

ASSAM RIOT VICTIMS'
REHABILITATION/DEVELOPMENT
SUPPORT PROJECT (ARRP) –

FULL TERM EVALUATION (2009-2013)

EVALUATION REPORT

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We are grateful to the LWSIT and the project donors for inviting us to facilitate the full term evaluation of the ARRP project. It has been a special privilege to interact with the staff and the tribal communities after a year and a half of the midterm review. The local context has thrown up unique challenges to the progress of the project which the staff and management have struggled with in different ways. We appreciate the progress made and the way in which these challenges were faced.

We especially appreciate the involvement of Dr. Vijay Kumar James, Executive Director LWSIT, Dr. S C Gorai, Dy. Program Manager in supporting the evaluation team, sharing information and encouraging us. The project staff and volunteers under the leadership of Unit Manager, Mr. Prakash Narzary were closely involved in the entire process of evaluation including facilitation of data collection. We are thankful to them for the hospitality and support offered to us during the period of evaluation.

The head office staffs present in the presentation of findings took much interest and made the discussion richer by sharing their ideas and comments.

There are many lessons to learn from the communities who are struggling with adverse circumstances including poverty and conflict. They continue to celebrate life despite their struggles. We consider it a special privilege to have briefly participated in their lives during the course of this evaluation.

We pray that God may continue to guide and bless the initiatives to strengthen peace and development in Kokrajhar.

Dr. Raj Kumar and Dr. Priya

Rainbow Christian Academy Pvt. Ltd.

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I. INTRODUCTION

The ARRP works with 200 communities of Kokrajhar and Chirang districts spread over five development blocks. The goal of the project is to support families affected by the riots and facilitate reintegration to the mainstream so that they lead peaceful and productive lives. The objectives of the project include building healthy relationships between different ethnic groups, strengthening CBOs to address various issues concerning them, improving food security, empowering women, improving psycho social security and establishing partnerships between duty bearers and other service providers.

The LWSI intervention was initiated after the riots in 1996 and 1998. The focus of the intervention was Relief (1996—2003) followed by Rehabilitation (2004-2008) and then Development (2009-2013). The target communities are those who have been affected by the riots, mostly composed of Santhal communities (137), followed by Bodo (34), Rabha (3), Uraon (3), Rajbhansi (1) and mixed communities (22). (*Condensed from Project Reports*).

II. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF EVALUATION

The project is presently in the development phase (2009-2013) and a mid -term evaluation of the project was done in November 2011. A full term evaluation of the project was scheduled for March 2013 and was facilitated by Rainbow Christian Academy Pvt. Ltd., Nagpur, India. The major aim of the evaluation was to assess the progress of the project towards its set goal, objectives and intentions. In addition the evaluation would have to consider relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact and sustainability in the course of evaluation. Other specific areas for review are mentioned in the Terms of Reference¹.

III. APPROACH AND WORKING METHODS

The evaluation team comprising of one male and one female, reviewed the project documents made available by the project staff and studied the Terms of Reference provided. On reaching the project location, the evaluation team had focused discussions with the project manager and the staff about

- a. Implementation of the mid term review recommendations
- b. Challenges faced during the recent ethnic clash between Bodos and Muslims
- c. Reasons for continuation of the project and areas of need
- d. Visit of the evaluation team to the field and meeting with the target communities

¹ Annexure 1 : Terms of Reference

Field visits were made to each of the zones including Gossaigaon, Sapkata, Sidli, Patgaon, Kochugaon and Balajang. Unstructured interviews and group discussions were held with different individuals and groups who participated in the project activities such as Village development committees, SHGs, Village headman, Girls who received scholarship, PPE centre instructors, Youth who benefitted from driving training, project staff etc. The details of Time Schedule and persons participated in the evaluation are given in Annexure II. In all 240 persons participated in the full term evaluation including 99 male and 141 female. 10 villages were visited.

Findings of the evaluation were discussed with the project manager in the project location at Gosaigaon and the head office staff in Kolkata. The draft report was shared with the LWSIT staff and their feedback was incorporated in the report. Feedback was also obtained from the Jacob Bulti Smørddal of Normisjons who commented, *“I have now gone through the Full Term Evaluation (2009-2013) Second Draft Report with additional comments and will in the following give some comments to the report and the future of the project. First of all, we recognise the efforts of LWSIT throughout this project period. We see the interventions and operations as utterly important in contributing to stabilize and securing peace in the region. We commend LWSITs willingness and courage on behalf of the marginalized and vulnerable tribal groups in this area. We are also grateful for the work of Dr. Raj Kumar and Dr. Priya from Rainbow Christian Academy conducting this evaluation and helping us to pinpoint strengths and weakness of the project. This will be valuable in considering the future path.”*

IV. SPECIFIC AREAS FOR REVIEW

The Terms of Reference have mentioned the following specific areas for review which have been discussed below.

The impact of prevailing situation in Assam

The implementation of the program and implementation of mid- term evaluation recommendations were affected by the prevailing situation in Assam. The frequent Bandh and disharmony between Bodos and Muslims adversely contributed to the implementation. Along with the disturbed communities, the staffs of LWSIT were also emotionally disturbed. The staffs faced insecurity, and were not able to work for couple of weeks due to curfew, and communal disharmony. In Gossaigaon the staff had to move to the police station to seek protection. Under these circumstances the evaluators felt that:

- a. There should be a system of supporting the staff in such situations who may need reassurance and counseling to cope up with the situations and the destruction observed by them.
- b. The staffs need special training to take alternative measures and generate alternate solutions of working for the project. Some activities can be accomplished by remaining inside the office. Some activities can be accomplished for the communities not affected by such circumstances. Working

under such circumstances is situational and calls for innovative ways of addressing the unique circumstances and accomplishing the set objectives without compromising on personal security.

“Much documentation has been updated during these periods by remaining inside the office. Entire operational areas, zone office locations and unit office locations were affected, curfew and section 144 was imposed. Though situation was so adverse we reached out to some communities and accomplished some activities compromising the personal security. (Comment by LWSI on the first draft report)

Thus, the evaluation report is to be seen in the context of such situations.

A. EXTENT TO WHICH THE 2011 EVALUATION RECOMMENDATIONS WERE IMPLEMENTED

Mid Term Review Recommendation	Response of the Staff	Comments of Evaluation Team
1. Reconsider changing the existing plan for the years 2012 and 2013	Project Manager mentioned the new activities added for 2012 and 2013 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food Security - 8 activities • Health - 3 activities • Education – 4 activities • Development - 6 activities • Information – 1 activity In a written response project staff mentioned activities which were discontinued and others which have been added. Details are given in Annexure III	It is good to know that the staffs have made efforts to change the plans depending on the need and circumstances.
2. Focus on strengthening the capacity of CBOS to take over and sustain the program	Training was conducted for the SHGs and VDCs on Record keeping, Account maintenance, Leadership training (2 days), Book keeping	The training programs conducted were certainly relevant to the needs of SHG but were not adequate to equip the CBOs to take over and sustain the program.
3. Documentation of rules and regulations governing CBOs.	Some of the VDCs and SHGs have documented rules and regulations regarding their governance and functioning.	This recommendation has not been fully implemented.

4. Training modules to be developed	Has not been done.	This recommendation has not been implemented.
5. Selection of trainers with adequate facilitation skills	New trainers were not selected. The cost of bringing external resource persons particularly for technical training is expensive. It was found that the local staff can be trained on specific issues and conduct training effectively.	Local staff can be good resource persons provided they have good facilitation skills and give practical examples related to the lives and experiences of the target group. Such resource persons can be trained as facilitators
6. Appointment of female CHVs with adequate training, continuing education program and good referral system. Promotion of herbal medicines, formal training curriculum for CHVs.	Most of the CHVs are females. Continuing education program – One training was conducted right after mid-term review and another one in 2012. Since the Government's ASHA workers were more active, the training was not further pursued. Training curriculum – Doctors were asked to develop the curriculum but this was not followed up. Referral system – There is no active referral system, but health advice is given. Promotion of herbal medicines – In Sidli the local practitioner (Kaviraj) was involved in sharing knowledge of local medicinal herbs. In Patgaon zone, a program on herbal medicine was conducted and followed up.	This recommendation has been partly implemented. The project can either fully depend on ASHA workers for services and extend support to them or have own team of female CHV's and get help from ASHA workers when required,
7. Adequate and relevant PPE and NFE training	In 2012, training was conducted for 4 groups of 25 PPE teachers. Teaching material was also provided. Each training program was for 4 days. From 2012 onwards the VDC started giving part of the honorarium to PPE and NFE instructors.	Efforts have been made to implement this recommendation. The evaluation team did not meet with trained PPE/NFE instructors during the field visits and cannot comment on the adequacy and effectiveness of the training program
8. Curriculum for NFE and PPE	There is no written curriculum for NFE and PPE.	This recommendation has not been implemented.
9. Focus on development issues and enhancing	Staff response given in further sections of the report.	Staff have given examples of VDC and SHGs mobilizing resources from

community participation in moving from dependency to interdependency. Empower community to mobilize resources for common benefit		Government, Banks etc This recommendation has been implemented to some extent
10. In depth orientation and exposure to the Central Advisory Committee members on development issues and initiatives	No training was conducted because there was no convenient time when all members could participate in orientation.	This recommendation has not been implemented <i>"It was planned but for many reasons we could not conduct" (Comment by LWSI on the first draft report)</i>
11. Strengthen capacity of key project staff on development concepts – people skills, facilitation skills, and approaches to community development.	In house training was conducted on book Keeping for two staff from every zone. Case book documentation training was given in which two staff from every zone participated. Both training programs were for one day duration each.	Staffs have not been provided training on development concepts. This recommendation has not been implemented <i>"7 key staff members were sent for capacity building training in different places (out of project.) (Comment by LWSI on the first draft report)</i>
12. Increase the number of female staff in every zone	Two female staff were recruited. Of these one female staff is working in Kochugaon zone and the other has left the project	This recommendation has not been adequately implemented
13. Change role and functions of community volunteers to facilitate the process	One day training was conducted for volunteers for one day. Seven volunteers participated in this training program. The volunteers are able to manage awareness programs and participate in training programs conducted in	Specific training for volunteers on project management has not been conducted. Interviews were held with some volunteers, (given later in the

of taking over.	the project. They play a major role in program planning and documentation.	report.) This recommendation has not been implemented
14. Involve government health workers in the health activities. Access support and services of Agriculture Department of Govt particularly for soil testing. Access resources and materials from Govt Education Department.	Government staffs participate in the health awareness programs conducted by the project. In some programs the government multipurpose worker and ASW are invited as resource persons. Soil testing was not done since the Department has not yet appointed a soil scientist. Some IEC material has been taken from the Government Education Department	This recommendation has been partly implemented

Comments of the Evaluation Team: Most of the implementations of the mid term review have not been implemented for different reasons. The project staff have not read the mid term evaluation report. The recommendations of the mid- term evaluation report were shared in a staff meeting at the project level and actions plans were made but not implemented.

LWSIT to provide more information concerning the circumstances for follow-up of mid-term recommendations (Jacob Bulti Smørdal)

Regarding the implementation of the mid- term recommendation, we feel the phenomenon of achieving physical target got more attention from the field staff due to the fact that normal working days were reduced to great extent in the year 2012 (after the midterm evaluation in Nov 2011). Organizing people for some meeting or training was not a highly preferred task for them though for completely different apolitical reason due to the recurrent disturbance, unrest violence etc. (Dr. Garai LWSIT)

Exit Strategy Suggested in Mid Term Review

- Prepare VDC to take over program by building capacity in leadership, teamwork, decision making, problem solving, monitoring and essential management skills

- Strengthen capacity to comprehend development issues, resource mobilization and project implementation
- Networking between SHG and VDC to implement future programs
- Empower VDC and SHG and implement sustainable programs
- Decreasing support of VDCs from 2013 onwards.

Comments of Evaluation Team: Though there were some efforts by conducting some training for SHG/VDC members but such efforts were not focused. The evaluation team could not observe significant progress in preparation for the exit strategy. The VDC and SHG do not seem to be working together in an organized manner and still expect further support from LWS. At this stage the capacity of VDC and SHG is not adequate to take over the program independently.

Way Forward suggested in Mid Term Review

- Geographically consolidate program for greater effectiveness, working in selected project areas and select additional project areas with close proximity
- Strengthen role of existing community based volunteers as program implementers with more responsibilities. Full time LWS staff will have reducing role in project implementation which will result in community taking over the project. (Exit Strategy for 2014 onwards)
- Avoid varied activities. Activities should be clearly focussed, result and impact oriented
- Working with recently started CBOs (SHGs and VDC and strengthen their capacity in managing the CBOs, mobilize resources and work proactively)

All most all CBOs (VDCs and SHGs) have been maintaining records, i.e. meeting register, monthly subscription register, Bank account, etc. , The CBOs are releasing the mortgaged land of poor families of their own community through their funds and giving back to the land owner, They have been linkaged with banks and mobilizing the resources . The CBOs are contributing to the honorarium of NFE, PPE and Study centres instructors even to project activities. The CBOs are seeking information through RTI Act and getting positive responses for better services. The CBOs are giving financial support to the needy family within their community which reducing the indebt or land mortgage. (Comment by LWSI on the first draft report)

- Improve follow up, documentation, developing important policies (child protection, environment, empowerment of women etc)
- Work closely with government line agencies to improve service at the local level.

