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# Annual Report

## 2016-2017

Centre for North East  
Studies & Policy Research





# **Annual Report : 2016-2017**



**Centre for North East Studies & Policy Research**





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## 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



The Boat Clinic programmes of C-NES and the organization itself continues to forge ahead with new partnerships and opportunities. The new collaborations have been enriching. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for collaboration was signed on 8th July, 2016 between Manipal University, Karnataka one of the top educational institutions of the country and C-NES. Dr Narayana Sabhahit, Registrar, Manipal University and I were the signatories of the MOU. This will enable us to hopefully move into capacity building as well as teaching modules in the health sector in Assam and the NE. The partnership with the Hyderabad based SaciWATERs, for a research project titled, 'Building Capacity of Civil-Society Organisations and Communities for Effective Engagement in Transboundary Decision-Making Process of Brahmaputra River' aims to build capacity of civil society organizations and their representative communities. This

is specifically aimed at women for effective engagement in transboundary decision-making process of Brahmaputra River. C-NES' partnership with the Belgium based Constellation, on a 1 year project on Impact assessment of SALT approach to increase immunizations coverage through community engagement, has been taken up in 30 villages of Bongaigaon district from February 2017. The project, being supported by International Initiative for Impact Evaluation (3IE) and funded by BMGF will be evaluated by PHFI & IIPH.

Our Brahmaputra Radio Station continues with excellent work. On 10th July, 2016, the radio station completed one year of formal broadcasting. Over the years, it has been a joy to see its growth. Staffed by a young and dedicated team and led by the committed and creative Bhaskar Bhuyan, BCRS has moved from first tentative steps to regular programming in Assamese, Mishing, Shadri and Bhojpuri. Over 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.

A book titled 'Women and Reproductive Health' based on a family planning intervention conducted by C-NES which graphically maps the health choices and challenges before women in the isolated island communities on the Brahmaputra River in Assam was released early this year. It was authored by Chandana Bora, the then state advocacy and family planning coordinator, C-NES-PFI project and Dr. CR Hira, Technical Consultant, C-NES released by Dr. Poonam Muttreja, Executive Director, PFI,

Assam's Maternal Mortality ratio, though improved over 10 years, remains India's worst at 300 per 100,000 deliveries. The state is the worst performer, says the Sample Registration System (SRS), 2013 reports published by Registrar General of India, also in the Infant Mortality Ratio. We have a long way to go. There can be no relaxation in the commitment to improving access to healthcare to vulnerable groups, especially women and children in our Boat Clinic 13 districts (two districts, Barpeta and Dhubri, given the size of their population have two units each). There are more than 200 staff members, including 30 doctors, 45 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.

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. Most boats need at least a basic three to four feet (one to 1.3 meters) depth of water level in the dry season to be fully mobile and consequently to reach communities. 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. Till 31st March 2017, over 2.12 million (21 lakh) numbers of basic health services have been provided over the past 10 years of work. Every year, we handle not less than 400,000 cases of patients needing care and succor.

As in the previous years this year too our work, through the Boat Clinics have been covered extensively in the local and international media. We have had visitors like Sir Mark Tully, the legendary BBC correspondent and former Bureau Chief of BBC, New Delhi, India along with renowned writer Gillian Wright and Dr. Henk Bekedam, the World Health Organization (WHO) Representative to India visiting the Clinics. And the good word spreads. Reading about the Boat Clinics in an online magazine, philanthropist, Almitra Patel, based at Bengaluru, a member of the Supreme Court committee for Solid waste management has donated solar lamps to light up remote villages in the Brahmaputra river islands in Assam, appreciating the innovative health outreach work in the Brahmaputra islands. The Bengaluru based SELCO Foundation has proposed to take up Jorhat Boat Clinic as a pilot project for installation of solar power to cater to the entire need of the boat and the health service delivery 24x7 including power to run the dental unit on board. The system will also include a 50 ltrs solar Surechill refrigerator to store vaccines.

I wish to express my deep gratitude to each member of my team in C-NES led by Ashok Rao and the PMU as well as the programme staff at the district level, the research units, the office staff. Our accounting unit regularly trains our staff in financial procedures.

I particularly wished to thank the Department of Health, Government of Assam, The Minister of Health Dr. Himata Biswa Sarma, State Chief Secretary VK Pipersenia, Mr Sameer Singha, Principal Secretary (Health), Dr. J.V.N Subramanyam NHM's Mission Director and colleagues in Assam, who have been a source of strength and support.

Our Auditors, Jagdish Chand & Co ensured the accounts are in order. The Board of Trustees under the chair of Dr. V A Pai Panandiker, Chairman 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. We have regular trust meetings where key decisions are taken. The last meeting was held in Delhi on 21st February 2017 attended by Trustees Dr. Panandiker, Dr. Jayanta Madhab, G.K.Pillai, Patricia Mukhim and Preeti Gill along with Programme Manager Ashok Rao and I.

We hope our work will continue to expand in other areas of the North East, beyond the Boat Clinics and the BCRS which remain both show pieces and flagship of C-NES. We ask for your support and good wishes

Sanjoy Hazarika





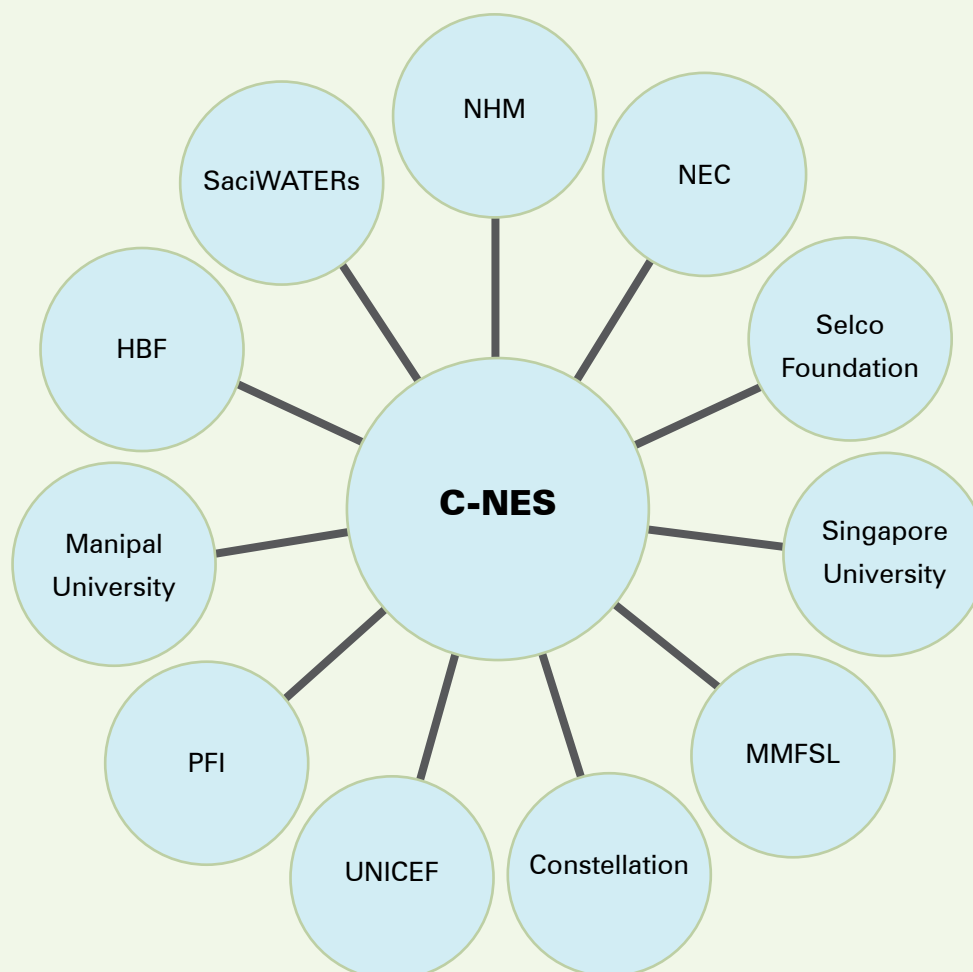
Figure 1



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

Figure 2

### C-NES Partnerships



### 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  
NEC-North Eastern Council  
MMFSL-Mahindra & Mahindra Finance & Services Ltd.

