

E-Newsletter

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Lutheran World Service India Trust is a Christian, ecumenical organization promoted jointly by the United Evangelical Lutheran Churches in India and the National Council of Churches in India.

LWSIT was registered formally as a National NGO in 2008 thus changing its identity from a country program of LWF/DWS, Geneva to a national organisation in India. LWSIT has inherited a rich legacy of experience by implementing various development projects both in rural and urban areas, humanitarian response and disaster risk reduction projects across India.

The organisation works on the thematic areas of Sustainable Livelihood, Environment Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction, Gender Justice and Peace Building, Education, Health and Organizational Development. The main purpose of LWSIT is to empower disadvantaged communities and it focuses mainly on Odisha, Jharkhand, West Bengal and Assam, while it responds to disaster management in Pan India.

Psalm 24: 1-2:



The earth is the Lord's and everything in it, the world and all who live in it, for He founded it on the seas and established it on the waters.

INSIDE
STORIES

PROJECT UPDATES,
CELEBRATIONS, MEETINGS,
VISITS, STORIES OF CHANGE,
RELIEF DISTRIBUTION,
TRAININGS & WORKSHOPS

On 5th June 2024 World Environment Day was celebrated throughout the LWSIT projects focussing on the theme of the year: Land restoration, desertification and drought resilience, as the year marks the 30th anniversary of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).

Programs at Project Units

On 5th June, **World Environment Day** was celebrated in LWSIT Projects with unity & concentration on environmental issues and care for the betterment of the entire earth. The Day had rallies with participants, holding saplings for the plantation. Banners and placards were highlighted with slogans on the importance of environmental care and that it is the vital role of life.



The People's Representatives to the Self-Government also played an active role in these Programs and created great enthusiasm. The local Sarpanch, Ward Members, school teachers and students joined the rallies spontaneously. Both women and men joined the movement not only for the plantation but also took oaths to water these plants regularly



In the EHELL Project, Nabarangpur Unit - The operational communities of LWSIT have a meagre literacy rate and are unaware of dengue and malaria. The murals have been created in 25 different locations across 15 communities to depict the symptoms of these diseases & illustrate the preventive measures. By using clear, engaging visuals, these murals help people recognize the signs of these diseases early and take necessary actions to prevent them.

Programs at Project Units



In the STEER Project, Bankura Unit - Support of books, notebooks and admission fees were provided to 16 poor Girl Students of Classes XI & XII, which helped them to continue their quality education and pursue higher studies



In the CCAM Project, Birbhum Unit - Campaigning & mass rally on climate resilience, disaster preparedness, environment protection, tree plantation, recycling, reuse and reduction was organised. This program highlighted the importance of natural resource management and emphasised the role of tribal communities towards the conservation of forest areas for future generations' benefit.



The Staff Retreat 2024 was organised by LWSIT from 6th June to 8th June at Ocean Vista Bay Hotel, Vishakhapatnam. Staff members from all projects, the National Office and the Board members attended the program. Three external consultants were invited to conduct sessions and give reflections on Gender Disparity, Climate Change Adaptation & Mitigation and FCRA rules and Regulations.



In the GEP, Bhubaneswar Unit - Asian Zone Emergency & Environment Cooperation Network (AZEECON) Exchange Exposure Training Visit (EETV) – 2024 program was hosted by LWSIT at Bhubaneswar, Odisha. A total of 10 representatives from India, Myanmar, Nepal & Cambodia participated in 3 days of Exchange, Exposure Training & Visit of the GEP BBSR Unit. The program was followed by a two-day in-house training program on Gender by resource person Dr. Urmimala Das, Retd. Professor of Berhampur University and one exposure visit to the urban communities.

Programs at Project Units

In the CCAM Project, Assam Unit - An awareness program was organised focussing on the impact of human actions on climate change, including decreasing rainfall and rising temperatures. They also emphasized the importance of checking deforestation and planting more trees as a mitigation step to address climate change issues and a great challenge ahead to check and reverse the damage caused by human actions to the general environment.



Emergency Response & Relief Distribution

In Manipur, LWSIT completed the relief distribution with support from CLWR. With available resources, additional Rice and Dal (pulses) were provided to 397 families considering their needs living in the relief camps. As drinking water scarcity was seen during the LWSIT also provided safe drinking water to the IDPs who are living in the relief camps. The WASH/Hygiene Kits are particularly beneficial to women and adolescent girls to manage their menstrual hygienic practices.



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| 3 | Soya Chunk (Raj – Agro) | 1 kg |
| 4 | Turmeric Powder | 100 gm |
| | Chilly Powder | 100 gm |
| | Iodized Salt | 1 kg |
| | Baby Food (Nestle Cerelac) | 1 kg |
| | WASH/Hygiene Kits (300 gm each) | 1 Kit |

CSR Initiatives

290 beneficiaries received free spectacles from the eye check-up camp held in collaboration with VRX Lab. **Mahamaya Das**, a 53-year-old disabled woman living in a Shelter for Urban Homeless run by LWSIT, has been struggling with eye problems. Her physical challenges made it difficult for her to get eye treatment. In March 2024, Mahamaya participated in the eye checkup camp and received free spectacles which greatly improved her vision.



Meeting/Workshop/Training attended by the ED and National Office Staff:

- Meeting attended with the KIA (Kerk-in-Actie) Team from the Netherlands on 16th -18th April at LWSIT National Office
- Attended the Staff orientation workshop for Mayurbhanj, Kendrapara & Bankura units on 9th & 10th April at the National Office
- Online meeting held with KIA on 30th May
- Online meeting held with Normisjon on 7th May, 27th May, 4th June & 21st June
- Office Bearers meeting attended on 9th May
- Online AGM held for the ACT India Forum on 16th May

Visits done by ED and National Office Staff:

- Bhavanipatna for Staff orientation meeting for Kalahandi & Balangir unit on 23rd & 24th April.
- Nabarangpur for the Staff Orientation meeting for Nabarangpur and Rayagada units from 25th to 26th April
- Staff orientation workshop for GEP Kolkata and Bhubaneswar units on 3rd & 4th May at Ultadanga
- Birbhum for the Staff orientation meeting on 14th & 15th May
- Assam for the Staff orientation meeting on 23rd to 25th May
- Visakhapatnam for Staff Retreat for the year 2024 from 6th -8th June
- Nagpur for NCCI membership committee meeting on 12th June
- Attended Partners' Meet on Collaborative Knowledge Sharing on Health at THF Office, Gurgaon on 20th June
- Bhubaneswar for AZEECON EETV Program from 25th - 27th June



Visit by Overseas Partner:

Mr. Alwyn Javier, ACT Alliance Regional Representative for Asia & Pacific visited the LWSIT National Office & Kolkata unit on 19th & 20th June 2024. He interacted with all the staff and Rights holders of 15 communities. He also visited other programs running under the Ultadanga unit and interacted with children from the projects.