

**BOSCO
REACH OUT**

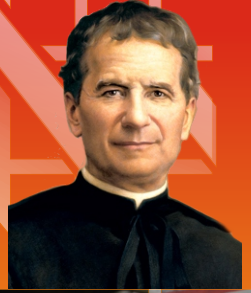


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Focus

April to June 2022

Vol. XI Issue : II



UPCOMING PROGRAMMES OF BRO

- * Health Camp in Collaboration with 104 Sanjeevani - LWS
- * Registration of HRG - LWS
- * Screening of HRG - LWS
- * Advocacy Meeting - LWS
- * Village Level Meeting - LWS
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- * Promotion of Village Level Water Management Committees - JJM
- * Awareness and Mobilisation among the Villagers on Management of Drinking Water Resources - JJM
- * Farmers' Training/ Demonstration – ITDF
- * Need-Based Training – ITDF Chirang
- * Awareness on Vaccination for Livestock (Piggery) - ITDF Chirang
- * Health Awareness Programme - ITDF Chirang
- * Health Education Session for Women - ITDF Chirang
- * Awareness on Women Issues - ITDF Chirang
- * Promotion of IGA - ITDF Chirang
- * Evening Courses for the Elderly (Focus on Digital Literacy) - ITDF Chirang
- * Group Formation and Awareness Building - ITDF Chirang
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- * Promotion/ Mobilization – ITDF Dibrugarh & Arunachal Pradesh
- * Capacity Adoption Technology (CAT) - ITDF Arunachal Pradesh
- * Refresher Training for Skill and Marketing Interventions - LEDF
- * Exposure Trip - LEDF
- * Awareness Programme on Village Electrification / Installation of Solar System - Green Skill
- * Assembly & Installation of Solar System by Solar Technicians- Green Skill
- * Training cum Demonstration on Mitigation Measures to Reduce GHG Emission in Agriculture - Green Skill
- * Training on Crop Farming Management - Green Skill
- * Training on Soil and Water Management - Green Skill
- * Training on Waste Management and Compost Making - Green Skill
- * Awareness Programme on Climate Change for Staff and Students of the Schools - Green Skill
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- * Distribution of Jacquard to 250 Artisans - SFURTI
- * Exposure for Artisans - SFURTI
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- * Engagement of Designer - SFURTI

Editorial Board

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Director's Message



Dear Friends,

Greetings from Bosco Reach Out!

I am happy that this issue of focus is in our hand. This year too we are severely affected by the monsoon floods that have disrupted numerous lives and destroyed humongous property in Assam and Meghalaya in the North East of India. However we are trying to look towards a new horizon for a better tomorrow. We pray to the good Lord to give us strength and courage, to restore lives and property, and reach out to the ones in need during these hard times.

On a happy note, we are pleased to share that the FCRA evaluation was conducted in June 2022, by a group of competent officials from the monitoring unit. It was a momentous introspective experience for the organization, since it was for the first time that officials from FCRA department visited our office to check on the work being done.

Keeping in view the various needs and conditions of our beneficiaries, range of activities are designed to benefit them. The highlight of our activities in this monsoon months has been the relief operations in the worst flood-hit areas of the region. We are happy to reach out to many families who remain stranded and homeless or in relief camps. Bosco Reach Out has been avid in conducting diverse activities like farmer's training programs, staff capacity building, awareness building, relief distributions, observing important days like World No Tobacco Day, World Environment Day, Blue Umbrella Day, and International Yoga Day across our centres. We intend to remain connected to our beneficiaries through these programs and empower them.

As an organization, we look towards the holistic approach in conserving nature and it remains our priority. Solar Lanterns were distributed to the beneficiaries under the project "*Contribution to the Reduction of Green House Gas Emissions*". Solar lanterns can replace the use of kerosene lamps, which is better in reducing the emission of carbon dioxide and other trace gases.

I am always grateful to the hardworking and dedicated team of the organization for their contribution and commitment all this while. The activities, projects, and programs are only possible because of the support of our generous donors, supporters, benefactors, well wishers and friends. May the Almighty continue to bless them and their endeavours, we keep them in our prayers every day. This issue highlights our different activities, programs, and some unavoidable events. I hope you enjoy reading it.

