



CENTRE FOR NORTH EAST
STUDIES & POLICY RESEARCH

Annual Report

2021- 2022

Centre for North East Studies & Policy Research



Board of Trustees:

GK Pillai, former Union Home Secretary, Chairman

Sanjoy Hazarika, Managing Trustee

Niketu Iralu, Social Worker from Nagaland

Patricia Mukhim, Columnist and Editor, Shillong Times, Meghalaya

Preeti Gill, Literary Agent and Independent Researcher, New Delhi

HS Das, Former Principal Finance Commissioner Govt. of Assam

Dr. Mahfuza Rahman, Former Professor, Cotton College, Guwahati

Special Advisor : Dr. Milan K Barooah



Annual Report 2021- 2022



Centre for North East Studies & Policy Research

Table of Contents

1. Introduction
2. Message From the Managing Trustee
3. Boat Clinic Figures
4. Boat Clinic in Covid Times
5. Interns
6. C-NES Participation
7. Model Village Program
8. Media Coverage
9. From the Field
10. Family Planning Initiatives
11. Brahmaputra Community Radio Station
12. A Medical Officer recollects
13. Financials

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 registered office at New Delhi and Guwahati

1. 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 the registered office 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



In an innovative development, C-NES has organized its first online set of internships, providing research depth and detail to scholars from a Dutch University. This was after the COVID 19 pandemic had eased but when there were still formal and other restrictions on travel. Thus, in March 2022, a two month collaboration began with the Amsterdam based Vrije University's Athena Institute pre-master course- International Public Health, focused on supporting a group of four pre-master students from Health Sciences premaster program at the university. Bongaigaon in western Assam and Majuli (Jorhat) in upper Assam, were the two districts for the virtual internship. The students studied the Boat Clinics and their Impact on Maternal Health during the project.

With sustained support from the National Health Mission (NHM), Assam, the Boat Clinics continue to serve the poor, the needy and most isolated communities inhabiting the Brahmaputra islands improving the health outcomes in these remote areas. These have seen an uptick in ante natal checkups, increase in child immunisation, PNC services, family planning etc. Holding regular awareness sessions on health and other related social issues making the people aware about the importance of looking after their health has been a significant aspect of this programme. Many people have accepted family planning, saying they were convinced about the benefits of small families, showing the growth of science-based approaches. This is no mean achievement in areas where superstition and taboos related to this issue have long dominated.

Meanwhile Brahmaputra Community Radio Station (BCRS) on FM 90.4 continues with its innovative and popular programming through its many programmes over 10 hours every day. Local artistes and community leaders as well as youth are involved in studio and feedback programmes; A research report titled Online Education during COVID-19 was jointly published by UNICEF, Assam and BCRS

The second wave of the pandemic severely affected the daily lives of char/sapori (island) dwellers , many of whom are vulnerable, poor and with minimal access to services. In addition, low literacy rates and adverse economic conditions often translated into a reluctance to cooperate with health workers although the 15 Boat clinic teams were able to overcome these challenges by a process of constant mobilization and motivation.

Initiating a public health programme and then running it successfully in partnership with Government is challenging. We are deeply grateful to each member of the teams in C-NES led by Programme Manager Ashok Rao and the Program Management Unit (PMU) as well as the staff at the district level, the research units and office staff. Our accounting unit regularly trains our staff in financial procedures. Those in the field and their teams work not just diligently but with courage and in-depth knowledge, as they have for years, having won and maintained the trust of the communities they serve. They do so in adverse conditions and fair – in floods and blustery weather with fierce currents as well as blistering sun, having to use tractors and dugouts, bullock carts or just move on cycles, motorcycles and on foot to otherwise unreachable communities. I salute their steadfastness as well as their commitment. Truly they are worth of many awards and we honour their work and determination.

I wish to thank the Department of Health, Government of Assam, the then Minister of Health Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma, (the state's Chief Minister since May 2021) Mr. Anurag Goel , Principal Secretary (Health), Dr Lakshmanan, NHM's Mission Director, who have been very supportive.

The Board of Trustees have taken deep interest in our projects and provided steer in challenging times. We deeply appreciate their support and advise especially the Chair, Mr GK Pillai (IAS, Retd) and Trustees Shri HS Das, (IAS, Retd), Ms Patricia Mukhim, Mr. Niketu Iralu, Prof Mahfuza Rahman and Ms. Preeti Gill. Dr Milan Barooah, our Technical Adviser, has provided astute advice and clear technical directions with visits to the field and in depth meetings with the PMU and various units.

Our Auditors, Jagdish Chand & Co ensured the accounts are in order as also our Internal Auditor RK Bhuyan

We welcome donations for we are always charting challenging waters and are in need of constant support. C-NES is registered under Section 80 G (5) (vi) of Income Tax Act 1961. The Trust is also registered under the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA)

I wish to close with a quote from the American television star and author Oprah Winfrey: “There will never be anything in your life as fulfilling as making a difference in somebody else’s. ... I’ll tell you where you start. You start by being good to at least one other person, every single day. Just start there. That’s how you begin to change the world.”

There is much in these words to learn from and be inspired by. Indeed, our colleagues on the boat clinics do it every day they’re on the water and in the field, without fail. I salute them and all who, like them, are selfless workers endeavouring to bring positive changes in difficult and challenging environments.

