



Assam Centre for
Rural Development



ASSAM CENTRE FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Transforming the lives of rural communities in Assam



WHO WE ARE

Assam Centre for Rural Development (ACRD) came into existence in 1995 as a registered non-government organisation. Late Dr Lily Mazinder Baruah, a renowned social activist and youngest daughter of first Chief Minister of Assam, Bharat Ratna Late Lokapriya Gopinath Bordoloi played a key role in giving birth to ACRD.

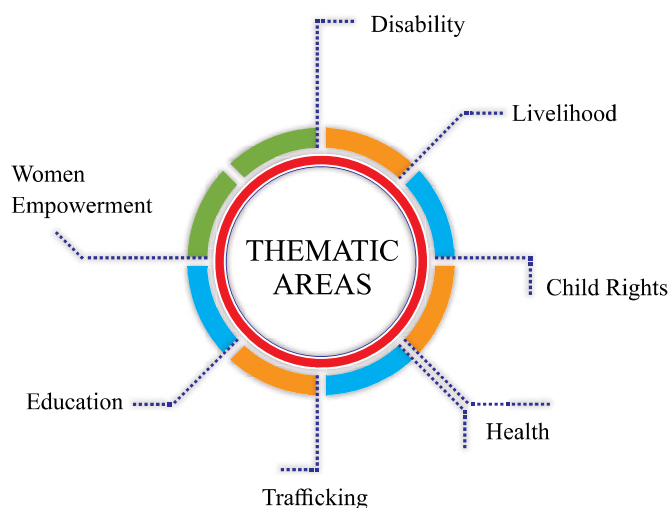
ACRD has been working in remote, inaccessible, and mostly tribal areas of Assam for the past two decades with focus on disability, child rights, education, health, livelihood, trafficking and women empowerment. We believe in working for the overall holistic development of rural people with focus on community participation. Our organisation has been making serious efforts to empower poor women, youth and the differently-abled to become self-reliant so that they can live a life of dignity and honour.

OUR VISION

To facilitate, strengthen the rural and disadvantaged people and develop their confidence, build capacity, and their skills in respect to alternative livelihood opportunities, health support and educational support services.

OUR MISSION

To catalyse socio-economic change in rural Assam by empowering the most deprived and disadvantaged sections of the community.



DISABILITY

Community Based Rehabilitation for Persons with Disability (CBR)

ACRD has been working for the development and betterment of the differently-abled through the CBR project which is being funded by Collective Action for Basic Rights Foundation (CBRF), Bangalore, with financial support from Light for the World (LFW), Germany. In 2008, the first CBR project was implemented in Chandrapur Block of Kamrup district. The project was focused on facilitating persons with various disabilities for their social, economic inclusion and participation in the society with a rights based approach. After successful phase out, the project came to an end in March 2017. Seeing the outcomes and successes of the project, ACRD was offered a grant to implement the CBR project in Rani Block of Kamrup district. The project is focused on the following:

- Home-based rehabilitation support to Children with Disabilities (CWDs).
- Facilitate in giving disability aids and appliances from various agencies, like Artificial Limb Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO), Jaipur foot etc.

- Mothers Groups are formed with a view to give mothers of disabled children a platform to raise concerns about their children and enable them to help each other.
- Disabled People's Organisations (DPOs) have been set up in the village, Panchayat, Block and State level to work on the issues of accessibility, disability certificate and pension, education and healthcare, livelihood support etc, and for their inclusion and participation in the society.

State Level Federation of Persons with Disabilities (SELF)

A State Level Disabled People's Organisation (SDPO) was formed in 2014 with a view to address the issues related to disabled people and raise them with the government machinery for change at the policy level. DPO leaders were identified from five partner NGOs of CBR in Assam.

The DPO leaders meet regularly to discuss various issues and hold interface meetings with key government officials from various departments, like Social Welfare, Education, Health, Rural and Urban Development, for better laws and implementation of welfare schemes for the disabled.



