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Message from the Chairperson

In the Renewed Strength
Isaiah 40:30 and 31

In 1 Samuel 15:29 (KJV), our Lord is called 'the Strength of Israel'. As His servants, we need His anointing and strength to walk the next mile for His purposes. This strength comes to us through the Word of the Lord. The two disciples experienced this strength when the Lord walked with them on the road to Emmaus. The Hebrew word for renew also means change. We are change-makers in the Kingdom of God. Job 17:9 says, 'Yet the righteous will hold to his way, and he who has clean hands will be stronger and stronger'.

'Times of trouble', 'days of trouble', 'evil days' are some terms in the Bible to describe periods of burden, stress, helplessness and loneliness. The frequency of such days is increasing, more so in rural and semi-urban areas of North East India which continue to experience trouble of various kinds. It is true that there are a few rich people with spending power, and considerably more money circulating than ever before. But money in the hands of a few does not mean that the region is progressing.

There is far more evidence of a difficult life for many. Access to food, nutrition, safe drinking water, clothing and sanitation for families is persistently inadequate. Add to this list, the atrocities on women, price rise, regional aspirations and assertions, new political friendships, corruption and increasing government control over the lives of people. Surely, addressing these needs is the responsibility of governments. But how well are they doing this?

At the level of individuals, people of NEI appear to struggle to make right choices and decisions: they appear weak to persevere. Though proud of their identity, a sense of low self esteem prevails. They lack awareness. For most, the world is limited to a ten kilometre radius. It appears that technology has the solutions. No doubt the hand phone has been a liberating experience. But technology also works destruction. Farmers buy genetically modified seeds resulting in local varieties of crops dying. Families and communities are geared to think money only as materialism that hinders a view of the real purpose in life.

To make a difference, it is imperative that NEICORD offer our services sincerely, honestly, responsibly and with a sense of accountability to the community. We should not expect all pervasive development action to address local conditions. Instead, we should demonstrate 'waiting' in our work. This waiting is not about delaying our responses or being elusive in our commitment but about returning to God for strength so that we are determined to serve despite odds, clear about the direction we take, and are able to execute our plans effectively. God has called us to be stewards, and assures us that we will fly like eagles.

As servants of God how do we see the people of NEI? The people and their lives is the field where the Lord has directed us to work. We praise God for the way He is working. We come to know that people are coming to God, faster than ever. But what about Christians in the region? Can our service influence betterment? It should. We should serve as unto the Lord. We should serve as though our Lord Jesus is sitting there to accept our rendering.

We have to look at the heart of God to understand our communities and our service to them. We are not destined to faint or to be weary. The Lord is our refuge and our strength. Our faces shine as we look unto Him. II Corinthians 4:16 confirms that our inner person is renewed day by day.

May the good Lord continue to strengthen us.

Rt. Rev. K. Basumatary
Dear friend of NEICORD,

With much pleasure, I present to you NEICORD's Annual Report for FY 2013 - 2104.

The theme chosen for this Report is 'Renewing our Strength' and is taken from Isaiah chapter 40 verse 31. This verse makes four references to the future: 'will renew', 'will soar', 'will run', 'will walk', and one reference to the present 'hope in the Lord'. And you are probably asking, 'Should it not be something in the past tense for an annual report?' Here's an answer: We attempt in the pages of this Report to look back at His promises, with gratitude. The theme is an indication of what we are looking forward to - another year of strength.

I believe that looking back at God's promises is helpful to increase the quality of our gratitude. This increased quality of recognising that it is God who did it, inspires trust in Him. He who was faithful will be faithful. On the contrary, when we only look forward to where we desire to get to and what we want to achieve, I suspect that we are in a bit of a hurry. At such times, our thankfulness becomes cursory, a drudgery that we must get done and over with before we speed off towards our goals. Our saying thanks is as quick and with little meaning as our 'Hello! How are you?' Thankfulness at the level of social courtesies is not sufficient to nurture faith. Soon enough, the faithfulness of God somehow seems inadequate. Looking back at God's promises can halt and reverse this downward slide of faith. It provides us the opportunity to look to Him for the future.

Another year... that's right. We completed a year of strength in 2013-14! We hoped in God and He strengthened us. All that we present in this Report is to gratefully acknowledge Him and the support that you and other partners have provided. We were able to complete three projects - a HIV project with churches, two community development projects. We have been through an encouraging evaluation of another set of projects and our capacity to implement such initiatives. We continued with six projects - two community development projects, two food security projects, a community learning and business resource centre and a sustainable livelihoods initiative. We embarked on four new projects - a community-based disaster risk reduction project in Majuli and another to improve access to information and delivery of public schemes in seven remote and backward districts of the region, an integrated community development initiative in Cachar and a self-help group promoting initiative.

I wish to acknowledge here the services of my predecessor, Rev. Mansang Songate. After ten years of service in NEICORD, he retired in December 2013.

I hope that you will enjoy reading this Report, and that you will rejoice with us.

Another year... that's right. We wait upon the Lord and look forward with assurance to another year of strength to do what God had mandated us to!

Sundar Daniel
CORE FOCUS OF NEICORD’S MINISTRY
- Training and Capacity Building
- Integrated Community Development
- Health and HIV and AIDS
- Disaster Risk Reduction and Management
- Holistic Child Development
- Peace Building and Conflict Resolution
- Research and Publication
- Advocacy and Networking
- Climate Change Adaptation and Creation Care

MEMBERSHIPS, NETWORKS AND COLLABORATIONS
- India Country Coordinating Mechanism GFATM
- Indian Missions Association (IMA)
- Inter Agency Group, Assam
- Martin Luther Christian University
- Micah Challenge India
- Micah Network
- NGO Partnership System under Planning Commission Government of India
- North East India Christian Council (NEICC)
- North East Peace Forum
- Serving In Mission - North East India
- VIVA National and International Network
- World Prayer Assembly/ International Prayer Council

OUR DONORS
- Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development
- Canadian Food Grains Bank/World Relief Canada
- Churches in NEI
- National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development
- Reach India
- Self Employed Women Association/World Bank
- Indo-Global Social Service Society
- Tear Australia
- Tearfund UK
- World Renew

LOCAL IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS
- Rural Women Upliftment Society, Churachandpur, Manipur
- Tseminyu Town Baptist Church, Tseminyu, Nagaland
- Boro Baptist Churches Association, Tukrajhar, Assam
- Churches in NEI
GOAL ONE: UNITING THE PEOPLE AND THE CHURCH TO HAVE A COMPASSIONATE SOCIETY

The witness of a Church in a society flows from identifying itself as a community living for the holistic ministry of transformation. Faith is active in love and love calls for justice in the relationships and structures of society. It is in faithful response to God’s love that NEICORD, through different activities and avenues, influences, challenges and encourages the Church to carry out its responsibility for the well-being of the society and the environment. We believe our initiatives have helped the Church in gaining better understanding of different issues that we face today and have influenced different Christian communities at large.

CAPACITY BUILDING AND TRAINING PROGRAMMES

NEICORD provides different capacity building and training programmes for Church leaders, Community leaders, staff members and policy makers. These programmes are organised either by NEICORD or in partnership with different organisations or churches to address the different needs of the community. The following capacity programmes were organised in this reporting year:

1. A one-day training programme on ‘Trauma Care and Counselling’ with focus on Disaster Management in Meghalaya, organised in partnership with the Government of Meghalaya and attended by 28 government officials.
2. A three-day workshop on Climate Change Vulnerability and Assessment for nine partner organisations under SOUL project of Indo Global Social Service Society (IGSSS).

NETWORKING AND PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMMES

NEICORD extends its network with churches and different organisations by organising different programmes to enable partnerships. It also strengthens its networking and partnership by actively participating in different programmes organised either by the churches or different organisations. The following are the networking and partnership activities of NEICORD:

1. Peace Dialogue organised by NCCI in collaboration with IPC, PCI, NEICC, JPMT and NEICORD. The purpose of the programme was to address issues faced by the Dima Hasao tribe in North Cachar Hills. The Dialogue recommended meeting the community and addressing their issues by forming a ‘Listening Team’. The ‘Listening Team’ included NCCI, the partner representatives and the North Cachar Hills Church Leaders’ Forum.
2. Mission and Partnership Consultation organised jointly by NEICC and SIM-NEI in Guwahati. The Consultation was about biblical perspectives of mission partnership; it resolved to form a Committee that would co-ordinate mission partnership in Assam.
3. ‘Dinner Fellowship’ in Guwahati with Christian professionals and government officials. The programme highlighted the ministry of NEICORD in NEI and initiated a discussion on the expectations of the members from churches in Guwahati and Christians organisations like NEICORD, and how we can support each other in meeting our expectations and needs. 65 Christian professionals and government officials from different churches attended the programme.
4. NEICORD organised a fellowship with Church leaders in Dimapur Town Area, Nagaland. The purpose of the programme was to introduce NEICORD’s ministry to the local congregations and also make them aware of its social obligations as a Church. Around 40 Church leaders from different churches attended the programme.

INTERNSHIPS

NEICORD maintains its partnership with educational institutions by providing internship opportunities to students. The following internship programmes were given in the reporting year.

1. Five MSW students from Assam Don Bosco University, Guwahati completed their one month
Renewing our strength

internship in October 2013. The students visited the Semi-Urban Project in Shillong as part of their practical exposure and conducted a 'Transect Walk Survey' on Street Children in Guwahati.

2. Six MSW-HR students from BDPS Computer Education, Shillong completed their three week internship in February 2014. The students helped in data entry for a baseline survey of a NEICORD project in the first week. In the following two weeks, they conducted a survey on Rickshaw Pullers in Guwahati.

UMOJA (BEING OF ONE MIND AND WORKING TOGETHER)
Location: Manipur (Churachandpur, Senapati and Imphal) and Nagaland (Mokokchung)

UMOJA (Being of One Mind and Working Together) is about enabling churches to come together and work with their communities in responding to issues of HIV and AIDS. This Project was funded by Tearfund UK and implemented over a one-year period beginning December 2012. The implementation of the Project has played a significant role in not only training and sensitizing the churches on issues of HIV and AIDS, but also has paved the way for NEICORD to reach out to different churches and work together in achieving desired goals. The Project came to an end in November 2013 after conducting four district level training programmes and 16 local church level training programmes on responding to issues of HIV and AIDS with 16 local congregations in four districts from two states of NEI.