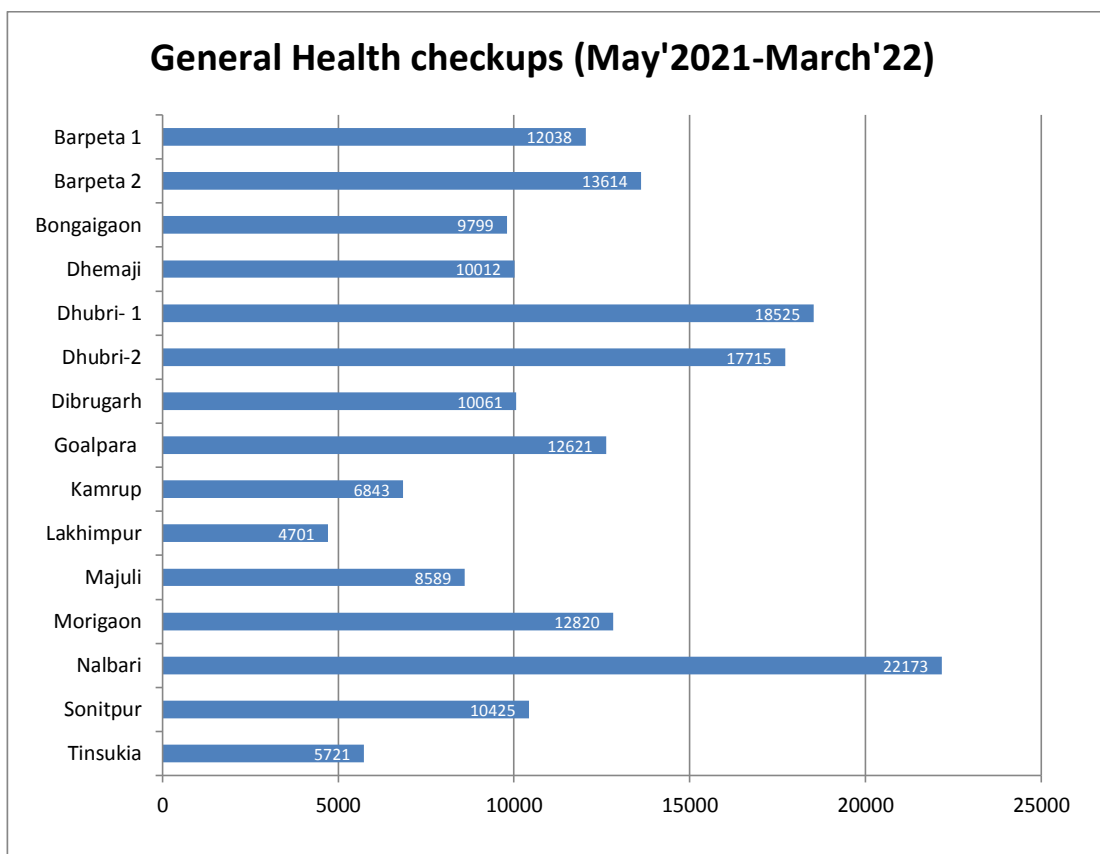
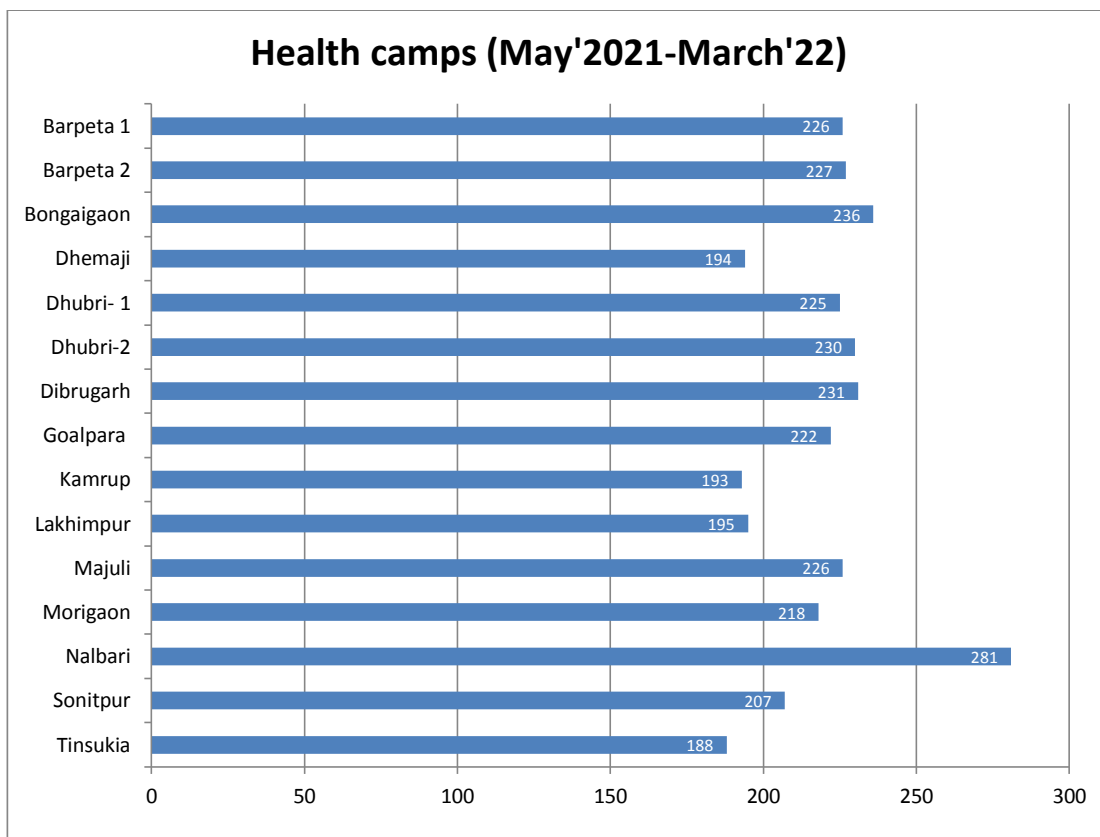
Sanjoy Hazarika

