



Annual Report 2016-2017

Social Initiatives for Growth and Networking (SIGN)

3rd Floor, Social Development Centre,
Camil Bulkhe Path
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“Social Initiatives for Growth and Networking” (SIGN) is the official Body of the Catholic Bishops of Jharkhand for social concern and human development. It anchors the efforts of the 8 Social Service Societies of the dioceses of Ranchi, Gumla, Jamshedpur, Simdega, Khunti, Daltonganj, Hazaribagh and Dumka in promoting a just and humane society based on the gospel values of love, peace, equality and dignity to all.

The Society, established in June 2006, was registered in Jharkhand on 23.12.2009 bearing the Registration Number 731. It was granted the 12A registration of tax exemption on 25.05.2010 and has been granted FCRA Registration on 24th December 2010. The Registration Number of FCRA is 337800203.

VISION:

A just and humane society based on the gospel values of love, peace, equality and dignity to all.

MISSION:

An Empowered society – Well Knit and Disciplined, that upholds human dignity of the oppressed and the marginalized, especially the Tribal's and the Dalits by means of advocacy, liaison and networking with the diocesan institutions in collaboration with government and like-minded organizations.

GOAL:

Ensuring sustainable livelihood opportunities to all, especially the poor and the marginalized by promoting effective governance, enabling a holistic and healthy society, imparting quality education, recognizing women's contribution to society and fostering inter-religious harmony.

Thrust Areas

NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT & LIVELIHOOD
AGRICULTURE
INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT & GOOD GOVERNANCE
ANIMATION AND EMPOWERMENT
GENDER
TRIBAL DEVELOPMENT
EDUCATION
HEALTH
INTER-RELIGIOUS HARMONY

Operational Area: Jharkhand & Andaman are immediate focus area for operation.

Governing Body

S.N	Name	Address	Designation
1	His Eminence Cardinal Telesphore P. Toppo	Archbishop's House, Dr. Camil Bulcke Path, P.B. No-05, Ranchi-834001, Jharkhand	Ex-Officio
2	Most Rev. Felix Toppo S.J	Bishop's House, P.O. Golmuri, Jamshedpur – 831003, Jharkhand	President
3	Most Rev. Binay Kandulna	Bishop House, P.O. Khunti- 835207, Jharkhand	Vice-President
4	Rev. Fr.S.Christu Das	Social Initiatives for Growth and Networking (SIGN), 3 rd Floor, SDC, Dr. Camil Bulcke Path, P.B.No-05, Ranchi-834001, Jharkhand	Secretary Cum Treasurer
5	Most Rev. Gabriel Kujur S.J	Bishop House, Station Road, P.O. Daltonganj – 822101, Dt.Palamu, Jharkhand	Member
6	Rev.Fr. Tomy	Jan Vikas Kendra, Morris Road, Zulu Park, P.O. & Dt. Hazaribag-825225, Jharkhand	Member
7	Rev. Fr. Tobias Soreng	Vikas Kendra, Simdega, P.O. Gotra, Dt. Simdega- 835225, Jharkhand	Member

Desirous Person List

S.N	Name	Address	Designation
1.	Most Rev. Charles Soreng S.J.	St. Xavier College Residence, Camil Bulkhe Path, Ranchi - 834001	Member
3.	Most Rev. Julius Marandi	Bishop's House, Dudhani, P.O. & Dt. Dumka-814101, Jharkhand	Member
4.	Most Rev. Paul Lakra	Bishop's House, Sisai Road, P.O. & Dt. Gumla - 835207, Jharkhand	Member
5.	Most Rev. Vincent Barwa	Bishop's House, P.O.Gotra, Dt. Simdega-835235, Jharkhand	Member
6.	Most Rev Anand Jojo	Diocesan Training Centre, P.B. No. 14, Hazaribagh-825301, Jharkhand	
7.	Rev. Fr. Premchand Tirkey	Catholic Charities, Camil Bulke Path, P.B.No.05, Ranchi- 834001, Jharkhand	Member
8.	Rev. Fr. C.R. Prabhu	Catholic Charities, Patel Bagan, P.O. Sundernagar, Jamshedpur- 831003, East Singhbhum, Jharkhand	Member
9.	Rev. Fr. Regi Pymattam	Samaj Vikas Sansthan, P.O. Chandwa, Dt. Latehar-823209, Jharkhand	Member
10.	Rev. Fr. Cyprian Kerketta	Gram Uttan kendra, Gumla, Sisai Road, Dt. Gumla-835207, Jharkhand	Member
11.	Rev. Fr. Benjamin Bisu Aind	Hoffman Social service Society, Bishop's House, P.O.& Dt.-Khunti-835210, Jharkhand	Member
12.	Rev. Fr. Charles Hansdak	Social Development Centre, Dudhani, P.O.& Dt-Dumka-814 101, Jharkhand	Member
13.	Mr. Benjamin Lakra	Satipuram, Opp Biru Complex, Main Road, Simdega – 835223	Member

