



LWSIT

LUTHERAN WORLD SERVICE INDIA TRUST

(An Associate Program of The Lutheran World Federation, Department for World Service, Geneva)

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Executive Director's Visits

1. The Executive Director visited the STEER-Rural-Birbhum Unit and Stone Quarry Project in Birbhum and Dumka in Jharkhand. He also visited the NELC in Dumka and held discussions with the Church authorities.
2. The Executive Director visited Australia, prior to the LWF/DWS Regional meeting in Medan, Indonesia. The purpose of his visit to Australia was to find new potential funding partners for LWSIT

Dan Church Aid Visits and Reports

1. Deputy Program Manager – Emergency, accompanied the DCA/ECHO monitoring team for a follow-up visit. The visit was undertaken to understand the impact of the programme interventions in the Cyclone Aila Recovery Project area in Patharpratima Block, South 24-Parganas district. The project was completed early this year.
2. Mr. Manikumar from DCA made a field visit to the DRR projects in Odisha together with LWSIT's Deputy Manager-Emergency. Later a debriefing meeting was held at the National Office in Kolkata.
3. Deputy Program Manager Dr S.C. Garai joined Mr. Deepak Singh, Program Officer, Right to Food Program, DCA, New Delhi for field visit to the Western Odisha Projects.
4. Half yearly narrative and financial report of the DCA supported Right to Food Project was submitted to DCA.
5. Half yearly narrative and financial report pertaining to the Rights Based DRR Program were submitted to DCA.

Church of Sweden's HAP Site Base Line Survey

1. Ms. Maria Moller and Ms. Smruti Patel from HAP International conducted CoS's HAP Site Baseline Survey from 4th to 6th August, 2011 at the STEER-Urban Unit in Bhubaneswar, and had discussions at the LWSIT National Office at Kolkata.

Celebration Of Independence Day

The Independence Day (15th August) was celebrated in the Head Office as well as across all the units. The day was observed by flag hoisting, rallies, cultural programme by the partner communities (especially school children), significant stakeholders in the partner communities addressed the gathering across the project areas, and sweets were distributed.

Subarnapur Unit celebrated Independence Day with a difference this year. The day was celebrated at the District Handicapped Welfare School, Subarnapur. The LWSIT supported programme was organized by District Handicapped Welfare School.



Independence Day celebration

The Honorable Minister praised the commendable work Lutheran World Service India Trust (LWSIT) is doing across the state of Odisha. Both the Collector and the Minister thanked the organization for working for the poorest of the poor. The Minister requested the LWSIT officials present to share with the people present, what the organization is doing for the poorest of the poor.

Sweets and uniform for the children (supported by LWSIT) were distributed amongst the students by the dignitaries. The children were elated to get the gifts.



Independence Day celebration

At the National Office the celebrations commenced with flag hoisting, followed by a cultural programme by the school children, after which a speech was delivered by Mr Satyabrata Chakraborty (Accounts Officer) and Col. Shantanu Ray (Consultant-Human Resource and Administration).

Staff Retreat 2011



The Staff at the Retreat in Darjeeling

The Staff of National office and Steer Urban-Kolkata Unit attended the Staff Retreat-2011 at Darjeeling from 1st September to 4th September. The theme of the Retreat was "Let us serve". The staff benefited from the day long sessions on the theme. At the end of the Retreat, the following convergence points were decided for the rest of the year:

1. **Strive for Excellence** (Provide effective and efficient service)
2. **Foster Human Values** (Servant leader model: not to be served, but to serve)
3. **Effective Leader** (Well planned, managed programs, leadership and direction matters)



After brainstorming at the retreat, it was unanimously decided that the unique identity of the organization is to **empower the last, the least and the lost.**

Flood In Odisha



Relief Distribution in Progress

Heavy rainfall in the upper catchment area of Hirakud Dam forced the authorities to open 59 gates to release water downstream from the Dam. As a result Mahanadi river system inundated large tracts affecting millions of people in 19 districts including Puri, Kendrapara and Jajpur where LWSIT is operational. According to official sources the death toll in the flood raised to 39 while nine persons still remained missing. More than 31 lakh people were affected, which damaged crop in about three lakh hectares. About 2.8 lakh people were evacuated to safer places. According to estimate 1,18,429 houses were damaged in the flood, the highest 37,435 in Puri district which includes LWSIT operational communities too. LWSIT provided relief support of: rice, daal, mustard oil, halogen tablets and HDPE UV protected 15X12 tarpaulin sheets, to the affected communities of Puri and Kendrapara.