414
(men, women and children)
reached in Chandrapur Block

265 disabled reached in
Rani Block

1,928
people with disabilities inducted
into the SDPO



LIVELIHOOD

Skill Development Training for Women and School Drop out Girls.

A training centre has been set up by ACRD in Barpratima village of Rani Block to empower school drop-out girls and poor women through skill development training.

The training centre has been set up with financial assistance from the Embassy of Japan under the Grassroots Grants Project (GGP).

Presently, the training centre offers short-term courses on the following trades – Basic computer, cutting and tailoring, weaving and Spoken English.



CHILD RIGHTS

Non Formal Schools for child labourers under National Child Labour Project (NCLP)

ACRD has been implementing the National Child Labour Project under the Ministry of Labour and Employment since 2008. Four non-formal schools also known as 'Gyan Setu Kendra' or 'Special Training Centres' for children working as child labourers have been set up in Chandrapur Block, Kamrup district. Children in the age group of 9-14 years engaged as child labourers are enrolled in the STCs, where they are provided with bridge education, vocational training, mid-day meal, stipend, health care etc. before being mainstreamed into the formal education system.

In 2020, the same project was taken up in new areas of Chandrapur Block in Kamrup metropolitan district, where families of migrant labourers and their children who had never been to a formal school before were identified and enrolled in the four STCs namely - Ganesh Nagar (Centre No 37), Govardhan 2 (Centre No 35), 7 No Bagicha (Centre No 38), and Suwali Lukuwa Garo Basti (Centre No 25).

As on date, 300 students of these schools have been enrolled in other formal schools.

CHILDLINE

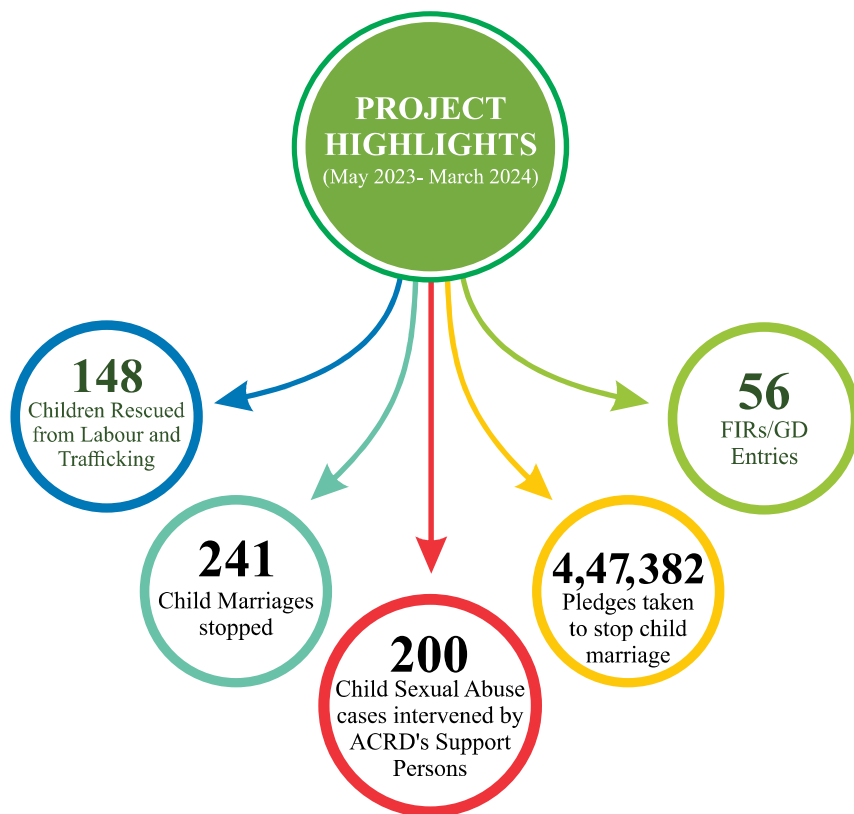
ACRD ran two sub-centres of CHILDLINE 1098 Helpline services for children in distress, in Boko and Rani Block of Kamrup district from April 2016- March 2023. Through CHILDLINE 1098 Helpline, any child in need or in distress was rescued and restored by the CHILDLINE teams once information was received. The project was implemented with the support of Ministry of Women and Child Development, Govt of India with CHILDLINE India Foundation, serving as the Nodal organisation. During the project period, 1544 children were rescued by the CHILDLINE teams of ACRD.

