

**BOSCO  
REACH OUT**



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# Focus

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**Children's Mela for CARE Schools**



**New ITDF Project Launched at Arunachal Pradesh**

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## **Editorial Board**

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# Director's Message



**Dear Friends,**  
Greetings from Bosco Reach Out!

The New Year has just begun. We are happy to extend our heartfelt greetings of Happy New Year 2023. We set our feet firm on the ground to enhance our skills and capacity to work better than last year.

We are happy to launch a new project, 'Integrated Tribal Development Programme for Thrizino Block in West Kameng District, Arunachal Pradesh State' on 8 December 2022, with a project partner NABARD Arunachal Pradesh. Children's Mela for CARE Schools, Health Awareness for Mothers and Children, Teachers Training for CARE Centre, and Inclusive Education Training for Teachers were carried out.

We carried out community-free eye care camps and vision testing camps for school students within our operational areas. We could complete all the project activities with immense enthusiasm till the end of the year.

We are very grateful to all our project partners for their earnest effort and for providing support for the development of the community who are really in need of help. We thank all the General Body Members and guests for their valuable presence in the Annual General Body Meeting.

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





## Children's Mela for CARE Schools

Children's Mela was conducted on 11 October 2022 for the students of CARE schools at 2 No. Salbari LP School in Lungsung. Children from all the CARE schools were present for the occasion. Dances and games were organised to mark the day. The mothers of the students welcomed the guests with a cultural dance. The children also presented a few dances.

Mr. Martin Kasper, Project Partner, motivated the children to study well. Fr. Thomas Lakra sdb, the Parish Priest of St. Xaviur's Dotma encouraged the children to think and dream great. After the programme, the guests interacted and played with the children. Project partner personnel, more than 1,000 children, around 120 guardians of the children and other guests had a great day together. The programme ended on a happy note for the beneficiaries and the benefactors.





## Health Awareness for Mothers and Children

BRO conducted a health awareness programme for mothers and children of all the CARE schools in the district of Kokrajhar of Assam, in the respective schools from 17 to 22 October 2022. The community educators, Ms. Puspa Baskey and Ms. Paulina Mardi along with Ms. Grace Guria, M & E Coordinator of BRO, visited the schools to conduct the programme. The human anatomy chart was used to show and explain the functions of the different parts of the human body and how they can prevent most of the ailments in the body by making up of available resources from the homestead garden.

More than 670 women attended the programme. It was a life-saving lesson for the mothers who expressed their happiness and contentment at learning a healthy way of living everyday life.





## Teachers Training for CARE Centre

A three-day of residential teachers training for the CARE teachers was organized at the Centre of Development Initiative (CDI), Azara from 28 to 30 November 2022. The theme for the training was “Education for all, a three-day introduction.” Mr. Polash Burahgohain and Mr. Pratul Chandra Bhatt from Pratham were the resource persons. It was an activity-based training. Demonstrations and activities coupled with games between the sessions kept the teachers awake and alive.

Fr. Jayaprakash Anthonimuthu, the Executive Director of BRO visited the programme, and encouraged the teachers to get the best out of the training, implement it in their respective schools for the well-being of the children and the development of the locality. Fr. Ignatius Gari sdb, the Associated Director of BRO animated the teachers to enable them to be more conscious of what they do, in their day-to-day life as teachers and impart the same to the children they teach. There were 23 participants in the training including cluster coordinators and Community Educators.

The Teachers were taken for an educational outing to Don Bosco Panbazar, State Zoo at Guwahati and Science Museum at Khanapara on 29 November 2022.





## **Inclusive Education Training for Teachers**

BRO organised a three-day training programme on inclusive education at Sarba Siksha Abhiyan (SSA) Office, Dongkamukam under the RACE Project led by Mr. Romeo D'monte, the Project Coordinator of BRO and team in collaboration with SSA. 23 LP teachers from various clusters attended the training. The resource persons were subject experts from Shishu Sarothi, Guwahati, Mrs. Diba Nahin (Director of Training at Shishu Sarothi), Mrs. Monika Das (Senior Special Educator; Supervises Autism at Shishu Sarothi), and Mr. Alok Kumar Trivedi (Key Teacher at Shishu Sarothi; Works on Inclusive Education for Primary School of SSA).

Sir. Dilip Teron, the DPO of West Karbi Anglong and Sir. Hakim Rongpi, the DMC of Dongka visited the training programme. They interacted with the participants and encouraged them to gain maximum benefits from the training.

The resource persons through presentations, activities, group work and lectures made the teachers understand the new definition of children with disability, their barriers and the way to find the solution to their problems. The three days training was challenging yet encouraged the teachers in the new concept of inclusion of people with disabilities in education in rural areas.





