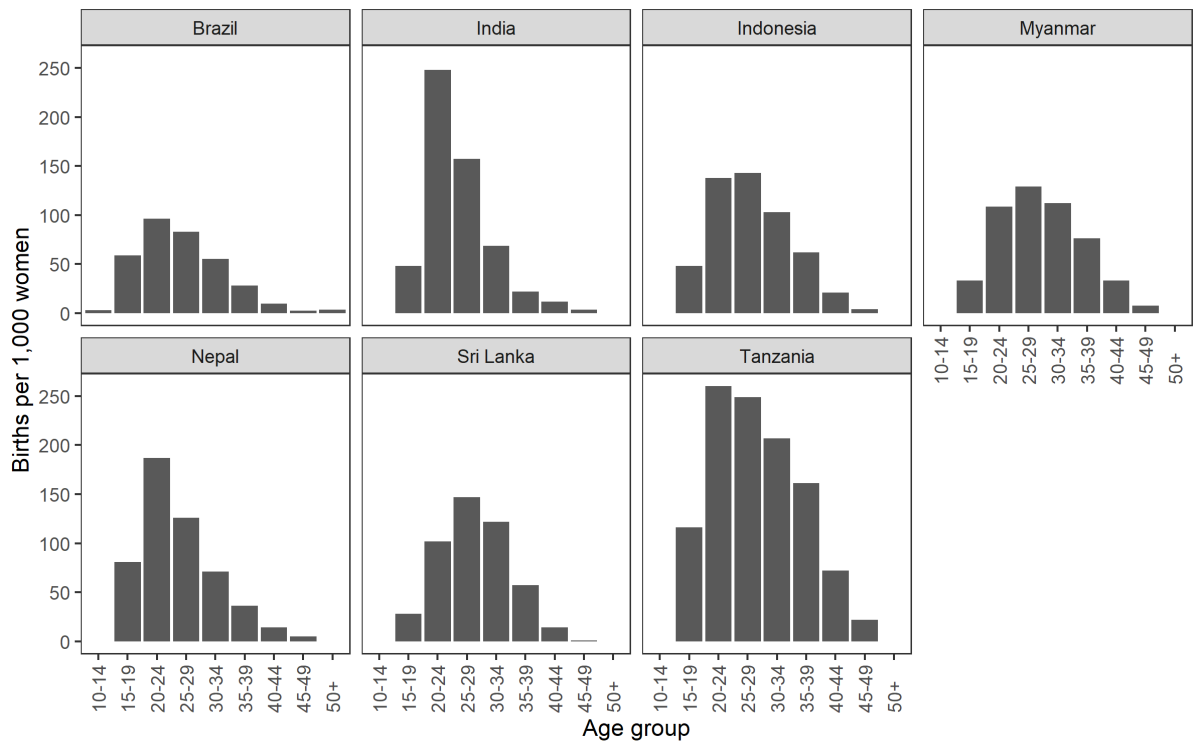


Fig E. Age specific birth rates used to quantify the model. Data from Brazil (2010)[11-13, 16], India (2011)[18], Indonesia (2012)[23], Myanmar (2014)[27], Nepal (2011)[30], Sri Lanka (2006)[33] and Tanzania (2010)[37].

The parameters that determine household processes include: fraction random movement, fraction that creates their own household, distribution of household size to move to, fraction of married couple creating own household, duration of splitting a married household from parental household and the fraction of single widows that moving to children (Table B). Only those parameters that were essential to replicate observed household distribution were calibrated. Optimal values of calibrated parameters were derived through a grid search. The goodness-of-fit of the distribution of household size was evaluated by a Chi-square test. Fig F shows the results of the calibration. For all countries, there is no significant difference between the simulated and observed distribution.

Table B. Parameters describing household processes

Parameters	Brazil	India	Indonesia	Myanmar	Nepal	Sri Lanka	Tanzania
Fraction random movement	0.80 ^a	0.71 ^a	0.76 ^a	0.73 ^a	0.29 ^a	0.72 ^a	0.51 ^a
Fraction creates own household	0.15 ^a	0 ^b	0 ^b	0 ^b	0 ^b	0 ^b	0.07 ^a
Household size to move to (Triangular distribution)	(0, 4, 1) ^a	(0, 4, 3) ^a	(0, 4, 2) ^a	(0, 4, 2) ^a	(0, 5, 3) ^a	(0, 4, 2) ^a	(0, 6, 1) ^a
Fraction of married couple creating own household	0.85 ^a	0.25 ^c	0.25 ^c	0.25 ^c	0.25 ^c	0.20 ^a	0.25 ^c
Time until splitting of a married household from parental household (Exponential distribution)	12 ^c	12 ^c	12 ^c	12 ^c	12 ^c	12 ^c	12 ^c
Fraction single widow(er)s moving back to children	1.0 ^b	1.0 ^b	1.0 ^b	1.0 ^b	1.0 ^b	1.0 ^b	1.0 ^b

^a Calibrated; ^b Assumption; ^c Based on Fischer et al.[4]

