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# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2015-2016



**CENTRE FOR NORTH EAST  
STUDIES & POLICY RESEARCH**



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A group photograph at C-NES Annual Review Meet, Gangtok, March 2016  
**Photo Credit : C-NES**



A happy, new mother with her child returning from an immunization camp in Jorhat District's Sadhu Sapori.  
**Photo Credit : C-NES**

## 1. Introduction

The Centre for North East Studies and Policy Research (C-NES) was established in January 2000 as a Trust under Sec.80G/ Income Tax Act 1961. It has offices in Guwahati, Assam state in North eastern India and at New Delhi and works on a range of issues and areas at both field and policy levels relating to governance, participative planning and rights, water resources, environment, rural livelihoods, peace building and building better understanding among communities. C-NES is committed to building bridges between the North-east, among the lesser known and misunderstood parts of India, and other regions. The region is finally and slowly creating its own space and finding its own pulse after over six decades. C-NES develops innovative ideas for implementation to reach the poor and marginalized group in areas of health, education and environment, conducts workshops and training programs, reviews government policies and projects and designs ideas for development.

### Mission Statement

- C-NES recognizes the right of every individual in the region to live in dignity, peace and safety because only under such conditions can the quality of their lives improve and their deepest aspirations met.
- Values the unique ethnic and ecological diversity of the North East as an advantage.
- Encourages local governance, decision-making and initiatives as the key to social and economic growth.
- Lobbies actively for changes in official policy at the national, regional, state and district levels which it considers necessary to build a just society
- Supports regional cooperation as a strategy to create, sustainable economic development

### The Centre's priorities include :

- Health, education and environment
- Livelihood generation
- Infrastructure and transport
- Documenting cultural and environmental diversity
- Studies of migration, internal displacement and refugee flows
- Media exchanges and communication

## From the Managing Trustee



For me one of the highlights of the year has been the making of the documentary film Rambuai, Mizoram's 'trouble' years, on the tragic years of Mizoram's insurgency. Rambuai means just that – the trouble years which have been little written about and even less filmed. There is so much, as this experience showed us, that we do not know, that the region doesn't, know and which we need to bring to national understanding if Delhi is not to repeat the mistakes of the past. There are still wounds to heal, misunderstandings which need to be bridged, chapters which need to be closed.

It was a moving, enriching and deeply satisfying experience for me and my co-producer, and fellow Trustee, Preeti Gill, and our small team which made no less than four trips to research and film in difficult weather as well as arduous road conditions, during travels to the Myanmar border and beyond as well as within Mizoram. Editing was

largely done in Guwahati. The film is accessible at our different offices which are listed in this Annual Report.

As far as our work in our major area of health care, it falls within the larger rubric of challenges before the health sector in Assam. While the state has made some progress, its Maternal Mortality ratio, though improved over 10 years, remains India's worst at 300 per 100,000 deliveries. The state is the worst performer, official central government surveys show, also in the Infant Mortality Ratio. We have a long way to go and there can be no let up in the commitment to improving access to healthcare to vulnerable groups, especially women and children of all communities.

There cannot be discrimination or systematic neglect in this field by government – our commitment in the innovative and inclusive Boat Clinics programme remains that of providing health care on the basis of rights and entitlements, on the basis of equality and equal access. Till April 2016, over 1.88 million people have been given basic health care through our 15 boat clinics over the past 12 years of work. Every year, we handle not less than 400,000 cases of patients needing care and succour.

We work in 13 districts (two districts, Barpeta and Dhubri, given the scale of the population on the islands, have two units each). There are more than 200 staff members, including 30 doctors, 60 nurses and 30 lab technicians and pharmacists, many of whom live on the boats when it is on mission to reach the needy through the camps it holds. That's what makes the boat clinics special – there are kitchens and toilets/bathing facilities on board as well as separate quarters for men and women personnel. They are not luxurious but they are comfortable. I am always humbled by the dignity and commitment of the teams in leading this great initiative which should be replicated wherever there are such geographical conditions.

The summary data put out by the 4th National Family Health Survey shows that while Assam has succeeded in improving its health indicators, the current situation leaves a lot more room for improvement. For instance, while the coverage of antenatal checkups for pregnant women went up from 23.5 per cent in NFHS3 to 46.5 per cent in NFHS 4, there is still room to double that coverage. Similarly, one in two women receive post-natal services currently, a significant improvement over the one in seven women that received these

services in 2006-7, but leaves behind half of all the new mothers.

That our work has been effective, of that there is no doubt. But it is also extremely arduous for the Boat Clinics health teams and others who work in the field, as I have remarked. Most of the boats need at least a basic three to four feet (one to 1.3 meters) depth of water levels in order to be fully mobile and consequently to reach the communities who depend on us for sustained health care. These past years, climate change have adversely affected the glaciers of Tibet, impacting water flows downstream which have also been hit by erratic monsoon rains. This is of critical importance to the work of C-NES with the Boat Clinics. The NHM of the Government of Assam has been a solid and dependable partner in our efforts to reach the most vulnerable through teams of medical and non-medical personnel. Though much needs to be done, as I have stressed, it is deeply encouraging to see the drop in maternal mortality rates and improvement in infant mortality conditions.

The National Health Mission (NHM), which supports the Boat Clinics, also regards this as a key strategy in reaching isolated communities with sustained health care especially vulnerable groups such as women and children (Assam's Maternal Mortality Rate is the highest in the country). Not surprising that the Government of Assam and National Health Mission, nominated the Boat Clinics to be exhibited at the Global Exhibition on Services organized by the Govt. of India jointly assisted by Confederation of India Industries (CII) and Services Export Promotion Council (SEPC) in April, 2015 in New Delhi's Pragati Maidan along with other services of NHM like the 108 Emergency Services, 104 Services and Operation Smile. The exhibition saw a huge number of participants from across the globe.

A much needed book on the Boat Clinics "Hope Floats: Boat Clinic of the Brahmaputra", was released at the organization's Annual Review Meet at Gangtok on 22 nd March 2016 by the Lok Sabha MP from Sikkim, PD Rai, in the presence of C-NES Chairman, Dr VA Pai Panandiker and Preeti Gill. The book, an accounting of the challenges and achievements of the Boat Clinic programme, co-authored by me and C-NES Communications Officer Bhaswati Khaund Goswami, is supported by the National Foundation for India (NFI). It is available at our offices and I hope that colleagues, friends and partners will use it extensively.

There are many obvious challenges from which we cannot walk away yet where our role is limited. One knows how much needs to be done and one is aware of one's limitations as to what can be tackled. That is why over the years, it has been a joy to see the growth of our Brahmaputra Community Radio Station at Maijan Ghat, Dibrugarh. Staffed by a young and dedicated team and led by the committed, energetic, creative Bhaskar Bhuyan, BCRS has moved from its first steps to regular programming in Assamese, Mishing, Shadri and Bhojpuri. With not less than 10 hours of programming every day, BCRS has an audience on islands and tea plantation communities in a geographical spread that covers three districts and hundreds of villages. The sensitivity and capacity of the team is reflected in that the station is anchored on the banks of the Brahmaputra itself. With music and talent from the tea gardens, the energy and traditions of the island communities, with narrowcasting and talk-in shows, Q and A and studio interviews and music as well as dozens of radio plays on a range of topics such as sanitation, nutrition, and health as well as education but also domestic violence, substance abuse and savings, the BCRS is taking off and we look forward to it reaching greater heights.

Our work also continues to expand with the family planning project in five districts in partnership with the Population Foundation of India. C-NES' family planning counselors in the PFI-CNES project intervention

districts of Assam have motivated beneficiaries with regard to family planning. In all districts, the counselors are actively supported by the community workers and the health team. Involving religious leaders and village heads in the awareness programme for a positive community response has worked, the approach has leapt over religious and cultural barriers, in a unique first, to popularize family planning among the women of the minority community.

From a handful of staff, we have expanded to nearly 200. But at the heart of our work is our rural work and DPOs as well as partnership, with communities and their leaders, with other independent groups (research as well as activists and NGOs), stakeholders and funding organizations.

I wish to express my deep gratitude to each member of my team in C-NES –the Programme Management Unit in Guwahati under Ashok Rao and the program staff at the district level, the research units, the office staff, to our accounting unit who have to train our staff in financial procedures.

I particularly wished to thank the Department of Health, Government of Assam, State Chief Secretary VK Pipersenia, the state National Health Mission, Shri Manoj Jhalani, Joint Secretary, Government of India, and NHM's Mission Director and colleagues in Assam, who have been a source of strength and support. We are grateful to Mr. Sameer Sinha, Health Commissioner, Government of Assam, and his team as well as Finance Commissioner Ravi Kota and Planning and Development Commissioner KV Eapen, likewise for their backing.

Our Auditors, Jagdish Chand & Co, need appreciation for ensuring the accounts are in order. The Board of Trustees have been not just supportive but actively involved in several of our projects. Their unstinting support and that of the Advisory Council members have helped us walk steadily through difficult patches.

I wish to thank in particular the Chair, Dr. VA Pai Panandikar, for his leadership that enabled the visit and collaboration with Manipal university, one of the top educational institutions of the country. This will enable us to move to new initiatives and capacity building as well as teaching modules in the health sector in Assam and the NE; Mr. GK Pillai, for his help with the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting respectively (the latter helped us get through the last phase of the BCRS broadcasting license). As I have earlier said, Preeti Gill and I collaborated with the Heinrich Boll Stiftung and helped produce and script what I believe, is a powerful tool in understanding the tragedy and rise of the Mizo people through the documentary film Rambuai on the decades of conflict and how they have tried to handle the challenges of stress and trauma. It helped us understand the many issues that remain unresolved in such sensitive areas of conflict, issues which lie below the surface, and which persist but need healing decades after the guns have fallen silent.

We have built many friendships and collaborations through this process, which has been professionally and personally enriching. Along the way, we've found friends who are like family. The honesty of the political leadership as well as of commanders of security forces in admitting mistakes give us a hope for the future, that things can be better in other conflicted parts of the region and country. We hope our work will expand in Mizoram and other upland areas of the North East, moving beyond the boat clinics which remain both show piece and flagship of C-NES.

