



SYNODICAL BOARD OF SOCIAL SERVICE

CHURCH OF NORTH INDIA

CNI SBSS is the development and justice board of the Church of North India. CNI SBSS's program promotes social, economic and political inclusion of the most disadvantaged by engaging the congregation in the Mission of God who stands with the poor, the downtrodden and the rejected, the God who fights for the justice of the marginalised, the Dalits and the Adivasis.

Context: Extreme poverty is an extreme deprivation from opportunities of growth, as a result of which the basic web of life is destroyed. CNI SBSS is working with the most vulnerable section of the society- the Dalits, Adivasis, Women and Children; to promote and facilitate socio-economic transformation. A multi-dimensional approach towards poverty reduction will set free these communities from age old clutch of poverty and will ensure that these communities receive an equitable share of the country's growth.

CNI SBSS will soon commence the new phase titled '*Re-building walls and Rebuilding lives*' for the period 2016 to 2018. The goal of the project is to improve the Human Development Poverty Index among dalit and tribal by ensuring their rights through strengthening of collective institutions of people, governance and administrative institutions; and their mutual interface through Diocese and their Congregation. The project aims to prepare thirty local congregations to initiate work on at least one of the identified issues. The objectives to achieve the goal of the project are:

- Education and health status among dalit and tribal population will improve in 174 revenue villages through engagement of People collectives and local governance and administrative structures.
- Asset ownership and income among dalit and tribal population will improve in intervention villages through engagement of People collectives and local governance and administrative structures.
- Existing institutions will strengthen and new institutions will emerge which can sustain the processes and outcomes in future

An extensive review was conducted on the current phase- "*See a Reign in Righteousness and rule with justice*" which concludes in 2015. It covers a population of 2 million people in 900 villages through 15 Dioceses of CNI spread across seven states in India viz. Punjab, Odisha, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, West Bengal, Assam, and Haryana. The review showed that the phase has a good track record of helping families acquire land for livelihood; and facilitating people's access to different entitlements/ rights such as MGNREGA, Indira Awas Yojna, Public Distribution Systems, generating incomes through Self Help Group's approach, Capacity Building on leadership, Governance and on different schemes.

Along with the core program CNI SBSS has a program known as *"Local Capacities for Peace"*. In many of CNI SBSS's project areas (Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Odisha in particular and rest of the area in general) structured conflict and violence on various socio-political and economic reasons are observed. Community tensions or conflicts triggered by political or communal forces can jeopardize all developmental efforts. In this regard 'Local Capacities for Peace' approach framework is a comprehensive tool to take up situational analysis on the context of conflict and find out options for alternative interventions in the project area. This tool is used as supportive strategy of the program and activities to address issues related to peace and harmony. LCP also strengthens the Planning Monitoring and Evaluation systems to address issues of rising conflicts during program management. CNISBSS undertakes research and studies on important subjects for knowledge dissemination and also develops training manuals on different aspects to capacitate the community.

CNI SBSS has launched a new project called *"Let My People Go"*, the project will be implemented in three states of Church North India's operational areas viz. Punjab, West Bengal and Jharkhand covering approx. 100 villages. CNI SBSS's past years of experience through interventions with these groups has helped to understand that deprivation for these groups is a multidimensional phenomenon. This program will focus entirely on the issues of Education, Health, Income generation and Evolve a strategy of Church Mission Engagement for CNI by the engagement of locally identified congregation in the Mission.

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