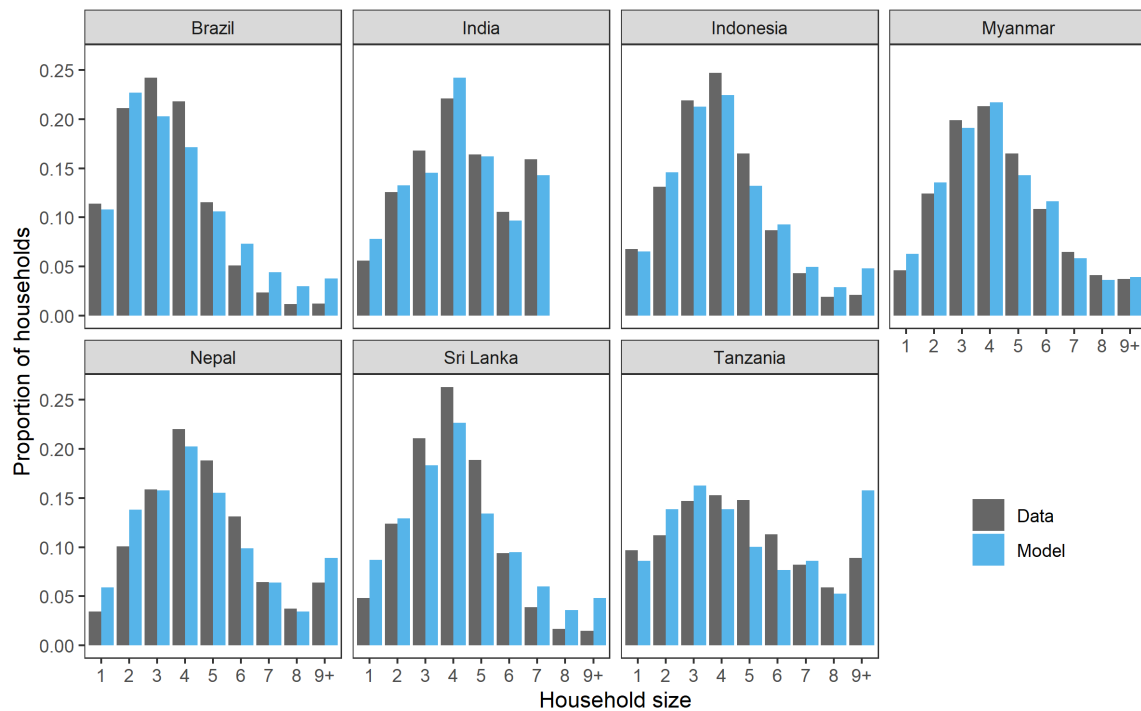


Fig F. The observed and modelled household size distribution. There is no significant difference between data and modeled distribution: Brazil ($p = 0.56$, χ^2 - test), India ($p = 0.96$, χ^2 - test), Indonesia ($p = 0.92$, χ^2 - test), Myanmar ($p = 0.99$, χ^2 - test), Nepal ($p = 0.79$, χ^2 - test), Sri Lanka ($p = 0.34$, χ^2 - test), Tanzania ($p = 0.40$, χ^2 - test).

B. Leprosy

After the model was fitted to the demographics of each LPEP study area, the new case detection rate (NCDR) in the model was fitted to the data. Area specific historical NCDR data and MB proportion was available for all LPEP area, except for Myanmar for which we used country level NCDR data (Fig G). The leprosy module includes the natural history of infection, transmission, treatment and control.

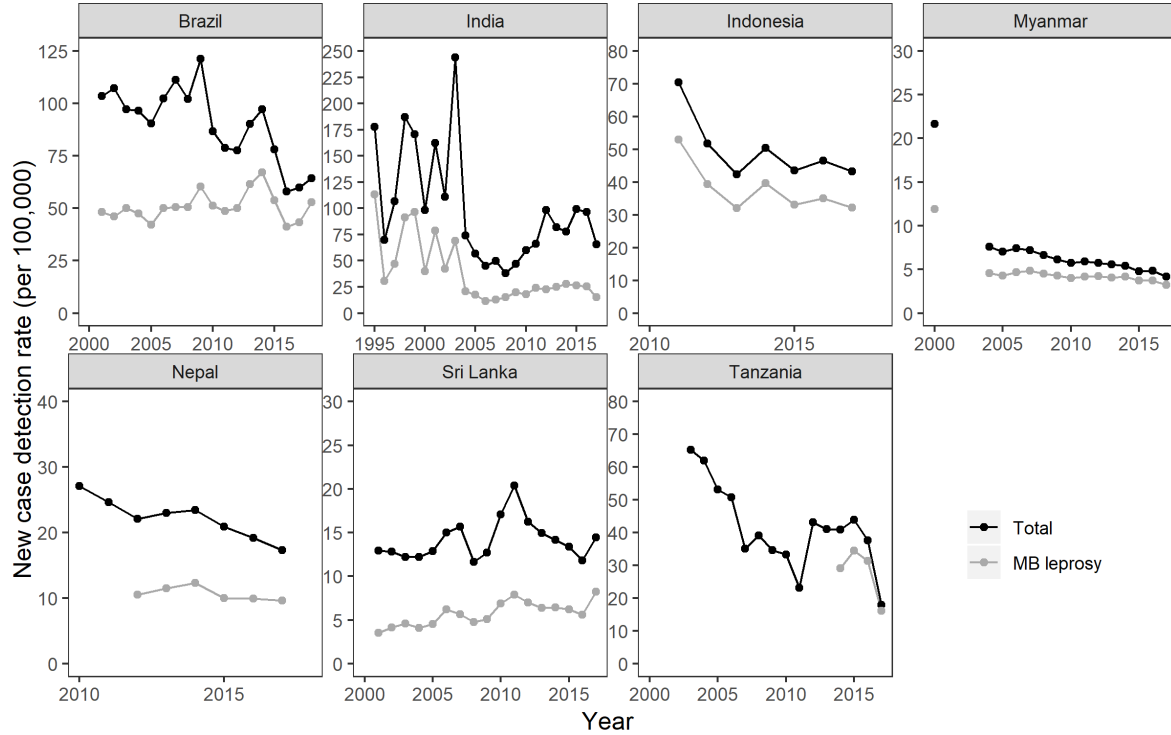


Fig G. Leprosy new case detection rate by LPEP study area.

1. Natural history of infection

The natural history of leprosy is modelled following Meima et al.[40] Table C provides an overview of the parameters used to quantify the natural history of infection.

Table C. Parameters to quantify natural history of infection with *M. leprae*

Parameters	Value	Source
Proportion susceptible	20% ^a	Assumption
MB / PB ratio	26 / 76	NLEP India [41]
PB subclinical duration mean	4.2 years; SD =1.9 (gamma distributed)	Fischer et al. & Fine[4, 42]
PB self-healing rate	20% per year	Fischer et al. & Sirumban et al. [4, 43]
MB subclinical duration mean	11.1 years; SD = 5.0 (gamma distributed)	Fischer et al. & Fine[4, 42]

^a Previous modeling showed that assuming 5%, 10% and 20% did not provide significant different results (Fischer et al.[4])

2. Transmission

Two transmission processes are modelled separately: transmission in the general population and within-household. Transmission in the general population is made indiscriminately to individuals within and outside the household, while the within-household transmission takes place within the household of an infectious individual. The previously calibrated within-household contact rate of 0.98 was used assuming that this would not differ across countries and districts. The probability of transmission is determined by the contact rate and the infectivity function (Table D).

