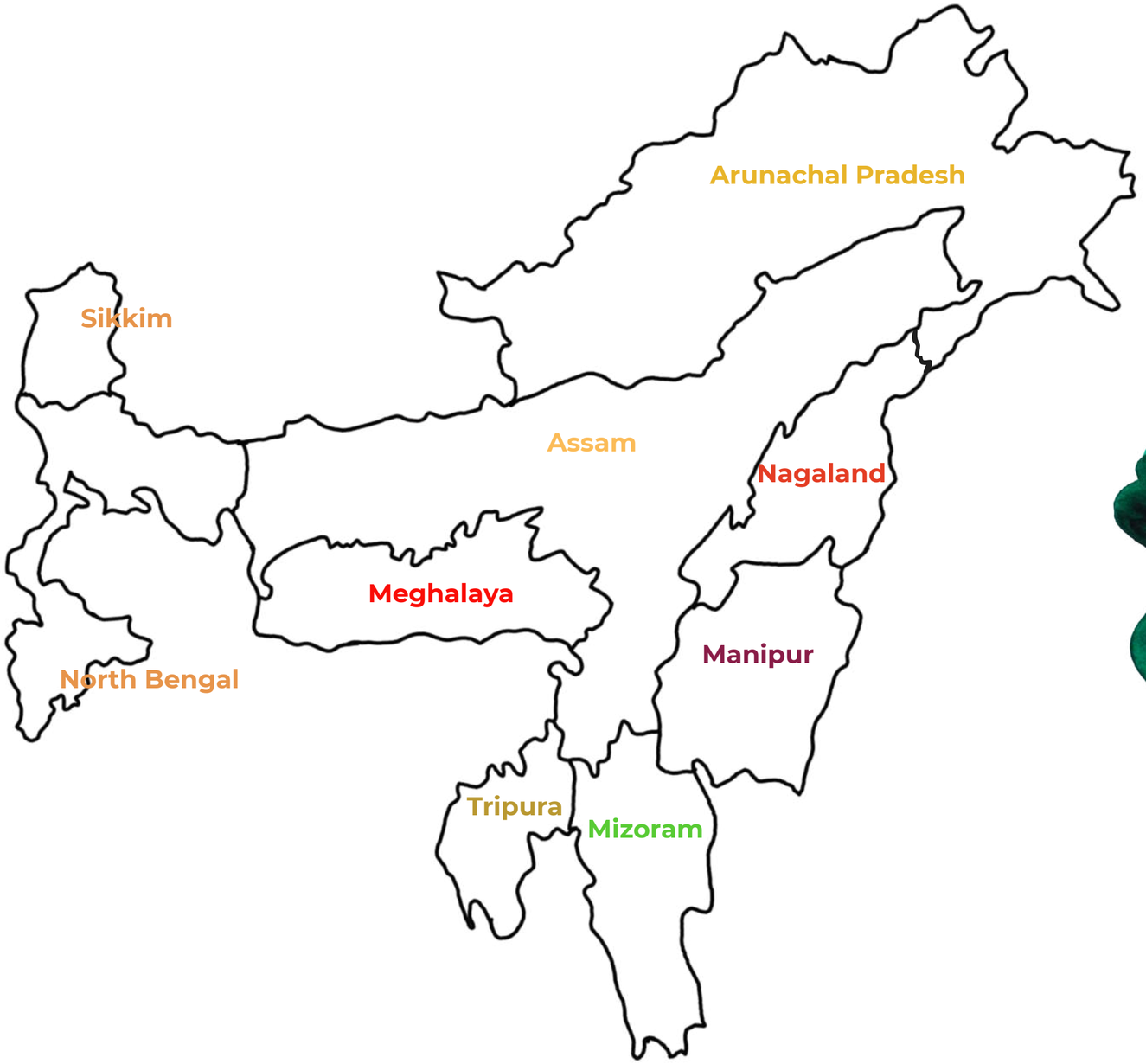
Stellar Practices from NE India Grassroots: **A Repository**

NōDē
Northeast Organizational Development for Empowerment

NORTH EAST TOGETHER

BEACONS OF HOPE




Arunachal Pradesh
Sikkim
Assam
Nagaland
Meghalaya
Manipur
North Bengal
Tripura
Mizoram



FOREWORD

Today the term North East evokes much excitement across India , reminded by the energetic Bihu Dance from the beautiful tea estates, the magnificent one-horned rhino and the richness of the tribal crafts. However, the North East still remains distant from the Indian economic and philanthropic mainstream. These 8 states that comprise the North East, are indeed a region of extraordinarily high diversity with 220 ethnic communities and more than 220 dialects. There are more than 15 major festivals, each representing the rich cultural tradition of the ethnic groups. In fact, the heterogeneity is so high, that the term North East is seldom used by folks from this region when referring to themselves!

Consider the problem statement – while on one hand the North East receives only a 3% share of the national GDP and 4% of India's CSR , it accounts for 15% of the 310 very highly and highly Climate vulnerable districts in India. This 5X disparity in needs VS resources needs to be addressed via systematic actions, to connect the north east to the CSR, Philanthropic and economically uplifting resources of India.

The North East development opportunity is also equally exciting. The NE has a thriving civil society of over 10,000 smaller CSOs and NGOs which is a disproportionately large share of the national cohort. Many of these CSOs work deeply with the communities on topic of regenerative agriculture, sustainable livelihoods, women's entrepreneurships and other income-allied topics. I am glad this compendium by SeSTA brings a spotlight to some of the most exciting organizations and changemakers working tirelessly.

Given the high need, opportunity and interest, I hope this compendium is a very meaningful support to building connections and bridges between the development sector in North East and the robust philanthropic and CSR movement in India and rest of the world. I wish this effort my very best!

Anant Bhagwati
Advisory Board , SeSTA

Introduction

Northeast India and North Bengal are lands interwoven with culture, language, and landscape. The region spans across the eight Northeastern states—Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, and Tripura—and the districts of North Bengal in West Bengal, This region is home to a rich tapestry of ethnic communities, languages, traditions, and ecosystems. Despite this diversity and vibrancy, the region grapples with distinctive developmental challenges such as geographic isolation, inadequate infrastructure, socio-political unrest, and economic marginalization. In this context, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) have played an important role as enablers of grassroots transformation, voices for the marginalized, and catalysts for inclusive growth. For too long, these areas have been sidelined in the larger development story of India. Roads remain broken, schools are under-resourced, and health services are stretched thin. In many corners, the state's presence is distant, and the promise of progress feels uneven.

"Beacons of Hope: Stellar Practices from NE Grassroots" attempts to foreground these. From small women's collectives teaching financial literacy in remote hills to organizations preserving endangered cultures or bringing solar power to off-grid villages, this repository captures the depth and breadth of grassroots action. The CSOs are not just service providers; they are culture-keepers, rights-advocates, and change-makers. In both these regions, CSOs have often been the first to reach remote communities, filling critical gaps where state machinery has struggled to respond adequately.

This initiative wants to change that. By documenting their work, organization journeys, and good practices, it tries to give organizations the recognition and the connections they need. It's a map—not just of places, but of possibilities. A document for funders, governments, researchers, and fellow CSOs to understand where the work is happening, what it looks like, and how we can walk together more wisely. Organized by sector—livelihoods, education, health, gender, women, youth, environment, research & organization development, this living directory will be a space to learn, connect, and collaborate. It's about initiating conversations, encouraging alignment, and presenting a collective of voices in regional development dialogues.

The initiative is rooted in the belief that sustainable development must be contextual, inclusive, and community-driven. CSOs in these regions hold critical insights into what works, why it works, and how it can be scaled or adapted elsewhere. This effort is not just about listing organizations—it is about creating a platform for solidarity, facilitating shared learning, and enabling partnerships that can address the region's complex challenges with greater coherence and impact.

Methodology

The **Beacons of Hope: Stellar Practices from NE Grassroots** repository is rooted in a participatory and context-specific approach that recognizes the diversity and complexity of civil society work across Northeast and North Bengal. The methodology is designed to understand the depth and nuance of grassroots engagement with, also ensures the information gathered is structured, reliable, and useful.

Expression of Interest (EoI Form) and Selection: It began with a clearly defined scope: Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) operating across the eight Northeastern states—Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, and Tripura—and the regions of North Bengal in West Bengal. To initiate participation, an EoI form was circulated widely, inviting organizations to share their interest in being part of the repository. A total of 76 CSO forms were received. The selection process was based on the year of incorporation, geographical spread (special attention to remote and underserved areas), and due diligence of the organizations. Based on these parameters, 60 organizations were selected for detailed profiling and the documentation of good practices they wanted to highlight.

Information Collection: Information was collected using a semi-structured questionnaire focused on the basic profile and good practices of the organizations:

- Structured basic profile forms were circulated among experts to gather standardized information on team composition, vision, mission, due diligence, areas of operation, and activities.
- In-depth interviews with founders, staff, and community members provided rich narratives about the journeys, challenges, and transformative moments of these organizations.
- Field visits and partner inputs were used to validate information and capture ground-level perspectives. The triangulated method ensures contextual accuracy.

Expert Review and Final Selection: After field visits by experts, a panel of five subject matter experts conducted a final review to select the CSOs for inclusion in the repository. To ensure diversity and representation, the selection considered: Size and scale of operations (from small collectives to large NGOs), Sectoral focus and thematic relevance, Geographic spread, including remote and underserved areas, Inclusion of tribal and minority voices, and Innovation, community ownership, and impact.

Documentation and Categorization: Each CSO profile was organized into a consistent template to ensure coherence across the repository. This includes: Basic organizational information, Thematic and geographic focus, Achievements and impact, Community testimonials, Good practices and related case study/story, Future vision or areas of potential collaboration and the photos to represent their work. Organizations are categorized based on their operational sectors to make the repository searchable and user-friendly.

Validation and Consent: All profiles were shared with the respective organizations for review and consent before publication. This participatory validation ensures accuracy and respects the autonomy of each CSO in how their story is told.

This methodology is rooted in lived experience and community-led change. Rather than extracting data, we've focused on building relationships and create space for organizations to share their own narratives in their own voices. The vision is not only documentation, but to create a space of learning and connection.

LIVELIHOOD

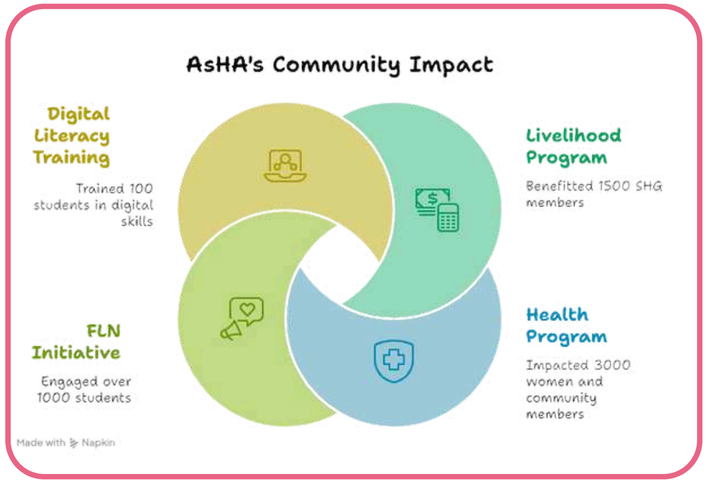
Altruism Society Honour Assistance (AsHA)
Bethel Life Care Charitable Trust (BLCCT)
Better Life Foundation (BLF)
Bodoland Development Foundation (BDF)
Centre for Community Development (Cod Nerc)
Centre for Relief and Rehabilitation (CRR)
Diya Foundation
KABIL
MOSONiE Socio-Economic Foundation
Navoday Foundation
People’s Resource Development Association (PRDA)
People’s Endeavour for Social Changes (PESCH)
Rilum Foundation for Sustainability Development (RFSD)
Rongmei Baptist Association (RBA)
SANJOG

Altruism Society Honour Assistance (AsHA)

Rooted in Hope-Envision to Holistic Development

Organization Snapshot

A registered Trust incorporated in 2020.
Intervention Areas: Kokrajhar & Dhubri, Assam.
Focus Themes: Livelihood, Education, Women Empowerment, Health and Disaster Management.
Vision: To create a peaceful and classless society.
Mission: To empower rural community by stream lining education and sustainable livelihood.
USP: Empowering rural communities through sustainable, community-led intervention in education, livelihoods, and disaster resilience.





Colloborations & Finance

Partners: APCT, APF, eVidyaloka, Goonj, NABARD, Nehru Yuva Kendra, Roots to Branches, SeSTA, TFIx.

Financial Details (2024): INR 23 lacs



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Awards & Recognitions:

Key Transparency Award *by* ***Guide Start India***

Winner of ***Meri Poushtik Rasoi 2022*** *by* ***Idobro Impact Solutions***

Award for ***Organizational Excellence*** *by* ***Dhwani Foundation***

Good Practice of the Organization

Asha's approach to strengthening community development through participatory practices. Strategies include enhancing the functioning of over **500 Self-Help Groups (SHGs)**, focusing on regular meetings, adherence to group norms, and collective decision-making. This has led to a 30–40% improvement in group cohesion and compliance. In partnership with Goonj, Asha promotes community-led infrastructure development, mobilizing local contributions for essential projects like roads, bridges, and halls. The **Asha Learning Improvement Centers**, initiated in 2021, have expanded from 1 to 17 centers, addressing the foundational learning needs of rural children with community-based funding.

Asha also promotes scientific livestock practices, including shed-based pig rearing, which improves animal health and productivity.

Asha's implementation strategy focuses on need-based targeting, with interventions customized to local communities through consultations and mapping exercises. The decentralized and community-driven models ensure sustainability, while cluster-based outreach encourage deeper engagement. Capacity building is a component, with specialized training for SHG members, volunteers, teachers, and staff. Cross-sector partnerships with organizations like Azim Premji Foundation and NABARD further enhance resource access. A multi-tiered, integrated approach across education, livelihoods, and disaster response ensures maximum impact.

Story of Change :

Ms. Ranjana Biswas from Kushum Beel village has been successfully engaged in flower cultivation for 19 years, transforming a family initiative into a sustainable livelihood. With support from government schemes, she has enhanced productivity and maintained quality. Investing Rs. 1 lakh last year, her family earned Rs. 3 lakh in revenue, reflecting strong financial returns. Ranjana balances household duties with farming, managing planting and nurturing while her husband handles marketing. The nearby Kokrajhar market ensures easy access for sales. Her use of both organic and chemical inputs helps sustain and grow the enterprise.









Bethel Life Care Charitable Trust (BLCCT)

Regenerating Traditional Handloom Industries

Organization Snapshot

A registered Trust incorporated in the year 2014.

Intervention Areas: Changlang, Longding, Anjaw, Namsai, Lohit (Arunachal Pradesh); Dibrugarh, Tinsukia (Assam).

Focus Area: Education, Health, Livelihood, Mental Health, Skill-Training.

Vision BLCCT strives for a developed, skilled and equitable society characterized by peace, unity, and human dignity.

Mission Empowering marginalized communities for inclusive and sustainable growth.

SDG Goals: No Poverty, Zero Hunger, Quality Education, Gender Equality, Decent Work & Economic Growth.

USP: Strong Relationship with different stakeholders.

Colloborations & Finance

Partners:

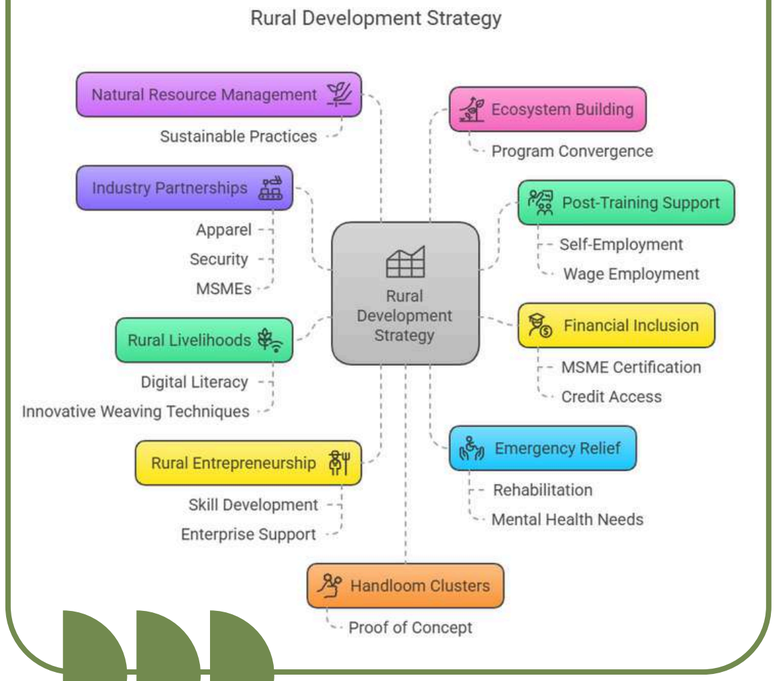
APSDM, ArSRLM, ASDM, BYA, CCRMS, CMS Foundation, NABARD, Northeast Together, NSDC, PMKVY, PRIA Capstone, RWS, SeSTA, Seva Samithy, SIDBI

Financial Details (2024): INR 1.39 crore

Impact and Achievements

Characteristic	Beneficiaries	Handloom Cluster Revival	Skill Development Trainees
Impact	6,957 beneficiaries	Revived cluster	70% placement
Key Activities	Livelihood and capacity-building initiatives	Capacity building, OFPO formation, GI registration, value addition	NABARD-sponsored programs





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Testimonial : *We, the members of Blooming SHG, are delighted to share our journey of empowerment through the capacity-building training on candle making, facilitated by Bethel Life Care Charitable Trust (BLCCT). This initiative transformed us from being Self-Help Group (SHG) members to successful entrepreneurs. With the knowledge and skills gained from the training, along with the collective support of our fellow members, we established our own brand, Junak.*

Awards & Recognition: Swabhiman Skill Summit Award by Pangsau Pass 24*7, TERIK Weekly skill development and livelihood opportunity

Good Practice of Organization

Handloom Cluster

BLCCT works community-led development through skill-building, livelihood generation, and convergence with stakeholders like NABARD, SIDBI, ArSRLM, and SeSTA. The organization's good practices include demand-based training, continuous handholding support, and post-training mentorship. BLCCT integrates job placement with entrepreneurship support, helping participants either gain employment or start micro-enterprises.

BLCCT's implementation approach emphasizes community participation and convergence. Projects like the Skill Development Program on Sewing Machine Operation in Alubari and Security Guard Training in Tirap district—both NABARD-sponsored—have led to placements and self-employment, with MSME certification enhancing credibility. Farm and non-farm livelihood interventions such as floriculture and beekeeping with Nepali households and food processing training for SHG women have enabled income diversification. Approx. 45% of trained women adopted bakery as an enterprise.

The formation of handloom clusters through NSDC and NABARD preserve traditional Tangsa textiles while upscaling via computerized embroidery—SIDBI has supported this with modern equipment. BLCCT is also promoting eco-tourism under NABARD's "My District My Project" initiative and rural innovation through SESTA's "Hastavem" pitch, blending tradition with technology.

Through effective convergence, BLCCT ensures sustainability by linking communities to entitlements, market access, and scalable models, with Off-Farm Producer Organizations and Village Innovation Pitches at the core of long-term impact.

Story of Change :

The NABARD-sponsored Skill Development Programme on Sewing Machine Operation, implemented by Bethel Life Care Charitable Trust (BLCCT) in Chowkham Block, trained 30 rural women and youth over 47 days. Prior to the program, most participants had no or minimal income. Post-training, 10 secured jobs at SHAHI Exports in Bangalore with Rs.12,000 monthly salary, while 20 others launched home-based or independent tailoring ventures. Twelve participants now earn between Rs.10,000–Rs.25,000 per month.









Better Life Foundation (BLF)

Growing Sustainability, Cultivating Resilience

BETTER LIFE FOUNDATION

Organization Snapshot

A registered **Socities** incorporated in the year **2009.**

Intervention Area: Dimapur, Mon, Tuensang, Kiphire, (Nagaland).

Focus Area: Health, Education, Livelihood, Biodiversity Conservation, Culture Preservation, Rural Tourism.`

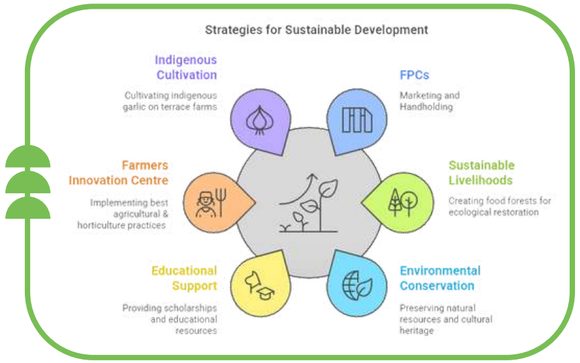
Vision: To create thriving, self-reliant marginal communities through sustainable and inclusive growth.

Mission: To empower communities through innovative and sustainable initiatives in livelihood generation, women & youth empowerment, healthcare, education, biodiversity conservation, and cultural preservation. By fostering resilience, self-reliance, and inclusive growth, we aim to catalyze holistic development and elevate the quality of life for communities across regions.

SDG Goals: No Poverty, Decent Work & Economic Growth, Climate Action, Partnerships for the Goals.

USP: Livelihood Enhancement and Culture Preservation.







Collaborations & Finance

Partners: APF, Asia Health LLC, DUDA, Empart Sussie, NABARB, NERLP, NET, SBI, SIDBI, World Bank.
Financial Details (2024): INR 2 crore

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Awards & Recoginition

Rohini Nayyar Prize from Niti Aayog- 2022, Bharat Gaurav Awards

Good Practice of Organization

Convergence and Natural Farming by following the Permaculture Principles

The Better Life Foundation (BLF) has implemented a **convergence-based development model rooted in permaculture principles and natural farming** to promote sustainable rural livelihoods. Through the Tribal Development Fund (TDF) project, BLF addressed core community needs such as livelihood security, value addition, and market collectivization by forming 10 SHGs and registering a Farmer Producer Organization (FPO). Infrastructure development, such as a 3 km road and electricity installation, was achieved through cost-sharing among the community, TDF, and government departments, enhancing accessibility and social integration.

The project design followed permaculture methods, focusing on soil regeneration, contour swales, and intensive intercropping with nitrogen-fixing legumes. BLF promoted convergence with various departments—Agriculture, Horticulture, Veterinary, and Rural Development—to provide training, inputs like seeds and piglets, and support services. Skill-building and enterprise promotion were central, with initiatives like mushroom cultivation, food processing, and cooperative society training supported by NABARD, NITI Aayog, and SRLM.

Community participation was central to implementation, with project committees enabling local decision-making. The project's ₹1.2 crore budget was efficiently utilized, resulting in significant income increases and improved infrastructure. Due to its success, a new ₹1.25 crore project has been sanctioned under NABARD's JIVA initiative to scale natural farming, promote champion farmers, and establish seed banks—making the model both scalable and sustainable.

Project Initiatives

In the project area, a joint initiative by Better Life Foundation staff and local farmers led to the plantation of 5,000 Mexican sunflowers and mulberry trees. This effort focused to increase biomass and introduce diverse fruit varieties. The plants act as natural pest repellents, reducing the need for chemical inputs. Mulberry trees also support silkworm cultivation, opening up alternative livelihood avenues. The expanded fruit diversity benefits local biodiversity by supporting bird populations and pollinators. This ecological balance contributes to a resilient farming system.







Bodoland Development Foundation (BDF)

Transforming communities in Bodoland

BDF
EMPOWERING SOCIETY

Organization Snapshot

A registered **Section 8 Company** incorporated in the year **2021**

Intervention Areas: Udalguri, Tamulpur, Baksa, Chirang and Kokrajhar (Bodoland Territorial Region -Assam).

Focus Areas: Agriculture, Education and Skill, Micro enterprises, Decentralized Renewable Energey, Handloom, Sericulture, Animal Husbandry, Health, Social and Behaviour Change, Environment.

Vision: A Self-Reliant, Sustainable And Dignified Society.
Mission: To foster self-reliant communities by driving participatory development, advocating for effective policies, enhancing capacity building, and implementing strategic interventions for long-term impact.

SDG Goals: No Poverty; Good Health and Well being; Affordable and Clean Energy; Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure; Climate Action; Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions; Partnerships for the Goals.

USP: Collaboration and Convergence.

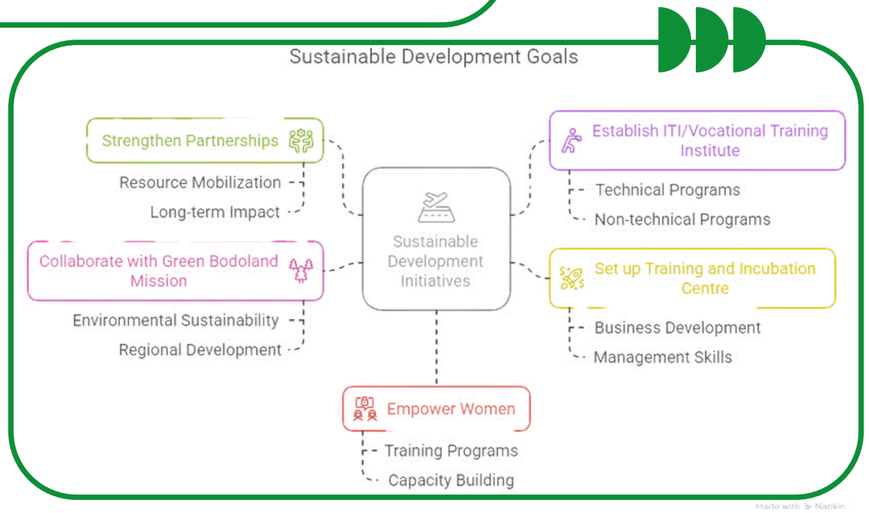
Collaborations & Finance

Partners: Assam Kaziranga University, Bodoland Territorial Council (BTR), Health City Hospital Guwahati, I North East Social and Behaviour Change Alliance, Resham Sutra, RuKart Technologies Pvt. Ltd, SELCO Foundation, SAI ITI,

Financial Details (2024): INR 1 Crore







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Testimonial :

"We the members of SHGs feel excited with the intervention of BDF in the Eri value chain. The intervention of BDF in Eri sub-sector has the potential to productively engage women from our SHGs as a major contributor to household income. We look forward with expectation of exciting future with BDF team."

