

SISTERHOOD NETWORK

ANNUAL REPORT

2023-2024





Sisterhood Network
“Helping One Another”

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FOREWORD

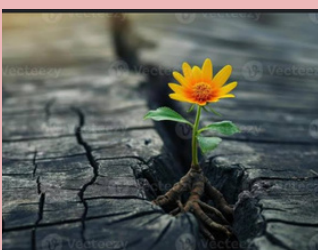
As we reflect on the past year, we are both humbled and elated to present our annual report. Through this brief foreword, we aim to highlight our shared journey of resilience and possibilities, which continue to inspire us with courage, hope, and the spirit to persist. Each passing year, Sisterhood Network (SN) grows through the challenges, opportunities, uncertainties, and unanswered questions that come our way. Regardless of the obstacles, our motto, “Helping One Another,” remains our guiding principle, encouraging us to support each other in every possible way. We have had the privilege to network and collaborate with various agencies, from government bodies to non-governmental organizations at the local, national, and international levels, as well as with our communities, engendering strength for SN through the collective efforts and contributions of one and all.

I would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to the Global Green Fund (GGF) for their support in community building through tree planting and their prompt intervention during the sudden flood situation in Dimapur; WOMENfirst for strengthening our rapport with government law agencies and providing training for women's sustenance; FIMI-International Indigenous Women for supporting indigenous women's livelihoods; Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development (APWLD) for assisting SN in achieving the agreed national and international goals of SDG 2030; and last but not least, Action Aid Association for supporting children's education and empowering women through weaving, gardening, and agri-allied activities.

SN extends our deepest respect to the many women, girls, and children who have endured unspeakable pain due to domestic violence, often at the hands of those meant to protect them. We are deeply grateful to our police and legal teams who tirelessly work alongside us to ensure safety and security for many of these women, girls, and children.

SN does not work in isolation, nor can we achieve our goals without the support of many. We would like to thank all the Board and Advisory members of SN, individuals, families, friends, government agencies, partners, and communities who have placed their confidence in us, giving us the positive energy and encouragement needed to work together and make a difference.

As we reflect on the past year, we look forward with anticipation to another year of support and collaboration.



Thank You

Azungla James



About Sisterhood Network

Sisterhood Network (SN) began in 2001 with the objective to empower women to reach their full potential through sustainable development, self-esteem and self-respect. We have progressively evolved as an organization that builds the capacity of all, including women upliftment, advocating for the rights of children and women, community and infrastructure development in the rural poor areas.

Mission

The mission of SN is to serve and facilitate marginalized and underprivileged women and girls in the society to take steps of self-initiatives through creative activities and innovative enterprise.

Vision

The vision of SN is to empower women and girls towards living dignified, just and able lives so as to create an environment where they can stand up of their rights and make decisions on their own for their personal lives, families and the community around them.

Focus

Towards actualizing our mission and vision, the focus of SN is to engage in uplifting the women towards equal opportunity in par with men in decision making, address issues of gender biases in local communities, provide trainings and awareness programmes, render legal rights for women, support women's livelihood, address domestic violence, clam equal rights of education of the girl child and stand up for the rights of all children, girls and women in the society.



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

In a significant gathering at Samziuram village, representatives from Samziuram, Jalukiezangde, Beisumpuikam, and Jalukieram communities joined together to commemorate International Women's Day focusing on the global theme "Embrace women: Accelerate progress". This theme highlighted the crucial importance of empowering women and enhancing their societal roles to catalyze positive societal change.



Following this, SN facilitated a panel discussion that brought together both men and women from the communities. This inclusive dialogue marked a notable milestone as it provided a platform for community members to voice their concerns and share updates on community progress.



Participants also engaged in a thorough exploration of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The discussion focused on SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), SDG 5 (Gender Equality), and SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation).



Overall, the event served not only as a platform for celebrating the achievements of women within the communities but also highlighted persistent challenges. It emphasized and amplified women's voices for the critical need of collaborative action to achieve collective goals, ensuring sustainable development and inclusive progress for all community members and accountability from community leaders and duty-bearers.

