

## E-Newsletter

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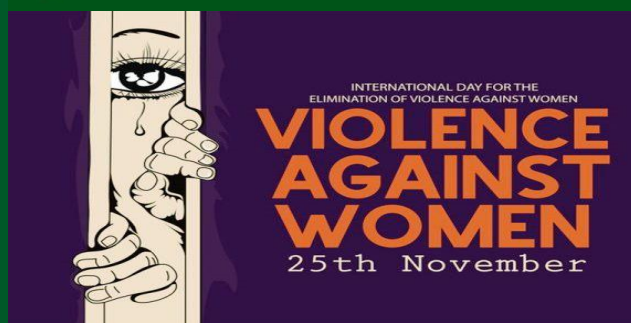
### *Lutheran World Service India Trust*

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

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

 **16 DAYS of Activism**  
for no violence against Women and Children



## PROJECT UPDATES

## MEETINGS, TRAININGS, WORKSHOPS & PROGRAMS!





Since 1991, from 25<sup>th</sup> November (International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women) until 10<sup>th</sup> December (Human Rights Day), the international community has observed the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence. The dates are significant, underscoring that violence against women is a violation of human rights.

UNFPA's 16 Days of Activism campaigns have raised awareness, mobilized advocacy and inspired action to combat gender-based violence in its many forms: sexual harassment, child marriage, female genital mutilation, intimate partner violence and rape, among other atrocities.

In support of this civil society initiative, the United Nations Secretary-General launched in 2008 the campaign UNiTE by 2030 to End Violence against Women, which runs parallel to the 16 Days of Activism. This year, the theme is: **“UNITE! Activism to end violence against Women and Girls”** and more specifically **“Ending Femicide”** by spotlighting certain groups of women who are more vulnerable.



**Lutheran World Service India Trust**  
observed and celebrated 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence (GBV) across various projects not only to increase awareness and sensitize communities but also to promote the safety of women and children as far as possible

In **GEP Bhubaneswar Unit**, the WAVAW (Women's Association on Violence Against Women) Club took the initiatives to organize the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence program and demonstrated their leadership skills in many ways.



On 25<sup>th</sup> November, **GEP Kolkata unit** celebrated the 16 Days Activism for elimination of violence against women. The community did role-plays on the rights and the processes of raising voices of Domestic Workers. Human Rights Day was also observed involving SUH inmates which was very important for the 42 homeless people as they do not know about human rights and Government protocols.

Observation of 16 Days Activism to End Gender Based Violence was organized at Hial village of Turekela Block in the **STEER Balangir Unit**. Various events were carried out, which emphasized the need to end the violence against women and girls.

The 16 Days Activism Programs were organized at four different venues in the **STEER Bankura Unit**. Street Rallies, Role Plays, etc. were conducted emphasizing the Importance of girl's education and women empowerment. Importance was also given to the values of women in our society, every woman to earn and be self-reliant, earning respect both at home and outside.



## 16 DAYS of ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER BASED VIOLENCE in PROJECT UNITS

Campaign programs were organized in different communities in the **STEER KALAHANDI UNIT** with different activities. There were Focus Group Discussions with youth about the gender based violence and the role of society to minimize the violence. A debate was also organized among women about their empowerment and role of SHGs in the community. All were encouraged to raise their voices on violence against women.



The 16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence was observed in different districts of the **STEER KENDRAPARA UNIT**, the main objective of which was to sensitize the people on prevention of violence against women and girls.



The Elimination of Violence against Women was observed in different Communities at the **STEER MAYURBHANJ UNIT**. They highlighted discriminations of all sorts as social crimes which are against Human Rights. They discussed resolving dowry, family disturbances especially torture of newly married women in the In-Law's house, Early marriage proposals of Girls, enrolling girls in higher education and bringing down drop-out rates & irregularity in schools etc.

**CAP-R Assam Unit** organised programs for the 16 Days of Activism in its operational areas, to change the negative narrative against Gender Based violence. There is a growing awareness among the general public to stand against gender based violence. The women leadership are emerging to speak against the discrimination perpetuated against them.

## PROGRAMS in ASSAM

### **Transboundary Flood Resilience Project in South Asia, Assam:**

The project, supported by Evangelical Lutheran Church In America (ELCA) is being implemented in the Kokrajhar district of Assam for the needs of 30 of the most vulnerable and multi-hazard prone communities situated in the Brahmaputra River basin tributaries. It helps them to effectively manage the flood disasters, and is aimed to ensure early warning information as received from RARS (Regional Agriculture Research Station) and other sources in the state of Assam.