‘Food Self Reliance and Livelihood Resilience Practices, Through Integrated Livelihood Initiatives and NRM’

‘Food Self Reliance and Livelihood Resilience Practices, Integrated Livelihood Initiative and NRM’ is being implemented in partnership with 9 partners. The major activities of the project are scientific training to interested farmers on agriculture and livelihood and empowering them to generate networks. The impacts of the project are visible in different ways such as food security, use of available local resources, availing the basic requirements either from government schemes or self initiatives, tie up among farmers, market linkages etc. Water scarcity has been the biggest concern for the farmers in the villages thought it has deterred their enthusiasm.



Scientific Training at KVK, Hazaribag

Date of Training	Daltonganj	Ranchi	Khunti	Jamshedpur	Hazaribag	Simdega	Gumla	Dumka	Bhagalpur
24-28 Oct.16	06	-	-	03	-	02	03	06	05
05-09 Dec.16	05	08	11	05	-	07	08	04	-

03-07 Jan.17	09	-	02	04	02	-	-	03	05
09-13 Jan.17	-	-	05	04	05	06	03	05	-
13-17 Feb. 17	-	02	-	07	02	06	05	-	06
20-24 Feb. 17	06	11	-	02	06	04	09	07	12
Sub Total	26	21	18	25	25	25	28	25	28
Participants									
Grand Totl	Male	191			Female	30		Total	221



Training details at Partners' places

Partner & SIGN	Topics	Unit Conducted	Participants		Total
			Male	Female	
Bhagalpur	Seed & Soil Treatment & Vegetables	06	131	121	252
Daltonganj	Agriculture, Pulses, Community farming & Horticulture and SRI and seed bank	05	106	31	137
Dumka	Vegetables & Livelihood	06	187	128	315
Gumla	Agriculture practices & Animal care	04	162	45	207
Hazaribag	Livelihood & Agriculture	07	130	246	376
Jamshedpur	Vegetables & Livelihood	07	229	155	384
Khunti	Live stock management & Agriculture	04	159	71	230
Ranchi	Scientific method of agriculture	04	155	45	200
Simdega	Agriculture, Horticulture & Vegetable	05	158	124	282
SIGN	Livelihood & Agriculture	22	925	3230	4153
	Government Schemes and Benefits	01	92	14	106
Total		71	2434	4210	6642

Government Scheme accessed by trained farmers

Benefits	farmers	Name of Agency	units		Benefits	No. of farmers	Name of Agency	Uunits
Onion Seeds	216	KVK, Hazaribag	42 Kg.		Pulses	25	ATMA, Block	30
Well	04	MNREGA & Block	04		Fruit plants	140	KVK, Block	1018
Pond	36	MNREGA & Block	36		Fishery	4	Fishery dept	4
Dobha	19	MNREGA & Block	19		Vermin compost pit	5	Block	5
Paddy seed	10	KVK, ATMA, JTDS, IRRI & Block	30Kg.		Piggery shed	1	JTDS	1