“We feel that now the project/community has stronger and healthy relationship with the government line departments, local self govt. and other service providers. The govt. line department and local self govt. have been involved in all most all project activities for which it is became more easier to mobilize the resources from them. If they (CBOs we are working with) go the service providers they get prompt and positive response for improvement of the services.” (Comment by LWSI on the first draft report)

Comments of Evaluation Team:

The project has not invested time and effort in strengthening the capacity of the community based volunteers. Though they participate in the project activities, no specific training programs have been conducted to equip them effectively. CBOs are at a developmental stage and yet to reach maturity. Documentation of policies has been done at the national office level such as environment. However the project has no other documented policies. At the project level at Gossaigaon, the staff may not have adequate capacity to undertake suggested activities under way forward section. Either they should have been trained to implement such activities, or the staff from the headquarters could have helped or the services of expert could have been engaged for helping the staff do documentation, develop policies and implement exit strategy.

B. PROJECT PROFILE AND ITS RELEVANCE TO THE CONTEXT OF THE PROJECT AREA

The target communities mostly are Santhali, followed by Bodo community, Rajbhansi and other groups who are affected by the communal riots. The socio-economic and development indicators in the region are poor. The eruption of violence and the demand for separate state by different political groups put further strain on the existing resources for development. The consequences of these struggles slow the pace of development ultimately affecting the poor. The target communities depend on agriculture for a living. Linkages to resources are important to help them to improve agricultural yield. Alternative livelihood options are limited.

Land mortgage is moderate to severe in the target communities and people struggle to repay debts. Though there are good relationships between communities, untoward incidents can spark up ethnic violence. Few students are able to pass class 10 successfully. The government and banks have various schemes to uplift the socio economic status of the backward communities. However access to the schemes and effective utilization of the resources available may be a challenge for poor families as well as local CBOs.

In this context, the project has done well to identify and address areas related to the development of the community. However there are other factors which contribute to poverty and poor status of the community such as poor quality and lack of access to sound education, land mortgage and limited alternative livelihood options. The project needs to address such areas to bring about a significant change in the target communities.

C. ACCESS AND CONTROL OF COMMUNITIES TOWARDS NATURAL AND INFRASTRUCTURAL RESOURCES

RESPONSE OF PROJECT STAFF

The project staff gave the following examples to illustrate access of communities towards natural and infrastructural resources and other facilities to meet their needs.

Sidli zone

- **VDCs avail Government schemes and engage in cultivation on common land**

In Birgaon village, there was common land lying uncultivated, the VDC was encouraged to start sugarcane cultivation in this area which they started with their own investment. VDC was able to avail 200 saplings from Government for social forestry. They were also able to avail electricity for the village through Rajeev Gandhi Grameen Vidhyuti Karan, 30 kg of rice per family per month through the public distribution system and 7 families received funds to construct houses through the Indira Awas Yojana. (IAY)

In North Islakata village the common land of 3 bigha area was lying fallow and became wild like a jungle. LWS provided groundnut seeds and the people started cultivation in this area. Due to some reasons the crop was not good. However this experience encouraged community to continue cultivating the land. Now they are growing turmeric and "til" (Sesame seeds) on this land and in the surrounding area.

- **SHG members receive Government funds for starting business and do labour work to generate funds**

The SHG members do labour work in helping to build work as labourers, helping to build walls of houses and in each other's fields. This saves the cost of employing labour among the group members and is also a way of earning income for the group. SHG in Krishnapur village got Rs. 10000 from Government welfare fund and plan to do piggery.

Balajan zone

- **SHGs avail Government loans for business**

Chawanaheri group SHG got Rs. 3 lakh from Government to start a dairy farm. They deposited some in the bank. Hararaka SHG got Rs 3 lakh for piggery, which they have started.

- **Government funds for relief and bridge repair**

There is erosion of Tarang River and people approached the Government for help to build an embankment to stop erosion. They were also able to get Rs. 10, 0000 from the Government to repair the bridge. Borosingh village got relief support from the Government following a flood.

- **VDCs engage in cultivation and social forestry**

In Village Uthodoparagaon, 2 bigha bamboo plantations were started and the VDC has also planted Gamari tree and other saplings. In Kochadola the VDC is growing mustard on common land and earned Rs. 20,000/- which they added in the VDC fund. On the common land of 10 bigha the Barogar VDC started social forestry with Government support and have planted trees such as teak, Gamari and other saplings.

- **Access to grain through food security program**

In Dablegaon through the Government food security program, 15 persons applied and got 10 kg of rice per family at Rs. 7/- per kg after the RTI program was conducted.

- **Trained driver applies for government job**

In 2009, in New Laoripara a boy from a poor family was given training in driving. He has now applied for a job in government as a driver and has good chances of getting a permanent job.

Kochugaon zone

- **VDCs start cultivation and grow vegetables, avail borewell**

In 2011, there was common land of 2 acre which was used for cultivation by the VDC by accessing saplings from the Government. Bamboo plantation was also started by the VDC on an empty plot. Others have started growing vegetables on land surrounding the tube well which has high water content. Through the food security program one bore

well was availed from the Government Agricultural program through which 10 persons are benefitting for cultivation purpose.

- **Construction of road, community hall and meeting house with Government support**

In South Bharatnagar VDC, a community hall was constructed by the VDC with the help of government resources. In Londipur the VDC was able to get government funds to construct a sand gravel road in the village. Bahai SHG got Rs. 3 lakh from the government build a meeting house.

Gossaigaon zone

- **Social forestry initiated**

Through social forestry program community members planted 300 saplings from the Government near the community centre.

- **SHGs avail funds from Government**

Sageinan group got Rs. 25000 from Government. Padmapokhari community has 2 groups and they received funds from Adivasi Development Council of the Assam Government. They also got Rs. 10, 0000 for improving piggery business.

- **SHG members start small business, sell local herbs**

During a monthly meeting, there was a discussion on entrepreneurship. Encouraged by the program, one lady started a shop near her house. The proceeds from the shop enabled her to send her son to school paying a fee of Rs. 600/- per month. Two other SHG members started collecting locally available herbs called Mani Muni and sold in the market after drying them at home. These herbs are well known for their medicinal properties. With the help of this income, they paid their monthly SHG fees.

- **Trained youth benefits from business**

In 2011 the project provided driving training and one person who benefitted from this training bought a Tata mobile car in 2012 and is doing profitable business.

Patgaon zone

- **Land cultivation and fishery initiated**

Premnagar village –There was 12 bigha land which was not utilized by the VDC. During the VDC meeting in which SHG members were also present it was decided to use the land for potato cultivation. In Maliktala VDC small ponds and other water bodies which were unused, are being used to rear fishes.

- **SHGs start weaving and transport business from Government loan**

SHG named Rasamhanja from Rabha community got Rs. 4 lakh for weaving equipment. They also had acquired a second hand tempo and employ a driver to run a taxi service using the tempo. Now the profit they receive goes to the group fund.

Sapkata zone

- **Better use of water resources through collective efforts**

In the community, the water streams in the community were getting wasted and lost. During summer there is often scarcity of water and the community decided to make the best use of this water. Using their own funds, four villages joined together. Pokihaga and Phulkumari village worked together and Upendrapur and Borugopa village came together. They diverted the streams and made canals to water the fields. Later they also repaired these canals on their own. With government support four culverts were made in village Haldibari and Pohihair village.

- **Fishery and cultivation initiatives**

In Dalgaon VDC one man dug a pond and started rearing fish on water ponds near the tubewell. VDC members started Banana plantation on open land behind the primary school. Kotsagiri 1 VDC got a pump set from the Government scheme. In Upendrapur village the Agriculture department, gave training on SRI system in which Government provides a rice variety which is high yielding, requires less seed, water and easier to de-weed. This rice variety is being promoted by the Government and more exposure visits are planned in this area.

- **Trained driver increases earning**

A driver was given training in 2009, has been able to take loan and buy an Alto Car which he plies as a taxi. He earns Rs. 10,000 per month.

- **Women's groups sell local turmeric in market**

Wild turmeric called "Khatri, pano" is often found in the villages and is collected and sold after drying. It is sold for Rs. 20/- per kg in the local market. It is used as a baby food and also as a masala.

- **Availing government schemes for electricity, education and business**

Saraj village was able to get electricity through Rajiv Gandhi Vidhyuti Karan. Scheme. Through the Education Grant Scheme a village run school was helped to build a school building. Minisorong SHG got 2 sewing machines from the government. Three SHGs were given first rating by the BDO and also availed fund of Rs. 25,000/-. Through NABARD program SHGs have been linked with banks.

Comment of Evaluation Team

The responses of the project staff indicate that the target communities have increased access to resources particularly with respect to agriculture and use of common land for cultivation and social forestry (10 instances). Availing electricity, houses and other infrastructure for the villages have been reported. Women's groups have started business with Government loans and also sell local grown herbs and plants in the market. In comparison to the mid-term review, it seems that there is an increase in the access to Government resources by the communities.

Alternative livelihood and income generating activities shows various results. What types of initiatives have been most effective in an overall level? (Jacob Bulti Smørdal)

Rainbow: Initiatives which seem to have been more effective on an overall level include cultivation on common land, rearing of livestock. These initiatives require relatively lesser investment of effort and labour. Driver's training also seems to be more successful due to good private, government job opportunities. However a specific initiative needs to be taken up by LWSIT in order to review the existing businesses started by SHGs and others to draw conclusions relating to their profitability and future. This initiative can guide LSW in helping small entrepreneurs and also assess the commercial viability of new business ventures such as Dokna making. Business entrepreneurs may need further training on managing their businesses.

D. PROGRESS ON RIGHTS AND ENTITLEMENTS: CHALLENGES FACED

PROJECT RECORDS OF FEBRUARY 2011

Project report on land mortgaged in six zones shows that a total of 2015 families have mortgaged 11202.5 bighas land. The report covered 25 communities. As of February 2011 details of land mortgage recovery indicate that 269.5 bighas of mortgaged land have been recovered by VDCs, SHGs and individuals from the communities. Recovery of mortgaged land is around 2 % of the total mortgaged land which is almost negligible.

RESPONSE OF PROJECT STAFF

In Gossaigaon people gave land on mortgage to outsiders, SHG helped to release land for 3 individuals which was of 6 bigah and recently another 4 bigah.

In Kochugaon, Islampur village, Marshal group released 22 bigah land for 13 farmers.

In Patgaon, Panwadi village, Marshal Dara group SHG helped to release land of one poor family and cultivated land of 2 bigah.

In Premnagar village, Amaisimbu SHG member got land mortgaged. The SHG released land and started cultivation on the 2 bigah land which was added to their fund.

In Balaganj, 5 bigah land was mortgaged but the VDC recovered it and did cultivation and earned money. Karigaon Marshal SHG released 7 bigah land and started cultivation

In Sapkata, Palassgudi village 5 bigah land was released and another SHG released 11 bigah land.

DATA COLLECTED FROM FIELD VISIT OF EVALUATION TEAM

Land mortgage, Malbhog Kochugaon

No one in the village has mortgaged land

Land Mortgage, Madhyam Malapara, Sidli

During the group discussion with community members 7 persons said that they had mortgaged land. (8 bigha for Rs. 8,500, 2 bigha for Rs. 5,000, 2 bigha for Rs. 4,500, 3 bigha for Rs. 4,000, 4 bigha for Rs. 5,000, 8 bigha for Rs. 14,000 and 5 1/2 bigha for

Rs. 10,000). The VDC does not maintain a record of mortgaged land or its recovery. The common reasons given by the community members for which land was mortgaged included - payment of bail for an imprisoned brother, Money given to father for business, Lack of food, sickness of mother, wife, one said her husband died and another person said his father died even after paying for medical expenses by mortgaging land, marriage of brothers, admission to school.

Daplegaon VDC, Balajan

10 families in the village have mortgaged their land due to medical expenses, education and poverty.

Land Mortgage, Dambruguri, Patgaon

Seven persons among those present have mortgaged land. One woman gave 8 1/2 bigha and another gave 4 bighas to Bodo community members. They received Rs. 15,000 and Rs. 4,000 respectively.