Districts where Boat Clinics are operating in the Brahmaputra Valley, Assam

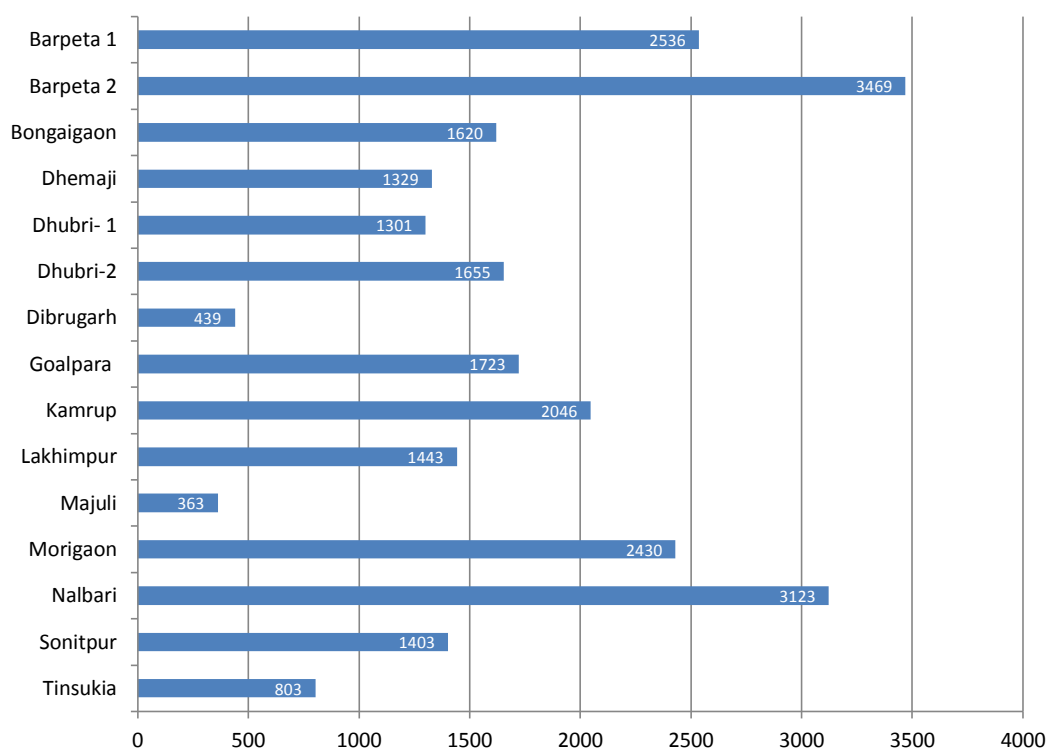


(Barpeta and Dhubri have two Boat Clinics each due to the size of island population and size of islands)

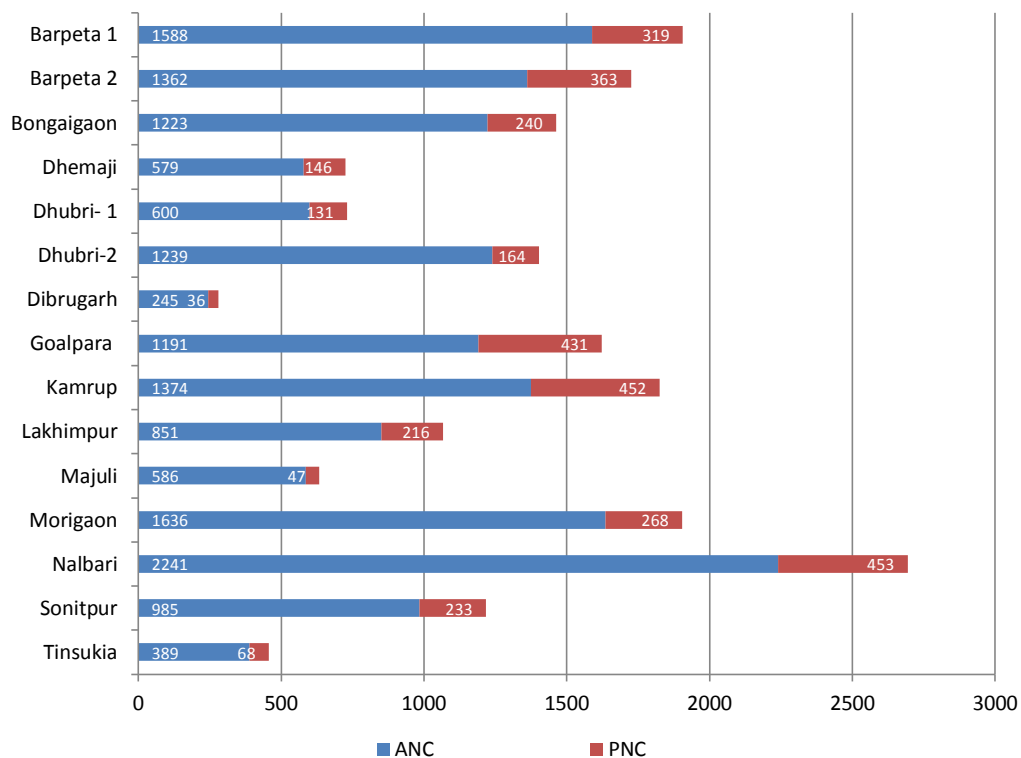
Boat Clinic Figures



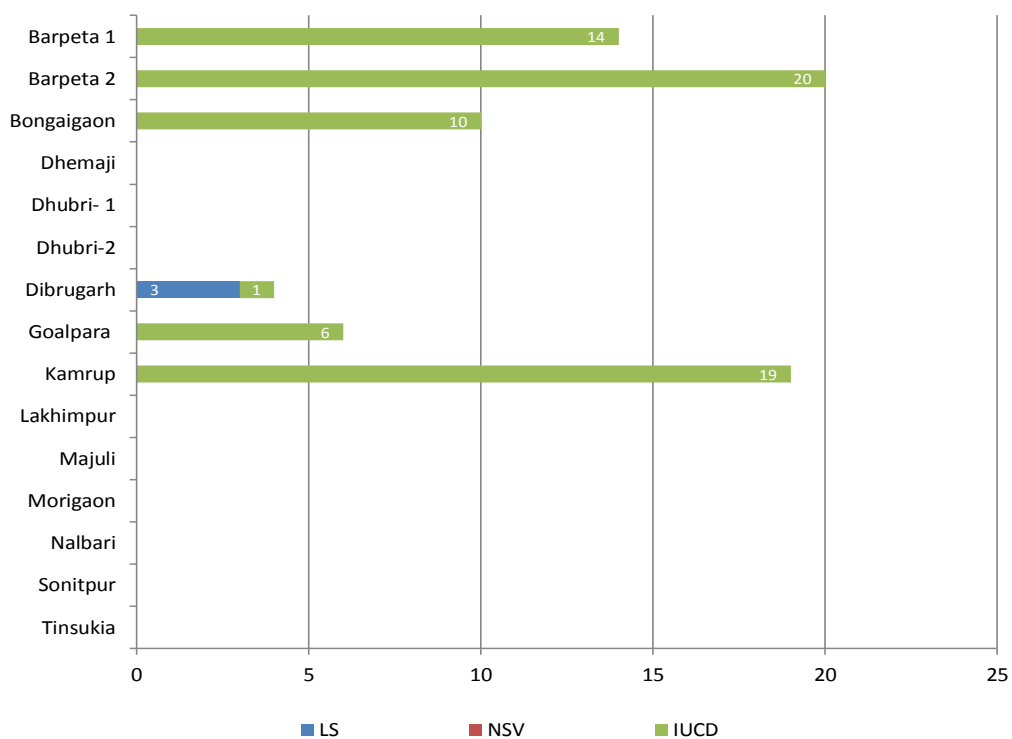
Routine Immunizations (May'2021-March'22)



