

ANNUAL REPORT 2023



LUTHERAN WORLD SERVICE INDIA TRUST

Empowering the last, the least and the 10st

MANDATE

To bear witness to the liberating Gospel through the commitment to the Indian Churches to accompany the poor, the marginalised and the excluded in their quest for justice, the full realisation of human rights, and life with dignity in harmony with nature irrespective of caste, creed and colour.

VISION

“Just societies ensuring fullness of life in harmony with creation”.

MISSION

We empower the vulnerable and disadvantaged communities in partnership with Churches, communities, governments and partners to overcome poverty, ensuring justice, peace, equality and ecological balance.

GOAL

The goal is to enhance the quality of life and standard of living of the vulnerable and disadvantaged communities in our operational areas.

VALUES

Justice, Transparency, Accountability, Mutuality, Gender Equality (Inclusiveness), Dignity and Diversity.



Goat Rearing Income Generation supported by The Hans Foundation at Balangir Unit

Psalm 96: 11-12

“Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad; let the sea resound, and all that is in it. Let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them; let all the trees of the forest sing for joy”

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MESSAGE FROM THE LWSIT BOARD PRESIDENT 2023**GOSSNER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN CHOTANAGPUR & ASSAM**

Registered Under Societies Registration Act. XXI of 1860 Vide No. 273 J of 30-07-1921,
189/2012-13 dt. 6.9.2012 (Jharkhand)

Head Office : Central Council Office, G.E.L. Church Compound, Main Road, Ranchi-834001, Jharkhand, India.

Rt. Rev. Johan Dang
Moderator

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Tel. No. : 0651-2351513

Ref. No. CC- 71/109

Date. 22.05.24



I give thanks to the Almighty God for His grace upon LWSIT so that it had a good year 2023 because of which it could support the poor and needy people of India during emergency disaster situation and in the process of community development.

I express my gratitude to all overseas and local partners for their support to LWSIT which helped to execute the planned programs and activities of the year.

I acknowledge and thank the contributions of the Office Bearers and the Board of Trustees as well as Advisors for their valuable guidance to LWSIT's progress.

It's my privilege to express my heartfelt thanks to the Executive Director Mr. Kishore Kumar Nag for his humble and dynamic leadership and all the staff members of LWSIT for their hard work and sincerity which enabled for smooth functioning of the organization.

I wish all the success to LWSIT in their future through humanitarian and development work for poor and needy people in India.



Rt. Rev. Johan Dang

Rt. Rev. Johan Dang
President, LWSIT Board of Trustees
Moderator, GELC

MESSAGE FROM PRESENT LWSIT BOARD PRESIDENT 2024



NORTHERN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Church Office : BANDORJURI MISSION, P.O. & DIST : DUMKA - 814101, Jharkhand



Greetings in the precious name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ !

I am glad that LWSIT is presenting its Annual Report for the year 2023.

I congratulate LWSIT for providing humanitarian assistance through relief distributions to the poor and disaster affected people during emergency situations and saved their lives all over India. Development support to the vulnerable and disadvantaged communities in four states i.e. West Bengal, Odisha, Jharkhand and Assam.

I appreciate the support of partners in abroad and India for their continued support to LWSIT in implementing all its development programs and relief response activities.

I thank and appreciate the leadership of Mr. Kishore Kumar Nag, Executive Director and the hard work / dedication of the staff which will take LWSIT to newer heights.

May God continue to bless LWSIT.

Rt. Rev. Isilash Basumatary
President, LWSIT Board of Trustee &
Moderator, NELC

FOREWORD



LUTHERAN WORLD SERVICE INDIA TRUST

Empowering the last, the least and the loST



Foreword

With gratitude to God and immense pleasure, I humbly submit this report for 2023.

For close to 50 years of service in India, Lutheran World Service India Trust (LWSI & LWSIT) had been working on the humanitarian relief and sustainable development programs among the poor, marginalized and vulnerable Dalit, Tribal, Adivasi, Women and Children.

LWSIT believes in transformation, responsibility and accountability in equal measure to all our partners and stakeholders. All our approaches adopted in our rural and urban contexts among the poor and vulnerable. In 2023, LWSIT focused on risk management and planned programmes to ensure greater potential for identifying, assessing and reducing risks, including the growing risk of natural disasters.

The thematic issues of intervention was in Sustainable Livelihood, Environment, Climate Change, DRR, Gender Justice and Peace Building, Education, Health and Organisational Development. Our core projects are STEER, GEP, DSSQC, CAP-R and TFR & CCI. The other projects supported by local partners & government are SUH, Open Shelter & CEC.

I take this opportunity to thank the State Governments of West Bengal, Assam, Odisha, Jharkhand & Manipur for their support to implement the development and humanitarian assistance programs and activities during the year 2023.

I gratefully acknowledge and thank all the supporting partners like, Normisjon including Digni and Norad, Act Church of Sweden, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), Japan Evangelical Lutheran Association (JELA), CLWR, ACT Alliance & The Hans Foundation.

I extend my sincere gratitude to the Honourable President and all the members of the Board of Trustees and well-wishers who have strongly supported LWSIT. I express special gratitude and thanks to UELCI (United Evangelical Lutheran Churches in India) and NCCI (National Council of Churches in India) as settlers of LWSIT, without their guidance and support LWSIT's contribution to the lives of the poor and underprivileged would not have been possible.

I acknowledge and appreciate the hard work put in by all the staff of the field and National office to bring out this report.

Kishore Kumar Nag
Executive Director

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ABOUT LUTHERAN WORLD SERVICE INDIA TRUST

Lutheran World Service India Trust (LWSIT) was registered as a National NGO on 4th September 2008 with the objective of owning and continuing the programs of LWSI, the country program of LWF/DWS, Geneva. LWSIT became operational as a National NGO since 2010 onwards. LWSI established its presence in India in 1974, in response to the refugee problems in West Bengal after the Bangladesh War of Independence. Over the years, LWSI expanded the scope of its work to other States in India and continued to work with the poorest of the poor and those affected by natural or human-made disasters without regard to race, sex, creed, caste, nationality or political conviction. LWSI rendered disaster relief and development assistance in the States of West Bengal, Odisha, Bihar, Jharkhand, Assam, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Gujarat, Jammu & Kashmir, Uttarakhand, Manipur and Kerala.

The Trust, as the successor of LWS India, has inherited a rich legacy of experience of implementing development projects in rural and urban areas as well as humanitarian response and disaster preparedness projects across India. LWSIT is well established in the Eastern region of India as an organ of transformation, currently working in partnership with over two thousand communities on issues of Sustainable Livelihood, Environment, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction, Gender Justice and Peace building, Education, Health and Organisational Development.

The United Evangelical Lutheran Churches in India (UELCI) and the National Council of Churches in India (NCCI) are the key settlers of the Lutheran World Service India Trust, thus upholding the Trust's identity as a Christian ecumenical organisation. LWSIT is a member of two prestigious International Networks, ACT Alliance and the Core Humanitarian Standard (CHS) Alliance and a part of the AZEECON regional network in Asia. It is also a founding member of SPHERE India and the Inter-Agency Groups in several States including the States of Assam, Odisha and West Bengal.

IMPORTANT OPERATIONS

2023 is the first year of implementing the five-year Strategic Plan Document (2023–2027). The mandate of the Strategic Plan continued to emphasise on selected six thematic areas such as;

- 1. Sustainable Livelihood:** To enhance the income of small & marginal farmers and the landless belonging to Dalits, Tribals and Adivasi communities and the urban poor.
- 2. Environment, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction:** To manage the negative impact of climate change and disasters among vulnerable communities.
- 3. Gender Justice and Peace Building:** To ensure gender justice and equality by combating discrimination and gender-based violence among disadvantaged communities based on caste, ethnicity, etc.
- 4. Education:** To enhance the accessibility to quality education for children (6-16 years of age)
- 5. Health:** To improve the health status of disadvantaged communities focussing on Women & Children
- 6. Organisational Development:** To improve organisational efficiency & effectiveness and diversify funding avenues.

LWSIT gives the highest emphasis on the Global SDGs and is aligned with the below goals;



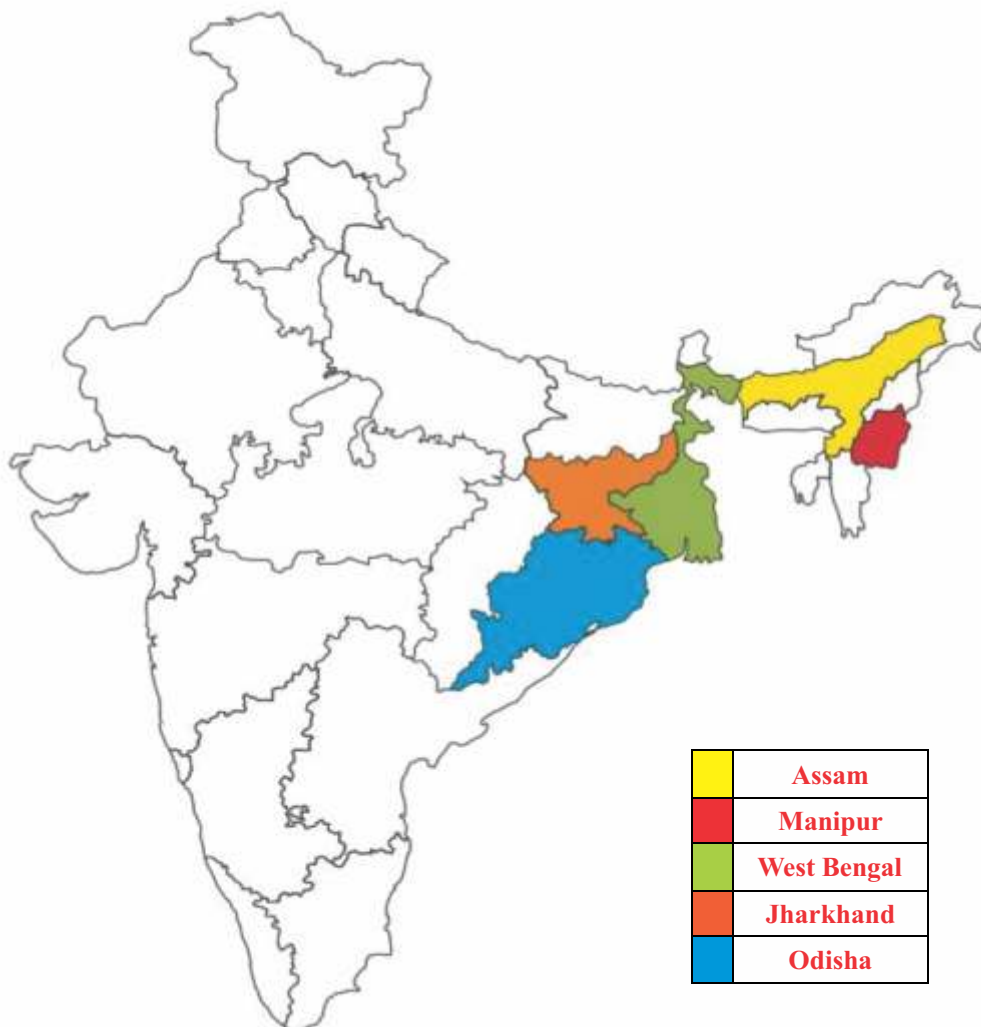
GEOGRAPHIC FOCUS

The geographic focus of development operations during 2023 was in the States of Odisha, West Bengal, Assam and Jharkhand, while it has responded to the Ethnic Violence situation in Manipur by providing relief materials to the internally displaced populations (IDPs) living in the relief camps.

During 2023, LWSIT carried out Ten projects aiming at development intervention spanning over four states in the country. Besides, one humanitarian response project was also implemented in Manipur in response to the Ethnic Violence situation. Long-term development projects such as STEER, GEP, DSSQC and CAP-R were the core projects of the organisation that addressed all six thematic areas. The Child Care Institute (CCI), Open Shelter Project for Children and Shelter for Urban Homeless (SUH) focused on the education of the Children and civic life of elderly populations respectively. The Children Education Centre (CEC) project focused on strengthening education programs among dropout and laggard children. All of these projects are situated within the geographic location served by the organisation.

