

Bengal after the Bangladesh War of Independence. Over the years, LWSI expanded the scope of its work to other states and continued to work with the poorest of the poor and those affected by disasters irrespective of race, caste, creed, sex, nationality or political conviction. Over these years, LWSI rendered disaster relief and development assistance in the states of Bihar, Orissa, Assam, Andhra Pradesh,



Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra and Gujarat. LWSI was registered as a Trust in 2008. The United Evangelical Lutheran Church in India (UELCI) and the National Council of Churches in India (NCCI) are the key stakeholders upholding LWSI's identity as a Christian ecumenical organization. The Trust continues to implement Disaster Response Projects under the ACT Appeal mechanism in different parts of the country. LWS India always tries to adhere with SPHERE standards in implementing disaster response programs. The Trust also continues to implement Social Transformation, Economic Empowerment and Risk Reduction Projects in rural and urban communities.

LWF Nepal

The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) Nepal, established in 1984, is committed to the empowerment of the most disadvantaged and vulnerable in Nepali society so that they can achieve for themselves a just and sustainable livelihood. LWF Nepal provides humanitarian assistance in the form of relief and rehabilitation to disadvantaged communities affected by natural and human made disasters, including



a major program to assist Bhutanese refugees in Nepal. To support these programs, greater emphasis is placed on advocacy and networking to supplement the efforts of civil society, especially those representing the disadvantaged. Emergency Response and Disaster Risk Management program aims to strengthen the capacity of the population at risk, marginalized and vulnerable people who are socio-economically disadvantaged to organize and to advocate for their rights. LWF Nepal also aims at building the resilience of local Community-Based Disaster Management Committees and Disaster Management Teams to be prepared, to prevent, to respond to, and to recover from any kind of natural and human-made disasters. LWF Nepal gives emphasis on life-preserving and life-rehabilitating interventions related to food, shelter and water and sanitation in acute phases and for the displaced populations.

LWF Myanmar

Lutheran World Federation (LWF) entered Myanmar in response to the devastation of Cyclone Nargis in May 2008. After signing of a three-year agreement with the Ministry of Social Welfare to operate in the delta region, LWF Myanmar follows the Department for World Service (DWS) strategy of linking relief and rehabilitation to sustainable development interventions for and with the cyclone affected people of the delta.

The current operational area of LWF Myanmar is focused on four townships in the Delta region. LWF's work encompasses community based disaster preparedness and risk reduction, which is undertaken with strong linkages to long-term sustainable development. In mid 2010 LWF Myanmar launched its Integrated Rural Development Project, which contextually conforms to the people-centered, community-based, integrated rights based advocacy and empowerment approach of the LWF/DWS.

The goal of the organization is to contribute to the poverty alleviation of Myanmar through capacity building, strengthening local leadership for sustainable development. Specifically, it aims at strengthening local leadership for equitable and sustainable development, enabling villages to obtain improved and sustainable socio-economic livelihoods and conserve and manage natural resources in sustainable ways by managing and mitigating disaster risks.



