

ECS ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

2020 • 2021



SECRETARY'S NOTE



CHINGMAK
Secretary ECS

Dear Friends,

We live in difficult times, but 2020 has been even more challenging because it affected all of us, and at the same time! However, I strongly believe that the human spirit is “God indwelt in us” and in our worst we have proven to portray that image of God in us, by being “helpful” to one another. One such experience for us was when we distributed around 2,35,000 N95 masks to all the districts of Nagaland by raising funds through the ACT Grant and dozens of kind citizens, friends and well-wishers who contributed through our Milaap campaign. Additionally, the tremendous support we received from the District Administration, the Police and the Church in all the districts was remarkable. In this venture we experienced the willingness of everyone to reach out to every nook and cranny of the state in handing out these masks to the last frontline worker.

I am so tempted to thank everyone by name, but if I do so, then I will not do justice, for the simple reason that I will not adequately say the right words to thank you enough. Yet I want to say that “each of YOU” had so much to do with what ECS has been able to contribute during the pandemic year.

The Newsletter will detail out much of the activities, but a few new initiatives during the year I’d like to mention is the introduction of the Mobile Teaching Unit that provided supplementary teaching support in Science, Math, English & Hindi subjects among others, for middle and high school children in several villages of Kiphre District. We hope to do the same in a few blocks of Mon district in the new financial year. We are also expectant that the Play Schools started by ECS in 110 villages across the 5 Eastern Districts will continue in the new year. The care for the elderly is a major concern and an emerging need for us all and so, we began in a small way, a Care Givers training for the youth as a career choice, in collaboration with the “WinAge” in Bangalore. Students from our first batch who’ve passed out have found placements in cities like Delhi and within the state and the classes for the second batch of trainees is underway. We are also happy to let you’ll know that we were awarded the Tuensang District Commendation Award for 2021 from the District Administration and the *Kayakalp* Commendation Award for the Longpang PHC in 2020.

Our newest partner is HANs Foundation and I am pleased to announce that they are helping the community build a bridge below the Longpang PHC, which is run on a PPP model between ECS, the community and the state health departments. This bridge would connect 4 villages in Longleng and 5 villages in Tuensang to a health facility, giving access to essential primary health services and a delivery point for expecting mothers. The Hans Foundation in collaboration with the state health department and the community will further support the re-building of an entire PHC facility with full-fledged resources at Pessao in Tobu district of Mon, one of ECS’ target areas. I am certain that this will be the beginning of a long journey together.

We hope you will find our stories enriching and evermore so, we hope you find yourself in these stories because they truly reflect your help to ECS.

Regards



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ECS GERIATRIC CARE ASSISTANT COURSE



Hygienic care



Tube feeding

ASSESSMENTS AND CERTIFICATION

The students have periodic assessments both in their theory and practical learning's.

Weekly, Monthly and a final Assessments on Theory and Practice are done for the students to clear their certification.

Students are also graded based on their skills learned, retention; and confidence level while they demonstrate practical sessions and overall proactiveness of the students.

To meet the growing requirements and needs in providing care to the elderly and to help them overcome physical and emotional challenges through timely & appropriate interventions, a course was initiated for the first time in Nagaland, by ECS in collaboration with Grandage Pvt. Ltd under its brand name Winage which means 'win over the age'.

The focus of Winage is to support families who require Home Based Care for their elderly person. This is based on the research that being in a home environment, the elderly patients tend to have their health improved rather than being in a health care setup.

The course which has started in Tuensang, will produce by a trained cadre of "certified caregivers" and would also create employment opportunity as well as career growth, for youth from underprivileged backgrounds.

The course offers opportunity for both male and female between 18 to 40 years of age, a chance to make career in the health care sector. The first batch was rolled out in the month of September 2020 with 15 students. The students are trained by a certified nurse with a minimum qualification of GNM to B.Sc. Nursing.

The course duration is for three months and the curriculum has three parts:

1. Theory Classes
2. Clinical Activities and Practical Skills
3. Internship with hands-on interaction with patients in real time

The course also focuses on the improvement of student's communication skills, body language, professional behaviour and importance of imbuing empathy & caregiving with compassion. The students are also taught to present themselves as professionals in terms of their clothing, accessories, personal time at the work place such as using mobile phones, social media etc.

During their free time the students engage in kitchen gardening activities, music, taking care of their surroundings and cooking their own meals which equips them with crucial life skills. During evenings, students spend their time in spiritual meditation and even seek counselling from their mentors at the health centre for an experience on wholesome wellness of body and mind.

The students are provided with internship opportunities in the Longpang Primary Health Centre (PHC) where they receive hands-on experience with the patients with supervision from the trainer, specifically the elderly and learning basic nursing skills.

During internship the candidates are also given an opportunity to assist the nurses in treating patient,

impart health education to the patient and attendants.

Through community postings the candidates are provided hands on approach for dealing with aged people by giving them opportunity to care for elderly at the Longpang Wellness Centre.

PLACEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

After successfully completing their training and assessment they become certified Care Givers. They are placed, based on their competence level, through Winage's recruitment centre, in various Indian cities to work with elderly in homes and hospitals.

Their career as a Care Giver is not stagnant but has ample opportunities, in terms of career growth. The students after their placements would be observed for one or two years and based on their performance, they can appear for another exam for a higher certification which is the Care Giver+. After gaining enough experience within the company, they are promoted as Supervisors and also get a chance to receive overseas placement. To going to the next level of career at Winage, the candidate has to secure 100% client satisfaction index during their tenure with each client.

Two of the candidates from our 1st batch, which started in September 2020, got placed within two months of training and four candidates were placed right after completion of training. Out of the total 15 candidates enrolled in the 1st batch, a total of 11 candidates are placed in Delhi at both residential and intuition set up.

The 2nd batch of training was started in March 2021 with a total of 13 candidates. The course will end in the month of May 2021 after which applications for the 3rd batch would begin.



Vital signs checking at wellness centre



1st Batch students with Trainer and members of wellness centre

ECS MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH PROJECT PHASE II

SUPPORTED BY WIPRO CARES

Through Wipro Cares support, ECS has been implementing a community health initiative covering 12 villages covering a population of 15000, under the Noksen and its adjacent block in Tuensang district since June 2015. The project's key objective is to develop and deliver comprehensive primary health care program especially focussing on children, adolescent girls and women.

The project area covers one Primary Health Center and three Sub Centers that provides coverage to the 12 target villages and adjacent areas. 4 villages fall under the hard-to-reach area with paramount issues and problems for delivery of health care services through the health units, particularly with regards to access to delivery services among pregnant women and health services for children. The approach was to build strong community responses to health care whereby, from the onset of the project, conscious efforts were made to involve

the community in the implementation process. The main focus is to access maternal services during and after pregnancy and to improve maternal health outcome in the villages.

Over the last 6 years, the project has witnessed a major involvement of the community and behaviour change in mothers regularly accessing services from the health centres and also the immunization of the children by the parents has shown a marked increase. The Village Health Committee, the core of the project, has shown greater interest and involvement in Phase II (2018-2021). A lot of efforts were made on building their capacity and even the church leaders have begun to take healthcare more seriously. Dialoguing with the village stakeholders has been the core activity initiated in this phase. Mothers are actively accessing services and demanding nurses to come for vaccination.

The development of delivery point at Ngoungchung sub-

NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS IN PHASE II

All pregnant women within the project areas are tracked and provided with ANC services (Rural Tuensang-18.7% DLHS 2012-13), along with counselling and nutrition-based trainings. Through these interventions, there is now a shift in the mindset of many women and **rate of institutional delivery has risen to 64%** compared to the baseline data of rural Tuensang: **7.5%** (DLHS 2012-13)

PNC services focus a lot on the newborn baby's health and immunization. The immunization picture is much improved with 100% of children from the 12 villages getting enrolled in the immunization programme (Baseline: Children receiving full immunization 35.7% (DLHS 2012-13).

There is Improved hygiene and cleanliness in the community and Mothers have started demanding for the Nurses and the Doctors to be in station which was not seen during the initial period of the project.

Mothers club members are taking up responsibility in encouraging, promoting service utilization, behaviour change and removing of stigma in the community towards deliveries, menstrual hygiene, immunization etc.



center covers 6 villages from the project area and another 3 villages. Due to the proximity of the sub centre and availability of nurses, many couples have started to opt for institutional delivery. And In fact, the mothers now prefer the delivery point to the District Hospital in Tuensang town since the expenses incurred is higher in the latter case. Since transportation is a particular challenge in the area which results in many home deliveries, ambulance services have also been provided at Ngoungchung sub-centre through the project. This has been helpful not only for ANC and hospital deliveries but has helped dozens of general patients by reaching them to larger health centres to seek medical help at the right time.

Renovation of Yangpi Sub Centre has been initiated where both the Church and the Village Council contributed towards the construction of the subcentre and putting essential infrastructure in place. Nurses' quarters have also been renovated and the centre is in the process of bringing in equipment to initiate deliveries in the region. The upgradation of sub centre to delivery point has been a great help for the community. Transportation is a major challenge since they have to travel long distance to get health care and have few or no public or private transit option for deliveries and other emergencies needs especially during monsoon. Along with the support from the project the community started to raise fund and renovate the labour room, maternity ward and construct a new building with two rooms and toilet attached to the labour room.

ECS with the support from Wipro Cares provided equipment and materials to be used during deliveries. The effort of ECS and the community has been achieved with 4 deliveries conducted in Yangpi this year. And along with the Govt nurse, ASHA's and medical attendants we are looking forward to having 100 percent institutional deliveries in the village in the future.

