

The AIDA Chronicle

Stories from transformative journeys




Project updates

Impact stories

Team corner



Inspiring...Enabling...Empowering
Persons - Communities - Institutions
Since 1985

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 ANMA Integrated Development Association (AIDA)

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Cover page: Child Friendly City Dimapur campaign: painting graffiti by project activists in Dimapur town (Photo: Garrol Lotha)

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In the April-June 2024 issue: Stories from Projects EEMC and IDRCL from Assam,, SBI Gramseva in Namsai district of Arunachal Pradesh and more

A note from the editor

As we step into the uncharted territory of 2024, time and space lay before us as a pristine canvas awaiting the stories we will etch throughout the year. It marks a time for fresh beginnings, and we extend heartfelt wishes to you for a prosperous journey through 2024

In the spirit of new horizons, we introduce The AIDA Chronicle, a quarterly journal that signifies a new chapter at AIDA this year.

Our aspiration for this chronicle is to serve as a bridge, bringing you closer to understanding AIDA's mission and work. More than a publication, we envision it as a tool to strengthen the bond between us in our shared commitment to inspire, enable, and empower everyone, particularly those in marginalized sectors, towards a more just and equitable society where dreams find realization.

The AIDA Chronicle promises an informative and inspiring read mainly under three sections: project updates, impact stories, and stories from team members of AIDA projects. Additionally, the Executive Director of AIDA will regularly provide insights on relevant topics through 'the ED's Page.'

This first issue carries seven articles under project updates, inspiring stories of four young people are included under the impact stories, and two project team members shares their stories with us under the heading 'stories from team members of AIDA projects.'

Our heartfelt appreciation extends to Fr. Roy George, the Executive Director of AIDA, for his dynamic leadership and for the decision to launch the AIDA Chronicle. Gratitude also goes to members of the editorial team, contributors of articles, and all others who worked unreservedly for bringing out this inaugural issue of the AIDA Chronicle.

We cordially invite you to actively participate in the AIDA Chronicle community. Share your thoughts, stories, and ideas with us — your input enriches the narrative we aim to build together. As we unveil this maiden edition, we acknowledge imperfections may linger and appreciate your feedback to refine and grow with each subsequent issue.

As we unfold the pages of the future, expect upcoming issues to feature even more captivating content.

Here's to a future filled with progress, development, and the joy of reading The AIDA Chronicle!

Warm regards,

JMatthew
Joseph Matthew
Editor





From the Executive Director

Dear cherished friends and supporters,

It is with immense joy that I present to you the first edition of the AIDA CHRONICLE, a quarterly publication that beautifully encapsulates the unwavering dedication and impactful initiatives of the ANMA Integrated Development Association (AIDA) in the regions of Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, and Upper Assam.

Established on December 8th, 1985, and registered under the Societies Registration Act in 1860, as amended by Registration of Societies (Nagaland First Amendment Act) 1969, AIDA stands as a beacon of positive change. As a non-governmental and non-profit organization, we are committed to fostering the holistic development of rural communities, serving as the planning and development office of the Salesians of Don Bosco, Dimapur province.

Over the past 39 years, AIDA has played a pivotal role in social and human development in the North East, and in the last four years, we have redoubled our efforts to address the evolving needs of the communities we serve.

At the heart of AIDA's approach are inspiration, enablement, and empowerment. Our interventions encompass a wide spectrum, including integrated rural development, livelihood and livestock initiatives, entrepreneurship development programs, quality education for rural children, cultural preservation, women's empowerment, youth development, skill training, formation and support of Farmers' Producer Organizations (FPOs), WaSH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene), Sanjeevani, Clinic on Wheels, environmental and renewable energy projects, rural infrastructure enhancement, Janvan, Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, and much more.

The AIDA CHRONICLE stands as a tangible testament to the positive transformations we bring to the lives of the rural population across the four states of North East India.

I extend my sincere thanks and congratulations to the editorial team for their unwavering dedication in bringing forth this inaugural volume. I wish them continued success in capturing and sharing the impactful stories of AIDA's interventions.

Together, let us eagerly anticipate a future filled with more meaningful engagements and positive changes in the lives of those we are privileged to serve.

Warm regards,

Fr. Roy George SDB
Executive Director, AIDA



Empowering NE India through decades of commitment



By Dr Anna Lungbila Bibiana

In its 39th year, the ANMA (Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, and Assam) Integrated Development Association (AIDA) remains steadfast in its mission to foster progress and development among the indigenous people in the northeast region of India.