OBJECTIVE
The objective of the Project was to build the capacity of the 16 partner churches to enable them to effectively address the issues of HIV and AIDS and the social problems arising out of it, by working together with their communities and helping them to identify their own resources. This objective was attained by conducting training programmes at both district and local level.

SUCCESSFUL ACTIVITIES
Baseline and End-line Assessment of the 16 Local churches
The baseline and end-line surveys were instrumental in measuring the success of the Project. The baseline survey was conducted with the identified churches before the implementation of the training programmes in the churches. This survey helped us in understanding the knowledge and the attitude level of the churches towards HIV and AIDS and their involvement in addressing the issues. It also helped us in preparing our training materials based on the need and the knowledge level of the churches. It was through this survey that we could identify the capacities and areas where the churches could come forward to help the PLHAs.

The end-line survey was done after all the training programmes and monitoring visits were completed. This survey showed the level of understanding of the churches after the training programmes. It was found out that the attitude level of the churches was transformed to a great extend. The survey clearly indicated that churches were getting involved not only in addressing the issues related to HIV and AIDS in their own communities but were carrying forward the same message to other churches and communities.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS
• NEICORD conducted 20 Capacity Building Training Programmes: 16 training programmes for the 16 local congregations and four district level training programmes for each of the four districts.
• 405 Church Leaders were trained in the four districts.
• 486 Copies of “HIV and Your Community” facilitator’s guide to UMOJA, received from TEAR Fund, were printed and used in the Church Leaders’ Capacity Building Training programmes.
• Endline Self Discovery tools assessment was conducted for the 16 Local churches.
• All the 16 local congregations have made their plans of action on Concept of UMOJA and were actively involved in enabling their respective churches on facilitation and church mobilisation skills.
**Goal one: Unitifying the people and the church to have a compassionate society**

**Key Challenges**
- Churches usually have their activity calendar prepared for the whole year. With an activity filled calendar before them, it was quite challenging to adjust the availability of the churches for the training programmes.
- In most places, the activities of the churches and the communities were quite independent from each other. Adapting to the concept of UMOJA (Church and community working together) for such places was a big challenge.

**Key Lessons Learnt**
- Developing good relationship with churches and working along with them is helpful in implementing different projects in different communities.
- Churches in NEI are very influential in their communities. Once churches are sensitised, it does not take much time to influence the community in transforming their mind set.
- The lives of many PLWHA are transformed through the involvement of the Church and there are many PLWHA who are eagerly waiting for the Church to reach out to them.
- Resources are available. It is the churches who should discover these resources and make use of it to cater to the needs of the people.

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<th>No. of Districts</th>
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<tr>
<td>No. Churches</td>
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| No. of Church Leaders trained | Imphal, Manipur | 108 | Senapati, Manipur | 97 | Churachandpur, Manipur | 119 | Mokokchung, Nagaland | 81 | **405** |

| Networking | Churches in North East |

**Transformational Stories**

"At first my understanding of Partnership with NEICORD was only in terms of either receiving or giving financial assistance. However, during the process of understanding and adopting the concept of UMOJA and the various trainings, I had realized that we have so much resources available in our church and in the community, that we can actually reach out to those people in need on our own and not only through external help. I am very glad that NEICORD has opened our eyes to reach out to those people. Though the project has to come to an end, but the partnership should continue in motivating and inspiring each other through constant visits." - Pastor, Katomei Baptist Church.

'Somdawina', meaning 'helping hand', a ministry of the Reformed Presbyterian Church, Churachandpur, which had stopped functioning, was rejuvenated with the implementation of UMOJA project in their Church. This Church has already shared the same concept of UMOJA in five other local churches and has come up with detailed plans to expand and implement the concept of UMOJA in other local churches.
CHILD SPONSORSHIP PROGRAMME (CSP)

Location: Tyrna, Mawsaitkham, Nongkholow (Meghalaya) and Byrnihat (Assam-Meghalaya Border)

In all NEICORD’s involvement with communities in NEI, it was observed that there are many children who do not attend schools or are not getting proper education because of their poverty. Taking into consideration that the development of any community is directly related to the development of a child, NEICORD launched the Child Sponsorship Programme on 1st December 2010.

The programme is sustained with the support of the local people and the local congregations in NEI. NEICORD identified children from select communities with the help of the Church and community leaders, approach individuals, groups or churches through different programmes, and connect the children with them. By connecting an individual or group to the child, the individual or group supported the selected child’s education by providing for school fees or tuition fees, books and uniforms. NEICORD also raised funds from other communities, churches and individuals, which were used for organising programmes for community children at large. As at March 2014, the programme was supporting 26 children from four villages in Assam and Meghalaya.

SUCCESSFUL ACTIVITIES

1. Home Visits on account of Children’s Day: CSP staff members planned to visit the home of each child who received support from different individuals and churches on account of Children’s Day. We visited the children and their families with gifts on behalf of the sponsors who supported them. We were able to meet the parents of each child, learn more about their struggles, and understand how relieved and pleased they were with the support they received for their child. During these visits, we could also call some sponsors to talk with their respective children over the phone. Most of the sponsors have not met their children due to time and space constraints. This activity was meaningful in bringing the sponsor and the children closer to each other.

2. Christmas Programme with Children: NEICORD organised Christmas Celebrations with community children at Byrnihat and Tyrna on 11th and 14th December 2013, respectively. The Celebrations were attended by 120 children in Byrnihat and 71 in Tyrna. In these programmes, there was carol singing, presentations from the children such as Bible reading, songs and choreography and exciting outdoor games. We extended invitations to the sponsors to attend the programme. For those who could come, it was a meaningful time of meeting their respective child and interacting with them.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Byrnihat and Tyrna were visited in August 2013 for case studies of children in need as well as visiting the sponsored children.

1. A dinner fellowship was organised with government officials and Christian professionals from churches of Guwahati to raise funds for the Child Sponsorship Programme.

2. A one-day programme was organised in Byrnihat on 28th September 2013. The programme included teaching songs to the children and outdoor games. Children receiving support also drew different pictures for their sponsors which were respectively sent to each sponsor.

3. Church Leaders’ Fellowship in Dimapur, Nagaland to raise funds for the Child Sponsorship programme.

4. Programme staff the homes of each sponsored child with gifts on account of Children’s Day in November 2014.

5. Christmas Celebration programmes were organised with community children in Byrnihat and Tyrna in December.

6. Organised meetings with parents of the sponsored children in January and February 2014, where educational materials like school books, note books, uniforms, school bags, etc. were distributed to the children.
**KEY CHALLENGES**

The Child Sponsorship Programme works with a small number of selected children. These children have their siblings and friends. Therefore it was a big challenge to give gifts only to the sponsored children leaving aside their siblings and friends. NEICORD is looking forward to how well we can reach out to all the children in the community.

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<tr>
<th>No. of Villages Covered</th>
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<td>2. Individuals</td>
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**TRANSFORMATIONAL STORY**

Welking Son Passi is a bright child from Mawsiatkhnam village. His parents support the family from their small agricultural earnings. Since his childhood Welking Son showed passion in his studies and used to do well in his class. He attended one of the local schools for his primary education.

After Welking Son passed his 6th Standard, his parents could not afford his higher studies, as he had to go out of his village for his higher education. Seeing his passion to study, the village development committee offered to sponsor him for one year and that is how he continued his studies in a Presbyterian School in Shillong for one year. After that one year, NEICORD took the approval of his parents to connect Welking Son with a sponsor. We were able to find a sponsor for him and he is now happily continuing his studies. He has completed his 8th Standard and is now in Class 9. Welking Son is more delighted than his parents, that he can continue his studies and is thankful to the sponsor for supporting him.

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**PHOTO GALLERY 1**

UMOJA - Church Leaders Capacity Building Training Programme
Renewing our strength

PHOTO GALLERY 1

Meeting with Ntip Peace Committee - Goodwill visit of Kohli Anglong with JPMT

Intern students during ‘Tranced Walk Survey’ on Street Children, Guwahati

NEICORD puts up exhibition on Integral Mission - NCCI Centenary Celebrations

Dinner Fellowship with Christian professionals and government officials, Guwahati

IGSSS, partner’s visit to project area, Mawohsit, Shillong

Christmas celebration with Children

Home visitation of Children, Children’s Day
GOAL TWO: EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES THROUGH SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND PHYSICAL WELLBEING

Sustainable development, being holistic in nature, is both simple and complex at the same time. Simple because it is a dynamic process that enables all people to realize their potential, meet their needs and improve their quality of life. It is also complex because to make sustainable development happen, we need a radical shift in the way humanity perceives society. With the invaluable support of different partners and donors, NEICORD has been successfully promoting sustainable development in different communities of NEI.

PATHARKHMAH COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

Location: Patharkhmah, Ri Bhoi District, Meghalaya

NEICORD began to implement the Integrated Community Development Project at Patharkhmah in 2000. Over the past 13 years, this Project has formed 60 Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and 3 Federations which are registered under the Society Registration Act. The sole purpose of the Project was to bring about holistic and sustainable development by establishing leadership within the community. Therefore all programmes from the beginning were implemented with the help of the community leaders. With the Project coming close to an end, most of the programmes conducted during this reporting year were directed towards capacity building and strengthening the Federations. These programmes were conducted with the purpose of making the Federations responsible enough to take over the programmes and sustain activities even after NEICORD withdraws from the area. The activities included:

1. Community Leadership Building
2. Economic Development
3. Community Health Care
4. Functional Literacy

OVERALL OBJECTIVE

A self-directing harmonious community within which individuals are supported and encouraged to participate in bringing about community transformation.

SUCCESSFUL ACTIVITIES

1. Income Generating Activities: More than 70% of the people of Jirang Block were in the ‘Below poverty line’ category. Majority of the people were illiterate and only 15% of this population owned economic assets such as weaving looms, cows, or petty shop business. They were ignorant about accessing loans from banks and therefore whenever they needed money, they took loans from local money-lenders at outrageous rates of interest. Most often such debts were not paid in time and they ended up with greater debts.