During the Covid-19 lockdown period, ECS team along with the frontline functionaries have been working non-stop to provide services to the community. Awareness on Covid 19 and delivering of essential nutrition and ANC services continued for pregnant mothers in all ECS focused villages including those that come within the Wipro Cares project. The CareMother kit was used by village health workers to provide services to women and children.

In Phase III we plan to strengthen the Noksen PHC, the only primary health centre in Noksen block, which is currently functioning with many limitations. We will also continue to work towards strengthening the existing delivery points and bringing more resources from the state health department and continue community mobilisation efforts. We are also in discussions with the district hospital to ensure vaccines are brought on time to the health centres in order to ensure no child misses a dose.

CHILD & MATERNAL HEALTH DATA OF DELIVERY POINTS FOR 2020-21

Indicator	Noksen PHC	Ngoungchung SC	Yangpi SC
ANC	90	61	56
Immunization	294	101	130
Hospital Delivery	57	23	4
OPD	658	896	239
In patient	113	5	0

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

The ASHAs/Health workers have demonstrated initiative and have been seen to do everything in their capacity to educate, inform and connect people with services. In a couple of villages, the issue of non-performing ASHAs have been taken up with the VHCs and the Village councils and in one, a replacement has been made.

The project took measures to restructure the village health committees to include representation from all sections of the community which included village councils, church leaders, women organizations, student bodies, health workers, angangwadi workers, teachers, mothers' club members, SHG members etc. Village leadership exhibit more initiative and ownership on health issues.

Participation in mothers' clubs have raised confidence levels, assertiveness, and sharpened articulation skills.



COVID-19 RESPONSE

Since the emergence of covid 19, ECS has been supporting the Government's efforts to fight the pandemic and have been working closely with both district and local Covid task forces. One of the focus of ECS was to support frontline workers (nurses, and ASHAs/health workers and doctors) to deliver essential health services without interruption whilst dissemination awareness on covid prevention in all the villages. The covid response project supported by HCL provided materials such as masks, gloves, PPEs, hand sanitizers and aprons to protect frontline workers (nurses, and ASHAs/health workers and doctors) while serving the people. It has also invested on building capacity of Longpang PHC with the centre being designated as a back-up for the district hospital in Tuensang. Critical equipment such as oxygen concentrators (3 nos), ECG machine, pulse oximeters, reagents for lab etc and additional manpower were provided by HCL.

Following are some of the key engagements/ outputs;

- Early on during the lockdown, provided food rations for 300 households; 5000 face-masks to the district administration in Tuensang; and food packages to 1288 pregnant and lactating mothers across the project villages.
- Trainings conducted for nurses and para workers across the target area
- Community awareness programs was conducted in all villages.
- ECS has also facilitated the setting up of quarantine centres across the target area
- In order to make covid testing available down at the village level, PHCs were equipped with rapid antigen test kits
- Efforts were made to mobilize additional resources to fight the pandemic through well-wishers and partners. Milap, an organization specializing in crowdfunding raised more than 9 lacs for ECS to fight the pandemic in eastern Nagaland. This has also helped support manpower gaps in the target area
- ECS bought 2 lakhs N95 masks @ Rs 1 per pc through ACT Grants, a 100 cr grant created by India's start up community to combat Covid and fundraising through ECS Milaap campaign. The masks were distributed across to all the districts through the state government.
- ECS introduced ACT Grants to the Government of Nagaland through the Chief Secretary and provided 2000 RT PCR kits, 10,000 RNA extraction kits and 10,000 VTM kits for BSL lab in Tuensang

ECS LIFE CONNECT

SUPPORTED BY HCL FOUNDATION



Training of play school trainers



Training of para workers



The start to the year was slow due to emergence of Covid-19 and the restrictions imposed to curb its spread. Much of the work had to be conducted via phone and social media due to public health recommendations to avoid social contacts. A lot of effort was invested in supporting doctors and nurses based at the health centres and para workers based in the villages to disseminate awareness on covid prevention and to ensure uninterrupted delivery of routine health services particularly maternal and child health services. Steps were jointly taken with the community and the district health officials to develop 5 health centres into delivery points and additional nurses were deployed through ECS and the community. Play school programs were initiated in 109 villages in four districts (Tuensang -35, Kiphire - 25, Mon- 32 and Longleng-17). Prior to the roll out, trainings were organized for play school trainers in all the districts. Earlier an MoU was signed between ECS and the Dept. of School Education, Nagaland to implement the pre-school programs in 110 villages in the given districts. Complementary feeding programs were conducted every month in 53 villages and trainings were provided for para workers and community leaders on pregnancy care and nutrition with a view to strengthen nutrition education at the village level. The project has also made a lot of progress with regard to service access. During the year, more than 80 percent of pregnant women accessed ANC services and a total of 498 hospital deliveries were conducted which is about 40% of the total deliveries. In addition, 20088 people were seen through OPDs and another 880 people were admitted at the health centres.

As part of its effort to make health services available, ECS along with the community developed 5 health centres – Kuthur PHC, Sotakor SC, Pessao PHC, Monyakshu SC and Wangshu SC into delivery points. Work in three more centres have also been initiated. Nurses were deployed four centres through ECS and the community agreed to bear part of their salaries. The community also raised funds and made improvements to the facilities, procured essential medicines and organized the living quarters for the nurses and other staff. ECS provided basic sets of delivery equipment, consumables for delivery, water filters, solar lamps and torches in all the centres.

- **Monyakshu SC:** The community spearheaded by the students' body, church and the VHC activated the sub centre in collaboration with the nurses and the health department. The department sourced a labour table from Changlangshu PHC and the Church donated Rs 20,000/- for medicines to start up the deliveries. The project provided Solar lamps, water filters and supports the delivery expenditures conducted at the centre. Since its activation, 51 deliveries have been conducted at the centre.
- **Kuthur PHC:** A nurse was deployed in consultation with the Village council, VHC, Church and equipment such as solar lighting, medicines and carpet for labour room was provided through the project. The community on their part constructed a kitchen for the nurse.
- **Sotakor SC:** To activate the sub centre in Sotakor village, the project organized equipment and materials like labor table, solar lighting, mattresses, carpets, buckets and basic medicines and deployed a nurse in early September. The community is constructing a nurse quarter and a water tank with support from the Government. 8 deliveries have been conducted at the centre so far.



- **Pessao PHC:** The organization deployed a nurse at the PHC and initiated child deliveries. Essentials such as solar lighting, water filter, medicines and consumables were provided through the project. 11 deliveries have been conducted at the centre since.
- **Wangshu SC:** ECS and community deployed a nurse at Wangshu sub centre and provided some basic equipment for delivery including solar lighting, water filter and medicines. The community constructed a quarter for the nurse and a water harvest system and contributes Rs 5000/- every month towards the salary of the nurse.

Improvement work was also carried out in other centres. In Sangtak SC, the community constructed a staff quarter and a labour room, work on ward for patients to be initiated. In Namching SC, a nurse quarter was constructed and is planning to extend one more room for labour. In Chingmei SC, the community also constructed a quarter for the staff.

Mopong PHC: Numerous developments were carried out at the centre after it was shifted to the new facility. The community built kitchens for both staff and patients and two rooms were developed by the project to temporarily house the doctor and the nurse. The PHC was also empanelled as an Ayushman Bharat insurance centre, the third PHC after Longpang PHC and Changlangshu PHC. In addition, the Local MLA donated a

CBC analyzer, a bio chemistry analyzer, autoclave, OT lights and a patient monitor. World vision also donated an ILR for vaccine storage. The Government also completed the half-constructed building for Mopong PHC which will be used as quarters for doctor, nurses and other PHC staff. The community of Mopong range will contribute and build the kitchens.

Longpang PHC: The PHC also saw an upgrade to its facilities and added 3 oxygen concentrators, an ECG machine and essential items like stethoscopes, BP apparatus, oxymeters etc to its facilities. After the district hospital was designated as a covid centre, Longpang PHC was identified as a referral point and all non-covid patients from Tuensang were referred to the centre. During the year, 238 inpatients were provided free treatment at the centre through the Ayushman Bharat Insurance scheme.

NUTRITION FOOD PROJECT AT PHC LONGPANG

A Permaculture kitchen garden for the community at PHC Longpang was created during August 2020. The project feeds nutritious fresh vegetables to the PHC residents of about 20 people and patients. The area is about 8000 sq.ft and produced about half a tonne of vegetables within the first 4 months of inception. Using the Permaculture approach was a huge success as productivity from this piece of land was substantial. This plot presently also serves as demonstration site for training farmers on Permaculture design.

The kitchen garden has been carefully designed for the needs of the PHC. The core Ethics of Permaculture – Earth Care, People Care and Fair Share are evident in its design. The garden is chemical free, and a natural resilient ecosystem has been created which prevents pest infestations by itself. When one walks in the garden, one will notice a healthy buzzing beneficial insect activity amidst lots of flowers and herbs planted along with the vegetables. Bee and bird hotels are part of the garden. A bamboo bench under a big tree in the garden has been built into, to allow patients and their family to come and enjoy some relaxing and healing time in between the lush green of the thriving vegetables. The pathways and garden beds curve and meander in an artistic way all along, and are visually aesthetic, but it also has a scientific reason to it – technically called keyhole beds, which maximizes space and efficiency in growing. Upon walking up to the topmost part of the kitchen garden, one will be pleasantly greeted by the sound of rushing water which overflows from a small fishery pond, fed from spring water. Canna lilies, heliconia and other aquatic plants are part of the pond ecosystem. The pond overflow is made to



Training of community leaders

pass throughout the kitchen garden in a meandering zig zag pattern of swales (earthwork). This helps retain moisture deep in the kitchen garden soil, catches eroded soil from the slopes and retains fertile silt in the system, before water exits the system during the monsoons.

