

Glimpses of the Quarter

Training, Workshops, Meetings and other Events

- DCA Meeting in Nepal: Mr K G Mathaikutty attended the DCA Partners Meeting in Kathmandu from 8th to 11th April, 2015. The focus of the meeting was to share the next strategic thrust of DCA and also to interact with the DCA partners in South Asia.
- Normisjon/DIGNI meeting in Nepal: The Interim Director, Mr K G Mathaikutty and Ms Monijinir Byapari, Coordinator of Normisjon Projects, attended the DIGNI South Asia Partners' Meeting at Kathmandu from 13th to 17th April, 2015. The main focus of the meeting was on networking, knowing about DIGNI and their thematic focus for the next decade. DIGNI gave special emphasis on Organisational Development, Religion and Development, and Leadership.
- A meeting of the Accounts Officers of LWSIT was held on 20th April, 2015 at the National Office, which primarily discussed the Staff Code of Conduct, the new Finance Manual, FCRA application and the HR Policy. The latest developments and funding situation and its fall out were also discussed in order for the staff to be mentally prepared for any eventuality. Some of the Forensic Auditors' recommendations related to financial and procurement guidelines were discussed in order to put them into practice.
- The Interim Director, Mr Mathaikutty, attended the ACT Alliance India Forum Meeting and Partners' Assembly held at Chennai from 28th to 30th April, 2015 along with the Emergency & Personnel Manager, Mr B N Biswal. The main issues discussed were: Rights based approach, Tribal/indigenous people's sustainable development options, Political empowerment of women and youth and Liberation challenges of Dalit communities towards sustainable development in India.
- Representatives from all the member countries of the AZEECON underwent a week long Training of Trainers on "Disability Inclusive Development" at Yangon, Myanmar from 11th to 16th May, 2015. It was the third round of the training. Mr L K Pathy and Mrs Jharna Sinha attended the meeting on behalf of LWSIT.
- A Normisjon Partners' Meeting between LWSIT and its partners, ESAF and MCH, was held on 22nd June, 2015 at the National Office.
- AZEECON – ToT program on "Community Managed Climate Change Actions", Course 2 Title – "Facilitating Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation among Small holder Farming Communities" was held at Puri, Odisha from 22nd-29th June, 2015, hosted by LWSIT. 10 participants representing 5 AZEECON countries attended the ToT. LWD Cambodia and CDRM & CDS Indonesia could not send participants due to visa problems. Mr Mukundo Sutradhar anchored the programme and on the last day Mr K G Mathaikutty felicitated the participants and handed over the Certification of Participation.



Participants at the AZEECON ToT on Climate Change in Puri

MY SPACE

• A new staff member, Ms Natasha J Dutta, joined the LWSIT family as an Administrative Secretary in the Executive Director's Cell in March, 2015. Natasha has done her Masters in Human Rights from Calcutta University and a Post Graduate Diploma in Social Service Work from George Brown College, Toronto, Canada. Her work experience includes one year as Community Development Coordinator with World Vision India and a 6 month Executive Secretary position to the Country Director of the UNCTAD Empretec Programme in Kolkata.

• Congratulations to our colleague, Ms Sucheta Mukherjee, and her family on the birth of a beautiful and healthy baby boy on April 10th, 2015.

Visitors

- Mr. Jerome D'souza (DCA), Ms. Karin Bodin and Mr. Anders Salomonsson (CoS), and Rev. Chandran Paul Martin (ELCA) visited LWSIT National Office to attend LWSIT's Partners' meeting on 27th April, 2015.
- LWSIT was shortlisted among the Top 10 Organizations in the Large Category and entered in to the 4th round of the competition for the NGO Award 2014-15. Resource Alliance's independent Assessor, Ms Payal Randhwa, visited LWSIT National Office on 10th June, 2015 and undertook a field visit to the Birbhumi Unit.

Forthcoming Events

- Staff Appraisal at National Office by Interim Director and Board President, Rev Dr Roger Gaikwad – 6th July, 2015.
- The new Executive Director, Mr Shaju V Joseph, will take up office from 1st August, 2015. Mr K. G. Mathaikutty will continue as Interim Director till end of August following which he will act as Senior Advisor to the Executive Director till mid-September 2015.
- Programme Review Meeting – 13th August, 2015 at National Office to familiarize Mr Joseph with the various Units and the programmes.
- Board Meeting – 22nd August, 2015.
- The Executive Director and the Interim Director will attend the workshop on Resource Mobilization organized by Resource Alliance in New Delhi – 24th to 27th August, 2015.
- The ACT Alliance Asia Pacific Forum launch – 14th September, 2015 in Delhi. The Executive Director and the Senior Advisor will take part in the launching program at CASA Delhi also to introduce the new Executive Director to the ACT Alliance Forum members.

