



# LUTHERAN WORLD SERVICE INDIA TRUST

*Empowering the last, the least and the 10<sup>st</sup>*

## E-Newsletter

1<sup>st</sup> Quarter: January to March 2024, Volume- XVI, 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.

**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.

### INSIDE STORIES:

PROJECT UPDATES,  
CELEBRATIONS,  
STORIES OF CHANGE,  
MEETINGS, VISITS,  
TRAINING  
& WORKSHOPS

"Be strong! Be fearless!  
Don't be afraid and don't  
be scared by your enemies,  
because the Lord your God  
is the one who marches with  
you. He won't let you down,  
and he won't abandon you."

**DEUTERONOMY 31:6**

On 8th March 2024, **International Women's Day** was celebrated in LWSIT with the Theme - Invest in women : Accelerate progress' to recognize the achievements and to build support for women's rights and participation in all fields without any discretions.

## Programs at Project Units

LWSIT celebrated **International Women's Day** at the National Office and all project areas to raise awareness about the status and dignity of women among the tribals. The resource person strongly emphasised changing perspectives & creating awareness of providing education for girls and gender equality for a healthy society. They shared how vital women are to families and society at large. The celebrations included peace rallies, different events and Sports.



***Celebrating Women's Day at Nabarangpur Unit***

***In the EHELL Project, Nabarangpur Unit*** - The International Women's Day (Antarjatiya Mahila Divas) was observed on 8th March in the newly initiated project supported by The Hans Foundation. The event took place in the operational communities with 172 females, 82 Males, 42 boys & 75 girls.

- 3 Trainings / Workshops on Leadership for women & adolescent girls were organized with 56 women and 35 adolescent girls.

***In the EHELL Project, Raygada Unit*** - 332 participants from 14 new communities supported by The Hans Foundation, participated in the Rally, Conventions and celebrations of International Women's Day.

- 2 training programs on leadership for women & adolescents were organised.
- 24 community engagement activities on Community Introduction, Planning process, Health, Education, Livelihood & Leadership Awareness were done.
- Community survey has been completed in 15 communities.



***Village meeting organised at Raygada Unit on Community Introduction & Planning process***

## Programs at Project Units

**In the STEER Project, Kalahandi Unit** - Exposure Visit was done with 20 Farmers to learn about Millets cultivation in a modern-scientific way with the practices of vegetable cultivation, Nursery bed preparation in Polyhouse, Compost and different grafting techniques in horticulture.

- 3 women were supported with the Individual IG program. They successfully started a Grocery shop, selling Dry fish and refreshment items in local areas, earning Rs. 300-400/- per day excluding recurring expenditures.
- Through the Group IG Scheme, a goat-rearing shed has been constructed with Rs. 10,000/-.



**Tomato cultivation at Kalahandi Unit**

Three groups purchased 10 goats (She goat-9 and He goat-1) at the cost of 50,000/- from the local area.

- 10 marginal farmers are working on the Land development for agriculture production on 10 acres where they will start rice cultivation to increase yield during the year with support from The Hans Foundation.
- 5 farm ponds have been excavated for the tribal farmers, to irrigate the 8 acres of land surrounding the farm pond for vegetable farming and paddy cultivation with support from The Hans Foundation.
- Training on Commercial Vegetable farming & capacity building programme has been carried out with 18 Males & 8 Females to show a path for sustainable and alternative livelihood opportunities with support from The Hans Foundation.

**In the STEER Project, Balangir Unit** - A Workshop for CBO/ SHG leaders on Resource Mobilization was organised involving 38 women participants of 28 women Self Help Groups to sensitise them on different schemes/facilities sponsored by the government and other NGOs that they can mobilise for their development initiatives for individuals or group.

- A Woman Cooperative comprised 26 scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe women SHGs.
- With support from The Hans Foundation, 10 marginal farmers were supported for the Land development for agriculture production to save 10 acres of uncultivated wasteland through land levelling and bonding. This

will enable farmers to grow different kinds of crops depending on the land and soil texture and assure food security of the farmers.

- 2 women received support for Individual IG Units. One has started a Tailoring and clothing business and another tribal woman opened a shop for Tiffin and Snacks with support from The Hans Foundation.

