## **40 years of Serving Humanity**

Lutheran World Service India (LWSI) as the Country Program of Lutheran World Federation (LWF)/Department for World Service (DWS) started operation in India in the year 1974, with refugee relief and rehabilitation in the northern part of West Bengal in the aftermath of the Bangladesh War of Independence, as an off shoot of Cooch Behar Refugee Service. On 4th September 2008, LWSI was registered as Lutheran World Service India Trust (LWSIT), changing its identity from an international agency to a National NGO. Nevertheless, LWSIT continues to be an associate program of LWF/DWS, Geneva.

LWSIT is committed to build 'Communities of Hope' through three distinct approaches: rights based, empowerment and integrated approach. The overall development goal of LWSIT is to empower men, women and children of disadvantaged communities to enhance their quality of life, through ascertaining the rights for sustainable livelihood, food and human security. At present LWSIT is operational in the states of Assam, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, and Jharkhand engaged in both community development and linking Relief and Rehabilitation to Development projects. LWSIT responds to disaster situations across the country by providing relief materials to the affected people.

The 40th Anniversary year was launched on 7th December 2013. All the staff of LWSIT along with its donor partners came together to thank God for His provision and grace in touching millions of vulnerable and marginalised lives over the years.

The thanksgiving service was held at Circular Baptist Church on A.J.C. Bose Road in the evening of 7th December 2013. The service was attended by the representatives from Related Agencies, ACT General Secretary, AZEECON member countries and consultants, ALWS, Planning Commissioner of the State of Mizoram, well wishers of LWSIT and the present and former staff of LWSI/LWSIT including former Directors and Mr John Nathan, the first programme secretary of LWSI.

An encouraging and reminiscing audio-visual of LWSI/LWSIT's journey since 1974 till date was screened during the ceremony.





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