Good Practice of Organization

Resource mobilization through Convergence and Partnerships

The Bodoland Development Foundation (BDF) shows a strong model of resource mobilization through convergence, making it a good practice in sustainable development. Its collaborative approach includes aligning with government departments, national organizations, and local communities to create an ecosystem that maximizes the impact of financial, technical, and human resources. A good practice include promoting local entrepreneurship, forming cooperative societies, and mainstreaming surrendered insurgents into peaceful economic activities under initiatives like **Rwdwmkhang**.

BDF's **methods of work** involve participatory planning, community mobilization, and capacity-building. Extensive stakeholder consultations and needs assessments are conducted before project design. For example, the formation of **Cooperative societies** reflects a bottom-up approach that ensures ownership and sustainability. BDF leverages expertise from global institutions such as the Danish Consortium and NECTAR to build local capacity and introduces relevant technologies and best practices in skill development.

The implementation strategy is structured around convergence and phased execution. BDF first identifies target groups and areas, followed by skill development, access to finance, infrastructure provisioning, and marketing support. Strategic partnerships—such as with BTC for Rwdwmkhang—enable the creation of scalable models of livestock and cooperative farming. Integrating SDGs into planning ensures the initiatives are inclusive, environmentally conscious, and development-oriented. This comprehensive strategy promotes peace, stability, and holistic growth in BTR.

BDF works on different thematic:

The Bodoland Development Foundation (BDF) has created a sustainable livelihood ecosystem in Assam's Bodoland region by mobilizing resources and forging strategic collaborations. Its Sapkhaiti campus, BDF has established skill development centers focused on automobile technology, electrical systems, sewing, handloom, piggery, and beekeeping, boosting employability and entrepreneurship among local youth. In collaboration with the BTC Agriculture Department and development partners, and through the formation of cooperative societies, BDF promotes local enterprise and sustainable livelihoods. A need-based survey involving 8,500 Bodo youth has guided the design of vocational training programs to ensure relevance and impact. Community consultations and partnerships with civil society organizations have deepened grassroots engagement and addressed critical devleopment challenges. BDF also chapions eco-friendly initiatives such as reforestation and enables access to markets, fostering environmental and economic sustainability.









Centre for Community Development (Cod Nerc)

Through Network, Education, Research Training, Resource Mobilization and Capacity Building

Cod Nerc
WORKING WITH THE PEOPLE

Organization Snapshot

A registered Societies incorporated in the year 2005

Intervention Areas: Aizwal, Sechhip, Khawzawl, Champhai, Mamit (Mizoram)

Focus Areas: Livelihood, Health, Emergency Relief.

Vision: Building a society where every human being has freedom, equal opportunity, and dignity, and can participate without any discrimination based on caste, class, creed, color, religion and gender for optimum sustainable development through integrated and holistic approach.

Mission: Taking steps towards filling the gaps that exist between the people/community and the services through integrated and holistic approach of intervention. Create an environment where everyone can play the role and participate towards for the promotion of optimum sustainable development.

USP: Rural Entrepreneurship.



Collaborations & Finance:
Partners: BCI, BI, Bread for the World, MSACS, NABARD, SELCO, SIDBI.
Financial Details (2024): Rs. 2 crore

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Good Practice of Organization

COD NERC adopts a grassroots, community-centered approach grounded in equality, justice, and sustainability. Since its inception in 2005, the organization has focused on empowering marginalized communities across Mizoram through participatory and inclusive methods. Every intervention is derived from the lived experiences and emergent needs of the people, ensuring a context-specific response that values local knowledge.

The organization's method of work is guided by its mission to bridge service gaps using an integrated and holistic strategy. COD NERC emphasizes capacity-building through skill development, awareness programs, and empowerment of women and youth. It collaborates with governmental and non-governmental agencies and ensures transparent governance and responsive team structures.

Projects are implemented with a focus on sustainability and self-reliance. For instance, in livelihood programs like the Solar Mama and Integrated Tribal Development Fund, COD NERC trains community members in entrepreneurship, sustainable farming, and solar energy. Health initiatives include targeted interventions for HIV/AIDS among high-risk groups through behavior change communication, STI services, and accessible healthcare. Welfare efforts span education, elderly care, and support to internally displaced and refugee populations. Need-based responses, such as skill training and relief distribution, are organized based on immediate crises.









Centre for Relief and Rehabilitation (CRR)
Right & Entitlement Based Organization

Organization Snapshot

A registered Trust incorporated in the year 2020.

Intervention Areas: Kokrajhar (Assam).

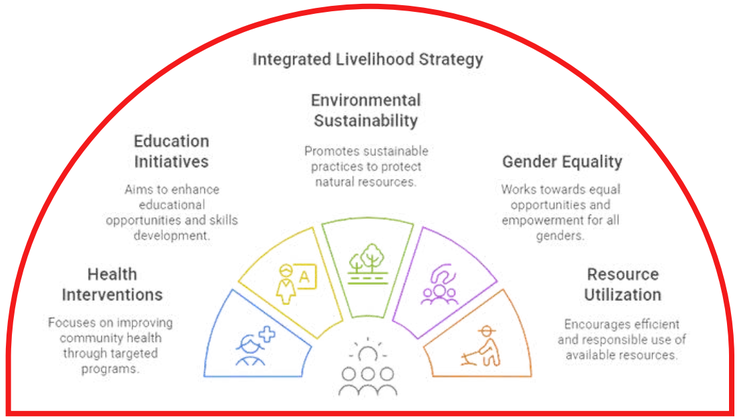
Focus Areas: Education, Livelihood, Women Rights & Gender.

Vision: To build an inclusive society where all individuals-regardless of gender or community-live with dignity, have equal access to justice, education, livelihood, and human rights, and participate actively in governance and decision-making processes.

Mission: To ensure a safe and inclusive environment for all genders. To provide livelihood opportunities and technical support to marginalized communities. To promote access to quality education for every child. To advocate for rights and entitlements through engagement with local governance systems. To build a society where equality and justice are upheld at all levels.

USP: Making the community empowered through awareness instead of providing direct monetary benefit.

Collaborations & Finance Partner: APF
Financial Details (2024): INR 10 lacs





Development Program Impacts & Achievements

	Achievement
Individuals Reached	15,000+ individuals in 15 villages
Female Participation	Increased participation in Gram-Sabhas
Paddy Farmers	Direct sales to FCI, earning ₹920/40kg
Paddy Sale Certificates	Supported farmers in obtaining certificates
Low-Cost Toilets	Facilitated approval of 395 toilets
Government Schemes	Linked beneficiaries, securing rights
Kitchen & Nutrition Gardens	Established 85 gardens
Maize Cultivation	Supported with Krishi Vigyan Kendra
Community Libraries	Set up 'Boi-Poka' in 15 villages

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Good Practice of Organization

Right-based Initiative

The Centre for Relief and Rehabilitation has adopted several impactful practices to empower communities, especially women, through rights-based approaches and participatory development. Practice involves guiding community members to independently engage with government systems by organizing regular awareness meetings and sensitization sessions. This has built self-confidence and reduced dependency on external actors. To address **domestic violence**, the organization fosters unity among women, helps them access legal support, and builds strong peer networks for advocacy.

An achievement is the recognition of women as farmers. Many women who have worked in agriculture for years were not acknowledged in official records. The organization enabled them to assert their **identity and access land rights**, thereby opening doors to government schemes and institutional credit. Sustainable agriculture is promoted through the revival of traditional farming practices, reduced chemical input use, and a shift toward organic methods to ensure food and environmental security.

The organization also plays an important role in advancing gender equality by ensuring women's active participation in village meetings and decision-making platforms. They now confidently engage in Gram Sabhas and local governance discussions. Methods include capacity building, participatory rural appraisal, peer-led awareness, and collaboration with local governance bodies. Implementation is phased through need assessment, mobilization, training, government linkage, monitoring, and policy-level advocacy for inclusive governance.

Journey of Founder:

Mr. Abu Taher Sheik, cofounder of the Centre for Relief and Rehabilitation, was inspired to join community work after witnessing NGO interventions during the 2012 ethnic violence in his locality. His early involvement with TISS in education for displaced children laid the foundation for his future in social development. He later helped over 70 conflict-affected students enroll in a safer school, ensuring their academic continuity. During the COVID-19 pandemic, he returned to his village and began media advocacy, exposing corruption and recovering funds misappropriated from vulnerable families. His activism led to partnerships with human rights organizations. In 2020, he formally established the Centre for Relief and Rehabilitation. The organization addresses issues like domestic violence, education, and corruption. It empowers women through awareness and active participation in local governance.







Diya Foundation (DF)
Reaching the Unreached

DIYA FOUNDATION
Reaching out to the underprivileged

Organization Snapshot

A registered Societies incorporated in the year 2011.
Intervention Areas: Kamrup, Goalpara (Assam); Ri-bhoi (Meghalaya).

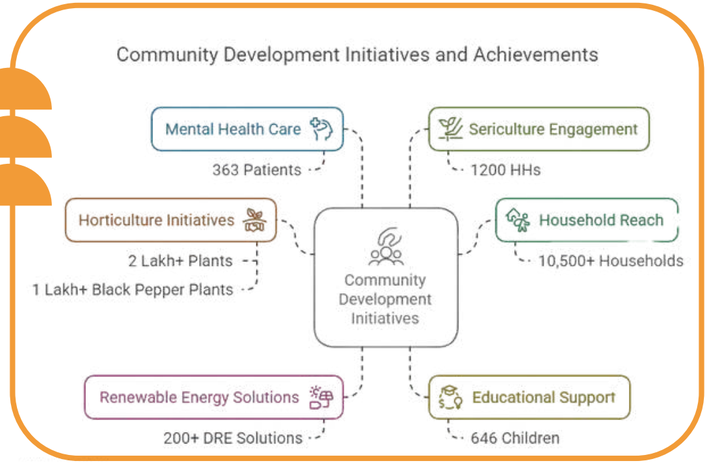
Focus Areas: Livelihood, Health, Education, Humanitarian Support.

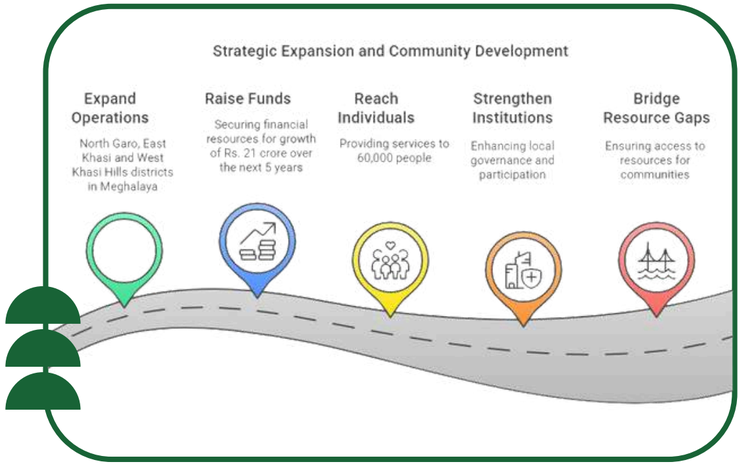
Vision: A society of self-reliant, sustainability and dignity.

Mission: Serving the community to enhance their capacities, participation, institution-building and sustainable use of resources.

SDG Goals: Quality education, Good Health and wellbeing, Affordable and clean energy, Poverty, Climate action, reduced inequality, Gender, WASH.

USP: Community institution building is the focus of the organisation which can sustain organically. The approach is not project focussed but programatic. This is applicable in all sectors it is operating in. Holistic improvement of every household is the focus.





Collaborations & Finance

Partners: AIF, APF, APART, ASRLM, CAN, Chola Mandalam, CPCRI, Dasra, Dept of Sericulture & Handloom, Give India, Goonj, IDEA, Ikigai, KVK, HRS, IIE, NABARD, PHF, SATRA, SELCO, SeSTA, The Goat Trust, Vetrenary, WIPRO Foundation.
Financial Details (2024): INR 2 crore



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Testimonial :

"I am very grateful to Diya Foundation since they have shown me a source of income generation and have facilitated me with various capacity building programs. I have attended a 5 day ' PASHU SAKHI' Training. With this training I am able to treat my own livestock and also the neighbors come to me if there is any issue with their livestock".

Awards & Recognition: Indian Institution of Spices Research 'award of excellence 2024".

Good Practice of Organization

Black Pepper cultivation as backyard farming & Mental Health Treatment program

Diya Foundation has successfully implemented two good practices in Kamrup Rural district, Assam—integrated black pepper cultivation and a community mental health treatment program. **The black pepper** initiative began in 2014, aiming to utilize existing areca-nut plantations for supplementary income. Using Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) methods, Diya identified community needs, formed Farmer Interest Groups (FIGs), and trained over 1500 farmers on good agricultural practices. The formation of Rangsang Agro Producer Company Ltd., a 600-member women-led FPC, and the establishment of a spice processing unit under the SFURTI scheme ensured value addition and better market access.

The Mental Health Treatment Program started in 2018, addressing the lack of accessible psychiatric care and high stigma in the region. Diya conducts monthly health camps, with around 70 patients attending each, and provides treatment for Severe Mental Disorders, Common Mental Disorders, and epilepsy. Awareness campaigns, home visits, and follow-ups ensure community engagement. Vulnerable patients also receive medicine support and livelihood assistance (e.g., DRE-based solutions, agriculture, tailoring).

Impacts include a significant increase in awareness and voluntary participation in mental health camps, enhanced income through spice cultivation, and mobilization of farmers into collective enterprises.

Impacts of Black Pepper Initiative:

Black pepper cultivation has gained popularity in the region, offering farmers a sustainable source of income. Diya Foundation has helped organize around 600 farmers into the Rangsang Agro Producer Company Ltd., strengthening their collective bargaining power. Through the Foundation's facilitation, the FPC secured government funding for a spice processing unit and attracted private sector support via carbon finance for arecanut plantations, which serve as host trees for black pepper.











KABIL

KABIL

Organization Snapshot

A registered Societies incorporated in the year 2012

Intervention Areas: Udalguri.

Focus Areas: Livelihood & Community Institution Building.

Vision: We believe in extending a supportive environment through mobilizing, skilling- capacity building, linkage building with key agencies, and extending need-based resource support, to all individuals and communities fighting poverty and injustice for various reasons; so that they can have an opportunity to pursue and achieve their goals.

Mission: To enable the most marginalized people, especially rural women, to earn a decent living and take charge of their own lives.

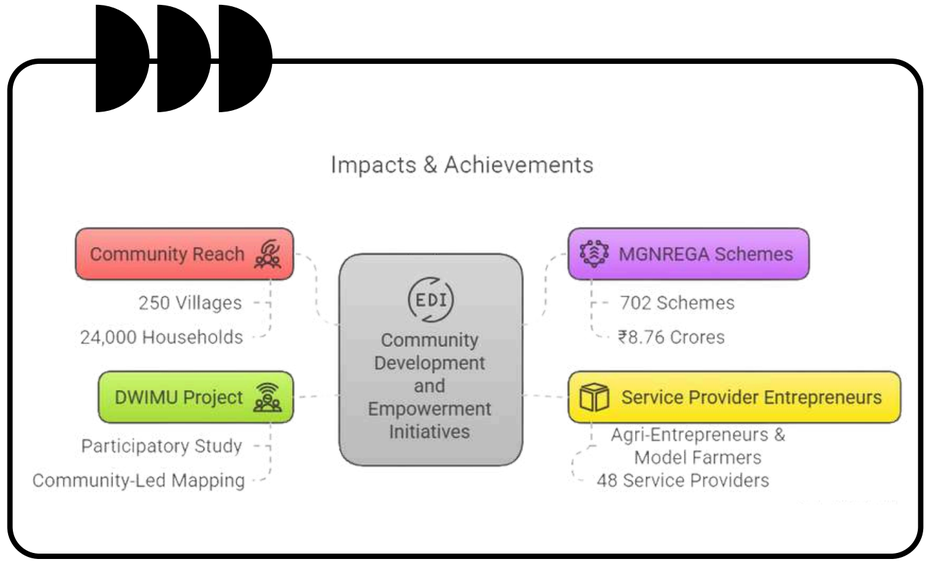
SDG Goals: No Poverty, Good Health & Well being, Gender Equality, Reduced Inequalities, Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions, Partnerships for Goals.

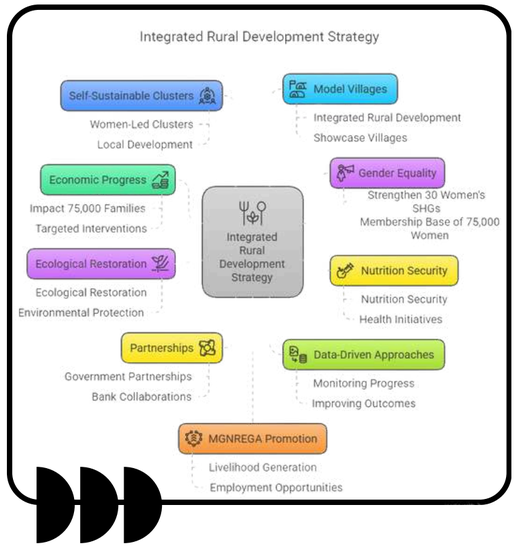
USP: Driving convergence and community-led asset creation to strengthen livelihoods and realize rights and entitlements, with a focus on MGNREGA-supported initiatives like fish ponds, piggery sheds, and plantations.

Collaborations & Finance

Partners: ABF, ARSLM, BRLF, BTC, E2F, NET, Oxfam International, RCRC, SDTT, TATA Trust

Financial Details (2024): INR 1.6 crore







Mr. Achintya Ghosh
kabilindia.org
achin.pradan@gmail.com

"Testimonial: "*Through KABILs interventions we grow organic, sell organic and eat organic*".
Awards & Recognition: Recognition by Bharat Rural Livelihood Foundation (BRLF) for MGNREGA.

Good Practice of Organization

Convergence on MGNREGA with government entitlements

KABIL works closely with rural communities to implement MGNREGA by supporting access to entitlements, promoting livelihood opportunities, and improving local infrastructure. It begins with creating awareness about the MGNREGA Act, helping communities understand their rights and prepare village development plans. These plans are then presented in Gram Sabha meetings and aligned with government programs through coordination with Panchayats and local development committees.

The organization facilitates training for community members, SHG leaders, and staff to improve their understanding of MGNREGA processes. It has introduced community-based service providers who assist in identifying and mentoring farmers. These farmers are supported to begin income-generating activities such as fishery, piggery, and vegetable farming, using infrastructure developed under MGNREGA.

In areas like Assam and West Bengal, KABIL has supported households to develop ponds, pig sheds, and gardens, enabling them to engage in productive activities at home. The organization also focuses on improving water resource management, crop diversification, and livestock care. Technical inputs, exposure visits, and demonstrations are used to build knowledge and encourage adoption of best practices.

Planning is done in coordination with government departments, and detailed project reports are prepared for village clusters. Local youth are trained to support implementation.

Story of Change :

Punam, a permanent worker at Chamurchi Tea Garden, lives alone in the Dipa line and supplements her income through livestock rearing. Managing goats and pigs alone was challenging, especially after losing piglets, but support from KABIL helped her build a low-cost pigsty, allowing her to rear two pigs. She also set up an Azolla pit to improve feed quality. Passionate about farming, Punam grows vegetables like cauliflower, cabbage, kohlrabi, brinjal, and chillies. Despite losing 33 black pepper saplings to animal damage, she fenced her Areca nut plot and propagated new plants. She plans to replant them in the next monsoon.









MOSONiE Socio Economic Foundation
A organization led by Young Women

MOSONiE
SOCIO-ECONOMIC FOUNDATION

Organization Snapshot

Section 8 Company was incorporated in the year 2016.

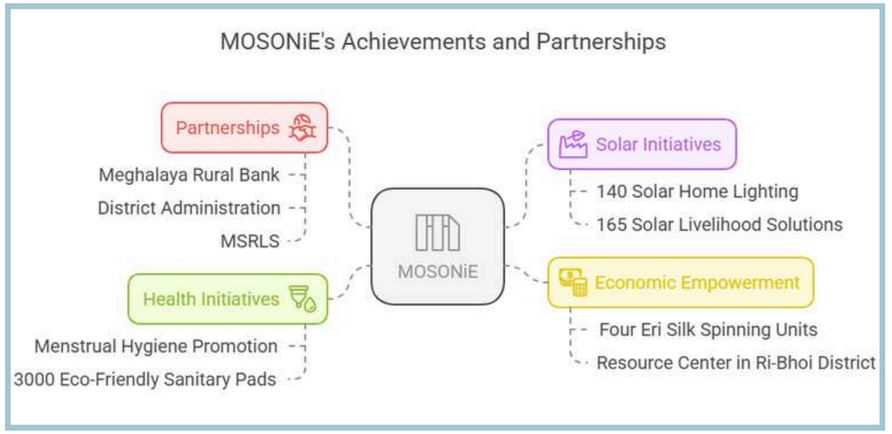
Intervention Areas: Ri-bhoi district of Meghalaya.

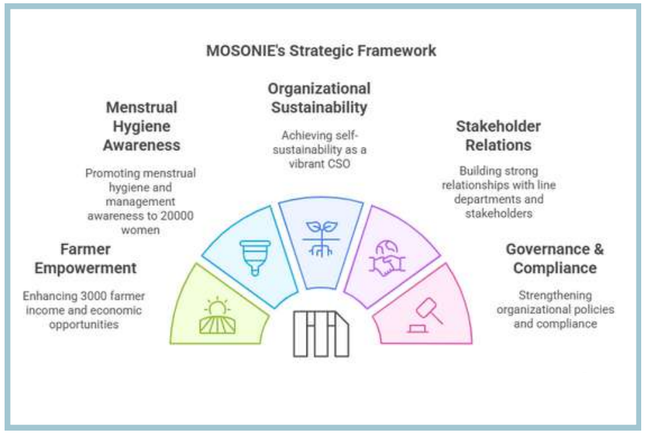
Focused Themes: Livelihood & Health.

SDGs Goals: No Poverty, Good Health & Well-Being, Clean Water & Sanitation, Affordable & Clean Energy, Decent Work & Economic Growth, Sustainable Cities & Communities.

Vision: Regeneration of commonwealth towards the well-being of people and the planet.
Mission: Empower underserved communities through collective action towards equitable access and resource regeneration.

USP: Women Livelihood - Eri Spinning.





Collaboration & Finance

Partners: APF, Goonj, R2B, Project Baala, SELCO, SeSTA

Financial Details (2024): INR 85 lacs



Margaret
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margaret@mosonie.org

Outreach: *MOSONiE SEF reached out to 59,070 individuals*
1. 1000+ Households through Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Textile and Decentralised Renewable Energy solutions.
2. 3000 Individuals through Menstrual Health Management and promotion reusable sanitary pads.
3. Over 50,000 Saplings Planted in Ri Bhoi, Meghalaya & Senapati, Manipur.
4. Through a relief response, 1500 households.
5. Through Cloths for work 2770 and School to School initiatives 800.

Good Practice of Organization

Eri Spinning Cluster which is supported by Selco Foundation through Clean Energy initiative: Linked up with SHG, VO, Entrepreneur, Banks and Markets

Reasons for working in this theme: Low income and poor productivity of traditional eri-spinning; Physical drudgery of spinners; Lack of supply of eri yarn for the practicing weavers in the cluster.

Method of Work: MOSONiE team engage with dire community directly, taking help of exisiting community institution like SHG, VO, CLF and enterprise (Eri Weaves). They conduct village stay, awareness meeting to understand community issues and design the programs after taking feedback from Community. MOSONie team also roped in different stakeholders like donor, govt. department (sericulture), experts for successful implementation and scaling up of the program.

Process of Implementation of Work: Awareness meetings and Rural stay to make rapport with the community. Focused interaction with the community to understand issues and challenges. Discussed it with the existing enterprise Eri Weaves, Selco Foundation and experts for developing work plan for the issues. After successful demonstration with support from Selco Foundation MOSONiE team were able to expand the activity in the cluster as well as to other block of Jirang and Umling. District Adminstration also supported in the initiatitive.

Story of Change :

Before MOSONiE's intervention, Linda, like many other women in her community, would sell raw cocoons for ₹700 per kg. Spinning the yarn manually with a traditional tool called a 'Takli' took around one and a half months to produce 1 kg of yarn, limiting the income potential for women engaged in this activities. After the introduction of the solar-powered eri spinning machine, the productivity of women like Linda drastically increased. She could now spin 4-6 kg of yarn per month, raising the income from ₹2,500 to ₹10,000 monthly. This intervention not only made spinning more efficient but also significantly improved the economic well-being of her family.









Navoday Foundation

Organization Snapshot

A registered **Societies** incorporated in the year **2016.**

Intervention Areas: Tamulpur & Udalguri (Assam).

Focus Areas: Livelihood.

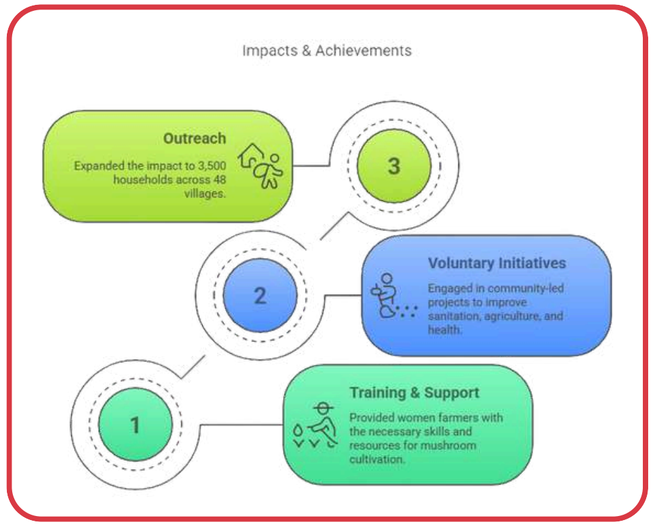
Vision: Challenging the socio-economic inequalities and enabling the vulnerable sections of society towards the goal of self-reliance.

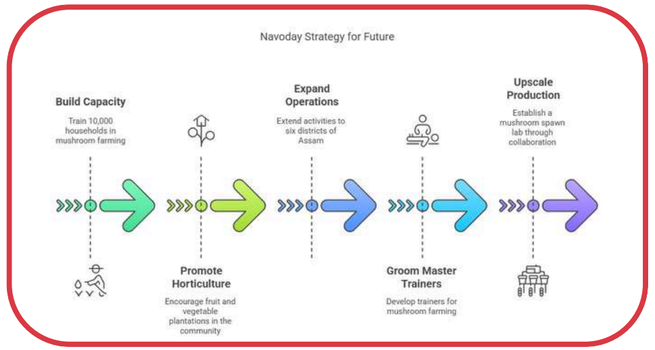
Mission: Integrated development in the underserved regions through people's participation, building Capacities and empowered for optimal use of resources.

