

EVENTS

LWSIT Internal Complaints Committee (ICC)

The Internal Complaints Committees workshop was held on 17th March, 2015 at the National Office. Altogether 25 persons attended the workshop including the internal members of the Internal Complaints Committees, two external members of the National Office level ICC, a member of the Board level ICC, and members of the Management Committee.

The email ID of the Focal Point of ICC, National Office is: complaints.national@lwsit.org

Training, Workshops, Meetings and other Events

- The workshop on OIO (Outcome Impact Orientation) was facilitated by Ms Anke Schuermann on 19th and 20th February, 2015. This workshop was for the staff dealing with project management or involved in planning, monitoring and coordination. The workshop was supported and sponsored by Brot-fur-die-Welt, Germany.
- An orientation on Planning, Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation (PIME) was conducted on 21st February, 2015. This orientation also took into account the follow up of OIO. All the unit managers participated in it.
- A 3-day retreat on the theme "Thy Kingdom Come" was organised by Normisjon for their India partners in Joka, Kolkata from 10th to 12th March. 4 staff from LWSIT including the Interim Director participated in the retreat.
- A 2-day internally facilitated training program on "Right based approach-advocacy and lobby" for GEP-Kolkata Unit was held on 24th and 25th March, 2015. 25 staff members attended the training.
- The Forensic Audit of LWSIT for the period 2009 to February 2015 was effectively conducted by an international audit firm, BDO, from Norway in February 2015.
- LWSIT was accepted among the large category NGOs who follow best practices of accountability, transparency and professionalism within the organization. The selection process continues with short-listing after various considerations.

Visitors

- Ms Rebecca Duerst and Rev Chandran Paul Martin from ELCA visited the ACT Alliance RRF No. 1/2015 project in Assam on 28th February, 2015.
- Rev Bonny Renae Kinnunen, a Lutheran Pastor from America, who was doing short-term voluntary service with the Missionaries of Charity, visited the GEP, Kolkata Unit on 26th March, 2015.
- Mr Jacob Smordal and Mr Oddvar Holmedal from Normisjon visited the Stone Quarry Project in Jharkhand and West Bengal from 3rd to 6th of March 2015. They also interacted with the National Office staff.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- ToT on "Disability Inclusive Development" will be organized by AZEECON from 11th-16th of May, 2015 in Myanmar.
- The Interim Director will attend the DCA and Normisjon Partner's Meeting at Kathmandu from 9th to 12th April, 2015.
- The Coordinator for Normisjon Supported Projects and the Interim Director will attend Normisjon/Digni's South Asia Partners' Network Meeting at Kathmandu from 13th to 16th April, 2015.
- Mr K. G. Mathaikutty, Interim Director will attend the 1st meeting of the ACT Alliance new Advisory Group on Humanitarian Policy and Practice (HPPG) at Geneva during 22nd to 25th April, 2015. We congratulate him on his nomination to this HPPG for 3 years tenure by the ACT Alliance.
- Mr Jerome D'souza (DCA), Ms Karin Bodin and Mr Anders Salomonsson (CoS), and Rev. Chandran Paul Martin (ELCA) will visit the LWSIT National Office to attend LWSIT's Partners' meeting on 27th April, 2015.
- The ACT Alliance India Forum Meeting and Partners' Assembly is to be held at Chennai from 28th to 30th April, 2015. It will be attended by the Executive Director and the Emergency & Personnel Manager.
- The HAP General Assembly and CHS (Core Humanitarian Standard) Alliance will be launched in Nairobi during 9th-10th June, 2015 wherein Mr B N Biswal (Focal Point for HAP) will attend the programme.

Disclaimer: Printed and Published by Lutheran World Service India Trust, Communications Department. For private circulation only.

MY SPACE



"Shared Dream"

My dream is to see a hunger-free world,
My dream is to see no child in the world cry,
My dream is to see the morals of the citizens of Earth is still high.

My dream is to see men behave like humans,
Everyone helps each other as much as they can.

My dream is to see need win over greed,
My dream is to see that talk is won over by deed.

My dream is to see nature at it's natural best,
Good sense prevailing keeping war and violence away from the rest.

My dream is to see our children live in a world that is peaceful, happy and just,
My dream is to see the present forgive and forget the bitter past,
Work for a better future, as this is a must.

- A poem by Dr S.C. Garai,
Programme Manager



LUTHERAN WORLD SERVICE INDIA TRUST

(An Associate Program of The Lutheran World Federation, Department for World Service, Geneva)
84, Dr Suresh Sarkar Road, Kolkata – 700014, West Bengal, India
Website: www.lwsit.org

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Lutheran-World-Service-India-Trust/235592413123249>

NEWSLETTER

JANUARY-MARCH 2015

VOLUME-VI, ISSUE-I

"Empowering Women, Empowering Humanity: Picture it"

*"Woman is the companion of man,
gifted with equal mental capacity...
If by strength is meant moral power,
then woman is immeasurably man's
superior..."*

*If non-violence is the law of our being,
the future is with women..."*

~ Mahatma Gandhi

International Women's Day (IWD), originally called **International Working Women's Day**, is celebrated on **March 8th** every year. This is a day of recognizing women's achievements without regard to divisions, whether national, ethnic, linguistic, cultural, economic or political in both developed and developing countries alike. Initially this day emerged from the activities of labour movements at the turn of the twentieth century in North America and Europe but now the focus ranges from general celebration of respect, appreciation, and love towards women to a celebration of women's economic, political, and social achievements.