**Sanjoy Hazarika**  
Managing Trustee

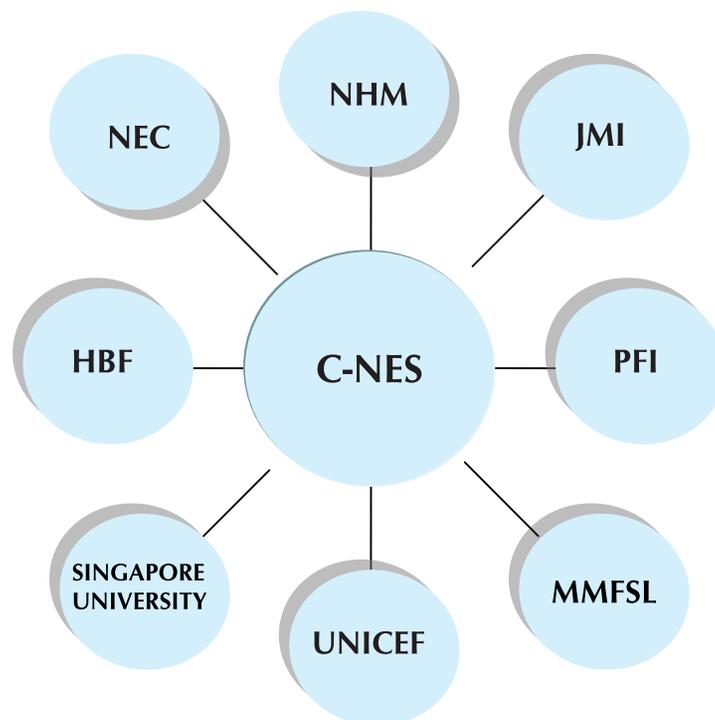
Figure 1



● Districts where Boat Clinics are operating in the Brahmaputra Valley, Assam  
(Barpeta and Dhuburi have two Boat Clinics each due to the size of the population in these two districts)

Figure 2

### C-NES Partners and Supporters



#### Abbreviations :

C-NES - Centre for North East studies and Policy Research  
NHM - National Health Mission  
PFI - Population Foundation of India  
HBF - The Heinrich Boll Foundation

UNICEF - United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund  
JMI - Jamia Millia Islamia University  
NEC - North Eastern Council  
MMFSL - Mahindra & Mahindra Finance & Services Ltd.

## Health Initiative : Boat Clinics with NHM

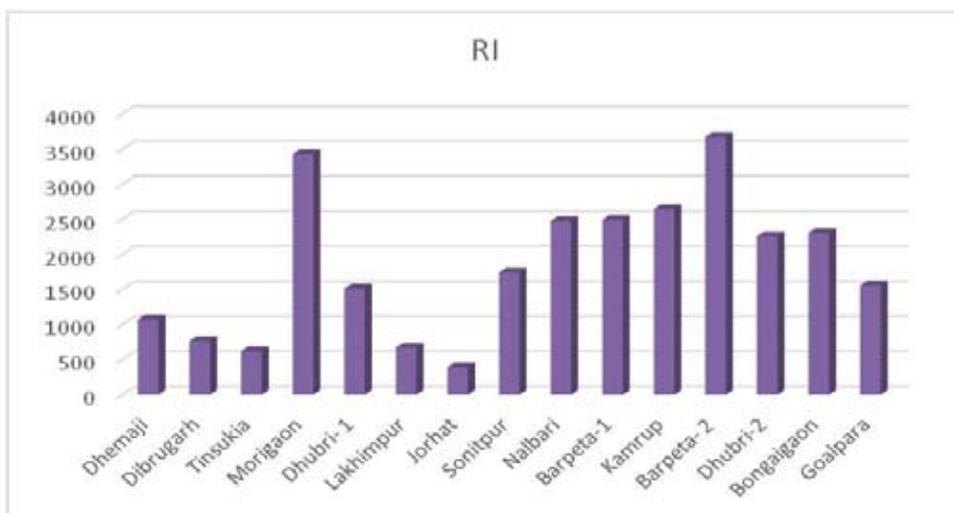
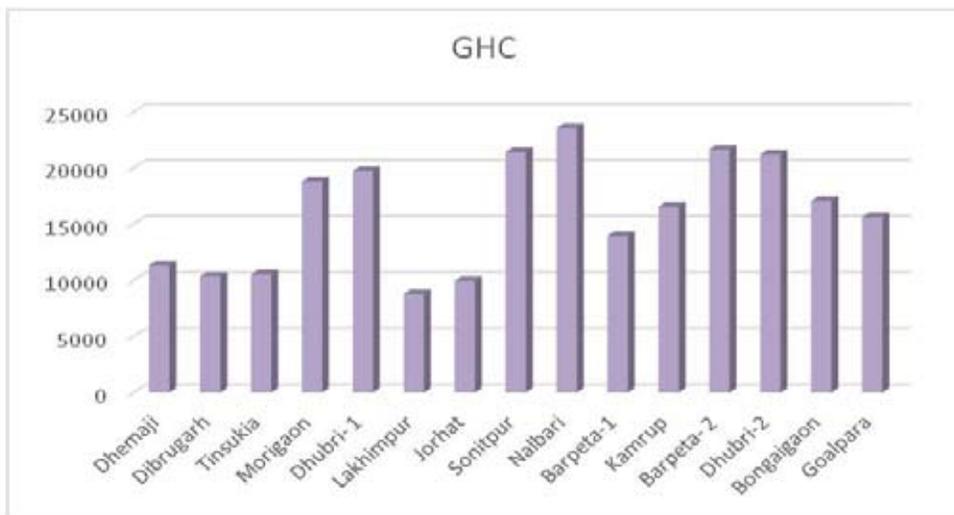
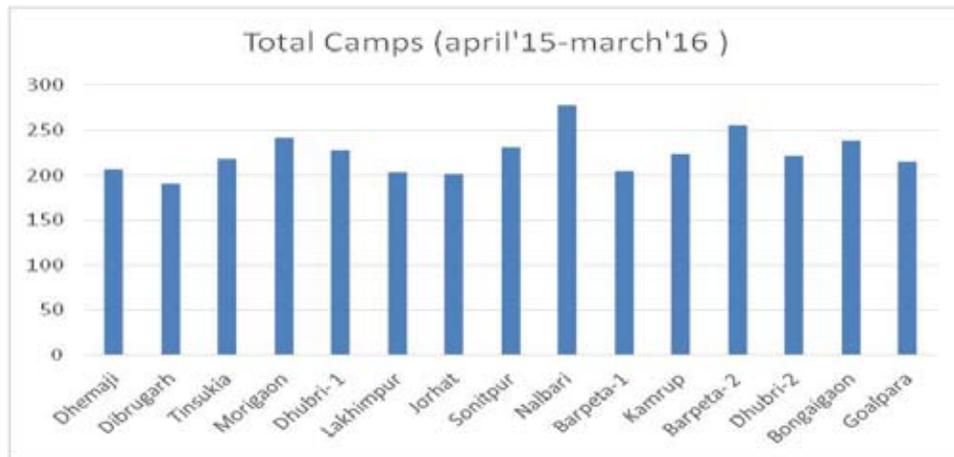
Since 2005, C-NES has been providing basic health care services to the flood vulnerable population living in the Brahmaputra islands, through specially developed boats equipped with OPD, laboratories on board as well as pharmacies, first to one, then three and now reach thirteen districts in Assam through a Public Private Partnership (PPP) with the National Health Mission (NHM), Government of Assam. The goal is to take sustained health care to lakhs of persons on the islands, for the first time since independence, with a special focus on women and children, who are the most vulnerable in difficult conditions.

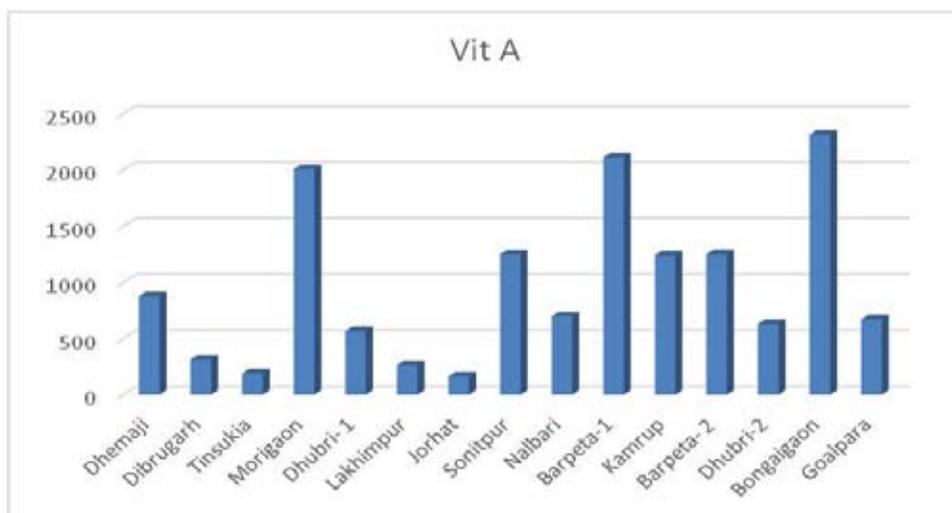
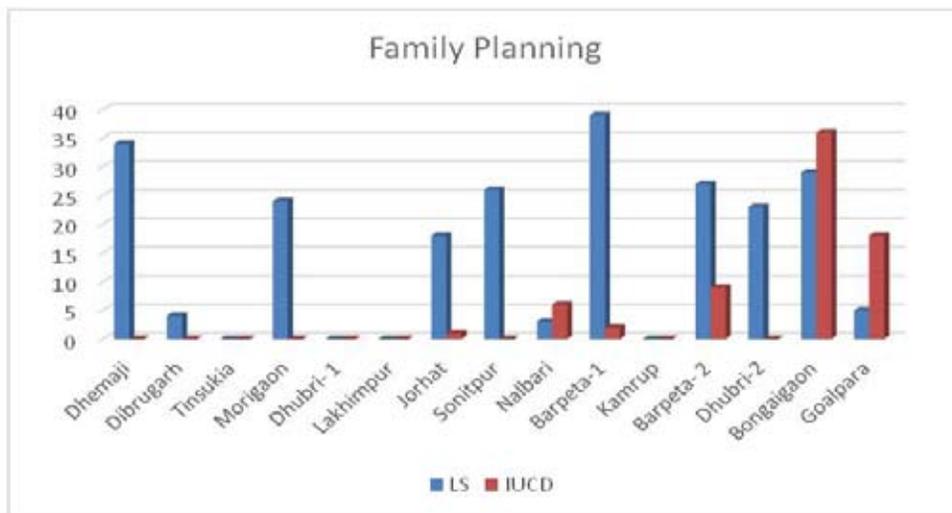
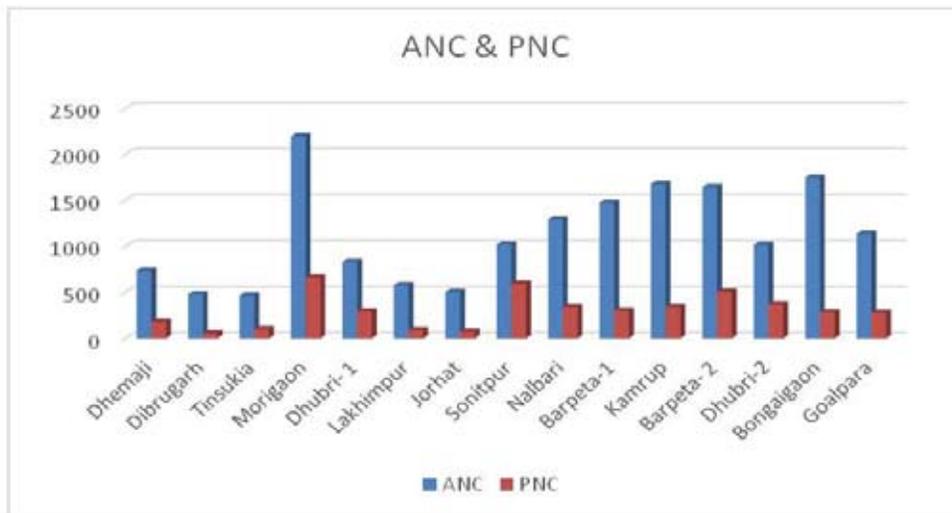
Providing ANC, PNC checkups along with advocating institutional deliveries has been priority with all the Boat Clinic health teams especially crucial for a state like Assam. The organization started with one boat and seven staff in Dibrugarh district in 2005, with support from district health and administration. The success in the intervention drew the attention of UNICEF and what was then NRHM, Govt. of Assam, resulting in the spread of the Boat Clinic programme to thirteen districts- Dibrugarh, Tinsukia, Dhemaji, Jorhat, Lakhimpur, Sonitpur, Morigaon, Kamrup, Nalbari, Dhubri (2 units), Barpeta (2 Units), Bongaigaon and Goalpara.

