**Vision**
NEN’s vision is to build a society in the North East Region that upholds gender justice and equality.

**Mission**
NEN’s mission is to take forward women’s issues by:

- Strengthening women’s collectives, collective action and their leadership in political, public & community processes
- Addressing discrimination and violence against women in both public and domestic spheres and ensuring safer spaces
- Protecting the environment and biodiversity spots through innovative initiatives, by engaging youth and women

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**Legal Status**
NEN is registered as a Society under the Societies Registration Act XXI of 1860, India. It is also registered as a Charitable Society under the Income Tax Act of 1961, and has obtained the required approval u/s 12AA of the Income Tax Act, 1961. The organisation is also registered with the ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, New Delhi, under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 1976.

All donations to NEN are exempt from tax under Section 80G of the Income Tax Act, 1961. Valid only for donations in Indian Rupees.

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**Governing Board Members**

- **Chairperson**: Gita Rani Bhattacharya
- **Executive Director**: Dr Monisha Behal
- **Treasurer**: Tamara Law Goswami
- **Member**: Bano Haralu
- **Member**: Amiya Kr Sharma
- **Member**: Nandita Hazarika
- **Member**: Ella Mary
- **Member**: Darllyn Syiem
- **Member**: Gita Rani Bhattacharya

North East Network
North East Network has been nurturing the women’s movement of north east India from grassroots to the global context, for more than 25 years. At this juncture NEN has expanded its outreach from VAW to different but equally important arenas which include the rights of adolescents, providing a platform to the weavers and women farmers for showcasing their traditional skills as well as their ownership and stake in the local ecology and biodiversity.

The Annual Report 2020-21 reflects NEN’s commitment towards the larger cause that upholds the voice of the voiceless. North East Network with its inbuilt sense of responsibility has adopted a new way of working in the challenging concomitant situations due to the ongoing pandemic for the last two years.

With this, I envision NEN will continue its journey with the support of partners and all stakeholders to build a gender just and inclusive society.

Gita Rani Bhattacharya
Chairperson,
North East Network
Dear friends and colleagues,

The year 2020 and 2021 has taught us about resilience and how best to deal with a pandemic that took us by storm. Yes, it is unbelievable that a pandemic could gnaw at our mental health, invade into our privacy, social connections and restrict us from free movement. With work at NEN, the situation was handled well, thanks and applause to the teams in all our states of the region. Indeed, the past months at NEN have hinged precariously on uncertainties albeit courage, making our work as meaningful as ever, in the three states.

During the pandemic we all learned that our strategies should be invested on addressing livelihoods through food, nutrition, fodder and land based work. It goes with our conviction that land based work and indigenous farming must be done together in addition to protecting the environment and biodiversity in such times. NEN's work in rural areas has witnessed a small percentage of citizens recognizing that change is required. The crisis in this pandemic is teaching us to get together, perhaps to work in allaying our multiple worries seen in our health and our daily insecurities. Women are a part of this and contributors to agriculture productivity and off farm work. How best NEN can infuse more thought into the rural households is important because women, as farmers, weavers, vendors and sellers have certain rights they must claim. Such rights must be synonymous with the pandemic where food is sparse and lack of opportunities rife. We at NEN believe in this aspect firmly.

Dr. Monisha Behal
Executive Director
North East Network

List Of Abbreviations

AWHPPP - Assam Witch Hunting (Prohibition, Prevention & Protection)
ANM - Auxiliary Nurse Midwife
AGCA - Growing Culture (North Carolina, USA)
BDO - Block District Officer
CAW - Crimes Against women
CEDAW - Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women
CEHAT - Centre for Enquiry into Health and Allied Themes
CSB - Community Seed Bank
CSO - Civil Society Organisation
DLSA - District Legal Services Authority
DV - Domestic Violence
DCPU - District Child Protection Unit
GBV - Gender Based Violence
GBDVAW - Gender Based Discrimination and Violence Against Women
GMK - Gramin Mahila Kendra
IC - Internal Committee
MAKAAM - Mahila Kisan Adhikar Manch
MLCU - Martin Luther Christian University
MGNREGA - Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act
MINI - Millet Network of India
NEN - North East Network
NER - North East Region
NRM - Natural Resource Management
NCW - National Commission for Women

IWD - International Women's Day
ICAR - Indian Council of Agriculture and Research
NESFAS - North East Slow Food and Agrobiodiversity Society
OHCHR - Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
OSC - One Stop Centre
PL - Public Interest Litigation
POCSO - Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (Act of 2012)
PWDV - Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act
RTI - Right to Information
SEWA - Self Employed Women’s Association
SHHWPA - Sexual Harassment of Women at Work Place Act
SOP - Standard Operating Procedure
SHG - Self Help Group
TVC - Town Vending Committee
UN - United Nations
UNDP - United Nations Development Programme
VAW - Violence Against Women
VCS - Victim Compensation Scheme
WHO - World Health Organisation
VDB - Village Development Board
VAW - Violence Against Women
Milestones Reached

ASSAM

MEGHALAYA

NAGALAND

6,257 women benefited from training & counseling

27,648 people reached through campaigns & events

12163 families received Covid & Flood relief

1,584 government applications availed and approved

Awards & Accolades

01 NEN Nagaland was awarded the MykiFest Awards, 2020-21 in recognition of NEN’s contribution to community services, and socio-economic upliftment of women in the state by the department of women resource development, Government of Nagaland.

02 Anurita P. Hazarika, State Coordinator, NEN Assam, received Global Award, 2020 for social contribution to the society. It was conferred by the Global Edu leaders Forum.
Awards & Accolades

03
Green Hub project Director Rita Banerji was given the Wildlife Service Award by Sanctuary Asia in January 2020 for her service to wildlife conservation.

04
Green Hub film “Logdrum of Pessao” made by Wanmai Konyak (Batch 2015-16), Millo Tako, Chonglise Sangtam and Lamthangljan Vaiphei (Batch 2018-19) won the best film award at the 3rd Jai Chandiram Memorial Community Media Film Festival, 2021.

05
Green Hub film “Logdrum of Pessao” made by Wanmai Konyak (Batch 2015-16), Millo Tako, Chonglise Sangtam and Lamthangljan Vaiphei (Batch 2018-19) won the best film award at the 3rd Jai Chandiram Memorial Community Media Film Festival, 2021.

06
Green Hub film “The Guardian of Dampa” made by Thejaviko Chase and Dipen Rangmang (Batch 2019-2020) was the winner of the Emerging Talent category in Natural History at the Nature in Focus Film Awards, 2020.

What We Learned & How We Adapted

The pandemic that had swept the world since early 2020 has left in its wake a ‘shadow pandemic’ to which no region has remained immune or unaffected. This shadow pandemic is the heightened violence and abuse against women and girls stemming from security, health and money concerns and worsened by the lockdown measures. Women are bearing the brunt of the economic fallout of the current COVID-19 crisis. According to the Global Gender Gap Report of 2020, it will take 95 years to close the gender gap in political representation. The situation is even worse as far as economic participation is considered. As per the report, it will require 257 years to attain gender parity in economic participation globally. So, the COVID-19 pandemic has, in fact, worsened the situation for women.

Across North East India, as all institutions closed and health systems got overloaded, care for children and sick relatives largely fell on women who already perform over three quarters of the unpaid care and domestic work. Incidents of VAW were increasingly reported showing that the policy of isolation and confinement leads to increased levels of domestic, sexual, and gender-based violence – and therefore, to a heightened need of protection against this.

Consequently, it was a vital area of focus for North East Network to maintain a steady connection with our grassroot leaders and the rural women communities we have been engaged with across Assam, Meghalaya, and Nagaland. COVID-19 and Lockdowns brought with it severe restrictions on travelling which made attending trainings/workshops and meetings physically impossible. We, as an organisation, had to adapt quickly to the exclusive use of technology and virtual mediums. The team had to equip themselves with latest technologies and applications to
carry the work forward. We learnt to identify the challenges and needs of our communities and had to constantly adjust and respond to the ever-changing situation.

In Assam, the lockdown period brought with it a big hurdle of reaching the women beneficiaries who are located across 6 districts. With our field workers unable to travel, we begun with training the women on the use of social media platforms to be able to stay connected. Digital empowerment for these rural women became the need of the hour so that we could continue our monitoring and provide guidance and support. During the lockdown, our community mobilisers reached out to community women over phone to inform them on COVID-19, its transmission and preventive measures which would help protect themselves. Our mobilisers put up posters in public places to create awareness on COVID-19 amongst the communities, across all six districts in which NEN is engaged in Assam. We faced great hardships in providing counselling through our Gramin Mahila Kendra (GMK) as Lockdowns and Curfews prevented the aggrieved women from visiting GMKs. However, our barefoot counsellors attended every distress call we received and provided support to the aggrieved women via phone. The weaving initiative by NEN faced a major challenge in finding new orders and markets, collection of raw materials and products and responding to the buyers, as well. All our work was shared through online platforms, appealing people to procure local products and support our livelihood projects which are crucial for sustaining the economy of the communities that depend on them.