Besides, in 2023, LWSIT has commenced with a new project i.e., Enhanced Livelihood Security for Tribal and Dalit Families in Odisha. The project primarily focuses on livelihood improvement for the Women-headed families, Farmers and Youth which will give substantial income to these people suffering from economic crisis.

MAP OF OPERATIONAL AREA



IMPLEMENTATION OF PROJECTS

Table No. 1: Snapshot of Projects undertaken in 2023

Sl. No.	Project	State	Coverage		Population Reach		
			No. of Comm.	No. of Household	Rural	Urban	Total
1	STEER	Odisha & West Bengal	250	12,883	54,490	-	54,490
2	GEP	Odisha & West Bengal	75	14,446	-	58,979	58,979
3	DSSQC	Jharkhand & West Bengal	100	4,042	18,960	-	18,960
4	CAP-R	Assam	100	6,640	34,465	-	34,465
5	CCI	West Bengal	-	20	-	20	20
6	SUH	West Bengal	-	80	-	80	80
7	CEC	West Bengal	4	30	-	30	30
8	Enhanced Livelihood Security for Tribal and Dalit Families	Odisha	111	3,116	14,334	-	14,334
9	Transboundary Flood Resilience Project in South Asia and Flood Response	Assam	20	2,240	10,850	-	10,850
10	Response to Ethnic Violence Situation in Manipur – ACT RRF	Manipur	22	1,200	6,088	-	6,088



Children from the Open Shelter Project Unit visited the Science City

THE CORE PROJECTS

Social Transformation, Economic Empowerment and Risk Reduction (STEER) Project

Supported by ELCA and Act Church of Sweden



Solar Light Distribution at Bankura Unit

The Social Transformation Economic Empowerment and Risk Reduction (STEER) Rural Project – operates in Balangir, Jajpur, Kalahandi, Kendrapada and Mayurbhanj districts in Odisha and Bankura district in West Bengal state. The project's goal is Dalits, Tribes/Adivasis and other vulnerable and disadvantaged communities, without gender disparity, to lead a life of dignity enjoying rights. The project starts its intervention in 250 communities with 12883 households which cover 54,490 populations. With all other core projects, this project is mandated to work on an integrated, rights-based approach. The project has been supported by the Act Church of Sweden (Act CoS) and Evangelical Lutheran Churches in America (ELCA). The project targets the above geographies with a high percentage of tribal and Dalits who are at the bottom-most stage of the majority of socio-economic indicators.

The work undertaken was as per the new strategic plan and on thematic areas like sustainable livelihood, community resilience, education, health, gender justice & peace. The project worked on diversifying farm and off-farm livelihoods, increasing agriculture production, land development, promotion of producer groups, promotion of resilient crops, community-based disaster preparedness, entitlements under the Right to Education Act, health awareness and linkages with government service providers as well as water and sanitation. As part of the cross-cutting theme of gender, activities included facilitating women's active participation in development initiatives and local self-government and enabling communities to acknowledge and address issues of gender-based violence. Strengthening peace committees and focusing on maintaining peace and resolving ethnic and communal conflict at the local level is one of the thematic areas under peace. Besides, the project worked for People with Disability (PwD) in convergent mode and focused on enabling the PwD to obtain the new UDID card and disability certificate to avail the benefits of the schemes. That the project's investments over the years have begun to pay dividends, is evident from the people's participation in the project – the extent of their physical and financial contribution is an indicator of their ownership of the project's development goals.

Based on these thematic focus areas LWSIT has adopted two important approaches a Gender Inclusive Right Based Approach (GIRBA) and an integrated Approach in the interventions of the development program to improve the quality of life of the target populations.

Table No. 2: Program Achievement of STEER Project in 2023

Major Activities	Odisha			West Bengal		
	Comm	F	M	Comm.	F	M
Livelihood skill development Training	25	64	53	11	20	0
Training on Sustainable Agriculture	45	111	108	16	36	39
Business and entrepreneurial Schemes (Individual I.G. support)	50	43	7	13	11	3
Business and entrepreneurial Schemes (Group I.G. support)	20	181	-	1	10	0
Support for commercial vegetable cultivation	53	83	61	39	479	433
Support for commercial cultivation of pulses and cereals	187	186	84	37	463	543
Land Development	15	23	-	8	6	12
Support for Individual Orchard (Homestead Fruit Tree Plantation)	24	169	-	16	0	0
Formation of Producer Group & Producer Group Federation (Cooperatives)	19	222	195	2	8	11
Construction of Vermin Compost pit	1	5	-	2	4	1
Organise awareness on DRR/ CCA	22	526	460	6	44	6
Formation & Strengthening of DMT	21	210	142	4	36	12
Skill development Training on Community-DRR	37	85	52	0	0	0
Support Solar Light	31	117	5	14	35	0
Awareness program on enrolment and RTE	20	307	195	5	32	17
Study Centres for Class V - VII Children	10	98	113	0	0	0
Support school students for higher study	57	82	64	5	9	0
Training on Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health rights	76	426	53	24	75	26
Organise awareness programs on WASH for school children	92	1,289	1,299	31	230	100
Community awareness programs on prevention and control of the COVID-19 pandemic	21	360	160	6	49	26
Training on increasing and strengthening the leadership qualities of women	46	242	-	21	106	0
Training on community responses to gender inequality and gender-based violence	56	197	105	13	42	0
Training on conflict management	20	64	44	5	18	8
Interfaith dialogues comprising people of different religions and faith	95	180	98	5	6	24

Case Story-1 of STEER Project: “Basanti Baskey successfully running her grocery shop”

Basanti Baskey, W/o Late Chhotray around 50 years of Age is a tribal inhabitant of Dhabanijoda Village under Bhuasuni Gram Panchayat in the Mayurbhanj district of Odisha. She stays with her only Son & Daughter-in-law. People here fail to depend solely on agriculture nowadays due to the high and undulating land structure. Moreover, erratic rain affects the monsoon paddy crop almost every year. Since irrigation facilities are very few, the farmers fail to save the standing crops. As a result, people usually migrate to the towns & cities in search of livelihood-earning options. Basanti and her Son used to work as daily Labourers earlier. However, after COVID situations changed and they didn't have any work. It was difficult for her to run the household. She approached the CBO and her name was ultimately enlisted to avail the opportunity.



Basanti Running her Grocery Shop at Mayurbhanj Unit

Basanti with her participation of Rs. 5,000 got material support worth Rs. 25,000 to run a grocery unit at her home. She made an extension counter at home to run the avenue. She has not looked back since then. Her Son and Daughter-in-law support her in running the avenue. She also attends weekly markets nearby.

The avenue continued well. To enhance income further and with the adequate engagement of all the members she has started utilizing her skills in stitching mattresses. She has purchased one sewing machine and has put it in front of her shop. Both the mother and Son have stopped moving out for the daily wage earning. For better transportation, she has purchased one moped through a loan. She pays back the loan in instalments on schedule. She no longer moves out to borrow money for farming rather she invests in farming as and when required. With good food, dress, health care and other amenities there has been a significant improvement in the quality of life of the entire family. She wishes further to bring enhancement to the avenue and open a big outlet in the village. Basanti as the exemplar shows the way to the fellow women and Girls in the vicinity.

Case Story-2 STEER Project: "Supporting books to Girl students"

During the community visit, it was found that 6 poor and needy female students who had completed the class X & XII examinations were unable to continue their studies because their parents were not interested in admission to their higher education. These girls of the SHG members shared their problems with admission & book support matters in



Supporting Books to Girl Students at Bankura Unit

the group meeting. Then with the opinion of the group members, the decision was taken to support them in this year-2023. Parents have shown their interest in continuing their education in the meeting but due to financial constraints, they are unable to provide the required study materials. Some students belong to the marginalized category of the ST community. So, the group requested LWSIT to intervene in the matter. Therefore, LWSIT supported these female students with study materials and guidebooks as additional support for their higher education which changed their lives. They were happy to continue their studies further.

Gender Empowerment Project (GEP)

Supported by Act Church of Sweden

The Gender Empowerment Project (GEP) is in its 3rd operational year of the Project Proposal period 2021-2023. To achieve its Goal of “The Urban poor of Kolkata, Bhubaneswar and Cuttack enhance Gender equality in all spheres of life.”, the GEP project covered 75 Slums as communities and intended to reach 14,446 households and 58,979 populations. The GEP program received financial support from the Act Church of Sweden (Act CoS) as the primary donor partner. LWSIT intends to address the causes of gender discrimination that are persisting in these slum areas which will enable the organisation to facilitate the holistic development of the communities.

GEP programs work under six thematic areas to improve the Livelihood conditions of women and Transgender, build resilience to mitigate the negative impact of climate change and gender-based violence, improve health, access to Education, equal participation to all genders to development and decision-making process and live in peaceful coexistence where specifically women and transgender enjoy security and safety. 51 Self-Help groups are newly formed with 510 women members and Linkage building with Financial Institutions for accessing financial assistance. Actions were taken to strengthen the existing 92 SHGs, 5 livelihood groups, 2 TG groups, 2 DWA groups and 1 Women Association Violence Against Women (WAWAW). 24 CBOs were strengthened through awareness programs, training, linkage building with financial institutions and exposure visit programs

To achieve gender equality, and address discrimination and power imbalance between Men, women and Transgender, LWSIT has taken several initiatives throughout the project period. This includes training and sensitisation on Gender quality focusing on men as Change Agent, providing free space for to women share about gender issues they face and observing significant days' like “16 Days of Activism to Stop Gender-Based Violence”, International Women's Day, Domestic Worker's day, Girl child day. By strengthening the WAWAW in the Bhubaneswar unit and DWA in the Cuttack unit, 4 Women Association, 5 TG-SHG have been formed with 30 TG in the Bhubaneswar unit who availed Govt. Employment scheme Swikruti Yojana engaged in WATCO and SBM programs. Several Networking and linkage-building programs were organised with duty bearers to address violence against women and children and access social security schemes.

Ms. Sheila Mallick, representative of ACT CoS visited GEP programs in Kolkata and met the successful rights holders who have changed their lives through Income generation activities and have an impact on family circumstances. She has visited communities to observe their living conditions which are inspirational and create a positive impact among staff members and rights holders at large.



GEP, Kolkata Unit Observing 16 days of Activism for Elimination of Violence Against Women & Girls

Table No. 3: Program Achievement of Gender Empowerment Project in 2023

Major Activities	Bhubaneswar & Cuttack Unit					Kolkata Unit				
	Total unit	Comm .	Women	Men	Other Gender	Total unit	Comm .	Women	Men	Other Gender
Formation and Strengthening of livelihood groups	2	2	35	0	0	1	1	10	0	0
Customised vocational or skill training	34	14	22	11	1	-	-	-	-	-
Supports for the service centre and livelihood groups	3	12	85	18	0	-	-	-	-	-
Individual/Goup Business for Income Generation	35	41	156	0	0	23	5	23	0	0
Networking and linkage with banks, government and non- governmental agencies	3	14	94	6	0	2	2	86	0	0
Awareness on community resilience	10	12	185	0	13	6	6	113	4	0
Promoting and Training to Women alliances (DWA) and coalitions	29	4	29	0	0	1	5	29	0	0
Safe water available for urban communities	0	0	0	0	0	30	1	30	0	0
Solid waste management and clean water bodies and drainage systems	5	5	122	0	0	5	5	85	36	0
Campaign on Safe Dwelling places	3	3	31	0	0	2	2	47	12	0
Awareness building of Parents to enroll and regularize school attendance of the children	6	8	124	1	0	3	4	63	2	0
Publication for dissemination of IEC material to generate awareness on COVID 19	100	60	1200	0	0	5	0	0	0	0
Sensitization Sessions for School Management Committee (SMC)	2	2	34	4	0	1	4	15	0	0
Interface Programme among CBO, SMC members and Duty Bearers	2	10	57	2	0	1	3	17	0	0
Awareness and sensitization program	10	11	204	2	0	6	6	103	5	0
Training on Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights for adolescent girls(covering schools, collages also public platforms)	49	2	49	0	0	2	6	25	0	0
Training on Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights for adolescent boys(covering schools, collages also public platforms)	2	7	0	55	0	1	3	0	20	0
Networking and Linkage building of CBOs with health department to avail health schemes	2	5	45	0	0	3	6	110	1	0
Awareness and sensitization camp on prevention, causes and impact of COVID-19	9	10	204	2	0	6	7	128	0	0
Training to community leaders on Covid management	122	13	121	1	0	1	9	27	0	0
Providing women a free space to share and talk and raise their concerns	8	9	196	49	21	4	5	94	1	0
Training on community responses to gender inequality and gender based violence:	32	9	167	89	5	1	6	28	5	0
Sensitisation camps on gender disparity - involving men, women and transgender	8	31	150	12	0	3	3	71	17	0
Sensitization camp on gender equality focusing men as change agent	9	39	39	0	0	5	5	36	85	0
Workshop for Domestic Workers Association	2	33	298	0	40	1	7	61	0	0
Fact finding and case filing for any violence against women, girls and transgender:	2	35	530	0	0	4				
The observance of significant days	7	13	150	0	0	7	13	315	11	0
Formation and strengthening of Self Help Groups	48	7	133	9	0	7	4	70	0	0
Training on Book keeping & fund management	5	29	140	12	0					
Sensitisation program for financial inclusion and other identity	4	18	60	0	0	3	3	61	0	0
Sensitization camp on gender equality and equity for duty bearers	2	23	87	0	3	3	8	81	23	0
Training on Legal Aid for Domestic Workers, rag pickers and daily wage earners	60	18	18	0	0	1	7	30	0	0
Seminar/ Exposure visit of DWA member	1	0	87	0	0	2	6	29	0	0
Training on Conflict Management	31	7	60	0	0	1	6	40	0	0
Formation and strengthening of Peace Committees	3	3	66	7	0	1	1	16	0	0
Awareness camps and peace education	4	5	82	0	0	3	3	54	0	0
Sports and Art Competition	2	39	176	4	4	1	7	78	15	0

