



LUTHERAN WORLD SERVICE INDIA TRUST

Empowering the last, the least and the 10th

E-Newsletter

1ST QUARTER 2023: January to March:
Volume XV, Issue: i

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.

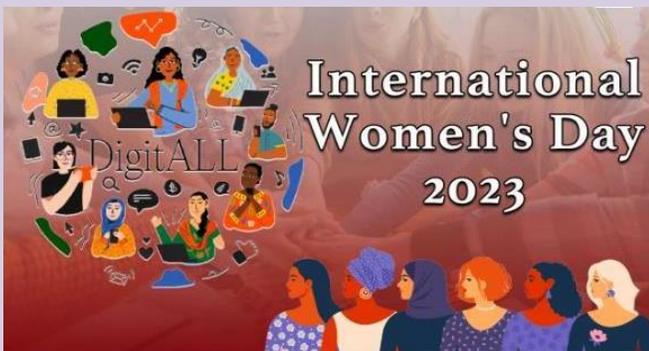
Galatians 3:28 - There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

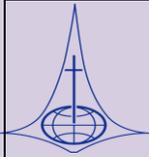
INSIDE STORIES:

PROJECT UPDATES

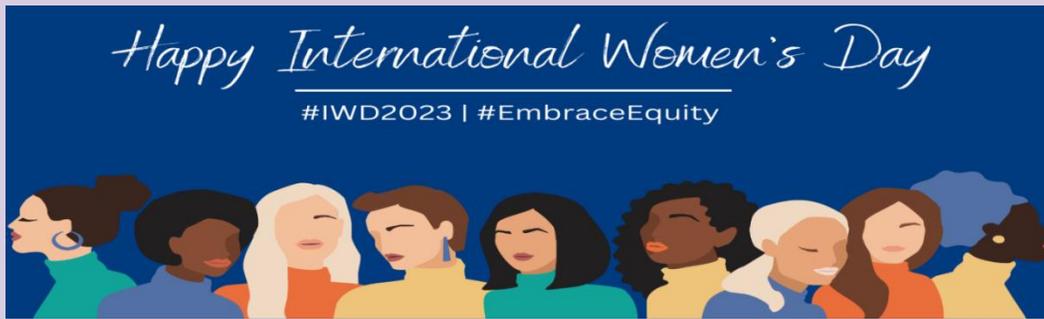
STORIES OF CHANGE

MEETINGS, TRAININGS,
WORKSHOPS &
PROGRAMS!





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International Women's Day

March 8th is International Women's Day; a day dedicated honoring the social, economic, cultural, and political accomplishments of women.



The theme for International Women's Day 2023, was “**DigitALL: Innovation and technology for gender equality**”. “Innovation and technological change, and education in the digital age for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls”. And with this IWD 2023 will explore the impact of the digital gender gap on widening economic and social inequalities.

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Observed and celebrated International Women's Day (IWD) across various projects not only to increase awareness and sensitize communities but to also highlight the significance of protecting women's and girls' rights in digital spaces and addressing online and ICT-facilitated gender-based violence under the theme **DigitALL: Innovation and Technology for Gender Equality**.



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Observation of International Women's Day at PROJECT UNITS



In **GEP Bhubaneswar Unit**, International Women's Day (IWD) was celebrated in both Bhubaneswar and Cuttack and they discussed issues related to women empowerment, reduction of domestic violence, digital literacy for women empowerment and a gender neutral society, to reduce the crimes against women like child marriage, trafficking and harassment

GEP Kolkata Unit took initiatives to inaugurate IWD with the Theme: "DigitALL innovation and technology for gender equality". It highlighted the role of innovative technology in promoting gender equality and meeting the health and developmental needs of women and girls.

In **CAPR-Assam Unit**, IWD was celebrated and organized in four (4) different areas and they spoke on the important roles of women in the society, the importance of addressing the Education and Health Issues, the need to raise voices against Gender inequality, Gender based violence and ending Child Marriage

In **DSSQC Birbhum Unit**, IWD was celebrated to see the progress made towards achieving gender equality and women's empowerment and also for looking forward to the untapped potentials and opportunities that await future generations of women who want and deserve an equal future free from stigma, stereotypes and violence. A future which is sustainable, peaceful with equal rights and opportunities for all.

Observation of International Women's Day at PROJECT UNITS

In **STEER Balangir Unit**, IWD was celebrated in a couple of different venues of the Balangir Unit by not only rallies but also discussions were held on the need to end violence against women and girls and the suggestion for them to join different institutions in the different localities.

STEER Bankura Unit celebrated IWD in a couple of its areas and explained the importance of IWD to help focus on ensuring quality and equity of women in position in their families as well as in society and the need for the girl child education and the change of mind set towards women's empowerment.

In **STEER Kalahandi Unit**, IWD was celebrated in different areas, focusing on women education, women empowerment, stopping the killing of girl child, unity amongst women groups, and fight against women violence and courage to enhance women empowerment.

In **STEER Kendrapara Unit**, IWD was celebrated to help increase the decision making power amongst women, to reduce gender discrimination, and to enhance gender equality.

In **STEER Mayurbhanj Unit**, IWD was celebrated and emphasis was given on steps taken for women empowerment and the future of the girl child education, women's financial empowerment and self dependence. Also, issues like resolving dowry, domestic violence and early marriages were discussed



CAP-R Project - Training on Conflict Management

CAP-R Project Assam Unit conducted a series of 4 (four) trainings in this quarter. People from different ethnic groups took initiatives to help participants to understand the definition of Conflict and Peace, to analyze the different conflict situations, to enable them to realize the influence of aid impacts, to reduce dividers and increase connectors in the context of conflicts.