SDG Goals: No Poverty, Good Health and Well Being, Gender Equality, Clean water & Sanitation, Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure, Responsible Consumption and production.

USP: Community mobilization, training, and capacity building on Mushroom farming, and mobilizing farmers.

Collaborations & Finance
Partners: AHT, ATE, Chandra Foundation, Dhwani Foundation, Dolphin Tank, IAF, IWF Trust, Mainland China, NET, PRIA, RGVN, ROSS, SeSTA, SGI, TSG, UnLtd India,
Financial Details (2024): INR 18.7 lacs







Purna Chetry
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Testimonial : *"Navoday Foundation has been engaging in our village since past two years. The organization's engagement has been consistent and empowering. We look forward towards Navoday Foundation for deeper involvement in taking our activities based on mushroom in bigger scale."*
Awards & Recognition: *Swachh Bharat Mission Appreciation certificate, Mushalpur Youth Award 2020.*

Good Practice of Organization

Mushroom Farming Initiative

Navoday Foundation’s approach to mushroom farming is rooted in community mobilization, women empowerment, and sustainable agriculture.

Method of work begins with identifying and organizing clusters of small and marginal women farmers. These groups are then equipped with technical knowledge through structured training programs covering all aspects of **oyster mushroom cultivation**—such as substrate preparation, spawning, casing, harvesting, and post-harvest management. Emphasis is laid on hands-on demonstrations and exposure visits to successful mushroom farms, ensuring that learning is practical and replicable.

To strengthen collective action and ensure market readiness, the foundation facilitated the formation of the Farmers Producer Organization (FPO), **Milanjyoti Agro Producers Company Limited.** This collective helps women farmers secure better prices by aggregating produce, improving bargaining power, and accessing broader markets. The Foundation also supported infrastructure creation, such as mushroom sheds for women lacking space and supplied crucial farming inputs like mushroom spawn and chaff cutter machines.

Implementation followed a phased and participatory approach, beginning in 2016 and scaling to over 3,160 beneficiaries by 2022–23, with 80% active participation from women. Regular monitoring, peer learning, and feedback mechanisms were planted to ensure quality control and sustainability.

Story of Change :

Panchami Adhikari from Darrangapar village exemplifies the impact of Navodaya Foundation’s initiatives. Initially a homemaker dependent on seasonal agricultural income while her husband sought work elsewhere, Panchami embraced mushroom cultivation after attending a training program in 2023. Starting with 20 mushroom cylinders, she produced 60 kg of fresh mushrooms and sold them at the local market. Her success led her entire family to engage in mushroom farming full-time, significantly boosting their household income to ₹9,600 in her first year alone.









People’s Resource Development Association (PRDA)
Organization Working in Valley Region of Manipur

Organization Snapshot

A registered **Societies** incorporated in the year **1988**.

Intervention Areas: Bishnupur, Noney, (Manipur)

Focus Areas: Livelihoods.

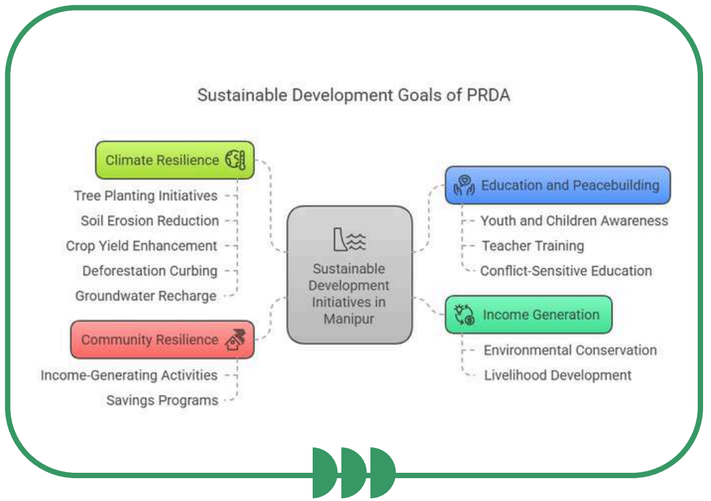
Vision: Creating a sustainable, resourceful and healthy environment where people co-exist with strong values.

Mission: Strengthening and capacitating the key leaders, NGO’s, CBO’s, SHG and farmers in the process of networking development and advocacy.

SDG Goals: Zero Hunger, Good Health and Well-being, Quality Education, Gender Equality , Clean Water and Sanitation, Affordable and Clean Energy, Climate Action, Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions.

USP: Expertise in Climate Resilience & Livelihoods catering local challenges







Collaborations & Finance
Partners: DAPCU, RNBA, SeSTA, UNM-M, VANI, VHA
Financial Details (2024): INR 1.7 crore

Longjam Suranjoy Singh
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prda169@rediffmail.com

Awards & Recognition: *District & State Youth Club/Organization Award in 1996 & 2000, Certificate of Appreciation for BEST PERFORMING COMMUNITY CARE CENTRE IN MANIPUR by Shri O Ibobi, Chief Minister of Manipur in the year 2012.*

Good Practice of Organization

Traditional Weaving

Sustainable livelihood initiative that revives traditional weaving among BPL families. This initiative not only generates steady income but also preserves the community's rich cultural heritage. PRDA provided **traditional wooden looms** and essential raw materials to families identified through Village Development Committees (VDCs), ensuring a transparent, participatory process. The purpose is to create economic stability by building on existing skills, reducing dependency on unpredictable daily wages.

The **method of work** prioritized inclusivity and community ownership. PRDA collaborated closely with VDCs to identify families, especially women and traditional artisans, who had the skill but lacked resources. Once selected, beneficiaries received looms and raw materials. Capacity-building sessions were conducted to enhance weaving techniques, efficiency, and product quality. The organization also facilitated market linkages through local exhibitions and sales platforms, allowing weavers to access broader markets.

The implementation model was cost-effective, with a budget of over ₹15,00,000 used efficiently for loom procurement, materials, and technical support. As a result, households gained economic independence, women emerged as income earners, and families could afford better education for their children. The cultural revival of weaving traditions strengthened the community's identity and intergenerational knowledge transfer.

Impacts:

The weaving initiative brought significant social and economic transformation. Families shifted from unstable daily wages to a steady income. Women achieved financial independence, boosting their confidence and status. Traditional weaving skills were revived and passed to younger generations. Children gained better access to education due to improved family earnings. The initiative also preserved cultural identity within the community.









People’s Endeavour for Social Changes (PESCH)
Working with Hills Tribes of Manipur

Organization Snapshot

A registered Societies incorporated in the year 1997

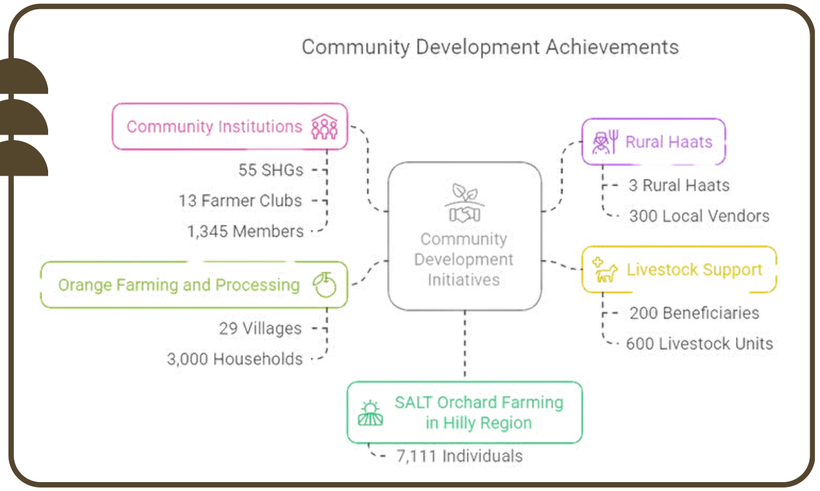
Intervention Areas: Tamenglong, Noney, Jiribam (Manipur), Cachar (Assam)

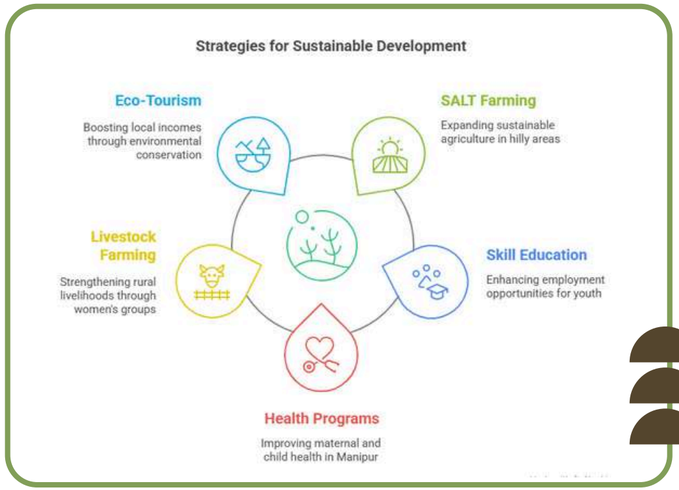
Focus Areas: Livelihood, NRM & Climate Change, Education, Women Empowerment and Disaster Management, Market Linkages

Vision: Harmonious society with justice and respect for human rights ensuring sustainability of life.

Mission: Promotion of present Natural Forest and bio-diversity for improving livelihood of the people for positive societal changes by empowering the people through participatory development.

USP: SALT Farming Techniques.







Collaborations & Finance
Partners: APF, ASER, Bread for the World, GGF, NABARD, OSAAT, RNBA, SeSTA.
Financial Details (2024): INR 150 lakhs

Namkhinlung Pamei
https://www.pesch.org.in
akhinpamei22@gmail.com

Good Practice of Organization

Rural market construction for women group of remote areas mainly at Kaimai, Sibilong, Katanbeukam Manipur and Ramgaizang Cachar.

PESCH's HAAT initiative—short for "**Haat as a Platform"**—is a grassroots women-led entrepreneurial program designed to foster inclusive economic participation, primarily across rural Assam. Rooted in principles of collective action and self-reliance, HAAT supports marginalized women by enabling them to establish and manage micro-enterprises, leveraging their indigenous knowledge, skills, and community networks.

Methods of Work

The HAAT initiative follows a participatory, capacity-building approach that centers on women as both producers and leaders. PESCH supports women's collectives to form **Haat Management Committees (HMCs)** which oversee daily operations, ensure quality control, and manage revenue distribution. The process begins with community mobilization, where women are identified and organized into self-help groups (SHGs) and trained in areas like product development, pricing, packaging, and branding. Additionally, PESCH conducts exposure visits and technical training in areas such as handloom weaving, food processing, and local crafts to improve market readiness.

Implementation:

In 2023–24, PESCH implemented HAAT across several villages, converting traditional weekly markets into structured, women-led economic zones. These haats operate not only as market places but also as platforms for visibility, negotiation, and collaboration among rural women entrepreneurs. PESCH facilitated connections between these haats and larger urban and digital markets, such as tying up with e-commerce platforms and institutional buyers. The team provided critical support in branding (e.g., "RISA" brand for processed foods) and helped the women access government schemes and financial literacy programs.

The HAAT model embodies PESCH's vision of sustainable livelihoods, increased incomes, and community-based entrepreneurship. By grounding the initiative in local contexts and emphasizing ownership by women, HAAT is transforming traditional spaces into engines of rural economic empowerment.

Case Study of Longchai Village Local Market:

Longchai, a remote village in Tousem sub-division, Manipur, faced critical challenges including poor infrastructure, limited access to markets, and declining agricultural resources. With support from PESCH and encouragement during a Food Mela event in 2013, 13 village leaders united to address these issues. They formed a Market Development Board and successfully advocated for a local market, securing ₹50 lakh from the DRDA. The Longchai market was inaugurated in September 2014. This market has since enabled farmers to sell locally, reduced dependency on distant markets, saved travel costs, and created new economic opportunities, especially for SHGs.









Rilum Foundation for Sustainability Development (RFSD)

Organization Snapshot

A registered **Societies** incorporated in the year **2001.**

Intervention Areas: East Khasi Hills, Ri-bhoi, West Jaintia Hills (Meghalaya)

Focus Areas: Livelihood, Women's Empowerment, Youth Development, Social Justice, Environmental Sustainability

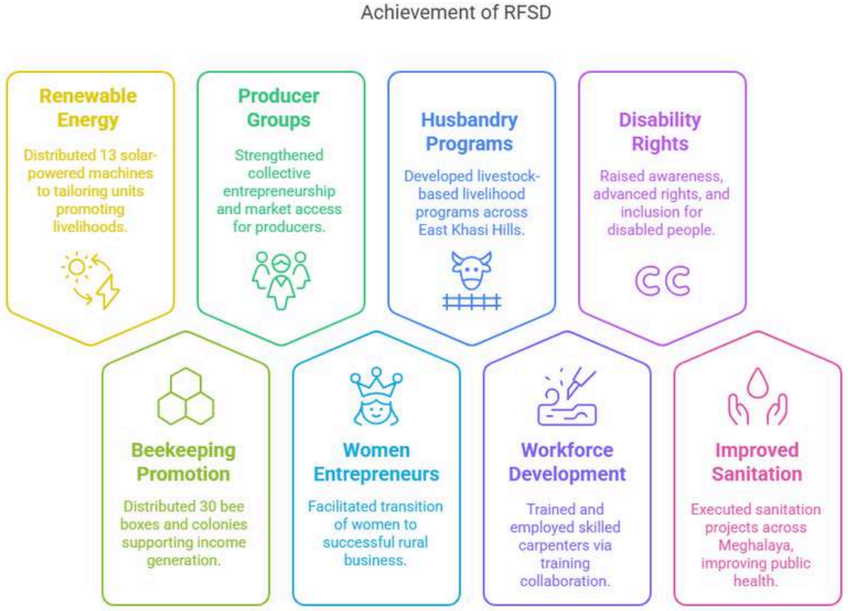
Vision: Rural Communities are self-reliant with socio-economic transformation through diversified, sustainable livelihoods in the state of Meghalaya.

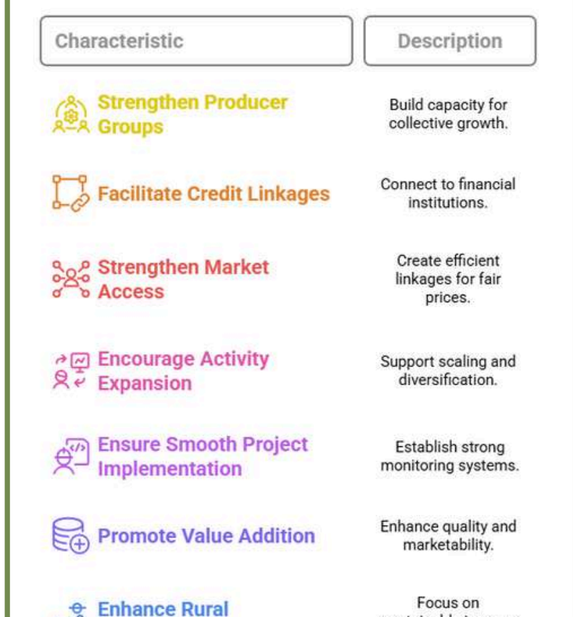
Mission: Empowering rural communities through participatory approaches, strengthening community-based institutions, youth organizations, and traditional structures. Promoting sustainable livelihoods and enhancing the incomes of marginalized populations by leveraging technology and providing accessible support services for agriculture and allied trades.

SDG Goals: No Poverty, Zero Hunger, Affordable & Clean Energy, Clean Water and Sanitation.

USP: Promotes Rural Enterprise by facilitating PGs, SHGs, Cooperative Societies, and CBIs.

Collaborations & Finance
Partners: APF, CINI, GIZ, ICAR, MBMA, SeSTA
Financial Details (2024): INR 15 lacs





Bantei
https://www.rilumfoundation.org/
rilumfoundation@gmail.com

Good Practice of Organization

Practicing Apiculture in the hills of Meghalaya.

RFSD has launched a Sustainable Beekeeping Project to enhance rural livelihoods in the East Khasi Hills District of Meghalaya. Supported by the Azim Premji Foundation through SeSTA, this initiative began in November 2024 across 15 villages in the Mawkynrew Block. It focuses on building beekeeping skills, increasing income, and empowering communities through cooperative structures.

Methods of Work: RFSD follows a community-driven approach, starting with mobilization and sensitization programs in all target villages to raise awareness and ensure local participation. The project emphasizes skill development, aiming to train 90% of the 180 targeted beekeepers in sustainable beekeeping practices and record-keeping. Practical demonstrations, group formations, and technical training sessions ensure that beneficiaries gain hands-on experience in bee management and honey production.

A component of the project is the promotion of **Honey Producer Groups (HPGs)** to collaborate and establish independent, self-sustaining cooperative societies. RFSD's approach also includes surveying income and expenditure patterns to track economic benefits and ensure financial viability.

Implementation: The project has successfully mobilized all 15 villages and formed groups in three locations. Beekeeping training, bee box distribution, and ongoing field support are integral to implementation. In addition, regular site visits by SeSTA and local staff ensure monitoring and quality assurance. The future plan includes scaling up producer groups and distributing additional bee boxes, strengthening both livelihood opportunities and rural resilience. RFSD's beekeeping model promotes sustainable income, ecological balance, and grassroots empowerment.

Story of Change :

In Mawphlang village, East Khasi Hills, Kong Lida, a mother of three, joined the Rilum Foundation's beekeeping project in 2024. With no prior experience, she received hands-on training and a bee box through the Sustainable Beekeeping initiative. Initially hesitant, she soon began harvesting honey within a few months. The income from honey sales helped her support her children's education and household needs. Her efforts inspired other women in the village to take up beekeeping. Today, she leads a local Honey Producer Group, promoting self-reliance and ecological farming.









Rongmei Baptist Association (RBA)

Organization Snapshot

A registered Societies incorporated in the year 1994

Intervention Areas: Peren (Nagaland)

Focus Areas: Livelihood, Skill Development, Land Rights and Gender, Water, Sanitation & Community Health, Climate Change, Livestock, Handicrafts

Vision: Visualizes a just, integrated, and equitable society where justice, peace, and communal harmony prevail.

Mission: Believes in strong collaboration with the people to undertake development that is integral, gender, culture and custom, education and environmentally sensitive to sustain socio-economic and peoples well being with active participation so that the people take the responsibility for their own destiny.

SDG Goals: 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 12, 13, 16 and 17

USP: Community mobilization, tribal livelihood promoter, collaboration with local institutions like VDCs, Churches.

Collaborations & Finance
Partners: APPI, Childline, Har Ghar Jal, NABARD, RNBA, SBI, SeSTA, Tata Trust, World Bank.
Financial Details (2024): INR 1 crore







Akeina Gonmei
rbassociation.org
rba_in@yahoo.com

Good Practice of Organization

Integrated Farming Practices:

One of its good practices includes the promotion of Integrated Farming Practices in both Jhum and lowland areas. Faced with shortened **Jhum cycles and declining soil fertility**, RBA introduced **SALT (Sloping Agricultural Land Technology)** and pineapple cultivation as feasible alternatives. This approach not only increased income but also discouraged outward migration.

Methods of work included introducing horticulture crops like pineapple in Mhainamtsi village under NEICORD in 1998, reached to more than 850 hhs. RBA provided training in improved farming methods such as double-row triangular planting and distributed high-yielding giant kew suckers. Over time, families transitioned from shifting agriculture to permanent horticulture, securing income from biannual harvests. Approximately 15 families now cultivate over 5,000 plants each, making pineapple farming their primary livelihood.

Implementation strategies included using church platforms for community mobilization, ensuring inclusivity across denominations. RBA employed Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) tools like social mapping, transect walks, and wealth ranking to design need-based interventions. They worked closely with Village Development Councils to plan, implement, and monitor programs, creating strong local ownership. Knowledge transfer became intergenerational, with farming skills passed from parents to children. Today, Mhainamtsi is recognized as a “Pineapple Village” by the Nagaland Horticulture Department—a testament to RBA’s sustainable and impactful interventions.

Story of Change :

Ms. Mathiujaoliu, a 38-year-old farmer from Jalukie Rongkaidai village in Nagaland, transformed her livelihood through sustainable mushroom cultivation. With support from the Rongmei Baptist Association (RBA), she received training and adopted eco-friendly practices like using locally sourced substrates and integrated pest management. These innovations led to a 20% increase in yield and higher income. The reduced reliance on chemical inputs also benefited the environment and improved health outcomes. Her success highlights the potential of sustainable farming in rural Northeast India.









Sanjog

Organization Snapshot

A registered Societies incorporated in the year 2014

Intervention Areas: Nalbari, Baksa, Barpeta, Tamulpur, and Kamrup (Assam).

Focus Areas: Livelihood, Convergence and Digital Literacy.

Vision: A prosperous empowered & just society in harmony with nature.

Mission: To work for transformative change among the marginalized.

SDG Goals: No Poverty. Zero Hunger, Gender Equality, Affordable and clean energy, Clean Energy, Partnership for the goals, Reduce inequalities.

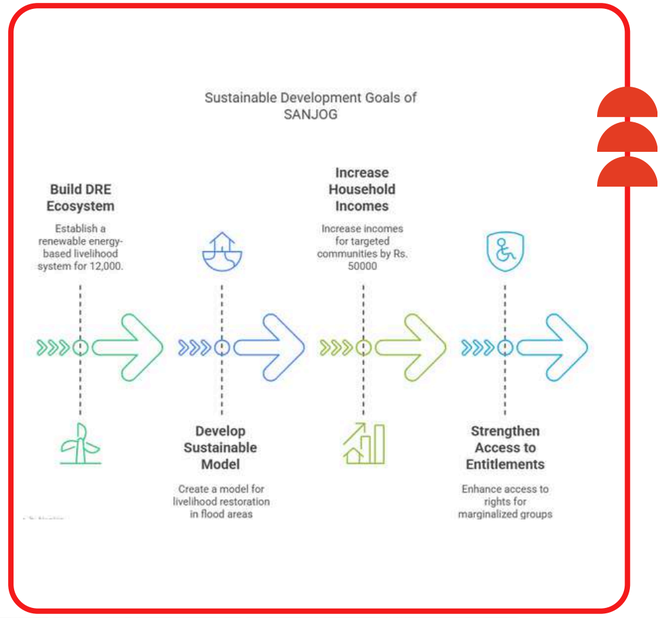
USP: Collaboration with different stakeholders.

Collaborations & Finance

Partners: AHT, APART, APF, ASRLM, C-GEM, Hamilton CSR, IDEA, NET, RCRC, SELCO Foundation, SeSTA.

Financial Details (2024): INR 87 lacs







Piyush Saurabh Sharma
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Good Practice of Organization

Sanjog has implemented a range of innovative and community-driven best practices across Northeast India, aimed at building resilient, inclusive, and sustainable rural livelihoods. Post-COVID-19, the organization has scaled its efforts in sectors such as agriculture, micro-enterprise development, disaster resilience, and women's empowerment.

Focus is on climate-resilient agriculture, including the promotion of high-value horticultural crops like King Chili under rain shelters and the introduction of the "**Alternate Wetting and Drying**" method in paddy cultivation to reduce methane emissions. Collaboration with the Fair Climate Fund supports the adoption of sustainable techniques across farmer communities.

In women-led development, Sanjog provides training and financial support to female farmers and entrepreneurs, empowering them to engage in value-chain development. Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and women's collectives are engaged in micro-enterprises like broomstick production under corporate CSR partnerships.

Sanjog has also worked on mushroom cultivation models, particularly with tribal and Adivasi communities, ensuring both skill-building and market linkage. Over 250 farmers have been supported in acquiring **Eri silk machines, mushroom units,** and starting local enterprises, thanks to collaborations with Rangde and Samunitti Finance, addressing rural credit access.

The organization also focuses on disaster preparedness and recovery, supporting immediate flood relief and long-term livelihood restoration. In renewable energy, Sanjog promotes solar-based solutions for livelihood activities like Eri silk spinning.

Sanjog's implementation approach is rooted in community participation, local knowledge, financial inclusion, and multi-stakeholder collaboration, ensuring long-term impact and scalability.

Story of Change :

Ms. Pakhila Boro, a BC Sakhi from Baska block, faced daily power cuts that disrupted her Community Service Center's operations. Villagers began seeking services elsewhere, affecting her income and credibility. Sanjog, in partnership with the Selco Foundation, installed a solar panel, ceiling fan, and lighting to resolve the issue. With reliable power, she now serves around 400 people efficiently. Her income has increased, operational costs have reduced, and the CSC is now a trusted hub for village services.











EDUCATION

AMAN Foundation
AMYAA
Bethany Society
Can Youth
Centre for Community Initiative (CCI)
Northeast Centre for Equity Action on Integrated Development(NEAID)

AMAN Foundation

AMAN FOUNDATION
Ensure Sustainable Livelihood with Dignity
www.amanindia.org

Organization Snapshot

A registered Trust incorporated in the year 2021.

Intervention Areas: Barpeta, Bongaigaon (Assam).

Focus Areas: Livelihood, Education, Disaster & Relief.

Vision: Ensure sustainable livelihood with dignity.

Mission: To alleviate poverty and restore peace and happiness of rural communities through institution building and sustainable livelihood.

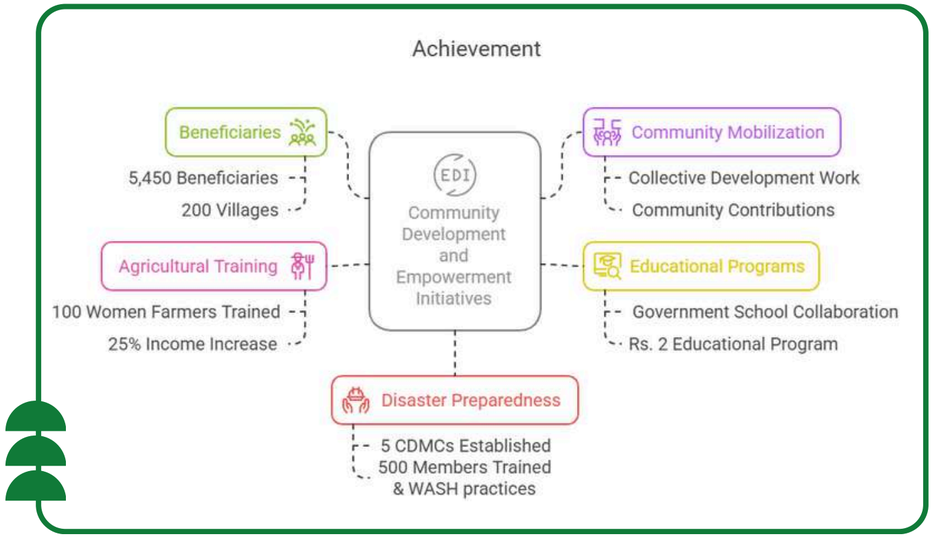
SDG Goals: Quality Education.