Table D. Parameters to quantify transmission

Parameters	Value	Source
Contact rate		
General population	India: (3, 7) Brazil: (0.5, 2) Indonesia: (0.1, 0.6) Tanzania: (0.1, 0.4) Nepal: (0.4, 0.8) Sri Lanka: (0.4, 1.2) Myanmar: (0.2, 0.3)	Calibrated ^a
Within households	0.98	Fischer et al.[4]
Infectivity function		Meima et al.[44]
PB	0	
Asymptomatic MB	Linear from 0 to 1	
Symptomatic MB	1	

^a Calibrated to match modelled leprosy new case detection rate trend to data.

3. Treatment and control

Treatment with MDT is given to each patient that is diagnosed. After treatment the patient is considered not to be infectious anymore. Relapse after treatment for both PB and MB leprosy may occur. The model also mimics the leprosy control program, which includes passive case detection and active case surveys or contact tracing. Passive case detection is reflected by passive case detection delay, which was calibrated to match the observed historic NCDR trend. Based on the data and the information through national leprosy reports, we identified years of operational changes and surveys (Table E). We assumed that at times of operational changes the passive case detection delays would improve. We used a logistic function to determine changes of passive case detection delays over time.

$$DD(t) = \left(\frac{max - min}{1 + e^{b \cdot (t - mid)}} \right) + min$$

The minimum detection delay was set to 2 years. The maximum years detection delay (max), the midpoint of the function (mid) and the slope (b) were calibrated. Surveys were included if the was evident from available report. The coverage was calibrated to match observed NCDR in that particular year. The model also includes the protective effect of BCG vaccination in infants. BCG coverage rates in infants from 1980 onwards were used to quantify the model (Fig H).

Table E. Parameters to quantify treatment and control

Parameters	Value	Source
Treatment		
MDT use	1990 onwards	Meima et al. & Becxbleumink[45, 46]
MDT relapse rate	0.01 per year	
	To MB: 90%	
	To PB: 10%	
Control		
Passive case detection delays		Based on leprosy data
Years of improved detection delay	India: 1995, 1998, 1999, 2001, 2011, 2012	
	Brazil: 2000	
	Indonesia: 2010	
	Tanzania: 2002	
	Nepal: 2008	
	Sri Lanka: 2010	
	Myanmar: 199	
Survey		Based on data from NLEP India [41]
Year	India: 2002	
BCG protection	60%	
		Schuring et al.[47]

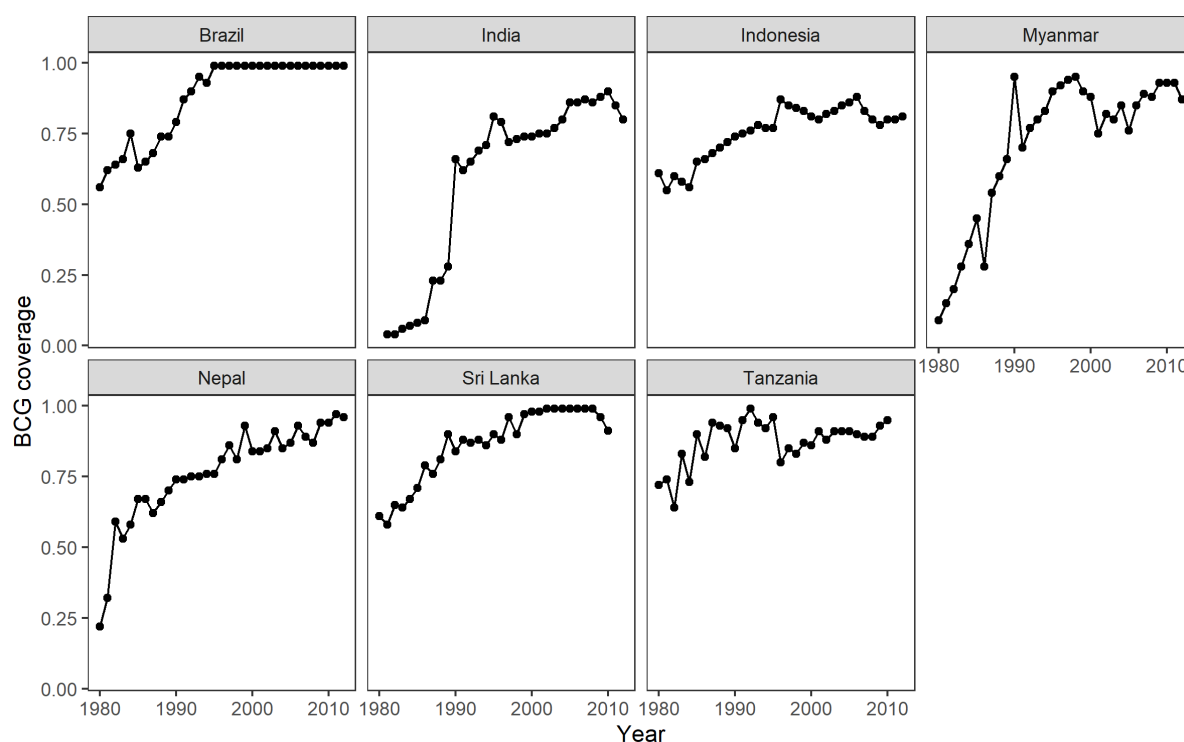


Fig H. BCG coverage rates in infants. Source: UN data[48] and DHS[37]

4. LPEP program

In the model, household contacts and neighbours of diagnosed patients were traced and screened. Only contacts without clinical leprosy and contacts, who had not taken SDR before, were given SDR.[49] Table F provides an overview of the LPEP program parameters, which are too large extent obtained from the LPEP program data.