Each district has 15 staff headed by the District Programme Officer (DPO) who is the key person in organizing district plans and coordinating among the team, district health departments, district administration, NHM and the community. His or her team includes two Medical Officers and paramedical staff including two ANMs, a GNM, a pharmacist and one laboratory technician besides three community workers and a four member boat crew. The work of the boat clinics has led to remarkable results: On an average, 18,000-20,000 people are treated every month in the districts, individuals who were earlier beyond the reach of government programmes because no doctors or paramedics would go on a regular basis. The only time, villagers say, they would see a doctor on site was during an emergency like a major flood. Otherwise, they had to travel long distances at great cost and risk to get treated. Today, the services come virtually to their doorstep. Till April 2016, over 1.88 million people have been given basic health services.



## Boat Clinic Figures





## C-NES Participation

### Global Exhibition on Services

The Global Exhibition on Services was organized by the Govt. of India jointly assisted by Confederation of India Industries (CII) and Services Export Promotion Council (SEPC) from the 23rd to 25th of April, 2015 in New Delhi's Pragati Maidan. The Government of Assam and National Health Mission, nominated C-NES' Boat Clinics to be exhibited at the Exhibition along with other services of NHM like the 108 Emergency Services, 104 Services and Operation Smile. The exhibition saw a huge number of participants from across the globe. A team of 8 members from C-NES including the Managing Trustee Sanjoy Hazarika, Technical Consultant for Boat Clinic Program Dr CR Hira and the Program Manager Ashok Rao with Medical Officers and DPOs participated in the exhibition along with other delegates from NHM, Assam. The boat clinic team prepared a model of the first ship 'AKHA' which operates in Dibrugarh district, along with photographs of the various health camps, the challenging experiences from the grassroots, the topography and the services of all boat clinics. The model of the ship presented at the exhibition drew constant attention and appreciation from the many delegates and visitors, both national and international. During the last day of the exhibition, on 25th April, the Chief Minister of Assam, Tarun Gogoi visited the stall examining the model, speaking to the delegates and the team members and showered appreciation for the hard work.



The Managing Trustee explaining the Boat Clinic model to officials from NHM.



The C-NES team pose for a group photograph at the exhibition

### Workshop on Ground Water Management

A two-day regional level workshop on Reviving Springs & Participatory Ground Water Management (PGWM) in the Northeastern Himalayan Region was held on 23rd and 24th April 2015 at Guwahati. Assisted by C-NES, the workshop was organized by the Dehradun based People's Science Institute (PSI) with financial assistance from Arghyam. The introduction to the workshop was given by Dr. Ravi Chopra from PSI, moderated by Bhaswati Goswami, Communications Officer C-NES. Welcoming the participants in the inaugural session, Dr Ravi Chopra said that springs have been drying up in all the north eastern states. Fortunately in the last decade or so the concept of spring shed management has been successfully demonstrated in many locations in the Himalayan states. Addressing the inaugural session of the workshop as the chief guest Mr MP Bezbaruah, former Union Tourism Secretary said that only four percent of the north eastern states 'groundwater resources have been developed so far compared to the national average of about

22 percent, which calls for an integrated approach towards management of water resources in the region. 50 participants from the soil and water conservation department of Meghalaya, land resources department of Nagaland, the Meghalaya water foundation, forest department of Nagaland and Sikkim and CSIR NEIST Jorhat attended the workshop which included a field visit to a spring in the outskirts of Guwahati.



Mr MP Bezbaruah, former Union Tourism Secretary addressing the inaugural session of the workshop. Sitting (from left) are C-NES Trustee and Chairperson of the inaugural session Dr Mahfuza Rahman, Dr. Ravi Chopra from PSI and Dr. Himanshu Kulkarni from ACWADAM, Pune.



The workshop being moderated by Bhaswati Goswami, Communications Officer C-NES and Ankit Saxena from PSI

## Workshop on National Forest Policy

Indian Institute of Forest Management (IIFM) Bhopal in association with the Ministry of Environment & Forests (MoEF), Govt. of India and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) organized a two day Regional Consultation Workshop for the North Eastern States and West Bengal to review the National Forest Policy 1988 at the North Eastern Hill University (Shillong) on 13th and 14th October 2015. The consultation was a part of the series of such region specific workshops to finalize the new national forest policy on the basis of the Indian Forest Policy 1988. From C-NES, Manik Boruah, Associate Programme Manager was present and he shared issues related to forests and environment bringing in community perspectives. He spoke about the current status of poor forest coverage in Assam for which the Forest Department of Assam was broadly blamed for their failure in protecting the forests and wildlife. Encroachment, poaching, man- animal conflict, proper demarcation of forest boundaries, inter-state disputes were some of the key issues which came out as serious threaten to the forestry sector in Assam. Elephant corridors in Assam was recognized but not yet legalized by the Department.



Group photograph of the participants and organizers

## Interface on Budget for Children

Communications Officer Bhaswati Goswami attended an interface on 25 February 2016 jointly organized by North Eastern Social Research Centre, Guwahati and HAQ, Centre for Child Rights, New Delhi. The interface was organized to share the findings of the study on Budget for Children in Assam 2015-16 which looks at the Assam State Budget from the point of view of children. NESRC is a research organization that has been undertaking social research in states of the North East on a wide range of issues since 2000. Its mandate is to combine serious research with involvement with groups and organizations working for social transformation in North East India. HAQ: Centre for Child Rights works on recognition and promotion of child rights. Over the last 15 years HAQ has been working on a range of children's issues through research, documentation and training and capacity building on child rights issues. It has been undertaking budget for children since 2000.

## Workshop on Sanitation and Waste Management

The National Foundation for India (NFI) in collaboration with sSTEP (Society for Social Transformation and Environment Protection) organized a dissemination workshop to share the findings of a recently concluded pilot study, titled, "An Exploratory Study to Identify Water, Sanitation and Waste Management Issues in Guwahati City with a Specific Focus on Two Wards" on 20th February 2016 at Guwahati. The meeting was presided over by Dr Monica Banerjee, Director, Programmes, NFI.

After 1977 Assam witnessed the presence of fluoride. Open drains covered with garbage is a common sight at Guwahati and elsewhere with the slightest of rainfall inundating the area. Only 30% of Guwahati residents get supply water. Most water plants are abandoned. Presently there is no organized sewerage system in Guwahati city with a million population. Untreated or semi treated sewerage is discharged to the storm water drains, waste disposal is negligible. At the planery session, C-NES' Bhaswati Goswami shared her idea about how to take the project forward, to combine the report with the Guwahati "Smart City" initiative, and the need to have an active social media page on sanitation and hygiene.



(From left) Dr Monica Banerjee, Director, Programmes, NFI, Sathyashree Goswami, NFI, Bhaswati Goswami, C-NES, Prof. Joshomayee Devi, Executive Director FST, Guwahati at the workshop

## C-NES Events

### NRL donated “Kaliyani” Launched

Boat Clinic Kaliyani is the latest to join the C-NES Boat Clinic fleet, donated by Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL) to C-NES as part of its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). The inaugural function of the launch of Kaliyani for providing health services to the marginalized river island population of Kamrup district was held on 18th May 2015 at Machkhowa ghat, Guwahati. It needs mention that this is the second such boat sponsored by NRL to C-NES. The first one, Boat Clinic SB Numali, operating in Sonitpur district was launched in March 2011.



