



PEOPLE'S EMPOWERMENT FOR
JUSTICE AND DEVELOPMENT



ANNUAL REPORT

2012-2013

RWUS's ORIGIN AND HISTORY

Rural Women Upliftment Society (RWUS) is a church based non-profit, women organization under Independent Church of India. The society is started in 1990 by raising funds from our own contribution. During the initial years of its formation, committed women work on voluntary basis. Since 1996, through financial assistance from national and international agencies, the organization work towards livelihoods and community development for the rural poor without compromising their unique cultural, social, religious beliefs & practices. Today, RWUS facilitate People's Organisations, Women's groups and economically unsound groups of people on issues of food and livelihood, gender and human rights.




VISION AND MISSION

RWUS is a non-profit Christian organization responding to the needs and address issues and concerns of the poor and marginalized, irrespective of colour, sex, race, religion and gender.

Vision: ***To empower the people for justice and development***

Mission: ***To empower grass root communities through capacity building, awareness raising, trainings, advocacy and lobby work, networking and alliance building and through support.***

OUR AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

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- ✦ To promote awareness on issues related to rights, gender, climate change, agriculture and economic development.
 - ✦ To facilitate grass root communities to response to the issue of injustice, corruption and violation of basic rights of men and women.
 - ✦ To empower communities through strengthening people's organization such as churches, women's organization, youths, and community based organizations.
 - ✦ To empower women, farmers and weaker sections of society through trainings, access to basic rights and provide material support.
 - ✦ To create a platform for men and women to have better understanding in social, religious and political aspects and thereby bear the fruit of democracy.
 - ✦ To promote the roles of women, farmers and minority communities in decision making and in peace initiatives.
 - ✦ To make focus group economically empowered through access to government policy and provisions.

- ✚ To strive and work for the fullest growth and potential of women and minority sections towards justice and sustainable development.
- ✚ To assist local communities to protect, promote and manage their land and reprocess.

Major Focus Area

- ✚ The right to food and Food Security
- ✚ Gender and Women in governance
- ✚ Capacity Building and Training
- ✚ Extractives Issues and Environment



Executive Board Members

Mrs Hrilrohnem	: Chairperson
Miss Mary Beth Sanate	: Secretary
Mrs Ramsiemzo Tusing	: Fin. Secretary
Mrs Lalthiengzo	: Treasurer
Mrs Zosangkim	: Members
Mrs D. Varry	: Members
Mrs Grace	: Members
Miss Darthangmawi	: Members
Dr. & Rev. J.L. Songate	: Ex-officio members
Rev. Lalneikhup Hmar	: Ex-officio members

Existing Staff Members

Miss Mary Beth Sanate	: Secretary
Mr Samuel Lallawmzuol	: Prog Manager
Miss Lalnuntluong	: Supervisor
Miss Lalnunnem	: Prog Staff
Miss Nissi Lalrochan	: Prog Staff
Miss Roselyn	: Prog Staff
Mr B.R. Sanglien	: Prog Staff
Miss Buongzakim	: Accountant
Mr Lalsiemthar	: Accountant
Mr Ramnghakhla	: Driver
Lalthangpui	: Caretaker

RWUS is registered under the Society Registration Act, 1860 with registration No. 234 on 3rd April, 1990. It is also registered under Foreign Contribution Regulation Act, 1976 with a registration No. of 19410018 on 4th January, 1993.
The society is also registered under the Income tax exemption under 12A of Income Tax Act, 1961 with no. as RA214/12A/CIT/JRT/03 on April, 2003, at Jorhat.

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Message from the Secretary

ALLIANCE & NETWORKING PARTNERS

RWUS is an active member in the following national and regional Collectives.