Table F. Parameters to quantify the LPEP program

Parameters	Value	Source
Contact tracing and screening		
Start	2015 (2016 in Brazil and Sri Lanka)	LPEP program data
Probability of detecting clinical leprosy	0.9	Assumption
Number of contacts screened per index patient	India: 26 contacts Brazil: 11 Indonesia: 36 Tanzania: 9 (only household) Nepal: 23 Sri Lanka: 1 (only household) Myanmar: 18	LPEP program data
Retrospective contact tracing (years prior to start)	2 years (India and Nepal) 1 year (Brazil, Tanzania, Sri Lanka, Myanmar) 0.5 year (Indonesia)	LPEP program data[49]
Coverage	99%	LPEP program data
SDR		
Effectiveness		Moet et al.[50]
Household contacts	50%	
Other contacts	70%	

5. Model calibration

For the calibration, we randomly drew parameter values from uniform distributions with intervals wide enough to capture all possible values that could produce a good fit. The model was run with these parameter values, which were accepted if the fit was good. Table G present all calibrated parameters to fit the historic trend of NCDR in each LPEP study area.

Table G. Overview of calibrated parameters

Parameters	Brazil	India	Indonesia	Myanmar	Nepal	Sri Lanka	Tanzania
Contact rate in the general population	(0.5, 2)	(3, 7)	(0.1, 0.6)	(0.2, 0.3)	(0.4, 0.8)	(0.4, 1.2)	(0.1, 0.4)
Detection delay							
min	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Max	(20, 40)	(20, 40)	(20, 40)	(20, 40)	(20, 40)	(20, 40)	(20, 40)
b (slope)	(0.05, 2)	(0.05, 2)	(0.05, 2)	(0.05, 2)	(0.05, 2)	(0.05, 2)	(0.05, 2)
mid	(0, 6)	(0, 9)	(0, 4)	(0, 4)	(0, 3)	(0, 3)	(0, 3)
Survey coverage	-	(0.05, 0.2)	-	-	-	-	-

The goodness of fit was assessed using a log-likelihood assuming a Poisson distribution. We repeated this until we had 1,000 parameter combinations. A parameter combination was accepted when the log-likelihood did not deviate from the maximum log-likelihood more than 1.5 times. Uncertainty intervals, which reflect uncertainty in the parameter values, were calculated by discarding the 2.5% highest and lowest values. The model was first calibrated using NCDR data until 2012 in order to evaluate the ability of the model to forecast the data points in 2013 and 2014 (Fig I and J).

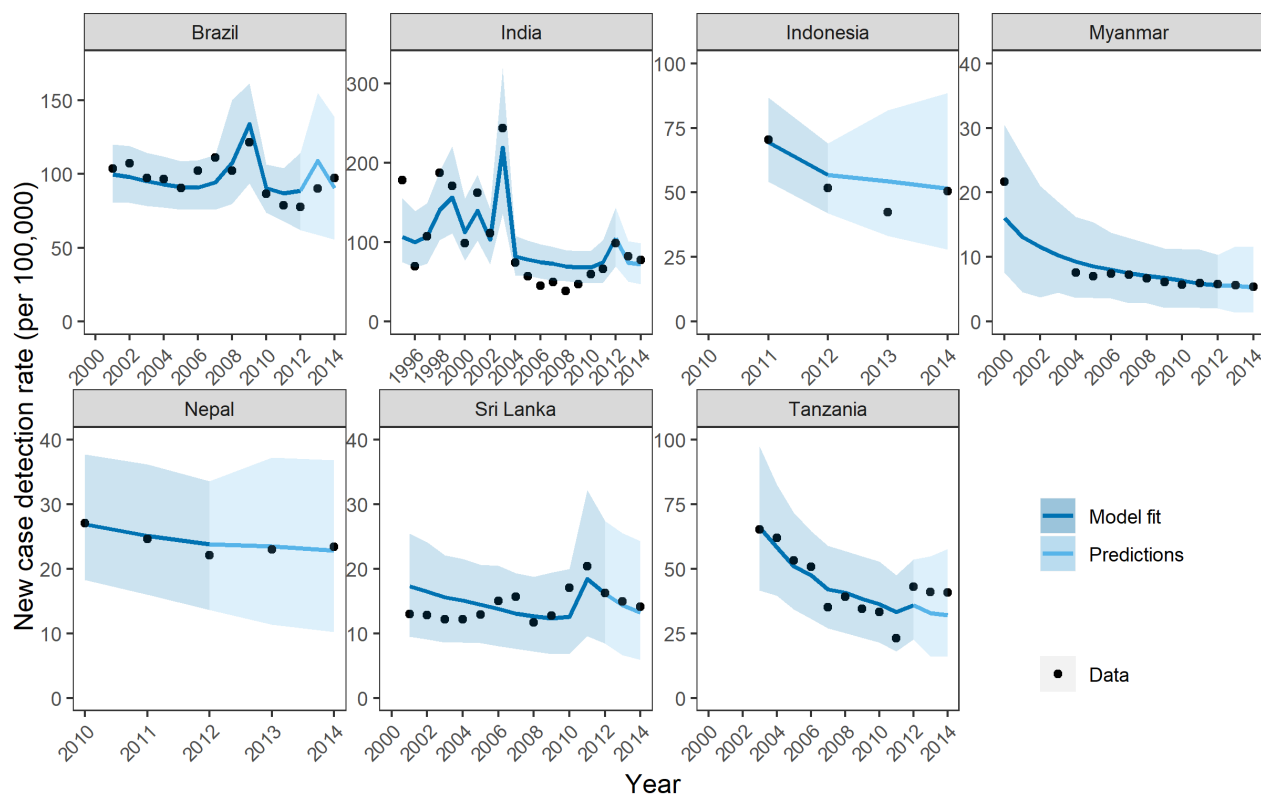


Fig 1. Comparison of predicted trends with the observed new case detection rates of leprosy. Data are represented by black dots. Solid blue lines represent mean estimates and the shaded area the 95% prediction intervals (shaded areas). The dark blue lines and shaded area represent result from model fitting and the light blue lines and shaded areas the model predictions. The model was fitted using data until 2012. Predictions were made for 2013 and 2014.