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NEWSLETTER

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With increasing frequency and severity of natural hazards, the well-being and safety of persons, communities and countries as a whole are being affected. There is a growing recognition among governments and organizations that building resilient communities is the key to reducing disaster risk. Disaster risk reduction practices need to be multi-hazard and multi-sectoral, inclusive and accessible in order to be efficient and effective. The **United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR)** was established in 1999 to support and coordinate this movement. Read more at: <http://www.unisdr.org>

The trajectory of disasters shows an alarming growth in the last 5 decades. The focus of disaster risk reduction has moved from a narrowly perceived technical discipline, to a broad-based global movement focused on sustainable development. Following are the broad strategic focus areas of the United Nations over the past few decades:

- **1970-1986: Focus on Assistance in cases of natural disaster**

During this phase, the gamut of assistance to disaster-prone countries extended beyond physical and monetary aid to include preventive measures, disaster contingency planning and preparedness.

- **1990-1999: Focus on the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction**

Even as substantial scientific and material progress is made, the loss of lives and property due to disasters has not decreased. In fact, the human toll and economic losses have mounted. It was in this background that the United Nations General Assembly, in 1989, declared the decade 1990-2000 as the **International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction** with the objective to reduce loss of lives and property and restrict socio-economic damage through concerted international



The 9 Core Humanitarian Standards on Quality and Accountability. For details go to <http://www.corehumanitarianstandard.org/files/files/ore%20Humanitarian%20Standard%20-%20English.pdf>

action, especially in developing countries.

- **2000-2007: Focus on Disasters, Vulnerability, and the International Strategy on Disaster Reduction**

The **International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR)** was endorsed by the UN General Assembly as an international framework for responding to the challenge presented by the increasing incidence and scale of disasters. It reflects a major shift from the traditional emphasis on disaster response to disaster reduction, and in effect seeks to promote a "culture of prevention".

Two board frameworks resulted from the ISDR:

The **Hyogo Framework Priorities for Action** for 2005-2015 was adopted at the **Second United Nations World Conference on Disaster Reduction** from 18th-22nd January, 2005 at **Hyogo, Japan**. The action points are: (1) Ensure that disaster risk reduction is a national and a local priority with a strong institutional basis for implementation; (2) Identify, assess and monitor disaster risks and enhance early warning; (3) Use knowledge,

innovation and education to build a culture of safety and resilience at all levels; (4) Reduce the underlying risk factors; and (5) Strengthen disaster preparedness for effective response at all levels. For further details click on: <http://www.unisdr.org/2005/wcdr/intergov/official-doc/L-docs/Hyogo-framework-for-action-english.pdf>

The **Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030** was adopted at the **Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction**, held from 14th-18th March, 2015 in **Sendai, Japan**. The Sendai Framework Priorities for Action are: (1) Understanding disaster risk; (2) Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk; (3) Investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience; and (4) Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response and to "Build Back Better" in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction. For more details click on: http://www.preventionweb.net/files/43291_sendaiframeworkfordrren.pdf

In view of the above two frameworks on Disaster Risk Reduction, in the past few decades the Government of India has brought about a significant change in its approach to disaster management which stems from the conviction that development cannot be sustainable until disaster mitigation has been built into the development process.

Subsequently, LWSIT stressed on **Community Based Disaster Preparedness (CBDP)** and has become the pioneer of this initiative. The key purpose of CBDP is to enhance community capacity to cope with natural disasters and withstand the situation by reducing risks and vulnerabilities. LWSIT's CBDP model has been replicated by RDRS Bangladesh and other member countries of AZEECON. Being one of the leading humanitarian organizations in India, LWSIT is a member of Sphere India at the national level and a member of the Inter Agency Group (IAG) in several states.



Case Story 1 - Cyclone 'Hudhud'

Every Severe Cyclonic Storm 'Hudhud' caused extensive devastation as it battered the port city of Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh on 12th October 2014, leaving in its wake widespread wreckage. The storm claimed 41 lives in Vishakhapatnam and Odisha, according to a Reuters report. The high-speed winds uprooted hundreds of trees, tore down power lines, and damaged crops, houses and buildings. The cyclone affected 320 villages across 44 Mandals (sub-districts) in Visakhapatnam, Vizianagaram, Srikakulam and East Godavari districts.

Margareta Wahlström, head of the **United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR)**, said: "India has demonstrated again to the world that if you set the bar high for reducing your exposure to risk then you will save many lives and reduce your economic losses." She praised the work done by the State Governments of Andhra Pradesh and Odisha, the National Disaster Management Authority, the Indian Meteorological Department and the Indian National Coastal, Ocean Information Systems (INCOIS).

The relatively low death toll reported was the direct result of an operation to evacuate more than 150,000 people in order to minimise the risk to lives from *Hudhud* - similar in size and power to Cyclone *Phailin* that struck the area exactly a year ago.

