NEICORD’s Origin and History

NEICORD existed as a non-denominational evangelical Christian organization, to serve the poor and downtrodden people by providing spiritual and physical aid in the North Eastern part of India.

Since its inception in 1981, NEICORD has a long track record of helping the poor who are victims of natural disasters, poverty, diseases, famine and communal clashes with the purpose of restoring dignity, peace and tranquility in the region. NEICORD also provide vocational training courses to dropout students and support children and their families through community programs.

NEICORD serves and reaches out to the needy communities through the partner churches and organizations in the North Eastern states irrespective of color, race, creed, gender and religion. It desires to ensure that poor people work towards improved lives and livelihoods and have a say for their future that will effect them.

Vision and Mission

NEICORD is a non-profit Christian organization responding to the needs of the poor and marginalized, irrespective of color, race, religion and gender. Our vision and mission reflect this:

Vision : “Community living in harmony with God, one another and environment”

Mission : “We seek to serve, care and work with the poor and the oppressed to promote peace, justice and transformation”

Goals

Goal 1: To unite the people and church to have a compassionate society
Goal 2: To introduce sustainable development and physical wellbeing by empowering communities
Goal 3: To respond, restore and rebuild communities in times of disaster and conflicts

To meet these goals NEICORD engages in the following activities:

• Facilitation of churches and other NGOs to undertake relief and development in a holistic and sustainable manner
• Training of churches and other NGOs in a variety of key topics through effective provision of quality modules designed for North East India
• Provision of good quality resources to churches and NGOs in North East India
• Disaster mitigation and management in North East India
• Sustainable and integrated community development in North East India
• Development of networks and links between Government, NGOs and Churches in North East India
• Development and implementation of peace building processes throughout North East India by capacity building of local communities, organisations and government

NEICORD is registered under the Societies Registration ACT XXI of 1860, under FCRA Act 1976 and also registered under 80G No.36/80G/CIT(TECH)/SHG/10-11/4761-77
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Message from the Executive Director

I am very happy to present the Annual report for the year 2011-2012 to all our stakeholders and prayer partners. The year has been tremendously a successful and a blessing year for NEICORD as we are able to strengthen and intensified our relationship at various levels. Keeping in mind our vision of “community living in harmony with God, one another and environment” we are able to further our networking with state governments, other like-minded NGOs, churches and grass root workers.

Our partnerships with UNDP and state AIDS cells have been strengthened. We are able to organize TOT trainings through which we are able to train church leaders, youth leaders and HIV practitioners. We could reach out and build a very strong relationship with the AIDS widows of Imphal valley through our local partners. TOT guide book was developed and given to trainers in all these states. We had facilitated several trainings at Sikkim, Shillong, Jowai, and Nongpoh, Meghalaya on Disaster Risk Management for the Church and State Government officers of Sikkim and Meghalaya. We had also partnered with Northeastern Space Application Centre for conducting Hazard and Vulnerable Assessment project at Silchar and Dhemaji districts of Assam. We are also able to reach out to more than 17,491 Pastors, key church leaders, youth groups, and Christian development workers in building their capacity for serving the poor.

There is a shift in the way the churches perceived disasters in the region. Many of our partner churches are opened to directly involve in responding towards the Sikkim earthquake relief response and for the Assam flood relief response. Because of this new gesture of the churches, we were able to respond to Sikkim earthquake victims and help build and restore the destroyed church buildings. NEICORD is the first NGO to intervene in the recent Assam flood relief. The regular project reports and highlights are given by each unit in the following pages.

In conclusion, I would like to thank our partners and my team who had tirelessly put their efforts together to achieve our desired goals. May His name by glorified!

Rev. Dr. H.M. Songate
MEMBERSHIP

NEICORD is active member in the following international, national and regional organization. VIVA National and International network, Micah Network, North East India Christian Council, World Prayer Assembly/International Prayer Council, North East Peace Forum and founding member of Micah Challenge India.

AWARD AND RECOGNITION

- Honali SHG from Barigoan village-Jirang Block, Ri Bhoi District has been awarded by NABARD as one of the best SHGs. The awardee was selected as per the criteria set by NABARD. 2 Members from the group received the award on March 2012 at Shillong.
- NEICORD was recognized by UNDP (NACO) as the best performing NGO working with Faith Based Organizations on HIV/AIDS Prevention, Care and Capacity Building Program

NEW NETWORK, PARTNERSHIP & COLLABORATION

ESTABLISHED

- NEICORD is now a member of Inter Agency groups (Sphere) Assam & Meghalaya
- NEICORD is also registered in the NGO Partnership System under Planning Commission Government of India
- NEICORD is also registered with India Country Coordinating Mechanism- GFATM Registration
- Extended working relationship with North Eastern Space Application Centre (NESAC) Meghalaya
- Partnership with Self Employed Women Association (SEWA) Ahmedabad, Gujarat
SEWA on Livelihood Promotion
- EU Registration, EU Commission
- Obtain new registration in India Country Coordinating Mechanism
- Continued working relationship with NABARD on Self Help Group Promoting Institution in Meghalaya

OUR APPROACHES

- NEICORD works with the model of ideal Community, to ensure sustainable transformational development we follow the following approaches in the development work:
  - People's participation
  - Community organization
  - Justice (lobby & advocacy)
  - (Self) sustainability
  - Self-help-groups
• Formal and informal education  
• Exit-strategy  
• Empowerment  
• Networking  
• Volunteerism

COMMUNITY WE WORK WITH

Our ministry is much more challenging as we are dealing with more than 400 different language groups in the region with different types of disasters looming large over the whole region. It is always a challenge fighting these needs with limited resources.

