



Annual Report

April 2022- March 2023



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Director's Message

Working in the social development sector is a tedious but an equally rewarding experience. Most often things don't proceed as planned, there are frequent bottlenecks which often disrupt the momentum of the progress and seem to dishearten even the most passion the soul. However, it is to my belief that setbacks are an integral part of any journey and that in the end persistency always wins.



With no proper legal foundation, the empowerment of domestic workers has been one of the most challenging endeavors of the contemporary times. It has a vast scope and the essential stakeholders are scattered with no apparent prior linkages such that bringing them to attention to the issues of domestic workers, mobilizing, coordinating and gathering their support become a huge task. Furthermore, with the continuous isolation of the tea garden tribes and poverty, crimes relating to human trafficking are perpetuating as financial security is a priority that supersedes the need for physical, psychological and emotional refuge. Additionally, India is poised to become the most populous country in the near future, and with this problems of poverty, drop-out rates, illiteracy, lack of health care facilities will be felt more than ever. Subsequently, the refugees in areas bordering India and Myanmar are still reeling from inadequate amenities and lack of full support.

Despite the existing mammoth problematic situation that seem to choke up any intervention programme, I am extremely grateful that we are able to bring changes, however miniscule, the most important thing to remember is that one is doing something instead of nothing, and small steps lead to big milestones. As such, we profoundly appreciate the assistances and efforts of one and all, especially our funders, individual stakeholders, volunteers, law enforcement agencies, government departments, esteem institutions and of course our field and administrative staff working around the clock keeping the intervention clock ticking.

This year, like every year we undertook many activities to further empower the domestic workers, marginalized women and young girls, built an efficient anti-trafficking monitoring system in villages, track and rescue probable trafficking victims, provision free and quality educational instruction to the poor and drop out children, deliver various important facilities to the refugees and capacitate possible migrants and vulnerable young girls to ensure safety, dignity and economic independence.

It is to be stated that the scope for intervention is indeed huge, there are so many things to be done and achieved, so many challenges to overcome. However, I am quite happy of the progress we made this year; the learnings, achievements, supports that were gathered, lives that were changed and issues that were resolved. As I am writing I cannot help thinking about the things that we will be doing in the upcoming project year. I am quite excited and vastly motivated.

Sr. Rose Paite
Director, CDI

Promotion of Women's Rights and Empowerment

Social Welfare Schemes and Entitlements

Understanding the significance of social welfare schemes and other entitlements in the lives of the poor and marginalized women, CDI assisted in obtaining Pan Card, Labour Card, E-Sharm Card, Health Card, Ration/BPL Card, Orunodoi Scheme, Street Vendor's loan, Ujjwala Scheme, Sukanya Samridhi Scheme, Scholarship Schemes, Bank Account, Voter ID, MGNREGA, disability certificate, old age pension, widow pension and many more for 8586 beneficiaries.

Distribution of Clothes

CDI staff in Tezpur City collected the donated clothes and distributed in among 39 Domestic Workers' families. The clothes were contributed by Mrs. Mridula Sharma, a philanthropist and professor at Tezpur Law College. Furthermore, through support from an organization called Every Infant Matters, 2000 blankets were provisioned to the needy beneficiaries living in the tea garden belts on January, 2023. The selections were based on income level and number of household members. Additionally, the staff of NEWRaN donated 70 blankets to the widows, single parents and elderlies.



Training Group Leaders on How Unions Work

A leader is an important subset in a group for the attainment of an efficient and effective group functioning. This also entails that the said leader must possess the pre-requisite leadership skills, knowledge and qualities. Therefore, in connection to this, CDI managed to capacitate 1473 domestic workers on leadership skills and other relevant interrelated aspects. As intended, the meetings resulted in the partakers deriving understanding of the significant processes, tools, skills that a leader needs to empower the team members, improve their productivity and increase the success rate of the varied team's initiatives.



Awareness amongst the Religious Group

A one day awareness and animation programme on Domestic Workers was held at CDI’s Transit Centre on 30 July, 2022 in which 45 participants from all the nearby catholic religious congregations took part under an all-encompassing banner called ‘Partners Conference of Religions of India’. The programme touched upon subjects like rights and dignity concerning domestic workers along with the existing active approaches and intervention programmes utilized by CDI. In the event, Sr. Rose Paite, the director of CDI made a clarion call to all the religious institutes to pay appropriate wages to the domestic workers.

Introduction of Minimum Wage

Campaigns to introduce Minimum Wage were launched in the 4 north-eastern states. As such a memorandum for fixation of Minimum Wage and formation of Domestic Workers’ Welfare Board was duly submitted to Mizoram’s Chief Minister on 16 June, 2022. In Meghalaya, a press conference was endeavored whereas in Manipur a public awareness campaign was undertaken while in Nagaland a rigorous discussion on Minimum Wage’s fixation was strived and a petition for the same was duly tabled to the concerned authorities.

Exposure Trip to Young Mizo Association, Mizoram

To build the capacity of the staff working in the field of anti-human trafficking, a 3 day exploratory visitation was made to Young Mizo Association (YMA), a pan India not-for-profit organization run and maintained by Mizo ethnic group with its main operational office located in Mizoram. The visitation proved fruitful as the staff learned about the core values, principles, commitments and structure of the organization along with the adopted effective and efficient ‘Top-to-Bottom’ programme implementation approach. The 3 day event empowered the staff to strive harder for the Adivasi community in Assam, who continues to bear the brunt of poverty and marginalization.



Mass Awareness on Trafficking

Mass awareness on Human Trafficking was endeavored in Chirang and Udalguri districts. The communities were sensitized on human trafficking, its causes and consequences and were requested to follow safe migration procedures to mitigate trafficking, also they were directed to be proactive in taking appropriate combative actions against the present social ill all year round. 432 people were reached out through 5 endeavored programmes.



Awareness/Training in different subjects HIV/AIDS etc

Poverty, ignorance and illiteracy make the Adivasi community of Assam's tea garden belts highly susceptible to life threatening diseases such as HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, Alcoholism, Drugs use and many more. To mitigate the prevalence of these illnesses 2 training and sensitization programmes were strived resulting in the beneficiaries adopting some levels and forms of prevention and initiating treatment for the existing diseases.

Workshop with Student Unions

A workshop titled '*Prevention of Human Trafficking, Stop Gender Violence and Child Marriage*' was carried out in Baksa District through an active participation from 106 members of student unions such as AASAA, ABSU and ASSU. The primary objective was to further empower these students in raising their voices and in taking warranted collective action against the present social ills. The workshop touched upon topics such as violence against children, child labour, trafficking, sexual exploitation, neglect, and the undue coercion of children into committing criminal acts like begging, thieving and smuggling.



The 'Domestic Workers' Convention 2022' was organized from 13 to 16 December, 2022. 130 participants from all the 12 project cities participated in the first ever convention organized by

CDI. The theme of the event was “*Know Your Job; Give the best, and Get the best*”. The 4 daylong event included sessions from the resource persons, games, cultural event and the display of handmade products, among others. Dignitaries-cum-Resource Persons like Mrs. Geeta Menon, a seasoned domestic workers’ activist, Dr. Shelly Bata, HOD of Obstetrics & Gynecology at BHMRC, New Delhi, Mrs. Chandika Goswami from Labour Department and Mr. Prasenjit Das, State Lead at KHPT duly graced and enriched the occasion.



Training on Social and Professional Topics

To increase the bargaining power amongst the domestic workers by improving their understanding and job skills, this particular training has been endeavored. The domestic workers are imparted on a variety of important theoretical and practical foundations on subjects relevant to their work. Additionally, this year trainings were strived on the proposed ‘Unorganized Workers’ Social Security Act’. The Act stipulates in the constitution of Welfare Boards for domestic workers which would churn out social welfare benefits like family medical insurance, educational assistances, old age pension and many more. A total of 969 beneficiaries were reached out through 48 programmes.



