



Annual Report 2014-2015

Social Initiatives for Growth and Networking (SIGN)

1. Inclusive , Integrated, Sustainable, Community Development (IISCD)

SIGN supported its partners through this project to develop a Panchayat in their area into a model for replication. Awareness creation, Capacity building, advocacy and linkages have been used as strategies to accomplish this goal. The partners under the guidance of SIGN were engaged in various activities including new methods of cultivation, exploring and enhancing livelihood options, value addition to forest products, improvement of village infrastructure by availing government schemes, forming and strengthening community based organizations, ensuring the entitlements of the needy and poor, skill training, awakening the community to heritage and rights etc. The program was holistic, integrated and inclusive from start to end. SIGN with the help of the partners organized 86 workshops on various themes related to agriculture, rights and entitlements, livelihood options, Heritage and culture etc. participated by **3889 persons, 2022 men and 1888 women**.

The project motivated the communities through various workshops to establish a very strong linkage with the government and take benefits of the various schemes available for the village community especially construction of houses, village roads, irrigation wells, tube wells, ponds, school buildings, toilets, widow pensions, old age pensions and different other benefits within the government sponsored schemes. Each partner, as per their capacity and possibility, managed to accompany the people in the process of availing government schemes through the village Gram Sabhas. **Ranchi partner - 7,350,000.00; Khunti Partner: 7,126,125.00; Jamshedpur Partner: 41,601,412.00; Hazaribag Partner: 13,187,200.00; Gumla Partner: 18,807,000.00; Simdega Partner: 1,177,500.00.** The intervention was instrumental in forming 67 Gram Sabhas; 214 Self Help Groups; 97 Kisan Clubs; 57 Youth Clubs in the 8 selected Panchayats.

Productive Income Generation Programs of farmers

IGP	No. of Families							
	Jamshedpur	Ranchi	Khunti	Simdega	Gumla	Hazaribag	Daltonganj	Dumka
Paddy cultivation through SRI method	139	25	70	2	40	05	20	07
Wheat cultivation in wheat)	52	14	48	4	64	02	04	04
Vegetables garden	961	21	80	360	66	34	210	40
Kitchen garden	369	20	250	143	137	135	143	180
Animal Husbandry	807	05	40	810	204	01	150	500
Mixed crop	323	00	20	4	18	48	05	04

Cash crop	356	15	32	145	171	32	90	11
Candle making	00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00
Petty shops	13	00	12	27	00	00	07	6
Tree plantation	318	02	56	3	1	05	09	10
Fishery	12	10	05	4	9	04	02	00
Goatry	483	20	520	720	195	21	25	50
Compost Manure	53	00	35	1	09	89	04	03
Lac cultivation	609	50	72	217	00	01	00	00
Piggery	119	70	64	109	42	03	18	80
Mushroom cultivation	00	00	00	00	00	02	00	00
Summer paddy cultivation	22	00	12	2	00	00	04	08
Poultry	00	10	05	797	00	04	150	00
Pulses	344	00	00	00	00	00	00	00

2. “Community Mobilisation for Improving Child Health through Health System Strengthening”

SIGN entered into a very proactive partnership with UNICEF, Ranchi for total immunization under a project, “**Community Mobilization for Improving Child Health through Health System Strengthening**” in the selected high priority districts of Jharkhand, West Singhbhum, Palamu, Lathehat, Pakur and Sahibganj as a pilot in 5 blocks (Jagnathpur, Chainpur, Mahunadar, Amrapara & Barhait). The concept is to address child health, malnutrition and routine immunization in these 5 high priority districts where the challenges of accessibility and utilization of services are critical. The challenges pertain to issues of social and cultural exclusion as well as difficult geographical terrain. The core activity is community awareness & mobilization to access all the services available with the government to address these critical issues and strengthening the government service providers by continuous support in every sphere of operation. The staffs of the project were given phase wise training to understand all the nuances and engage with full commitment and understanding.

