



# Annual Report 2018



**LUTHERAN WORLD SERVICE INDIA TRUST**

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



### **Our Mandate**

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*To bear witness to the Indian Churches' commitment to accompany the poor, the marginalized and the excluded in their quest for justice, full realization of human rights and life with dignity in harmony with nature*

### **Our Vision**

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*Just societies ensuring fullness of life in harmony with creation*

### **Our Mission**

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*LWSIT empowers the vulnerable and the disadvantaged communities to ensure justice, ecological balance and overcome poverty*

### **Our Goal**

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*Enhanced dignity of lives of the vulnerable and the disadvantaged communities in India*

### **Our Core Values**

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*Justice, Transparency, Accountability, Equality, Dignity, Democracy and Inclusiveness*

# Message from the Board President LWSIT



## LUTHERAN WORLD SERVICE INDIA TRUST

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



14 February 2019

Dear Colleagues in God's Mission,

I greet you all in the name of Jesus Christ.

I am so happy that LWSIT is presenting its Annual Report for the year 2018. The report conveys a message that the staff members poured their full energy to implement the programs for the benefit of the so called poor and oppressed. LWSIT always with the side of people who are suffering, whether it is development or disaster. This is one of the best qualities and character of LWSIT to live with the people. No doubt, the staff members who carry forward all these work are the bridge between the organisation and the beneficiary.

Meanwhile it is not always pleasant things happening in the organisation. We also had certain issues and challenges by the staff members and also some times by the partners. Of course it is very necessary that we had to look at the purpose of LWSIT critically. Some time we should not forget the challenges from the Government, the challenges of resource mobilisation and challenges of pressure from outside. However, LWSIT continues its mission, overcoming all these challenges and now we have 82 staff members both national and field offices, who have committed to work for the people to glorify God.

It is my responsibility to congratulate the oversees partners and the local partners who are very much accompanied with LWSIT by supporting resources and capacity building. I also congratulate all the staff members – Director to ground level staff members for their enormous effort and spend good time to continue the mission and ministry of LWSIT, through various diaconal ministries. I wish you grand success in the near future also.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

Rev. Dr. A.G. Augustine Jeyakumar  
President, LWSIT



## FOREWORD

I submit this report with great joy and happiness as LWSIT is continuing its mission with extending services among underprivileged humanity.

The thematic issues of intervention was in Sustainable Livelihood, Community Resilience/Climate Change/DRR, Gender, Peace & Reconciliation, Education and Health. Our core projects are SEEPRP, DSSQC, GEP and STEER and minor projects are CCI & IRRI. The government supported projects are OTELP, WBSCL and SUH Projects.



I sincerely take this opportunity to thank the State Governments of West Bengal, Assam, Odisha and Jharkhand for their support to implement by LWSIT the development as well as humanitarian assistance programs and activities during this reporting period. LWSIT could provide with relief items for the flood affected people in Kerala with the support of ACT Alliance and LWR as well as with the cooperation of the local administration and Assam flood relief with the support of Normisjon. Provided relief for Kalahandi flood with ELCA support. We thank all the humanitarian assistance supported organizations.

I do thank to all the supporting partners like, Normisjon including Digni and Norad, Church of Sweden, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, JELA, and Stichting Peter De Koning Foundation.

LWSIT will continue to facilitate the poor people to witness God's love and care to overcome from poverty, hunger, inequality and ignorance. LWSIT will progress with its project participant groups in equal partners in development irrespective of their caste, sex, class, colour, religion, region or language.

I extend my sincere gratitude to the Honourable President, Vice-President and all the members of the Board of Trustees and well-wishers who have been strongly supported LWSIT.

I express special gratitude and thanks to UELCI (United Evangelical Lutheran Churches in India) and NCCI (National Council of Churches in India) as settlers of LWSIT. Without their guidance and support LWSIT's contribution to the lives of the poor and underprivileged would not have been possible.

I appreciate all staff of the field and National office who are honestly contributed to bring out this report.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kishore Kumar Nag".

Kishore Kumar Nag  
Acting Executive Director  
Lutheran World Service India Trust

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### 3. ABOUT LUTHERAN WORLD SERVICE INDIA TRUST

The Lutheran World Service India Trust (LWSIT) is a national level non-governmental organisation. Formally registered in 2008, the organisation was established with the objective of continuing the work of the Lutheran World Service India (LWSI), the India program of the Lutheran World Federation/Department for World Service, Geneva. LWSI established its presence in India in 1974, in response to the refugee problems in West Bengal after the Bangladesh War of Independence. Over the years, LWSI expanded the scope of its work to other States and continued to work with the poorest of the poor and those affected by disasters without regard to race, sex, creed, caste, nationality or political conviction. LWSI rendered disaster relief and development assistance in the States of West Bengal, Bihar, Odisha, Jharkhand, Assam, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Gujarat, Uttarakhand, Manipur and Kerala.

The Trust, as the successor to LWS India, has inherited a rich legacy of experience of implementing rural and urban development projects as well as disaster preparedness and response projects across India. LWSIT is well established in the Eastern region of India as an organ of transformation, currently working in partnership with over two thousand communities on issues of Sustainable Livelihoods, Community Resilience, Education and Health as the core thematic areas with Gender and Peace as cross-cutting themes.

The United Evangelical Lutheran Churches in India (UELCI) and the National Council of Churches in India (NCCI) are the key settlers of the Lutheran World Service India Trust, thus upholding the Trust's identity as a Christian ecumenical organization.

LWSIT is a member of ACT Alliance, Core Humanitarian Standard (CHS) Alliance and a part of the AZEECON regional network in Asia. It is also a founding member of SPHERE India and the Inter Agency Groups in several States including the States of Assam, Odisha and West Bengal.



## 4. IMPORTANT OPERATIONS

The year 2018 marked the beginning of the new five-year strategic plan from 2018 to 2022. The plan mandated continued thrust on the thematic areas of sustainable livelihood, community resilience, education and health with peace and gender as cross-cutting themes with a focus on the following SDGs:-

Strategic Focus	Related Sustainable Development Goal
Sustainable Livelihood	SDG Goal 1. End Poverty in all its forms everywhere SDG Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture
Community Resilience	SDG Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impact
Education	SDG Goal 4. Provide quality education for all
Health	SDG Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all at all ages
Gender	SDG Goal 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
Peace	SDG Goal 16. Peace, Justice and strong institutions



*Training for Gaon Burahs and Peace Mediator Fora Members at Gossaigaon, Kokrajhar; Photo Credit: Sushil Narzary*

The geographic focus of development operations were in the States of Assam, Jharkhand, Odisha and West Bengal while responding to disasters on a pan-India basis.

During the year, LWSIT began the process of baseline data collection across its development operation areas in Assam, Jharkhand, Odisha and West Bengal with technical support from the Indian Statistical Institute. The study report of the DSSQC project was completed during the year while the remaining will be completed in early 2019.

LWSIT undertook a total of ten projects with a development thrust and three disaster response projects during the year. The STEER, SEEPRP, DSSQC and GEP projects were the core projects of the organisation and addressed all the six thematic areas. The Child Care Institute, the Shelter for Urban Homeless and Asha Kiran had a focus on gender, health and education respectively while the OTELP Plus and IRRI projects had a focus on sustainable livelihoods – each of these were situated within the geographic locale of the core projects.

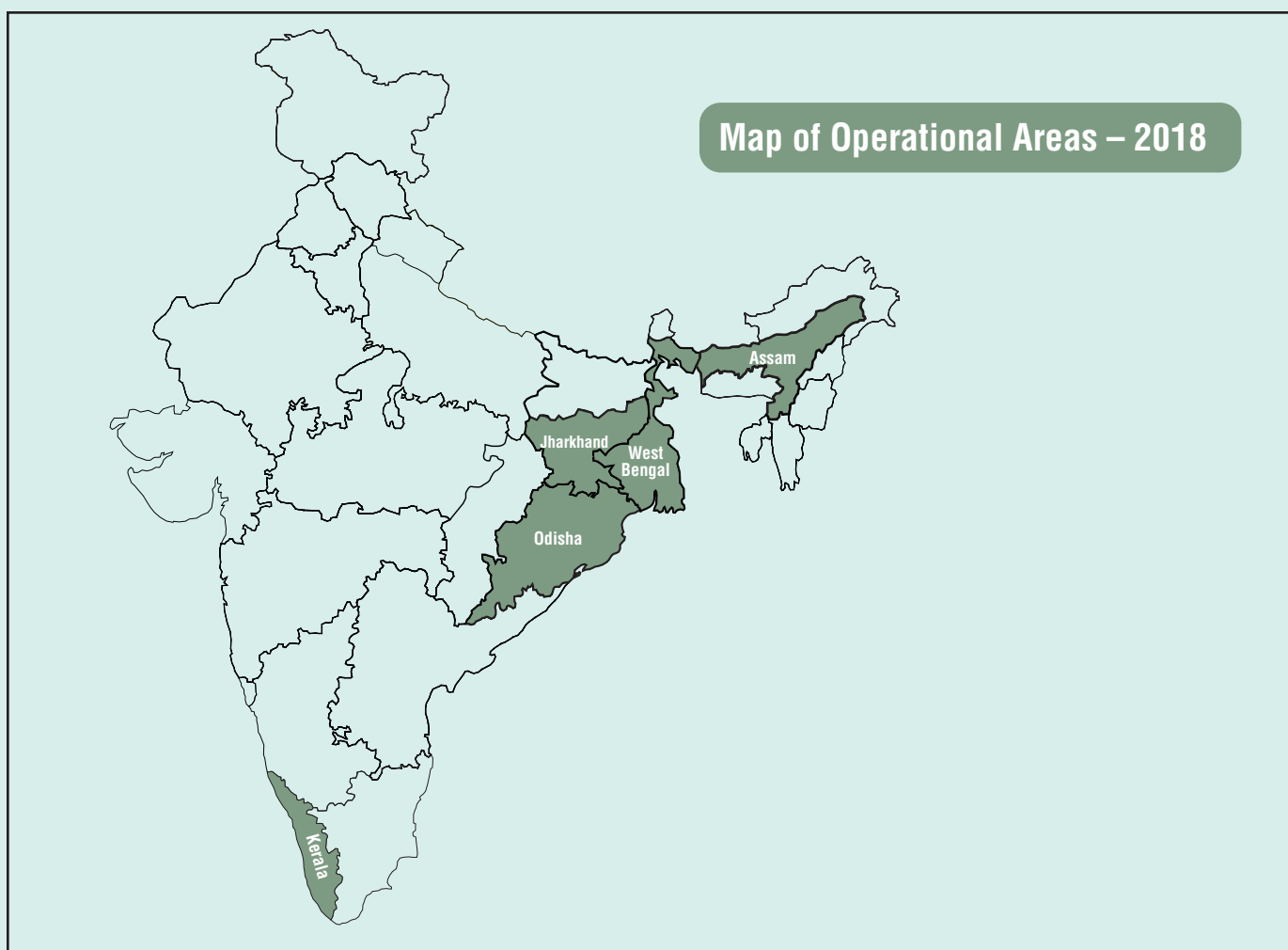
LWSIT also responded to the flood disaster in Kerala in the later half of 2018 as well as the floods in Kalahandi, district of Odisha. The second phase of the response to the Assam floods of 2017 continued in 2018.