TFR Project, Assam – Climate Resilient Agriculture



The TFR Project, Assam supported by ELCA, is to enhance the flood resilience, reducing the vulnerabilities confronted by the inhabitants, enabling them to be better prepared for the adverse impacts of floods, to promote the climate resilience agricultural practices before and during the onset of flood, reducing the risk of flooding occurring & to empower communities to respond to and recover from floods as quickly as possible. LWSIT promotes a climate resilience agricultural system to anticipate and prepare for, as well as adapt to, absorb and recover from the impacts of changes in climate and extreme weather.



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PROGRAMS AT PROJECT UNITS

STEER BALANGIR UNIT: Provided support to communities for improved farming through creation of irrigation potentials, land development for agriculture, training on improved commercial vegetable farming. Support also provided to individuals (preferably women headed families) with various income generation schemes and assisted to groups for goat rearing through The Hans Foundation supported project



PROGRAMS AT PROJECT UNITS

STEER BANKURA UNIT: Community meetings held to discuss their present situation, problem identification, prioritization, action taken, methodology, cost sharing, time frame, etc. Also, Bankura Unit organized 2 WASH Awareness Programs for the school children during this quarter to sensitize them about personal hygiene as well as water borne diseases and vector borne diseases and its impacts.

GEP BHUBANESWAR UNIT: Some of the Training Programs and workshops held were Sweekurti Scheme in which 32 TG persons participated, a Sisira Sharasa Fair (where 3 stalls were run by the TG SHGs), Tailoring Training (for 20 women), Women's Worker's Training and WAVAW Case handling.





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PROGRAMS AT PROJECT UNITS

DSSQC BIRBHUM UNIT: On 21st March, Ms. Lisa Winther - Senior Advisor of Digni and Ms. Ingrid Straume - Country Manager of Normisjon along with Executive Director of LWSIT visited the project for program monitoring.

STEER KALAHANDI UNIT: Trainings on Commercial Vegetable Farming, on the indigenous cultivation of millet, both individual and group income generation schemes, land development for agricultural production and excavation of the farm ponds were assisted through The Hans Foundation supported project.



STEER KENDRAPARA UNIT: Trainings on Commercial Vegetable Farming, Farm Pond excavations, income generating scheme to individuals (grocery shops, stationary shops, cycle repairing, etc.) and groups (goat rearing scheme) assisted under The Hans Foundation supported project.



Training on
Commercial
Vegetable
Farming at
Jajpur



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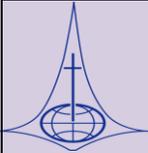
PROGRAMS AT PROJECT UNITS

GEP KOLKATA UNIT: On 18th March 2023, a Remote Tour Program was organized for JELA Foundation. Children were encouraged and happily participated in the whole program and learned new skills to communicate with the JELA Partners and shared their views through online remote communication. Also, the Open Shelter for Children commenced from January 2023, in which 25 children are regularly attending for their holistic development, guided by counselors, social workers and bridge course educators.



STEER MAYURBHANJ UNIT: Mayurbhanj Unit implemented various programs such as; Land Development, Excavation of Farm Ponds, income generating support to Individuals (preferably women headed families) and income generating support to Women Groups, training on establishing market linkages and training on commercial vegetable cultivation, etc. All these programs are implemented as part of the project supported by The Hans Foundation.





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MEETINGS / PROGRAMS / WEBINARS ATTENDED FROM JANUARY TO MARCH 2023



Visits of Normisjon and Digni Representatives to National office

Meetings and Workshops attended:

- ❖ ED attended the online meeting with Normisjon on 6th January 2023
- ❖ ED attended the online meeting with Digni on 1st and 2nd February 2023
- ❖ ED and National Office Staff conducted the Strategic Plan 2023-2027 orientation meeting for all the staff of West Bengal based projects at Kolkata on 16 & 17th February 2023
- ❖ ED attended the Board Meeting on 25th February 2023
- ❖ ED and Manager – Emergency & Program Development attended the online meeting with RILM Officials related to Adult Literacy Program on 10th March 2023
- ❖ ED attended the capacity building workshop on 13th March 2023 at National Office
- ❖ Meeting held with Act CoS represented by ED on 10th March 2023
- ❖ Online Study Tour for JELA Foundation was conducted on 18th March 2023 with participation of ED, Manager - Emergency & Program Development and Project Coordinator of GEP, Kolkata Unit

MEETINGS / PROGRAMS / WEBINARS ATTENDED FROM JANUARY TO MARCH 2023



Partners with Birbhumi Team

Visits done by ED and other Staffs:

- 11th Asian Lutheran International Conference held on Jan 12-17, 2023 at Chiangrai,
- Strategic Plan Orientation meeting at Bhubaneswar, Odisha on 28th February and 1st March 2023
- Normisjon partners meeting attended in Assam from 16th to 18th March 2023
- Birbhumi - meeting with Normisjon partners on 21st March 2023
- Strategic Plan Orientation meeting at Assam on 29th & 30th March 2023

Overseas Guests:

- Ms. Sheila Mallik from Act Church of Sweden visited LWSIT on 10th March 2023
- Ms. Ingrid Straume from Normisjon and Ms. Martha Lisa Winther visited LWSIT on 25th March 2023

**MEETINGS / PROGRAMS / WEBINARS ATTENDED
FROM JANUARY TO MARCH 2023**

**Partner
with Assam
Team**



**Santipara,
Assam Office
Dedication**