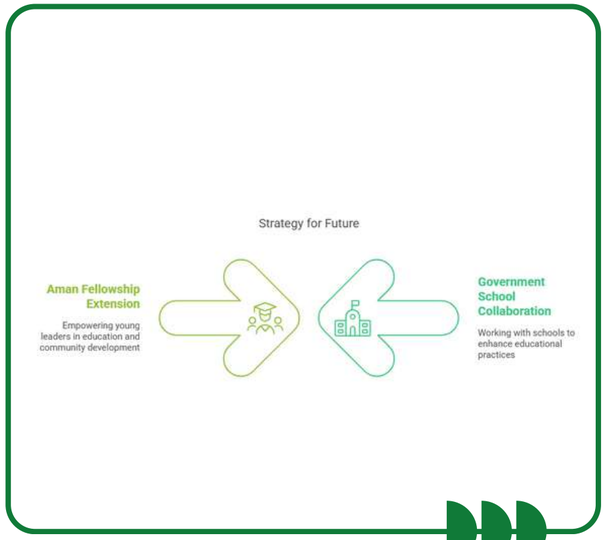
USP: Rs. 2 Educational Program.

Collaborations & Finance

Partners: ASRLM, Bharitya Pratisthan, Goonj, Katha, NABARD, NABCONS, NYKS, SeSTA, TFI, UnLtd India.

Financial Details (2024): INR 35 lacs







Shafiul Hassan
amanindia.org
amanfoundation21@gmail.com

Good Practice of Organization

Aman Education Centre, an initiative of the Aman Foundation in Barpeta, Assam.

Method of Working: Recognizing the low literacy rate in the region, especially among girls, Aman Foundation launched the Aman Education Program (AEP) to address the educational needs of children in under-resourced communities.

Aman Foundation adopts a model where local female volunteers conduct two-hour evening classes at their homes from Monday to Saturday. This not only fosters local leadership but ensures accessibility and continuity for students. A nominal contribution of INR 75 per student supports volunteers, building community ownership. With 7 education centres and over 300 students, the initiative has shown social impact in just two years.

AEP emphasizes peer learning, remedial teaching, and activity-based learning, focusing on foundational literacy and numeracy. The program receives support from GOONJ and Katha, which provide teaching materials, books, stationery, and even built low-cost bamboo education centres to withstand seasonal challenges. GOONJ also donated over 1,500 books, helping establish community libraries.

Implementation: Each centre is run in a volunteer's home or dedicated bamboo shelter. The Foundation monitors progress, engages community stakeholders, and ensures material support. AEP also includes exposure visits, encouraging learning beyond textbooks, and promoting collaboration among educators. Despite challenges, the program has built a strong foundation for rural children's education by combining community engagement, resource optimization, and a localized learning approach.

Story of Change : Community Initiative

In Amguri village, residents faced persistent infrastructural challenges due to limited government support. Partnering with Goonj under the "Work for Cloth" model, the community, led by mobilizer Jiya Ul Haque, undertook road repairs and built a raised platform using local labor and traditional knowledge. In return, Goonj provided food and clothing as appreciation, fostering dignity and self-reliance. Ms. Nazima Begum emphasized how these efforts support flood resilience. Though materials are temporary, the community has repaired 4–5 roads, improving local connectivity.





AMYAA

AMYAA NGO

Organization Snapshot

A registered Societies incorporated in the year 2002

Intervention Areas: Lower Dibang Valley, Dibang Valley, Changlang (Arunachal Pradesh); Senapati (Manipur)

Focus Areas: Livelihood Promotion, Education, Environment & Child Rights

Vision: This society is established with the vision to combat poverty, illiteracy, ill health, corruption, injustice and suppression of the poor. The society focuses at working for the all-round development of the tribal & less privileged communities.

Mission: AMYAA is to work for the all-round development of the tribal poor and under privileged communities with special attention towards the most vulnerable groups of the society, children, youth, women and farmers. It follows Right-based Approach in promoting developmental changes through creating awareness, capacity building and training and to establish a self-sustainable and self-reliant society in North East India.

SDG Goals: No Poverty, Zero Hunger, good Health & Well-Being, Quality Education, Gender Equality, Clean Water & Sanitation, Decent Work & Clean Energy, Responsible Consumption & Production, Climate Action, Life on Land, Peace, Justice & Strong Institutions.
USP: Early Childhood development focus.

Collaborations & Finance

Partners: Childline, LIC HFL, Mobius Foundation, NABARD, NERCORMP, Quest Alliance, SIDBI, Wipro Foundation
Financial Details (2024): INR 28 lacs







R K Paul Chawang
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Testimonial : *"Dropping out of Class 9 left me feeling lost, but the S2S Retail Management course at AMYAA helped me find my path. I now work at Friend's Bakery, earning a stable income and supporting my family. The training transformed my confidence and communication skills, allowing me to live life on my terms. S2S has truly been a life-changing experience."*

Good Practice of Organization

AMYAA has adopted a range of best practices to ensure the sustainability and effectiveness of its programs, empowering communities across Arunachal Pradesh. One approach is **capacity building**, where local individuals are trained to take charge of their own development. This is shown through the formation of Self-Help Groups (SHGs), Farmer's Clubs, and Natural Resource Management Groups (NaRMGs), making rural communities to manage resources, generate income, and promote self-reliance.

In collaboration with NABARD, AMYAA has established 35 **Farmer's Clubs,** serving as grassroots platforms for collective decision-making, modern farming practices, and market linkages. The SHG movement has empowered women through financial independence, entrepreneurship, and leadership opportunities.

AMYAA's **"Skills to Succeed" (S2S)** program focuses on skill development for school dropouts and unemployed youth using a blended learning model. Over 1,100 youth have been trained, with 700 placed in jobs, creating pathways to economic independence.

Environmental conservation is another major focus area. AMYAA has launched campaigns in partnership with the Forest Department and initiated the "**I-Clean Roing**" community campaign to promote urban cleanliness. It supports Green Clubs in schools and is currently implementing the Wirpo Earthian programme in the Lower Dibang Valley and Lohit districts.

Through the LIC HFL Sangam Roing Project, AMYAA is also training 120 women in crafting GI-tagged Idu Mishmi traditional attire, empowering them through heritage-based entrepreneurship. Through the Mobius Young Climate Leaders initiative, AMYAA engages youth with the **Pani Pahar** curriculum by Cambridge University, fostering leadership in climate action.

Case Study:

Ms. Zarina Linggi, a government SSA teacher, discovered her passion for soap and detergent making and joined a Skill Development Program (SDP) supported by NABARD through AMYAA. With dedication and consistent practice, she established her own organic soap and detergent unit. Her success led her to become a lead resource person in training sessions. The venture brought financial stability and turned her into a role model for women's empowerment. Today, Zarina continues to inspire other women to pursue home-based entrepreneurship.









Bethany Society

Organization Snapshot

A registered **Societies** incorporated in the year **1981.**

Intervention Areas: East Khasi Hills, South West Khasi Hills, West Garo Hills, South West Garo Hills, North Garo Hills,West Jaintia Hills.

Focus Areas: Livelihood, Early Childhood Development for children with disability, Community Mental Health.

Vision: Of earth fully alive, wherein enjoys the fullness of being.

Mission: Forming alliances with persons, communities, and resources to create opportunities that empower, enhance dignity, and lead to the sustainable security of helath, food, livelihoods, and shelter.

USP: Holistic development of children with disability.

Collaborations & Finance

Partners: A Grain of Rice, BoA, Byte Code, NABARD, Shanti Onlus, Govt. of Meghalaya, THF.

Financial Details (2024): INR 5 crore

Characteristic	Inclusive Quality Education	Sustainable Livelihoods	Nutrition Improvement	Early Childhood Development
Core Activity	UDL capacity building	Zero-waste livelihood training	Establishing nutrition units	Disability screening and intervention
Beneficiaries	Students and educators	Farmers and disabled individuals	Children and SHG members	Young children and their parents
Scale/Reach	78 schools, 30,000+ students	5,000+ individuals trained	81 Anganwadis, 1,500 children	300+ children tracked, 5 districts
Key Partners	International funding organizations	Not applicable	POSHAN Abhiyan	UMMEED Mumbai, Meghalaya Government



Future Goals

Goal	Description
Expand UDL-Based Inclusive Education	Scale UDL model to more schools
Strengthen and Scale Zero Waste Livelihoods	Deepen training for sustainable livelihoods
Enhance Community Nutrition and SHG Livelihoods	Expand nutrition-sensitive agricultural activities
Transform Early Childhood Development Systems	Train frontline workers for early intervention
Promote Integration into Government Systems	Advocate for systemic adoption of inclusive approaches

Carmo D Noronha
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bethanyngo1981@gmail.com

Awards & Recognitions: *Ms. Bertha G. Dkhar (the present, Executive Director) being conferred with Padmashree, Ricky Renthlei (Director,Livelihoods, Bethany Society) receiving the National Award for Empowerment of Persons with Disability for promoting Inclusive Livelihoods, , Ms. Rosa Wahlang (Ex-Principal, Jyoti SroatSchool)receiving the School Excellence Award 2016 by Brainfeed India.*

Good Practice of Organization

Jyoti Sroat School in Shillong- Children with Disability

Bethany Society, through its Jyoti Sroat School in Shillong, promotes quality education for children with and without disabilities using the Universal Design for Learning (UDL) framework. This model goes beyond simply integrating children with disabilities into mainstream schools—it focuses on preparing the education system itself to meet the diverse needs of all learners. UDL offers flexibility, choice, and accessibility, ensuring no compromise on learning goals while moving away from a "one size fits all" approach. It focuses on inclusiveness of all children.

At Jyoti Sroat School, 300 students study together, including 192 with disabilities, all following the same curriculum with the support of customized teaching methods and assistive technologies. These tools, including screen readers, audio books, and visual learning aids, create a level playing field and help students engage in meaningful learning. The goal is to develop “expert learners”—students who are self-motivated, strategic, and resourceful.

Over a five-year period, 15 NGOs from five northeastern states, supported by three international donors, were trained in this inclusive framework. They worked with 78 Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) schools, impacting 30,000 students and building capacity to implement inclusive education strategies effectively.

Bethany Society's approach emphasizes multiple means of engagement, representation, and expression to cater to diverse learning needs. The success of Jyoti Sroat School serves as a model for replicating inclusive education, proving that all children can thrive in a shared learning environment when the system is designed to support their individual pathways. This initiative continues to influence regional education policy and practice.

Education Philosophy:

Twin Track Approach: Disability specific initiative and disability inclusive initiative approach to reach a goals person with disabilities are included in the all development opportunities on an equal footing with others.

Universal Design for Learning: 4 Ps quality of Inclusion ‘ Presence, Participation, Performance and Progress’.









Can Youth

Organization Snapshot

A registered Societies incorporated in the year 2012

Intervention Areas: Dimapur, Chumukedima, Nuiland, Peren (Nagaland).

Focus Areas: Health, Education, Child Rights, Livelihood and Skill building.

Vision: We seek a world of hope, opportunities, love, and respect for every child, adolescent and Youth.

Mission: Ensuring quality life for every child, adolescent and Youth from an underprivileged background by creating an enabling environment and building their capacities.

SDG Goals: No Poverty, Quality Education, Decent Work and Economic Growth, Partnerships for the Goals.

USP: Good rapport with community and local institutions, volunteerism- individuals' donation, youth volunteers in their program.

Collaborations & Finance

Partners: AIDA, Don Bosco Institute, Greenway Banglore, Godrej, Kutchina Foundation, Nagaland Alliance, NFI, NDSMA, PHC dept., Rohini Nilekani, Roots to Branches, SEBI, Smile Foundation, The Ant, Yana Foundation.

Financial Details (2024): INR 29 lacs







Jenpu Rongmei
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Awards & Recognitions: *Received a Certificate of appreciation from 90.8 Hills FM Community Radio Station for remarkable contribution to the betterment for the community on 8th September, 2023. International day of Charity- SBI.*

Good Practice of Organization

Can Youth's Adolescent Club (AC) initiative, launched in 2010, stands out as a dynamic and inclusive platform for empowering young people aged 13–19. The ACs provide a safe space for adolescents across diverse socio-economic, cultural, and educational backgrounds—both school-going and dropouts—to engage in learning, advocacy, and leadership development. Currently operational in Chumukedima, Dimapur, and Nuiland districts, with plans for expansion to Meluri, Noklak, and Phek, the initiative has established three functioning clubs and is in the process of forming three more.

One of the best practices of this initiative is its holistic and participatory approach. The ACs conduct remedial classes, raise awareness on child rights, the Right to Education (RTE), gender equality, and menstrual hygiene. They also focus on life skills development, leadership training, and celebration of special events to foster confidence and social engagement among adolescents. A unique feature is the structured exit-and-advisory model, where members who age out at 19 continue to mentor and support the club, ensuring continuity and ownership.

The formation of clubs is grounded in community engagement and grassroots understanding. Prior to forming a club, Can Youth conducts village surveys, engages key stakeholders, and floats the idea within the community to build support. Local institutions like village councils actively back the initiative. Each club is supported with INR 3000 seed money, and over INR 30 lakhs has been invested between 2018–2024, reflecting Can Youth's sustained commitment.

Impact of AC:

The Adolescent Clubs have significantly empowered young people by building their confidence and fostering a positive outlook on life. Members have taken on leadership roles, become role models for peers, and created inclusive spaces, particularly for girls, to voice their opinions. Communities and parents are now more aware of adolescent needs and are actively involved in their development. Adolescents contribute to the community by offering free tuitions to underprivileged children and initiating local fundraising efforts. They are also confidently engaging in community dialogues and driving change at the grassroots level.









Centre for Community Initiative (CCI)

centre for COMMUNITY INITIATIVE
inform • inspire • initiate

Organization Snapshot

A registered **Societies** incorporated in the year **2002.**

Intervention Areas: Churchandpur, Pherzawl (Manipur)

Focus Areas: Education, Health, Livelihood & Sustainable Development, Advocacy & Community Empowerment, and Inclusive Disaster Management

Vision: To create a healthy and just society with equal opportunities for all.

Mission: To build and strengthen society for health care, education and socio- economic development through community initiatives and participation.

SDG Goals: No Poverty, Zero Hunger, Good Health and Well-Being, Clean Water and Sanitation, Decent Work and Economic Growth, Reduced Inequalities.

USP: Livelihood Enhancement and Cultural Preservation

Education Support
Educated 49 children with disabilities at two initiatives.

Welfare Access
Helped 237 people with disabilities access welfare schemes.

Early Intervention
Provided early intervention, therapy, and home care to 55 children.

Inclusive Education
Worked with 6 mainstream schools to promote inclusive education.

Disability Training
Trained 117 stakeholders in disability and inclusion practices.

Farming Support
Supported 200 farmers under a sustainable farming project.

Learning Centers
Set up 8 iCICs centers for 649 displaced children.

Community Libraries
Established libraries to promote reading and leadership.



Collaborations & Finance

Partners: APF, Analog Devices, Dasra, Give India, NABARD, Oak Foundation, Pratham, Project Baala, Rebuild India Fund, SBI, SELCO, Ummed, UNDP, Wipro.
Financial Details (2024): INR 35 lacs

Mr Pauzagin Tonsing, Director
www.communityinitiative.in
pauzagin@communityinitiative.in

Awards & Recognition: *Commendation Award 2021 by MaryGlowrey | LilianneBrekelmans Disability Award, 6th Spirit to Humanity Award by Americares India in 2015 in recognition of outstanding contribution in the field of Disability, The Amazing Indian Awards – 2024 by Times Now under "Education Category"*

Good Practice of Organization

Runs a special school for children with cross disabilities

The CCI stands out in the district for inclusive education, operating the only special school for children with cross disabilities – **The Malsawm Initiative (TMI)**. Established in 2011 by a group of parents and volunteers, TMI was the first facility offering education to children with multiple and diverse disabilities, where Persons with Disabilities previously had no access to quality education and services.

TMI adopts an inclusive, Individualized Education Plan (IEP) model customized to the needs of each child. It combines educational, therapeutic, and pre-vocational training within a single school environment, accommodating seven types of disabilities, with Autism Spectrum Disorder and Hearing Impairment being the most prevalent. TMI's holistic approach caters personality development, peer learning, use of authentic materials, and strong parental empowerment through counseling and involvement in education planning.

Methods: The school uses early identification and intervention methods, beginning with functional assessments and parent counseling upon recognizing developmental delays. Children receive therapies such as physiotherapy, behavior management, and occupational or speech therapy as needed. When ready, students transition into TMI's classrooms, where RCI-qualified teachers implement customized IEPs. Strong community volunteerism and a Parent Support Group further strengthen the initiative's impact and outreach.

Changes through CCI:

CCI's work has transformed disability services in Churachandpur, reducing the need for families to seek support outside the district. Parents are now more aware, and the organization has been recognized by the District Administration and civil society groups. Through the MEAL project, CCI has strengthened ties with schools to promote inclusive education, while churches have adopted more inclusive recruitment policies. Looking ahead, CCI plans to launch the "No Child Left Behind" sponsorship campaign to engage professionals in supporting the education of children with disabilities, ensuring long-term impact and sustainability.









Northeast Centre for Equity Action on Integrated Development (NEAID)

Organization Snapshot

A registered Societies incorporated in the year 2014.

Intervention Areas: Assam: Morigaon, Baksa, Darrang, Kamrup - Rural, Kamrup Metro, Sonitpur, Barpeta, Dhubri, Chirang, Kokrajhar, Tamulpur, Udalguri, Nagaon, Bongaigaon, Goalpara, Jorhat and South Salmara Meghalaya: East Khasi Hills, West Khasi Hills Nagaland: Mokokchung Manipur: East Imphal Mizoram: Lawngtlai.
Focus Areas: Education, WASH, Disaster Response & Climate Change, Research, Health.

Vision: To create and live in an equitable and prosperous society through integrated development.

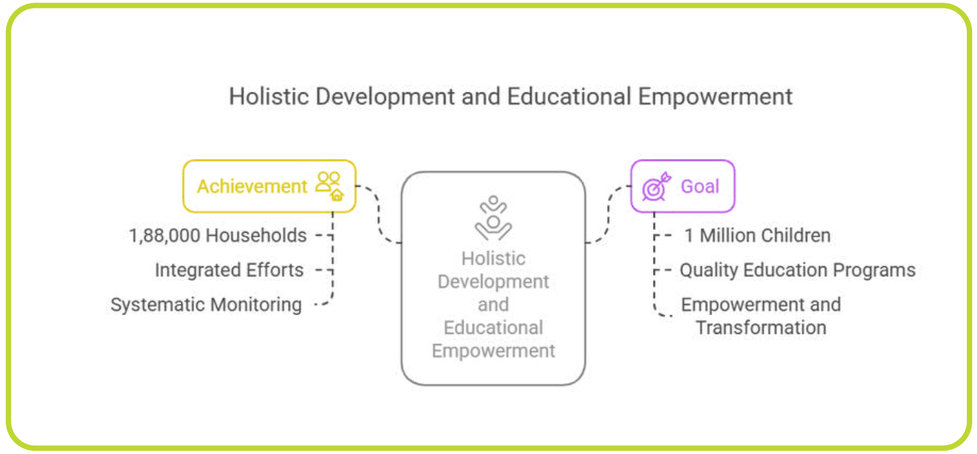
Mission: To create an inclusive society in Northeast India by improving healthcare and education access through partnerships, advocacy, and integrating development efforts.

SDG Goals: Good Health and Well-being, Quality Education, Gender Equality, Clean Water and Sanitation, Climate Action.

USP: Integrated action with grassroot and system.

Collaborations & Finance

Partners: Child Aid Network, DKA, Indus Tower Ltd, Jal Jeevan Mission, Oil and Natural Gas, Porticus, Mantra for Change, DASRA, Quest Alliance, DEEO, UNICEF, Zerodha Broking Ltd.
Financial Details (2024): INR 3.26 crore





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Awards & Recognition: *NE CSR Award 2024 from Council for Social & Digital Development, e- Northeast Award.*

Good Practice of Organization

Whole School Transformation (WST)

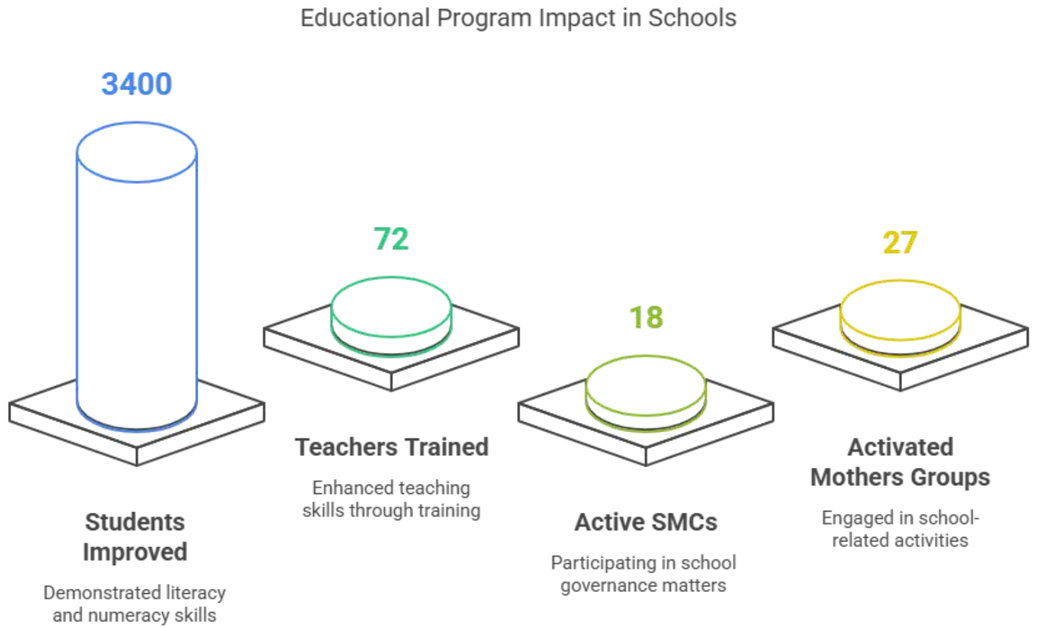
NEAID's Whole School Transformation (WST) Programme is implemented through a structured and systemic approach designed to address the learning crisis and systemic challenges in government schools. Rooted in the **Depth and Scale model**, the program works both at the school level (Depth) and district level (Scale) to ensure sustainability and replicability.

At the school level, NEAID Fellows are placed in partner schools, where they co-teach foundational literacy and numeracy, using state FLN modules and contextualized teaching aids. Alongside classroom engagement, they support project-based learning, structured assessments, and BaLA-based print-rich classrooms. Co-scholastic development is encouraged through student clubs, learning circles, classroom culture-building, and health-hygiene initiatives.

The school ecosystem is strengthened through the facilitation of School Development Plans, activation of School Management Committees, and regular engagement with parents and alumni. Fellows support regular PTMs, cultural events, and community collaborations, ensuring active stakeholder participation.

At the district level, NEAID partners with education officials to implement capacity-building programs for teachers and system leaders. Training is aligned with NEP 2020, NIPUN Axom, and SDG-4, focusing on micro-improvements, leadership development, and recognition of best practices.

Regular cluster-level reviews, feedback loops, and continuous monitoring ensure adaptability and effectiveness. Currently, the WST program covers 30 schools across Morigaon and Baska districts, reaching 3,400 students and vision to scale with demonstrable models of excellence for wider adoption.







YOUTH BASED INITIATIVE

Eastern Himalayan Foundation
Lightway Society

Eastern Himalayan Foundation (EHF)

EASTERN HIMALAYAN FOUNDATION

Organization Snapshot

A registered Section 8 Company incorporated in the year 2022.

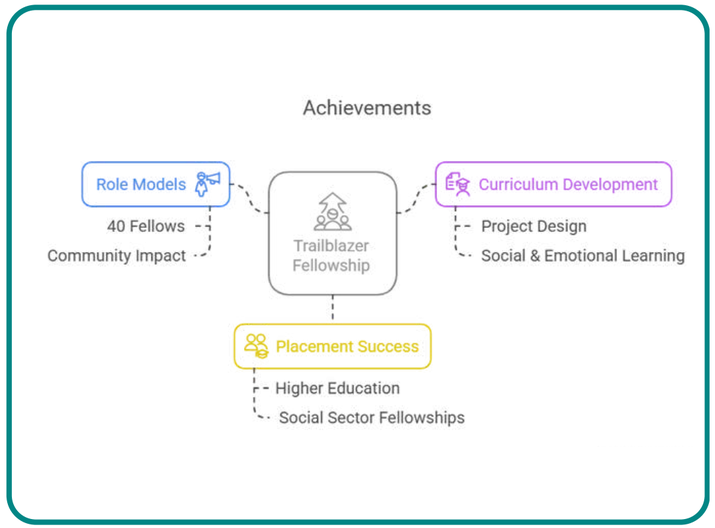
Intervention Areas: Darjeeling and Kalimpong (North Bengal).

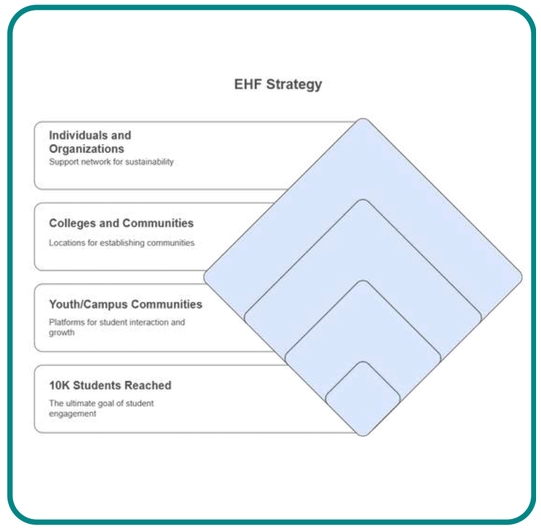
Focus Areas: Youth Leadership.