Domestic Workers’ Week 2022

Domestic Workers’ Week, 2022 was celebrated from 6 to 16 June, 2022. It was a grand participatory affair where no stone was left unturned in voicing for the rights of the domestic workers and against the persistent discrimination faced by them. Some of the noteworthy activities undertaken were State Level Conference, Anti Child Labour Day, Signature Campaign, Flyers Distribution, Visit to Union and Training on Social and Professional Topics. A tremendous realization was captured in this year’s celebration, through the inclusion of significant stakeholders i.e., from relevant government departments, universities to NGOs and religious congregations, the staff and of course the beneficiaries who are influential stakeholders in the implementation and amendment of policies and practices relevant to domestic workers and their families. It was a stimulating and insightful event as new scopes for intervention were learned and acknowledged.

These areas are health, livelihood, skills development, start-ups to improve the quality of life of the domestic workers. Furthermore, on International Domestic Workers' Day, Sr. Rose Paite, the director of CDI was bestowed with Women's Achievers Award by KHPT, 3 other staff received similar awards from an NGO known as Bakdil.



International Women's Day

The International Women's Day was celebrated on March 4, 8, 2023 under the theme '*DigitALL: Innovation and Technology for Gender Equality*' in all the project cities. It was celebrated through functions, outdoor sports in which the winners were awarded. It was celebrated in all the project locations. Topics such as women's rights, gender equality, violence and crimes against women were discussed, fear to report crimes, discrimination against women. Activities such as peaceful rally, demonstration, flag hoisting, among others were undertaken. Several dignitaries namely Mrs. Ganga Ingti, Headmaster of Anan Ingti LP School, Mr. David Lakra, AAJS' managing director, Mr. Suresh Bhumij, Assam's Chah Shakti central president among others attended the events spread across the length and breadth of the northeastern states and enriched the occasion. Gender equality was emphasized in all the events along with topics such as women's rights, child marriage, human trafficking, safe migration and other women related issues also found space. The program resulted in boosting the confidence of the audience and they were more optimistic about their future. There were participants in all. After the programme the staff conducted games like musical chair, blind folded and speech completion for the women and winners were given prizes. At the end of the programme light refreshment was served for all. The conducted events boosted the confidence of the women participants and alleviated their stature psychologically.



Time: 08-03-2023 9:55 AM
Note: International Woman's Day Topic: (1)child marriage(2) woman Rights, (3)sexual violence, (4)women's



Workshop with Key Stakeholders

CDI was fortunate enough to be invited to 3 major fruitful events, the outcome of years long advocacy work. The first was a ‘stakeholder’s meet’ organized by Domestic Workers Sector Skill Council (DWSSC) at India Habitat Centre, New Delhi on 29 July, 2022 in which CDI was invited to share its expertise and valuable inputs to further increase employment and entrepreneurship opportunities of the domestic workers. The second was called National Skill Conference 2022 (NSC), organized in Bangalore at Grand Margrath Hotel from 4 to 5 May, 2022. The conference touched upon topics such as interpersonal, intellectual, life, and leadership skills, and at the end the participants were conferred with ‘Master Facilitator-Life Skill Certificate’. The third was concerned with drafting policy for the domestic workers of Assam along with organizations like STEPS, IGSSS, YUVA and ActionAid Association.

Formation and Strengthening of Mothers’ Group

CDI managed to form 10 new Mother’s Group or Mahila Mandals with 175 members and post which regular meetings were undertaken to strengthen the groups. These groups were formed with the primary purpose of heightening the preventive and protective mechanisms of trafficking at the grassroots level. Furthermore, this is being done so that the villagers are self-empowered to tackle the menace of human trafficking on their turf. A revolution of sorts; an act of transference of power from the perpetrators to the possible victims. They have been instrumental in sensitization the villagers on the causes and consequences of human trafficking along with the concepts of gender equality, alternative livelihood, domestic violence etc.



Motivational and Pre-Departure Meeting

For those wanting to migrate, pre-departure meeting is pre-requisite because it sensitizes them about human trafficking and mentally prepares them to avoid the lurking danger. Furthermore, it helps them in taking warranted measures if they found themselves being lost in the course of the journey. Apart from the dissemination of human trafficking, safe and unsafe migration, they are provided with several helpline numbers. Pre-



departure meeting are conducted within CDI, at the source of migration by Vigilant Village Committee and Mahila Mandals.

Mass Awareness on Safe Migration Guidelines, Human Trafficking, Human Rights and Legal Provisions

These activities were endeavored at the grassroots level at Baghjan Tea Estate with the primary intention of Human Trafficking prevention. Activities such as awareness on human trafficking, human rights and legal provisions were undertaken 3 times each. Competent resource persons were recruited for these programmes who enlightened the women attendees and the VVC members.



Formation and strengthening Vigilance Committees

Vigilant Village Committee (VVC) much like the Mahila Mandals is one of the protective and preventive mechanisms at the grassroots level with regard to human trafficking. In connection to this, 10 such new communities were formed at Baghjan Tea Estate, thereby strengthening the villagers in their fight against the trafficking menace. VVCs are responsible for providing awareness with regard to safe and unsafe migration, monitoring and documenting the movement of the migrants, providing pre-departure training, rescue operation and other sensitization programmes and works to mitigate or prevent human trafficking.

Meeting with AASAA and ATSAA

A meeting was organized on 25 February, 2022 with AASAA and ATSAA leaders of Baghjan TE in order to delve into the issues facing the people of the garden and also to create awareness. As such, the members and leaders of AASAA and ATSAA were sensitized on human trafficking and safe migration. The existing issues were also brought to the fore and these were the meagre daily income, unavailability of widow pension, and absence of financial assistance for the differently abled. The conducted programme created a sense of willingness in them to make efforts in preventing human trafficking and promoting safe migration. About 56 members were mobilized.

Numerical Data

Sl. No.	Name of the Activity	Name of the Project	Name of the Sponsor	No. of Participants/ Beneficiaries	No. of Programmes/ Frequency
1.	Social Welfare Schemes and Entitlements	Ray of Hope & FDWA, GFW, Anti-Trafficking	CAN, DBM, GFW, & Arise Foundation	8440	-
2.	Distribution of Clothes	FDWA and Anti-Trafficking	DBM & Missio	2039	1
3.	Training Group Leaders on How Unions Work	FDWA	DBM	1473	96
4.	Awareness amongst the Religious Group	FDWA	DBM	45	1
5.	Introduction of Minimum Wage	FDWA	DBM	-	4
6.	Exposure Trip to Young Mizo Association, Mizoram	Anti-Human Trafficking	Missio	-	1
7.	Mass Awareness on Trafficking	Anti-Human Trafficking	Missio	432	5
8.	Awareness/Training in different subjects HIV/AIDS etc.	Anti-Human Trafficking	Missio	122	2
9.	Workshop with Student Unions	Anti-Human Trafficking	Missio	106	1
10.	The Domestic Worker convention 2022	FDWA	DBM	130	1
11.	Training on Social and Professional Topics	FDWA	DBM	969	48
12.	Domestic Workers' Week 2022	FDWA	DBM	-	1
13.	International Women's Day 2023	GFW & FDWA	DBM & GFW	-	-
13.	Workshop with Key Stakeholders	FDWA	DBM	-	3
14.	Formation and Strengthening of Mother's Groups	Anti-Human Trafficking	Arise Foundation	175	10
15.	Motivational and Pre-Departure Meeting	Anti-Human Trafficking	Arise Foundation	-	-
16.	Mass Awareness on Safe Migration Guidelines, Human Trafficking, Human Rights and Legal Provisions	Anti-Human Trafficking	Arise Foundation	-	3
17.	Meeting with AASAA and ATSA	Anti-Human Trafficking	Arise Foundation	56	1
18.					
Total					

CASE STUDIES

A Guiding Star in the Darkness

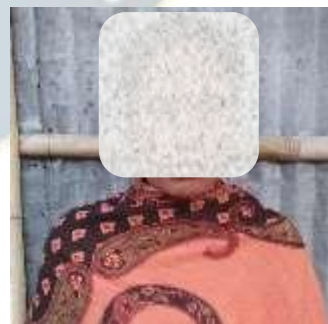
A domestic worker christened Mrs. Malati Jadav and her husband from Jyotikuchi had always been worried about the imminent marriage of their only 25 year old daughter and the fact that they haven't been able to save any money as they live from hand-to-month. Her 45 year old husband named Mr. Deepak Jadav is a construction worker who like herself takes home a meagre income. She had voiced her concerns at every presented opportunity. As fate would have it, a good marriage proposal came in the month of March, 2022 to which they couldn't say no. They squirmed to arrange the needed money. Since, they had no savings they had to resort to credit. Therefore, a marriage loan of ₹ 25000 was procured by them from a creditor.