Fr. A. Jayaprakash, SDB
Executive Director, Bosco Reach Out

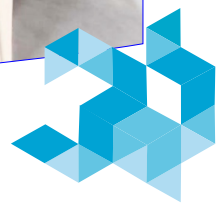




01. Farmers Training/Demonstration: ITDF-Arunachal Pradesh

Farmers Trainings/Demonstration for ITDF - Arunachal Pradesh were conducted for small groups in different villages. Trainings/Demonstrations were done at Ramda and Palizi on 28 April 2022 and at Subu, Tania, and Tuluhi on 8 June 2022. In the initial stage, two to three beneficiaries' fields were visited and on-field interactions and demonstrations were done. Package of practices for horticulture crops like plum, kiwi and walnut were discussed with the beneficiaries. A general discussion on recommended land preparation, pit digging, plant spacing, planting method, application of manure and fertilizers, soil moisture conservation measures, and water resource development was done.

On a regular basis, the Project Coordinator of BRO provides handholding support and on-field demonstration in different wadis in the villages. Various farming inputs were distributed to the farmers as per the chosen project. It is heartwarming to see the wadi beneficiaries very enthusiastic to begin their new project and make it a success.





02. ITDF-Arunachal Pradesh Field Staff Training

Staff training was held on 25 March 2022 at BRO Head Office Guwahati for the new project 'Integrated Tribal Development Project (ITDF) in Thrizino Block, West Kameng District of Arunachal Pradesh'. Mr Ajay Parisow, Mr Prabhat KS, Ms Abina Parisow and Ms Bitchim Parisow attended the training as a part of intervention toward the implementation of the project in their respective villages. Ms Minku Das, the Project Coordinator of Bosco Reach Out, briefed about the project details.

On 9 June 2022, another staff training was conducted at Project Office, Palizi in Arunachal Pradesh. Mr Ajay Parisow, Project Coordinator, Mr Arjun Netan and Mr Sankuli Parisow, the field staff, attended the training. The resource person, Mr Prabhat Kr. Sharma, the technical staff of BRO, explained in detail the guidelines and measures needed to implement the project at the ground level among the beneficiaries, including the package of practices for the production of horticultural crops like plum, kiwi and walnut. He emphasised proper pit digging, spacing, method of application of manure and fertilizers, soil conservation measures and water resource development. During the Field Visits by the staff, the beneficiaries were provided guidance regarding the different aspects of the projects and their various components. Besides discussing about mobilisation, awareness was given about record keeping or maintenance of registers, accounts maintenance, group formation (Participant Groups/FIG/FPO/PLTDC), orchard layout and fencing. Collection of Consent Letters and distribution of saplings were done among the beneficiaries.





03. Jal Jeevan Mission

'Har Ghar Jal' through, "Jal Jeevan Mission" (JJM) is a scheme initiated by the Government of India in 2019, to provide tap water to every rural household by 2024.

Bosco Reach Out has been engaged in the implementation of the JJM. The formation of new Village Water and Sanitation Committees and Water User Committees (Paani Samiti) are going on along with the process of creating community awareness and taking up Gaon Panchayat resolution to engage in the mission through constitution, registration, sensitization, human resource development and Capacity Building of Gaon Panchayat members.

From April to June 2022, a total of 70 new Village Water Management Committees have been formed along with the undertaking of activities on awareness creation and mobilisation. Bank accounts for the collection of monthly water tariff and deposit of government funds are being opened in the name of the Water User Committees to enable them to take ownership of the Piped Water Supply Schemes (PWSS) and provide remuneration to the Pump Operators, Plumbers and Electricians, working in the Scheme (PWSS).

The staff of Bosco Reach Out engaged in the Jal Jeevan Mission field operations in Silchar had participated in the sanitation and hygiene awareness programs conducted by UNICEF in the relief camps, after the recent occurrence of heavy floods and landslides in the Cachar Region.