The year 2018 also saw LWSIT renew their partnership with Lutheran World Relief - this time for distribution of material support to vulnerable and needy populations. LWSIT received a total of 10,080 quilts of which 5,052 quilts were distributed directly by LWSIT

and 3,024 quilts were distributed through Pradhan in Jharkhand, and IDF and Kaushalya Foundation in Bihar. Besides, LWR also extended financial support towards flood response programme in Kerala.

**Table No. 1: Snapshot of projects undertaken**

SI No	Project	State	Coverage:		Population Reach		
			No. of Communities	No. of Households	Rural	Urban	Total
1	ASHA KIRAN – A Ray of Hope	Assam, Jharkhand, Odisha, West Bengal	38	600	402	198	600
2	CCI	West Bengal	-	19	-	-	19
3	DSSQC	Jharkhand, West Bengal	100	4,042	18,960	-	18,960
4	GEP	Odisha, West Bengal	75	15,504	-	77,812	77,812
5	IRRI	Odisha	159	6,594	28,267	-	28,267
6	OTELP PLUS	Odisha	76	3,280	12,652	-	12,652
7	SEEPRP	Assam	100	5,344	35,085	-	35,085
8	STEER	Odisha, West Bengal	250	12,282	53,814	-	53,814
9	SUH	West Bengal	-	73	-	73	73
10	WBSCL	West Bengal	5	90	-	90	90
11	FLOOD RESPONSE	Assam, Kerala, Odisha	90	3,950	19,466	-	19,466





## 5. THE CORE PROJECTS

### Social Transformation, Economic Empowerment and Risk Reduction (STEER) – Rural Projects

#### Funding Support from ELCA and CoS

2018 saw the beginning of the third phase of the STEER Rural project - working in a total of six districts of Odisha and West Bengal. The project’s goal is “Dalit, Tribes/Adivasis and other vulnerable and disadvantaged communities, without gender disparity, lead a life of dignity enjoying rights”. As with all core projects, this project is mandated to work on an integrated, rights-based approach. The project targets those geographies with a high percentage of tribals and dalits, two groups who remain at the bottom-most rung of the majority of socio-economic indicators.

Work was undertaken on each of the six thematic areas as per the new strategic plan. The project worked on diversifying farm and off-farm livelihoods, increasing agricultural yield, land development, promotion of producer groups, promotion of resilient crops, community based disaster preparedness, entitlements under the Right to Education Act, health awareness and linkages with government service providers, as well as water and sanitation. As part of the cross-cutting theme of gender, activities included facilitating women’s active participation in local self-governance and enabling communities acknowledge and address issues of gender-based violence. Training on conflict resolution, formation of Peace Committees and Conflict Mapping exercises were organized as part of the cross-cutting theme of peace. That the project’s investments over the years, has begun to pay dividends, is evident from the people’s participation in the project – the extent of their physical and financial contribution is an indicator of their ownership of the project’s development goals.



A Rally to raise awareness on the need to protect the environment on the occasion of World Environment Day at Mayurbhanj, Odisha;  
Photo Credit: Pratap Chandra Behera

## Socio-Economic Empowerment with Peace & Reconciliation (SEEPRP) Project:

### Funding Support from Normisjon

2018 marked the last year of the five-year project in Assam with a core focus on establishing peace between local Bodo, Santhal and Muslim communities, which share a long history of mutual animosity and conflict. LWSIT's intervention in the area was initiated after the large-scale riots broke out in 1996 between the Bodos and the largely marginalised groups in these areas – Santhals, Muslims and Hindu Bengalis – immigrants settled in these areas for generations. The Project worked with the following goal:

**Men, women and youth of the vulnerable partner communities from different ethnic and religious groups live with mutual respect, cooperation and protection for each other, taking collective actions for their socio-economic transformation with peace and reconciliation.**



*Awareness on Safe Migration at Sidli Zone, Assam; Photo Credit: Binod Kr Singh*

The SEEPRP Project while focussing on peace and reconciliation used its insights into the root cause of the unrest and violence in the region and simultaneously worked on issues of livelihood, health and education. The thrust of the work was on building capacities of communities on conflict

resolution and activities to promote rapport building between youth of different ethnic backgrounds. The biggest indicator of success for the project in 2018 was that, despite unrest all over the North-East region of India, over the updating of National Register for Citizens<sup>1</sup> and the proposed amendment to the National Citizenship Bill<sup>2</sup>, there were no violent incidents in the SEEPRP areas during 2018.

## Development Support Program for Stone Quarry affected Communities (DSSQC) Project

### Funding Support from Normisjon

The third phase of the project working alongside Stone Quarry affected Communities began in 2018 with the goal of “Improved quality of life of the communities (Santhal and other weaker social groups) affected by stone quarry in the region of Dumka in Jharkhand and Birbhum in West Bengal”. The project continued to build on the work begun in 2010 working directly with stone quarry workers, those whose lands were illegally taken over for quarrying, as well as those whose livelihoods were associated with quarrying and crushing activities in some form or other. It also focussed on addressing issues related to occupational health hazards through provision of protective gear and other activities.

The project used institutional building, networking, advocacy and lobbying, engagement with duty bearers and capacity building as its main strategies for achieving its objectives. Activities included health awareness, promotion of kitchen gardening, livelihood support, promotion of sustainable agriculture, rehabilitation of degraded land, awareness generation on educational entitlements and gender sensitisation. LWSIT worked closely with Evangelical Social Action Forum related to livelihood programs and Mohulpahari Christian Hospital related to health programs under this project.

<sup>1</sup>The **National Register of Citizens (NRC)**, prepared in 1951, contains names of citizens. The publishing of the draft revised NRC in Assam in 2018 caused wide-spread unrest due to omission of an estimated 4 million citizens.

<sup>2</sup>The proposed amendment to the Citizenship Act, 1955, sought to grant citizenship to non-Muslim minorities from neighbouring countries of Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan, who entered India with or without valid documents and had six years of continuous stay in the country.



Vermi-compost promotion at Shikaripara, Jharkhand; Photo Credit: Goutam Kr Ghosh

With the awareness that livelihoods can only be sustainable if the numerous middlemen between production and consumption can be eliminated, LWSIT promoted two Farmer-Producer Organizations which were registered under the Indian Companies Act 2013. LWSIT also facilitated for formation of a Cooperative Society of CBOs/SHGs for manufacturing and marketing of stone dust products in Mashra Gram Panchayat of Birbhum. Registration of the society is underway.

## Gender Empowerment Project (GEP):

### Funding Support from Church of Sweden

2018 marked the first year of the second phase of the Gender Empowerment Project which had been initiated in 2014. It worked with the goal of “The urban poor in Kolkata, Bhubaneswar and Cuttack enhance gender equality in all spheres of life” through addressing the core problems of limited livelihood opportunities, disproportionate access to government services such as primary health, elementary education, social security and food security programmes. The main thrust was to capacitate the front-line workers and active community members to carry forward the process for more sustainable outcomes across all communities of the project’s operational areas. The year was important for the increased participation of men in addressing issues of gender discrimination. The year also saw a special focus of working with women belonging to the unorganized labour sector, especially, the construction and domestic workers. It also worked on the theme of community resilience through awareness and sensitization programs, campaigns for safe water and safe dwelling places in communities and awareness on solid waste management. The project continued its



Partner Communities take out a rally raising their voice in protest against violence against women; Photo Credit: Arobindo Dutta

engagement with the transgender community in Odisha during the year, facilitating for alternative livelihoods in the process of self-support and linkages with government programs. Support for the construction of a Community Centre was made available – a sense of security and identity as well as multi-purpose use, including entrepreneurship development. The project helped to create a space for increased acceptance of the transgender community and also was instrumental in enhancing their self-respect and dignity.

## 6. DISASTER RESPONSE PROGRAMME 2018

Over the years, the Government of India has attempted to adopt a multi-hazard and multi-sectoral approach to disaster with a focus on preparedness, mitigation and prevention. It has enacted the Disaster Management Act in 2005, a National Policy on Disaster Management in 2009, and in 2015 adopted three international agreements including the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, Sustainable Development Goals 2015-2030, and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

Yet, as per the 2018 Review of Disasters by the Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters (CRED), India recorded nearly half the total of 60 million persons affected the world over. With 1,388 deaths and 23.9 million persons affected by disaster, India retained its position as a country most affected by disasters for the third year in a row.

With a mandate of responding to disasters pan-India, LWSIT responded to the floods that hit Kalahandi in July 2018 and those that hit Kerala in August. It also continued the response to the Assam floods of August 2017.

### Assam Flood Response:

The second phase of the response to the Assam floods of 2017 which affected 25 districts and over 3 million people in 3,186 villages continued in January 2018 with support from Normisjon. LWSIT extended its support to 1,000 affected families in the geographical area covered under the SEEPR Project in Kokrajhar and Chirang Districts'.