The marriage took place in the same month without any untoward incident and the couple was duly registered in the court on 25 March, 2022. However, once the ceremony ended the couple started worrying about how they would possibly pay back the loan. One day, the concerned staff advised the domestic worker to make a Labour Card for her husband as there are multiple schemes available for construction workers in India. Through assistance, an application was swiftly made sometime around the month of April, 2021 at the Labour Office in Ulubari. Upon obtaining the Labour Card, the marriage registration certificate was duly submitted over to the Labour Department after which on 15 November, 2022 they were disbursed with ₹ 25000, with which they were able to pay back the loan.

The couple was elated and expressed their profound gratitude to the staff and CDI. Domestic worker Mrs. Malati Jadav proudly said, 'Who cares if CDI doesn't provide direct financial help, I feel proud and understand the kind of help they provide help bring a lot of difference to people like me. Please keep on extending your helping hand.'

False Accusation of Theft

Mrs. Aruna Das, one of our domestic workers residing at Ramnagar, Agartala was falsely accused of stealing her employer's diamond studded earrings. It was also found that her employer had refused to pay her 2 months' salary. The concerned staff of FDWA dashed to her rescue and an FIR was registered against the employer after which the Police undertook a procedural search of Mrs. Aruna Das's house for the alleged lost earrings which they couldn't find.



Since the earrings weren't found and also since the employer couldn't produce any proof other than the verbal accusations, the case was declared meritless. Subsequently, the employer had to pay the domestic worker the pending salary upon the order of the police. Furthermore, the domestic worker was advised to look for another employer, a suggestion which she heartfully welcomed.

Mrs. Aruna Das, her husband who works as a rickshaw puller and the other members of the family were extremely grateful at the deputed timely intervention. She says, 'If you all didn't come to help me then I would never have gotten my salary and I possibly would've had to go to jail as I wouldn't have been able to pay the money for the lost earrings.'

Victim of Sexual Harassment



Mrs. Pratima Das, a domestic worker residing at Bhattapukar, under Agartala Municipality was undergoing perpetual sexual harassment under her employer who did not feel ashamed of sexually harassing her at every turn. He was taking advantage of the poor and frightened domestic worker, who was working for her family's daily bread and butter. He even demanded sexual favors from her everytime she asked for her monthly salary. She all along had been hiding her struggles from her family members.

One day, she decided that enough was enough and shared her ordeal with the staff of FDWA to which she was suggested to take the incidents seriously and take a legal recourse. Consequently, an FIR was registered by Mrs. Pratima along with her family members and the staff. Once the case was registered, the police swung into action and the employer was compelled to pay her what he owed her. After the case ended, the FDWA staff continued to visit and provide counselling to facilitate her in overcoming the trauma of the unpleasant experiences. Mrs. Pratima remains grateful to the staff of FDWA for all the assistances provisioned to her and her family.

Exploiting the veteran of exploitation

Domestic worker Mrs. Sabitri Sutradhar from Ramnagar worked with full dedication while she was employed by an employer who works at a bank. She did all the chores assigned to her with pure commitment and left no stone unturned in living up to her philosophy which is 'keeping the employer satisfied and happy'. As a result she would often work overtime as per demands neglecting her own parental duty at home. After working for a period of over two months, she fell sick and subsequently took a leave to rest her weary body and recuperate.

She requested her dues as she needed money to buy medicines and other necessary household materials, she hadn't been paid since the beginning her work. Much to her chagrin, the employer vehemently refused to comply with the request which was her right. She felt helpless and angry at the employer, she was also in extreme physical agony due to her sickness, and had no choice but to narrate the perpetrated injustice to CDI's staff who was the last resort for her. She was requested to take a lawful recourse.

Together, they visited the nearest police station and lodge an FIR, soon the employer was summoned to the police station to clarify on the matter. Mrs. Sabitri's accusation was found to be true, therefore the employer was directed to pay all of the pending dues. Following which there was an argument, but in the end the employer had no choice but to do what he was told to.

Mrs. Sabitri Sutradhar has left that god-forsaken household for good and is working at another place, which is less demanding and the fortunate thing is that she doesn't have to work overtime anymore. She now has enough time to attend to her parental responsibilities at home.

The woman whose words fell on deaf ears

A married man and a father to a four year old, Mr. Raj Bhuyan was given a prolong benefit of doubt by the villagers even though he was continuously raping a 27 year old Miss Folora Lakra in a broad daylight with a false promise of marriage. Contradictorily, the villagers accused Miss Folora Lakra of making unwarranted accusation against the perpetrator and refused to believe her when she told them that Mr. Ray Bhuyan had been raping her in her parents' absence, her own parents too didn't take her side.



As it happened, one day she complained of a severe stomach ache, so her family took her to the hospital, and after a series of tests, they found out that she was apparently four months pregnant and was telling the truth about the rapes all along. A family meeting was summoned but Mr. Bhuyan denied his involvement, when he denied it at the 3rd family meeting, Miss Folora Lakra's family had no choice but to file an FIR in the police station. When the police came to interrogate him, he finally admitted that the illegitimate child was his for fear of subsequent legal punishment. He pled for mercy, but the police snubbed him and out rightly told him that it was too late, he had already caused grievous mental and emotional agony to the victim and her family and locked him up.

The situation came to the attention of the staff in one of the Mahila Mandal meetings. Consequently, the field animator of NEWRaN named Sr. Kiran went to visit the victim's house on 25 March, 2023, where she interacted with the family and duly counselled the bereaved girl. The victim was greatly relieved at the fact that she was able to share her ordeal with the staff and happy at her decision of keeping the baby. The father christened Mr. Folora Lakra and the mother called Mrs. Josephen Lakra too decided to give their daughter their unfailing support. As for the perpetrator, he is currently locked up in jail and is in deep regret of the crime he committed.

Micro-Credit and Entrepreneurship Development

Training for Vigilant Village Committees (VVCs)

To prevent migration and trafficking and also taking into cognizance the existing huge income generation potential, a one day training on '*Alternative Livelihood Activity*' was undertaken for the SHGs, Vigilant Village Committees and Mahila Mandal Groups in Chirang, Kokrajhar and Dhubri districts. They were imparted on the process of SHG formation, its upkeep and maintenance of accounts, also the available alternative livelihood options were also deliberated upon. It was made clear that CDI through its benefactors would be financing 80 % of the start-up fund while the remaining 20 % would be contributed by them.



Training on Supplementary Income Generation Activities: In order to improve the socio-economic condition of the domestic workers and their families, skills involving supplementary



income generating activities were imparted to the domestic workers. As such 120 domestic workers across the 12 project cities were taught to make detergent powder and paper bags along with cookery, handicrafts and kitchen gardening. The trainings generated enough confidence in them to start their own auxiliary ventures apart from their domestic work employment.