- Women in Governance (WinG)
- United NGOs Mission-Manipur (UNMM) Sustainable Livelihood Forum-Manipur (SLFM)
- Coalition of Civil Society on Natural Resources- Manipur (CoCNRM)
- Continued working relationship with NABARD on promotion of Women Self Help Group in Churachandpur District, Manipur



OUR APPROACHES

RWUS work with the model of ideal community to ensure sustainable transformational development through the following approaches

- ✓ Community organization
- ✓ People's participation
- ✓ Empowerment
- ✓ Self Sustainability
- ✓ Justice (Lobby and Advocacy)
- ✓ Self Help Groups
- ✓ Capacity building
- ✓ Support
- ✓ Networking And Alliance Building

COMMUNITY WE WORK WITH

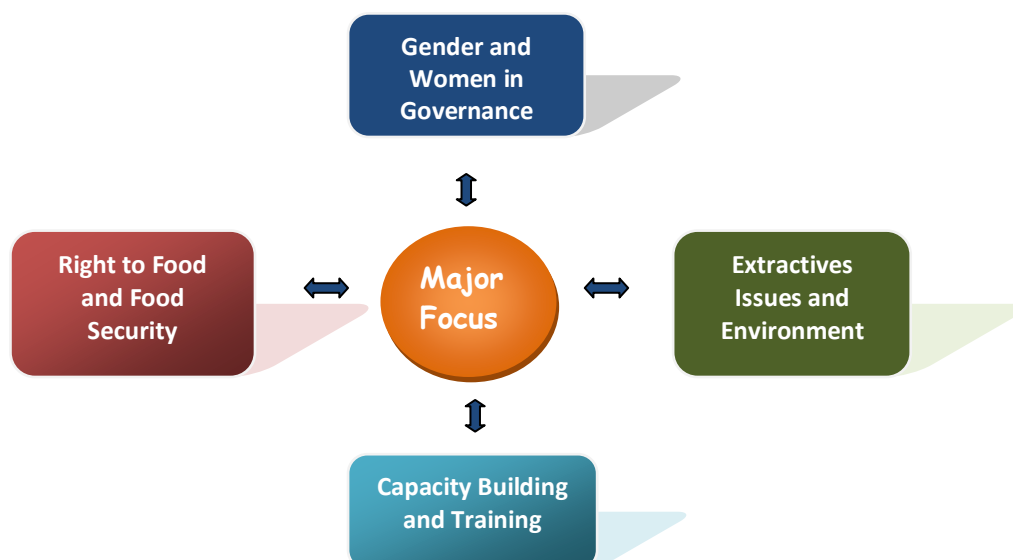
The project area is much more challenging as the organization is dealing with different ethnic community in the region with different types of issues and crisis over the region. It is always a challenge fighting with these needs with very limited resources.

RWUS intervened among 8 major communities with diverse challenging needs and issues. The vulnerability of these ethnic groups in term of access to food, justice and inclusions within the purview of development context is quietly high. Spreading across the geographical confines of the second district in Manipur, penetration of the developments efforts by the govt. in these intervened areas is almost nill.



MAJOR FOCUS

- + Gender and Women in Governance
- + The right to food and Food Security
- + Capacity Building and Training
- + Extractive Issues and Environment



STRENGTHENING WOMEN IN LOCAL GOVERNANCE

Funded by Give2Asia

The project was launched on Aug 9th 2012 that intervened in Churachandpur District of Manipur, aspires to increase awareness rising on Women Rights and Women Security with an aim to develop inclusive society creating platform for women to participate in political and institutional local bodies in decision making.

During this period the project carried out numbers of activities including Consultative meeting with Community Based Organization (CBOs), tribal apex bodies and local women leaders, awareness workshop and capacity building to local women leaders and at community level that gives a platform for women collectives to rise on women's rights and women security. The project provided opportunities for women to raise the issues of women in governance and the need for women political participation and reservation in local governance.

The following are the key achievement of the year:

- 3 times Consultation meeting with CBOs on Developed and Implement Strategies for increase Representation of Women in Institutional local bodies.