*Housing support under Phase II of the response to the 2017 Floods in Assam; Photo Credit: Animesh Paul*

**Table No. 2: Details of support provided during phase II of Assam Food Response (2017-18)**

Program Activities	Unit	Assisted Quantity	Coverage
Sleeping Mat	Pc.	1,000	1,000 Families
Bed Sheet	Pc.	1,000	
Mosquito Net	Pc.	1,000	
Hygiene Kit	Kits	1,000	
Water Filter	Pcs	500	500 Families
Housing Aid Materials to rebuild the damaged houses	No. of Houses Supported	60	60 Families

### Kerala Flood Response

Over 11 straight days of tempestuous rainfall, nearly 25 trillion litres of water fell on Kerala—an area of 38,800 square kilometres cramped with mountain ranges; third-highest population density in the country; and 44 rivers with 61 dams—with apocalyptic fury<sup>3</sup>. The rain along with the almost simultaneous release of water from 35 dams in an already flooded state caused what was declared by CRED as by far the largest flood event of the year with 504 persons dead and two-thirds of the State’s residents affected. Rampant environmental destruction over the years in an ecologically sensitive state has made many term this as a man-made disaster.

LWSIT responded to this disaster with the complementary support of Lutheran World Relief and ACT Alliance in the districts of Pathanamthitta and Alappuzha. The ACT Alliance support covered a total of 1,420 families in the Pandanad, Neelarmperoor and Peringera Gram Panchayats with temporary shelter materials, household items such as kitchen utensil sets, water filters, dignity/hygiene kits, bed-sheets and sleeping mats, as well as support for backyard poultry farming. The response supported by Lutheran World Relief covered a total of 925 families, and supplemented the response programme of ACT Alliance.

**Table No. 3: Details of support provided as part of the LWR funded flood response in Kerala**

Program Activities	Unit	Assisted Quantity	Coverage
HDPE Tarpaulin Sheet for Temporary Shelter	Pc.	600	600 Families
Sleeping Mat	Pc.	600	
Bed Sheet	Pc.	600	
Dignity/Hygiene Kit for Women and Adolescent girls	Kit	600	
Kitchen Utensil Set for household use	Sets	600	
Water Filter to access safe water at household level	Pc.	925	925 Families
Backyard Poultry Birds	Pc.	500	100 Families
Protection Cage	Pc.	100	



Information related to flood Response Programme;  
Photo Credit: B. N. Biswal



A right-holder after receiving backyard poultry birds as part of the Kerala Flood Response; Photo Credit: B. N. Biswal

<sup>3</sup>Centre of Science and Environment

**Table No. 4: Details of support offered as part of the ACT Alliance Appeal (IND181) response in Kerala**

Program Activities	Unit	Assisted Quantity	Coverage
HDPE Silpaulin Sheet for Temporary Shelter	Pc.	1,420	1,420 families
Kitchen Utensil Set for household use	Set	1,420	
Dignity/Hygiene Kit for Women and Adolescent girls	Kit	1,420	
Water Filter to access safe water at household level	Pc.	316	316 families
Backyard Poultry Birds	No.	435	87 families
Protection Cage	Pc.	87	
DRR Training/Sensitization Program to Youth and Community Members	No.	10	10 Communities

The majority of the activities and distribution of items mentioned in the above table were completed during 2018 while the remaining were scheduled to be completed in January 2019.

### **Kalahandi Flood Response:**

The floods in the other-wise drought-prone Kalahandi was characteristic of the increasingly erratic climate patterns witnessed in India. While early July brought news of a water crisis in the nearby Indravati project, torrential rains later in the month led to swollen rivers and the water level in the dam rising beyond danger level. The sudden release of water and flash floods that followed led to several blocks such as Kalampur, Jaipatna, Thuamul Rampur and M Rampur being cut off and several villages inundated. Junagarh, Golamunda and Bhawanipatna blocks were also badly affected.

With ELCA support, LWSIT's response involved 440 families with agricultural support, seed bank, backyard poultry and dignity/hygiene kits. It also involved support to community initiatives such as utensil sets for emergency community kitchens, renovation of tube-well platforms and formation and strengthening of CBDRR Committees.

**Table No. 5: Kalahandi flood response: details of support provided**

Program Activities	Unit	Assisted Quantity	Coverage
Dignity/Hygiene Kit for women and adolescent girls	Kit	200	200 Families
Utensil Set Support for Community Kitchen as emergency preparedness	Set	4	4 Communities
Seasonal Seed Support to Farming Families	Kg	3,000	300 Farmers
Seed Bank to preserve indigenous and local variety seeds	No.	5	5 Communities
Livestock Distribution (Backyard Poultry Birds)	No.	1,000	50 Women
Land Reclamation and Levelling for land development	Acre	200	200 Farmers
DRR Training Programs with Advocacy for Community Leaders/Youth Groups	No.	5	5 Communities
Formation and strengthening of CBDRR Committee with focus on 'Do No Harm Approach'	No.	5	5 Communities
Renovation/Repairing of Drinking Water Tube-well platform	No.	10	10 Communities

The majority of the activities mentioned in the above table were completed in 2018, while some were scheduled to be completed in January 2019.



Land development activities as part of the Kalahandi Flood Response  
Photo Credit: Satya Shree Nayak



Organising Disaster Risk Reduction Training at Kalahandi District, Odisha;  
Photo Credit: Satya Shree Nayak

## 7. COMMUNITY RESOURCE MOBILISATION

As part of the process of empowering communities, LWSIT encourages communities to contribute towards community asset building from their own resources as well as through resources raised from the available government schemes. The following table provides a snapshot of the resources raised by communities:

**Table No. 6: Resources mobilised at the community level (in INR)**

SI No	Project Unit	Cost Sharing by Individual/ community	Independent Investment by individual/Group	Local Resources mobilised through GO/NGO		Total in Rs.
				By LWSIT	By CBO/ Group	
1	DSSQC Birbhum Unit	2,79,767	4,29,500	56,000	2,18,19,214	2,25,84,481
2	GEP Bhubaneswar Unit	1,23,024	4,15,000	2,02,644	16,70,000	24,10,668
3	GEP Kolkata Unit	2,60,241	1,62,000	8,51,781	18,25,000	30,99,022
4	SEEPRP Assam Unit	5,28,706	1,25,000	-	4,85,28,000	4,91,81,706
5	STEER Balangir Unit	1,60,273	40,000	-	11,50,000	13,50,273
6	STEER Bankura Unit	1,06,336	54,500	1,88,000	3,65,000	7,13,836
7	STEER Kalahandi Unit	1,09,844	1,08,931	3,00,000	2,00,000	7,18,775
8	STEER Kendrapara Unit	1,27,955	1,95,000		4,88,000	8,10,955
9	STEER Mayurbhanj Unit	81,023	1,24,000	66,500	16,16,000	18,87,523
	<b>Total</b>	<b>17,77,169</b>	<b>16,53,931</b>	<b>16,64,925</b>	<b>7,76,61,214</b>	<b>8,27,57,239</b>



*Commercial vegetable cultivation; Photo credit: Animesh Paul*



## 8. ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS

### 8.1 Sustainable Livelihoods

#### Result Focus: Sustainable Livelihood through local resources made available to the right-holders

Growing unemployment and under-employment and decreasing labour force participation rates in India were confirmed by the NSSO's data for 2017-18 which showed a record spike in unemployment - standing at a forty-two year high at 6.1%. Despite impressive growth rates, job-creation had been slow resulting in India being home to more than half the people living in extreme poverty and sharing a quarter of the global hunger burden. There were an estimated 195 million undernourished people in India during the period under report.

Thus sustainable livelihoods was placed as one of the core strategic change areas for LWSIT in the five-year strategic plan beginning 2018 with a major thrust on the following activities:

- Direct support to individuals for livelihood assets
- Entrepreneurship development training
- Promotion and strengthening of producer groups and cooperatives
- Raising awareness on available government schemes and entitlements
- Development of fallow land

LWSIT's work on this thematic area contributed to SDG 1 (No Poverty) and SDG 2 (Zero Hunger). Using a rights-based approach, LWSIT emphasized working in the convergence mode with other government programs and departments. Government collaborations included:

**Strengthening Seed System of STRVs, Targeting Rice-fallows & Raising productivity and profitability of rice-based cropping systems through Rice Crop Manager** in collaboration with the Government of Odisha and the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI). This project focussed on improving the health and welfare of rice farmers and consumers. It worked in Bangriposi of Mayurbhanj District as well as Lanjigarh of Kalahandi district.

**OTELP Plus** a programme intended to impact the lives of tribal people in remote locations by enhancing their access to basic entitlements, nurturing their village institutions and improving capacities to adopt innovative interventions. The project adopted the micro watershed as the unit of planning and implementation and had a focus on "increase of income from agriculture and allied sectors".

**Training to Unemployed Youth in Kolkata in collaboration with West Bengal Swarojgar Corporation Limited (WBSCL)** under which, 90 youth were trained for development of tailoring, batik and tie-&-dye, and beautician skills.



Tailoring Training in progress under the WBSCL project;  
Photo Credit: Polly Mondal



Bridal-Makeup – Part of the Beautician Training under WBSCL;  
Photo Credit: Mou Singha Das

**LWSIT was empaneled with WBSCL, a government enterprise for skill training of unemployed youth. A total of three training programmes were conducted and 90 persons trained on batik, tie-and-dye and Beauticians skills**

**Certificate Program in Rural Livelihood (CPRL) Training** organised by Bharat Rural Livelihood Foundation (BRLF), a registered autonomous body set up by the Government of India. LWSIT supported the candidature of five tribal youth from its operational area to the six-month residential training in Jaipur, Rajasthan. The training was part of a capacity building initiative for tribal India that seeks to combine appropriate knowledge and skill components to address the Capacity Building challenge in the rural livelihoods sector. Another four participants were enrolled in the training course that commenced in December. Part of the subsidised training cost was borne by LWSIT while part of it was borne by the candidates themselves.

With a thrust on empowering village institutions to facilitate them obtain resources for the creation of livelihood and development assets from available government schemes, local institutions nurtured by LWSIT mobilised a total of INR 7,86,24,605.00 (Approximately USD 11,31,000.00) through their own efforts.

LWSIT also collaborated with an Indian NGO, **Evangelical Social Action Forum in Birbhum**. ESAF supported LWSIT in knowledge creation regarding financial management, savings, thrift and credit systems and banking.

