

# **Lutheran World Service India Trust**

(A brief on Organization & projects under evaluation)

## **Program Background:**

Lutheran World Service India was functional as a country program of the Lutheran World Federation/ Department For World Service, Geneva from 1976-2008. The organization was operating relief, rehabilitation and development project during the course of time and worked in the states of West Bengal, Odisha, Bihar, Assam, Tamilnadu, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujrat.

It was localized as a national organization Lutheran World Service India Trust on 4<sup>th</sup> September 2008. Till December 2009, was the transition period from an international entity to a local organization, when all the procedural formalities to function as a national NGO were completed. The newly registered organization was continuing with the project of LWSI, the country program of LWF/DWS.

From 2010, the organization started functioning as local entity with newly developed Country Strategy Document, Project Document separately for Urban & Rural projects with the following mandate, vision, mission, program goal, core values etc

## **Mandate**

To bear witness to the Indian Churches' commitment to accompany the poor, the marginalized and the excluded in their quest for justice, full realisation of human rights and life with dignity.

## **Vision**

People of India living in just, secular and peaceful societies, in communal harmony and with dignity, united in diversity and empowered to achieve their universal rights to basic needs and quality of life.

## **Mission**

Inspired by God's love for humanity, LWSIT challenges and responds to the causes and consequences of human suffering and poverty with commitment to justice and dignity for all.

## **Core Values**

- **Justice**
- **Democracy**
- **Secularism**
- **Accountability**

## **Program Goal**

Empower men, women and children of disadvantaged communities to enhance their quality of life, through rights based approaches for sustainable livelihood, food and human security.

## **Priority Focus Groups**

- Marginalized rural and urban poor, among them the traditionally disempowered such as the scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, other backward classes, dalits, and religious minorities are the priority focus groups. Within these groups, special attention will be given to improve the living conditions of women, children, the aged without caregivers and the physically challenged.
- Victims of natural and manmade disasters.

## **Priority Focus Area:**

LWSIT continued to operate and take forward the development programs of LWSI in West Bengal, Orissa and Assam and extended in the state of Jharkhand during the project with high concentration of dalits, tribal people and other marginalized sections. The Trust also responded to the relief and rehabilitation needs of disaster-affected communities in India in the States of Odisha, West Bengal, Bihar, Assam, Manipur, Tamilnadu, Andhra Pradesh and Jammu Kashmir based on the availability of resources.

## **Projects under Program Evaluation 2015- 2016**

**Social Transformation, Economic Empowerment & Risk Reduction Project – (STEER) Rural** – This core project was operational in the districts of Birbhum (till 2013, March) , Bankura in West Bengal; Balangir, Kalahandi, Nuapada, Subarnapur, Puri, Kendrapada, Jajpur, Ganjam ( till 2012), Keonjhar, mayurbhanj ( till 2011).

The focus group of the project was men, women and children of the disadvantaged marginalized communities in selected areas of the abovementioned districts irrespective of their religion, caste, creed, ethnicity, political conviction etc. The project was designed to address the issues which have direct bearing on people's quality of life- like food security & sustainable livelihood, education, health, environment & climate change keeping people at the centre of all intervention.

Social mobilization and empowerment of the communities through formation of community based organizations with generation of common capital, imparting different kinds of conceptual, thematic and managerial issue based training, awareness program is the key intervention strategy of the project.

Through facilitation process the organization enable the communities to access their rights and entitlements, improve their knowledge and skill followed by arrangement of inputs to improve productivity from their available resources, improved health status by optimal access to health care facilities including safe water and improved sanitation, improvement of educational status through supporting formal and non-formal education, environment promotional measures, climate change adaptation and community based disaster preparedness etc are the prioritized working sectors of the project.

### **Gender Empowerment Project- Urban**

Project was operational in the city of Kolkata in West Bengal state and Cuttack and Bhubaneswar in the state of Odisha.

Partner communities are the socio-economically marginalized families in the authorized and unauthorized slums, women and girl children are the primary focus group. In a highly patriarchal society, women and girl children are the victims of discrimination and disparity, all forms atrocities & violence; the manifestation of all these are more severe in extremely disadvantaged population. Project is planned aiming at Gender Justice & Equity by minimizing all sorts of injustice, by improving their access and control over rights and entitlements with active involvement of the male counterpart in the family and society at large, support , cooperation from the other stakeholders & duty bearers. Mobilization of the groups and improving their capacity through various awareness, training, exposure and interface program so their decision making power is enhanced and they can act collectively to improve their economic status, services from the duty bearers, health care services ,

educational status. They work collectively to fight against all kinds of discrimination, violence, injustice etc in family and society.

## **Bilateral Projects**

*1) Normisjon/ NORAD supported Assam Riot Victims Rehabilitation Projects.*

*For the ethnic riot victims of Kokrajhar & Chirang district. The project was designed for rehabilitation and livelihood restoration after the riot victims came back to their respective places after staying in the relief camps for 3-5 years.*

*The project have three distinct phases- Relief (1996- 2003), Rehabilitation & Sustainable livelihood(2004- 2013), Socio-Economic Empowerment with Peace & Reconciliation ( 2014- 2018). The Key strategy of LWSIT program is to mobilize and empowering the communities by developing their capacity to identify their need, resources and work collectively to meet their individual and collective needs through utilization of local resources which is inclusive of local government and self government resources, services and facilities.*

*(Assam SEEPR project will not be under the purview of this evaluation)*

2) Normisjon/ NORAD supported Development support programme for the Stone Quarry Affected Communities of Birbhum district of West Bengal and Dumka district of Jharkhand.

After completion of Pilot Phase of 2010-2012, full fledged project has been with a project plan of 2013-2017. During the LWSIT Program Evaluation this project will undergo a midterm evaluation as designed in the project document ( 2013-2017)

The primary focus group of the project are women, men, adolescent girls and boys, due to lack of resource and opportunity who engage themselves as unorganized labour force in legal and illegal quarries and crushers. Different forms of exploitation including violation of rights, ill health including occupational health hazards, illiteracy, food insecurity etc are the core issues of the partner communities of the project. Project is designed to address those problems keeping people at the centre of all intervention. Two other partners has also been identified and engaged in the project to address the broad objective of the projects, they are namely-

i) Evangelical Social Action Forum (ESAF) – who has the expertise in skill based alternative livelihood and ii) Mohulpahari Christian Hospital (MCH) an institution having expertise in Community Health Service as well as Hospital facilities.

LWSIT focuses on community mobilization, promotion of natural resource based livelihood opportunities, elementary education for all and environmental protection and regeneration.

All components together contribute to Overall objective of the project –“To empower women and men of the disadvantaged communities affected by the stone quarry works and create enabling conditions to secure their rights and achieve greater control over their lives and livelihood by facilitating their participation in sustainable development process.”

For more details, please visit our website [www.lwsit.org](http://www.lwsit.org)