Being a humanitarian organization, LWSIT extended emergency response and rehabilitation support through the ACT Alliance Appeal Project (IND142) to 210 of the most vulnerable and poor families who were severely affected by Cyclone 'Hudhud' in the Arakuvelly Mondal of Visakhapatnam district, Andhra Pradesh. LWSIT provided various kinds of material assistance such as woollen blankets to provide respite from the severe winter cold, housing aid materials in the form of best quality CGI Sheets, Ridges, MS Flat, J Hook, etc. The families that received housing aid materials rebuilt their houses adding their own contribution in the form of wooden rafters, poles, bamboos, etc. Besides this, an unconditional cash grant was provided to the tune of INR 3,000 per family and solar lanterns were also provided to the families which ensured the continuation of their children's education. The process of program operation was extremely transparent and accountable in the sense that, the government and local self-government authorities witnessed and were involved in material distribution program throughout this short term project period. The quality of materials distributed to the beneficiaries impressed the district authorities.



Distribution of solar lanterns to families affected by Cyclone Hudhud by Sub-Collector, Paderu



LWSIT supported families in rebuilding their homes by providing housing materials



Local self-government authorities aided in the material distribution programme

Case Story 2 – Kendrapada Flood

Karandiapatna, a village of Marshaghai Block in Kendrapada district of Odisha is extremely vulnerable to disasters such as floods and cyclones. The 65 families sheltered in this community are socially, economically and geographically vulnerable, which was clearly visible at the onset of the floods in September 2014. As a result of the chest high flood water in the agricultural fields, the poor farmer families were pushed even further down the economic and social ladder since they lost most of the standing crops like paddy. The high water levels also made it very difficult for the women, children and elderly persons to commute. The 37 thatched houses were either fully or partially damaged making it further uninhabitable for the affected families, compelling them to take shelter on river embankments with their cattle and other assets. The only source of drinking water in the village, a hand pump, was contaminated due to the infiltration of flood water.

In light of this situation the community members of Karandiapatna undertook measures towards their survival without relying on external support. As they had a stock of basic necessities including dry food items and rations, they were able to utilize these in the aftermath of the floods. The Subhash Bose CBDMT has been functioning in the community since 2007 through LWSIT's initiatives. This taskforce played a crucial role in alerting the entire community through traditional means of early warning by beating of drums and brass bells, and providing information about the flood situation.

The CBDMT also initiated contact with the panchayat and the District Emergency Control Room for allotment of boats, food, water and other essentials in this situation. Responding to the urgent needs of this community, the Block officials sent boats to rescue the villagers including the elderly, pregnant women, people with disabilities and children, and moved them to higher places. This entire rescue operation was successfully conducted by the CBDMT members alone utilizing the skills they had acquired through LWSIT's training and sensitization programs.

The Subhas Bose CBDMT had an emergency fund through which they were able to provide food and drinking water for 310 persons for 2 days. This fund was created through the collection of the community members at an earlier time. At a later stage, the DMT also mobilized cooked food and drinking water from the Panchayat for 3 days while the bleaching powder and halogen tablets were procured from the ICDS Centre. The Subhash Bose Disaster Management Team has maintained connections with the concerned government departments in order to secure the compensation towards repairing of damaged houses and property. The villagers are grateful for the efforts made by the DMT for providing the timely warning and much-needed assistance after the floods thus increasing their resilience in the face of such disasters.



LWSIT provided monetary assistance through transfer to individual bank accounts after the flood



Distribution of utensil sets for use in the Community Kitchen to feed those affected by the flood



The Subhas Bose CBDMT provided free food and drinking water to 310 persons for 2 days

Case Story 3 – Nepal Earthquake

On April 25, 2015, an earthquake measuring 7.9 on the Richter Scale and centred at 80km north of Kathmandu in the country of Nepal created widespread damage and prompted a global humanitarian response on an unprecedented scale. The earthquake also triggered an avalanche on Mount Everest claiming many lives. Reports indicate that there were close to 9,000 confirmed casualties with thousands being injured. Hundreds of thousands of people were made homeless and around 8.1 million people were in need of emergency assistance. Strong aftershocks forced people to sleep under tarpaulins or in tents on streets or in gardens, clear of falling debris for days after the earthquake.

The Lutheran World Federation launched an immediate large-scale emergency response with its emergency team already in place in Kathmandu. LWSIT stepped forward to assist in the purchase of Emergency Relief Materials for the Lutheran World Federation, Nepal Earthquake Relief Programme. As requested by LWF-Nepal, the entire procurement process towards purchase of 10,000 nos. of blanket and 10,000 nos. of tarpaulin sheets which cost INR 90,50,000.00 including all taxes and delivery to Kathmandu in the month of May 2015 was undertaken by LWSIT. All of the materials were successfully sent to the LWF office at Kathmandu in a timely manner and the quality of the materials was very much to the satisfaction of LWF-Nepal.



Devastation caused in Nepal by the earthquake on April 25, 2015



Distribution of blankets by LWF Nepal to earthquake affected people which was procured by LWSIT