Mr P Padmanadhan, Managing Director NRL inaugurating “Kaliyani” while C-NES Managing Trustee Sanjoy Hazarika looks on

“Among the most marginalized people in Assam, nearly 30 lakh or ten percent of the State’s population live on its islands in the mighty Brahmaputra and for decades have struggled to survive at a basic level,” said C-NES Managing Trustee Sanjoy Hazarika. He added “We thank NRL for supporting us with yet another boat in this mission of taking sustained health care and other development services to this excluded population”. Chief Guest Mr P Padmanadhan, Managing Director NRL lauded the work being done by the Boat Clinics and said “The Boat Clinics are doing an amazing work for the poor and underprivileged to reach medicine, care and solace to the unheard and unseen people, living on the numerous islands created by the whim and fancy of our mighty Brahmaputra”. Mr Pranjal Pratim Das, Programme Executive, NHM, Assam present on the occasion said that “the government was proud to showcase the work of the Boat Clinics at both the national and international level. In spite of various challenges we move ahead in our common mission”



Boat Clinic Kaliyani decorated for the launch

## C-NES Annual Review Meet- 2016

“Good to listen to what you are doing—your challenges, how you overcome them, what you want to do. We have to look at ourselves and how we look at C-NES the next 15 years.” These were the opening remarks of Sanjoy Hazarika, Managing Trustee C-NES in his welcome address at the C-NES Annual Review Meeting organized at the picturesque, serene Teen Taley Resort, near the famous Rumtek Monastery on the outskirts of Gangtok from 20th– 23rd March 2016. Over 30 C-NES staff comprising of senior Medical



A group photograph at the Review meeting at Gangtok, Sikkim

Officers, District Programme Officers from the 15 Boat Clinic Units along with the organization’s Family planning, Community Radio teams and staff from the Regional Office, Guwahati attended the meeting led by the Managing Trustee, Sanjoy Hazarika. Eminent Trustees of the organization including Dr VA Pai Panandiker, Chairman, Board of Trustees, Dr Jayanta Madhab, Economist and Preeti Gill, literary agent and former Consulting Editor of the Publishing House Zubaan were also present along with Advisory Council Members Dilip Chandan, Editor, Axom Bani and P. D. Rai, MP, Lok Sabha (Sikkim).

## Book Release - Hope Floats : Boat Clinics of the Brahmaputra

“Hope Floats : Boat Clinics of the Brahmaputra”, a book on the innovative Boat Clinics run by C-NES was released at the organization’s Annual Review meet at Gangtok on 22 nd March 2016 by the Lok Sabha MP from Sikkim, PD Rai. The book co-authored by Prof Hazarika and C-NES Communications Officer Bhaswati K. Goswami is supported by the National Foundation for India. The book is an accounting of the challenges



(From left) Ashok Rao, Programme Manager , Dr C R Hira, Technical Consultant, PD Rai, Bhaswati Goswami, Dr VA Pai Panandiker, Sanjoy Hazarika and Preeti Gill at the book release.

and achievements of the Boat Clinic programme. Chairman, C-NES Board of Trustees, Dr VA Pai Panandiker and Preeti Gill, literary agent and former Consulting Editor of the Publishing House Zubaan were also present along with Sanjoy Hazarika. Speaking on the occasion Mr Rai said “C-NES is doing fabulous work with the Boat Clinics. This book would go a long way in terms of letting us know how the untold miseries of people living in such a fragile eco system has been improved by making health and education accessible to them”.

## Media on the Boat Clinics

Held as a flagship innovative programme by the Government of Assam, the Central Government and UNICEF, the boat clinics along with other C-NES initiatives have been written about extensively in local, regional, national, and international media. The links to the media coverages during this period follows:

### Deccan Herald

<http://www.deccanherald.com/content/531445/a-boon-people-living-islands.html>

### Times of India

<http://southasia.oneworld.net/news/radio-brahmaputra-set-to-serve-indias-north-east#.Vc2U4bXA0I2>

### Coverage in Sunday mid-day, Mumbai

[http://www.mid-day.com/articles/doctors-on-the-go/17209186#sthash.RgB21D79.gbpl&st\\_refDomain=www.facebook.com&st\\_refQuery=/](http://www.mid-day.com/articles/doctors-on-the-go/17209186#sthash.RgB21D79.gbpl&st_refDomain=www.facebook.com&st_refQuery=/)

## Radio Brahmaputra

### Radio Brahmaputra wins e-Assam Challenge Award, 2015

C-NES' Brahmaputra Community Radio Station (BCRS) won the "Certificate of Proficiency" the top award of e-Assam challenge 2015 organized by Digital Development Foundation and Digital Empowerment Foundation supported by the Department of Information Technology and AMTRON, Government of Assam, on April 10th, 2015.

Radio Brahmaputra is based at Dibrugarh, very close to where the mighty river flows at Maijan ghat. The station caters to the needs and aspirations of people belonging to as many as five communities residing around the area in as many local languages – Shadri (dialect of the tea tribe community), Assamese, Bhojpuri, Bodo, and Mishing. While BCRS seeks to reach the most marginalised groups in 14 islands and 30 tea plantations and more than 180 villages in Dibrugarh district, its footprint reaches across the Brahmaputra to other districts as well. Today it broadcasts for eight hours every day on FM 90.4 from Dibrugarh and can be heard in three districts along and across the Brahmaputra.



Manik Boruah, Associate Programme Manager, C-NES receiving the e-Assam Challenge-2015 Award from Dr. Gautam Baruah

## Radio Brahmaputra gets e-Award



Radio Brahmaputra, received the e-North-East Award 2015. The 6th e-North East Award 2015 Summit was organized by NE Development Foundation, Digital Empowerment Foundation, Impulse NGO Network and Meghalaya Information Technology Enclave supported by the NEC in February 2016 at Shillong. The award summit was inaugurated by NEC Secretary, Ram Muivah. There were 10 winners in all for digital innovations in the region.

The Radio Brahmaputra team led by Coordinator Bhaskar Bhuyan (foreground) with the e-North-East Award



Workshop on Community Resource conducted by Radio Brahmaputra in March 2015



Durba Sabar (left) from the tea tribe community from Maijan Tea Estate recording folk songs in Shadri with his team at the station

## Radio Brahmaputra: Popular Support

**Till November 2015 Radio Brahmaputra has received near about 4250 SMS' from listeners. Some of the feedback follows :**

I am a regular listener of Radio Brahmaputra and I really enjoy its programmes. I can't explain my anguish if I miss Radio Brahmaputra even for one day. I carry my radio with me all the time while going for harvesting and day to day work in the field. I have to change the battery of my radio three times a month, which I do not mind. What a wonderful radio it is!

Sujit Nath, Silapathar, No.3 Sivnagar, Dhemaji

Namaskar! I am very fond of listening to the programmes of Radio Brahmaputra. We could learn many new things through your station, especially the programmes aired on last Sunday on the need to send children to school. There are so many parents in our society, who allow their children to work for the officials of tea garden management like bonded labourers which is very wrong indeed. Is there someone to think about the future of those poor children? I will be very happy, if Radio Brahmaputra broadcasts programmes about the adverse impact of illiteracy.

Ram Prasad Munda, Nilokh Holokhani, Silapathar, Dhemaji

## C-NES Visitors

### From 104 Service Provider

A team from the 104 service provider M/s. Piramal Swasthya keen on understanding the work of the Boat Clinics visited the Kamrup boat clinic in May 2015. The 104 team was represented by Mahesh Deori, Rajesh Sethi and Najeeb Hazarika from Sanjeevani. From C-NES regional office, Guwahati, Dr.C.R.Hira, Technical Consultant and Ashok Rao, Program Manager accompanied the team. Hasivuddin Borbhuyan, Block Programme Manager from Chhaygaon Block Public Health Centre was present.

### NHM Official at health camp

Director Finance, NHM, Delhi Ms.Kabita Singh visited a health camp conducted by the Kamrup Boat Clinic accompanying the team on the boat to the target village. The camp was held according at two sites- Uttar Matiram and Pub Matiram as each site has a small population. Ms.Singh interacted with the health team members, expressing her long cherished desire to visit the Boat Clinic. She appreciated the unique innovation of reaching out to the isolated communities through the boat clinics "Such kind of service cannot be measured with money and cost per patient" she added. She also interacted with the ASHA worker to know the status of women's health and mortality. Her comment in the visitor's book, "A great experience, and excellent execution of an innovative idea leading to humanity" summed up her trip.



Kabita Singh looking at the doctor interacting with patients



The official talking to the ANMs and ASHAs

## Italian Pathologist Visits Boat Clinics

Dr. Livia Bellina, a Pathologist from Italy, visited the Boat Clinic units of Kamrup, Dibrugarh and Dhubri district in September 2015. Dr. Bellina has been working for Italy's National Health System since 1987. She founded the Mobile Diagnosis, a not for profit association aimed at sharing knowledge and providing diagnostic support to health workers worldwide, by using mobile phone technology.

During her stay at Guwahati she delivered a lecture and made a presentation at the National Health Mission (NHM), Assam and at the Department of Pathology, Guwahati Medical College where there was keen observation by the students on her methods along with an interactive session. She conducted trainings and demonstrations on her concept of mobile diagnosis on-board the vessels in the Boat Clinic laboratories in Dibrugarh, Kamrup and Dhubri districts. At all the field visits she interacted with the patients and villagers attending the health camps.



Dr Livia on way to a health camp at Kamrup district



Dr Livia walking to the health camp accompanied by Dr Gunajit Deka, MO, Kamrup Boat Clinic and Manik Boruah, APM

## CRM team visits Dibrugarh Boat Clinic

A nine member CRM team visited the Dibrugarh Boat Clinic unit. The team consisted of Dr. Partho Jyoti Gogoi, Regional Director MH&FW, Guwahati, Mr. Atul Basumutary, Director DoNER, Sumit Priyadarshi, Asst. Adv (PHE) Ministry of DWS, Dr. Narayan Gaonkar, UNICEF, Dr. PR Sodani, Prof. PH& Health Eco. IIMR, Ms. Seema Upadhyay, Program Manager, PFI, Dr. Ashish Banerjee, MH, Mr. Arindam Saha, State Facilitator Tripura, RRC-NE and Dr. R.K. Lakhani, consultant NHM, MoHFW. C-NES Programme Manager Ashok Rao was present. The water level of the river near Maijan Ghat, Dibrugarh had receded and the boat had to be docked at Balijan ghat which is almost 40 kms from town.

The health camp was arranged at Sarisuti Sapori. The members of the team interacted with the patients and villagers and observed the working of different sections in the camp.



Vehicles with CRM team members stuck in the mud and slush had to be pushed out



A presentation inside the Boat Clinic by Medical Officer Dr BC Borah. (Right) A group photograph of the CRM team on board



At the health camp at Sarisuti Sapori beneficiaries wait patiently for their turn for a health check up

## Visitors to Kamrup Boat Clinic

Accompanied by C-NES Prog. Manager Ashok Rao and Technical Consultant Dr C R Hira, Dr Anuj Kapilashrami, Faculty, University of Edinburgh, UK and Director for Global Health and Public Policy along with Prof. Ramila Bisht, Associate Professor at JNU and Dr Sunil Deepak Head, Mobility India (North East) which works in the disability, development and rehabilitation sector, visited a health camp at Kamrup on 25th November 2015. Dr Kapilashrami's area of interest lies in public-private mix models and their potential for achieving universal coverage and access. Prof. Bisht and Dr. Kapilashrami were keen to better understand the delivery of models such as the Boat Clinics that are being implemented to expand coverage and reach out to remote and geographically isolated populations in the north eastern states.