Case Story-1 GEP Project: “Changemaker towards Justice for Women”

Jostna Mondal is a 32-year-old domestic worker and her husband Samir Mondal is a daily labourer. She stays with her husband, a son, a daughter and mother-in-law. Jostna is an active member and a leader of the Baghbazaar Sanchyaita Self-help group. When LWSIT started the Community in 2018, Jostna was like the other ordinary housewives and was reserved to speak to outsiders. After the SHG formation, she participated in various training, and awareness camps on Gender justice, equality, Women's Legal rights and provisions to protection of Women from all forms of violence. The group is also equipped with exposure to the Legal Aid Association at the District level, which has empowered them to know about their rights and act against injustice. In the beginning, there was resistance from her husband and mother-in-law, later she convinced them for her involvement to solve social and cultural issues.

Today Jostna overcoming her fear has formed four more SHGs in her community and is the leader of DWA. When there is violence or injustice against any women or children, Jostna stands against the violence with her group members and takes appropriate actions without the involvement of men folk in the community. If they are unable to solve the problem themselves, they take the help of the local police station and councillor to resolve and get justice for the victims. So far, Jostna's leadership has solved many problems, such as domestic workers being fired unnecessarily from the workplace, denied salaries and other benefits, Domestic violence dismissals to in-laws' homes and returning them, property rights issues & solving them. Jostna said “Because of LWSIT & through various meetings we gained knowledge of our rights and grew with confidence and courage to face any challenges in lifenetworking with other agencies to enable the rights and benefits for the right holders respectively.



Jostna Mondal, Changemaker towards Justice for Women

Case Story-2 GEP Project: “Passion for Education Has No Limits”

Dalei Sahi is one of the clusters of Kargil Slum of Bhubaneswar city. This is a very old community of approximately 150 households and 630 populations with people migrated from different parts of the state. The slum is not authorized in the documents of the government, so the inhabitants are yet to receive the basic amenities as per the norms of the Bhubaneswar Development Authority. Pushpanjali Mohanty, age 38 is a married woman staying in the same slum. Her husband is a school bus driver. She has two daughters 14 & 3 years old. Pushpanjali studied till class 12, having the aim to be a teacher but due to a financial crisis, she could not continue her higher study and started a small business of tailoring at her mother's house. After her marriage, she started teaching the illiterate women members of the SHG federation and community members. She is an active member of SHG and keeps all records up to date. At first, she was continuing her tailoring business, then, in a women's literacy program organised by LWSIT she took an oath to literate the women of their slum. She started a Women's Literacy Centre at her home and teaches 20 women members in one batch. After a few months, LWSIT team members tried to interact with the LORA Foundation for their support to run



the Women Literacy Centre. With the request of Pushpanjali and LWSIT, the Foundation has supported her for the function of the centre and provided basic equipment and honorarium to Pushpanjali for her dedication and humanitarian approach. Now she provides education for 40 women from their community who learn for 3 months. She is now an inspiration for other women. Pushpanjali says “If you have a passion to help people then there will be a way to act upon and people will benefit from the outcome”

Passion for Education has no limits at Dalei Sahi, Bhubaneswar Unit

Development Support Program for Stone Quarry Affected Communities (DSSQC) Project

Supported by Normisjon



The rain-faded area turned into agricultural land with the use of technologies

The Development Support Program for Stone Quarry affected Communities (DSSQC) project of LWSIT started in 2018 intending to “Improve the quality of life of the poor and marginalised communities affected by the stone quarry and crushers in the region of Dumka in Jharkhand and Birbhum in West Bengal covering 4042 households and 18960 population in 100 communities under Shikaripara block of Jharkhand and Md. Bazar block and Rampurhat block – I of West Bengal which has concluded its six-year project phase in December 2023. The project was implemented by LWSIT in partnership with the Evangelical Social Action Forum (ESAF) and the Mahulpahari Christian Hospital (MCH) with funding support from Normisjon.

The DSSQC project focused on Improved health condition of community members, Improved livelihood condition of Santhal and other weaker social groups, Climate change adaptation measures addressed by the community to combat disaster, Communities addressed the right to education for all children in the age group of 6-14 years and Enhanced level of civil society engagement respectively.

Under health, the project addressed the issues of occupational health hazards, mother and child health, nutrition etc. for which activities like; awareness on RTI, STI, TB, ANC, PNC, promotion of kitchen garden, screening camp on RTI and STI were organized. The project also facilitated for establishment of linkage between communities and front-line health workers like; ANM, ASHA workers and Anganwadi workers for better access to government health services. Degradation of soil caused by declining crop yield has been a challenge for farmers. Agriculture is a major livelihood of the people in the area emphasis was given by the project on strengthening agriculture through improved agriculture practices, the creation of irrigation facilities, support to farmers with an improved variety of seeds and organic manure, support farmers with agriculture implements along with the awareness, training and exposure visit programs for the members of FIG and FPO. Since the project operational area is surrounded by stone quarries and stone crushers high air and water pollution, deposition of dust over the agricultural lands, overuse of chemical fertilizers and pesticides in agriculture, deforestation etc. are the major concerns of the environment. The project supported communities in increasing green coverage through orchard development, fruit tree plantation on homestead land organized awareness and training programs and strengthened FPG. Besides, the non-electrified or poor electrified communities were supported with solar lights.

To ensure the education for all school-going age children the project organized awareness programs for parents on enrolment and continued education of children. The School Management Committees (SMC) were sensitized and strengthened through training on their roles and responsibilities towards the education of children, follow-up and monitoring of education programs and taking initiatives for accessing government facilities available for the education of the students. Besides, the project supported female students from poor families with solar lanterns to encourage them to continue their education. The project organized training on leadership development and training on advocacy and communication skills for the community members. Besides, the project also organized interface programs among duty bearers and community members and established linkages with PRI, different government departments and Banks for mobilizing resources and accessing their rights and entitlements.

Table No. 4: Program Achievement of DSSQC Project in 2023

Major Activities	Jharkhand			West Bengal		
	Comm.	Men	Women	Comm.	Men	Women
Awareness camp on RTI and STD	7	24	55	14	47	111
Screening & health check-up camp on TB & RTI	1	2	9	5	5	23
Screening and health checkup camp on STD	4	1	8	6	3	14
Promotion of kitchen/nutrition garden on homestead land	10	-	60	13	7	83
Organized training for Farmer's Producers Organizations (FPOs)	13	38	58	36	45	137
Exposure visit for the farmers	13	13	12	16	9	16
Training/awareness on sustainable agriculture	5	33	29	15	34	123
Support farmers with seeds and organic fertilisers	30	26	252	25	20	159
Support FIGs/FPOs with agriculture implements	8	41	101	16	82	196
Renovation of irrigation Pond	1	9	9	-	-	-
Support with fruit-bearing trees for homestead plantation	7	-	45	10	15	65
Community Orchard	3	3	38	4	14	34
Support to students with solar lantern	6	18	13	7	-	11
Training for School Management Committees	11	59	78	18	53	181
Leadership development training	7	12	19	9	7	25
Training on advocacy and communication skills	15	38	54	29	31	154
Organised interface programs among duty bearers and community members	4	9	23	11	8	50

Case Story – 1 DSSQC Project: “Empowerment of Women Turned into an Earner”

Boro Baskey, a 38-year-old tribal housewife is an active member of Sikkhar Alo SHG of Sagarbandhi Uparpara community under Bharkata GP of Md. Bazar Block of district Birbhum. In the year 2010 at the time of the intervention of LWSIT in that community, Boro was involved in the developmental initiatives within the community through her group. That year Boro Basaky and 9 other women of that community formed the Self-Help Group name Sikkhar Alo. She was able to continue her studies up to eight standards and then she got married below eighteen years before the LWSIT intervention. From the beginning of the DSSQC project, she has attended different training and awareness programs on various developmental issues to enhance her knowledge and capacity. At that time Boro and her husband both were involved with the crusher works as daily wage labourers. She has 0.66 acres of cultivable land. However, due to the acute water crisis in the area and huge dust pollution, they did not get enough profit from agriculture. After the birth of her two children, Boro stopped working in the crusher units to take care of her children. To enhance the group fund as well as family income, Boro has started a Crèche for the children of the working mothers of the crusher units with the support of LWSIT in the year 2012. She has continued this work for 3 years. She has started a study centre for the primary level (class 1-4) school-going children of the community She has also encouraged the parents to send their children to schools as a village education committee member under the guidance of LWSIT. Her daughter Rakhi is 20 years old and is in a 3-year degree course of Bachelor of Arts and one son Budhi Baskey is 17 years old. This year he has appeared in the Madhyamik examination. Both of them have received a student stipend from the Govt. Education Department based on ST Certificate and the daughter has got the Kanyashree grant. Boro is getting benefits from the Laxmi Bhandar social security scheme.

Boro's husband Sukal Baskey is working as an agriculture Labour in the area and also has a job card for getting benefits from the MGNREGS scheme. Her 66-year-old widow's mother is residing with them. Now the Sikkhar Alo



Boro Baskey from Sikkhar Alo SHG initiated a grocery business.

group passed the third grade as per Govt. criteria and got a loan amount of Rs. 3 lakhs through the Govt. sponsored NRLM scheme. During the year 2023, Boro Baskey took a loan of Rs. 35,000/- from Sikkhar Alo SHG to initiate a grocery business. She has started the business in her residence. Now her business is running smoothly and she can revolve her capital amount and now the materials of more than Rs. 40,000/- exist in her shop. Boro has already repaid most of the loan amount to the group fund. Now Boro Baskey is self-dependent and is also supporting her family financially. She is spending money for the education purpose of her children and managing most of the household-level demands.

Case Story – 2 DSSQC Project: “Solar Light Distribution for Education in Rural Areas”

Sarojini Tudu, D/O, Arjun Tudu and Marshilina Murmu, were the first girl who passed the Madhyamik examination in 2023 from Mohulbona Nichutola under Shikaripada block of district Dumka. Her parents were daily wage labourers in the crusher units, but now her father is ill due to kidney problems and cannot perform laborious jobs. Her mother is the only earner in the family and works in the agriculture field regularly. Sarojini is a student of class XI. Sometimes Sarojini works as a daily wage labourer in the agriculture fields to support her family. Sarojini's School is 15km away from her community, also her house did not have an electricity facility so, she struggled to read under the kerosene lamp at night.

