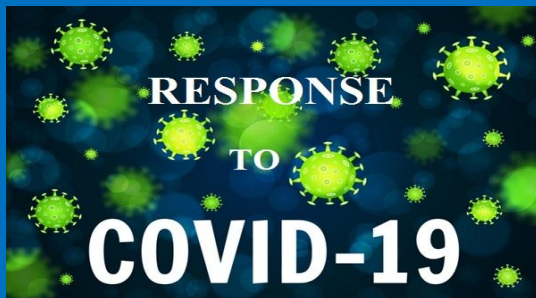


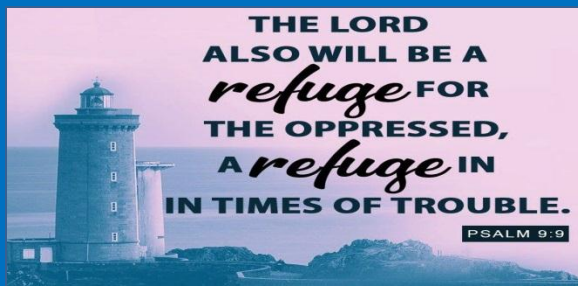
## E-Newsletter

4<sup>th</sup> Quarter: October to December 2021, Volume XIII Issue: iv

### INSIDE STORIES



### PROJECT UPDATES



*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 focused and works primarily on Sustainable Livelihood, 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.

## The 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence (GBV)

The **16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence (GBV)** is an annual international campaign that kicks off on 25 November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, and runs until 10 December, Human Rights Day. The global theme for this year's 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, which runs from 25 November to 10 December 2021, is **“Orange the World: End Violence against Women Now!”**

Nearly 1 in 3 women have been abused in their lifetime. In times of crises, the numbers rise, as seen during the COVID-19 pandemic and recent humanitarian crises, conflicts and climate disasters. A new report from UN Women, based on data from 13 countries since the pandemic shows that, 2 in 3 women reported that they or a woman they know experienced some form of violence and are more likely to face food insecurity. Only 1 in 10 women said that victims would go to the police for help.

While pervasive, gender-based violence is not inevitable. It can and must be prevented. Stopping this violence starts with believing survivors, adopting comprehensive and inclusive approaches that tackle the root causes, transform harmful social norms, and empower women and girls. With survivor-centred essential services across policing, justice, health, social sectors and sufficient financing for the women's rights agenda, we can end gender-based violence.

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

16 days of activism against gender based violence program was observed in CAP-R Project in Assam on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2021 where people from 7 communities participated in the program involving 115 participants. The program included Rally and Speeches which focused on important points on equality and opportunities women's rights, domestic violence, child rights etc. were highlighted and focused especially on stopping the violence against women.





# The 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence (GBV)

**DSSQC Project, Birbhum Unit:** A one day event was organised in the operational communities of Shikaripara, Bharkata and Mashra zone areas in Shikaripara, Md. Bazar and Rampurhat 1 Block under DSSQC Birbhum unit on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2021 for marking the beginning of 16 Days of Activism as an observation day on Elimination of Violence against Women. The program's main objective was to raise GBV issues in public space through rallies voluntarily by SHGs and FIGs especially women members besides to make people understand the importance of women rights, their security, liberty and integrity and dignity. The resource persons also spoke on alcohol being the root cause leading to domestic violence especially between the husband and wife. Both female and male participants took oaths to stop GBV in their communities.



**GEP, Bhubaneswar Unit:** Programs were organised during this 16 days campaign to raise awareness in the communities to inspire collective action to combat Gender Based Violence. The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act 2005 was discussed along with misuse of power by the opposite gender. Helping others in the same situation was also discussed. Awareness programs and street plays like “Dukha nei gala daradi bandhu” were demonstrated by the community people. Women from communities shared their stories and WAVAW members also shared a play which depicted the real picture of violence against women in today’s society.



# The 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence (GBV)

**GEP, Kolkata Unit:** On 25<sup>th</sup> November 2021, GEP Kolkata unit observed the International Day of Elimination of Violence against Women and Girls. There was a campaign through rally with posters and placards depicting the message to stop violence against women, non-discrimination and equality in education, employment and political participation, violence free work place and stop gender based violence on women & girls, stop child marriage and restore women's dignity. The message of gender equality & end GBV through mass awareness was made. General health check-up camps were organised for 45 women members in coordination with Muraripukur Sister Nibedita Foundation and medical aid was supported as per the need of the person without any charges.



