

### INSIDE STORIES:

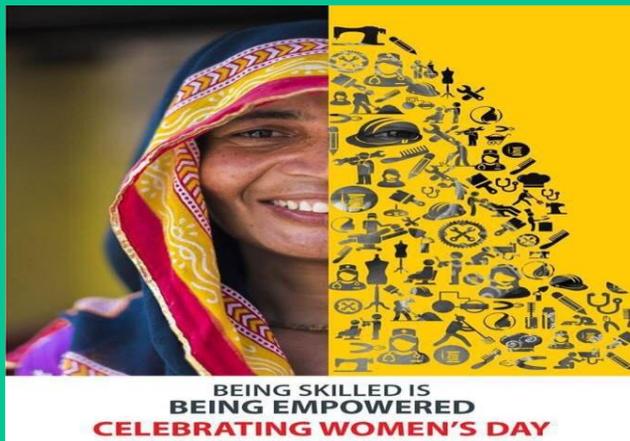
International Women's Day 2022  
Gender equality today for  
a sustainable tomorrow



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.

Registered formally in 2008, the organization began work as the India program arm of Lutheran World Federation/ Department of World Service in 1974 offering relief services to the refugees of the 1971 Bangladesh War of Independence.

The organization works on issues of Sustainable Livelihoods, Community Resilience, Education and Health with Gender and Peace as cross-cutting themes. It's development work is concentrated in the states of Assam, West Bengal, Odisha and Jharkhand, while it responds to disasters on a pan-India basis.



**PROJECT  
UPDATES**

**AWARDS**

**MEETINGS, TRAININGS,  
WORKSHOPS, PROGRAMS  
& GUESTS!**





**International Women's Day (IWD)** is globally celebrated annually on 8<sup>th</sup> March to commemorate the cultural, political and socioeconomic achievements of women. It is also a focal point in the Women's rights movement, bringing attention to issues such as gender equality, reproductive rights and violence and abuse against women. **The 2022 UN theme for International Women's Day is "Gender Equality Today for a Sustainable Tomorrow"**, looking to highlight the contribution of women and girls around the globe, who participate in their communities promoting climate change adaptation, mitigation, and response, in order to build a more sustainable future for all. The theme this year is #BreaktheBias# and the colour is purple

#### **CAP-R Project, Assam Unit:**

The CAP-R Project, Assam Unit celebrated the IWD in all the four Zones where Women, Men and Children attended the program with much enthusiasm and zeal. 537 people attended the programs organized at different locations in Kokrajhar and Chirang districts of Assam. During their address, the guests emphasized on the Theme of the Day and observed this day to promote and strengthen the Women Leaders, emphasizing on equality, dignity, democracy, to stop harassment at the Work Place and their legal rights. They encouraged women to raise their voices against gender based violence, against child marriage and against witch hunting.

#### **STEER Project, Balangir Unit:**

IWD celebrated in the Project Unit emphasized on Gender Justice and zero tolerance approach to gender based violence. Project Unit organized mass awareness program to mark the occasion. The programs were organized at places in the Project Unit areas. 311 people attended the program from 19 communities. PRI members, CBO/SHG leaders and members, AWW, ASHA, Resource Persons of Odisha Livelihood Mission (OLM), District Resource person of Utkal Sevak Samaj of Balangir, Project Coordinator of LWSIT etc. participated in the observation.

#### **STEER Project, Bankura Unit:**

The program was organized and celebrated by involving the community people in the Bankura Unit. Tribal people from 15 operational communities got together and celebrated the event. 89 women attended the program. Based on the theme of year 2022, the dignitaries addressed the gatherings. The resource persons emphasized on education for the girl child and change in our mind-sets on this matter. They discussed the important role played by women in the family as well as society.

## GEP, Bhubaneswar Unit:

IWD program was celebrated in the project operational communities in BBSR and Cuttack. 67 women from 15 communities of Cuttack and 43 women from 13 communities of BBSR took part in this program. Discussion about the theme 'BreaktheBias' and the importance of understanding and breaking the chain of biasness prevailing in society was the main theme of discussion. The focus was on involvement of both women and men in breaking the Patriarchy structure and building an equal society where all individuals can live with respect and dignity.

## DSSQC Project, Birbhum Unit:

The program was celebrated by SHGs, FIGs and CBO members of Bharkata zone in Birbhum District; and Shikaripara zone in Dumka District. Participants from 14 communities attended the program. The programs began with three rallies and slogans related to progress towards achieving gender equality and women's empowerment. They explained the need of women participation in the community development initiatives and also highlighted women's role in the family and in communities.