- 2 times consultation meeting and discussion with local women leaders on inclusion of women in decision making
- 2 time awareness rising workshop on women's right and women security at community level.
- 3 times consultative meeting with Tribal Apex bodies (Customary Elders) on the issues of women in governance.
- 2 times awareness rising workshop on women reservation in local governance
- The project support 5 women who are victim of Violence Against Women (VAW)

The project creates awareness on political status of women in Manipur and the need for participation of women in governance through meeting, consultation and workshop. The importance of women political participation was discussed and identified key stakeholders in the process of decision making and political participation particularly issues related to women.

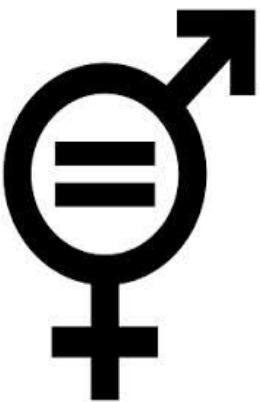
The project also bring together women leaders (CBOs) from different communities in the district and build linkage with other districts, and initiated joined program for the local women leaders, activist and church women leaders to developed strategies and implemented on how to increase women in political decision making. Through programs implemented under the project women as organizations and as individual started voicing to village chiefs to include women as member in the village authority.

As a result of series consultation on "Women representation in decision making" and with the intervention of the project and strong advocacy for the inclusion of women in decision making bodies, one women from Simveng was elected as a member of the Village Authority which is a landmark achievement for the women of the district as she was elected fair and square by the villagers. Through consultation and meetings with different tribe apex, women seat is now reserved in Civil Society Organizations and apex bodies of different ethnic community.

WOMEN IN GOVERNANCE

Funded by CORDAID

Women in Governance are a project initiated by RWUS and other women organizations in Manipur with the aim of building capacities of women through training, workshop and awareness campaign. RWUS has initiated in empowering women in decision making through capacity building for women to become change agent and support women organization to voice their issues and concerns. All women require a platform and support to channelize their emotions and energies in a positive direction. RWUS carry out advocacy for appropriate policies concerning gender equality and rights. The women's group meetings enable them to mould



themselves as responsible change agents in the communities RWUS focus here is in Churachandpur district in partnership of other 7 women organizations in the districts. The project provided small support to women leaders from the Hmar Women Association, Precilla Home for Destitute Women, Kuki Women Union, Presbyterian Women Project, The ICI Youth, and the Joint women organization.

During this period, the project achieved the following activities:

- 11 Capacity building and training of Primary Stakeholders program were conducted on
 - Lobby and Advocacy (*Skills and Techniques*)
 - Human Rights and Gender Rights
 - Women, Peace and Security
 - Political Participation & Leadership
- Through continuous effort such as regular meeting, training, workshop and sharing of experience women are able to voice out their issues and concern. Today WinG Promoters are able to sit with their fellow women in village and shared their problems.
- New participants have come up and they gave their interest in the WinG Programs after having experience sharing with the present regular participants.

STRENGTHENING COLLECTIVE EFFORT IN NORTH-EAST INDIA (SCENEI)

Funded by CSD

One of the key approaches of RWUS is to challenge and encourage the community in transforming the society. To achieve this goal RWUS had initiated number of training and capacity building to move toward this goal. RWUS intentionally moved toward achieving this goal at different forum and platforms. These initiatives help the community to gain better understanding of the issues facing today and in turn influence the community and society at large.

Major activities are capacity building, advocacy and networking, gender and livelihood security. It works towards creating a Peoples Organizations for self sustenance, economic development and effective right based advocacy and lobbying. It also provides training to address the impact of global warming and climate change, awareness workshop on Right to food, Human Rights, Right to Information Act, youth leadership, globalization, conflict and gender discrimination and training program for SHGs.



During this period, the following are the achievement of the year.