Children
1544
rescued by
CHILDLINE teams
of ACRD



সত্যর্থ
বাল্য বিবাহ মুক্ত ভারত
CHILD MARRIAGE FREE INDIA
আহক, আমি সকলোৰে বিনিময় কৰিবলৈ জিলাক বাল্য বিবাহ মুক্ত
CHILD TRAFFICKING, CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE, CHILD MARRIAGE
সুৰক্ষিত শিশু, সুৰক্ষিত ভাৰত
SAFE CHILDHOOD, SAFE INDIA
Organised by
ASSAM CENTRE FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT
DISTRICT: Kamrup (R)
DATE:

সত্যর্থ
বাল্য বিবাহ মুক্ত ভারত
CHILD MARRIAGE FREE INDIA
সুৰক্ষিত বচপন, সুৰক্ষিত ভাৰত | **SAFE CHILDHOOD, SAFE INDIA**
16 OCTOBER 2023
KAMRUP (R) DISTRICT
#ChildMarriageFreeIndia | @BalVivahSeAzadi



Access to Justice for Every Child

ACRD has partnered with the Kailash Satyarthi Children's Foundation USA for a programme titled "Access to Justice for Every Child". The programme focuses on prevention and elimination of child trafficking, child sexual abuse, child marriage and ensuring justice and rehabilitation for victims. The programme was implemented from May 2023 – March 2024 across 450 villages in three districts of Assam-- Baksa, Kamrup Metro, and Kamrup. From May 2024, the programme is being implemented by ACRD in two more districts of Assam – Dibrugarh and Lakhimpur.



20352

beneficiaries were covered
under Sanjeevani Project

Mobile Dispensary

ACRD implemented the Mobile Dispensary Project for Schedule Tribes by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs from 2003- 2019.

Under the project, free health check-up camps for tribal people were organised regularly in the remote villages of Chayani Borduar and Rani Development block, Kamrup district.

A health check-up unit in Narayanpur village, Chayani Borduar was also set-up where free medicines, referrals to local health centres or hospitals in cases of emergencies were given to people under the programme.

SBI Sanjeevani Clinic on Wheels

ACRD with the support of the State Bank of India Foundation (SBIF) and co-funded by National Securities Depository Limited (NSDL) and SBI Mutual Funds is implementing "SBI Sanjeevani Clinic on Wheels," covering 40 remote villages of Baksa and Tamulpur districts, Assam from March 2023 till date.

The Sanjeevani project is aimed at providing preliminary healthcare services through a Mobile Medical Unit (MMU) or Outpatient Department (OPD) van -- to people living in remote areas. Under this project, the SBI Foundation has provided two OPD vans so that access to remote areas becomes easier.

The MMU or the OPD vans are equipped with basic medical facilities, and a medical team comprising of doctor, lab technician, pharmacist and a health assistant –cum-driver for providing both preventive & curative health services along with diagnostic and referrals. A total of 20352 beneficiaries were covered during the period March 2023- February 2024.



SPECIALIZED ADOPTION AGENCY (SAA)

In 2018, ACRD had received recognition to set-up a Specialised Adoption Home (SAA) for orphaned, abandoned, lost, or surrendered children up to the age of six years. Named 'Morom Alay' the newly recognised SAA, authorized by the Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) under the Ministry of Women and Child Development was located in Barihat, near Mirza, Kamrup district.

The SAA was responsible for the care and protection of the children who were given up or surrendered for adoption and placing them for adoption to prospective adoptive parents (PAPs), and facilitate in the adoption process, including court process, registration, etc.

Through "Morom Alay", six children were placed for adoption before the SAA was withdrawn in 2019.