The VDC has taken steps to control land mortgage. They made a survey and found that 20 families out of 30 families in the village have mortgaged land. Half of them have given to Bodo community members and the other half to individuals in their village. According to the VDC survey the total amount of mortgaged land is 58 bighas and the cost of land is Rs. 1, 93,000. The reasons for land mortgage are usually sickness. One woman said that her husband had TB and required money for medical expenses. She also got infected of TB through her husband and both were sick. She did not know that treatment of TB is provided free of cost by the Government. They mortgaged their land for treatment and found it difficult to repay the amount. Now her husband has gone to Kerala to earn money to release the land.

Previously people in need of money and wanting to mortgage land used to go to the money lender first. Now after the VDC offered support, they first go to discuss the issue with the VDC and explore the possibilities of availing loan from them. The VDC then gives the money to the person in need and if he is not able to repay it within 15 days, they are expected to repay the amount with 5% interest. In this way, the VDC is taking steps to prevent increase of land mortgage.

Land Mortgage, Malegaon, Patgaon

50% of the community members have mortgaged land to either Bodo community members or those in their own village. The mortgage of land was initiated when they were living in the relief camps and most of the cultivable land has been mortgaged. They have not been able to repay the amount to release the land since many years.

Mortgage of Land, Islampur, Kochugaon

8 persons had mortgaged land of 27 bigha which was released by the Men's group for Rs. 68,000/-. In the village there are 10-12 persons whose land has been mortgaged. The member whose land was released would then pay back interest free loan to the group or return the amount through sale of the crops cultivated on the land on 50-50 basis. (Aadhi). The reasons they gave for land mortgage was poverty, lack of food, sickness and no means to cultivate the land. One of the woman present in the discussion said that she had 18 bigha land and she had mortgaged 10 bigha land to pay school fees for her son who is studying in 10th class. Apparently there are two systems of land mortgage

- a. **Khai Khalasi** : It is a type of land mortgage system practiced in the ARRP operational areas by all sections of people. In this system, the amount taken against the land mortgage is for a fixed period of time and the amount gets forfeited once the term of period expires. In this system the amount bargained for is usually less depending on the type of land. The land owner can also cultivate the mortgaged land on share basis.
- b. **Sudali/Gada**: This is also a system of land mortgage practiced in this region and elsewhere. In this system, the land given in mortgage remains with the second party as long as the amount is repaid to him. The amount taken by the land owner is considered as loan. The income derived from the use of land is considered as interest for the loan taken by the land owner. In some case long duration is fixed within which the land owner has to return the amount taken by him. If he is unable to repay the amount within that fixed period the land is at risk of getting forfeited to the second party.

(Description of land mortgage systems written by Mr. Prakash Narzary, Unit Manager)

The VDC has organized general meetings in which they encouraged people not to mortgage their land. They offered money on loan to parents who cannot afford to educate their children

Mortgage of Land, Sapkata

In Koksagiri and Polasguri there are 95 families who have mortgaged land. The major reason is poverty.

Comments of Evaluation Team:

The situation of land mortgage in the target communities is disturbing. In most of the communities visited, land mortgage seems to be a common practice. The reasons for mortgage of land indicate that livelihood options and resources are scant. The project records regarding land mortgage is not up-to-date and gives a limited picture of the problem which is more complex and widespread. After mortgaging land, the family has lesser resources and find it difficult to repay the amount to release the land. In few cases, VDCs and SHGs have taken initiative to curb land mortgage and even release land. Rates of interest for monetary loans are high even up to 20% per month. VDCs do not maintain a record of mortgaged land. Adequate study of the existing problem needs to be done along with an analysis of the factors contributing to land mortgage. An effective system of support in partnership with the VDC/SHG can reduce the practise of land mortgage.

The situation of mortgaged land is disturbing indeed. We see the need to include the clarifications provided by LWSIT on this issue. (Jacob Bulti Smørdal)

We have some clarification on the land mortgage issue.

In the year 2010-11 the project unit made a complete survey on the land mortgage issue. The finding was shared in a meeting with the Central Committee members (likely of an advisory, board with whom you met during mid term evaluation) the Local MLA is the Chairman of the Committee and other local leaders are the members. I was also present in that meeting. But the central Committee was also not in a position to provide any solution to this

chronic problem. The issue was shared with the community based organization and they took up the issue and started to recover the mortgaged land as per their capacity and amicable arrangement with the owners, The detailed report on community wise land mortgage and recovery till March 2013 is attached herewith for your ready reference. In the project we have the detailed familywise back up. The process of recovery is continuing with the community effort only, with their limited financial capacity and access but they have the concern for it. That is the reason of relatively slow progress of recovery but within 2- 2.5 years they have been able to recover around 12% of mortgaged land.(Dr Garai LWSIT)

E. ACCESS TO EDUCATION AND HEALTH SERVICES

ACCESS TO EDUCATION

Interview with Study Centre Instructor, Hansubill Village, Gossaigaon

Ojufha Begum is from the Muslim community and is currently doing BA 4th semester. She is the most highly educated among the women in her village. She used to take private tuitions in her home for 15 days a month and had around 6 students who paid Rs. 300/- per person. Ojufha has been appointed as study centre instructor by LWS, supported by the VDC. She started taking tuition classes in the LWS community centre from February 2013 onward. There are 16 students who are studying in classes 6 to 8. At the request of the VDC more students from class 5 have also joined the centre. The students pay Rs. 25/- per month and LWS pays Rs. 2025/- as honorarium to the instructor. Ojufha says that she prefers teaching in the community centre than taking up private tuitions, since the numbers of students are more and the payment is regular. She thinks that it is important to be educated and due to education one is able to differentiate between good and bad. "Girls and boys have equal rights and that is why girls should be educated. The benefit of receiving education is that I can teach others" She feels that additional training can help her to do her work in a better way.

A parent who sends her children to the Study Centre said "I have two children and one of them is in class 10. I send both my sons to the study centre. There are no other tuition centres in the village. The closest centres are outside the village and charge Rs. 250/- to Rs. 300/- per student, per month. The fee in this study centre is easy to pay. In the centre the students learn about agriculture and about other professions too.

Study Centre Instructor, Malegaon, Patgaon

Sanjoli Tudu has passed class 12. She works as Study centre instructor since June 2012. The classes are conducted in the local school for 15 students studying in 6th to 8th class. Previously she was taking private tuitions for 3 students and used to charge Rs. 150/- per person. At the study centre the students pay Rs. 35/- per month. LWS pays Rs. 2000/- and later on increased it was increased to Rs. 2500/- The major problem in teaching is English language. She has not received any training from LWS. If LWS discontinues, then the study centre will close. She is willing to continue teaching if middle school students pay Rs. 200/- and lower primary students pay Rs. 150/- per month.

Interview with Pre Primary Instructor -Mambui Imram, Kochugaon, Islampur

Mambui was appointed as PPE instructor by the VDC and has been working for 1 month in the project. She has completed class 10. The Pre Primary Education classes are conducted in the Lower Primary School in the village and was started in February 2013. There are 26 children from the village. The classes are conducted every day for 2 hours each. The children call the Instructor as "Didi". They are taught about hygiene, basics of alphabets etc. The problem she faces is that the children do not remember what she teaches them. She is paid Rs. 700/- by LWS. The VDC has not yet started contributing to the classes. The mothers seem to be appreciative of the classes and said that it is beneficial for their children.

Hesper village

There is a Lower Primary school in the village. For classes 6- 8 the middle school is in Rangapara and for classes 9th and 10th there are schools in Searampur and Rongsipur, outside the village. So far there are 3 boys who have passed class 10. There are no girl students who have passed 10th class in the village.

Village initiated study centre for students

In the community centre, the village members have taken the initiative to start study centre. There is a solar lamp installed in the centre and children from the village come to study here. Educated youth in the village come to teach them as and when they have time.

VDC Islampur, Kochugaon

Parents prefer to send their children to study in private schools which charge fees rather than Government schools where the quality of education is usually lower and free of cost. The expenses for education in private schools include admission fee, fee for uniforms, tuition, travel to the school etc. In the village there are 40 students who are in high and middle school. They travel by bus and also walk part of the way to reach the school which is 5 km away.

Participation in LWS training programs on education and health, Islampur, Kochugaon

Two of the VDC members and one SHG member have participated in LWS training on education and health in the past. However it was difficult to ascertain what had been taught and how they have benefitted from the training. The community members are of the opinion that the training programs should be conducted in the village. When there are training programs, the more educated persons usually participate and others do not get the benefit of this training. They also expressed concerns that they are away from the mainstream and want to progress. They believe that due to child marriage, most of their children have lesser mental ability.

Scholarship student – Kajoli Karmohar, Madhyam Malapara, Sidli

She is studying in 11th class and studies in the Government Higher Secondary School. She lives with her parents, sisters and brothers. Her father is an ironsmith who repairs iron equipment. They also do cultivation. Kajoli's family lived for 16 years in the relief camp and later in an adjoining village. Two months ago they returned to their own land.

In 10th class she passed in Illrd division with grace marks. She said that she was not able to study much. The school is 6 km away and she travels by cycle. After returning from school, she helps in the household work and also in the fields. During the evening she studies. However, there is no electricity and she used to study with the help of kerosene lamp. The family can afford kerosene for around 6 days in a month. On other days she had to study during the day time.

She has received Rs. 1,260 for admission fee and Rs. 1,500 for books from LWS. She also needs to pay examination fee of Rs. 500/-. If she did not receive this scholarship then the family would have to take loan to pay the school fees. There are three other girls in her class who have taken loan to pay school fees.

Scholarship Student - Rupali Hembrom Sapkata

Rupali Hembrom is from Koksagai village and is studying in 11th class. Through LWS she is receiving Rs. 2020/- as admission fee and Rs. 720/- for books. She is studying in a private school which has government recognition. In 10th class she passed with IIIrd division. Following this she was not able to continue studies since there was lack of money and her parents refused support. There was problem of paying admission fee and also school uniform. She has 5 other brothers and sisters. In future she wants to study and become a teacher. In her school, only 2 students from her village gave 10th class exam.

Comments of Evaluation Team

The evaluation team had opportunity to interact with two study centre instructors, one PPE centre instructor, two scholarship students and community members whose children go to the study centres started by the project. The study centre instructors have been recently appointed, yet to receive training and recognize their role in mentoring students. However parents of the students recognize the value of the centre and are also contributing fee for the students study. It is good to know that the VDCs have started contributing to the honorarium of the study centre instructors. It is worth noting that Hesperes village has started their own study centre for students. The scholarship students face difficult personal circumstances. They deserve the scholarship they are receiving. However academic performance of the students is poor. It seems that few students are able to successfully complete class 10. Quality of education in the schools is poor. It is encouraging to note that parents are prepared to invest in their children's education and have started recognizing its value, even to the extent of mortgaging land to pay school fees.

Access to education is a challenge in the project area. The community-based approach in using Community Based Volunteers (CBV) strengthens the project. However, there are challenges in providing adequate training and increasing the capacity of these persons. We suggest that the strength and weaknesses in using CBVs are more elaborated in the report. (Jacob Bulti Smørdal)

Rainbow:

Strengths of Using Community Based Volunteers in the project

There are important strengths in using community based volunteers in the project. Some of them are:

1. CBVs contribute to the staff strength and are a local resource pool. At times it is difficult and even more expensive to recruit staff from outside the project area.
2. CBVs enable deeper engagement with the local communities fostering better relationships
3. CBVs are above cultural barriers and can empathize with the needs and problems of the target community more readily. Since there is lesser social distance between them and the community, they can socialize more freely
4. With adequate experience working with the project and periodic training, the CBVs usually become increasingly competent, confident and professional in their approach. Investing in the CBVs is one way of developing the capacity of the community and contributes to sustainability of the project initiatives.
5. CBVs are generally more enthusiastic and have high level of involvement in the project, particularly in the initial stages. Involvement in the project may increase their social standing in the community where they live and become a source of income for their families. Educated youth seem to prefer joining the project and stay close to their homes rather than work elsewhere.
6. CBVs can contribute different points of view, new methods and approaches to working with the target community as well as provide fresh insight into community issues.
7. CBVs also influence the target community in accepting change brought about by the project and help to build good perspective of the project and its staff in the community.

Limitations of Using Community Based volunteers in the project

1. It is often difficult to find the right people to function as community based volunteers. CBVs need to have good personality attributes, sound values, good human relation skills and a desire to engage with people.
2. At times CBVs can be confronted with problems as they resolve issues related to their role in the project and in the community. There may even be a clash of interests in working as a staff and being a community member.
3. CBVs may make more mistakes due to lack of experience and limited perspective.
4. It is natural that CBVs may identify more closely with the community and at times shared cultural tendencies may find it more difficult for them think differently and bring about change in the community
5. CBVs may also find it difficult to find alternative work after the project closes or moves to another area. There are limited opportunities for them to grow and get paid jobs.

ACCESS TO HEALTH SERVICES

Health issues– Hesper village

Women now go to the hospital for deliveries and are knowledgeable about the Government schemes for girl children and hospitalized delivery. They also practice herbal medicine for treating common illness and are knowledgeable about the use of local medicines and herbs. However they consider the use of herbal medicine as an outdated practice and may not appreciate the value of this traditional knowledge.