For LWSIT, gender is a cross cutting theme and integrating gender into the organisational perspective and programme has been an important strategy. Therefore to give special thrust on issues related to gender equality and mainstreaming, LWSIT works through the Gender Empowerment Programme. While celebrating the IWD this year, LWSIT embraced the UN theme for International Women's Day 2015, **"Empowering Women, Empowering Humanity: Picture it"**, and celebrated IWD in their operational areas as a platform for women to realize and assert their rights.

The IWD was observed in **Puri** where 292



Ms Snigdha Panigrahi, member of the Women's Commission, being welcomed by Bhubaneswar GEP Unit on International Women's Day



A rally being led by the women of the community in Odisha



Chief Guest, Sub Divisional Judicial Judge Mrs Luna Mohanty, addresses the audience at Puri International Women's Day programme

women and 86 men participated in the fight against antisocial work and to bring a revolution of women empowerment for the development of the society. The Sub Divisional Judicial Judge Mrs Luna Mohanty attended the programme as Chief Guest. The **Bhubaneswar** Unit celebrated the IWD with representation from 18 slums of Bhubaneswar. Guests like Mr Ananta Narayana Jena, Mayor of Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation and Ms Snigdha Panigrahi, member of the Women's Commission, discussed about the importance of the day, women sensitization, security and empowerment.

The **Cuttack** Unit observed IWD with 146 women and third gender members from 21 communities. Ms Anita Behera, Mayor, Cuttack CMC was Chief Guest and Mr Ajay Kumar Barik, Deputy Mayor was the Chief Speaker at the programme.

The IWD was observed in **Kendrapara** district with members of 23 DMTs and 72 SHGs which included men, women and children. At this celebration the guests who were present included women activists, the Block chairman, the **Sarapanch**, professors from colleges, teachers and journalists. At **Subarnapur** the day was celebrated with a rally around the villages shouting different slogans written on placards.

Each programme was characterized by motivational speeches from the Chief Guests. The programmes also included various events and competitions like rallies, debates, role-playing and slogan-making on women-centric issues where the winners were all awarded prizes at the end.



Men and Women march as equals on International Women's Day



Rangoli-making competition on International Women's Day



Women leaders felicitated by Cuttack Unit Manager

Assam

The **Socio-Economic Empowerment Peace Reconciliation (SEEPR) Project in Assam** covers 100 communities (81 in Kokrajhar and 19 in Chirang District) with around 7,195 households. The project was started a decade ago with the distribution of relief materials among the riot affected people who were staying at the camp. The next step was to continue with rehabilitation and reconstruction. The immediate needs of the communities were met through programs like "Food for Work" which involved renovation of roads, houses and tube wells for drinking water.

At present the project concentrates its efforts mainly on empowering the people by forming Community Based Organisations (CBOs) with focus on **Peace and Reconciliation** and also ensures sustainable development through organic agriculture and alternative livelihood options. The other significant areas of intervention of the Assam Project are education, health care and sustainable environment through renewable energy especially solar.

Assam continues to face conflict and unrest which includes heinous acts of abduction, killing, extortion and forcible collection of money and food grain from the communities. Steps have been taken towards the formation of the Peace Forum, conducting of peace awareness trainings, peace rallies and youth camps. Training on peace and conflict resolution was given to the village youth, village elders and the staff. Around 1,091 people from 86 villages of different ethnicities have been provided with a platform to exchange opinions openly on safety and stability of existence with peace and harmony. Ten Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) have been drafted for cooperation, information-sharing and combating conflict among the communities.

Some of the efforts in agriculture include training on the use of bio-pesticides, bio-fungicides, use of organic manure and bio-fertilizers, support to create manure pits, and planting of indigenous and traditional species of saplings. The Project also supported 12 SHGs with bee boxes of indigenous bee variety and the required training. In order to address the issue of food insecurity, 6 grain banks were set up in 6 different communities. Also, turmeric cultivation was started in 21 communities. Pisciculture in stock ponds and duck rearing support through VDCs/SHGs has increased alternative income for the CBOs. Also, a two-month training on animal husbandry has been provided in close linkages with the Sub Divisional animal husbandry and veterinary department.