CORE FOCUS OF NEICORD’S MINISTRY

• Training & Capacity Building  
• Integrated Community Development  
• Health and HIV/AIDS  
• Disaster Management  
• Holistic Child Development  
• Peace Building & Conflict Resolution  
• Research & Publication  
• Advocacy & Networking
GOAL 1: UNITING THE PEOPLE AND THE CHURCH TO HAVE A COMPASSIONATE SOCIETY

One of the key strategies of NEICORD is to challenge and encourage churches to participate and involve in the holistic ministry of transformation. To achieve this goal, NEICORD had initiated several activities and opened avenues for churches to move toward this goal. NEICORD intentionally moved towards achieving this goal at different forums and platforms. Its effort multiplied to unite the people and the church to have a compassionate society. These initiatives help the Church to gain better understanding on issues facing today and in turn influence Christian community and the society at large.

PROMOTING INTEGRAL MISSION

Integral message was facilitated in the form of teaching and preaching to 17491 Pastors, key Church leaders, Youth groups, and Christian development workers. NEICORD’s progressive involvement in mobilizing the church to understand Integral Mission had impacted the churches and they now realized the need to strongly involve in serving the poor and speak on behalf of those in distress. As a result, one Pastor vowed to help the poor and needy and also encourage others to do the same after attending such training. Even women are coming forward for a larger involvement in serving the poor.

CERTIFIED COMMUNITY TRANSFORMATION COURSE

Certified Community Transformation Course is 3 credited hours accredited by Martin Luther Christian University. This year the course provided skill to 19 development workers, equipping them to be efficient and effective in serving the poor.

WORKSHOP ON ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Workshop on organizational development was conducted for Goalpara Baptist Church, Assam and Tseminyu Town Baptist Church, Nagaland in order to equip them to be consistent Church in this changing world. Integrated Organizational Model (IOM) approach was adopted in all the sessions.

CLIMATE CHANGE & ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION RISK AND ADAPTATION ASSESSMENT (CEDRA)

NEICORD helped realized the need of church involvement in protecting and preserving the environment and to mobilize the churches for adaptation approach through a workshop on Climate Change and Environmental Degradation Risk & Adaptation Assessment (CEDRA) to 18 church leaders. As a result of this program, “I didn’t
sleep well last night; I got up at 4 am today and worked on project write up for the villages under my Pastorate and will implement as soon as I reach Mizoram” commented a Pastor from Baptist Church of Mizoram. This Pastor already conducted programs on Afforestation, Abstinence from and campaign for avoiding plastic/polythene bags.

**TRAINING OF TRAINER FOR EFFECTIVE FACILITATION**

The need for providing facilitation skills to church leaders has become an important agenda for NEICORD. Pulpit sermon alone is not enough to influence and mobilize Christian community for involvement in serving the poor. Therefore, 19 Church leaders have completed training of trainer course on how to become an effective facilitator. The course provided skills on training design and facilitation. Method on ‘Learning to Listen, Learning to Teach’ is adopted.

**DISASTER MANAGEMENT TRAINING**

Preparing community for disaster is in the priority list. Therefore, NEICORD expanded its capacity building involvement at a higher level by providing disaster management skills to 343 government officers including MCS/EAC, BDO’s, Medical practitioner, Engineers, particularly from Meghalaya state and 85 Church leaders from different states of the Northeast India.

**LEADERSHIP AND MANAGERIAL PROFICIENCY COURSE FOR PLHA**

It is NEICORD’s mission to work with the oppressed and promote justice and transformation. NEICORD not only involved in providing care and support to PLHA but also in building the capacity of 27 People Living with HIV/AIDS to qualify them for managerial positions in related NGOs.

**CHILD SPONSORSHIP**

Once again we are happy to say that we have been able to spend quality time with our sponsored children. Five volunteers from Women’s College, Shillong interacted with the sponsored children and their parents. They spoke to them the importance of giving time and building strong parent-child relationship. The volunteers talked about puberty to the parents and students above 12 years. They also had fun playing games, drawing and singing with the children. The volunteers identified that due to parents’ lack of knowledge some of them could not monitor and provide home teaching to their children in their studies.

**Celebration:**
Advent Christmas was celebrated with the sponsored children on 19th December 2011. Some of the sponsors, Mr. Tony Marak, Mrs. Pearly Marak and Mrs. Roselyn Dkhar spent a wonderful time with the children. Christmas gifts (Cap & Muffler and Dabur Chavanprash) were
given to the children. Mrs. Pearly and Mrs. Roselyn taught the children Christmas songs; Mr. Tony Marak said a prayer for the children and a light refreshment was arranged for the participants. The church members also involved in the celebration.

On March 2012, stationery items, uniforms, books and school fees were given to the children. Health check up was also conducted for the children.

**RESEARCH & PUBLICATION**

The following study, survey and research projects were initiated this year:

- **Study on Effective implementation of Common Minimum Programs** in Jirang Block, Meghalaya and Goalpara Assam. Follow up of the findings are done by the program unit.
- **Prevalence of Child Labor in Shillong, Meghalaya.** This was done with a purpose of strengthening the child sponsorship program in the region.
- **Study the life style of students in Shillong.** The study was conducted with a view to incorporate findings with Health and HIV&AIDD project.
- **Hazard Risk Vulnerability Assessment from flood** with North Eastern Space Application Centre (NESAC), Government of India was conducted. The main objective of the project is to collect 2250 sample data from Silchar and 5100 from Dhemaji respectively and assess vulnerability of the target areas from flood disaster. The project is funded by NESAC.
- **Research on Holistic Child Development at Byrnihat, Meghalaya:** With a view to extend local child sponsorship a new field was agreed upon. To ensure SMART program in Holistic Child Development the research was conducted.