In this circumstance, LWSIT provided Solar lights to the poor and needy students of the different operational communities. LWSIT has supported one solar lantern for Sarojini in 2021. Now solar light is not just a light to Sarojini; it also enhances the safety and security of the family members at night and also brought changes in the standard of living. It is very effective and useful for her to continue her studies till late at night & move to group studies. Besides this, the family members can use the solar light for domestic purposes at night. By replacing traditional kerosene lamps, solar light has been introduced as a safer alternative. She can now be able to bring change to the atmosphere of her residence, which has reduced health problems also. Now Sarojini is very happy after getting this solar lantern for her study. She has a dream to pass her B.A. examination and join a service to support her parents for better treatment.



Sarojini Tudu was supported with Solar Lantern for her studies

Community Action for Peace and Reconciliation (CAP-R) Project:

Supported by Normisjon

The Community Action for Peace and Reconciliation (CAP-R) Project in Assam completed its five-year project period on 31st December 2023. During the implementing period, the project worked with a core focus on establishing peace between different ethnic groups like Bodo, Santhal and Muslim communities which share a long history of mutual animosity and conflict. LWSIT's intervention in this area was initiated after the large-scale riots broke out in the year 1996 between the Bodos and the largely marginalized groups of these areas, the Santhals, Muslims and Hindu Bengalis who were immigrants settled in these areas for generations.

The work of LWSIT in peace contributed to SDG 16 promoting peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable



development, providing access to justice for all and building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels. The project document was designed to implement the said project for five years commencing from 2019 to 2023. The project worked with the goal – “Target communities live in peaceful co-existence with social and economic empowerment due to stewardship of environment”.

The primary focus population of the project consists mostly of the Adivasis, Tribes and Muslims who are landless,

A Traditional Santhali Dance performance during Peace Festival at Assam Unit

marginalized and underprivileged in 100 communities covering Kokrajhar and Chirang districts in Assam. The project while focussing on peace and reconciliation used its insights into the root cause of the unrest and violence in the region and simultaneously worked on the issues of sustainable livelihood, community resilience, health and education. The trust of the work was on building capacities of communities on conflict resolution and promoted rapport building between youths of different ethnic backgrounds. The remarkable achievement of the project was that there were no violent incidents in the project's operational area after the intervention of the project. During the five years of its existence, the project saw significant outcomes in terms of peaceful co-existence and other result areas. Community leaders are equipped and have taken action to settle land disputes and other local-related conflicts. Most communities are now living in conflict-free environments. Target groups who have been sensitized and have become norm-settlers and demonstrate examples of peacebuilding in the community.

Various programmes were undertaken on different thematic issues and focused on strengthening village development committees (VDC), capacity-building support for the effective functioning of VDCs, strengthening of the peace forums, and linking them with the other peace forums promoted by the government, Quarterly Meeting for Peace Mediators' Forum/Gaonburah Federation, activating the central committee etc. Besides, sensitisation camps on gender disparity involving men and women, Leadership Training for the Gaonburah and religious leaders, campaigns on the Right to Food and social security schemes, awareness and sensitization programs on health, public awareness and enrolment campaigns on education, Networking and Rapport building with community leaders, CBOs, Youth Groups, and Peace Forums, etc. were also implemented. During the year, emphasis was placed on engaging VDCs, Peace Forums and Youth Clubs at different levels to access their rights and entitlements. Youths are supported with new livelihood entrepreneurship activities and engage themselves in getting income for their family.

Table No. 5: Program Achievement of CAP-R Project in 2023

Name of the Major Activities	Unit Type	Total Unit	Achieved in the Year - 2023		
			Community	Men	Women
A. Peaceful Co-existence					
Quarterly Meeting for Peace Mediators' Forum/GB Federation	No	17	100	243	90
Training on Conflict Management & Do No Harm	No	15	27	277	187
Training on community responses to gender inequality and gender-based violence	No	8	23	86	175
Peace festivals	No.	1	41	143	350
The peace-building activities for youth	No.	8	84	765	140
Leadership Training for the Gaoburah and religious leaders	No	15	63	213	332
The observance of a significant day by interfacing with community groups	No	24	84	1041	1175
B. Sustainable livelihood and Economic Environment					
Sustainable agriculture training	No	4	35	76	25
Commercial Vegetable Cultivation	Acre	21	35	364	364
Commercial Cultivation of Pulses, Oilseeds and Cereals	Acres	134	27	691	726
Support for alternative livelihood opportunity	No	40	23	29	11
Training on animal husbandry	No.	5	32	49	108
Support with livestock	Group	92	61	388	541
C. CIVIC LIFE					
Training on organisational skills for the CBO and CBG leaders	No	11	27	139	172
Training on increasing and strengthening the leadership qualities of women	No	6	10	0	125
Training on Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights	No	14	36	221	239
Public Awareness and enrollment campaign on education	No	10	10	137	186
Training on Advocacy skills and human rights	No.	11	26	150	220
Interface Programme among CBO, SMC members and Duty Bearers	No.	11	16	96	208
Training of elected representatives (legislative) about the roles and responsibilities of LSG	No.	7	46	114	
D. COMMUNITY RESILIENCE					
Tree plantation on wasteland	Sapling	6600	13	1850	2080
Fruit plantation on the homestead	Sapling	2160	13	1947	2150
Training on climate change adaptation and mitigation	No	8	37	119	107
Skill Development Training on Community-Based Disaster Risk Reduction	No.	8	40	124	107
Advocacy for Community-Based Disaster Management Plan	No.	5	12	73	82
Distribution of equipment of renewable energy sources	No	10	3	3	7

Case Story – 1 CAP-R Project: “Miss Kabilota Narzary, a Bright Student”



Kobilota Narzary with her parents in their house courtyard

Miss Kabilota Narzary is the elder daughter of Mr. Loben Narzary and Mrs. Somela Narzary. She lives with her parents and younger brother in Malaguri village which is about 8 km from Gossaigaon Town. She was supported for Admission with Books by LWSIT while studying in a Higher Secondary School in the year 2015 and later in 2018 to pursue her course Degree under the Girls Student Higher Studies Support for poor and needy students. The support encouraged her to continue her studies. She completed the B. A course from Gossaigaon College in the year 2018 obtaining a 1st Division rank with 72.8 per cent. Continuing her studies, she completed the Master's Degree course in Bodo Medium at Guwahati University in the year 2020 retaining the 1st Division rank with 69.94 per cent.

After the completion of Master's Degree, she joined the B. Ed. College in 2021 and completed the course in 2023. Mr. Loben Narzary, her father is a farmer. They have 9 bighas of agricultural land and agriculture is only the main source of livelihood for their family. Mrs. Somela Narzary mother of Kabilota Narzary, sells vegetables at the weekly market from their field to help the family. The parents of Kabilota Narzary are both illiterate, but very eager for their children's education. Miss Kabilota Narzary appeared in the TET Exam conducted for the Six Schedule Councils area in Assam and expects to clear the exam successfully. She said that she wanted to become a good teacher and desired to contribute to improving the teaching methods in schools.

Case Story – 2 CAP-R Project: “Support to Self-Employment”

Mr. Daibor Hasda and his family were the victims of the 1996 ethnic riots along with 27 other families with 115 populations of Kairabani, a forest village situated 25 km from Kokrajhar district town. The livelihood source of the community people is agriculture and daily wages. During the 1996 ethnic riots, the community people lost their properties with the cattle and had no proper means of survival. All the families were marginal farmers.

In 2014, LWSIT adopted the Kairabani village and started organizing several awareness and training programs including agriculture training and crop demonstration programs with some support programs. Mr. Daibor Hasda of

Kairabani was one of the right holders of commercial oil seed cultivation support for the year 2022. He was provided local breed mustard oil seeds along with tilling cost for cultivation in 7 Bigha land taken on lease by him. He gathered 18 Ton (720) kgs of mustard seeds after the harvest and sold them for Rs. 30,600/- @Rs.1700/- per month. He purchased a new E-Rickshaw spending Rs. 120,000/- by adding the money he got from mustard to his savings as he wanted. Besides cultivating his 5 bighas land he now drives his E- Rickshaw (Toto) carrying local passengers. He earns around Rs. 300/- per day from driving and saves Rs. 100/- in a day for his future. He says that he will support his sons and daughters in higher studies and improve the living standard of the family.



LWSIT Support to self-employment at Assam Unit

Child Care Institute (CCI):

LWSIT extended its provision to cater for the needs of 20 Girl children of age group 6 to 14 years, by providing shelter, nutrition, sanitation, education, and recreational facilities under the Child Care Institute. During the reporting period, LWSIT received 5 years of registration under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of the Children) Act 2015 of Govt. of West Bengal, Women and Child Development and Social Welfare Department.



Children with the coach in the International Karate Championship

LWSIT creates opportunities for good education for children through the renowned School of Kolkata. A private pooled car service was arranged for pick up and dropping service to School. During December an Annual Assessment was carried out in the School where all children are promoted to the next class. To ensure quality education and support children in all subjects, 4 private tutors have engaged to help children in daily education curriculum. To monitor the education of private tuition, a total of 8 meetings were conducted with the teachers, supervisors and parents. 5 Senior students of classes VII to X attended computer classes once a week, this has helped them to peruse class exams easily, do practical projects using the internet and enhance their practical and technical knowledge of Computers.

During the reporting period, 10 health camps were organised with the involvement of Medical practitioners, for the children. 8 children were referred to Govt. health centre to access health treatment. As Psychological support, Intelligence Quotient (IQ) Tests were done in around 18 children where the reports were normal in the areas of child Anxiety, Depression level, Intelligence, Attitude & Behaviour. Individual reports have been filed for future reference.

During the year, Martial arts training is provided to the children as one of the extracurricular activities. This year 45 classes were organised to equip children to learn the defence mechanisms besides basic moves. It helps children boost immunity, strength and flexibility coordination with all the body muscles. On 29th July 3 girls participated in the “International Karate championship'23 Indian Challenges Cup” Ms. Sneha Maity, Ms. Jeni Mondal and Ms. Dibiya Paswan successfully performed and won the 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes. Mr. Mukhesh Yadav, the Coach says, “Children are well equipped and are confident to participate in the Karate Tournament at National level and International level in future”. Children received Orange, Blue, and Green Belts from the karate coach with the certificates. Other extra-curricular activities including Arts & crafts for 36 days and Morals classes for 35 days were organised respectively.

Many special days and festivals are celebrated in the CCI shelter such as Teachers' Day, Independence Day, Children's Day and Christmas program. Children actively participated in all these events and showed their incredible talents through action songs, creative dance performances, and nativity plays, and they decorated the shelter with creative Arts and Crafts. On 12th December, 19 Children along with 4 staff and 9 parents visited Bandel Church and Imam Bara, a Historical Place in the state of West Bengal.



CCI Children visited the Bandel

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE PROGRAM IN 2023

Transboundary Flood Resilience Project in South Asia, Assam State in India

Supported by ELCA

The year 2023 is the fourth year of implementing the Transboundary Flood Resilience Project in South Asia by LWSIT. This project aimed to contribute towards increasing the flood resilience of local communities in India, Nepal and Bangladesh by exchanging and replicating transboundary experiences. The specific objective of the Project was to increase the capacity of communities to cope with the flood situation in the Brahmaputra River basin in India and Bangladesh, while it is the Gandak/Narayani River basin in Nepal. It was observed that, with real-time Early Warning System (EWS) on the probability of flood situations, communities were able to take appropriate flood preparedness and mitigation measures and increased their coping capacity through diversified livelihood options, strengthened transboundary knowledge and practice on flood disaster risk reduction and development through exchange of information and replication of learning.

20 operational communities have been educated on the cause and effects of flood disaster and climate change; and trained on preparedness and mitigation measures. Community-level groups and households have been assisted with various livelihood options and they have been linked with markets, financial institutions and insurance schemes. This Transboundary Flood Resilience Project is one of the best Programs supported by ELCA which has already benefitted several thousands of people especially those living in flood-prone areas and the level of awareness and sensitization gained by them has reaped the results. There is a very good impact on the people of 20 targeted communities as some of the other adjacent communities have approached LWSIT to adopt their communities and provide them capacity-building support on CBDRR for better preparedness in future. It is also observed that, because of LWSIT support towards livelihood security, the youth and women members have stopped migrating to other states in search of employment as they are happy with the income they earn through various livelihood security measures.