Established on December 8, 1985, and officially registered in 1986, AIDA is a non-governmental, not-for-profit voluntary organization founded by the Salesians of Don Bosco, Dimapur Province. 'Salesians of Don Bosco' denotes a society comprising individuals dedicated to articulating, interpreting, and realizing the developmental dimensions rooted in the vision of Don Bosco, the founder of the society.

AIDA's approach is nothing short of inspiring, enabling, and empowering individuals and communities through systematic, long-term interventions, along with leadership and capacity building at the grassroots level. Focused on uplifting marginalized sections of society,

AIDA directs its efforts towards tribal groups, women, youth, and children in targeted areas. Through interventions that inspire and empower, the organization seeks to facilitate sustainable development within these communities



AIDA's area of operation consists of Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur and upper region of Assam

Vision and Mission

With a dedicated focus on the states of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam (specifically the Upper Assam region), Manipur, and Nagaland, AIDA envisions a developed northeast India where diverse communities coexist peacefully, care for creation, and strive for a society based on justice and equality

The mission of the organization is the integral development of marginalized, excluded, and weaker sections of society through inspiring, enabling, and empowering interventions at the grassroots level.

Core Values

Solidarity, inclusion, justice, equality, equity, excellence, collaboration, and accountability form the core values that underpin AIDA's commitment to development. These principles reflect the dedication of the organization to empowering those in poverty, recognizing the potential of all stakeholders, restoring right relationships, promoting diversity, pursuing excellence, fostering collaboration, and maintaining accountability to partners, supporters, and the communities it serves.

Community Empowerment and Development

Promotion of self-help groups, and engaging rural communities in determining their own development, promoting village crèche centers

Education and Literacy

Education sponsorship for economically disadvantaged students.
Supplementary education program for government primary school students
Basic literacy programs for dropout youth.
Basic literacy program for mothers

Healthcare and Community Well-being

Providing mobile clinics, training community

health workers, and collaborating with communities to improve sanitary facilities, ensuring access to healthy food, safe drinking water.

Livelihood

Enhancing and sustaining life security, promotion of Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs),

Peace Building

Facilitating deep, long-term transformations.
Skill Development and Employment
Offering training, placement assistance, and job placement services, particularly for unemployed youth.

Sustainable Agriculture and Environmental Practices

Encouraging sustainable farming practices which do not harm natural environment.

Women Empowerment and Child Rights

Promoting responsibility for own growth, development, and freedom.

As AIDA continues on its transformative journey, it remains unwavering in its commitment to the integral development of tribal communities, women, youth, and children.

A beacon of hope and empowerment, AIDA continues to shape a brighter future for the diverse landscapes of northeast region of the country

AIDA's Enduring Commitment

Established as the social outreach wing of the Salesians of Don Bosco, Dimapur Province, AIDA continues to be a force for positive change. With its rich history, clear vision, and impactful mission, AIDA remains steadfast in its dedication to integral development, fostering hope and transformation in the Northeast.

Name of state	Name of Capital	Area sq.km	No of Districts	Population		Literacy %
				Total	Rural %	
Arunachal Pradesh	Itanagar	83743	25	1384000	95.9	65.38
Nagaland	Kohima	16579	16	1978502	71.1	79.55
Manipur	Imphal	22327	16	3649000	69.79	76.94
Assam	Dispur	78438	31	36600000	89.4	72.19

Dr Anna Lungbila Bibiana is HRD Manager, AIDA



Leaders of Child Rights Clubs under Chumoukedima and Dimapur districts were provided capacity building trainings
(Photo: G Lotha)

Child rights Fostering child-friendly environments in Dimapur



By Garrol Lotha

Discover the AIDA-CFD's transformative impact in Nagaland's Chumoukedima and Dimapur cities, reshaping children's rights amid rapid urbanization. With a focus on Child Rights Clubs, youth engagement, and collaborations, it has reached 4,162 children, forming 57 clubs and conducting impactful workshops. This initiative signifies a commitment to crafting secure environments, inspiring changes, and fostering a community where every child can thrive

In the vibrant urban landscape of Chumoukedima and Dimapur, the commercial capital of Nagaland, the AIDA-Child Friendly Dimapur (AIDA-CFD) initiative stands as a beacon of hope for the youngest members of the community. Amidst the challenges posed by rapid urbanization and migration, this project emerges as a pillar of support, transforming the narrative for children's rights.