Irrigation Machine	10	Block	10		Goat raising shed	1	JTDS	1
Poultry shed	1	JTDS	1		Paddy seed	15	ATMA	45 Kg
Mustard seed	1	KVK, Hazaribag			Conoweeder	16	ATMA	16
Sprinkler Machine	1	ATMA	1		Maize	Block	Block	2
Land Leveling	1	MNREGA	1		Green shed	1	ATMA	1

Field level Agriculture activities

Partners	Agriculture Activities done by farmers					
	Paddy	Wheat	Maize	Vegetables	Kitchen Garden	Cash Crop
Bhagalpur	08	08	14	115	12	67
Daltonganj	06	16	18	134	20	82
Dumka	12	08	27	75	15	53
Gumla	08	10	12	170	27	102
Hazaribag	08	05	15	132	19	87
Jamshedpur	14	08	14	105	15	65
Khunti	14	05	04	125	13	74
Ranchi	15	03	14	122	17	96
Simdega	04	04	19	117	26	84
Total	89	67	137	1095	164	710

Farmers' Convention and Strategic Planning

SIGN organized for the trained farmers a convention in the State level to listen to their experiences



and to give them more inputs in order to draw a strategic planning towards quality interventions in the field. The convention was held on 22-23 September 2016 at the Social

Development Centre, Ranchi. Mr. Jata Shankar Chaudhri, IAS, the Director of Agriculture, Jharkhand State was the chief guest and the main resource persons were Mr. Inderjit Prasad, Block Technician Manager from Lohardaga, Mr. Abhai Sanga, Assistant Fishery Director, District Fishery Department, Dhurwa, Ranchi and Mr. Walter Kerketta, the Regional Coordinator of SIGN, Ranchi. The chief guest Mr. Jata Shankar Chaudhri IAS spoke on government schemes while encouraging the farmers to strengthen their voice to get their rights and entitlements. He said that they should find various ways in getting things done through 'Kisan Mitra' and other links available with the government in the rural areas. He strongly spoke of utilizing the barren land in different ways as fodder for the cattle, or creating an orchard, or other creative possibilities to be adopted but not allow any barren land to remain a waste. Sessions were conducted by other resource persons on the available government schemes, quality agriculture, fishery etc.

“Social & Community Mobilization for Improving Child Health through Health System Strengthening”

‘Child Health’ is a grave concern for all. Child mortality, malnourished births, stunted growth and



everything related to child health must be addressed to ensure a healthy society. SIGN and UNICEF partnership in collaboration with three implementing local partners Catholic Charities, Jamshedpur for West Singhbhum, Samaj Vikas Sanstha, Chandwa for Latehar & Palamu and Dumka Social and Educational Society, Dumka for Pakur & Sahibganj is actively engaged in such activities in 600 villages of the 5 High Risk Districts.

The work is not carried out in isolation but by engaging Government Officials, Frontline workers (ANMs, Sewikas, Sahiyas), Health Sisters, Health Workers, Missionary School Teachers, Village Volunteers, SHG Leaders and Members, PRI Members, Traditional Leaders, Religious Leaders, School Children, village volunteers and Village communities. It has been a joint effort towards the one goal, ‘a healthy child and a healthy mother’.

Capacity building trainings at State, district and community levels, health day rallies, Mid Media shows (Nukad Nataks), Facts For Life (FFL) shows, demonstration of healthy practices, one to one interactions, home visits are the various methods used to disseminate information on immunization, VHND events in the villages, diarrhoea & pneumonia management, nutrition etc.

State Level Trainings

One of the major components of the capacity building program has been the 3 rounds of State Level Training organized in 9 batches (3 in the last financial year and 6 in this financial year) on Routine Immunization, VHND events in the villages, diarrhoea & pneumonia management, nutrition etc. for major stakeholders, the project staffs, Health Sisters from faith based organizations and selected health workers. **161** persons participated in the all the 3 rounds of trainings and have been empowered to be effective mediums in the field. Training sessions were facilitated by the Director SIGN, Regional Coordinators SIGN, Consultants of UNICEF and External Resource Persons on project thematic issues.