School Mock Drills at TFR Project

Table No. 6: Details of Humanitarian Response Program implemented in 2023

Name of the Activities	Unit Type	Achievements				
		Total Unit	Comm.	M	F	Total
Formation and Strengthening of Community-Based Disaster Management Task Force (CBDMTF)	No	20	20	462	308	770
Awareness of community based disaster preparedness, DM Act, climate change, etc.	No	20	20	655	530	1185
Capacity building training on DRR and Do No Harm	No	15	15	321	321	642
Demonstration of Mock drills	No	20	20	915	900	1,815
Community Contingency Plan document preparation	Community	20	20	655	530	1185
Support of Life Jacket	No	500	20	1300	1200	2500
Support of climate resilient variety of crops (Jute, Watermelon, Banana, Maize, etc.)	Family	101	20	101	-	101
Support of livestock to women-headed families (Pig/Goat)	Family	85	20	-	85	85
Alternative livelihood support to Youth for income generation	Family	56	20	56	-	56
Awareness on Disaster Preparedness among school students and teachers	School	20	20	653	490	1143
School vulnerability mapping	School	20	20	653	490	1143
Formation and training of school disaster management team	School	20	20	300	300	600
Simulation/ Mock drills involving school students	School	20	20	529	697	1,226
Preparation of school disaster management plan	School	20	20	265	370	635
Support of Fire Extinguisher	Number	36	36	1750	1655	3405

Case Story 1, TFR Project: “A Progressive Volunteer's Inclusive Review”

Aapda Mitra Scheme was launched to introduce the concept of a 'Local Disaster Management System' within the community for the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) that has been implementing a central government scheme namely "Aapda Mitra" since May 2016 with a focus on training to 6,000 community volunteers (200 volunteers per district) for disaster response in selected 30 most flood-prone districts of 25 States of India. The scheme aims to provide the community volunteers with the skills that they would need to respond to their community's immediate needs in the aftermath of a disaster thereby enabling them to undertake basic relief and rescue tasks during emergency-like situations such as floods, flash-floods and urban flooding. Some of the States have reported that the services of these trained community volunteers have been utilized in rescuing the stranded people during floods and cyclones. Based on positive feedback and strong recommendations of States/UTs for training more volunteers in the hazard-prone districts of India, NDMA is also planning to upscale the scheme in Pan India to train 100,000 Volunteers in 350 selected highly vulnerable districts prone to flood, cyclone, landslide and earthquake in across the country. This would be of great help to the community. This will also promote a culture of volunteerism in Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in India.



Parcius Murmu, Aapada Mitra cum President of CBDMTF

Under the scheme, volunteers will be insured up to Rs 5 lakh in case of death or permanent disability during the training period or while on duty through New India Assurances. An insurance premium of Rs 250 per trainee will be paid for one year. As per the government report in Assam across 16 districts, 2367 volunteers have been trained so far. Particularly in the TFR Project operational areas 06 volunteers were selected by LWSIT field staff with the request of the Field Officer-Disaster Management under Gossaigaon Revenue Circle. The Field Officer-Disaster Management stationed at the Revenue Circle Headquarters to Assist the District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) in the preparation and updating of the Village, GP & Circle level Disaster Management Plans to reduce, or avoid the potential losses from hazards, ensure prompt and appropriate assistance to victims of disaster, and achieve rapid and effective recovery.

There are 6 such Aapada Mitra from the TFR Project who participated in 12 days of residential training on Disaster Management and Search and Rescue conducted by ASDMA at Mirza, Guwahati with the help of 1st BN NDRF from 10th to 21st June 2022. Volunteers have now been identified as active members of their Community Based Disaster Management Task Force. Be a member of the rescue team; assist LWSIT with various mock exercise demonstrations, and simulations in different schools & communities. Several years ago, Parcius Murmu was a Migrant labourer & he shared his bitter experiences about how he & other migrants faced problems with food, shelter, healthcare, spreading of the infection, loss of wages, concerns about the family, anxiety and fear. Sometimes, they also face harassment and negative reactions from the local community. It is imperative that Parcius realizes that Migration should not be a necessity but rather a choice; this allows communities to live in peace and prosperity in their native lands.

So, Parcius mentally prepared & started farming his 2 acres of land for the subsistence of his three member's family with his Wife & Son. On his 2 acres of land, he cultivates 1 acre of Rice from June to December followed by Masur Dal (Pulses) from January to March. Parcius was the president of the Community Based Disaster Management Task Force (CBDMTF) a community based organization to help communities effectively use local resources and capacities to better prepare for disasters, and to adopt measures to reduce their vulnerability. Observing his leadership quality & dedication he was also nominated for the Aapada Mitra Training course. Since the year of adoption, every year Parcius has undergone several capacity-building trainings on climate resilient agriculture & also supported with necessary seeds and seedlings to promote climate resilient agriculture. Parcius being an Aapada Mitra by his initiative organizes several mock drill programs in the local schools. He set himself as an example for the other Youth to come forward and support the communities as Volunteers.

Case Story 2, TFR Project: “Safety Life Jacket a preparedness measure of safety life”

The Sankosh River is one of the tributary rivers of Brahmaputra which generally flows in narrow gorges with, a steep gradient up to the Indo-Bhutan border and then flows with a flatter slope. The lower reach of the river downward to Srirampur is subjected to flood annually. The river traverses a length of 321 km from source to outfall and the catchment area is 10,345 sq. km. Its average width is 207 M. During the rainy season the river Sankosh seems more furious with its high flowing & severe current. There are eight numbers of villages that belong to project operational area of the TFR Project in Assam There are more than 500 Households with 2,500 populations as the permanent inhabitant are located on the river bank and they absolutely depend on boats at Surendrapur Ghat as the only source of communication for their routine needs and also to access their basic amenities. Though there are no other means of communication, people are compelled to move through the high-flowing river by not caring about their life security. Students and Teachers also come through the river for their schools. Vulnerable people patients, pregnant mothers, children, and aged people are also compelled to cross the river without any safety measures. Farmers have to sell their agricultural products to procure their agricultural inputs like seeds & fertilizers using the boat only. So, the boat is the lifeline, and the people have to cross the river every day through the boat only. The boats are locally made with wood without appropriate safety protocol. The boatman said that, at a time he may sail with 35 passengers. The boat fare is Rs.30.00 to Rs.50.00. During high flowing water in the rainy season boating seems very dangerous to cross the river & for 3 members boat man required for which the fare hikes up to Rs.50.00 per passenger.

When LWSIT ask the community about the dangerous sailing, they are reminded of a heartrending incident where four people, including three school students, were killed in a boat mishap at Surendrapur ghat in Sankosh. The boat carrying over 50 people, mostly students of Kasiabari School, capsized soon after it set sail towards Kasibari from Surendrapur ghat. Though most of them managed to swim or were rescued, four people were swept off because of strong currents. The reason behind the 'capsize' is not known though some say it is because of strong currents and the boatman could not control it. Recently, as per reports, 2 Women went missing after a boat capsized in Sankosh. The incident occurred when a group of five persons were crossing the Sankosh River to go to the other bank to collect firewood. with the combined efforts of locals, three persons were rescued while two women went missing.

Under this circumstance, the TFR-Project realized the need for life Jackets, that could prevent the lives of thousands of people who were solely dependent on the boat as the only communication source. The Project Provided 50 Safety Life Jackets to the boat's men by developing certain modalities with prior consultation with the local community, line Department & local self-government people's representatives. On the day of support, an expert demonstrated the use of the Life Jacket on how it helps one to float and prevents drowning if anyone falls into the water. The imposition was made on the Boat's Man to maintain & use the Safety Life Jackets with compulsion. No person will be allowed to sail in a boat without wearing a Safety Life Jacket. Now, the Safety Life Jacket provides safety to all the daily passengers of Surendrapur Ghat & prevents them from drowning death. The dangerous communication mode became easier & open to all even in the time of overflowing with high velocity. People are open to accessing their amenities without any risky barriers.



Life Jacket used by the River Bank Village Passengers of the River Sankosh at Surendrapur Ghat

Humanitarian Assistance to the People affected by Ethnic Conflict in Manipur

Supported by ACT Alliance RRF - 4/2023

Lutheran World Service India Trust (LWSIT) has commenced its program operation in the Churachandpur district of Manipur by implementing the project title "Humanitarian Assistance to the People affected by Ethnic Conflict in Manipur" through ACT Alliance RRF - 4/2023 mechanism. As soon as LWSIT received funds from the ACT Alliance Secretariat, the program operation plan was prepared immediately and shared with the ACT Alliance Regional Office through the ACT India Forum Coordinating Agency. Since then, LWSIT has put its best efforts into providing relief assistance as soon as possible to the people affected by ethnic violence in Manipur to reduce their suffering. LWSIT took the help of Manipur Evangelical Lutheran Church (MELC) as local support which has helped a lot in identifying the relief camps set up at different locations in Churachandpur district. MELC has also formed a Relief Committee that comprises Church leaders to ensure the smooth distribution of relief materials to the people affected by ethnic conflict. LWSIT shared the information with the Deputy Commissioner and District Nodal Officer (Relief) of District Administration and had a detailed discussion with them before implementing. The support and cooperation from Govt. Dept. during the time of relief distribution program was extremely good. The Deputy Commissioner and District Nodal Officer (Relief) participated in the relief distribution program and appreciated LWSIT for standing with the people in their time of need. Effective coordination was also done with other members of ACT India Forum member about the selection of geographical areas to avoid overlapping responses.

LWSIT provided relief materials to 1,000 families who were the worst sufferers and most affected by ethnic violence. Most of these families live in hilly terrain and some of them are in valleys. As of now, there are more than 170 persons have been killed due to ethnic violence and the situation is still grave and normalcy is yet to come. Under such circumstances, LWSIT provided relief materials to the selected 1,000 families those are living in 14 relief camps. These relief camps are mostly set up in Schools where the education of the children is badly affected. While the houses of many of these families have been burnt down, the internally displaced people have no space to take shelter other than in relief camps. The following relief materials have been distributed to 1,000 families.



Relief Distribution to Ethnic Conflict-affected families in Manipur

Table No. 7: Details of Relief Distribution at Manipur

Raw Rice	Food Items	20 Kg
Masur Dal		2 Kg
Mustard Oil		1 Litre
Soya Chunk		1 Kg
Iodized Salt		1 Kg
Chilli Powder		100 Gm
Turmeric Powder		100 Gm
Mosquito Net (large size)	Non- Food Items	1 Pc
Sleeping Mat (large size)		1 Pc
Bed Sheet (Double bedded)		1 Pc
Woolen Blanket (large size)		1 Pc
Bathing Soap (75 gram/pc)	WASH/Hygiene Kits	4 Pc
Washing Soap (125 grams/pc)		4 Pc
Antiseptic Liquid (100 ml bottle)		1 Bottle
Sanitary Napkin		1 packet
Silpaulin Sheet (Supreme Brand with 15 feet x 12 feet size)		1 Pc

Besides, with the available resources, LWSIT provided woollen blankets to another 200 families who were living in various relief camps.

Case Story 1, Humanitarian Assistance Project: “Hope against hope for Monika's unborn baby”

Smt. Monika and her husband Gumthang had a very tough time when the ethnic violence outbreak in Manipur on 3rd May 2023 when the Naga and Kuki tribes organized a 'Tribal Solidarity March' to protest moves to give the scheduled tribe status to the majority of Meitei's community. There are so much of untoward incidents that happened due to the ethnic violence in Manipur. One such case has been narrated by Smt. Monika on how she could able to save not only her life but also her unborn baby who was in her womb. Smt. Monika (23 years of age) and her husband Gumthung (29 years of age) are residents of Daniya village, which is 26 km away from the district headquarters in Churachandpur

District, Manipur state of India. By occupation, Gumthung is a daily wage earner and engaged in labour works having assured income daily supporting his family. Monika takes care of the house as a homemaker. She was nine months pregnant at the time when the ethnic violence took place, it was just a few days for her to deliver her child. But, the situation was such that, both Monika and her husband had to leave their house on 4th May 2023, 2 am, leaving everything at home including money, documents, all the household assets, and all other things. They couldn't carry anything as they were not sure whether they could survive in the eyes of miscreants since some of their neighbours had been killed earlier. As Monika was pregnant, it was too difficult for her to run or walk fast that night and escape from their village. But, thank God, somehow they could reach Churachandpur.