Major Activity Achievements

S.N	Programs	Amrapara Pakur	Barhait Sahebganj	Chainpur (Palamu)	Jagnathpur (W.Singbhum)	Mahunadar (Lathehar)	Total
01	VHND covered	30	30	30	30	30	150
02	VHND Attended (No of times)	47	27	45	77	57	253
03.	Capacity Building: Village Volunteers	114 (6)	108 (6)	111 (3)	60 (6)	78 (04)	471 (25)
04.	Front Line Workers: assisted & worked for RI	69	113	45	65	109	401
05.	Left Out Children	37	76	46	142	283	584
06.	Drop Out Children	52	115	119	168	239	693
07.	LO & DO Immunized	54	135	32	171	326	718
08.	Malnourished Children taken to	02	03	02	04	17	28

	MTC						
09.	RI thru Folk Performances	09	04	03	04	05	21
10.	Home Visits for RI Counseling	1456	1685	426	730	1800	6097
11.	Meetings with SHG members on RI	168	140	99	187	420	1014
12.	Meeting with Gram Sabha members on RI	1020	1080	117	227	960	3404
13.	Weekly Staff Meeting	17	24	09	13	08	71
14.	Monthly Staff Meeting	05	05	05	06	05	26

3. Food Self Reliance and Livelihood Resilience through Agriculture Practices, Integrated Livelihood Initiative and NRM

A novel program designed to enhance the quality of the farmers in agriculture leading to sustainable life for themselves, their families and the community. The tribal and scheduled caste population of Jharkhand is mainly agriculturists but follows very old methods of cultivation and do not have much scientific knowledge or applications. The project aims at bridging the gap by chain system of capacity building programs to the farmers of the remote villages. Therewith, 25 farmers from each partner diocese (25 x 9 = 225) selected from their operational area along with 2 or 3 existing staffs from each partner with 2 Regional coordinators from SIGN were given intensive training for 6 days in Kirishi Vikas Kendra (KVK) at Hazaribag, run by the Holy Cross Sisters. They in turn are training more farmers in the partners' area. The trainings are catching fire as more than 15000 farmers are already trained in the 9 partner dioceses.

Outcome of the training program

Agriculture activity	No. of Farmers	Land used in Decimal		Agriculture activity	No. of Farmers	Land used in Decimal
Potato cultivation	21	260 Decimal		Radish cultivation	2	10 Decimal
Pea cultivation	17	1 Acre 196 De		Coriander	2	8 Decimal
Spinach	3	6 Decimal		Cauliflower	8	41.5 Decimal
Cabbage	9	20 Decimal		Chilly	4	5 Decimal
Tomato	21	128 Decimal		Ladies finger	2	7.5 Decimal
Green Veg.	4	11 Decimal		Onion	19	78 Decimal
Red Veg.	2	4 Decimal		French Bean	3	4 Decimal
Water Melon	1	2 Decimal		Bottle guard	3	11 Decimal
Wheat	17	3 acre 323 De		Mustard oil	6	1 acre 107 De
Broccoli	9	173 Pieces		Gram cultivation	4	32 Decimal
Brinjal	10	24.5 Decimal		Garlic	7	11 Decimal
Pumpkin	8	60 Decimal		Capsicum	2	37 Decimal
Sugarcane	1	3 Decimal		Pits for Papaya	1	54 Pits
Bitter guard	4	25 Decimal		String beans	3	31 Decimal
Maize	1	10 Decimal		Foot Yam	1	8 Decimal

The project activities received a boost with a visit from Manos Unidas, Spain represented by Mr. Ramon Alvaraz and Mrs. Maria Gonzalez. They were accompanied by Fr. S. Christu Das, the Forum Director to Hazaribag where they were accorded a very warm welcome by Most Rev. Bishop Anand Jojo of Hazaribag diocese and Fr. Tomy, the Director of Jan Vikas Kendra. The visitors had an opportunity to visit Krishi Vigyan Kendra, where the trainings are organized and hold an interaction with the Director and the staffs after which they also had an opportunity to interact with the farmers trained in the diocese of Hazaribag at Jan Vika Kendra. The visitors were very much impressed by the progress of the project and expressed their hope that the project will certainly bring about some quality change in the life of the farmers across Jharkhand.