Interview with CHV Suleman Murmu, Madhyam Malapara, Sidli

Suleman has studied until class 12 and has worked as CHV for the past 2 years. He also received training by an NGO called Sothro on RTI in 2010. There are 84 families who are in BPL category in the village and previously they were getting 20 kg rice per family through the Public Distribution System and now it has increased to 27 kg after RTI application. He also helped 3 persons to avail house construction through Indira Awas Yojana. Through LWS he has received health training for 3 days in 2010 and for 1 day in 2011. He has basic knowledge of applying cold compress in case someone has fever, common symptoms of malaria, making ORS to treat diarrhea. Locally diarrhea is also treated by making a juice of the banana flower pulp. However he does not live in the village and is doing theological training in Kerala. The ASHA worker stays in the adjoining village and people approach her in case of illness.

Health , Madhyam Malapara, Sidli

The nearest hospital is 9 km away and women prefer to go to hospital for delivery. In the past year, 1 infant died due to respiratory illness and another 1 year old died of fever. Consuming excessive alcohol is a common problem in the community. The women make rice wine at home at least two times a week. 3 kg rice is used to make 3 bottles of wine on weekly basis. The natural yeast² used to ferment the rice is bought from the Bodo villages. It is called Emau, Ranu or Bakor.

Comments of Evaluation Team

The evaluation team did not meet with CHVs who are practicing in the community. However it seems that the community members are knowledgeable about health scheme for mothers during delivery. Consumption of alcohol is common. Community members may also avail the services of ASHA worker who lives in the community.

² Natural yeast is made by the Bodo women by adding a herb to powdered rice.

F. EARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH AND WOMEN THROUGH AGRICULTURE AND SKILL BASED ACTIVITIES

PROJECT STAFF RESPONSE

The project plans to support women for starting grocery shops and vegetable vending in weekly market. This is in the planning stage.

- A number of men from the community gather firewood from the forest. They also cut trees and sell at the local market, using their cycles to transport the wood. They earn Rs. 200/- to Rs. 350/- for the firewood. There are plans to target this group and encourage them to start alternative livelihood.
- In Sidli a youth club planned ginger cultivation. The project supports educated youth to take up the responsibility of study instructors in their local area for which they are given honorarium. This is also a source of income for them.
- In Sidli, the government also gives training in piggery, weaving, poultry, making gamcha and panchim
- Livestock support and animal husbandry training is given for women by LWS.
- One important traditional skill is weaving garments worn by women. Dokna is worn by Bodo women and Panchi is worn by Santhali women. Dokna costs Rs. 300/- to Rs. 400/- for one piece.
- In Patgaon VDC mushroom Training was given to SHGs and they have started mushroom cultivation. They also became resource persons for training other groups. Few individuals and groups are doing mushroom training (Mohe SHG)
- In Gossaigaon VDC and SHG are doing business in mushroom selling

DRIVERS SUPPORTED BY LWS

Arjun Murmu, Madhyam Malapara, Sidli

Arjun Murmu is from Krishnapur village of Sidli. With LWS help he took 2 months driving training in 2010 at Bongaigon. He completed training successfully and worked as a helper for a local passenger taxi for five months. He received Rs. 50/- per month. Now

he has taken a Tata Magic passenger taxi on lease and is able to make Rs. 225/- per day. His parents work in the field. He is married and has a small brother. He is able to take care of his family's needs through his work. Though he wants to own his own vehicle, he is not much aware of how to access loan for vehicle or even the cost of vehicle. If he buys his own vehicle he would be able to make Rs. 1500/- per day. LWS paid Rs. 4000/- for driving lessons and he also contributed Rs. 1700 for making driving license. He is willing to help other boys like him to learn driving and even contribute money for their training. If he would not been able to learn driving, then he would do cultivation for a living.

Mahadev Burman, Sapkata

He belongs to the Rajbhansi community. Mahadev has passed 10th class. He has completed 3 months driving course in 2009. He learned driving and repair of vehicle and also was able to get driving license. He contributed Rs 3,000/- towards the license and LWS paid for the driving course. In the last year he bought a new Alto Car and is running a taxi service. He earns around Rs. 13,000 per month. Through Mahindra finance he bought the car by paying down payment of Rs. 11/2 lakh. For 20 months he has to repay Rs. 5,800/- per month and the consecutive 15 months he has to pay Rs. 5015 per month. He is able to repay the loan as well as care for his family through the proceeds of his taxi business.

Comments of the Evaluation Team

The earning opportunities for youth and women in the target communities, apart from agriculture are limited. The women's groups do labour work in each others fields as well as do mud plastering work in each others houses to supplement group funds. Girls who have completed class 10 have limited earning opportunities as compared to boys who usually go out of the village in search of work. The youth who have done driving training supported by LWS are using their skills productively. It is good that the project continues maintaining contact with them.

Animal husbandry initiatives on a small scale may be profitable for women's groups though there is risk of disease an illness of animals. The weaving of traditional cloth by women may be more profitable but requires marketing support. The youth and men involved in cutting and selling wood can be drawn to alternative livelihood through which a strong impact can be made. Alternative livelihood opportunities for this group need to be viable and productive. The project can also explore other local resources which have commercial value and can benefit the target communities

G. EFFICIENCY AND LONG-TERM SUSTAINABILITY OF THE SELF HELP GROUPS

DATA COLLECTED FROM FIELD VISIT OF EVALUATION TEAM

1. SAGENAN AND MARSELAN GROUP, HESPES VILLAGE, GOSSAIGAON

Sagenan group began in 2009, as the number of women was more; they recently divided into two groups. Sagenan and Marselan. In the beginning they had less money and the group did labour work in others fields and were able to generate income. Now they have received gradation from the Government and are able to give loan to others outside the group also. They are able to maintain group records and in the absence of the Group Secretary, other members also take on this role. Other women in the village have also expressed eagerness to join the group and the group members of Sagenan group have expressed willingness to give guidance and support to help them to start a new group.

Group sustainability and how the group members benefit from the group

None of the group members have left the groups. They meet three times in a month and expressed that there are many benefits of meeting such as opening of bank account, receiving Rs. 25,000 from the Block Development Officer, sending their children for education and having money at the time of sickness.

Problem Solving

Group members said that they help to solve problems in the village and their families but they have not addressed larger problems affecting the community as a whole. They have taken a firm stand and insist on sending all children in the village to school.

Group funds

The Sagenan group has Rs12, 880 in the bank and the Marshal group has Rs. 7,000 in the bank and 500 in the form of loan given to members. The Sagenan group distributed Rs. 25,000 received from the BDO to members for children's education purpose.

Plans to start a rice mill

They said that they need LWS support for starting a rice mill and also for irrigation facility. The nearest mill is in Gossaigaon and the traditional system of pounding rice manually is not preferred since it is very time consuming. They also observed that in previous times, children in the house used to take on the responsibility of pounding the

rice, but since most of them are in school, the mothers do not have time to take up this activity along with other household chores. However, they do not have much idea about how much investment is needed for starting a rice mill.

Release of Mortgaged land

The SHG members received money from the Block development Officer - Rs. 5,000/-. With this money they were able to release mortgaged land of 2 bigha which belonged to a poor group member. The total amount to be paid was Rs. 11,000 and the rest of the money was paid through the SHG fund. They have an agreement that the produce from the cultivated land will be sold and 50% of the proceeds will belong to the SHG.

2. SAGENAN SHG, ISLAMPUR, KOCHUGAON

There are 12 women in the SHG. It was started in 2005. In 2008, LWS revived this group and so far it has been functioning. In 2011 two members said that they participated in mushroom cultivation training and book keeping training. They started mushroom cultivation and consumed most of it at home. They have received bullocks from LWS and gave it on loan to members for a fee of 10 Munn of grain for group members and 15 Munn of grain for non group members. During harvesting time they work in each other's fields and even help to plaster each other's houses and earn income for the group. For group members lesser fee is charged for these services.

3. SHG GROUP, MALBHOG KOCHUGAON

It was started in 2007. They did mushroom cultivation on one occasion after receiving training from LWS. They were also given bullocks from LWS which they give for rent. They recently leased 1 bigha land for Rs. 4,500 and are cultivating it.

4. MARSHALL SHG, MADHYAM MALAPARA, SIDLI

Marshall SHG began in 2010. They have 12 members and continue to meet regularly. 1 woman left the group. They have 4,500 in the bank. Two of them have completed class 10 and one more in class 7. During harvesting they work in each others' fields and earn income of Rs. 350/- per day by working together. When they meet, they discuss about loan and interest, how to use the money which they have. They feel that the most important benefit of forming a group was availability of loan in time of illness.

They do have small misunderstanding among them which are easily resolved. However people from the village do not approach them to solve common problems.

5. JARMADADI SHG, LABDANDURY VILLAGE, BALAJAN

Jarmadadi SHG was started in 2006 with 16 members. All the members are still continuing. Initially they received Rs. 10,000 from the bank and later on Rs. 25,000. With this money they cultivated sugarcane and returned the money to the bank.

Dairy Business

Now they have availed Rs. 2.5 lakh loan from the bank. With this amount they bought 16 cows for Rs. 80,000. They also spent Rs. 30,000 on making a cowshed. They have appointed a cowherd who takes care of the cows and extracts milk and is being paid Rs. 2000/- per month. At present 3 cows give milk and the daily milk yield is 3^{1/2} kg. Each liter is sold for Rs. 30/- They are not sure how many cows are pregnant. The total income per month may be around Rs. 3,000/- and deducting the cowherd's payment, the total profit maybe Rs. 1000/- only. However ,they are repaying Rs. 4100/- to the bank on monthly basis. Two persons from the group received animal husbandry training but they have limited information about rearing cows and treatment of sickness. The cows are not insured which increases the risk of losses. They also have Rs. 1.5 lakh in the fixed deposit in the bank but could not tell how much interest they will receive from this amount.

All the women are entrepreneurs. They are cultivators and apart from grain they have vegetable gardens and sell the vegetables in the weekly market. One of them weaves – Panchi, the traditional shawl worn by Santhal women. One of them who is a widow who sells chicken in the market. She buys 10 kg chickens from the poultry, cuts and sells it at the chicken shop. Another has a shop. They also have goats, pigs at home. One woman is a helper in the ICDS Anganwadi.

6. SAGESAKAN SHG, BALAJAN

Sagesakan SHG has 10 members. They continue meeting regularly. They do harvesting grain and earth filling in each others houses and earn income for the group. The group fund is Rs. 3000/- and Rs. 3000/- is given as loan.

7. MARSHALL SHG, SAPKATA

Marshall SHG was started in December 2011. There are 19 members in the group. They are all married. Most of the women are doing cultivation for a living. One of them is an ASHA worker and another is a PPE instructor. During the meeting they discuss about how to sustain the group, about monthly subscription, loan. They sing and dance

together in festivals and give special song in the church during the service. Most of them belong to the Christian community.

After formation of the group they learnt new things particularly about immunization of children which they did not do previously. They also know about the importance of hospital deliveries and know how to make ORS to treat diarrhea. LWS staffs come to their meetings. They talk about health and help to maintain records. They said that they would prefer a female staff to work with the group.

8. JAGUAR SELF HELP GROUP, DAMBRUGURI, PATGAON

There are two self help groups in the village. One of the groups functioned for 2 years. The members were given loans of Rs. 500/- each. However they could not return the loan and after a while the group stopped functioning. The Jaguar SHG has 16 members. They have been functioning since the last 11 months. They do not give loans to the members and collect membership fee of Rs 10/- from each member. They have rules and regulations related to giving loans. They now have Rs. 4,300/- group fund. It seems that the groups were not given adequate support to function effectively and were neglected.

9. MOHE AND TEAPUL SHG, MALEGAON, PATGAON

There were 2 SHGs present in the meeting. Mohe group which was formed in 2006 with 12 members and Teapul group formed in 2009 with 18 members. According to them the benefit of forming the group was the availability of money to pay for children's education, awareness of government schemes.

Mohe group representative said that initially they had no awareness of SHG. An NGO by name of DBI visited them in the relief camp and helped them to form the group. They started collecting money but did not know how to maintain records and manage the group. When they returned to the village from relief camp, they came in contact with the VCDC and the SHG federation formed by them. They were taught how to maintain records and opened a bank account. LWS came in 2008 and gave them further training on group management. They were given piglets for rearing and Rs. 10,000 group fund. They distributed loan to the members and also the piglets for rearing. They have plans to start rubber plantation. At present they have Rs. 10,000 as savings and have distributed loan of Rs. 15,000. With the group funds, they have leased land for cultivation. They also started mushroom cultivation which they sold for Rs. 1,200 and ginger cultivation which they sold for Rs. 9,000.