## STEER Project, Mayurbhanj Unit:

The IWD was observed by the Community members with enthusiasm. Altogether 322 Women from 25 communities/villages took part in the observations, in the rallies initially holding banners and placards. They highlighted different issues through caption based slogans on human rights especially relating to women & girls focusing on discrimination. Girl child education was focused on Also, emphasis was given on the empowerment of Women & Girls especially to bring down discrimination including the representation of women in the Executive Committee of the CBOs. SHGs further are being strengthened, which focused much on women's financial empowerment and self-dependence.



### **GEP, Kolkata Unit:**

International Women's Day program was organized by the Unit involving community members and staff of the Project Unit. The Theme of the program was broadened into the celebration "BreaktheBias" by Project Coordinator as opening remarks. Total participants from 15 communities were 109 members. Resource persons highlighted the History of celebrating International Women's Day, the work domain of Women and Men in the household and in the society. The discrimination on women and girls were also highlighted, the social stereotypes that leads to violence against women.

### **STEER Project, Kalahandi Unit:**

IWD was celebrated in Kalahandi district, Odisha. There were 415 participants in the program covering 15 Communities. They led a rally with placards and different slogans about women education, stop the killing of the girl child, unity of women groups, changing men's traditional mind sets, women as change agents, to stop violence against women and gave courage to women for empowerment and strengthening of livelihood for development of income sources.

### **STEER Project, Kendrapada Unit:**

The Project Unit celebrated the IWD program centrally which was organized by both Ambedkar GUC of Krushnadaspur and Basanti GUC at Dumuka Kandi Sahi. 200 Participants from 25 communities participated in the program. While addressing the gathering, the dignitaries spoke about women empowerment and the decision making power of women. It was highlighted and observed that, the decision-making power among rural women has significantly increased in recent years, which is a good sign. Also, gender discrimination has reduced and more emphasis has given on girl child education.

## OTHER ACTIVITIES IN PROJECT UNITS

### STAFF CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAM SUPPORTED BY ACT CHURCH OF SWEDEN



The Staff Capacity Building Program on Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation with integration of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) was conducted in Bhubaneswar for three days from 23rd March to 25th March 2022, in which 26 participants including Project Coordinators, Community Officers from Project Units, AED and Senior Staff of National Office attended the Program. The main point of the discussion was all about “Think Globally and Act Locally”. Various solutions to Climate Change were highlighted including; Conservation and regeneration of Forest Land, Use of renewable energy, Increase Climate Funding, Green Business, etc. Other solutions such as the practice of Reduce, Recycle, Reuse, Refuse and Replicate the elements also contribute towards the mitigation of climate change. Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction go hand in hand.

### TRANSBOUNDARY FLOOD RESILIENCE (TFR) PROJECT SUPPORTED BY ELCA



The TFR Project continues to be implemented in the Kokrajhar district of Assam and caters to the needs of 15 most vulnerable and multi-hazard prone communities situated on the banks of the Brahmaputra River basin tributaries, the primary objective being to enhance the capacities of the people so they can effectively manage the flood disasters. It is also aimed to ensure early warning information to be disseminated among the community people as received from RARS (Regional Agriculture Research Station). Community based awareness on disaster preparedness, DRR, climate change etc. were organized – also the formation and strengthening of CBDMTF, training the members have been imparted on DRR and Do No Harm, cluster level DRR, etc. were organized. Emergency Preparedness Kits were provided to all the 15 communities.