4. Activities conducted under INRM Project

Integrated Natural Resources Management program brought about a great transformation in the use of technology in cultivation by the farmers of the project area. They also learnt to preserve, protect and develop the Natural Resources available in their particular area. They learnt new methods in Lac cultivation & its process; SRI & SWI and other livelihood possibilities to enhance their economy and standard of life. The strength of SIGN has been capacity building, monitoring and guiding the partners to implement the project in the best possible way within their given context.

The project has been completed and within the span of 3 years capacity building workshops were conducted on innumerable topics especially on Natural Resource Management, Improved Agriculture, Livelihood Options, Community based organizations, scientific methods of Lac cultivation, Value addition to forest products, vermin compost, Soil Testing, Vegetable cultivation, Rights and entitlements, governance, family budgeting etc and **the total coverage is 24775 beneficiaries of whom 10334 are women and 14441 are men.**

The project completed the following hardware activities in favour of the village communities of the project area.

S.N.	Activities	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	Total
1	Farm Field Bunding	1228403 cft	141530cft	126427 cft	1496360 cft
2	Nadep Compost Pits	621	00	00	6 21U (384cft)
3	Tree Plantation	11466	606	00	12072 TP
4	Farm Pond	08	01	00	09 Units
5	Loose Boulder Checks	00	85	48	133 Units
6	Renovation of WHs / Percolation Tank	00	08	10	18 Units
7	Construction of WHs / Percolation Tank	00	03	00	03 Units
8	Provision of Vermin, Wash, Azolla	00	61	00	61 Units
9	Provision of Soil Test	00	429	389	818 F
10	5% model of rain water harvesting system	00	00	18	18 Units
11	CCT & SCT	00	01	00	01 Acre
12	Renovation of Pond	00	01	01	01 Unit
13	Organic Farming Fencing	00	00	01	01Unit
14	Renovation of Well	00	00	20	20 Units
15	Land Leveling	00	00	01	01 Unit
16	Provision of Seed Distribution	00	00	504 F	504 F
17	Duck	00	00	01	01 Unit
18	Piggery Farm	00	00	01	01 Unit
19	Construction of New Pond	00	01	00	01 Unit

The partners also encouraged the village communities to approach the government to avail government schemes through Gram Sabhas, Self Help Groups and Farmers' Clubs. The following is the astonishing accomplishment.

Partners	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	Total
Ranchi	2426000.00	11099600.00	3159000.00	16684600.00
Jamshedpur	2911000.00	1240000.00	1325000.00	5476000.00
Dumka	2758300.00	361200.00	520000.00	3639500.00
Khunti	1,557,055.00	1200000.00	1529100.00	4,286,155.00
Simdega	6,165,851.00	2230700.00	3084800.00	11,481,351.00
Gumla	1000000.00	2654472.00	929000.00	4583472.00
Daltonganj	1057000.00	306000.00	660000.00	2023000.00
Hazaribag	315000.00	902500.00	3084800.00	4302300.00
Total	18,190,206.00	19,994,472.00	14,291,700.00	52,476,378.00

Salient Changes

- ❖ The project has left awakened village communities who have understood the components of development
- ❖ The village communities are now organized and well knit through the many CBOs and they discuss, take decisions and act on the same.
- ❖ Therewith, there is an increased community participation in Gram Sabha meetings and other decision making discussions.
- ❖ Interest in organic farming
- ❖ Adaptation of SRI and SWI methods
- ❖ Preservation of the existing water bodies
- ❖ Entrepreneurship among the SHGs
- ❖ Availing and utilizing government schemes
- ❖ Networking with other organizations like ATMA, MESO, PRADHAN, NABARD etc.
- ❖ Differences disappearing among different caste groups in the villages
- ❖ Awakening towards the education of children, especially the girl children.
- ❖ Immunization, vaccination and balanced diet; use of mosquito nets.

5. Children's Sponsorship

SIGN has entered into a special partnership with Fondazione Fratelli Dimenticati, Italy to further its thrust of education. The program caters for the education and formation of 2700 children implemented through the support of 80 centres in the districts of Ranchi, Lohardga, Gumla, Simdega and Khunti. The children are given various kinds of support to complete their studies and settle in their life. There is special involvement too with the children in the slums of Ranchi through an implementing partner. It is a very productive and life giving program.