SBI GRAM SEVA

In 2017, ACRD partnered with the State Bank of India Foundation (SBIF), the CSR wing of State Bank of India to implement the flagship SBI Gram Seva programme in Assam's Baksa district for a period of three years.

Under the Gram Seva programme, five remote and under developed villages namely Doomni, Dekadong, Arnibil, Sonapur and Ahopa, were identified in Baksa district for their holistic development.

The project focused on key areas such as healthcare, education, sanitation, digitization, livelihood, skill development, environment protection, convergence of government schemes, etc. through an integrated approach with focus on strengthening the existing Gram Panchayat.

Over a period of three years (2017-2020), over 3,000 BPL families benefitted through the Gram

Seva programme. Some of the key achievements of the programme are-

Digitization – Established five Community Information Centres (CICs) (one stop centre for the community to access internet services). And information about banking and job services.

Education – 20 computers and five digital classrooms set-up in local schools, awarded SBI Talent scholarship to thirteen students from poor families for sports, education, remedial classes for students.

Networking - Converged government schemes such as Disability certificate, Old Age Pension, PMAY, PM Kisan, PMJJBY, PMBSY, Widow pension, Mudra Loan, Kisan Credit Card, etc benefitting more than 1000 people

Environment – Installed 63 handpumps and water tanks for better access to drinking water, installed three rainwater harvesting units and renovated three ponds for conservation of water, around 2000 saplings planted in and around the villages.

Infrastructure – 18 public buildings (schools, toilets, community halls, passenger resting house, etc repaired and renovated)

Electricity – Four solar panels installed in schools and 130 solar street lights installed in the villages.

Sanitation – 10 community toilets constructed

Health & Hygiene – 17 free health camps (eye, TB, cancer, general, etc) held benefitting more than 1500 individuals. 26 patients underwent eye surgery free of cost in Sri Shankerdeva Netralaya. 10 garbage bins and 5 composting pits installed in public places.

Livelihood & Skill development – Piggery, goatery, vermin-composting, tailoring, mobile repairing, jute, home nursing trainings given to 500 youth, women and men through SBI RSETI and other skill training institutes for Vincome generation.

A tailoring unit – SBI Prerna was also set-up and over 100 + local women have learnt and continue to learn stitching and tailoring - many are also earning an income after setting up their own units at home.

In addition, piglets, pig shed, goatery shed, vermicomposting pit, weaving materials, cello pump for irrigation, wooden carts, pan shop, tent house materials, mobile repairing materials, were distributed among select beneficiaries including disabled, single women, women headed households, etc for income generation.

SBI Gram Seva Sustainability

From October 2020 onwards, the Gram Seva programme entered into the sustainability phase, and a Sustainability Officer and Gram Sevak were appointed under the programme to monitor the activities of the Gram Seva programme. The sustainability programme commenced for a period of two years starting October 2020 – September 2022 to also ensure accountability of the programme activities, regular monitoring and management of the assets/ resources created under the SBI Gram Seva programme.

SBI Gram Saksham

After the successful implementation of the Gram Seva Sustainability programme, the SBI Foundation partnered with ACRD in November 2022 to implement the Gram Saksham programme in 10 villages of Baksa district, including the previously adopted Gram Seva villages. The Gram Saksham project is aimed at creating alternate livelihood opportunities for poor women through sustainable pig rearing practices in the selected villages. During the initial phase, 100 direct beneficiaries were identified and trained for pig rearing, and given a piglet each and pig shed. Their piglets were insured, vaccinated and regular health camps were conducted to ensure optimum health of the pigs given. To ensure sustainability and expansion of the programme, each direct beneficiary of the project returned one piglet back to the community covering 100 more beneficiaries. The duration of the project was 14 months. From February 2024, the Gram Saksham project expanded to 10 new additional villages in Baska Block of Baksa district. In this phase, the project will cover 200 direct and 200 indirect beneficiaries during a period of 20 months.





SANITATION

Project Nirmal

ACRD partnered with the State Bank of India Foundation for a sanitation project named “Nirmal” aimed at improving the sanitation, health and nutrition status of the tea garden communities in Baksa district's two tea garden villages named Doomni and Dekadong.