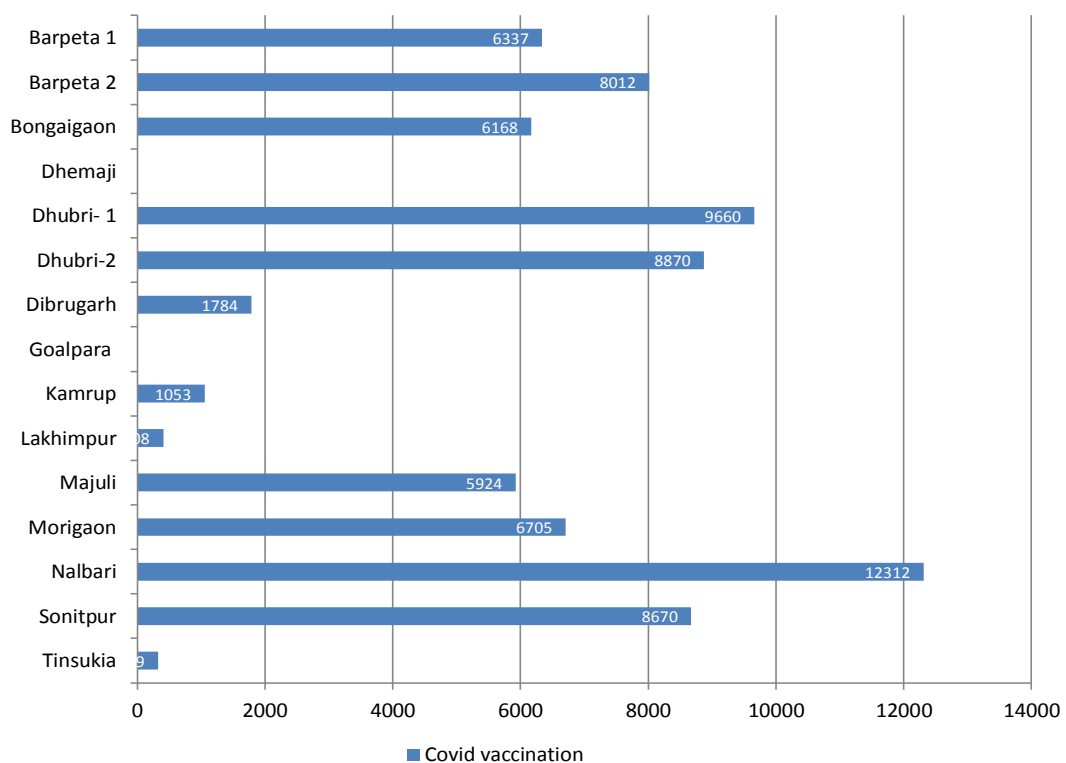
ANC and PNC (May'2021-March'22)



Family Planning Activity (May'2021-March'22)



Covid vaccination (May'2022-march'23)



Boat Clinic in Covid Times

The second wave of the pandemic severely affected the daily life of the char/sapori island dwellers. They were unable to go outside to work due to restrictions imposed by the government. To add to this, many misconceptions and rumors prevailed. Their isolation, insular location, low literacy rates and poor economic conditions led to their unwillingness to cooperate with health workers attempts at getting them vaccinated and maintaining covid precaution. The long distances to reach the nearest health centre was another factor. In such situations, the boat clinic teams were continuously mobilizing the island dwellers and taking steps to prevent any pandemic outbreak.

The health workers from the 15 Boat Clinic units worked with dedication and commitment in the fight to prevent COVID-19 in the river islands since the outbreak of the pandemic and completing the duty entrusted by the district health administration. As frontline warriors they conducted regular awareness sessions, reminding communities to maintain physical distance, follow hand washing practice and to wear masks at all times. The clinics were in forefront of providing relief to island dwellers amid lockdown apart from providing preliminary check-ups.



Home visits using country boats to reach every target villages by the boat clinic medical staff.



Routine health camp with covid test by Bongaigaon boat clinic at Kheluapara part 1



30th July 2021- The Lakhimpur Boat Clinic team on way to Covid vaccination camps organized in association with Bihpuria BPHC and Bhagora MPHC. The camps were held at Pavobhabhekeli and Kaniajan villages with a target to vaccinate 400 island dwellers



Remarkable performance by the Sonitpur Boat Clinic ANM Hasena Banu on 24 August 2021, as she single handedly vaccinated (Covid) 334 island inhabitants from the district.



A covid vaccination camp by the Barpeta Unit II Boat Clinic team at Dharmapur high school. 165 people were vaccinated on 16th August, 2021

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. 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.

In March 2022, C-NES and the Amsterdam based Vrije University's Athena Institute pre-master course- International Public Health started a collaboration. The course was created for pre-masters students with a clinical background. The collaboration commenced on 8 March 2022 and ended on 10 May 2022. This partnership focused on supporting a group of four pre-master students from Health Sciences premaster program at the university. The students produced among others, a detailed report on the community needs assessment and an oral presentation. The assignment was advised and assessed by coach Stephanie Okafor, under the supervision of Dr Brittney Mengistu from the Athena Institute. Students met regularly with representatives from C-NES to provide information relevant to the course assignment. This was the first of its kind online internship, in a post covid situation. Bongaigaon in lower Assam and Majuli (Jorhat) in upper Assam, were the two districts where the internship took place and the students made a study on Boat Clinics and Impact on maternal health.