The visitors on the deck of the Kamrup Boat Clinic with the health team

## Visitor from Denmark

Dr. Khafiluzzaman Ahmed, an anesthetist based in Denmark and Dr Shabina Ahmed, Founder Director, Assam Autism Foundation, visited Boat Clinic, Kamrup on 2nd March 2016 to see the work of the Boat Clinic. They were accompanied by Dr. C.R. Hira, Technical Consultant and Bhaswati Goswami, Communications Officer, C-NES. The Boat Clinic team along with the guests reached the Toparpathar L.P. School where beneficiaries were eagerly awaiting the team. Dr. Shabina Ahmed, a pediatrician treated about 50 children in the camp helping the Boat Clinic Medical Officer, Dr Prakash Barman.



(From left) DPO, Kamrup Boat Clinic, Hiranya Deka, a beneficiary, Dr Prakash Barman, Medical Officer, Dr Shabina Ahmed, Dr. Khafiluzzaman Ahmed, Dr. C.R. Hira, Technical Consultant and Bhaswati Goswami, Communications Officer, C-NES

## Faculty from Auburn University

Kelly Alley, Professor of Anthropology, Auburn University, USA visited Radio Brahmaputra on March 26, 2015. She interacted with the radio team and proposed a collaboration between Radio Brahmaputra and Auburn University with the latter supporting data collection which radio team could undertake to map the island regions around Dibrugarh including photo mapping of the islands. The University could generate digital maps for the station's use. "Thanks and congratulations on a wonderful project" she wrote in her message to team Radio Brahmaputra.



Kelly Alley, Professor of Anthropology, Auburn University, interacting coordinator Bhaskar Bhuyan at the Radio Brahmaputra station at Dibrugarh

## Australian visitors

A seven member team from Australia were at Dibrugarh on 29th November 2015 to visit C-NES' Community Radio Station, Radio Brahmaputra, a platform for marginalized communities to raise issues of their concerns and the Boat Clinic Akha operating in the Dibrugarh river islands. Led by John Zubrzycki, an award-winning journalist whose long association with India has included stints as a Hindi student, diplomat, consultant and foreign correspondent besides authoring two books on India, the team which included teachers, photojournalists and health professionals, was humbled by the river, by the work done by the dedicated health team. Welcomed with gamochas by C-NES' radio reporters and nurses at the office, Bhaswati Goswami, Communications Officer who accompanied the team presented a background of C-NES' work including the Boat Clinics and the Radio Station. Bhaskar Bhuyan, coordinator of the station and Medical Officer Dr B Borah made presentations on the BCRS and Boat Clinic programmes at Dibrugarh respectively. The team donated a cheque of Rs 56,580 to the Radio Station. The visitors were given a ride in Boat Clinic Akha where they interacted with the health team.



The Australian visitors at the Dibrugarh office cum Radio Centre of C-NES with the team



Communications Officer Bhaswati Goswami interviewing author John Zybrisky at the studio



The visitors walking along the sand banks to reach the spot where Boat Clinic Akha was anchored

## Team from Singapore National University

A team from the National University of Singapore visited Dibrugarh, Tinsukia and Dhemaji from the 4th December 2015 to conduct a study on the Brahmaputra and see the work done by C-NES. Manik Boruah, Associate Programme Manager, C-NES accompanied the team. Field visits were made to finalize sites to conduct survey and to meet local people, officials and academicians. The team visited Rohmorja, the most erosion prone area and Bali Chapori in Dibrugarh; Guijan in Tinsukia and Rekhachapori and Laxmishuti Bodo in Dhemaji District. On 6th December they visited Bali Chapori with community worker Ramakant Yadav and spent the day there to study the geomorphological character of the river. The team visited C-NES' Community Radio station at Dibrugarh and interacted with the radio team, appreciating the programmes and activities of BCRS.

## Visitors from Better World Education

Anitha Pai and Abhi Nangia from Better World Education, a classroom-led movement to spark conversations and connections about the most pressing global challenges visited the Barpeta Unit II Boat Clinic in February 2016 to build a story on the issue of health access. The visit was a part of the organization's work on a series called "Empathy Challenges". In essence, empathy challenges are videos and written stories exploring the biggest issues humans face, and the ways they can be addressed. Follows a first-hand account from the team:

*It's about 7am and we're greeted by Sapna Das, the District Program Officer (DPO) for the Barpeta Boat Clinic. Sapna smiles warmly and tells us we have time for chai before the vehicle arrives to take us to the boat. As she orders, we eagerly ask her questions about her life and work with the Boat Clinic. Abhi and I will spend the day with her and her team on the Brahmaputra river, where we'll experience what it's like to be a member of one of the 15 CNES Boat Clinics. We're preparing to document their work and profile a member of the team through Better World Education's Empathy Challenge series. Our trip is an introductory experience into the work being done to improve access to healthcare for people living on some of the most remote islands in Assam.*

*The car arrives just as we finish the last sip of chai. We jump in, and over the course of the next hour the vehicle fills with nurses, crew members, a lab technician, and a doctor, all members of the Barpeta Boat Clinic. After traveling through the rural outskirts of the city we stop where the road ends and where the path ahead is a narrow strip of sand. The ten of us divide up into two autos for the final stretch with the day's supplies food for breakfast and lunch, vaccines, and medicines for patients. It's a bumpy journey until we reach the river bank. We arrive to find boats filled with herds of cows lineup along the water's edge. As cows are pulled off the boat and led to the local market, we board a twostory boat with room for a few cots, a kitchen, and a storage area.*

*We chat with Michael, the boat doctor, who recently completed his medical degree and joined the boat clinic about a year and a half ago. He was initially placed with the boat clinic through a government program where trained doctors are required to complete a year of service in a rural area. Michael shares how he struggled in his first few months to appreciate and adjust to the demands of working on the Boat Clinic; however, since then he has become committed to his patients and recently extended his time with the team.*

*After about an hour of travel on the boat, we dock and climb over a sand embankment. We navigate through fields of chili and peanut plants to reach the school in the village where we'll setup the medical camp for the day. In a matter of minutes the team sets up four stations: one for registration, another for vaccinations, a place for the doctor to do checkups, and a makeshift pharmacy. Women and children gather almost immediately and move from one station to the next depending on their needs. Some of them stop and ask Sapna about their prescription to confirm their dosage. Another woman needs an injection and two of the nurses go with her so that she can receive it in the comfort of her home. The medical camp is a collaborative effort. Village leaders support the registration process and ASHAs, or community health activists, help coordinate the flow of patients.*

*While patients receive checkups and treatment, a few curious kids watch as we take notes and photos. Sapna tells us that they're speaking in a dialect closer to Bengali than Assamese. We communicate with smiles and gestures and soon make a game out of saying words in our respective languages. The camp ends after all of the patients have been seen. And as the sun sets, we find ourselves traveling back to Barpeta with a deep appreciation for our new friends the committed professionals who provide critical health services to the people of Assam.*



Photographs of the Better World Education team visiting the Barpeta Unit II Boat Clinic in February 2016 to build a story on the issue of health access

## Visitors from Centre for New Perspective

Dr. Navina Jafa, Vice President of the Delhi based Centre for New Perspective (CNP) visited the Jorhat Boat Clinic on 25th March 2016. She was accompanied by Peru Baussef from the Asian Development Bank, Marilla De Baussef, Cancer Research Institute, Reid Deaver, US Embassy, Delhi, Birgit Lohr from the German Embassy, Delhi and Dr.J. Bright from UK Embassy of Bangladesh. The guests highly appreciated the Boat Clinic health initiative after observing how the camp was conducted in remote island villages. CNP works as a knowledge convergence platform assisting in identifying problems usually related to traditional skilled communities, finding funding for organizations and assisting their efforts to grow. It has identified a possible funding for addressing reproductive and maternal health specifically of capacity building and infrastructural facilities related to traditional mid wives and healers for specific Boat Clinic operated areas. Dr. Navina Jafa, shared her experiences on her blog:

<https://navinajafa.wordpress.com/2016/04/30/140/>



The visitors onboard the Jorhat Boat Clinic, SB Nahor

## From PFI



Alok Vajpeyi, Head, Core Grants and Knowledge Management of the New Delhi based Population Foundation of India (PFI) visited Assam in May 2015 to review the Boat Clinic project's family planning component being implemented by C-NES supported by PFI. He is seen here (centre) with C-NES staff

## Trainings

### Training and Survey on Disability at Morigaon

A training program on disability survey was organized by C-NES on 19th Feb 2016 at the Morigaon GNM training center in collaboration with District Health Society, Morigaon supported by Mobility India (North East). The two day program had a day's class room training followed by a field visit the next day. Dr. Sunil Deepak, Head Mobility India was the main resource person. Dr. C.R. Hira, Technical Consultant and Ashok Rao, Program Manager C-NES were present at the training along with Joint Director of Health Services Morigaon Dr. Biplob Gohain, District Program Manager NHM Mr. Dipen Kalita, Block Program Manager (Lahorighat Block PHC) Rupali Narzary, Community Health Officers from Lahorighat, Special Educators from RMSA (Rastriya Madhymik Siskha Abhijan) and Block level resource persons from SSA (Sarva Shiksha Abhijan). The Morigaon boat clinic team was present.

Disability and related issues were discussed at the training with the help of survey reports conducted by various agencies including case definitions, national and local statistics, causes of mass differences among those statistics, measures to minimize the errors.



Dr. Sunil Deepak from Mobility India at the training session on disability.



DPO Morigaon Shyamjit Pashi interacting with beneficiaries at the awareness session on disabilities at Pithakaity, the island village.

### Capacity building training

A capacity building training for ASHAs (from riverine islands) and ANMs (from the Boat Clinic areas) was organized at the NHM training hall in Barpeta district in December 2015. Importance of family planning with emphasis on NSV, challenges and govt. facilities for family planning were discussed. Chandana Bora, (middle) State Advocacy and Family Planning Co-ordinator, C-NES and DPOs of both the Barpeta Boat Clinic units, Raben Das (left) and Swapna Das (right) at the training.





Group photograph of a training for ASHAs (from riverine islands) and ANMs (Boat Clinic areas) at Bongaigaon on family planning and reproductive health held on November 2015 at the ANM training centre, Bongaigaon. The inaugural session was attended by Dr. Abhijit Basu, Joint Director Health services, Bongaigaon and Esmita Roy, District Programme Officer, NHM Bongaigaon along with State Advocacy and Family Planning Co-ordinator, Chandana Bora, C-NES.