One of the objectives of the Project was to promote savings and credit activities, and to promote micro-enterprise development. The Project organised the men and women into Self Help Groups (SHGs) and have helped them in initiating savings and credit activities along with different income generating activities, thus slowly bringing about economic development in their families. For the first time in their lives, many of these men and women became organised into groups, they were discussing on many issues pertaining to their socio-economic development, health and educational status of their children. These activities not only helped to improve the economic condition of the people but also to bring about tremendous change in the social status of women in the community. With increased confidence, many women have begun to participate actively in income generation for their family and are contributing to different social concerns in their respective villages.

2. Community Leadership Development Programme: Community Leadership Development Programme, an important component of the Project, aimed to train community members in taking initiatives to mobilise themselves. This programme has been quite instrumental in helping the community members to organise themselves into different Self Help Groups.
Renewing our strength

Once different SHGs were formed and strengthened, this programme continued to give different leadership development training programmes to members of the SHGs. These training programmes resulted in accumulating sense of belongingness and commonness among members of the community. The SHGs gradually began to agree on coming together and organising themselves into bigger and more authoritative groups in the form of SHG Federations. The formation of these Federations provided bigger platforms for the members to address community concerns that were beyond the reach of the SHGs. With various programmes on leadership development, the Federations are now prepared to take over the leadership and responsibilities in their communities when the project phase comes to an end.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

1. Community Leadership Development programme
   a) This programme has formed three Federations in all. These are in the stage of ‘graduation’ (stand on its own feet) and are ready to take over development activities that the Project initiated.
   b) Primary Groups and Federations are assessing their capacity on a half-yearly basis through the Community Capacity Indicator tools incorporating the Seven Dimensions of Transformation.
   c) The Federations have developed a sustainability plan and are preparing to continue their involvement in the community development work after NECORD withdraws from the Project.
   d) NECORD and the three Federations are preparing to sign the Partnership Agreement in 2014-2015

2. Community Health Care
   a) Under this programme, 595 primary group members have adopted kitchen gardening to increase their nutritional consumption in the family.
   b) Two Federations have begun emergency health fund.

3. Economic Development
   a) This programme has trained 30 federation members on business monitoring and management.
   b) 53 community members are employed in various income generating activities taken up by the Federations.

4. Functional Literacy Programme
   a) This programme has trained the Functional Literacy Sub-Teams of the three Federations as per a needs assessment. The programme has also conducted various skill development training programmes for 30 members.
   b) The programme has also identified 47 people involved in different business from 12 villages and has trained them on functional literacy skills to run micro-business in the community.

KEY LESSONS LEARNT

1. The formation of Federations has helped in bringing the community together with a shared vision and sense of responsibility towards each other and especially towards their community.
2. Business opportunities have increased as people came together to save and support one another.
3. Women taking up leadership in various capacities has helped in reshaping the society for sustainable and inclusive development. It has further helped in motivating and empowering other women in the community, thus improving their representation and participation in all walks of life.
Goal Two: Empowering communities through sustainable development and physical wellbeing

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<td>3. State Bank of India — credit linkage for SHG.</td>
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<td>5. Primary Health Centre.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Schools.</td>
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Transformational Story

The 'New Hope Federation' was formed on October 2008. The federation consists of 10 graduate groups (SHGs) with 127 members from three villages namely, Umjartha, Barigaon and Umsaw. Majority of the members of the Federation are people who are engaged in agriculture, weaving and livestock rearing. Weaving is one of the main activities in these three communities and therefore majority of its members are skilled in weaving. However, the scope to generate sufficient family income through this activity was very limited in these communities because of factors like lack of knowledge to avail schemes, lack of proper facilities, limited exposure, etc. Following the trainings on leadership and management and the implementation of activities by CLBRC, the New Hope Federation started networking with the sericulture department and 21 weaving houses were provided in the 3 villages, thus encouraging people, especially women, to revive the activity.

Through further networking, the Federation enrolled 50 women from the community to undergo skill up-gradation trainings on weaving and designing. Today, these women have expanded weaving activity in massive circles and have employed many women who are thus contributing to the income of their families. The establishment of garmenting unit in the CLBRC has further strengthened this activity as the woven cloths are now stitched into different garments and sold as ready-made clothes.

The Federation, at present, is encouraging the members in the community to undertake silk-worm rearing through which the whole cycle of rearing, spinning, weaving and stitching can be developed. They are ready to train people in all the different aspects of the cycle and are confident that this activity can not only help the community, especially women, to stand on their own feet and supplement to the family’s income, but also sustain the traditional activity of women in their community.
PATHARKHMAH FOOD SECURITY PROJECT
Location: Jirang Block, Ri-Bhoi, Ri-Bhoi District, Meghalaya

Patharkhmah Food Security Project was initiated in the year 2009 and works under 18 villages which consists of the Rabha, Khasi and Garo people. The following are the activities carried out by the Project:
1. Capacity building of farmers club
2. Food production and sustainability
3. Livelihood promotion through livestock
4. Capacity building to farmers on SALT, SRI, Kitchen gardening, water harvesting and low cost composting

OBJECTIVE
The overall objective of the Project is to increase food, nutrition and livelihood security at a household level in a sustainable manner in all the 18 villages.

APPROACHES
A participatory method was used to address the issues of food security where the community itself was made to actively get involved in the Project. This approach has been quite successful in making the community to explore the wide range of factors that are affecting their lives. This approach has not only helped the poor people to participate in designing initiatives for their benefit but has also made the community to realise that development projects can be more successful and sustainable only when the local population get actively involved.

SUCCESSFUL ACTIVITIES
1. System of Rice Intensification (SRI): The demand for rice production has been considerably increasing in many communities because of population growth. However, farmers are struggling to meet the rise in demands because of limited and depleted land resources. The introduction of SRI method of rice cultivation provided much hope to the farmers in increasing their rice yield and meeting their needs as well as satisfying the demands of the community. An evaluation on the experience of the farmers in practicing SRI method of rice cultivation showed that:
   a. SRI requires less seeds.
   b. The method takes less days for sowing.
   c. It increases the yield of paddy.
   d. It reduces the use of water and therefore can easily adapt with water scarcity and droughts.
   e. With SRI there is reduction in production cost.
   f. It reduces the number of labourers required for weeding.
   g. Small and marginal farmers can easily afford to adopt the method.
   h. Small land holding farmers can achieve food security since the yield is high.

2. Kitchen Gardening: The Project trained and encouraged farmers to adopt kitchen gardening and this activity has proved to be a great success and beneficial for farmers and their families. Two prominent benefits of kitchen gardening were:
   a. Increased nutritional value in food: Farmers have expressed that the vegetables from their gardens tastes better and are far more fresh and nutritious than the ones they buy from the market. This practise has helped farmers and their families in consuming more nutritious and healthier food.
   b. Financial Benefits: Kitchen gardening has helped farmers not only in saving money on vegetables, but has also served as extra incomes for the family by selling the extra produce. They have expressed that the amount saved is far more that the amount they spend in buying seeds. This practice has helped women and aged members in the family to also participate and contribute to the income generation of the family.
**Goal Two: Empowering communities through sustainable development and physical wellbeing**

**Key Achievements**

1. **Multi-Cropping:** The Project has trained 800 farmers in multi cropping, out of which 728 farmers in 18 villages have adopted multi cropping in their farm. This method of multi-cropping has helped the farmers in various ways:
   a. Enabled them to grow varieties of crop in their field which has provided them the benefit of having varieties of vegetables for consumption thus improving nutrition in the family.
   b. Has helped the farmers to increase the fertility of the soil as each crop provides different nutrition to the soil.
   c. Have increased their knowledge in reducing pests thus reducing the use of pesticides for their crops. The farmers have observed that growing crops such as onions and garlic helps in keeping pests away. Therefore multi-cropping such crops with other crops have helped them in reducing pests in their farms.

2. **Livestock rearing:** 183 farmers were trained in livestock rearing by the Project. All these 183 farmers adopted rearing pigs along with their farming activities. These farmers have high hopes that this activity will definitely help in increasing their incomes in the coming years. With these hopes, they have begun increasing the number of pigs in their piggeries by retaining the piglets. 13 farmers have also begun rearing pigs in their Sloping Agricultural Land Technology (SALT) farms as an initiative towards integrated farming. These farmers have shared their experience that the manure from pigs serves as excellent fertilizers for their crops.

3. **SRI:** The Project has trained 450 farmers in SRI technique of farming, out of which 421 farmers have adopted the SRI method of farming.

4. **SALT:** The Project also trained 267 farmers on SALT, a system of farming where fast growing nitrogen fixing trees or shrub species are planted along contour lines thus creating a living barrier that traps sediments and gradually transforms the sloping land to terraced land. 217 farmers adopted SALT as their method of farming. These farmers have expressed that this technology has provided them with the alternative of having a permanent cultivation land to their current practice of shifting cultivation or jhum cultivation.

**Key Lessons Learnt**

The different methods of farming technologies have not only helped the farmers in increasing their incomes and made them self-sufficient but it has also helped in reducing enormous environmental degradation due to traditional methods of farming. It has given us the opportunity to tell farmers how they are contributing in reducing the harm done to environment by adopting the different advanced methods of farming.

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**Networking**

1. Block Development Office, Jirang
2. ICAR, Parapan
3. NABARD, Shillong
4. District Agriculture Office, Nongpoh
5. District Sericulture Office, Nongpoh
TRANSFORMATIONAL STORY

Mr. Omoilo Rangsa, a native of Bakhlapara village, is a poor farmer from Rabha community. He is 41 years old and lives with his wife and five children. In September 2012 he came to know about the Amor Jyoti Farmers’ Club, a farmers’ club started by the project in his village and became a part of the Club. After enthusiastically attending different trainings conducted by the project, in June 2013 Omoilo took up SALT as his method of farming, and later on started rearing pigs on his SALT farm. He has also successfully taken the initiative of harvesting water during monsoon and is confident that his farm will not struggle with water scarcity during the dry seasons. Mr. Omoilo has also adopted SRI method of rice cultivation in his 6000 square feet plot of land and is busy at present weeding and maintaining his SRI field. He has also started a small kitchen garden in his place for which his wife and children are providing strong assistance in maintaining it. Mr. Omoilo is happily looking forward to a bright future ahead and is excitedly waiting for the SRI harvesting period.