S.N	Training Date		Venue	Participants
	From	To		
01	13/07/2016	16/07/2016	SDC, Ranchi	Health Sisters (30)
02	19/07/2016	22/07/2016	SDC, Ranchi	Project Staffs (26) & Health Workers (15)
03	28/07/2016	30/07/2016	SDC, Ranchi	Health Sisters & Health Animators (62)
04	29/09/2016	01/10/2016	SDC, Ranchi	Project Staffs (10) & Health Workers (65)
05	03/10/2016	06/10/2016	SDC, Ranchi	Project Staffs (27)
06	25/10/2016	26/10/2016	SDC, Ranchi	Project Staffs (27)

District Level Training & Field Activities

Teachers Training

202 teachers from 53 Schools administered by faith based organizations were trained in 7 batches at the districts on the project themes. FFL shows, demonstrations, group discussions, interactions and input were the various methods used to accomplish the purpose of the trainings.

S.N	Training Date		Venue	Participants
	From	To		
01	21/06/2016	22/06/2016	DSES Dumka	School Teachers (25)
02	28/06/2016	29/06/2016	Catholic Charities Jamshedpur	School Teachers (22)
03	04/07/2016	05/07/2016	Sadhna Sadan Chianki	School Teachers (40)
04	12/07/2016	13/07/2016	Sitapahar H C Sahibganj	School Teachers (40)
05	15/09/2016	16/09/2016	Catholic Charities Jamshedpur	School Teachers (20)
06	19/09/2016	20/09/2016	CTC Torai, Pakur	School Teachers (40)
07	22/09/2016	23/09/2016	Sadhna Sadan Chianki	School Teachers (40)

SHG Leaders Training

1217 SHG Leaders have participated in community level trainings on the same topics. They in turn are educating the members of their Self Help Groups. They are working as catalysts in the communities.

S N	Training Date	Venue	No of Participants	S N	Training Date	Venue	No of Participants
01	15/07/2016	Maluka Jagnathpur	102	12	17/09/2016	Kundpani	20
02	15/10/16	Maluka	62	13	19/09/2016	Khurakhud	24
03	19/10/2016	Tondanghathu	26	14	26/09/2016	Rabda	20
04	30/10/2016	Maluka	20	15	27/09/2016	Kankeri	20
05	26/07/2016	Barhait	100	16	28/09/2016	Gurha	16
06	14/09/2016	Barhait	100	17	07/06/2016	Bardoni	35
07	28.04.16	Paderkola	101	18	08/07/2016	Chetma	50
08	17/06/2016	Jamugaria, Amrapara	102	19	17/07/16	Tundtoli	15
09	28.10.16	Sohoghati	105	20	09.09.16	Carmel Hospital	55
10	10.12.16	Salpatra	99	21	27.09.16	Mayapur, Garu	20
11	18/06/2016	Sahpur, Chainpur	100	22	27.10.16	Aksi, Mahuwadar	25

Village Volunteers Training

This is a unique component in the project. Each village has chosen two volunteers to support the Front Line Workers and the project staffs in carrying out the project implementation effectively. They were given training on the same themes too at the district level and their enthusiasm has been praiseworthy.

SN	Training Date	Venue	No of Participants
01	06/03/2017	St.Paul Health Centre Maluka	64
02	07/03/2017	Jaintgarh CHC Hall	71
03	09/3/2017	Monga Panchayat Bhavan	83
04	15/03/2017	Jisu Jaher Girls Hostel	45
05	16/03/2017	Jisu Jaher Girls Hostel	34
06	17/03/2017	Alubera, Amrapara	45
07	30/03/2017	Dumerchir, Amrapara	116
08	15/03/2017	Adiwasi School Borband, Barhet	64
09	16/03/2017	Sanmani Panchayat Bhawan, Sanmani, Barhait	61

10	17/03/2017	Ursuline Convent, Kundli	56
11	21/03/2017	Deep jyoti Hostel,	90
12	22/03/2017	Deep Niketan School, Nawadih	81
13	23/03/2017	Khundpani	69
14	28/03/2017	Kutuderi	67
15	29/03/2017	Pakripath	25
16	30/03/2017	Kutuderi	88
			1059

Health Rally Days

16 Rallies have been conducted by the partners on special health days. Rally at District level was organized in coordination with the Health Department officials, Doctors, Surveillance officers, DPMs, BPM, Front Line Workers, Community & PRI members, Villagers, SHG members and school children. **3151** people participated in the rallies.