**STEER Project, Balangir Unit:** Observation of 16 Days Activism to End Gender Based Violence was organized at Kasamal village of Dhamandanga Gram Panchayat of Turekela Block involving 162 participants (Women-85, Male-28, Girls-35 and Boys-14) from 9 communities. PRI members, CBO/SHG leaders and members, AWW, ASHA, School Teachers, representative from Odisha Livelihood Mission, etc. were actively participated in the program. Mass rally holding placards and slogans related to end GBV was carried out. Various competitions were organized such as; for high school students on general knowledge, for women ball thrown into the water bucket and for men it was earthen pitcher broken. All the guests including LWSIT Project Coordinator emphasized ending violence against women.



## The 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence (GBV)

**STEER Project, Bankura Unit:** Programs on Gender Based Violence was organized in 3 places such as Murlu Paharkuli, Layabaid, Suriyakata. There are 198 participants from 15 Women SHGs belongs to the communities of Saltora, Tiluri and Dhekiya Gram panchayats attended the programs. Panchayat Upa-Pradhan, Panchayat Development Officer and Tribal Headman attended the program as resource persons. It was emphasized that everyone has equal rights to fulfill their needs. Respecting women in our homes and society should be the collective effort of all for the awakening and development of our women, where women can take their own decisions in their families and take decisions for community development. Women were motivated and the value of women in society were encouraged.



**STEER Project, Kalahandi Unit:** The programs related to 16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence was observed at Gocharpada on 10<sup>th</sup> December i.e., Human Rights Day. The campaign program was organized in different communities with different activities. The first program was conducted with youth about the transformation of masculinities and to stop different gender based violence in the society. The second program was conducted with men, women and children in an open air meeting, followed by different activities, like drawing completion about the gender roles in society. The Block Chairperson, Ex-Zilla Parishad Member, Naib-Sarpanch, ICDS Supervisor, AWWs and ASHA attended as the dignitaries of grace the occasion. In the concluding remarks, the Block Chairperson encouraged to the all participants to come forward and raise voice on violence against women in the community and urge them to take oath by all the participants to organize small meetings in every community on women empowerment.





# The 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence (GBV)

## STEER Project, Kendrapada Unit:

During the observation of 16 Days of Activism, some activities were undertaken like Rallies, Rangoli competition, Speech competition on the day, Musical Chair by women participants apart from the special competition was full of water pot competition by the Male participants. Some of the significant outcomes were that, the decision-making power increased among the rural women, gender discrimination has reduced, more emphasis was given for girl education and involvement of male and female for community development work in a parallel way.



**STEER Project, Mayurbhanj Unit:** The Program on Elimination of Violence against Women was observed this year following the COVID protocol separately and also along with the 10th December Human Rights Day in different Communities. The members highlighted the previous and present status of women in the society in terms of Education, Health, participation in the Community level Institutions especially in the decision making bodies with dignity. In the course of the discussion, the women shared few success stories they have brought such as resolving dowry & family disturbances especially torture of newly married women in the In-Law's house. In addition significant steps to enroll girls in higher education and bringing down drop-out & irregularity in schools especially in case of girls. The Guests presented their views against the social stigma and the way it is affecting the development process as a whole.





# RESPONSE TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC: PROJECT UNITS

**CAP-R Project, Assam Unit:** Continuing the COVID-19 initiative programs, LWSIT Assam Unit distributed relief materials to 3,360 Rights Holders in the last quarter of 2021 covering a population of 8,235 males and 8,100 females. Each of the Rights Holder families were given Food Items like: Rice, Lentil (Dal), Mustard Oil, Soya Chunk, Iodized Salt and Turmeric Powder along with Hygiene Kits items, like Bathing soap, Washing Soap, Washing Powder, Hand Sanitizer, Antiseptic liquid, Hand wash liquid and Masks.



**DSSQC Project, Birbhum Unit:** In this critical pandemic situation, ACT Alliance and Normisjon Relief support programs were a significant achievement by reaching out to poor vulnerable and marginalised families of the operational areas who were in dire situations. During the quarter, LWSIT was able to sensitize, create awareness & capacitate community members/ leaders by organizing awareness camps, training programs and also provide WASH Hygiene Kits & Unconditional Cash Transfer to poor families those have lost their livelihood. The project unit also focused on gender issues, since COVID-19 had other negative effects like “SHADOW PANDEMIC” which resulted in more GBV cases. Project has reached out to 4,085 people through various programs under ACT Appeal mechanism, with Normisjon support, there are 1,200 Hygiene kits and 1,620 food kits distributed to the respective families. A total of 2,628 families benefited directly and indirectly from nutritional food items and hygiene kits, face masks, unconditional cash transfer, training, awareness programs from those relief support.





