

BAKDIL
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BAKDIL'S PROGRAMMES

1. **Disaster Intervention:** BAKDIL started with the name Catholic Charities in 1973 in response to the influx of refugees in the yearly nineteen seventies. Since then disaster intervention and disaster preparedness have been the focus areas of BAKDIL. In the Garo Rabha conflict in 2001, BAKDIL was one of the first agencies to intervene and accompanied the Rabha community in Garo Hills until their life situation returned to near normalcy. In the programme European Commission for Humanitarian Aid funded nearly 1, 15, 00,000.00 Indian rupees worth assistance to the affected communities. As a result of this experience, BAKDIL has been developing a dedicated disaster programme fund to intervene in any natural calamity in Garo Hills and today approximately, Three million rupees is available with BAKDIL in this fund.

2. **Community Organization:** The villages in Garo Hills were highly cohesive communities. However owing to many factors resulting from introduction of party politics and religion, influx of migrants from within the country and from outside the country the villages are socially divided. In this situation BAKDIL has been engaged in Community Organization through formation of Self Help Groups and their federations and Farmers Clubs. BAKDIL has promoted more than 2100 Self Help Groups 52 Farmers Clubs and have begun the process of capacitating them to take control of their lives in the present political and social contexts in Garo Hills.

3. **Health Programmes:** Health related programmes have been also an important programme since the start of BAKDIL. In addition to providing curative services BAKDIL has also been engaged in providing preventive and educational services in Health Care. At present there are two major programmes in Health Sector.

Management of Primary Health Centres. Dysfunctional Primary Health Centres in remote areas in Garo Hills had been identified for Public Private Partnership in 2008. Accordingly BAKDIL had applied and was short-listed as one of the agencies to implement the programmes. 2 These include Gabil and Wageasi North Garo Hills district, Siju in South Garo Hills District, Babadam in West Garo Hills District and Salmanpara in South West Garo Hills District. As a result of ten years of planned intervention, immunization of children has almost reached 100 per cent mothers institutional delivery from almost nil has reached around 95 per cent and maternal and child mortality has been greatly reduced. These five centres have almost become model Health Care Service Centres in spite of great adversities. In the five PHCs 165 villages with approximately 50,000 population are being provided preventive, curative and primitive health services.

Intensified Malaria Control Programme. The strategic Planning in 2009 had identified Malaria as one of the greatest problems to be addressed in Garo Hills. Subsequently in 2011 a major programme funded by Caritas India covering 1232 villages was initiated. The project achieved considerable measure of success and since Caritas India did not receive continued funding, The government of India through National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme (NVBDCP) identified BAKDIL to run the new programme which is known as

Intensified Malaria Elimination Programme. This programme covers 1146 villages in three districts which have higher incidents of malaria. The project ends in March 2021.

4. Women Empowerment: Women Empowerment is being promoted as a programme main streaming gender issues at various levels on the one hand and through promotion of Women's Self Help Groups on the other hand. In the organization one third of Governing Board members are women while in the staffing almost fifty per cent are women. This is also being done in the vil-lages and in SHG federations both at the staffing as well as the decision making levels. More im-portantly BAKDIL has promoted Women Self Help Groups empowering them to come together, to save money and to learn about their rights in health and education sectors. As a result most women members ensure that their children attend schools daily, they get them immunized and have their deliveries conducted in a Health Centre. They are also able to access services from banks and Government offices. Having realized the importance of saving, they themselves have increased the amount to be saved monthly. Issues like alcoholism and wife beating have been al-most stopped in some villages or have been brought under control.

National Rural Livelihoods Mission: On June 2020 BAKDIL has taken up new project NRLM to empower women through the formation of SHG and facilitating them for credit linkage. NRLM aims to reduce poverty by enabling the poor household to access gainful self employment and skilled wage employment opportunity resulting in a sustainable livelihood.