Under such circumstances, they took the help of local people who belong to the Kuki community and gave them space to live in Emmanuel Relief Camp where all other population belongs to the Kuki community. During the stay at this relief camp, just after eight days, Monika was admitted to Chandial Hospital and delivered a baby boy. After three weeks of staying in the hospital, she was released and then came back to the relief camp where she along with her husband and newborn baby were staying. Meanwhile, Gumthung (the husband of Monika) is



Monika with her husband and newborn baby in the Relief Camp

struggling to get money to meet the basic requirements of the family. Even, it was not possible to arrange money for the eye treatment of Monika as she later had some eye problems as observed. Gumthung does not have any employment as he is staying in the relief camps and there is no such demand for daily wage workers.

In this context, Lutheran World Service India Trust (LWSIT) stood with the family members of Monika family and provided them relief materials in the form of food items, sleeping materials, WASH/Hygiene Kits & Temporary Shelter Materials which helped the family during such crisis. After receiving the relief materials, Monika with her tearful eyes said “Today we are thankful to LWSIT for all their relief materials support and mental support to live in this relief camp. I never thought that my child who was in my womb would survive. It is like our hope against home when we are in such a tragic situation and don't know what to do in a critical situation. God is so kind to us and our decision to leave the house at midnight was right, otherwise, we may not see this day today”.

Case Story 2, Humanitarian Assistance Project: “Thangming Hau, at the critical juncture of ethnic violence”

Sri Thangming Hau and his family had a very tough time when the ethnic violence erupted in Manipur, leaving lots of destruction and killing from one section of people to another. The situation also left the people in Manipur with anxiety, tension, lawlessness, helplessness and uncertainty about the future generation of Children as they bore the brunt of the situation worse. Many such families faced similar situations like Thangming Hau.

Thangming Hau (aged 30 years) lives with his wife Nemboithing and two children in the village of Heukhongching. But, they had to leave their village on 4th May and reached at Churachandpur district amidst lots of challenges. They had to pass through the state capital Imphal, which is 60 km from his village and hide in another village called Tankhul in Kankopi district 30 km distance further for two nights through the village forest. Also, before they reached at Vungaza High School (one of the relief camps), the family had to take shelter at the Army Camp for three nights and the Army personnel (those belonging to Assam Rifles) helped them to reach the relief camp where they are staying now.

Thangming Hau left his village with only one handbag. Though he was a Teacher by profession, but now he can't continue his job as there is a life-threatening situation. Particularly, the Imphal valley is predominated by a tribe and they have captured the areas and none of the families can go back to their place due to insecurity. So, Thangming Hau



left all the household assets, livestock (7 cattle 5 chickens & 12 ducks), motorcycle, identity cards, etc. After a few days, he received the message that his house had been burned down before which they had looted all the above said assets and materials. Now, for more than the last two months, Thangming and his family have been living in the relief camps and depend on others for their survival. He does not have any money to buy the necessities of life to meet the family's needs.

Under such circumstances, LWSIT came forward to support many of the families including Thangming by standing with the family and providing immediate relief materials in the form of food materials such as Rice, Pulses, Soy Chunks, Edible Oil, Iodized Salt and some spices. LWSIT also provided them with Sleeping Materials in the form of a Bed Sheet, Sleeping Mat, Woolen Blanket and Mosquito Net to ensure decent living conditions for the family in the relief camp. Similarly, WASH/Hygiene Kits and high-quality Silpaulin sheets were also provided by LWSIT which has helped the family to use them immediately. In response, Thangming said, “Myself and my family are thankful to LWSIT for their timely support with so many things of relief materials even though they don't know us and are from far away from Kolkata. For the next few months, we'll not have any problem, particularly since winter is approaching, the bedding materials will be very useful”.

Thangming Hau and his family in the Relief Camp

COLLABORATION & PARTNERSHIP

During the year 2023, LWSIT strengthened its collaboration and partnership with various resource agencies, Government departments and philanthropists who extended their support for program implementation of various projects for the betterment of poor, vulnerable and underprivileged sections of society. The details of these programs are reflected hereunder:

Shelter for Urban Homeless (SUH)

Supported by the Social Welfare Department

LWSIT provides a 24x7 safe and secure shelter with other essential services to the Urban Homeless population of the city of Kolkata. It is a sub-scheme under the Dindayal Anthodia Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM), the scheme seeks to provide shelter to the urban poor. The current scheme is supported by the Controller of Vagrancy (CV) department, govt. of West Bengal. LWSIT is one of the approved organisations to conduct SUH programs in Ultadanga, 33/7 Muraipukur Road, Kolkata 67, providing service to 80 homeless inmates, of which 40 are Female and 40 are male inmates.

During the current reporting year, LWSIT has given extra effort in collaboration with Kolkata Municipal Corporation, Govt. of WB for the Construction of New Buildings for Female and Male inmates separately. Meanwhile, for shelter planning purposes, 2 new buildings have been constructed considering a space of 50 sq. feet per person as the minimum available space. The basic common facilities/amenities such as water, sanitation, electricity, kitchen/cooking space, and common recreation space are provided at the shelters constructed as per the DAY-NULM scheme. LWSIT ensured that all the inmates avail the basic amenities like individual bed and bedding sets, potable drinking water, proper sanitised and functional latrines, First Aid and Primary health facilities, protection through CCTV Camera, Sanitisation of shelter, Dining and Cooking facilities, De-addiction and Recreational Facilities.

The SUH project staff of LWSIT have done 16 surveys to rescue people needing Shelter. Monthly, 10 new inmates (male 6, Female 4) were enrolled in the Shelters. 11 Awareness programs on Dengue Management were organised to maintain the cleanliness of the shelter for inmates, 3 Hoarding and Posters and 4 Leaflet distribution programs were organised to spread awareness in the people concentration areas, such as Railway station, under the railway bridge, Market place, Bus Stand, Hospital area etc. 5 health camps were organised and required medicines were provided to the inmates. Networking with Maniktala police station, councillor of Ward No 14, KMC, KIT, Lalbazar P.S, Muchibazar Health Unit, R.G.Kor Hospital, Murari Pukur Sister Nivedita Foundation, Family Planning Association of India and Purta Bhaban to provide adequate support to the inmates on time.

After two years of providing service, we resettled Sudarshan Saha (Age 70) to his family at Sobhabazar, now he happily lives with his wife and daughter. Also, we resettled Mr. Panna Saha (Age 72) and Anjali Ganapati (Age 62) to their families. The project staff made efforts to access Govt. social security schemes, 2 Female inmates received funds under the Laxmi Bhandar scheme and 2 women received the old Age Pension Govt. scheme.



Old Building of the SUH People



New Building for the SUH People

Open Shelter Project for Girls

Supported by Women and Child Development & Social Welfare Department



Girls from the Open Shelter Project celebrating Environment Day

During 2023, LWSIT received approval to run and manage the Open Shelter project from the Project Approval Board, Ministry of Women & Child Development, Govt. of India for the Financial Year 2022-23 under the Mission Vatsalya Scheme. The primary objective of shelter homes is to provide a safe and secure environment to individuals who do not have access to basic necessities such as food, shelter, healthcare, care and protection. There are 25 Girl children accessing welfare services who are in difficult circumstances in need of Care and Protection (CNCP) like rag pickers, missing, run away, street working or beggar children. The Open Shelter is functional at the Ultadanga campus with appropriate staff caregivers, social workers and counsellors. During 2023, LWSIT received the Registration Certificate under section 41 of JJACT (care & protection of children) for the period of 5 yrs.

During the year 341 education classes were organised for the children, with special emphasis given to the dropout children, who are lacking in basic identification of letters, numbers, and reading habits. A monthly basis evaluation is taking place to see the progress. 11 children were enrolled in the Govt. school. Besides education, extracurricular activities such as Yoga meditation (200 classes), Dance (190 classes) and drawing (280 classes) were organised to create positive attraction towards education and overall well-being.

To ensure healthy physical development four times Nutritious and adequate meals are provided following the Govt. guidelines at open shelter. Monthly BMI is taken to track the health progress and children are taken to the local UPHCs and hospitals for health check-ups and medical treatment. The individual care plan is prepared to track the development of each child, this intervention indicates the expected progress of the individual child. 16 counselling sessions were organised based on the psychological, emotional and behavioural needs of the children. One-to-one counselling sessions were also taken aiming to identify the cause and solution to the issues of the children individually.

An educational excursion was organised for 25 children to the place "Science City" to explore new learnings about science and technology which was a different experience from regular classes of Open Shelter. The majority of them experienced their first visit to the place and gathered new experiences, enjoyment, learnings & development. This day-long program has involved scientific exposure.

In the Open Shelter Project, Special Days were celebrated and observed like Rabindra Jayanti, World Environment Day, Independence Day, Raksha Bandhan, Teacher's Day, International Girl Child Day, World Day against Trafficking, Mahalaya, Diwali, UNCRC (child rights) week, Bon fota, Mental Health Awareness Day, Children's Day, International Human Rights Day and Christmas celebrations. New clothes were distributed to 36 girls on the occasion of Durga Puja.

Children Education Center (CEC)

Supported by Saviour Foundation & Dreaming Bees Foundations



Children from the CEC Project observing International Yoga Day

LWSIT supports The Bridge Program through the Children Education Center (CEC) throughout the year to provide additional support for students who are struggling with academic education, becoming dropouts without proper guidance, and with little or no exposure to English, Hindi, Maths calculation and General knowledge. As the focus is to contribute to the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG 4) on Quality Education, LWSIT ensures inclusive and equitable quality education as well as promotes lifelong learning opportunities through various activities. These programs have created a platform of quality education for 30 underprivileged children aged between 5yrs. to 16 yrs. (Boys and Girls) in the Ultadanga campus. The objective of LWSIT is towards providing quality education (bridge course) and enrolment of the children to school or to send back the dropped-out children to school. During the year, LWSIT received prompt and adequate support from the Saviour Foundation and Dreaming Bees Foundation to conduct the CEC project and fulfil the target and objectives.

During the year, LWSIT has provided 161 education classes and supported children of the Child Care Centre (CEC), based in the Ultadanga campus. 2 qualified instructors, using teaching and learning materials and playing methods supported the children with quality education, all children were provided exercise books, pen, pencils, and water bottle, School Bags to nurture the habit of attending School on regular basis. Besides educational classes, extracurricular sessions were organised to create interest among the children, such as 28 Arts & crafts classes, 30 Physical activity classes, and 10 Counselling classes (Dance Movement Therapy). These programs allow children to pursue a special interest in social and academic skills, and build self-esteem and Confidence.

05 children (4 Boys and 1 Girl) were mainstreamed in Govt. school, 4 in class IV and 1 in class VII in Sakti Sarada Prasad School, Deshbandhu Vidyaly. Children were supported with bridge course education for 6 months at the CEC centre, then mainstreamed with proper guidance and support. As of now, all children are very happy to attend the new School on a regular basis and access Midday Meals and other educational materials from the School.

Enhanced Livelihood Security for Tribal and Dalit Families in Odisha

Supported by The Hans Foundation

LWSIT implemented a new project in January 2023 with the financial support of The Hans Foundation, USA. The title of the project is "Enhanced Livelihood Security for Tribal and Dalit Families in Odisha" and the Goal of the Project is 'Overall improvement in the lives and livelihood of farmers from underprivileged communities living in rural areas of 5 districts (Balangir, Kalahandi, Mayurbhanj, Kendrapada and Jajpur) of Odisha through improved sustainable agriculture practices'. This project is operational within the ambit of four STEER Project Units of Odisha. The project focuses on three Specific Objectives such as; (1) Increased income level of the household by 70% through improved farming and innovative agricultural techniques, (2) Increased trade of vegetables and non-vegetable crops through market linkage and update of modern agriculture techniques, and (3) Increased women participation in economic activities through the formation of women cooperatives and engaging Self-Help Groups.

While the project primarily focuses on the rural population's livelihood improvement through farm-based and non-farm-based livelihood activities, emphasis is also given to women's economic empowerment by providing them with various income generation activities through individual and group ventures. Besides, the project also focused on soil and water conservation measures by excavating farm ponds to harvest rainwater, land development for agriculture and scientific fish farming for community income generation. Moreover, a process has been initiated for the formation of Women Cooperatives by the four Project Units to enable them to procure, store and sell agriculture products at the local level.