**GEP, Bhubaneswar Unit:** During the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter, project unit has assisted unconditional cash transfer of @ Rs. 6,000/- per family to 35 Households through NEFT to support the families who are directly or indirectly infected or affected by the COVID-19 Pandemic and to the poorest of the poor and vulnerable, residing in Cuttack and Bhubaneswar slums. Also, a one day campaign on safe dwelling places was held at Subashnagar community in Bhubaneswar. As part of the campaign, a rally was organized to create awareness among the people about COVID-19 and COVID appropriate behaviour. 35 women members from two communities participated in this program, where discussions were held on COVID appropriate behaviour, emphasizing on balanced diets and nutritional diets for pregnant women and children.



**GEP, Kolkata Unit:** On 21<sup>st</sup> December 2021, Food and Nutrition Materials were distributed to 20 children of Child Care Institute (CCI) in response to 2<sup>nd</sup> wave of COVID -19. Relief assistance was handed over by Mr. Kishore Kumar Nag, AED who interacted with the children and their mothers for the wellbeing of their children. Some of the relief items like food and nutritional materials support helped the children to access nutritional supplement in order to build their immunity to fight against deadly diseases and poverty. Besides, Hygiene Kit materials which included hand sanitizer, bathing soap and Face Masks and readymade garments and winter clothes also distributed to the CCI Children.





**STEER Project, Kalahandi Unit:** The Unconditional Cash Transfer (UCT) supported by the ACT Alliance program carried out in the operational communities for livelihood support to those communities who are badly suffering from the COVID-19 second wave as they don't have any alternative livelihood options to earn income. They also lack work opportunity for the skilled or unskilled daily wage workers. During this crisis situation, the UCT are able to meet their basic needs as by they have received the cash Rs. 6,000/- directly in their bank account. The COVID-19 Task Force members' refreshers training program was conducted by the Central Board of Workers Education, where 80 Task Force members were trained on COVID-19 management and each member received Rs.500/- from the Ministry of Labour for attending the program and encouraged the participants to help each other during the pandemic situation.



## STEER Project, Kendrapada Unit:

During the second wave of COVID-19 Pandemic situation, while the whole world is affected, this project unit is of no exception. So, in order to overcome such challenging and difficult situation by the COVID affected families, LWSIT has supported through UCT those were left out in the first phase of assistance, While, there are 150 families received UCT in the first phase, there are 35 more families has received this support to maintain their family as part of livelihood. Both the support was extended through ACT Appeal mechanism.





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

Humanitarian Assistance was given to poor and vulnerable people affected by COVID-19 pandemic second wave. The project has made NEFT in the form of Unconditional Cash Transfer (UCT) to very poor, vulnerable, migrant workers, daily wages earners, who lost their livelihood, and directly or indirectly were infected/affected by Corona Virus to 35 Households benefitting 174 family members in 16 communities. The assisted families were able to buy food rations, vegetables, medicines and other households daily needs through this cash transfer program and manage their families. This program was supported through ACT Appeal Mechanism.



**STEER Project, Mayurbhanj Unit:** The COVID situation worsened in the Community, especially affecting the marginal sections of the community. Since prevention is the only way, the Project Unit emphasized different Programs maintaining COVID-19 guidelines so as to make people aware of the causes, consequences and the possible preventive measures. Use of masks, social distancing and washing of hands with hand wash and sanitizers were emphasized. 35 deserving families were assisted with the Unconditional Cash Transfer @ Rs. 6,000/- to each family under the ACT Alliance Appeal mechanism. Two Training Programs were conducted for the COVID Task Force members to reinforce their steps on keeping vigil in the community apart from guiding and creating awareness.