URBAN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

Location: Shillong, Meghalaya

Poverty is a reality that obstructs the success and development of any given community. In working with the poor, most often the poor in rural communities are addressed. As a result, while the rural poor are recognised and taken care, the urban and semi-urban poor are usually ignored or left unnoticed. There are many households that are facing extreme issues of poverty in urban and semi-urban areas. In 2006 NEICORD initiated the Shillong Urban Project with the aim to address the problems of the urban and semi-urban poor in Shillong. This Project strives to build the capacity of the urban and semi-urban poor in different areas of health, education, livelihood and capacity building of community in leadership and development. In order to achieve these objectives, the Project works with the people under four programme components:

1) Community Leadership Programme
2) Community Based Health Care Programme
3) Functional Literacy Programme
4) Economic Development

SUCCESSFUL ACTIVITIES

1. Community Leadership Development Programme: Community Leadership Development Programme is one of the programme components of the Project in which the programme mobilises and organises the community members into Self Help Groups (SHGs). This programme has enabled the members of the community to come together, share their personal experiences and have helped develop a sense of belongingness among them.

The Project has trained 60 SHG leaders through this programme, who are now taking up leadership roles in their different groups with assistance from the Project. The Project has also brought four SHGs together to form one Federation which is showing continuous improvement as per the Community Capacity Indicator (CCI), on concerns such as shared vision, leadership roles and financial status. The Federation has also developed a plan of action on how to build and improve the capacity of others in the community and have come up with a sustainability plan.
2. **Adult Functional Literacy Programme:** The Adult Functional Literacy Programme provides functional literacy classes to the members of the different SHGs. It was helpful in overcoming the problems of literacy and leadership faced among the members of the different SHGs.

This programme introduced a three months basic course and three months post-basic course, covering six months. Educated people were identified from within the community to serve as teachers for the courses. The programme networked with the State Resource Centre (NEHU) for learning materials and offered the literacy course for the SHG members. Each member was expected to complete 200 hours in each of the three months course. The activities of the programme includes basic teachings to read and write the alphabets (Khasi), basic grammar use, spellings and dictations, sums and tables, etc. This year, the programme could educate 11 SHG members. These educated members are now assisting the leaders of the groups in maintaining group records, meeting minutes register, cash book, ledgers and updating bank passbooks.

**KEY ACHIEVEMENTS**

1. **Community Health Care:** The Project has also worked on bringing about different health awareness to the members of the community by starting health committees in the different Primary Groups. After the formation of the health committees, 258 SHG members are practicing healthy behavioural practices such as boiled drinking water, proper sanitation, kitchen gardening, and child immunization.

Under this initiative, a Community Health Centre (CHC) was inaugurated in Mawsiatkhnam village with the help of the government.

This programme has also started a child health monitoring programme where 220 children are enrolled in the different anganwadi centres. The number of these enrolled children is increasing as per the chart indicators. So far, 137 members (59 male and 78 females) are recorded to have benefitted from the Community Health Care programme. The benefits that these members get include institutional delivery, child immunization, health awareness and teaching, and other treatment of diseases that require medical attention.

Under the Community Economic Development programme of the Project, members of the different primary groups and the Federation were given training programmes on maintenance of group account and developing different business plans to improve and increase their income generation. As a result of this programme, 14 primary groups have already opened bank accounts and 19 groups have developed different business plans such as rearing pigs, improved method of cultivation, etc. to increase their income.

**KEY CHALLENGES**

1. The Project aims to be inclusive by embracing all members in the different communities in and around Shillong. However, mobilising and organising the non-locals in different communities have been a big challenge for the Project. The non-locals are not co-operative with the Project because of different reasons such as migration issues, feelings of insecurity, etc.

2. There are no Banks in most semi-urban villages. Therefore linking the different Self Help Groups with banks is another big challenge for the Project.

**KEY LESSONS LEARNT**

1. The Project should appoint staff members who can speak the different local languages so as to effectively cater to the needs of the different communities.

2. The Church, which is an influential institution in different communities, should be involved in the Community Development Programmes for future sustainability of the different programmes.
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<tr>
<th>No. of Villages Covered</th>
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<tr>
<td>Networking</td>
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<tr>
<td>1. Block Development Office - SHG registration and trainings</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Meghalaya Rural bank - SHG opening bank A/C and loan</td>
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<td>3. State Resources centre (NEHU)</td>
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<td>4. NABARD - Skill training</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. Agriculture Department - Training and subsidized seeds</td>
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<tr>
<td>6. ICAR - seeds &amp; workshop on Horticulture</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Transformational Stories**

On 11th October 2012, the Nangiaiam Self Help Group was formed in Mawsiatkhnam village under the Shillong Urban Project. This Group consisted of 12 women members from different Below Poverty Line (BPL) households. The Group started initially by focusing on financial savings for economic stability. Through various capacity building trainings on concepts of SHGs, roles and functions, book keeping, finance management, leadership, health, kitchen gardening, growth monitoring and child nutrition, literacy and skills trainings, the focus of the Group slowly developed from saving concerns to different community related concerns like health, literacy and income activities for the community.

To address the issues of poor health in the community, the Nangiaiam SHG networked with the Government Social Welfare Department to activate the two aganwadi centers in the village. To make sure that the centers continue to function well, the group selected two members as asha in the community and let them undergo training with the Social Welfare Department. Along with the two ashas, the members of the Nangiaiam SHG also played an important role in motivating and assisting the community to enroll their children in the two aganwadi centers and that all children up to the age of 5 were participating in the programmes. The members of the groups were regularly trained by the Social Welfare department, and today, they are responsible for the providence of proper mid-day meals in the village schools and the proper management of different health programmes the village.

The tireless efforts of the Nangiaiam SHG, especially in relation to the health in the community, has resulted in 70 children below the age of five, enrolling for the monthly growth monitoring programme and 20 pregnant mothers enrolling for the nutrition programme. The group also played a major role in creating awareness and initiating the implementation of the Community Health Center in the village. The Nangiaiam SHG started as a small group of 12 women struggling to make their families' needs met. However, today they are taking different initiatives that would benefit the entire community. Today, this group serves as an excellent role model for newly formed SHGs in and around the village.
COMMUNITY LEARNING AND BUSINESS RESOURCE CENTRE

Location: Patharkhmah, Ri Bhoi District, Jrang Block, Meghalaya

Since 2000 NEICORD's Patharkhmah Community Development Project (PCDP) has been working in Jrang Block, Ri Bhoi District. Under this Project 12 villages were covered where 65 SHGs and three federations have been formed. In 2009 NEICORD further initiated a Food Security Project where different activities like SRI, SALT, Kitchen gardening and composting, were introduced to the community. The Project covered 12 villages of Jrang Block. Under this Project 12 Farmers’ Club were formed and farmers were trained on new methods of cultivation to increase food security and sustainable cultivation in the community.

To further enhance the capacity of the community for social and economic development and for future sustainability of the community, the federations, SHG and Farmers’ Club expressed the need to have a common centre - a community owned centre for holistic learning and development. This concern gave rise to the concept of a Community Learning and Business Resource Centre (CLBRC). NEICORD partnered with Self Employment Women Association (SEWA), Ahmedabad, to pursue the plan and started the centre on 4th June 2013.

OBJECTIVES
1. To provide need based training and skill for sustained community development.
2. To create employment opportunities and increase income for the community.

SUCCESSFUL ACTIVITIES

1. Inauguration of Na Rypmep Community Learning and Business Resource Centre (CLBRC):

   The Na Rypmep CLBRC of Patharkhmah, Ri Bhoi District, was inaugurated by Omnu Ruhi, Country Director of World Bank on 4th June 2013.

   This event was significant not only because of the inauguration but because the Country Director of World Bank along with other members from World Bank, SEWA and NEICORD were able to visit the homes of beneficiaries and interact with members from different units of the Centre.

   The activities of the programme included visiting the houses of two beneficiaries and interacting with them, the official inauguration of the Community Learning and Business Resource Centre, and visiting the garmenting and weaving units of the Centre.

2. Green Livelihood: One of the activities that the CLBRC successfully carried out was the "Green Livelihood" campaign. This campaign was organised with the intention of enabling communities to thrive and stay together through livelihoods that are in harmony with the environment. The main activity in this campaign was demonstration and awareness training on the use of solar lamps and stoves. Awareness training programmes were conducted in different villages on how we can reduce the burning of fossil fuels by using solar lamps and stoves and thereby contribute in reducing the harm done to our environment.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- 31 community members have increased knowledge on CLBRC management, sustainability and documentation through the exposure visit to Ahmedabad.
- 10 master trainers are equipped to train other members in the community in Community Based Organisation.
- 10 women were employed full-time in food processing.
- 10 women were employed full-time in tailoring.
- 85 poor women from 12 villages were trained by the 10 master trainers.
- 10 women were employed full-time in weaving.
**KEY CHALLENGES:**
Some of the challenges faced during the year after the inauguration and implementation of the Na Rympei CLBRC are as follows:
1. The progress of activities in the different units was quite slow because of the lack of capital investments in the units.
2. The production and returns of the food processing unit was quite low because of the lack of tools and equipments like juicer, mixer, grinder, etc.
3. Lack of spice making machines like drying machine and grinder resulted in the failure to produce products like ginger paste and turmeric powder, though the production of these crops are more in the community.
4. Irregular electricity supply also resulted in the failure to conduct computer training programmes at the CLBRC.
5. Follow up and monitoring of the activities conducted in other villages was very poor because of the unavailability of travel budgets.

**KEY LESSONS LEARNT**
Two important things learned out of this Project are:
1. The sustainability of CLBRC can be maintained by setting up sub-centres in far off villages where communication becomes a barrier.
2. The initiative to promote Green Livelihood, though in a small way, has evidently helped in reducing the use of firewood and cutting of trees in the community.

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**Networking**
1. Block Development Officer – SHG Registration
2. ICAR – Farmers training
3. SIRD-Capacity Building Training for office bearers of VEC under MGNREGA.

**SUSTAINABLE OPTION FOR UPLIFTING LIVELIHOOD**
**Location:** Mylliem and Mawryngkneng C & RD Block. East Khasi Hills District. State: Meghalaya

SOUL project was implemented in June 2013 for a period of two years. The Project is funded by IGSSS and it aims to improve the quality of lives of marginalized groups of people in the society through the promotion of sustainable agricultural practices. By promoting different agricultural practices, the Project also aims to reduce the vulnerability towards climate change by adopting improved and environment friendly agricultural practices like SALT and SRI, and promote different use of different Energy Conservation technologies. During the reporting year, SOUL has been successful in improving the social capital of communities by strengthening local institutions for judicious management and proper utilization of natural and community resources.
**Goal**

To reduce the vulnerabilities associated with poverty and livelihood of marginalized families and youths in 10 villages of Mylliem and Mawryngkneng block of East Khasi Hills District, Meghalaya.

