



LUTHERAN WORLD SERVICE INDIA TRUST

Empowering the last, the least and the 10st

e-News Letter

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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 programme arm of Lutheran World Federation/ Department of World Service in 1974 offering relief services to the refugees of the 1971 Bangladesh War of Independence.

The organization works on issues of Sustainable Livelihoods, Community Resilience, Education and Health with Gender and Peace as cross-cutting themes. It's development work is concentrated in the states of Assam, West Bengal, Odisha and Jharkhand, while it responds to disasters on a pan-India basis.

INSIDE STORIES

IT'S TIME FOR NATURE:
WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY
2020

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“The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.” ~ *Lamentations 3:22-23*

For Internal Circulation Only

EDITORIAL: World Environment Day 2020

THEME: CELEBRATE BIODIVERSITY

The food we eat, the air we breathe, the water we drink and the climate that makes our planet habitable all comes from the Nature. Yet, these are exceptional times in which nature is sending us a message: To care for ourselves we must care for nature.

*It's time to wake up! To take notice! To raise our voices! It's time to build back
For People and Planet.*

This World Environment Day, it's Time for Nature.

The UN Environment Programme (UNEP) annually organizes events for World Environment Day, which encourages worldwide awareness and action for the protection of the environment. It is celebrated on every 5th of June in over 100 countries. The theme for World Environment Day 2020 was, 'Time for Nature,' with a focus on its role in providing the essential infrastructure that supports life on Earth and human development. This focus is expected to provide an opportunity for driving the momentum and public awareness of nature as a key aspect in the lead up to the 15th meeting of the Parties (COP 15) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). COP 15 was expected to take place in October 2020, but will be rescheduled for 2021, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

On June 5th of every year, we observe World Environment Day, so that we are reminded about how precious our environment is. The UN General Assembly had established World Environment Day (WED) in 1972 after discussions on the integration of human interactions and the environment during the first day of the Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment. And it was after two years that the first WED was held with the theme 'Only One Earth'. Celebrations were held annually from 1974 to mark the day, and then in 1987 it was decided that the Centre for the activities should be rotated so that different countries can host it.

World Environment Day (WED) was celebrated on 5th June 2020 in some of the Project Units of LWSIT. Witnessing the ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic situation across all the projects, Environment Day was observed by maintaining social distancing among programs' attendees. Several restrictions were imposed by district administration as well as local authorities. Amidst the COVID-19 Pandemic challenges, the message and importance of this year's Environment Day was shared with community people to sensitize them and take appropriate measures to protect the environment in order to save the planet. It was highlighted that, a small action at the local level have greater impact at the global level.



Mayurbhanj Unit organized the program for avenue plantation by collecting the saplings by the people to mark the occasion. Children, women & men took part in drawing focusing on the theme '**My Environment My Dream**'. School Teachers, representatives of the Local Self-Government such as Sarpanch, Ward Member, ASHA and other Social Leaders were among the guests who joined the program and graced the occasion. Altogether 164 Men, 142 Women and 85 Children in 10 communities covering 18 CBO/SHGs took active part in the Program. Over 200 saplings of local species especially the Neem, Karanja, Krushna Chuda & Arjun were planted by the participants on both the sides of the road.

Kalahandi Unit observed the WED by involving people from 12 operational communities. 50 women and 25 male representatives from these communities those attended the program took oath to use waste land through tree plantation program, thereby to save the mother earth. For them, it is essentially required to go for massive tree plantation, which will protect the environment and combat the negative effects of climate change.



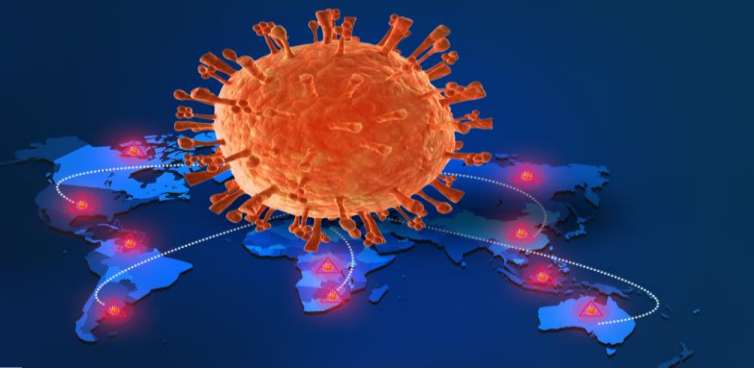
Balangir Unit organized programs to observe the WED with the involvement of community people (women 50 and men 20) from 10 communities, SHG/CBO representatives and leaders, Ward Member, OLM (CRP & MBK) and Mahasangha leaders. During the program, people were motivated to plant trees in uncultivable waste land at their respective communities. It was observed in Kendrapada Unit where emphasis was given on green and clean environment, planting trees and to promote the Bio-Diversity.