- 132 female and 40 male participate in capacity building program on Human Rights, Youth leadership, Gender and Globalization
- 49 female and 17 female participate in Advocacy and networking workshop.
- 60 female and 24 female participate in Dialogue meeting under gender program with CBOs (Community Based Organization) for integrating gender in the functioning of village institution and TOT (Training of Trainer) follow up for practitioners.
- Livelihood security training to 140 female and 36 male from Self Help Group & Food bank Committees.
- 160 female and 60 male were trained and capacitated on Global Warming, Human Rights, Gender workshop and Globalization to Villages Volunteer and Cadres.
- Under Advocacy and Networking program the following activities were conducted.
 - Consultation meeting on PDS with villages volunteer and PID to developed practical action plan, filing of RTI on PDS and its related issues.
 - Two Days Skills Training on lobby and advocacy to 59 Village Volunteers and PID leaders
- Under Gender program 62 ToT practitioners were given Skills training on Effective ways of raising gender awareness through church and village level.

- Promotion and protection of traditional food campaign program for CBOs was organized to make them conscious about the importance of local and traditional food items and strategies development for inclusion of women in decision making.

Apart from the above activities RWUS organized "One Day Games & Sports Meet" in celebration of the International Women's Day being enabling to enjoy a day off from their daily duties at home and enjoy an opportunities to be exposed and mingle with fellow women.



MANIPUR FOOD SECURITY PROJECT

Funded by WRC/CFGB/NEICORD

Churachandpur Area integrated Development project entered a new phase with the completion of a 5 years project period in June 2012 and this enable the project to shift focus and intervened on 17 new villages within the district. The new target areas are widely spread out covering 3 blocks in the district namely Saikot block, Samulamlan block and Lamka Block with diverse ethnic groups. The project aims to alleviate the deep rooted food insecurity due to poverty and negligence by addressing the various issues confronting their livelihood, rights and entitlements etc. The project also seeks to addressed and improve the agricultural practice by introducing SALT and SRI technology.

The project completes a baseline survey on the 17 villages and gathered relevant information. During this period, 4 community organizers underwent integrated training at Umran, Meghalaya for 2 weeks, 13 SHGs and 11 Farmers club were formed. A no. of training programs were also organized on SHG,s management, PDS & right to food, piggery management and SALT (upland farming method).For income genertation,25 piglets were distributed to landless family.



Case Study

Mrs Vanlalmuani is one of the 25 poor families benefitting from the livestock prog. Settled in a small sleepy nondescript village called New Saikawt, life is extremely difficult for the four member's family as each day brings a new challenge. Having undergone 4 surgical operations due to ill health, she was incapable of doing hard manual labour. Her husband worked as a wage labourer when job is available, but often ends up jobless for weeks. There are times when he could not work due to a fracture bone caused by an accident some years ago. Supporting their two school going children was an extra burden.



The absence of regular source of income left no choice for both Mrs Vanlalmuani and her husband but to do all sort of menial jobs to keep the family hearth burning. As a bread winner of the family, she weaves despite her physical limitations and sometimes her ailment resurfaced when she weaves continuously for a week. This way she could earn a meager amount of Rs 3000/- a month which was used for buying food and other needs. There are times when she could not do any work and has to borrow money from others.

The thoughts often crossed her minds many times if she could raise a pig to supplement their limited income. However the unstable financial status otherwise makes it impossible to set aside money for purchasing piglet which cost 2800-3000/- As she firmly believes that God's blessing always comes in disguise and from an unexpected quarter, she was emotional and feel elated when she was informed by the VFC about her being one of the beneficiary for the livestock prog. As was required, she attended a training prog. on livestock management for two days at RWUS office and now she was quite confident on the basic management of livestock.

Optimistic as she is, she reiterated the hopes she had for the future. *'Life is difficult for us. However I want my children to have the best education so that they can have a more secure future. If the pig is healthy and multiplies, I would use it wisely for my children's education and I am eagerly waiting for that moment to come.'* With a smile in between her words she added, *'The pig has given me new hopes and i am thankful and indebted to the donors.'*

**PROMOTION AND SUPPORT OF WOMEN SELF HELP GROUPS IN 2
BLOCKS OF CHURACHANDPUR DISTRICT**

Funded by NABARD

This project is initiated in 2012 by RWUS along with other organizations in Churachandpur with the aim to promote self-help initiatives for self-reliance and promote gender equity through formation of women self help Group (WSHG). The project is operated in the area of Thanlon and Samulamlan Blocks in Churachandpur District of Manipur.