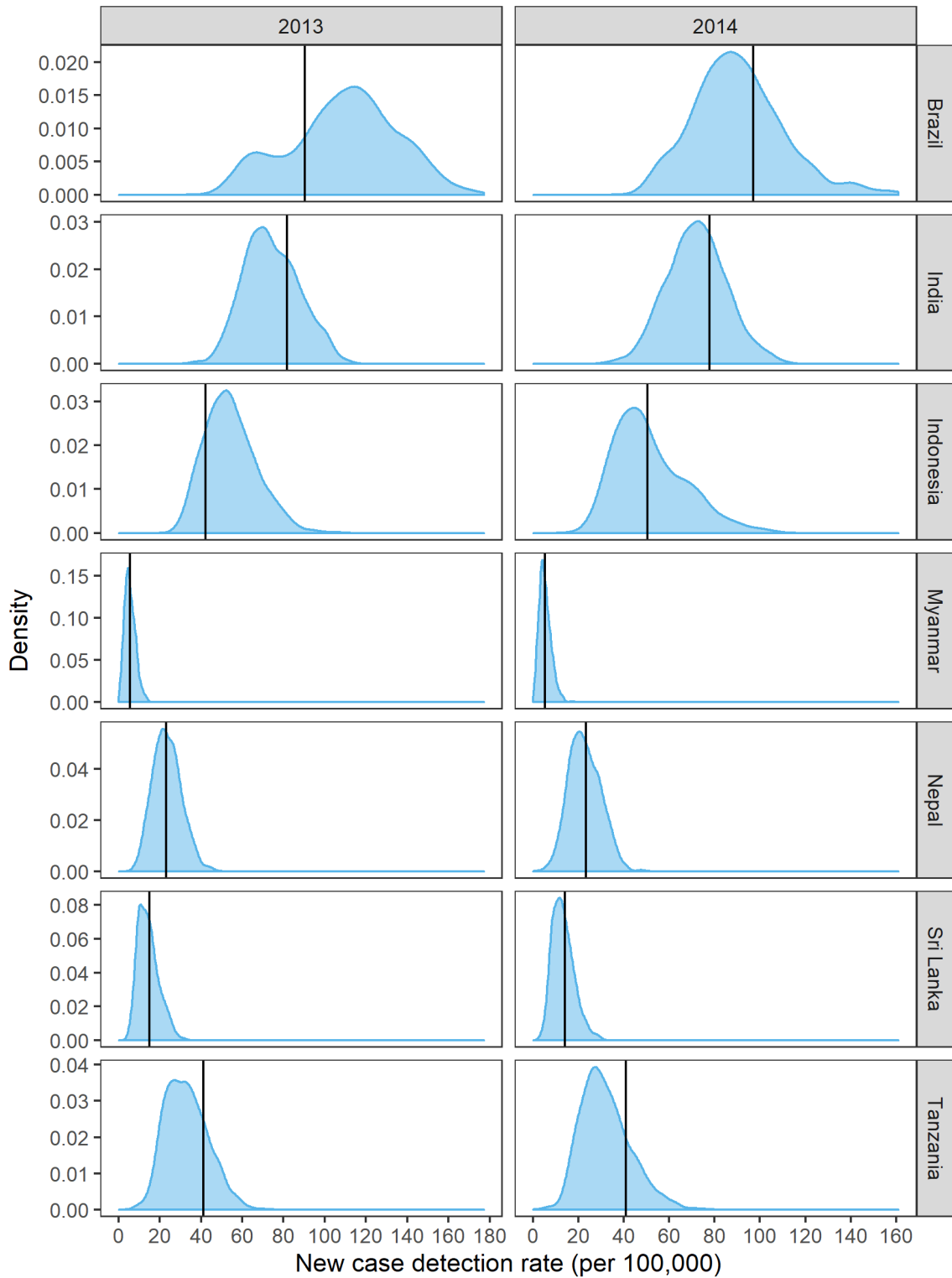


Fig J. Model validation. Distribution of forecasted numbers of new cases of leprosy in 2013-2014 by LPEP study area. The observed value for each area-year combination is indicated by a vertical black line.

After evaluating the short-term predictions, we fitted the model to the data until 2014 (Fig K). We excluded the data of 2015 and beyond because in these years the LPEP program was implemented. The corresponding calibrated passive detection delays are presented in Table H. Fig L shows the associated modelled MB leprosy detection rate trend compared to the data by study area. The MB detection rates are influenced by the assumed initial MB proportion among leprosy cases and the detection delays. With longer the delays more PB cases are missed. The initial MB proportion was set as follows: Brazil (40%), India (15%), Indonesia (70%), Tanzania (60%), Nepal (30%), Sri Lanka (20%), and Myanmar (40%).

The fitted model was used to make predictions of the routine program (i.e., counterfactual) as presented in the main results.