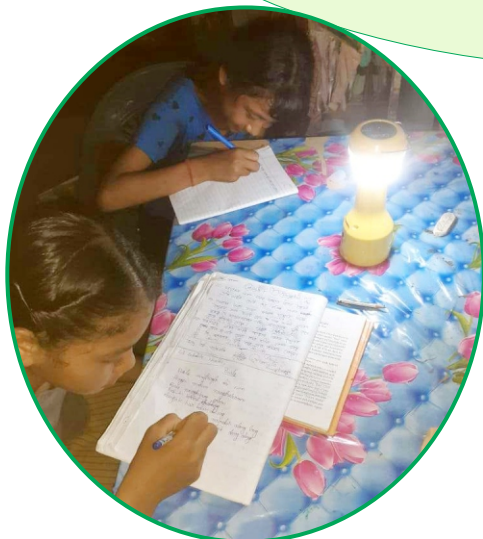




04. Solar Lantern Distribution: Green Skill

Bosco Reach Out distributed 749 solar lanterns to the needy families of the target areas during this quarter under the project *“Contribution to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and sustainable improvement of living conditions of marginalised population groups in Joropara and surroundings, Northeast India”*. Out of 749 families, 289 are from the Baithalango region, 56 are from the Boko region, 106 are from the Kumarikata region, and 298 are from the Tezpur region. Solar lanterns were distributed in remote areas of the project implementation regions, where the power supply is very irregular. The solar lamps will be of great help, especially to the students in these areas.

It is envisaged that solar lantern usage in place of kerosene lamps will reduce emission of Carbon dioxide and other harmful gases. The need for reducing the use of kerosene lamps by replacing them with solar lanterns had been emphasised at the time of the lamp distribution.





05. Skill Training Activities / Promoting Sustainable Livelihoods at North Garo Hills

On 8 June 2022, Fr A. Jayaprakash, Executive Director, Bosco Reach Out signed an MoU with Meghalaya State Skill Development Society (MSSDS) for the implementation of Skill Training Activities under Skills Meghalaya funded by MSSDS in the State of Meghalaya.

Under the Project/Scheme, the youth of Meghalaya, especially the youth of the North Garo Hills district will be mobilised to undergo various Skill Development Trainings in Agricultural Sector, viz., Organic Farmer, Mushroom Grower, and Piggery Farmer. It will go a long way in promoting agriculture and allied activities in the area. It will equip the youth to take up the entrepreneurial activities without going outside the state in search of jobs. The duration of the training is likely to be shorter than ordinary training, as the programme is designed to meet the local demand. Standardised courses will attract the youth which will ensure their better participation.

Bosco Reach Out will be extending its services for forward and backward linkages to help the trained youth to set up their units. The organisation has received assurance from some institutions already in this regard.





06. World No Tobacco Day: CARE Centres



World No Tobacco Day with the theme 'Tobacco: Threat to our Environment' was observed at Children At Risk Education (CARE). CARE students and SMC members in different locations of the project area. Two programmes in Saralpara and two more in Lungsung were conducted to create awareness about the harmful effects of using tobacco as millions of people die due to its consumption. The programme at Saralpara conducted on 30 May 2022, was attended by all the students of five CARE Schools, along with some elders, parents, and SMC members. A total of 202 persons were present. In Lungsung, a total of 346 persons were present on 31 May 2022, comprising the students of 13 CARE Schools, some elders, parents, and SMC members.

As part of the programme, there was an interactive session, during which the participants identified some of the tobacco products available in the local market like cigarette, bidi, gutka, bimol, and zardha. There was a discussion on diseases like various cancers, heart diseases and tuberculosis caused due to tobacco consumption. The Participants pledged to stop using tobacco and create awareness of the ill effects of using tobacco among people.





07. Inter School Singing Competition for CARE Students

The BRO CARE team organized an inter-school singing competition for the CARE school students in May 2022. It aims to bring out the hidden talents and skills of the CARE Students. Collectively it was conducted in two different CARE Centres. Three students from each Centre entered the final inter-school singing competition. The winners of the Saralapara Centre are Ms Rupali Toppo, a Class V student of Mainaguri; Ms Rumila Kujur, a Class V student of Birganj; Ms Sanjita Tirkey, a Class V student of Bamunijhora. The winners of the Lungsung Centre are Ms Elisha Hebrom, a Class IV student of 2 No Salbari; Mr Som Soren, a Class V student of Amritpur; Ms Mirila Hembrom, a Class V student of Kodomguri LP.

The children sang with to much of passion and confidence. They demonstrated a sense of pride, self-esteem and self-confidence. The competition also motivated the other students to develop their God-given talents.