**Table No. 7: Major activities during the year**

Activity	Region		Assam		Jharkhand		West Bengal		Odisha		Total	
	Unit of measurement		A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B
	Col A	Col B										
Awareness on Food Security and Livelihood Rights	No. of Sessions	Coverage	5	556	-	-	1	51	19	1,584	25	2,191
Interface & Networking Programs	No. of Sessions	Coverage	-	-	-	-	8	235	-	-	8	235
Exposure Visit for SHG Members and Farmers	No. of Visits	Coverage	1	30	2	51	2	98			5	179
Non-Farm based Entrepreneurship/Skill Development Training	No. of Training Programs	Coverage	1	40	-	-	5	123	9	212	15	375
Training on Agriculture	No. of Training Programs	Coverage	12	581	1	31	6	240	20	612	39	1,464
Income Generation Support to Individuals	No. of Persons	-	12	-	-	-	25	-	190	-	227	-
Promotion of Vermi-Compost	No. of Pits	No. of Households	10	10	7	7	33	33	19	19	69	69
Promotion of model Kitchen Garden	No of Gardens	No. of Households	75	75	100	100	225	225	-	-	400	400
Seed support to Farmers	No. of Acres	No. of Households	-	-	9	52	17	78	-	-	26	130
FIGs organised	No. of Groups	Membership	-	-	6	283	12	277	-	-	18	560



Crop demonstration on commercial cultivation of vegetables in Kokrajhar, Assam; Photo Credit: Anil Tudu

**Bishnu Dehri**, is one among the 90 million odd marginal farmers in India, having one hectare or less than one hectare land-holding. Bishnu belongs to Paharia community of Dudhajal Mirgipara in Birbhum. He used to make his living through rain fed paddy cultivation on a half acre land. His family consists of two children and wife. His life was sustained by subsistence living, hardship and deprivation.

LWSIT in 2018 initiated intervention in the area with awareness raising and training on sericulture and other scale-up activities for farm-based livelihoods. The training was organised with the support of the state sericulture department in order to facilitate linkages with the local communities. Bishnu invested Rs.1,400/- and procured the silk worms for tussar silk cultivation. Within two months period he was able to gain a gross income of Rs.12,000/-! Through this, Bishnu and his family members' living conditions have improved.

## Major Achievements

With almost 60% of India's workforce dependent on agriculture, a significant focus of LWSIT's work on sustainable livelihoods was on increasing farm income and productivity. The major achievements under the Sustainable Livelihoods result head were as follows:

Twenty acres of wasteland were developed through land bunding and levelling involving 28 households. Three SHGs were supported for developing community orchards over 3 acres of land. Another 34 farmers were supported with individual orchards over 8 acres of land.

Under the STEER project areas in Odisha and West Bengal, commercial cultivation of vegetable was promoted as a result of which 119 marginal and small farmers were able to earn an estimated net profit of Rs.3,000/- on an average. Promotion of commercial cultivation of pulses and cereals over 186 acres of land enabled 636 farmers earn an additional Rs.4,500/- per acre.

Under SEEPRP, multi-cropping was promoted in 29 communities covering 41 acres of land through oilseed cultivation post the monsoon harvest. A total of 232 farmers were able to increase their income by more than Rs.6,000/- per acre on an average.

Under the DSSQC project approximately 940 household reported increased yield of over 40% from 300 kilograms to 425 kilograms per acre. LWSIT also facilitated the formation of 2 FPOs which were registered under the Indian Companies Act. The FPOs had been in liaison with NABARD and the Agricultural department for conducting various programs.

Technical support from IRRI led to an increase in yield of about 200 kilograms per acre. A total of 6000 farmers were able to reap the benefits of this activity.

There was also a focus on SHG formation and strengthening. Almost 200 women were able to initiate income generation activities with support of group funds.

## 8.2 Community Resilience

### Result Focus: Resilient communities capable of adapting and mitigating climate change

India is one of the most disaster prone areas in the world. As per the statistics provided by India's National Disaster Management Authority, more than 58.6% of the landmass is prone to earthquakes of moderate to very high intensity; over 40 million hectares (12%) of its land is prone to floods and river erosion; close to 5,700 kms, out of the 7,516 kms long coastline is prone to cyclones and tsunamis; 68% of its cultivable area is vulnerable to droughts; and, its hilly areas are at risk from landslides and avalanches".

The number and intensity of disasters has been increasing over the years and much of this is associated with climate change. This along with the high levels of poverty in the country, has resulted in extremely high levels of vulnerability for the majority of LWSIT's primary focus population.

Recognising the need for a coordinated and cooperative effort to prepare and respond to disaster, Community Resilience was placed as one of core result areas of LWSIT's five-year strategic plan contributing to SDG 13 (take urgent action to combat climate change) with a thrust on activities such as tree-plantation drives, promotion of bio-intensive gardening methods, promotion of saline, flood and drought-resistant varieties of seeds, awareness raising on insurance schemes (crop, livestock and assets) and formation of Disaster Management Teams.



*A Plantation Drive at Kendrapara; Photo Credit: Ladu Kishor Gauda*

**Table No. 8: Major activities during the year**

Activity	Region		Assam		Jharkhand		West Bengal		Odisha		Total	
	Unit of measurement		A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B
	Col A	Col B										
Forest Protection Groups organised	No. of Groups	Households Reached	-	-	1	28	9	131	18	257	28	416
Community Plantations	No. of Plantations	No. of Trees	27	3,000	-	-	3	3,000	11	5,200	41	11,200
Fruit Sapling Distribution	No. of Plants	Households Reached	3,200	800	300	100	1,000	224	2,700	34	7,200	1,158
Cultivation of Climate Resilient Crop	Acres covered*	Households Reached	-	-	-	-	8	11	5,395	6,633	5,403	6,644
Irrigation Facilities	Acres covered	Households Reached	-	-	-	-	10	30	-	-	10	30
Awareness on Climate Change and Community Resilience	No. of Sessions	Persons Reached	10	412	-	-	15	645	110	4,575	135	5,632
Safe water for urban communities – water filter distribution	No. of Filters	Households reached	-	-	-	-	8	160	4	80	12	240
Campaigns for Solid waste management and clean water bodies and drainage systems	No. of Events	No. of Participants	-	-	-	-	9	182	40	874	49	1,056
Training and Awareness on Disaster Risk Management	No. of Programs	No. of Participants	10	406	-	-	8	186	10	355	28	947
Families receiving solar lantern	No. of Lanterns	Households Reached	-	-	75	75	25	25	67	67	167	167

\*The figures given against acres covered is an approximate figure, based on average land-holding size

### Major Achievements:

129 communities were adopting practical measures to mitigate the effects and adapt to climate change in project areas of 2018, partly motivated by the numerous training and awareness sessions organised. 163 such sessions on deforestation, climate change, possible resilience measures and solid waste-management were organised across partner communities. These also included training sessions on Warning, Search and Rescue operations.

8,200 trees were planted in 41 community plantations as part of the initiative to increase the bio-shield. While approximately half of these were planted to line roadside avenues or river banks, the remaining helped in the regeneration of 10.5 acres of waste-land. In addition, 7,200 fruit trees were planted on homestead land by 1,158 families in across the four States. These had the twin advantage of environmental greening as well as catering to the nutritional needs of vulnerable partner communities in the long run

Climate resilient cropping patterns were promoted over more than 5,000 acres involving over 6,000 households. In the STEER project areas, this was organised as a community activity, with mustard and pulses being promoted as a second crop, while previously the land was allowed to lie fallow after the monsoon rice harvest. The income raised from this would contribute to the community fund. A significant spin-off from this is that, neighbouring communities have begun adopting such practices through seed exchange and purchase with partner communities of the project.



Cleanliness drive in Bhubaneswar slums; Photo Credit: Geetanjali Mohanty

In Bhubaneswar city 35% of the estimated population of Odisha state are living in slum areas. Poor sanitation facility has been one of the characteristics in most slum areas around the world. The sanitation problems of Bhubaneswar slums have been compounded by the fact that, the city has no centralised underground sewage system. The major portion of the city's sewage discharged into open storm water drains lead to overflowing and stagnation of sewage in the roadside ditches and pits. The city has thus been ranked 25th among the 28 state capitals under the Swachh Bharat Mission and is facing mounting problems in terms of managing the city's waste services, access to public toilets and eliminating open defecation. Most of the slums are a nightmare during monsoons with overflowing drains and water-logging being a regular feature.

The **Nilakanthanagar** slum areas have experienced poor awareness on sanitation and hygiene, which have resulted in careless and inappropriate use of polythene bags, garbage disposal in the drains, passages and open areas, and frequent water-logging. The sanitation workers of civic sections have neglected in their duties. LWSIT's GEP project has created sense of responsibilities and ownership among the women and communities together over the issue of sanitation and hygiene in its operational communities. Several awareness sessions and interactions with community members were organized, CBOs were formed in 2014, with the participation of more than 40% of the households. The CBOs have made several representations to the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) and the city's mayor to make proper garbage disposal arrangements in the area. Two community garbage bins have been set up by BMC and the civic workers regularly attend their duties. Members were able to get the entire community to reduce the use of plastic & polythene and keep the drains & pathways free from garbage. Today, Nilathnagar is a model slum in terms of environmental sanitation. The CBOs have made arrangements to clean the accumulated sediment of the drain on a monthly basis with the support of BMC.

While flooding is still a regular feature during the monsoons due to the poor drainage system of Bhubaneswar, the situation in Nilathnagar and the other 19 slum areas which were facing similar problems, due to LWSIT initiatives and intervention the sanitation situations have improved.

## 8.3 Education

### Result Focus: Enhanced quality education and learning opportunities available for the children in the operational communities

34.5 million children were out of school as per the 2011 census. While the passage of the Right to Education Act in 2009 seems to have increased enrolment and retention rates, the Centre for Policy Research reports gross variations in the official figures – from 6 million out of school children as per the Ministry of Human Resource Development to 20 million as per the National Sample Survey – both for the same year, 2014<sup>4</sup>. Of equal or greater concern are the findings of successive ACER<sup>5</sup> reports pointing to poor learning outcomes, a large portion of students performing below grade level<sup>6</sup> and the ability of Grade Eight students (the last year of free and compulsory education as per the RTE 2009) consistently falling. Despite the recommendations of expert panels for a minimum budgetary allocation of 6% of GDP, allocations over the year have mostly remained below 4% with very little allocation for teacher training, teaching learning material or monitoring.