Chumoukedima and Dimapur, like many cities, grapple with the complexities of providing adequate space, infrastructure, and services, often compromising the rights of their younger population. AIDA-CFD has taken on the responsibility to reshape this narrative, aspiring to craft cities where every child, regardless of background, can navigate secure environments and fulfil their potential



CMOs form Child Rights Clubs, motivate and build capacities of children (Photo: Jisha Joseph)

The project's reach extends across statutory towns of Dimapur and Chumoukedima, encompassing census towns like Kuda, Purana Bazaar, Diphupar, and Rangapahar. A dedicated team of nine individuals propels the initiative forward. A dedicated team of nine individuals propels the initiative forward.

A Collaborative Approach

To achieve a more child-friendly city, the project has initiated various activities, including the formation of Child Rights Clubs, training programs, creative awareness campaigns by children, and workshops with stakeholders.

The main stakeholders include:

Children: The primary focus is on children below 18, with Child Rights Clubs actively engaging those aged 12 to 18. Child Mobilization Officers oversee programs which include formation of Child Rights Clubs, enhance their capacities and educate them on their rights, enhance their leadership capacities and motivate them to raise child rights concerns with their peers, adults and leaders of city and community addressing 4,162 children since inception.

Youth: With a focus on individuals aged 18 to 29, the project leverages their creativity and passion for social causes. To date, 946 youth members actively participated in the project

Civil Society Organizations: Recognizing the collective effort required, AIDA-CFD collaborates with NGOs, academics, opinion makers, leaders, parents, teachers, legal services agencies, media, research institutions, political formations and trade unions, leaders and staff of private education institutions, health services and more.

A total of 637 individuals from Civil Society Organizations support the initiatives.

Civil Society Forum: An alliance of 14 youth and civil society organizations actively engaged in working towards the "child-friendly city" dream. It is a strong network of committed group formed and capacitated with the objective that this network can assure the sustainability of the journey of the city towards child friendliness.

The forum members consist of Professional Social Workers, School Counsellor, Educationist, Media personnel, Social Activist, Retired School Supervisor, Assistant Professor, and a Counselling Psychologist.



AIDA-CFD conducted children's rights related workshops for duty bearers (Photo: Agnes Kiso)

Caring Community Groups: Formed in different localities, these groups consist of 258 adult members committed to the safety and well-being of children of the area, especially those who are at risk, deprived or vulnerable in any way. There are 17 such Caring Community Groups operating in different parts of the twin cities.

Workshop for Duty bearers (City administration)

In view to build rapport and linkages with the city administrations and community leaders and explore possibilities to realize the dream of making Dimapur and Chumoukedima child friendly, seven workshops were conducted with 190 duty bearers participating

The project has initiated to build rapport with the duty bearers and departments of the state government. They actively participate in workshops and events organized by Child Friendly Dimapur for raising awareness on child rights issues and are aflame to work in collaboration with CFD to make our cities child friendly.

Child Rights Clubs

So far, Child Friendly Dimapur has formed 57 Child Rights Clubs with 1290 children enrolled into the clubs.

294 club members were trained in leadership skills and 67 Child Rights Facilitators were provided capacity building trainings to be more efficient and effective in their role.



Children-led survey was carried out in 10 localities under Chumukedima and Dimapur districts (Photo: Shemang Mukho)

encompassing digitalization, education, health, WaSH, livelihood, women empowerment, youth development, infrastructure, environment, and community engagement.

More than 228 children actively participated in a child-led survey that was carried out in 10 different localities under Dimapur and Chumoukedima Districts to identify safe and unsafe spaces for the children in their localities. During the survey physical and social vulnerabilities of the children of those localities were identified.

Two Children campaign were organized in collaboration with and youth and Civil Society organization under the theme, “Protect children from violence” and “One step towards creating clean and safe environment for the children” with 1309 children and adults actively involved throughout the campaign activities.

Tangible Impact: Transforming Lives

The tangible impact of the project is evident with over 4,162 children reached, 57 Child Rights Clubs formed, and initiatives like child-led surveys identifying safe spaces. Collaborating with government agencies further strengthens the project's impact, with a visible commitment to making Dimapur and Chumoukedima child-friendly.