**GOAL 2: EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES THROUGH SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND PHYSICAL WELL BEING**

NEICORD, with the support of its partners is moving forward with best effort towards achieving sustainable development by working alongside the poor and vulnerable tribal communities living in northeast India. 9 Integrated Community Development projects covering 548 Villages benefited by 234425 population from 29707 household across 6 states of the northeast by involving communities and churches on addressing issues related to HIV&AIDS and by ensuring food security, increased income, improved health condition, leadership development functional literacy. 258 SHGs under NEICORD’s projects have saved Rs 2075748 lakhs during the year.
**PROJECT RAPHAEL (HIV & AIDS Project)**

NEICORD is witnessing progressive positive impacts and attitudinal change of Northeast India churches towards HIV & AIDS and PLHA. To enhance the impact, NEICORD had also introduced UMOJA Approach (the spirit of togetherness), qualifying church leaders to be an affective trainer and self discovery assessment tools etc.

We work in partnership with 51 churches of the Northeast India covering 17 districts in the states of Manipur, Nagaland, Mizoram and Meghalaya. The followings are the achievement of the year with Tearfund UK Support:

- 43 trainings on life skill development, career counselling, stigma & discrimination etc conducted
- Link 150 PLHA with Churches in the northeast
- Five exposure trips organised for partner churches
- Conducted research on female sex workers, role of Churches in Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Nagaland. Children of parents living with HIV assessment was also conducted
- 24 church leaders’ workshops conducted
- 8 partners’ consultation conducted
- 300 visits by speakers and PLHA in churches
- Printed and disseminated 30000 posters, 10000 pamphlets and 20000 bookmarks
- 3 baseline survey conducted for partner churches
- PLHA fellowships conducted
- Life fountain centre, a separate ministry of Alempang Church and Eliyo Ministry( Hope) by Lotha Baptist Church continue their ministry for PLHA
- Churches set up separate budget for HIV&AIDS
- HIV&AIDS program included in the church yearly calendar
- Developed and published 150 copies of HIV and Your Community Facilitator’s Guide
- 175 church leaders have successfully completed UMOJA training in Nagaland with 5 partner churches Rengma Baptist Church, Angami Baptist Church, Chang Baptist Church, Peren Baptist Church and Lotha Baptist Church.

**EMBRACE AIDS**

NEICORD with its 5 partner churches in Shillong conducted Skill training program for CSW and PLHA which is another result oriented approach to empower PLHA and enhance their skill for their own development. The following are the key achievements during the year with the support from Christian Reformed World Relief Committee (CRWRC) USA:
• Developed & printed posters/pamphlets, Red Ribbon badge, publication of articles, hoardings
• Conducted Poster campaign, Street awareness
• Radio talks and Campaign through music, skit, etc.
• Arranged church visits, partner Churches visit new churches for mobilization, church visit by speakers & PLHAs, home visits.
• Observation of important days like World AIDS day, World AIDS Sunday and World Orphan Day.
• 3250 Church members sensitized
• 183 Church leaders trained
• 5 Churches involved in care and support
• Campaign Posters prepared by local churches
• Setting up of counseling centre and Coffee House
• Churches provided nutritional support to PLHA out of their collection
• Churches included HIV program in their year calendar

Another approach that enhanced rapid attitudinal changes on HIV&AIDS is “A joint UN HIV Prevention and Care Program’ with NACO Regional Office for Church Leaders Training on Prevention and Care. Key achievements under UNDP support:

• 347 key church leaders attended training program on prevention and care, stigma and discrimination which helped them realize their priestly roles
• Building strong relationship with the mainline church have impacted the Christian community to move forward in response to HIV&AIDS
• NEICORD identified 6 local churches in Manipur, Mizoram and Nagaland who fully involved in strengthening and building capacity of other local churches
• In all the states, the Church Leaders declared resolutions for immediate implementation by the churches
• Baseline survey on training need was conducted for the partner churches. On the basis of the survey result, training of trainer module was developed.

PATHARKHAMAH COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

This Project was initiated in the year 2009 at Ri Bhoi District, Meghalaya. The project is supported by CRWRC and Food Resource Bank (FRB). The following are key achievements of the year-

• 62 adolescents trained on good citizenship and on moral education
• 3 federations registered under Society Act and are functioning as Community Based Organization in the area.
• 2 federations have set up and constructed their own offices in two clusters with the support from the Block Development Officer, Jirang Block
• 702 children under 5 years of age participated in the monthly growth monitoring program
• 1374 members were capacitated in leadership, health, literacy and economic development
• Three federations have set up their capacity indicators to achieve community transformation
• 400 mothers were trained on colostrums and exclusive breast feeding, and complimentary feeding
• 52 SHGs and 3 federations are running their saving program independently
• 21 weaving houses were constructed in three villages with the support from Sericulture Department, Government of Meghalaya.

Transformation Stories

Patharkhamah Community Development Project (PCDP) works toward building community’s capacity and also toward empowering communities to be self sustainable. Since its intervention in the year 2000, PCDP continued striving in building the people and bringing them out of their shell in order to help them realized, understood and bring them in the light that God has a plan for each and every one of them to have a possibility to do great things for present and also for the future. In order to achieve this goal the project strengthen the community in enhancing physical, mental and spiritual development.