Education was thus placed as one of the core result heads for LWSIT's five-year strategic plan with a thrust on SDG 4 – ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and ensuring continued lifelong learning opportunities for all. The following were the key activities mandated.

- Raising awareness on the Right to Education
- Scholarships to girl students
- Restructuring and strengthening of Education Committees
- Facilitating infrastructure development through local resource mobilisation

**Table No. 9: Major activities during the year**

Activity	Region		Assam		Jharkhand		West Bengal		Odisha		Total	
	Unit of measurement		A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B
	Col A	Col B										
Awareness on Right to Education for Parents and Children	No. of Sessions	Persons Reached	27	1,018	1	30	16	852	24	2,176	68	4,076
Public Awareness and enrolment campaign	No. of Sessions	Persons Reached	-	-	-	-	2	124	4	1,361	6	1,485
Awareness on Career building including IEC materials	No. of Sessions	Persons Reached	20	669	-	-	18	590	32	2,716	70	3,975
Support to Girl students for higher studies	No. of Girls	-	90	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	90	-
Support learning materials to poor and needy students	No of Students	-	44	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	44	-
Interface and Sensitisation Sessions for SMC & Govt Authorities	No. of Sessions	Persons Reached	11	373	2	69	18	553	30	1,228	61	2,223
Training for NFE and pre-school teachers	No. of Sessions	Persons Reached	-	-	-	-	1	30	4	120	5	150

<sup>4</sup>Bhatty K et al (2017), *Out of school children in India: Some insights on what we know and what we don't*, Working Paper, Retrieved from Centre for Policy Research Website: <http://cprindia.org/research/papers/out-school-children-india-some-insights-what-we-know-and-what-we-dont>;

<sup>5</sup>Annual Status of Education Report: The ASER Centre is a non-profit autonomous research and assessment unit. The ASER survey is an enormous participatory exercise that has involved about 500 organizations and upwards of 25,000 volunteers every year since 2005. Estimates of children's schooling and learning status are generated at district, state and national levels. ASER is the only annual source of data on children's learning outcomes available in India today, and is often credited with changing the focus of discussions on education in India from inputs to outcomes.

<sup>6</sup>Grade level means a student is performing at the level expected of his/her grade

**Major Achievements:**

A Children’s Education Project was initiated in mid-2018 with support of Saviour Foundation and Soumya Bhattacharya Memorial Trust to tackle the problem of drop-outs in the Ultadanga locality of Kolkata. 30 children were enrolled at the study-centre, of which five were able to obtain admission in mainstream government schools, resulted in increased number of drop-outs returning to the formal school system. The focus on strengthening the School Management Committees through information sharing and awareness sessions, resulted in 98 SMCs taking an active role in management of school affairs.

claim their educational entitlements in Birbhum and Dumka, while 161 girls were able to source bicycles through government support. In Assam, 179 students were linked to their entitlements as per the RTE Act. Much of this may be attributed to the 36 interface meetings between community members and representatives on the one hand, and SMC members and government officials on the other.



Campaign on the Right to Education in Odisha; Photo Credit: Pradipta Kr Dhal

India is touted to have the third largest education system in the world. In spite of that education system is yet to reach among the needy. The Schedule Tribes and Schedule Castes are lowest in socio-economic progress indicators. The literacy rate for STs was 61.6% as per the 2011 census as against the national rate of 74.04%. In institutes of higher education, their participation rates are much lower compared to general categories of population.

Ms. Sorola Mardi and Ms. Sukoli Soren, two young girls are from Chakraipur Majhipara community of Dumka, Jharkhand. Their aspiration was to become teachers, which seems to be an impossible dream a few years back. Most of the girls from their community discontinued their studies early to help at home with household chores and livelihood activities. After their parents became aware about the Kanyashree Conditional Cash transfer scheme, through sensitization activities organised by LWSIT, they were determined to support their children in completing their education. The scheme offers girls a one-time grant of Rs. 25,000/- for eighteen year-olds who are enrolled in government recognized regular or open school and colleges. Having received the grant, both young girls are now pursuing their higher studies. Looking at them eight more girls from their community have now got the support of their parents to continue with their studies. They have also applied for the grant.



Celebration of Children's Day – Kolkata; Photo Credit: Minu Samaddar



Swachha Bharat Abhiyan at Balangir District, Odisha; Photo Credit: Sriram Sahu



## 8.4 Health

### Result Focus: Access to affordable and quality primary health care by right-holders

India is a popular destination for medical tourism with private hospitals providing world class treatment. The majority of Indians, however, have to rely on the Public Health Care system which unfortunately is not up to the standard and overcrowded.

With this context, LWSIT's strategic plan mandated Health as one of the strategic priorities contributing to SDG 3 - Ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all ages with a focus on the following activities:

- Awareness raising camps on personal and community hygiene
- Awareness raising on water and sanitation
- Awareness raising on preventive and promotive health care practices
- Linking communities with frontline healthcare service providers
- Linking communities with healthcare schemes
- Training and awareness on sexual and reproductive health rights
- Awareness and training on nutrition



*Health Check-Up Camp in Nimagaon in collaboration with Indian Oil Corporation;  
Photo Credit: Elbartson Tudu*

**Table No. 10: Major activities during the year**

Activity	Region		Assam		Jharkhand		West Bengal		Odisha		Total	
	Unit of measurement		A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B
	Col A	Col B										
Nutrition Awareness Programs for Lactating Mothers	No of Events	Persons Reached	25	1,461	2	74	5	247	-	-	32	1,782
Health Awareness Camps (Malaria, TB, HIV AIDS, Sanitation etc.)	No of Events	Persons Reached	47	1,580	9	195	32	834	42	2,086	130	4,695
Family Life Education for Parents and Adolescents	No of Events	Persons Reached	10	387	-	-	8	220	44	1,118	62	1,725
Health Check-Up camps for malnourished children and lactating mothers	No of Events	Persons Reached	10	641	2	25	1	15	-	-	13	681
Interface with front line service providers	No of Events	Persons Reached	-	-	-	-	4	87	4	169	8	256

## Major Achievements:

Distribution of 12 water filters to 12 communities for common use led to an estimated 20% reduction in water-borne disease in Kolkata and Bhubaneswar.

In Assam, LWSIT's efforts through the years in spreading awareness regarding water-borne disease prevention has resulted in 78 of the 85 communities having access to safe drinking water. In most cases, communities have mobilised the tube-wells from available government schemes. Communities report a significant reduction in water-borne diseases as a result. In districts covered by the STEER project, access to safe drinking water increased by an estimated 9%.

As part of the means to reduce malnutrition across vulnerable communities, support was provided for initiating 400 kitchen gardens in Assam, Jharkhand and West Bengal.

Support was mobilised from Indian Oil Corporation for mobile health check-up camps in the project area.

*According to the Census 2011 figures, 45% of India's disabled population are disabled compared to 26% of all Indians. That translates to 12.1 million or approximately 20% more than the entire population of Sweden. Despite the RTE Act, which has guaranteed free and compulsory education to all children between the age group of 6 to 14, children with special needs, form the largest out-of-school group in India.*

*Finding a disabled child out of school is therefore not uncommon, especially in rural India which witnessed significant barriers and observed people's behaviour towards disabled both in physical and attitudinal. However, thanks to the awareness raised by LWSIT and the motivation, support and courage obtained by Prashanta Karmi's mother through her participation in the CBO formation. Prashanta Karmi's mother was able to claim for her son's entitlement to have a tricycle and pension of Rs.500/- per month. Prashanta, whose loco-motor disability since his birth has severely restricted his movements, made him almost a prisoner in his own home. He obtained tricycle and pension of Rs.500/- per month for which he and his mother are grateful. This has created an opportunity to attend the school regularly like other children. He and his mother have become role models for other children in their areas.*

## 8.5 Gender Justice

### Result Focus: Gender equality and justice prevail in operational communities

Discrimination against women and the third gender is an age-old phenomenon in India with high rates of violence, abuse and denial of rights. There is discrimination in terms of wages, property rights and access to education and positions of power. Domestic violence against women and girls is a country-wide phenomenon with some variations across the states. Available evidence suggests that the prevalence is relatively higher in Eastern India. There is little research available on the third gender but the foremost battle for them relates more to the issue of identity and breaking away from the traditional bi-polar gender narrative.

LWSIT thus retained gender as a cross-cutting theme in the five-year strategic plan based on SDG 5 – achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls. The focus was on the following activities:

- Gender sensitisation training for all genders
- Vocational skill development training for women and transgenders
- Promote participation of women and transgenders in local governance
- Promotion of peer group support systems

**Table No. 11: Major activities during the year**

Activity	Region		Assam		Jharkhand		West Bengal		Odisha		Total	
	Unit of measurement		A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B
	Col A	Col B										
Capacity Building for Women and Transgenders	No. of Programs	No. of Participants	-	-	-	-	16	499	9	385	25	884
Interface with Govt Departments	No. of Programs	No. of Participants	-	-	1	31	2	53	-	-	3	84
Total No of SHG Groups Nurtured	No. of Groups	No. of Members	425	4,358	57	616	238	2744	534	6,058	1,254	13,776

### Major Achievements:

Women’s Association on Violence Against Women (WAWAW), a group that began with 32 slum representatives from LWSIT operation areas in 2009, had a total strength of 1,075 members by the end of 2018. The association continued its work of raising their voice against ‘violence against women’ and supporting survivors of violence through active networking with the Police, Women’s Commission, NGOs and legal institutions.

The Domestic Workers Association had a total strength of 1,500 members by end-2018. At least 60% of them have basic knowledge regarding legal provisions for the protection of women’s rights. 150 domestic workers from the GEP Bhubaneswar unit came together to form an alliance to advocate for their rights. They organised a rally to the office of the Labour Commissioner demanding that rules and regulations be put in place to protect their rights as workers. The process of negotiation however is likely to be a prolonged one.

In Kolkata, 10 cases of gender-based violence were detected through women’s group meetings. Community members were actively involved in addressing and resolving these cases with support from Swayam, an NGO that specialises in issues related to gender-based violence. Similarly, another 10 cases were identified in Bhubaneswar through WAWAW. It works closely with the government departments to address these issues.