One of NEN’s biggest achievements was a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) on Women’s access to Shelter Homes issued by the Department of Social Welfare, Government of Assam. Through our advocacy, Assam became the first state to issue such an SOP and it came as a huge relief to institutional care providers and women who were being denied access to shelter.

During the lockdown, the economically deprived had not been able to get access to basic essentials and as a result, food insecurities within marginalised communities have skyrocketed. The need of the hour was proper distribution of dry rations. Relief distribution in Assam was provided across 10 districts — Darrang, Dhemaji, Dhubri, Golaghat, Goalpara, Morigaon, Kamrup, Kamrup (Metropolitan), Udalguri and Sonitpur. The drive was carried out by NEN’s Community Mobilisers and Assistant Community Mobilisers, accompanied by support group members, women peer leaders and volunteers and Block Federations (Rural Women Collectives). In Golaghat, Darrang and Kamrup Gramin Mahila Kendras (GMK), which are also supported by APPI, took the initiative in the distributions. NEN had reached out to 1600 households directly and an additional 3200 households through the federation.
In Meghalaya, we witnessed a surge in DV and other forms of VAW and children. To enable people to reach instantaneous psychosocial and legal support, posters with helpline numbers of our Outreach Workers deputed in the field were widely distributed. NEN was also working in tandem with the police, District Child Protection Units, Meghalaya State Commission for Women, and other likeminded NGOs to ensure that the aggrieved women and children are given immediate redressal mechanisms to access shelters, transportation, medical treatment, filing of Domestic Incident Reports, and POCSO cases during the pandemic. 

The imposition of the nationwide lockdown due to the COVID-19 pandemic had adversely affected lives and livelihoods of many in Meghalaya. As part of our relief work, we were able to reach out to the vulnerable households with dry rations in East Khasi Hills, West Khasi Hills, South-west Khasi Hills, Ri-Bhoi and West Jaintia Hills. COVID-19 kits were also distributed to the youth managing the quarantine centres. As VAW and children cases intensified with the pandemic in the State, our Outreach Workers worked hand in hand with the Dorbar Shnong to raise awareness, not only on Covid-19, but also on the increasing domestic violence and the need to address it. Menstrual health and hygiene awareness programmes were held and we distributed sanitary products donated by Procter and Gamble Limited, Mumbai, as we witnessed that many girls and women throughout the lockdown were unable to access sanitary kits. Sanitary pads were also distributed to the ASHA facilitators, the Superintendent of Police for women inmates in prisons and DorbarShnongs in several urban and rural localities.

Considering that physical gatherings were

prohibited due to the pandemic, many surveys were carried out telephonically.

**NEN Meghalaya with SEWA and WHO conducted a project on ‘Informal Women Workers’ Response to Covid 19’ where a cadre of 10 women master trainers were trained to launch an education campaign and amplify the awareness to 1227 other women on Coronavirus to reduce morbidity and mortality associated with the virus and support informal workers through psycho-social care.**

In Nagaland, we saw bio-diverse rich communities least affected by the pandemic in terms of food security. These communities stepped out and supplied food to urban areas; we saw the return of urban dwellers and young people to rural areas to grow food. Community women, women workers in the informal sector who suffered the most because of the COVID induced lockdown collectively stepped up and took leadership initiatives to continue and sustain their lives and livelihoods amid the lockdown, by negotiating for spaces with the local authorities.

In Nagaland, we responded to the immediate needs of food security and health through distribution of ration and hygiene kits, facilitating linkages to social security and livelihood services. A total of 1284 economically marginalised women, vendors, and artisans’ families received relief material in the form of hygiene kit, dry rations, and sanitary products. We quickly organised a cadre of community, youth, and women leaders to create community level awareness and disseminate information on COVID, referral care, hygiene and sanitation, psycho-social care, etc., through both offline (door to door) and online (telephonic and internet) mediums. The awareness campaign was well received by the communities, especially the elders who had no access to internet and were unable to get accurate information on the virus and other preventive measures. We made films with stories of hope and resilience to inform and educate communities on COVID preparedness. We, along with our community members, participated in various campaigns; sharing and learning through online events like the Online Seed Festival, Janta Parliament, Rising Gardens Film Festival, etc., and reached out to a wide audience during the pandemic.

In Nagaland, we saw bio-diverse rich communities least affected by the pandemic in terms of food security. These communities stepped out and supplied food to urban areas; we saw the return of urban dwellers and young people to rural areas to grow food. Community women, women workers in the informal sector who suffered the most because of the COVID induced lockdown collectively stepped up and took leadership initiatives to continue and sustain their lives and livelihoods amid the lockdown, by negotiating for spaces with the local authorities.

Communities across North East India had been adversely impacted economically, mentally, emotionally by the pandemic since 2020, but on the positive side, we also witnessed the emergence of community resilience and leadership. The pandemic showed us the importance of nurturing local communities’ capacities and resources that are connected closely to our land and forests. We learnt about the importance of sharing, learning and collaborations as diverse stakeholders; both Government, non-government, community institutions and individuals worked together in response to the pandemic.

The year 2020–21 has been a reminder of our interdependent lives and interconnectedness with our environment. This pandemic has also provided an opportunity for communities, for us to reflect, relearn, and re-focus our attention to healing and restoration of ecosystems, uphold ecologically sustainable livelihoods and jobs, promote localisation and decentralisation towards self-reliance, good health and access to healthcare systems.
The unseen agony of women in a patriarchal society

From dawn to dusk women spend their productive years toiling at home, all for the same reason ‘because they are women’. Pune and Muchilu grew up believing the same- that because they are women, they must do the chores without question, while the same was not expected of the men or brothers at home. The realisation came much later for both and there was an urge, a feeling that needed to be heard. As Pune shares “I wanted to voice out, I felt that it’s something I needed to share. I grew up thinking it’s a women’s job to do all the household chores”.

Their first stint in mobile filmmaking training conducted at NEN Nagaland in December 2020 as part of the 16 days activism on Violence Against Women (VAW) was a life changing experience. The two women from Tsüpfüme attended the training on mobile filmmaking organised for community women and girls by Sophy Lasu Kesiezie, a film maker from Nagaland. The participants were given the opportunity for a Call of submission for Story Telling through Participatory Video. The duo produced their first video titled ‘The Unseen Agony’, a short film on women and unpaid home responsibilities. The film throws light into the lives of women in Nagaland, the expectations on them to manage home, farm, raise children, and also be involved in other social obligations. The film questions why women’s work is not considered work, and given due value?

Standing strong against Domestic Violence

NEN GMK in Golaghat, Assam received a frantic call for help from a distraught young woman Gita (name changed). 19 years old Gita had tied her abusive husband during the lockdown with her 5 months old baby. A couple days later, the husband forced himself into her parents’ house and kidnapped the baby. On being informed, NEN community mobiliser Moon Borah immediately contacted the Village Defence Party, the village headman, ASHA workers, police and ANM of her area. On getting caught, the husband wanted to take Gita back to his house, but a brave Gita refused to return to her abusive marriage. Our feminist counselor Moon also supported Gita and she, along with an ASHA worker, rescued the baby girl to finally reunite mother and child. Community mobilisers like Moon made a huge difference by fearlessly responding to distress calls of women during the pandemic.

Winning justice for sexual abuse

Laithlin Lyngdoh is a NEN Outreach Worker from Nongshillong village, West Khasi Hills District. In 2018, she received one of her first cases as an Outreach Worker. It was a POCSO case, where a 9-year-old girl was sexually assaulted by her father. She immediately went to the village and although the people were reluctant to share with her what had happened, she calmly explained to them that she was there to help. She told them about POCSO Act and persuaded them to file an FIR. She assisted the survivor and her family members to the Primary Health Centre and took them to the Police Station as well. She also contacted the District Child Protection Unit for support. Inspite of threats from relatives of the perpetrator she did not give up. Multiple times, the mother had second thoughts and thought of withdrawing the case out of fear that she and her children will suffer. However, Kong Laithlin stood strong and supported the survivor and her family by visiting them often. She was determined to get justice for the girl. On February 2021, she received a phone call from the Women Police that a month ago, the perpetrator was sentenced to life in jail. It was all the reward she needed for her tremendous effort and patience.