**Objectives**

1. Reduce the climate change vulnerability by promoting judicious management of natural resources and developing models based on best practices for adaptation.
2. Strengthen Community Based Organisations (CBO) to participate in the local governance and develop need based micro-plans for villages.

**Successful Activities**

1. **SALT**: SALT is a technology where farming is practiced in sloped land by planting fast growing nitrogen fixation trees or shrub species as contour lines. By doing this, the contour lines serve as barriers to trap different sediments of the soil and the leaves of the trees or plants serves as organic fertilizers for the soil. This system of farming not only helps in improving and maintaining the fertility of the soil, but it also minimizes soil erosion to a great extent. The field crops in this farming technology include legumes, cereals, and vegetables, while the main perennial crops are coffee and pineapple. This system of farming has helped farmers come out of their traditional practice of shifting cultivation by clearing entire forests every year and mono-cropping, thus improving their yield and their income. After the introduction of SALT through various training programmes, at present, there are 57 farmers who have adopted SALT system of farming, across eight villages.

2. **SRI**: The SRI method of cultivation involves four major changes from the conventional method of rice cultivation. With few major changes in the method of cultivation, the harvest is much more compared to the traditional method. The four major changes are:
   a. The seedlings grown in the nursery beds are transplanted after just eight-10 days, or at the two-leaf stage.
   b. Seedlings are transplanted in singles and not in bunches as in the conventional method.
   c. Seedlings are transplanted at a wide spacing of about 20-50 cm apart so that they have plenty of light and space to obtain nutrients and water.
   d. Much less water is kept on the paddies unlike the traditional method where paddies are usually kept flooded.

   The SRI method of cultivation has provided farmers with the opportunity to adapt to the decreased rainfall and scarcity of water and to increase their rice output. After different training programmes on the SRI method, 31 farmers are effectively practicing the SRI method across six villages.

**Key Achievements**

1. Baseline Survey successfully conducted in 10 villages
2. Participatory Rural Appraisal in 10 villages
3. Climate Change Awareness in 10 villages
4. 13 SHGs mobilised.
5. Capacity Building Training programmes to SHG and Village Development Council.
6. 57 farmers have adopted SALT.
7. 31 farmers have adopted SRI.
8. 65 farmers have started multi cropping and kitchen gardens

**Key Challenges**

The biggest challenge of the Project was to mobilise the communities to change their mindset from traditional practices to new and more convenient practices of farming.
KEY LESSONS LEARNT
1. New and systematic methods of farming can not only improve the livelihood of the farmers, but also contribute to reducing environmental degradation to a great extend.
2. Planning and implementing of different programme components phase-wise can enable project team to work more systematically.
3. The Project period of two years might be too short if we wish to attain desirable results.

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<th>Total</th>
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</tbody>
</table>

Networking
1. Block Development Officer – SHG Registration
2. ICAR – Farmers training
3. SIRD-Capacity Building Training for office bearers of VEC under MGNREGA

MICRO ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (MEDP) ON BAKERY
Location: Patharkhmah, Jirang Block, Ri Bhoi District, Meghalaya

The MEDP on Bakery was a two weeks certified training programme sponsored by NABARD for members of the different Self Help Groups. This programme included both theory and practical lessons on learning bakery skills and training on how to set up units with their newly acquired skills. This programme was initiated with the goal to empower the members of the matured SHGs to become economically self-reliant.

BRIEF REPORT OF THE PROGRAMME
The programme was inaugurated on 13th March 2014 at Patharkhmah, Jirang Block, Ri Bhoi District, Meghalaya. The Branch Manager, State Bank of India, Patharkhmah Branch, NEICORD staff members and the local leaders from the village, attended the inauguration programme. Altogether, 30 women from different SHGs registered for the training programme.

The facilitator for the overall training programme was Ms. Delphinia Diengdoh. For two weeks, the participants had to attend the training classes from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM which included both theory and practical classes. The overall programme was monitored on a regular basis by a Project Monitoring Committee.

The theory and practical classes included:
1. Measuring of ingredients
2. Mixing of ingredients
3. Preparation for baking
4. Baking

The participants were trained in baking the following items:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bread</th>
<th>Buns</th>
<th>Biscuits</th>
<th>Cakes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White Bread</td>
<td>Sweet Buns</td>
<td>Salty Biscuits</td>
<td>Muffins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milk Bread</td>
<td>Hot Cross Buns</td>
<td></td>
<td>Plain Cake</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fruit Bread</td>
<td>Coconut Buns</td>
<td></td>
<td>Chocolate Cake</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cream Buns</td>
<td></td>
<td>Donuts</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Along with the training, the participants were also given three different sessions on Credit linkage for setting up unit, marketing and setting up the bakery.
The training programme concluded on 29th March 2014 with a certificate distribution ceremony. The ceremony was attended by the General Manager, NABARD, Branch Manager, SBI, Patharkhaham Branch, District Coordinator, NABARD, and NEICORD staff members. The General Manager, NABARD encouraged the participants to put their newly acquired skills to effective use by setting up units. NEICORD also committed itself to help and assist the participants in accessing loans from the bank to start their activities in their respective communities.

OUTCOME OF THE PROGRAMME
Out of the 30 women who were trained, 22 of them have already set up bakery units in their respective communities. NEICORD is helping in not only accessing the loans to set up the units, but also by introducing them to the Community Learning and Business Resource Centre (CL.BRC) for marketing their products.

CACHAR INTEGRATED COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT (CICDP)
Location: Lakhipur Block, Cachar District, Assam

The Cachar Integrated Community Development Project (CICDP), funded by TEAR Australia, was implemented on April 2013 at Lakhipur block, Cachar District, Assam, with the goal, “Secure and sustainable communities living in dignity and harmony”.

The Project was implemented in 10 selected villages under Lakhipur Block. The people in these selected villages were ignorant with very low access to government rights and entitlements. They were illiterate, struggling with poor health, poor governance, and prone to different disaster hazards. In order to address all these issues and to enable the people to come out of their status, the Project has introduced different activities like community mobilisation and sensitization, capacity building, strengthening local governance, networking and advocacy. A Village Disaster Mitigation Committee has also been formed by the Project to address the risks to different disasters.

APPROACHES
1. Need Based Approach (NBA): Focus on meeting the needs of the underprivileged or the poorest of the poor in the villages.
2. Right Based Approach (RBA): Integrating the norms, principles, standards and goals of international human rights system into the plans and processes of development. This approach do not place the causes of poverty on the individual but try to identify the root causes of poverty, empower right holders to claim their rights and enable duty bearers to meet their obligations.
3. Value Based Approach (VBA): Giving priority to human values such as truthfulness, right to conduct, love, peace, non-violence, etc., so as to enable value based individuals and communities in the Project.

SUCCESSFUL ACTIVITIES
1. Formation of Village Development Councils (VDCs): The absence of committees on development in the targeted villages has resulted in lack of access to different government schemes for the welfare of the people. The Project therefore took the concept of starting Village Development Committees (VDCs) that would look into the development aspect of the community. The idea of a Village Development Committee was new for the villages and therefore it took months for the Project to mobilise the people in the villages. With much effort, VDCs have been formed in all the villages in one year. The members of the VDC, including women representatives, are appointed by the village committee.
Renewing our strength

This year, the Project has conducted two major capacity building programmes with the members of all the VDCs. In these programmes, the VDC members were trained on leadership, roles and responsibilities, documentation, record maintenance, and local governance (Panchayati Raj Institution). All the VDCs are functioning effectively at present, where each VDC have organised a cleanliness drive in their respective villages and one VDC has constructed a house for a widow.

2. Self Help Groups (SHGs): The main occupation of the major population in the Project villages is farming and majority of them cultivate in the land of different landlords. Most womenfolk stay as housewives, while many also contribute to the income of the family by gathering different vegetables and leaves from the forest and sell it.

The Project introduced the Self Help Group (SHG) programme where members of 10-15 people are brought together to form a group and work collectively to overcome their problems. All members in a Self Help Group have one thing in common they all share the same problem. Therefore, by becoming a member of a Self Help Group, each member gets the space to share his/her problem with the group and they collectively work on how to overcome these problems. The members of the different SHGs make small contributions for the Group's savings. These savings are used to meet the needs of the Group as well as its members. So far the Project has formed 12 SHGs in the 10 villages and has conducted training programmes on leadership and management for 152 SHG members. After the training programmes, the 12 SHGs have developed their by-laws, and are maintaining meeting minutes, savings register, loan register, cash book and attendance registers.

Key Achievements
1. Project Inauguration Programme on 22nd May, 2013.
2. Community mobilisation and sensitization programme was conducted four times each in all the 10 villages of the Project.
3. 12 Self Help Groups (SHGs) and 10 Village Development Committees (VDCs) were formed in the 10 villages.
4. Baseline survey conducted in the 10 villages.
5. Conducted Participatory Assessment on Disaster Risk (PADR) in 10 villages
6. 700 booklets on Government Welfare and development schemes/programmes have been compiled, translated into local dialect, and published.
7. 12 SHGs received materials like Cash book, Minutes book, Ledger book, Attendance Register, Saving Register and Rubber stamp (Seal).
8. 152 SHG members trained on Leadership and Management.
9. 89 VDC members capacitated on roles and responsibilities and local governance (Panchayati Raj Institution).
10. Four Staff members Capacitated on Community Mobilisation, Project Cycle Management, basic finance and Project's themes.