### **Humanitarian Assistance for the flood-affected vulnerable people in Assam (supported by Act Alliance):**



The two waves of floods in Assam, in June 2022, caused massive inundation and damages to lives and property, affecting around 5,542,053 people in 5,577 villages. Considering the needs of flood-affected families, LWSIT provided relief materials in Kokrajhar and Chirang districts of Assam with the help of ACT Alliance through its Rapid Response Funding (RRF) mechanism such as Food Items, NFIs, Temporary Shelter materials and WASH/ Hygiene Kits to 812 families, which benefitted 3,515 individuals in 87 communities.

## PEACE FESTIVAL



The Festival was held on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2022 in conjunction with the **International Day of Peace** (that was on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2022). The theme of United Nations International Day of Peace was “End Racism. Build Peace”. There were around 400 men and women participants including children from 60 communities from four zones of the project operational areas. The overall objective was to bring people together from diverse cultures and origins, education and religion to display their cultures and commitment to peace and harmony, unity and solidarity amongst them. The Festival was also dedicated to the absence of discrimination against caste or tribes and the absence of violence in the area. Cultural Dances and Sports were performed by different ethnic groups as part of the unification program and process.



## PROGRAMS in PROJECT UNITS

### **Humanitarian assistance and resilience building among People affected by severe floods in Odisha (supported by ELCA):**

Rural communities in Kendrapada and Jajpur districts as well as slum communities in Cuttack urban city of Odisha were badly affected by the high floods during July and August 2022. With financial resource support from ELCA, LWSIT distributed food materials to 1,600 families covering 28 communities in Kendrapada and Jajpur districts, and 8 urban slums in Cuttack city. LWSIT also provided WASH/Hygiene Kits to 1,550 families and high quality Silpaulin Sheets to 165 families received for temporary shelter.



### **Observation of International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction:**



The International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction was observed on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2022 by the communities in STEER Project, Mayurbhanj Unit to raise awareness for reducing risks and vulnerabilities faced by the people. Environmental care and protection are dire necessities. The climate change has been the significant impact of the exploitation of the environment.

# PROJGRAMS in PROJECT UNITS

## **Workshop and Exposure Visit for Domestic Worker's Association:**

**GEP Bhubaneswar Unit** organized sensitization workshops for Domestic Workers and emphasis was given on asserting the social security schemes from Govt. Dept. which highlighted the status, schemes and legal provisions of unorganised sector workers.



## **Swawlamban Scheme - Batik Print Training (supported by West Bengal Women Development Undertaking):**

There are 25 women from underprivileged communities comprising of Tribal and Dalits attended the Batik Training program which run for four months period. The trainees learnt about the selection of cloths, colour mixing and prepared combined colours, use of wax and paraffin use of brushes, various designs of Batik and Process of tracing of designs on the cloth. The participants has prepared Handkerchiefs, Blouses, Scarfs, Table covers, Sarees, Churidars, etc. The training program was successfully completed on 18<sup>th</sup> November 2022.

## **Asha Kiran Project supported by RILM:**



The Asha Kiran Project was implemented by LWSIT Birbhum Unit to enhance the level of awareness on the importance of education, Right to Education for Children, identifying , bringing back the dropouts and laggard children to the schools by mainstreaming them. During this 1 year education program, 750 Children between 6-14 years of age, were mainstreamed and all of them are currently attending their classes regularly.



## MEETINGS / PROGRAMS / WEBINARS ATTENDED FROM OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 2022

- ED and Manager, Emergency & Program Development attended the AZEECON online meeting on 13th October 2022.
- Resource Partners (Act CoS, Normisjon and ELCA), Office Bearers of Board, ED, Senior Staff at National Office and Project Coordinators from Project Units attended the Strategic Planning (2023-2027) Workshop held at The Hotel Kennilworth on 17th & 18th October
- ED attended the Board Meeting held on 16th December

### *Visits done by ED and Other Staff:*

- ❖ ED visited Birbhum unit along with the Normisjon Team from 11th -13th October
- ❖ ED also visited STEER Balangir and Kalahandi Units along with Ms. Sheila Mallik from Act CoS from 1st to 6th November
- ❖ ED along with other MC Members and Program Coordinator of CAP-R Assam Unit visited Shillong for a Capacity Building program of Staff from 10-12th November
- ❖ ED and Manager, Emergency and Program Development attended the 9<sup>th</sup> India CSR Summit held in Delhi on 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> November
- ❖ ED and GEP Program Coordinator attended the NCCI Diaconia Workshop in Nagpur from 10<sup>th</sup> -12th December

### *Overseas Guests:*

- Ms. Sheila Mallik from Act Church of Sweden visited LWSIT from 17th to 20th October & from 1st to 5th November
- Ms. Ingrid Straume, Rev. Tore Bjørsvik & Mr. Sondre Bjåland Heimvoll from Normisjon visited LWSIT on 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> October



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