Exposure Visit for Alternative Livelihood Income Opportunities

Two exposure visits were undertaken for 70 domestic workers on the 24 September and 18 October, 2022, respectively. They were taken to Livelihood Ashram Training and Demonstration Unit in Rani, Assam where they were showcased on the techniques of mushroom cultivation. Mushroom cultivation requires little capital and space and could be done at home, but it's one of the most profitable businesses out there. Therefore, the exposure visits were conducted to encourage the domestic in launching mushroom cultivation as an alternate money minting profession.



Domestic Workers from Tezpur, Agartala, Barpeta and Bongaigaon in a group photo at an exposure visit trip

Placement Hub

Through Placement Hubs, the domestic workers are assisted in signing a contractual-based employment agreement with the employers with stipulates the do's and don'ts of employer's conduct with a hint of legal repercussion upon their violation. This is being done so that there are no grounds for exploitation later on and that the rights of the domestic workers are respected by the employers. Such that the Hubs, as pre-determined, are symbols of *Fairness and Justice* as far as the domestic workers are concerned and to the employers they symbolize *'Prevention of Wayward and Whimsical Attitudes'*. Therefore, through the existence of these, 542 domestic workers have received contractual-based placement this year.



Placement Done in Tura City

SHGs Formation and Maintenance under ROH Project

Under the ROH project SHGs are formed and maintained with the primary purpose of initiating start-ups that would supplement the household income of the members thereby increasing the members' financial security. A systematic procedure is followed. Firstly, a group is formed after identification and awareness provision. Secondly, the group is registered under NRLM, bank account is created and linked, and then start-up funds secured. As such, to this year 10 SHGs were created, 4 registered under NRLM, 4 linked to bank accounts and 2 start-up venture initiated called 'Pig Rearing and 'Goat Rearing'.



Training on Tailoring to Those Affected by Covid-19 Pandemic

This particular project commenced on January, 2023 with the primary intentions of providing skills training in tailoring, enhancing social entrepreneurship skills and extending psychosocial support to the domestic workers who were negatively impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic. The project is located in Tura town of Meghalaya and it hopes to cater to 2000 direct and 10,000 indirect beneficiaries. Presently, 25 domestic workers are being trained in tailoring of which upon completion they'll be financially, socially and emotionally empowered.



SCKCT's Training Project on Housekeeping and Tailoring

Under this project which is sponsored by Sarat Chandra Kagti Charitable Welfare Trust (SCKCWT), 60 poor and vulnerable women were trained in batches on tailoring, home management and elderly care for a period of 12 months. They were skilled through theoretical and practical methods which ensured deep learning and great competency. Physical exercises and counselling were an integral part of the training process. Certificates were awarded at the completion of each training. Of the 60 trainees, 27 girls got direct contractual-based placement in cities like Mumbai, Kerala, Bangalore, Chennai and Guwahati City, while some of the remaining

were employed in CDI's production centre to polish their skills whereas the others went back home and started their own business venture.



10 Days Training Course in Home Management

This particular activity has been pursued 12 times with 125 experienced domestic workers to enhance their skills, quality of work and subsequently their bargaining power. As such, they were skilled on the nitty gritty of home and kitchen management through a Training Module. Evidently, through this, the beneficiaries achieved more efficiency and effectiveness in their work, a testament to the efficacy of the conducted programme. Two success stories featured in the event; one was how a domestic saved a missing child by calling 1098 child-line number, the second was how the domestic worker's salary was hiked once she learned to use home appliances. Consequently, certificates were disbursed at the end of the event.

Training on Housekeeping-Cum-Food Preparation

This particular training was strived on 21, 22 and 25 February, 2023 at Adabari, Guiara and Tetelia in which 90 domestic workers participated. In the events, the partakers were taught on the concept and basics of household management and food preparation which include laundry, maintenance of cleanliness in the kitchen, proper garbage disposal, domestic cooking services, table arrangement during meal time and the proper materials to be used while engaging in all these tasks, also awareness on emergency numbers formed an integral part of the training events. The participants too shared about their experience in housekeeping and food preparation and duly expressed that the trainings had enhanced their understanding and confidence.



Training on Tailoring for the Potential Migrants

With the twin objectives of preventing migration and ensuring financial independence, 20 trainees from Baghjan Tea Estate were trained on Tailoring and Housekeeping at Centre for Development Initiatives. Post completion, out of 20 trainees, 6 of them were successfully assisted in getting a contractual-based placement all over India in states like Kerela, Arunachal, Assam, Meghalaya and Maharashtra where they are working as cooks, housekeeper, carers for the old and young, tailors etc.

Kitchen Gardening

To promote health of the beneficiaries and encourage them to save on domestic expenditure, 300 families from 4, 6, 7, 10 and Tenga lines were provisioned with quality and organic vegetable seeds. They already had the skills and knowledge of farming, the only thing they needed was high quality seeds which fortunately CDI was able to obtain for their benefits.



Distribution of Ducklings

The women beneficiaries of Baghjan Tea Garden were supplied with 800 ducklings on 19 and 20 March, 2023. Witnessing the existing scope of entrepreneurship and in a bid to promote the entrepreneurial spirit amongst them, 156 women were allotted these healthy ducklings which were purchased from a local vendor. Prior to the distribution, the beneficiaries were selection on appropriate criteria and then motivational sessions were conducted.



Numerical Data:

Sl. No.	Name of the Activity	Name of the Project	Name of the Funder	No. of Participants/ Beneficiaries	No. of Programmes/ Frequency
1.	Training for Vigilant Village Committees (VVCs)	Anti-Trafficking	Missio	-	3
2.	Training on Supplementary Income Generation Activities	FDWA	DBM	120	12
3.	Exposure Visit for Alternative Livelihood Income Opportunities	FDWA	DBM	70	2
4.	Placement Hub	FDWA	DBM	542	-
5.	SHGs Formation and Maintenance under ROH Project	FDWA	DBM	10	-
6.	Training on Tailoring to those Affected by Covid-19 Pandemic	Decent Life Beyond Covid-19 Pandemic for DWs	Manos Unidas	86	1
7.	SCKCT Training Project on Housekeeping and Tailoring	Tailoring and Housekeeping	SCKCT	60	3
8.	10 Days Training Course in Home Management	FDWA	DBM	125	12
9.	Training on Housekeeping-Cum-Food Preparation	GFW	GFW	90	3
10.	Training on Tailoring for the Potential Migrants	NEWRaN	Arise Foundation	20	1
11.	Kitchen Gardening	NEWRaN	Arise Foundation	300	1
12.	Distribution of Ducklings	NEWRaN	Arise Foundation	800	2
Total					

Case Studies

Pig Rearing

Prachin SHG Group composed of 11 vulnerable and marginalized women employed in stone quarries, and as domestic workers were assisted by the Guwahati staff of Ray of Hope project in the formation, registration (under ASRLM) and linkage to bank account. Furthermore, they were aided in the procurement of start-up funds amounting to 25000 rupees from the bank at which they were registered to and were able to initiate a 'Pig Rearing' livelihood programme with the primary purpose of achieving supplementary income. The group is from Mekurikuchi in Rani, one of the ROH's project areas.

Initially they bought a gilt (female pig) and as of now the sow has given birth to four little piglets. They are quite optimistic and hoping to further expand the pig farm. They also visited National Research Centre on Pig (NRCP) situated in Rani with the community mobilizer to request for medicinal supports of which they were given.

Prior to being approved of the start-up fund, they often met with Guwahati's community mobilizer and engaged in various fruitful discussions related to livelihood programme which rightfully capacitated them and gave them the pre-requisite knowledge and optimism.



