



North East Network

A women's organisation from North East India

July-August-September 2021



Welcome to our September 2021 Newsletter!

North East Network firmly believes that advancing gender equality is imperative to overcoming crises. And, yet, the majority of socioeconomic COVID-19 responses adopted by public administrations are surprisingly gender-blind, often failing to address the specific needs of women. During July to September 2021, NEN implemented several programmes to uphold women's equal rights and responsibilities in the family and eliminate stereotypes and practices that reinforce gender inequalities. We prioritised recovery efforts that protect and advance economic security of women facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination. All our projects aimed at providing access to justice and an effective remedy in case of violation of human rights, including economic, social and cultural rights.

Gender discrimination & violence against women



BOOK LAUNCH OF “বৈষম্য নহয়, সমতাহে”

To strengthen gender perspectives for young boys and girls in Assam, a book titled “বৈষম্য নহয়, সমতাহে” was formally released by North East Network on 25th August 2021, at Guwahati Press Club. The book has been authored by Rashmirekha Borah (PhD), Associate Project Lead, NEN, Assam, and published by NEN, as a bid to fulfill the much needed gap of a comprehensive guide for young people wanting to explore gender in their lives and living.



AWARENESS ON DV & VAW

With COVID-19 outbreak and subsequent lockdowns triggering unbridled cases of domestic violence across Meghalaya in 2020, this year too is no different with rising number of cases surfacing everyday, even while many go undetected. To provide help and assistance for women facing DV in Meghalaya, NEN has appointed Out Reach Workers in various areas of East and West Khasi Hills. Our ORWs found many unreported cases of Domestic Violence during door-to-door visits.

In order to highlight the issue and get the community to respond to cases of VAW, programmes on DV and Women's rights were organized in three villages, Nongriat, Ranapbah and Wahliewlong, of the West Khasi Hills District, on 21st and 28th September, 2021. [READ MORE](#)

Most of the women facing abuse suffer silently for fear and lack of proper legal information. To answer this critical need, NEN organised an Awareness Programme on Domestic Violence, at Cantonment Area, Paltan Bazaar, Shillong on 11th September, 2021. During the event, many women spoke out and shared their story of violence.



HYGIENE KITS FOR SCHOOL GIRLS

On 15th August, Independence Day, NEN Assam received hygiene kits for rural school girls, from Oil India Ltd. (Pipeline Headquarters), Guwahati,. The kits were received from Sandip Goswami, Chief General Manager, Pipeline Sphere

by Anurita P. Hazarika, State Coordinator, NEN (Assam) and Rashmirekha Borah, Associate Project Lead, NEN (Assam).

This gesture was in recognition of NEN's contribution towards women and girls in the state. The kits were distributed by us among girls studying in schools from rural areas in Kamrup district of Assam.



Natural Resource Management & Livelihood

FARMERS' MARKET AT CHIZAMI

On 30th July 2021, 12 women farmers came together to sell fresh organic produce from their farms at the Farmers' Market organised by NEN, Nagaland.

The farmers were from 4 villages viz. Chizami, Enhulumi, Lower Khomi and Thetsumi under Phek district, Nagaland. It was a great reward for the team to get positive feedback from the farmers who appreciated NEN's effort in providing a market to sell their surplus produce. Farmers shared that many of their surplus produce go to waste due to lack of market opportunities.



TRAINING ON FOOD PROCESSING & PACKAGING

Food processing is emerging as a major industry in North East India and has the potential of generating employment and raising incomes.

As part of NEN's livelihood initiative, a value addition training on Food Processing & Packaging was conducted at NEN Resource Centre, Chizami Phek. The training was facilitated by Pristine Foods, Chumoukedima, Nagaland on 27th-28th July 2021. The training was virtually conducted by the Pristine Team. The participants were 17 community women representing different SHGs from Chizami, Chizami town, Enhulumi and Sumi. The RP demonstrated virtually and the participants followed the procedure step by step.



FARM SCHOOL 2021

NEN Nagaland, organised Farm School at Chizami on 17-18 August 2021. The 6th edition of the event provided 16 young participants a comprehension on the importance of sustainable farming practices wherein traditional farming, soil health management were key topics discussed and shared. The participants spend 2 days engaging in hands-on practicals on composting, bamboo vinegar production and NeroDoco technique of propagation. These will assist existing organic agricultural practices and a way forward towards sustainable and eco-friendly farming practices.



Biodiversity Festival in Shatuza

A Biodiversity Festival was held in Shatuza village under Weziho Block of Phek district, Nagaland on September 20. Celebrating the theme, “Embracing Biodiversity for a Resilient Future,” the festival, hosted by Shatuza village, was supported by the NEN, Millet Network of India, and Rural Electrification Corporation Ltd (REC). The festival included a Seed exchange between 6 villages - 3 Chakhesang villages and 3 Pochury village; a display of seed diversity by 8 villages under Weziho block ie Phor, New Phor, Wuzu, Yisi, Yisisotha, Shatuza, Kuzatu, Hutsu; of uncultivated food diversity by Kuzatu village, and a Farmers’ Market where food and craft items were sold by the participating villages.