The project began in October 2020 for a period of three years wherein 42 new community toilets were constructed and 15 existing community toilets were upgraded for usage by the tea garden communities living in the two villages. These toilets are being used and maintained by the community.



Construction of Toilet Block

Under a CSR initiative of SBICAP Securities Limited, ACRD constructed toilet blocks in 10 remote schools of Rani and Rampur Block in Kamrup district. Each toilet block comprises of a urinal and latrine with handwash and drinking water facilities. The project was implemented from December 2023 – March 2024. The toilet blocks were officially inaugurated during a ceremony held on June 16, 2024 at Fulguri High School, and are being maintained by the school management committees of the schools.





TRAFFICKING

ACRD has been working on the issue of trafficking of women and girls under the Ujjawala project of the Ministry of Women and Child Development since 2009. We are working in Kamrup and Baksa districts of Assam with focus on prevention of trafficking and rehabilitation of trafficked and vulnerable girls. We have formed Community Vigilance Groups, Balika Sanghas to create a protective net to prevent and monitor cases of trafficking in the community.

We have also been trying to generate awareness on the issue by networking with district administration, police, local CBOs, community members, student unions and other organisations. A rehabilitation home, 'Navajeevan' was set up in Sikarhati village near Barihat in Mirza, Kamrup district. Rescued and vulnerable girls are brought to the home for long-term rehabilitation. Regular health check-ups, necessary treatment and counselling is given to the girls.

The girls are enrolled in formal schools and are also taught yoga, games and sports. They are given skill -based training on tailoring, cutting, handloom, weaving, doll making, beauty parlour, etc, so that can live a financially independent and a dignified life.

Over
350
girls rehabilitated



EDUCATION

Asha for Education: Education for children in backward and remote areas.

Three schools have been adopted by ACRD through a joint partnership with ASHA for Education (Stanford Chapter) to improve the quality of education in Dimoria Block of Kamrup district. The 'Asha for Education' Stanford Chapter has given financial aid to ACRD to construct the school buildings, toilets and pay salaries to teachers of the schools. Most students in these schools are from nearby villages belonging to Karbi and Bodo tribes.

Through this partnership, ACRD hopes to bring changes in the schools and improve the overall development of every child enrolled in these schools. Free coaching classes, exposure tours, etc, are regularly conducted, and every year, an ASHA award is given to the student who excels in academics and extra-curricular activities.



Other activities

- During floods, ACRD regularly organises relief camps for flood affected people. In the past, ACRD has also provided relief to children and women particularly affected by ethnic violence in remote corners of Assam.
- ACRD observes International Women's Day, World Disability Day, World Environment Day, Child Labour Day, Children's Day, World Yoga Day every year among women, children and communities by organising games, sports, distributing tree saplings, etc in the schools and areas where our programmes are being implemented.
- We also regularly receive cases of sexual abuse, trafficking, child labour, domestic abuse, etc and have successfully intervened, restored and rehabilitated the victims.

- We have done insurance for more than 2,500 rural women under the government's flagship programme of “Pradhan Mantri Bima Suraksha Yojna”.
- A vocational training centre - Livelihood Intervention for Local Youth (LILY) was set up in Behenapara village, Kamrup district by our organisation, where vocational training courses are regularly organised on beauty, tailoring, wood work, etc.
- We organised a National Convention on Trafficking of Girls & Women in Assam in 2014.
- Regular health check-up camps and animal welfare camps are organised in remote areas of Assam.





OUR DONORS



THROUGH
Kamrup Metro District Child
Welfare Samiti



LFW, AUSTRIA
THROUGH
CARITAS INDIA





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ACRD depends largely on government funds to implement various projects.

But, limited resources hasn't deterred us in continuing our work and fulfilling our vision.

We need your help, so that we can reach more people and change more lives.

How can you help?

You can help us by supporting in any of our programmes.
Even a small amount can make a difference.

DONATE



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