IMPACT-FOCUSED OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT THROUGH PARTNERSHIP SUPPORT

act:onaid ASSOCIATION Remedial Classes

With the support of ActionAid, remedial classes highlights significant progress in bridging educational gaps, with an impressive increase in student enrolment and improved academic performance. Over the year, the program successfully engaged experience educators, and, resulting in enhanced comprehension and retention rates among the children. Furthermore, the initiative fostered a supportive learning environment, encouraging regular attendance and active participation, thereby contributing to the overall educational development of the communities served. Altogether there were 20 tutors and 200 students what benefited from this remedial classes.



Livelihood Support Building Resilient Communities: Transforming Lives through Livelihood Support

Our livelihood support initiative has made progress in empowering women and enhancing their economic independence. Through our diverse programs, we have provided crucial support to women in various fields, leading to skill development and income generation for their families. We have extended piggery support to 44 women, equipping them with the resources and knowledge needed to raise and manage pigs effectively. This venture has not only boosted their confidence but also provided a source of income.

Additionally, they have received yarn for weaving, enabling women to harness their traditional skills and create marketable products. Our agricultural support includes the distribution of organic seeds and spades, which has facilitated efficient farming practices and increased crop yields.

Furthermore, we have offered pickle-making assistance, allowing women to produce and sell homemade pickles, thereby diversifying their income sources. Collectively, these initiatives have played a pivotal role in improving the livelihoods of women, fostering self-reliance, and contributing to the overall well-being of their families and communities.

Livelihood Support



Spade Support extended to Suhoi Village to enhance their agricultural tools



Suhoi Village Women gathered to collect ginger as livelihood support



Supporting Women of Jalukiezangdi Village through weaving, empowering them economically while perserving thier traditional craftmanship



Piggery Support at Jalukieram Village



A group of women at Bade village gathered at the Weaving Centre, skillfully weaving vibrant patterns and sharing stories as they weave together.

Inauguration of "Nteuki" Community Resource Centre



"Nteuki" which translates to "People's House" for women and children, marks a significant milestone in the ongoing efforts of ActionAid (AA) and the Sisterhood Network to support and empower vulnerable populations within the community. This centre is designed to provide a dedicated space for activities aimed at enhancing the well-being and development of women and children. The inauguration program demonstrated the collective commitment of ActionAid, Sisterhood Network, community leaders, women collective, and individuals from the community towards creating a more inclusive and supportive environment.

The event was attended by ActionAid (AA) regional branch Director Mrinal Gohain and AA staff Rehanna, Board members of the Sisterhood Network, women collective members from Deizephe and Chungaizaeng, Sisterhood Network staff and the village community. "We have created a brotherhood and sisterhood. There's a word called solidarity which means fellowship with one another. And this fellowship is not only with one another but with the environment and humanity" , said Gohain.

The inauguration of the community resource centre for women and children represents a significant step forward in our collective journey towards a more equitable and supportive community. The centre stands as a testament to what can be achieved when we come together with a shared vision of empowerment and development .



Sisterhood Network Team and Beneficiaries Gain New Skills in Chizami



Sisterhood Network team along with women beneficiaries, enjoyed a two-day educational visit to Chizami. They began by exploring a millet farm and seed bank run by a women's collective, learning about sustainable farming and seed preservation.



On the second day, they visited Chizami Weaves, where they received a detailed briefing on weaving techniques and production methods. The visit proved to be a valuable experience, enhancing participants' skills and knowledge in both agriculture and weaving.



International Indigenous Women Forum FIMI

With support from the International Indigenous Women’s Forum (FIMI), we partnered with indigenous women to promote economic empowerment. Sisterhood Network believes that for a community to truly thrive and progress, inclusivity in all areas whether economic, social, or amplifying women’s voices is essential.

Bookkeeping training

The training aimed to empower the Indigenous Women by equipping them with essential bookkeeping skills to enhance their financial management capabilities and strengthen their economic endeavors.



Economic support to 35 Beneficiaries

The transfer of funds and the accompanying training initiatives have the potential to bring about significant social and economic transformations within the lives of the 35 indigenous women. By supporting their entrepreneurial endeavours, the initiatives aim to enhance their economic self-sufficiency, reduce poverty, and improve overall living standards. Moreover, as these women thrive, their success will likely have a positive impact on their families and communities.