The formation of the People’s Institution has helped in bringing the community together with the shared vision and sense of responsibility towards their community. Looking back to the previous years, the people focussed on their own benefit and development only. This has resulted in the backwardness and poverty of the people with no basic facilities like health, education, livelihood opportunities and lack of leaders to lead the community in the right path. Initially, the people never get accessed to health care, this is due to the remoteness of the area, children dropout from school due to poverty and the illiterate adult never get the chance to educate themselves and business is an individual affair where people need to think and do by themselves.
The Self Help Group and People’s Institution formation has helped in uniting the people, focussing on one goal that is to bring about a social change which included physical, mental and spiritual change. The community now realized that unity is strength and if they continue to think only for themselves they will never grow. The scenario in the project area is now changed from self centered to community centered, they started thinking for the benefits of the community as a whole and not individually. As a result of this, many facilities has been improved in the community like schools and child enrollment has increased, adult now get the opportunity to learn and become literate and to continue their literacy skill through the community libraries that has been set up in 3 clusters. Business opportunity has increased as people come together to save and support one another, this has further resulted in increased in the standard of living of the people. Moreover, leaders are now capacitated and they fulfilled their roles and accepted by the community. Women in the leadership level have increased, more women are included in the community decision making and their voices are heard by everyone. Adolescent were trained and mentored by the leaders to become good citizen. Health condition has improved in the community as a result of health teaching and networking. This change in the community get the attention of other people and they often visit and meet with the community to learn from them and replicate the same.

**FOOD SECURITY PROJECT**

The Food Security Project was initiated in Ri Bhoi District, Meghalaya in the year 2009. The project is supported by CRWRC and FRB.

Project Achievements:

- 521 farmers directly benefited from the program
- 112 farmers practiced System of Rice Intensification (SRI) method
- Yield of rice increased to 1320 kg per acre from SRI practice compared to the yield from conventional practice of 720 per acre
- 78 farmers practiced Sloping Agriculture Land Technology (SALT)
- 307 farmers practiced home/kitchen gardens which resulted in increased nutritional consumption and raising additional income in the family
- 16049 kg of variety of vegetables have been harvested from home gardens
- 68 farmers have practice low cost composting
- 81 farmers shared their success story on SRI to other farmers, as a result of which 132 farmers are now interested in SRI method.
- 98 farmers are interested in practicing SALT method through the success stories shared by the farmers
- 78 SALT farmers received NFT seed from the project
- 112 SRI farmers received paddy seed from the project

**Case Study**

Pherlin Ripnar, 25 years of age is a farmer from Patharkhmah village. He lives with his wife and 4 month old son. He is from a poor family, his parents depended solely on cultivation for their livelihood to raise their children. He completed up to 12th standard only, since his family could not support him anymore for further study due to poverty. As a farmer he has his own land which his parents had given him for cultivation to earn his livelihood. In 2009, he joined as a member in the Latnoilang Farmers’ club at Patharkhmah and was regularly attending the farmers’ monthly meeting which really motivated him to attend the various trainings organized by the project like SRI, SALT, kitchen garden and low cost compost. After attending the training in 2010, he started practicing SRI, kitchen garden and low cost compost in his field. Initially, he practiced conventional practice for paddy cultivation and his yield from conventional practices ranges 700-800 kg out of one acre of land. In 2010, he adopted SRI practice wherein his rice yield increases to 1320 kg out of one acre of land. As a farmer he adopted SRI for three varieties of rice that is Sahsarang-1, local rice (red rice) and sticky rice. He is the first farmer to practice SRI for local rice and sticky rice. He has set an example to other farmers that SRI can be practiced with any rice. As a result of this, his yield from these three varieties of rice has increased and improved his food security in the family as well as earn extra income for his family from the sale of extra yield. This harvesting period he could earn Rs.4250/- from rice. On August 2, 2011 he was also awarded cash prize of Rs.1000/- by the Indian Council for Agriculture and Research (ICAR) for his hard work and good SRI practice. He was also one of the farmers who had been invited by this office to share his success story on SRI and to encourage other farmers from other districts of Meghalaya for adoption of SRI.
Initially, after rice harvesting, the land is laid vacant for 5-6 months till the next sowing period, but now after he harvested the paddy he used the land to grow vegetables. At present, he is growing Tomato, Broccoli, Lettuce, Cabbage, Pumpkin, Corn, Capsicum and Bean which will be harvested in the month of April.

In 2010, he also practiced low cost compost which he learnt from the training organized by the project. At present he used his own compost for his SRI and kitchen garden. He hoped to continue the good work and he would also like to encourage the other farmers to start practicing what they have learnt from the trainings.

"I never expected that I could learn new method of cultivation and improve the farming practices. The project has been a blessing for us farmers; through this project we farmers could improve our cultivation method and yield increased. I hope to further improve my skill and continue practicing everything that I learnt from the project."

~ Pherlin Ripnar

**CHURACHANDPUR AREA INTEGRATED COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT**

This project has completed 6 years of intervention. The focus of the project is to ensure food security. The followings activities are achieved with the support of World Relief Canada during the year:

- 200 farmers trained on right to food and land
- 250 farmers and village level leaders are capacitated on NRM and climate change adaptation
- 13 model SALT farmers supported and promoted
- 65 farmers practiced backyard nutrition gardens (FAITH);
- 13 villages have Community Resource Persons who are TOT on SALT, SRI and organic farming
- 13 Villages developed food policy
- 13 villages library research on food security conducted
- SHG federation initiated and strengthened
- Right to food campaign Posters put up in 13 villages
- 200 farmers preserved indigenous seed using traditional method
- Local level alliance building and networking with village based civil society organization, women group, SHG’s, farmers club, churches and student body.
- 2 farmers mela organized. The Mela gave the SHG’s opportunity to showcase their product and also earn income
Case Study

People’s Initiative for Development (PID)

In areas of oppression, poverty or high rates of illiteracy people often pull together to make positive changes in their community and as well as individual lives. The ‘school of hard knocks’ has shown people that there is strength in number and it often takes community wide action to bring around positive changes. With the support of World Relief Canada a food security project is being implemented in Manipur, one of the northeastern states of India through partnership of NEICORD and RWUS (Rural Women Upliftment Society). They not only reach out to women group but empower people who are downtrodden with poverty, violence, illiteracy or lack of good service from a weak government. Due to lack of any democratically elected local municipal officials, in each of the 13 villages RWUS facilitated the election of Village Development Councils (VDC). Two representatives from these VDCs sit on an Area Development Council (ADC) that oversees a cluster of villages and in turn their apex body is called People’s Initiative for Development (PID).