## EXPOSURE VISITS

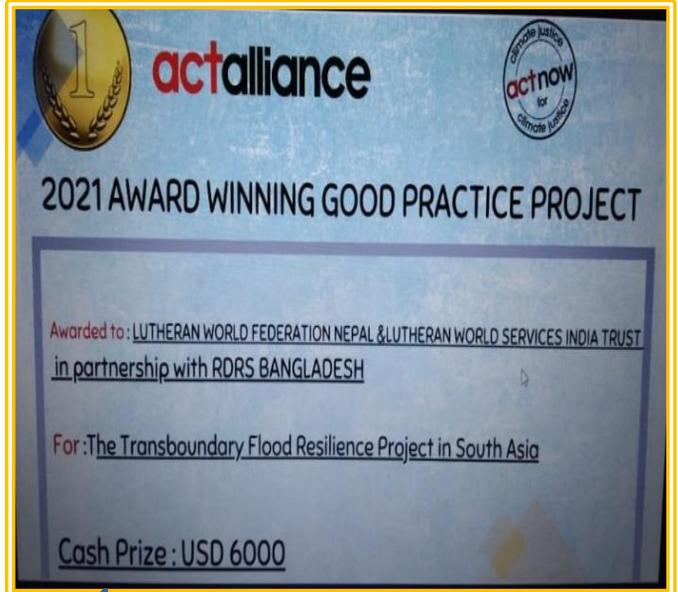
**Mayurbhanj Unit:** With an objective to get the interested Community members exposed to new feasible technologies (on-farm and off-farm) most suited to the geo-climatic conditions as the gainful engagement options through better production & income for improvement in life qualities, an Exposure Program was earlier organized and follow up was done and benefits were seen. Herbal Garden, Commercial Vegetable farm, Mushroom Farm, Nursery raising, Horticulture, Vermin Compost, Fish farming in artificial tank, Improved Poultry and Apiary were the avenues seen during exposure visit.



**Bankura Unit:** On 30th March 29 from 7 communities & 9 SHGs went for an exposure visit to Shamayita Math, Amarkan, Bankura, where they learnt about Green House and how to make seedlings through Nursery. Dairy farm, Vermin compost, Mango saplings, etc. were also seen. Participants were shown how to earn money through Dairy Farming. They also visited the Agriculture Research Station where they saw sunflower cultivation, soil testing, mushroom cultivation, including marketing of mushroom within and outside the locality.



# LWSIT AWARDS RECEIVED



# BOARD MEETING



Right to Left: Rt. Rev. Johan Dang, Rev. A. Joshua Peter, Mr. Kishore Kumar Nag, Rev. Asir Ebenezer David, Dr. Binita Prince, Mrs. Suramya Smriti Kujur, Mrs. Valsala Sathyadas, Mrs. Aleyamma Thomas, Dr. Tomy V. Prothasis, and Rev. Madhukant Masih.

# PROJECT VISITS



Ms. Shiela from ACT Church of Sweden and AED of LWSIT visited Lebugola community under GEP Kolkata Unit



Ms. Shiela from ACT Church of Sweden and AED of LWSIT visited Shimladihi community under STEER Bankura Unit



Remote tour program of CCI presented by LWSIT to JELA Foundation & Japanese students



CCI Children performed through the Remote Tour Program for the JELA Foundation & Japanese students

**MEETINGS / PROGRAMS / WEBINARS  
ATTENDED BY AED & STAFF  
FROM JANUARY TO MARCH 2022**

- ❖ AED attended an online meeting with Normisjon on 26th & 27th January and 1<sup>st</sup> February 2022
- ❖ AED along with the Manager of Emergency and Program Development as well as the Program Coordinator of GEP attended an online meeting with JELA on 8th & 17th February respectively.
- ❖ AED and the Manager of Emergency and Program Development attended the online meeting with Ms. Jagriti Sharan of The Hans Foundation on 9th February
- ❖ The Remote Tour Program to CCI and Kolkata for JELA Delegation Team and Japanese Participants held on 22nd & 23rd February, in which AED, the Manager of Emergency & Program Development and the Program Coordinator of GEP attended the program
- ❖ AED attended the Advisory Committee Meeting on 11th March
- ❖ AED attended the Board Meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2022
- ❖ Staff Capacity Building Program on Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation integrated with DRR was organized in Bhubaneswar for three days from 23rd to 25<sup>th</sup> March in which 26 participants covering Project Coordinators and Community Officers from Project Units, AED and Senior Staff of National Office attended the Program
- ❖ AED and Program Coordinator of STEER Project visited Bankura Unit along with the Partner from Act Church of Sweden, Ms. Sheila Mallik, on 30th March 2021

***Overseas Guests:***

- ❖ Ms. Sheila Mallik from Act Church of Sweden visited LWSIT National Office, Kolkata Unit and Bankura Unit from 28th - 31st March 2022.



**Lutheran World Service India Trust**

84 Dr. Suresh Sarkar Road,  
Kolkata 700 014, West Bengal,  
India

**Phone:** +91 33 2284 9200/9730/9731

**Email:** [aedkishore@lwsit.org](mailto:aedkishore@lwsit.org) ; **Website:** [www.lwsit.org](http://www.lwsit.org)