Key Challenges
The goal of the Project is to enable and capacitate the people in the community to become self-reliant. However, the members in the community expect help from the Project in terms of funds and material investments in the community. Therefore, convincing the people that it is about enabling them and not making them passive receivers, was a big challenge.
Goal Two: Empowering communities through sustainable development and physical wellbeing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No. of Villages Covered</th>
<th>Total Population in all the villages</th>
<th>10</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total Households</td>
<td>379</td>
<td>379</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Adult</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>731</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>681</td>
<td>2217</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Children below 14 years</td>
<td>805</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Households</td>
<td>222</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>116</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>106</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No. of Direct Beneficiaries</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Adult</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>625</td>
<td>1995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>565</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Children below 14 years</td>
<td>805</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Networking</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1. Block Development Officer (BDO), Lakhipur Block, Cachar District.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2. Hmar Youth Association</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3. Gaon panchayat</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

MANIPUR FOOD SECURITY PROJECT (MFSP)

Location: Churachandpur District, Manipur

The second phase of the Manipur Food Security Project (MFSP) started on September 2012 with the aim to address and improve food security situation of the people by adopting new upland and low land methods of cultivation. NEICORD partnered with Rural Women Upliftment Society (RWUS) and implemented the Project in 17 selected villages among 596 households living Below Poverty Line (BPL).

The activities of the Project includes providing capacity building training programmes to members of the community and training programmes on different alternatives to farming practices to increase food production and attain food security. In order to address the diverse needs of the people, the Project also provides support on agriculture like distributing seeds, saplings, agricultural tools and piglets. Advocacy for food rights and entitlements to the local government have also been incorporated in the Project so as to empower the communities towards economic self reliance. This activity of enabling the community to manage their own resources is done through the formation of different groups like Village Food Committee, Self Help Groups and Farmers’ Club.

OBJECTIVES
1. Community mobilisation and formation of Committees/Groups in 17 villages
2. Increased income through Livestock and Income Generating Programmes
3. Networking and interface with Government Departments and Civil Societies

SUCCESSFUL ACTIVITIES
1. Networking with different agencies: The Project networked with the following government agencies to help farmers meet their needs:
   a. District Rural Development Agency (DRDA): To support SHGs in their income generating activities by providing material support and start water sheds development programmes in the communities.
   b. State Bank of India: To avail Kisan Credit Cards (KCC) for farmers to meet their cultivation expenses.
   c. Agriculture Department: To provide fertilizers and seeds to farmers.

As a result of these networking, the Agriculture Department has provided hybrid seeds and pesticides free of cost for the farmers. A hybrid paddy seed named PAC807 have been distributed to 15 farmers by
the Agriculture Department. The department has also contributed 10 bottles of organic pesticides which have been distributed in three blocks. Along with the free distribution of seeds and pesticides, the department has provided Nitrogen Phosphorous and Potassium (NPK) fertilizers at a subsidized rate to the farmers. 12 farmers have been able to buy it and are using it effectively.

2. Training programmes for Self Help Groups (SHGs): The Project provided training programmes on different income generating activities to help the SHGs make money and save it along with their monthly contributions. Three income generating training programmes were given on making dishwash, candle and detergent powder. Members from five SHGs attended the training programmes and they acquired the required skills to start their income generating activities. They are actively making the dishwash and detergent but could not continue with making candles because of the unavailability of raw materials. Along with these activities, the members of these five SHGs started collecting firewood from the community land (forests) and sell it. Through these activities the incomes of these five SHGs have increased by Rs. 500-600 per month along with their regular savings. The members are happy that at this rate, they can easily make good savings and get the benefits of their labor.

**Key Achievements**
1. Four community organisers and three Project staff members attended a capacity building programme on 'Project Management and Technical Skills' organised at RWUS training hall.
2. A Block Level Food Committee (BLFC) was formed in each of the three blocks of Churachandpur, namely, Singhat, Saikawl and Samulamlan. These committees comprise of 34 members altogether.
3. The Project has trained 52 SHG members on SHG Management and Leadership.
4. The Project has trained 20 SHG members Income Generating Activities.
5. The Project trained 83 farmers on Piggery Management through three training programmes.
6. 200 Farmers were provided seeds (Rabi crops) for their kitchen gardens.
7. The Project initiated a consultation meeting with the District Rural Development Agency and another consultation with the Agriculture Department. These consultations were attended by 64 farmers.
8. The Project conducted one training programme for the members on the Village Food Committee on Rights and entitlements.
9. 81 Village Food Committee members were sensitised on the National Food Security Act 2013.

**Key Challenges**
1. The expectation of the community is mostly in terms of funds and material benefits which are beyond the reach of the Project.
2. The Community's lack of awareness on their rights and entitlements has made them ignorant, vulnerable and insecure. Therefore, it was a big challenge to do advocacy for them.
3. Members of the SHGs from very poor economic conditions still struggle and find it difficult to make their monthly contributions.

**Key Lessons Learnt**
The purpose of forming the different Self Help Groups was mainly to improve the economic conditions of its members, especially women. It was found that the formation of the SHGs has not only helped in making the women economically stable and sufficient, but it has also made them socially active and confident. Women members of different SHGs are now taking active participation in the decision making of the family and the community as well.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No. of Villages Covered</th>
<th>17</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Population in all the villages</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Households</td>
<td>596</td>
<td>596</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>1702</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>1553</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of Direct Beneficiaries</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>271</td>
<td>501</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>230</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of Indirect Beneficiaries</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult</td>
<td></td>
<td>2140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>1101</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>1039</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Mr. Hemzangam, a resident of Saheiphai village in Churachandpur district, lives with his wife and six children. He is a daily wage laborer and supports his family with his meager daily earnings. Unable to do hard labour, because of an accident in 2008, he engaged himself in small time charcoal selling through which he earned Rs. 90 to Rs. 120 per day to support his family. Under such circumstances, the Project helped him to start kitchen gardening in a small plot of land. He was interested in taking up this venture as this was something where even his wife and children could help. After attending a training provided by RWUS, he got seeds of cabbage, onion, pea, broccoli, coriander, etc. for his kitchen garden. The entire family got engaged in taking good care of the garden and all the crops grew well under their care. With the produce from the kitchen garden, Mr. Hemzangam was able to meet the vegetable requirement for the entire household and even surplus which he could sell. He feels that the kitchen gardening have provided a ray of hope for his family. He is now a happy and contended man and is confidently looking forward to a better future for his family.

IMPROVING ACCESS TO INFORMATION AND DELIVERY OF PUBLIC SERVICE SCHEME IN REMOTE AND BACKWARD DISTRICTS OF NORTH EAST INDIA

This Project was implemented in the month of January 2014 by ACTED along with four partners. The four partner organisations are NEICORD, Public Affairs Centre (PAC), North East Development Foundation (NEDF) and Nanda Talukdar Foundation (NTF). The Project is funded by European Union and the partners have been identified based on the technical expertise required for the Project and the experience in the region.

The Project is implemented in seven backward districts of five identified states in NEI for duration of 48 months, focusing on 10 identified key schemes covering various sectors such as Health, Education, Livelihood and food security, Women and Child Development, Rural Development, Agriculture, etc. This Project will not only help the people to have access to quality information as well as services provided under various central sponsored schemes, but also actively involve community participation with accountability among service providers, thereby leading to improvement in the overall living standard of people.

OBJECTIVES
1. Improvement in people's access to transparent and quality information on central sponsored schemes (by public and also special focus to women and minority/marginalized population/households)
2. Improvement in quality of the scheme as well as accessibility of the scheme by people
3. Enhancement in accountability of the public service providers/system (through active community participation/audit)

RELEVANCE OF THE PROJECT IN NORTH EAST REGION
1. The total population of NEI contributes to 3.8% of the country’s population, and is predominantly rural with 84% of the population living in countryside.
2. The region is predominantly a hilly terrain except Assam, and is geographically isolated from the rest of the country. It has various ethnic groups and extremely difficult connectivity.
3. Political fragmentation, serious security concerns and development challenges.
4. BPL rates, literacy and average human development indicators are better than rest of the country. However, estimated per capita income is only 65% of the national average.
5. High unemployment problems especially among educated youth, low industrialization, limited transport - communication and connectivity.
6. An overwhelming population depend on government for generating income, and lack of productive economic activities.
7. Mandatory for major ministries to spend 10% of budget allocation in NEI. Most Centrally Sponsored Schemes provide assistance to NEI with a grant component of 90% (only 10% State share). Due to variety of constraints, scheme implementation has been facing many hurdles and obstruction to mark a success in alleviate the poverty in NEI.

**DISTRICTS SELECTED**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>District</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assam</td>
<td>Cachar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Goalpara</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manipur</td>
<td>Chandel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Churachandpur</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meghalaya</td>
<td>Ri-bhoi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mizoram</td>
<td>Lawngtlai</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nagaland</td>
<td>Wokha</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The target group includes 7 CSOs (One Core CSO per district), another 28 CSOs/NGOs, 70 SHGs, 35 Common Service Centre, five media organisation, 70 journalist and citizen reporters, 50 Dist Administrators from seven dist, 45 Sub Division Administrator of 22 SDs, 115 Block officials of 58 blocks, 200 PRIs, 5280 Citizen Volunteers and eight Private Service Providers.

**SCHEMES SELECTED FOR THE PROJECT**

1. Janani Sishu Suraksha Yojana (JSSK) - under NRHM
2. Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS)
3. Indira Awaaj Yojana (IAY)
4. Mid Day Meal (MDM)
5. Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)
6. Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY)
7. Total Sanitation Campaign (Household)
8. Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana (Rural Electrification)
9. National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP)
10. Targeted Public Distribution System (PDS)

**MAJOR ACTIVITIES OF THE PROJECT**

1. A study by using Citizen Report Card tool at three stages with Community Score Card
2. Development, dissemination and usage of a Service Provider Handbook
3. Pilot Aadhaar roll out
4. Awareness on RTI
5. Multi-Stakeholder audit, Capacity and constraints assessment of officials at district, Sub-division, block and Panchayat level and train them along with CSOs
6. Information campaign like phone-based alerts, TV, Radio and print media (journalist fellowships with 525 article publication and awards), village level events, including house to house visits by volunteers
Formation of District and Regional level forum, sharing workshops at district and regional level on the best practices/learning sharing, research paper publication and panel discussion.

TARGET
Approximately 665000 households residing in the 7 districts will be benefited by the end of the project.

GOALPARA INTEGRATED COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (GICDP)
Location: Tukrajhar, Chirang District, BTAD, Assam

Gaolpara Integrated Community Development Project (GICDP) is a community based project funded and supported by Tear Australia. In partnership with the Boro Baptist Churches Association (BBCA), the Project was implemented in 2005 in six villages of Chirang District, Assam. It completed the final three year phase in March 2014.