World Relief Canada’s support and RWUS’ assistance to the community has to come to an end one day, so it is imperative that there should be a local empowered body that will help in discerning what the villagers desired in terms of development and to take the lead to ensure it happened, in spite of limited government services, local rebel groups, and diverse tribes speaking different languages all living in close neighborhoods.

The People’s Development Initiative (PID) council has a healthy representation of about 40% women in a male dominated society. The Indian government has instituted many good social service programs for the poor such as subsidized food grain stores for those classed as poor and a rural employment scheme that should be administered by local authorities in the dry season. This is in addition to health and education programs. The council reported that they help in giving oversight to the project and ensure that progress can be made. They also look at a number of additional development projects. With RWUS’ help horticulture production has gone up in the villages and vegetables and fruits were transported to the market for selling. In their wait for jeeps under the scorching heat or rain, the people realized the need for waiting shelter. This is the most current issue the PID is taking up with the District government. There have been cases of favouritism in the distribution of ration cards for access to subsidized food grains; the council is lobbying in this front to ensure that the poor people of the community get the card and food they are entitled to.
Knowledge and information lead to development so the council happily relayed that through RWUS they come to know about Backward Region Grant Fund, an Indian government program under which they could apply projects like small irrigation canals, culverts or reservoirs. The village of Valpakawt discussed with the council their big need for a well and they planned to dig one.

The P1D council beamed with new-found confidence and success commenting on how some strong achievements with skilful applications, persistent follow-up and advocacy at different levels of government were made. The Vice-Chair commented “RWUS helped us in forming this group, since then we thought of what we could do, the need of the villages; looked at the strengths and weaknesses of us and the community and we have learned skills on how to assess and analyze a situation, so all these helped us.”

**URBAN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT**

The project is funded by CRWRC. The project works in Pynthorum-krah of Myllem Jirang Block in East Khasi Hills District, Meghalaya. In the past years of intervention, NEICORD could form 14 Self Help Groups. 106 children were monitored through the growth monitoring program, 107 members were capacitated in leadership, health and economic development and 20 group members benefited from the functional literacy.

**Case Study**

The Nangiaisan Self Help Group which was formed by NEICORD under the Urban Community Development Project is a group of 14 women from Pynthorba, Shillong. This group was formed on 28th April 2008. The aim of this group is to come together and work as a group in helping one another to raise the standard of living with one understand and unity. All members of this group fall under BPL family. The group held meetings 4 times a month for saving and also discussing issues related to health, literacy and income activities. The group members attended various capacity building trainings such as concept of SHG, role and functions, book keeping, managing finance, leadership, management, health, literacy and skills training.

The group saved Rs. 15/- per week (i.e. Rs. 60/- per month) and Rs. 5/- is being contributed by the members every month for meeting the running expenses of the group like
stationery, tea during meeting, etc. This group opened a bank account in Meghalaya Rural Bank, Golf Link Branch. After every collection the members deposit their savings in the bank. The group also practiced internal lending for its members. The internal lending helped the members of the group to avail loan with low interest and also encouraged them to take up small businesses to supplement their family income.

As the Nangiaisan SHG members come from a poor family, they could not attend school at all. But now, the members get an opportunity to enroll themselves in the Literacy program organized by the Project. Their literacy program has helped the members to run the group, maintain records and to do bank transactions. At present all the members can read, write and sign their names. The group members have also participated in the growth monitoring and nutritional program like kitchen garden.

In 2010, the members were trained in handicraft and tailoring by the government through network and linkage of the project. After the training they were able to avail a subsidy loan of Rs. 25,000 from the Block Development Officer to enable them to start income generating activities. With this loan, the group set up a small unit on handicraft for income generation of its members. The group was also registered under District Commerce and Industrial Centre, Government of Meghalaya as entrepreneur and have attained the entrepreneur certificate. Through this department they were able to participate in various exhibitions at the state and national level and a health insurance for all the members. This year the group again was selected for the second grading where they have been selected to avail the second subsidy loan of Rs. 50,000/- to further upgrade their activities.

The Nangiaisan SHG has been a model SHG for the urban project; they have been invited by many other organizations as facilitators in skill training and to share their success story.

“As a group we are very happy with the progress we have made. We never expected that we could come to this level. Now we believe that unity is strength. If we were not in a group we would not reached this far. SHG has helped us in understanding the spirit of teamwork, good management, stewardship leadership, good health practices, it has also given us the opportunity to learn, read and write and had created in us a habit of saving. As a group we are determined to move forward to achieve our desired goal.”