### Inter Personal Communication and Counselling training

A training on Inter Personal Communication and Counselling (IPCC) on Behavior Change Communication (BCC) for Family Planning Counselors, ANMs and Community Workers was organized by C-NES' PFI team (supported by NHM) working on family planning on 3rd and 4th September 2015 at the State Institute of Health and Family Welfare, Khanapara, Guwahati. It was an interactive training and the technical sessions witnessed keen participation by the trainees on topics such as process strategic BCC, communication channels and message for communication. The objective of the training was to help the participants cope with the challenges of family planning using principles of BCC.



Dr PN Bora, Former SPM, Family Planning, NHM Assam training participants on IPCC



The participants with members from the regional C-NES office, Guwahati

### Training by Dhubri Boat Clinic Unit

The Boat Clinic Unit Dhubri under the initiative of DPOs Mehebus Alom Hazarika and Sultan Nekob organized a two day residential capacity building training on reproductive health and family planning under PFI for ASHAs, Anganwadi workers and ANMs of both boat clinic units on 19th and 20th February 2016

Mehebus Alom Hazarika, DPO, Dhubri Unit II speaking at a sensitization meeting held at Dhubri's Tindubi Chalakura on 14th November 2015 at the LP school where he emphasised on women's health and how a small family can lead to a healthy mother and family.



## Dental Service in Boat Clinic

For the first time dental services have been introduced in the Boat Clinic health initiatives at the Jorhat Boat Clinic unit from 11th March 2016. The new initiative was possible after Mahindra Finance extended financial support to acquire the dental equipment as part of its corporate social responsibility(CSR). A full dental setup on a Boat for the island population right at their door step may be the first in India. Officials from the District Health Society Jorhat led by Dr.Amrit Saikia, Additional C M & HO (FW), Sikha Baruah, Dental Surgeon BPHC Kamalabari (deputed by JDHS, Jorhat to Boat Clinic for the service) Abhishek Sarkar, Regional HR Manager Mahindra Finance, Guwahati, Dr.C.R.Hira Tech. Consultant, C-NES, Ashok Rao Program Manager, C-NES were present.



Dr. Amrit Saikia, inaugurating the dental service. To his left is Ritirekha Baruah, DPO, Jorhat Boat Clinic.

## Boat Clinic Models in Republic Day 2016 Tableau



The Jorhat Boat Clinic taking part in the Republic Day 2016 tableau. A 6-wheeler truck was designed like an island village home with an ongoing vaccination programme. The GNM, Elizabeth Kom demonstrating a vaccination camp.



The Boat Clinic Barpeta Unit II was a part of the Republic day 2016 tableau. The District Health Society included the Boat Clinic to be a part of the parade.

## From the Field

### Angela Doley arrives : Boat baby

22nd Feb 2016: Today we reached Koilawali sapor, at around 10:15 am. Villager Indeswar Kumbang, husband of the local ASHA Priyanka Kumbang told us that a local Mising woman, Sangita Doley was undergoing severe labour pain. Accompanied by our ANM nurse Junmoni Saikia and community worker Bhupen Taid we went to her house built on stilts known as “chang ghar” a typical Mising home, built to protect themselves from flood. We immediately attended to her and after about half an hour, she delivered a healthy female child with a birth weight of 2.5 kg. The mother was very weak as this was her third delivery. We gave her medications. The villagers wanted me to name the baby. Since they were Christians, I named her ‘Angela’ because she was like an angel arriving into this world.



Dhemaji Boat Clinic ANM Junmoni Saikia holding the new baby. Next to her is villager Indeswar Kumbang

A report by Dr Rahul Mistry, Medical Officer, Dhemaji Boat Clinic unit

### Tinsukia : Health team to the rescue

On the 26th of January 2016, we had our scheduled health camps at Bashbari and Madhupur villages respectively. After completing our camp at Bashbari village, our team reached Madhupur village to conduct the second camp. Just as we were about to start, some villagers came and told us that a pregnant woman, Anita Changmai of Madhupur was under severe pain since the previous evening. On reaching her home, we recognized her as one of our beneficiaries, at 25 weeks of gestation now, having received her last ante natal check up in December 2015. The doctors could feel that the fetal heart beat was missing. On further examination they found that the baby was still born and the mother had possibly suffered an injury. The doctors took the needful medical measures to bring her out of danger. Our team stayed with her for the next hour. Gradually the pain subsided. She was given prophylactic antibiotics and other medicines to prevent any infections. She was advised to consult a gynecologist for further guidance so as to prevent such a miscarriage in the future.

We left her soon after to attend our health camp but not before receiving lots of appreciation from the villagers. It was a miracle that we were there that day, could attend to her and provide emergency medical services and prevent a certain disaster.

A report by Bhargab Baruah, DPO, Tinsukia Boat Clinic unit

## Successful motivation

### Barpeta Unit II :

The Barpeta Boat Clinic Unit II was able to successfully motivate eight beneficiaries from the districts Aligaon N.C, Aligaon Pathar and Ramapara gaon to undergo laparoscopic sterilization(LS) on 9th March 2016. Difficulties in accessing the islands, poor communication and long distances to hospitals where such facilities are available are some of the factors making such initiatives difficult. NHM, Govt. of Assam arranged for conveyances to transport the beneficiaries under the initiative of DPO Swapna Das, local ASHA and community worker Anowar Husain. The Boat Clinic team received good support from the district health functionaries.

### Bongaigaon

The Bongaigaon Boat Clinic unit conducted a family planning sterilization camp at the Abhyapuri CHC on 25th February 2016 in collaboration with the district health society. The target group were eligible couples in the boat clinic coverage areas. The ASHAs, and AWWs were given the responsibility of bringing the beneficiaries to the camp accompanied by the Boat Clinic community workers. There was good support from the District Health Society which collaborated with the team and helped with necessary equipment and logistic. ASHA and beneficiaries came to camp by country boats and ambulance. There were 18 beneficiaries.



Training on family planning for ASHAs on 21st June, 2016 conducted by the Bongaigaon Boat Clinic unit and DHS. 60 ASHAs participated.

DPO Bongaigaon, Monjur Hussain Mondal conducting an awareness session on family planning and water borne disease on 29th July 2016. ORS and Zinc tablets were supplied to children within age groups of 6 months to 5 years.



## Sonitpur

After sustained motivation on family planning by the Sonitpur health team, five beneficiaries were convinced to adopt LS in April 2016. An awareness camp was conducted in Rani Tapu char on family planning under PFI project on 30th March 2016. Two supportive community leaders were felicitated by the team. DPO Mousumi Duwarah asked the beneficiaries who had undergone LS to become role models for other villagers.



DPO Sonitpur Boat Clinic Mousumi Duwarah (left) speaking on family planning and ANM Kilipa Horo (right) speaking on the importance of ante natal check-up and immunization of children at a sensitization meeting on family planning at Sonitpur's Sarder char where over hundred people were present.

## Morigaon



A street play on family planning at Morigaon's Hamur Char on 6th March 2016 as part of a regular health camp by the Morigaon Boat Clinic team at the village LP school

## Awareness camp at Dhemaji's Kabu saponi :

An awareness session on family planning was held at Dhemaji's Kibu Saponi under Jonai BPHC on 9th February 2016. Deva Kakati, Coordinator, Family Planning, Anjan Bezbaruah, Data Manager and Divyajyoti Saikia from NHM office Dhemaji attended the meeting. The MO Dr. Rahul Mistry explained the objective of the awareness camp, deliberated his lecture on family planning and explained the benefit of using contraceptives. ASHA, AWW and staff from the Boat Clinic Dhemaji were present.



The team travelling to Kibu Saponi (Right) Dr Rahul Mistry giving an introduction to the awareness camp.

## Goalpara

Boat clinic Goalpara conducted an awareness programme on family planning at Noonkhuwa-II village on 18th November 2015. The local ASHAs helped in conducting the session along with the AWW, local leaders and school teachers. About 120 people attended the program. Medical Officer Boat Clinic Dr Eunos Salim delivered a talk on the advantages of having a small family. The community workers spoke about the importance of regular ANC checkup. ANMs from the boat clinic team tried to make the targeted women aware about IUCD and laparoscopy. DPO Mitrajyoti Konwar interacted with the community and thanked them for attending the session.



DPO Mitrajyoti Konwar (left) with the Boat Clinic team, Goalpara at the awareness program

## Overcoming challenges of access : Commuting to health camps



With the onset of the dry season and frequent dust storm, the Boat Clinic teams face a lot of problems accessing the island villages to conduct health camps. Often the team members suffer from respiratory problems. Moreover, they have to push out the vehicles which often gets stuck in the sand, a regular phenomenon. Seen here the Sonitpur team trying to push the vehicle in a similar situation.



Here the Barpeta Boat Clinic Unit II tries to pull out the three wheeler used to reach the boat, out of the swampy field.



The Nalbari Boat Clinic team walking to camp in an interior island village. With the onset of winter, with rivers subsiding the boat cannot be docked close to the villages. The walking distance to the camps increases.

## Photographs from the field :

### Yoga at Aichung saponi :



Enthusiastic children participate in a yoga demonstration organized by the Dibrugarh Boat Clinic Unit in remote Aichung saponi. The Boat Clinic intervention has been a holistic approach, touching all aspects of the island communities lives.