In the heart of the twin-cities of Dimapur and Chumoukedima, AIDA-CFD is weaving a tapestry prioritizing the well-being and rights of children. The numbers tell a story of progress, but it's the transformed lives and empowered voices of the youngest citizens that truly mark the success of this initiative

Garrol Lotha is coordinator, AIDA-CFD project



Fr. Roy George , Executive Director of AIDA, inaugurated the Gram Seva Kendra in Urra village, Chumukedima, Nagaland (Photo : PC Anto)

Community Development Nurturing change in rural Nagaland with SBI Gram Seva



By Lanthou Mark Gonmei

The AIDA-implemented SBI Gram Seva program, launched in 2020, aimed at comprehensive rural development in Chumoukedima district of Nagaland. Collaborative efforts involving stakeholders like village communities, councils, youth and women's organizations, self-help groups, and more led to achieving comprehensive positive changes through digitalization, education, health, livelihood, women empowerment, youth development, infrastructure improvement, and environmental protection in five rural villages.

Urra village, in the mosaic of the five adopted villages, stands out as a testament to collaboration and transformation under the AIDA implemented SBI Gram Seva program in Chumukedima district of Nagaland.

Initially harboring doubts like their counterparts, Urra village gradually became the most cooperative and welcoming community, fostering a strong partnership with

the program's team. Overcoming challenges, they not only embraced interventions but became enthusiastic contributors to the program's success. Urra's leadership qualities and community-wide support played a pivotal role in the implementation of specific interventions. Their proactive approach towards identifying and addressing community needs marked them as a model for holistic human development.



SBIGS provided remedial classes in all project villages (Photo: L M Gonmei)

Nurturing Change in Rural Nagaland

Launched on October 2, 2020, SBI Gram Seva, a flagship program of SBI Foundation Mumbai in collaboration with AIDA, aimed at comprehensive rural development across five adopted villages – Bade, Diezephe, Khriezephe, Tsithrongse, and Urra in the Chumoukedima district of Nagaland.

A baseline survey revealed challenges such as resource scarcity, disorganized planning, and

a lack of community participation.

The program adopted a bottom-up approach, focusing on necessities identified through a systematic proposition.

Stakeholders, including the village community, Village Council, Youth Organization, Women's Organization, Individual Beneficiaries, Self-Help Groups, and Farmers' Clubs, collaborated in implementing strategies

9 children creative activities were organized in different localities and Institutions to create awareness on the rights of the children among their peers and communities

Digital Transformation

Under the digitalization initiative, Gram Seva Kendras (GSK) were established in community halls and educational institutions across the villages. These centers served 2981 beneficiaries



Gram Seva Program beneficiaries of five villages were provided Mushroom cultivation training (Photo: LM Gonmei)

over three years, providing essential services and equipping communities with computer systems and printers. As the program phased out in September 2023, assets like computers, printers, inverters, and more were handed over to the communities.

Education as a cornerstone

Education interventions enhanced existing government schools through smart classrooms, computer labs, science labs, and libraries.

The SBI OJAS Rural Talent Scholarship supported 22 students, fostering academic, sports, and cultural achievements. Interschool events united students, teachers, and institutions, creating a supportive educational ecosystem.

Health and Hygiene

The Gram Seva program improved primary health services through medical camps, reaching 5064 patients across 177 villages.

The program facilitated access to clean drinking water, constructed community toilets, and promoted sanitation and hygiene practices.

Livelihood Development

The project supported marginalized communities through resilient agriculture, livestock rearing, and entrepreneurship. Skill training sessions benefited 1853 individuals, enhancing their livelihood opportunities.

Empowering Women and Youth

The program empowered women through skill training and awareness programs, resulting in the establishment of 12 successful Self-Help Groups. For youth, career guidance sessions, sports equipment provisions, and open gym installations promoted both physical and mental well-being.

Infrastructure and Environmental Initiatives:

A myriad of infrastructural projects, including solar street lights, community toilets, and sports galleries, transformed the adopted villages.

Environmental initiatives included cleanliness drives, waste management activities, and tree plantations, totalling 1700 planted trees.

Community Engagement and Awareness:

The project actively engaged with various public and governmental departments, conducting 94 awareness programs and 282 networking



SBIGS project conducted 94 awareness programs (Photo: M Jerome)

meetings. Collaborations with institutions such as Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), School of Agricultural Sciences and Rural Development (SASRD), Rural Self Employment Training Institute (RSETI), and others ensured a holistic approach to development.

A Legacy of Sustainable Development

After three impactful years, SBI Gram Seva concluded on September 30, 2023,

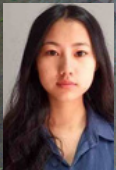
leaving a lasting impact on holistic human development.

The success of the program is a testament to the collaborative efforts of SBI Foundation Mumbai, AIDA, the Gram Seva team, the leadership of the adopted villages, and strong liaisons with government departments, schemes, programs, organizations, and institutions.