To maximize space and efficiency, the planting pattern in the garden follows the seven layers of a forest, which includes canopy tree, small tree, shrub, creeper, herb, groundcover and root. Both seasonal and perennial vegetables are part of the system. The list of crops grown are diverse and many. To name some, it includes vegetables like tomato, okra, brinjal, potato, bean, cucumber, pumpkin, gourds, chayote; roots like radish, carrot, turnip, beet, kohlrabi; herbs, spices and leafy greens like lemongrass, citronella, coriander, mint, Mexican coriander, onion, chilli, ginger, chives, garlic, fenugreek, lettuce, pak choi,

spinach, amaranth; other brassicas like broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage and tubers grown are sweet potato, taro, tapioca and yacon. It also includes fruits like strawberry, pineapple, tamarillo, pomegranate, banana, apple, raspberry and others like sugarcane, coffee, corn, pigeonpea and indigenous lard plant.

Another addition to the project is the Mushroom and Dairy. Mushroom cultivation of both short and long term were taken up during February 2021. Oyster mushroom grown in rice paddy straws yields in a month. It yielded abundantly. Whereas, Shiitake is a longer-term mushroom project and yields in about 7 to 8 months and is currently in growing phase. Recently in April 2021, 4 cows have been introduced to the PHC campus to meet the manure needs for food production and additionally, dairy needs.

COMPLEMENTARY FEEDING SUPPORTED BY HCL FOUNDATION & POSHAN ABHIYAN



Coordinated nutrition intervention programmes in Tobu and Mopong area under Mon district have helped to enhance health services in the region. The programme under *Poshan Abhiyan*, Department of Social Welfare has been integrated into the health effort implemented jointly between Eleutheros Christian Society (ECS) supported by HCL Foundation, the Health Department and the community.

The intervention which was built around complementary feeding, is conducted once a month and the feeding serves as a hub for provision of health services, nutrition education, a platform for inter sectoral convergence and interface between the community and the health system. The church also contributes 2 percent of the feeding cost, provides the space

for cooking and feeding and takes care of any other shortfalls.

The project targets pregnant women, lactating mothers and children up to 1 year and is implemented through the church. The activities built around the feeding include ANC and health check-ups, immunization, complementary feeding and targeted feeding, anthropometry, health talks, nutrition education and counselling, anaemia screening, home visits, capacity building of AWWs, ASHAs and feeding committees, and monthly community review.

In preparation, village level plans were drawn and responsibilities divided for cooking, serving, growth measurements, documentation, ANC and immunization services, education sessions etc. Anaemia screening was conducted periodically to identify anaemia among mothers.

KEY OUTPUTS

1076 mothers provided with food rations during the lock down period

2670 beneficiaries (mothers and children) reached through complimentary feeding in 19 villages during the year

3 trainings for Para workers and community/church leaders conducted on nutrition and health care

Onsite support provided to para workers in all 16 villages

Monthly community reviews conducted in all 16 villages

Daily nutrition support provided to 337 anaemic mothers through the angangwadi centres across the area.

3 rounds of anaemia camps conducted in 20 villages with over 1800 tests performed

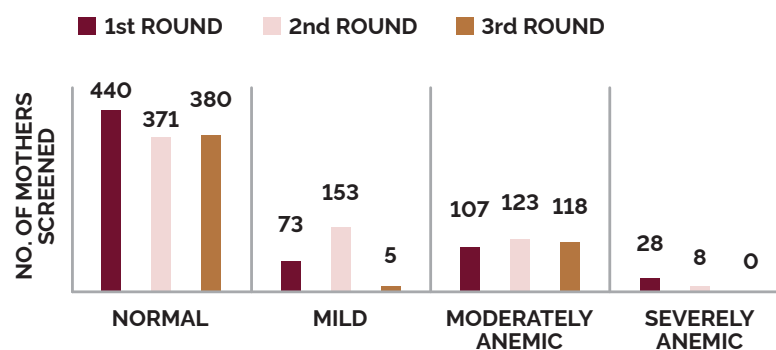


Under targeted feeding, those tested with severe and moderate anaemia are closely monitored and provided nutritional supplements and counselling at the angangwadi centres. The mothers visit the centre every day and receive eggs and supplements like iron, calcium and vitamins.

The complementary feeding has not only improved the nutrition status but has also contributed to the outcomes of the broader health effort. It has provided the opportunity for the community and various players to converge and synergize their efforts thereby improving service availability and access. The strong support from the community and their participation encouraged nurses and staff of health centre to be at their work stations therefore improving service utilization.

Involvement of the church broke cultural barriers around pregnancy and childbirth encouraging pregnant women to show up at the feeding centres without inhibitions. Stigma around pregnancy and childbirth was a

ANEMIA SCREENING IN 3 ROUNDS



challenge in the area preventing pregnant women from freely accessing ANC and hospital delivery services. The program also helped converge the activities of para workers (ASHA, Anganwadi and health workers) who earlier were unaware of each other's activities.

One important change made was the improvement in anaemia status among mothers. Identification of anaemia through the screening camps and the close monitoring and support provided to anaemic mothers has helped many to escape their condition.

ICDS- ANGANWADI FEEDING PROGRAM



The integrated child development service (ICDS) scheme providing for supplementary nutrition, immunization and pre-school education to the children was launched in 1975 and is one of the world's largest programmes providing for an integrated package of services for the holistic development of the child. The ICDS scheme has been renamed as *Anganwadi* (AW) services.

Since its inception, the community has been the forerunner of the feeding program. The committee set up by ECS in all the villages proved to be very proactive in all matters concerning implementation. From regular monitoring checks to ensuring the functioning of workers, coordinating ration distributions and problem-solving operational issues such as water shortage, repairs work in the *anganwadi* centres, the involvement of the community in implementation of the program has been a huge success.

Maternal Health services in the villages were not available until ECS intervention began. Once the AW centres started functioning women were coming in not only for nutrition

but were also receiving trainings and learning how to cook nutritious meals for themselves and their children.

Sensitization on removal of stigma when it came to vaccinations, and increased awareness to access antenatal care services (ANC), and information about existing government schemes were disseminated. The project intervention also included awareness and informative sessions to pregnant women on the importance of institutional delivery. This helped change the mindsets of many women who were apprehensive of delivering in hospitals.

During the Covid -19 pandemic, the implementation and feeding at the *anganwadi* centre were stopped for few months but the carry home ration continued to be provided every month with food package to all the 9 villages. Even in the time of crisis, the management committee along with the community members understood their responsibilities well and actively participated and helped in distributing carry home ration every month till the centre was re-opened.

Others activities during that were done at the *anganwadi* centre during the pandemic were:

- Yangpi village during the time of pandemic *anganwadi* workers along with the management committee decided to maintain a small kitchen garden with different varieties of vegetables for the centre
- Anganwadi workers helped in stitching masks which were distributed for free to the people in the villages
- Organized hand washing practice and cleanliness drives at and around the centre
- At Maksha, yoga day was initiated for the children and is now regularly practiced in the centre.





PILOT PLAY SCHOOL

The first 6 years of a child's life are the most crucial for their lifelong development. Early childhood education has shown to provide a range of short term and long-term benefits for the children. A play school program was started as a pilot project in Hakchang village in 2019 where children between the age group of 2.5 to 5 years who are not in school were enrolled. This was initiated after 2 years of trying to activate preschool in angangwadi centres which could not be achieved due to the inefficiency of the angangwadi workers (with many AWs being illiterate).

The pilot program in Hakchang proved to be very successful. A play school trainer who had completed her higher secondary schooling was recruited and sent for Montessori training. The Angangwadi workers and helpers assisted in the play school classes in cooking, cleaning and handling the children.

The play school was much appreciated by the community and scaled up to 9 centres. Due to the lockdown, the play schools were finally started in all the villages in the month of Oct 2020 and ECS along with the community decided to enroll not more than 30 children per centre so as to maintain Covid-19 SOPs. The Play school ran twice a week, till March 2021 wherein the children and their parents are taught basic alphabets and simple mathematics, along with others rhymes and play activity for the children.

Kejong Chang lives with his wife and 2 children in Yangpi village. Being a pastor in the village and a key stakeholder in running the program he often visits the Angangwadi centre. During one of these visits, he was accompanied by his youngest son **Chang Allen** who was enrolled in the angangwadi centre. Allen would attend the daily play school sessions at the AW centre but halfheartedly at the beginning. Slowly however, as he started interacting with his peer members, he enjoyed going to the Angangwadi centre and remained in attendance till he was enrolled at a formal school. Kejong noticed that his youngest son seemed to have less challenges fitting into a regular school as compared to his older brother who did not go to a play school. Now Allen is 5 years old and he was admitted in Superkids School Dimapur and performing well. Kejong is very happy that his son Allen received the opportunity to be enrolled in the play school which helped him build a foundation to easily transition to a formal school and encourages other parents to send their children to the ECS play school. Chang Allen while talking to his father sometimes asks why they no longer receive biscuits and gahlo in the big school like they used to in the village school.

COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTIONS

In Maksha village the community constructed its own *angangwadi* kitchen

In Nakshao the community built a new building to run the *angangwadi* centre. The committee members also take turns to help in the kitchen

In Chingmei 2 new *angangwadi* centre were built with the community support. In Centre A, the community supported in laying a concrete floor

In Hakchang, NECTAR supported the construction of two buildings to be used as two AW centres

In Saoshou, the village *Sochum* building was converted to *angangwadi* centre by the community as there were no existing centres

In Yangpi, 1 new *angangwadi* centre constructed by the Community and one old building was renovated for another *angangwadi* centre



FROM SUBSISTENCE TO PROSPERITY THROUGH COMMUNITY LED AND MANAGED LIVELIHOODS PROGRAM

IMPLEMENTED BY ECS WITH
SUPPORT FROM NEIDA-TATA TRUSTS



Under farm-based activities, 4234 households (HHs) in Noksen, Noklak and Sangsangyu blocks of Tuensang were covered. The project had introduced improvements in their double cropping practices. New crops such as field pea, garden pea and *sarso* (mustard) were introduced to double the income of the farmers for the Rabi season. Short duration seeds of maize and potato were introduced in the project.

Under double cropping, an 10% increase in area was projected but the target was quickly superseded by a 50.90% increase. The average practice was of 1479 HHs in 2015 acres which increased to an average of 2405 acres in 5 years. Through convergence efforts from the project, and the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources 335 households received drip irrigation coverage achieving a 225% increase from the targeted number of 100 households.

In order to utilize the available resources efficiently crop rotation was incorporated in the project to obtain higher production per area while maintaining the stability of the production. However, keeping the importance of sustainable soil productivity in view, crop which can supplement soil nutrient in addition to its economic returns was taken into consideration.

The Soil in the project villages is suitable for potato variants such as *kufri jyoti* and *kufri gunjan*. Besides potato other vegetables such as cabbage and green peas are performing very well in the region. Earlier cabbages were grown once a year (*kharif* season) but with the intervention of the project cabbages are grown throughout the year.



From 2947 in 2015, there are now **3187 households** (82.90% increase) producing a marketable surplus. This amounts to about 30% increase in quantity of produce and a 45% increase in the average income of the last 5 years.

Before the intervention of the project, most of the farmers were under conventional practices where sowing of seed quantities was high but less in yield. With the introduction of SRI among the rice farmers, the yield is now exceptionally high.

The project also focuses on the capacity building of farmers by organizing over 1221 trainings and exposure visits in the past 5 years.

The project formed 3 Farmers Producers Organization (FPO) through the convergence efforts of ECS and NABARD and 2 more were formed by convergence efforts with Mission Organic Value Chain Development –North East (MOVCDNE).

The project opened saving accounts for the Farmers Groups (FGs) in the State Bank of India, Tuensang branch and credit amounting to INR 74.50 lakhs was accessed and provided to 32 groups. And through the FPOs, 480 members were provided a loan of Rs 10,000/- each from the co-operative corpus.

BACKYARD PIGGERY PROMOTION

The project covered 2579 households under backyard piggery promotion, adopting and engaging in improved pig rearing practices. With awareness camps, veterinary services such as vaccinations and trainings on pig nutrition and balance diet management along with the supply of compound feeds, the fattening period of the pigs has reduced by 2 months, from the existing conventional rearing which has led to an increase in 68% of average income among the farmers.

During the project cycle, the project successfully conducted trainings on book keeping, accountancy, leadership, financial literacy program etc for around 260 SHG groups reaching out to 4295 members.

With NEIDA's support, the *Nagamaiki* Small Pig Farmers Association was registered under Producer's Company Act and a Pig Feed Mill was constructed in Chingmelen village. The total revolving corpus of the existing 14 federations set up by ECS exceeds 2.5Cr.

Namang and his wife Thondi are farmers from a small village called Longtang. In the year 2016, Namang recollects when “a project from TATA Trust, NEIDA and ECS came to

our village supporting the farmers in both Agri and Piggery, I enrolled under the piggery project to rear the Sow, to my surprise the project had supported me sand and cement to construct a permanent pig sty with concrete materials followed by supporting me 50% of the piglet share which indeed was a great help.

I attained various training on sow management and equipped certain technology, with that little knowledge I started piggery though the livestock unit was small, the income generated from the sale of piglet from 2016 to 2020 was around 2 lakhs and proceed income from the sale of fatteners was Rs. 68,000/- (Sixty-eight thousand). Presently I am rearing 2 fatteners and 1 sow. During 2017, I was able to manage to purchase a pair of bullocks for a sum of Rs. 40000/- (Forty thousand) and in the following year I was able to buy another pair of bullocks with a sum of Rs. 49000/- (Forty-nine thousand) from the sale of my fatterer and piglets”.

Namang and Thondi are now sending their bullocks for hire to the paddy farmers in their village to plough their paddy fields which earns them about Rs. 800 per hire per day. Thondi says “My husband and I were able to construct a small home for our family from the income generated through this project. Today I am happy that my family has gone up one step ahead through the constant support and knowledge inputs from NEIDA and ECS. Our sincere thanks to TATA Trust-NEIDA and ECS for helping us find an upgrade in the quality of life for my family”.



TRIBAL DEVELOPMENT FUND (TDF)

KIWI PROJECT

SUPPORTED BY NABARD



WADI (SMALL ORCHARD)

This concept was introduced during 1980s in Vansda District in Gujarat by BAIF Development Research Foundation, Pune as Comprehensive Tribal Development Programme. “WADI” programme is basically agriculture-based farming system in the rain fed tribal areas envisaged empowering women through community participation, initiatives for micro-financing as well as processing and marketing of products.

The project is focused on development of small fruit orchard (WADI) and restoration of denuded land through ecological intervention and soil conservation measures. It was observed that this pilot programme is an effective tool for addressing the livelihood problems of the tribal families.

NABARD became the nodal agency for the programme and has created a dedicated fund for the project namely, “Tribal Development Fund” (TDF).

The project is envisaged to empower the farmers through community participation, marketing of products through Collective Marketing under Farmer’s Clubs and focusing on development of small fruit orchards and restoration of cultivated land through various agricultural intervention and soil & water conservation measures. The project is implemented with close collaboration with the line departments and technical institutions such as KVK Tuensang for availing technical support, inputs and marketing of produce.

Kiwi (*Actinidia deliciosa*) is a temperate fruit crop with high nutritive and medicinal value. It is a rich source of vitamin B & C and has minerals like phosphorus, potassium & calcium. Having been very newly introduced in the state of Nagaland, its cultivation is only isolated to few micro locations. The Horticulture Department, Government of Nagaland has identified Tuensang District which has temperate climate as one potential area for commercial production of kiwi fruits in the state.

ECS obtained the TDF project sponsored by NABARD to engage 200 farmers from Konya and Chendang villages of Noklak Block for kiwi farming. Apart from kiwi, large cardamom which is a shade loving crops is grown as an intercrop to generate additional income for the farmers by utilizing the inter row spaces, along with green peas, soyabean, and potato as an additional effort from the farmers. KVK Tuensang, apart from providing technical services, has contributed a quintal of field pea seeds which were distributed to 100 farmers.

The farmers have also taken the initiative to construct fishponds, in Chendang (10 families) and Konya (20 families) which is integrated in the



Wadis. Soil conservation and water conservation technology has been applied in the farms through ECS intervention. An irrigation canal which was constructed by water resource development of Nagaland was revived with some innovations which is now benefitting the farmers.

At the initial set up stage, the project first suffered a 30% mortality due to unhealthy saplings. This was then replaced by another 10000 saplings from Pfutsero which has shown cent percent survival. Trainings on pest management, nutrient management, and disease management was conducted by the

project. Training on income generation activities were also conducted where farmers were encouraged to include both kharif and rabi cropping in their farming cycles. The kiwi vineyard management techniques such as trimming and pruning at timely intervals were taught to the farmers. The District Horticulture Officer along with model farmers from Pfutsero visited the project and conducted technical, hands-on trainings with practical demonstration on site which was very beneficial for the farmers.

LIVELIHOOD ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (LEDP), NABARD

As skill upgradation trainings alone have limited impact on livelihood creation among the SHG members, it was thought prudent to create sustainable livelihoods among SHG members and to attain optimum benefit out of skill upgradation and a new scheme titled Livelihood and Enterprise Development Programme (LEDP) was launched in December 2015. It envisages conduct of livelihood promotion programmes in clusters. There is provision for intensive training for skill building, refresher training, backward-forward linkages and handholding & escort supports. It also encompasses the complete value chain and offers end-to-end solution to the SHG members. [Source: NABARD]

ECS conducted 5 skill upgradation training in batches of 30 members per training. These 150 beneficiaries were then connected to banks to avail loans after the training. This year we conducted a 7-day training on floriculture for the SHGs which has been a huge success among the SHG groups.

Added to these 120 other beneficiaries were then provided with 4 trainings on piggery. Post the training, the project converged with NEIDA's livelihood project implemented by ECS and the women were linked to the producers' company Nagamaiki Smallholder Pig Producer Company Limited and provided credit through the company with 30% subsidy. A value addition LEDP is underway for the next financial year.



ZERO ENERGY STORAGE



A Zero Energy Storage was initiated at 'Yungpang (ZES)' in Tuensang as a pilot to serve as an alternative storage facility for power deficit rural areas.