In the SEEPRP project area, seven women were part of the Village Council Development Committees.

An increasing number of transgenders were able to move away from their traditional occupation of begging. Ten transgenders were given the opportunity to perform at the Baliyatra festival, a festival to celebrate the maritime history of Odisha and its ancient trading links in Bali, Indonesia, each of them earning approximately Rs.150,000/- during the short ten-day period. Another three were taken in as NGO workers - one of them at LWSIT. Some were recruited as para-legals by the Government of Odisha.

Much of the LWSIT’s work on Gender is undertaken through promoting and strengthening Self-Help Groups. A total of 1,254 SHGs, involving more than 13,500 women were operational in LWSIT project areas at the end of 2018.



**Seetal Kinner** (extreme right), a transgender served as a Community Guide for LWSIT in 2018. She was also appointed as a paralegal volunteer by the Cuttack District Legal Service Authority. In the photograph, Seetal along with LWSIT staff, Sarita Manjari Dash discuss Social Security Schemes and employment for transgenders at the District Labour Office;

Photo Credit: Manasi Das



Mrs. R. Lata Behera receiving an Award from Member of Parliament in Bhubaneswar; Photo Credit: Manasi Das

**Ms. R. Lata Behera** belongs to the Bedri Community of Bhanjanagar, a Schedule Caste Community. Like many members of her community, her main source of livelihood was making bamboo craft items. She moved to Bhubaneswar several years ago in search of better markets but found few takers. In 2018, LWSIT was able to step-in and arrange a training in modern bamboo craft. She was able to quickly grasp the new techniques as well as understand the tastes of the modern consumer. She formed a group and trained more women in her newly acquired skills. She has now established herself as a successful business woman, supplying craft items to both small and big suppliers. She also participates in most of the state and district level exhibition in and around Bhubaneswar like Toshali Mela, Adibasi Mela and Khandgiri Mela for better visibility of her products.

## 8.6 Peace

### Result Focus: People living in communities free from conflict, fear or insecurity

As per the Pew Centre’s Ninth Annual Study on global restrictions of religion, India had the highest levels of social hostilities involving religion in 2016. This was a change in ranking from fourth place in 2015 with hostilities between Hindus and Muslims factoring into India’s shameful ranking. India was also named as one of the countries with the highest overall levels of religious restrictions among the twenty-five most populous countries. The research of the Institute for Economics and Peace for 2017 finds that violence cost India 9% of its GDP – USD 1.19 trillion.

As stated by the former Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, there are ... "disturbing trends" of intolerance, communal polarisation and incidents of violent crimes propelled by hate groups and mobs being witnessed in the country. Peace was thus made a cross-cutting theme in the new strategic plan keeping SDG 16 as its foundation (peace, justice and strong institutions)

Mandated activities included:

- Peace education and awareness on conflict transformation strategies
- Conflict mapping exercise in all communities
- Formation and strengthening of peace committees
- Engaging youth for peace building and organising inter-community peace events
- Interfaith and intercommunity dialogue

**Table No. 12: Major activities during the year**

Activity	Region		Assam		Jharkhand		West Bengal		Odisha		Total	
	Unit of measurement		A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B
	Col A	Col B										
Awareness Sessions on Conflict, Peace & Reconciliation	No. of Events	Persons reached	27	1,257	-	-	30	857	20	469	77	2,583
Training for Conflict Transformation	No. of Events	Persons reached	23	563	-	-	3	86	4	92	30	741
Events for Promotion of Peace and Harmony	No. of Events	Persons reached	9	2,389	-	-	3	379	4	323	16	3,091
Groups working with Peace as primary Mandate	No. of Groups	Membership	59	910	-	-	4	77	5	144	68	1,131



Participants at a Youth Camp for Promotion of Peace and Integration in Assam; Photo Credit: Anjalu Mushahary

### Major Achievements:

A total of 63 committees working with Peace as the primary mandate were operational in LWSIT project areas at the end of 2018. While the majority of these were in Assam, peace building issues also received special focus in other states. In Assam, all the partner communities found representation in the Gaon Burah Federation. The federation met once in two months as a matter of practice.

Interfaith dialogues have also commenced across most projects. This is expected to have a significant impact on keeping communal tensions in check across communities.

*Assam has always been a multi-racial, multi-ethnic, multi-religious and multi-caste society for hundreds of years. However, the ethnic strife in Assam can also be traced back to colonial times with periods of peace, sometimes uneasy, sometimes prolonged. While the Santhal and Bodo communities of Amlaiguri have been living peaceably side-by-side for over a 100 years, the widespread riots between 1996 and 1998 resulted in both the communities having to flee to relief camps. These camps became their home for almost two years. When they returned to their homes, the cordial amity between the two communities was replaced by distrust and animosity.*

*LWSIT began their intervention in the area in 2014. The Shyamthaibari Peace Forum was formed with members from these two and other adjacent communities in 2015. Several sports and cultural activities were initiated by the Forum to bring the communities together. These efforts have been successful. Trust and respect between the two communities seem to have returned to stay.*



Peace Forum meeting in progress; Photo Credit: Monsha Soren

## 9. STAFF CAPACITY BUILDING

Staff were involved in the following training programs during the year:

**“Improved Production Technology of Kharif Crops”**: The one-day training facilitated by Scientists and Agriculturists was held in March for LWSIT Staff, Community Guides and farmers attached to the Bankura STEER Unit

A series of **Induction-cum-Orientation programs** were held in March, April, May and August for staff of the National Office. Staff had the opportunity to discuss the five-year strategic plan (2018-2022), the focus communities and their issues and the thematic areas that the organisation would focus on during the on-going strategic period.

Training programs on **Baseline Data Collection** were held for staff and field investigators of the Assam, Kendrapara, Kalahandi, Kolkata, Birbhum and Balangir units. Staff of MCH and ESAF also participated in the training. These were held in the first and second quarters.

One **Capacity Building Training** was held for **Asha Kiran** teachers of the Assam Unit

One **Peace Building training** was held for the staff of the Assam Unit.

The Project Coordinators of Kalahandi and Balangir, along with two staff and two volunteers attended a hands-on **Training on Rice Crop Manager** supported by IRRI in June.

Ms. Anjalu Mushahary, Community Officer from Assam attended the **Camp Coordination and Camp Management Training** organised by AZEECON and hosted by LWF Nepal at Dhankuta, Nepal.

A training program on **Backyard Poultry Farming** in September by Heifer International was attended by Mr. Pratap Chandra Behera, Community Officer, Mayurbhanj.

Mr. Anil Tudu and Mr. Sushil Nazary attended the **Ecumenical Peace Consultation and Workshop**, organised by CBCNEI/APBF and Joint Peace Mission Team, Guwahati in October, while Mr. Albertson Tudu attended the five-day South Asia Emerging Leadership Forum – 2018 at Hyderabad - also in October.

Ms. Suchita Lal, Finance Manager at NO and Mr. Somenath Ghosh, Assistant Manager (Monitoring and Evaluation) attended a **Workshop on Statutory Compliances for NGOs** organised by in Hyderabad in November.

Mr. Shaju V Joseph, Mr. Kishore Kumar Nag, Mr. B. N. Biswal, Ms. Monijinir Byapari and Ms. Suchita Lal participated in the **AZEECON Summit 2018** at Indonesia in November.



A workshop organised by WAVAW group on gender based violence at Bhubaneswar; Photo Credit: Geetanjali Mohanty

## 10. GOVERNANCE

**Table No. 13: Details of Board of Trustees for 2018**

Sl. No.	Name of Board Members	Designation
1	Rev. Dr. Roger Gaikwad,	President – Board of Trustees
2	Rt. Rev. Johan Dang	Vice President – Board of Trustees Till 15 Feb 2018
3	Rev Dr. A. G. Augustine Jeyakumar	Trustee since 17 July 2018
4	Dr. Christy Ponni	Trustee from 15 Dec 2017
5	Rt. Rev. Prem Chand Singh	Trustee
6	Rev. Oppathathi Michael	Treasurer till 14 Feb 2018
7	Rt. Rev. Bajel Murmu	Trustee from 15 Feb 2018
8	Mrs. Josephine Joseph	Trustee till 21 August 2018
9	Ms. Judith D’Souza	Trustee from 7 Dec 2018
10	Prof. Biju Paul Abraham	Trustee till 21 August 2018
11	Dr. Florina Xavier	Trustee from 7 Dec 2018
12	Mrs. Basanti Biswas	Trustee
13	Rev. Asir Ebenezer	Trustee from 7 Dec 2018

## 11. INTERNAL COMPLIANTS COMMITTEE

LWSIT has in place formal Complaints Response Mechanism which is mandated to examine and respond to grievances raised from members of the partner communities as well as the staff. Complaints are taken up and escalated at different levels depending on the nature of the complaint. The following table provides details of the Internal Complaints Committee during 2018.