Teapul group also has a bank account and were given Rs. 5,000/- loan from the BDO. They have received Gradation 1 and have received Rs. 25,000 from the government. They put Rs. 15,000 as fixed deposit in the bank. With Rs. 10,000 they took 5 bighas of land and have started cultivation. Recently they cultivated grain for Rs. 2,550. They also started mushroom cultivation and made Rs. 1,300 and Rs. 2,000 from sale of piglets. At present they have Rs. 15,000 in the bank and Rs. 1,800 in cash.

The groups support each other and the older group supports the younger one.

They said that they received training in peace building, agriculture, livestock training, HIV/AIDS and other health issues. The most beneficial training was on agriculture, health, book keeping and linkages with banks. In peace building training they learnt about how to maintain peace in the family and the community.

Sustainability

They feel that they can continue functioning independently without support of LWS.

Addressing social issues

They have not taken up issues related to village development. Among the common social problems are domestic violence, alcoholism. There are only 3 girls who have passed class 10 in the community. There are instances of human trafficking. One 8 year old girl was taken by middlemen from the relief camp and there is no information about her anymore. The community gives more preference to boys. Parents hold the boy child with the right hand and give the left hand which is less preferred to the girl child. The age of marriage is often 12 – 13 years. The women's groups discuss these matters in the group but have not taken any steps to address them.

Comments of the Evaluation Team

The evaluation team met with 11 women's self help groups. Except for one group which disintegrated, others are functioning and the women meet regularly. Very few members have left the groups due to personal reasons. Older women's groups are supporting a newly formed group which is a good indicator of their growth and development. Some of the groups have received loans from banks and have distributed loans or have started group business. The group members discuss mostly about loans and savings in meetings and said that the major benefit of the group is availability of money in difficult times. Jarmadadi group has started dairy business but due to lack of experience it seems that the business is not profitable. The business entrepreneurship training given

by the project is less useful. In future the project can consider having an experienced staff member to help women's groups with large bank loans to do business. Other business initiatives such as mushroom cultivation have also not been commercially viable. One group has taken a stand on education and encourages all the children in the village to go to school. However the women's groups do not address larger issues related to the village thus their role is limited in this respect. Social issues such as domestic violence, alcoholism, human trafficking can be taken up by the groups but they definitely need further help in analyzing and addressing the issues effectively.

The main function of the SHG seems to be focused on income generating activities, which leaves limited discussions on other pressing social issues e.g. trafficking and alcoholism. The overall function of SHGs is essential for the project. We feel this could be even more elaborated and reflected in the report. (Jacob Bulti Smørdal)

Majority of the women in the SHGs are illiterate or semi literate. Their major priorities are taking care of their homes and children and also contribute to family income. Membership and involvement in the SHG are additional activities for which women have limited time. However women have varied strengths and this potential which can be further moulded through capacity building and long term programs with specific priorities. Often self help groups can limit themselves because they are unable to see themselves playing a larger role in the community and have limited understanding about the social issues which confront them. They need further help to build confidence, gain larger perspective and address issues on social change. Selected self help groups and focused training programs for them may be more helpful than mass awareness programs and one time training programs.

H. ROLE OF VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEES IN MAINTAINING PEACE

DATA COLLECTED FROM FIELD VISIT OF EVALUATION TEAM

The evaluation team met with representatives of 10 VDCs from different zones. The discussion with them was about their major functions, access to resources, training received, development initiatives and peace building. The discussions are documented below

1. VDC Headman and Secretary - Hansubill village – Gossaigaon zone

The headman is Bhuvan soren and Secretary, Mansa Soren. According to them LWS started work in 2007 in their village. In the year 2012, the secretary Mansa Soren participated in an awareness program on right to education. He said that the program

was beneficial and he gained more understanding about education and recognized the greater value of education. All the children in the village go to school.

The VDC encourages students to pursue higher education and also improvement in health and hygiene. With LWS help they have initiated social forestry program in which the Government provided some saplings. On common land a bamboo fence was erected. LWS provided the bamboo. The VDC members take care of the saplings and also plan to cultivate vegetables.

Community centre was constructed in 2012 with LWS support and is used to conduct meetings and common functions. The VDC generate its own resources mostly through the cultivation on common land. They use the funds to contribute to religious puja, construction of community centre, buying more seeds for cultivation and also to provide loan to poor families at 5% interest. So far they do not work with the SHGs on common issues and problems.

2. Electricity through government Scheme - Hespes village VDC

The VDC members took initiative to follow up with the Government department and now they have electricity connection which will soon be started in their village. The Department has given them an electric pole which needs to be installed in the village. Through this process they came to know about the functioning of the government Department and how to approach them.

3. Access to Resources, VDC Islampur Kochugaon

In the past the VDC has been able to avail resources from the VCDC – Rs. 1.5 lakh for building of a culvert, Rs. 1 lakh for construction of ½ km road in the village. One of the VDC members is part of the VCDC Kochugaon.

4. Malbhog VDC – 2, Kochugaon

There were 5 VDC members and members of Sagenand SHG (Secretary , Jobha Hembrom) present in the discussion. The work of LWS was started in the village during 2007 when they helped to make a road in the village. They have availed government schemes through which they have received tube well, dug well, support for school building, latrine and 13 old people also receive pension from the government.

5. VDC Secretary/ PPE Instructor: Durga Soren , Madhyam Malapara, Sidli

Durga Soren has studied till class 12 and after coming to know about the RTI, he helped BPL families avail 27 kg rice each through the PDS. There are 40 BPL families in the village and 7 do not have cards. He also helped 2 students to get admission to High School. In 2011 he was pre primary instructor for 48 children in the village. This was discontinued and there is now an ICDS centre in the village. He is not aware of people in the village whose land is mortgaged.

There are 11 members in the VDC which was started in 2009. Through LWS they started a grain bank and gave 40 kg rice to around 20 families in the village. They repaid by returning the 40 kg rice along with 20 kg as interest. Most of them are cultivators. They meet monthly and have discussion on family problem, cultivation, education. There are 25 men who go to the forest daily to chop wood for selling. They earn around Rs. 350/- per day.

The VDC has cultivated the common land and crop of sugarcane, tuvar dal, mustard seeds, maize and yam was produced. The VDC has Rs. 2010 in the bank. However they were not sure how much group funds they have and consulted their records. They spent around Rs. 1500 on sugarcane cultivation. Through LWS they were given spade, sickle and fruit saplings which they distributed to people in the community. They also received 2 tubewells, 1 low cost latrine and nutrimix for children.

6. Daplegaon VDC, Balajan

There are 20 members in the VDC. LWS helped them to make a road, construct grain bank. They have availed 10 houses through Indira Awas yojana and also are able to get ration through Chief Minister's Special scheme . 10 kg @ Rs. 7/- for 20 families. They have also received one tube well from the Government and one tube well from LWS. They have a fund of Rs. 23,400. They give loan to members with 5% interest and for outsiders at 30% interest.

The VDC members approach the government for construction of road, culvert. Together they have cleaned canals leading to the fields for irrigation purpose. However the water is not adequate for growing grain. During their meetings they talk about the importance of education, cultivation and ongoing trafficking of girls from the community. They have decided not to allow girls to enter the flesh trade. So far only one girl has passed class 10, two others who have completed high school work at home.

7. VDC President, Koksagiri 1, Sapkata

There are 1,000 population in the village who are above 18 years. The government is in the process of issuing identification cards to people. They also have voting lists which is a record of people who are living in the village. In the community there are mixed groups including, Bodo, Santhal, Rajbhansi, Nepali and Bengali families living together. In 1968 floods in the village caused much damage to the land which reduced its fertility. Now they have planted various trees particularly bamboo. During the VDC meeting they discuss about how to encourage education, maintaining peace. They also have regular meetings with neighbouring VDCs on common issues.

8. VDC Secretary, Polasguri, Sapkata

The role of the VDC Secretary is to organize meetings, share information from LWS, conduct general meetings. They received many training programs from LWS particularly on health, leadership, agriculture. When asked about the good qualities of a leader he was not able to respond adequately. One of the SHG members said that a leader is one who relates well with people, is educated, forgives and takes responsibilities, carrying others sorrows.

9. VDC Dambruguri village, Patgaon

VDC members said that they were not much aware of availing resources from the Government, but now they are learning about these processes. Since the work of LWS began there is more awareness. Now people are aware of the importance of immunization and take sick persons to hospital when required. In the hospital they have availed benefits for medicine and free check up. They are also aware of the maternal health scheme in which the mothers delivering in hospital get cash amount from the Government. LWS has provided a ring well and they have received paddy seed from the Government Agricultural office. They are now cultivating paddy. They have made a sub committee of 6 persons to look after the cultivation. They use urea as manure.

10. VDC , Malegaon, Patgaon

The VDC was formed 2 years back and there are 17 members. They collect subscription from the families in the village. They give loans at 10% interest per month and the prevailing rate of interest by moneylenders is 20% interest per month. The VDC has Rs. 8,000/- as group fund. They also manage grain bank.

Comments of the Evaluation Team

Some of the VDC representatives are educated youth and others are older men who are illiterate. The VDCs have accessed various resources from the Government for the development of the village. Some have even helped poor families in release of mortgaged land. The VDC members have participated in training programs organized by LWS but find it difficult to recall what they have learnt in these programs. They do not work together with the SHGs. The VDCs do not meet with neighbouring VDCs to address common issues, unless there is an emergency. However one of the VDCs in Koksagiri, Sapkata organize regular meetings with neighbouring VDCs. The project can organize such meetings to discuss common issues and problems and increase cooperation between the VDCs.

PEACE BUILDING INITIATIVES

To find out about peace building initiatives, the evaluation team had discussions with project staff who mentioned instances of how communities took initiative to maintain peace during times of conflict. The VDCs and SHGs also shared their experiences and discussed their relationships with surrounding communities particularly with the Bodos.

RESPONSES OF PROJECT STAFF

In Sapkata three communities living near the Muslim community gave shelter and basic food to affected communities during the riots.

In Gossaigaon, in a mixed community, VDC and SHG gave protection to three Bodo families. They kept them in their homes gave food and did not allow infiltrators to damage the assets of the families particularly their homes and tube well. In this way they helped to control the spread of violence. Antaiwadi village offered protection for one Bodo woman who was not able to escape with her family. They kept her for 7 days in the community and then returned her safely to her family.

In Hesperes community the Bodo community went away after the conflict with Muslims, but the VDC and SHG of Santhal community protected their property, tube wells and other equipment. There are other instances in which there is more group bonding between Santhal and Bodo women. Koksagudi VDC helped in distributing relief in the relief camp. In Panvali, Gossaigaon the VDC leaders met with the Bodo community and

encouraged them not to leave after the riots. They asked them to continue maintaining peace and not leave the village out of fear.

In Sidli zone, Salfangudi village erected fencing together on social forestry land along with other communities. In Pretgaon the youth from both Bodo and Muslim communities came to an agreement and did patrol duty to protect their village from destruction of lives and property

In Balaganj zone, Koradola village, the VDC provided protection for Muslim community for two days after the riots until army support arrived.

In Patgaon zone, a Muslim was killed and the whole area was under curfew. One of the staff who was in the area, managed to reach back safely to his house before violence erupted. VDC leaders took initiatives to talk to people and encourage them to maintain peace.

DISCUSSIONS WITH VDC AND SHG ABOUT PEACE BUILDING

Hesperes Village

The Hesperes village has Santhal community members and the surrounding villages have Bodo communities. During the recent riots when there was threat to Bodos from the Muslim community, the Santhal community took initiative to protect the property of the Bodos who were fleeing from the village. However, on further enquiry it was found that the nearest Muslim community was 20 – 25 km away from the Bodo village and the chances of attack was very less.

There were meetings of the headmen from Bodo and Santhal communities during the riots, during which they discussed the situation and possible options for action.

Sharing of livestock among Bodo and Santhal communities

There are some traditional practices in which Bodo and Santhal communities participate. For instance a Santhal family may give one of their young female piglets to a Bodo family for rearing. When the pig delivers young then the litter is shared by both the Santhal and Bodo families. The same practice is followed for other livestock such as goats, chicken and even for land. These practices also build good relations between the communities.

In common festivals such as Holi, the Bodo and Santhal communities celebrate together. They even participate in common functions and eat together at weddings and other celebrations.

Malbhog Kochugaon

During the recent riots there was a village meeting when both Bodo and Santhal members discussed the situation and were supportive of each other. Even when there are no riots, the Santhals and Bodos visit each others villages. Some of the Santhal members do labour work in the Bodo fields. The community members said that they would be willing to help the Bodo community if they were in trouble and can also ask for their help when they themselves are in a difficult situation. During some festivals such as Dasein and Bihu which the Bodos celebrate, both Santhal and Bodo membes visit each other and participate in common functions. They also eat together at these functions.

Madhyam Malapara, Sidli

During the recent riots peace continued to prevail in their communities. The Bodo villages are within 2 km distance from their village and both communities interact with each other, visit each other and participate in common functions.