Building emergency shelter

A High flood alert was announced in Cuttack due to the rising water level of Mahanadi and Kathjodi rivers. As the water level in both the rivers started rising, over 1,500 people residing in the low-lying areas of the riverside slopes took refuge on the Ring Road. The Ring Road is situated on the embankments of both Mahanadi and Kathjodi rivers.

STEER Urban Cuttack unit rendered service to the flood affected people. Project unit mobilised youths from different communities to help the affected people in shifting their belongings to a safer place. Youth also helped people to make shelter with bamboo and HDPE sheets on the roadside. The unit was also able to mobilise 4,000 halogen tablets and distributed immediately.

Celebration Of Breast Feeding And Nutrition Week



Observing Nutrition Week at Cuttack Unit

Breastfeeding Week : World Breastfeeding Week is observed every year from 1 to 7 August in more than 170 countries to encourage breastfeeding and improve the health of babies around the world. It commemorates the Innocenti Declaration made by WHO and UNICEF policy-makers in August 1990 to protect, promote and support breastfeeding.

Breastfeeding is the best way to provide newborns with the nutrients they need. WHO recommends exclusive breastfeeding until a baby is six months old, and continued breastfeeding with the addition of nutritious complementary foods for up to two years or beyond. It is safe and contains antibodies that help protect infants from common childhood illnesses - such as diarrhoea and pneumonia, the two primary causes of child mortality worldwide.

Beyond the immediate benefits for children, breastfeeding contributes to a lifetime of good health. Adults who were breastfed as babies often have lower blood pressure and lower cholesterol, as well as lower rates of overweight, obesity and type-2 diabetes.

Breastfeeding also benefits mothers. It reduces risks of breast and ovarian cancer later in life, helps women return to their pre-pregnancy weight faster, and lowers rates of obesity.

Nutrition Week : National Nutrition Week is observed nation wide from the 1st to 7th September every year. Nutrition is the focal point of health and well-being. Nutrition is directly linked to human resource development, productivity and ultimately to the national growth.

Malnutrition is a complex phenomenon. It is both the cause and effect of poverty and ill health, and follows a cyclical, inter-generational pattern. It is inextricably linked with illiteracy, especially female illiteracy, lack of safe drinking water and proper sanitation, ignorance, lack of awareness and ill health. It creates its own cycle within the large cycle of poverty.

Malnutrition in India continues to be at a high level with 42.5% children below the age of 5 being underweight and almost 70% being anaemic. 22% children are born with low birth weight. Better nutrition is related to improved infant, child and maternal health, stronger immune systems, safer pregnancy and childbirth, lower risk of non communicable diseases (such as diabetes and cardiovascular disease), and longevity.

Rally for 'Securing the Rights of the Unorganised Sector Workers'



Fighting for their rights

LWSIT actively participated in the rally organized by Sramajeebi Surakshya Mancha a state level network. The rally was organized on 6th-8th September 2011, to create awareness and demand proper implementation of the various social security schemes of the government for the unrecognized sector workers.

A Collaborative Effort: Eye Check-Up Camp

Free eye check up camps were held at Udayanpally center in association with Susrut Eye Foundation organized by STEER Urban Kolkata Project. 37 patients had their eyes checked. Three aged persons were detected with Cataract, they will have their operation after the Durga Puja celebrations.

Drought Hits Western Odisha:

When parts of India were experiencing heavy rains, the Western Odisha region was facing acute drought like situation. The newly planted paddy and other standing crop were destroyed due to lack of rains in LWSIT operational areas, particularly in Balangir district.

