



# LUTHERAN WORLD SERVICE INDIA TRUST

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

## E-Newsletter

2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter: April to June 2021, Volume XIII Issue: ii

*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.

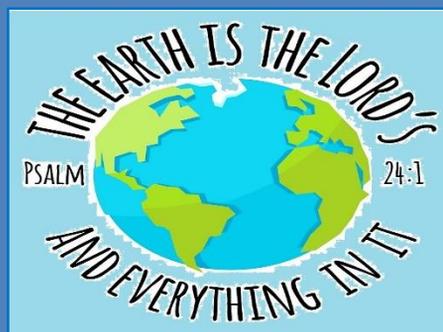
Registered formally in 2008, the organization began work as the India program arm of Lutheran World Federation/ Department of World Service in 1974 offering relief services to the refugees of the 1971 Bangladesh War of Independence.

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.

## INSIDE STORIES



## PROJECT UPDATES



World Environment Day (WED) is celebrated annually on 5<sup>th</sup> June and is a United Nations initiative for encouraging worldwide protection of our environment. The day aims to create awareness among more and more individuals to take certain actions against the growing strain on Earth's natural ecosystem. A healthy ecosystem directly means a healthy livelihood. Every organism on the planet is dependent on the environment for food, air, water, and habitat. The theme of World Environment Day 2021 is 'Ecosystem Restoration'. UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration has been launched which includes suggestions to reverse the damage caused by human activities to the environment. Every year, Environment Day is hosted by different countries around the globe. The day has a participation of more than 143 countries annually. Ecosystem restoration means a process of reversing the damage caused to the ecosystem and help in its recovery. The UN Decade will run from the year 2021 until 2030, which is the deadline for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



**The need of the Hour:** We cannot turn back time. But, we can grow trees, green our cities, rewind our gardens, change our diets and clean up rivers and coasts. We are the generation that can make peace with nature.

**Let's get active, not anxious. Let's be bold, not timid!**

## LWSIT Observed World Environment Day (WED):



### Kendrapada Unit

World Environment Day (WED) was celebrated on 5<sup>th</sup> June 2021 in Project Units of LWSIT amidst COVID-19 Pandemic situation by maintaining COVID protocols and social distancing. Due to ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic, various restrictions imposed by the Govt. and local authorities. While observing this important day, valuable messages shared by the dignitaries those act as the resource persons communicated to the people.

There were representatives from 10 communities attended the WED Day celebration which was organized in two different locations which was facilitated by Project Unit of LWSIT. Apart from giving important messages by the invited Guests on WED, there were tree plantation being carried out in these 10 communities. Representatives of Local-Self Government and Community Leaders, project staff of the Unit highlighted the programs implemented by LWSIT related to Environment protection. They also emphasized that, community people need to be more consciousness on Environment, create awareness among the people regarding tree plantation in wasteland, involvement of male and female for community development, to create impact on neighbouring community on environment protection, and to have clean and green coverage in the locality, etc.



## Mayurbhanj Unit

The World Health Day observed by Mayurbhanj Unit following all the Govt. guidelines and advisories. As part of the program, a rally being organized keeping in mind the COVID appropriate behaviour. Both female and male participants including Children joined the rally by giving slogans on health & hygiene especially on health awareness and care for Women as well as for Girls holding placards & banner. Various events have been organized which includes; Measures to prevent the COVID-19 Pandemic by the School & College Students, Handwashing by all the family members frequently, Collecting & carrying of drinking water from the sources by women, sharing the performance of the CBOs and future plan of action by the concerned CBOs. The Representatives of Local Self-government, School Teachers, ASHA and Anganwadi Workers & Majhi Halam (tribal Social Leaders) were among the important guests who not only distributed prizes to the successful Participants but also graced the occasion. They appreciated the job carried out for the development of the communities and assured all sorts of cooperation from their end whenever required. Altogether, 186 women, 132 men and 123 Children from 11 Communities from 2 Zones participated in the Day's Celebration. 11 CBOs and 23 SHGs not only represented but also managed the entire program.