The key objectives were to:

- Train unemployed youths in construction of the ZES for sustainability of the program.
- Build capacity of the Marketing Committee and Producers Committee leaders on the storage and allocate responsibilities for operation of the units.
- Strengthen existing village level marketing institutions.
- Involve women members in the Committee and decision process of the marketing goods.
- Developing a regular monitoring system for operation and management of the ZES.
- Documentation and sharing of information for better analysis.

The Department of Science and

Technology, Shillong were consulted to facilitate and transfer knowledge and skill to the community. The DPR for construction of the ZES was also developed in consultation with them.

ECS as the implementing agency selected the site and land preparation, site leveling and collection of locally available materials for construction of the ZES was carried out. The project targets Sangsangyu, Noksen and Noklak blocks of Tuensang District. The program was implemented in participation of the Changsang Farmers Producers Organization. Before the implementation of the nation-wide lockdown in 2020, materials such as bricks and sand were already transported to the proposed project site. ECS raised 3 lakhs for the purchase of site and other expenditures of leveling and building of the retaining walls. NEIDA funded the purchase and transportation of materials to the project site and the construction was carried out only after the lockdown.

SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS THROUGH WADI IN WANCHING, MON

ECS obtained the TDF project sponsored by NABARD in Wanching, in the month of June 2020 and is in its first year of implementation. Under the project a one-acre orchard is being developed for 200 farmers in Wanching village. The farmers under the project are being trained in permaculture methodology of farming and will plant a diverse orchard of Litchi and Orange with an intercrop of Banana and Papaya. In addition to these crop trees a diverse nurse-crop plantation involving glyricidia, sesbania, tree bean, moringa and pigeon pea, tithonia, aromatic grasses and mulberry will be undertaken to ensure enduring fertility of the farm while managing pests and providing protection from the elements.

During the covid-19 lockdown period, the project stalled in the initial months





however the progress has picked up considerable speed. The farmers were given an exposure visit to Longpang, Tuensang before they began the groundwork in order to show them practically the work done and the results of the previous TDF projects undertaken by ECS. The exposure gave the farmers a lot of inspiration as to taking the work forward in their own village.

Subsequently multiple field trainings have been conducted on Organic Agriculture under permaculture and Input Management. The women in the village have been given training on value added products with locally available materials like jams and dried fruits. The farmers are also increasingly coming forward to learn various other agriculture activities like apiculture, mushroom cultivation, livestock rearing (goat and pigs), pisciculture, small ruminant farming (rabbits and guinea pigs) and dairy farming.

In addition, as a consequence of the project and the water harvesting trainings provided to the farmers, they are coming to terms with the reason for the receding water outputs in their springs being rampant deforestation. Talks are underway among the villagers to help convert the catchment and recharge area of the springs into protected reserve forests where the owners of the land will be the custodians of these reserves and will shift from jhum cultivation to a forest produced based livelihood built around apiculture and mushroom cultivation.

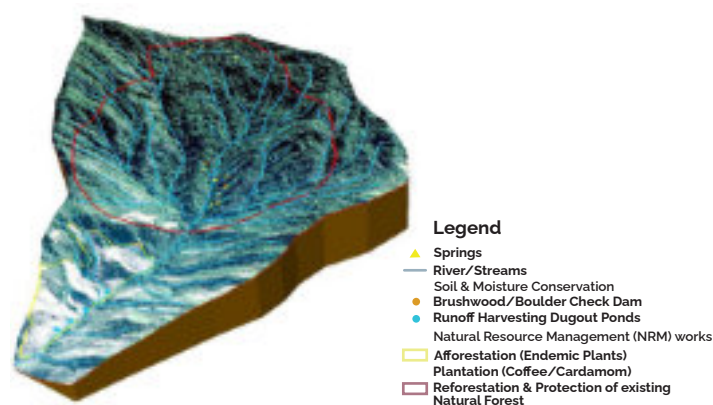
SOCHET SPRINGSHED PROJECT

SUPPORTED BY NABARD

Most springs in the Indian Himalayan Region (IHR) are under severe threat from extensive cutting down of trees for timber, agriculture, anthropogenic fire, climate change & erratic rain patterns and over exploitation of the existing natural forest triggering landslides in and around the vicinity, which in turn leads to springs discharge depletion. To manage the existing springs that feeds the feeds to the main pipeline connection of Tuensang Village & Tuensang Town, a Springshed programme supported by NABARD with ECS as the Project Facilitating Agency (PFA) was initiated. Both Tuensang Town and Tuensang Village are facing a major problem in water scarcity as it is located along the ridge line. Under this Sochet Springshed Project, 06 (six) springs have been identified for rejuvenation.

The project has been initiated with the primary objective of providing spring-based drinking water security to households in the villages and Tuensang town. Key activities that the project has planned to conduct are to control and stabilize extensive jhumming and deforestation in the watershed area; conserve flora and fauna and to promote sustainable development of their land through community participation; promote sustainable livelihood activities of women from the lower economic strata and landless households in the

3D GOOGLE IMAGE OF SOCHET SPRINGSHED PROJECT AREA, TUENSANG VILLAGE



community; increase the infiltration rate as well as recharging the springs in the plantation area to increase the productivity; sustain the spring discharge for long term and thus rejuvenating and increasing the stream discharge and build capacities of the community on spring hydrogeology, enabling them to protect and manage the springshed areas.

The project has been implemented both at the watershed area and at the springshed area with the objective to revive the springs to ensure water security for both domestic and agriculture purpose.

A large chunk of the community-based activities was however, halted due to the lockdown and would be continued in the next financial year.

WATERSHED DEVELOPMENT

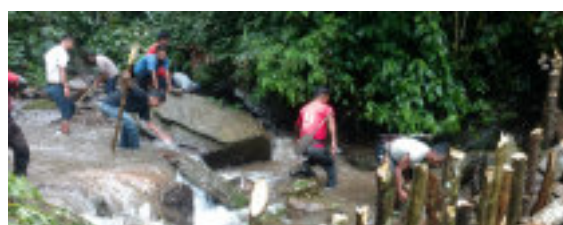
To increase percolation of runoff water and recharge of groundwater, engineering measures, such as 04 (four) dugout pond activities were done to increase the moisture content in the soil.

To increase vegetation coverage, and fallow/degraded land interventions, activities such as tree plantation by the community and even cultivation of cardamom etc. in order to create farm-based income generating activities for farmers and wage earners in the project area, is underway in the watershed area.

The project's other goal is to enhance the capacities of all the members of the Springshed based Watershed Committee, SHGs in managerial and community organizational ability for successful discharge of their responsibility after the exit of the project. To achieve this, the project conducts all the treatment activities and developmental works to be completed with active people's participation and contribution of the community. A Project Management Committee (PRM) has been formed with representation from all village institutions. The community was trained on Watershed Development and the technical aspects of Water and Sanitation. The project further plans to conduct area clearing and plantation activities in the near future.

SPRINGSHED DEVELOPMENT

The Construction of brush wood check dam for filtration process has been done to prevent collecting point from landslide.



PROMOTION OF FARMERS PRODUCER ORGANISATION (FPO)

Farmers Producer Organizations (FPO) were formed so as to promote farmers to help form a platform to sell their produce more effectively and to introduce to them a forward and backward marketing linkage and to improve their livelihood. Member mobilization sessions are being carried out every month so as to provide equal opportunity to the farmers to join the FPO.

Three FPOs have been registered under the Section 11 (2) of the Nagaland Cooperative Societies Act 2017 on dated 27/08/2019.

Since its inception, the farmers have easy access to market their produce every season without much difficulty, the income of the farmers have improved to a great extent. The farmers now have access to bargaining rights as the work of the FPO revolves around collective marketing. The FPOs have marketed more than 100 Metric Tons of ginger this year to Kisan Network.

During the Covid-19 lockdown period, people were facing many problems in and around the district and everything became scarce starting from our basic supplies such as rice and vegetables, as movement and entry of vehicle were restricted. With the initiative of the FPOs





along with the support of the ECS and the District Administration, the farmers were mobilized to sell their farm produce by procuring it to the town and central marketing sheds and making it available to the general public.

For months the local produce was able to sustain and meet the local demands through the local farm produce rather than depending on imports from other states. The FPOs not only sold the farm produce but also provided charitable services by contributing vegetables to the various quarantine centers during the lockdown.

Mr. D. Pungom is a Pastor in Pangsha village under Noklak District. Pangsha is situated in Indo- Burma border where communication is a major problem faced by the villagers. Pastor Pungom says “apart from cultivating crops for self-consumption, for many years the farmers have been cultivating cash crops such as cardamom, to generate income to meet their daily financial needs such as medical care, children’s educational needs etc.

Due to marketing difficulties, despite many attempts, farmers were unable to successfully export the products into the market. I came to know about the activity of the FPOs organized by ECS, which was already functioning in other villages and approached the FPO for help to sell their product. Through their help, the farmers from Pangsha village were able to sell all the produce that was harvested during that year. Now most of the farmers have got themselves registered and have become permanent members of the Ajei-Ai-Watthat,” the pastor proudly declared.