Dambruguri, Patgaon

Relationship with Bodo and Santhal communities are good. They visit each others' villages and participate in common functions including weddings. They are open to celebrating a Peace festival to maintain good relationships and promote peace between the communities.

Jarmadadi SHG, Balajan

The women said that they have good relationships with the neighbouring Bodo villages. They visit each other and work together in the Anganwadi. Responding to questions on intermarriage between Santhal and Bodo, the women said that Santhals were poor and dark skinned, less resourceful as compared to the Bodos who were fair skinned, had more resources. They said that they had learnt from the Bodo women to cultivate and sell vegetables in the market. Most of the business in the market are conducted by women shop keepers. They participate in each others weddings.

Sagesakan SHG, Balajan

There are 10 surrounding Bodo villages, with whom they interact and have good relationships.

Comments of Evaluation Team

Apart from the conflict, it seems that the Bodo and Santhal communities have enjoyed good relationships with each other. They participate in common functions and weddings and also eat together. Some traditions such as sharing of livestock may encourage bonding between the communities. It would be useful to organize periodic meetings with VDCs/ Headmen of the Bodo/Santhal communities to maintain the flow of communication and encourage peace. Common functions can be organized and a peace festival can be celebrated between communities. In some places the VDCs have taken initiatives to maintain peace in their communities following the Muslim Bodo conflict.

It seems that some Santhal women may perceive themselves as inferior as compared to their Bodo counterparts. There have been cases of intermarriage between Santhal and Bodo families though it is not encouraged.

It is interesting to note that Bodo families in Hespes village left their homes, even when the chances of attack from Muslim community were very less. It is possible that some communities may take advantage of the situation in order to get benefits from the government.

In maintaining a peaceful coexistence the report implicitly shows the importance of working through the civil society and that this might actually have prevented additional disturbance between Santal and Bodos. This is certainly a very significant outcome that could have been more emphasized by the evaluation team. (Jacob Bulti Smørddal)

Building peaceful coexistence among Bodo and Santhal groups has been part of the project activities ever since the ethnic clashes. It is difficult to help people forget difficult experiences related to the clashes and continue to live in peace. The project's efforts in working for peace is commendable and the effects can be seen during the aftermath of the recent ethnic clashes in which community groups did not choose to engage in the conflict actively but promote peace.

I. INVOLVEMENT OF LOCAL STAKEHOLDERS

The project has linkages with banks, Government departments, local intellectuals and politically oriented groups such as student organizations. They have collaborated with them in different ways particularly for training, seminars. The District administration and police department were supportive during the recent clash between Muslims and Bodos. A list of organizations and the nature of the collaboration with them is given below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Organization	Nature of Collaboration
1	Bankers (SBI, Uco, Assam Gramin Vikas Bank, UBI,)	Training on Book Keeping for SHG/VDC and credit linkage
2	Krishi Vigyan Kendra	Training on Agriculture
3	Regional Agricultural Research station	Training and demonstration on Agriculture related activities
4	Block Development Office	Training, linkage and financial support to SHGs
5	Health Department	Training, Health check up camp, IEC, linkage.
6	Education	Training/sensitization program, IEC material
7	Agriculture Department	Training, IEC, Linkage, material and seeds support,
8	Bar Association	Training and Linkages
9	Veterinary department	Training, free vaccination and linkages
10	Forest Department	Sensitization programs, support and Linkages
11	Local Intellectuals from different cultural and religious background	Seminar/training on peace building and other programs
12	Electronic and Print media	Seminar/sensitization on different issues and mitigating violence
14	Central committee	Training/seminar/sensitization program and advice the project staff
15	District Administration	Support and security
16	Sub- Divisional administration	Support and security
17	Police department- District, sub- division and local	Support and security
18	Student Organizations	Seminar/sensitization on different issues particularly on peace building program
19	Local self Government	Training/seminar on different issues particularly on right based issues and support
20	Lower Assam NGOs Forum	Training/seminar/meetings/information sharing on different issues
21	Inter Agency Group (IAG)	Information sharing particularly on disaster
22	Public Works Department	Technical support

Local Power Structures

There are two headmen in the village - Gaon Bura (Village headman) and Sarkari Bura (Government appointed headman)

In most of the communities visited, the process of selecting the Gaon Bura or village headman is similar. Gaon Bura means “old man of the village” but in many cases youth are also selected. A special function is organized to select the Gaon Bura. In a special worship service the priest select one person with “Tularasi” who is given a stick (like water diviner), which starts vibrating and lead the man with stick to a specific person present in the meeting and this person is elected as Gaon Bura.

The Gaon Bura has a special influence on the rest of the community and is even considered a religious head. He performs pujas or religious ceremonies. The responsibilities of the Gaon Bura are to bless weddings, special functions and intervene in fights between community members. The headman has a wooden pole called ‘Majithan’ erected in front of his house, which is considered sacred. Weddings are solemnized here and sick people also approach the Majithan for healing.

The tenure of leadership of the Gaon Bura is usually 10 years. The headman may award punishment to wrongdoers, particularly those who repeat offences. The punishment is beating or paying of penalty. These rules and regulations are not written.

Sarkari Bura (Government appointed headman)

The Government headman is selected from a group. The criteria of selection are - one who is educated and can go outside the village to undertake responsibility of common issues. The men of the village select the government headman. There is an association of government appointed headmen from different villages. Recently the Government has decided to register the headmen and issue identification cards to them. The Government headmen are usually called to help in police cases concerning the villagers and negotiate between opposing parties in conflict. The association of Government headmen has annual meetings in Kokrajhar. In these meetings there are around 5,000 persons who congregate together. They discuss about provision of salary to Government headmen, police cases, provision of rations etc.

Comment of Evaluation Team: The dynamics of the local power structures need to studied. The project can design interventions to include the headmen in the project activities in appropriate ways. The project can also reach out to Government headmen association and explore ways of working together on issues such as land mortgage and other social issues.

J. MANAGEMENT AND USE OF LOCAL AVAILABLE RESOURCES

The project has linkages with various government organizations, departments, local bodies, health professionals and local intellectuals. They have collaborated with them at different times during the life of the project.

The local volunteers of the project are selected from the target communities. They help in the monitoring and implementation of the project in the target areas. Discussions with the volunteers are given in the Annexure IV. They need to be further equipped to take up further responsibilities in the project.

K. MAJOR CHALLENGES FOR PROJECT OPERATION IN RELATION TO ETHNIC CLASHES.

Staffs share experiences of the ethnic clash between Bodos and Muslims in the Project Area

The communal clashes began in July 2013 and the effects of the clashes lasted until September 2013 i.e. 3 months. During the intense crisis, there were shoot at sight orders as well as curfew in the city. The strike lasted for 46 days, "*These strikes were before and after communal clashes*" (*Comment by LWSI on the first draft report*). During this time the staff from Sapkata shifted to the unit office in Gossaigaon. Another staff left the project during this time.

In Gossaigaon town area, people were fleeing with their belonging and some of them were armed. The situation was very critical. The staff experienced fear and intense stress during this period. During this time community members did not want to venture out of their village or participate in meetings and gatherings. They spent time in the office doing audit work, updating project records, visiting the community when possible.

According to the staff, the after effects of the crisis still persist. People do not want to go out alone and look around with suspicion and fear at strangers. Following the crisis the staff started relief work among the affected families. They distributed relief material, nutrimix for children. This phase lasted for 2 weeks.

Comments of the Evaluation Team

The eruption of another spate of ethnic violence has disturbed the existing peace between communities to some extent. However it seem that there were a continued talk between political groups and the violence was controlled.

Though the project operation was affected by these clashes, the staffs need to generate alternative strategies of continuing other work during these difficult times such as staff training, documentation, developing of training modules etc.

V. RECOMMENDATIONS

Terms of Reference: *This is a full term evaluation of the project phase and it is expected that the evaluation team will give recommendation on whether the project should end or continue for another project phase.*

Discussions were held with the staff about the further continuation of the project and their opinion is documented below:

Project Staffs give reasons to continue the project:

The poor are affected most by the result of the riots. Santhal Bodo conflict was in 1996 and Muslim Bodo riots in 2011 which disturbed the peace. Rehabilitation is needed in all sectors for families affected by the conflict. People in the rehabilitation camps are left far away from the mainstream.

In many villages there is high illiteracy as well as number of BPL families. Other community groups such as Rajbhansi are also affected by the riots but there are no specific plans for their development. The numbers of scholarships given are few compared to the number of needy students in the community who cannot afford higher education. Militant groups target young boys to join them and there should be alternative livelihood programs for them to stop this trend. Many SHGs have received good rating by the Government and given loan of Rs. 3 lakh however they need guidance and support on how to utilize these funds. Marginal farmers need support to continue cultivation. Land mortgage is still high. Though there are grain banks there is still food crisis. New SHGs need continued support from the project.

Evaluation Team

The existing project has accomplished its goals and objectives to some extent, but could have been more effective with better planning, monitoring and management. We are of the opinion that the existing project in its present form should be discontinued.

Begin in a new way in the next year with fresh aims and objectives based on specific issues and new working methodology i.e. focused intervention and consolidated project geographical area. The project plans need to be result oriented and a sound monitoring system be set up to follow up the accomplishment of targets. Adequately trained and professional staffs need to be appointed.

Terms of Reference: In case there is a need to continue the project make recommendation on:

a. Changes required and course of action to be taken by the project implementers in the program plan for a new project period (3 or 5 years)

- i. Appoint young female/ male and committed staff and train them adequately to do development work. Without proper understanding of development issues, the staff may not be able to accomplish results.
- ii. Identify selected issues such as Land mortgage, alternative livelihood for men involved in cutting trees and employment of youth; explore commercial viability of forest produce, preventing human trafficking, and education opportunities for youth, particularly girls.
- iii. These issues need to be objectively studied and opportunities explored for addressing them effectively.
- iv. Select few communities which are needy and make a significant impact.
- v. At present the method of social action is not adequately organized. In the proposed future project, every event and every activity should be well organized and result oriented. For example: one time training for a couple of community members without adequate follow up and implementation of learnt ideas will not be much useful. For example, it is good to link up community with bank to avail business loan, but without understanding of business and follow up with them will cause more damage than good. The community will not be able to repay the loan thus raised for the business.

In addition we would like the evaluation team to point out the three main reasons for the decision to discontinue the project in its current form under “V. Recommendations”. (Jacob Bulti Smørdal)

Rainbow

1. Project is not result oriented. The current working methodology in relation to achievement of project goals and objectives are partially effective and need to be reviewed and modified. For instance conducting sporadic events in widespread geographical areas results in lowered impact.
 2. The current monitoring system is not strong enough for adequate follow up and strengthening of the project impact.
 3. Project has contributed to people's empowerment. However the level of community empowerment is less and does not result in sustainability.
- vi. Good monitoring and follow up system need to be developed at the project level. This should be supervised adequately by the headquarters staff.

A proper reporting and monitoring system should be emphasised in forming a new project. We request the evaluation team to suggest some possible ways of improving this system. (Jacob Bulti Smørdal)

Rainbow

- We suggest that fewer project locations be selected in a specific geographic area, avoiding widespread areas of work. Selected issues be taken up for the project to address. This will enable developing a good monitoring system.
 - Develop monitoring system at the time of forming project goals and objectives with specific qualitative and quantitative indicators for monitoring.
 - Periodic monitoring reports can be developed.
 - Closer involvement of the head office staff with the project is essential to strengthen monitoring at all levels of the project.
- vii. All the unit heads at the project locations need to be adequately trained in project management, documentation, writing monitoring reports, preparing statistics and working creatively.

b. Terms of Reference: Make recommendations on steps to be taken towards sustainability of the positive results of the project

- viii. Build a sound project team and reach out to them to provide inspiration and motivation.

- ix. Develop a training curriculum for staff on development and social issues and exposure visits to other projects working with tribal communities
- x. Select volunteers from the local areas and conduct need based and practical training programs for them, particularly in project management.
- xi. In a systematic way, strengthen local CBO's. Take up few CBO's and work alongside them. Increase the frequency of visits to CBOs. The training given to them should be more practical, need based and result oriented.

c. Terms of Reference: Make recommendation on potential areas of focus on conflict resolution (existing and emerging) and to further strengthen the civil society for peace and reconciliation.

New peace building initiatives can be designed in consultation with the communities.

- xii. Organize regular meetings of VDCs of Bodo and Santhal villages to discuss matters of common interest even though there may not be a situation of conflict.
- xiii. Organize annual peace festival or mela in which people from different communities come together and celebrate. Special monument can be erected to honour commitment of peace from different communities.
- xiv. The association of the Government headmen can be contacted and programs organized for them to promote peace.

d. Terms of Reference: Make recommendation on how to address the grey areas and how to develop the capacity of the communities to address the emerging challenges specific and unique to the area.