Goat Rearing

Mas Durga SHG was formed in the year 2021. The SHG has 12 members. The group regularly met with the community mobilizer. During the meetings, topics concerning alternative income generation activities were discussed and the domestic workers were constantly motivated. They were advised on to make a self-contribution of 100 rupees every month which were deposited into the bank account created for them.

Though the SHG is not registered yet, all the required documents have been submitted and the process is on. Once they had saved up enough money, the SHG members bought three goats and thus the venture of 'goat rearing' started. A training was also organized in which the resource

person theoretically enlightened them on the method of raising a goat and what they needed to do during emergencies.

Their aim is to expand the goat farm and develop it into an economically thriving business from which they would be able to earn adequate alternate income. We applaud them for their perseverance, steadiness and their ability to make this dream come true.



Child Rights and Child Protection

Awareness in Schools

To educate the school students living in the anti-human trafficking project areas, several awareness programmes were organized in order to disseminate them about human trafficking, safe migration, child rights, child labour and child marriage. More than 28 schools were visited and sensitization drives conducted for 2542 partakers. Recognizing the vulnerability of the children and high incidences of child's exploitation, trafficking, child labour and marriage in Assam and other parts of India, this particular task was rigorously strove by CDI. Through awareness comes the ability to recognize threat and this was one of the expected outcomes of the conducted awareness programmes.



Street Theatre

Street theatre is an effective medium for the proliferation of awareness on a variety of prevalent issues as it appeals to all the 5 senses. Thus, 104 plays were performed at several pockets of the anti-human trafficking project areas to create a realization in the masses about the causes and effects of child marriage, child labour and human trafficking. Around 10-15 local children and members of children's clubs gave astounding performances which captured the imagination of 5087 community members.



Children's Day Celebration

Children's Day observed to commemorate Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru's birth anniversary was endeavored on 13, 14 and 15 November in almost all the project locations. It was conducted in collaboration with likeminded individuals like Mr. Iftikar Hussain, a retired IAS Officer and organizations like Brihottor Dispur Anubhuti Nagorik Mancha (BANM). The children were able to showcase their skills in dancing, singing and drawing. Outdoor games were also undertaken. The winners of the competitions were awarded with prizes and medals. They were also gifted with stationary items and served a delicious luncheon. The children were made aware of their rights, importance and the roles that they have to play in the larger social milieu, realization also dawned upon the organizers and staff for the creation of a conducive environment for their growth and development. The event in one of the locations was reported in two local newspapers known as Khabar and Dainik Agradoot.



International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples

On this day, awareness was created on the culture, identity and history of the Adivasi Community amongst the children. They were enlightened on the crucial roles they play in the preservation and transmission of their vital cultural heritage and made to understand their duties as carers of their habitat's vast natural resources and of the community folks. They were also told of the marginalization, discrimination and the brutality they continue to suffer due to the prevalent caste system and the never-ending poverty. They understood that they live in stark contradiction; on one hand they are to make perpetual efforts to maintain the natural equilibrium through preservation works or minimal interference that benefits the whole of Earth, on the other hand, they are one of the most oppressed people.

Learning Centres

CDI supports two kinds of learning centres, one is known as *Tuition Centre* and the other *Back to School Centre*. In Tuition Centre, school going children of domestic workers are provisioned with free and quality educational instructions while in Back to School centre, drop out children of domestic workers are given bridge course and after a certain period of continuous quality instruction and assessments, they are mainstreamed into private and government mainstream schools through Right to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009. As such, this year 329 children were enrolled in the 8 Back to School centres out of which 119 children were mainstreamed.



Awareness on Child Rights, RTE and Child Labour Etc...

To inculcate awareness in children and prevent exploitation, the children are taught on a variety of pressing topics like child rights, Right to Education, child labour and child protection policy. The continuous conducted programmes instills in them the fact that they deserved to be



heard, treated with utmost care and all their developmental needs and rights are met. This year 76 programmes were undertaken for 1618 children beneficiaries.

Value Education, Motivational Movies Etc...

This particular activity is endeavored to ensure that the children learnt important values and be motivated towards achieving their career goals. To accomplish these the children were exposed to values such as honesty, punctuality, discipline, non-violence, brotherly love, kindness, helpfulness and compassion, among others. They were inspired through motivational movies like 'I am Kalam' and through meetings with successful personalities during which they learnt a variety practical life's lessons that they would certainly need to launch and accomplish their career goals. This particular activity was conducted 30 times with 1112 partakers.



Children's Club Formation and Meetings

Children's Clubs are formed to cater to the all-round development of the project's children through continuous meetings that are laden with physically, emotionally, socially and intellectually stimulating activities through which the children become conscious of their place in the society. The meetings covered topics like First-Aid Kit and its uses, life skills, significance of extra-curricular activities and education, impromptu speech, early marriage, unsafe migration, sexual harassment, child marriage, child's rights and their significance, good touch and bad touch, general knowledge, child labour etc. The children too participated in poetry recitation, singing, dancing, drawing competition, indoor and outdoor games. 68 children's clubs were formed this year with 1148 children.



Past Pupils Federation

The primary purpose behind the formation of Past Pupils Federation is to provide assistance to the smooth functioning of the learning centres. In this regard, the members of PPFs who are former beneficiaries of the project and have since been mainstreamed collect old NCERT books for the current beneficiaries, act as a stand in for the teachers or tutors when they are absent, help in identifying drop out children and also collect donated clothes from the concerned local stakeholders. They take part in the conducted PPF meetings, also in other project activities like children's clubs meetings, value education training, health camps etc.



Children's Club Leaders Training

To ensure that the children's club leaders have knowledge about leadership, lead effectively and think in innovative and creative ways, 150 leadership trainings were organized in which 3642 leaders were educated on the concept of leadership, its qualities, skills, importance and types, among others. Through this the leaders were able to develop the pre-requisite confidence in leading the members of the existing children's clubs, and in motivating them to participate enthusiastically in all the club activities.



World Day Against Child Labour

This event was observed on 12 June, 2022 with the primary intention of sensitizing the mainstream population about the legitimate dangers of child labour and appealing for its end giving impetus to the year's theme '*universal social protection to end child labour*'. The endeavored activities were street play, flash mob, human chain, lecture, fun and games, campaigns and rallies, awareness in schools, drawing and essay competitions, submitting newspaper articles, a function, workshop, educating on child rights and the significance of remaining in school. Volunteers like



police personnel, school's staff, and parents showed up to express their solidarity. All in all, it was a successful event.



Children Admitted in AWC

Anganwadi Centres are important stakeholders in the procedural empowerment of marginalized and underprivileged children. Hence, children between the ages of 3 to 5 are admitted into these centres where they engage in pre-school activities, receive stationaries, uniforms, nutritional food and basic health care facilities. As such, 65 children were successfully enrolled in the centres in cities like Barpeta, Guwahati and Shillong.



Development/Educational/Health/Parents Committees

There are committees in the learning centres that are created to support the project and the well-being of the children beneficiaries. As such, *Educational Committee* is there to gather support from schools in tracing out the drop-out children, obtaining books and other study materials. The members are students of different schools, who also often volunteer in the learning centres to assist the teachers. *Health Committee* is established to provide regular health assessment to the children beneficiaries, AWC and ASHA workers are its members. Appropriate health intervention is taken if a child is found to be suffering from any infection. *Development Committee* is created to identify available schemes and entitlements for the children and the domestic workers and assist in the procurement of these schemes. *Parents Committee* is formed for the educational well-being of the children, follow-up teachers teaching and children's learnings.



Entitlements

Entitlements are rights and claims of individuals and an important basis for identification purposes, also necessary for other paper works. Therefore, seeing their significance, entitlements like Bank Account, PAN Card, Birth Certificate, Aadhaar, and Caste Certificate were successfully procured for 61 children beneficiaries.