08. Weaving as Livelihood Enterprise: ITDF Chirang

On 31 May 2022, at Tilapara village in Chirang, Capacity Building Training on “Weaving as Livelihood Enterprise” under Promotion of Income Generating Activities (IGAs) for the wadi beneficiaries of the *Project “Integrated Tribal Development Fund - Sidli block, Chirang district of Assam”* was organised. The training was imparted to encourage the participants to take up traditional handloom on a professional mode as an alternative means of earning their livelihood. The traditional handloom is a practice among the wadi beneficiaries. Weaving as a livelihood enterprise is an initial phase in the progression to small business development. The transition from being unemployed and lacking in skills to being self-employed and capable of managing a business operation is an important aspect. Applied management needs more understanding than technical aspects to start the business professionally. Therefore, it is considered an urgent need to capacitate wadi beneficiaries professionally.

The wadi beneficiaries attended training on weaving under Livelihood and Enterprise Development Programme (LEDP). They are targeting to convert their traditional handloom into a professional enterprise and earn a better income.





09. Farmers' Training and Capacity Building: ITDF Chirang

Bosco Reach Out conducted Farmers' Training and Demonstration on management practices for young horticulture-based plantations under Training and Capacity Building at four different villages of Chirang district for the wadi beneficiaries of the project ITDF-Sidli block, Chirang district of Assam. The objective was to impart knowledge about the scientific method of plantation and management of horticultural crops. The resource persons were Mr Join Narzary, Project Field Coordinator of BRO, and Ms Minku Das, Agriculture Specialist of BRO. A total of 86 wadi beneficiaries attended the training.

During the training, the resource persons talked about the importance of management practices, integrated pest management, and integrated nutrient management of crops. They also created awareness on the renovation of *in-situ* soil conservation structures and renovation of the ground water tank, Water Resource Management with a low-cost ground water tank for rainwater harvesting to be built along with a one-acre wadi. They conducted on-field demonstrations on the method of fertilizer application and the identification of diseases and pests.

The training created an awareness about the environment among the trainees and instilled in them a sense of social responsibility towards the environment.





10. Awareness Building on OFPO: ITDF Chirang

On 10 June 2022, an awareness-building programme on Off-Farm Producer Organizations (OFPOs) was conducted at Malivita, for the ITDF – Chirang district project wadi beneficiaries. Mr Join Narzary, the Project Field Coordinator of Bosco Reach Out was the resource person. A total of 32 wadi beneficiaries attended the awareness programme.

All the women wadi beneficiaries are expert weavers producing traditional dresses individually. They do not get fair prices for their products. The awareness programme intends to provide a marketing platform and organize these faceless weavers to form themselves into Off-Farm Producer Organizations (OFPOs). OFPOs are legal entities consisting of producers like artisans, weavers, and craftsmen that provide sharing of profits among members. The objective of the OFPO is to ensure better income for its members through aggregation and value addition. It plays a role in promoting rural enterprises in handloom, handicraft and other off-farm activities to generate local employment. It will enhance the value addition, design innovation and development, processing, brand-building, storage creation and logistics infrastructure, mechanization and technology development, and strong forward and backward linkages.





// ITDF - Dibrugarh Inaugurated

On 7 May 2022, the Sericulture-based non-Wadi Project was inaugurated at Natun Bolai Gaon Village, under Barbaruah Block of Dibrugarh District, Assam. The keynote address was delivered by Smt. Minku Das, Project Coordinator (Agriculture) of BRO, wherein she explained the potential of the project in the targeted area. Shri Biswajit Pegu, Deputy Commissioner of Dibrugarh, who was the chief guest, expressed his happiness and assured help to the beneficiaries. Shri Tankeswar Sonowal, Deputy Chief of Sonowal Kachari Autonomous Council motivated the beneficiaries with his powerful speech. Shri Jiban Ch. Saikia, Assistant Director of Sericulture, Dibrugarh who was a special dignitary present in the programme, explained about the huge potential to produce good quality Eri silk and assured to provide technical support. Shri Ramkrishna Sarmah, Assistant Director of Handloom and Textile, Shri Pranjal Gogoi, Deputy Director of Handloom and Textile, Shri Amitav Bhattacharjee, Director of RSETI and Shri Dhrubajyoti Phukan, Sericulture Demonstrator of Sericulture Department, were present in the inaugural function and encouraged the beneficiaries. All of them assured their cooperation.

Shri B.D. Parashar, DDM, NABARD, was also present at the inauguration of TDF Dibrugarh project and he explained about the role and importance of TDF project in the holistic development of the tribal population. Fr. A. Jayaprakash SDB, Executive Director of BRO, explained the mission, vision and achievements of BRO under the different projects with special emphasis on TDF projects implemented by Bosco Reach Out. The programme concluded with a symbolic distribution of planting materials to encourage the beneficiaries.