CDRM & CDS Indonesia

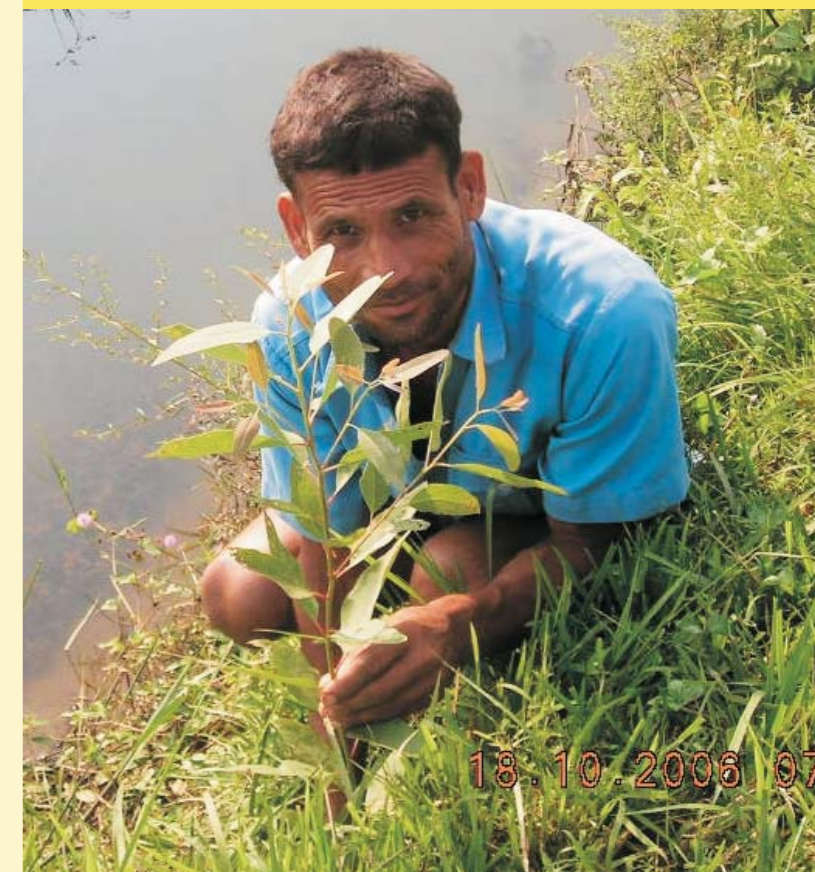
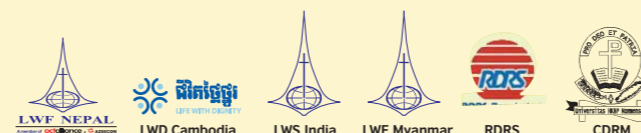
HKBP, Nommensen University, Center for Disaster Risk Management and Community Development Studies (CDRM&CDS) was established in December 2006 to build the capacity of the people of Indonesia of north and west Sumatra where natural disasters are more common. It operates in West and North Sumatra provinces, covering 26 villages for approximately 35,000 most vulnerable people. The program was developed in close consultation with 12 Lutheran World Federation member churches in Indonesia who have had a long partnership with LWF Department for Mission and Development, and located mainly in these two provinces.

With right-based approach, CDRM&CDS focused in vulnerable area of disaster, poor communities, and the communities that are not reached by other NGOs and Government. By empowering and strengthening the communities through various trainings and accompaniments, the capacity of communities are built so they will be able to manage the development process, obtain sustainable socio-economic livelihoods and their rights, as well as mitigate the impact of disasters. In parallel to that, various trainings and consultations also been given to the diaconal arms of Indonesian Lutheran Churches to build up their organizational capacities and programs to provide better services to the communities with whom they work.



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The Asian Zone Emergency and Environment Cooperation Network



About AZEECON

The Asian Zone Emergency and Environment Cooperation Network (AZEECON) was established in December 1997. A network of country programs of The Lutheran World Federation/Department for World Service (LWF/DWS) in Bangladesh, Cambodia, India and Nepal, AZEECON strives to reduce vulnerabilities in the working areas of the member programs. It aims to strengthen the capacities of local communities to prepare for, cope with, respond to, and recover from disasters through disaster preparedness, risk management and environmental programs. AZEECON promotes formal regional cooperation in two key sectors: Emergency preparedness and risk management, and environmental issues through shared capacity building. Of late, various aspects of risk management, including conflict resolution and health/accident dimensions (plus HIV & AIDS) are taken by AZEECON members as an area of mutual interest. AZEECON members are active partners of ACT Alliance.

Core Activities of AZEECON

- Annual Planning, Review and Coordination Meeting (APRM) of AZEECON members are held at least once a year. This includes reviewing/planning AZEECON activities, sharing information on and experience in emergency/environment developments.
- Regular Exchange, Exposure and Training Visits (EETV) for relevant field staff and partner organizations. The visit normally includes seminars/training workshops in conjunction with field visits. AZEECON has continued this program with at least one visit hosted by each core member per year on themes decided in APRM and generally related to the strategic theme.
- AZEECON holds an annual customized training, primarily for trainers and resource persons, in aspects relating to the primary strategic theme (Linking Relief, Rehabilitation and Development (LRRD) & Rights-based Approach (RBA)). The customized training will continue to engage external expertise to conduct the training (normally 5 days, including field visits) and development related materials.
- Information/knowledge exchange, including strategy development of AZEECON partners, identification of regional/national/program resources and networks, sharing of materials, experience and best practices.

Expand membership, engagement and linkages

- Widen membership by inviting other appropriate organizations and institutions (ecumenical NGOs, appropriate training, research and similar bodies) to join as associates.
- Review membership implications of subscription or other mechanisms.
- Explore the establishment of modest AZEECON network at the national level in each program as a means of replicating learning at the regional level.

- Widen ownership and involvement of all categories of staff across member programs.
- Explore linkage of AZEECON as a network with other relevant networks and institutions.