SN	Date	Venue	Topic	Total Participants
01	07/04/2016	Ilaki, Borbandh	Routine Immunization	84
02	06/07/2016	Gumuria, Jagnathpur	Diarrhea	72
03	26/06/2016	Simra, Palamu	National Anti Drugs Abuse Day	212
04	17/06/2017	Jamugaria Pakur	Mission Indhradhanus Week	102
05	09/07/2016	Gitko, Pakur	World Breast Feeding Day	65
06	11/07/2016	Mahundarn	Diarrhea and Hand Wash	157
07	26/07/2016	Kundli	Diarrhea	98
08	03/08/2016	Fathapur	Diarrhea Week	70
09	28/08/2016	Rabda	World Breast Feeding Day	98
10	21/09/2016	Patrajaint	Blood Donation	75
11	10/10/2016	Simda	Routine Immunization	52
12	16/10/2016	Lurgumikala	Importance of VHND	60
13	13/12/2016	Paderkola	World AIDS Day	125
14	29/01/2017	Chaibasa District	Polio Drop	1000
15	31/01/2017	Medni Nagar	Routine Immunization	432
16	31/01/2017	Daltonganj	International Leprosy Day	449
				3151

Dissemination Meetings

08 Dissemination meetings have been held with district government officials by the partners in their respective districts to brief them about the project results and impacts as well as to request them to support the endeavour. The **491** Government officials with whom interactions were held in the five districts were very positive and supportive to the project and the partnership.

Major Achievements (Apr 2016 – March 2017)

S.N	Programs	Amrapara (Pakur)	Barhait (Sahebganj)	Chainpur (Palamu)	Jagnathpur (W.Singbhum)	Mahunadar (Lathehar)	Total
01	VHND Sites Covered	60	60	60	60	60	300

02.	VHND Sessions Sites monitored with check list	196	138	148	142	128	752
03.	No of Village Volunteers Trainings	03	03	03	03	03	15
04.	Village Volunteers Attended Capacity Building Trainings	240	181	240	218	180	1059
05.	No of Front Line Workers who assisted and worked for RI Issues	155	147	138	182	147	971
06.	Left Out Children Identified	112	138	181	594	93	1118
07.	Drop Out Children Identified	63	126	141	62	27	419
08.	Linking LO & DO for Immunization	175	264	322	656	120	1537
09.	RI message is given thru Folk Performances	01	06	07	06	05	25
10.	No of Home Visits for RI Counseling Purposes	1293	1066	500	875	486	2088
11.	No of SHG Groups oriented on project thematic issues	211	320	70	623	180	1404
12.	Selected SHG Leaders trained and oriented on thematic issues	407	200	200	210	200	1217
13.	No of PRI members oriented on project thematic issues	155	147	34	145	132	613
14.	School Students gained knowledge through one day Health Education	3750	10638	3757	3940	3408	25493
15.	Through Health Rallies Health message is reached to community	370	234	1359	1263	979	3151
16.	Through FFL Shows Health message is directly reached to community	4605	7718	449	380	1548	14700
17.	Advocacy Meeting with Govt Officials on project thematic issues	42	35	99	84	159	419
	No of Adolescent Girls oriented at schools on Health & Hygiene	1200	2119	290	1289	382	5280
19.	No of Adolescent Girls oriented on Health Demonstration	1535	358	76	252	214	2435
20.	Pregnant Mothers are being Counseled on ANC, BF, KMC, RI, VHND, DIA & PNEU	181	191	306	309	507	1494
21.	Lactating Mothers are being counseled on on ANC,BF,KMC,RI,VHND,DIA & PNEU	321	238	368	380	936	2243
22.	Malnourished Children Counseled and Taken to MTC Centre	05	02	12	04	03	26
23.	Meeting held at Missionary Health Centre's with SHG members and Villagers	276	178	122	4686	1574	6836
24.	No of Families Practicing Kitchen Garden	475	529	275	472	263	2014
25.	No of Teachers Trained	40	40	40	42	40	202
26.	No of Children immunized during Mission Indradhanus	252	258	00	00	00	510
27.	No of RI session sites monitored during MI rounds	60	54	00	00	00	114