## Health Initiative: Boat Clinics with NHM

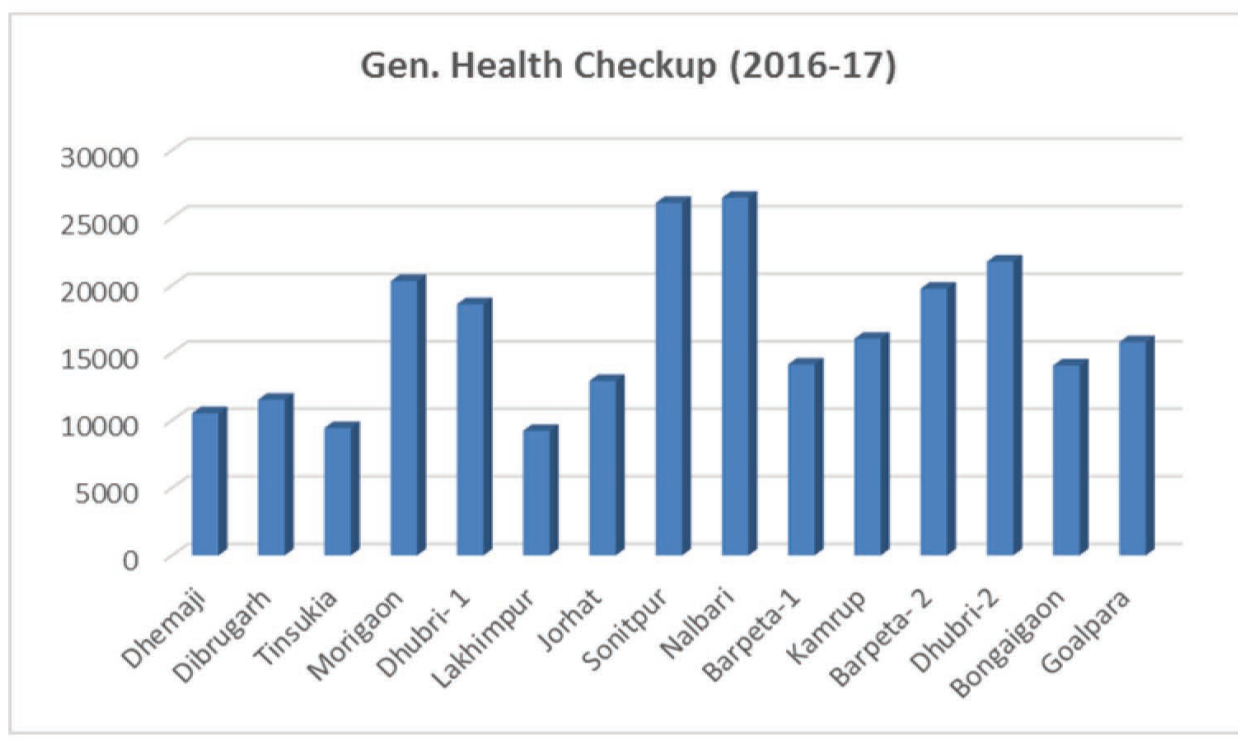
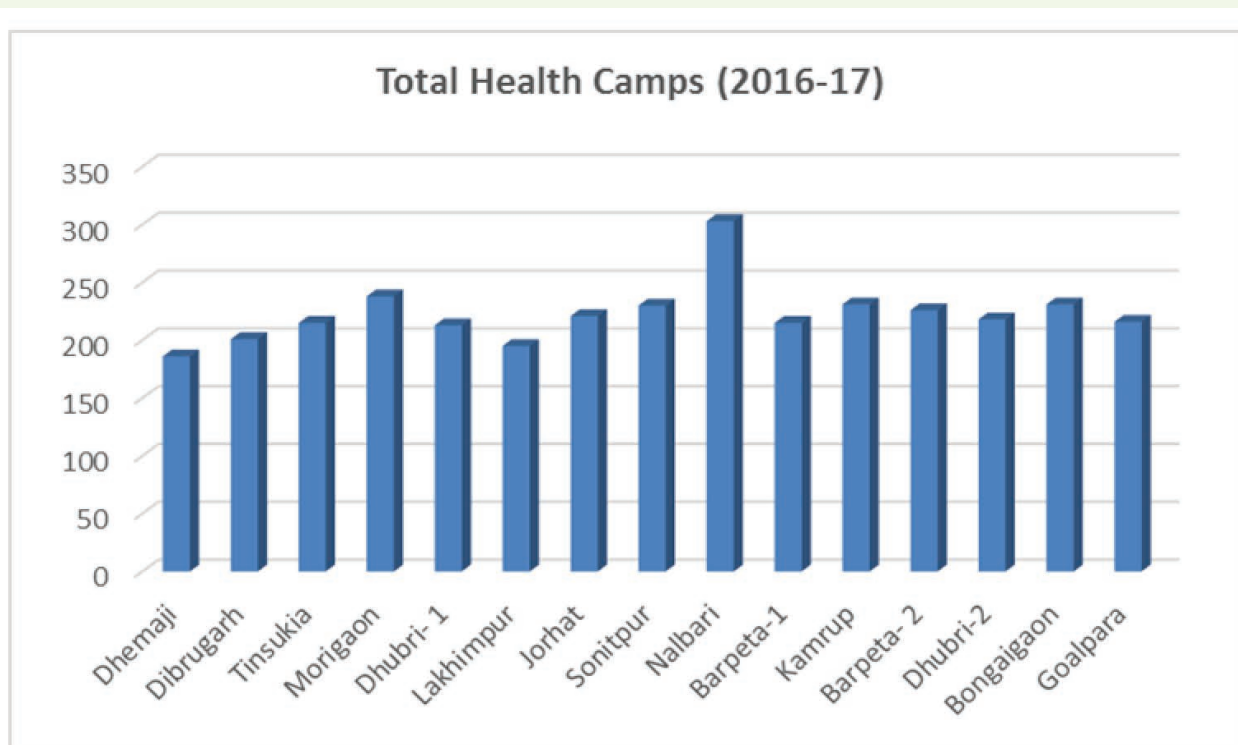
Since 2005, C-NES has been providing basic health care services to the flood vulnerable population living in the Brahmaputra islands, through specially developed boats equipped with OPD, laboratories on board as well as pharmacies, first to one, then three and now reach thirteen districts in Assam through 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. Assam has India's worst Maternal Mortality Rate at 328 MMR (Registrar General of India, Special Bulletin on Maternal Mortality in India 2010-12) higher than Bihar or Uttar Pradesh and a high Infant Mortality Rate at 54 IMR.

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.