## **New ITDF Project Launched at Arunachal Pradesh**

Integrated Tribal Development Fund (ITDF) Project was launched on 8 December 2022. Mr. Partho Saha, NABARD GM officially launched the new project at Palizi village in Thrizino block, West Kameng district of Arunachal Pradesh. The project aims at creating livelihood opportunities for 200 farmers, covering 200 acres, based on horticulture orchards in nine villages of Ramda, Palizi, Balipho, Subu, Tania, Tuluhi, Kaya Valley, Gijiri and Phrizin under Thrizino block. The project's main crops are plum, walnut and kiwi along with pineapple and kidney beans. Its border plantations included Malaysian Sal and Mahogany.

Mr. Avinash Pantawane, NABARD, AGM; Fr. Valerian, the Director of Purvanchal Pragati Samaj; Fr. Praveen, the Principal of St. Xavier's School, Palizi and Fr. Jayaprakash Anthonimuthu, the Executive Director of BRO also spoke on the occasion. A large gathering of beneficiaries from the project villages attended the programme.







## Free Eye Check-up Camp

Bosco Reach Out organised eye check-up camp in order to support and bridge the gap between the government departments and rural communities where they couldn't avail the facilities on time due to lack of awareness, transportation, etc. The volunteers from the village helped in conducting the eye camps. Bosco Reach Out personnel personally visited various remote schools at different districts and sought permission of the school authorities to conduct vision testing camp. Vision testing camps were conducted with the help of trained teachers and volunteers. The children diagnosed with vision errors were intimated to their school headmaster and parents concerned. BRO arranged doctors from Guwahati and conducted another camp at the school for vision correction during which doctors prescribed glasses for the students. Bosco Reach Out prepared the prescribed glasses and distributed to them to the students free of cost.

During this quarter, four community free eye check-up camps and four vision testing camps for school students were organised. A total of 1162 school children received vision testing. Out of 880 patients screened from community screened, 88 patients were hospitalized and received successful cataract surgery at 200 Bedded District Civil Hospital Goalpara and Regional Institute of Ophthalmology, Guwahati.





## Annual General Body Meeting

On 31 October 2022, Bosco Reach Out held an annual general body meeting at its head office in Guwahati. Fr. Januarius Sangma, the President of the organisation and Provincial of Salesian Guwahati Province chaired the meeting. Fr. Jayaprakash Anthonimuthu, the Secretary cum Executive Director of BRO welcomed all the members and guests. The meeting began with a prayer followed by the lighting of the lamp. Fr. Ignatius Gari, the Associate Director of BRO read the minutes of the previous governing body meeting. Ms. Jigyasha Kashyap presented the project activities of the organisation. Ms. Susangita Doley presented the audited statement of accounts and auditor's report.

The president released the BRO's annual report 2021-2022 and expressed his appreciation for the hard work of the BRO team, as a social wing of Salesian Guwahati Province, rendering service to the marginalized people in the region.

On the same day, the governing board members also held a meeting to plan and discuss about the betterment of the organisation and community.





## Credit Linkage Programme at Chirang District

On 19 October 2022, BRO organised a credit linkage programme for farmers on the Kisan Credit Card (KCC) scheme, where farmers are exempt from the high-interest rates of the loans offered by regular banks. The interest rate is only between 2%-4%. On 20 October 2022, another credit linkage programme for weavers was organised at Malivita village and discussed the fund requirement for expanding their activity was discussed. On 22 October 2022, BRO organised a credit linkage programme for SHGs at the Project Office Tilapara, where the resource persons were Shri. Hemanta Barman, Assistant Director, Sericulture and Shri. Nirmal Saha, Assistant Manager, Sericulture Department, Chirang district. The farmers gained information about the banks providing term loans for silk production activities which includes the cultivation of mulberry plants, rearing of silkworms, processing of silk, reeling and weaving of silk cloth, and silk sarees.

On 15 November 2022, a programme was organised on credit linkage and Farmer Producer Organisation business plan at Project Office Tilapara, where Shri. A. R. Deury, DDM, NABARD, Chirang and Smt. Minku Das, Project Coordinator (Agriculture), BRO were the resource persons. They discussed the proposed business activities of the FPO which included procurement of crops (paddy, fruits, vegetables), collection of milk, production of horticultural crops (arecanut, orange, potato) and areca plates, and sale of these products.