Interception Project

CDI launched a new project in the year 2021 in which trafficking is being prevented through *surveillance, tracking and interception* of potential victims at transit points such as railways stations and bus terminals under the aegis of Peace Justice International. Three staff are working under this project and they operate by identifying red flags emitted by potential victims and agents through visual and questionnaire methods. Hence, this year the project has rescued 57 female minors, 49 male minors and 16 female adults. The rescued persons were properly documented with the involvement of appropriate authorities who took warranted actions for their well-being, those who had families were re-united and those who didn't were placed in appropriate shelter homes.



Displaced and Refugee Project in Manipur and Mizoram

These projects were initiated to address the needs of the displaced children and refugees through the financial support of Childaid Network, Germany and Don Bosco Mission, New York, USA. The project is currently provisioning free and quality educational services to 400 children through the 7 existing Tuition Centres, 4 in Champhai and 3 in Moreh. 50 children have been admitted into boarding schools. Additionally, health camps, distribution of clothes, nutrition, and stationaries are being undertaken for the children and parents, also parents are given a variety of support through constant contact. This project has been able to provide the victims of the Myanmar's coup the much needed support and has given them some level of comfort and hopefulness.



Training on Child Rights

This activity was endeavored under Caritas Project for the village children, youth and guardians. Topics such as education, health, child marriage, child labour and child abuse were covered and explicated to the participants. Several important lectures on these subjects were made by Childline team, rehabilitation centre members, and the headmaster of Dholkata Village School. A total of 3 programmes were conducted in which 52 children beneficiaries were reached out.

Exposure Trips for Task Force

Exposure programmes were organized for the anti-human trafficking Task Force teams composed of VVC and VLCP, in order to familiarize, build network and rapport with institutions working toward the prevention and mitigation of trafficking of children and they are Office of the Anti-Human Trafficking Unit (AHTU), Child Welfare Committee (CWC) and District Child Protection Unit (DCPU). The task force teams were lectured on their standard operating procedures and educated on other relevant information.

Capacity Building Training

In collaboration with district's AHTU, a capacity building training was carried out for the VVC, VLCP and other relevant groups in a bid to increase their capability and confidence in mitigating and preventing child trafficking. The Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) and District Child Protection Officer (DCPO) were the resource persons for the training. The training encompassed

important aspects of trafficking, anti-trafficking operation, rescue and rehabilitation, also there was interaction session in which the doubts of the audience were clarified.

Workshop for Important Stakeholders in Child's Trafficking Prevention

A workshop was organized for the student's associations, Mondols, PRI, transport association and the village headmen with the primary intention of educating them on child trafficking and the need for protecting children from becoming victims of human trafficking, as well as the legal procedure for their rehabilitation. The workshop was enriched by representatives from Child Welfare Committee and Social Welfare Department. There was open discussion on the central issue which is child's trafficking and all its relevant facets.

Coordination Meeting

To increase the participation and active coordination between important stakeholders like the concerned village groups and committees, PRI, VVC, VLCP, women and youth groups, a village level coordination meeting was conducted in one of the Caritas India's backed anti-human trafficking project areas. The meeting witnessed the participation of 3 villages with 52 participants. A psychiatric social worker from Civil Hospital and a district coordinator of UNICEF came to enlighten the stakeholders on a variety of significant subjects.

Prevention of Child Trafficking, Child Labour and Unsafe Migration

To prevent, mitigate and intervene in the occurrence of these social problems under the Caritas India backed project, CDI in collaboration with VLCP, Panchayat, CWC, Local Police, Childline and other local networks rescued 2 children from child marriage, provisioned legal and rehabilitation help to 1 child rape victim and additionally saved 1 missing child. Under this, CDI also engaged in formation of 14 Village Level Child Protection Committees (VLCPC), and also procured entitlements like Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, ID for the differently abled, scholarships for students, Widow Pension, Old AGE Pension, Pradhan Mantri Kisan Awas Yojana etc. for the 334 beneficiaries.

Trafficked Persons are Rescued, Restored and Rehabilitated

A number of activities were undertaken under this which includes a village level meeting organized with VLCP and PRI in which 60 villagers attended, 7 awareness programmes on trafficking were carried out in collaboration with CWC, AHTU, DCPU, ABSU, AASA, SHGs and the village children, 3 children were rescued from Udalguri and Thane Railway Stations in Assam and Mumbai and 2 of the rescued victims christened Nijora Boro and Sumitra Basumatary were rehabilitated into an organization called 'Save Our Souls' in Guwahati, both of them are currently pursuing their studies with dreams of a better life.

Development of Multi-Stakeholders' Coordination

In order to ensure that the Caritas India supported anti-human trafficking project gets the needed support from relevant stakeholders, several necessary activities were organized such as meetings,

workshops, net-workings and state level campaigns, among others. As a result, CDI was able to establish links with Mission for Rural Skill Development, The Ant, Astha NGO, ROSS NGO, student unions, Nehru Yuva Kendra, Drug Rehabilitation Centre, Old Age Home, transport department, CLF, BLF, One Stop Centre, Social Welfare Department, DLSA, AHTU, CWC, JJB, DCPU, Local Police Thana, Child Line, Blocks for Livelihood Scheme, SSB and CRPF.

A Stakeholder's-Cum-Awareness Meet

A stakeholder's-cum-awareness meet was organized on June 2, 2022 at Baghjan Tea Estate. The police personnel from New Baghjan Police Station sensitized the members of VVC about child rights, child marriage, social development and education. 30 participants participated in the session and it was such a success, as it led to formation of links between the project's staff, VVC members and the police personnel, stakeholders who are all working for the well-being of the underprivileged. Additionally three more awareness programmes were endeavored for the VVCs in which 157 members attended.



Session on Human and Child Rights, Domestic Violence and Gender Equality

Several programmes on these topics were carried out at Baghjan Tea Estate in order to put a stop to the abject exploitation of vulnerable members of the society, especially women and children and usher for a more equal and peaceful environment. As a result, the subject matters included components of human and child rights such as right to education, health, childhood, to be heard and treated equally, causes and consequences of domestic violence and concept, aspects and the necessity of gender equality.



Numerical Data

Sl. No.	Name of the Activity	Name of the Project	Name of the Funder	No. of Participants/ Beneficiaries	No. of Programmes/ Frequency
1.	Awareness in Schools	Anti-Trafficking	Missio	2507	26
2.	Street Theatre	Anti-Trafficking	Missio	5087	104
3.	Children's Day Celebration	Ray of Hope & Anti-Trafficking	CAN & Missio	1915	25
4.	International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples	Anti-Trafficking	Missio	-	1
5.	Learning Centres	Ray of Hope	CAN	654	16
6.	Awareness of Child Rights, RTE and Child Labour Etc...	Ray of Hope	CAN	1618	76
7.	Value Education, Motivational Movies Etc...	Ray of Hope	CAN	1112	30
8.	Children's Club Meetings	Ray of Hope & Anti-Trafficking	CAN & Missio	948	679
9.	Past Pupils Federation	Ray of Hope	CAN	89	39
10.	Children's Club Leaders Training	Ray of Hope & FDWA	CAN & DBM	3642	150
11.	World Day Against Child Labour	Ray of Hope	CAN	1913	18
12.	Children Admitted in AWC	Ray of Hope	CAN	65	65
13.	Development/Educational/Health/Parents Committees	Ray of Hope	CAN	79	15
14.	Entitlements	Ray of Hope	CAN	61	61
15.	Interception Project	Interception Project	Peace Justice International	122	122
16.	Displaced and Refugee Project in Manipur and Mizoram	Displaced and Refugee Project	CAN & Don Bosco Mission	6200	-
17.	Training on Child Rights	Anti-Human Trafficking	Caritas India	52	3
18.	Exposure for Task Force	Anti-Human Trafficking	Caritas India	-	-
19.	Capacity building Training	Anti-Human Trafficking	Caritas India	-	-
20.	Coordination Meeting	Anti-Human Trafficking	Caritas India	52	1
21.	Prevention of Child Trafficking, Child Labour, Unsafe Migration	Anti-Human Trafficking	Caritas India	338	-
22.	Trafficked Persons are Rescued, Restored and Rehabilitated	Anti-Human Trafficking	Caritas India	63	10
23.	Development of Multi-Stakeholder's Coordination	Anti-Human Trafficking	Caritas India	-	-
24.	A Stakeholder's-Cum-Awareness Meet	Anti-Human Trafficking	Arise Foundation	187	4
Total					