- 11 Goats were supported for group income generation to 2 SHG Groups with support from The Hans Foundation.

- 3 farmers were supported with the Excavation of Farm Pond to save acres of standing crops during kharif cultivation with support from The Hans Foundation.



**Excavation of Farm Pond at Balangir Unit**

## Programs at Project Units

**In the STEER Project, Bankura Unit-** LWSIT arranged an exposure visit with 30 progressive farmers to exchange ideas on creating biofertilizers, fish feed, cattle feed, compost for vermin, horticultural, ornamental, forest plants, and others that help to improve the standard of living of a farmer.

- The members of SGSY Mahila Samiti decided to cultivate the Potato seeds through group commercial vegetable cultivation. They grew 62 kg of potato seeds in a single bigha area in December and in March they harvested 10.500 quintals of potatoes. They sold them and earned Rs 12,600.00 with a profit.
- Buddheswar Hansda cultivated 30 grams of cucumber in 1 bigha land with a production of 7.50 Quintal and he sold 25.00/kgs of cucumber with a total profit of Rs. 18750.



**Harvest of Potato by SGSY Mahila Samiti in Bankura Unit**

**In the STEER Project, Mayurbhanj Unit -** The 75th Republic Day of the country was observed with Flag hoisting, singing of the National Anthem and discussion on the importance of the day with different events. Apart from that sports, events and cultural Programs were organised with 547 men, 485 women and 277 children.

- 2 Single-headed financially backward women received support to take up rural grocery units to ensure engagement with regular earnings at home with support from The Hans Foundation.
- With support from The Hans Foundation, 5 Acres of Land were covered for the development, benefitting 5 farmers of 2 Communities under 2 Gram Panchayats. Altogether 453 Person days were generated to accomplish the entire task.
- Also a 2-day Training Program was conducted for 18 Female & 19 Male members on the importance & different steps of vegetable farming in a commercial way beginning from soil test, and land preparation to harvest. The Program further focussed on the organic way of disease & pest management apart from manure/fertiliser preparation, highlighting the Government schemes & provisions available for the People.

- An exposure Program with 17 Female and 15 Male Community members was organized to learn the new feasible technologies both on-farm and off-farm most suited to the geo-climatic conditions that can create gainful engagement options through better production & income.



**Exposure Visit to Krushi Vigyan Kendra & Horticulture Farm for the Farmers at the Mayurbhanj Unit**

## Programs at Project Units

**In the STEER Project, Kendrapada Unit** three 3 Marginal Farmers three 3 different communities benefitted from the scheme of Farm Pond supported by The Hans Foundation. Indirectly 10 to 15 members from each community benefitted as farm pond labourers.

- Besides, a Women's Cooperative was formed with 45 women members from 14 women SHGs.
- 2 individual IG Units were supported to the women-headed family as a priority base in the community with support from The Hans Foundation.



**Income Generation Support to the women at Kendrapada Unit**



**Ms. Sheila Mallik & Staff visited TG Group in Cuttack of Bhubaneswar Unit**

**In the GEP, Bhubaneswar Unit** - Ms. Sheila Mallik from Act Church of Sweden visited the programs from 12th to 13th March 2024.

- World Water Day was organized with 32 participants from 4 communities to make the community people aware of water conservation and preservation to mitigate the water crisis for the upcoming generation.



**Ms. Sheila Mallik with Board members visited the Kolkata GEP Unit.**

**In the GEP, Kolkata Unit** – Women's Day was celebrated with a Rally, slogan and display of placards.

- 3 women leaders from the Marginalised communities were felicitated for their strong will as they overcame many obstacles in their personal lives and participated in social development work.



**Celebrating Women's Day at Kolkata Unit**

## Programs at Project Units

**In the Open Shelter Project, Kolkata Unit** - A donor' visit was arranged.

- Netaji's Birthday & Swachhta Pakhwada was observed
- Annual sport was organised. Basanta Utsab was celebrated.
- Workshop on Street Work was organized by DCRT in collaboration with CINI.
- An introduction session of Street-Connected Children and Child Rights on IDSC was organized.
- Eshika Biswas from the Open Shelter project participated in a state-level yoga tournament.