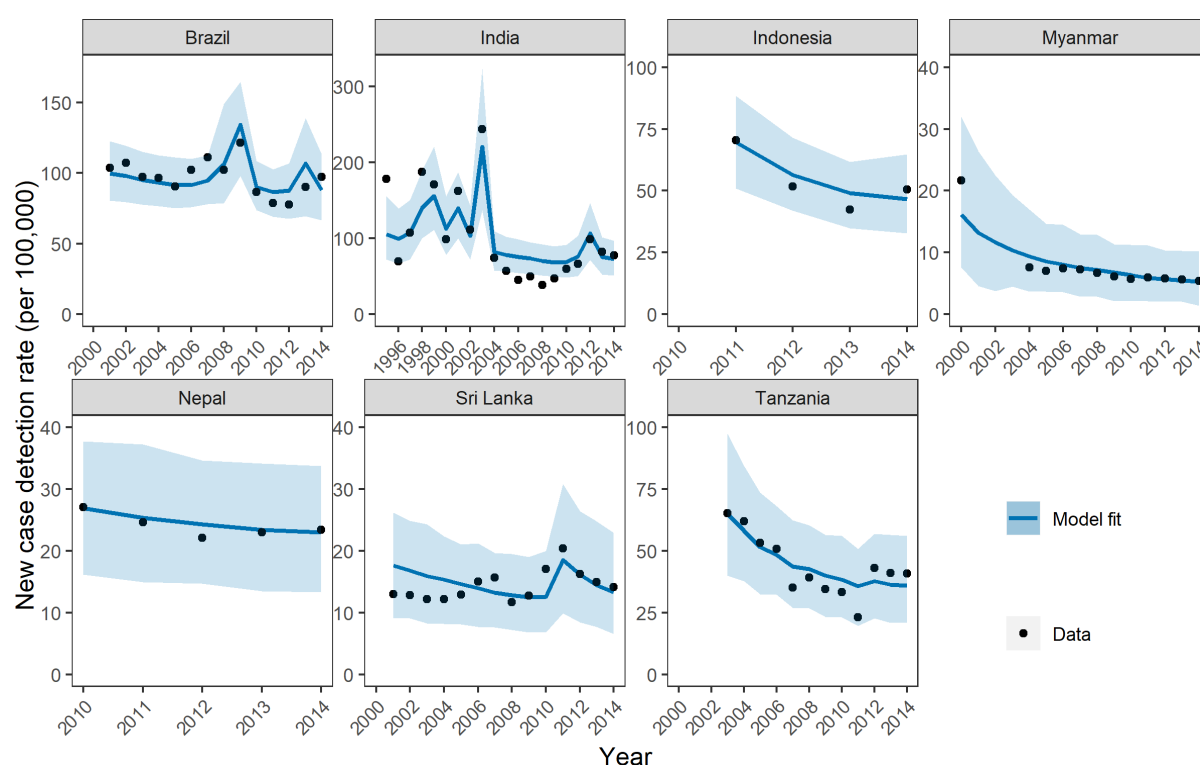


Fig K. Comparison of predicted trends with the observed new case detection rates of leprosy. Data are represented by black dots. Solid blue lines represent mean estimates and the shaded area the 95% prediction intervals (shaded areas). The model was fitted using data until 2014.

Table H. Passive case detection delays in years

Country	Mean	SD
Brazil	12.0	5.1
India	6.0	3.1
Indonesia	4.2	4.2
Myanmar	8.4	6.8
Nepal	12.9	6.7
Sri Lanka	9.6	5.7
Tanzania	7.7	5.2

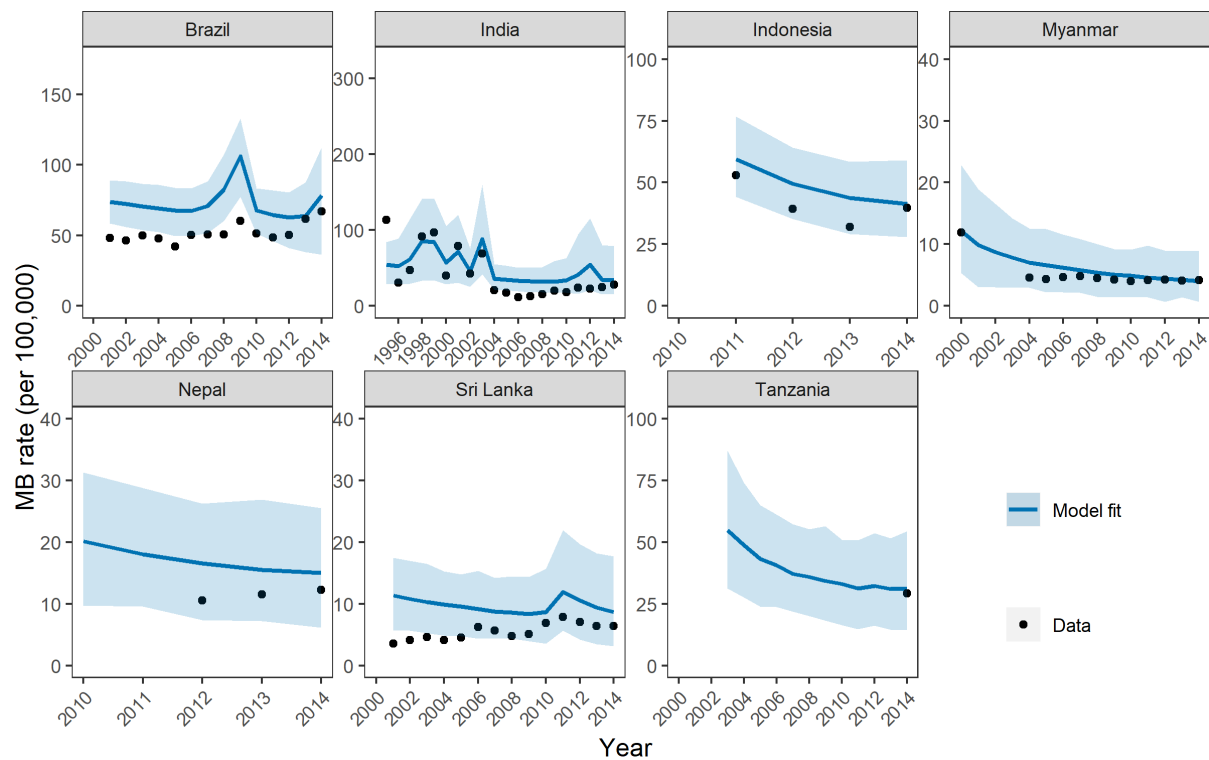


Fig L. Comparison of predicted trends with the observed new case detection rates of MB leprosy. Data are represented by black dots. Solid blue lines represent mean estimates and the shaded area the 95% prediction intervals (shaded areas).

Finally, the predictions of the LPEP scenario were validated against the new case detection rate data obtained during the LPEP program. The LPEP scenario is based on the fitted model (Fig K) and the LPEP parameter settings (Table F). Fig M shows the how the modelled LPEP scenario fits to the LPEP data. Table I provides the predicted trends of new case detection.