‘Laudato Si’ : Environment

‘Laudato Si’, Pope Francis’ acclaimed encyclical *‘on Care for Our Common Home, mother Earth’* appeals to "every person living on this planet" for an inclusive dialogue towards protecting our planet and ensuring the dignity and wellbeing of all, especially the poor. It is a celebrated document calling humanity to pay attention to the deteriorating ecology and climate change. This encyclical is written with hope and resolve, candor and humility looking forward to a common future for all. SIGN decided to take this teaching to as many persons as possible from the stance of ecology and environment.

It organised a State level workshop on 25 & 25 April 2016 participated by 113 persons representing 9 partners from the different districts of Jharkhand. the Social Forum for the Bishops of Jharkhand Region organized two days state level workshop for the leaders of the 9 dioceses (Ranchi, Khunti, Gumla, Simdega, Hazaribagh, Daltonganj, Dumka, Jamshedpur & Bhagalpur His Excellency Cardinal Telesphore P. Toppo, Most Rev. Charles Soreng S.J. Emeritus bishop of Hazaribag, Most Rev. Vinay Kandulna, bishop of Khunti, Most Rev. Gabriel Kujur S.J., the bishop of Daltonganj were present during the solemn inauguration. The resource persons dealt with various themes reflecting the core teachings of Laudato Si.

The participants proposed to prepare a kit elaborating ten major themes, both in Hindi and English for students and reading public. They also suggested that the learning be taken to all the partners' operational areas by organizing workshops ensuring a wider participation.

The suggestions were taken as a commitment. SIGN in collaboration with all the partner Directors brought out the kit elaborating these ten themes. 2000 kits were printed with leaflets inside both in English and Hindi.

SIGN also conducted workshops in all the 8 partners' dioceses. Fr. S. Christu Das, the Director of SIGN and Mr. Gladson Dungdung were the resource persons in all the workshops. The participants appreciated the workshop and realised the impending threat to ecology and vowed to educate others too on the same. The following is the table of the diocesan level workshops

Earth: our common home
The cry of the Earth
The cry of Jharkhand
The cry of the poor
The responses to the crisis: Integral ecology
Bio-diversity and connectedness
Green Jharkhand: Each one plant one
Development as liberation
Less is more
Creating a culture of encounter , Relationship & Solidarity

Date	Name of the Diocese	No. of Participants
25-26/4/2016	SIGN, Ranchi (State level)	142
29-30/11/2016	Jamshedpur	261
24-25/2/2017		278
26-27/11/2016	Dumka	66
13-14/01/2017		146
20/1/2017	Ranchi	169
21/01/2017		95
30-31/1/2017	Khunti	65
3-4/2/2017	Daltonganj	33
29-30/3/2017		196
31-01/2/2017	Gumla	131
21-22/2/2017	Simdega	101
24-25/3/2017	Hazaribag	198
		1881

Education support to children

SIGN and FONDAZIONE FRATELLI DIMENTICATI Onlus, Italy are in partnership towards the education of 2107 poor children in the districts of Ranchi, Lohardaga, Khunti, Simdega and Gumla. It is a journey of accompaniment and formation while the children study in different schools within these districts or even out of the districts. 78 centres manage the program in close proximity to accomplish the desired results. Many children have made a life for themselves which otherwise would have been a very distant dream.



The help is also extended to the children in the slums of Ranchi in collaboration with the Marianist Trust who are making a difference in the education of children in the slums and awakening the parents to be supportive in the better tomorrow of their unfortunate children who do not get to enjoy the basics.