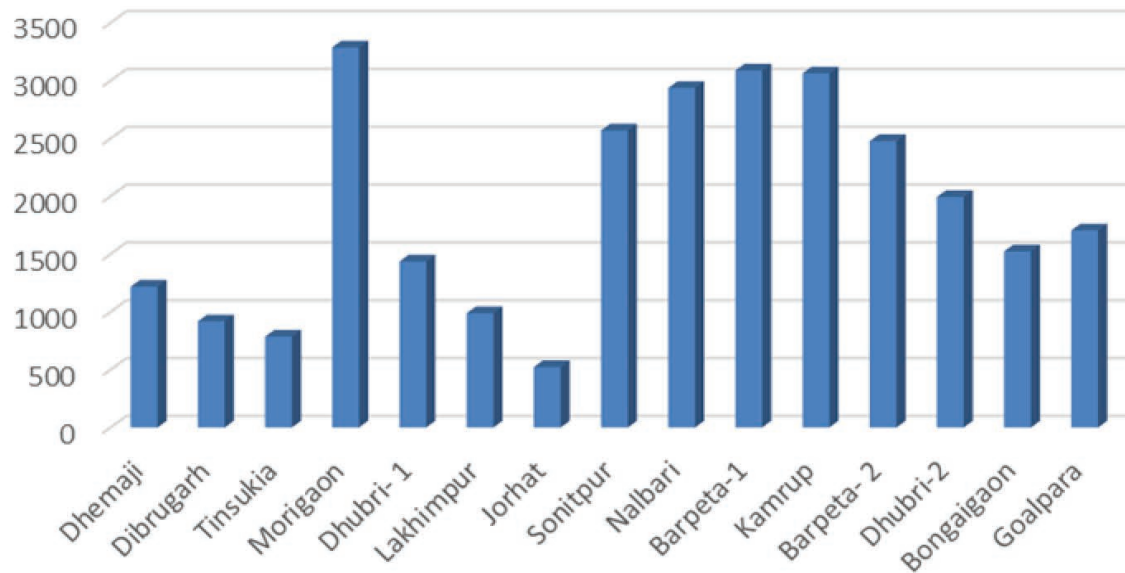


## Boat Clinic Figures

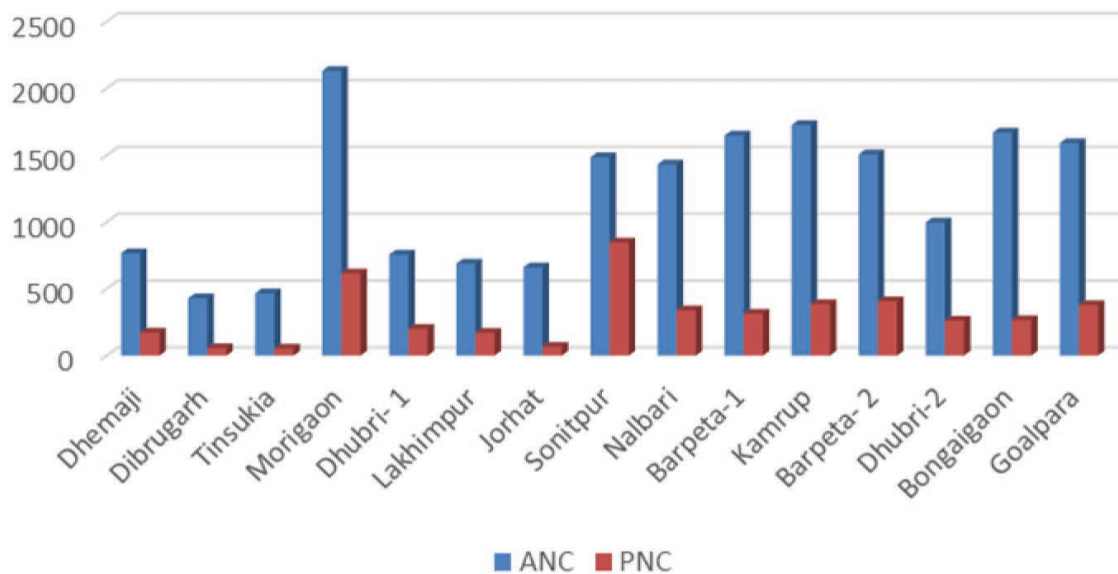




### Routine Immunization (2016-17)

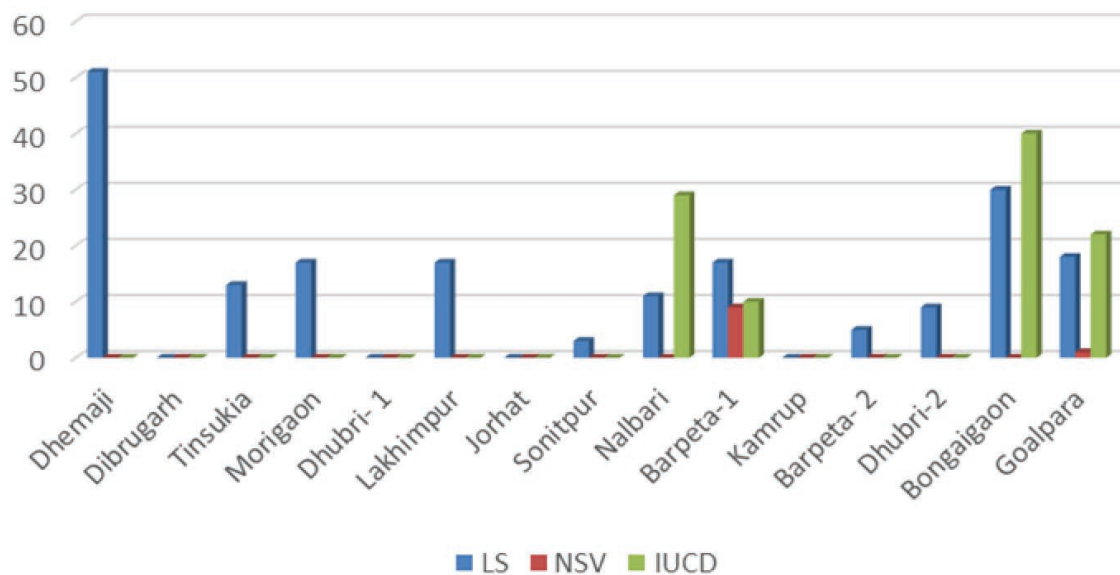


### ANC & PNC (2016-17)

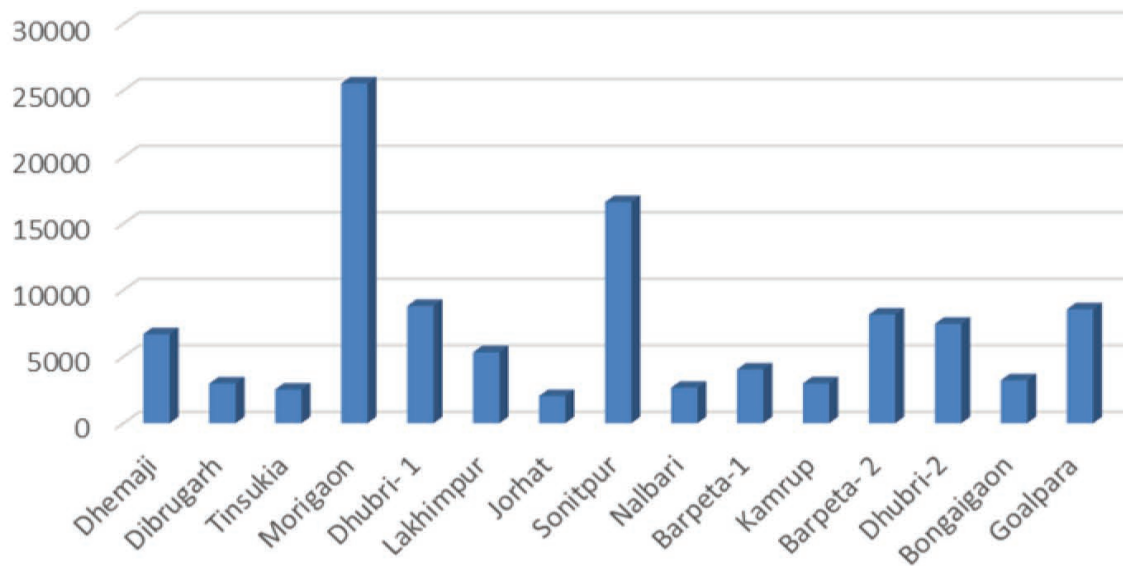




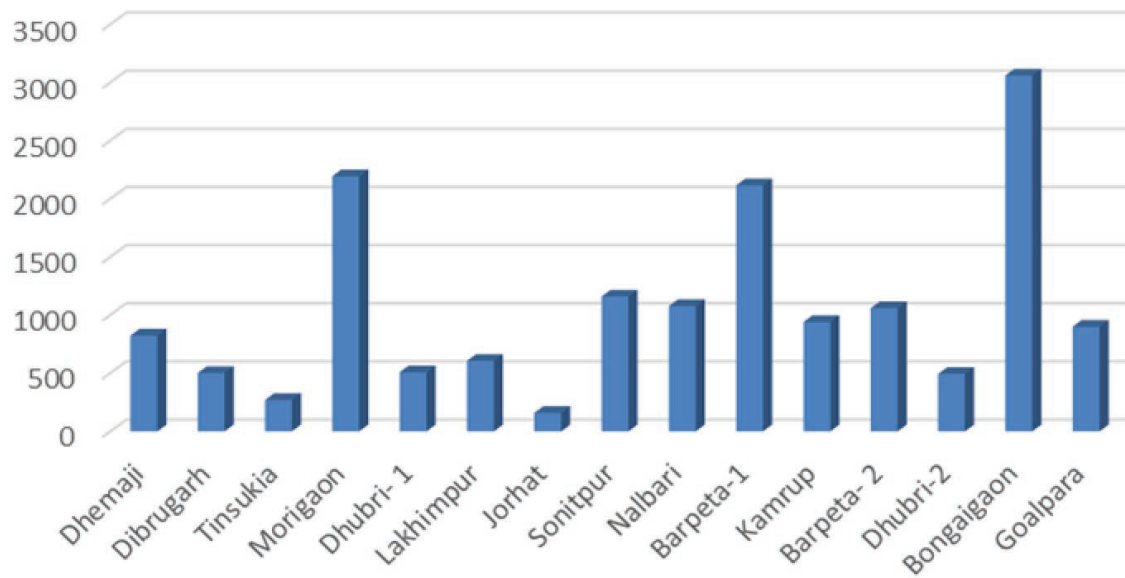
### Family Planning Adoption (2016-17)



### FP Condom & OCP (2016-17)



**Vitamin A (2016-17)**



## Solar Lights for Island Villages

Thanks to a philanthropist, remote villages in the Brahmaputra river islands in Assam will soon be lit up with solar street lights. The donor, Almitra Patel, based at Bengaluru is a member of the Supreme Court committee for Solid Waste Management for Class 1 cities, Technical Expert, Swachh Bharat Mission, Government of India, Clean Jharkhand Project and Ganga ICDP Kanpur. She felt the need of the communities inhabiting the islands while reading an article on the Boat Clinics written by Devjyot Ghosal in the Quartz India online magazine and appreciated C-NES' innovative health outreach work in the Brahmaputra islands. 339 Solar Street Lights (SSLs) are being donated in three batches. The first batch was for four mid Assam districts (Sonitpur, Morigaon, Nalbari, Kamrup) where 111 SSLs were installed. The second batch was for 5 upper Assam districts (Tinsukia, Dibrugarh, Dhemaji, Lakhimpur and Jorhat) where 92 SSLs were installed.



Training of community workers at Guwahati by master trainers after their training at Thrive Company, Hyderabad



Solar lights being fitted at a river island village in lower Assam's Nalbari district

## On Call. At Midnight

11th June 2016: After a long, strenuous trip to remote Tinsukia districts Amarpur sapor, the boat clinic Tinsukia unit stopped for a night halt at Mohmora. It was 11 pm, a tired team was retiring for the night. Suddenly voices were heard near the river bank. I went outside and saw a group of people trying to tell us something with a sense of urgency. An elderly woman came to me and informed that her daughter had delivered a baby at home a few hours ago. There were complications. I quickly informed the Medical Officer Dr. Ankur about the patient. Immediately preparing the essentials and medicines we proceeded to her place. K.Tanti (GNM), Tara (ANM), Chandra (ANM), Murari yadav (Boat driver) and Durga Prasad (boat helper) accompanied us. Access was difficult, we had to cross a river on a small boat and then walk for almost 30 minutes wading through knee high water and slush as the village was really hard hit by recent floods. It was past midnight. After reaching the house we got to know that this was an unregistered case. Later the ASHA informed us that the family did not let the woman come for antenatal checkups inspite of regular visits by her. The M.O and GNM were able to successfully handle the case in the most challenging conditions. By the time we were ready to come back to the boat it was 3.15 am. But we were happy that the condition of the mother and child were stable and the mother had started nursing the baby. The M.O asked the family members to take the mother and the infant to the nearest hospital at the earliest.

Bhargav Baruah

DPO, Tinsukia Boat Clinic Unit



The Sonitpur Boat Clinic team rescued a deer from the sweeping flood waters in July 2016. It was subsequently handed over to the Department of Forest. The work of the Boat Clinics go beyond just delivering basic health care





Veteran Boat Builder from upper Assam Kamal Gurung who has built most of C-NES' Boats including the first Boat Clinic Akha which services Dibrugarh district, at C-NES regional office ,Guwahati. From left Hiranya Deka, DPO Kamrup, Ashok Rao, Programme Manager, Bhaswati Goswami, Communications Officer, Kamal Gurung and Manik Boruah, APM,C-NES



A team from World Health Organization – India led by Dr Debashish Roy Regional Team Leader, East visited the C-NES regional office Guwahati on May 2016 to understand the concept and functioning of the Boat Clinic health intervention. (From left) Manik Boruah, APM, Bhaswati Goswami, Communications officer, Ashok Rao, Programme Manager,C-NES with Dr Roy (second from right) and Dr K Deka from WHO



## 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. Follows the detail and links to media coverage during the period :

- Devjyot Ghosal, roving editor at Quartz, covered Boat Clinic Akha as he joined the Dibrugarh Boat Clinic team for a health camp in June 2016. The links follows:

<http://qz.com/729857/on-one-of-the-worlds-largest-rivers-floating-clinics-bring-doctors-and-medicines-to-millions/>

<http://www.firstpost.com/living/in-flood-hit-assam-dedicated-boat-clinics-help-to-keep-hope-good-health-afloat-2963836.html>

<http://m.timesofindia.com/city/guwahati/Radio-station-plays-Good-Samaritan-in-upper-Assam/articleshow/53425937.cms> (On C-NES' Community Radio Station)

<http://qz.com/758984/in-photos-life-on-assams-shifting-islands/> (A photo story by Devjyot Ghosal, on flooding in the river islands)

- An essay from ourstories.org where CNES has been quoted: <http://www.ourstories.org.in/special-series/3290/>

- <http://www.inuth.com/india/north-east-india/find-out-how-vessel-of-hope-or-the-floating-hospitals-are-helping-people-in-assam/>

(The Indian Express Group has launched inUth.com (in beta), a video-first, multi-platform digital destination for Indian millennials, on October 9.)

- Sir Mark Tully's column on Hindustan Times published on March 5th 2017. The link below : <http://www.hindustantimes.com/columns/to-change-india-we-need-a-state-ngo-collaboration/story-7qnMxnsszPVhP5lEnFpsCL.html>

- Anjali Paul pursuing her M.A.Development from Bengaluru's Azim Premji University interned with C-NES during May/June 2016. The link to her articles published in journals on the riverine islanders in Assam, based on her experiences during the six week internship follow: [http://www.esocialsciences.org/Articles/show\\_Article.aspx?qs=+30QEbn3Sin1XnvhkfnzXVMpYu7w83gG7XAQhjbRJx5JvXK7N5iWCi/2rwY2lAl+6oxpsYPCEUch+l7qcM7DA==](http://www.esocialsciences.org/Articles/show_Article.aspx?qs=+30QEbn3Sin1XnvhkfnzXVMpYu7w83gG7XAQhjbRJx5JvXK7N5iWCi/2rwY2lAl+6oxpsYPCEUch+l7qcM7DA==)  
<http://www.internationalhealthpolicies.org/driven-by-passion-c-ness-boat-clinic-crew-in-north-east-india/>

[http://www.ideasforindia.in/article.aspx?article\\_id=1811](http://www.ideasforindia.in/article.aspx?article_id=1811)

## Boat Clinic in Canada based documentary

DBcom Media from Montreal, Canada covered the Boat Clinic Jorhat unit in December 2016 as part of The Island Diaries, a documentary series about island life around the world. Each episode of the series focuses on a different island and feature interviews with locals about what makes their island unique. They covered the islands, the health camp, the health workers and the beneficiaries



Shooting with the Boat Clinic as backdrop



A group photograph of the Jorhat Boat Clinic team and the visiting media group with the Boat Clinic Nahor and the mighty Brahmaputra beyond as backdrop

## Workshops/ Events

### C-NES-CHRI Workshop

In collaboration with C-NES, the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI) organized an interaction with senior representatives of print and electronic media from across the region on Right to Information Act (RTI) in Guwahati on 5th December 2016. The effort was to bring media persons into the RTI framework and to examine the impact and the nature of the challenges before the use of the Act, especially in the North-east. CHRI is committed to developing RTI as a tool by the media, use it to enable greater professionalism among journalists and help to press overall for greater transparency and governance. The media representatives agreed to promote awareness and the strategic use of RTI in the Northeastern states together with CHRI.