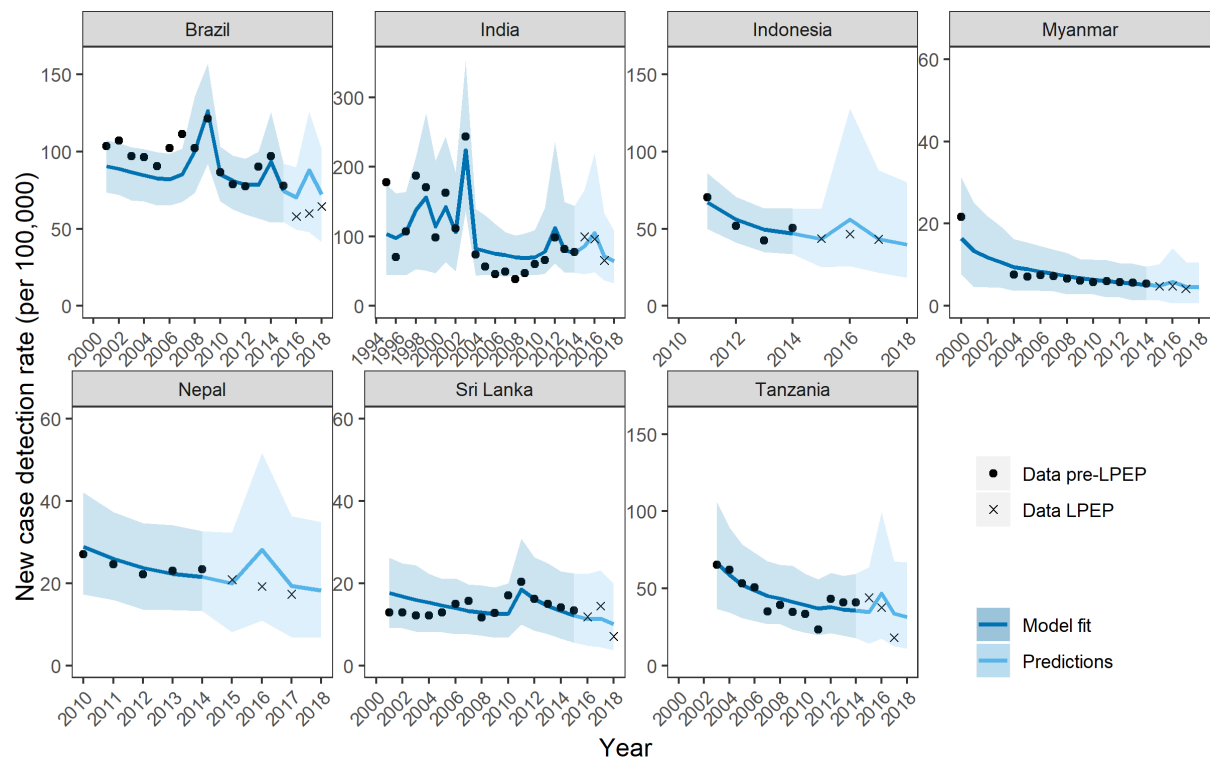


Fig M. Comparison of predicted trends with the observed new case detection rates of leprosy during LPEP program. Data pre-LPEP are represented by black dots, and data during LPEP by crosses. Solid blue lines represent mean estimates and the shaded area the 95% prediction intervals (shaded areas). The dark blue lines and

Table I. Predicted trend of new case detection under LPEP program and routine since start of LPEP

Year	Program	Brazil ^a	India	Indonesia	Myanmar	Nepal	Sri Lanka ^a	Tanzania
2016	LPEP	-	443 (203, 929)	463 (212, 1058)	171 (19, 407)	710 (276, 1307)	-	269 (100, 575)
2017	LPEP	902 (492, 1292)	306 (157, 576)	362 (180, 737)	136 (19, 310)	497 (176, 930)	236 (91, 478)	196 (73, 393)
2020	LPEP	680 (349, 994)	245 (127, 384)	301 (134, 641)	115 (0, 310)	416 (151, 830)	186 (63, 387)	161 (46, 365)
2025	LPEP	563 (241, 903)	194 (88, 315)	230 (90, 526)	88 (0, 271)	331 (50, 704)	143 (42, 324)	120 (18, 310)
2030	LPEP	475 (172, 797)	160 (65, 269)	181 (51, 468)	65 (0, 232)	249 (50, 628)	111 (21, 281)	93 (9, 265)
2035	LPEP	400 (128, 716)	141 (46, 257)	147 (32, 423)	50 (0, 194)	203 (25, 503)	85 (14, 239)	71 (9, 228)
2040	LPEP	347 (98, 660)	126 (38, 242)	117 (19, 372)	37 (0, 174)	158 (0, 477)	66 (7, 197)	54 (0, 173)
2016	Routine	-	313 (180, 637)	337 (186, 500)	134 (19, 291)	474 (226, 804)	-	173 (73, 292)
2017	Routine	692 (441, 908)	292 (165, 549)	325 (180, 494)	125 (19, 271)	449 (176, 779)	216 (91, 422)	169 (73, 301)
2020	Routine	630 (357, 869)	250 (138, 411)	293 (141, 500)	109 (19, 252)	397 (151, 729)	181 (63, 366)	152 (55, 292)
2025	Routine	553 (266, 820)	211 (104, 319)	250 (109, 462)	88 (0, 232)	331 (75, 679)	141 (42, 309)	127 (37, 274)
2030	Routine	485 (199, 765)	184 (81, 288)	214 (77, 430)	68 (0, 213)	272 (75, 578)	113 (28, 281)	105 (18, 247)
2035	Routine	432 (162, 726)	167 (65, 280)	186 (58, 430)	56 (0, 194)	222 (25, 553)	87 (14, 232)	85 (9, 228)
2040	Routine	386 (121, 694)	157 (50, 284)	161 (45, 410)	44 (0, 174)	182 (25, 477)	70 (7, 204)	69 (0, 201)

^a LPEP started in 2017 in Brazil and Sri Lanka

Note: Mean of 1,000 runs; 95% prediction interval provided between brackets

Fig N disentangles the impact of contact tracing only and contact tracing with SDR-PEP. Fig O illustrates the associated number of contacts who have received SDR per year for each study area.