VOICES FROM THE FIELD
From helpless to empowered

Konyiu Lohe is a farmer, home-based weaver of textiles, and makes processed food for a living. She explained, “I completed high school but could not continue as my parents could not afford expenses for all of us. Moreover, my step-father felt that it was not important to educate women. Therefore, the daughters in the family were compelled to quit school”.

After getting introduced to SEWA by North East Network (NEN) she was trained as a Master Trainer to raise awareness campaign on Covid 19 and personal hygiene. She was selected for a leadership training in 2019 by NEN. Today, she is a Field Mobilizer of Self-Employed Women Association (SEWA) of Chizami range, an Agevan (meaning: A Leader) and the President of SEWA Nagaland.

“I am transformed as a person after working with NEN and SEWA with the opportunities and encouragement I have received. My vision is that all women will get equal opportunity to quality education and more space in decision making body in different institutions,” says Konyiu.

Hope for families through livelihood initiatives for women

During the lockdown, Mamoni, from Guwahati, Assam was laid off by her master tailor. Her husband who worked in a pan masala factory also lost his job. The couple, who have a daughter preparing for school board exams, was struggling to make ends meet. Their landlord was harassing them for rent.

Meanwhile, NEN began an initiative for supporting disadvantaged women by distributing dry ration. NEN is extremely conscious to address multiple insecurities faced by women who have been disproportionately affected by the pandemic. We conceived the idea of engaging with women tailors like Mamoni by placing orders for stitching masks. Mamoni, a strong- willed woman who was determined to provide for her child, joined this initiative by NEN. She stitched around 500 masks which enabled her to clear all dues with her landlord including paying off debts, her daughter’s study expenses and the household was back on its feet again. Mamoni is keen to continue working with NEN which she sees as a light of hope.

Inspiring women and changing mindsets

When her husband got sick and bedridden for years, Ms. Neisepeu from Nagaland was left with the responsibility of taking care of her family. At that time she did not have employable skills nor enough land to grow their own food. She learned from her neighbors about weaving opportunities with Chizami Weaves. She challenged herself to learn weaving. Today she is one of the master weavers and earning a decent income that helps to support her family. As a master weaver, she teaches other weavers, and also assists in training programs organised by Chizami Weaves. Besides weaving, she also works as an agricultural labour whenever she gets the opportunity. Her husband, who is still recovering from his sickness, acknowledges her contribution at home and the family’s income.
Domestic violence cases increased alarmingly across North East India during the COVID-19 period as compared to the previous years. The lockdowns and other social isolation measures implemented had forced women to be confined to their homes despite the fact that they are subjected to violence, with limited or no social support options available. Very quickly we realised that to make a meaningful impact at a time of unprecedented turmoil and tragedy, we needed to diversify the scope of our operations.

In Assam, psycho-social counselling to survivors of violence became the need of the hour but providing counselling in our Gramin Mahila Kendras (GMK) became impossible during the lockdown. The aggrieved women were unable to visit GMKs for counselling. Despite everything, our barefoot counsellors attended distress calls and provided help to the women who required help through phone. During the lockdown period 32 women were provided counseling and support services.

**106 women**
provided psycho social care & counselling

**Barefoot counsellors in 6 districts supported and sensitised**

**480 women**
on Covid-19 & DV over phone
Trapped inside their homes during lockdown with overwhelming responsibilities, women in the community felt helpless, isolated and worried. Our team, realising the need for alternative mediums, used the mobile phone and social media platforms to create awareness on domestic violence and on COVID-19. We uploaded and shared posters with information on COVID-19 and VAW along with our helpline numbers through different social media platforms, both locally and nationally.

Once the lockdown was lifted, in a bid to address the rise in severe mental health issues especially amongst women, NEN organised a workshop for peer leaders. This workshop acted as a safe space for the peer leaders to ventilate their bottled up feelings and emotions. Rural women in Assam are mostly unaware of internet usage and phone based technologies. We took the lockdown as an opportunity to teach these women technical skills that would keep them connected with the world.

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NEN organised an online phone photography workshop with 15 community mobilisers, associate community mobilisers and peer leaders from 3 districts. They documented gendered division of labour experienced in their lives. We celebrated World Photography Day on 19th August by uploading 10 pictures by the women on NEN’s website and social media pages.

Peer leaders from Kamrup and Darrang attended a one day workshop at NEN Guwahati office, on Impact of COVID-19 on Women and Farmer’s Bills. The workshop focused on the impact of COVID-19 on different aspects of women’s lives.

Youth engagement and leadership is vital for hastening and sustaining the prevention and ending of violence against young women and girls. We worked with young boys and girls in select districts of Assam to identify and build a core group of youth, build their confidence so that they can become change-agents and play a positive role in changing their communities. Gender sensitisation workshops along with poster making workshop was held for youth in different districts of Assam. We engaged youths in almost all of our campaigns and activities so that we have a group of peer leaders from the next generation who will actively sustain the campaign against VAW.
A workshop on gender-based discrimination was held for 40 students, at Doigrung Bagisa High School, Golaghat. The workshop explored gender and gender roles through various methods. The students appreciated the workshop and expressed that such a discussion had never taken place in the school before.

NEN organised an online Poster Making Workshop with 20 students from Darrang and Kamrup. Through the skills learned during this workshop, the students created posters on ‘Gender Inequality and Ending gender-based Violence against Women and Girls’ to celebrate the ‘International Day of the Girl Child’ on 11th October.

Workshop on “Recognising Sexual identities: Lived experience of a queer person in Assam”, as part of a regular planning & capacity building workshop for NEN team

NEN team in Assam underwent multiple trainings to enhance their capacities and skills. Due to restrictions in movement, most training sessions were held through interactive webinars. Some of the topics were ‘Gender and the Changing World of Work’ (Care work and the hidden labour of women, Gender-migration-work nexus), ‘Rethinking Women’s Movement: Questions from Contemporary Contexts’, ‘Gatekeepers Training on Domestic Violence’, by Vimochana, Bangalore, ‘Indian Cities and Nationwide Lockdown’ by Youth for Unity and Voluntary Action (YUVA). In-person trainings of team were also conducted on PWDV Act, gender, patriarchy and basic communication skills.

An important component of our work is ensuring that every person in the team understands what human rights are and their individual responsibilities. The NEN team in Assam underwent multiple trainings to enhance their capacities and skills. Due to restrictions in movement, most training sessions were held through interactive webinars. Some of the topics were ‘Gender and the Changing World of Work’ (Care work and the hidden labour of women, Gender-migration-work nexus), ‘Rethinking Women’s Movement: Questions from Contemporary Contexts’, ‘Gatekeepers Training on Domestic Violence’, by Vimochana, Bangalore, ‘Indian Cities and Nationwide Lockdown’ by Youth for Unity and Voluntary Action (YUVA). In-person trainings of team were also conducted on PWDV Act, gender, patriarchy and basic communication skills.
In Meghalaya, cases of VAW and children intensified with the pandemic and the subsequent lockdowns. We collaborated with the Village Organisation of Laitkseh village, District Police, District Child Protection Unit, West Khasi Hills in raising awareness on the issue. This helped in accurately understanding the role of the Police and the DCPU in providing legal support and the role of the community in preventing and addressing the same at the village level.

It was clear that we needed accurate data to properly understand and also implement policy level advocacy. Hence, a 7-States rapid survey was conducted to understand the effective implementation of redressal mechanisms for domestic violence during the COVID-19 pandemic, as part of a national network of shelters—Lamlynti Chittara Neralu. The findings of the study were posted in the organisation’s social media handles. A paper titled ‘Domestic violence survivors and their access to shelters: Experiences from north-east India’ based on the findings of the study was presented at the 3days IAWS e-conference.

NEN made a submission to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) on COVID-19 and the increase of domestic violence against women through AMAN – Global Voices For Peace In The Home, a network of more than 100 organisations working on preventing domestic violence.

Health professionals have a responsibility to protect and promote human rights especially when it comes to survivors of abuse. NEN Meghalaya has been making consistent efforts to develop a health sector response to VAW.

Staff nurses of the Civil Hospital, Ri-Bhoi District were gender sensitised so that they develop an understanding about the importance of inculcating a sensitive approach towards survivors of violence.

12 women members of a Survivors Group were provided with livelihood training to enhance their skills on knitting and crochet as a means for them to attain economic independence.
The pandemic has brought with it an uncertain future for many youths. It has adversely affected the livelihood of many especially those in the creative fields. In an effort to provide local musicians with a platform to showcase their talent, an evening of youthful art and discourse was conducted in Shillong. The programme created a platform for eminent artists from various backgrounds to share their personal journey as an artist, the obstacles they encountered and the passion they possess for their own art, encouraging young audiences to embrace their talent and use it to full potential.

Youth were trained and encouraged to use comic strips as a tool to address violations of women’s rights, various social, political, cultural and environmental issues through drawings, comics and stories.