Birbhum Unit observed WED where emphasis was given on the significance of protecting the Mother Earth, combating climate change, stop exploitation of natural resources, etc. By the end of the program, women from two SHGs carried out mango tree plantation in their respective communities.



Bankura Unit also observed WED where 35 men and 39 women of 15 groups from 5 communities attended the program. During the occasion, 100 no. of Mahogany saplings and 50 no. of Neem saplings distributed among migrant workers and SHG members for mass plantation.

LWSIT 's RESPONSE TO COVID -19 PANDEMIC



The outbreak of COVID-19 Pandemic has already caused havoc damage to human lives, livelihood and threat to human existence from global to local levels. The COVID-19 pandemic has led to severe global socio-economic disruptions, the postponement or cancellation of sporting, religious, political and cultural events, and widespread shortages of supplies exacerbated by panic buying. Schools, Universities and colleges are closed. It has affected 213 countries across the globe and millions have been affected, while hundreds of thousands of people lost their lives due to this killer disease. India is not exception to this pandemic and the disease has hit the country ever since Indian diasporas or its own people start landing from abroad.

It is reported that, every day the number of infected persons and number death due to COVID-19 is spiking up. Unless, there is availability of vaccine or medicine, it is really difficult to control the disease and only time will say when it is possible to control the disease and bring down the number of positive cases as well as death toll to zero. Nevertheless, it is true that, we all have to live with Coronavirus disease while adopting all precautionary and preventive measures at individual, family, work place, public place etc., level and reduce the spread of virus by maintaining social distancing.



As far as LWSIT is concerned, during the second quarter of 2020, there are several programs have been implemented by organizing a number of awareness programs at individual, household and community level to protect, prevent and control the Coronavirus Disease. With awareness generation, sensitization and training programs, people in partner communities understood the Do's and Don'ts related to Coronavirus, frequent hand washing, personal hygiene, using of masks and maintaining social distancing, etc., the spread of the transmission of virus can be reduced. If the symptoms such as coughing, sneezing, constant fever, etc., being observed with any of the family members or in the community, it is important that, they must consult with doctor immediately, but not shy away.





There are 20 Children of Child Care Institute (CCI) and their family members also received food materials, hygiene kits and face mask to use to combat the Coronavirus Disease. Besides, Hygiene Kits were distributed to the vulnerable and underprivileged families in most of the Project Units of LWSIT. While 1,000 kits have been distributed to the same number of families in Assam Unit, the distribution of Hygiene Kits in other Units consist of; 500 families in Kolkata Unit and 200 families in Bankura district of West Bengal.

Most of the LWSIT projects viz. STEER –Mayurbhanj, Kendrapada, Bankura, Balangir and Kalahandi Units; GEP – Kolkata and Bhubaneswar Units, DSSQC – Birkhum Unit and CAP-R – Assam Unit have mobilized the IEC materials in form of leaflets from Govt. Health and Family Welfare Dept. in local language and shared with communities for their understanding and practicing. LWSIT staff constantly insisting communities to follow the Govt.

Similarly, there are 500 families in Bhubaneswar, 500 in Cuttack Slums (GEP Bhubaneswar Unit), 200 families in Balangir, 200 families in Kalahandi, 200 families in Kendrapada and 200 families in Mayurbhanj districts of Odisha have received the Hygiene Kits. Besides, there are 9,437 Face Masks have been distributed to the families in these Units. As a whole there are 165 communities, 5,649 families covering total population of 20,784 have been benefitted from April to June 2020.

Advisories and Guidelines issued from time to time, but to refrain from trusting any rumors, and not to share any wrong information related to COVID-19 without verifying the authenticity. Staff also informed to communities that, electronic and print media are sharing many good information and practices related to COVID-19, so the same information can be adopted to reduce the transmission of virus.

The resource partners such as ELCA, Normisjon, ACT Church of Sweden and JELA have directly/ indirectly supported to combat the COVID-19 Pandemic situation by the people in operational communities of LWSIT.