## RESPONSE TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC IN LWSIT PROJECTS



### Bankura Unit:

The training on COVID-19 prevention and preparedness was organized by Bankuara Unit for the Task Force members. Each of training program was for two days duration, in which 30 leaders from among the Women SHGs and VDCs covering five communities attended the program and participated with much enthusiasm. The facilitator discussed various topics which covers; objective of training program, what is Task Force, Role & Responsibility of Task Force members & it's importance in the community development work as well as community based COVID-19 preparedness, etc. Besides, various signs & symptom of the Coronavirus Disease, need for COVID test on time, duration of activation of Virus, which organs are most vulnerable and susceptible to COVID-19, need for consultation with local health personnel, doctors, follow and practice COVID-19 guidelines and advisories issued by Govt. from time to time, importance of vaccination for everyone, use of Masks, sanitizer, use of hand wash and maintaining social distancing with COVID Appropriate Behaviour, etc. have been emphasized during the training.

## Balangir Unit:

The COVID-19 Pandemic second wave approached in the operational communities since April 2021. This has caused damage to human lives, livelihood, economy, social cohesion and threat to human existence at all levels. So, the Project Unit has given emphasis on building awareness on COVID appropriate behaviour among people. They will follow the guidelines and protocol issued by government and local administration from time to time. The project has organized awareness programs



at individual, household and community level to protect, prevent and control of the Coronavirus. The main objectives of awareness program was to sensitize the people by focusing on Do's and Don'ts related to Coronavirus, frequent hand-washing, personal hygiene, using of masks and maintaining social distancing, etc. By doing so, the spread of the transmission of the virus can be reduced. It is observed that, people are following the guidelines appropriately. The frontline workers like AWW, ASHA, ANM, PRI members, etc. are delivering health care and general services. Keeping in mind, the Project Unit organized 2 nos. of awareness programs on WASH involving male-18 and female-39 participants from 5 communities. The main purpose of the awareness program was demonstration of process of handwashing and personal hygiene. Health personnel and project staff facilitated the program. Besides, awareness on WASH for Children were facilitated by both health worker and project staff during the period, the main purpose for which was motivate the children to refresh their practice for regularizing and they will motivate their family members at home and friends through demonstration process of handwashing and personal hygiene.

## Bhubaneswar Unit:



In order to build awareness and sensitization, Project Unit has printed various IEC materials in the form of Posters with pictures as per Govt. of Odisha guidelines related to prevention and curative measures of COVID-19. These IEC materials displayed on the walls at various including public places in 50 communities across the project area. These posters were very much useful for the frontline staff of LWSIT as they could able to demonstrate such posters to the community people while they conduct various awareness programs, meeting and sensitization program at community level.

## Birbhum Unit:

Project Unit has given emphasis on enhancing the level of awareness of the people on COVID-19 Pandemic, its spreading and protective measures by organizing awareness camps in different communities. Initially, people had strong hesitancy to attend any program in order to avoid the social gatherings. However, with interaction with the CBO leaders and COVID Task Force members, programs were organized in smaller groups and avoided big gatherings. All kinds of



protective measure like wearing of face mask and social distancing was maintained well. Three awareness programs by the Unit covering Shikaripada block in Dumka district, Md. Bazar and Rampurhat-1 Block of Birbhum district. The topics covered during awareness programs includes; What is COVID-19? How it spreads? Symptom of the COVID-19 disease, What should a person do if he/she has symptom of COVID-19? Role and responsibility of SHG leaders/ Task Force members in this pandemic situation, Benefits of COVID vaccination, etc. LWSIT staff members facilitated the programs and described every point elaborately with the participants for better understanding. They have encouraged the people for keeping faith on the Govt. Health Dept. and avail all govt. facilities from time to time. The staff members motivated them for RT-PCR test, check up by the medical practitioners thoroughly, follow the advice of the Doctors and continue the treatment in govt. hospitals and taking vaccines in time.