As environment degradation is a major issue in this region with regular deforestation taking place, natural resource management is a significant intervention. The project encouraged the promotion of Social Forestry and fruit orchards. Two new Eco-groups have been formed at the community level in addition to the 12 existing ones. The project emphasized the use of renewable energy by installing 14 solar pumps on the farmers' fields. The plantation of forest saplings through the support of the Forest Range Office has drawn the attention and appreciation of the District Forest Office, BDO and other district government officials.

LWSIT is presently supporting 17 Early Childhood Education (ECE) centres and skill based training has been provided to the instructors of these ECE Centres to enhance value based education. The Project has also helped in admission to high schools and provided book support.

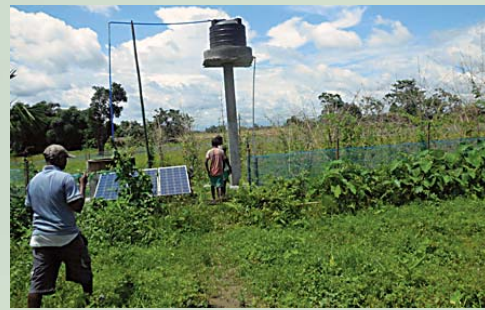
Four women SHGs formed an entrepreneurship called SARA in Shantipur village comprising of Bodo and Rava communities to initiate a business model around Pork processing. Presently the members are preparing dry pork, pork pickle and pork momo. The entrepreneurs were supported by LWSIT through training and material inputs.



Relief materials being distributed to the riot-affected families of Assam by Rev. Chandran Paul Martin, ELCA



Staff exposure visit to witness the agricultural productivity of the communities in Assam



Community farming using solar-powered irrigation pump



'SARA' group members engaged in pork processing business



Community members, with the support of the VDC, engaged in agricultural activities in the post-riot period



Birbhum

The **Development Support Programme for the Stone Quarry affected Communities (DSSQC)** aims to reduce the vulnerability of the predominantly *Santhal* community caused by open-cast mining and stone-crushing in the bordering districts of Jharkhand and West Bengal. The project is being implemented in Md. Bazar Block and Rampurhat-I Block of Birbhum district in West Bengal and in Shikaripara block of Dumka district in Jharkhand. The project covers 130 vulnerable communities - 80 in West Bengal and 50 in Jharkhand.

LWSIT is implementing this project in partnership with two local expert organizations - Mohulpahari Christian Hospital (MCH) through Northern Evangelical Lutheran Church (NELC) and Evangelical Social Action Forum (ESAF). MCH is responsible for the health component of the project whereas ESAF with their expertise in bamboo craft has been involved in imparting training for creating alternative livelihood options and also in creating a bio-shield through bamboo cultivation for the stone dust affected communities.

Thus far, the Project Unit has formed 11 CBOs in 11 communities and 314 SHGs in 130 communities where more than 75% of households are involved. The Project Unit has also established a good working relationship with the local Panchayat, various Government Departments, forest department and the leaders of the Adivasi Gaunta (Tribal Forum).

With the support of MCH, the Unit organizes regular health camps for those crusher workers with respiratory infections, STIs and for pregnant mothers. The Project Unit has also created sanitation facilities for the working women and adolescent girls at the work sites with the support of stone crusher owners. This year 4 latrines were constructed at 4 crusher units in Shikaripara and Bharkata area. In order to increase the educational level and reduce dropout of first generation school-going children, the Project Unit has organized 32 study centers in different communities for the children of Classes I to X. Also, LWSIT has conducted awareness camps for parents on the importance of their children's education.

The Project Unit is working towards creating opportunities for alternative livelihood in two ways - farm based by increasing agricultural production and pisciculture, and non-farm based by organizing vocational trainings like tailoring, stone craft making, bamboo craft making, and incense stick making with the support of ESAF, our partner NGO. LWSIT is also developing waste lands through earth excavation and field bonding to increase the agricultural area. Since livestock rearing is the traditional practice of our rights holders, they have been provided with training to improve practices and enhance their income.

The project is also investing on developing community assets like toilets for the stone quarry workers, community halls for them to organize meetings, crèches for the stone quarry workers' children and grain banks to help them during the time of food insecurity. As a result of these initiatives by the DSSQC Project Unit, the quarry workers are now receiving increased wages of INR 200 per day and the people of 2 stone quarry affected communities have stopped all mining operations in the vicinity of their communities. Our future plan is to strengthen the Community Based Organizations through a legal identity so that they may continue all efforts of community development by mobilizing the resources from government and non-government authorities.



Cabbage cultivation as alternative agriculture promoted by LWSIT



Mango orchard promoted by LWSIT and run by Self Help Groups of the Stone Quarry Project



Bamboo crafts made by the Stone Quarry affected communities, trained by ESAF



Development of stone artefacts by the Stone Quarry affected communities through training by ESAF



Mustard cultivation as alternative agriculture promoted by LWSIT



Sanitation facilities provided to Stone Crusher workers by LWSIT



Primary healthcare of the Stone Quarry affected communities provided by MCH