SIGN conducts training for all the partners to enable them to understand the mode of operations, the regulations that bind them in the program implementation and the accompaniment to be given to the needy and poor children to mould their future. SIGN also closely monitors the program by conducting bi-monthly meetings with all the in-charges of the centres as well as holding meeting with the parents of the children who have to play significant role in the life of their children in spite of their poverty and other challenges of

life. The parents were very excited with the interactions and have decided to meet once in 2 months on their own to discuss the possibilities of exploring different livelihood options to create an income for the education of their children. The concept is to lift their dependency solely on the program.

SIGN also organized the first National Meeting of all the Reference Centres of the same program from 10th to 12th October 2014. All the Directors and their staffs participated in the same. The meeting was animated by Mr. Samuel Prandina, a representative from the Foundation and Fr. S. Christu Das, the Director of SIGN. It was very motivational as it clarified all the challenges and concerns. The meeting proposed that in all the endeavours the parents should be fully involved to make the program sustainable and relevant.

6. Health

SIGN was actively engaged in supporting and accompanying the health personnel in the faith-based Health Centres operational across Jharkhand. Obliging to the request of the Health Sisters, SIGN, in collaboration with CDMU, Kolkata brought out the 2nd edition of the **Standard Treatment Guidelines (STG)**. It was released on 21.04.2014 by the then **Hon'ble Minister, Rajendra Prasad Singh, Finance, Commercial Taxes, Energy, Health and Parliamentary Affairs of Jharkhand** in the presence of **His Eminence Cardinal Telesphore P. Toppo**, bishops of Jharkhand, provincials, representatives from CDMU, health sisters, and other dignitaries. Jharkhand also extended the help to Bihar and the STG was released in Patna by the Hon'ble Health Minister of Bihar in the presence of Most Rev. William D'Souza, Fr. S. Christu Das, Director, SIGN, representative from CDMU, Doctors, Sisters and other dignitaries. Fr. S. Christu Das spoke on the occasion about the collaborative effort of SIGN and CDMU in bringing out such an important Manual and how the help has been extended to Bihar through the Bihar Social Forum headed by Fr. Amal Raj. This indeed is a great accomplishment for SIGN, the Jharkhand Social Forum. Collaboration and Networking are the mantras in development.

A workshop on '**Deliberations on the Standards for Clinical Establishments**' was held on 07.10.2014 at SDC, Ranchi and it was participated by bishops, Provincials and Health personal numbering 165. The workshop was animated by Dr. Jeevan, Nav Jyoti Hospital, Satbarwa and Fr. S. Christu Das, the Director of SIGN. The participants discussed on the issue and decided to request the government to include the 'Nurse-led Health Centres', as one of the entities in the Clinical establishments. A letter was composed to this effect as well as standards were proposed for such an entity and the same were sent to the Health Ministries of, both the central and the State governments. A breakthrough indeed! The significant fact is that the workshop motivated the participants to communicate to the government the truth of the matter that very committed sister nurses have been working in the remotest areas of Jharkhand for a century and more and their services be acknowledged.

Workshops in all the 9 dioceses were conducted on '**Paradigm Shift in Health Ministry**', or '**New way of being in Health Mission**' participated by all the Health personnel from the faith-based health centres of all the 9 dioceses. The workshop led to a reflection on the present day context of health interventions. The unanimous outcome was to engage in adolescent health while continuing the initiatives taken to ensure Primary Health Care Services.

A Training of Trainers (TOT) was held at SDC, Ranchi from 27-29 Jan 2015 for selected Health Sisters, 45 in all, from all the 9 dioceses in the Region on '**Adolescent Health**'. UNICEF, Ranchi supported the workshop with resource persons and course materials. They supplied printed materials and CDs. The

trained personnel in turn conducted the same to the Health Sisters in all the 9 dioceses to initiate the process of beginning adolescent groups, ‘**Saheli Sanghatans**’ in schools and villages adjacent to the Health Centre. Training was also given to the Sisters on the use of the 2nd edition of the Standard Treatment Guidelines on the following dates with the help of doctors.

CDMU and SIGN partnership has ventured into another adventure in supporting the Health Centres. Resourceful accompaniment is being extended to 41 Health Centres in the 8 dioceses of Jharkhand in order to make them models in the long run. The intensive accompaniment extended to the selected health centres will result in a constructive evaluation and proposals for improvement. The work has been already begun in all the dioceses.