- xv. Discontinue the existing system of training programs.
- xvi. Conduct need based, practical training for VDC and SHG in the communities with regular follow up and frequent repetition.
- xvii. Discontinue awareness programs as a separate activity and include them with other ongoing project activities.
- xviii. Ensure that the project staffs visit the communities frequently and develop good working relationships with them.

e. Terms of Reference: Make recommendations for a phase out strategy with emphasis on local sustainability of Self-Help Groups and civil society and continuation of the project to address the issues of

conflict in a more sustainable way.

- xix. The VDC, self help groups or any other CBO can make the activities sustainable. It is highly essential to ensure that they are adequately empowered. Systematically focus attention on their empowerment.
- xx. Train the staff and set targets and indicators for phasing out. At present the staffs are busy implementing the program without focus on phasing out the program and observing the phasing out indicators.
- xxi. Depute one trained staff with experience in business development to help SHGS utilize funds for business.

Annexure

1. Terms of reference

FULL TERM EVALUATION OF THE PROJECT PHASE 2009-2013

ASSAM RIOT VICTIMS' REHABILITATION/DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT PROJECT (ARRP)

BACKGROUND

Lutheran World Service India Trust (LW SIT), the Indian country program of the Lutheran World Federation / Department for World Service (LWF/WS) is engaged in relief, rehabilitation and development work in the country more than three decades, established with the mandate to alleviate the suffering of distressed groups irrespective of caste, religion, gender or political affiliation. LWS India has been implementing integrated Development and Disaster Response projects since 1974 in several states of India. The country program continues to receive strong support and cooperation from the respective state governments and international donors. The organization is registered as a national organization Lutheran World Service India Trust on September 2008 and as a successor of LWSI continuing with programs operating as Country Program of LWF/DWS.

In May 1996 and September 1998 Kokrajhar district (lower Assam), consisting of two subdivisions – Kokrajhar and Gossaigaon - witnessed violent ethnic conflict between the majority Bodos and the minority migrant Santhal community. (Although the conflict affected other districts such as Dhubri and Bongaigaon, Kokrajhar was the worst affected.) Hundreds were reportedly killed, thousands of homes destroyed, and several lakh people of both communities displaced. The Assam State government brought in military force to quell the rioting, and over 250,000 people took refuge in 68 relief camps.

LW SI intervention between 1996-2003

LW SI responded from 1996 to 2003 primarily with relief operation by providing temporary housing assistance, supplementary nutrition meals for women and children, economic skills training, clothing, education (school buildings and teachers) and so on. In this, it has been working together with other national and international NGOs. Normisjon was one of the sponsors from the very beginning. Right from the start, LW SI built up and sustained strong coordination with government agencies, at state, district and sub-division levels. As a result, in the long-term, LW SI was practically the only NGO with access to all relief camps in the state.

When the tensed and violent situation of two successive riots of 1996 and 1998 was moving towards normalcy, people were making their minds to return back to their earlier settlement areas; with fund support from Normisjon, Norway, and active collaboration from local Church and other civil society partners LWS-India took up the next phase of relief operation, Rehabilitation / life support system project for these unfortunate victims of man-made disaster.

Intervention from 2004 to 2008

In the first phase (2004 – 08) of the Rehabilitation Project, lasting four and a half years, the focus was on uplifting the economic status of the rehabilitated riot victim families. The project supported the rehabilitated families to improve basic infrastructure, strengthen access to safe drinking water and sanitation facilities, created employment opportunities and enhanced the communities' capacity to address issues like health, education, livelihood, leadership, gender, peace and solidarity. The project promoted and strengthened Community Based Organizations (CBOs) like Village Development Committees and Self Help Groups. Community leaders and resource persons such as Community Health Volunteers were trained and given the necessary skills to take forward and sustain the programs. The communities' response to these initiatives was immensely positive. In the first phase a mid-term evaluation was conducted in 2006.

2nd phase: 2009 to 2013

In order to consolidate the gains from the first phase of the project and to reach out to more communities in distress, in the next phase, the project in addition to Kokrajhar district, project was also extended to Chirang district. The total number of communities, old and new in the on-going phase is around 56000.

The project¹ worked in two districts (Kokrajhar and Chirang) of Assam, in three subdivisions (Gossaigaon, Kokrajhar and Kajalgaon), where approximately 11070 households have been covered with a population of 57262 (Male 29160, Female 28102). For the purpose of project implementation, the area has been divided into these six zones: Gossaigaon, Kochugaon, Sidli, Balajan, Sapkata, Patgaon. A total of 174 women's self-help groups have been formed in these zones. The project area is mostly composed of Santhal communities (137), followed by Bodo (34), Rabha (3), Uraon (3), Rajbhansi (1) and mixed communities (22)

PROJECT GOAL AND OBJECTIVES

Overall, the **project goal** is to support the rehabilitated families **strengthening their reintegration into mainstream society, create an enabling condition where they think, decide and act together to improve their quality of life. They are aware of**

¹ Taken from project records

their rights as human beings can work collectively to negotiate with the duty bearers in achieving that and lead a peaceful, happy and productive life.

Therefore, the specific short term and long-term objectives are:

- Build bridges of trust and solidarity between the Bodo's, Santhal's and other communities
- Promote and strengthen Community Based Disaster Risk Management Teams
- Promote and strengthen CBOs and develop their organizational and managerial skills.
- Increase human rights awareness and the capacity to claim and realize their rights
- Strengthen capacity to address different social issues
- Promote educational facilities and improve literacy
- Strengthen community based primary healthcare and improve health status
- Improve access to safe drinking water and sanitation
- Deepen livelihood opportunities and improve food security
- Promote women's rights and gender equality
- Establish partnership with duty bearers, government departments and other service providers
- Continuing **psycho-social security** concerns regarding possible further outbreaks of violent conflict
- Increase the capacity of the project staff to address emerging development issues effectively.

AIM AND OBJECTIVE OF THE EVALUATION

The mid-term evaluation of the project was done in the year 2011 and during this period under evaluation the recommendations of the mid-term evaluation were implemented. However, there was a setback in the year 2012 during which erupted violence affected the work and implementation of the planned program and also the peace building initiatives promoted by the project within the communities involving different stakeholders. However, the partner communities were much cooperative to LWSIT and the program was implemented with little revision in the planned activities to address the emerging crisis.

Therefore, in the end term evaluation the evaluation team will assess the progress of the projects towards its set goal, objectives and intentions. They have to consider the following broad areas: relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact and sustainability in the course of evaluation. Account also for the emerging challenges ahead with the coping capacity of the communities.

Specific areas to assess and review

- a) Review recommendations from the 2011 evaluation. To what extent has the recommendations been implemented?
- b) Assess the project profile and its relevance to the context of the project area

- c) Assess the improvement of access and control for the communities towards natural and infrastructural resources and other facilities to meet their basic needs
- d) Assess the access to rights and entitlements-progress. Identify challenges if any.
- e) Assess access to education and health services
- f) Assess earning opportunities for youth and women through agriculture and skill based activities
- g) Assess the efficiency and long-term sustainability of the Self Help Groups and their role and impact for the project objectives.
- h) Assess the Village Development Committees promoted during the project period. Identify their role in maintaining peace and tranquillity in the area.
- i) Assess the involvement of local stakeholders, including government departments, in the progress of the project towards resolving crises unique to the local context.
- j) Assess the management and use of local available resources. Identify improvements.
- k) Assess and specify the major challenges for project operation in view of the recent ethnic clash between the Bodos and Muslims in the project area.

l) Recommendation

- m) This is a full term evaluation of the project phase and it is expected that the evaluation team will give recommendation on whether the project should end or continue for another project phase. In case there is a need to continue the project:
- n) Make recommendation of changes required and course of action to be taken by the project implementers in the program plan for a new project period (3 or 5 years)
- o) Make recommendations on steps to be taken towards sustainability of the positive results of the project
- p) Make recommendation on potential areas of focus on conflict resolution (existing and emerging) and to further strengthen the civil society for peace and reconciliation.
- q) Make recommendation on how to address the grey areas and how to develop the capacity of the communities to address the emerging challenges specific and unique to the area.
- r) Make recommendations for a phase out strategy with emphasis on local sustainability of Self-Help Groups and civil society and continuation of the project to address the issues of conflict in a more sustainable way.

Approach and working methods

The evaluation will be participatory in approach and will be done by the following methods

- a) Study plans and reports of the project

- b) Visit to the project area- meet with the staff members to share plan and get 1st hand impression
- c) Visit to the operational communities, see physical activities, meet individuals, community based groups/ organizations, discussion, interview
- d) Meet government and other local stakeholders
- e) Preparation of draft report – share it with the implementing organization and donors preferably in a debriefing meeting.
- f) Consolidation of comments and preparation of final report.

Stakeholder involvement

The primary stakeholders of this project are the poor and marginalized riot affected families returned to their places after considerable period of staying in relief camps. They will be involved in the evaluation process for participatory assessment, discussion with the evaluator as individual and in groups, sharing experiences etc.

Staff members of Implementing partner Lutheran World Service India Trust will be involved in accompanying the evaluator, facilitate different evaluation related actions as desired by the evaluator (meeting, visiting to the sites, interaction with the government and self government personnel, local advisory group etc.). They will also take part in sharing with the evaluator on project operation management, outcome, challenges etc.

Donors will be involved in sharing the assessment report, recommendations in addition to their active involvement in outlining the process of evaluation.

TIMING , LOGISTICS AND FACILITIES

2 days (Proposed dates-March 14th & 15th, 2013):- Document review , revision of ToR with special emphasis on method and approach

8 days (Proposed dates March 17th – 24th 2013): field mission (including the days of Journey) concluded by a debriefing (Presentation of main findings) with at the project level

1 day after field mission (Proposed dates March -26th, 2013): sharing of preliminary findings and recommendations at a meeting at the national office of LWSIT at Kolkata.

Preparation of Draft report April 3rd 4th & 5th and the evaluator(s) will send the draft report to LWSIT and Normisjon by 8th April 2013

Evaluator will get comments on draft report within 3 days, ie, by 12th April 2013

2 days: (Proposed dates 13th and 14th April) Comments are consolidated by evaluation Consultant and submission of final report.

LWS India Trust will reimburse actual Train/Bus fare and local taxi fare of the consultants as required accomplishing the assignment.

Actual food cost and local transport during field visit and staying at project area will be borne by LWS India Trust

REPORTING

The evaluation process should finalize with a workshop with all stakeholders where the recommendations are discussed, and agreement is reached on how to follow up on the recommendations. The output from this workshop is a recommendation matrix where commitments to follow up action to all recommendations is noted down with responsible unit and a deadline. This can subsequently be a tool for monitoring whether the lessons learned through the evaluation process have been applied in practice. This should be reported on through the regular reporting channels.

The report should be written in English, 2 copies to be submitted to the Executive Director, Lutheran World Service India Trust, 84, Dr. Suresh Sarkar Road, Kolkata-700014 and one copy to Normisjon along with the pdf form of final report to LWSIT and Normisjon by 15th April, 2013.

EVALUATION TEAM

The Evaluation will be undertaken by the Rainbow Academy, Nagpur, India. 2 members, one male and one female who also taken up the Mid Term Evaluation. CVs of the proposed consultants are attached separately.

BUDGET FOR THE EVALUATION

An amount of INR- 2,40,000.00 (Rupees two hundred forty thousand only) is the proposed budget for the evaluation out of which Rs. 2,01,000.00 is the Consultants Honorarium including cost preparation of hard copies of report and around Rs. 39,000.00 has been kept provision for travel, accommodation, food, field visit etc.

2. Time Schedule for Evaluation and Persons Participated

Date	Activity	Male	Female
14 th and 15 th March	Review of Project documents		
16 th and 17 th March	Travel from Nagpur- Kolkata- Assam - Gossaigaon		
18 th March	Staff meeting	15	1
19 th March	Staff meeting		
20 th March	Staff Meeting	2	2
	Visit to Gossaigaon zone , Hansubil village, Hesperes village	3	18
21 st March	Kochugaon zone – Islam pur and Malbhog village	6	13
		5	
22 nd March	Sidli – Madhyam Malpara village	3	21
	Balajan – Labdandury village and Daplegaon village	6	16
23 rd March	Sapkata zone – Polasguri village	31	19
	Patgaon zone – Dambruguri and Malegaon village	20	18
		2	31
24 th March	Travel from Kokrajar to Kolkata		
25 th March	Arrival in Kolkata		
	Preparation of presentation of findings		
26 th	Presentation of findings and discussions with head office staff, Kolkata	5	2
		99	141

3. Staff responses on Implementation of Mid Term Review Recommendations

- (i) Review recommendations from the 2011 evaluation. To what extent has the recommendations been implemented?