ECS HAS PROMOTED 5 FPOS

Chenya FPO Agri & Allied Cooperative Society (Sangsangyu block) covering two villages Chendang & Konya

Sangmai FPO Agri & Allied Cooperative Society (Noksen block) covering five villages Noksen, Litem, Longra, Yangpi and Sangdak

Ajei Ai Waathatt FPO (Noklak district) covering Noklak, Kusong, Nokyan ‘A’ & ‘B’

Thangjam Edou FPO Agri & Allied Cooperative Society covering six villages Hakchang, Sangsangyu, Maksha, Momching, Sangchen & Saoshou

Changsang Farmers Agri & Allied Cooperative Society in Tuensang town

MITIGATING FOOD AND NUTRITIONAL INSECURITY AND USHERING ECONOMIC RETURN FOR THE FARMERS THROUGH 100 DAYS CONVERGENCE PROJECT



When the year 2020's pandemic hit the district along with the rest of the world, ECS teamed up with the Tuensang District Administration and Agri & Allied Department to converge and adopt 500 farmers for promotion of rabi crops in eight villages to sustain the market needs of the district. 10 partner departments namely, Agriculture, Horticulture, Sericulture, Land Resources, Soil and Water Conservation, Water Resource Department, Fishery, Veterinary, ATMA and KVK converged for this initiative.

Besides the Agri and Allied departments, the convergence initiative was also supported by DRDA Tuensang, District Task Force of Covid 19, District Administration, Security Department, Cooperation Department, and LBM. Along with these partners, the churches also converged with the team by providing financial support and in monitoring the activities carried out.

SOLUTION OUTLINE

- Food and Nutritional Security not only for rural farmers who are the producers but also urban population who are dependent on the surplus produce supplied by producers
- Generate Additional Income for the rural farmers
- Create employment avenues for the rural daily wage earners

SOLUTION IMPLEMENTATION

After deliberately having a round of meetings with all the stakeholders, the project was launched in July 2020 for a period of 6 months. Community mobilization is the first phase where decisions for clearing up the fields and setting up the timeline for different crops were established. Then technology dissemination of all the monitoring team and the beneficiaries was conducted by the end of July 2020.

During the implementation period, a community nursery was established for all the Cole crops except for carrot which was to be seeded directly in raised beds. Subsequently distribution of seedlings and transplantation of seedlings followed with on-field demonstration and constant monitoring of fields.

During this process, the beneficiaries were trained on application of bio-nutrients like Trichoderma and NPK and for pest control Neem oil was distributed. The beneficiaries then were trained on post-harvest management like sorting and grading which became efficient during the sale of the harvest produce in the market.

The beneficiaries were given intense training on PoP of Cabbage, Cauliflower, Carrot, Green Pea, Broccoli, Tomato and Onion. Irrigation is one component where the project invested heavily measuring 30 Sq. Feet per beneficiary. Technology of poly tunnel and green house were disseminated.

PROJECT ACHIEVEMENTS

The project had covered 502 marginal farmers

8 villages participated in the initiative

10 Agri and allied departments took led in the implementation of the program

The farmers income had doubled with the increase of production in most of the participating villages (amounting to more than 75 Lakhs in total sales)

Farmers who have never grown Rabi vegetables had learnt to grow and produce winter crops

Apart from the direct beneficiaries, many other farmers had participated in the initiative with their own expenses.



Post-harvest management is one area where the beneficiaries were thoroughly imparted the technology which was realised by the farmers once the produce was harvested for marketing.

After applying the various technologies and witnessing the performance of the crops during winter season, most of the beneficiaries are interested and even willing to invest by themselves in the future.

The project being first of its kind did face some challenges in monitoring and evaluation of the performance. Slow acceptance of improved cultivation practice was one major challenge in the entire intervening village. Nevertheless, the project was a huge success and helped the farmers earn an income, whilst meeting the demands if the local community without depending on external sources.



THE NAGA MAIKI STORY



Distribution of feeds and piglets at Tuensang Village

The Nagamaiki Smallholder Pig Producer Company Limited was formed with the intention to bridge the gap assessing the current situation of demand for pork meat, and the lack to fulfil these demands. It was formed under the Company's Act of 2013 and was registered on 27th April 2017. The sole owners of the company are the farmers and they would govern the company by themselves.

When compared to other livestock species, pig rearing has higher potential to contribute to more economic gain for small and marginal farmers at a shorter span of time. Further the inclusive involvement of women in the piggery enterprise is the major vision behind the aim of establishment of the Farmers Producer Company.

The basic purpose of the Producer's Company was to collectivize small farmers/producers for backward and forward linkages. Promote sustainable production methods through improved value chains, value addition and to improve overall efficiency of pig production and piggery management. Income generation through systematic and collective marketing activities of agriculture, horticulture, spices and livestock products were done through the establishment of the Company, so as to maximize profit of the Pig farmers.

The project provides market linkages, introduces new avenues in the marketing field and promotes the implementation of proper methods. It also helps in exploring sustainable and profitable marketing opportunities and awaking the share members about the importance of implementing these opportunities.

Nagamaiki currently has 562 shareholders from 19 villages. 200 members from five villages have availed loan in the First Phase and 8.8 Metric Ton of Compound feeds have been distributed to the beneficiaries.

Setting up mini- breeding units in the districts for supply of quality breed piglets to its members and the production and



Feed mill machine

supply of quality feed are key factors in the business of pig breeding. The growth of pigs largely depends on their feeding regime. The concentrated compound feed is one of the most critical components in the piggery enterprise. Nagamaiki has started constructing decentralized feed mills which will produce and supply concentrated compound feed to its members in the near future.

The Decentralized Feed Mill will first be established in Chingmelen village with the following objectives:

- To develop a nutritionally balanced quality feed ration in order to reduce the nutritional gap and increase the productivity of the animals
- Door step delivery of concentrate pig feed at affordable price
- Enhance the income of farmers by providing better access to quality feeds thereby encouraging them to increase their animal stock and take up piggery as a lucrative business enterprise
- To reduce the time span of farmers in collecting wild forages from the forest and cooking traditional feed.

MICROFINANCE AND SELF-HELP GROUPS

INNOVATIVE ACTIVITIES DURING THE YEAR

To involve the SHGs actively with the CCL Loan, the project linked the groups in several businesses such as retailing of

- Pig Feeds
- Re-usable sanitary Pads
- Organic Honey Bee

1. Training of SHG on book keeping
2. SHG Loan Disbursement
3. SHG conference



1.



2.



3.

ECS initiated the Microfinance Project mainly to discourage the high interest private lenders which was making people poorer and deeper in debt; and also, to empower women in terms of their livelihood and economic status in the society. Today we see many private lenders reducing the loan interest from 10% to 5%, after the SHG movement has swept across the villages which provides them with better savings and loan benefits, and which is a huge positive impact for the society. SHGs is been recognised as one of the important institutions in the village level, and through this many women have now gained the confidence to participate in various developmental as well as social projects.

With the support given by the Nagaland State Co-operative Bank Pvt. Limited, under the Cash Credit Limit (CCL) Loan, 15 Entrepreneurs were taken up by the project to support their ventures by enabling loans. 30 JLGs comprising of 148 members and 328 SHGs comprising of 2651 members were given loans individually. The CCL Loan term is in the process of obtaining an extension with an enhancement of the loan from 3.5 Cr to 7 Cr for the next term.

Besides the CCL Loan the SHG Federation (Edou) have also increased the loan circulation to 3.61 Cr which is the actual corpus built by the SHGs from 2003 to 2021 comprising of 19 Edou Federations across the districts.

The SHGs facilitated by ECS will be celebrating its 25th Year Jubilee in 2022. With renewed zeal, the project targets to provide the members with refresher trainings across the project area in the jubilee year along with several innovations within the project.

Due to the Covid-19 lockdown in 2020, the year has been a challenging one for the SHGs as was the same for many institutions. Regular activities of the groups were affected at large. They were not able to continue group business or even go to the field as group meetings were not allowed. The regular flow of the group and repayment of loans was greatly impacted by the pandemic.

During this difficult time however, many women were struggling as their income generating channels were all impacted and therefore came forward to join the SHGs. Through the SHGs, women were getting loans at a lower interest rate. In just three months, 30 new groups were formed under the ECS Microfinance project.

EASY OWN

Easy own is another innovative initiative that enables the community to avail small scale loans to purchase essential home appliances such as refrigerators, washing machine, television sets and even smaller appliances such as pressure cookers and solar lights. The project was started in the year 2018 and has helped several households in and around Tuensang town to purchase household appliances which they needed.

The main purpose of this project was to help the SHG members to buy and own desired products at affordable instalment payment mode. Since the commencement of Easy Own project, women from all over the town have participated and we have sold around 1057 different products worth over 1.4 Cr.

Mrs. Nyimang is a resident of Tuensang Town. She says she feels blessed to be able to own so many essential appliances which she could only wish to purchase in the past but couldn't due to financial problems. Through Easy Own she has purchased several appliances such as washing machine and a mixer grinder on instalment basis, which has eased her chores at home of manually washing clothes and grinding spices etc. while cooking. She has also requested the project to add computers to the list so that she could buy it for her children to help them study. The project plans to add hers and several other people's request of new essential appliances in the next financial year list.



E-SHAKTI



EShakti is a project that was launched by the National Bank of Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD). The project mainly focuses on the digitization of all the members of Self-Help Group (SHG) in India. The project aims to bring all SHG members under the fold of financial inclusion thereby helping them access wider range of financial services and capture the demographic and financial profiles of members, including their identification data like Aadhaar and Electors Photo Identity Card. Features of the e-Shakti

- Regular updates on transaction data
- Online bookkeeping or e-book keeping for SHGs
- Inbuilt Automatic Grading of the groups according to the NABARD norms
- Every member of Self-Help Groups has the advantage of accessing all social and financial information using e-Shakti software

For Tuensang and Kiphire district ECS took the initiative as the implementing agency by covering a total of 320 SHGs from two districts i.e., 260 from Tuensang and 60 from Kiphire. The Eshakti mobile application records all the SHG activities like meeting dates, meeting minutes, savings, loan transaction etc. which eases the SHGs in maintenance of their books of account as well as generate monthly statement which record monthly transaction of the group. The most dynamic feature of the Eshakti is that it generates the loan application of the group for bankers by the apps itself.