**Table No. 14: Details of members of the Internal Complaints Committee as of 31.12.2018**

Region	Name of Contact Person	Contact No.	Email ID
<b>West Bengal</b>	Ms. Sangita Adhikari	83484 94759 98363 17157	complaints.wbprojects@lwsit.org
<b>Coastal Odisha</b>	Mr. Pratap Chandra Behera	94392 18053	complaints.centralodisha@lwsit.org
<b>Assam</b>	Mr. Anil Tudu	70028 20619	complaints.assamprojects@lwsit.org
<b>Western Odisha</b>	Ms. Sagarika Rout	94370 01333 99376 24908	complaints.westernodisha@lwsit.org
<b>National Office</b>	Ms. Suchita Lal	84209 76462	complaints.national@lwsit.org
<b>Board Level</b>	Rt. Rev. Bajel Murmu	88093 04286	complaints.board@lwsit.org

## 12. HUMAN RESOURCE POSITION

Table No. 15: Details of human resource for 2018

Sl. No	Location	Male	Female	Transgender	Total
1	NATIONAL OFFICE	14	8	-	22
2	SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION, ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT and RISK REDUCTION – STEER				
	<i>STEER Balangir</i>	4	1	-	5
	<i>STEER Bankura</i>	1	1	-	2
	<i>STEER Kalahandi</i>	4	1	-	5
	<i>STEER Kendrapara</i>	2	1	-	3
	<i>STEER Mayurbhanj</i>	2	-	-	2
3	GENDER EMPOWERMENT PROJECT – GEP				
	<i>GEP Bhubaneswar</i>	-	4	1	5
	<i>GEP Kolkata</i>	2	2	-	4
4	DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT program for STONE QUARRY COMMUNITIES (DSSQC) – <i>Birbhum</i>	7	2	-	9
5	SOCIO-ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT for PEACE and RECONCILIATION PROJECT (SEERPR) – <i>Assam</i>	11	2	-	13
6	ODISHA TRIBAL EMPOWERMENT and LIVELIHOODS PROGRAM (OTELP) – Odisha	5	-	-	5
7	SHELTER for URBAN HOMELESS ( <i>SUH</i> ) – <i>Kolkata</i>	5	2	-	7
8	CHILD CARE INSTITUTE ( <i>CCI</i> ) – <i>Kolkata</i>	-	1	-	1
9	KERALA FLOOD RELIEF	3	4	-	7
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>90</b>



Review Meeting organised at National Office, Kolkata Photo Credit Mr. Jiten Hembrom



## 13. NETWORKS AND ALLIANCES

### AZEECON (Asian Zone Emergency and Environment Cooperation Network)

LWSIT continued to play the role of Network Focal Point during the year 2018 as well as the Finance Focal Point. LWSIT staff participated in various training and events organised by other AZEECON members.

**Table No. 16: Details of AZEECON events which saw LWSIT's participation**

SI No	Event	Organisers	Venue	Dates
1	Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) EETV Program	LWF Nepal	Nepal	5 <sup>th</sup> to 7 <sup>th</sup> June 2018
2	Agricultural Value Chain and Market Development, Exchange Exposure Training Visit Program	RDRS Bangladesh	Bangladesh	20 <sup>th</sup> to 24 <sup>th</sup> September
3	AZEECON Summit (Annual Planning and Review Meeting)	Country Teams of Indonesia AZEECON members	Indonesia	14 <sup>th</sup> to 16 <sup>th</sup> November

### Core Humanitarian Standard (CHS) Alliance

LWSIT is a full member of Core Humanitarian Standard on Quality and Accountability (CHS)<sup>7</sup> Alliance. LWSIT participated in the online survey for the annual report of CHS Alliance by filling the information as required in 2018. LWSIT also participated in the online voting to elect new Board Members of the Alliance.

### ACT Alliance Advisory Group - HPPG (Humanitarian Policy and Practice Group)

The ACT Alliance Secretariat approved the nomination of LWSIT in 2015 as a member of HPPG Advisory Group of ACT Alliance. LWSIT took part in the annual advisory group meeting in February 2018 in Geneva. LWSIT also took active part in several virtual meetings held over Skype among the HPPG members and discussed issues related to the joint monitoring visit to Bangladesh where members were responding to the Rohingya crisis ACT, Advocacy Academy and the new template for Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan (EPRP).

### ACT Alliance India Forum

The Annual ACT Alliance India Forum meeting was held on 20th April 2018 hosted by CARD (Christian Agency for Rural Development) at Alappuzha, Kerala and was attended by the Executive Director and DRR focal point of LWSIT. In Oct – Nov 2018, the Executive Director and Emergency Focal point of LWSIT attended the ACT Alliance General Assembly which was held in Uppsala, Sweden.

While there were a number of catastrophic events such as floods in Assam, Odisha and Kerala during the year, LWSIT responded to the floods in Kerala through an ACT appeal, and provided relief and recovery support to the flood affected families in Kalahandi with resource support from ELCA.

### Sphere India

LWSIT is a founding member of Sphere India (a national coalition of humanitarian agencies) and adopts Sphere principles, processes and standards in the programming especially during humanitarian responses. In 2018, LWSIT participated in the election of office bearers for Sphere India. The Revised Sphere Handbook was also released during the year.

### Inter-Agency Group (IAG)

LWSIT has been part of Inter-Agency Groups formed in several states across India – a state level loose network involving both International and National NGOs. LWSIT is the founding member of IAG Odisha, West Bengal, Assam and Tamil Nadu. This IAG platform provides the opportunity to discuss issues related to coordination, collaboration and sharing of best practices among humanitarian actors and strengthen relationship with respective state governments including Sphere India at the national level. LWSIT regularly attends the meetings organized by IAG in Odisha, Assam and West Bengal. In 2018, LWSIT attended the meeting organized by IAG Kerala at the onset of the flood disaster, for the first time.



Peace making initiative; Photo Credit: Sushil Narzary



Exposure Visit of SHG Members; Photo Credit: Dipti Ranjan Behera

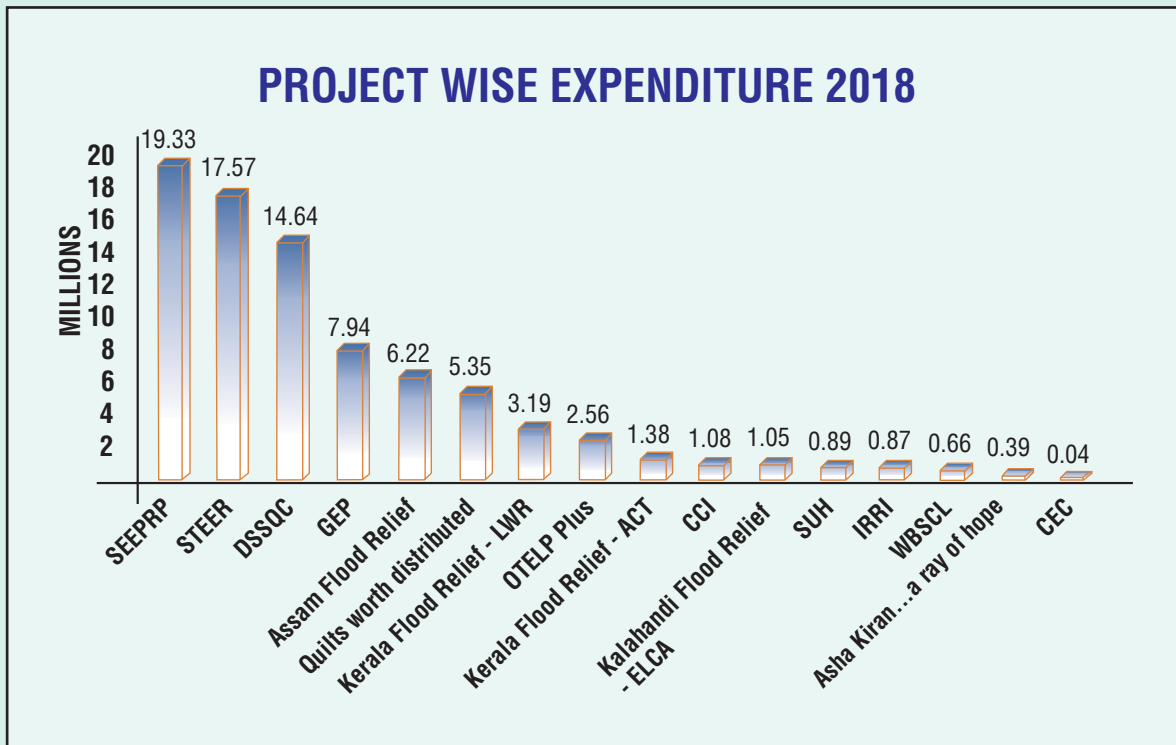
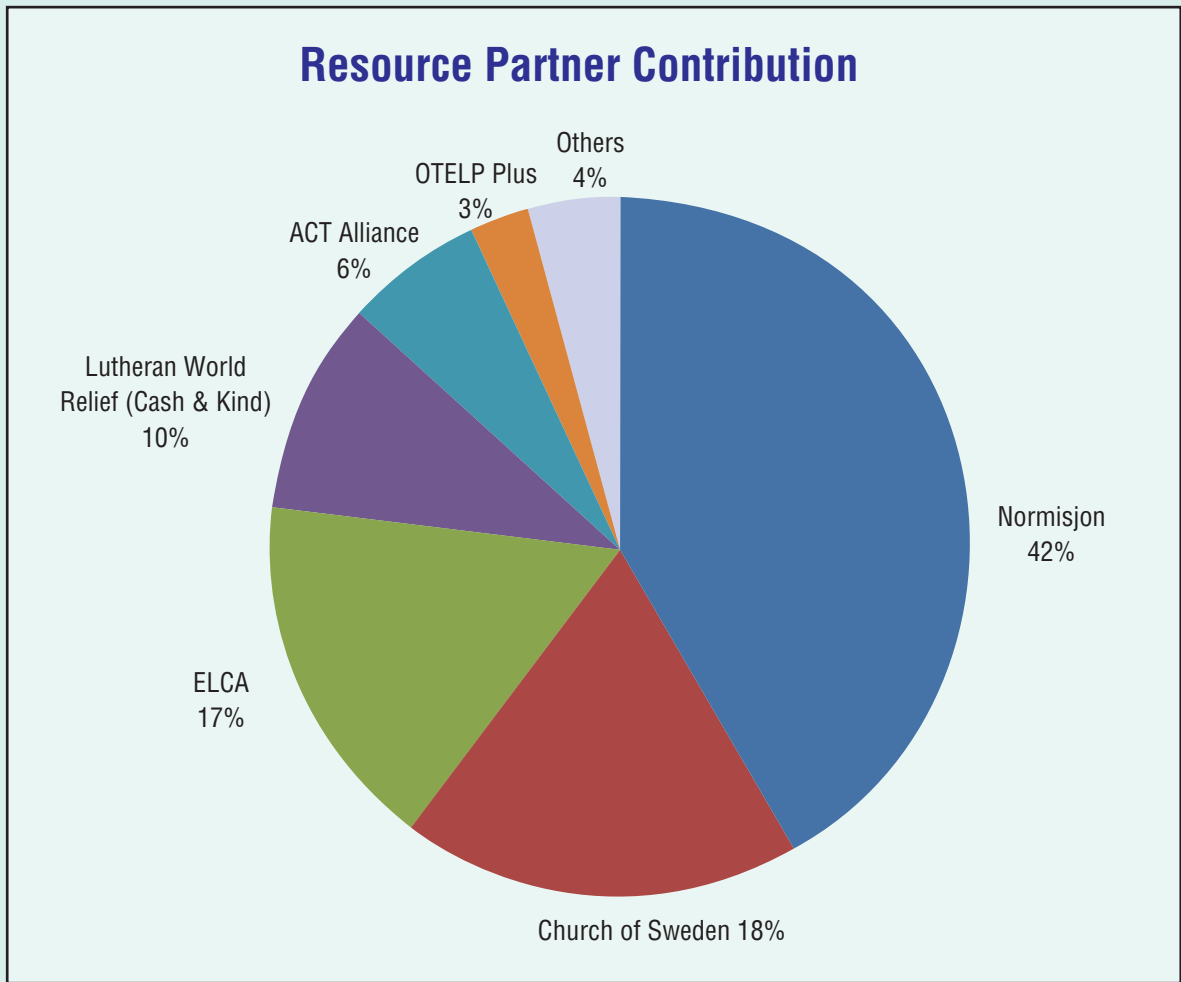
## 14. FINANCIAL UPDATE