12. Staff Capacity Building Training - ITDF-Dibrugarh

A two-day staff capacity-building training from 22-23 April 2022 was conducted at the District Sericulture Office, Dibrugarh for the newly appointed staff for implementing the new project, ITDF-Dibrugarh district of Assam. The resource persons were Shri Karuna Kt. Boro, Scientist, Shri Binod Saikia, Assistant Manager and Shri Dhrubajyoti Phukan, Sericulture Demonstrator of District Sericulture Office, Dibrugarh. The training contents included different types of Silkworms, Eri silk production, selection of land and methods of kesseru plantation, castor seed sowing techniques, aftercare and pest and disease management, remedies for Eri food plantation, precautions on rearing house, different utensils for rearing and spinning, different stages of Eri worm, selection of seed cocoon and measures to be taken while hatching the eggs of butterfly for Eri larvae, rearing techniques and safety measures, harvesting, different phases of rearing and providing feed, post-cocoon technologies and activities under them, different machines used for spinning Eri silk and its usage. A practical class on reeling of mulberry silk and spinning of Eri silk traditionally, and the

difference between reeling and spinning was conducted.





19. Farmers' Training/Demonstration - ITDF Dibrugarh

From 25 to 27 May 2022, the farmer's training/demonstration was conducted at the Project office, Natun Bolai Gaon for 3 different groups. The 75 beneficiaries in attendance are the first phase of beneficiaries group from three villages of Bolai Gaon, Natun Bolai Gaon and Napam Than Gaon. Shri Pranjal Saikia, Project Coordinator, was the resource person. He discussed the concept of the project and other important aspects pertinent to the project like the layout of Eri's food plantation, and the package of practices for castor, kesseru and areca nut (border plant).

On 30 May 2022, the programme was conducted at the Project Office. Scientists from Central Muga Eri Research and Training Institute (CMER & TI), Central Silk Board, Ministry of Textiles, Govt. of India, P.O. – Lahdoigarh, Jorhat, Assam (India), were present. Dr Dharmendra K. Jigyasu, Scientist-C, explained the mission of the Central Silk board - 'To achieve excellence in application-oriented research for transforming the muga, eri and oak tasar industry from the subsistence level of production to a vibrant commercial base'. Shri Jigyasu, on behalf of CMER & TI, Jorhat distributed castor seeds and vermicompost among participants of the programme to encourage and motivate them.





14. Free Eye Care Camp and Cataract Surgery

Bosco Reach Out, during this quarter, conducted seven free eye camps in three districts, namely, Kamrup Rural, Goalpara and Nalbari, under the project 'Reduction of avoidable blindness among children and youth through comprehensive eye care programme in Assam' funded by Don Bosco Mission Bonn, Germany. Doctors from the Regional Institute of Ophthalmology Guwahati assisted in conducting the eye camps and cataract operations in Kamrup Rural and Nalbari districts. Doctors from Civil Hospital Goalpara helped in the Goalpara district camp. In the seven eye camps conducted, 1699 patients received free eye treatment. A total of 159 patients were diagnosed with cataract problem and 125 received successful cataract surgery. The optometrists conducted the correction of vision changes for 1009 patients, and all of them received free spectacles.

The patients and the communities expressed their happiness for the assistance received. They also mentioned that the patients remain untreated due to poverty. They are satisfied with the free eye care camp, free eye treatment, free transport to and fro during their cataract surgery at the hospital, and for receiving free spectacles. They are grateful and request for more such services in the rural areas.





15. Children Sponsorship Programme

As the covid cases declined, various activities were conducted which thrilled the sponsored children. All of us are happy getting back to normal life. On 16 April, Blue Umbrella Day was observed at Snehalaya Centre to raise and spread awareness against sexual abuse of minor boys under the provision of Child Rights. World Environment Day was observed in all the centres on 5 June with the rest of the world. The children planted saplings in their school campuses. They cleaned their surroundings too. In many schools, children participated in drawing competitions based on the theme of environment. On 21 June, the children observed International Yoga Day by performing *asanas* in the early morning with their instructors, which included meditation and breathing exercises.