Youth groups and the Dorbar Shnong staged a public demonstration to protest against the sexual assault and murder of a woman in West Khasi Hills District demanding immediate arrest of the perpetrator and justice for the victim and her family.

NEN organised a Community led campaign by the Outreach Workers and the women’s collective from Rambrai village.
2646 women
made aware of their
rights & entitlements

17 Staff
Nurses
capacitated &
gender sensitised

131 men
sensitised on crimes
against women & children
In the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic in Nagaland, NEN doubled its efforts in addressing Gender Discrimination & Violence against Women and Girls through various awareness workshops, campaigns, and events to engage young people, women, and community leaders. Some of the key events included Global action of One Billion Rising, 16 days campaign on violence against women and International Women’s Day that aimed at raising awareness on gender-based violence and foregrounding women’s contribution during the pandemic. Various creative mediums such as poster drawing competitions, solidarity run to end Violence Against Women, role play, dance performances, musical night and film making workshop were organised to create awareness and to inspire a call-to-action against GBV. Awareness on Sexual and Reproductive Rights, Personal Safety Education were held to emphasise on bodily integrity and creating safe spaces for young girls and women.

NEN Nagaland in collaboration with state agencies, NGOs and well-wishers distributed COVID relief in the form of dry rations, hygiene kits and sanitary products to women street vendor’s and artisan’s families.

With mentoring support from NEN, SEWA – an informal woman collective secured 5 vending sites and 80 permits to continue vending during the lockdown.
More than 100 street vendors took part in a Street Awareness Campaign on International Street Vendors Day (ISVD) at Kohima, NEN articulated on The Nagaland Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Rules 2019 as part of the awareness campaign on its definition, provisions and function of Town Vending Committee TVCs.

In observance of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence NEN Nagaland in collaboration with Chizami Sport Association (CSA) organised a ‘Solidarity Run to end Violence against Women and Girls’ in Chizami. NEN members along with 73 youth members from the villages 3 villages viz. Chizami, Enhulumi, Sumi and Chizami town participated in the run.
NEN Nagaland celebrated International Women’s Day on March by bringing together rural women, village leaders and women collectives to celebrate women’s leadership within their household and communities. Seen here is a traditional performance by Women at Shamator on the occasion. IWD was celebrated across 3 districts viz. Chizami-Phek, Phekeriema-Kohima and Shamator Town-Tuensang.

Public Awareness Drive under the theme “Reimagining a world without GBV” at Chizami with Community Leaders and other stake holders. Seen here are women society members and leaders playing football after the program.

Poster drawing Competitions was held at Kohima, Puterso, Chizami & Phek, with 31 young participants on the theme “Reimagining a world without gender-based violence”.

Annual Report 2020-2021

North East Network
17914 adolescent youth & women made aware of Sexual Health & Reproductive Rights, Personal Safety Education

919 youths, adults & community leaders sensitised on VAW
Governance & State Accountability

A big part of NEN’s work has been constant advocacy and working alongside the state Government to develop policies that created a safer society for women.

assam

Although decades of women’s movements by NEN have made unprecedented progress towards ending gender-based violence in Assam, chasms in legal frameworks remain. During Lockdowns in 2020, over 70 Shelter Homes in Assam were not accepting new residents in the absence of relevant guidelines for the Covid-19 pandemic. Upon receiving complaints NEN Assam swung into swift action and on 13th April 2020, we wrote an urgent appeal to the State’s Social Welfare Department detailing the gaps in the States’ response to pandemic, in the context of women’s safety issues in both private and public spaces. As a result of NEN’s constant advocacy with the Department of Social Welfare, Government of Assam, a SOP on women’s access to shelter was issued by the Department. Assam was the first state to issue such an SOP and it came as a huge relief to institutional care providers and women. NEN Assam has also been made a part of the State Steering and Monitoring Committee under the scheme ‘Women Helpline’ which is constituted for ensuring a better and effective monitoring of the scheme.

A Women’s Manifesto on Gender and Social Justice for the 2021 Assam Legislative Assembly election was developed by NEN in collaboration with select feminist organisations. The Women’s Manifesto was circulated amongst all the political parties and they were requested to include the demands in their party manifestos. It looked at vulnerabilities of women in matters of safety, their role in environment and economy apart from their participation in political processes. It highlighted in particular the disadvantages faced by women from char, tea garden areas and women with disability and different sexual identities.

NEN made its submission to the Office of the OHCHR on COVID -19 and the increase of domestic violence against women through AMAN – Global Voices For Peace in The Home, a network of more than 100 women’s organisations from India working on preventing domestic violence. NEN also submitted its recommendations on addressing domestic violence during the COVID-19 pandemic to NITI Aayog on COVID-19 and its impact on Women and Girls.

Women safety issues in State remain unaddressed: rights group

Staff Reporter

Guwahati, March 8: Even on the States year up to observe International Women’s Day, the concerns related to safety of women in public places and even in their own homes are largely unaddressed in Assam.

Expressing its concern at the rising number of crimes against women in the State, a women’s rights group North East Network has called for collective action from home up to the policy-making level on incidents of crime against women.

"Women have urged the State Government to take appropriate action to address the issues of gender-based violence that they face," the North East Network said in an appeal to the Chief Minister of Assam.

As an aid to women’s safety, the State has a range of initiatives in place, including the Women Helpline and the Women’s Police Stations, but these have not been effective in preventing or addressing the violence.

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On March 8th, NEN submitted an appeal to the Chief Secretary, Government of Assam with a set of demands to ensure safety of women especially in the context of acid attack, domestic violence, witch hunting, sexual harassment of women at work place, etc.
Online training on strengthening One Stop Centres (OSC) in Assam to provide Multi-Sectoral Responses to Violence - Organised by Directorate of Social Welfare, Government of Assam, NEN & CEHAT

NEN launched the 2nd Certificate course on barefoot counseling to address violence against women & girls (Conducted by MIND India- Institute of Positive Mental Health and Research), Guwahati. The workshop was attended by community mobilisers, associate community mobilisers, peer leaders & support group members.

- 211 government schemes successfully availed
- 756 women made aware of their rights and entitlements
- 225 door-to-door visits
- 84 youths & men engaged
- 21 Committee & Sub-Committee meetings attended
- 10 women Peer Leaders trained
In Meghalaya, our outreach workers were trained to liaison with government departments to ensure that schemes and entitlements reach the beneficiaries. They joined forces with the Labour Department and State Resource Centre for Women in conducting an interface meeting with the people of the community. This interchange gave an in-depth understanding of schemes provided by the departments and the benefits that can be availed. Our outreach and community workers helped women labourers submit applications for Schemes under the Meghalaya Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board as members. This gave them access for the first time to multiple services of maternity benefit, scholarship, loans, training, health insurance and pension. NEN Outreach Workers have constantly engaged with Government departments in increasing awareness on CAW and children and other social issues especially concerning increase in substance abuse among the younger population.

NEN collaborated with the Directorate of Social Welfare and CSHAT – Mumbai in capacitating the newly recruited OSC and existing SwadharGreh staffs across 8 districts of Meghalaya to inculcate feminists counseling skill, facilitate rehabilitation and support in a survivor centered manner while providing multi-sectoral responses to violence.
In Nagaland, NEN worked to help women get access to group membership, information and support via awareness on social security entitlements and livelihood. We worked hand in hand with tribal women organisations and SEWA an informal women’s collective. With mentoring support from NEN informal women collectives secured vending sites and permits to continue vending during the lockdown. Women grassroots leaders were trained to create awareness related to coronavirus, psychosocial/mental health care, to promote practices to minimise risks, and develop mechanisms to deal with the public health crisis as a result of the pandemic.

NEN have capacitated and enabled women leaders in SEWA Nagaland to be able to sit in the TVCs. Currently, there are 14 women members of SEWA Nagaland in Kohima, Dimapur, Shamator, Chumukedima TVC under Nagaland Street Vendors Rules 2019.

International Street Vendors’ Day (ISVD) celebrated on 14th Nov 2020

Home-Based Workers’ Day was celebrated to highlight the economic contribution of women.
The nationwide lockdown imposed by the Government of India and overall economic turmoil created by the COVID-19 crisis created compounded economic impacts that were felt especially by women and girls, who are mostly earning less, saving less, and holding insecure jobs, employed in non-essential sectors or are living close to poverty.

To overcome the challenges, we began training our weavers on the use of media/social media platforms so that we could continue monitoring and provided them every support. Empowering them digitally was crucial so that we could connect and continue with our field activities. Highly challenging was product collection—finding new orders and markets and responding to customers’ needs. We devised new ways to connect with transport facilities and earned their goodwill. We continued to display our products online, appealing people to support NEN to sustain rural livelihoods and inculcate the philosophy of purchasing local handwoven products and thus support weaver’s families.