The welcome, introduction and overview of the objectives of the workshop were delivered by Sanjoy Hazarika, Director, CHRI while the keynote was given by H S Das, Assam Chief Information Commissioner. One of the pioneers of RTI, Venkatesh Nayak of CHRI made a presentation on RTI and how it become a tool for better, more professional media work. Senior journalist Samudra Gupta Kashyap, spoke on "Using RTI: a journalist's story" followed by open discussion focusing on challenges before journalists, RTI experiences from the field and how journalists are using RTI. There were over 40 participants at the interactive work shop including journalists from both the print and electronic media from the region



(From left) Gangotri Hazarika Nath ,Project Officer,CHRI, Venkatesh Nayak of CHRI Mr. HS Das, Assam Chief Information Commissioner, Sanjoy Hazarika, Director, CHRI and senior journalist Samudra Gupta Kashyap





Participants at the RTI workshop

### Workshop on Health and Nutrition

A workshop on Training on Adolescence Health and Nutrition was held at Guwahati on 6th and 7th June 2016. Priakshi Borkakoti, State Consultant Nutrition, NHM Assam and Sikha Borthakur, State BCC Expert, NHM Assam were the resource persons at the workshop which was attended by 20 participants comprising of 10 ANMs, 4 Family Planning Counsellors an equal number of the PFI-C-NES intervened districts (Dhuburi, Morigaon, Barpeta, Bongaigaon and Sonitpur) along with members from the C-NES regional office at Guwahati. Sanjoy Hazarika, Managing Trustee, C-NES shared his thoughts with the participants appreciating the challenging work they do on the field.



A group photograph of the participants

## Mobilizing the Unreached

A state level workshop “Mobilizing the Unreached” was organized by C-NES at Guwahati on 25th January 2017. Dr. Poonam Muttreja, Executive Director, PFI, New Delhi, Dr. Bamin Tada, Director RRC, Guwahati, Sameer Sinha (IAS) Commissioner & Secretary, Health and Family Welfare Department, Govt of Assam along with Sanjoy Hazarika, Managing Trustee, C-NES, were present on the occasion among others.

A book which graphically maps the health choices and challenges before women in the isolated island communities on the Brahmaputra River in Assam was released on the occasion. Authored by Chandana Bora, State Advocacy and Family Planning Coordinator, C-NES-PFI project and Dr CR Hira, Technical consultant, C-NES the book titled ‘Women and Reproductive Health’ looks at the health concerns facing by women in the char/ sapor (island in Assamese) areas. The book is based on a family planning intervention that addressed gender exclusion in nine districts, conducted by C-NES.



Book release “River Islands of the Brahmaputra- Women and Reproductive health” ( from left) Dr Jayanta Madhab, noted Economist and C-NES Trustee, Sanjoy Hazarika, Managing Trustee, C-NES, Dr. Poonam Muttreja, Executive Director, Population foundation of India (PFI), New Delhi; Chandana Bora, State Advocacy and Family Planning Coordinator, C-NES –PFI project ,Dr. Ilias Ali, Surgeon, GMCH & Nodal officer , NSV, Govt of Assam; Dr C R Hira , Technical Consultant, C-NES



(From left) Sanjoy Hazarika, Managing Trustee, C-NES, Dr. Poonam Muttreja, Executive Director, PFI, New Delhi, Dr. Bamin Tada, Director RRC, Guwahati, Sameer Sinha (IAS) Commissioner & Secretary, Health and Family Welfare Department, Govt of Assam during the workshop



## Screening of Rambuai

Rambuai, Mizoram's Trouble Years' a film by C-NES Managing Trustee Sanjoy Hazarika and Trustee Preeti Gill premiered on October 20, 2016 at the Royal Group of Institutions, Betkuchi, Guwahati to a packed hall. The film was screened as part of the River Talks – North East literary Festival organized by the Royal group of Institutions and North East Writers' Forum. Post screening followed an energetic round of question and answers. Maulee Senapati is the Director (Technical) of the film. This is the fourth documentary that he and Hazarika have collaborated on in the past 10 years: Children of the River, the Xihus of Assam; A Measure of Impunity and Where there are No Roads. The film has been supported by the Heinrich Boll Stiftung (HBF), New Delhi, which focuses on thematic areas such as climate, resources, gender in socio-economic policy, democratic governance, India as a global actor and promotes national and international dialogue processes with a view to enhance the diversity of green thinking.

The film 'Rambuai' looks not just at the years of conflict and disturbances in this beautiful pocket of India, but also at the transition in mind-sets that has enabled peaceful change to endure, the resolve that drove the Indian State, and the challenges that remain.



Post screening followed an energetic round of question and answers with the Producers Sanjoy Hazarika, Preeti Gill and Maulee Senapati, Director (Technical) of the film.



A section of the audience at the screening

## Collaborations and Partnerships

### C-NES – Manipal University Collaboration

A memorandum of understanding (MOU) for collaboration was signed on 8th July, 2016 between Manipal University, Karnataka and C-NES. Manipal University is a leading university with extensive technical and professional expertise. Being a well-established renowned Center of Excellence in education, health, research and innovation, the University has shown its capacity to strengthen likeminded institution in similar fields. The proposed collaboration will provide opportunity to Manipal University the scope to take up research/ study activities in a number of areas involving different communities, regions, ecology, health, culture, demography and environment. Research and analysis on areas of mutual concern can help in advocacy and policy decisions for C-NES as also the state and central planners for better planning implementation of developmental and health programs. The collaboration will provide emphasis to reciprocal relationship between science and society by working together to further grass root understanding and promote mutual benefit. Sanjoy Hazarika, Managing Trustee, C-NES and Dr Narayana Sabhahit, Registrar, Manipal University were the signatories of the MOU.



### C-NES- SaciWATERs



Mishing and Deori communities live in stilt houses locally called Chang Ghar to protect themselves from floods and other natural calamities.

C-NES and Hyderabad based SaciWATERs, have signed an MOU in November 2016 for a cooperative engagement in a research project titled, 'Building Capacity of Civil-Society Organisations and Communities for Effective Engagement in Transboundary Decision-Making Process of Brahmaputra River.' The aim of this project is to build capacity of civil society organizations and their representative communities, specifically women for effective engagement in transboundary decision-making process of Brahmaputra River. It aims to create a platform to discuss the issues, challenges, and opportunities towards improved co-management of the river basin. The project started as a bilateral dialogue between India and Bangladesh and eventually evolved into a multi-lateral dialogue forum with the inclusion of Bhutan and China.





Interactive Session (FGD) with Deori community women folk. On the extreme right (standing) is Farzia Yashmeen Research Associate of the project



Traditional offering to guests: Betel nut and Haritaki a symbol of unity and respect in every household in Assam whether it is locals or tribes.

## C-NES and Constellation

Constellation, a registered not for profit organization with its head office in Belgium through their Indian partner Samraksha have entered into a one year partnership with C-NES from February 2017 to work together on a project titled “Impact assessment of the SALT ( Stimulate, Appreciate, Learn and Transfer) approach of community engagement to increase immunizations coverage through ownership - a mixed methods study in Assam”. The SALT approach of community engagement initiated by Constellation has been widely appreciated and used by different organizations globally. C-NES had been given the responsibility to conduct the project in 30 villages of Bongaigaon district while Voluntary Health Association of Assam (VHAA) have been given Kamrup (Rural) and Udalguri districts. The Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI) and Indian Institute of Public Health (IIPH) Shillong with support from International Initiative for Impact Evaluation will evaluate and conduct impact assessment for the project and the SALT approach. The partnership’s main objective is to improve children’s health via increased immunization uptake.



The Co-founder of Constellation, Jean Louis Lamboray (right) was present at a workshop organized by C-NES with Constellation and VHAA at Guwahati on 27th and 28th March 2017. Lamboray shared his recent book “What makes us Human” and actively interacted with the participants. Rituu Nanda, the Share Facilitator was present. A field visit to Rajapanichanda village at Rani in Kamrup district was organized as part of the workshop.



A short play on positive counseling, on the SALT approach as part of the workshop. Sitting (left) is Rituu Nanda, Share Facilitator, Constellation.

## C-NES Visitors

### WHO India Representative Visits Boat Clinic

Dr. Henk Bekedam, the World Health Organization (WHO) Representative to India accompanied by a team from WHO India including Dr. Debashish Roy, Regional Team Leader, East and officials of Health Department, Govt of Assam, visited a Boat Clinic health camp on 5th October 2016. The camp was held at Bhokuamari Char/island under Chhaygaon Block of Kamrup (Rural) district. Dr. Bekedam observed different aspects of health camp and also interacted with the local ASHAs, village headman and others. Follows his comments in the Visitors Book, "It was a wonderful experience where I saw that the camp did not only bring hope but also very effective health services to a community which is by and large migratory. For the health to improve we need to get quality service closer to the people. The "Ships of Hope" are exactly doing this. Congratulations! Well done!"



Dr. Bekedam and Dr. Debashish Roy observe Dhanjit Das, Lab Technician, Kamrup Boat Clinic, conduct tests at the health camp



A group photograph of the WHO team with the C-NES health team

### SELCO team visits Boat Clinic

A team from SELCO India led by the CEO Harish Hande visited a regular boat clinic camp conducted by the Kamrup Boat Clinic team on 3rd November 2016. Programme Manager Ashok Rao and Communications Officer Bhaswati Goswami accompanied the visitors. The camp was held at Bhokuamari Char/island under Chhaygaon Block of Kamrup (Rural) district. The team observed the work of the Boat Clinic and interacted with Boat Clinic team, ASHAs and with the villagers. It may be mentioned that SELCO Foundation has donated



a 50 ltrs solar ILR to be used for the Tinsukia Boat Clinic Unit. Officials from SELCO also visited Jorhat Boat Clinic in July 2016 to make an assessment of the solar power requirement. Based on the assessment SELCO has accordingly taken up the Jorhat Boat Clinic as a pilot project for its solar requirement .