MID-DAY MEAL PROJECT



Food and education are two of the most basic areas of concern amidst the poor population of our country. Mid-Day meal is a big thing for the parents whose children are enrolled in government schools and they are happy that at least one meal in a day is served in the school. For the past three years, ECS is implementing the National Program on Nutritional Support – Mid Day Meal Scheme across the Tuensang district with the help of the Churches Association, teachers and the community.

The idea behind implementing this scheme in partnership with the community is to make the community and the parents aware of the importance of health and education for their children and by providing free food to their children in schools they are encouraged to enrol their students for formal education. We believe the community has become aware of the scheme to a greater extent compared to all the misconception which the people had earlier. With the basic survey and simple analysis held across the district, there are 10% increases in school enrolment in the last three years.

The teachers in some village go from house-to-house convincing parents to get their children enrolled. Most of the children are first generation learners with parents showing little or no interest in providing school supplies or ensuring they study at home, but of late the project has seen at least 10% of parents showing concern for children's education with

regards to their exams, home works and other co-curricular activities. With the current trend of parent's involvement in the school level we assume that in the next five years, at least 50% of the parents will actively participate in children's education.

Yemsenchaba is an 8th grade student at the government middle school in Noksen village. His parents are farmers and are having to support a large family. During his primary schooling Yemsen was studying in a private school in Tuensang town but his parents had to support his other siblings as well and could no longer afford the fees. Although heartbroken to have left his school, Yemsen continues to be a sincere student even in the village school and he enjoys the simple mid-day meal provided in his school. He is also happy as the mid-day meal saves his parents in having to spend for at least one meal at home. He loves sharing the mealtime with his friends in the school and he sometimes carries home leftover food to feed his pets whenever he does not finish his meal.



When the lockdown happened Yemsen could not believe that he was still receiving mid-day meal rations despite his school being closed and was very excited to carry home the food grains, pulses, edible oils etc. His mother told the project that he came home rushing with glee and carrying the rations. As the schools remained closed and online classes were conducted by the teachers, he decided to

attend the ECS initiated Sochum, a traditional dormitory which is functioning in his village. He believes that he took the opportunity of Sochum to clearly learn those topics which is difficult for him to learn through online classes.

The year 2020 saw a smaller number of students enrolled in the school compared to the last two years since the school was shut down during the beginning of the year due to the ongoing pandemic. Despite the lockdown however, the mid-day meal program did not get affected as the state department continued to provide the funds and it not only benefitted the students but also helped the families struggling due to the scarcity of food grains and other essential commodities.

During each quarter the students were provided with food grains ranging from 10 to 15 kilos of rice and other essentials such as pulses, potato, cooking oils, soap, eggs, nuts etc for all the children enrolled in the school. The Teachers took this as an opportunity to deliver notes as well to the students whose parents did not have access to smart phones or internet connectivity. The teachers tried their best to ensure that all the children learn and successfully complete their academic year despite the pandemic.

The church, teachers and the committee took great responsibility to disburse the grains and commodities to each and every student enrolled in the school. The committee ensured that strict covid guidelines were maintained



during every disbursement by wearing mask, maintaining social distance and proper hand washing while entering the school premises. Though the pandemic had affected the normal day meal at school, it didn't fail to give hope and uplift the spirit of students.

The kitchen cum storage currently available at schools was constructed many years back and now its needs major renovation in almost all the schools. The school authority faces problems storing grains due to cracks in walls and leaking rooftops during rainy. With the help of the community the kitchen store in many schools were partially renovated with the locally available materials. However, these don't last long and the project is looking for a more long-term solution and funding to repair the stores.

The road connectivity in one of the major issues faced by the project during the transportation of food grains. Especially during the peak summer season some villages are completely cut of the road connectivity due to non-construction of connecting bridges. We are therefore having to use routes which are much longer than usual to reach the destination, which results in higher cost of transportation.



1. Students waiting for distribution
2. Parents and Students Carrying Students Ration at GPS Keshai.
3. A Young girl at GPS LKhel, Tuensang Village carrying home her ration during Covid

SOCHUM

Sochum has been a continuous program for ECS for many years now. Now we run it with support from *Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan* in collaboration with *Chang Baptist Lashoung Thangnyen*. Currently there are 13 Sochum in 13 Villages covering approximately 550 students.

During the lockdown, the Sochums had to close as per state Covid norms, however, tuition classes were run in shifts during the day for different classes, maintaining social distancing, wearing of masks etc. When all schools shifted their learning to online mode, many students struggled in the villages as their parents did not own smart phones. After a thorough discussion and with support from the village councils and the churches, we decided to open the Sochum doors for students who had no smart phones in the house, so they could attend online classes and examination. Tuition classes in two shifts (morning and evening) were also organised so that students could study their lessons and write down the notes sent by their teachers through WhatsApp.

Sochum premises were also accessed with strict norms by some student returnees from town to village during the lockdown to write their online exams.

The real heroes were the Sochum wardens who got in touch with the school teachers for each class ensuring that their student gets all the notes in time, and assisted the students to attend online classes, and tutored them to prepare for online exams using their own personal phones.



THE ECS PLAY SCHOOL INITIATIVE



The play school builds confidence in not only the children but the mothers as well. Initially, most mothers were timid, shy and would cover their faces with their shawls. But this gradually changed as they began opening up and got involved in the activities. Activities are centred on all-round development of the child and is delivered in a play way method.

For instance, they are made to play with playdough, string buttons and blocks and activities like rolling and jumping, hopping & rhymes for motor skill development. For colour and shape recognition, blocks and toys are assembled and arranged. For social development, different people are invited to interact with the children. Language is introduced through four patterns; Slanting, Standing, Sleeping and Curve and arithmetic through hands-on materials like number rods, sandpaper numbers, number boards, spindle box, number tiles, beads, and games. 340 schools have been provided with playing tools and equipment.

The most important outcome during this year is the state government stepping in to support the play schools through the

Department of School Education. It has been decided that the play school will be scaled up in 110 villages of Tuensang, Mon, Kiphire and Longleng districts and to this effect, a MoU has been signed between ECS and the government of Nagaland.

30 students are enrolled in each of these play school and is facilitated by a play school trainer and a helper. Churches and village council have played a vital role in running this play schools where most of the infrastructure was contributed by Village council and church. Churches also have vacated their office building to be use for the play school.



No of Play Schools	
Konyak Baptist Churches Association	32
Sangtam Baptist Churches Association	20
Khiamnungan Baptist Churches Association	10
Phom Baptist Churches Association	17
Yimchunger Baptist Churches Association	20
Chang Baptist Churches Association	10
ECS	1
Total	110

GIRLS RESIDENTIAL HOSTEL SUPPORTED BY SAMAGRA SHIKSHA ABHIYAN

ECS entered into an MoU with the *Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan*, Nagaland Education Mission Society on the 31st Oct 2019 to run residential girls' hostel in 4 District of Nagaland, namely Tuensang, Mon, Longleng and Kiphire. ECS further have an agreement with the local Churches Associations for the implementation of the same in a few selected villages. These local partner associations include Konyak Baptist Churches Association, Phom Baptist Churches Association and Sangtam Baptist Churches Association. This arrangement was done for better implementation of the

program with regards to hands-on management, and to enhance accountability and ownership at the community level. Additionally, the Tribal Associations also assists in the management and quality control of the hostels.

The project aims to engage with the community to bring about holistic growth of the children and in this, the hostel follows the Sochum* model, as has been done in 18 villages under Samagra. Involvement of parents is another focus area and for which we hope to form them into units that will assist the curriculum on life skill development of the child. 50 girl



students (from class 5 to 10), coming from underprivileged families were enrolled into each of the 4 hostels. Each hostel is manned by 3 parttime teachers, 2 helpers and a warden.

When the students were first enrolled into the hostel, many of them being first generation learners with inadequate home environments in terms of academics and encouragement to study has several issues at the initial stages of being enrolled into the hostel. Majority of the girls had reading and writing incapacities. However, through rigorous tutoring and mentoring provided by the subject teachers as well as the hostel staff, the girls now show a remarkable improvement. Many students who could hardly read words and form simple sentences are now able to read full paragraphs confidently without the teacher's assistance. The girls' achievements are further incentivized by getting selected as the star "Student of the month" when they show overall progress and growth in their academic and personality development. The girls receive tutoring support from subject specific teachers in Math, Science and English subjects.

Many students come from disadvantaged backgrounds, they bring in a lot of family issues and stress which acts as a barrier to their studies and is at times traumatic as well in terms of personality development. Through counseling and motivation from the mentors and wardens at the hostel the girls are helped in a way that they are able to express themselves freely and form healthy friendships, relationships and good rapport among themselves as well as with the teachers.

Health and hygiene education is one of the first training the girls receive upon joining the hostels. Other issues such as menstrual health and hygiene and the importance of keeping self and the environment around them clean is given utmost importance. The girls now actively participate in keeping their hostel rooms and surrounding areas clean. As part of the daily routine, the first thing the girls now do is to wake up and brush their teeth and have a wash before they proceed to study and have their morning meal.

Following the Sochum model of overall growth and wellbeing, the students are helped not just academically but are also made to get involved in various extra-curricular activities.