Health

SIGN joined hands with CDMU, Kolkata in organizing a state level workshop for the Nurse



Sisters working in the Health Centres of the faith based organizations across Jharkhand. The workshop was held on 18 January 2017 at Social Development Centre, Ranchi in which 107 persons participated from across Jharkhand. The major objectives of the workshop were sharing on the key findings of the evaluation conducted on the use of Standard Treatment Guidelines as well as preparing a work plan with the health centres in Jharkhand to work on antibiotic resistance. The

gathering was addressed by Dr. Pradeep Baskey - Director Community mobilization, State of Jharkhand, Dr. Madhulika Jonathan – CFO, UNICEF, Jharkhand, Mr. D.P. Poddar - founder of CDMU, Fr. S. Christu Das – Director, SIGN, Dr. Rajat Das, CDMU consultant, Dr Jeevan Kuruvilla from Barwadih, Dr. Sr. Divya from Lalmatia and Dr Tracie Muraya, Consultant EPN. The participants discussed the inputs in various groups and came out with an action plan for future endeavours. They settled on “Quality management of the health centers; Developing essential medicines list; Strengthening the implementation of standard treatment guidelines; Rationalization of antibiotic use; Biomedical waste management; focussing on adolescent health and Documentation”. The plan has to be taken forward by SIGN and CDMU in collaboration with all the partners and Health Centres.

Mosquito Net Distribution

Malaria continues to be an endemic disease in Jharkhand. SIGN launched in partnership with



Fondazione Fratelli Dimenticati, Italy a unique program to combat the deadly disease by providing mosquito nets to children staying in hostels while pursuing their studies. The idea behind the endeavour is that children will learn to protect themselves while being in the hostels and share the good news to their parents and

even neighbours during home holidays. SIGN has completed 6 phase distribution, the 5th and 6th phase being in this financial year.

S.N.	Partner	No. of Mosquito Nets
1	Hazaribag	3566
2	Ranchi	2054
3	Jamshedpur	3230
Total		8850

Sustainable Development Goals

SIGN organised for its partners a workshop on Sustainable Development Goals on 1-2 July 2017 at



the Social Development Centre, Ranchi. 119 members from 18 partner organizations participated in the workshop, made their valuable contributions and benefitted from the same. Some of them displayed their artefacts too. The workshop was inaugurated by Dr. Arun Kr. Singh Urban development Principal Secretary – State of Jharkhand and Most Rev. Felix Toppo S.J., the President of SIGN. The main resource person of the workshop was Mr PS Sodhi, Senior Officer, UNDP. The other

guest speakers in the program were Dr Marina Walters – UNDP Deputy Country Representative, Dr. Karuna Singh, Country Director: Earth Day Network. UNDP was also a partner in organizing the workshop. The guest speakers and the resource person focussed on the 17 Sustainable Development Goals with its 169 targets with strong emphasis on 5 Ps, planet, people, partnership, prosperity and peace. All the participants realized that project implementation should be guided by the Sustainable Development Goals.

Mapping Social Capital & Sustainability

The thought process that project interventions should generate social capital towards sustainability was given flesh by organising a workshop on ‘Social Capital and Sustainability’ on 24th September 2017 at the Social Development Centre, Ranchi. 60 persons participated in the workshop allowing a restricted participation from 18 partners. Most of the time, a lot of activities are carried out in supporting the cause of the poor but hardly any social capital is generated towards sustainable living was how the resource person Dr. Anirudh Prasad opened the discussion. He is a Chair Professor of TATA Steel, has 39 books to his credit and received President’s award too. He elaborated the 6 types of capitals: Natural Capital, Cultural capital; Financial capital; Physical capital; Human capital and Social capital. He also dealt with the 17 components in mapping the social capital of an intervention. He invited presentations from the partners and analysed the social capitals in their project interventions. It was an eye opener for all the participants. He said that social capital captures the idea that social bonds and social norms are important basis for sustainable livelihoods. The greatest challenges are Market economy, Consumerism and the Collapse of traditional management. The workshop was an inspiration for all and they decided to generate social capital to accomplish sustainability through the various project interventions in their operational areas.