An online introductory session between Prof Brittney Mengistu from Amsterdam's Vrije University and the C-NES team

C-NES Participation

Workshop on Health and Nutrition

The State Alliance on Food, Health and Nutrition, of which C-NES is a part, was formed soon after the onset of the pandemic in May 2020 with the involvement of Oxfam. The Alliance has been pushing to set up nutritional kitchen gardens at the community/school and individual level. It is important for the community to have control over food resources to safeguard future generations and promote organic and indigenous food. The World Food Summit of 1996 defined food security as existing "when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food preferences for an active and healthy life."



Participants at the workshop

On 6th October 2021 an interactive workshop was organised by the Alliance. Participants discussed various possibilities of encouraging local communities to focus on their individual and community level kitchen gardens with locally available resources to improve their nutritional status. Traditionally such gardens are present in all homes. Communities need to be made aware of the potential of such gardens. Providing better seeds and flood and drought resistant crops with increasing climate change were some of the steps which needed to be taken.

Taking part in the session, Communications Officer Bhaswati Goswami spoke about how C-NES, through its boat clinics, has been aiming for holistic community development. The contribution of BCRS towards building community awareness on nutrition from locally available resources and cultivation of morninga as a means of better livelihood was also shared by her. VHAA, ANT, NEN, and OXFAM were some of the participants of the session.

Help Age India Consultative

Understanding Health and Care needs of Elderly and Community: a consultative was organized on 17 Feb. 2022 by Help Age India at the Conference Hall of the Social Welfare Department, Government of Assam. The meeting was facilitated by HelpAge India represented by Dr. Ritu Rana, Head Healthcare Programmes, Paromita Thomas, Country Head (HR), Rani Varghese, National Coordinator, M-Rite Vaccination Project, New Delhi, Sharmila Majumder, Territory Head, West Bengal & NorthEast, Kolkata and .Nilondra Tanya Programme Manager (NE). 1st of October every year is celebrated as Senior Citizens Day.

Bhaswati Goswami, Communications Officer C-NES attended the workshop and spoke about C-NES intervened areas where elderly and the disadvantaged in society have been the main focus. She sought Help Age India's help in providing support and linkages The river island communities which sees no, or very little intervention need to be exposed to the various schemes for the elderly in society and the need to give them dignity by generating means of livelihood suited to their needs and ability.

Established in 1978, HelpAge India's mission is "to work for the cause and care of disadvantaged older persons and to improve their quality of life. HelpAge envisions a society where elderly have the right to an active, healthy and dignified life. 10567 is the National Helpline Number of Elderly Help



Participants at the Help Age India Consultative

Workshop by SeSta

A day long workshop was organized on 18th February 2022 by the Seven Sisters Development Assistance (SeSta) on “Catalysing MGNREGS in Assam by empowering Rural Communities’ facilitation by CSOs”. The workshop, supported by Azim Premji Philanthropic Initiatives (APPI) was held at the Indian Institute of Bank Management (IIBM), Khanapara.

The key objectives of the workshop was to : Understanding how MGNREGA is currently being implemented in India and how civil society organizations can act as catalysts in the process. Stakeholder mapping and support that can be provided for MGNREGA was another objective. Bhaswati Goswami, Communications Officer, and Nirmali Das, Research Analyst, C-NES participated at the workshop and updated the participants about the work being done in C-NES’ intervention areas and how the boat clinics have been trying to bring a holistic community developing and looking beyond just the health needs of communities dwelling in the river islands



CareMother for C-NES Boats

CareMother, a pregnancy care company based in Mumbai, Maharashtra, provides digital solutions for high risk pregnancy management through their device called Fetosense. With support of HT Parekh Foundation, CareMother provided 3 Fetosense devices to three Boat clinic (BC) unit- two mini Fetosense in Kamrup BC unit and Bongaigaon BC unit and one Fetosense device in Lahorighat Model Hospital, Morigaon which acts as a referral unit for the Morigaon BC unit beneficiaries .

On 7th March 2022, Ajay Mohanty, resource person of CareMother conducted training sessions on the use of mini Fetosense for the BC unit staff from Bongaigaon and Kamrup district. The next day, 8th March it was held for Lahorighat Model hospital at Morigaon attended by Dr Milan Barooah and Programme Manager Ashok Rao.



The mini Fetosense device



Ajay Mohanty conducting sessions with BC staff at SB Kaliyani, the Kamrup Boat Clinic

Voluntary Health Association of India (VHAI) and UNICEF project

A project, “Empowering community-based institutions for supporting Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) for COVID-19 and Routine Immunization” was implemented by C-NES in four blocks of two districts in Lower Assam for a period of six months, starting from March 2022.

The projects aimed to mobilize the eligible population for the uptake of COVID-19 vaccination with special focus on increasing the second dose coverage, mobilize the teenage population (15-18 years) and the 60 plus population for COVID-19 vaccination and precautionary (booster) dose, promote COVID appropriate behaviours and support the overall routine immunization uptake while delivering COVID-19 vaccine promotion. Goalpara Urban block and Lakhimpur block in Goalpara district and South Salmara Urban block and Gazarikandi block are where the project was implemented.

VHAI Review meeting

The third phase review meeting of the project titled, “Empowering community-based institutions for routine Immunizations and supporting Risk communication and Community Engagement for Covid-19”, was held on 17th November 2021 at Guwahati, Assam. Organised by the Voluntary Health Association of India in collaboration with UNICEF. Abhinoy Sinha, Assistant Programme Manager, Noor Jamal, District Coordinator (Goalpara) and Anup Kalita, Accountant attended the meeting on behalf of the organisation. Noor Jamal presented the progress, achievements and challenges of the project in his district. The review meeting also discussed the progress of the project, further identification of Left-out, Dropout and Resistant (LODOR) children and challenges of immunisation.



Noor Jamal, District Coordinator (Goalpara) briefing about the project progress.

GNI COVID-19 Vaccine Counter-Misinformation Project

A Quint/GNI funded Covid-19 vaccine counter-misinformation project for Radio Brahmaputra (BCRS) started on June, 2021. The objective of the program was to debunk the misinformation on Covid-19 among rural masses particularly among the rural women from the vulnerable groups and promote Covid-19 vaccination among them. The project will end in May 2022 and currently in its last phase.