S. N.	Date	Diocese	Resource Persons
1	05/2/2015	Jamshedpur	Dr. Neelam & CDMU
2	06/2/2015	Ranchi	Dr. Geeta & CDMU
3	10/2/2015	Gumla	Dr. Geeta & CDMU
4	12/2/2015	Hazaribag	Dr. Rani & CDMU
5	16/2/2015	Daltonganj	Dr. Jeevan & CDMU
6	19/2/2015	Dumka	Dr. Diviya & CDMU
7	20/2/2015	Bhagalpur	Dr. Diviya & CDMU
8	27/2/2015	Simdega	CDMU
9	28/2/2015	Khunti	Dr. Ilene & CDMU

7. Distribution of Mosquito Nets

SIGN partnered with Fondazione Fratelli Dimenticati in the distribution of mosquito nets for children staying in the hostels of the partners and pursuing their schooling. **1600 mosquito nets** were distributed in the partners’ areas of Daltonganj, Khunti and Hazaribag with the following objectives.

1. To help the children in the rural hostels to escape the menace of mosquitoes during their hours of sleep.
2. To educate the children on the importance of using mosquito nets and through them educate the parents to begin the practice in their homes.
3. To say, ‘NO’ to malaria by the use of mosquito nets and combat the spread of the disease.

The children were enlightened on the objectives before distributing the mosquito nets. They were requested to be the messengers of the mission especially when they go home for the holidays. The concept has been well accepted by the students and they need regular motivation to accomplish the goal.

8. “Medical help for Oraon Anuj

Anuj, the son of Jitram Oraon and Jatri Oroan, is from Chitarkota Barka Toli village. He is a student of Bethany Convent School, Mc Mandro. He had a twisted leg from his birth. His parents thought that Anuj is doomed to grow with a twisted leg. They could never think of modern medicine and the possibility of treating the boy to correct the faulty leg structure. Besides, their poverty also never allowed them to think further. They took everything as God’s plan and were determined to educate the boy. The matter attracted a generous benefactor, Mr. Claudio from Italy and through Fondazione Fratelli Dimenticati he decided to help Anuj. SIGN agreed to undertake the treatment through its partner at Mc Mandro. The parents took the boy for the corrective operation with the help of the staffs from Bethany school to Debuka Nursing Home, Ranchi. The doctor took special care of the boy and the operation was a grand success. Anuj is recuperating and he should be on his legs soon as the cure is happening fast. The parents are very happy with the support given to them and are very thankful to all the benefactors.

9. Learning 2

The workshop, 'Learning 2' was organized by SIGN from 23rd to 25th Feb 2015 at Ishopanthe Ashram, Puri, for the Social Forums of Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Bihar and Odisha. 22 Directors came for the program from States of Jharkhand, Odisha, Bihar and Chhattisgarh. Fr. Ajay Singh, the Forum Director of Odisha welcomed all the participants and gave an overall perspective of the workshop. Fr. S. Christu Das, the Forum Director of Jharkhand joined Fr. Ajay in welcoming all the participants being the organizer of the workshop. He also spelled out the objectives of the workshop.

1. The workshop is a follow up of the first 'Learning inter-regional workshop' held in 2010 at XLRI, Jamshedpur supported by CRS
2. As a follow up the second learning is being organized at Puri, again with the support of CRS and this time a new venture of 4 regions (Jharkhand, Bihar, Odisha and Chhattisgarh)
3. The main objective is inter-learning from the experiences of one another, rejuvenating, building up our energy and clarifying our understanding of management and leadership
4. Understanding the concept of communication and inspirational leadership in the context of these regions.

Mr. Kushal from CRS facilitated a very extensive and deep reflection on communication which is very important to the Directors of social work as they are directly involved with the life realities and issues of the people. The Directors have to learn to communicate to the heart of the people and being inspirational leaders have to be there in their midst to have the 'smell of the sheep' as stated by Pope Francis. A good leader knows to care, to lead and guide. Today we need leaders who can care and inspire. Letting go the ego and being at the service of the people has been always the call when it comes to good leaders.

