



# LUTHERAN WORLD SERVICE INDIA TRUST

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

## E-Newsletter

4<sup>th</sup> Quarter: October to December 2023, Volume- XV, Issue: IV

**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.

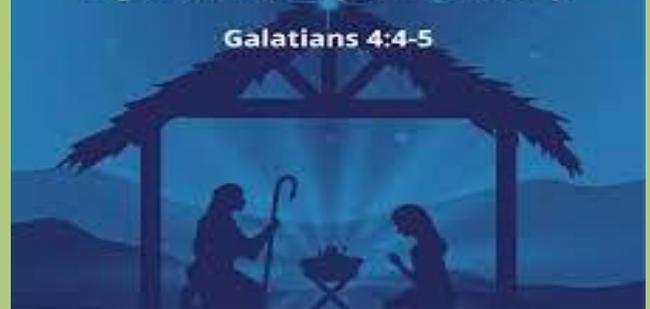
**LWSIT** was registered formally as a National NGO in 2008 thus changing its identity from a country program of LWF/DWS, Geneva to a national organisation in India. LWSIT has inherited a rich legacy of experience by implementing various development projects both in rural and urban areas, humanitarian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



But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship.

Galatians 4:4-5



### INSIDE STORIES:

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

16 Days Activism for Elimination of Violence Against Women and girls was observed in all the projects of LWSIT with the Theme: "UNITE! Invest to prevent violence against women and girls."

## Programs at Project Units



**GEP, Kolkata Unit observing 16 days of Activism for Elimination of Violence Against Women and Girls**

**In the TFR Project, Assam Unit** - LWSIT enhanced the capacities of people in 20 communities by which they can effectively manage flood disasters. The progressive farmers were supported to take up agriculture activities as best suited to the local climatic conditions and raise seasonal crops such as to scale up climate-resilient agriculture to ensure income generation and enhance their livelihood security. Girl Students who don't have electricity were assisted with Solar lights.



**Solar light distribution to the female students**

## Programs at Project Units



On 10th December Human Rights Day was celebrated in the **Shelter for Urban Homeless Project**. \*Cultural Sports was organised with 89 participants to commemorate the Universal Declaration of Human Rights i.e. to ensure Freedom, Equality and Justice for all.

**Sports organised in the GEP and SUH Project**

**In the GEP, Bhubaneswar Unit** - 12 students received Computer vocational skill training. \*50 service providers were registered in the Support service centre \*3 SHG and CDG started a group business to establish a livelihood. \*On 1st December, a rally was organised for awareness of HIV/AIDS and Gender-Based Violence. \*The Bhubaneswar Municipality Corporation organised a training program on "Fire safety". \*A One-day training on Bookkeeping and fund management was also organised for the SHG leaders.



**WAWAW day program on Gender-Based Violence**

Children of the **CEC** and **CCI Project** participated in the Christmas Functions. \*An exposure Visit was organised to Bandel Church and Imambara Masjid with 20 children from CCI.

UNCRC week was observed in the **Open Shelter Project** by celebrating Children's Day followed by Bonfota-embracing the sisterhood. \*Training on Gender-Based Violence and Child Rights was also organised for the girls.

**In the DSSQC Project, Birbhum Unit** Two exposure visits were organised for 50 progressive farmers from 29 operational communities with the motto, "Learning by observing". The farmers visited cultivation areas that require very little irrigation. They were introduced to the Polythene/ plastic mulching concept, intercropping cultivation practice and vermin compost pits

**The CAP-R Project, Assam Unit** organised a Peace Festival and Cultural Program with 493 participants. As part of the program, many cultural dances were performed by different ethnic groups like Bodo, Santal, Rabha, Nepali and Uraon.

## Programs at Project Units

In the **STEER Project, Bankura Unit**- 6 poor and needy female students were identified from the marginalised ST community and were supported with study materials and guidebooks as additional support for their higher education. \*One of the community members Chatinbaid Tiluri is happy to start a livelihood by cultivating rabi crops with expenses of Rs. 2180 and selling them in the market at a high price of Rs. 17500. \*An Inter Culture Joint Initiative of a Football Tournament was organised and supported by LWSIT for the community people.



**Supporting Higher Education to Students**



**21 Paddy Thresher Machines were distributed in different communities of Bankura**

**In the STEER Project, Kendrapada Unit** - Disaster Risk Reduction and Odisha Disaster Day were celebrated\*  
\*3 Training programs were organised to improve commercial vegetable farming and establish market linkages.  
\*1 Sustainable agriculture training and 1 adolescent girls training program was organised. \*4 goat-rearing units were supported to the women SHG Groups. \*Commercial vegetable seeds were supported to 80 farmers. \*6 individual IG Units were supported. \* 100 Guide Books and Test Papers were supported to needy students.



**In the STEER Project, Kalahandi Unit** - \*A Drama was performed on tribal women's development as an intercultural joint initiative. \*47 Farmers were trained in Commercial Vegetable Farming. \*4 right holders were supported with the Creation of irrigation potentiality (Farm Pond). \*22 Solar lights were distributed in the community.

**30 Smokeless fuel efficiency chullah were supported to the community**

## Programs at Project Units

***In the STEER Project, Balangir Unit*** - Training was provided on Sustainable Agriculture, Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights, Community Response to Gender Inequality and Gender-Based Violence. \*International Girl Child Day was observed. \*Operational communities of LWSIT were supported for improved farming with Agricultural activities and the creation of Irrigation potentials. \*Support was provided to women-headed families for income generation.



***The community was supported with 27 Goats for income generation***



***LWSIT Diary and Calendar 2024 was inaugurated by the respected ED of LWSIT in the Christmas celebrations held at the National Office, Kolkata***



## Meetings / Programs / Webinars Attended from October to December 2023

**In Manipur,** LWSIT distributed Woolen Blankets to 200 families living in the relief camps with the support of representatives from MELC and Nodal Officer- Relief of Churachandpur district. Apart from this, LWSIT also conducted a training program on Psychosocial Counselling in batches. 149 persons participated in these training programs to disseminate and percolate down to the people who have been affected by the ethnic conflict situation in Manipur. The participants who attended the training programs comprised relief camp management committee members, women leaders, religious leaders, youth, adolescent girls, etc.



**Relief distribution for ethnic conflict-affected families in Manipur**

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

- ❖ India CSR Summit from 11th - 12th October 2023 at Delhi
- ❖ Transboundary Workshop from 18th - 20th October 2023 in Kathmandu, Nepal
- ❖ AZEECON Summit from 1st - 5th November 2023 at Pokhara, Nepal
- ❖ Staff Capacity building workshop from 8th - 10th November 2023 at Assam
- ❖ Digni Network meeting 21st - 23rd November 2023, Kathmandu, Nepal
- ❖ Office Bearers meeting 29th November 2023 at National Office
- ❖ Online meeting with Act COS regarding the next phase of projects on 30th November 2023
- ❖ Online meeting with Normisjon on 5th December 2023
- ❖ Act Asia PS Community of practice workshop from 11th - 15th December 2023 in Bali, Indonesia
- ❖ Disability Inclusiveness and Protection Workshop on 19th December 2023 at NCCI, Nagpur
- ❖ Online Meeting with Act India Forum on 27th December 2023.

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

- ❖ Manipur for relief distribution from 15th - 22nd November 2023
- ❖ Madagascar for Climate Smart Agriculture workshop from 7th - 15th December 2023

### **Visit by Overseas Partner:**

- ❖ Ms. Sheila Mallik from Act Church of Sweden on 27th October 2023.



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