A group photograph on board with the visitors from SELCO



The visitors with the health team at the camp site



## Boll Foundation Team

A Team from the German Boll Foundation led by Dr. Axel Harneit-Sievers Country Director, India visited a Boat Clinic health camp conducted by the Kamrup Unit on 8th November 2016. Dr CR Hira, Technical Consultant and Bhaswati Goswami, Communications Officer from C-NES Guwahati office accompanied the team to camp. The camp was held at Balagaon under Chhaygaon Block in Kamrup(rural)district of lower Assam. With the onset of winter and subsiding water level, it was a short boat ride. The Community workers from the team first gave an awareness session to the villagers on the importance of hand washing with a demonstration. Most health camps commence with such an awareness session followed by the regular health check ups.

“It is a most inspiring and beautiful opportunity to be here. Your work, the island, the people and last but not the least the food we truly enjoyed it and we learnt a lot about Assam today” said Dr. Axel Harneit-Sievers after his visit.



Sadia Sohail, Program Co-ordinator, Bhaswati Goswami, Chok Tsering, Programme Coordinator, Babara Harneit-Sievers, Dr. Axel Harneit-Sievers, Country Director, Heinrich Böll Stiftung, New Delhi and Dr C Hira about to board the Boat Clinic



A team comprising twenty eight students and four faculty members from Tezpur University's Department of Social Work visited the Sonitpur Boat Clinic Unit to see the work of the health team and how health care is delivered to remote islands which lack any infrastructure..

## Sir Mark Tully, Gillian Wright visits Boat Clinic

Sir Mark Tully, the legendary BBC correspondent and former Bureau Chief of BBC, New Delhi., India along with renowned writer Gillian Wright visited a Kamrup Boat Clinic conducted health camp on the 25th of February 2017 at Laheswari island village with a population of 998. "I am delighted to have seen the excellent work you are all doing which clearly means so much for the patients who gather in large number wherever you land. This is a unique service but which could serve as a benchmark for the government of how with courage, initiative and enthusiasm it is possible to deliver essential services with genuine care which is so clearly appreciated" wrote Sir Mark on the visitors book



The visitors settle down in the boat lobby before as it sails out. From left, Kamrup Boat Clinic Medical Officer(MO) Dr Gunajit Deka, Dr CR Hira Tech Consultant, Gillian Wright, Sir Mark Tully, Bhaswati Goswami, Communications Officer, Hiranya Deka, District Programme Officer(DPO) and MO Dr Prakash Barman



A group photograph of the visitors with the Kamrup Boat Clinic Unit



## C-NES Participation

### TISS Capacity Building Workshop

Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) has set up a 'National CSR Hub' to support Public Sector Enterprises (PSEs) for developing Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) management capacity. Bhaswati Goswami, Communications Officer, C-NES attended a regional capacity building workshop "Preparing for CSR Partnerships for empaneled partners of TISS" at New Delhi's India Habitat Centre on 25th and 26th April 2016. She introduced C-NES and the organization's flagship programme, the Boat Clinics servicing remote Brahmaputra river islands with basic health facilities in Assam and appreciated OIL, NRL Refinery, SBI and others for reaching out to C-NES through their proactive CSR policy. The workshop focussed on enhancement of knowledge and skills for fund raising, robust governance and organizational systems, financial management mechanisms, documentation and hand holding on proposal writing and building effective partnerships with donors and funder agencies.



Group photograph of participants at the TISS CSR workshop

### Brahmaputra Knowledge Exchange, Itanagar

SaciWATERS in association with C-NES, IIT, Guwahati and Water Resources Department, Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh conducted a three day workshop on Brahmaputra Knowledge Exchange under the project- "Building Capacity of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and Communities for Effective Engagement in



The participants were given a field trip to Gerukamukh Lower Subansiri Hydro-Electric project site to get an idea about the controversial dam and which is being opposed by various groups of Assam. The team had an informal interaction with the NHPC official at the premise of its guest house.

Trans boundary Decision-Making process of the Brahmaputra River” at Itanagar from 20th November to 22nd November 2016. C-NES’ Programme Manager Ashok Rao and Associate Programme Manager, Manik Ch. Boruah participated in the workshop where the latter presented a paper” The Brahmaputra: Issues and Challenges- a holistic approach to resolve/address the problems through experiences and observations” The objective of the workshop was to translate scientific and technical information on the Brahmaputra into common and shared understanding about the river and bridge knowledge gap on science, policies and common perceptions about the river.



Manik Ch. Boruah making his presentation

### National Workshop on Brahmaputra Basin: A Report

C-NES’ Programme Manager, Ashok Rao, APM, Manik Ch. Boruah, State Advocacy & Family Planning Coordinator, Chandana Bora and Technical Consultant, Dr. C. R. Hira attended a one day country level workshop on Trans boundary Policy Dialogue for Improved Governance of Brahmaputra River Basin on 12th August 2016 at the Hotel Radisson Blu, Guwahati. The workshop was organized by the South Asia Consortium for Interdisciplinary Water Resources Studies, SaciWATERS in association with the Department of Humanities, IITG and C-NES. The workshop was attended by members of civil society, officials and



A group photograph at the workshop



experts from Arunachal and Assam. Special Secretary to the Water Resources Ministry, Gol, Amarjit Singh was present and made a presentation on the Brahmaputra. On behalf of C-NES, Ashok Rao and Manik Boruah shared their experiences while working on Brahmaputra through the Boat Clinic services and spoke on relevant issues of concern including the proposed dams planned in Arunachal, India and in Tibet by China. DPOs Arup Saikia from Dibrugarh Boat Clinic Unit, Mehebub Hazarika from Dhubri Unit II and Swapna Das from Barpeta Unit II also attended the workshop.

### C-NES at TISS (CSR) Workshop

The fourth regional capacity building workshop “Preparing for CSR Partnerships” for development partners of TISS North East Zone, was held at Guwahati, Assam 28th and 29th November, 2016. Dr CR Hira, Technical Consultant and Bhaswati Goswami, Communications Officer, C-NES attended the workshop. Bhaswati Goswami was a panelist at the panel discussion, “Why CSR? What CSR? How CSR?’. The session was moderated by Rohan Sarma Head, Empanelment Committee, National CSR Hub. At the group activity session, Dr Hira mentored the group working on Health and Sanitation along with Bhaswati Goswami .



Communications Officer Bhaswati Goswami(extreme right ) at the panel discussion



C-NES' book " Boat Clinics of the Brahmaputra " co-edited by Prof Sanjoy Hazarika, Managing Trustee and Bhaswati Goswami was presented to the panelists and members and faculty of TISS.



## Brahmaputra Community Radio Station

C-NES' Brahmaputra Community Radio Station, popularly known as Radio Brahmaputra is based at Dibrugarh, very close to where the mighty river flows by at Maijan ghat. The station is unique in the sense that it 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.

On 10 July, 2016, the radio station completed one year of formal broadcasting. On this occasion, the BCRS team organized a small event at Radio Brahmaputra, attended by few regular listeners and well-wishers. The team awarded two best volunteers –Swaraswati Sahani and Arup Sonowal for the year of 2015-16 with a certificate and a radio set each



The anniversary celebration included a small event at Radio Brahmaputra, attended by few regular listeners and well-wishers.



A group of tea garden women listening to a Radio Program during narrowcasting session of Brahmaputra Community Radio Station at Sessa Tea Estate, Dibrugarh on "Importance of early pregnancy checkup and methods of pregnancy test using Nischay Kit" in Shadri (tea garden community dialect) produced by the own community producers.



Ranjit Borgohain, Senior Area Manager, Indane Area Office Indian Oil-AOD, answering questions of radio Brahmaputra listeners during a live show "PRASANGIK" conducted by Bhaskar Bhuyan, (left) the coordinator of the station on Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana-LPG connection for BPL category women, on Oct, 2016 at Radio Brahmaputra Studio

## C-NES Interns

Boat Clinics have provided opportunities to students doing research on delivery of primary healthcare and education to the islands on the Brahmaputra. Research studies have been conducted by students from across the globe for the last eight years. While the interns have benefited from the unique work the organization does in the Brahmaputra valley be it in the spheres of health, education, conflicts and communications (through the Brahmaputra Community Radio Station) among others, the organization has also gained from their internship. Their work with the organization and the reports shared with C-NES has given the organization constructive feedback focusing as they do on both the positive impacts of the Boat Clinics and the organizations work as also the gaps which need filling up, valuable suggestions for improving service delivery with a fresh perspective.

Follows an excerpt from a report by intern Anjali Mariam Paul from the Azim Premji University, Bengaluru who did an intensive internship with C-NES for six weeks during June- July 2016

### When Saving Lives Becomes a Daily Adventure

There is something magical about watching a woman breastfeed her newborn for the first time, especially when it is in one of Assam's sand bars, where infant and maternal deaths are just as common as fevers and colds. The Auxiliary Nursing Midwives (ANMs) who have along with the boat clinics, just coincidentally come to this particular sand bar on their routine monthly visit, a day after this baby is born, instruct the mother as to how she should feed her baby, burp her, when and how to bathe her and how to gently hold her, supporting her neck and head at all times. The baby weighs about 3.3 kg and the mother is highly anaemic but a few hours into the delivery, both are looking healthy. Not many women in Assam are as lucky as her, that being said neither are many babies as Assam has the highest Maternal Mortality Rate and Infant Mortality Rate in the country, and has been this way since the late 1900s.

As a student of development, with no background whatsoever in the health sector, the past few weeks with C-NES' boat clinics has been a dumbfounding experience. In preparation for my 6 week internship here, I read as many articles, papers, state reports and basically any piece of literature I could lay my hands on, be it fiction or non-fiction about Assam as this was my first trip to the North East and I wanted to be prepared. Little did I know that no amount of literature would even come close to define the destitution that I would witness on these forgotten islands, known as saporis or chars, which would pierce my soul and keep me awake into the wee hours of the morning.