In order to curb the COVID-19 Pandemic in project operational areas, LWSIT has provided various materials during nationwide lockdown period. These includes; cooked food to 56 SUH Inmates (Women-30 and Men-26) in Ultadanga complex under Kolkata Unit; dry rations/ food materials to 320 families in Kolkata Slums and 1,000 families in Assam Unit.



LWSIT 'S RESPONSE TO SUPER CYCLONE AMPHAN

The fiercest cyclone to hit West Bengal in recent memory battered the state for over nine hours on 20th May 2020 (Wednesday) with a peak speed of 155 kmph gusting upto 185 kmph , claiming the death toll of 72 people and leaving behind a trail of destruction across half a dozen in South Bengal districts. The cyclone has caused huge damages of the food items stored by the poor slum people at their family, damage to their hutments and household properties.

Upon receiving of the information through various sources on the formation and movement of Cyclone 'Amphan' at Bay of Bengal, LWSIT shared such information with the people soonest. This made people aware of the situation and remained alert to the

cyclonic storm. Consequently, they incurred less damage due to cyclone, which is indeed a good effort.

In the city of Kolkata, there were 15 communities those are part of GEP Kolkata Unit have been badly affected by the cyclone 'Amphan'. While the people in these communities have already struggling for their survival due to COVID-19 Pandemic situation, the onset of cyclone further added woo and made the live further miserable to recovered from the ruin.

Under this challenging situation, LWSIT could able to provide immediate life-saving and life sustaining measures those were affected by cyclone with the resource support from ELCA through the project 'Humanitarian Assistance to the Poor Slum of WB.



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 Ultadanga Complex - Kolkata Unit

Sponsored by: ELCA
 for
 Humanitarian Assistance to the Poor Slum People
 Affected by Cyclone 'Amphan' in Kolkata
 June 2020

- Food Materials Assistance (Rice, Dal, Mustard Oil and Soy Chunk)
- Shelter Materials - High Quality Silpaulin Sheets (Large Size)

Items:

Food Security for 600 families	Unit	Value
Boiled Rice - 20 kgs per family	Kg	5,40,000
Pulses (Lentil Dal) - 2 kgs per family	Kg	1,44,000
Cooking Oil (Mustard Oil) - 1 litre per family	Liter	72,000
Soya Chunk (Nutrella) - 1 kg per family	Kg	72,000
Shelter and Settlements for 600 families		
High Quality silpaulin Sheets for the hutments of 600 families	pr	4,56,000

There were 700 households were prioritized from among the many other families and provided relief assistance to meet the urgent food and shelter needs. Food materials such as Rice, Lentil Dal, Edible Oil and Soy Chunk (Nutrela) being provided as food materials to 700 families, while high quality UV protected large size Silpaulin Sheets were provided to 600 families to cover the damaged houses or making temporary shelter arrangement till they rebuild their houses.

By providing this support, there are 3,339 persons (Women- 1195, Men-1322, Girls-377, Boys-445) have been directly benefitted and ensured the food security needs for more than 15 days, while all the 600 families have used the temporary shelter materials and protect their families from sun and rain. All of them have expressed their gratitude towards LWSIT for the timely assistance and standing with them at difficult time. Most of them expressed that, 'We will never forget LWSIT for the support they have provided to us, which has helped in two ways i.e., recovering from cyclone 'Amphan' and reduce the sufferings from COVID-19 Pandemic situation.

We are really benefitted and thankful to LWSIT for their help'.



TRAINING/WORKSHOP/MEETING/PROGRAMS CONDUCTED:

- Mr. Kishore Kumar Nag, AED had attended zoom meeting with Ms. Ingrid and Marianne of Normisjon in regard to DSSQC Project on 2nd June 2020
- The AED also attended the zoom meeting with OD Consultant along with Acting President on 17th& 19th June 2020 to submit the final OD report at the earliest. He had also attended the ELCA Partners meeting through Zoom on 30th June 2020 related to COVID-19 Pandemic situation and response program
- The AED attended Relief distribution program on 18th and 22nd June 2020 at Kolkata Unit for the CCI Children and COVID-19&Cyclone 'Amphan' affected people.
- The AED and Emergency Manager had attended the zoom meetings with ACT India Forum Members several times during the quarter in regard to either for ACT RRF or Global Sub-Appeal for COVID-19 Pandemic. They had also attended the Webinar on COVID-19 with ACT India Forum Members as the zoom meeting was organized by NCCI.
- During the period of nation-wide lockdown, there were several meetings organized through Tele-conference call, Skype call and Google meet among the National Office staff and Project Units, MC Meetings, Procurement Meetings, etc. being held.

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