During the open sharing the Directors realized that each one has to find ways and means to address the emerging issues in their areas by a process of empowerment, strengthening the village level institutions while networking with likeminded people and organizations at all levels. Today, there is also a dire need to awaken the people to comprehend and appreciate their own identity rooted in their rich heritage while animating them towards a better present and future. The process has to be reflective, dialogical and unifying.

10. Project Writing

SIGN, Ranchi organized in collaboration with Centre for Women's Development, Torpa a workshop on '**Project Writing and Reporting**' from 15 to 17 May 2014 at SDC, Ranchi. More than 100 persons participated in the workshop coming from all across Jharkhand, especially the Dioceses and the Religious Congregations. Mr. Jyoti, the Director of World Vision, Jharkhand was the resource person. He touched on all the components of project writing making the presentations as simple as possible for all the participants to benefit from the deliberations. Fr. S. Christu Das led the participants into a reflection on Documentation and reporting, the areas where many faith based NGOs are found weak though they implement the project to the spirit and letter. All the participants enjoyed the 3 days togetherness and benefitted from the reflections and deliberations.

11. Awakening Tribal Soul

SIGN has been engaged in creating a movement across Jharkhand conducting hundreds of workshops and covering thousands of people in collaboration with the partners on 'Awakening Tribal Soul'. One of the major workshops was that which was conducted for the Bishops, Provincials, Directors and other stakeholders on 21.07.2014 at SDC, Ranchi throwing light on the significance and importance of awakening the tribal population towards their rich heritage and rights. The spokespersons, Mr. Gladson Dungdung, Mr. Benjamin Lakra and others, made an inspiring impact on the participants with their profound views on the theme.

The most important feature of the workshop was the releasing of two books, one on the 'Significant Tribal Heroes of Jharkhand' and the other on, 'The Major Tribal Communities of Jharkhand', both authored by Mr. Benjamin Lakra, I.A.S., the former Accountant General and published by SIGN, Ranchi. The books were released by Mrs. Geetashree Oraon, Minister for Human Resource Development, Art, Culture, Sports and Youth, State of Jharkhand and she delivered a message on the importance of these books to honour the great legacy of the tribal heroes who are being forgotten even by the educated public. They must get their rightful place and the tribal communities must honour their memory. Mr. Benjamin too was very emotional when he said that by the completion of these books one of his dreams to serve the tribal communities of Jharkhand has been fulfilled. There are many miles to walk but the step taken is very significant and very relevant. The Bishops, Provincials, Directors and all the participants felt that these books should be made available to the people of the State and therewith spread the glory of the tribal heroes who made a great sacrifice for the tribal people and took part in the Freedom Movement of the Country. The heroes listed in the book are: Rajkumari Sinagi, Baba Tilka Manjhi, Veer Budhu Bhagat, Sardar Poto, Siddu & Kanhu, Telanga Kharia, Birsa Munda, Jaypal Singh Munda, Veer Albert Ekka, Kartik Oraon and the and the major tribal communities are: Santal, Oraon, Munda, Ho & Kharia.

12. Assistance for House Construction

Needy families in the area of the partner Samaj Vikas Sanstha, the development work wing of the diocese of Daltonganj received support through SIGN from Fondazione Fratelli Dimenticati for the construction of houses for 10 poor and needy persons who were struggling without proper shelter. Most of them are patients suffering from Tuberculosis, or widow, or very poor daily labourers. The families also contributed by labour and other possible supports. Today, all the 10 families have beautiful houses to live happily.

S.N	Name	Village	Block
1	Ajay Kujur	Kuro	Mahuadanr
2	Devnis Tigga	Mayapur	Garu
3	Dayal Panna	Mayapur	Garu
4	Daniel Minj	PaharKocha	Garu
5	Carlus Xaxa	Paharkocha	Garu
6	Mary Margrat Xalxo	Chhechha	Barwadih
7	Sushma (Mrs. Anil Tidu)	Morwai	Barwadih
8	Ignatia Topno	Barhaniah	Barwadih
9	Benchamin Dahanga	Saidup	Barwadih
10	Bahadur Ganjhu	Birinda	Chandwa

Fr. S. Christu Das
Secretary