Table No. 17: Income by type for 2018

SI No	Particulars	Amount in INR	%
1	Foreign Contribution – Development Programme	6,56,32,317	70.6%
2	Foreign Contribution – Flood Relief	1,23,16,636	13.2%
3	Contribution in Kind	66,64,896	7.2%
4	Government Contribution	31,88,854	3.4%
5	Community Contribution	17,77,169	1.9%
6	Local Contribution	16,33,775	1.8%
7	General Income	9,65,294	1.0%
8	Bank Interest Income	5,52,921	0.6%
9	Consultancy income	2,58,600	0.3%
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9,29,90,462</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Table No. 18: Contribution of Resource Partners

SI. No.	Name of Resource Partners	Amount (in Million INR)
1	Normisjon	37.27
2	Church of Sweden	16.54
3	ELCA	14.87
4	Lutheran World Relief (In Kind)	6.66
5	Lutheran World Relief (Cash)	2.15
6	ACT Alliance	5.71
7	OTELP Plus	2.43
8	Stichting Peter de Koning Foundation	0.82
9	International Rice Research Institute	0.81
10	Rotary India Literacy Mission	0.79
11	Govt. of West Bengal	0.75
12	Japan Evangelical Lutheran Association	0.39
13	West Bengal Swarozgar Corporation Ltd.	0.18
14	Soumya Bhattacharya Memorial Trust	0.02
15	Bishop's College Kolkata	0.02
16	Self Employed Women's Association	0.01
17	Saviour Foundation	0.01
18	Bhattacharya Foundation	0.01
	<b>Total</b>	<b>89.44</b>



## 15. CHALLENGES

Political interference and vested interests were the biggest challenge for LWSIT in working towards its development objectives. In addition, the local self-government elections in West Bengal with the accompanying tension, affected the movement of Project staff during both the pre and post-election period. Due to the National Register of Citizen's updation and the proposed amendment to the Citizenship Act there was lot of tension in Assam which hindered smooth implementation.

Erratic rainfall during the monsoon resulted in a significant out-migration among project communities of West Bengal and Jharkhand. Youth migration also seems to be on the rise as youth moved towards urban areas in search of monetary income and lifestyles not available in rural areas –an outcome of media hype in respect of urban living. This affected the reach of awareness raising programs on various issues. It also affected school attendance as entire families moved in some cases along with the earning members.

Despite considerable work on gender issues, the deeply entrenched patriarchal mind-set, prevents the full participation of women in several activities across projects. The proliferation of micro-finance institutions has also been impacting project development goals as agents with sales targets lure women away from Self-Help Groups with promises of easy loans and high returns.

In respect of health and sanitation, while communities were able to source considerable support from Government sanitation schemes, the absence of water and hygiene component have resulted in several of the constructed toilets lying unused.

## 16. ACKNOWLEDGING SUPPORT FROM PARTNERS AND FRIENDS

The work and achievements outlined in this report are the results of the collaborative efforts of several stake-holders. Funding support for development programs was provided by Normisjon, Church of Sweden, ELCA, Stichting Peter de Koning Foundation, JELA, Rotary International Literacy Mission, IRRI, SEWA, Bhattacharya Foundation, Soumya Bhattacharya Foundation and Saviour Foundation. Financial support was also received from the Government of Odisha and the Government of West Bengal for the OTELP Plus and WBSCL projects respectively. The latter also supported the Shelter for the Urban Homeless Project. BRLF supported the livelihood training of tribal youth.

The humanitarian response to the floods in Kerala was supported by Lutheran World Relief and ACT Alliance. The Kalahandi flood response program in Odisha was supported by ELCA. The second phase of support to the 2017 floods in Assam was supported by Normisjon.

The contribution of local organisations, communities and local government structures in their support of work on the ground, was the foundation stone upon which all of our efforts were built, not just in 2018, but over the years.

## ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome	IRRI	International Rice Research Institute
ANM	Auxiliary Nurse Midwife	JELA	Japan Evangelical Lutheran Association
ASHA	Accredited Social Health Activists	LWF	Lutheran World Federation
ASRLM	Assam State Rural Livelihoods Mission	Kg	Kilogram
AZEECON	Asian Zone Emergency and Environment Cooperation Network	LWSIT	The Lutheran World Service India Trust
BRLF	Bharat Rural Livelihoods Foundation	LWR	Lutheran World Relief
CBG	Community Based Groups	MCH	Mahulpahari Christian Hospital
CBDRR	Community Based Disaster Risk Reduction	MSME	Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise
CBO	Community Based Organisation	NCCI	National Council of Churches in India
CCI	Child Care Institute	NFE	Non-Formal Education
CHS	Core Humanitarian Standard	NGO	Non-Government Organisation
CINI	Child in Need Institute	NRM	Natural Resource Management
CoS	Church of Sweden	NO	National Office
CRED	Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters	No.	Number
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility	OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
Dept	Departments	OTELP	Odisha Tribal Empowerment and Livelihoods Programme
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction	PRI	Panchayati Raj Institutions
DSSQC	Development Support Programme for Stone Quarry Affected Communities	Pc	Piece
ELCA	Evangelical Lutheran Churches of America	RTE Act	Right to Education Act (2009)
ESAF	Evangelical Social Action Forum	SBA	Swacch Bharat Abhiyan
FC	Foreign Contribution	SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
FIG	Farmer Interest Group	SEEPRP	Socio-Economic Empowerment with Peace and Reconciliation Project
FPO	Farmer Producer Organisation	SEWA	Self Employed Women's Association
GDP	Gross Domestic Product	SHG	Self Help Group
GEP	Gender Empowerment Project	SMC	School Management Committee
GO	Government Organisation	STEER	Social Transformation, Economic Empowerment and Risk Reduction
Govt	Government	STRV	Stress Tolerant Rice Variety
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus	SUH	Shelter for Urban Homeless
HPPG	Humanitarian Policy and Practice Group	TB	Tuberculosis
IAG	Inter-Agency Group	ToT	Training of Trainers
ICC	Internal Complaints Committee	UELCI	United Evangelical Lutheran Churches in India
IDF	Integrated Development Foundation	VDC	Village Development Committee
IGA	Income Generating Activities	WAWAW	Women's Association on Violence Against Women
INR	Indian Rupees	WBSCCL	West Bengal Swarojgar Corporation Limited
IOC	Indian Oil Corporation		

## Unit Offices

### **Assam Unit**

Lutheran World Service India Trust  
C/O Mrs. Rashmi Narzary  
Rajapara, Ward No. 3  
P.O.: Gossaigaon  
District: Kokrajhar(BTAD), Assam  
Pin Code: 783 360  
Email Id: assam@lws.org

### **Bhubaneswar Unit**

Lutheran World Service India Trust  
Plot No: N1 - 204, IRC Village  
CRPF Square  
Bhubaneswar, Odisha  
Pin Code: 751015  
Email Id: bhubaneswar@lws.org

### **Kendrapada Unit**

Lutheran World Service India Trust  
C/O Dharanidhar Das  
At Patrarajpur, P.O. VIA- Balichandrapur  
District: Jajpur, Odisha  
Pin Code: 754 205  
Email Id: kendrapada@lws.org

### **Balangir Unit**

Lutheran World Service India Trust  
At Jhankarpada, P.O.: Kantabanji  
District: Balangir, Odisha  
Pin Code: 767 039  
Email Id: balangir@lws.org

### **Birbhum Unit**

Lutheran World Service India Trust  
Suri NELC Mission Complex, (S.P.More)  
At Suri, P.O.: Suri  
District: Birbhum, West Bengal  
Pin Code: 731 101  
Email Id: birbhum@lws.org

### **Kolkata Unit**

Lutheran World Service India Trust  
33/7, Muraripukur Road  
Ultadanga Complex  
Kolkata, West Bengal  
Pin Code: 700 067  
Email Id: kolkata@lws.org

### **Bankura Unit**

Lutheran World Service India Trust  
House of Sailen Shane (1<sup>st</sup> Floor)  
At Shanapalli, P.O.: Kenduadihi  
District: Bankura, West Bengal  
Pin Code: 722 102  
Email Id: bankura@lws.org

### **Kalahandi Unit**

Lutheran World Service India Trust  
C/O Prakash Chandra Patnaik  
Ramnagarpada, Ward No. 2,  
P.O.: Bhawanipatna  
District: Kalahandi, Odisha  
Pin Code: 766 001  
Email Id: kalahandi@lws.org

### **Mayurbhanj Unit**

Lutheran World Service India Trust,  
At Shilpunji,  
PO: Bangriposi  
District: Mayurbhanj, Odisha  
Pin Code: 757 032  
Email Id: mayurbhanj@lws.org

## Our Partners



**SOUMYA BHATTACHARYYA MEMORIAL TRUST**

**Lutheran World Service India Trust is a member of**



### Address

84, Dr. Suresh Sarkar Road, Kolkata-700 014

Phone: +91 33 2284 9200/9730/9731 Website: [www.lwsit.org](http://www.lwsit.org)

Email: [aedkishore@lwsit.org](mailto:aedkishore@lwsit.org)