Governance & State Accountability

BUDGET SUGGESTIONS BY NEN

North East Network submitted a representation to the State Finance Minister, Ajanta Neog, as a response to the Government's call for public engagement on the upcoming Budget. NEN in its submission stated that a multi-dimensional unified response to eliminate all forms of violence against women is needed for both public and private spaces. This approach has to be developed within the framework of good governance and budgetary dimensions.

[READ FULL BUDGET SUBMISSION](#)

Adequate funds for women's safety in State budget demanded

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, July 10: As the State government pre-

safety and protection is the crucial need of the hour," it stated.

For the upcoming State

...the state government pre- pares to present its first bud- get on July 16 in the State As- sembly, women's rights activ- ists in Assam have demanded adequate fund allocation for women's safety in Assam. The State tops the chart in crimes against women, with such crime rates here three times more, compared to the nation- al average.

The North East Network, which has submitted a repre- sentation to the State Finance Minister Ajanta Neog re- sponding to the government's initiative towards public en- gagement on the budget, has stated that a multi-dimension- al unified response to eliminate all forms of violence against women is needed for both pub- lic and private spaces. The or- ganisation pointed out that this approach has to be developed within the framework of good governance and budgetary di- mensions.

"Low public spending is a constraint to achieve the high- est safety standards for wom- en and to achieve successful development plans. A higher magnitude of public spending with State policy on women's

...for the upcoming state budget 2021-2022, the organ- isation demanded allocation of appropriate budget for imple- mentation of a State policy for women on safety and protec- tion with a State-level task force comprising members of government, court and legal services, women's organisa- tions, women's commission, women's helpline number and public sector undertakings. It also advocated allocation of an adequate budget for appoint- ment of full time 'Protection Officers' or 'Assistant Protec- tion Officers' under the Pro- tection of Women from Do- mestic Violence (PWDV) Act.

Allocation of adequate budg- et for the state nodal agency to ensure effective implemen- tation of the Sexual Harass- ment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act for both formal and informal sectors was also demanded along with equal distribution of fund to estab- lish Swadhar Greh and Ujjwa- la homes especially in districts, which do not have these serv- ices to ensure long term hous- ing and shelter facility for women.

ONLINE INTERFACE WITH MSCPCR

NEN Meghalaya organised an Online Interface with Meghalaya State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (MSCPCR) on 1st September 2021. The participants were the Outreach Workers (ORWs) of the APPI Project and NEN Staff. The main aim of the program was to familiarise the participants with the functions and role of MSCPCR, the services and legal provisions available for the redressal of child sexual

abuse (CSA), and the various mechanisms and processes that can be adopted by the ORWs while working with cases relating to CSA.



COVID-19 RESPONSE AND RELIEF DRIVE

The second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic in the months of April and May 2021 resulted in dual crises for rural communities- continuing economic depression along with an aggressive spread of infections and deaths. The economic depression drove families to the point of exhausting their household savings as unemployment hit an all time high. To provide some relief to low income households, NEN distributed one time food supplies to select vulnerable families adversely affected by the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic. The distribution was conducted in August 2021 and reached 308 households across 7 districts of Assam and 100 households in 2 districts of Meghalaya. The supplies were distributed through local shops of the selected areas. The relief drive was funded by Azim Premji Philanthropic Initiatives (APPI).



YOUTH DAY CELEBRATED

In Meghalaya, NEN celebrated International Youth Day on 12th August. The theme of International Youth Day 2021 was, “Transforming Food Systems: Youth Innovation for Human and Planetary Health”. A Mobile Photography competition for youths was launched in Meghalaya with the theme “Going back to the roots and capturing the food system”. We also organised a block level drawing competition for youth in Meghalaya, with the theme “Youth involvement in planet restoration”.

NEN Nagaland celebrated 'International Youth Day' at Thürütsüswümi village in collaboration with Thürütsüswümi Youth Collective. The event celebrated the achievements of the Youth Collective while recognising youths' role in contributing towards the community's development. In the past two years despite the pandemic, the YC had continued its activities within the community by conducting biodiversity walks – documenting its biodiversity which materialised into a booklet titled “Thürütsüswümi Biodiversity – A Documentation Initiative for Conservation”.



Film release by NEN Nagaland

On the occasion of 'International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples 2021', NEN stood in solidarity with indigenous communities across the world. NEN released a film celebrating the theme "Leaving no one behind: Indigenous peoples and the call for a new social contract".

[CLICK TO VIEW](#)

CLICK TO KNOW MORE ABOUT NEN'S WEAVING PROJECTS
NENTERPRISE

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT!

NEN is looking to fill several positions with qualified individuals who are willing to carry forward NEN's work and mission in NER.

To view ALL VACANCIES please visit <https://northeastnetwork.org/career/>



We truly thank all our donors, partners and well wishers for your staunch support towards our work.

To know more about each project please visit us at
www.northeastnetwork.org

CONTACT

E-mail: nen@northeastnetwork.org

Phone: +91 9435017824 (Assam- Head Office)

**+91 3865 264141, +91 3702 260550 (Nagaland),
+91 364 2521221 (Meghalaya)
Project Green Hub: +91 371 2252688 (Tezpur)**

This email was sent to drishana.kalita@gmail.com

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North East Network · 7b, J.N. Barooah Lane, · Jorpukehuri, · Guwahati 781001 · India

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