# OTHER SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITIES IN PROJECT UNITS

**GEP, Bhubaneswar Unit:** Some significant activities conducted were: (i) Awareness Building for parents to regularize the school attendance of their Children (ii) Sports and Arts Competition, (iii) Networking and Linkage with Banks, Govt. and Non-Govt. Agencies (v) Workshop for Domestic Worker's Association (vi) Sensitization Camp on Gender Equality Focusing men as Change Agents (vii) Conflict Mapping Exercise (viii) Fact Finding and Case Filing for any Violence Against Women



**GEP, Kolkata Unit:** In order to build Peace and harmony among the communities, a Sports competition organised for Women Group members. A total of 120 women members from 32 CBOs/ SHGs participated in this program, which has created mutual respect to all sections of the women from different castes, religions and genders and raise awareness on peaceful coexistence in the community and in society at large.

**STEER Project, Bankura Unit:** Some of the Significant Trainings & Programs held during this time were: (i) Training on Adolescent Sexual & reproductive health rights (ii) Training on livelihood skill development training (iii) Observation of HIV/AIDS Day (iv) Observation of Children's Day (v) Observation of Human Rights Day





# OTHER SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITIES IN PROJECT UNITS

**STEER Project, Kalahandi Unit:** Some of the Significant Training Programs held were: (i) Observation of National Disaster Reduction Day 29<sup>th</sup> October 2021 (ii) Solar light support to the poor and deprived Families (iii) Business and Entrepreneurship schemes (IG scheme- Individual & Group IG) (iv) Staff Capacity Building on Community Mobilization



**STEER Project, Kendrapada Unit:** Some of the programs implemented during the quarter were: (i) Livelihood Skill development training organized where 24 women participated and the main aim was to make rural women self-reliant (ii) A bathing ghat constructed (iii) Liaison with Govt. for construction of cement concrete road (iv) Inter-cultural joint initiatives (v) Observance of Girl Child Day

**STEER Project, Mayurbhanj Unit:** World AIDS Day was observed following the COVID protocol in 2 venues where both men and women of 12 CBOs took part in the program. Altogether 55 men, 67 women and 81 children from 08 communities participated in the observation. The world AIDS day theme for the year 'End Inequalities, End AIDS', highlighted the importance of reaching out to the those left out in society. Teachers, representatives from Local Self-Govt., ICDS personnel and Social leaders joined the rally and grace the occasion.





## MEETINGS & PROGRAMS ATTENDED BY AED & STAFF FROM OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 2021

- ❖ On 13th October 2021 – AED attended the webinar of COP-26 hosted by ACT Alliance, WCC and partners on Climate change. He has also attended the ACT Alliance Pre-Assembly Meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> October
- ❖ On 20th October 2021, AED, Manager - Emergency & Program Dev't and GEP Program Coordinator attended the online meeting with JELA
- ❖ On 21st October 2021, AED attended the webinar on Gender Justice organized by Act CoS
- ❖ On 2nd November 2021, AED and Manager - Emergency & Program Dev't attended the webinar on ACT Alliance Revised Complaints Policy and Humanitarian Policy
- ❖ On 9th November 2021, AED attended the meeting with Sub-committee of Board at National office
- ❖ On 10th - 11th November 2021, AED attended the Digni Partners and members meeting online
- ❖ On 16th & 17th November 2021, AED, Manager - Emergency and Program Dev't and all staff including Program Coordinator and Project Coordinator of GEP attended the capacity building training on Gender justice and Equality.
- ❖ On 18th to 20th November 2021, AED, Senior Staff of National Office and all the Project Coordinators with second line leaders attended the Staff Training on 'Transformative Masculinities'
- ❖ On 22nd and 23rd November 2021, AED, Manager - Emergency and Program Dev't, Deputy Finance Manager attended the meeting with Act CoS Staff and Auditor
- ❖ From 29th November to 3rd December 2021, AED attended the ACT Alliance General Assembly meeting
- ❖ On 7th December 2021, AED and Manager - Emergency & Program Dev't attended the ACT India Forum meeting
- ❖ On 16th December 2021, AED attended the Board meeting
- ❖ On 18th December 2021, AED attended the UELCI General Body and Reporting meeting

### **Visits done by AED and Other Staff of National Office:**

- AED and Program Coordinator visited Bankura Unit on 2nd October 2021
- AED and other Senior Staff of National Office visited Mayurbhanj Unit on 7th & 8th October 2021 for Program Monitoring and staff meeting
- From 26th to 30th October 2021, AED and Senior Staff of National Office visited Assam for Program Monitoring, meeting with staff and meeting with External Evaluator
- From 4th to 6th December 2021, AED visited to JELC for the Consecration ceremony of new Bishop of JELC



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