After the Lockdown, we brought together peer leaders and discussed with them the 3 Farmers Bills passed by the government and how it would affect farmers all over the country especially women.
We trained weavers on product diversification and quality control across the districts of Karbi Anglong, Darrang, Udalguri, Kamrup (R) and Sonitpur. Other trainings covered important subjects viz. bookkeeping, inventory management, sessions product pricing, stock keeping, monitoring tools and documentation of the entire production cycle.

Weavers from different districts were given exposure visits to The Green Hub and NEN Guwahati Office, to familiarise them to the different thematic areas covered by NEN.

Farmers from Assam and Meghalaya attended a 3-day training in organic farming in Pabhoi Greens, Biswanath, Assam, between November and March 2020. This residential training camp included sessions on introduction to organic farming methods and concepts such as preparation of bio-fertilisers and vermi-compost, seed germination, sustainable pisciculture, cutting and grafting, preservation of organic and indigenous variety of seeds etc.
In Meghalaya, the social structure is matrilineal and women at the village level play exceptional roles as workers and leaders in the community; however, they receive little to no recognition.

To address such issues, women weavers from 3 villages in the Ri-Bhoi District were trained on several crucial skills of a leader, facilitating the understanding of the importance of women’s role in leadership and encouraging women to nurture alliances to foster exchange of learning. Additionally, they were also imparted with knowledge on financial literacy.

Weaving as an art and an occupation has seen a drastic decline among the younger generation and to ensure its preservation, it is crucial to engage young people to take it up.

Young women from 3 villages in the Ri-Bhoi District were capacitated and enhanced on traditional weaving practices integrating traditional motifs that forms the basis of their identity as a community.

Youth have an important role to play in environmental conservation and they have been at the centerstage of our conservation work. Youth trained by NEN in Rohbah village, initiated nature walks with children, and adolescents as a first step to understanding the flora and fauna species that inhabits their villages and forests. These nature walks encourage discussion among young people to understand the need to preserve our forest and mother earth.

Women farmers’ skills on agro-ecological farming practices were enhanced through an intensive training at Pabhoi Greens, Assam and a cross learning exposure to Nangkyrsol SHG at Khweng village associated with NESFAS encouraging learning through first hand experience and inculcating in them the importance of being self-sustainable by building startups of their own. We also partnered with the MAKAAM for a survey on the ‘Impact of COVID-19 on women in farming and allied sector’ with 10 grassroot women trained as enumerators and further interviewed 50 women farmers for the study.

During the pandemic, we witnessed that children in urban areas were confined to their homes with their gadgets. An outreach worker initiated the idea of setting up a kitchen garden to help them comprehend its advantages.

Children were imparted with basic skills of agriculture and to inculcate and understand that food can be grown in small spaces too. Germination activity allowed children to see life grow before their very eyes, teaching them to be nurturers and helping them understand the need to be able to grow one’s food and to protect what comes with it i.e., soil, water and the surrounding environment. It also encouraged the participants to practice seed keeping as it is the inception of any life form on earth.
In Nagaland, NEN engaged with women who were farmers, vendors and artisans. We worked with youth and community leaders in safeguarding and preserving community natural resources, indigenous food & farming systems, and traditional weaving & textiles. Building alliances with state agencies and networks such as MINI and MAKAAM were central to our advocacy efforts on indigenous food and farming systems. At the community level, we strived to strengthen food security and nutrition, along with sustainable livelihoods. We concentrated on community seed banks, on-farm support for women millet farmers, organising biodiversity festival to showcase the rich and diverse agro produce of local communities, and building solidarity in conservation action.

- **29 women farmers** capacitated on agro-ecological farming practices
- **Skill building of 48 weavers** from 3 villages in Ri-Bhoi District
- **12 young women** trained on traditional weaving practices
To bridge the gap between youth and farming, events such as the World Food Day, Youth for Indigenous Food System campaign and film screenings were organised to emphasise the importance of sustainable food and farming system in the wake of the pandemic. Youths were engaged to join in biodiversity walks, cooking competitions, bamboo crafting, photography and bio-mapping/resource mapping and storytelling.

1069 community members reached through campaigns

49 women millet farmers received on farm support

63 women received value addition training to develop indigenous Agro based products

96 women received 11 trainings on dish wash and detergent making

136 weavers trained on traditional cotton processing

82 youth trained on developing bamboo craft

91 youth participated in biodiversity walks

64 women trained on CSB

82 women weavers trained on organic cotton yarn development

476 weavers benefitted from “Gifts for Artisans Campaign”

Seeds of Hope

The establishment of Community Seed Banks (CSB) had enabled the Phor community of Phek District to revive some lost seeds. While sorting through seeds to store in the seed bank, the CSB members of Phor found the seeds of black foxtail millet, two sticky rice seeds, and three non sticky rice seeds which were lost from the community. What an incredible discovery!
Khiamungan women performing traditional tunes at biodiversity festival at Pathso Nokeng village, Noklak.

Women folk going through the seeds on display during the biodiversity festival at Phor Village, Phek District.

2 Days Training on Community Seed Bank was organised at NEN Chizami. 27 Women farmers from 11 Communities (Chizami, Phor, Meluri, Phek Village, Ruzahsa, Sakraba, Dzulhami, Phughi, Tsupfume, Rusoma and Phekercrrom) participated in the training.

95 youth participated in observing World Food Day at NEN RC Chizami. The event was organised emphasizing the importance of sustainable food and farming system in the wake of pandemic.
45 participants took part in a tree plantation drive at Chizami on the occasion of World Environment Day 2020 in collaboration with Chizami Village Council and Chizami Students Union.

30 youth from 6 villages (Chizami, Zhavame, Thurutsuswu, Phugi, Zelome, and Enhulumi) participated in a two-day exchange learning workshop on bamboo. The workshop was organized at North East Network Resource Centre, Chizami. Bamboo exhibition was organized as part of the workshop to showcase bamboo crafts and different bamboo species found in the region.
Campaigns by NEN

16 Days Campaign against Gender-Based Violence 2020 – RESPOND! PREVENT! (25th November – 10th December 2020)

In Assam, we reached 180 participants through various events organised in different districts, while following all COVID protocols.

In Kamrup district, Graffiti Art by youth on ‘Gender equality and Ending Gender-based Discrimination against Women and Girls’ at Dohali Korka High School, Nahira.

In Golaghat, Slogan writing on ‘Ending Gender-based Violence Against Women and Girls’, in public places by women and youth.

In Darrang, a Public meeting on Early Marriage was organised in collaboration with District Social Welfare Office.
In Udalguri, a public meeting was organised by NEN on the issue of domestic violence.

In Karbi Anglong, school students of Deithor High School created wall paintings on rights of women workers in the unorganised sector.

In Dhemaji, a Poster event to generate awareness was held in public spaces.

In Meghalaya, Debate for youth, Face Art competition, Street play, and bike rally were conducted to increase awareness on gender-based discrimination and emphasizing on the collective role and responsibilities of youth, men, and women in mitigating VAW and children especially during and post Covid-19 pandemic. Social media was used as a medium to engage young people to depict their artistic interpretation of abuse/violence and strength of survivors to come out of it. Young boys and girls were involved to enact and raise awareness on the existence of DV in their area encouraging people to report and support survivors.

NEN’s effort in addressing environmental concerns started with the youth in Rohbah village, where 4 youths were trained on photography skills. As part of World Photography Day, photographs captured by these youths were displayed on social media. These photographs captured the flora and fauna species found in their villages and issues related to environmental conservation.
Food forms the basis of our indigenous identity and acts as a platform for every action we take for the future. On World Food Day, a ‘Nutritional Indigenous Food Display’ was conducted to highlight indigenous cuisines, creating awareness on the significance of indigenous food and the health benefits they possess and most importantly to understand the interconnectedness between preserving forests, our identity and food.

Rural women play a crucial role in enhancing agricultural & rural development and the amassed contribution they have made towards the society. On International Day of Rural Women, we celebrated by creating a platform for rural women to understand their longstanding vital role as custodians of nature, keepers of traditional knowledge and key agents to food security resonating with the theme ‘Building rural women’s resilience during Covid-19.

The nationwide ‘If We Do Not Rise’ campaign to safeguard the Indian Constitution and its values was co-ordinated by NEN, for the Northeast chapter. NEN also co-hosted 5 webinars – i) Readress Environmental Violation: Voices rise from Northeast India; ii) Citizenship issues and vulnerable groups; iii) Violence against Women: A protracted pandemic within a pandemic; iv) Tea-time – The story behind; and v) We rise, we speak, we resolve: Young voices of resilience from Northeast India.