Deworming session at Kathasaponi, Bauahchuk and Kachikata by the Jorhat Boat Clinic team



Children of Jorhat district's Bhakat saponi getting ready to celebrate Saraswati Puja (Right) IPV awareness, Sengelisuti saponi, Jorhat district



Smiling faces during a health camp at Amarpur saponi, Tinsukia



The health team shares a lighter moment with beneficiaries gathering for a health camp conducted by Barpeta Boat Clinic Unit I

## The Boat Clinic Teams



**Barpeta Unit I :** (Standing left to right): Atowar Rahman (Boat Master), Santu Pathak (Cook), Nasema Parbin (ANM), Chintu Patowary (MO), Raben Das (District Programme Officer), Dharanu Dhar Kalita (Lab Tech), Abdul Baten Bhuyan (Community Worker), Dhruvojyoti Das (Pharmacist), Jaman Nurjamal Haque (CW), Wahabur Rahman (CW), Rafiqul Islam(Driver)



**Barpeta Unit II :** (Sitting right to left) : Dr Saikat Kr.Bhukta (MO), Maman Devi (ANM), Himamani Talukdar (ANM), Swapna Das (DPO), Pankaj Kr. Mandal (Pharmacist), (Standing right to left) Md. Rayhan Ali (CW), Md. Anowar Hussain (CW), Md. Montaz Ali Khan (CW), Jagadish Deka (Lab.Tech), Mukunda Pathak (Cook), Md.Amjad Ali Khan (Helper), Md. Yeasin Ali (Driver)



**Bongaigaon Unit :** (Standing right to left) : Saddan Hussain (Helper), Shajahan Ali (CW), Dr Deepranjan Das (MO), Dr Faruk Ahmed (MO), Kobad Hussain (CW), Satyajit Kalita (CW), Ranjanjyoti Baishya (Lab Tech), Mofidul Islam (Driver), M.H. Mondal (DPO), (Sitting left to right): Bhaskarjyoti Mahanta (Pharmacist), Nirupoma Roy (ANM), Aduri Khatun (ANM), Shahadev Das (Cook).



**Dhemaji Unit :** (Sitting left to right) : Junmoni Saikia (ANM), Dr Vivek Kr Sahu (MO), Kakoli Gogoi (DPO), Dr Yuwaraj Majumdar (MO), Lunashree Hazarika (ANM), (Standing left to right) : Dharjya Banai (Cook), Bhupen Taid (CW), Dharani Saikia (CW), Punyeshwar Baruah (CW), Bijoy Tayeng (Helper), Nitul Borah (Lab Tech), Narayan Acharjee (Pharmacist), Dharmendra Das (Boat Crew), Jagat Sonowal (Helper)



**Dhubri Unit I :** (Standing left to right) : Dr Ashit Kumar Mondal (MO), Sultan Nekib (DPO), Dr S K Miraduzzaman (MO), Tarulata Kalita (ANM), Mofida Begum (ANM), Rehana Ahmed (ANM), Moynal Hoque (CW), Zahangir Alom (CW), Azizur Hoque Balban (Lab Tech), Abdur Rohim Ali (Helper), Ahad Ali Mollah (Pharmacist), (Sitting left to right) Manoj Chowdhury (CW), Taleb Uddin (Boat Master), Kalu Das (Cook), Joydeep Chowdhury (Driver)



**Dhubri Unit II :** (Sitting left to right) : Rijuana Begum (ANM), Firoza Ahmed (ANM), Dr Nabakanta Das (MO), Dr Ayan Ch. Das (MO), Mehebab Alom Hazarika (DPO), Madhusudan Roy Pradhani (Lab Tech), Manirul Khan (Pharmacist), (Standing left to right) : Sambhu Prasad Bin (CW), Gabinda Baroi (Boat Master), Sudama Bin (CW), Abul Kalam Azad (Helper), Afzal Hoque (CW), Sanju Mondal (Cook), Samsul Hoque (Driver)



**Dibrugarh Unit :** (Sitting left to right) Nandita Kalita (ANM), Damayanti Das (ANM), Dr Juganta Kumar Deori (MO), Dr Bhaben Ch. Bora (MO), Siddhanath Gogoi ( Lab Tech), Rijumoni Deka (ANM), Standing left to right-Rakesh Doley (CW), Arup Kumar Saikia (DPO), Rajesh Yadav (CW), Promud Dutta (Cook), Kapilash Chaudhury (Boat Master), Shyam Yadav (Driver), Ramakant Yadav (CW), Apul Das (Pharmacist), Jibon Paul (Helper)



**Goalpara Unit :** (Sitting right to left) : Bandana Khound (DPO), Dr Affan Khan (MO), Dr Goutam Ch. Sarkar (MO), Ranshila Basumatary (ANM), Nathini Basumatary (ANM), (Standing right to left) Jehrul Islam (Helper), Saidul Islam (CW), Mannaf Ali (CW), Lokman Ali (CW), Akshay Barman (Lab Tech), Hasmat Ali (Pharmacist), Sohor Ali Mondal (Boat Master), Monowar Hussain (Helper), Samarendra Ghosh (Cook)



**Jorhat Unit :** From Left : Dr Debanga Hazariaka (MO), Sashi Pamegam (Boat Master), Bipul Payeng (Driver), Dipen Pegu(CW), Rahul Pamegam (Helper), Jitu Dutta (CW), Golap Gayan (Cook), Juli Phukan (ANM), Elizabeth Kom (GNM), Ritirekha Baruah Phukan (DPO), Rimpi Bordoloi (ANM), Jadumoni Hazarika (CW), Dr Jichan Phukan (MO), Achyot Jyoti Das (Lab Tech)



**Kamrup Unit :** From Left : Abdur Rahim (CW), Md. Safiqul Islam (Helper), Ritu Das (Cook), Padumi Kalita (ANM), Dr Prakash Barman (MO), Dr Gunajit Deka (MO), Md. Ziarul Islam(CW) Hiranya Deka (DPO), Md. Lalмамud Ali (CW), Jugal Goswami (Pharmacist), Dhanjit Das (Lab Tech), Md. Abu Sama (Boat Master), Farijul Haque (Driver)



**Lakhimpur Unit :** From Left : Dr Nayanmoni Rabha(MO), Pabin Boruah (Lab Tech), Arun Bhuyan (Driver), Dharmendra Teye (Pharmacist), Dr Queen Morang (MO), Lima Chutia (ANM), Minaram Tayung (CW), Dilip Borah (Cook), Tapan Borah(DPO), Ajit Tayung (CW), Prafulla Kalita (Boat Master), Krishna Hazarika(CW)



**Morigaon Unit :** From Left : Shyamjit Pashi (DPO), Ruplal Malo (Cook), Mofizuddin Ahmed (Pharmacist), Jiarul Islam (Helper), Didarul Islam (CW), Nasim Ahmed (Driver), Dolima Boro (ANM), Nirmola Nath (ANM), Dr Asrafal Islam (MO), Dr Krinalini Tanti (MO), Moidul Islam (Lab Tech), Allaluddin (CW), Mushal Uddin (CW), Sohor Uddin (Driver), Sofiqul Islam (Helper)



**Sonitpur Unit :** From Left : Susil Kr Nath (Cook), Pancham Payeng (Helper), Amzed Ali (Driver), Bhanumati Nath (ANM), Bidyabati Das (ANM), Kilipa Horo (ANM), Mousumi Duwarah (DPO), Nazibur Ali (Driver), Fulchand Ali (Pharmacist), Dr Gulam Ikbal Hussain (MO), Utpal Talukdar (Lab Tech), Indrajit Ghosh (CW), Mofidul Islam (CW), Podma Narah (Boat Master), Bidyut Nath (CW)

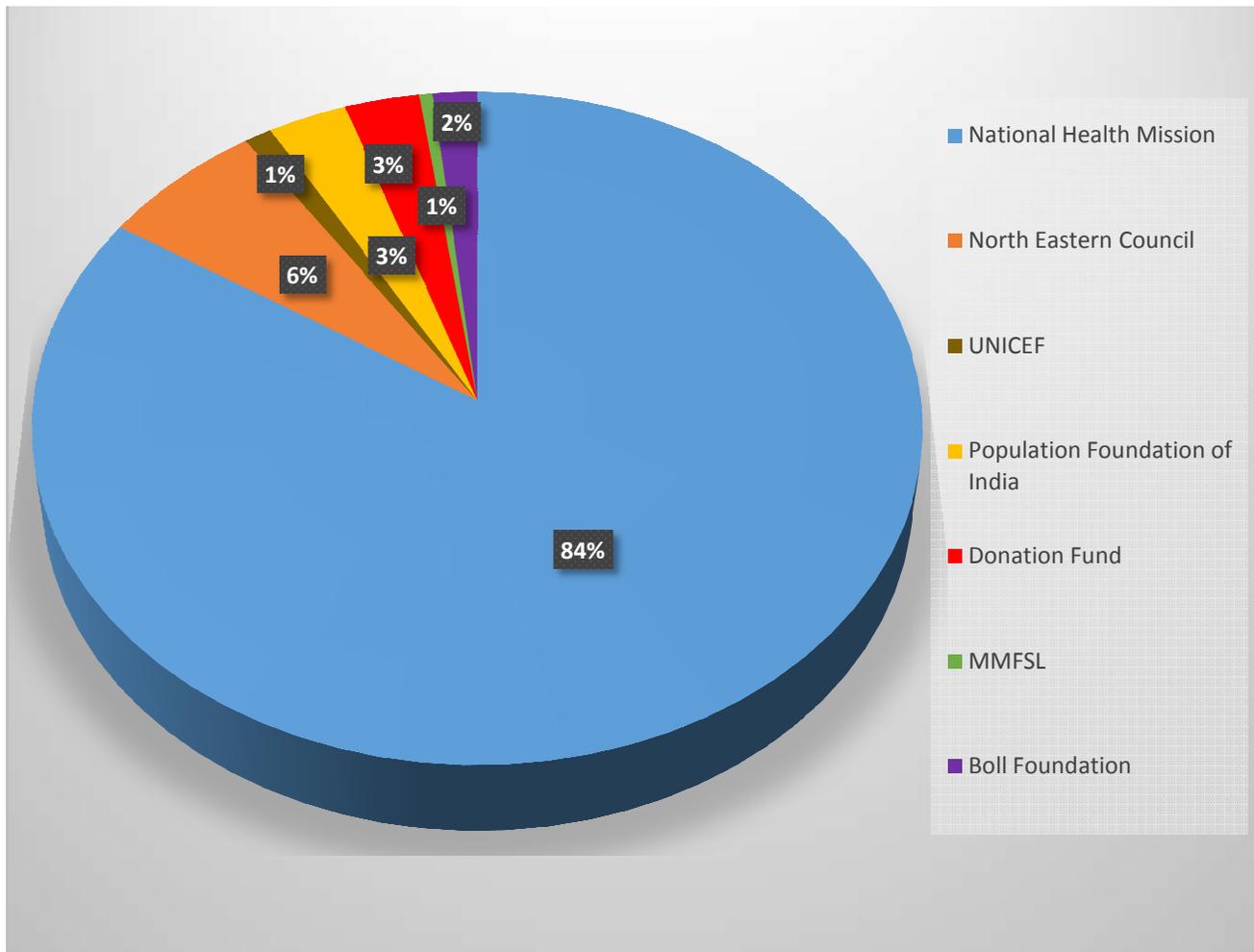


**Nalbari Unit :** From Left : Dr Rishikesh Koundinya (MO), Jaher Ali Ahmed (CW), Dr Bhumidhar Barman (MO), Ayub Ali (Cook), Sarifuddin Ahmed (CW), Chandana Baishya (Pharmacist), Nabiyur Rahman (CW), Sajib Kr Das (Lab Tech), Parvis Ahmed (DPO), Rebi Sultana (ANM), Deiji Ahmed (ANM)