Vision: To create a society where every young person, regardless of socio-economic status, has access to quality education and the necessary resources to achieve personal and professional growth.

Mission: To empower youth, children, girls, and adolescents from remote mountainous communities by enhancing access to education, building essential life skills, and supporting employment opportunities.

USP: Youth Fellowship.





Collaborations & Finance

Partners: APF, APU, Goonj, Labhya Foundation, Teach for India.

Financial Details (2024): INR 50 lakhs



Mashqura Fareedi
https://www.easternhimalayanfoundation.org/
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Testimonial :

"EHF opened doors to educational opportunities outside Darjeeling for me and because of that for my family. They equipped me with practical skills, including website creation, using digital tools & platforms, and most importantly critical thinking. EHF's guidance taught me how to plan and execute successful projects. It has helped me in expanding my horizons and empowering me with valuable skills and knowledge" Suvankar Thapa

Good Practice of Organization

Trailblazer Fellowship

A program that empowers young leaders to drive innovative solutions to pressing social challenges while providing a monthly stipend to support their efforts.
-10 months fellowship
-Community Projects
-Mentor Mentee Engagement
-Monthly Residential Training

Method of Work: Youth centric design focused on final-year college students, primarily from underserved backgrounds. Fellows are trained in digital literacy, critical thinking, communication, leadership, and professional development. Fellows participate in residential training camps and exposure visits to broaden their understanding of the selected issues. Fellows implement a social impact project in their college or community.

Implementation Process:
Fellows conduct a baseline assessment to understand the local problems. Fellows while getting training, apply their learning by designing and implementing commnuity initiatives. Regular monitoring of fellows' growth and the community outcomes of their projects are done by mentors.
The fellowship created a supportive ecosystem for rural youth leadership. By integrating SEL with practical action, the program not only equipped fellows with employable skills but also positioned them as role models in their communities.

Fellows Topics:
The EHF Fellows have chosen a diverse range of important topics to address critical issues in their communities. They are focusing on water contamination and biodiversity conservation to promote environmental health, while also working to preserve the rich cultural heritage, traditions, and rituals of the Rai community. Recognizing the importance of education, they aim to create greater access to higher education and career opportunities for rural youth. They are initiating conversations around sensitive but vital subjects like sex education and mental health awareness, including the formation of a dedicated mental health cell. Through these initiatives, the fellows are striving to create a more informed, resilient, and empowered community.









Lightway Society

Organization Snapshot

A registered **Societies** incorporated in the year **2001.**

Intervention Areas: Phek(Nagaland)

Focus Areas: Livelihood, Women Empowerment

Vision: It strives to enhance the status of Intravenous Drug Users by addressing stigma and discrimination in the society.

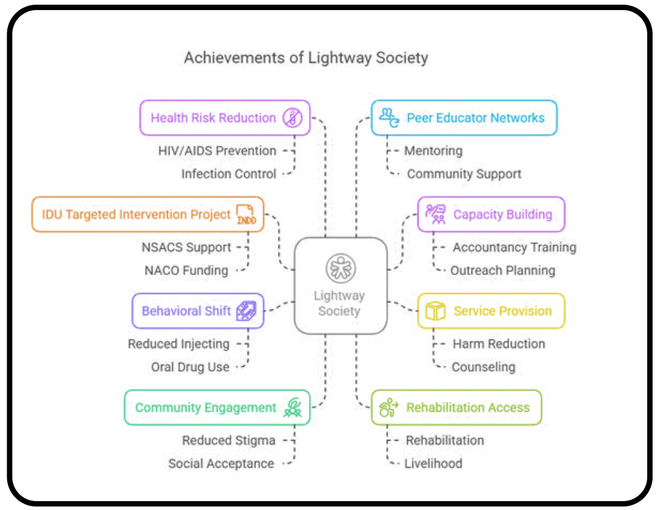
Mission: Uplifting the downtrodden and providing livelihood and skills to the community

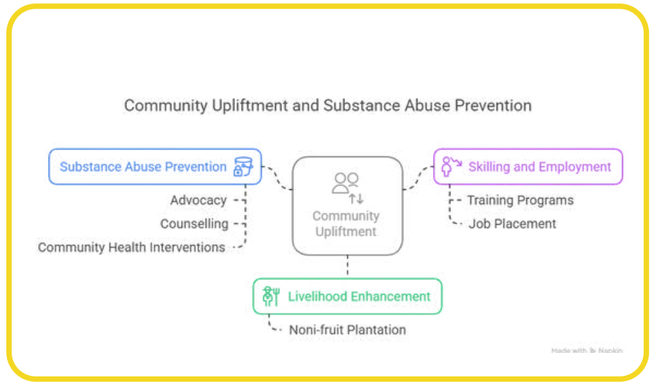
SDG Goals: Mental Health and Well-Being, Youth and Skilling

USP: Overall development of society & bringing about behavioural change and intervention among the youth towards prevention of substance abuse.

Collaborations & Finance

Partners: NVHA, NSACS, Social Welfare Department
Financial Details (2024): INR 30 lacs







Vesusa Tetseo

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Awards & Recognition: *Appreciation letter from Pfutsero Town Additional Deputy Commissioner & Senior Medical Officer - CHC Pftutsero*

Good Practice of Organization

Opioid Substitution Therapy (OST)

Lightway Society has pioneered Opioid Substitution Therapy (OST) in Pfutsero, Nagaland, to support individuals struggling with opioid dependence. OST provides a safer, medically-approved alternative (like buprenorphine) to help stabilize users, reduce withdrawal symptoms, and guide them toward full rehabilitation. This approach addresses not just physical recovery but also psychological and social reintegration.

The Society's method involves community outreach through churches, schools, and local bodies to spread awareness on substance abuse, stigma, and HIV/AIDS. They operate a peer educator model, training recovering addicts to identify users, provide mentorship, and connect them to OST services. A crisis response team intervenes during emergencies, mediating with law enforcement and encouraging treatment. Regular capacity building sessions equip peer educators, nurses, and doctors with skills in harm reduction, overdose management, safe injecting practices, and disease prevention.

Implementation relies on strong community partnerships, beginning with awareness campaigns to overcome initial misconceptions about OST clinics. By 2018, the model successfully expanded from Pfutsero to Chozuba, with ongoing collaboration with the Nagaland State AIDS Control Society (NSACS) and district health services.

Reduction in drug-related crimes, stigma, and substance abuse; patients securing employment and starting businesses; and new livelihood initiatives like planting medicinal trees for income generation. Lightway Society ensures inclusivity by engaging both men and women, families, and diverse tribal groups, fostering a supportive community for sustained recovery.

Case Study :

NukuthoTheluo, Depre Nuh, Rukuve, and Pudave were once struggling with drug dependence before they connected with the staff at Lightway Society. Today, after more than 5 to 10 years of sustained recovery, they stand as some of the organization's most senior peer educators. They shared their journey of transitioning from substance use to enrolling in the Opioid Substitution Therapy (OST) program, and how, over time, they have successfully weaned off even OST medications. Now, they are giving back to the community by identifying youth involved in substance abuse and supporting them in enrolling in OST programs, helping others reclaim their lives just as they did.







HEALTH

Centre for North East Studies & Policy Research (C-NES)
Eco System Protection Trust (ESPT)
PRO Rural Society
The Action Northeast Trust (the ANT)

Centre for North East Studies & Policy Research (C-NES)

Organization Snapshot

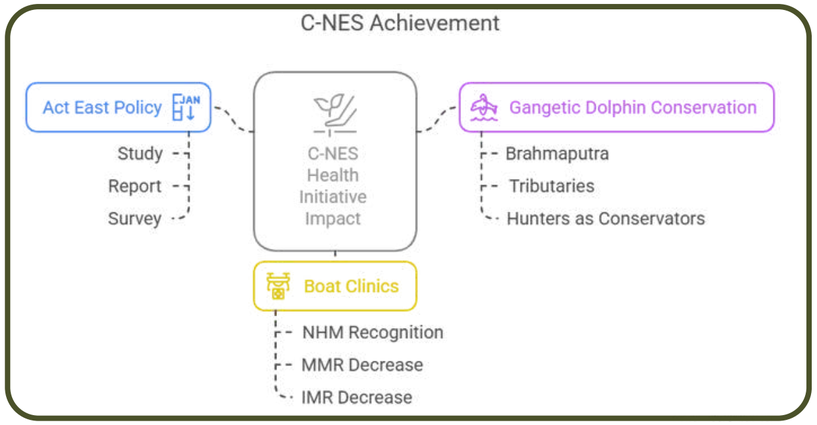
A registered **Trust** incorporated in the year **2000.**

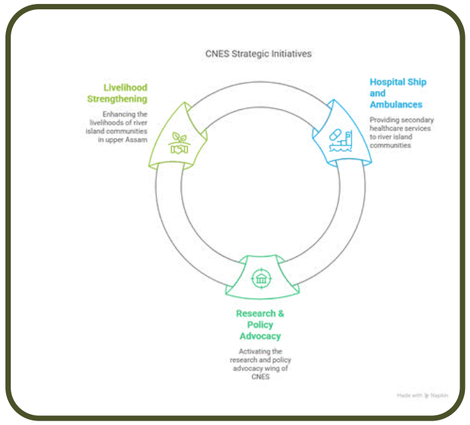
Intervention Areas: Tinsukia, Dibrugarh, Dhemaji, Lakhimpur, Majuli, Jorhat, Sonitpur, Morigaon, Darrang, Kamrup, Nalbari, Barpeta, Bongaigaon, Goalpara, South Salmara Mankachar & Dhubri & Darrang (Assam).

Focus Areas: Health, Environment, Livelihood & River-related issues.

Mission: 1. C-NES recognizes the right of every individual in the region to live in dignity, peace and safety because only under such conditions can the quality of their lives be improved and their deepest aspirations be met. 2. Values the unique ethnic and ecological diversity of the North East and sees this heritage as an advantage. 3. Encourages local governance, decision- making and initiatives as the key to social and economic development. 4. Advocates for such policy changes at the national, regional, state and district levels which it believes is necessary to build a just society. 5. Supports regional cooperation as a strategy to create long term, sustainable economic development.

SDG Goals: Good Health and Well-Being, Climate Action, Partnerships for the Goals.







Collaborations & Finance

Partners: Ford Foundation, Glenmark Foundation, NEC, NHM Govt. of Assam, OIL, ONGC, SBI, Sir Dorabji Tata Trust, DoNER, UNICEF, ADB, JETRO, PFI, NRL, BCPL, Dasra, SELCO, VHAI, Population Council Consultancy, Blockchain for Impact, Give India..

Financial Details (2024): INR 4.8 crore

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Awards & Recognition: *India Development Marketplace Award 2004 (Ship of Hope); The Boat Clinic has mention in the 11th 5 year plan; Healthcare Excellence Award 2020 from NEWS 18 Group; Certificate of appreciation from H&FW Dept., Govt of Assam for service during COVID-19; Brahmaputra Community Radio Station establish in 2009 with support from UNICEF, was winner Manthan Award 2014; 1st position for promoting local culture at the 10th National Community Radio Award 2024.*

Good Practice of Organization:

Boat Clinic

The Boat Clinic initiative, launched by the Centre for North East Studies and Policy Research (C-NES) in 2005, is a pioneering model that delivers critical healthcare services to the marginalized communities living on the remote river islands (chars) of the Brahmaputra in Assam. Home to nearly 10% of Assam's population, these chars face annual floods and chronic lack of basic services, including healthcare. To address this severe gap, Boat Clinics were designed as floating healthcare units that reach communities otherwise cut off from regular government programs.

Initially started in Dibrugarh district with the support of the district administration and later expanded through a Public-Private Partnership with the National Health Mission (NHM), Government of Assam, the program today operates 16 Boat Clinics across 15 districts. Each boat clinic team—comprising doctors, ANMs, lab technicians, pharmacists, and health workers—conducts monthly visits to designated villages, offering free medical consultations, medicines, vaccinations, antenatal care, and health awareness sessions.

Approximately 18,000–20,000 people benefit from the service every month. Outcomes include increased immunization coverage, reduction in child marriage and teenage pregnancies, better family planning practices, greater uptake of institutional deliveries, and improved sanitation habits.

The Boat Clinic program has proved highly efficient and sustainable, scaling from one district to 16, and further expanding with the development of a specialized Ship Hospital. The Boat Clinics represent an inclusive, community-driven model ensuring equitable healthcare access for Assam's most underserved populations, showcasing resilience, innovation, and lasting social impact.

Boat Clinic:

The first boat, Akha ("Hope"), sailed out on 5th May 2005 to serve remote island villages in Dibrugarh district, carrying doctors, nurses, pharmacists, lab technicians, and health workers. For the first time, medical services arrived at the doorsteps of the char dwellers. On 5th May 2025, it will be the 20th Anniversary of the Boat Clinic Program.









Eco System Protection Trust (ESPT)

Organization Snapshot

A registered Trusts incorporated in the year 2017

Intervention Areas: Dhubri (Assam)

Focus Areas: Education, Child Rights Mental Health, Relief and Environment

Vision: A self- reliant society existing in a sustainable eco system valuing respect and dignity of all.

Mission: To promote environmental and social well - being by building human potential and spreading empathy among most vulnerable communities.

USP: We develop trained human resources with proportional gender representation, fostering local leadership. Strong relationships with government departments and communities ensure sustainable, impactful development initiatives.

Collaborations & Finance

Partners: APF, Goonj, the Ant, the IDeA, R2B
Financial Details (2024): INR 20lacs

Community Development Achievements

Mental Health Reach
Mental health programs reached over 1,000 individuals. Monthly camps benefited over 51 people.

Child Support
Supported 1,200 vulnerable children with educational resources. Enabled 500 children to access library resources.

Village Engagement
Engaged 15+ villages in holistic development initiatives. These initiatives included road repairs and drainage construction.

Library Establishment
Established 10 mobile libraries and one community library. These libraries are in schools and tea estates.

Disaster Relief
Distributed relief supplies to over 1,000 individuals. This was during the last major flood event.

Environmental Efforts
Planted over 200 trees for afforestation efforts. These efforts are for environmental conservation.

Expansion and Focus Areas of Development Initiatives





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Good Practice of Organization

Community Libraries

Method of Work and Implementation for Mobile and Community Libraries

The mobile and community libraries initiative by ESPT focuses on improving educational access and literacy in underserved tea garden and char regions, where educational infrastructure is scarce, and dropout rates are high. These areas often lack proper schools and resources, which significantly hinders children's education. To bridge this gap, ESPT has implemented a model that provides accessible learning environments through the establishment of 10 mobile libraries and a community library in Chagalkhuti village, located in the Chapar Tea Estate.

The 10 mobile libraries serve ten Lower Primary (LP) schools in the Chapar Education Block. The mobile libraries operate on a scheduled basis, visiting schools regularly to ensure that students have continuous access to learning resources. This mobility allows the libraries to reach remote schools and communities that lack permanent educational infrastructure.

The Durgi Bhumij Community Library was established at Veershah M.E. School premises in Chagalkhuti village, located within the Chapar Tea Estate. Over 500 children actively engage with these libraries annually, benefiting from the variety of learning resources available to them. The initiative also emphasizes community involvement by training local volunteers to manage and maintain the libraries. Regular assessments and feedback from teachers and community members help the services to meet the evolving educational needs of the region. Through these efforts, the project is making a significant impact on improving literacy, critical thinking, and educational access in underserved areas.

Promoting Child Rights: Promote child rights by collaborating with young individuals, stakeholders, and communities to raise awareness and safeguard the rights of children. To further this initiative, we have established 18 children's clubs across 10 villages.

Case Study :

Ms. Arida Khatun, a dedicated volunteer teacher with the Eco System Protection Trust, has been teaching for six years, even after the closure of the project. She uses innovative teaching methods, including Teaching Learning Materials (TLM), Joyful Learning, Supplementary Classes, and a Mobile Library, to engage students and improve their academic performance. Her efforts have resulted in notable progress in students' learning outcomes, as confirmed by assessment tests and feedback from both teachers and students. Despite her success, Ms. Aliza faces financial challenges as she no longer receives remuneration for her work, threatening the sustainability of her contributions. The local community recognizes her value and is advocating for financial support to continue the project.









Pro Rural Society

Organization Snapshot

A registered **Societies** incorporated in the year **2009**

Intervention Areas: Papumpare (AP), Golaghat, Karbi Anglong (Assam), Peren, Senapati (Manipur), Dimapur, Niuland, Chumoukedima, Phek, Kiphire, Longleng (Nagaland)

Focus Areas: Livelihood, Skills development, Health, Environment & Waste Management

Vision: That all mankind may have life in all its fullness

Mission: To work with needy communities, youth and women through capacity building, livelihood development, youth engagement and provide leadership in environment conservation

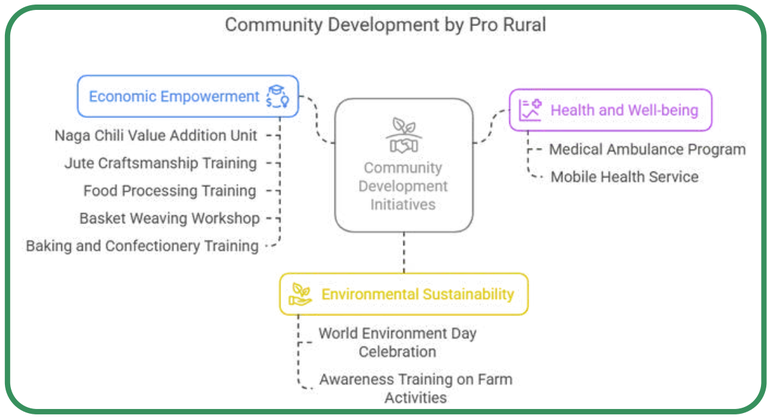
SDG Goals: No Poverty, Zero Hunger, Good Health and Well-Being, Decent Work and Economic Growth, Responsible Consumption and Production, Climate Action.

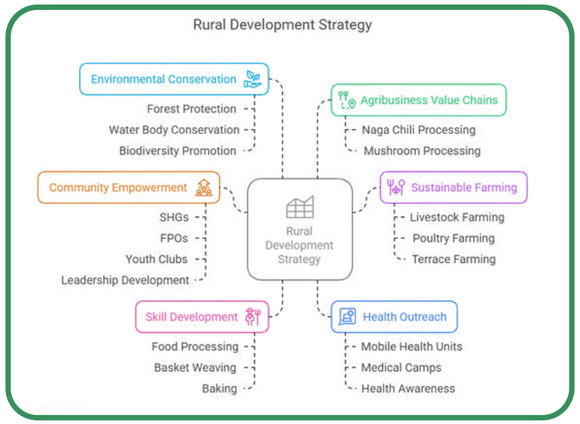
USP: Community support and ownership in intervention.

Collaborations & Finance

Partners: AHT, APF, Bread for the World, NABARD, NEC, NEHHDC, NERCRMS, NJB, One Day's Wages, Quest Alliance, Rohini Nilakani, SBI, SIDBI.

Financial Details (2024): INR 2 crore







Paul Lokho
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Testimonials: *Thanks to Pro Rural's training and seed support in October 2024, we learned new farming techniques like nursery preparation and row sowing. We successfully cultivated vegetables like cabbage and sweet peas, and the crops are doing well. Many villagers have also started growing different vegetables after the training. Selling the produce is helping us sustain our families. We are happy and plan to continue vegetable farming using what we have learned.*

Good Practice of Organization

Agro-Forestry and natural farming to reduce the slash and burn farming

Methods of Work: Pro Rural encourages farmers to transition from traditional shifting cultivation (jhum) to more sustainable agroforestry systems. Practices include:

- Integration of Trees with Crops and Livestock: Combining forestry with agriculture to improve soil fertility, reduce erosion, and diversify income sources.
- Silvopasture Systems: Integrating trees, forage, and livestock to enhance land productivity and sustainability.
- Promotion of Cash Crops: Encouraging cultivation of high-value crops like Naga chili and mushrooms to boost rural incomes.
- Work with vulnerable tribes like Zeme tribes and diversify their livelihood activities towards agro-forestry, natural farming of cash crops to reduce the slash and burn farming.
- Developed Processing center for chilli, ginger, and turmeric.

Case Study :

Kontang C Phom from Pongo Village, Longleng, attended the Livestock Development Management Training organized by Quest Alliance under the initiative of Pro-Rural. Through the training, he gained valuable knowledge about piggery farming, including the importance of constructing pig sheds with concrete floors, ensuring sufficient air, sunlight, and space, providing proper minerals and vitamins at the right time, and maintaining a clean environment. He also learned about timely treatments, adequate water supply, and the need for castration two weeks after the purchase of pigs. After applying these practices, Kontang observed positive results within three months. The training not only improved his livestock management skills but also opened new opportunities for better farming practices in his village. He believes that such initiatives will have a long-lasting positive impact on the livelihoods of the villagers.







The Action Northeast Trust (the ANT)

Organization Snapshot

A registered Trust incorporated in the year 2000.

Intervention Areas: Chirang, Udalguri(Assam).
Focus Areas: Gender, Livelihood, Child & Youth Rights, Climate Adaptation & Disaster Risk Reduction, Peace, Justice & Strong Institutions, Health & Well Being.

Vision: A peaceful world where there is love, respect and dignity for all.

Mission: To work towards sustainable and holistic development with rural and poor voiceless communities mainly in the northeast.

SDG Goals: No Poverty, Quality Education, Gender Equality, Decent work and Economic Growth, Good Health and Well-Being.
USP: Community Trust and a good environment to work with the organization.

Collaborations & Finance
Partners: APF**,** APRAAVA Power Energy, Caring Friends, Edelgive Foundation, Eicher Group, Rohini Nilekani Pantropies Foundation,NABARD Interglobe Foundation, Infosis, SBI Foundation, TERI,
Financial Details (2024): INR 5.6 crore

the ANT Impacts

Initiative	Beneficiaries	Key Activities
Expanded Education Access	838 marginalized children	Established learning centers
Empowered Youth through Frisbee	1,086 youth	Trained coaches, broke barriers
Strengthened Women's Leadership	321 domestic violence survivors	Provided legal aid, counseling
Cultural Revival	317 youth, 126 students	Trained in Bodo music and dance
Sustained Livelihoods	500 marginalized families	Provided livelihood plans, skill development
Promoted Sustainable Farming	522 families	Adopted kitchen gardening, eco-friendly practices
Empowered Women Weavers	500 women	Formed collectives, trained in handloom
Expanded Mental Health Support	5,000 patients monthly	Delivered mental health services
Strengthened Community Media	Local youth	Produced impactful documentaries
Launched Roots to Branches Foundation	Grassroots NGOs	Transitioned IDeA, provided capacity-building





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Awards & Recognition: *Best NGO Award of the District - Given by District Administration in August 2012; Best Innovation Award by BRLF 2025 ; North East CSR Forum Award - by NECSR*

Good Practice of Organization

Mental Illness Treatment Alliance (MITA)

About the Program: MITA is a community-based mental healthcare initiative launched in 2007 by "the ant" in Assam. It addresses the critical need for accessible and affordable mental health services in rural Northeast India. MITA began as a small monthly camp and has now expanded to 27 sites across Assam and Bihar.

MITA's model is based on decentralization, affordability, and sustainability. Local civil society organizations manage each site, supported by "the ant" through technical and financial handholding for the initial six months. Patients pay a nominal fee covering consultation, medication, counseling, and follow-up care.

The program works closely with Primary Health Centers and community volunteers, ensuring services are deeply rooted in local needs. Community engagement activities help reduce the stigma around mental illness, promoting the reintegration of patients into society.

MITA reinvests its savings to expand to new locations, training new grassroots partners. The initiative has successfully created a self-sustaining model, combining medical care, counseling, and livelihood advice. MITA's integrated approach empowers patients, strengthens local healthcare capacities, and builds resilient communities. Through its scalable and replicable design, MITA stands out as a transformative force in rural mental healthcare.

Case Study :

Akku, a 25-year-old orphan from Sundari suffering from epilepsy, struggled for years without effective treatment and support. After joining the MITA Basugaon center, his condition gradually improved, although financial hardships made consistent treatment challenging. Despite occasional setbacks, he managed to control his seizures and now earns a living through small jobs. He was also allotted a house under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana and dreams of building a stable future. His story highlights the need for accessible healthcare, rehabilitation support, and affordable long-term treatment solutions.









DEVELOPMENT & WOMEN IN GENDER

Hills Social Welfare Society (HSWS)
Indigenous Women and Children Foundation (IWCF)
Mahila Shakti Kendra (MASK)
Mangaldoi Mahila Kalyan Samaj (MMKS)
North East Network (NEN - Nagaland)
Rural Women Upliftment Society (RWUS)
Rural Aid Service (RAS)
Sanatan Unnayan Sangstha (SUS)
Voluntary Health Association Tripura (VHAT)
AKAM Foundation
Faith Foundation

Hills Social Welfare Society (HSWS)

Organization Snapshot

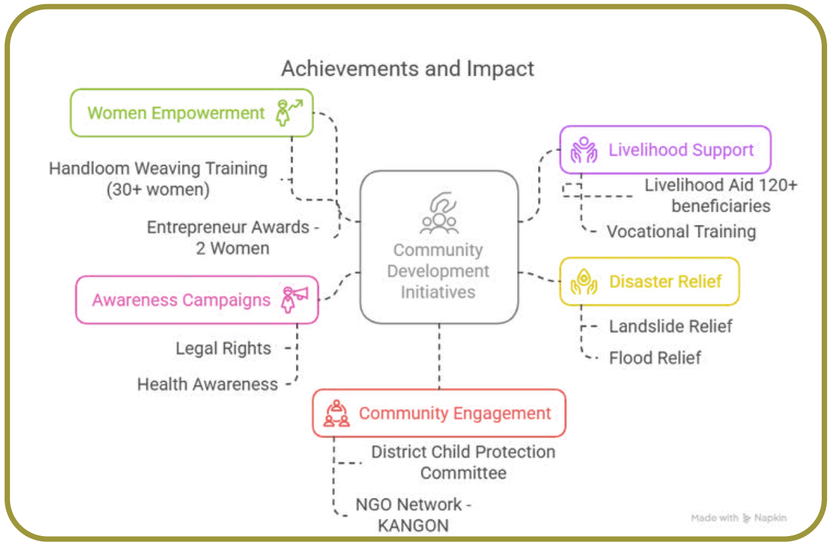
A registered Societies incorporated in the year 2000.