Lanthou Mark Gonmei is Project Coordinator, SBI Gramseva



Livelihood Creating alternative opportunities for rural dwellers



By Neitsonuo Elizabeth Sorhie

In the serene village of Diezephe in Nagaland, Zhosavoyi Khuso h's story unfolds as a tale of resilience and positive transformation. Formerly an auto-rickshaw driver navigating financial challenges for over four years, Zhosavoyi's life took a hopeful turn in the transition from 2022 to 2023, thanks to AIDA's intervention through the SBI Gram Seva project.

His journey serves as a realistic testament to the tangible change brought about by AIDA's initiatives in the lives of individuals like Zhosavoyi. Earning a modest income of 300-400 rupees per day as an auto-rickshaw driver,

Zhosavoyi faced the daunting challenge of supporting his family and providing education for his four children. The future seemed uncertain until a pivotal conversation with his supportive wife in July 2022 changed the course of his life.

Zhosavoyi's wife introduced him to the AIDA implemented SBI Gram Seva project, sparking a glimmer of hope. The next day, Zhosavoyi approached the project team, sharing his struggles and seeking guidance. Recognizing the need for sustainable livelihoods, the project team invited him to register for the AIDA-SBI



Zhosavoyi at his fish outlet (Photo: N Elizabeth)

Gram Seva program after attending orientation sessions.

With formalities cleared by SBI Foundation Mumbai in collaboration with AIDA Don Bosco Dimapur, Nagaland, Zhosavoyi received crucial support—a freezer worth ₹10,000 to kick-start his own business. He set up a fish-selling point in Diezephe, buying fish from Chumoukedima town, approximately 10 km away, and selling them in his village. This endeavor proved successful, enabling him to earn a daily income ranging from ₹1,000 to ₹1,500.

Zhosavoyi's dream to expand his business serves as a living example of the sustainable impact AIDA brings to rural lives.

When I met him last he said his business was going very good. This is what he had to say about receiving support for his business from the Gram Seva Program: " Definitely the first thing that I felt was happiness and ease at the up-liftment of my financial burden. In my darkest days the program served as an eye opener and furthermore, a guiding light for the days to come. I am very grateful to AIDA and SBI Gram seva project."



Rabbit distribution for cuniculture at Tsithrongse village (Photo: LM Gonmei)

In order to create alternative livelihood and sustainable opportunities for women in the 5 adopted villages, continuous efforts were made by the ground team through various trainings, capacity

building and supporting rural enterprises /home industries. The women (60 beneficiaries) who were trained under the AIDA – SBI Gram Seva project were supported with INR 1,07,000 and various skill trainings to establish their own Cuniculture farms.

Today, these women stand as an example in the surrounding neighbourhood and villages for generating their own income.

through gainful rearing of rabbits. They are able to sell their rabbits at the rate of INR 350 per kilo and a pair for INR 600 to 1000 since last 18 months. Mrs Tsheto-U of Bade village has earned INR. 20,400 within 18 months.

The beneficiaries of the cunculture programs expressed the ability to fulfil the demand of their customers and gratefully expressed their gratitude towards the contribution made by the AIDA- SBI Gram Seva project for providing better livelihood opportunities.

Neitsonuo Elizabeth Sorhie - Convergences Officer
SBI Gram Seva



Data Collection of Source Migrants Dimapur (Photo: M Prakash)

Migration Help Desk paving way for dignified migration



By L Amongla

In response to the challenges faced by migrant workers from India's north-east region, AIDA's Migrants' Help Desk stands as a vital support system. Addressing issues of discrimination and hardship, the initiative empowers young migrants through surveys, sensitization sessions, and crucial helpline access. It contributes to creating a more dignified and respectful work environment within the country for north-eastern migrant workers.

In the heart of the north-eastern states, where limited opportunities and widespread unemployment prompt many youths to seek work elsewhere, AIDA's Migrants' Help Desk emerges as a lifeline for those facing the daunting challenges of migration.

Operating under the umbrella of Don Bosco's Young at Risk (DBYaR) program, this initiative plays a crucial role in supporting young migrant workers grappling with issues like poverty, socio-political disturbances, family distress, or natural calamities

Each year, a significant number of youths embark on journeys in search of work, only to encounter additional hardships such as harassment, discrimination, and bullying in destination states that lack dedicated desks or help centers. The strains of migration are particularly felt by those from Northeast India, and the COVID-19 pandemic has only heightened their difficulties.

In the face of these challenges, aggravated by the pandemic, AIDA's Migrants' Help Desk commenced its mission in February 2023 with a visionary goal – a world where migrants are treated with dignity and respect in their workplaces.