## Kolkata Unit:

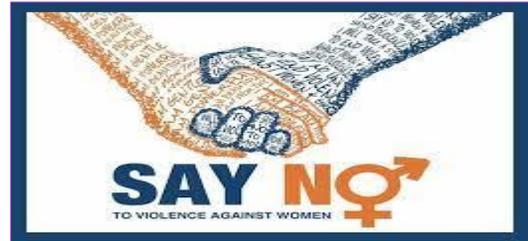


In response to COVID-19 second wave situation, relief materials have been distributed to 20 Children of Child Care Institute (CCI) in Kolkata Unit. The relief materials includes; Food and Nutritional supplement i.e., Rice, Wheat, Dal, Cooking Oil, Sugar, Soy Chunk, Iodised Salt, Spices (Chilly, Coriander, Cumin and Turmeric powder), Biscuits, Horlicks, etc. Besides, WASH/Hygiene Kit materials, Face Mask, hand gloves and head cap being provided to these

Children to protect themselves from infection and prevent transmission of COVID to them. Sanitary napkins also provided to the adolescent girls from among these CCI Children. They have also receive various education materials such as Pen, Pencils, Exercise Book, Eraser and Pencil Box. Besides, extra-curricular materials such as; Colour Pencil, Drawing Books, Ludo (board game), Bad Minton set - 2pcs per child and Skipping Rope being provided to each Girl for recreation at home.

Apart from providing relief assistance to CCI Children, Kolkata Unit organized several programs during the quarter. These includes; Awareness on Community Resilience related to impact of COVID-19, Publication and dissemination of IEC material to generate awareness among community people on COVID-19 Pandemic, Awareness and sensitization camps in smaller groups maintaining social distancing with COVID appropriate behaviour on prevention, causes and impact of COVID-19. All these programs were conducted at community level across project operational areas.

# SENSITIZATION ON GENDER DISPARITY PROGRAM AND PREVENTION OF GENDER BASED VIOLENCE (GBV)



## **Bhubaneswar Unit:**

A Sensitization camp on gender disparity was organized at Maa Mangala Harijana Sahi, where 23 women joined. In this camp, project had invited resource person from SAKHI-One Stop Centre to facilitate the program. The resource person shared on the various gender issues prevailing in our society. It was discussed that, our society is male dominated as a result, woman are facing many social and economic problems in the society. Many a times girl are considered as unwanted in the family. Adequate importance is not given towards the health and education during their childhood period. Many social evils like dowry make the parents also weak. Thus, the focus of the camp was to discuss on the various discrimination done to the girls in the family and society and to understand the issues with sensitivity and need to strategize in order to overcome them in coming days. The resource persons shared on the various programmes and schemes run by both Central and State government for the safety, benefits and development of girl children which can be availed by the communities with whom LWSIT works.

Training on community responses to inequality and gender based violence during COVID -19 was held at CDA-13 Mundasahi, Cuttack under Bhubaneswar Unit. The objective of the training was to understand how the women have been affected and knowingly and unknowingly discriminated in the whole fighting against COVID-19 Pandemic. It was discussed that, COVID-19 pandemic is not just a health issue, but it also a big social and economic problem in which women are badly affected. In the fighting against COVID, women are playing a significant role may be as front-line responders, health professionals, community volunteers, transport and logistics managers, scientists etc. As a result, they are more vulnerable to COVID. In response to the questions raised by the participants, the facilitators replied with example that, how to prevent and mitigate the gender based violence that is happening in day-to-day basis. Such incidence can be prevented only when everyone will be sensitized to the issue.

## CBDRR Training conducted by Kalahandi Unit

Training on Community Based Disaster Risk Reduction (CBDRR) conducted in Ganda Adivasi Cultural Centre in Kalahandi Unit with the support of Staff from Junagarh Fire Station. In this training, Mr. Apurba Ranjn Sahu, Fire Officer facilitated the training program. During this training program, he covered primarily two important areas such as; various techniques of Search & Rescue and First Aid. There are number of topics being covered under these two areas which the Trainer emphasized to practice by the participants. Most of the techniques were taught through practical demonstration. First Aid is extremely important and can be used not only during times of disaster but in normal times also. Hence, the learning by practicing the First Aid will help the community to avail such services at the doorstep.