Intervention Areas: Kalimpong (North Bengal).
Focus Areas: Livelihood, Women Empowerment.
Vision: To create/facilitate an enabling environment in health, education, social and economic justice and rights, meaningful environmental/natural existence and continuous development.
Mission: To build up empowerment support and upliftment of the distressed & deserted peoples of the Community especially women for their sustainable development.
SDG Goals: No Poverty, Good Health and Well Being, Gender Equality, Clean water & Sanitation, Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure, Responsible Consumption and production.
USP: Working with single women

Collaborations & Finance

Partners: Amazon, Dasra, Global Greengrants Fund, Goonj, Govt. of West Bengal

Financial Details (2024): INR 1.5 crore







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Awards & Recognition: *Rajiv Gandhi Sadbhawana Award (2006), District Youth Award with ₹10,000 cash prize (2006), Netaji Award for best consumer activism (2007), Jewel of India Award and Lifetime Achievement Award, Indo-Nepal Friendship & Shiromani Awards, National NGO Award by Resource Alliance (2013), ALMA London Award for National Excellence (2015), Silver Certification from GuideStar India for transparency (2019–20), Award from IIM Calcutta for social welfare (2024)*

Good Practice of Organization

Working with Single Women and livelihood

Hill Social Welfare Society (HSWS) has implemented targeted livelihood initiatives to support single women from marginalized communities, particularly in remote villages and tea garden areas of Kalimpong and Darjeeling.

Practices include organic vegetable cultivation, mushroom farming, beekeeping, handloom weaving, tailoring, and floriculture. Women receive hands-on training, agricultural inputs (like seeds, tools, polyhouses), and continuous technical support. For example, mushroom cultivation training is followed by the setup of demonstration sheds, while handloom trainees produce and market shawls and saris through local haats and government fairs.

Implementation begins with a need assessment to identify eligible women, followed by SHG formation for collective strength. Training sessions are conducted with expert guidance, and resource distribution supports enterprise initiation. Market linkage is ensured through participation in local and regional exhibitions and fairs.

Supported by organizations like Global Green Grant Fund, DASRA, and Smile Foundation, HSWS ensures regular follow-ups by field facilitators. Many trained women now serve as community trainers, promoting peer learning. Livelihood support is also integrated into post-disaster relief, helping affected women regain economic stability.

HSWS's holistic approach focuses on empowering single women through sustainable livelihoods, financial independence, and leadership within their communities.

Case Study :

Mrs. Sunmala Tamang, a tribal woman from Peshok Tea Garden, Darjeeling, lost her livelihood after the garden's closure. She joined HSWS as a member and actively participated in various training programs, including horticulture in 2010. Known for her hard work, she once sold 98 kg of organic vegetables in a single day. Despite ongoing labour-management issues at the tea garden, she now runs a vegetable, flower, and honey stall along Darjeeling Road. In February 2024, HSWS supported her with beekeeping training and a bee box. Her monthly income ranges from ₹7,000–₹12,000, increasing during tourist seasons. Sunmala is a vocal advocate for women's rights









Indigenous Women and Children Foundation (IWCF)

Organization Snapshot

A registered Societies incorporated in the year 2008.

Intervention Areas: Tamenglong (Manipur).

Focus Areas: Women and Child, Farming - Permaculture.

Vision: To educate and improve well-being of Indigenous peoples by strengthening them to participate in decision-making role in community development affairs.

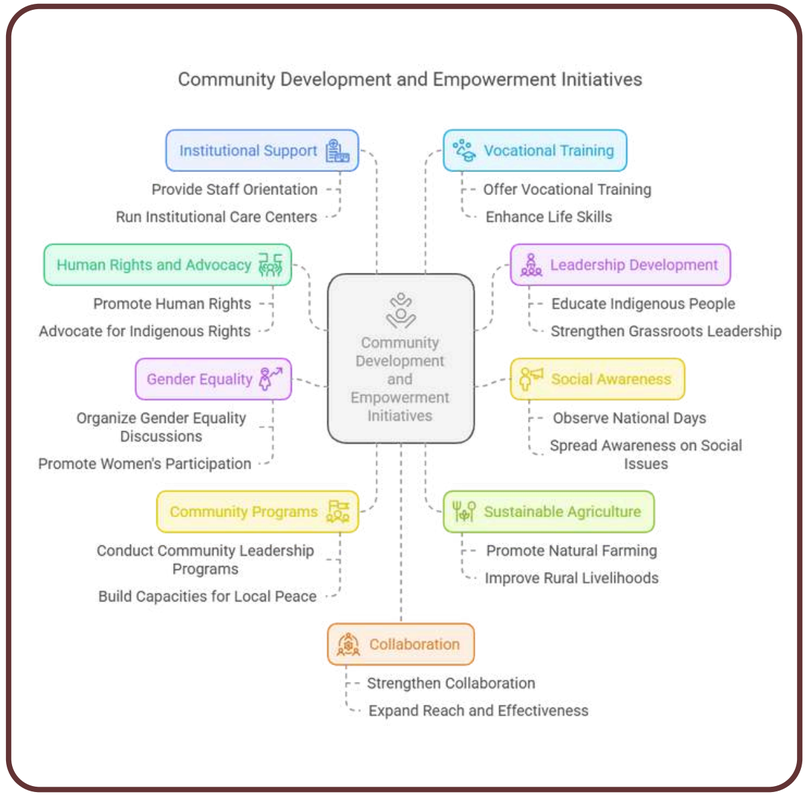
Mission: To promote, protect and recognize the inherence rights of indigenous women and children, respecting at all levels of society through active participation in various forms and to adhere to the principles of human dignity.

USP: Rehabilitation program.

Collaborations & Finance

Partners: Action Aid, Bread of the World, Ministry of Women and Child Development, UNICEF, Henry Martin Institute

Financial Details (2024): INR 1.2 crore





Gaininglungliu Gonmei

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Awards & Recognition: *Certificate of Distinction by Maharaja Narasingh in the field of Children Home.*

Good Practice of Organization

Empower Indigenous Communities

The Indigenous Women and Children Foundation (IWCF) empowers indigenous communities by strengthening the participation of women and children in decision-making, education, and community development processes. It promotes and protects human rights through education programs, advocacy campaigns, and direct rescue and repatriation efforts for trafficked women and children. IWCF focuses mainly on capacity building by providing vocational training, leadership development, and skill enhancement opportunities to ensure sustainable livelihoods. The organization delivers direct services through the operation of child care institutions, helplines, de-addiction centers, and psychosocial support initiatives. IWCF advocates for the protection of indigenous land, environmental sustainability, and the rights over natural resources, challenging exploitation efforts carried out without the free, prior, and informed consent of local communities.

Case Study :

Following violent attacks in their village, a family was forced to flee, losing their home, belongings, and access to education. They took refuge in Tamenglong District, struggling without documents or support. The Indigenous Women and Children Foundation intervened, offering emotional support, essential supplies, and help in securing new school admissions. The team coordinated with the Zonal Education Officer, enabling the children to enroll in Tamenglong Higher Secondary School. They were also provided with food items, warm clothes, blankets, and study materials to help rebuild their lives. Despite the hardships, the family is now slowly restoring hope and ensuring their children's education and future.









Mahila Shakti Kendra (MASK)

Organization Snapshot

A registered **Societies** incorporated in the year **2006**.

Intervention Areas: Sonitpur (Assam).

Focus Areas: Livelihood, Women Empowerment.

Vision: A transformed society that ensures improved social status of poor and marginalized especially women.

Mission: To promote and form Self-Help communities of love , concern, thrift and solidarity among the poor, especially among marginalized women irrespective of caste, creed or colour, whereby they become concious of their collective strength/power to help themselves individually and as a group and to empower themselves economically and socially in order to live with dignity in mainstream of society.

SDG Goals: No Poverty, Quality Education, Gender Equality, Affordable and Clean Energy, Decent Work and Economic Growth, Responsible Consumption and Production, Climate Action, Life on Land.

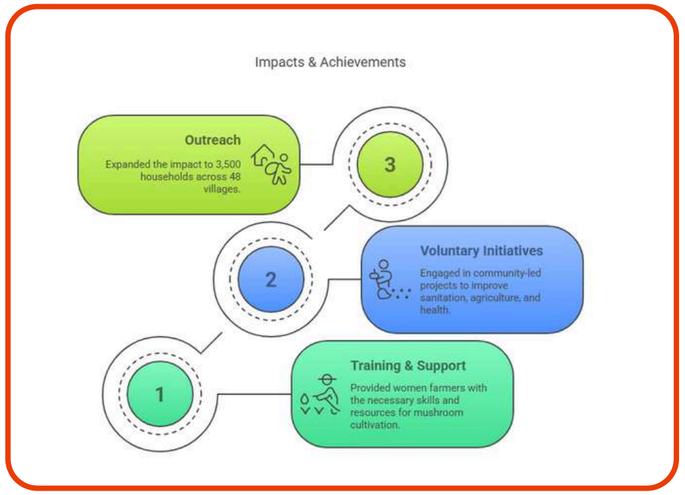
USP: Capacity-building in areas like sericulture, natural dyeing, agro-tourism, and sustainable farming.

Collaborations & Finance

Partners: AAU, APF, ARIAS, AIAS, Brot, Balipara Foundation, Childaid, FMTTI, KVK, IRRI, NABARD, NET, PHF

Financial Details (2024): INR 1.3 crore







Eliza Boro
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Testimonial: *"MASK is like our family we have grown together with MASK. The interventions from MASK have ensured us sustained livelihood opportunities and access to entitlements for our rights. Women have been at core of all their interventions at the community."*

Good Practice of Organization

Empowering rural and forest-dependent communities.

Implementation of the programs: MASK works through a community-driven approach focused on empowering rural and tribal communities, particularly women, by forming and strengthening 170 Self-Help Groups (SHGs) that provide financial support, skill development, and leadership training. Its interventions span education promotion in 10 villages, livelihood development for 2,000 households, agro-tourism initiatives for 200 families, renewable energy adoption across 60 villages, and natural resource management benefiting 1,500 families. MASK's implementation strategy involves mobilizing communities, building local capacities, creating partnerships with government agencies, CSR initiatives, and international organizations, and integrating traditional knowledge with modern practices. By linking communities to government schemes, encouraging small-scale businesses, MASK ensures sustainable development that strengthens economic independence, environmental stewardship, and social resilience across the Sonitpur district of Assam.

MASK also engage in natural resource management, and restored 100 hectares of land with the help of 300 households.

Case Study :

Moneswari Devi belongs to a group of people who settled near the forest area after a cotton mill in Salbari village closed due to a fire accident. Many laborers, including Bodo, Rabha, Garo, and Nepali communities, migrated from nearby districts and had nowhere to go, leading them to clear land in the forest. Moneswari and her family are part of this community that lacks land documents which establishes their legal entitlements. MASK has supported Moneswari through a project aimed at enhancing the livelihoods of people living near forests. She received assistance with pig rearing and was provided with a pig shed. She has started cultivating Oyster Mushrooms. Moneswari now raises three different species of pigs and sells Oyster Mushrooms in the local market, improving her family's income and livelihood.







Mangaldoi Mahila Kalyan Samaj (MMKS)

Organization Snapshot

A registered **Societies** incorporated in the year **2014**.

Intervention Areas: Darrang (Assam).

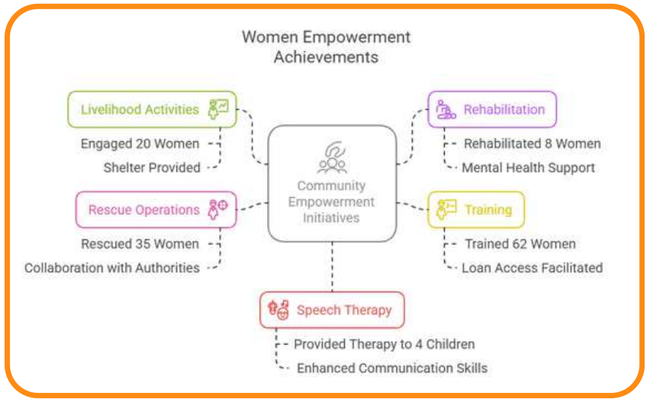
Focus Areas: Livelihood, Gender, Rehabilitation

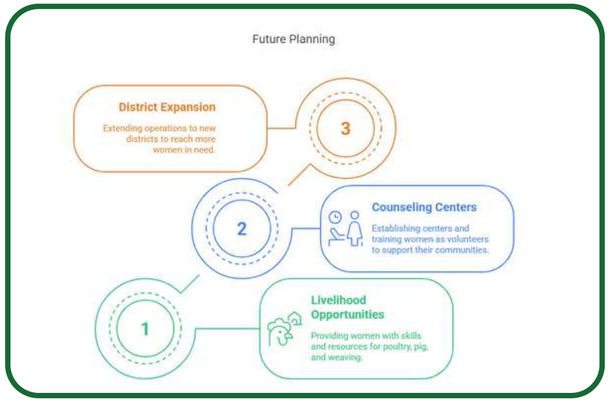
Vision: Improve the status of women and girls, thereby moving towards the transformation of society to affect the lives of all human being positively.

Mission: To uplift the standard of living of poor people by empowering the women and children.

SDG Goals: No Poverty, Gender Equality, Decent work and economic growth, Reduced Inequalities, Climate Action, Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions, Partnerships for the Goal.

USP: Livelihood Initiatives with Income Generation amongst the marginalized women.







Collaborations & Finance

Partners: District Commissioner, Darrang district; Red Cross Society; District Legal Services Authority;DALSA,Darrang , District Industries & Commerce Centre; Superintendent of Police in Darrang district; Member of ICC Committee under POSH in Police Station; AIDC Ltd. 8. GPDP; Numaligarh Refinery Limited; SRD Group of Companies; District Mental Health Department.

Financial Details (2024): INR 28 lacs

Rashmi Rekhta
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Testimonial: *"Working in the organization is extremely satisfying when we see the smile on the faces of children and women who have been destitute, abandoned and suffered violence in their lives."*

Awards & Recognition: *1. Women in Leadership Award in the NGO Sector to the President of the Organization provided by Mahila Shakti Kendra, Darrang District on 8th March 2021. 2. On 15th August 2020, the District Commissioner of Darrang district provided a Letter of Appreciation toKasturi Shisu Griha on their achievement and encouraging their work to continue in coming future.*

Good Practice of Organization

Rescue to rehabilitation to a successful entrepreneur

Methods of Working: The organization focuses on supporting women who are survivors of domestic violence and sexual abuse. Promote economic empowerment through the establishment of small-scale business enterprises such as eatery joints, vegetable shops, handloom and tailoring units, and bamboo craft-based activities. It also assists women in securing financial support through institutional linkages with government schemes and banks.

The implementation strategies of the organization are:
1) Economic Rehabilitation
2) Capacity building and handholding support
3) Collaborate with local government departments, other agencies.

Child-Centric Work of the Organization:

Adoption Awareness: The Organization also celebrate adoption month with the theme 'Building Families, Bridging Hearts', where they encourage to adopt children by conducting seminars, workshops, support, and counseling sessions.

Support for Single-Parent Families: The Organization also assists single mothers to support the education and well-being of their children, and also mentors them for child sponsorship schemes
.

Case Study :
A 21-year-old girl from GerimaiSapori, Darrang, endured physical violence at the hands of her husband. Despite her resilience, the abuse eventually became unbearable, forcing her to return to her parents' home. Thus, her married life turned abusive and harassing for her. After returning back to her parent's place, she demanded to return her dowry money from her in-laws. But they refused to return the money. She became determined to fight for her rights. She sought the support of Mangaldoi Mahila Kalyan Samaj and narrated her story. Mangaldoi Mahila Kalyan Samaj approached District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) for assistance. Through the joint effort, she was able to recover her money back,from her in-laws. With reclaimed funds, she started a small vegetable business, earning a steady income. She is happy to support her family and live with dignity and independent.









North East Network (NEN), Nagaland

Organization Snapshot

A registered **Societies** incorporated in the year **1995.**

Intervention Area: Kohima, Chumukedima, Phek, Shamator, Dimapur, Tuensang, Noklak (Nagaland).

Core Competency Sectors: Gender, Good Governance and State Accountability, Natural Resource Regeneration, Livelihood.

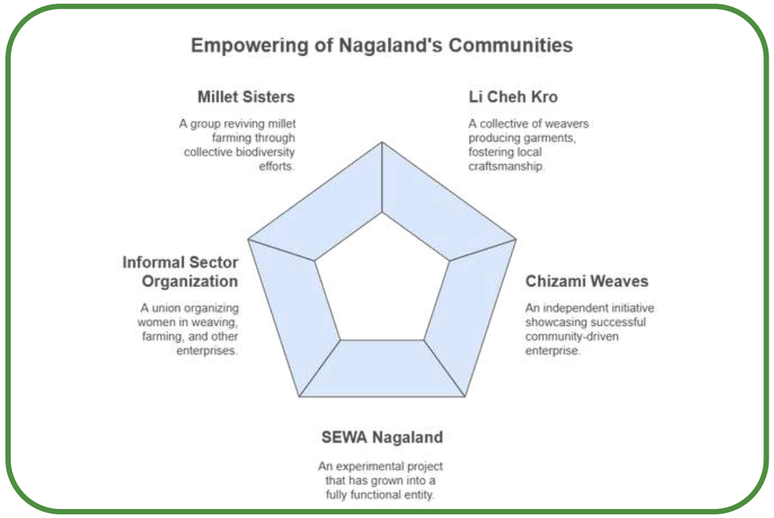
Vision: To build a society in the NER that upholds women's rights and gender justice.

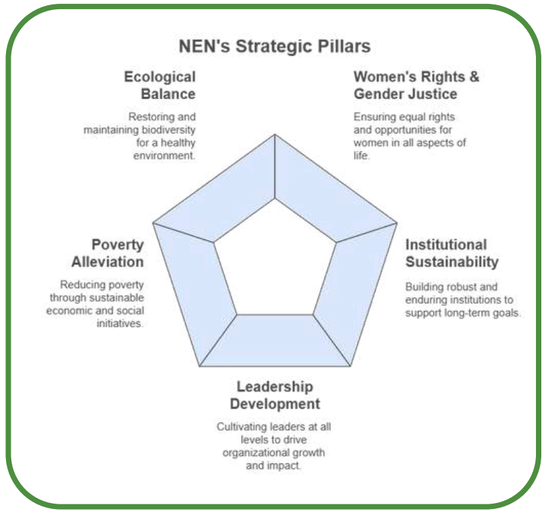
SDG Goals: Gender Equality, Decent Work and Economic Growth, Reduced Inequalities, Climate Action, Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions, Partnerships for the Goals.

USP: The community is put at the centre of the work and is based on lived realities not driven by donor demands; engaging community leaders in meaningful dialogues and focusing on the felt needs of the community and co-creating together.

Collaborations & Finance

Partners: BAF, Bread for the World, CHCC, Chizami, KVK, LCN, MAKAAM, MINI, NABARD, Vikalp Sangam, Women Resource Dept.
Financial Details (2024): INR 5.14 crore









Anurita P Hazarika
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Awards & Recognition: *C Tsurila received the Nagaland State Commission for Women Award 2024. She has been associated with NEN and SEWA Nagaland as a community organiser since 2019.*

Good Practice of Organization

Community Institutions: Li Cheh Kro (A creative collective), Chizami Weaves (Nenterprise), SEWA Nagaland

About the Community Institutions: The organization began its journey by addressing healthcare needs for women and children through awareness programs in partnership with primary health centres. This led to promoting sustainable livelihoods by supporting women weavers and forming Chizami Weaves(Nenterprise). It expanded into food systems, encouraging chemical-free farming and preserving indigenous seeds through a community-led seed bank. The organization has successfully nurtured and supported several sustainable, community-owned institutions:

- Chizami Weaves(Nenterprise): Done in collabortion with Nenterprise which is an initiative of NEN, to support women weavers with design and marketing skills, now an independent registered entity promoting indigenous weaving traditions.
- Li Cheh Kro Weavers Producers Company: Formed with 311 women members across 6 villages, focusing on garments, textiles, and bags; showcased their work at the Hornbill Festival 2024.
- SEWA Nagaland: A pioneering experiment to organize informal women workers into a women-led trade union, now an autonomous entity registered in Nagaland, working across Dimapur, Kohima, and Phek.
- Seed Bank Initiative: Established and managed by women farmers to conserve indigenous seed varieties and promote chemical-free farming, passing traditional ecological knowledge to younger generations.
- Millet Sisters: Practicing millet farming with the aim to revive and promote millet-based biodiversity farming.

About Li Che Kro:
The women SHG groups have registered as Weaver Group “Li Che Kro” a project supported by NABARD has now branched out of NEN to become a weavers producers company with 301 members. The company had their first showcase at a stall in the Hornbill Festival in 2024 where their products were sold. The Li Che Kro focuses on garments, bags and textiles to begin with and have been able to sustain on their own with some handholding support from NEN.









Rural Women Upliftment Society (RWUS)

Organization Snapshot

A registered Societies incorporated in the year 2000

Intervention Areas: Churchandpur, Pherzawl (Manipur)

Focus Areas: Women Empowerment, Environment and Natural Resources, Cl Livelihood, Food security.

Vision: To empower the people for justice and development.

Mission: To empower people through capacity building, awareness raising, workshops, trainings, consultations, campaign, advocacy, lobby work, networking and alliance building and giving materials support to the poorest.

SDG Goals: No Poverty; Good Health and Well being; Affordable and Clean Energy; Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure; Climate Action; Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions; Partnerships for the Goals.

USP: Women Leadership and Governance.

Collaborations & Finance

Partners: APF, AYNI, FIMI, IMEDF, MSME, Women Fund Asia





Achievement and Impacts of RWUS (2023-2024)

Initiative	Description
Relief Support	Provided to ethnic conflict-displaced communities
Essential Items Distribution	Food, medicine, blankets to over 47 camps
Free Medical Camps	Health checkups and free medicines offered twice
Kids Garden School Project	Education continuity in 47 relief camps
Clean Drinking Water	Provided to 22 relief camps
Educational Kits Donation	To 110 children across 5 camps
Women's Livelihood Scheme	Supported 120 women in shawl weaving
Vocational Training	Tailoring and beautician training for girls
Women Farmers' Market	Promoted local produce and economic empowerment
Environmental Protection Programs	Cleaning drives, knowledge building, consultations
	Waste management, river restoration, climate action
Hmar Cultural Heritage Preservation	Infrastructure renovation and education in villages
Renewable Energy Systems Installation	Solar lighting and water heaters to households
Specialized Aid	Support for disabled and chronically ill individuals
Peacebuilding Initiatives	Cross-community and inclusive humanitarian responses

Awards: *Women Empowerment Trailblazer Award*

Mary Beth Sanate
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Good Practice of Organization

Women Livelihoods

Rural Women Upliftment Society (RWUS) adopts a community-driven, rights-based approach in addressing humanitarian, livelihood, environmental, and cultural needs. One of its best practices is the rapid response mechanism, activated during crises such as the ongoing ethnic conflict in Manipur. RWUS ensures equitable aid distribution to all displaced communities, regardless of ethnic backgrounds, promoting peace and inclusivity.

Its collaborative model—engaging churches, CSOs, youth organizations, and donors—ensures timely and widespread support. Projects emphasize women's empowerment, combining skill development (weaving, tailoring, beautician training) with market access through farmer markets and exhibitions. In education, RWUS addresses learning loss among displaced children by setting up temporary schools within relief camps.

Environmental best practices include community-led river restoration and waste management initiatives. The society emphasizes local participation and knowledge sharing, evident in programs like traditional ecological knowledge-building and clean energy adoption.

The method of work centers around: community consultations, need-based assessments, participatory planning, and frequent follow-ups. RWUS staff work beyond standard hours, ensuring continuity and responsiveness.

The implementation strategy is decentralized yet coordinated—projects are executed in collaboration with village committees and grassroots groups. By integrating relief, recovery, and development in one framework, RWUS ensures integrated, sustainable, and culturally appropriate impact for marginalized and conflict-affected communities.

Case Study of Rehabilitation:

The ethnic conflict in Manipur since May 2023 displaced over 70,000 people, devastating livelihoods and communities. In 2024, RWUS and AYNI launched a project to rebuild livelihoods for 1,000 displaced indigenous women from 10 relief camps. The women were trained in financial literacy, personality development, and market strategies, and grouped into vegetable vending, artisan work, and small trades. Each beneficiary received material support worth Rs. 3700 and round-the-clock psychosocial counselling. Regular mentoring helped the women transition from victims to survivors, boosting their confidence, economic stability, and access to markets.









Rural Aid Service (RAS)

Organization Snapshot

Registered Societies incorporated in the year 1995.

Intervention Area: Churchandpur, Kangpokpi, Chandel, Tengnoupal (Manipur).

Focus Area: Livelihood, Child Care & Protection, Relief Support, Environment & Climate Change.

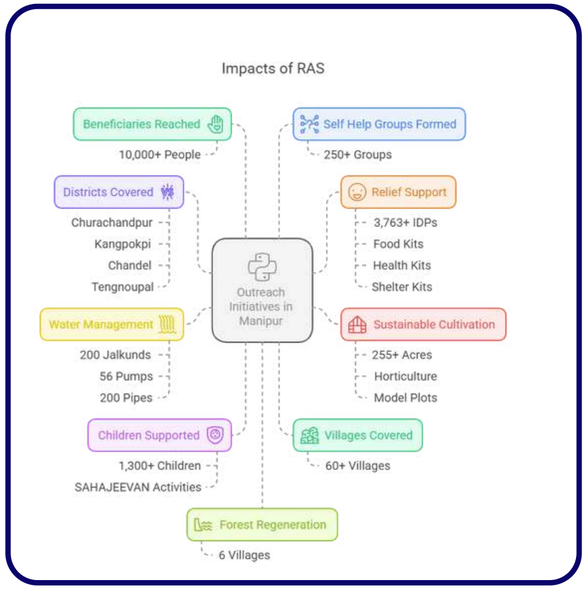
Vision: Self-sustaining, self-reliant, and dignified communities.