A total of 21 sponsored children have appeared in the High School Leaving Certificate (HSLC) examinations of 2022 in which 90% of the children passed out successfully. Mr Ekka Ashish from Doomni Centre got distinction and letter marks in six subjects. Ms Marak Rinky from Boko Centre and Ms Marak Anita from Damra Centre passed in first division with a letter mark in one subject each. On the other hand, four Snehalaya children appeared for Higher Secondary (Arts) final examinations. One of them passed in the first division, and three of them passed in the third division.





16. Grace of God

My name is Ashish Ekka, born in 2006, in a small and beautiful village called Teklibhanga in Doomni, Baksa district of Assam. When I was three years old my father passed away. My mother, Rina Ekka struggled to look after me and my sister. I was admitted to Don Bosco School, Doomni. My mother could not pay my school fees when I was in Class I. So, our Parish Priest, Fr. Francis Basumatary submitted my details to Bosco Reach Out for sponsorship. Thus, I could continue my studies. In 2018, my sister Manisha Ekka passed her matriculation examinations and she went for her higher studies in Golaghat, Assam.

During Class IX, I took my studies seriously and scored a high percentage. My mother also makes sure that we study frequently. I became more serious in Class X, inspired by the very good results of the previous class X students. For six months from July 2021, I stopped playing football, my favourite sport.

On 7 June 2022, I got my matric results with distinction and letter marks in all the subjects. This is through the grace of God and my mother's attention to my studies. I thank Bosco Reach Out, Guwahati, Fratelli Dimenticati, Italy and Fr. Francis Basumatary, my Parish priest of Doomni for my success.

Autobiography: Ashish Ekka





17. Job Placement Network

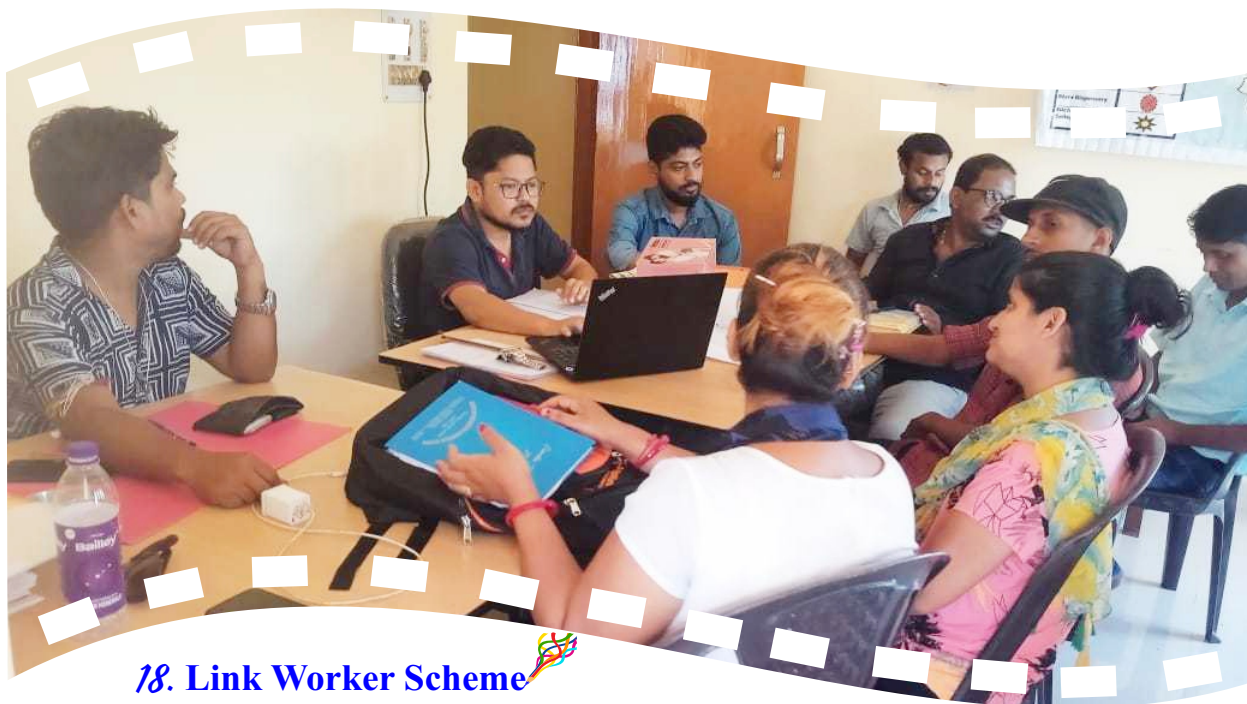
Bosco Reach Out through Job Placement Network has been working to provide jobs to the unemployed youth of the North East. On 1 April 2022, Mr. Abraham, Manager of IMBIBED Private Limited, agreed to collaborate with BRO in providing jobs to the company. On 7 April 2022, Mr. Johnny Jacob Tudu, Assistant Placement Coordinator of BRO conducted a one-day career guidance session for the candidates who came for the RACE Project of BRO.