Celebration of Units Level : Across the units, breast feeding and nutrition week was observed with the partner communities, awareness programs were organized and attended by mothers at large. In the awareness programs the mothers, pregnant women and lactating mothers were sensitized about the importance of breast feeding for both the mother and child. The lactating mothers were explained with visual aid, the importance of colostrums for the new born baby. In Keonjhar, the women were explained how locally available vegetables and fruits were rich source of vitamins and minerals. The awareness programs were attended by ASHA (Accredited Social Health Activists) and Anganwadi workers along with village elders. In Cuttack, Nutrition demonstration programmes were conducted in 19 communities. Demonstration was made on different types of cooked foods which have nutritious values. The preparation techniques were explained to the mothers. It was explained to the home makers the importance to maintain personal hygiene during cooking.

International Literacy Day

UNESCO proclaimed 8th September as International Literacy Day on November 17, 1965. It aims to highlight the importance of literacy to individuals, communities and societies. Literacy is a human right, a tool of personal empowerment and a means for social and human development.

Literacy is at the heart of basic education for all, and essential for eradicating poverty, reducing child mortality, curbing population growth, achieving gender equality and ensuring sustainable development, peace and democracy. This year, the theme was "Literacy for Peace".

The Day was observed across all the project units in LWSIT operational areas. Rallies and awareness programs were organized, along with a cultural event. The main message imparted to the partner community was the importance of literacy amongst all, especially amongst girls and women. The school drop out children were motivated to join the informal study centers, the illiterate elders were encouraged to become literates by studying in the adult literacy centers. A study center has been initiated where the children of sex workers are taught in a child friendly environment. The teachers help the children with their studies, mentoring and guiding the children. Extensive effort and lobbying is done to get the children enrolled in regular schools surpassing the social stigma that is often associated with these children.

Normisjon:

1. The Annual Plan and budget for 2012 for the Normisjon supported bilateral projects of - Assam Riot Victims' Rehabilitation/ Development and Stone Quarry Project was submitted to Normisjon.
2. LWSIT facilitated transit arrangements for the visit of 5 Normisjon representatives to their visit to NELC, Dumka.

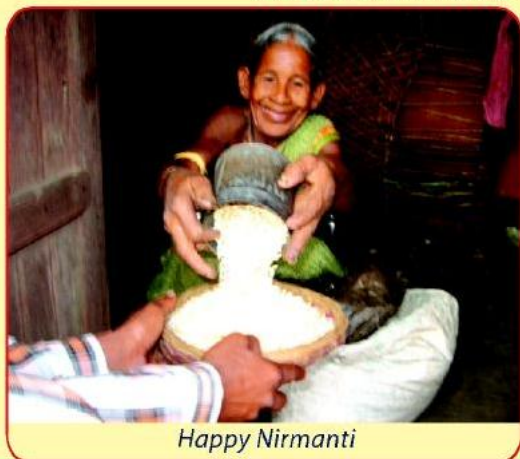
Other News:

1. Dr. S. C. Garai, Deputy Program Manager attended a special meeting at the Christian Hospital, Bismacuttack, representing UELCI.
2. A project proposal for operating education centres for the children of the city slums of Kolkata in West Bengal and Cuttack in Odisha was submitted to the Japan Evangelical Lutheran Association (JELA).
1. Projected work plan and working budget for the period April 2012 to March 2013 for LWSIT STEER Urban project was submitted to Church of Sweden.
2. At the request of UELCI, LWSIT participated in the External evaluation of NELC's Agriculture Integrated Development Project at Dumka from 3rd to 6th August 2011. An Agriculture Expert from LWSIT's South 24-Parganas Unit participated in the external evaluation representing LWSIT.

Interns:

Ms. Ashild Holmedal and Ms. Miriam Mattitanhu from Norway were on short internship from 03rd July to 15th July, 2011.

'From Destitution To Well Being- A Rugged Road Walked...'



Happy Nirmanti

Kamala a toddler, with a bowl in her hand unsteadily walks towards Nirmanti Sud's hut...she is hungry for some puffed rice, and she knows where best to get it. Yes, the puffed rice made and sold by Nirmanti is the best in the village.