**In the CCAM Project, Birbhum & Dumka Unit** - 5 awareness programs on Climate change & Global warming were organised with 175 participants from 9 adjacent and newly adopted operational communities.

- 10 community meetings were organised to share about the new project activities. The record-keeping registers were distributed in the community to maintain proper documentation of the activities.



**Community Meetings held in the new operational area of Birbhum Unit**



**CDC Meeting in new operational area at Assam Unit**

**In the CCAM Project, Assam Unit** - Formations of 3 Community Development Committee (CDC) have been done with 90 participants.

- 5 Rapport building and Data Collection meetings have been done with 96 participants.
- 2 Tapioca plantations and 1 Maize plantation have been done.

**In the TFR Project Assam Unit** - 41 community people participated in developing a village disaster management plan through the PRA Approach.

- 121 Demonstrations of Mock Drills were organised for the CBDMTF Members & Dedicated Youth Volunteers from the communities.
- 23 Farmers were provided exposure to a climate-smart integrated farming system.
- 57 Awareness camps on Disaster Preparedness for School Students and Teachers were organised.
- 33 Capacity-building programs & Training on DRR, Do No Harm & Govt. sponsored programs were organised for CBDMTF Members.

**Demonstration of Mock drills for CBDMTF & Dedicated Youth volunteers in Assam**



## Emergency Response & Relief Distribution



**In Manipur** LWSIT has provided relief assistance to 1,500 families covering 7,500 approx population and 300 Children Apart from this, LWSIT also conducted several training programs with 200 persons on Psychosocial Counselling in batches. The participants who attended the training programs were the relief camp management committee members, women leaders, religious leaders, youth, adolescent girls, etc.

**Relief Distribution by District Nodal Officer of Relief for Ethnic conflict-affected people in Manipur**

## Resource Mobilisation & Communication

A Follow-Up Training session was organised on Resource Mobilization & Communication to equip 15 senior staff participants with essential skills and knowledge for effectively mobilizing resources and implementing successful communication strategies in support of the organization's objectives, aiming for a sustainable future.



**Follow-up Training on Resource Mobilization and Communication for National Office Staff**



LWSIT, in collaboration with Vision Rx Lab Private Limited, organized an eye check-up camp on the 14th & 15th of March 2024, to provide vision care to underprivileged communities in Kolkata. It was conducted free of cost as part of their CSR activity. 377 beneficiaries underwent eye examinations, out of which 290 required spectacles will be provided for free within a month.

**Eye Check-up camp organised for the underprivileged communities in Kolkata**

## Meetings / Programs / Webinars Attended from January to March 2024

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

- ❖ Meeting with KIA (Kerk-in-Actie) Team from Netherlands on 17th & 18th January at LWSIT National Office
- ❖ Online meeting with Normisjon on 29th January, 2nd February, 6th & 8th March
- ❖ Attended Follow-up Training on Resource Mobilization and Communication on 2nd and 3rd February
- ❖ Board meeting attended at LWSIT National Office on 15th February
- ❖ Online meeting held with Act CoS on 11th March
- ❖ Meeting held with the Vice President & Secretary of the Board of Trustees on 7th March

### Visits done by ED and National Office Staff:

- ❖ Nabarangpur, Odisha on 4th, 5th & 6th January
- ❖ Rayagada, Odisha on 8th, 9th & 10th January to establish the new office of LWSIT
- ❖ Kalvarayan Hills, Tamil Nadu for the meeting with the KIA team on the 22nd & 23rd of February
- ❖ Manipur for relief distribution from 19th to 21st March

### Visit by Overseas Partner:

- ❖ Ms Lin Tjeng, KIA representative from the Netherlands on 17th & 18th January
- ❖ Ms Sheila Mallik from Act Church of Sweden on 4th March



*LWSIT Vice President, Secretary, ED, & Lead of Program along with KIA representatives & ALC delegates visited Kalvarayan Hills & attended the partnership meeting*



*Board Meeting held on 15th February 2024 at National Office, Kolkata*