Mr. Sundar Raman S, General Manager of HCL and Fr. A. Jayaprakash, Executive Director of BRO, agreed to collaborate in providing an opportunity to the Class XII passed students to get into IT industry. Personnel from HCL and BRO visited Don Bosco School Guwahati and took sessions for the Class XII students on jobs opportunities.

On 14 May 2022 HCL job drive was conducted at Bosco Reach Out. HCL Personnel, Mr. Uphar Srivastava, Zonal Lead North East, Mr. Dibakar Bora, State Lead Assam, and Mr. Sundar Raman S, General Manager, explained to the candidates the benefits and the advantages that HCL provides directly after Class XII.

They also met the Pro-Vice-Chancellor of Don Bosco University, Azara campus and the Placement Coordinator regarding Job Placement in HCL, an IT industry, after graduation.





18. Link Worker Scheme

Bosco Reach Out completed the Situation Need Assessment (SNA) of 50 villages out of 100 villages in the rural areas of Cachar where High-Risk Behaviour is prevalent. Simultaneously, Line listing and providing services as per project norms will follow in the identified 50 villages. In-house training for newly recruited Cluster Link Workers was conducted on 30 May 2022 at the Project Office of Bosco Reach Out LWS Office. The training was attended by 12 Cluster Link Workers. Important details regarding conducting a Situation Need Assessment (SNA) of the Cluster were discussed.

Village level meetings and advocacy meetings were conducted in Malidar (Assam – Meghalaya Border) for sensitisation of information related to HIV-AIDS and its prevention. Village broad mapping and meeting with stakeholders were undertaken during the village level meeting.





19. Relief Materials Distribution to the Needy

On 3 June 2022, Bosco Reach Out, supported by SAVE Foundation, distributed Relief Materials to the 150 needy people in and around Guwahati and its outskirts.

The beneficiaries of the Hengrabari, Borbari have been evicted from their houses since May, now putting up on the streets. The beneficiaries of the Pan Bazaar railway gate no.3 are living in slums with poor hygienic conditions, and the children are malnourished. They are forced to do manual scavenging in the city to feed their families. Sonapur and Ninth Mile areas have a large population of migrant labourers who have no homes to stay in and as a result resort to cooking and sleeping on roadside footpaths and beside highways.

The Relief Materials comprised of rice, flour, sugar, pulses, soya chunks, biscuits, tea leaves and mustard oil. The beneficiaries appreciated the donors for coming to their aid in their time of need.





20. World Environment Day

'Only One Earth' is the theme of this year's World Environment Day. The slogan calls for a collective consciousness of the people toward transformative policies, to bring about sustainable changes to our planet. The goal has been to live in harmony with nature. This planet is our only home. Keeping this in mind, different initiatives have been taken by BRO to create awareness amongst the beneficiaries in the project areas ever since its inception.

This year as well, World Environment Day had been celebrated in different project locations by BRO on the 5th of June, 2022. Under the NABARD Project, Tribal Development Fund in Goalpara and Chirang- Malivita areas, World Environment Day was celebrated. The celebration in Goalpara was organised by Navajyoti FPO and was promoted by BRO. Under the Jal Jeevan Mission Project areas of BRO, namely Hailakandi, Silchar and Karimganj divisions, observed the World Environment Day by planting tree saplings and exchanging greetings. Environment-friendly activities were also organized in the Tezpur region of Assam and Mendal Region of North Garo Hills, Meghalaya. The day was an occasion to raise global awareness to take environmental action to protect nature. The people and the field staff in the respective project locations observed quite a harmonious day with nature and created awareness about safeguarding our earth for future generations.





21. Flood Relief

During the months of May and June, Assam and its neighbouring states received heavy rains resulting in the worst floods in recent memory. The floods washed away many houses while the villages remained inundated. Crops, cattle and belongings were destroyed. The villagers had to stay in temporary make-shift tents along the roads and high embankments.