~ Members of the Nangiaisan SHG
KHUMOLUZUNG INTEGRATED COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

The project is supported by Tear Australia. The project is implemented in Tseminyu under Kohima District, Nagaland. The project is working in partnership with Tseminyu Town Baptist Church. Key achievements of the project:

- 28 farmers adopted SALT farming method
- 70 families adopted home garden/FAITH garden
- 274 farmers were trained in crop diversification by the project
- 290 farmers trained on seed preservation
- 56 farmers trained in vermin compost
- 5 health camps were organized by the project

Case Study

Tsokhinye SHG, from Tseminyu new village, one of the upcoming SHG under KICDP was formed and registered way back in 26th June 2006. In the early part, the group involved only in kitchen gardening and a collection of Rs.10/- from each member per month. But after attending the different trainings like (Farming skills, Livestock rearing, skill training etc.) and continued mobilising and encouragement from the project staff the group members were empowered. Later on, the group got engaged in multi activities like rearing pigs, duckery and poultry. With the money received from different sources, they could lend to the group members at an interest rate of 1%. Their family financial problems were been solve by getting loan from their own group at a very low interest rate. The group has opened a saving account in Nagaland State Cooperative Bank. The group has also joined the Farmers club under KVK Kohima district.

Mrs. Kelu Khing, a retired Government servant lived with her husband, Zenilo and 3 children in Zisunyu village. She cultivated varieties of vegetables in her kitchen garden throughout the year. Earlier, the family used to buy vegetables from the market but now they not only depend on the vegetables from the kitchen garden, she could also sell the vegetables in the local market and earn around Rs. 1000-2000/- in one harvest.
GOALPARA INTEGRATED COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT (GICDP)

This project has impacted and brought changes in the lives of many in the communities. Every individual in the community is now aware about the principles and practices of development and started contributing their efforts to come forward together to bring holistic transformation. The project is supported by Tear Australia. The following are key achievements of the year:

- 5 times one day training for 5 existing VDCs
- 73 women attended Women Empowerment program
- 121 children (0-5 ages) benefited nutritious supplement programmes. The recent impact assessment shows health status of children improved. The parents became aware of the importance of children’s health and are now taking special care.
- Successfully streamlined government development programs such as Integrated Children Development Scheme (ICDS), Mid Day meal Program. Motivated and trained farmer at South Gandabil approached District Agriculture Department for Vermi Compost Pit and could successfully avail a scheme of Rs.30,000/- The construction work is now completed and ready to use. 12 SHGs received Rs.500000/- loan from the government for income generating activities
- 100 farmers attended training on improved methods
- 120 farmers attended training on “Low cost Vermi Compost”
- 93 farmers attended training on seed
- 67 farmers attended the training on Kitchen garden
- 2 exposure visit was conducted for federation

Case Study

Children Nutrition improved health condition of a child

Miss Kerilisha Basumatary is the daughter of Mr. Abinath Basumatary and Mrs. Bimaosri Basumatary of South Gandabil Village, Assam. Her father being a subsistence farmer and mother a house-wife, it was difficult for the parents to provide their daughter a nutritious food. A survey was done on Children health status and GICDP provided the many malnourished children with some nutritious food. Miss Kerilisha was one amongst them who received nutritious food like Suji, Biscuits, motor, chana, horlicks etc. After taking the supplementary food her health status started improving within few months. Earlier, she was physically weak but now she became healthy and started going to school. Her parents were overjoyed to see their daughter’s health improving and able to go to school as the other children. She is grateful to the project for providing such assistance.
A family motivated to start Kitchen Garden

Mr. Surju Kerkatta and Mrs. Sonila Basumatary resides in Balagari Village, Assam. Their main occupation is cultivation. There are five members in the family and depended on agriculture. Mrs. Sonila is a member of Aronai SHG and Secretary of Federation. They attended all the trainings conducted by the project and learnt many things. They shared the importance and helpfulness of kitchen garden and also the experiences from their own practice. Earlier they were not aware of the effect of chemical fertilizers and pesticides on crops and they used these chemicals as they are easily available in the market. After attending the trainings, they came to know the nutritional value of crops and bad effect of chemicals. They changed their long practiced traditional method of cultivation. They are motivated to start kitchen garden not only for consumption but also for selling in the market. Now they have a variety of vegetables in their kitchen garden like bean, tomato, chilly, potato, brinjal, yam etc. They are happy that they could practiced their new learnings and looking forward to learn more new things in the days to come.

A family’s living condition improved

Mr. Suraj Narzary, age 32 and Mrs. Rokila Narzary, age 30 having three school going children are permanent residence of South Gandabil, Chirang District, Assam. Mrs. Rokila Narzary, the President of the Nijwra Self Help Group is taking the lead role in managing and guiding the group. Earlier, before GICDP came in the economic condition of the families in their village was so bad that in order to get relief of family burden her husband used to return home drunk resulting to domestic violence. They struggle to support the family. Mrs. Rokila Narzary attended and participated in different trainings and activities organised by GICDP, wherein she learnt many things which motivated her to seek a solution to their struggle. She started a small business with the little money that she received from their SHG as internal loan. She started weaving and also bought clothes like Dokna, Shawl, Gamosa etc, from the nearby town and sold these items in the local markets. She could earn a profit of Rs.4000/- per month and that had helped her in improving their living condition. She was also able to save few amount from her income.