## Management Practices for Pig Rearing

On 12 October 2022 at Project Office, Tilapara, Malivita, BRO organised an improved method of pig rearing, management practices, and vaccination schedule for pigs for the beneficiaries of the Integrated Tribal Development Fund Project implemented in Sidli block of Chirang district in Assam. Mr. Keshab Kumar Poudel, Veterinary Assistant, MAITRI organisation was the resource person. The core objective of the programme was to improve the knowledge of the farmers on the scientific method of pig rearing, management practices, nutrient supplement, mineral mixtures, and vaccination.

During the programme, BRO also distributed mineral mixtures and deworming medicines to 50 low-cost piggery units as an encouragement in their activities. Deworming is done before the rainy season or end of the rainy season to reduce summer infestation of adult worms which is very common. The farmers of the region are taking up pig rearing and have started earning extra income for their families.





## **Job Placement Network**

The career guidance and job placement department of Bosco Reach Out hosted a webinar at the facility on 07 October 2022. Mr. Ranit Mandal Senior, Executive BFSI NIIT Limited and Mr. Subhajit Pal Director of Neck Down Generation (NDG) conducted the counselling for job placement at ICICI Bank pan India. Eight candidates participated and three of them were shortlisted for the job.

On 09 November 2022, a recruitment drive was hosted at the facility. Ms. Dipshikha Talukdar (Asst. Director of Assam State AIDS Control Society) and Mr. Rajiv Rasaily (Regional Coordinator) conducted the interviews. Three candidates were selected for the three posts for Kshmata Kendra project under HIV-AIDS implemented by Bosco reach Out in collaboration with Assam State AIDS Control Society with the support of Solidarity and Action Against the HIV-Infected in India (SAATHII), New Delhi.





## **Farmers Exposure Visit for ITDF-West Kameng**

The farmers had three days of exposure visits, which concluded on 30 November 2022. A total of 45 farmers participated in two groups of 22 and 23 each. Each group enjoyed their stay and study at Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Dirang, West Kameng district of Arunachal Pradesh. The objective of the exposure was to bring awareness and build the capacity of the farmers who had just begun to take up new activities.

They had a great time learning during the different sessions on the selected project crops and the scientific plantation and maintenance strategies. Also, the field visits helped them observe and learn. It has encouraged and motivated them to replicate the practices in their farms. They also received other supportive sessions on agricultural practices like vermicomposting, piggery and many other demo units in the farms they visited.

The scientists who guided the farmers and conducted the sessions were very supportive. They encouraged the farmers to learn during the interactive session, questioning and clearing their doubts.



## Farmer's Training on Silkworm Rearing

On 8 and 17 October 2022, the farmer's training on Silkworm rearing was conducted at the BRO Project office, Bolai Na Gaon, Dibrugarh district of Assam. Mr Pranjal Saikia, the Project Coordinator of BRO was the resource person. Through his discussion, the wadi beneficiaries became aware of the topics of raising perennial Eri food plants (Kesseru) for practicing Eri culture, raising castor along with Kesseru as an intercrop for the first three years, ensuring quality leaves throughout the year for Eri rearing in a sustainable manner, different types of Silkworms, Eri food production-kesseru and castor plantation, harvesting and selection of leaf for feeding and safety measures to be kept while feeding, different phases of rearing and the time of providing food to the Eri worm according to their phase, selection of seed cocoon and measures to be taken for hatching the egg of butterfly for Eri larva, rearing techniques and safety measures to be implemented, constructing rearing house, post cocoon technologies and different activities under it, weaving of Eri silk and its current demand in the market, processing of Cocoons - Drying, Degumming and Spinning, Eri silk production and after care, and income calculation from Eri culture and its different value-added products.





## Diwali

Diwali, the festival of lights, is a festival which holds dear to the hearts of the BRO community. It is celebrated every year with lots of love. The beautiful Diwali rangoli with colourful flower petals and leaves lighted with clay *diyas* added colour and grace to the memorable day.

Fr. Solomon Denis, Principal of Don Bosco School Baithalangso, West Karbi Anglong, chief guest of the celebration, mentioned that the Diwali festival is observed all over the world. It is a festival that integrated all people dispelling all darkness. The staff of BRO presented a song adding more joy to the celebration.







## Pre-Christmas Celebration

Bosco Reach Out celebrated pre-Christmas on 20 December 2022 at its head office. Personnel from project partners, collaborators, and neighbours joined the joyful celebration. It began with the blessing of the Christmas crib followed by the thanksgiving mass. The evening cultural programme consisted of carol songs, cultural dances and gifts exchange. At the end everyone present shared the sumptuous Christmas dinner. The Agriculture Training Centre Joropara and Social Development Centre Umrangso also celebrated the pre-Christmas at its respective centres with great devotion.

The Christmas day was observed with friends and families living in the neighborhood sharing Christmas cake and snacks.





Farmers training and demonstration at Palizi



Importance of Education and leadership