Till April 2022 BCRS has done approximately 330 radio programs from covering topics on vaccine hesitancy, CAB, importance of 2nd dose for women, adolescent, school going students and other general public in Assamese, Sadri, Mising, Hajong, Deori, Bodo & Tiwa dialects and broadcast every day 12 times of each spots.

Model Village Program (MVP)

C-NES and the Bengaluru based SELCO Foundation worked together on a Model Village Program (MVP) from 15th October 2019 to 31 st March 2021. The three selected remote villages- all located under Majuli district in upper Assam were Kartik Sapori, Mekahi Sapori and Salmora. The technical partner in the project was ERES Pvt Ltd. Amongst the targets of the MVP were setting up two Smart Anganwadi Centres (AWC) and Lok Sewa Kendra (LSK) at Kartik and Mekahi Sapori, installation of two solar powered sewing machines each at Kartik sapori and Mekahi sapori village. Two existing local mechanized boats of Kartik and Mekahi sapori to be upgraded with solar powered lighting system, helping villagers to travel on the boat during any emergency at night, transformation of nearest State Dispensary, Ownamukh to 4KW Solar Powered Model Dispensary, installation of 10 solar street lights each (15 watt) at Kartik sapori and Mekahi Sapori villages, solar powered pottery wheel, blunger and pugmil to be installed at Salmora village.

The MVP has benefited and influenced the three communities where it has been implemented. The villagers are optimistic that the project will bring a change in community behavior and will develop the villages. The Lok Sewa Kendra will help the villagers, especially students in gathering information and accomplish computer work. The street light in the village will provide women and children a safe environment even after sunset. Solar lighted boats had become a lifeline for the villagers in times of medical emergency. The much needed confidence of travelling during night hours on the river especially for patients and pregnant women is now available. There has been remarkable reduction in agricultural crop damage from wild elephants invading their agricultural land after installation of the Elephant repellent. Solar Sewing machine have provided few women entrepreneurs the opportunity to increase their income by producing more items in lesser amount of time. Salmora village women who had been traditionally producing pottery items since ages without using a wheel has now been trained to use the solar powered pottery wheel and increase their production. The women who attended the trainings have also been taught to design and develop other items which have demand in the market in the state and outside the state. The newly constructed Anganwadi Centre into a Smart Anganwadi Centre will motivate and benefit children of Kartik Village. The Smart AWC will have digital learning tools resulting in more interactive learning and improved retention of children. MVP will be a model which will attract the concerned government departments for adoption under the village development plan.

Photographs from the project follows:



Priyanka Regon of Mekahi saporì with her newly acquired solar sewing machine.



Trainees of Pottery Training Programme at Salmora, October & November 2020. The community here is involved in hand made pottery for generations but as they do not use a wheel, production is low. The installation of solarized pug mill' and Blunger' was an attempt to provide better livelihood opportunities through better technology. Secondly, solarized pottery wheel would increase production of pottery items to a large extent. The installation was done at 'Chinatoli Namghor 'of Salmora.



Riturekha Baruah, DPO, Jorhat Boat Clinic with Padmashree, Jadav Payeng, the "Forest Man of India" who has built up an entire forest himself in Mekahi saporì known as "Mulai Kathoni Bari". Payeng was informed about the Model Village Project by her. He expressed happiness about the initiative by SELCO Foundation and C-NES and extended his support for the same.

Media Coverage

Lakhimpur Boat on Covid duty covered by media: https://public.app/video/sp_x94xkqj24rg66 on 31 st july

Radio Brahmaputra on 3rd Aug by The Assam Tribune:

<https://epaper.assamtribune.com/full-page-pdf/epaper/pdf/2021/08/04/the-assam-tribune/2503/epaper-page-8?infinitescroll=1>

Boat Clinics by TOI on 6th Aug : [https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/guwahati/boat-clinics-breathe-life-into-char-islands-during](https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/guwahati/boat-clinics-breathe-life-into-char-islands-during-covid/articleshow/85080039.cms?fbclid=IwAR1iT_NjUin_ExFrSg-szqH9SpZagVGPQM9KE73U5C__9lf31gf2FsE1378)

[covid/articleshow/85080039.cms?fbclid=IwAR1iT_NjUin_ExFrSg-szqH9SpZagVGPQM9KE73U5C__9lf31gf2FsE1378](https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/guwahati/boat-clinics-breathe-life-into-char-islands-during-covid/articleshow/85080039.cms?fbclid=IwAR1iT_NjUin_ExFrSg-szqH9SpZagVGPQM9KE73U5C__9lf31gf2FsE1378)



The Nalbari Boat Clinic team led by DPO Parvez Ahmed on way to a health camp on 3 rd August,2021 at Bhangnamai island village. Joint Director Health Services Nalbari, Dr. Umesh Phangcho, Dr. Madhu Ram Baishya, SDM and HO, headquarters, and Dr. Kailash Kr. Deka SDM &H O, Epidemic, accompanied the team

From the Field:

6th August 2021: 74 year old Togori Barman is a resident of Dhemaji district's remote Badalpur Barman island village. She has been hypertensive for the past over ten years and has never visited any other health care institute other than the boat clinic health camp since 2008. She waits enthusiastically every month for the Dhemaji boat health team to arrive at her island village. Her condition has been stable as she has been under regular medication and under the health team's care. She gets her regular medicines from the team. She is unwilling to visit any health center and expresses her gratitude to the team every time they meet her. The team reminds her to take her medication timely. She says she is healthy and alive only due to the boat clinic.



Bongaigaon Boat Clinic SB Shekhar undergoing repair in the first week of April 2021



S.B Shekhar post repair, freshly painted and ready to serve people- April 2021



World breast feeding week at Nalbari on 5th August 2021. Awareness sessions on the same are regularly held.

World Breastfeeding Week is an annual celebration which is held every year from 1st to 7th August in more than 120 countries. According to the 26 August data of WBW website, 540 events have been held worldwide by more than 79 countries with 488 organizations and 406,620 participants for the World Breastfeeding Week 2010. It commemorates the Innocenti Declaration signed in August 1990 by government policymakers, WHO, UNICEF and other organizations to protect, promote and support breastfeeding. Breastfeeding is the best way to provide infants with the nutrients they need.