CASE STUDIES

Child Marriage Thwarted

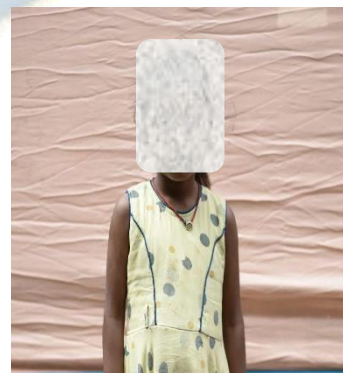
In the evening of 12 October, 2022, Sikha Shah made a prompt visit to the wedding function of one of FDWA members' daughter upon a prompt invitation. When she reached the spot, the haldi ceremony was going on. She then went to greet the couple enthusiastically, however to her horror she discovered that both of them were minors. She immediately called up FDWA's project area coordinator, Miss Sheema Dey, who told her to reason with the mother of the girl. The field animator tried to talk the mother out of it, however she was adamant and refused to listen. The area coordinator then called her up and explained to her about the legal repercussions that they would have to go through if the wedding was reported to the police. The mother assured her that the girl was of age, but when she was requested to produce her birth certificate, she made senseless excuses.

Sensing that practical reasoning was a dead end, another recourse was taken upon. The area coordinator made a call to Centre for Girls' officials who regrettably conveyed of their inability to help. Next, Child Helpline 1098 was dialed that culminated in a swift assistance from them. Subsequently, a complaint was quickly lodged at Child Helpline's office who further contacted Bhangarh Police Station and completed all the necessary formalities. Next, an entourage headed towards the wedding venue along with the field staff, and the wedding was successfully called off at 9. 30 p.m. much to the chagrin of the girl's mother and the groom's family who remained unrepentant of their would-be crime.

Following this, the minor-duo were both put in police custody and later produced before Child Welfare Committee (CWC). The next day, a local newspaper in circulation reported that the girl was 15 years old and the boy was 16 from Uttar Pradesh working at a company in Chennai. They had allegedly been in a romantic relationship for the past three years and the marriage was arranged upon their families' consent. The staff's prompt action saved the minor-duo from committing a grave mistake since marriage is not a child's play must be entered into it once one had the mental and emotional maturity, also it was illegal. As for the families they learned an important life's lesson that day which they wouldn't dare to repeat again.

Miss Gholi

7 year old Miss Gholi Kumari had migrated from Bihar with her family as her parents had high hopes of a new beginning in Guwahati City. Prior to the migration, she had attended her village's school for a year however post migration she hadn't had another chance at education as her parents were working round the clock to make ends meet in the new yet strange city. Her parents work as domestic worker and as a vegetable vendor where income is meagre and often inadequate to meet all the necessities.



In one of the home visits, the staff found out that she wasn't being sent to school. Her parents said that they were too poor to possibly afford education for her and her sibling. The staff duly assured them that she would be getting free education under the Right to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 with which she would receive free education until the attainment of 14 years of age. But first she would have to be enrolled in CDI's Back to School centre where she would receive quality educational instruction and assessment. Seeing the benefits, her parents agreed for her to be enrolled. Miss Gholi now comes regularly to the centre.

Initially, Miss Gholi was often distracted in classes and would want to leave early for home but gradually she became invested in her studies and all the activities in the centre. She says, 'I like coming to the centre and play with other children, I like about what I am learning and the activities that I am doing here are very fun. I would like to continue to attend.'

Not everyone is fit to be a parent

Miss Phulmuni Kherwar had barely reached puberty when her nomadic alcoholic parents forcefully married her off to a 17 year old mentally challenged boy as they thought she was an abject burden to their rootless existence. She was a load that they didn't want to carry around so they shed it off.

No sooner had she settled down in her new home to her horror she discovered that her mother-in-law was an alcoholic too. She felt like a baton being passed from one hopeless state to another. Her mother-in-law turned out to be far worse than her parents as she suffered mentally, emotionally and physically in her hands for months and years. One day, she decided that enough was enough and ran away leaving behind her clothes, her husband, and her dreams of familial love and security. She did not stop to think, in her mind the only thing that mattered was getting away as far as possible from her mother-in-law.

By luck she reached Lalkhura RC Colony where CDI's stakeholder, AASA has its presence. Her arrival was reported to AASA, and after meeting Mrs. Phulmuni Kherwar sympathetic members of AASA provisioned her with shelter and food. The girl was then brought to CDI. She expressed her desire to be somewhere safe, a place where she could recuperate. Subsequently, Child Helpline 1098 was contacted and briefed on Mrs. Phulmuni Kherwar's situation. After three days, representatives from Kokrajhar Childline came to her rescue and she was duly placed in a shelter home for vulnerable girls.

A pre-emptive strike against a probable human trafficking

Miss Rinki Begum, a 14 year old daughter of Mr. Rinku Ali and Mrs. Monu Begum from Gargaon village in Kamrup District was seen to be walking on the foot over bridge of Guwahati Railway Station in a state of complete disarray. She was shabbily dressed and all alone. Sensing that something was wrong, the interception team approached her and asked her of her whereabouts and why she was travelling all alone. She said that her parents had passed away and she was living alone with her cousin brother named Saiful Alam.

She then enquired about the train ticket to Bangalore which she needed to procure. When she was prodded about why she wanted to go there and the amount of money she had. She responded that

she was going there to meet her grandmother and she had ₹ 200 /- with her. The team needed a witness to backup all her claims as the situation could lead to a variety of unwanted outcomes, therefore they proceeded to ask her cousin's phone number to which she obliged. Mr. Saiful Alam was called up by the team. He said that he didn't realize she was going to Bangalore, also her parents were alive and kicking, contradicting what she had said earlier. He also provided her parents' contact numbers. They dialed up her mother and she was informed of what Miss Rinki was up-to. It was discovered that Mr. Saiful Alam was actually her boyfriend and that she had been missing since the previous day.

When all her claims were out-rightly invalidated, the team realized that this could be a minor trafficking case in the making. Therefore, she was taken to Railway Protection Force's office for further enquiries. There she was counselled about the dangers of human trafficking, safe migration, among others. Upon further probe, she revealed that she was going there to meet her friend's boyfriend by the name of Mr. Biki who had promised her a job, which sounded quite fishy and fitted in with other human trafficking patterns. Post all documentation and verification she was handed over to Mr. Anirudh Talukdar, second Officer-In-Charge. She would be transferred to Childline Guwahati soon, after which back to her family.

Health Care and Health Promotion

Health Assistance through Networking and Collaboration

Vitamin Angels, an organization spearheading evidence-based nutrition interventions (EBNIs) for the underserved and nutritionally vulnerable populations like pregnant women, infants and children undertook an offline and online training programmes for CDI's staff during which the participants were capacitated on the standard operating procedure of vitamin tablets deployment, along with the do's don'ts. Additionally, CDI received deworming and Vitamin A tablets and capsules which were subsequently distributed amongst the domestic workers' children.