One of the objectives of the Project was to enable BBCA to have a full functioning Development Wing by the end of the Project which was made possible by the formation of BBAid in 2011. Since this reporting year was the exit period of the third and final phase, the focus of the Project was more of additional capacity building activities to prepare each of the church partners and staff members of BBAid to carry on the development work in their respective communities. The Project concluded with an end celebration programme on 22nd March 2014.

OVERALL OBJECTIVES
1. BBCA to have a well functioning Development Programme.
2. Building capacity of Church leaders so that they are well equipped by the end of March, 2014.
3. Increase in nutrition status of children (0-5yrs) by the end of March, 2014.
4. Increase in agricultural production through appliance of improved methods by March, 2014.
5. SHGs forming Federations and more advocacies done by the end of March 2014

APPROACHES
1. Value Based Approach: Giving priority to human values such as truthfulness, right to conduct, love, peace, non-violence, etc., so as to enable value based individuals and communities in the Project.
2. Congregational Approach: Many churches in NEI have the resources and potential to actively get involved in responding to the needs of the community. Through this approach, the Project generated the involvement of the Church by ensuring that the churches are mobilised, their attitudes towards community development are improved, and their capacity is enhanced.

SUCCESSFUL ACTIVITIES
1. Capacity Building Programmes: The Project conducted two capacity building programmes for BBCA leaders and members of BBAid in the reporting year. These programmes have helped in building up the leaders of the BBCA to continue its involvement in Community Development programmes even after the end of the Project.
   The first capacity building programme was on resource mobilisation, project cycle management, church management, and community mobilisation. The second capacity building programme mainly focused on human resource management. The leaders of BBCA expressed that these capacity building programmes have helped in building their confidence in managing the ministry of BBAid. Moreover, they expressed that the programmes have increased their confidence to continue the project activities in different communities and expressed their need of more capacity building programmes even after the end of the Project.
2. **Project End Celebration Programme**: After one year of different programmes to build the capacity of BBCA, BBAid, VDCs, SHGs, Farmers and other beneficiaries, the Project organised its 'Project End Celebration' programme on 22nd March 2014. Officials from National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) and Krishi Vigyan Kendriya (KVD) were invited as the guests of honor for the programme. The programme was attended by leaders of BBCA and BBAid, NICORD staff members and beneficiaries of the Project.

The different testimonies from the beneficiaries helped the gathering to understand how the Project, in all these years, has helped people to overcome their untold struggles. The officials from NRLM and KVD also briefed the gathering on the opportunities available for the rural poor and how they can avail it. They were impressed on all the development that has taken place in the target communities over the years. The 'Project End Celebration' closed the nine years of partnership and working together with the people in Gaonpara, but marked the beginning of new opportunities for the beneficiaries and especially for BBAid and BBCA.

**KEY ACHIEVEMENTS**

1. Two training programmes on 'Advocacy and Networking' were conducted for members of the SHGs and VDCs.
2. A one-day training programme on 'Networking' was conducted with members of the VDCs. The training focused on the importance of networking, different agencies with whom we can link with, strategies, and approaches to resource mobilisation. 24 VDC members attended the programme.
3. The Project also conducted a one-day seminar on 'Women Empowerment'. 28 women from different SHGs participated in the programme.
4. Two Capacity Building programmes were conducted in the reporting year. The focuses in these programmes were on Resource Mobilisation, Project Cycle Management, Church Management, Community Mobilisation, and Human Resource Management. In both the programmes there was active participation from the BBCA leaders and BBAid staff members.
5. Two training programmes on SRI methods of cultivation were conducted with farmers. Resource persons from District Agriculture Department and Krishi Vigyan Kendriya (KVK) trained the farmers on adopting the SRI method of cultivation and how it could help them produce more.
6. One training on Vermi-Composting was conducted for 20 farmers.
7. One training on seed preservation was conducted for 32 farmers.
8. Two capacity building programmes were conducted for Federation members and SHG leaders focusing on accessing to different available government schemes and its benefits. Altogether 44 Federation members and SHG leaders attended the programme.

**KEY LESSONS LEARNT**

1. Building the leadership capacity of key stakeholders, in this case BBCA and BBAid, was helpful for sustaining and increasing quality and coverage of responses.
2. Rapport building with the community was critical to effective implementation of Project activity.
3. Community's involvement and participation is vital in bringing about transformation in the community.
4. VDCs, SHGs and the Project staff realized the importance of linkage and networking with the government and other non-government agencies.
5. Using organic fertilisers and pesticides in agriculture was far more beneficial than chemical fertilisers and pesticides.
6. Linkages and networking with other institution is important as they help to access and exchange resources.
Goal Two: Empowering communities through sustainable development and physical wellbeing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No. of Villages Covered</th>
<th>6</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population in all the villages</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>1554</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>No. of Direct Beneficiaries</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
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<td>Female</td>
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<td>No. of Indirect Beneficiaries</td>
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<td>542</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>581</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Networking
1. National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM)
2. Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)
3. Block Development Office (BDO)
4. District Rural Development Agency (DRDA)
5. State Institute for Rural Development (SIRD)
6. Krishi Vigyan Kendriya (KVK), District Agriculture Department.

**TRANSFORMATIONAL STORY**

Nijwra Self Help Group of South Gandabil was formed in January 2006, comprising of 11 like-minded members with a vision to become self reliant economically and socially. The members of this group came together as housewives of daily labourers or widows who were struggling hard even to meet their needs. They started by making meager monthly contributions for the group’s savings and slowly progressed to different income generating activities like agriculture, weaving, livestock rearing, one day laboring, etc., as a group.

The group has now initiated a long term permanent income generating source. With their savings through different activities, the group bought a small plot of land and has started a rubber plantation in that land. They have planted 200 rubber trees and are expecting its first production by 2017 or even earlier.

The group also started networking with different Government agencies and through these networking, the group has successfully availed Rs. 15000 as the First Grading and Rs. 1,15,000 (50% subsidy amount) as the Second Grading from District Rural Development Agency under Swarna Gramin Swarnajayanthi Yojana. Out of the aid they received, one of the members has started a small readymade garment shop, another member has bought a cow, one member has bought an ox, and another has recovered her mortgaged land and is cultivating in her own land. All the members of the group have received their own share of benefits and are utilizing it for different income generating activities.

**KHUMOLOZUNG INTEGRATED COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT (KICDP)**

**Location:** Tseminyu Town, Kohima District, Nagaland

Khumolozung Integrated Community Development Project (KICDP) was implemented in 2005 in partnership with Tseminyu Town Baptist Church (TTBC), Nagaland. The Project is funded by Tear Australia and is implemented in six villages of Tseminyu Town, Nagaland.
Renewing our strength

The Project strived to improve the livelihood of the people by introducing different activities like improved methods of cultivation, formation of Self Help Groups (SHG) and training them on different Income Generating Activities (IGA), kitchen gardening, health awareness, capacity building, and linkages to different government agencies for accessing schemes. This reporting year, being the last year of the final exit phase, the focus of the Project was more on capacity building of TTBC leaders and the SHGs and linkages to different government schemes. The Project came to an end in March 2014.

OBJECTIVES
1. 15% increase in agricultural production by the end of March 2014 through new methods of cultivation.
2. 20% Increase in household income through Income Generating Activities and Peoples' Institution build by the end of March, 2014
3. 30% reduction in common illness by March, 2014.
4. TTBC and the Community leaders are sustainable by the end of the Project.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS
1. One training on SALT was conducted where 10 farmers were trained on soil conservation and preservation, importance of hedge rows, four steps of SALT, basic requirements of plants, and the advantages of SALT method of cultivation.
2. One training on the scientific method of kitchen gardening was provided to 20 households. The Project also distributed different vegetable seeds to 50 households in all the six villages.
3. One refresher training on leadership, entrepreneurship, micro business planning, management, networking and marketing was organised. This training was attended by 30 SHG members from the six villages.
4. In collaboration with TTBC, the Project also conducted a one day seminar on the prevalence, symptoms, mode of transmission, stigma, and prevention of HIV and AIDS. This seminar was attended by 22 youth leaders from TTBC.
5. A three-day training and workshop on 'Biblical understanding on Development and basic Project Management' was successfully conducted with the leaders of TTBC.
6. One capacity building programme was organised on 'Church and community organisation and mobilisation skills'. The programme was attended by the leaders of TTBC and the community.
7. Throughout the year, two Federations were formed from the 30 SHGs from 6 villages.
8. The Project end celebration programmes was organised and successfully conducted on 28th March 2014. The programme was attended by the beneficiaries and representatives from the Church, community and the government.

KEY CHALLENGES
Farmers were so comfortable with their traditional method of jhum cultivation that it was a big challenge for the Project to convince them to shift their method of cultivation from jhum to SALT.

KEY LESSONS LEARNT
1. Regular monitoring and meetings with the leaders of the community and the church was helpful in taking the Project forward.
2. Community's participation and cooperation played a vital role in achieving the goals of the Project.
3. For gender balance and inclusive governance, equal participation of gender is crucial.
4. Linkages and networking with government department is very crucial for the sustenance of the Project.
**Goal Two: Empowering communities through sustainable development and physical wellbeing**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No. of Villages Covered</th>
<th>6</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Population in all the villages</td>
<td>Households</td>
<td>569</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>1786</td>
<td>3560</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>1774</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of Direct Beneficiaries</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>757</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>954</td>
<td>1711</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of Indirect Beneficiaries</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>1029</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>820</td>
<td>1849</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TRANSFORMATIONAL STORY**

Nyurhun SHG is a registered SHG from Zunpha village under Tsemonyu South Village. The group was formed in 2006 with 11 women members. At present there are 10 members and is one of the most successful SHGs of the project.

The Nyurhun SHG started as a group of women with no source of income except from the group activities. Initially the group generated their income by collecting a monthly contribution of Rs. 20 from its members. Apart from their monthly contribution, they also took up other income generating activities. The group decided to make kitchen gardening as their primary source of income and since then the major activity of the group is kitchen gardening. With this activity they were able to increase their savings to a considerable amount and it started to slowly benefit even the members of the group.

The group started their kitchen gardening in a small plot of land in the village and cultivated crops like beans, cabbage, mustard leaves, peanuts, etc., which was sold in bulk to nearby villages. From this activity, they made an approximate profit of Rs. 8000-Rs.10000 annually. The Council of Rengma Baptist Churches (CRBC) saw the progress and the hard work of these women and offered them a few acres of terraced land to the group. With this newly acquired land, the group networked with the government agriculture department and received free seeds from Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK). With all these facilities the group is confident that they can earn more than they had ever earned and save the same for the benefit of the group. They now have operating accounts like Recurring Deposit Account and Savings Account with Co-operative Bank.