AIDA's Migrants' Help Desk conducted sensitization programs for migrants in Tinsukia and Dimapur (Photo: L. Amongla)

The essence of the Migrants' Help Desk's mission lies in empowering migrants by recognizing and respecting their rights. This involves not only helping them understand their situations but also collaborating with NGOs and government bodies to ensure access to basic rights.

Operating in Dimapur district of Nagaland state and Tinsukia district of Assam state, the initiative provides essential services such as surveys

to comprehend the problems, needs, challenges, and aspirations of young source migrants. 2079 data points have been collected to date from source migrants aged between 15 to 38 years across the two districts. Sensitization sessions have been a pivotal part of the initiative, reaching 342 young migrants and 106 stakeholders to impart knowledge about the concept of "Safe Migration."



Data Collection of Potential Migrants Dimapur (Photo: M Prakash)

" The aim is to educate them about the realities and potential risks of unsafe migration. Stakeholders from different localities and villages were informed about the importance of safe migration, recognizing the role of young migrants as key messengers in conveying this crucial message to their communities. To ensure a safety net for those on the move, young source migrants were equipped with helpline numbers of **Don Bosco for Migrants (DB4M)**.

This allows them to reach out for emergency or urgent services when needed.

AIDA's Migrants' Help Desk stands tall as a beacon of support for young migrants facing a myriad of challenges. By addressing the unique difficulties encountered by North-eastern migrant workers and promoting safe migration practices, the initiative not only assists individuals but also contributes to creating a more dignified and respectful work environment for all.

L Amongla is project coordinator, Migrants' Help Desk



Intensive Remedial Program of ESEE project offers supplementary classes to school students to overcome the blockades that they meet with in the learning process (Photo: M Luke)

Education Empowering marginalized communities in Imphal valley



By Titus Kamei

Educational Support and Economic Empowerment Project represents a concerted effort to address educational disparities and empower marginalized youth, ultimately contributing to the broader social and economic development of the communities involved

Since September 2020, the 'Education Support and Economic Empowerment' (ESEE) project has been really making a difference in 19 villages across Bishnupur, Imphal East, Imphal West, and Kangpokpi districts of Manipur, northeast India

The ESEE project is helping out school dropout children who are within 7-14 years age group, children who are currently in school (7-14 years old), and those young adults who had to drop out of schools for one reason or another (15-25 years old).

The project is about filling in the gaps in education and giving a boost to underprivileged students.

Access to quality education is a game-changer, a fundamental right that shapes lives and contributes to the development of the whole society. Project ESEE was started as a response to the challenges faced by communities that were struggling to get decent educational resources for their children

The project is like a support system for students hailing from underprivileged communities, creating an environment that is just right for learning and pushing for academic excellence

In the project target communities, accessing quality education is a bit of an uphill battle. There are socio-economic constraints of the families and shortage of learning opportunities due to inadequate number of teachers in the

village based government primary schools or due to unqualified teachers conducting classes for them. These have created this gap in their educational attainment that's really concerning.

Children from the target group communities are dealing with roadblocks like not getting the right mentorship, and not having many chances for educational experiences. These are holding them back in school and limiting what they could achieve if given the right opportunities.



ESEE Teachers meet every month to evaluate the results of the month and plan for the coming month (Photo: M. Luke)

ESEE programs

The main goal of the project is to create a solid setup that empowers students from backgrounds that often get overlooked. It is about giving them the confidence to really go after their educational dreams.

The project has adopted the following programs in order to support the target groups.

Intensive Remedial Program (IRP)

IRP helps two groups: school dropout children who are 7-14 years of age, and students who are struggling in classes of their village based government primary schools.

They are provided with personalized mentoring and intense academic guidance through supplementary classes to overcome the blockades that they meet with in their school in the learning process and achieve desired learning outcomes.

IRP program is conducted in 19 villages. 204 students from 19 project villages are accessing the program currently. 61% of IRP students are girls.

Supervised Study Program(SSP)

SSP is all about boosting study habits of students of the village government primary schools.

This program sparks a love for learning and makes sure students comprehend core subjects they are given to study at school. SSP motivates children of the project villages,

especially those children who might be on the brink of dropping out, to be persistent in their educational journey and progress in life.