Health Camp

FDWA

3 health camps were organized through collaboration with Tata Trust in Guwahati City during which approximately 180 domestic workers and their families were screened for Hepatitis B and C infections. The health camps came with a discounted test and free-of-cost treatment for the supposedly infected. Additionally, 24 more free-of-cost BMI and Eye



screening health camps were organized chiefly under FDWA project for 2628 domestic workers, which discovered that majority of them suffered from back and knee pain and were treated symptomatically, others with far more serious conditions were given referrals. The project also carried out free TB and Cancer screening camps with assistance from the health department.

Global Fund for Women



Health Camps under Global Fund for Women were organized in Shatipur with 103 participants on 28 August, 2022, in Dakhola and Shontala on 21st and 30th November, 2022 with 104 partakers, in CDI with 57 participants on 10 October, 2022, in Padumbari with 101 participants on 23 September, 2022 and in Tetelia Jharpara with 57 participants on 27 February, 2023. Different kinds of screenings i.e., from general to specific were undertaken. In specific screenings 2 cancer screenings, and HBV and HVC anti-body test were

conducted. In general screenings, the domestic workers were screened for blood pressure, anemia, respiratory system, skin and eye infection, sugar level etc. CDI collaborated with Joint Director of Health Services, Rastriya Medical Mobile Unit, Tata Trust and Dr. Bubaneshwar Borooah Cancer Hospital for all these health camps. Free medical consultations, advice, medicines and referrals were made available to the 365 participants at free-of-cost.

Ray of Hope

10 health camps were endeavored in Guwahati, Barpeta and Shillong cities in which the children beneficiaries and their parent domestic workers were screened for a variety of infections such as eye, blood pressure, joints pain, stomach ache, anemia etc. The staff collaborated with the concerned health departments, ASHA and Anganwadi workers. 552 beneficiaries received free check-ups, medicines and referrals.



Training on Health Safety, Basic Home and Personal Hygiene...

To instill in the domestic workers the maxim that '*prevention is better than cure*' they were educated on the etiquettes of illnesses' prevention which include maintenance of balanced diet, a healthy time-table, practicing personal and external hygiene. 741 beneficiaries duly benefitted from the 24 significant programmes.

Training on Health and Hygiene

Health and Hygiene are important components of human happiness and to live a life of success. Therefore, recognizing this CDI strives to educate the children beneficiaries on the concept, importance and maintenance of health and hygiene through practicing daily internal and external cleanliness, consuming nutritious and the right kinds of food and engaging in regular physical exercises. 49 such programmes were conducted this project year in which 1737 beneficiaries benefitted.



Health Assessment and Food Supplement Provision

A continuous health assessment involving BMI screening is done in the learning centres to monitor the development of the children's heights in relative to their weights. An immediate intervention is carried if the BMI is found to be way off the normal mark. As a result 83 such programmes were endeavored this year in which 1847 beneficiaries partook. Besides the BMI measurement, the children were explicated on the concept of health and hygiene, and how these are a necessity in making a person healthy and less prone to illnesses, also information about nutrition and maintenance of balance diet, practicing cleanliness and proper waste disposal etc. were explicated and greatly encouraged.



Numerical Data:

No.	Name of the Activity	Name of the Project	Name of the Funder	No. of Participants/ Beneficiaries	No. of Programmes Frequency
	Health Assistance Through Networking and Collaboration	Anti-Trafficking	Missio	100 approx.	2
	Health Camp	FDWA & Ray of Hope	DMB & CAN	3725	42
	Training on Health Safety, Basic Home and Personal Hygiene...	FDWA	DBM	741	24
	Training on Health and Hygiene	Ray of Hope	CAN	1737	49
	Health Assessment and Food Supplement Provision	Ray of Hope	CAN	1847	83
Total				7785	194

CASE STUDIES

Don't ever take your health for granted

Health is the most precious gift of life that people often take for granted only to realize its profound significance when they are about to lose it, as no amount of money in the world can reverse or cure a deadly disease, and this unfortunately is what a 15 year old Mr. Prasanjit Majumdar, son of domestic worker Mrs. Tulsi Majumdar learned and contemplated upon when he fainted unexpectedly and was subsequently diagnosed with a double kidney failure.

He was diagnosed and treated at GB Hospital in Agartala but taking into cognizance the seriousness of the disease, the doctors referred him to ILS Hospitals, which is equipped with state of the art medical tools and adequately staffed to treat the disease. Nevertheless, at

ILS Hospitals, when they enquired about the cost of the treatment it was way beyond their means so they had to go back to GB Hospital. The dialysis to treat the disease has to be performed repeatedly, specifically twice a week on Mr. Prasanjit Majumdar. However with such a meagre income from domestic work it was established that his mother's wouldn't be able to afford both his treatment and household expenses. Therefore, the FDWA staff approached Mr. Suman Paul, a labour inspector, who secured a Labor Card for Mrs. Tulsi Majumdar within 3 days with which they are able to cover 60 % of the cost of treatment. However, seeing that covering the remaining 40 % was still too tough, Mr. Biplab Kaur, one of presidents of a trade union in Agartala was consequently approached, who made a solemn financial pledge but which is yet to come.

Mental health is something that should not be taken lightly

An illiterate 41 year old domestic worker named Mrs. Shila Basumatary grew up in Assam with 2 of her brothers but had to move to Nagaland post the demise of her husband in the hope a better livelihood opportunity. She had married at the age of 23 and lived together with her late husband for about 4 to 5 years. Her husband left her behind with their daughter. She migrated to Kohima in the year of 2019 with her daughter and both got employed in Mrs. Asinle's household who is residing at Kenuozou colony in Kohima.

During one of the meetings, it was observed that Mrs. Shila Basumatary particularly was very withdrawn and silent as if there was something that was gnawing at her insides. Sensing that she was depressed, the staff regularly visited and counselled her. Gradually, she broke open from her comfort zone and shared her prolong sufferings to the staff in which she narrated about her condition post the death of her husband, how life felt uninteresting and mundane, and how she had bottled up her emotions which only made things worse. If it wasn't for her daughter, she says she wouldn't have survived. This was a turning point for her and subsequent counselling sessions helped her in alleviating her depressive symptoms and made her feel lighter. Though she did not regain her former vigor, it made her at-least functionally viable.

Both the mother and the daughter are being financially assisted with ₹ 200 each day under FDWA project to supplement their earnings, also they have been assisted in securing entitlements like PAN card and bank account. Both are very appreciative of the services being rendered to them and are very active and cooperative in the all the project activities.

Care for Environment

World Environment Day

World Environment Day was celebrated on June 5, 2022 with the theme 'Only One Earth' in Barpeta, Shillong and Guwahati cities and in the anti-human trafficking project areas. The children took active part in the proliferation of environmental awareness, drawing,

painting, planting of saplings, preparing posters, cleaning drive and agri-plantation. The day brought contentment and satisfaction and further motivated them towards protecting and preserving the ecology. painting, planting of saplings, preparing posters, cleaning drive and agri-plantation. The day brought contentment and satisfaction and further motivated them towards protecting and preserving the ecology.

Regular Cleaning Drive and Saplings Planting

The children of tuition centres and back to school centres engaged in regular cleaning drive of the surrounding areas of the learning centres. Additionally, they were taught about environmental friendly activities like kitchen gardening, Vermi-composting, solid and liquid waste management and saplings plantation. These regular activities made the children conscious of the importance of nature, its preservation, protection and man-nature symbiosis.

Numerical Data:



Sl. No.	Name of the Activity	Name of the Project	Name of the Funder	No. of Participants/ Beneficiaries	No. of Programmes/ Frequency
1.	World Environment Day	Ray of Hope	CAN	-	3
2.	Regular Cleaning Drive and Saplings Planting	Ray of Hope	CAN	654	16
Total				654	19