(29th August – 2nd October, 2020)
International Women’s Day
8th March, 2021

In Dhemaji, placards with feminist slogans were displayed in public places and a sports event was held for community women in which 59 women participated.

In Dharikati, weavers and village women attended a discussion on the significance of IWD, followed by team building activities. An informal sharing of stories also took place. Many expressed their joy at having the rare opportunity to spend leisure time with fellow women, especially in the context of the COVID and social distancing norms.

In West Khasi Hills District, we felicitated grassroots women leaders who are warriors of their personal life and courageous leaders of their communities. They have challenged gender stereotypical norms to maintain peace and harmony in their villages.

International Women’s Day was organised by NEN Nagaland in collaboration with Yimchungeberu Aithak Shamator Area (YBASA), Poohy Mothers Association (PMA), SEWA Nagaland, Phekeneroma Unit. IWD events took place across 3 districts viz. Chizami-Phek, Phekeneroma-Kohima & Shamator-Tuensang. The occasion brought together rural women, women collectives, village leaders and govt. officials to celebrate women’s leadership within their household and communities. The highlights of the events were folk songs performances, extempore speech competition, film screening and basket weaving training.

On the occasion of IWD, Ms. Nuzovolu – a Home Based Worker and a leader of SEWA Nagaland was awarded by USAID for exemplifying “She is a Leader” for supporting street vendors in reclaiming their right to work during the pandemic.

On the occasion of International Women’s Day, 7 members of the NEN youth collective, developed a skit on witch-hunting and performed a street play to raise awareness on the issue and its impact on the community. At the end of the play, these members of the youth collective pledged to continue their fight and, also urged the audience to join hands in preventing GBV.

In Ri-Bhoi District, communities came together for cultural performances self-composed song on women’s leadership and the pivotal role they play in uplifting their community. A short skit was also performed portraying the role that gender played in unequal access for women to job opportunities. The programme saw the participation of the Deputy Commissioner of the district, Customary Chief of Nongpoh and the DDM of NABARD, Ri-Bhoi.

In Darrang, Kamrup, Udalguri and Golaghat, ASHA workers in each of the districts were felicitated and honoured for their tremendous contribution as frontline workers during the COVID-19 lockdown.

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The Green Hub Project is an innovative youth and community-based video Fellowship programme by NEN and Dusty Foot Foundation that was launched in 2015 exclusively for the youth of NER. The immensely successful project engages youth in conservation action and social change across the region through the use of digital medium. In the past 5 years, we have had 88 fellows who have successfully completed the fellowship and are now undertaking conservation projects in their own regions. **Green Hub Fellowship 2021**

The application process for the Green Hub Fellowship 2020-21 had started by December 2019, however, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the nation-wide lockdown, the year was considered as a gap year. For 2021-2022, applications were invited again. Adding the shortlisted applicants from both years, the Jury finally selected 21 fellows from all the 8 states of NER. In 2020, several online sessions were conducted with the alumni that included Sound workshop, Story-telling workshop, Wildlife Filmmaking workshop etc. Online sessions are being planned with the fellows of the current batch and resource persons of the Green Hub Fellowship.

In the month of July, Green Hub started a new project called the Pitch 4 Video Story, wherein hundred 2-minute films around the pandemic are being made with communities across Northeast on 4 specific categories: i) COVID Resilience, ii) COVID & Wildlife, Forests & Forest Fringe Communities; iii) Stories of Communities impacted by COVID-19 (Migrant Labour, Artisans etc.); and iv) Innovative Communication on COVID.

While the Fellowship had to be halted because of the pandemic, this year has been very eventful for Green Hub. From January to March 2021, the team was overseeing a project called Choukhat Ki Goonj in collaboration with Anahad Foundation. Chaukht Ki Goonj, which is an initiative of the Anahad Foundation, has been providing financial help to artists who were affected by the COVID-19 crisis. The musicians had to record a 30-minutes live session of their performance and send it to Anahad, for which they received a support of INR 2000 per artist per group. In the northeast region, the project was carried out through the Green Hub network. The team were able to reach out to 34 groups and 199 individuals from 6 states of the Northeast i.e., Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Mizoram, Tripura, Nagaland, and Meghalaya.

In 2020 Green Hub came together with Studio Nilima, an action based research collective based in Guwahati, to initiate a pilot fellowship for 6 months to support 2 Green Hub fellows in building their capacities in research initiatives. Jahnu Baruah and Seela Lepcha of batch 2019-2020 were selected for this fellowship. Serlibon Timungpi (Batch 2016-2017) was selected for a fellowship related to women and the Forest Rights Act, 2006. The fellowship that was powered by MAKAAM, and Amhi Amchya Arogyasathi required her to build capacities of indigenous women and create awareness on the Forests Rights Act 2006.
The javiko Chase (Batch 2019-2020) is working as a Junior Project Fellow with ATREE on a coffee table book on edible insects of Nagaland and also creating some documentary films on the same.

Our alumnus Arghadeep Baruah (Batch 2016-2017) along with Riaz Ahmed, a member from the music band Bottle Rockets India, got the opportunity to be a part of the Anahad Fellowship in 2021. This fellowship aims to cultivate deep expertise in cultural development and production skills by supporting fellows over a period of 3 months and 5 states across India.

The Green Hub team was also a part of the Lok Swasthya Sewa Trust initiated series of training on COVID awareness along with the teams of NEN Nagaland, Meghalaya and Assam.

In May 2020, an initiative to save pangolins in Karbi Anglong, and West Karbi Anglong districts were taken as we were informed that hunting activities in the region had increased. On ground the activities have been taken up by Green Hub alumni Serlibon Timungpi, Joyhind Engleng and Moniram Teron along with their youth groups. Currently they are creating awareness via virtual medium.

**RECOGNITIONS**

- 6 Green Hub films were selected for the Nila International Folklore Film Festival of India (NIFFF), 2020. The film “Bugun and The Liochicha- The Story of Singchung Village Community Reserve” by Shaleena Phinya (Batch 2018-19), and “Logdrum of Pessao” were officially selected at the Bali International Indigenous Film Festival (BIIFF), 2020. The fellows attended the film festival and Shaleena and Wanmai also interacted with the viewers on the online platform.

- Green Hub film “A Journey into the Herder’s Paradise” by Tsangpo Dawa Bhutia and Thangmilal Misao (Batch 2017-2018) was selected for screening at the Living Lightly Film Festival in December.

- Two Green Hub films were screened at the Rising Garden Films Festival, 2021 organized by One Billion Rising South Asia, Sangat and Kri Film Club. The films were “Saving the Millets” and “Strength in Diversity” made by fellows Chakseng T. Sangma and Chentei Lam Khammungan Naga (GH Fellow, Batch 2017-2018) respectively.

- At a special online film screening conducted by the Wildlife Conservation Trust, 2021, three Green Hub films were screened namely, “Guardians of Dampa Narpuh Wildlife Sanctuary” – “Saving the Last Refuge” and “Balpakram - Mystical Land of the Eternal Winds”.

- Our alumnus, Wanmai Konyak (Batch 2015-16) of Nagaland, was given the 8th Eastern Himalayan Conservation Award, 2020 by Balipara Foundation for his work in biodiversity conservation and documentation.

**FINANCIAL OVERVIEW**
Financial Overview

NORTH EAST NETWORK

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST MARCH, 2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASSETS</th>
<th>SUPPLIES</th>
<th>SUPPLIES</th>
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BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST MARCH, 2021

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<td>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</td>
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For North East Network

Dr. Morsara Bahal
Executive Director
Gwahumbe
Dated: 31st November, 2021

Financial Overview

NORTH EAST NETWORK

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 2021

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<td>17,585,056.42</td>
<td>NET INCOME</td>
<td>17,585,056.42</td>
<td>17,585,056.42</td>
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For North East Network

Dr. Morsara Bahal
Executive Director
Gwahumbe
Dated: 31st November, 2021

Annual Report 2020–2021

North East Network
Our Lifelines

Institutional Donors
1. Azim Premji Philanthropic Initiatives, India
2. Bread for the World, Germany
3. Cattani Fund, Belgium
4. Consulate General of the Federal RE, India
5. Ford Foundation (FF), India
6. Global Fund for Women, USA
7. Lok Swasthya Sewa Trust, India
8. Millet Network of India/ Deccan Development Society, India
9. Misereor, Germany
10. Oil & Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), India
11. Paul Hamlyn Foundation NRE, United Kingdom
12. Sarad Chandra Katgi Charitable Trust, India
13. SEWA Bharat, India
14. Tata Trust, India
15. University of Edinburgh, United Kingdom
16. WIPRO Foundation, India
17. Women Resource Development Award, India
18. Rural Electrification Corporation (REC), India
19. North East Slow Food and Agrobiodiversity Society (NESFAS), Meghalaya
20. MPLADS, Kolkata, India
21. Procter and Gamble Health & Hygiene Limited, Mumbai