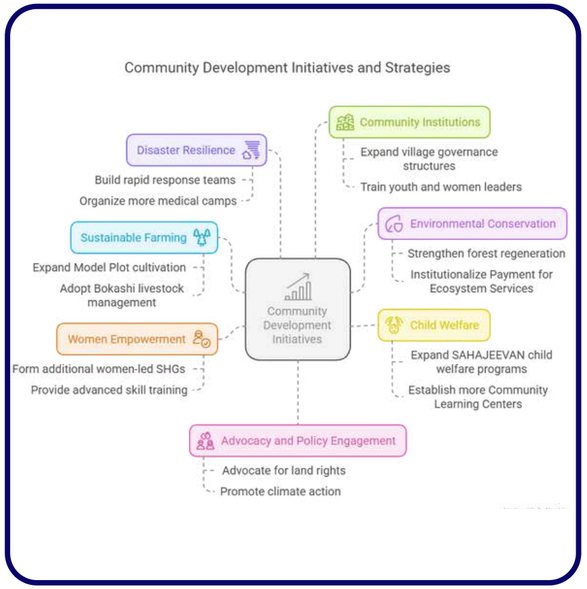
Mission: Inspire and empower people to enhance their capacity to utilize resources sustainability and provide access to requisite social services.

SDGs: No Poverty, Zero Hunger, Good Health & Well Being, Gender Equality, Decent Work & Economic Growth, Climate Action.

USP: Sustainable Agriculture Practice.

Collaborations & Finance
Partners: APF, Bread of the World, BROT, Childline, CPA, Dasra, Dev Pro, NABARD, Rebuild India Fund, SeSTA, UNICEF-CIF.
Financial Details (2024): INR 78 lacs







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Awards: *"North Eastern Golden Personalities Award" and Gold Medal from FFI on 29th November, 2015 at New Delhi; "Indira Gandhi Award for Excellence" on 29th November, 2015.; "Indian Award for Excellence to Rural Aid Service" and GOLD MEDAL (Certificate of Excellence) (Certificate of Felicitation) on 29th November, 2015.; "Certificate Of Appreciation" by TATA Trust, Mumbai.*

Good Practice of Organization

Model plot of Vegetables

About the Program: A concept of an improved plantation method in rural areas conceptualise by RAS, was implemented with funding from the APF to sustain rural economic livelihoods. Before its execution, potential participants were selected from among the SHG members by the group leaders. These selected individuals were sensitized about the Model Plot concept.

As per the concept of Model plot the Village Authority (VA) provided one acre of land specifically for the Model Plot with certain legal documentation. An MOU was signed between the beneficiary, VA, VDCs, and RAS to ensure that the provided land would be protected and could sustain the livelihood activities of the beneficiaries for long-term land security.

RAS provided beneficiaries with five different high-value crops that are in high demand in the local market for daily family consumption. These crops were distributed to the beneficiary and planted by the beneficiary and her family. The RAS staff consistently monitored the activities to ensure proper implementation.

With the Model Plot, the plantation process was carried out systematically, unlike the traditional methods, where the plantation was done based on local knowledge. In addition to the crops provided by RAS, seasonal crops were also grown on the plot, further increasing the beneficiary's income.

Case Study :

In the hills of Manipur, farmers lived in constant insecurity, cultivating land they did not legally own under the traditional chieftainship system. Fearing eviction, they could only grow short-term crops. Rural Aid Service (RAS) launched a Land Tenure Security Program, providing Land Tenure Certificates (LTCs) to empower landless farmers. In Tuibong, Samulamlan, and Sangaikot Blocks, RAS issued 271 LTCs across 18 villages, ensuring farmers' legal right to cultivate. Now, families confidently invest in long-term crops like avocado, orange, pineapple, lychee, and wild edibles like Trevesia palmata, building secure and sustainable livelihoods for the future.


SALT Farming System training given to beneficiaries of Songpi Village




A contended beneficiary with his avocado saplings





Sanatan Unnayan Sangstha (SUS)

Working in shut tea-garden areas

Organization Snapshot

A registered Societies incorporated in the year 2007

Intervention Areas: Cachar, Karimganj and Hailakandi (Assam)

Focus Areas: Education, Livelihood, Health, Disaster Management, Women Rights & Gender, Climate Change

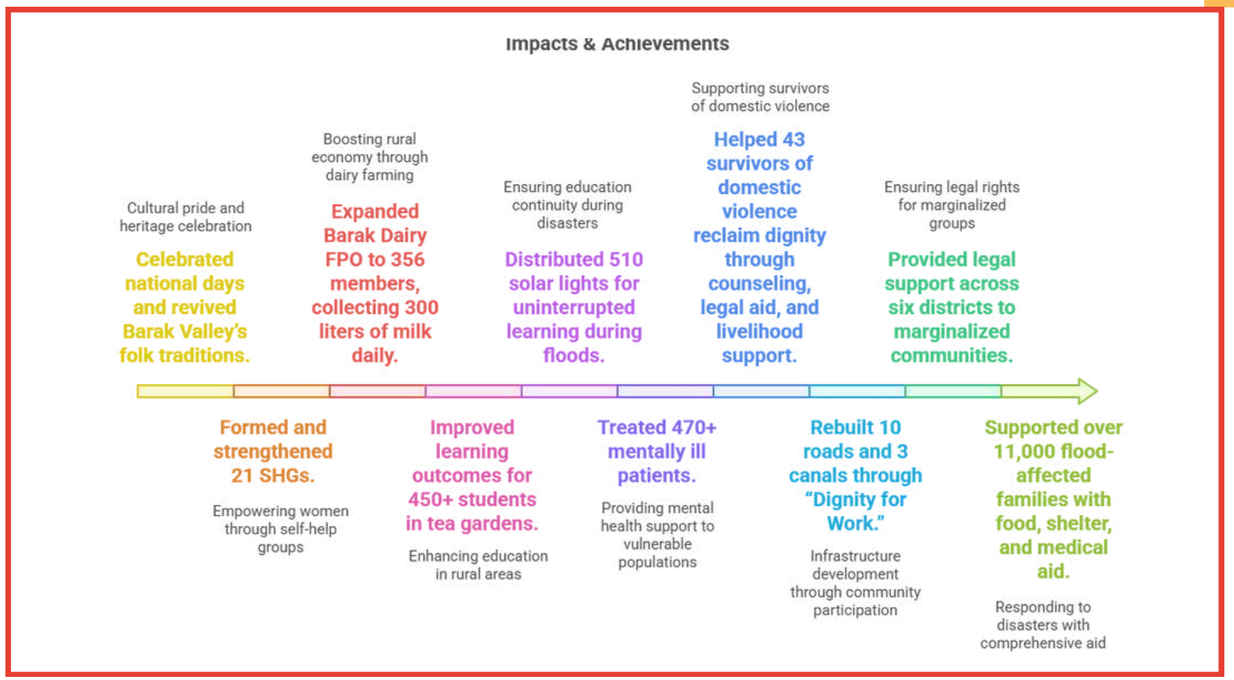
Vision: A Happy Society - where everyone lives with self-respect, dignity and pride.

Mission: To provide cost effective, sustainable people- friendly health and education for women, children & adolescents of weaker sections of Society. To provide employment to unemployed youth & women of the disadvantaged sections of Society through agriculture and other engagements. To provide pre, during & post disaster needs of the Society.

SDGs: No poverty, Gender Equality, Quality Education, Decent Work and economic growth.

Collaborations & Finance

Partners: APF, Caring Friends, Goonj, HCF, IDeA, NABARD, Nazdeek, NIPCCD, NFI, NYK, PHF, PRATYeK, PRIA, the ant, VYK





Ashok Kumar Nath

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Awards: *Rotary Club Greenland, 2023-2024; National Integration Camp, Imphal; ; Northeast Green Summit; Hope for Gems- Break Flood Combatants-2022.*

Good Practice of Organization

Working with Shut Tea Garden Community.

About the Program: In Barak Valley, mental illness is often neglected due to a lack of awareness and stigma, with many believing it is not a medical condition but a result of “ghost attacks.” This leads to people avoiding treatment, fearing societal judgment. A 2020 survey revealed that a significant portion of the population suffers from anxiety, depression, and suicidal thoughts
.

Initiatives by SUS: SUS has taken the initiative by organizing 21 awareness camps and educating 1,011 rural people, including ASHA workers, on mental health. Additionally, SUS conducted Mental Health Camps, registering 621 patients for psychiatric consultations and counselling. As a result, 23.23% of patients were cured, and 66.1% showed improvement.

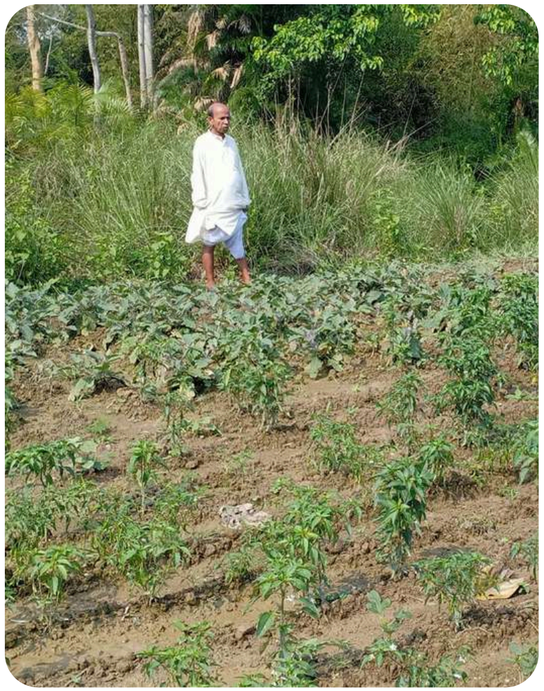
Work in Tea Garden: Years ago, the Chencoorie tea garden was abandoned due to legal issues and financial losses. The workers, who had migrated from different states during colonial times, now struggled in a remote area with no industries, basic amenities, or skills beyond tea plucking. The families relied on jungle food, wage labor, and construction work to survive.
SUS stepped in to help by teaching families new skills in livestock rearing, building nutrition gardens, and promoting peace within households. They also focused on improving the health and education of children and youth through sports and other activities. As a result, the families' vulnerabilities decreased, and positive changes in behavior brought hope for a better future.

Other Initiatives: 1) Learning Centers: On education and Gender
2) Domestic Violence: Formed ‘support group’ in the village to deal with domestic violence.

Case Study of Tea Garden Woman:

A 25-year-old woman from Rikiasyan Para Tea Garden discovered she was 1.5 months pregnant after missing her period. She feared her husband would beat her, as he was stubborn and would not tolerate such news. After discussing her situation with ASHA, ANM, and a social worker, the couple was counseled on shared responsibility in family planning. Despite financial difficulties, they were introduced to local healthcare providers, and after a meeting with a block-level doctor, an abortion was arranged without cost. Both were relieved and committed to using contraception to avoid another pregnancy for three years.







Voluntary Health Association (VHAT)

Organization Snapshot

A registered **Societies** incorporated in the year **1988**.

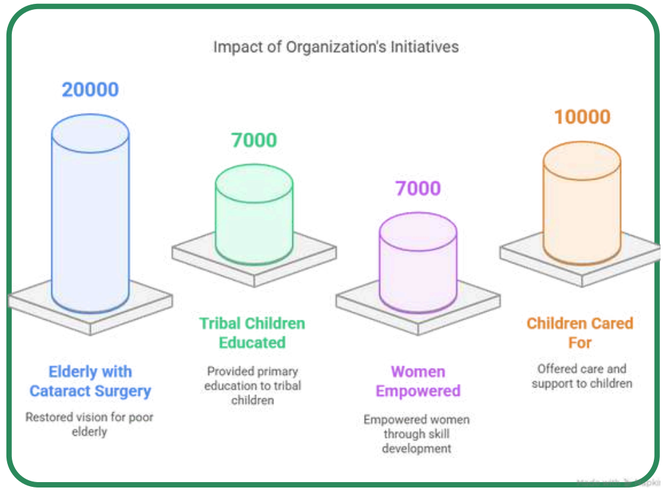
Intervention Areas: Sepahijala, Khowai, North Tripura, South Tripura, Dhalai, Gomati, Unakoti, West Tripura (Tripura); Hailakandi, Karimganj (Assam)

Focus Areas: Health, Child Rights, Education, Women Empowerment. Livelihood

Vision: Creating excellence in Health and Socio Economic Development with priority to the less privileged section of the Society.

Mission: To build capacity of civil society organizations through trainings and IEC, promote social justice, equity and rights in the context of accessibility of health services with emphasis on under privileged sections.

USP: Child Welfare and Tribal Education







Collaborations & Finance

Partners: APF, Miracle Foundation, NABARD, USAID, Vital strategies, Govt. Department of Tripura.
Financial Details (2024): INR 6 crore

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Awards & Recognitions:

South Asia Regional Development Marketplace: Tackling HIV/AIDS stigma and discrimination: from insight to action- 2008. ;Recognition of valuable services for the community- 2023.; FLO women achievers Award of Excellence- 2022-23.; Outstanding contribution to public health services- 2017. ; Outstanding contribution to VHAT's mission for capacity building of CSOs- 2013.; Outstanding contribution to VHAT's mission of making Health a Reality for the people of India- 2012.; Award given for Outstanding contribution for child rights- 2023.

Good Practice of Organization

Ratanmani Vidalaya: Empowerment of Indigenous Community Education

Implementation Strategy: Engaged the community through regular consultations, surveys, and active involvement of parents and local leaders to understand the needs. It integrated local cultural practices into education, adopted a condensed curriculum for faster learning, and provided residential schooling for children from remote areas. Health education, vocational training, and gender-sensitive practices were key elements, ensuring holistic development.

Impacts and Changes:

- Social Changes: Ratanmani Vidyalaya has contributed to a change in social attitudes towards education, especially for tribal children, where education was once seen as secondary. Today, the community views education as an essential tool for breaking the cycle of poverty. Parents, once reluctant, now actively support their children's education.
- Economic Changes: Through vocational training in areas such as health education, environmental studies, and plant nursery management, the school has provided children with practical skills that can help them improve their livelihoods in the future. This is expected to lead to long-term economic empowerment for the community.
- Health and Hygiene Improvements: With regular health education, including lessons on preventing malaria, diarrhoea, and proper sanitation, the community has seen improvements in public health. Children are more equipped to manage health issues and promote hygiene practices within their families.

About Ratanmani Vidyalaya:

The Ratanmani Vidyalaya project was launched in 1994 to address educational challenges faced by tribal children. A non-formal education center was established, offering a condensed curriculum that covered Classes I to V in three years. This approach aimed to bridge the education gap caused by limited access and time constraints. In 2000, the State Education Department recognized the school, transitioning it into a junior basic school. It now follows the official curriculum set by the Tripura Education Department.







AKAM Foundation

Work with LGBTQIA++ Community

Organization Snapshot

A registered Section 8 Company incorporated in the year 2022

Intervention Areas: Kamrup, Dibrugarh, Jorhat (Assam)

Focus Areas: Gender Justice, Education

Vision: A just & equal society where everyone has the right to read and gender rights for all.

Mission: Mission is to enable feminist spaces by co-creating free community library with the community and to enable feminist leaders from the LGBTQIA+ community to work for gender justice.

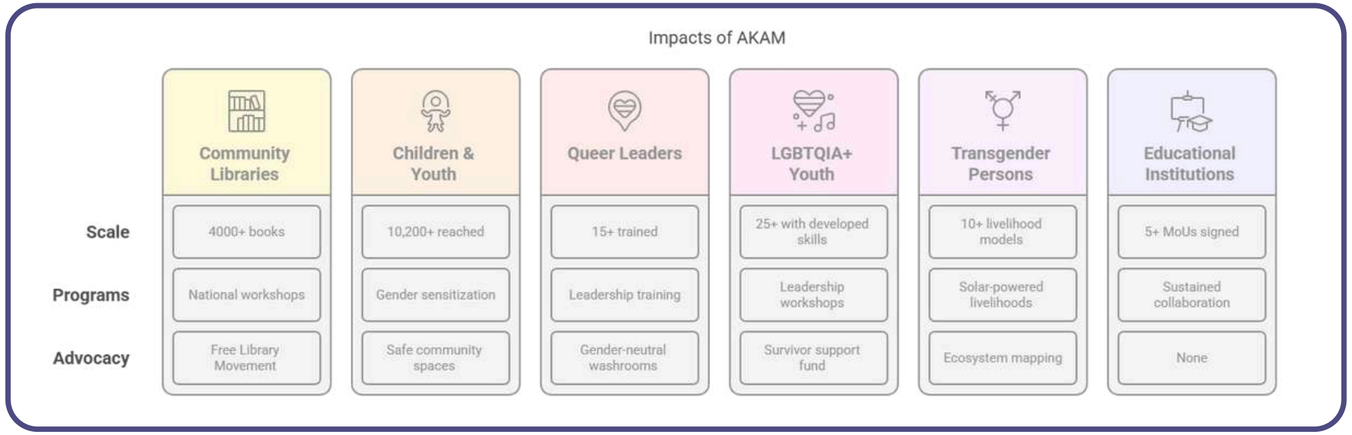
SDG Goals: No Poverty, Good Health and wellbeing, Quality Education, Gender Equality, Parnerships for the Goals.

USP: Young leaders belonging to LGBTQ and Queer, Specialized in Gender Justice and Advocacy, Feminist leadership development.

Collaborations & Finance

Partners: Avazein Foundation, Dispur College, Free Libraries Network, Mariwala Health Initiative, National Foundation for India SELCO Foundation, Surge Impact Foundation, UGC centre for Women's Studies (Dibrugarh)

Financial Details (2024): INR 49 lacs





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Good Practice of Organization
Kitape Kotha Koi - Community Libraries

Method of Engagement:
Direct engagement through providing scholarships, livelihood and setting up enterprises. Community participation through rallies, campaign, workshops, theatre plays, advocacy. Engaging through awareness creation, setting up community libraries.

Implementation: Implemented work through community mobilization, regular dialogues on gender and sexuality, and mental health awareness. They support higher education via scholarship programs tailored for LGBTQ+ individuals and promote sustainable livelihoods through skill development and enterprise creation. Advocacy efforts like Pride Walks raise visibility and demand social justice. Akam strengthens peer networks by building resource systems for healthcare, legal aid, and mentorship support.

About the Intervention: Through the "Kitape Kotha Koi" project, they established community libraries in Jorhat and parts of Dibrugarh, with plans to expand across Assam. Their campaign for setting up gender-neutral toilets has led many schools, colleges, and universities to create inclusive facilities, ensuring privacy and security for Queer and LGBTQ+ communities. Another major success has been community mobilization, particularly among queer and LGBTQ+ individuals, overcoming societal stigma by using a "friend's friend" strategy to build trust and create larger, supportive networks.

About Chandraprabha Saikiani Feminist Library & Resource Centre:

The Feminist Library and Resource Centre in Dibrugarh, inaugurated in March 2023, serves as an anti-discriminatory safe space for all readers, especially the LGBTQIA++ community. With a collection of 2000+ books, it actively engages children, adolescents, and adults through activities like storytelling, reading sessions, dance, drama, music, and games. The library also functions as a community hub, encouraging inclusion, learning, and empowerment.







Faith Foundation

Organization Snapshot

A registered Societies incorporated in the year 2013

Intervention Areas: East Khasi Hills and Ri-Bhoi (Meghalaya)

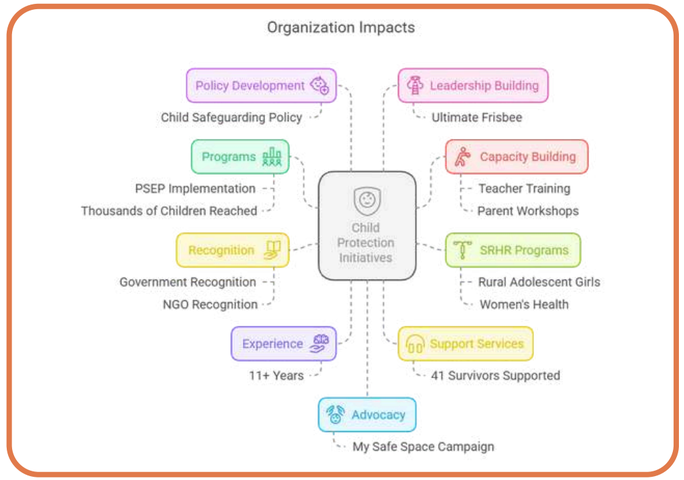
Focus Areas: Child Rights, Prevention of child sexual abuse, SRHR.

Values: Informed engagement, Nurturance, Co Creation, Child and Community centric, Compassion and Inclusiveness

Mission: A society that respects and protects the rights of children, women, and young girls.

SDG Goals: No Poverty, Good Health & Well being, Gender Equality, Reduced Inequalities, Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions, Partnerships for Goals.

USP: Child Rights, SRHR.





Collaborations & Finance

Partners: ANT, Dasra, GFCO, Grassroot, NEN, NESAS, Bosco Integrated Development Society, Bethany Society, Pratham, PHF, SGF and Government Departments.

Financial Details (2024): INR 1.43 crore



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Awards & Recognition: *Robert Stillman Dignity Award 2023-Global Fund for Children*

Good Practice of Organization

Personal Safety Education Program (PSEP) Model

About the Program: The Personal Safety Education Program (PSEP), implemented for the past 11 years, is a school-based intervention aimed at empowering children aged 6–18 (Classes 1–10) to protect themselves. It educates students on body safety, understanding feelings, safe and unsafe touches, consent, gender, sexual and reproductive health, abuse, and online safety, while integrating life skills like problem-solving, critical thinking, and emotional coping. Implemented in government and government-aided schools of East Khasi Hills District, PSEP has successfully encouraged children to disclose unsafe experiences and seek help. Teachers, trained through workshops, have started identifying at-risk students and referring them for counselling—41 students have received psychosocial support so far. An impact includes a student independently reporting a sexual abuse case to the police.

Method of Engagement:

- PSEP in government-run and aided schools
- Capacity-building workshop for parents and teachers
- Policy advocacy for the implementation of a Child Safeguarding Policy
- Contextualised IEC materials on child rights, child sexual abuse prevention, and response handling
- Psychosocial and Legal support
- Partners with DCPUs and CWCs
- Sessions on SRHR
- Sports for development approach (Ultimate Frisbee)
- My Safe Space Campaign

Case Study:

A recent incident in one school where a student from Class 9, who had previously attended the Personal Safety Education Program (PSEP) sessions in her previous classes, took the courageous step of going to the police station with her family to report an abuse case. When the school administration learned of this development, the class teacher and the Principal immediately referred the student to Faith Foundation for counseling and other necessary support. This remarkable turn of events underscores the empowering effect of personal safety education. By equipping children with the knowledge and confidence to recognize and report instances of abuse, such programs are playing a crucial role in ensuring the well-being and protection of the most vulnerable members of our society.







CLIMATE CHANGE

Ajagar Social Circle (ASC)
Realm of Nature Based Actions (RNBA)
Sauramandala
Volunteers for Village Development (VVD)
XEUJI Foundation

Ajagar Social Circles (ASC)

Organization Snapshot

A registered Societies incorporated in the year 2001.

Intervention Areas: Goalpara, Bongaigaon, Chirang, Dhubri (Assam)

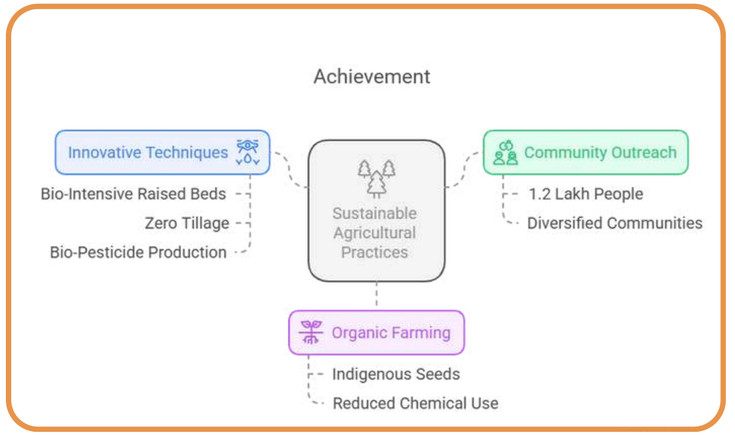
Focus Areas: Livelihood, Education, Skill Upgradation, Relief & Rehabilitation, WASH

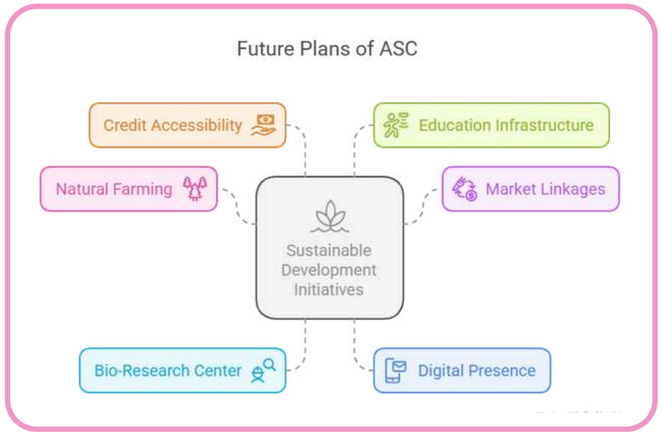
Vision: To be the most respected and preferred organization of the North Eastern region with exemplary community service, by saving 75,000 unserved and underserved people by 2025.

Mission: To improve the socio-economic status of underserved area in NE region through increased access to institutional service and financial services for livelihood support in a sustainable manner.

SDG Goals: No Poverty, Zero Hunger, Quality Education, Clean Water and Sanitation, Decent work and economic growth, Reduced Inequalities, Climate Action, Partnerships for the Goals.

USP: Natural Working with vulnerable communities in remote areas of Assam, working in disaster prone areas.







Collaborations & Finance

Partners: AHT, APF, Dasra, GIZ, IIE, NABARD, NABCONS, NEDFi, Tata Education Trusts, Oxfam, RCRC, Smile Foundation, SeSTA World Bank.

Financial Details (2024): INR 2.77 crore

Hiren Kalita
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Awards & Recognition: *Micro Finance Process Excellency Award 2008; Chief Minister Best Community Action Award 2007, Best Youth Club Award.*

Good Practice of Organization

Natural Farming Initiative.

Model of Work: For Zero-cost agricultural practices, the following methods of work:

- Community Nurseries prepared and indigenous seeds distributed
- Bio-intensive raised beds, zero tillage, and bio-pesticides production

Method of Approach: Community-led approach, indigenous knowledge integration, digital expansion, cross-learning approach, formation of 9-farmer interest group for natural farming.

Other Work of ASC:

- **Weaving and Livelihood Promotion:** 500 indigenous rural weavers across 24 villages.

ASC provides weaving infrastructure looms and yarns, conducts training programs on design development and market-driven weaving, introduces Jacquard looms to increase production efficiency, and introduces Rabha and Garo motifs in sarees.