**Tinsukia Unit :** From Left : Bhargab Baruah (DPO), Sibit Gogoi (Lab Tech), Dr Ankur Borah (MO), Diganta Neog (Pharmacist), Pulak Chutia (Cook), Indrakanta Saikia (Boat Master), Muari Yadav (Driver), Tara Devi (ANM), Kaushalya Tanti (GNM), Chandra Prava Talukdar (ANM), Durga Prashad (Helper), Dr. Ishan Phukon (MO) Behind the Camera

## Allocations and Sources of Fund (for the FY) 2015-16



## Audited Accounts

<b>CENTRE FOR NORTH EAST STUDIES AND POLICY RESEARCH</b>			
<b><u>BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH, 2016</u></b>			
<b>LIABILITIES</b>	<b>AMOUNT ₹</b>	<b>ASSETS</b>	<b>AMOUNT ₹</b>
<b><u>CORPUS FUND</u></b>		<b><u>FIXED ASSETS</u></b>	3,419,053
Opening Balance	24,883,248	(As per Schedule- I)	
Add: Capital Grant	5,250,000	Capital Work In Progress	22,776,128
Add: Surplus for the year	3,205,868		
Closing Balance	33,339,116	<b><u>PROJECT ASSETS</u></b>	
		(At nominal Value)	215
<b><u>CURRENT LIABILITIES</u></b>		<b><u>INVESTMENTS</u></b>	
Amount Payable	4,606	Fixed Deposits with Scheduled Banks	323,500
Expenses Payable	658,609	<b><u>CURRENT ASSETS, LOANS</u></b>	
TDS Payable	2,586	<b><u>&amp; ADVANCES</u></b>	
		Other Advances	1,232,519
		Security deposit for Rent	29,000
		TDS Recoverable	50,742
		Accrued Interest on FDR	56,932
		Advance for Boat Building	302,390
		Loans & Advances	44,113
		Cash in Hand	195,335
		Cash in Transit	35,994
		Balance with Scheduled Banks	5,538,996
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>34,004,917</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>34,004,917</b>

**AUDITOR'S REPORT**

As per our separate report of even date attached

For JAGDISH CHAND & CO.  
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

PRAVEEN KUMAR JAIN  
(PARTNER)  
M.No. 085629  
Firm Regn. No.-000129N



Place: New Delhi  
Dated : 28.09.2016

(MANAGING TRUSTEE)

For Centre For Northeast Studies  
And Policy Research

Sanjoy Hazarika  
Managing Trustee

**CENTRE FOR NORTH EAST STUDIES AND POLICY RESEARCH**  
**INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDING ON 31ST MARCH, 2016**

PARTICULARS	AMOUNT ₹	PARTICULARS	AMOUNT ₹
Accounting Charges	110,844	Grant - in - Aid	72,335,910
Audit Fees	113,928	Donation Received	4,113,510
Administrative Expenses	2,411,755	Fund from World Bank	1,784,000
Advertisement Expenses	13,650	Interest Received	299,607
Asha Incentives	380,850	Misc. Receipt	154,446
Medical Expense	645,048		
Bank charges	7,301		
Boat Expenditures	5,301,187		
Conveyance & Travelling Expenses	3,770,745		
Computer Maintenance	2,700		
Camera Rental	70,112		
Carriage charges	552,658		
Accommodation Expenses	45,328		
Mobility & Monitoring	464,506		
Newspaper & Periodicals	59,174		
Fuel Expenses	3,952,531		
Insurance Expenses	330,639		
Depreciation	456,492		
Consumable Expenses	10,105		
Editing Expenses	31,492		
Electricity & Water	134,403		
Repair & Maintenance	96,517		
Laboratory Reagents	628,301		
Printing & Stationery	527,901		
Postage & Telegrams	86,500		
Project, Seminars & Program Expenses	342,243		
Telephone & Internet Charges	333,754		
Rent Expenses	1,023,500		
Training Expenses	963,221		
Retainership, Professional & Consultancy Expenses	1,883,690		
Website Expenses	70,000		
Salary, Honorarium & Incentives	45,127,063		
Hire Charges	65,400		
Generator Expenses	303,848		
Incentive	365,117		
Development of BCC Package	52,664		
Other Expenses	28,142		
Annual Maintenance Charge	5,000		
Miscellaneous Expenses	70,411		
Instrument & Equipment	435,286		
Camp Expenses	107,835		
Food & Snacks Expenses	3,711,559		
Assets written off	159,187		
Meeting Expenses	229,018		
<b>Excess of Income over Expenditure</b>	<b>3,205,868</b>		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>78,687,473</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>78,687,473</b>

**AUDITOR'S REPORT**

As per our separate report of even date attached

For JAGDISH CHAND & CO.  
 CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

(PRAVEEN KUMAR JAIN)  
 PARTNER  
 M.No. 085629  
 Firm Regn. No.-000129N



Place: New Delhi  
 Dated : 28.09.2016

  
 (MANAGING TRUSTEE)  
 For Centre For Northeast Studies  
 And Policy Research  
 Sanjoy Hazarika  
 Managing Trustee

## Significant Accounting Policies :

### 1) Basis of Preparation of Financial Statements -

The Financial Statements comprising the Balance sheet and the Income and Expenditure account are prepared under the historical cost convention, on the Accrual Basis of accounting. The accounting policies adopted in the preparation of the statements are consistent with those followed in the previous year.

### 2) Donation / Grant -

Donation received is recognized as income when the donation is received, except where the terms and conditions require the donations to be utilized over a certain period. Such Donations are recorded under Income side in the Income and Expenditure Account.

Grants received with specific programs/activities are recognized as income when it is received and are recorded under Income side in the Income and Expenditure Account.

Grants received with a specific direction shall form part of the Corpus of the Trust are classified as Capital Grant, and are directly reflected under Corpus Fund in the Balance Sheet.

### 3) Fixed Assets -

Fixed assets are recorded at cost of acquisition including incidental costs related to acquisition and installation.

### 4) Depreciation -

Depreciation is charged on fixed assets on Written Down Value basis at the rates specified by the Income Tax Act, 1961.

### 5) Employee Benefits -

- a) Contribution towards the Employees Provident Fund is made on monthly basis with relevant Government authorities which is charged to Income and Expenditure A/c in the year to which it pertains.
- b) Medclaim and Accidental Insurance is provided which is charged to Income and Expenditure A/c.

## Board of Trustees

Dr. V A Pai Panandiker, **Chairman**  
Sanjoy Hazarika, **Managing Trustee**  
Preeti Gill, **Literary Agent, Independent Researcher & Editor**  
Niketu Iralu, **Social worker from Nagaland**  
Dr. Jayanta Madhab, **Economist**  
Patricia Mukhim, **Columnist, Social Activist and Editor Shillong Times**  
GK Pillai, **Former Union Home Secretary**  
Dr. Mahfuza Rahman, **Former Professor, Cotton College, Guwahati**

## Advisory Council

Dr. Jayanta Madhab, **Chairman**  
P.J Anthony, **Manager, The New York Times, New Delhi**  
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Jahnu Barua, **Film Maker, Guwahati, Mumbai**  
Jayanta Bhattacharya, **Chief of Bureau, Press Trust of India, Agartala, Tripura**  
Dilip Chandan, **Editor, Asom Bani, Guwahati**  
Ms Mamang Dai, **Writer, Arunachal Pradesh**  
Dengnuna, **Former Secretary, Govt.of Mizoram**  
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Arnab Goswami, **Times Television, Mumbai**  
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OP Jain, **Sanskriti Foundation, New Delhi**  
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Prof Udayon Misra, **ICSSR National Fellow, Guwahati**  
Dr.Bhagat Oinam, **Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi**  
Pradip Phanjoubam, **Editor, Imphal Free Press, Manipur**  
P D Rai, **Member of Parliament (Sikkim), Lok Sabha**  
Dr.Suman Sahai, **Gene Campaign, New Delhi**  
Dr.Sandi Syiem, **Psychiatrist and Director of San-Ker Rehabilitation Centre, Shillong**  
Dr Milan Baruah, **Marwari Maternity Hospital, Guwahati**

## C-NES Regional Office, Guwahati



**Ashok O Rao**  
Program Manager



**Dr C R Hira**  
Technical Consultant



**Manik Ch Barua**  
Asso. Program Manager



**Bhaswati K Goswami**  
Communications Officer



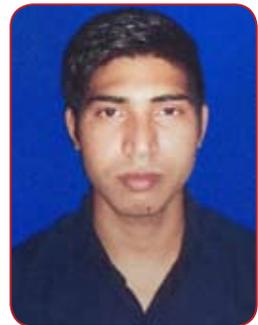
**Chandana Bora**  
State Advocacy & FPC



**Milan Nath**  
Accounts Manager



**Vicky Das**  
PFI Project Assistant



**Anup Kalita**  
Accounts Assistant



**Pinku Barman**  
Office Peon



**Nityananda Barman**  
Office Peon



**Dilip Deka**  
Office Driver



C-NES is registered under Section 80 G (5) (vi) of Income Tax Act 1961. Contributions to C-NES qualify for tax-exemption. The Trust is also registered under the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) by the Ministry of Home Affairs; vide their letter II/21022/83/ (102)/2003 dated 13.8. 2003. The FCRA registration number is 231660377, Category: Social.

**Support:**

The Centre invites funding from individuals, business and industry, government and philanthropic institutions for its corpus and activities. Details about how you can support C-NES can be obtained by writing to respective offices at Delhi and Guwahati.



CENTRE FOR NORTH EAST STUDIES  
& POLICY RESEARCH

# ANNUAL REPORT : 2015-2016

## Delhi Office:

Managing Trustee  
C-NES

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**Phone:** + 91-11-26271426(telefax), 46078532

**e-mail:** sanjoy@c-nes.org, c-nes@c-nes.org

## Regional Office:

C-NES

House No 25, Bhaskar Nagar, R. G. Barua Road, Guwahati 781021

**e-mail:** ashokraocnes@gmail.com, bhaswatigoswami@yahoo.co.in

Website: [www.c-nes.org](http://www.c-nes.org)