The mighty Brahmaputra, framed by the majestic Himalayan ranges of Arunachal Pradesh in the background as we sail along the sand bars in Assam's Dibrugarh District

Over the past few weeks, as I traversed along the mighty Brahmaputra, gulping in the fresh air and the exquisite view of Arunachal's hills draping the river on one side while I was in Dibrugarh and the Naga Hills when I was in Jorhat, sleeping under the starlit sky, never would I have dreamt that there would be death, destitution and deprivation lurking close by. Yet, that was the reality that would be unfolded to me in a few hours when Maternal Mortality Rates and Infant Mortality Rates wouldn't be just numbers but suddenly have names, families and now what remained, fond memories. I was privileged to spend 2 nights with the Dibrugarh and 5 nights with the Jorhat team of miracle workers, where I faced a mighty storm, leeches, unbelievably huge spiders, incessant rain and last but not the least, an unfortunate tumble out of a moving truck to actually see first hand what is happening in these islands which are excluded from the mainland, both physically and socially. I silently observed the boat crew as they set up a tent in a few minutes on the mainland, as soon as we docked and how methodically, the team of ANMs, GNM, Medical Officers, Laboratory Technicians, Pharmacist and the community workers set the tables up, with the required equipment, waiting for the patients to start trickling in. In Jorhat, the community worker set up a megaphone on the boat and informed the residents who stay in the interior areas of the islands (due to the fear of erosion) that the doctors have arrived. In addition to this, the ASHAs go around on their cycles, to the tenements in the islands to remind the women who are due for their routine antenatal checkups and to bring their children for their vaccinations and Vitamin A drops. I accompanied a community worker as he went to a makeshift govt. school (the school building got washed away due to the erosion caused by the raging Brahmaputra) to ask the teacher to send children who were suffering from cold, cough, fevers, skin irritations etc. to the health camp happening near the shore.



I remember the torturous, sleepless night which followed reading about Rakku, a fictional character who symbolised the state of poor maternal and infant health care in the rural areas of Tamil Nadu, in the 1970s. I remember the discussion in class and how it all seemed to distant and here I was in the midst of it all, listening to women talk about the death of their children, husbands talking about their wives dying as though it was a normal occurrence. I then remembered the number of people attending these health camps, going back with medicines for their illnesses and the faces of those dedicated and passionate miracle workers... doctors, nurses, laboratory technicians, pharmacists, community workers, ASHAs and the boat crew who knew these patients by name and smiled, knowing that all hope isn't lost... not yet.

(Picture Copyrights: Anjali Mariam Paul)



Damayanti Das, an Auxiliary Nursing Midwife who has been with C-NES' Dibrugarh Boat Clinic since 2008, effortlessly gives a child a required vaccination



Medical Officers in Jorhat spend countless hours patiently dealing with the patients as they counsel them along with prescribing them medicines





Rijumani, who is a recent entrant to the Dibrugarh team as an ANM, knows most of the patients by name and carries out her duties as a nurse flawlessly, while she is strict with pregnant women about being regular with their ANC's and absolutely friendly with the children who come to get their vaccinations and Vitamin A drops

### C-NES Intern at Radio Brahmaputra



Narrow casting with the women of Ethel wood T.E(left) while a pregnant women shares her health and other issues

Maclina Dutta, an MSW student from Amity University, Noida interned with C-NES' Radio Brahmaputra during June 2016. She writes:

During my internship with Radio Brahmaputra I visited a number of local villages with the reporters of Radio Brahmaputra who gave them lessons about various health issues and community related problems. At Maijaan Village, near the banks of the Brahmaputra, where villagers face problems such as flood, health and sanitation. a quiz competition related to child and mother's health was organized by BCRS. At Ethel wood Tea Estate, a narrow casting program was organized where the women from the tea tribe told us about the health related problems they have been facing this summer such as headache, diahhrea, viral fever etc. We wanted to know from them, what do they know about diarreah but they could not answer us. So we told them the causes of diarrhea as also the necessary steps to prevent it. Many new Government schemes were introduced to them. Radio Brahmaputra helped me in learning about relevant social issues which will inspire me to be a better social worker, even a better human being.

## Volunteers from Spain

Clara Gené Škrabec and Mariona Condom Sinyol fresh graduates from Medical School at the University of Barcelona, Spain volunteered with C-NES ' Boat Clinic health teams from the 17th February 2017 to March 3rd 2017 across four river island districts- Kamrup, Morigaon, Jorhat and Dibrugarh. They attended day camps at Kamrup on the 8th of February 2017 with Bhaswati Goswami, Communications Officer and Morigaon on the 9th with Technical Consultant Dr CR Hira after which they spent three days on the Jorhat Boat Clinic. Finally at Dibrugarh, they spent a night on the Boat Clinic Akha and also got to know C-NES' Radio Brahmaputra, the community radio station. They interacted with the health teams and beneficiaries in each district and were amazed to see the variety in culture and beliefs among the river island dwellers. They add "The first thing that we noticed was that the organization of the boat team is optimal regarding the number of members and their responsibilities. All the members know their duties and carry them out as a well-adjusted engine. In addition, the care is perfectly adapted to the communities and their special needs. During this experience we learnt that health care makes much more sense when it is centered on people's needs, rather than just repeating the same standard model. They told us they do not usually do a physical check-up of pregnant women, only when a complication is suspected, because it would not be well received in this conservative community. We learnt that it is actually more important to build trust and reach more people than to follow a thorough protocol. We've had the opportunity to get to know the amazing work the Boat Clinics are carrying out with the isolated communities on the islands of the Brahmaputra River, and we have great affection for the people we've met along the way."

They have also shared their experiences on the Boat Clinics in a blog. The link follows:

<https://freshdoctorsinindia.wordpress.com/2017/03/09/5-weird-questions-we-always-get/>



The doctors with the Medical Officers and DPO of Kamrup unit and Communications officer C-NES. At the backdrop is the Boat Clinic SB Kaliyani



The visitors with Mishing women at the island village of Bhekeli in Jorhat district



Felicitated with gamochas the visitors with DPO Jorhat, Riturekha Baruah onboard

## Volunteering for a Dental Camp

Dr Kuldeep Singh Shekhawat, Assistant Professor, Srinivas Institute of Dental Sciences, Suratkal, Karnataka, initiated and coordinated with Mahindra Finance Limited to provide funds for two sets of mobile dental unit as additional service to the remote island population through the Boat Clinics. The service was started in March 2016 at Jorhat Boat Clinic and in February 2017 at Bongaigaon Boat Clinic with support from the District Health Society. Dr. Kuldeep visited Assam in March 2017 to volunteer and conducted dental treatment camps on board both Bongaigaon and Jorhat Boat Clinic for the rural and needy river island population, unable to access and/or afford such services. He had earlier conducted similar dental outreach program in May 2014 at Leh, Ladakh. He recalls his unique experience:

### Visit to Boat Dental Clinic

As rightly said, “when it comes to global health, there is no ‘them’ only ‘us’”.

The concept of providing healthcare services on boat for the habitants of riverine island of Brahmaputra was started by C-NES about a decade ago. I came to know about this project sometime in 2012. Back then a vague idea about an oral health care service provision on boat had occurred to me. It has been a long journey since then. The blue-print of the entire program was sorted out with the cooperation of C-NES, and finally the boat dental clinic program took off in March 2016. In March 2017 I finally had an opportunity to visit and volunteer in 2 boat clinics in Bongaigaon and Jorhat, where the dental unit are installed.

The dental set up is a makeshift arrangement (on purpose) and yet is substantial and functional. It is equipped with a portable dental chair, a portable compressor and light source. The portability of the set up makes it effective in case the villages are away from the shores and demand some shuttling. The setup is adequate for screening patients for dental diseases, preparing cavities (to drill and remove the diseased tooth) and fill them, for scaling (cleaning of teeth) and removing decayed tooth (extraction). The set up is also fortified to manage any medical emergencies arising during dental procedures. “Start where you are. Use what you have. Do what you can”, which is the basic operational essence in outreach programs can be clearly witnessed in this set-up.

Any outreach activity also significantly hinges on appropriate and dedicated human resource. Since boat clinic program is based on Private Public Partnership model (PPP), one qualified dentist employed under the banner of National Health Mission is deputed for one week on the boat every month. This flexible pattern ensures that, dental services at other health centers are not compromised. Apart from dentist there is one assistant, one Auxiliary Nurse Midwife (ANM), one GNM, and other members who are usually present on boat. This makes a satisfactory team for basic dental care.

Conditions requiring complex treatment, however, have limited scope of receiving adequate treatment. This is because such conditions require multiple sitting procedures with a certain time interval in between each session. Also, since dentists are deputed for one week very month, the remaining three weeks go without any oral health care being provided.

An effective way to overcome this drawback could be to utilize the services of ANW and GNM. These can be trained by a qualified dentist about the concepts of sterilizing dental instruments, cleaning of teeth, performing preventive restorations, drilling cavities and filling them. Oral health education to maintain their oral hygiene and importance of the same can be done by trained medical staff on the boat.

The biggest strength of boat clinics is the sheer determination and a zealous passion of the entire team (right from helper, cook, cleaner to medical team) to work for humanity. Grounded to reality, the innovativeness, motivation, training, learning and most importantly partnering with other agencies but not being dependent



on them makes this project the best and the first of its kind in India and abroad. I have drawn a tremendous inspiration from this team.

Reaching out to those who are justly in need dental services is rather satisfying. The population being aided is one which has no access to any oral health services commutable by road, since this population resides on riverine islands formed due to ferocious coursing of Brahmaputra. C-NES had been doing a phenomenal job in providing general health services on boat, but in case any discomfort caused due to dental pain, these habitants had to either travel across Brahmaputra using a boat or suffer in silence. A dental clinic alongside general health clinics on boat has brought relief and reassurance to many. It has also opened opportunities for preventive and educative undertakings that would dramatically improve the oral health status of these inlands.

Having planned a program from scratch and gradually giving a shape and finally seeing it being implemented after a long wait of more than 2 years gives me immense satisfaction. I feel as if I could contribute for the welfare of our nation with whatever little knowledge I have. I am also grateful for having this opportunity where in I could mediate in a small way, a healthy smile to islanders, amidst their harsh lives.

Dr Kuldeep Singh Shekhawat



Dr Kuldeep Singh Shekhawat(left) being felicitated by the Jorhat Boat Clinic unit (right ) while Programme Manager,Ashok Rao briefs the beneficiaries about the dental camp



Dr Kuldeep attends to patients in Jorhat and (right) Bongaigaon



## Floods in Assam 2016 : Photo stories from the Boat Clinic Units

Every year, millions of people are displaced and extensive property, crops and livestock are destroyed in annual floods in Assam and in downstream Bangladesh. Health problems are acute. Many are affected by water-borne diseases. A major problem is access to medicines and sustained health care.