Scientific fish farming at Kalahandi unit supported by The Hans Foundation

RESOURCE MOBILISATION AT THE PROJECT AND COMMUNITY LEVEL

As always, LWSIT encourages communities to contribute towards community asset building from their sources and through resources generated from various schemes as available from different Line Departments of the Government as part of the community empowerment process. The following table provides a snapshot of the resources raised by communities through their efforts and with the support of LWSIT staff during the year 2023:

Table No. 8: Resources Mobilized at the Project and Community Level

Sl No	Name of the Programme	Cost Sharing by Individual/Community (Rs.)	Independent Investment by Individual/Group (Rs.)	Local Resources mobilised through GO/NGO		Total
				By LWSIT	By CBO/ Group	
1	Assam	10,41,090	-	-	3,07,54,575	3,17,95,665
2	Balangir	2,22,109	-	11,00,000	20,63,000	33,85,109
3	Bankura	2,52,093	1,87,000	1,68,000	10,50,000	16,57,093
4	Kalahandi	1,39,073	70,000	1,62,000	30,30,000	34,01,073
5	Kendrapara	1,19,671	-	10,000	24,23,400	25,53,071
6	Mayurbhanj	1,11,945	3,19,000	1,22,750	1,66,72,600	1,72,26,295
7	Birbhum	2,16,525	1,52,500	-	35,23,000	38,92,025
8	Bhubaneswar	2,05,790	30,50,287	20,000	3,92,52,547	4,25,28,624
9	Kolkata	94,950	25,000	1,07,900	14,30,000	16,57,850
	Total	24,03,246	38,03,787	16,90,650	10,01,99,122	10,80,96,805

PHOTO GALLERY



Supported Students for Higher Education at Kendrapada Unit

PHOTO GALLERY



Observing Women's Day at GEP, Kolkata Unit



Karate Classes at CCI Project, Kolkata



Farm Pond Excavation at Kalahandi Unit



Solar light distribution to students at TFR Project



WASH for School Children Program at Balangir Unit

PHOTO GALLERY



LWSIT Foundation Day Celebrations



Solar Lights distribution at Kalahandi Unit



Christmas celebrations held at the National Office



Campaign on Swachh Bharat Mission at Kendrapada Unit

PHOTO GALLERY



Paddy Thresher Machines were distributed in different communities of Bankura and Birbhum Unit



Board Meeting held on 23rd August 2023 at National Office, Kolkata



Fruit plants distributed at Kendrapada Unit



Livelihood support through Grocery shop

PHOTO GALLERY



Group IG Mushroom Cultivation



Ms Sheila Mallick visiting the Project Units at Kolkata



16 Days of Activism at GEP Bhubaneswar



Spice Making by IG Group at Kalahandi Unit



Training supported by THF on Improved Commercial Vegetable Cultivation

PHOTO GALLERY



Relief Distribution to Ethnic Conflict-affected families in Manipur



Environment Day Celebrations at CCI Unit



Maize Cultivation at Birbhum Unit

PHOTO GALLERY



Exposure Visit of CCI Children



Girls from Open Shelter enjoying Science City



World Environment Day celebrations at Assam Unit

PHOTO GALLERY



TG Day celebrated in GEP with SSEPD dept.



Emergency Preparedness Rescue Kit supported



Awareness of Disaster Preparedness to School Students & Teachers



Ms. Ingrid with Santhal dancers during her visit to Assam Project

PHOTO GALLERY



Celebrations of International Youth Day at Assam Unit



Pickle Making Training at Birbhum Unit



Monitoring Visits to Assam Unit



Training provided to farmers on Improved commercial vegetable farming at Kendrapada Unit

NETWORK & ALLIANCES

AZEECON (Asian Zone Emergency and Environment Cooperation Network)

LWSI/LWSIT is the founding member of AZEECON – a regional network in South Asia and Southeast Asia comprising the member organizations, which are current country programs and former associated programs of LWF/DWS Geneva. During the year, Annual Review and Planning Summit 2023 was organized by LWF Nepal which was held at Pokhara after a gap of three years. LWSIT participated in this program and presented the best practices of its program particularly the achievement of the Transboundary Flood Resilience Project in South Asia, Assam state in India which received the Climate Resilient Award from ACT Alliance at the global level. Besides, LWSIT also shared its plan to organize one EETV Program on Gender in 2024.

Core Humanitarian Standard (CHS) Alliance

LWSIT is a full member of the CHS (Core Humanitarian Standard) Alliance, which emphasises the Quality and Accountability of its member's work. During the year 2023, LWSIT participated in a couple of online surveys for the Annual Report of CHS Alliance by filling in the information as required. LWSIT receives the monthly newsletter and various updates from the CHS Secretariat in Geneva and contributes as and when required.

ACT Alliance India Forum

During the year 2023, LWSIT participated and shared its views on several online meetings organized by the ACT Alliance India Forum Coordinator. These include; the ethnic conflict situation in Manipur, floods and cyclones in Andhra Pradesh and Tamilnadu. In the process and as per the need of the situation, LWSIT together with other ACT Alliance India Forum Members developed the ACT Alliance RRF (Rapid Response Fund) proposal and provided relief assistance to the people affected by the ethnic violence situation in Manipur with financial support received from ACT Alliance Secretariat.

Sphere India

LWSIT is the founding member of Sphere India (a National coalition of humanitarian agencies) and adopts Sphere principles, processes and standards in programming especially during humanitarian responses. As a humanitarian and development organization, LWSIT always follows the rules, regulations and guidelines as adopted by the Sphere Network. In 2023, LWSIT attended several online meetings related to the ethnic violence situation in Manipur, other disaster risk reduction and climate change events. There were several webinars organized by Sphere India on various thematic areas, in which staff of LWSIT attended the programs at different times.

Inter-Agency Group (IAG)

During 2023, LWSIT continued to be part of Inter-Agency Groups in several States across India. IAG is the State-level network involving both International and National NGOs. LWSIT is the founding member of IAG Odisha, West Bengal, Assam and Tamil Nadu, and it represents other States as per the requirement. The IAG platform provides an opportunity to discuss issues related to coordination, collaboration and sharing of the best practices among humanitarian actors and strengthens relationships with respective State Governments including Sphere India at the National level. LWSIT regularly attended the meetings organized by State IAGs in different States.

RESOURCE MOBILISATION AND COMMUNICATION

On 18th July 2023, Lutheran World Service India Trust organized a Capacity Building Workshop on Resource Mobilization and Communication. The workshop aimed to equip participants with essential skills and knowledge in efficiently mobilizing resources and implementing effective communication strategies to support the organization's objectives and develop a sustainable future. The workshop brought together 34 staff members from Odisha, Assam, Jharkhand and West Bengal. There were two staff members from every unit which comprised the project coordinator and the community officer.

The workshop featured a combination of interactive presentations, practical exercises, group discussions, and real-life case studies. Experienced facilitators with expertise in Resource Mobilization, Mr. Raghumoni Chatterjee, Deputy Manager, CSR, SRMB Steel and in Communication Rev. Dr. Joel Patrick, Dean of Studies, Associate Professor in Communication, Bishop's College, Kolkata led the sessions, ensuring a comprehensive learning experience for all attendees.

The Objectives of the workshop were to *Enhance participants' understanding of resource mobilization techniques and strategies * Strengthen participants' ability to develop strategic models for sustainable resource mobilization with a focus on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and Govt. opportunities *Improve participants' skills in crafting compelling communication messages and materials *Provide a platform for participants to share experiences in resource mobilization and communication. *Foster a collaborative environment to identify potential partnerships and donor opportunities.

The workshop received overwhelmingly positive feedback from participants. They learnt diverse fundraising strategies and how to think creatively and develop innovative approaches to their projects. They were able to learn more by leveraging technology for communication. The knowledge and skills acquired during the workshop will have a lasting impact on the organization's resource mobilization and communication strategies, ultimately contributing to long-term sustainability and success.



Capacity Building Training held at National Office on 18th July 2023

GOVERNANCE

Details of Board of Trustees

Sl. No.	Name of Board Members	Designation
1	Rt. Rev. Johan Dang	President
2	Rev. Dr. Asir Ebenezer David	Vice President
3	Rev. Dr. A. Joshua Peter	Secretary
4	Dr. Tomy V. Prothasis	Treasurer
5	Mrs. Aleyamma Thomas	Trustee Member
6	Ms. Suramya Smriti Kujur	Trustee Member
7	Dr. Benita Prince	Trustee Member
8	Mrs. Basanti Biswas	Trustee Member
9	Mrs. Jessica Richard	Trustee Member

Details of Advisory Committee

Sl. No.	Name of Committee Members	Designation
1	Mr. P.J. Chacko	Chairperson
2	Ms. Rachana Mudraboyina	Member
3	Prof. Biju Paul Abraham	Member

INTERNAL COMPLAINTS COMMITTEE (ICC)

The Internal Complaints Committee (ICC) of LWSIT has continued to work at various levels of the Organization which is mandated to examine and respond to grievances raised by members of the partner communities and the staff of LWSIT. Complaints can be taken up and investigation may be done depending upon the nature of complaints at different levels in the organization.

Details of Internal Complaints Committee as of 31.12.2023

Name of Member	Designation	Contact No.	Email ID
Ms Ritu Shrimali (Focal Point)	Dy. Finance Manager	7980174403	complaints.national@lwsit.org
Mrs. Basanti Biswas (Member)	Board member	9830042447	bbiswas.india@yahoo.com
Fr. K. L. Jose (Member)	External Legal and Spiritual Representative	9836488205	lawyerjose@gmail.com
Mr. Bibekananda Biswal (Member)	Manager Emergency & Prog. Development	9831277852	bnb@lwsit.org
Mrs. Valsala Sathyadas (Member)	Executive Secretary	9903157781	valsala@lwsit.org

NATIONAL OFFICE CORE STAFF

Designation	Name of Member	Email ID
Executive Director	Mr. Kishore Kumar Nag	edkishore@lwsit.org
Executive Secretary	Ms. Valsala Sathyadas	valsala@lwsit.org
Manager – Emergency and Program Development	Mr. Bibekananda Biswal	bnb@lwsit.org
Finance Manager	Ms. Nibedita Pattanayak	nibedita@lwsit.org
Dy. Finance Manager	Ms Ritu Shrimali	rs@lwsit.org
Accounts Officer	Mr. Raju Santra	rajus@lwsit.org
Asst. Manager – Procurement & Finance	Mr. Mojaffar Molla	molla@lwsit.org
Program Coordinator – STEER & CAP-R Project	Mr. Santosh Kumar Das	skd@lwsit.org
Program Coordinator - GEP	Ms Polly Mondal	polly@lwsit.org
HR Coordinator	Ms. Deepa R. Gomez	drg@lwsit.org
Resource Mobilization Manager	Mr. Alexander James	alexrm@lwsit.org
Communication Coordinator	Ms. Debasree Chakraborty	debasreecc@lwsit.org

HUMAN RESOURCE POSITION

Table No. 9: Human Resource Position

Sl. No.	Location	Male	Female	Total
1	National Office	13	8	21
2	Social Transformation Economic Empowerment and Risk Reduction (STEER) Project:	12	7	19
3	Gender Empowerment Project (GEP)	1	8	9
4	Development Support program for Stone Quarry Affected Communities (DSSQC) Project – Birbhum district of West Bengal and Dumka district of Jharkhand	8	2	10
5	Community Action for Peace-Reconciliation (CAP-R) Project in Assam	10	3	13
6	Transboundary Flood Resilience (TFR) Project in South Asia, Assam, India	4	1	5
7	Shelter for Urban Homeless (SUH), Kolkata	4	4	8
8	Child Care Institute (CCI), Kolkata	-	1	1
9	Open Shelter	-	8	8
10	Enhanced Livelihood Security Project in Odisha	1	-	1
	Total:	53	42	95