Family Planning Initiative :



Family planning awareness is an important component of the boat clinics. On 28th December, nine beneficiaries were successfully inserted IUCD by Kamrup Boat clinic unit at Toper Pathar.



11 beneficiaries were successfully inserted IUCD by the Barpeta Boat clinic unit-1 at Nirola char on 29th November as a family planning initiative



Family planning and awareness generation on the need to have a small family has shown distinct positive results. Beneficiaries at a camp conducted by the Boat Clinic Barpeta Unit 2 during a one-on-one counselling session with health workers on 25th November 2021.



A new mother with her infant at a health camp in Guwalbari on October 26th 2021 by the Lakhimpur Boat Clinic team.



A routine immunisation cum health camp at Dhemaji district's remote Apsara Sapori (island village) in upper Assam by the district Boat Clinic team on December 20, 2021.



A newborn being taken to the camp site by the local ASHA for vaccination by the Sonitpur Boat Clinic team conducted camp.



11 beneficiaries were successfully inserted IUCD by the Barpeta Boat clinic unit-1 at Nirola char on 29th November as a family planning initiative



The Barpeta Boat Clinic Unit I distributing IFA syrup and deworming tablets among children at Salmara island village on February 19th, 2022



A beneficiary being given the mandatory ANC check up at Lakhimpur's Puronidhola island village by the district boat clinic team.



Healthy infant, happy mother. A regular camp by Dhubri BC II on 26th February at Majerchar Chalakura

Where There are No Roads: Challenges of Access



The Nalbari Boat Clinic team promptly on way to a flooded Tildardiya village to conduct a health camp on 3rd October 2021



The Barpeta Unit 1 team on their way to conduct a camp in West Adurichar village on November 2021. Innovative transport is often used by health teams to reach remote island villages where boats are the only means of communication under challenging physical conditions.



Very often the boats get stuck with the onset of winter and subsequent river water subsiding. In the photograph, the Barpeta boat clinic unit I seen getting stuck on the way to a health camp in early November 2021 with team members struggling to get it out.



*A health camp at Tinsukia district's remote Erahoti sapor on Republic Day, 26th January 2022
The kind of challenges accessing these islands need extreme dedication and resilience*



The Morigaon boat clinic team members walking over 6 kms to and from the camp site at Hamur on February 23rd 2022. With water subsiding and the boat not being able to reach interior island village, this is a common occurrence

Radio Brahmaputra



50 episodes of a radio study programme was published by Radio Brahmaputra in collaboration with Dibrugarh District Administration, the District Education Department, UNICEF Assam for students deprived of regular education during Covid-19 and lockdown. The program was dedicated to the villages, tea gardens and river islands along with the teachers of various government schools who participated in the radio programs at the office of Radio Brahmaputra on 5 February, 2021. A research report titled Online Education during COVID-19 was also jointly published by UNICEF, Assam and Radio Brahmaputra.

A Medical Officer recollects ...



It was the year 2005, when a newspaper article interested me, 'Coming up: Boat Clinic to serve the underprivileged and unreachable people of the small islands of the mighty Brahma-putra, the only masculine river, in Assam, India.' I was posted in Dhansiri, Karbi Anglong then and was nearing my retirement age. Never heard, never seen, I just wondered how or what exactly will this Boat Clinic be like. Fast forward to 2021, today, and here I am sitting on our Boat with our team proudly writing about S B Akha- our Dibrugarh Boat Clinic Unit. It's been 8 years since I joined in the year 2013. We, the Boat Clinic Dibrugarh Unit are a team of around 10 – 15 members and we have to cater to the people of around 22 small islands of Brahmaputra. Other than the smallest river island, Umananda (also known as peacock island, Guwahati, Assam) and largest river island Majuli (Jorhat, Assam) there are many other small islands too found where people live. The people who

live in these islands are not connected to the mainland and hence it becomes very difficult for them to avail regular facilities and services. We, the Boat Clinics reach out to these people to provide basic medical facilities like regular immunization of children and pregnant women, RI, pre-natal and post-natal care, regular health check-up of all age groups, organise health awareness camps of preventable diseases, water borne diseases, tuberculosis, AIDS and very recently Covid 19 too. During the dry season we walk for kilometres carrying all the medicines, vaccines, vaccine storage apparatus, log books, small instruments and during the monsoon though we do not have to carry any of these but have to escape near fatal incidents like strong currents, sudden rise in water level, waves, etc. Due to the close proximity of the river to the main town of Dibrugarh, winters are very bitter so I suppose you all can imagine

how cold it will be to stay on the boat. Now, the question is with such difficulty, why we do it? We have been there and we will be there for those people. Our Boat too is very rightly named 'AKHA' meaning HOPE. We sail taking with us Hope. Because those people are waiting for us in rain, sun and storm. Though they wait for the Boat to arrive but they actually wait for their only hope for the little medical service that they get and they have no complains but only gratitude. And Denzel Washington very rightly said, that: "The most selfish thing you can do in this world is to help someone else. Why selfish? Because of the gratification, the good feeling, the satisfaction that comes back to you from helping others cannot be measured or compared to anything." We have end number of real incidents that can be shared which will only seem like adventurous stories out of adventure series, and my dear readers, this one instance will not be enough. At times, our boat gets stuck in the middle of the river, at times we have to get-off on unknown unnamed islands as circumstances are such that it cannot be predicted. Fog, sudden rise in water level, strong currents, flood, big boat, small boat everything has posed hurdles. Even Boat Akha, our Hope, has been lying useless since a year now and for the time being we were given the boat of Dhemaji District named S B Shehnaz. Our team of 10-15 people with Doctor, Nurses, Pharmacist, Cook, Helper, Boatman, etc who travel to these islands get the bare minimum facilities like toilets, separate rooms for female nurses, etc in these boats which helps us with our stay as well as our safety for around 5 days to a week sometimes, but Shehnaz too has been out of order since last three months and thus we have been hiring private boats to reach to the people. These private or country made boats (as they are regularly called) though do not have the bare minimum facility of washrooms or even kitchens to cook forget about sleeping. But, 'we get dirty, so our society remains clean. That's the mission. Call of duty.' And now while I am writing this, on duty for a week travelling by boat, by foot, let me share last night's incident. When our team went off to sleep the water level was low, and our boat was very securely anchored on the bank. Come morning and the water level has risen almost 5-7 ft. Luckily, nobody was sleeping under the tent the other night. This happened in the Brahmaputra saporis of Aichung and Karmichuk. Life of these people are so unpredictable. They have a unique bond with this mighty river because during normal circumstances people would leave everything behind and move to safe places but they don't. We on the other hand feel blessed and happy to be back home safe and sound