SSP is conducted in the afternoons, after attending school, in 19 villages. Currently 402 students are enrolled in the program with 52% girl students



SSP sessions are conducted in all 20 villages from 3 – 5 pm Monday through Friday (Photo: M. Luke)

Community Evening Schools (CES)

CES program is run for the young adults, 15-25 years), who had to discontinue their education for some reason before completing high school level studies. CES offers them skills training to broaden their horizons. These are about literacy, numeracy,

financial know-how, work-related skills, and encouraging them to use these skills to increase their livelihood sources. With 302 students , 62% female students, CES program is running in 19 villages .

Other Stakeholders

The project is building a support network within the community for its sustainability. We want everyone on board—community leaders, local schools, volunteers. The aim is to make school-aged children attend schools and academic excellence part of the culture, something that stays on even after the end of the project. Towards this, we are teaming up with local government schools including their School Management Committees, community leaders, and volunteers.



CES classes are conducted in all 19 villages from 3 – 5 pm Monday through Friday (Photo: M. Luke)

Having assessed the learning gaps of the students, these programs are conducted with the purpose of enabling students to attain the expected levels of learning. Project activities are followed up regularly to ensure its timely progress towards reaching the goal. Journeying with the project so far, education in the community has seen a boost, and more than that, it has given these young minds a sense of confidence and ambition.

ESEE project is contributing to shape them to be the leaders of tomorrow. By facilitating their educational journey, the project is laying the foundation for a community where everyone has a shot at reaching their full potential and making a meaningful impact in life.

Titus Kamei is the Project Manager , ESEE

Impact story



It was Bashanti's dream to set up and run a profitable handloom weaving business (Photo: M.Premchand)

Weaving Dreams into reality: **Bashanti's story of empowerment**

In the village of Andro Unampol, Manipur, ESEE project empowers the underprivileged youth under the guidance a Livelihood trainer. Through weaving and income-generating activities, supported by financial aid, Y. Bashanti of the village turns her dream into a sustainable business, meeting personal and family needs. This story of Bashanti demonstrates how skill-building and support can turn aspirations into sustainable enterprises.

In the quaint village of Andro Unampol of Imphal East district, Manipur, a transformative opportunity unfolded for me through the Community Evening School program of AIDA's ESEE project. I joined the CES program as I had dropped out of school a few years ago due to poor economic condition of our family. A passionate desire to weave became more than just a dream as AIDA's staff, along with a skilled Livelihood trainer, provided for us the CES students training on diverse income-generating activities, including rearing ducks and pigs, and the art of weaving.

With the knowledge gained from the Livelihood trainer, I embarked on a journey to turn my passion for weaving into a sustainable business. A small amount of financial support from our CES teacher, Mr.. Ch. Chandra Singh, acted as a catalyst, enabling me to kick-start my weaving venture. The profit generated from raising pigs and ducks was wisely invested in my weaving business, although a significant portion also went towards supporting my parents' cultivation efforts and contributing to my siblings' education.



Bashanti joined the Community Evening School program of ESEE and learned skills to start weaving business

Navigating the weaving business required careful planning. I used the profits to purchase threads from the market, creating beautiful shawls that I sold to the community. With the guidance of my parents and our dedicated Livelihood trainer, I learned to add vibrant colors and intricate designs to my products, enhancing their market appeal. Monthly earnings now range between Rs. 3000 to Rs. 4000, after deducting labor costs and the price of materials. Gratitude fills my heart as I reflect on the life-changing impact CES class

(Bashanti in Black shirt Photo: Premchand) of AIDA's work in our community. The CES project not only provided essential skills and support but also paved the way for individuals like me to turn our passions into sustainable sources of income. A heartfelt acknowledgment goes to AIDA for being the driving force behind positive transformations among the school dropout students in our area.

As told to ESEE Livelihood Officer, M. Premchand



Milo (3rd R) engaged as livelihood officer with SBI Gramseva project implemented by AIDA in Namsai at a meeting with Gram Seva Committee members in Piyong Singpho village, Namsai

Social Worker Milo's odyssey in the heart of Arunachal Pradesh

Milo Mangku, a recent MSW graduate from Rajiv Gandhi University in Arunachal Pradesh, shares her transformational journey from academia to professional social work. Engaged in the SBI Gram Seva project implemented by AIDA in Namsai, Milo's transition from outreach programs to a role as a Livelihood Officer reflects a commitment to adding tangible value to the lives of vulnerable communities.

Greetings! I am Millo Mangku.

Born and raised amid the exquisite landscapes of Arunachal Pradesh, I recently graduated with an MSW from Rajiv Gandhi University, which is situated in Itanagar, the capital of our state. My journey into the professional realm of social work commenced with the AIDA-implemented CSR Project,

SBI Gram Seva, a project designed to enhance the holistic development of villagers. Under the combined efforts of AIDA and funding from SBI Foundation, I find myself navigating the intricate world of social work, contributing to the well-being of communities.