FINANCIAL UPDATE

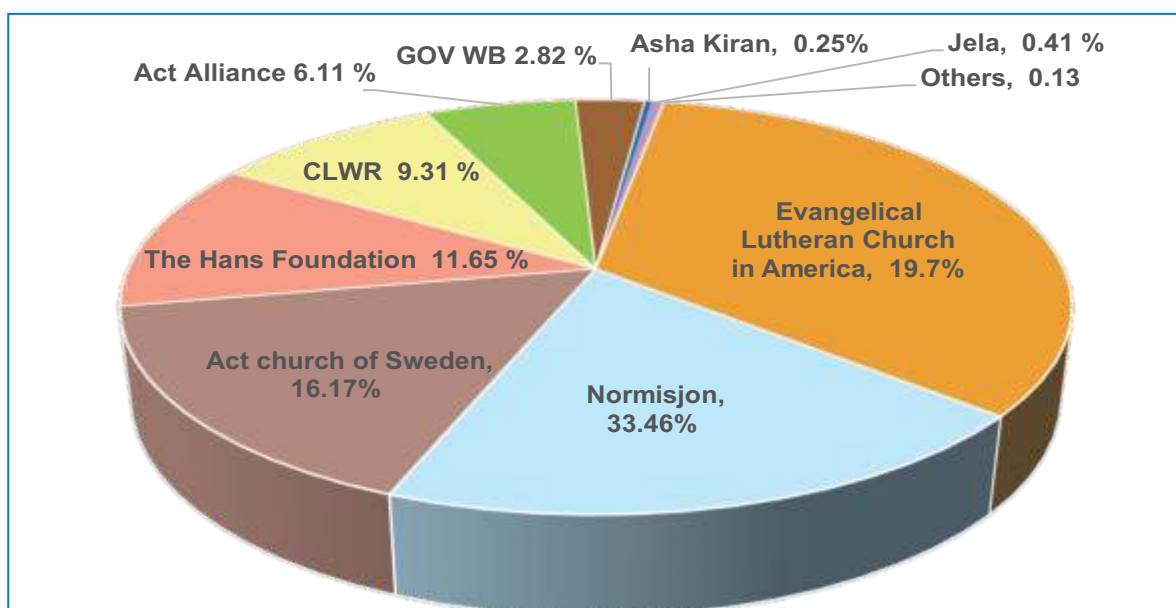
Income of LWSIT During the Year 2023

Particulars	Amount (in INR)	%
Foreign contribution - Development Programme	8,10,38,964	78.2%
Foreign Contribution - Emergency Response	1,53,49,621	14.8%
Government contribution	28,23,763	2.7%
Community contribution	35,97,980	3.5%
Local contribution - Other Projects	3,56,900	0.3%
Other Income	15,545	0.0%
Interest income	4,32,775	0.4%
Total	10,36,15,548	100.0%

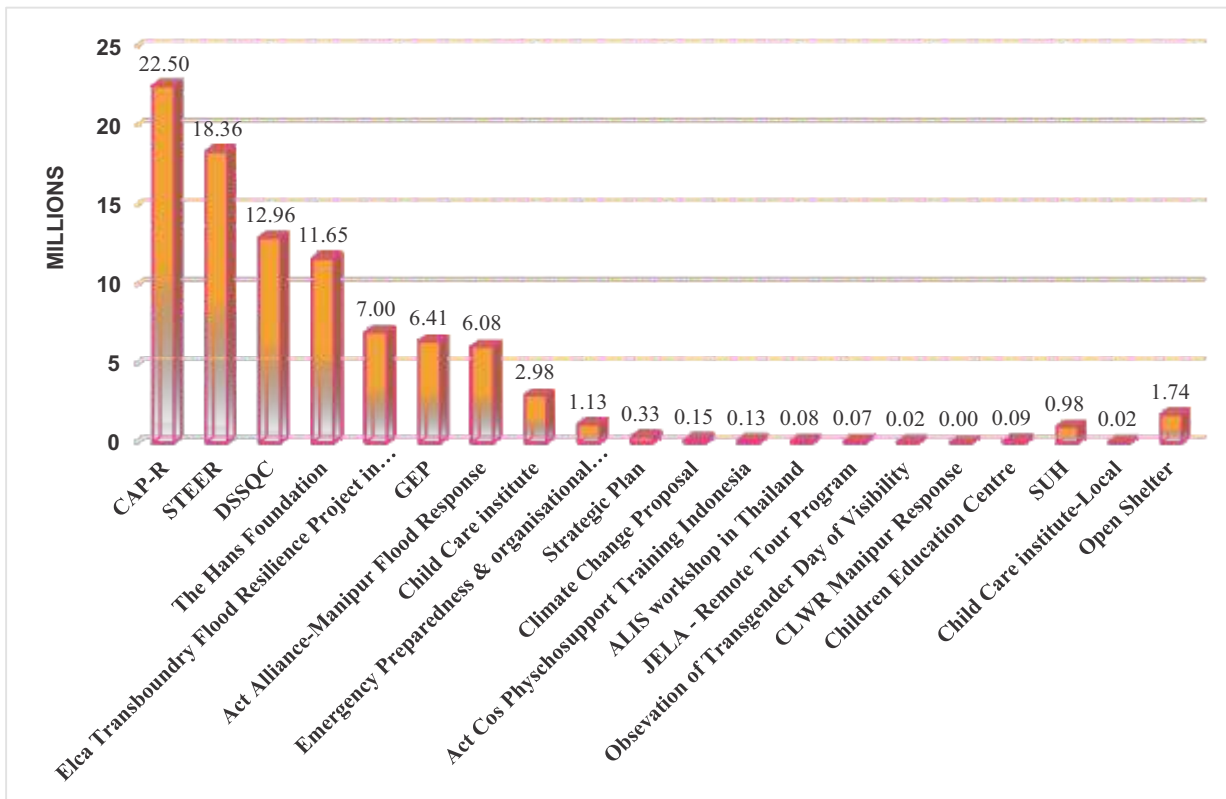
Resource Partners - 2023

Name of Resource Partners	Amount (INR in Million)
Normisjon	33.32
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America	19.61
Act Church of Sweden	16.10
The Hans Foundation	11.60
Canadian Lutheran World Relief	9.27
Act Alliance	6.08
Government of West Bengal	2.80
RILM	0.25
JELA	0.40
Others	0.13
Total	99.56

Contribution from Resource Partners 2023



Project Wise Expenditure 2023



STAFF RETREAT



Staff Retreat Program held at Darjeeling

The Staff Retreat Program was organised from 26th - 28th April 2023 at Little Tibet Resort, Darjeeling in which staff representatives from all Projects and the National Office participated with the Board Members. The Resource Persons conducted sessions on important topics like Criticalities of FCRA new Rules and 10 B, Psychosocial Counselling on Post Covid-19 situation and Impact of Climate Change on Agriculture Sector. A Review Meeting was organised where the Project Coordinators presented the achievements and challenges of the projects. Group activities and discussions were done involving all the staff members for better clarity and understanding of all the sessions.

ACKNOWLEDGING SUPPORT FROM RESOURCE PARTNERS AND FRIENDS

The year 2023 was a Blessed Year for LWSIT as it commenced its new Strategic Plan Document for the next five years. Besides, LWSIT implemented a new project supported by The Hans Foundation, USA and received international funding support. Also, the Open Shelter Project for Children (Mission Batsalya Scheme – a Govt. funded project) was officially started and implemented by LWSIT at the beginning of 2023. LWSIT received financial support from its resource partners mostly on time though there was some unprecedented situation towards the last quarter of the year when the funds were received with a delay from banking procedures. The programmatic achievements as described in this Report are the results of the collective and collaborative efforts of many stakeholders those who are directly or indirectly associated with the Organization. Various program achievements were recorded in all four major Core Projects (STEER, GEP, CAP-R and DSSQC), the Humanitarian Response Project in Manipur and the Government-funded Projects. Normisjon, Act Church of Sweden, ELCA, JELA Foundation and The Hans Foundation provided the financial resource support for development projects.

The funding support was received from ACT Alliance RRF mechanism for responding to the Ethnic Conflict situation in Manipur through the project titled "Humanitarian Assistance to People affected by Ethnic Conflict Situation in Manipur State, India". Besides, financial resources were also received from CLWR in December 2023 for responding to the ethnic violence situation in Manipur.

The financial resources provided by ELCA were also used to continue the program implementation of a unique project titled 'Transboundary Flood Resilience Project in South Asia, Assam State of India'. This project is being implemented through consortium mode where LWF Nepal, RDRS Bangladesh and LWSIT India are also a part of the project.

Saviour Foundation and Dreaming Bees Foundation continued their support for the Children Education Centre program. Financial resource support was also received from the Government of West Bengal to run programs such as Shelter for Urban Homeless (SUH) and Open Shelter Project for underprivileged Children.

So, LWSIT put on record with acknowledgement and appreciation to all the resource partners for their timely support, for which it remains grateful to all of them for their continued support and trust in the Organization to serve underprivileged populations such as women, men, children and transgender persons in the country during the year 2023.

CHALLENGES

LWSIT experienced a few challenges during the year 2023, but such difficulties were addressed by adopting mitigation measures as appropriate to the situation. Moreover, there was one of the major human-made disasters happened due to ethnic violence caused in Manipur state on 3rd May 2023 between two ethnic communities i.e., Meiteis and Kuki-Zo communities. The situation went beyond control and hundreds of people were killed, many injured and thousands of people were affected by the ethnic conflict and they became IDPs living in the relief camps. Under such circumstances, LWSIT provided live-saving relief materials and conducted Psycho-social counselling support to reduce their suffering, shock and stress.

The other challenge was related to exchange loss particularly while converting money from SEK to Indian Rupee. This exchange loss affected the program by which some of the planned programs could not be implemented on time.

During the heat wave in summer particularly the month of April until mid-June, it was very difficult for the project staff to go out and implement the planned activities. Sometimes, the temperature went up to 48 degrees making it difficult for the mobility of the staff.

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome	LWSIT	Lutheran World Service India Trust
ASDMA	Assam State Disaster Management Authority	LWF	Lutheran World Relief
ANM	Auxiliary Nurse Midwife	LWR	Lutheran World Federation
ASHA	Accredited Social Health Activists	MC	Management Committee
AZEECON	Asian Zone Emergency and Environment Cooperation Network	MCH	Mahulpahari Christian Hospital
CAP-R	Community Action for Peace-Reconciliation	NCCI	National Council of Churches in India
CBG	Community-Based Groups	NGO	Non-Government Organisation
CBO	Community-Based Organisation	NRM	Natural Resource Management
CCI	Child Care Institute	NO	National Office
CEC	Children Education Centre	No.	Number
CHS	Core Humanitarian Standard	OD	Organization Development
Act CoS	Act Church of Sweden	OTELP	Odisha Tribal Empowerment and Livelihood Program
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility	Pc.	Piece
Dept.	Department	PMF	Peace Mediator Forum
DMT	Disaster Management Team	POSH	Prevention Of Sexual Harassment
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction	PRINT	Panchayati Raj Institutions
DSSQC	Development Support Programme for Stone Quarry-Affected Communities	PwD	Person with Disability
DWS	Department of World Service	RCM	Rice Crop Manager
ELCA	Evangelical Lutheran Church of America	RTE	Right to Education
FC	Foreign Contribution	SBA	Swachh Bharat Abhiyan
FFW	Food-For-Work	SC	Scheduled Caste
FIG	Farmer Interest Group	SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
FPO	Farmer Producer's Organisation	SHG	Self-Help Group
GBV	Gender-Based Violence	ST	Scheduled Tribe
GEP	Gender Empowerment Project	SRH	Sexual and Reproductive Health
GIRBA	Gender Integrated Right-Based Approach	STEER	Social Transformation, Economic Empowerment and Risk Reduction
GO	Government Organisation	STI	Sexual Transmitted Infection
Govt.	Government	SUH	Shelter for Urban Homeless
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus	TFR	Transboundary Flood Resilience
IAG	Inter-Agency Group	ToT	Training of Trainers
ICC	Internal Complaints Committee	UELCI	United Evangelical Lutheran Churches in India
INR	Indian Rupees	UCT	Unconditional Cash Transfer
IRRI	International Rice Research Institute	VDC	Village Development Committee
JELA	Japan Evangelical Lutheran Association	WAWAW	Women's Association on Violence Against Women
KG	Kilogram	WDU	Women Development Undertaking
LWF	Lutheran World Federation	WBSCCL	West Bengal Swarojgar Corporation Limited
LWSI	Lutheran World Service India	WED	World Environment Day

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Mushroom Cultivation at Mayurbhanj Unit

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Mango harvested from Orchard by Woman SHG at Birbhum Unit

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