But things were not so rosy for Nirmanti in the recent past. Nirmanti, a widow, approaching 65 years of age, of Gunchitara village in Balangir, has no one to look after her, she has none in the village whom she can call her family. Her only son alongwith his family, is settled in Raipur, who seldom visits her and also does not support her monetarily. As she does not own a land nor she is of the age to work as a landless labourer, hence she was left next to destitution.

When everything in her life was grey and dismal with no hope, Lutheran World Service India Trust (LWSIT) lit her life, for her LWSIT became synonymous to the maxim hope for the hopeless.

LWSIT was the implementing agency for government funded Watershed Project in Balangir (along with few other districts). The project had provision to provide support to marginalized and landless families who were not directly benefiting from the watershed project.

Once she approached LWSIT, she was given a grant of Rs 3000 to start her own business on puffed rice. With the seed money (which included her meager contribution too), she started preparing and selling puffed rice, in her village. With each passing day, her product gained immense popularity in the village that she failed to meet the increasing demand. At times, she feels that another helping hand would help her to meet the increasing demand of puffed rice. Today, she takes good care of herself and doesn't wish to recall the days of destitution, whenever a LWSIT staff goes to visit, she blesses them immensely and doesn't forget to offer a bowl of puffed rice to them.

Training, Meetings And Workshops Attended By The LWSIT Staff During The Quarter

Our staff attended Training on the following:

- (a) "Right to Food from Human Rights perspective focusing on documentation".
- (b) Training on SRI Paddy Cultivation".
- (c) Training on "Sensitization on "Gram Kalyan Samity" under National Rural Health Mission.
- (d) Training on "Documentation of 9 food security schemes" organized by State Advisor Office-Bhubaneswar (a Supreme Court of India appointed authority to ensure food security).
- (e) Training on "SHG-Bank Linkage with special focus on Joint Liability Groups/Transit Farmers Groups/ Farmers' Clubs" facilitated by National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD).
- (f) Training on "Book Keeping and Fund Management".
- (g) Training on "Search and Rescue (SAR) and First Aid (FA)"
- (h) Training on Integrated Fish Farming organized by KVK- Nimpith.
- (i) Training program on advocacy and lobby at Kesinga office.

Meetings:

- (a) A meeting on "Early Childhood Education" conducted by Committee for Legal Aid to Poor.
- (b) Two staff attended a Block Level NGO Forum Meeting.
- (c) One lady staff attended State level Inter Agency Group (IAG) Meeting
- (d) A meeting conducted by SACI Waters (South Asia Consortium for Interdisciplinary Water Resource Studies).
- (e) Meeting on Interaction with Justice Wadhwa Committee, New Delhi on Public Distribution System (PDS). The committee members mainly discussed the present status and identified problems on PDS. The Committee members will put their recommendation to the Supreme Court, New Delhi.
- (f) Urban NGO/CBO meeting at SUDA office facilitated by IIEC, Bhubaneswar.

Workshops:

- (a) "Sensitization and Planning workshop on Equity and Gender Planning".
- (b) A workshop on BPL (Below Poverty Line) Survey conducted by State Advisor Office-Bhubaneswar.
- (c) A workshop on "Water Quality Testing and Monitoring".
- (d) A workshop on "Right to Information".
- (e) A workshop on "Disaster Risk Reduction"
- (f) A workshop on "Disaster Management; Hazard, Risk and Vulnerability Mapping".
- (g) ACT Global Disaster Risk Reduction Workshop in Indonesia.
- (h) A workshop on livelihood promotion for the poor and on marketing linkage.
- (i) Training cum Workshop on Ecological Agriculture from 4th September to 8th September at DRCSC's Bolpur.
- (j) A Workshop on Government Civil Society Partnership in Implementing RTE (Right to Education)-2009 at Sahid Sadan, Keonjhar conducted by Rural Reconstruction Organization, Keonjhar & Odisha-Sikhya Sadhana-Bhubaneswar.
- (k) Workshop organized by Bramha Kumari on Natural Environment on Disaster Management.
- (l) Workshop on Water quality testing and Monitoring at the Indian Red Cross Society- Bhubaneswar facilitated by UNICEF & RWSS.