One of the basic life skills to independent living is to take care of one's own needs and the ability to cook for oneself, regardless of the person being male or female. The girls learn key skills such as cooking and kitchen gardening, the ability to grow your own food wherever possible. Majority of them hail from agriculture-based families where they are used to working in the agricultural fields, the kitchen garden classes therefore are an addition to help them understand the importance of growing healthy food right in their backyards. The hostel/ students engage with *Krishi Vigyan Kendra* (KVK) for their kitchen garden supports regularly. The girls tend to these gardens and have frequently harvested their garden produce which has been incorporated into their daily meals.

Other extra-curricular activities include indoor and outdoor sports, art and craft making skills and even painting and drawing classes. The girls also actively participate in various activities such as singing, drama and other activities. They perform in various functions and celebrate important and significant days of the year such as National holidays, festivals and other important days such as International Women's Day.

PTAs have been formed in all the hostels wherein the association has at least one parent representative as the chairperson of the PTA. The PTA also includes at least one teacher from the village government school and a staff from the hostel. The PTA was successfully established around October of 2020 and plans to have regular meetings to discuss parent's involvement in their child's academic growth as well as address other issues that the child might face in terms of learning (academically or otherwise).





Due to the Covid Phase 1 pandemic, the hostels could not be fully functional and we were compelled to close the hostels and send the students back home. However, after a gap of one month, students were called for tuition classes during day time with all the SOP Maintained in the Wesido hostel Tuensang, in Longleng and Mon Girls Hostel, those students who had no access to smart phones were requested to come back to the hostels since they could not write their online classes/exams at home. 12 students in Longleng and 8 students in Mon remained at the hostel. However due to some space constraints, classes in Kiphire Girls Hostel could not be continued since the Hostel was converted to a District Quarantine Centre. Parent Teacher meetings were organized in 3 of the hostels during the lockdown and some skill-based activities like flower making, kitchen gardening etc. were some of the activities for students staying at the hostel. All COVID-19 SoPs were maintained during these classes.

MOBILE TEACHING UNIT



Eleutherus Christian Society (ECS), supported by the Dept. of School Education, Nagaland initiated a Mobile Teaching Unit project to improve and strengthen the existing education services provided by the Government in rural areas of Kiphire district, and Tuensang district, Nagaland.

The key objective of the MTU project is for students to acquire basic knowledge about mathematical concepts, formulas and apply in daily practical usage; learn about the role of science in their daily lives; and understand and use the English language appropriately while reading, writing, and speaking.

The involvement and ownership exhibited by the community has been very heartening so far. The initiative was received with a lot of enthusiasm in the community and had all sections of the community coming forward to contribute starting from the village councils, the Village Education Committees, church workers and students.

There are 8 trainers for every MTU visit, led by a team leader for each unit. The trainers selected are volunteers of Gabriel Ministry Tuensang. They are all trained and equipped by ECS before going to the villages and are themselves well qualified in their own subject areas.

Sl. No	Name of Village / School Covered under Kiphire district
1	Longtsunger
2	Pungro
3	Penkim
4	Salomi
5	Moya
6	Kiphire
7	Phelungre
8	Amahatore
9	Anatonger



Abasic pre-assessment survey focusing on the areas of English, Mathematics, Science and Behavioural Science is done at the beginning of the weeklong session. The exercise is done on a scale of 1-10 focusing on the following areas:

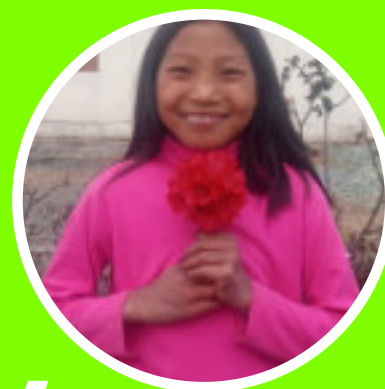
English: Fluency in spoken English, ability to copy legibly and neatly, ability to read words and sentences clearly, ability to write and construct sentences without assistance from the teacher, ability to use appropriate vocabulary, ability to respond questions in complete sequence.

Mathematics: Ability to reason out and solve problem, recognizing and describing shapes, ability to understand concepts and formulas, ability to apply math in practical daily usage.

Science: Application of science in our daily lives, various functions of science in human, plants and animal life.

Behavioural Science: Good listening skills, demonstrating attention to details, ability to get along with others, ability to work in a group, exercising self-discipline, level of confidence and participation.

The churches who have hosted the Mobile Teaching Unit team has been extremely supportive of the project. The response from the children has also been very positive.



My name is **Tsulensola**. I'm studying in class 3 in Penkim village. I want to share my experience during the visit of MTU team. It was very exciting for me to attend my class because the teaching was very different from other days. The teachers of MTU were very friendly, good & taught us using different techniques to make us understand our lesson. I've learnt so much from them. I like them so much that I even cried when they were leaving us. I really want them to come again to teach us.



Hello I am **Apika** from Amahator village. I am studying in class 6 and I would like to share my short experiences about the MTU. Our teachers taught us three subjects Math, Science and English. I really enjoyed the sessions and was able to understand with the method they taught us. Moreover, in the evening I got the privilege to attend life skill sessions and learned many new songs. I had a very good time with the teachers and I miss their teachings. On the last day, I couldn't control my emotions and as I hugged them, I started to cry, I just didn't want to let them go. I really want them to come again and teach us more.

MODEL SCHOOL WANCHING



A Model School alongside a KGBV Girls hostel in Wanching Village of Mon district has been initiated this year. The Model School project is supported by a convergence of many government departments such as the Education Department of Nagaland, MNRE, Power Department, PWD and DUDA, with ECS acting as the implementing agency.

The school and hostel buildings were built about 7 years ago under the *Rastriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhinav* (RMSA) but was not operational until this year. The campus is located away from the main village and is about 45 mins walking distance. It is located away in a scenic setting amongst farmlands of the village. As a result of it being in a remote location, it is devoid of many basic infrastructure facilities. The NRE department came forward and contributed 15 solar street lights and 13kW Solar Power Plant. The Power department helped in with external wiring and a transformer connection to the school. The PWD has agreed to construct the 1.5km bad road that leads to the school from the village.

The hostel accommodates 103 students and the school has a total of about 129 students. The students are from the villages of Wanching, Wakching, Wakching Chingla, Chingpoi, Tobu, and Wanching Yongmüoh. The education of the children is being supplemented by a lot of focus on practical learning.

A Permaculture project of kitchen garden along with raising livestock is part of the plan in the campus in the coming months. This is to add good nutritious food in the diet of the students residing there. It will also serve as an experiential learning ground for the students studying there. It will help them understand their surroundings better in terms of climate, soil, chemistry, physical flows, ecology, economic and mathematical sense in food production, community living and a sense of business by practicing sustainable living. The students engaged in mushroom cultivation as part of their nutritious food growing project which was a major success.



SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

BRET RUSSELL AND GARY CLOUSE have both been ardent supporters of ECS and this year we wish to include a special mention on the projects they have been supporting us with:

1. In Pangsha Village ECS adopted 18 children who are orphaned and vulnerable after they either lost their parents to HIV and are themselves affected by HIV. The Church provides the space, and the volunteers help in cooking their meals as well as providing counseling to these children. In their case the nutritional support is critical since many of these children are on antiretroviral drugs and nutritional meals are required to aid them in their treatment.
2. Most girls in rural Nagaland miss school during the natural menstrual cycle and they often miss-out on critical learning sessions in schools. Girls often miss their classes and resort to using cloth or paper during their menstruation. To help such girls, the ECS Education team provided reusable pads to 800 children in 3 districts of Eastern Nagaland. These (Re: pads) are made of export quality absorbent materials that can be washed and re-used for 18 months. The girls can now regularly attend schools through the help of these pads and the sensitization trainings on menstrual health provided to them through our health volunteers.
3. In Wanching Model School of Mon district, which is also a girl's residential hostel, ECS has employed two wardens who cater to 106 girls. Many of these girls come from very poor homes and without educational facilities such as these, students would migrate to towns to work as home-helpers. Instead, due to our generous funder's support, the hostel can now have two wardens who help run the hostel efficiently.
4. There are 17 mother's clubs comprising of 340 mothers in Pessao village. This is a village bordering Burma. Here we plan to form them into nutritional support group so that they learn to grow nutritious crops in their own backyards. The support from Bret and Gary will go towards a seed fund of Rs 5000/- each for all the 17 mothers' clubs. They would be provided with seeds and drip sets to set up their kitchen garden.
5. In Noksen town we adopted 60 families on piggery and they have been supported with one piglet each and provided pig feed for 3 months. Many of them are from very poor homes and this will serve as an insurance in case of any eventuality in the home. Most Naga homes keep livestock as a means to support children's education and use in emergencies. Farmers do not produce in mass but do small scale for sustenance only, and a majority of them engage in piggery as a regular activity of the family.
6. ECS is currently building a bridge over Yijung river which would connect 4 Chang villages and 3 Phom villages to the Primary Health Centre Longpang. The effort to connect these villages have taken ECS and the community almost 2 years. However, through a massive convergence effort of state departments such as the PWD, MGNREGA, Border Roads, DEF, Army and donors such as the Hans Foundation, the local MLs and Individuals such as Bret and Gary have made this a huge success. The convergence effort will build a 10 km link road and a 70 feet bridge.

FOR A FREE, FAIR & JUST WORLD



A community funded bridge initiated by ECS in collaboration with HANs Foundation, Dept of R & B and Dept of RD and various well-wishers