Individual Donors
1. Joshua Horo
2. Seno Tsuhah
3. Joy Grace Syiem

SHARING RESOURCES

ASSAM
NEN as Resource Persons: Anurita P Hazarika, Nilanju Dutta, Rashmirekha Bora, Usha Rani Devi and Moon Bora
Guest Resource Persons: Nikhileshwar Baruah, Pramod Saikia, Rituparna Neog, Pradyut Bhattacharjee, Rita Banerjee, Moon Bora

NAGALAND
NEN as Resource Person: Seno Tsuhah, Wekoweu Tsuhah, Neithshepou Thopi, Neimeseu Kapfo and Tshenyilou Chirah
Guest Resource Person: Khenemvu L. Mero, Dr. Veillu Epao, Sophy Lasuh Kesiezie and Angam Longho

MEGHALAYA
NEN as Resource Person: Arnicia Kharnaor, Gina Phanbuh and Joy Grace Syiem
Valued Partners

**assam**

**Government**

Dibrugarh University; District Legal Services Authority (DLSA); Directorate of Social Welfare (DSW); Dohali Korka Uscha Madhyamik Vidyalaya, Kamrup; Daingrung Bagisa High School, Golaghat; Gauhati University; XX Handsque State Open University (XXSHOU); Manipur University; Mizoram University; National Institute of Public Co-operation and Child Development (NIPCCD); Guwahati; Sakti-One Stop Centre; Women Helpline-181; Sikkim Government College, Tezpur University and Tripura University.

**Non-Government**

Action Aid, Assam; Aman Network, India; AIFT-Kokrajhar; All India Union of Forest Working People, India; Assam Mahila Samata Society, Tezpur; Assam State CSO Coalition; Breakthrough, India; Centre for Enquiry into Health and Allied Themes (CEHAT), Mumbai; Church’s Auxiliary for Social Action (CAS), Guwahati; Cotton College State University, Guwahati; Emami Limited, Assam; Indian Association for Women's Studies (IAWS), India; Lamjyinti Chittara Neralu Network, India; Human Rights Law Network, Guwahati; Mahila Kisaan Adhikar Manch (MAKAAM) Network, India; MIND India, Guwahati; Nagaland Wildlife and Biodiversity Conservation Trust; Pabhoi Greens, Assam; SafetiPin, India; Satra, Assam; Self Employed Women's Association (SEWA), India; stSTEP; Guwahati; Setsta, Guwahati; Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Guwahati; and Women’s Leadership and Training Centre (WLTC), Guwahati.

**nagaland**

**Government**

BDO, Chizami; Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK); ICAR; Directorate of Industries and Commerce, Government of Nagaland; Nagaland Bee-Keeping and Honey Mission (NHBMM); Kiphire District Administration; National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), and Weavers Services Centre, Dimapur.

**Non-Government**

Akehta Sangtommi Tshingmujang (AST) Kiphire; Chizami Sports Association; Deccan Development Society (DDS); Prodigal’s Home, Dimapur; FPAI Kohima; SEWA Bharat; SANGAT; Kriti Film Club; A Growing Culture (AGC), USA; Serendip Guardians; MAKAAM; Vikalp Sangam; North East Slow Food and Agrobiodiversity Society (NESFAS) Meghalaya; Yimchungberu Anhako Shamator Town (YAST); CBSOs (Village Council/Village Development Boards/ Students Unions/ Women Societies/ Youth Organisations/Church) in Chizami; Sumi; Thetsum; Enhului; Metlum; Meturi; Phekerkreima; Tsuipfume, Zelome; Rabeza; Zhalvarme; Ruzahho; Thurtusiuswumi; Pathso Nokeng; Pathso; Yokao; Tsuwaao; Lengnyu; Panso Town; Dzulhami; Phuhgi; Thurtusiusu; Khom; Lower Khon; Middle Khon; Chosaha; Phek Basa; Phek; Pfutsoro; Phor; New Phor; Shatuza; Wuzu; Hutsu; and Ekhao.

**meghalaya**

**Government**

Civil Hospital, Ri-Bhoi District; District Police - West Khasi Hill; District Child Protection Unit, West Khasi Hills; Labour Department, East Khasi Hills; Meghalaya Police; East Khasi Hills District; Meghalaya State Legislative Service Association (MSLSA); Meghalaya State Commission for Women; National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD); North Eastern Region Community Resource Management Project; Social Welfare Department, Government of Meghalaya; and State Resource Centre for Women.

**Non-Government**

Akhil Nepali Mahila Samiti, Centre for Enquiry into Health and Allied Themes (CEHAT); Dorbarshnong: Latikesh village, Faith Foundation; Grassroot; Jantia Hills Development Society, Lamjyintai; Manoba Foundation; Nangkynsoi SHG- Khweng village, North East Slow Food Agro Biodiversity Society (NESFAS), Pabhoi Greens, Assam; Support Group for Women, Village Defense Party – Circle Nongstoin Area (VDP-CNA)
Anurita Hazarika was the Chairperson of Local Committee - Kamrup (M) district. Anurita Hazarika, Nilanju Dutta, Rashmi Rekha Borah were external members to following committees of several Government and Non-Governmental Departments:

- Assam Administrative Staff College
- Assam Apex Weavers & Artisans Co-operative Federation Ltd.
- Assam Power Distribution Company Limited (APDCL)
- Assam State Agricultural Marketing Board
- Directorate of Telecommunications
- Director of Accounts (Postal)
- Directorate of Museums
- Directorate of Social Welfare
- Directorate of Sports and Youth Welfare
- Environment and Forest Department
- Emami Limited
- Handique Girls College
- Life Insurance Corporation of India
- North Eastern Development Finance Corporation Ltd. (NEDFi)
- Office of the Controller of Communication Accounts
- Office of the Director: Bureau of Investigation
- Pub Kamrup College
- Social Welfare Department and Zaloni Data Management Company.

Joy Grace Syiem and Arnicia Kharnaior were members to the following committees:

- State level Monitoring Committee for Swadhar Greh, Directorate of Social Welfare
- Community Advisory Board - Meghalaya Aids Control Society
- an Internal Committee (SHWWP Act, 2013) to the Meghalaya Co-operative Apex Bank.

Wekoweu Tsuhah was a member, Internal Committee to the following:

- Government of Nagaland, SoCRAN (Society for Climate Resilient Upland Farming System in Nagaland)
9. Moyuri Dutta – Associate community mobiliser (Golaghat)
10. Dipali Borah – Community mobiliser (Udalguri)
11. Bhanu Sahariah – Associate community mobiliser (Udalguri)
12. Parijat Bora – Associate community mobiliser (Udalguri)
13. Upani Pagaq – Community mobiliser (Sonitpur)
14. Hirmelin Beypi – Associate community mobiliser (Karbi Anglong)

CONSULTANTS
1. Arupa Patangia Kalita (Assam)
2. Anurag Sharma (Punjab) (Research Consultant)
3. Bharti Kumari (Punjab) (Research Consultant)
4. Bharti Sharma (Assam)
5. Drishana Kalita (Assam)
6. Junaid Ali Ahmed (Assam)
7. Lungthuipou Jonathan Gangmei (Manipur)
8. Mayuri Deka (Assam)
9. Neha Das (Assam)
10. Neelima P Aryan (Delhi)
11. Rini Barman (Assam)
12. Rituparna Patgiri (Assam)
13. Rubi Gogoi - (Assam)
14. Shreya Sen (Kolkata)
15. Vijayeta Rajkumari (Assam)

TEAM
GREEN HUB TEAM
1. Rita Banerji, Project Director
2. Bonti Saikia, Sr. Programmes Associate and Admin
3. Bharti Sharma, Programme Associate
4. Arpana Choudhury, Programme Associate
5. Neeharika Hazarika, Programme Assistant
6. Subham Biswas, Accountant
7. Rikundar Dutta, Assistant Accounts and Admin
8. Ruma Choudhury, Office Helper