Response of Project Manager:

Right to Livelihood/ Food Security

Following activities were added

- Start crop diversification
- Provision of Power Tiller
- Promotion of compost pit

- Training on animal husbandry
- Support petty business through SHG or VDC
- Provide group income generation opportunities, particularly tent house through VDC
- Livestock vaccination camps conducted
- Training and promotion of plant nursery through VDC

Right to Health

- Awareness on health issues - combined issues like RTI, Family planning etc
- Awareness on communicable diseases (TB, diarrhea, malaria)
- Orientation on behavioural changes in relation to water and sanitation

Right to Education

- Awareness on right to education for parents and children
- Career building program in schools for 9th and 10th
- Support to girls students for higher studies (Books and tuition fee)
- Starting of study centres

Right to Development

- Training on life skill to youth (not implemented)
- Staff capacity building program including volunteers
- Training for Central Advisory Committee members
- Monthly SHG follow up meetings
- Quarterly VDC meetings
- Promotion of youth groups

Right to Information

- Awareness on right to information

Response of project staff:

- Patgaon – The reconsidering changing plan for 2012 and 2013 was life skills to youth but it not be done due to Bodo and Muslim ethnic violence
- Sidli – The reconsideration of changing the existing plan was life skill to youth but it not done due to Bodo and Muslim ethnic violence
- Sapkata – Plans have modified to some extent and some new activities included in it like – Training for staff capacity building, village cleaning drive, life skill training for youth, staff training s like livestock rearing, management of grin bank, monitoring of PPE and stau agriculture

development, PIME training for staff and volunteers, monthly review meeting, and follow up meeting with VDCs and SHGs

- Kochugaon - It was done
- Gossaigaon - Yes there are some changes in existing plan of 2013 - training on sustainable agriculture development practices including integrated pest management, promotion of Eco youth group with support, petty business support through group.
- Balajan - Done. Some plans were changed and included. For example, stipend for promising students were not much effective as a result we stopped and started study centre for the same. Life skill training to youth could not be implemented due to ethnic clash

(ii) Focus on strengthening the capacity of CBOS to take over and sustain the program (record keeping, account maintenance, developing rules and regulations, resource mobilization, public relations, problem solving, banking laws, government policies on development, environment, water, provisions of IPC and land related)

- Patgaon - The strengthening capacity of community based organizations, we did leadership training to VDC/SHG and others for two days done
- Sidli - For strengthening the community based organization we did leadership training to VDC/SHG and other for 2 days done.
- Sapkata - Yes, some VDCs and SHGs have capacity to take over and sustain program and activities like livestock rearing, management of grain bank, monitoring and PPE and a study centre and follow up. They also maintained essential records like cash books, resolution book, loan ledger, monthly subscription and grain bank stock register. It is true that they have no written constitution but SHG and VDC have some rules and regulations which are known to all.
- Kochugaon - It was done on the issues of record keeping, accounts keeping, development of ...
- Gossaigaon - It was started like recovery of mortgaged land
- Balajan - In the VDC and SHG meeting their cash book, loan ledger, proceedings were rectified and were taught how to maintain them. They were also motivated to strengthen their CBOS. For the same - book keeping training was done, also leadership training were planned but could not be completed due to ethnic clash

(iii) Documentation of rules and regulations governing CBOS.

- Patgaon: The few SHGs and VDCs have prepared documentation on rules and regulations governing the CBOS.
- Sidli - Few SHGs and VDCs have proper documentation on rules and regulations governing the CBOS.
- Sapkata - Not done but for any problems like management of grain bank, livestock rearing etc, they have certain rules and regulations as per resolution and they obey those rules.
- Kochugaon - Developed rules and regulations for VDCs
- Gossaigaon - It has been done and maintaining basic documentation
- Balajan - Done but not up to the mark, all the CBOS could not be covered

(iv) Training modules to be developed

- Patgaon: The project has designed method training modules on priority basis and giving training and we are adding in feedback
- Sidli – The project has designed training modules on a priority basis and while giving training some more modules we are adding which we are writing in feedback
- Sapkata: Not done for all training, but some programs like health issues, communicable disease, we have engaged local rural health practitioner (RHP), malaria prevention worker (MPW), ASHA worker, who communicate easily with them they also tested blood and then treat accordingly.
- Kochugaon: It was done
- Gossaigaon – It has been done , tried to make on a priority basis
- Balajan – Not done, we followed only the agenda and methodology of our zone apart from that we could not do anything.

(v) Selection of trainers with adequate facilitation skills

- Patgaon: Good trainers is not available in our area. We brought in local language operation area trainers.
- Sidli – Not done
- Sapkata: for a certain program we hire resource persons for conducting program form government department and the trainers talk to them in local language. So that the community people can understand and trainers and their expectation.
- Kochugaon: It was done
- Gossaigon – It has been done (subject matter specialist local resource persona and LWSIT staff for better communication with the community people)
- Balajan – As good facilitators are not available in our operational area we conducted training only with the help of local government resource persons.

(vi) Appointment of female CHVs with adequate training, continuing education program and good referral system. Promotion of herbal medicines, formal training curriculum for CHVs.

- Patgaon: Not done, but advice the CHV to go PHC
- Sidli – Not done but CHV used to give advice to go to Government Primary Health Centre
- Sapkata: It is better if all CHVs will be female and we also think so, but it is also true that female literacy rate is very less in this area, so we are unable to fulfil this aspect, hence where there are literate female we have given them preference
- We have planned to prepare a perfect training module to trained CHVs, but it was not come to practical due to ethnic violence of 2012, as the doctors were very busy and engaged with different relief camp, service.

- Kochugaon: Two females out of 7 CHVs were selected and undergone training. CHV advice the patients for treatment to nearby health centres. Training curriculum not done.
- Gossaigaon – Not done. Planned but not achieved due to ethnic violence
- Balajan – Not done due to ethnic clash.

(vii) Adequate and relevant PPE and NFE training –

- Patgaon: PPE/ NFE training done but VDC could not run training centre. They contributed in cash rupees one hundred to the instructor from their part
- Sidli - NFE/PPE training done but VDC could not run training centre. They contributed in cash rupees one hundred to the Instructor from their part.
- Sapkata: It has been done by providing 4 days training for PPE and NFE instructors by good facilitator from Kolkata who are working on adult and NFE. Hence LWSIT have given honorarium for instructors, VDC also contributed some money for NFE, PPE and study centre and total monitoring have done by VDC and they also selected instructor from their own community and more than 70% instructors are married women.
- Kochugaon – NFE/PEE training organized were not substantial, adequate and relevant. Under the monitoring of VDC/SHG the centres are continuing with partial contribution by them. As per availability in the community the zonal unit utilized the service of 3 married women PPE instructors out of 7 PPE centres.
- Gossaigaon – It has been done (But it is not directly run by VDC, but they contribute a little sum as honorarium along with LWSIT and do monitoring)
- Balajan – The NFE/PPE were not done by the VDC/SHG as they have no proper knowledge for the same. IT was done by the resource person from LWSIT Kolkata. However, the VDCs contribute some money to the instructor as an honorarium

(viii) Curriculum for NFE and PPE

- Patgaon: Not done but existing curriculum like reporting system is there.
- Sapkata: There is no written curriculum for PPE and NFE centre because it is nonformal. Since we feel lacking. Hence we have some expectation from PPE and NFE centres. Which we get from reporting of PPE, NFE as we have certain reporting format and learners are evaluated through grading by instructor.
- Kochugaon: Not yet developed
- Gossaigaon: Not done
- Balajan: We conducted only training to the NFE/PPE instructor. The VDCs are fully involved in it. It is monitored by the VDC
- Sidli – Not done but existing curriculum like reporting system is there

(ix) Focus on development issues and enhancing community participation in moving from dependency to interdependency. Empower community to mobilize resources for common benefit

- Patgaon: Some in each program contribute eighteen or banks.
- Sidli: Done in each program they contribute either in cash or in kind.
- Sapkata: Yes done, comprising with previous community participation, now it is increased in 2012 for any support, VDC and SHG have contributed about 20% cash contribution and some kind contribution for sake of their community development. They are managing themselves independently. They also work jointly to bring facility to their community like – construction of canal, mobilize school building, culvert etc.
- Kochugaon: Initiated the process
- Gossaigaon: It is done. (Like SHG bank linkage, social forestry linkage with Forest Department and capacity building)
- Balajan: Done. In each and every program the community people gives their contribution with cash or kind contribution such as grain bank support, livestock support, low cost latrine etc

(x) In depth orientation and exposure to the Central Advisory Committee members on development issues and initiatives.

- Patgaon: Not done due to ethnic violence
- Sidli – Not done due to ethnic clash
- Singlu :Not done due to ethnic clash
- Sapkata: Not done
- Kochugaon: Not done because of the occurrence of ethnic riot, the program was postponed.
- Gossaigaon- It is not done (As planned, but they were too busy and as well as due to communal violence)
- Balajan: Not done. We planned but could not be implemented.

(xi) Strengthen capacity of key project staff on development concepts – people skills, facilitation skills, approaches to community development.

- Patgaon: Some, but some staff were sent for skills development programs but most of the staff did not get this program. We received – PME Training, reporting system, documentation, record keeping, motivating others. Not received community development issues training.
- Sidli: Not done to all but some related staff were sent for facilitation skill and knowledge approaches to community development. Only received PIME training, reporting system, documentation, record keeping and motivating to other training were given but others not given to us. Not received any training on community development issues.
- Sapkata: Yes have done in some areas. Maximum staffs have disaster response knowledge as the staffs have previously worked for disaster management so they are practical. During the training and awareness program on agricultural development practise, animal husbandry, legal aid, RTI. Staffs are also present and they have also acquired knowledge and also help in facilitation. Thus they gradually are updating their knowledge.

Some more specific training program also have planned but not happened due to ethnic violence.

- Kochugaon: It was done but not upto the mark
- Gossaigaon: Done but not upto the mark. We had planned but not achieved due to ethnic violence.
- Balajan – Done. Some staff got the chance for programs like Agriculture development training. Most of the staff have not got such change to develop their capacity. Record keeping training was done in the unit office by Accounts Officer – Achintya Sahu and the Unit manager

(xii) Increase the number of female staff in every zone

- Patgaon: Done but not upto the mark
- Sidli: Done but after few months of work the female staff left from our office.
- Sapkata: Not done but trying
- Kochugaon: Two female staff were recruited but they left the job
- Gossaigaon: No response
- Balajan: Not done

(xiii) Change role and functions of community volunteers to facilitate the process of taking over.

- Patgaon: Community volunteers' role and functions from existing ones were changed. Sometime was done but in writing form of their responsibility was not been given.
- Sidli: community volunteers role and functions were changed. Sometimes was done but in writing form of their responsibility has not been given.
- Sapkata: Now community volunteers are contributing vital role as a facilitator. They are individually now able to conduct programs like health awareness, education, awareness, maintaining records of SHG and VDC, stock register of grain bank. Solving community problems, besides volunteers are now able to maintain stock ledgers, reporting of SHG, performance and interlending. And now they have capacity to lead their community.
- Kochugaon: It was done
- Gossaigaon: No response
- Balajan: Done but not up to the mark

(xiv) Involve government health workers in the health activities. Access support and services of Agriculture Department of Government particularly for soil testing. Access resources and materials from Government Education Department.

- Patgaon: Everything was done except Soil Testing
- Sidli: Everything was done except soil testing.
- Sapkata: Yes we have good relationship and networking with Health Department, Agriculture Department, KVK Block Development office. And we engage officials for conducting awareness/ training programs like awareness on health issues, communicable disease, health check up camps,

training on agriculture development practice, training on right based issues related to food security etc. We also engage rural health practitioners, malaria prevention workers, ASHA worker, farmers friend as facilitators when we conduct in their field of area. That is why when BDO comes to village for facilitate program at Upendrapur then he invites SHG for gradation and also for other schemes so that season Bahala SHG got gradation. Thus Khoksaguri VDC mobilize water pump set from Agriculture Department.

- Kochugaon: It was done except soil testing
- Gossaigaon: No response
- Balajan: Everything done except soil testing.

4. Discussions with Project volunteers

Volunteer, Kochugaon

Sanjeev Karunakar has been working for 4 years in 39 villages as a volunteer. He is involved in monitoring and implementation of all the activities. In 2012 he has helped to start grain bank, conducted awareness programs and has attended one training program on book keeping. He has also participated in awareness programs on family planning, immunization and health.

Volunteers from Sidli Zone

Shyam Basmutary is from Silikarra and David Murmu is form Nimagaon. Both are from Sidli zone. They came in contact with LWS when they were doing PRA in the area. They joined in 2009. They helped in the survey and were later appointed as volunteers. According to them they were able to see more villages, understand social issues and get to know more people during the work with LWS. They help to organize meetings in the village and pass on information and news to the community. They also participate in SHG and VDC meetings and help them to do recordkeeping. In 2010 they participated in peacebuilding, leadership and documentation training. They said that they will be able to conduct awareness programs, meetings and maintain case books independently without LWS support. If LWS withdraws from the project, they will continue doing agriculture.