## TFR Project in South Asia: Assam Unit



The Transboundary Flood Resilience (TFR) Project in Assam has been completed its first year of program intervention by end of April 2021. This project has been supported by Evangelical Lutheran Church In America (ELCA) to cover the flood prone villages those are recurrently facing the floods almost every year due to swollen of Brahmaputra River or its tributaries those are flowing in Kokrajhar district of Assam. There are 10 villages of Hatidhura Block of Kokrajhar district have been adopted on pilot basis to make the community people resilient so that they can effectively manage the flood disasters which approached them almost every year. From the mid of the year 2020, with a specific objective to reduce the suffering among flood affected households as well as to build the resilience of communities to cope and manage the flood disasters in Brahmaputra River basin. This project has connected with other actors and developed joint plan with other partners of ELCA such as LWF Nepal and RDRS Bangladesh. While, the operational communities of LWF Nepal are not affected by Brahmaputra River or its tributaries, but the communities of RDRS Bangladesh and LWSIT India are very much affected. Nevertheless, the transboundary flood resilient project shall create the learning opportunities for all the member organization, replicate the good practices in their own country program and scale up further.



## TRAININGS/ WORKSHOPS/ MEETINGS/ PROGRAMS ATTENDED BY STAFF FROM APRIL TO JUNE 2021

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- ☞ On 8<sup>th</sup> April 2021, AED along with Program Coordinators of CAP-R and DSSQC project and Consultant attended PCAI online meeting with Normisjon.
- ☞ On 9<sup>th</sup> April 2021, AED along with Emergency & Program Development Manager from LWSIT attended the online meeting with LWF Nepal and RDRS Bangladesh on Transboundary Flood Resilience Project in South Asia supported by ELCA.
- ☞ On 23<sup>rd</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> April 2021, AED along with National Office Staff attended the online meeting with OD Consultant for staff capacity assessment plan.
- ☞ On 30<sup>th</sup> April 2021, AED along with Emergency & Program Development Manager attended the online meeting with ACT India Forum members to take stock of COVID 19 second wave situation in India and possible intervention with ACT Appeal mechanism.
- ☞ On 4<sup>th</sup> May 2021, AED along with Emergency & Program Development Manager attended the online meeting with ACT India Forum members for finalizing the common activities and plan to respond COVID 19 second wave situation.
- ☞ 4<sup>th</sup> May 2021 evening at 9.30 p.m. AED attended the webinar prayer meeting organized by ELCA for COVID 19 second wave affected and infected people and response from churches and related agencies along with Polly LWSIT.
- ☞ On 6<sup>th</sup> May 2021, AED along with Emergency & Program Development Manager had a meeting with CLWR representative for possible intervention by LWSIT to response COVID 19 second wave in India and CLWR agreed to raise the resources and support through ACT Appeal Mechanism.
- ☞ On 14<sup>th</sup> May 2021, AED along with Emergency & Program Development Manager attended the ACT India Forum meeting to finalize the revised ACT Appeal for COVID 19 response.
- ☞ 19<sup>th</sup> May 2021, AED had meeting with ELCA related to FCRA New SBI Bank Account for LWSIT and uploading it in EGM.
- ☞ 26<sup>th</sup> May 2021, AED had attended the meeting with Program Coordinators and Consultant as well as Deputy Finance Manger along with Normisjon Ms. Ingrid on 2022 planning for DSSQC and CAP-R projects.
- ☞ On 27<sup>th</sup> May 2021, AED had an online meeting with JELA staff and Board members along with Mr. Biswal and Ms. Polly LWSIT on CCI program updates including challenges due to COVID 19 second wave in India. Also on 11<sup>th</sup> June 2021, AED attended the meeting with Normisjon and ESAF along with Program Coordinators, Consultant and Deputy Finance Manager related to 2021 revised work plan and 2022 plan in a new template.
- ☞ On 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2021, AED attended online meeting of Asia Pacific ACT Alliance regional workshop on COVID 19 advocacy work. On 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2021, AED also attended LWSIT partners meeting along with New President of LWSIT, Vice-President and Executive Secretary of UELCI to update the ACT Alliance team recommendations follow up. Also on 28<sup>th</sup> June 2021, he had attended the Normisjon partners meeting from India, Bangladesh and Nepal for using new templates for 2022 work plan



### OBITUARY

Sriram Sahu, 42 years of age, worked with LWSIT for the past 7 years (STEER Project, Balangir Unit) passed away on 31<sup>st</sup> May 2021 due to Covid-19 in Bikash Hospital, Bargarh, Odisha. He is survived by his young wife, two minor children and an ailing elderly 80-year old father.



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