Bosco Reach Out, in collaboration with the Parish Priest of Satgaon, in Karbi Anglong and Haflong in Dima Hasao, carried out immediate flood relief works for the most vulnerable and marginalised flood-affected families in May and June. A dedicated team of volunteers, mainly the youth, came forward during the flood relief distributions. A total of 885 families of Satgaon areas and 84 families of Jatinga areas received the dry ration containing rice, flour, sugar, dal, salt, edible oil, biscuits, dishwashing soap, bathing soap, masala packet and tea. We thank everyone who provided their valuable services during the distributions of relief materials.





22. CARE School SMCs Meeting

A meeting for the SMCs of the CARE schools was held in Sorolpara and Lungsung on two different days, on 9 and 10 June 2022. SMCs of five Schools were present in Sorolpara, and SMCs of five schools in Lungsung. They discussed the duties and responsibilities of the SMCs for the welfare of the schools and the students.

Bosco Reach Out provided 5500 areca nut saplings to twenty-two schools with 250 areca nut trees each, and the villagers had planted them in the vicinity of the CARE schools. The plantation of areca nut trees in the schools will bring financial sustainability to run the CARE schools after the project completion. The SMCs are encouraged to grow more areca nut trees for income generation. About 40 SMCs were present for the meeting.





23. Assessment/Screening Programme: CBR of PwDs

Bosco Reach Out implements 'Community-Based Rehabilitation (CBR) of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) in Boko Block of Kamrup Rural District of Assam' in 20 villages. It is supported by Caritas India CBR Forum, Bangalore. It aims at having the local community take responsibility for the growth and development of its members who have disabilities as it does for its other members, making use of all the available resources and opportunities. We have identified 273 Persons with Disabilities in this region.

From 27 to 30 June 2022 (four days) assessment/screening programme had been conducted at Bosco Barefoot college Boko, in collaboration with Mobility India, a national level organization working in the field of physical rehabilitation since 1994. MI Personnel who did the assessment/screening included Mr. Sujeet Kumar – Prosthetist and Orthotist, Ms. Basanti Reang – Physiotherapist, Mr. Justin Hrangkhawl – Orthotic Technologist, Mr. Bimol Rongpee – Orthotic Technologist, Ms. Jakina Engtipi – Orthotic Technologist, and Mr. Kamminlun – Rehab Therapist.

A total of 33 PwDs were screen and given necessary treatment of whom 18 will be receiving prosthetic devices.





24. Thank You Fr. Damian Basumatary SDB & Welcome, Fr. Ignatius Gari SDB

June 23rd, 2022 was a day of mixed feelings for the BRO family. It was on this day that we bade farewell to Rev Fr Damian Basumatary SDB, the outgoing Deputy Director and Administrator of BRO. It was also a happy occasion to welcome Rev Fr Ignatius Gari, SDB the newly appointed Deputy Director, to the BRO family. A short but meaningful programme was organised by the staff to do justice to both the occasions. Ms Jigyasha, who had hosted the welcome programme of Fr Damian, ably anchored the short programme. Fr Jimmy introduced the gathering and welcomed everyone present. In a special way, he thanked Fr Damian for his selfless and dedicated service to BRO and also accorded a warm welcome to Fr Ignatius. They were honoured with a phoolan gamocha and a bouquet of flowers. The staff sang a farewell song and presented a small token of love to Fr Damian. Fr Jayaprakash, the Executive Director, speaking on the occasion, thanked Fr Damian for the innumerable works that he has accomplished during his short stay in BRO, recalling many interventions made and initiatives taken on behalf of the poor and the marginalized. “A person with many talents, Fr Damian brought life and energy to the organisation”, he observed. The brief programme ended with the vote-of-thanks proposed by Ms. Angela, who also expressed sentiments of gratitude on behalf of BRO family and wished Fr Damian the very best in his new assignment.

In Fr Damian, BRO had a dynamic and charismatic guide and leader, who had been a source of encouragement and a motivating factor to the organization. He had been an inspiration and a guiding light to many young people. BRO will definitely miss Fr Damian and his dynamic personality.

We extend a warm welcome to Fr Ignatius and assure him of our cooperation and support as he takes up his responsibilities in BRO.





Mr. A.R. Deury, DDM, NABARD interacting with wadi beneficiaries in the field



Visit of Manos Unidas Team to BRO