As for Assam, the two valleys are prone to periodic devastating floods and consequent erosion which not only reduces or degrades the amount of available arable land, but also results in large scale destruction of infrastructure. This year's floods not only destroyed lives, property and agricultural produce, but also brought about pest epidemics which have further lessened production. Photographs follow:



Members of the Dhubri Unit I on way to a health camp wading through flood water.



Dhubri town under flood water







Barpeta : 16 flood relief camps were conducted by the Boat clinic unit-II . There was large scale damage to crops and agricultural fields, entire households were swept away. Bad road condition due to floods made it a challenge to reach the river banks where the boat is anchored.



The Nalbari boat clinic conducted 9 flood relief camps from 27th July to 30th July where 674 patients were treated. On July 30th the Governor of Assam visited Tupkarchar where the Boat Clinic team conducted a health camp to see the flood condition in the district.





Dr. Vivek Kr. Sahu demonstrating the making of sand filters.



Community worker Bhupen Taid talking about water borne disease.

Dhemaji district was severely affected by the recent floods. The district boat clinic unit conducted two awareness camps at Kobu Bazar and Kobu Nepali Ghat under Jonai BPHC on 09/07/2016 along with a flood relief camp. Medical Officers of the Boat Clinic Dr. Vivek Sahu and Dr. Yuwaraj Majumdar, spoke on diarrhea and sanitation respectively. Community Worker Bhupen Taid spoke on prevention of water borne disease.



Flood Relief Camp, Lakhimpur

The Lakhimpur Boat Clinic Unit organized a mega flood relief camp on 6th August, 2016 in association with All Assam Medical Services Association.





The Jorhat team wading through water to attend a health camp



The Jorhat team in the flood relief camp at Majuli's Subidha saporì



The Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal visited the Jorhat Boat Clinic Team at Nimati Ghat on 7th August 2016. The health team felicitated him with a hand woven Gamosa. The Chief Minister was accompanied by ADC Health Utpal Doley, Joint Director Health Services Dr. Amrit Saikia, SP Jorhat Amanjit Kaur, SDO Inland Water Transport, Bimal Tamuli and other dignitaries. The Jorhat district administration has been supportive of the Boat Clinic and the visit was arranged by the district administration and Joint Director Health Service Dr Amrit Saikia.



Dental camp at Jorhat's Bhimpara Sapor, 17th May 2016.

### Awareness camp at Bongaigaon

Boat Clinic Bongaigaon with the help of Boitamari BPHC organized a demonstration and awareness camp in the various flood affected areas along with group discussions on flood preparedness, related water and vector borne and other communicable disease like diarrhea, skin infection, malaria, typhoid etc. Water purifying tablets were distributed to ensure safe drinking water. As population control fortnight, the team was able to successfully conduct 11 laparoscopy and 9 IUCD sterilizations.



Boat Clinic Bongaigaon members carrying medicines and camp requirements for the special Immunization drive (SID) session at Satsobigha and Mohanpur char in October-2016.



Awareness on immunization by the Bongaigaon team

### Awareness camp at Goalpara



District Family Planning Co ordinator and BCM of Agia PHC with the Boat Clinic team, Goalpara Unit on July 2016



The Goalpara health team at an awareness meeting on family planning as part of the World Population Day.



## Awareness for school children at Tinsukia

The Tinsukia Boat Clinic unit conducted an awareness session for students and guardians at Majgaon village in July 2016 in the local school building with the help of the L.P school teacher and ASHAs of Majgaon and Sonitpur village. Personal hygiene and cleanliness was highlighted along with precautions against diarrhea and other water borne diseases. Importance of handwashing was emphasized and demonstrated by the community workers. The health team distributed ORS packets to children.



Awareness session for students and guardians at the LP Majgaon, Tinsukia district

## Team Brahmaputra Radio



From Left: Pinku Gohain, Rubi Naik, Sandhya Sharma, Bhaskar Bhuyan, Rumi Naik, Bhaktimala Choudhree, Polash Hazarika.



## The Boat Clinic Teams



### Barpeta I

From Right: Nasema Parbin (ANM), Sanuwara Parbin (ANM), Dharanidhar Kalita (Laboratory Technician), Santu Pathak (Cook), Raben Das (DPO), Abdul Baten Bhuyan (Community Worker), Harkhajyoti Lahkar (Medical Officer), Dhruvjyoti Das (Pharmacist), Noorjamal Hoque (Community Worker), Rafiqul Islam (Driver Vehicle), Atwar Rahman (Driver Boat), Abdul Aminul Hoque (Medical Officer), Wahabur Rahman (Community Worker)



### Barpeta II

Sitting from Right: Dr. Hassan Rafik (MO), Dr. Ayub Ali (MO), Swapna Das (DPO), Pankaj Kr. Mandal (Pharmacist), Himamani Talukdar (ANM), Maman Devi (ANM), Jagadish Deka (Lab. Tech)  
Standing from Right: Rayhan Ali (CW), Montaz Ali Khan (CW), Anowar Hussain (CW), Yeasin Ali (Boat Driver), Rizaul Ali (Boat Helper), Rupam Deka (Vehicle Driver), behind camera



### Bongaigaon

Standing from Right: Mofidul Islam (Boat Driver), Ismile Hussain (Boat Halper), Dr. Deepranjan Das (Medical Officer), Dr. Riazul Hoque Ahmed (Medical Officer), Monjur Hussain Mondal (DPO), Ranjanjyoti Baishya (Laboratory Technician), Shajahan Ali (community worker), Kabad Hussain (Community worker)  
Sitting from Left: Abu Sayed (Boat Master), Nirupoma Roy (ANM), Aduri Khatun (ANM), Satyajit Kalita (CW), Shahadev Das (Cook) Bhaskatjyoti Mahanta (pharmacist)





#### Dhemaji

Standing from Left: Bhupen Taid (CW), Dharani Saikia(CW), Bijoy Tayeng (Boat Master), Punyeswar Baruah(CW), Ramcharan Majhi( Driver), Nitul Borah(Lab Tech), Dharjya Banai (Cook)

Sitting from Left: Dr Kishor Das (MO), Junmoni Saikia( ANM), Kakoli Gogoi(DPO), Dharitri Das(ANM), Dr Moniprom Neog(MO), Narayan Acharjee (Pharmacist)



#### Dhubri I

Sitting from Left: Dr SK Miraduzzaman(MO), Dr Ashit Kumar Mondal(MO), Sultan Nekib (DPO), Mofida Begum(ANM), Tarulata Kalita(ANM)

Standing from Left: Moynal Hoque(CW), Manoj Choudhury(CW), Zahangir Alom(CW), Ahad Ali Mollah(Pharmacist), Azizur Hoque Balban(Lab.Tech), Taleb Uddin(Boat Master), Joydev Choudhury(Driver), Kalu Das(Cook), Abdur Rohim Ali(Helper)



#### Dhubri II

Sitting from Left: Madhusudan Roy Pradhani(Lab. Tech), Firoza Ahmed(ANM), Lavita Pathak(ANM), Dr.Nabakanta Das(MO), Mehebab Alom Hazarika (DPO)

Standing Row 1: Gabibda Baroi (Master), Manirul Khan (Pharmacist), Abul Kalam Azad (Helper), Sambhu Prasad Bin(CW), Afzal Hoque(CW).

Standing Row 2: Samsul Hoque (Driver), Sanju Mondal(Cook)





#### Dibrugarh

Standing from Left: Jibon Paul (Boat Helper), Ramakant Yadav (CW), Rajesh Yadav (CW), Apul Das (Pharmacist), Promud Dutta (Cook), Rakesh Doley (CW)

Sitting from Left : Nandita Kalita (ANM), Arup Kumar Saikia (DPO), Dr Bhaben Chandra Bora(MO), Dr. Juganta Kumar Deori (MO), Siddhanath Gogoi (Lab-tech), Damayanti Das (ANM)



#### Goalpara

Seating from Left: Bandana Khound (DPO), Dr. Affan Khan (MO), Dr. Gautom Chandra Sarkar (MO), Nathini Basumatary (ANM), Ranshila Basumatary (ANM)

Standing from Left: Samarendra Ghosh(Cook), Sahar Ali Mandal (Boat Master), Lakman Ali (CW), Mannaf Ali (CW), Saidul Islam (CW), Akshay Barman (Lab Tech), Hasmat Ali (Pharmacist), Jeurul Islam (Boat Helper), Manwar Hussain (Boat Helper)



#### Jorhat

From left: Deep Jyoti Nath (Pharmacist), Dipen Pegu (CW), Jadumoni Hazarika(CW), Rahul Pamegam (Driver), Jitu Dutta (CW), Pranjali Thakuria (ANM), Juli Phukan (ANM), Riturekha Baruah Phukan (DPO), Rimpi Bordoloi (ANM), Golap Gayan (Cook), Bipul Payeng (Helper), Dr. Mongal Sonar (MO), Bipul Payeng (Boat Master), Achyot Jyoti Das (Lab Tech)





#### Kamrup

From Left: Ainuddin (Boat Helper), Safiqul Islam (Boat Driver), Ritu Das (Cook), Abdur Rahim (CW), Hasena Banu (ANM), Rijuana Begam (ANM), Dr. Barnali Bhuyan (MO), Dr. Jesim Ali Ahmed (MO), Hiranya Deka (DPO), Dhanjit Das (Lab Tech), Jugal Goswami (Pharmacist), Ziarul Islam (CW), Lalmamud Ali (CW), Abuchama (Boat Master)



#### Lakhimpur

Sitting from Left: Probin Boruah (Lab Technician), Dr. Naruttam Borah (MO), Dharmendra Taye (Pharmacist), Tapan Borah, (DPO),

Standing from Left: Prafulla Kalita (Boat Crew), Minaram Tayung (CW), Elizabeth Kom (GNM), Lima Chutia (ANM), Ajit Tayung (CW), Krishna Hazarika (CW)

Absent: Dr. Rinku Konwar, (MO), Arun Bhuyan (Boat Driver)



#### Morigaon

Sitting from Right: Allaluddin (CW), Mofizuddin Ahmed (Pharmacist), Mushaluddin (CW), Shyamjit Pashi (DPO), Dr. Asrafal Islam (MO), Moidul Islam (Lab Tech), Nirmola Nath (ANM), Dolima Boro (ANM)

Standing from Right: Sohoruddin (Boat Driver), Didarul Islam (CW), Jiarul Islam (Boat Crew), Nasim (Vehicle Driver), Ruplal Malo (Cook), Sofiqul Islam (Boat Crew)