Voices from the Grounds

The document titled “Voices from the Ground” are testimonies from a few of those participants who took up the courage to humbly share about their experience on how the support not only provided economic support, but also boosted their confidence and skills. These testimonies are evidence of how even a small push or support can be instrumental in giving socio-economic empowerment to these women.



GLOBAL GREENGRANTS FUND (GGF)

Over the past year, we have made significant strides in community engagement and environmental stewardship through a range of impactful initiatives with the support from GGF. Our notable effort was our collaboration with local residents in Sunrise Colony, where we planted a neem tree to promote environmental sustainability and enhance the area's green cover. We also spearheaded an awareness program on "Beat Plastic Pollution" for school children and youth, featuring drawing and quiz competitions to educate and engage them on plastic waste and environmental conservation.

In response to the devastating flash floods in Dimapur, we provided crucial disaster relief with GGF support, by distributing food supplies and bedding materials to affected families in Chungaizaeng, Namgalong, and Burma Camp. Our support ensured timely assistance to those in need.

Our collaborative efforts also extended to national campaigns, where we worked alongside the Dimapur Municipal Corporation (DMC) during the India Swachhata League initiative. As part of this national campaign, we contributed significantly by supplying dry rations, cleaning equipment for sewage management, and energy drinks to the dedicated workers involved in the cleanliness drive.

These initiatives underscore GGF's ongoing commitment to fostering environmental awareness, supporting communities in times of need, and contributing to national cleanliness and sustainability campaigns.



Awareness program on Waste Management for SN staff and trainees



Plantation of trees on World Environment Day at Sunrise Colony, Dimapur



Awareness Program on Waste Management at Rincho Academy, Dimapur



SN participates at National Campaign Indian Swachhata League under Dimapur Municipal Council



Awareness Program on Waste Management at El Shaddai Academy, Dimapur

Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development (APWLD)

Samziuram, situated in the Peren district of Nagaland, India, within the Jalukie Circle, is a village that, despite its picturesque setting, grapples with significant challenges related to water and sanitation. The 2011 census recorded 727 households in Samziuram, a community where women face entrenched systemic barriers that adversely affect their livelihoods, health, and overall well-being.

The scarcity of water and inadequate sanitation infrastructure in Samziuram presents a formidable challenge for its female residents. The burden falls heavily on mothers and daughters, who, despite being engrossed in various unpaid care work, find themselves compelled to fetch water. This perpetual responsibility exacerbates the already demanding nature of household work, leading to a range of issues affecting women's lives. Notably, instances of domestic violence, sexual and reproductive health problems, strained relationships, and mental stress have been linked to the persistent water crisis in the village.

Adding a layer to these challenges is the prevailing gender inequality deeply rooted in local customs. The lack of women representation further exacerbates the water scarcity issue, as the decision-making process remains skewed due to patriarchal control over resources and authoritative governance.

Amid these challenges, the Sisterhood Network, in collaboration with the Samziuram Women Society and partnership with APWLD, has embarked on a mission to usher in transformative development. Their focus revolves around monitoring and actively contributing to the vision of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), specifically those related to water and sanitation. The overarching goal is to enhance the capacity and inclusion of marginalized communities especially women in Samziuram, empowering them to participate actively in SDG processes. By challenging existing gender norms, fostering community engagement, and advocating for the rights of women, and strive to create lasting positive change in Samziuram, addressing the critical issues of water scarcity and gender inequality.



SN participates at Asia Pacific People's Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD)



SN participates at National Consultation on Significance access to water & sanitation for women & girls, New Delhi



Participatory FDJ training NS Staff



Participatory 1st FDJ local training



Participatory 2nd FDJ local training



Participatory FDJ local training with Samziuram Youth

Grassroot voices

ELIZABETH'S SISTER IN-LAW: I face additional challenges during the water scarcity season as my daughter is physically challenged. My family encounters difficulties in washing clothes, obtaining drinking water, and managing other water-related needs. Since my daughter cannot independently fetch water, bathe, or wash her clothes, I assume extra responsibilities. During the water scarcity season, me and my eldest son undertake the task of fetching water, often requiring us to walk a considerable distance from home. The additional burden on me is notable.