among our loved ones. And while sharing the trip's incidents with family and friends we feel really proud of the fact that we have been able to help a few, save a few in whatever little way we could. That is life on a Boat Clinic!! Which, long ago before joining I wondered how or what will this Boat Clinic be like. Now, even with all the unpredictability of nature and other circumstances still, given a chance I and my Dibrugarh Boat Clinic Team would always want to serve these people from the Saporis. Because we are selfish now, for the love, gratification, for the hope that we carry with us and we try our best never to miss any immunization date for what so ever reason. Every life matters, every life is precious.

Dr. J.K. Deori
MO/DPO, I/C, Boat Clinic, Dibrugarh, Assam.

Dr. Juganta Deori and the Dibrugarh Boat Clinic team proceeding toward Karmichuk and Popita (riverine village) in a country boat for a health check up. The dedication, commitment and teamwork is inspiring.



Financials

CENTRE FOR NORTH EAST STUDIES AND POLICY RESEARCH			
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 ST MARCH ' 2022			
LIABILITIES	AMOUNT (In ₹)	ASSETS	AMOUNT (In ₹)
CORPUS FUND		FIXED ASSETS	16,89,479
Opening Balance	3,38,22,408		
Add: Surplus of the year	13,35,691	Capital Work In Progress	2,29,76,128
	3,51,58,099		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		INVESTMENTS	
Other Payable	79,653	Fixed Deposits with Scheduled Banks	11,40,099
TDS Payable	58,882		
PF Payable	9,96,191	CURRENT ASSETS, LOANS	
Professional Tax payable	3,84,438	& ADVANCES	
Advance from District Programme Officer	19,94,874	Other Advances	8,15,594
Sundry Creditors	64,440	PF Receivable	8,756
Unreconciled Credit in Bank Account	7,55,000	Imprest with Staff	1,83,509
Salary Payable	33,50,538	Security deposit for Rent	
Rent Payable	50,000	TDS Recoverable	19,79,257
Amount Payable (PFI)	3,066	Balance with Government Department	25,618
		Salary & Camp Advances	69,877
		Advance for Boat Building	6,65,861
		Loans & Advances	1,44,500
		Amount Recoverable from Milan & Pinku	31,30,225
		Cash in Hand	2,23,444
		Bank Accounts (NET)	98,42,834
TOTAL	4,28,95,181	TOTAL	4,28,95,181

AUDITOR'S REPORT

As per our separate report of even date attached

For JAGDISH CHAND & CO.
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
FRN: 000129N

Santosh Kumar Jha

(SANTOSH KUMAR JHA)
PARTNER
M.No. 532638



Place: New Delhi
Dated : 30.09.2022

For Centre For Northeast Studies
And Policy Research

Sanjoy Hazarika
Managing Trustee

(MANAGING TRUSTEE)

CENTRE FOR NORTH EAST STUDIES AND POLICY RESEARCH			
INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDING ON 31ST MARCH ' 2022			
PARTICULARS	AMOUNT (₹)	PARTICULARS	AMOUNT (₹)
Boat Expenditures	24,237	Grant - in - Aid	4,37,51,089
License Fees	23,975	Interest Received	1,37,646
Advertisement Expenses	42,475	Donation Received	6,45,000
Payment to Auditor:-		Misc. Receipt	33,227
-Audit Fee	67,471	Community Radio Support Scheme	3,02,226
Books & Periodicals	8,478		
Bank charges	29,445		
Carriage charges	350		
Consultancy charges	1,305		
Depreciation	3,40,287		
Electricity & Water	370		
Gift & Facilitation Exp.	9,658		
Interest on TDS	3,483		
Insurance Expenses	16,349		
LPG, Kerosene & Other POL Expenses	4,133		
Vehicle hiring Charge	6,600		
Production Expenses	13,200		
Vehicle Maintenance	7,573		
Transcription charges	3,300		
Mobility & Monitoring	5,500		
Other Expenses	6,975		
Office Expenses	3,92,937		
Postage & Carriage	11,848		
Printing & Stationery	16,069		
Project, Seminars & Program Expenses	55,825		
Professional Charge	98,950		
Rent Expenses	1,58,800		
Staff Welfare	24,196		
Repair & Maintenance	92,521		
Salary, Honorarium & Incentives	4,19,43,470		
Travelling and Dearness Allowances	31,011		
Telephone & Internet Charges	33,071		
Training Expenses	1,165		
Website Expenses	58,470		
Excess of Expenditure Over income	13,35,691		
TOTAL	4,48,69,188	TOTAL	4,48,69,188

AUDITOR'S REPORT

As per our separate report of even date attached

For JAGDISH CHAND & CO.
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
FRN: 000129N

Santosh Jha

(SANTOSH KUMAR JHA)
PARTNER
M.No. 532638
Place: New Delhi
Dated : 30.09.2022



For Centre For Northeast Studies
And Policy Research

Sanjoy Hazarika
Managing Trustee

(MANAGING TRUSTEE)



CENTRE FOR NORTH EAST
STUDIES & POLICY RESEARCH

Annual Report : 2021-2022

Registered Office:

Managing Trustee

C-NES

B-14, Press Enclave, Saket, New Delhi- 110017

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

Regional Office:

Programme Manager

Centre for North East Studies and Policy Research (C-NES)

House No.6, Krishna Nagar Main Road,

Chandmari, Guwahati 781003

Phone : 0361- 3524534

Email: pm@c-nes.org, co.pmu@c-nes.org

Website: www.c-nes.org



<https://www.facebook.com/cnespr?fref=nf>



<https://twitter.com/CNESLive>