- **Agro-Ecological Practices**: Heap composting, bio-pesticides development, liquid manure preparation.
- **Education Initiative**: Runs 'Ajagar Valley Academy'
- **FPO**: Support 3 FPOs and strengthen organizations.
- **OFPO:** Support one off-farm producer organization.

Story of Change:

Mr. Arup Kumar Rabha, a farmer from Assam, has been actively involved in the Suati Project under Ajagar Social Circle, setting up a successful community nursery and polyhouse. Despite initial marketing challenges, he and his team adopted natural farming methods like composting and bio-pesticides to reduce costs. Mr. Rabha emphasizes reviving indigenous rice varieties alongside sustainable cultivation practices. With improved market linkages and support from local authorities, he plans to expand farming operations through a scalable, eco-friendly model.







Realm of Nature Based Actions (RNBA)

REALM OF NATURE BASED ACTIONS
RNBA

Organization Snapshot

A registered **Societies** incorporated in the year **1985.**

Intervention Areas: Tamenglong. Chandel, Kangpokpi, Noney (Manipur).

Focus Areas: Livelihood and Skill building, NRM, Climate Change & Environment, OD, PVTG & Tribal Development, Peace Building, Education R & R.

Vision: A sustainable tribal society in northeast India, fostering harmony between people and nature.

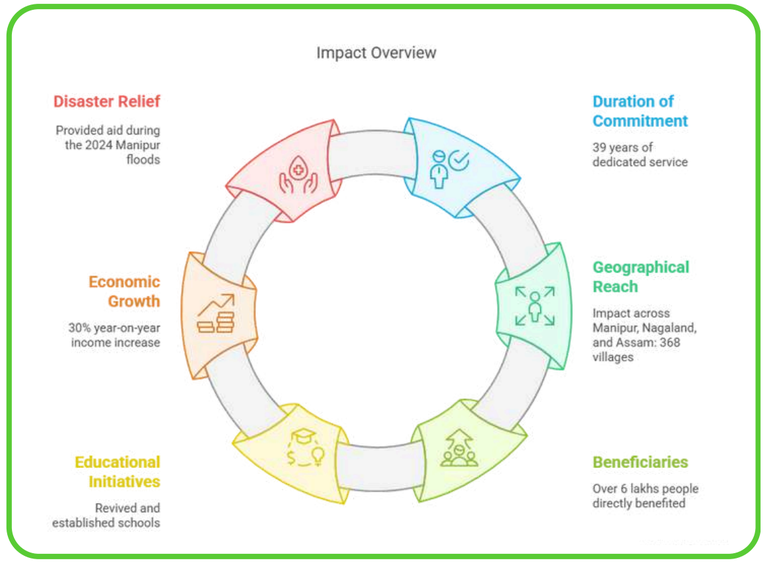
Mission: Through building local institutions and innovative models on: Promoting nature base livelihood solutions, promoting community stewardship on natural ecosystem and inclusive land governance, fostering innovative education towards care for human and nature.

USP: Good rapport with community and local institutions, SALT Farming, Climate Resilient Development.

Collaborations & Finance

Partners: APPI, Brot, Dev Dhwani Foundation, Govt, of Manipur, NECBDC, NABARD, SELCO, SMSE, SeSTA, TATA Trusts.

Financial Details (2024): INR 2.42 crore





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Testimonial: '*I have received training on SALT farming by David Gandhi. I have practiced at 3 acres of land at Takuakzaeng since 2020 and cultivated horticulture plants and long term plants. I am able to earn Rs. 1 lakh per year through this. I would like to encourage RNBA to continue the work, so that other can also able to sustain.' Thuankimlak*

Good Practice of Organization

Crop Intensification Model of Banana for higher yields through agroecology approach.

Model of Work : Along with banana cultivation, RNBA works on value addition from this:

- Dry leaves as substrate for Mushroom Cultivation.
- Banana Value Addition: Chips, Jam, fiber
- Green banana peel for tea production
- Vermicomposting using banana stem waste

Rationale: Manipur hilly region has difficult terrain, where strategy for development have to change according to the areas. RNBA developed four models for sustainable livelihood practices in context with the region. It also scaled up to 368 villages and reached to 93 thousands households.

Other Models of RNBA: Over four decades, RNBA has developed innovative models like Forest Restoration with Locally Important Species (FORLIS) to conserve forests and boost incomes, and adapted Sloping Agricultural Land Technology (SALT) for sustainable farming on hilly terrains. They also introduced the Land Tenure Certificate (LTC) framework to document customary land rights, securing land ownership for tribal communities, including women. These models promote sustainability, resilience, and empowerment in Manipur and Northeast India.

Story of Change:

Lumhiugai Panmei, a 32-year-old from Azuram village in Tamenglong, is transforming farming practices through SALT (Sloping Agricultural Land Technology) farming, creating a sustainable, diverse farm with his father. After training and planting nitrogen-fixing plants along contour lines, his 1.5-acre farm now grows multiple seasonal and long-term crops. His farm has become a demo site in the village, and he dreams of opening a café along NH137 to sell his produce and inspire others.









Sauramandala

Organization Snapshot

A registered **Trust** incorporated in the year **2018**

Intervention Areas: All districts in Meghalaya.

Focus Areas: Education, Entrepreneurship. Public Health, Climate

Vision: Improve Human Development Indicators Remote, Vulnerable, and Disconnected Communities.

Mission: To establish a learning layer that promotes iterative problem-statement-based approached to ground-up societal problem-solving.

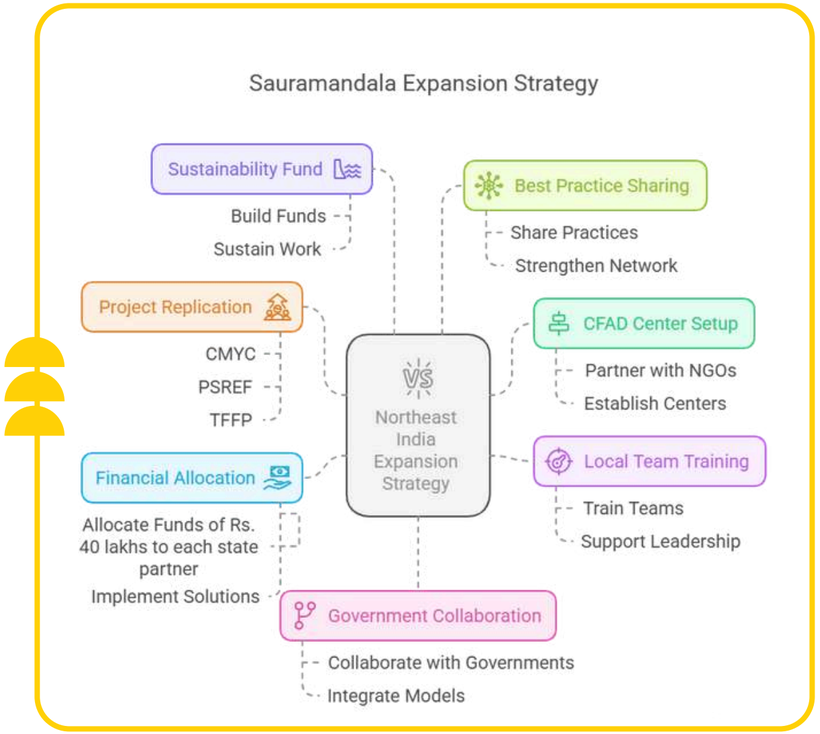
SDG Goals: Good Health & Sanitation, Quality Education, Gender Equality, Clean Water & Sanitation, Affordable & Clean Energy, Decent Work & Economic Growth, Climate Action.

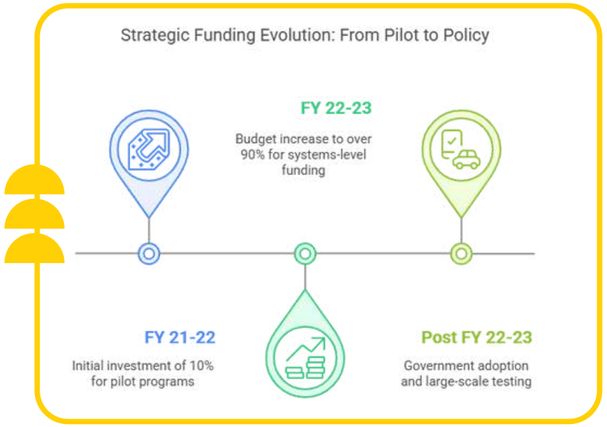
USP: Pilot-scale-policy integration approach

Collaborations & Finance

Partners: Govt. of Meghalaya, MBMA, SELCO Foundation.

Financial Details (2024): INR 11.9 crore







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Testimonial: *"Tibaris Sawkmie focused on producing organic shampoo. The aspiring business women were awarded a nano grant of INR 30,000 in 2024. They successfully created four variations of organic shampoo utilizing 'kynbat khasi' plants."*

Good Practice of Organization

Centre for Accelerated Development (CFAD) Approach

Rationale for Focus: It addresses challenges like contextual disconnect, remoteness, capacity gaps, and policy barriers in remote communities, especially in Northeast India. Through projects like CMYC and PSREF, CFAD tackles the lack of flexible learning spaces, rural entrepreneurship support, and localized development models, creating sustainable, community-driven solutions.

Implementation Approach: Pilot-Scale-Policy Integration approach. Projects like CMYC, PSREF, and TFFP shows how this method transforms pilot successes into sustainable, large-scale community impact.

Changes: CFAD approach has driven major social and economic change through initiatives like PSREF, supporting over 300 entrepreneurs with ₹25 Crores in clean energy loans, CMYC empowering 4,500+ e-learners and 77 nano entrepreneurs, and TFFP helping young learners by publishing 45 folklore books for schools and anganwadis.

Scale-Up: The Centre for Accelerated Development (CFAD) approach enables sustainable, scalable community solutions by transitioning pilots into large-scale initiatives. Projects like CMYC grew from 2 centers to 55 blocks, and PSREF expanded from 3 blocks to 12 districts with government support, proving CFAD's model for replicability and systemic impact.

Stages of Organization Development: Niwan Sten and her mother, Rida Sten, are the driving force behind the Rida Sten Food Cottage, a family-run enterprise based in Sahsniang, Meghalaya. They identified challenges in their business- market linkage, branding, labeling, and packaging- which were hindering the growth of their products, including rice tea, chips, and pickles, processed in their cott. The Sten family worked with the PRIME-Sauramandala Rural Entrepreneurship Fellowship team to redesign their logo, enhance packaging, and connect with markets and red tea enthusiasts. Today, their red rice is a attraction at exhibitions, turning challenges into growth opportunities.

"We are eager to run our business full-time and expand it, upgrading our workspace and equipment for more efficient production."









Volunteers for Village Development (VVD)

Organization Snapshot

A registered **Societies** incorporated in the year **1982.**

Intervention Areas: Ukhrul, Kamjong (Manipur)

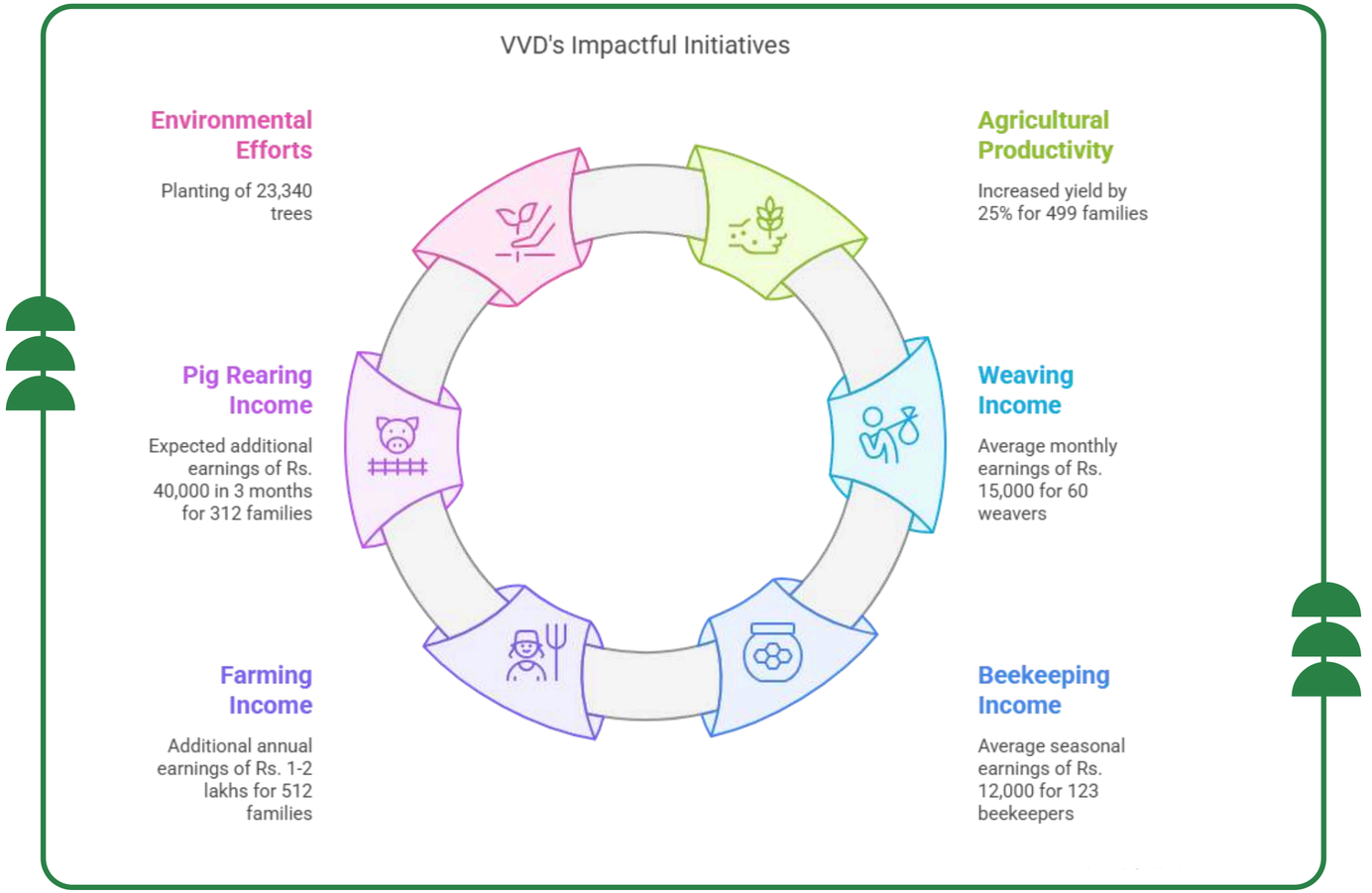
Focus Areas: Livelihood, Water, Women Empowerment

Vision: Visualize a society with sustainable livelihood, where love brotherhood and equitable life prevails.

Mission: To enable Self Help initiatives of the people to redefine their own concept of development based on their own situation.

USP: Expertise in Climate Resilience & Livelihoods catering local challenges.

Collaborations & Finance
Partners: Bread for the World, APF, NABARD and DDI



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Good Practice of Organization

Spring Shed Rejuvenation Program

Rationale of Work:

The region gets rain for 6 to 7 months in a year, yet households don't have water for domestic and irrigation. 35 years ago VVD introduced rooftop rain harvest and 25 years ago introduced rain harvest pits for recharging ground water. This method is also worked in collaboration with the state government.

Method of Work:

Natural Resource Management: A survey and mapping of recharge areas in 13 villages with 2390 households is conducted to access the need. The program then focused on to rejuvenate drying springs in 10 villages with acute water shortage. First, identified the recharge area of in the villages.

At the recharge area, activities like digging of staggered contour trenches, percolation, and brushwood dams were dug and constructed. For soil and water conservation saplings of indigenous species and fruits trees and planted, contour terrace land were constructed for food security of farmers. Fencing for recharge area protection was constructed.

Through this method they have rejuvenated water sources and dealt with water shortage in the villages in Manipur.

Case Study of Kalhang Village

The Springshed Rejuvenation Program at Kalhang Village, implemented by the organization in partnership with NABARD, has addressed water scarcity in the region, where communities depend on spring water for all their needs. By employing a scientific, community-driven approach, including tree plantation, contour trenches, farm ponds, and the introduction of sustainable livelihoods like livestock keeping through Self-Help Groups (SHGs), the program increased spring water discharge from 6 to 23 liters per minute. This initiative not only improved water availability, alleviated financial burdens, and reduced migration but also enhanced agricultural productivity by over 20%.



XEUJI Foundation

Xeuji Foundation

Organization Snapshot

A registered **Section 8 Company** incorporated in the year **2020.**

Intervention Areas: Dhubri, Hailakandhi, Karimganj, Kokrajhar (Assam); All district of Tripura.

Focus Areas: Health, Livelihood - Agriculture.

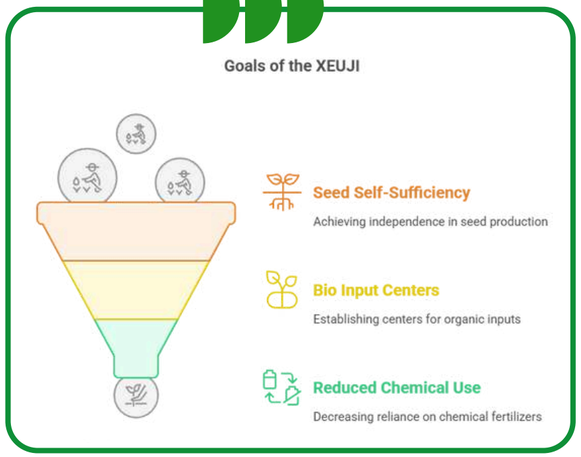
Vision: A society without poverty.

Mission: Empowering communities for better access of health, education, clean energy & sustainable livelihoods.

SDG Goals: No Poverty, Zero Hunger, Good Health & Well being, Quality Education, Gender Equality, Clean Water & Sanitation, Affordable & Clean Energy, Climate Action.

USP: Running FPOs. Volunteers Work, Seeds Conservation





Collaborations & Finance

Partners: ASRLM, DAO, IRRI, KVK, NABARD

Financial Details (2024): INR 29 lacs



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Awards: *8th Assam International Agri-Horti Show 2013 by Department of Agriculture Government of Assam.*

Good Practice of Organization:

Community-led Seeds Production, conservation and seeds multiplication.

Dimensions of Work:

- Oil Seed Model Village: Promotes mustard cultivation on 1,500 bighas in collaboration with the Assam government.
- Paddy Seed Distribution: Distributed 25 quintals of high-yield, water-resistant paddy seeds at subsidized rates.
- Millet Cultivation: Promotes Finger Millet, Foxtel CNSIA 3156, and Marua Millet for sustainable agriculture.
- Horticulture and Nursery Projects: Supports horticulture, nursery, and livestock development in five blocks.
- Fertilizer and Bio-Research Centers: Operates centers providing fertilizers, seeds, and pesticides.
- Mushroom Cultivation and Bosta Model Farming: Promotes year-round cultivation using the Bosta Model for various crops.
- Tobacco Awareness Campaign: Reduces tobacco consumption by 10%-15% through awareness efforts.
- Sustainable Agricultural Practices: Promotes Vermicompost, Bio Insect Killers, and Bio Minerals alongside chemical fertilizers.
- Farmer Producer Companies: Helps farmers reduce costs and improve market access through FPC formation.
- Farmer Training: Provides training, with one trained farmer receiving an excellence award.

Story of Change:

Mr. Sohidul Islam, a Board member of the Farmer Producer Company (FPC) under Xeuji Foundation, has transformed local agriculture by reducing dependency on external seed suppliers. Through training in advanced seed production, he led a successful initiative that expanded seed production from 110 to 130 bighas, providing 10 tons of seeds to the Assam Government. His efforts in sharing knowledge with local farmers and advocating for irrigation support resulted in a solar pump for millet cultivation.









RESEARCH & ORGANIZATION DEVELOPMENT

North East Social Research Centre (NESRC)
Roots to Branches

North East Social Research Centre (NESRC)

Organization Snapshot

A registered **Societies** incorporated in the year **2000**

Intervention Areas: All NE States

Focus Areas: Research

Vision: NESRC envisions being a hub for research, advocacy, and dialogue supporting marginalized communities and promoting peace with justice in NE India.

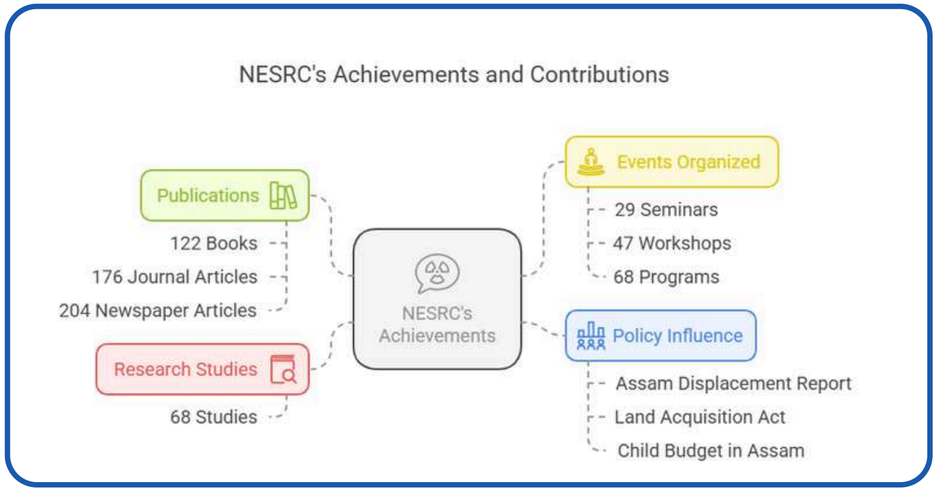
Mission: To inspire youth to engage in research, advocay, and action for the empowerment of marginalized communities in NE India, promoting peace, justice, equality, and reconciliation.

SDG Goals: Good Health & Well being, Quality Education, Gender Equality, Clean Water & Sanitation.

USP: Produce quality research for different socio-ethnic communities of NE India. Act as a bridge to aware about NE India's issues among the wider world and media.

Collaborations & Finance

Partners: Action Aid, Caritas India, Ministry of Tribal Welfare, Miserio, ICHR, ICSR, IGSS, ISRO, OXFAM, Stockhom University,
Financial Details (2024): INR 1.22 crore





Dr. John Walter Fernandes
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Good Practice of Organization:

Research on Tribal, Livelihood, Peace & Conflict and Women Issues across different ethnic and marginalised communities of NE India.

Methods of Research:

- Each research study involves 2/3 staff (Young Researchers mentored by experienced one)
- Regular review and feedback through monthly staff meetings
- Peer review by internal staff
- External Review
- Followed by Publication, article in newspaper and workshop/seminar.

Research Purpose:

- NESRC mainly involves young researches in conducting various studies
- Research staff are from multiple discipline and from different ethnic communities of NE India
- Facilitate Researchers to publish book, write proffessional article and newspaper articles on the research topics to enhance professional knowledge on the subject.
- This facilitates wider discussion regarding the research topics.

Highlight of the Research:

NESRC were able to contribute significant inputs for the Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act 2013 adopted by Indian Parliament in 2013.

NESRC facilitated wider discussion on draft water policy prepared by Govt. of Assam and submitted complied suggestions to Govt of Assam and majority of the suggestions were inserted in revised water policy of Assam.

Contribute in making Child budget in Assam in 2016.







Roots to Branches Foundation

Organization Snapshot

A registered Section 8 Company incorporated in the year 2023

Intervention Areas: Kokrajhar, Dhemaji, Kamrup, Darrang, Nagaon, Dhubri, Jorhat, Sivasagar, Nalbari, Cachar (Assam); Ribhoi, West Jaintia Hills, West Khasi Hills, Shillong (Meghalaya), Dimapur (Nagaland)

Focus Areas: Incubation, Organization Development

Vision: Vibrant institutions and initiatives contribute to transforming people and the planet.

Mission: Organise capacities, incubate, support & empower individuals and institutions engages in social development primarily across the NE states to run projects & organizations that are more responsive, responsible, impactful, transformative and sustainable.

SDG Goals: Good Health and wellbeing, Quality Education, Gender Equality, Decent work & economic growth, Climate action, Partnerships for the goals

USP: Organization Development Training Programs

Collaborations & Finance

Partners: ANT, AGUP, Asha Darshan, Diya Foundation, UFSNE, InSIDe-NE, MANEDA, CWG.

Financial Details (2024): INR 30.25 lacs







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Testimonial by MOSONiE: *The organizational development program is based on understanding community needs and design programs accordingly. It ensures governance in the organization, staff development and strategic planning. The workshops are easy to understand and replicable.*

Good Practice of Organization:

Value-based partnership- **Incubation support to a new development organization.**

Rationale for Focus: Organizations are driven by projects/donor requirements rather than being anchored in values, mission, and vision. There is a growing need for compliance among organizations, yet institutional learning and strategic thinking often remain confined within the realm of project activities. It looks forward to bridging the above gaps, aligning with the community needs and issues, and designing and implementing programs effectively.

Implementation Approach: Understands issues of organization, generate possibilities, and design solutions.



Stages of Organization Development:

Stage 1 Setting Roots: Support to initiate programs, build community relationships, and put in place basic governance, finance, and staffing structures.

Stage 2 Strengthening: Focus on policy development, strengthening systems and processes, building vision and strategy, and enhancing program effectiveness and visibility.

Stage 3 Growth: Support to develop leadership, mobilize additional resources, transition to independent funding, and expand activities









ORGANIZATION NAME	WEBSITE	MAIL
LIVELIHOOD		
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ORGANIZATION NAME	WEBSITE	MAIL
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Organization Visiting Team:
Aswini Bhattacharjya, Dimgonglung Rongmei, Grace Tungoe, Hiranaya Kumar Sarma, Imnasenla Shanbur Jamir, Martin Rabha, Neha Saikia, Pradyut, Saurabh Sharma, Tanushree Medhi, Vijeta.

Panelists: Ananya Goswami, Arpon Bhattacharjee, Biswanath Sinha
Coordination and Editing: Tanushree Medhi
Design: Anuraag Saikia
Supervision: Anant Bhagwati and Pradyut Bhattacharjee
Repository Writer: Vijeta

The repository is fruit of collaborative efforts that has shaped the repository of NE and NB grassroots organizations.

Published in 2025

NōDē
Northeast Organizational Development for Empowerment

SeSTA



@sestaorgindia

Seven Sisters Development Assistance