Mr. Suraj Narzary who was growing crops in their small plot of land measuring less than 2 acres was motivated by his hard working wife. He came up with the innovative idea of buying an Auto Rickshaw from the money saved by his wife and started getting good income amounting to about Rs 6000/- per month. Thus, they become a good example in the area. The family is ever thankful as they are able to stand on their feet.
ADDRESSING POVERTY THROUGH SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOOD PROMOTION PROJECT

This project was implemented by NEICORD with the support of the Trustees of Navajbhai Ratan Tata Trust (NRTT) in Papumpare District, Sagalee Block, Arunachal Pradesh. The objective of the project was to organize the farmers, build their capacity and to introduce modern method for sustainable livelihood and increase production. The following are the key achievements of the year:

- Resource Assessment, baseline and planning conducted in project areas
- On the basis of the findings from the survey, planning of the project was developed in order to promote sustainable livelihood of the community through agriculture.
- 3 demonstration units were set up demonstration for upland, wetland rice and maize cultivation. The purpose of setting up demonstration plots was to establish and demonstrate new methods of cultivation.
- 22 Vermi compost Units constructed and started culturing vermin worm
- 10 units of pedal pumps installed remaining 10 to be installed as and when required by farmers
- The Agriculture Extension Model Service centre was started. The aim of the centre is to provide information on agriculture technologies and is located at the centre and in the vicinity of the village.
- 1 Community based Information Dissemination Centre established
- Capacity building trainings on improved practices of SALT farm and cultivation of rice and maize were conducted which was benefited by 159 farmers
- Exposure visit was organized twice by the project this year to ensure technical backstopping
- 2 Farmers’ club formed by the project

PARTNERSHIP WITH NABARD

The key achievements as a result of the partnership between NEICORD and NABARD in Ri Bhoi District and East Khasi Hills District during the year are:

- *Self Help Promotion Institution (SHPI)*: NABARD have provided support to 15 Self Help Groups (SHG) for saving and credit linkage. These groups were trained and capacitated by NEICORD. These groups have also taken various income generating activities like handicraft, tailoring, piggery and candle making.

- *Farmers Development Program*: 12 farmers club at Jirang Block have been supported by NABARD Rs. 10000/- per year for meeting, maintenance expenses of the club. Under
this program the farmers were also supported to organize a Meet the Expert Program. This year 2 programs were organized where experts from Health, Agriculture, Fishery, Horticulture and Sericulture could meet with the farmers and interacted directly with them in sharing learning experience, challenges face by farmers in the field and to provide suggestions and input to improve their activities and practices.

- **Micro Entrepreneur Development Program**: 30 women were awarded with certificate on completion of Micro Entrepreneur Development Program on pickle making, and another 30 women on candle making
- **Skill Development Program**: 50 women were awarded certificate on completion of the Skill Development Training
- **Exposure visit to SHG**: Two SHG members from Pynthorbah have been sponsored by NABARD in the exposure visit to Assam. The exposure visit has helped these group members to understand the concept of teamwork and motivates them in replicating the activities in their own group.

**PARTNERSHIP WITH SELF EMPLOYED WOMEN ASSOCIATION**

NEICORD have established partnership with Self Employed Women Association (SEWA). The following are key achievements as a result of the partnership:

- 2 women farmers from Patharkhmah-Meghalaya were selected as Executive members of the National Farmers Forum India. The farmers Forum is responsible to develop networking and knowledge management skill between themselves and with others at the national, regional and global levels and the development of a vision and strategy for strengthening future collaboration. They are also responsible to facilitate and improve dialogue between FOs, national level policy making bodies and the regional integration schemes such as ASEAN or SAARC with the support of thematic studies and surveys and through consultations on the issues that have been identified and prioritized by the FOs and their members in the countries.

- NEICORD in partnership with SEWA is planning to set up a CLBRC at Patharkhmah, Ri Bhoi District-Meghalaya, a community owned centre for holistic learning and development. The CLBRC will be implemented through the federation. The federation will serve as an umbrella for management of the CLBRC in the community while there are different committees assigned to special tasks.

- SEWA is now providing training to group members of Patharkhmah, the first Master training was completed in May 2012, where 18 women have been trained as master trainer in community based organization.
In March 2012, the federation and SHG members along with NEICORD staff could visit SEWA in Ahmedabad. The objective of the exposure visit was to help the federation and SHG members to understand the concept of Community Learning and Business Resource Centre (CLBRC) and to see the activities undertaken in various CLBRC in Gujarat. 21 members from 12 villages of Jirang Block participated in the exposure visit. The peer to peer exchange learning has helped our members to understand the various incomes generating activities that they can start in the centre, the management and accounting system in running the CLBRC and its sustainability. Further the exchanged learning had motivated the members of Jirang Block to understand the importance of team work which resulted in sustainable community development.

MAINSTREAMING DISABILITY
NEICORD have initiated mainstreaming disability in 2010 in its Integrated Community Development Project. During the year 110 Persons with Disability (PWD) have been identified by the organization. The type of disability identified includes hearing, speech, visually, locomotors and mild mental disorder.

Activities undertaken under Mainstreaming Disability:
- Community awareness on inclusive development
- Counseling to family members and PWD
- Enrollment of PWD in Self Help Groups
- Training to Federations on disability and health
- Networking and lining

Achievements:
- 5 People With Disability (PWD) have enrolled as members in the existing SHG
- SHG Federation have incorporated inclusive development in their constitution
- One PWD trained on handicraft and linkage has been done for marketing of the product
- People With Disability (PWD) takes part in SHG activities like saving, training and meeting
- Disability included in monthly health lesson in the SHG
- Books on health and care of PWD were made available at the community libraries in 3 cluster in Jirang Block, Ri Bhoi District
- 20 PWD have been linked for the Indira Gandhi National Disabled Pension Scheme, a monthly pension scheme for PWD
GOAL 3: RESPONDING, RESTORING AND BUILDING COMMUNITIES IN TIMES OF DISASTER AND CONFLICTS

NEICORD have effectively carried out 3 disaster responses, Arunachal Famine due to bamboo flowering, Assam Flood and Sikkim Earthquake. 50216 people from 7450 families received relief aid during the year.

