

Rural Women Upliftment Society(RWUS)

# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2019-2020

## **ABOUT THE ORGANIZATION:**

Rural Women Upliftment Society (RWUS) is a Church Based, Not for Profit, Gender just indigenous philanthropic organization founded by the development department of the Independent Church of India (ICI) in the year 1990. With full autonomy in administration and functioning, RWUS seeks to address the issues and concerns of the people without compromising their unique cultural, social and religious practices encompassing gender, Local Capacity for Peace (LCP) and environment as cross cutting theme.

## **VISION AND MISSION**

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***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.*

### **Thematic Area:**

Anchored on a mission to empower grass root communities, RWUS has the following core thematic issue-

- ✓ *The right to food and Food Security*
- ✓ *Gender and Women in governance*
- ✓ *Capacity Building and Training*
- ✓ *Environment and Natural Resources*
- ✓ *Clean and Renewable energy*

## **AYNI**

### ***Summary of the activities:***

1. Consulting and alliance building on 24th January, 2020 with 46 participants.
2. Consultation with Indigenous Women Group/CBO for planning on 14th February, 2020 with a number of 20 participants.
3. Consultation and alliance building on 12th March, 2020 with a total participant of 27.
4. Door to door campaign and campaign through leaflets.
5. Community meeting for forming Green Model Village on 2nd March, 2020 with a total of 14 participants.
6. **International Day of Action for Rivers** was conducted on the 14th of March, 2020 with a total participation of 1000 volunteers.

Since 2019, RWUS has organized the International day of Action for Rivers in Churachandpur district in collaboration with Autonomous District Council (ADC) and

several civil society organizations in the district. This year, it was observed on the 14th March with the theme 'Women, Water and Climate change.' The event was organized with the active participation of ADC and Women CBOs like Hmar Women Association (HWA), Zomi Mother Association (ZMA), and Ima Leimarel Apunba Lup (ILAL) with the main goal of raising awareness among the general public on the need to safeguard and protect streams like the Lanva, Chiengkon and Koite Lui which has turn into garbage dumping site and to clean up Khuga river, the only river in the district which is slowly dying with all kinds of pollutants as a result of negligence over the years.

A short formal program was held at RWUS Conference Hall with a powerful message from Shri Paukhanlian, Chairman, ADCC and Ms. Mary Beth Sanate, Secretary RWUS outlining the need for citizens to actively participate in the protection and cleaning of the streams and rivers. The event was also widely covered by the media.

### **Women First International (WFI)**

#### *Summary of the activities:*

1. Self-help Group meeting was conducted twice on 13th February, 2020 and 4th March, 2020 with total participants of 13 and 14 respectively.
2. Meeting with weavers on 6th December, 2019.
3. Start up supply and promotional meeting for weavers during 6th December, 2019 to March, 2020. The total number of participants was 100.
4. Startup capital and paper bag making support to 5 self-help groups.
5. Scholarship support of 5 individuals who are young girls and two of which are beauticians.

### **Bread For The World (BFTW)**

#### *Summary of the activities:*

1. One day awareness program on climate change which was conducted a total of 7 times from April, 2019 to March, 2020 with a total of 186 participants.
2. Exposure cum knowledge exchange program which was conducted twice at Churachandpur and Chandel district on 5th June, 2019 and 14th January, 2020 respectively.
3. Awareness on Women's Rights.
4. One day consultation on the impending climate change and emergency on 17th July, 2019 with a total of 52 participants.
5. 3 days TOT on climate change and patriarchy on 16th and 17th August, 2019 which was completed simultaneously on two days time.

6. Awareness on Legal Mechanism on Women Rights and Entitlement Rights of Women which was conducted three times on 13th July, 2019, 19th September, 2019 and 24th January, 2020 with a total participants of 25, 14 and 33 respectively.
7. Awareness campaign on climate change which was conducted 3 times on 22nd, 24th November and 3rd December of 2019 with a total participant of 97.
8. Capacity building on climate change which was conducted 3 times with a total participant of 124.

### **Renewable Energy Resource and Solar Home Lighting System**

**Summary of the activities:** The project involves promoting alternative energy to rural households for regular power supply for home lighting and livelihood enhancement. Regarding this as a small step towards combating climate change, RWUS has slowly moved forward in spreading awareness and convincing the community to adopt clean energy. Under this project, there are two schemes, RWUS/SELCO and TATA/CML that provide solar lighting and heater on an installment basis.

RWUS/SELCO from April, 2019 to March, 2020, has installed a total of 92 systems and under TATA/CML, a total of 45 systems has been installed from November, 2019-

Below is the table:

#### **RWUS/SELCO: (April, 2019 - March, 2020)**

<b>SYSTEM</b>	<b>INSTALLED</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
LAMP	1	1
40 WATTS SHLS	47+7	54
100 WATTS SHLS	19+7	26
200 WATTS SHLS	4+2	6
100 Lt. SWH	1+1	2
200 Lt. SWH	1+2	3
		= 92

#### **TATA/CML: (November, 2019 -**

<b>SYSTEM</b>	<b>INSTALLED</b>
40 WATTS SHLS	33
100 WATTS SHLS	7
150 WATTS SHLS	1
200 WATTS SHLS	1
75 WATTS SLA	1
200 WATTS SLA	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	45

## **Foundation For Social Transformation(FST)**

**Summary of the activities:** Under this project, RWUS partnered up with FST to help combat some of the challenging issues faced by the vulnerable communities in rural areas as an outcome of the general lockdown due to Covid-19.

With no scope of earning livelihood, the economic hardships faced by the community in the project area are immense. So, with the help of FST, RWUS reached out to 160 households providing their essential needs like rice, potato, dal, cooking oil, salt and onion. However, due to the limited availability of resources, RWUS were not able to cover the entire community and as such, the village level task force helped in the selection of beneficiaries in five project villages. With permission from the district administration and following standard of protocol(SOP), RWUS with the help of FST were able to distribute the resources to these project villages and are grateful to be part of it. Apart from this, the following programs were also implemented from July, 2019:

1. In the month of July 2019, there was an interface with village authority(VA), women and youth groups. An awareness program on Environment Protection and Strengthening women environmental promoters.
2. An awareness program on environment protection in August, 2019 along with Feminist understanding of emerging issues on the 27th to 30th August, 2019 at Cherrapunjee.
3. In the month of September, there was an awareness program on environment protection as well as on environment.
4. In October 2019, there was an interface with village authority (VA), women group and youth group twice.
5. Two programs were organized regarding the awareness on environment protection in the month of December, 2019 and also on strengthening women environment protection.
6. In the month of January 2020, organized an event thrice to advocate about environment protection and the needs for awareness regarding it.
7. Another awareness program on environment protection was organized in February, 2020.
8. In the month of April 2020, with the implementation of general lockdown due to Covid-19 and to help out the community in fulfilling their basic needs/necessities, Covid relief was initiated by RWUS.