**PHOTO GALLERY 2**

UCDP - Kitchen garden training given to Primary group members
UCDP - Members attending functional literacy class
Renewing our strength

PHOTO GALLERY 2

CICDP - SHG training, Bloete

GICDP - Capacity Building Training, Bongalgaon

CLBRC - Promotion of green livelihood

Inauguration of Na Rympei Community Learning and Business Resource Centre

PCDP - Federation leader trained the adolescent on health

KICDP - Capacity Building Training

SOUL - SALT training given to farmers, Nongkholi

FRB - Bargaon: Farmers planting potatoes
GOAL THREE: RESPONDING, RESTORING AND REBUILDING COMMUNITIES IN TIMES OF DISASTER AND CONFLICTS

With rapid changes in the balance of the eco-system, thus affecting the global climate, different disasters in different parts of the world are increasingly become realities. These disasters are coupled by the disasters due to different communal and ethnic conflicts of which NEI is also not alien to. It is important that we not only respond during disasters but also work with communities towards mitigation and adaptation to such disasters. NEICORD is also actively involved in responding, restoring, rebuilding and preparing communities towards different disasters.

MAJULI ISLAND COMMUNITY BASED DISASTER RISK REDUCTION PROJECT (MICBDRRP)

Location: Majuli Island, Jorhat, Assam

Majuli Island Community Based Disaster Risk Reduction Project (MICBDRRP) was initiated in April 2013. The Project is funded by ECHO and is implemented by ACTED in partnership with NEICORD. The Project is implemented in five most disaster prone and at-risk Gram Panchayats (GPs) in Majuli Island. Project replication is intended for the three other Gram Panchayats.

PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVE

To increase resilience of local communities through improvement of preparedness and response mechanisms, and engage authorities in reducing vulnerability to floods for all communities in Majuli Island with a particular focus on reducing the effects on the most vulnerable segments of society.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

1. To combine and link a bottom-up approach to household and community preparedness and mitigation with a top-down approach to strengthening DRR capacity at block, sub-division and district levels towards ensuring a more resilient Majuli Island
2. Increased preparedness among households and communities, and involvement in DRR planning through a bottom-up approach.

APPROACHES USED

Bottom-up approach: Households and community level preparedness and mitigation with a focus on the most vulnerable and specific measures taken towards inclusion

Top-down approach: Strengthening of government DRR capacity with a focus on Block and sub-division level, incorporating district level bodies and line departments.

SUCCESSFUL ACTIVITIES

1. Community Preparedness: The different training programmes and mock drills on community preparedness towards different disasters have helped in improving the resilience of local communities to great extends. Traditional practices like Course Exts and House Hold Preparedness (HHP) are systematized where people have come to know of their capacity, vulnerability, Hazard and Risk which is within them.

2. Top-Down Approaches: The different efforts to network and strengthen the government Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) capacities have strengthened the link between the different DRR stakeholders. The approach is an on-going process and so far, it has resulted in the government authorities taking initiatives to replicate GP Level DMC and Ward Level TFT to all the 25 GPs in Majuli Island. If this initiative is successful, then it would mean a 100% achievement of the project objective.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

1. Convincing of the local community people from relief mindset to participate in awareness training and capacity building programmes.
2. Disaster Management Committee (DMC) formation at GP level and Task Force Team (TFT) formation at Ward Level.
3. Through advocacy from a top-down level, different government agencies like DDMA, Civil Defense Department, ETC-SIRD, Indian Red Cross Society Jorhat District branch, ADC Disaster Management, SDO of Majuli Sub-division, Circle Officer till the level of Gram Panchayat, are supporting all the activities of the Project.

**Key Challenges**

1. Mainstreaming the mindset of the local community from a charity mindset to training and capacity building.
2. The challenge of connecting with people and communicating in a wide and scattered geographical area.
3. Convincing people to participate during farming season.
4. Panchayati Raj Institution (PRI) members are not active and hard to convince.
5. The religious mindset of the people in Majuli. The mindset that all NGO works are Christian related activities.
6. Project staff members have to use the simplest technique to teach so as the community is educated on different community based disaster risk reduction.
7. Constant floods in different places have been a big challenge in carrying out the project activities.
8. Poor telecommunication network in Lower Majuli.
9. Three Wards in Ahaguri i.e. Ward No. 1, 9 and 10 are completely isolated which makes all works delayed in that area.

**Key Lessons Learnt**

1. The Inclusive DRR, which demands for 30% women participation and giving compulsory recognition of old age people and people living with disabilities, have helped the communities to change their attitude towards women, aged people, and people with disabilities, not only in activities related to DRR but also in the overall activities of the community at large.
2. Capacitating the community on concerns related to DRR should be a long process involvement.
3. Community level DRR should be mainstreamed in the Development Plan.
4. Disaster Preparedness Model cannot be applied to all communities. Therefore there is the need of a harmonized disaster preparedness model designed after proper coordination and consultation.
5. DRR Capacity Building processes should be mainstreamed.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No. of Villages Covered</th>
<th>213 villages (According to Census 2011, there are only 98 revenue villages in our directly implemented five GPs. The given figure is based on Revenue &amp; Non-Revenue)</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Population in all the villages</td>
<td>Adult Male: 21666 Female: 20492 Children below 18 years: 6780 Aged people above 60 years: 4467 People living with Disabilities: 89</td>
<td>53494</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of Direct Beneficiaries</td>
<td>Adult Male: 13853 Female: 10497 Children below 18 years: 5230 Aged people above 60 years: 1552 People living with Disabilities: 159</td>
<td>31351</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of Indirect Beneficiaries</td>
<td>No. of Wards: 30 No. of villages: 78 No. of Households: 4002</td>
<td>Total Population indirectly benefitted: 22535</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Networking</td>
<td>1. SDO and DM Cell 2. Block Office 3. DDMA and CWC.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**TRANSFORMATIONAL STORY**

Mr. Kasab Saikia, son of Shri Pawal Saikia, hails from Dakhin Ahaguri and is the General Secretary of People with Disabilities (PWD) organizational body in the whole of Majuli Island. He attended the Inclusive Community Based Disaster Risk Reduction workshops and trainings and was so pleased and satisfied with all the practical lessons that he had learned during the training processes.

In a conversation with him, he expressed that the PWDs are usually excluded in the society and hardly have the chance to participate in the decision making of the community. He also expressed that every day they witness and experience the denial of their own human rights in different ways. Under such circumstances, he said that he was pleased and so much challenged to be included in such important trainings. He is convinced that PWDs are the most vulnerable group of people in the society during floods and different natural disasters and is willing to give his best to convince people like him to be more active and participative towards such useful training programmes.

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**PHOTO GALLERY 3**

- ECHO Assessment Visit
- Disaster Management Committee Formation
- Hazard Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment Training
- Task Force Team Formation, Lulpuria GP
## NORTH EAST INDIA COMMITTEE ON RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT

**Homelink : Nongripar Road - Last Umshiram Police Point**

**Shillong**

### CONSOLIDATED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31.03.2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EXPENDITURE</th>
<th>INCOME</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>WORLD REVENU, USA</strong></td>
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<td>PCDF Project</td>
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<tr>
<td>LCDF Project</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pathanarick Fund Security Project</td>
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<td><strong>TFAR - AUSTRALIA</strong></td>
<td>World DBO - USA</td>
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<td>PCDF Project</td>
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<tr>
<td>ICDF Project</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TFAR FUND - UK</strong></td>
<td>Public Scheme in backward areas</td>
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<td>NICFA</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>WMC, CANADA</strong></td>
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<td>Market Food Security Project</td>
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<td><strong>ECOFA - CANADA</strong></td>
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<td>Majo - DOR</td>
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<td>Public Scheme in backward areas</td>
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<td><strong>UIFF, SOUL Project</strong></td>
<td>Tacipara</td>
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<td>564021.90</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>OTHER PROJECTS</strong></td>
<td>Manipur Food Security Project</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Reach India Training Expenditure</td>
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<td>Child Sponsorship Expenditure</td>
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<td>KABARO</td>
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<td><strong>ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENDITURES</strong></td>
<td>Profit on Sale of Old Computer</td>
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<td>(a) Office Rent</td>
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<td>(b) Traveling Expenses</td>
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<td>(c) Bank Charges</td>
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<td>(d) Security Charges</td>
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<td>(e) Office Running Costs</td>
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<td>(f) Maintenance</td>
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<td>(g) Insurance</td>
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<td>(h) Other Administrative Expenses</td>
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<tr>
<td>Depreciation</td>
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<td>Excess of Income over Expenditure</td>
<td>1697101.28</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL (i)** = **3421065.78**

### Notes and Observations

- The accounts are compiled on a cash basis.
- All figures are in Indian Rupees (INR).

**Approved by:**
- Chairman: NE GOIU
- Treasurer: NE GOIU
- Executive Director: NE GOIU

**Certified Accountants:**
- KIRON JOSHI & ASSOCIATES

**Date:** 22/07/2014
HUMAN RESOURCES

- NEICORD currently has 68 staffs working across 12 projects including the Head Office at Guwahati. MICBDRR Project has the highest percentage of staffs with 29%.
- 26% of the total staffs in the organization are female.
- A total of 16 new staffs were recruited and a total of 13 staffs left the organization due to retirement/resignation during the reporting period.
- High number of recruitment is due to the new Project 07BPS “Improving Access to Information and Delivery of Public Schemes in Remote and Backward Districts of NEIL” which started in the month of February 2014.

HEADC OFFICE STAFF’S RETREAT

NEICORD organized its Biennial Head Office Staff Retreat Programme at Bomdila, Arunachal Pradesh, from 7th to 10th October 2013. The theme for the retreat was “Growing Stronger in Relationship”. It was a time when all the Head Office staffs could leave aside their everyday busy schedules and reaffirm their relationship with each other and especially with God. Several sessions on reflection, prayer, singing, fun & games, sightseeing, etc., were the different features of the retreat programme. The retreat programme was a grand success in renewing our strength and commitment towards each other, towards our work and especially with God.