Engage in or commission practical research

Identify ways of conducting practical action and secondary research into relevant topics, including indigenous coping strategies, and of translating learning into practical actions.

Engage in advocacy

More active engagement to raise the central themes and issues at higher level through local and national mechanisms links with partners and others. AZEECON can play a more active role in raising awareness and influencing decisions on thematic areas such as disaster preparedness and risk management, LRRD and RBA.

Resource mobilization

AZEECON will be active in mobilizing resources (financial, human and others) necessary to implement its detailed program and to achieve its objectives. This includes steps to funding national-level and regional programs.

AZEECON will also promote itself as a suitable regional platform for partner and other agencies to reach out to support, train, or orient DWS programs and other partners across Asia.

Goal and Objectives

The overall goal of AZEECON is:

To reduce vulnerabilities among marginalized and disadvantaged groups in the working areas of member programs by strengthening the capacities of local communities and the organized poor through effective and sustainable risk and disaster management, and LRRD.D.

The specific objectives of AZEECON are:

- To strengthen capacity, relevance, quality and effectiveness of AZEECON partners in understanding and applying LRRD and RBA for the marginalized and disadvantaged
- To promote creative integration of development and emergency components of programs
- To promote co-operation and co-ordination amongst regional partners, and thereby serve as a practical and innovative instrument of regional cooperation
- To influence policies and practices of institutions, national and international, through effective networking and advocacy

Co-ordination and Implementation

No additional staff or project set-up is used for AZEECON; the existing staff, offices and other resources of AZEECON members are used. At the APRM, a focal point is elected for the year. However, each AZEECON member is responsible for organizing workshops on topics of mutual interest and hosting an exchange visit where best practices and lessons learned are shared and feedback provided. AZEECON members are also active in national disaster coordination mechanisms.

Funding for AZEECON

AZEECON receives modest funding from Australian Lutheran World Service, Church of Sweden, DanChurchAid and ICCO. The member programs also contribute to the costs involved. ACT/Netherlands and Norwegian Church Aid had also supported the network. Many AZEECON activities are supplemented by DIPECHO projects.

Founding members

1. RDRS Bangladesh
2. Life With Dignity Cambodia
3. Lutheran World Service Trust India
4. The Lutheran World Federation Nepal

Associate members

1. Lutheran World Federation Myanmar
2. CDRM & CDS Indonesia

Brief profile of member organizations

RDRS Bangladesh

RDRS Bangladesh, established in 1972 and localized in 1997, is an associate program of LWF/DWS. The vision of RDRS is rural people achieving meaningful political, social and economic empowerment, peace and justice and a sustainable environment through their individual and collective efforts. Its mission is to work with the rural poor and their organizations in order to establish and claim their rights as citizens; to build their capacity and confidence to advance their empowerment; and to promote good governance and improved



access to opportunities, resources and services. It fulfils the vision and mission through its four mainstream programs, which are Civil Empowerment, Quality of life, Natural Resources and Environment and Economic Empowerment. The entire RDRS working area is vulnerable to natural disasters such as flood, drought, river erosion, tornado, cold wave and earthquake. Therefore, disaster preparedness and response remain important elements of the RDRS program. It has been active in responding to relief and rehabilitation activities following emergency situations caused by natural disaster.

LWD Cambodia

In response to a 1979 government's call for humanitarian aid to respond to the humanitarian crisis resulted due to civil war, Department for World Service (DWS) formed the Lutheran World Service-Kampuchea Program as part of an NGO consortium. The program concentrated on agricultural, animal husbandry, water and other small projects. In the mid-90s, LWD Cambodia shifted its focus from emergency relief to development as international agencies began



to return to the country following UN-sponsored elections. Since 1999, LWD Cambodia has taken an integrated rural development approach to improve the livelihoods of the rural poor, and place more emphasis on rights-based empowerment. It runs six integrated rural development through empowerment projects in four provinces with over 2.5 million populations. The program focuses on vulnerable people in remote areas like poor farmers, landless and land-poor families, female-headed households, illiterate adult and people living with or affected by HIV and AIDS. LWD Cambodia works through partnerships and empowerment. In January 2011, LWD Cambodia has been localized, transforming into an autonomous Cambodian NGO. The new name LWD has been changed from its original name Lutheran World Federation Cambodia, in association with LWF/DWS.

LWS India Trust

Lutheran World Service India (LWSI) is LWF/DWS program in India, which started in 1974 responding to the refugee problems in West