However, amidst these challenges, I express gratitude to the Sisterhood Network for the invaluable assistance provided towards my daughter's education. The support received has been crucial in ensuring the well-being and educational advancement of my physically challenged child.

BIBIA: I've consistently faced the challenge of water scarcity every year. I find myself walking a considerable distance just to fetch water, often having to rise early in the morning to ensure access to clean water from the well. The limited water availability means that if I delay the fetching until later in the morning, we won't have access to clean water. Compounding the situation, the children are still young, and as the sole provider for the family's water needs, the responsibility falls squarely on my shoulders.

GAIKHUANLIU'S MOTHER: I'm truly grateful to the Sisterhood Network for conducting a survey aimed at understanding the challenges faced by families due to water scarcity. The land we currently reside on doesn't allow us to dig a well, so we've always relied on our neighbor's well for water. However, during the water scarcity season, we only get a small amount of clean water, which is insufficient for many essential tasks. As an older person, it's not easy for me to walk a long distance to fetch water, so during those times, my children step in to help. However, as they are all students attending school or college, there are occasions when they find it challenging to spare time for this task.

Consequently, our family consistently grapples with water problems. I also want to express the importance of addressing this issue, whether by the government or other organizations. It would be immensely helpful if measures could be taken to ensure a more reliable water supply. Currently, we don't receive water supply in our village, and though pipelines are in the process of implementation, there's uncertainty about when water will be supplied. Looking ahead, I envision a healthier and more hygienic lifestyle if efforts are made to resolve this water scarcity issue in our village.

GAIMEI KAMSON: We have a well at home, but unfortunately, the water source isn't very reliable. As the dry season kicks in, the well tends to dry up, and we face a water shortage from January to April. In these months, we have to make the journey down to Mongleu river to fill a syntax with water which I have to take up the responsibility. Since even families with wells struggle to secure enough water for their own needs during this time, those without wells, like us, have to rely on the river as a primary source of water. Our water resources are very important for us because it sustains our life and livelihood.

Womenfirst

The Womenfirst International Fund has been instrumental in fostering global empowerment through its collaboration with women-led grassroots organizations, focusing on transformative training programs that enhance women's livelihoods and build strong, supportive networks for collective action. By offering skill-based training and organizing sessions that emphasize solidarity and mutual support, these programs enable women to acquire valuable skills that increase their income potential and improve their financial stability, thus benefiting their families and communities.

Additionally, the initiative has established a strategic network with women police officers in Dimapur to address and combat violence against women and children, illustrating a comprehensive approach that not only focuses on economic empowerment but also on creating safer environments. By integrating these efforts with support from the Women first International Fund, we are not only contributing to the economic upliftment of women but also ensuring their safety and well-being, thus driving significant and sustainable social change on a global scale.



With Women Police Team, Dimapur during 16 Days of activism against gender based violence



Skill Based training conducted at SN to enhance women's livelihood

Annual Highlights



With Women Police Team, Dimapur during 16 days of activism on gender based violence



National Training of psychosocial Support in Emergencies, Inter Agency Group (IAG)



SN participates at Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development, Bangkok 2024



Asia Pacific Regional Civil Society Engagement Mechanism



SN participates at National Campaign against Gender Based Violence with NSRLM



SN participates at Constructing our spaces Feminist Histories of Institution Building at Zubaan Publishing House, Guwahati



Nagaland Alliance for Children and Women Rights (NACWR) Members at Women Leaders Meet Cum Cultural Program



SN participates at Visualizing an equitable and vibrant society conversation with the community of Nagaland organized by ActionAid Association



Stakeholders Consultation organized by NACG EVAC India at Delhi



Exposure activity at Sisterhood Network by English Dept. of Dimapur Government College,



The Book Launch of "Life and Dignity" Second Edition by Dolly Kikon at Sisterhood Network Office



Evaluation Program of the interns at Sisterhood Network office

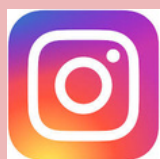


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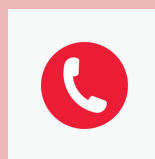
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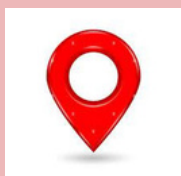
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