#### Sonitpur

From Left: Mofidul Islam (CW), Padma Narah (Boat Master), Bidyut Nath (CW), Rijumoni Deka (ANM), Susil Kr Nath (Cook), Hasina Banu (ANM), Mousumi Duwarah (DPO), Bhargab Dutta (Lab Tech), Amzed Ali (Driver), Fulsan Ali (Pharmacist), Sukleswar Boro (Ref Boat Driver)



#### Nalbari

From Left: Dr. Madhab Jyoti Boruah (MO), Parvis Ahmed (DPO), Jaher Ali Ahmed (CW), Chandan Baishya (Pharmacist), Rebi Sultana (ANM), Deiji Ahmed (ANM), Sanjib Kr. Das (Lab Tech), Sarifuddin Ahmed (CW), Dr. Rishikesh Koundinya (MO), Safikul Islam (Boat Crew), Nur Islam (Boat Crew)



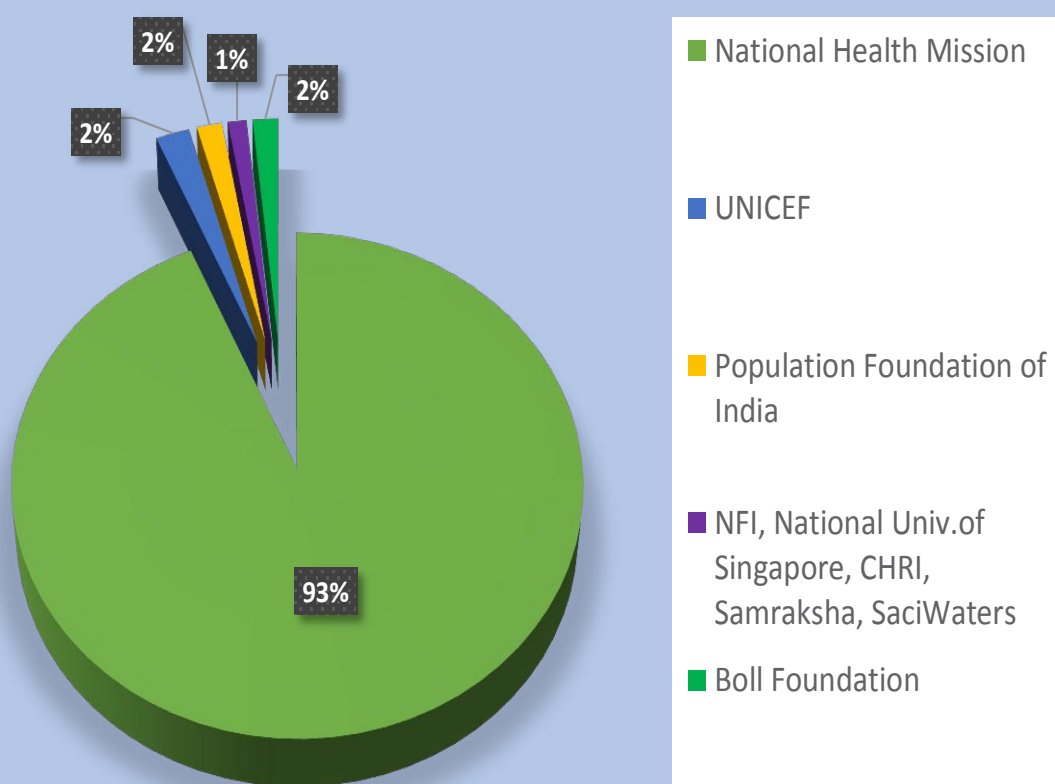
#### Tinsukia

Sitting from Left : Tara Devi (ANM) , Kaushalya Tanti (GNM), Chandra Prava Talukdar (ANM) , Dr. Chitraranjan Sharma (MO), Dr. Kaushik Baiswas (MO), Mitra Jyoti Konwar (DPO).

Standing from Left: Indrakanta Saikia (Boat Master), Murari Yadav (Boat Driver), Shahidul Islam (Pharmacist), Sibit Gogoi (Lab Tech), Pulak Chutia (Cook), Raju Pegu (CW)

## Financials

### Sources of Funds & Allocation for Financial Year 2016-17





## Audited Accounts

CENTRE FOR NORTH EAST STUDIES AND POLICY RESEARCH BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 <sup>ST</sup> MARCH ' 2017			
LIABILITIES	AMOUNT (₹)	ASSETS	AMOUNT (₹)
<b><u>CORPUS FUND</u></b>		<b><u>FIXED ASSETS</u></b>	3,897,861
Opening Balance	33,339,116	(As per Schedule- I)	
Add: Corpus Fund	-	Capital Work In Progress	22,976,128
Add: Surplus for the year	2,768,228		
Closing Balance	36,107,344	<b><u>PROJECT ASSETS</u></b>	
		(At nominal Value)	233
<b><u>CURRENT LIABILITIES</u></b>		<b><u>INVESTMENTS</u></b>	
Amount Payable	396,464	Fixed Deposits with Scheduled Banks	380,432
Expenses Payable	43,091		
TDS Payable	7,147	<b><u>CURRENT ASSETS, LOANS</u></b>	
Advance from DPO	485,677	<b><u>&amp; ADVANCES</u></b>	
		Advance to DPO	346,136
		Other Advances	257,022
		Security deposit for Rent	43,000
		TDS Recoverable	22,742
		Accrued Interest on FDR	20,255
		Advance for Boat Building	302,390
		Loans & Advances	157,723
		Cash in Hand	84,857
		Cash in Transit	36,000
		Balance with Scheduled Banks	8,361,030
		Prepaid Insurance	153,914
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>37,039,723</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>37,039,723</b>

### AUDITOR'S REPORT

As per our separate report of even date attached

For JAGDISH CHAND & CO.  
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS  
FIRM REGN. NO.-000129N

PRAVEEN KUMAR JAIN  
(PARTNER)  
M.No. 085629



(MANAGING TRUSTEE)

For Centre for Northeast Studies  
And Policy Research

Sanjoy Hazarika  
Managing Trustee

Place: New Delhi  
Dated : 24.10.2017

**CENTRE FOR NORTH EAST STUDIES AND POLICY RESEARCH**  
**INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDING ON 31ST MARCH ' 2017**

PARTICULARS	AMOUNT (₹)	PARTICULARS	AMOUNT (₹)
Accounting Charges	68,970	Grant - in - Aid	79,972,104
Audit Fees	288,879	Donation Received	1,206,430
Administrative Expenses	2,653,609	Interest Received	329,132
Advertisement Expenses	7,330	Misc. Receipt	119,086
Asha Incentives	382,500		
Medical Expense	637,090		
Bank charges	10,716		
Boat Expenditures	8,890,206		
Conveyance & Travelling Expenses	4,833,077		
Computer Maintenance	11,920		
Carriage charges	395,371		
Accommodation Expenses	121,544		
Mobility & Monitoring	617		
Newspaper & Periodicals	71,280		
Survey Expenses	143,510		
Insurance Expenses	287,158		
Depreciation	622,717		
Electricity & Water	94,931		
Repair & Maintenance	116,056		
Laboratory Reagents	482,911		
Printing & Stationery	761,227		
Postage & Telegrams	102,272		
Project, Seminars & Program Expenses	1,290,276		
Telephone & Internet Charges	359,233		
Rent Expenses	1,152,926		
Training Expenses	222,012		
Retainership, Professional & Consultancy Expenses	92,482		
Website Expenses	60,000		
Salary, Honorarium & Incentives	49,053,175		
Hire Charges	81,500		
Spectrum Fees	20,301		
Incentive	722,323		
Other Expenses	105,987		
Camp Expenses	53,212		
Food & Snacks Expenses	4,013,420		
Meeting Expenses	160,946		
Solar Light Expenses	466,900		
Staff Welfare Expenses	19,940		
Excess of Income over Expenditure	2,768,228		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>81,626,752</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>81,626,752</b>

**AUDITOR'S REPORT**

As per our separate report of even date attached

For JAGDISH CHAND & CO.  
**CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS**  
 FIRM REGN. NO.-000129N

(PRAVEEN KUMAR JAIN)  
 PARTNER  
 M.No. 085629



Centre for North East Studies and Policy Research  
 Managing Trustee

(MANAGING TRUSTEE)

Place: New Delhi  
 Dated : 24.10.2017

## 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.

### 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) Mediciclaim and Accidental Insurance is provided which is charged to Income and Expenditure A/c.



## Board of Trustees

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Sanjoy Hazarika, Managing Trustee  
Preeti Gill, Literary Agent and Independent Researcher, New Delhi  
Niketu Iralu, Social Worker from Nagaland  
Dr. Jayanta Madhab, Economist  
Patricia Mukhim, Columnist and Editor, Shillong Times, Meghalaya  
GK Pillai, former Union Home Secretary  
Dr. Mahfuza Rahman, former Professor, Cotton College, Guwahati

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Jahnu Barua, film maker, Guwahati, Mumbai  
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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 Boruah**  
Asso. Program Manager



**Bhaswati K Goswami**  
Communications Officer



**Chandana Bora**  
State Advocacy & PFC



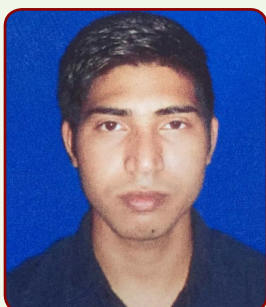
**Milan Nath**  
Accounts Manager



**Bedanta Sarma**  
Administrative Assistant



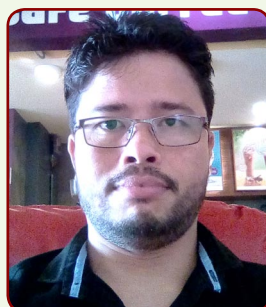
**Farzia Yashmeen**  
Research Associate



**Arup Kalita**  
Accounts Assistant



**Pinku Barman**  
Office Peon



**Nityananda Barman**  
Office Peon



**Dlip 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 office at New Delhi and Guwahati







CENTRE FOR NORTH EAST STUDIES  
& POLICY RESEARCH

# Annual Report : 2016-2017

## Delhi Office:

Managing Trustee  
C-NES

B-378, Ground Floor, Chittaranjan Park, New Delhi- 110019

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

email: mt@c-nes.org, sanjoy@c-nes.org

## Regional Office:

Programme Manager  
C-NES

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

e-mail: pm@c-nes.org, co.pmu@c-nes.org

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



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