Accounts and Book Keeping

SIGN took the initiative to organise a workshop for its partners on ‘Accounts and Book Keeping’ at the Social Development Centre, Ranchi. It was held on 27.01.2017 and Mr. Martin Pinto, a very renowned Chartered Accountant from Delhi was the resource person. 158 persons from 23 partner organizations participated and benefitted from the workshop. Mr. Martin discussed on various topics regarding accounts and gave the participants sufficient time and space to clarify and clear their doubts. He dealt with ‘Financial policies, procedures and systems; Professional accounting systems – manual, digital; project expenditure and book keeping as per the budgeted line items; timely audit and

submission of reports; cash and bank transaction; asset depreciation; procurement rules; investments : types and possibilities with general account and FCRA etc. All the participants benefitted much from Mr. Martin's expertise on the topics.

Distribution of Blankets

SIGN continued its acts of mercy by providing 100 blankets to lepers living in huts at the leprosy colony Bijulia, Ramgarh. They are being supported by Medical Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi, Kankebar, Ramgarh especially in health care and organizing various programs for their wellbeing. SIGN partnered with the sisters in the distribution of the blankets on 22nd December 2016 at Bijulia. SIGN Director and the staffs along with the sisters were present during the distribution.



Stories of Change

Learning opens up possibilities

Mr. Samuel Purti & Gabriel Purti live with their family in a village called Jomro which is 50 km from Kuchai block in Saraikela Kharswan district of Jharkhand State. Jomro village is surrounded by hills. There is only one way to reach this village which makes it very difficult to carry out any developmental activities in this village. Mr. Udharan Pradhan who is working with Samekit Jan Vikas Kendra, Jamshedpur came to know about the training program organized by SIGN, Ranchi and at Holy Cross Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Hazaribag. He informed Samuel and Gabriel about the same. They volunteered to participate in the 5 days residential training and were happily granted an opportunity. They were very enthusiastic and paid full attention to the scientists.

They tried to apply their learning in vegetable cultivation. However, they had to face terrible loss



because of open grazing in the village. The villagers saw their effort and collectively decided to stop grazing and engage in vegetable cultivation. Today, Mr. Samuel Purti and Gabriel Purti have become the role models of the village and have inspired maximum farmers to do vegetable cultivation.

The trained farmers opted for multiple agricultural activities for generating more income. Mr. Sameul Purti at present has focused on animal husbandry too rearing 49 goats, 5 pigs, 5 cows while the cultivation of vegetables on different seasons continues. He has saved Rs. 200000/- in the bank and has bought a motorbike for self use. Mr. Gabriel Purti while doing same kinds of activities also has begun a petty shop and running a weekly hotel on market days. He gets a net profit of Rs. 1500.00 from the hotel every market day. Learning and genuine application of the same opens up many possibilities.

Will their dream come true!

On 28th July 2016 Block coordinator Sr. Ranjana & Community Mobilizer Dyamanthi Sinku of the project “Social & Community Mobilization for Improving Child Health through Health System Strengthening” visited Pokam village of Jagnathpur block in West Singhbhum district and participated in Alan SHG group meeting. They took the opportunity to speak to the women about



RI, Nutrition, and VHND. Some girls who were around took keen interest in the health teaching and they approached the project staffs to enlighten them too on health issues concerning the adolescence. The team was indeed happy to take up the task. The girls were formed into a ‘Saheli Sangathan’ and were given education on adolescent health issues through FFL shows. The interactions and meetings continued to happen. The sharing revealed notable improvement in menstrual hygiene and other health related issues. They also brought other girls to join the group. The continued reflection also led them to rethink about their education as most of them were school drop outs. On 27th January 2017 Block Coordinator met the MLA Mrs. Geeta Koda at Jagnathpur Block office, West Singhbhum District and discussed about these girls and their renewed interest to continue their studies in the Kastorba School. Seven of them are already in the process to get admitted in this academic year while the others may have to wait for the next academic year meanwhile they continue to be in their reflective group. A step is taken and hope it will become a leap.

Fr. S. Christu Das
Secretary