MEGHALAYA
1. Arnicia Kharnaor - Project Lead
2. Phidariulh Uriah – Programme Associate
3. Vianney B. Nongrum – Programme Associate (Outgoing)
4. Fidei Biakmawii Nongrum- Programme Assistant
5. Ibalarei Makri - Programme Assistant
6. Ibadahunshisha Syiemlieh- Programme Assistant (Outgoing)
7. Veveane Sayo, Communications Officer (Outgoing)
8. Joy Grace Syiem – Policy Lead (HR)
9. Gina Phanbuh - Senior Administrative Officer
10. Donkupar Wahlang – Part time Accountant
11. Lastborn Nongrum – Accounts and Admin Assistant
12. Sushila Swer – Office Assistant
13. Wonderful Star Marwein – Driver
14. Edilbert Marbaniang – Driver (Outgoing)
15. Darilang Marboh- Accountant (Outgoing)
16. Prince Garnet Lyngdoh – Accountant (Outgoing)
17. Matthew Dikhar – Driver (Outgoing)
18. Rishadolin Jyrwa – Helper
20. Balaphynhun Mawlong – Outreach Worker, East Khasi Hills District
21. Jenica Nongrum – Outreach Worker, East Khasi Hills District
22. Suman Rai – Outreach Worker, East Khasi Hills District
23. Areley Lyngdoh – Outreach Worker, West Khasi Hills District
24. Batskhemshisha Lyngkhoi – Outreach Worker, West Khasi Hills District
25. Lalrin Lyngdoh – Outreach Worker, West Khasi Hills District
26. Morality Iawphniaw – Outreach Worker, West Khasi Hills District
27. Formcimora Marngar – Outreach Worker, West Khasi Hills District (Outgoing)

NAGALAND
1. Seni Tshuh – Programme Lead (Outgoing)
2. Wekoweu Tshuh – State Coordinator
3. Rhendeni Kikon – Project Lead
4. Dilo – Administrator
5. Kesotsheu Doulo – Assistant Administrator(Chizami)
6. Aloe Thopi – Assistant Administrator (Kohima)
7. Kezhopeu Mekrisuh – Assistant Administrator(REC)
8. Wepetso K Lohe – Accountant (Outgoing)
9. G Usha Thopa – Accountant
10. Wewalo Mero – Assistant Accountant
11. Munulu Chuzho – Programme Associate
12. Vilazonou – Programme Associate
13. Akho Phira – Programme Associate
14. Asalu Nyekha – Programme Associate
15. Tamyenemla Longkumar – Programme Associate
16. Keviselhou Mepthou – Programme Associate
17. Neitselopeu Thopi – Programme Associate (Outgoing)
18. Nikina L Chishi – Programme Assistant
19. Tshenyiou Chirnah – Project Assistant
20. Tahezotei Lasuh – Office Assistant
21. Wekholo Lohe – Office Assistant
22. Yewete Mero – Driver
23. Kezupufe – Night Watchman
24. Tuku Venuh – Field Coordinator
25. Abel Pochury – Field Coordinator
26. Pongia Lomthaw – Field Coordinator
27. Wekholo Lohe – Field Mobilizer (Ruteng Area)
28. Vangmuta Lea – Field Mobilizer (Dimapur Area)
29. Konyi Lohe – Field Mobilizer (Kohima Area)
30. Anguornu Mairi – Field Mobilizer (Chizami Area)
31. C Tsarila – Field Coordinator (Shamator)
32. Konyi Lohe – Field Mobilizer (Chizami Area)
33. Usha Thopa – Volunteer
34. Lhitsewe Akami – Volunteer (Short term)
35. Keneile Thopi – Field Coordinator
36. Keneile Thopi – Field Coordinator

CONSULTANT
Jennifer Liang
NEN in Media

Impact of COVID-19 Lockdown on Women in Assam

Findings from a Rapid Assessment


Assam Assembly Elections | Women’s manifesto by rights groups


Women’s rights groups wary of surge in domestic violence in State


Outlook

Women’s Manifesto by rights groups for Assam assembly polls


Assam elections: The state with the worst gender-based violence gets a women’s manifesto

NEN in Media

https://easternmirronagaland.com/nen-celebrates-biodiversity-festival-at-thetsumi/

Eastem Mirror

Women’s rights groups wary of surge in domestic violence in State

Dimpaur, Dec 9 (EM): As part of the ongoing day-of-actions against gender-based violence, the North East Network (NEN), Nagaon, in collaboration with Family Planning Association India (FPAI) Nagaon Branch and SEWA, held a seminar on “Women’s reproductive health and rights” on December 8.

An update from NEN stated that the seminar was organised to create awareness on issue surrounding women’s reproductive health and rights and to identify such health concerns and assist them in seeking the help they need.

It stated that the members of FPAI Nagaon Branch, Vile Eiecte, has explained various women reproductive systems. Mentioning the cultural sensitivity related to reproductive health which starts with the natural and biological process of menstruation in a girl’s life, he urged the women to consider menstruation as a normal topic and discuss freely at home in order to solve many other gender-related health issues.

https://easternmirronagaland.com/nen-organises-seminar-on-women-reproductive-health-and-rights/

https://easternmirronagaland.com/solidarity-run-held-at-chizami-to-end-violence-against-women-and-girls/

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North East Network
**NEN in Media**

**The Sentinel**

**Guwahati turns Hathras protest stage; women demand justice for Manisha & capital punishment for rapists**

Several organisations banded together to hold an ‘anti-rape’ protest in Guwahati, where the attendees demanded strict punishment for rapists.

**By: Nabin Digital Desk | 3 June 2021 | The Sentinel**

**NEN in Media**

**Annual Report 2020-2021**

**Study conducted on lockdown impact on women in 11 districts**

A study conducted in 11 districts of Assam revealed that 90 per cent of the respondents said that they were facing difficulties during the COVID-19 lockdown, particularly in terms of food, education, and community support for food. Women were affected by these challenges, with the lockdown exacerbating the gender inequality that exists in the country.

The study was carried out among women during April and May 2020, examining various factors such as household income, education, and employment status. It found that household income fell on average by 42 per cent, with 62 per cent of the respondents reporting a decline in their income.

The lockdown also had a significant impact on the mental health of women, with 45 per cent reporting an increase in stress and anxiety levels. The study also highlighted the importance of accessing healthcare services during the lockdown, with 34 per cent of respondents reporting a decrease in the availability of such services.

**NEN bridging gap between youth and local food system**

Chizami, October 16 (MeO-NEN): On the occasion of World Food Day 2020, North East Network (NEN) Nagaland organised a cooking competition for rural youth at the WEU Resource Centre at Chizami, Phek District under the theme “grow, nourish, sustain, together.”


NEN in Media

Kohima, March 8 (ME&N): The North East Network (NEN), Chiziml, commemorated International Women’s Day (IWD) 2021 by bringing together rural women, village leaders, women collective to celebrate women’s leadership within their household and their communities.

https://morungexpress.com/our-biodiversity-sustains-us

NEN Biodiversity Festival stresses on indigenous knowledge and practices

DIMAPUR, March 11 (ME&N): “My people may look poor but we always have enough food in our kitchen; we may not be well-built but our stomachs are always full; we may be surrounded by stinging nettles but it is the source of

https://www.morungexpress.com/our-biodiversity-sustains-us

role of gramin mahila kendra

NEN Research & Publications

2021 धन अन्वय विधा रत्न बने रिपोर्ट राज पर नवलागिक बजेट

WOMEN’S MANIFESTO ON GENDER AND SOCIAL JUSTICE For Assam Legislative Assembly, 2021

Annual Report 2020-2021

North East Network
LOOKING AHEAD
Our Goals For Change

As we embark on 2021-22, NEN will strive to continue building the capacities of women, amplifying their voice and agency to encourage grassroots leadership for advocating a just and equal society. We will continue engaging with pre-existing State and Non-State Agencies and building allies with new ones to address gender-based violence and discrimination. We will carry on with providing economic linkages to abuse victims—especially to those women whose households have been adversely affected by COVID-19. We also seek to promote good health practices by supporting community’s access to healthcare facilities. Furthermore, the organisation aims to strengthen the capacities of the eco system in communities to prevent, resist, and counter rights violations through collective actions. We plan to strengthen CSBs, indigenous food and farming systems and traditional weaving for sustainable rural livelihoods.

NEN also aims to build and strengthen community led livelihood initiatives through intensive skill building of women and youth in the domain of agriculture. These initiatives shall focus on procuring various skillsets ranging from the capacity building of weavers on product diversification to marketing and sales. Initiation of training on processing and development of traditional cotton and natural dyes will also take place. NEN’s goals for 2021-22 will emphasise on promoting youth collectives as platforms to address issues of gender inequality, environment conservation, and sustainable livelihoods. We will prioritise building and enabling an inclusive environment for dialogue and sensitisation; bringing in voices and actions of the youth; and up-scaling mechanisms for redressal, support, and change.
OUR OFFICES

NEN HEAD OFFICE IS LOCATED IN GUWAHATI (ASSAM) WITH BRANCHES IN TEZPUR, ASSAM; SHILLONG, MEGHALAYA; CHIZAMI & KOHIMA IN NAGALAND

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