5. Livelihood Promotion through Micro Finance:

BAKDIL' Refundable Financial Assistance Program: To add teeth to the women empow-erment programmes BAKDIL has started Women Economic Empowerment Programme since 2010. Till date we have made available almost nearly Ten millions Indian rupees. as financial assistance to take up micro economic activities like piggery, dairy, poultry, goat-rearing , duck- rearing, petty businesses, tailoring units and so on. The only condition to access the financial assistance is that they should be a member of the Self Help Group and should have a bank account and should have been saving money for at least six months.

Livelihood Development: Through Agriculture Development BAKDIL has started a new programme for Livelihood Development of 500 families in Zikzak Block through planta-tion of Mango and Litchi. The programme is funded by NABARD at an estimate cost of Rs. 20.13 million during the five years of intervention period starting during the financial year 2014-15.

A second program has been started in the financial year 2016-17 with an outlay of 10.490 million Indian rupees to assist 210 families in twelve villages in Samanda Block, East Garo Hills.

The Third programme was started in the financial year 2018-19 with an outlay of 13.109 million to assist 220 families from fourteen villages under Kharkutta Block in North Garo Hills.

The fourth Livelihood development programme funded by NABARD for Rongram block with an amount of 12.997096.88 million to assist 200 families has already started from June 2020.

Livelihood Enterprise Development Program funded by NABARD is to assist 150 women SHG members in poultry and piggery sector with bank loan. Meghalaya Rural Bank com-mitted Rs. 99, 000 each for each woman member as individual loans to each of the 150

Entrepreneur who wants to develop poultry and piggery activities. A similar programme has been initiated in Gasuapara block for 150 women members of self help groups for similar activities.

Entrepreneurship Development: To improve the livelihood and to provide market access BAKDIL has been selected to implement the Producer Organization Program. The program is being funded by NABARD and is expected to be self reliant by FY 2018-19.

6. Skill Development of unemployed Youth: Skill Development and up-gradation of the unemployed youth was introduced nearly five years ago. Garo Hills was infested with militancy and anti social Groups. The primary reason for militancy is lack of gainful employment. In this background BAKDIL has started the Skill Development Programme. The present programmes include, six month diploma in automobile, driving school and tailoring. In the farm sector, five day skill development in dairy and poultry and piggery has also been started.

SBI Foundation: By the month of July 2020, SBI Foundation project is likely to be implemented. The main focus of this project are Healthcare and Sanitation, Education, Skills and Livelihood Development, Women Empowerment and care for Senior Citizens, Sustainability & Environment and Rural Development.

7. Sustainable Natural Resource Management and Food Security:

Facilitating Agriculture Rejuvenating Measures phase-II (FARM-II) : Garo Hills could be a gold mine with regard to food production. But due to cultural, technological and social factors, Garo Hills is a food deficit and food dependant region. In addition there is great destruction of environment and the natural resources through jhum cultivation, felling of trees and other related issues. In this situation BAKDIL has initiated a programme called Facilitating Agriculture Rejuvenating Measures phase-II (FARM) covering 14 villages. The project goals are to achieve food security and environmental sustainability in three years and to ensure these villages become model villages and the project is being implemented in Samenda block, East Garo Hills.

“Powering Solar Supplied Energy Solutions-Garo Hill’ (POSSES): In the project (POSSES) BAKDIL hope to set up a model where poor areas of light like home lighting, power support for livelihood and health intervention can be successfully implemented through the use of solar energy. The project with an initial outlay of 12 millions Indian rupees started in September 2019 and is expected to bring about a key change in energy access by the beneficiaries by September 2020 (end date of the project)

8. Education Programme: Higher Education Financial Assistance Programme: The motto of BAKDIL is ensuring Life Livelihood and Liberation. There are many poor children who are not able to proceed in professional and higher education due to financial poverty. BAKDIL has started a small fund through donations received from various individuals including the staff of BAKDIL and this fund is being utilized as financial assistance programme for higher education programme of youth who are financially poor. This assistance has to be paid back to the organization once the assisted persons are employed.