The experience gathered over the years in promotion and nurturing of SHGs especially in resource poor regions, suggests the need for support organization involved to continuously guide and nurture the members of the SHG. With the increasing number of groups financed by bank branches, it is observed that banks are unable to provide undivided attention for monitoring large number of groups. Therefore, there is a need for support organizations for monitoring and facilitating continuous linkage with banks. This project is an attempt at having NGO-SHPI to work as Business Facilitator (BF), for banks to enable them to serve not merely as an SHPI (Self Help Group Promotion Institution) for promoting and enabling credit linkage of these groups with banks, but also serving as a banking / business facilitator, tracking, monitoring these groups and also being responsible for loan repayments. This approach is expected to facilitate sustained financial inclusion through bank loan, promote livelihood development of women and deliver social development programs for Women through SHGs.

Activities and achievements;

- **Awareness programme on Women Self Help Group Scheme**

Awareness programme on WSHG was organized at different villages where the womenfolk were making aware of the scheme and the provisions which the Government of India had constructed for this scheme.

- **Formation of Women Self help group**

The target for WSHGs formation for the 1st year was 60 WSHGs. Till dates 48 WSHGs have been formed in two blocks namely Thanlon block and Samulamlan block. 16 WSHGs in Thanlon block and 32 WSHGs in Samulamlan block.

- **Training on book keeping and account management**

Training on book keeping and account management was conducted at 16 different villages where the group members were taught the way of maintaining their account.

- **Opening of Bank accounts**

Out of 48 WSHGs promoted, 5 groups have been linked with State Bank of India CCPur branch and 43 WSHGs are yet to be linked.

SMILE PROJECT



RWUS initiated a small project known as “SMILE” in 2010 to assist the underprivileged and orphan children with the objective of bringing a smile to an orphans face. SMILE project was a manifestation of the strong commitment Rural Women Upliftment Society possessed towards the upliftment of the poor and the needy. Initially, Christmas gifts were given to needy orphans from different communities in Churachandpur district. The project raised funds from different sources apart from contribution received from well wisher and our benefactor. In 2011, RWUS put up a donation box in the office where the staff and visitors gave donations willingly. Funds were also raised during the Church youth Dept. conference and Women’s Dept. conference. The project is implemented from contributions made by the staffs, individuals, well wishers and Church departments. Through this project, orphan from different parts of the district were given gifts and material support and so far, more than 300 children’s benefitted the project.

During 2012



CAPACITY BUILDING FOR PROTECTION OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLES RIGHT

Funded by CORDAID



This project is a coalition of likeminded civil society from Manipur having alliance in the Northeast region working together for a common goal with an aim of enhancing local community capacity to protect, promote and manage natural resources and indigenous people's rights for the people of Manipur and Northeast region. Major focus groups include - The local communities, civil society organizations such as women, human rights bodies, environmental organizations, media, and agencies of state and concerned industries.

The project focus on initiating training and capacity building to local communities and community based organizations on human rights and extractives so that the communities gain knowledge and information and hence can be further empowered to effectively voice their concerns and rights. The project aim at enhancing local knowledge on labor rights, community health, safety and livelihood, consultations meetings, workshops and trainings will be held in centers where the exploration is taking place.

During the reporting year, RWUS conducted two capacity building and training in Nepal (Katmandu) and Thailand (Bangkok) related to technical and legal aspects of extractives to the civil society organizations and coalition members in order to build up their capacity to effectively and proactively assist local communities in their search for justice, protection, security and dignified life.



FINANCIAL REPORT



Join & Support us in our endeavor to empower the people for justice and development

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