ARUNACHAL FAMINE RELIEF, 2011

NEICORD with the support of World Relief Canada/Canadian Food Grains Bank provided food items and paddy seeds to 4000 families in various parts of Kurung Kumey district in the state of Arunachal Pradesh (NE India). NEICORD had chosen to work in this area especially during this time of crisis as there were no other organizations that could help or even have access to the area because of its rough terrain. The core problem of this famine is the cyclical Bamboo flowering (and related rat menace) that severely occurred from the month of Oct to Dec 2010 (harvest & storage time). Rice and indeed most foods were not available in the markets in the affected villages, and with limited transportation options there was scarcity of food.

ASSAM FLOOD RELIEF 2011 - I

NEICORD provided immediate relief response to the flood affected families by giving Mosquito net, mosquito repellent and hygiene kit. 1000 households under Nowboisa block of Lakhimpur district were assisted with the financial support of Tearfund UK. Lakhimpur Baptist Christian Association supported us before, during and after the relief operation. The District Administration and the Police Department have also extended their support and cooperation during the relief operation.

ASSAM FLOOD RELIEF 2011 - II

NEICORD responded to the flood affected families by providing both food items and non-food items. The relief package included Rice, Dal, Salt, Oil, mosquito net and hygiene kit. 2000 households under the Bordoloni Block of Dhemaji were assisted with the support of Tear Australia. The local partners, Dhemaji Baptist Christian Association worked closely with NEICORD in this relief operation. There was a positive response from the District Administration and Block circle of Gogamukh and the beneficiaries as well.
SIKKIM EARTHQUAKE RELIEF 2011

NEICORD was the first team from outside Sikkim to reach the quake affected areas. NEICORD’s Relief team experienced roaring rivers, narrow village roads, and landslides, long stretches of damaged roads, sleepless nights and improper meals. The truly amazing thing about experiencing such uncertainties is that God brings about order to all the relief team.

2216 disaster survivors from 450 families received support of food and non food items, 383 patients benefited the free medical camp & services, 520 traumatized were counseled. Tarpaulins were provided to 5 Schools for temporary class room. NEICORD could also provide support to 5 churches in repairing and reconstructing new church buildings from the contributions given by the Northeast Churches and organized capacity building programs for church leaders on Disaster Preparedness and Response during and after relief operation.
HUMAN RESOURCES

We thank God for committed staff we have in NEICORD. Though there are certain areas where we still need to grow yet, achievements are much compared to staff strength. Presently, there are 15 staff in head office and 26 in the field.

- 5 new staff appointed both in head office and field
- 8 head office staff attended training on Public Health Emergencies & Disaster Preparedness, Monitoring & Evaluation Training, Mainstreaming Disability and Mother to Child Health training. New Foreign Contribution Rules, ECHO conference and CRWRC partner conference in Bangladesh; Climate change Adaptation training
- 15 field staff attended external training on transformation, project cycle management, FCRA & Direct Taxation Code, Agriculture and climate change related topics training.

Volunteerism:
NEICORD encourages and work towards raising more volunteers. Volunteer services are essential in times of disaster. Volunteerism benefits both the society at large and the individual by strengthening trust, solidarity and reciprocity among citizens and by purposefully creating opportunities for participation. NEICORD directly mobilized more than 105 volunteers during relief operations this year and more than 70 volunteers directly involved in activities related to survey, data entry and visits. Apart from these, we have volunteers in all operation states who provided free services in terms of logistics, link NEICORD with others and support different programs. Indeed, our volunteers are our strength!!

NEICORD BOARD & SOCIETY MEMBERS

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Rt. Rev. K. Basumatary</td>
<td>Chairperson</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Rev. Ngatiasungo Darlong</td>
<td>Vice-Chairman</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Mr. Bidison Sangma</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Dr. Robert S. Halliday</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Dr. Larkinson Sangma</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Dr. Bamin Tada</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Mr. Piniul Basumatary</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Rev. Kennedy Dhanabal</td>
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<td>Rev. Richard Howell</td>
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<td>Rev. Dr. H.M. Songate</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Mr. J. Lhungdim</td>
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<td>Mr. Vikheno Chiso</td>
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<td>Mr. Jesse Pensum Targai</td>
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<td>Ms. Lianghoman</td>
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## OUR DONORS

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<th>Regular Donors</th>
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<tr>
<td>• Tearfund UK</td>
<td>Arunachal Pradesh Mautam:</td>
<td>• Mr. C. Tony Marak</td>
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<td>• Christian Reformed World Relief Committee (CRWRC) USA</td>
<td>• World Relief Canada</td>
<td>• Mrs. Pearly Marak</td>
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<td>• Tear Australia</td>
<td>Assam Flood:</td>
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<td>• World Relief Canada</td>
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<td>• UNDP (NACO)</td>
<td>Sikkim Earthquake:</td>
<td>• Mr. Danny Shylla</td>
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<td>• EFICOR, New Delhi</td>
<td>• Baby Grace L Songate</td>
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<td>• Kuki Worship Service, Shillong</td>
<td>• Ms. Thethem Doungel</td>
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<td>• Hmar Christian Fellowship, Guwahati</td>
<td>• Ms. Tina Limboo</td>
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<td>• Saraihgar Community Church, Guwahati</td>
<td>• Mr. J. Lhungdim</td>
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<td>• Garo Baptist Church, Shillong, Meghalaya</td>
<td>• Baby Mayvelene</td>
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<td>• Nepali Baptist Church, Shillong</td>
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<td>• Evangelical Free Church of India, Shillong</td>
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<td>• Roselyn Dkhar</td>
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<td>• Mizoram Presbyterian Church Synod, Aizawl</td>
<td>• Mr Fushing Sun</td>
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North East India Committee On Relief & Development
“Homeleigh”, Police Point, Laitumkhrah, Shillong - 793003, Meghalaya
Phone No.: 0364 2211236; Fax: 0364 2225585
email: charity@neicord.org; website: www.neicord.org