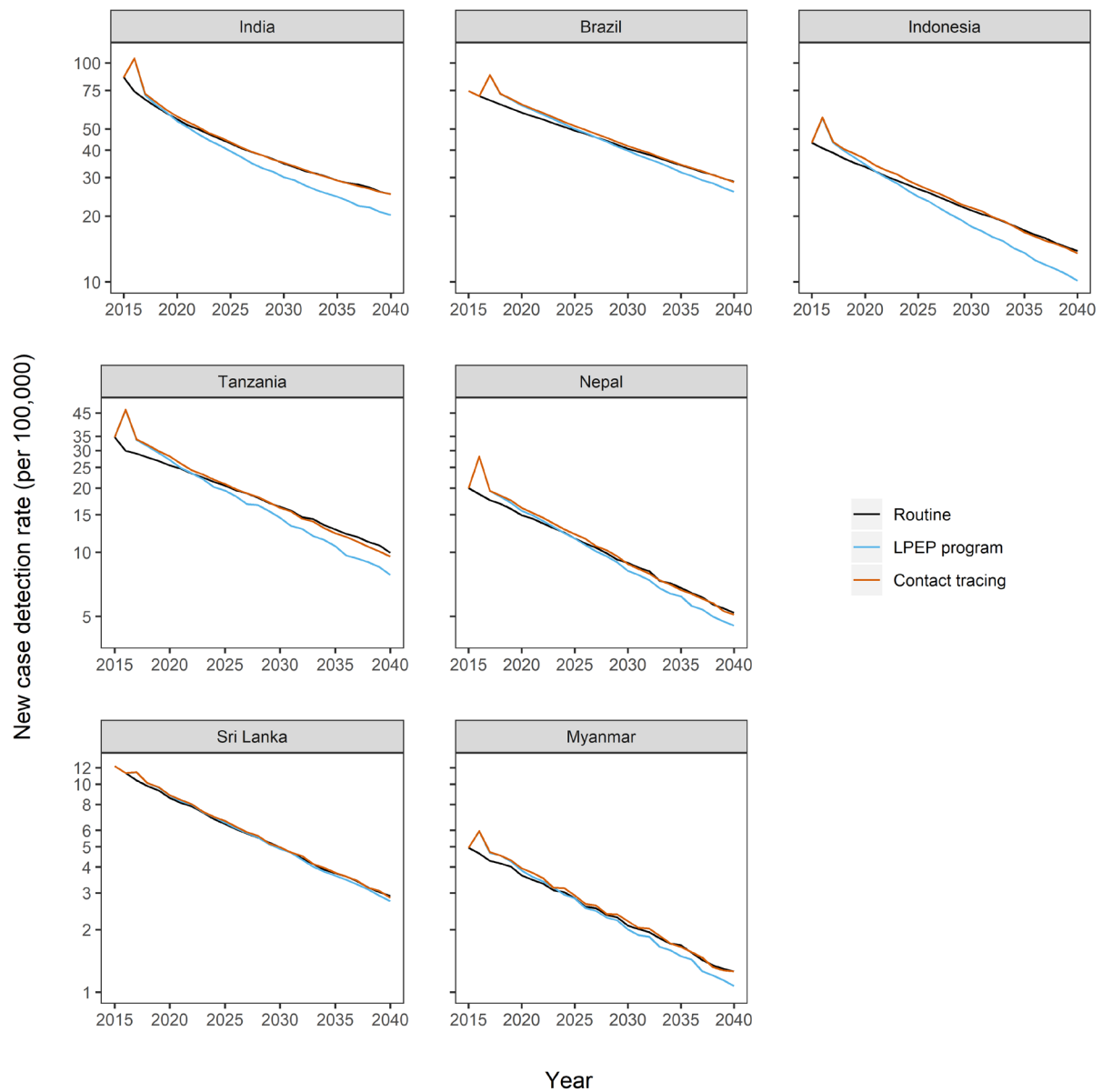


Fig N. Predicted long term trends of the leprosy new case detection rate under the routine programme, and combined with contact tracing only and the LPEP program, stratified by LPEP area. Model predictions are represented by means of 1,000 repeats (solid line). The blue line represents the LPEP program and the black line the routine programme.

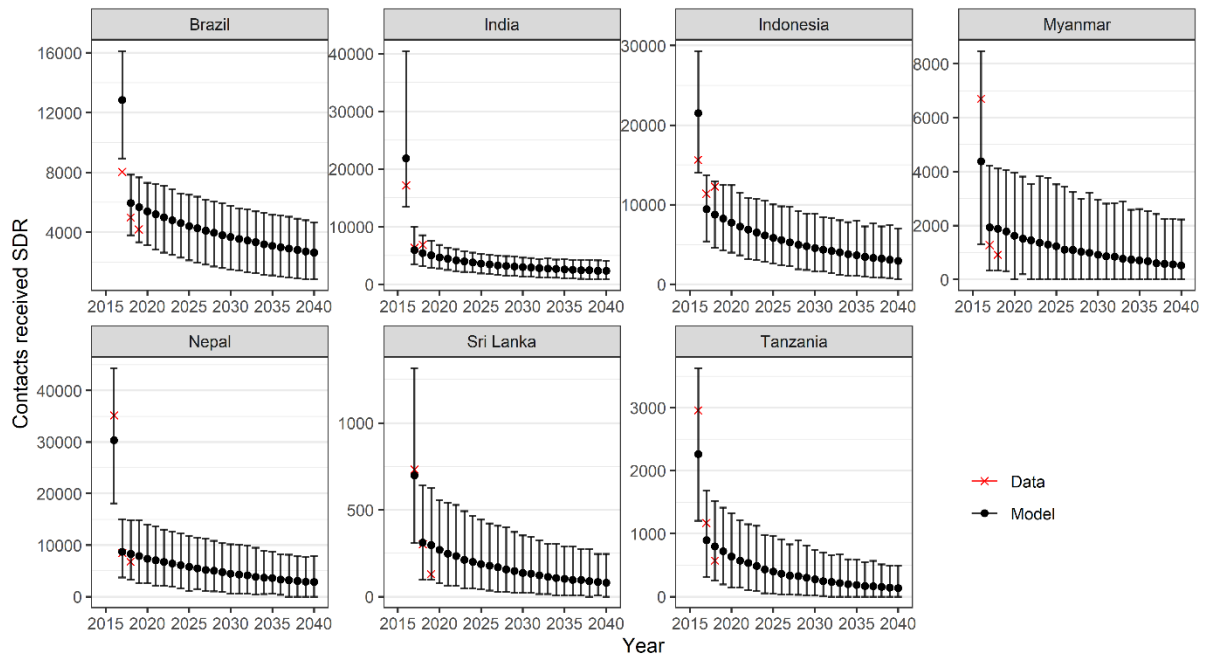


Fig O. Contacts received SDR by year by LPEP study area. Model outcomes are represented by means (points) and 95% prediction intervals (error bars). Data are presented by red crosses. Predictions were made for the years 2015 to 2040. The cumulative number of contacts receiving SDR of all areas together is 558,000 (95% prediction interval: 227,000-1,001,000).

References

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