My MSW program provided invaluable fieldwork experiences that laid the foundation for understanding the ethical and integrated approach necessary in social work. These experiences were pivotal in preparing me for the challenges inherent in the field, especially in addressing the well-being of vulnerable communities.

Social work, for me, transcends a mere profession; it's a conscious choice that brings not only job satisfaction but also a profound sense of meaning and purpose to life. Engaging in the field allows social workers to add tangible value to the lives of vulnerable individuals

and groups—a calling I find deeply rewarding. Having been involved with NGOs and organizations during fieldwork, my current role as a Livelihood Officer in the AIDA-implemented-SBI Gram Seva project in Namsai district of marks a shift from outreach programs and skits to direct implementation. Establishing rapport with communities is crucial in the pre-intervention stage, and now, as we gradually implement programs, the significance of these connections becomes even more evident.



Milo (Front –R) in meeting with SHG members in Nigroo village, Namsai assessing local needs and their interest, providing training and facilities, facilitating access to resources to enhance individual's or group livelihood.

I extend my gratitude to AIDA for entrusting me with the role of a Livelihood Officer. This endeavour to build a project is a unique experience, one that I am navigating alongside a

As a livelihood officer, my work typically focuses on improving people's means of making a living. This Includes implementing strategies for income generation, skills development, and sustainable employment opportunities within the project village communities.

As I embark on this new chapter in my career, I am motivated by the impact we are making in the lives of villagers. The journey may be challenging, but the sense of purpose and the support of my team propel us forward. I eagerly anticipate the continued growth and success of the AIDA SBI Gram Seva project, contributing to the holistic well-being of communities in Arunachal Pradesh



REAP project's Morung program offers supplementary education and more to the participating children. Here Morung children learning bamboo craft skill, Duiluan 1 village, Noney district. (Photo: PM Joachim)

Education

Transforming lives in rural villages of Manipur's Noney and Tamenglong districts



By Panmei Mathiuphui Joachim

PM Joachim explores the impact of AIDA's Rural Education and Appraisal Programme (REAP) in Manipur's Tamenglong and Noney districts. Dedicated to quality education in ten villages with a committed team, REAP targets four Naga tribes. As REAP nears its 2024 conclusion, the focus shifts to beneficiaries and continued follow-ups, inspiring hope for a brighter educational future and a better society in Tamenglong and Noney.

AIDA has been actively involved in Manipur's Tamenglong and Noney districts since 2013, focusing on various education support programs under the Integrated Rural Development Program (IRDP) until 2020. Despite the challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic, AIDA recognized the need for sustained support to enhance the education system and address issues in these districts.

This recognition led to the initiation of the Rural Education and Appraisal Programme (REAP) Project in 2020.

Overview

The REAP Project, spanning from August 2020 to March 2024, aims to ensure that every child in the project villages has access to quality pre-primary and primary education, with strong community support. The project focuses on 15 villages, covering four Naga tribes of Manipur: Zemei, Liangmei, Rongmei, and Inpui.



Folk tale narration for Morung students by a village elder at Impa-Nkang Morung (Photo: Joachim)

Project Team

A dedicated central team oversees the REAP Project, comprising a Project Manager, six Project Officers, and a Mobile Trainer. This team is supervised by the Programme Manager, HRD, Monitoring & Evaluation, and the Executive Director of AIDA, Dimapur.

Approach

Field staff, including Morung Facilitators and Anganwadi Assistants from each project village, play a crucial role in implementing project activities. Monthly visits by the project central team ensure effective monitoring and provide necessary training to Government Primary School Teachers, SMC members, Children's Parliament, and Mothers Groups in the project villages.

Project Components and Beneficiaries

The REAP Project identifies twelve components targeting different age groups, from 3 to 50 years, ensuring a holistic approach to education and development.

Some of the main components of the project include : 1. Government primary school children (7-14years), through Supervised Study Program (SSP) and Morung activities .2. Students (15-25 years) through Special Matric coaching Program (SMSCP) class 10 students.

3. Mothers and parents (25-50years), through formation of Mother Groups and relevant literacy / awareness creation sessions 4. Primary school teachers and School Management Committees (SMCs), through capacity building trainings 5. Anganwadi Workers and Helpers. 6. Primary school dropout children within 7-14 years age group who will be enrolled in regular schools after one-year Intensive Coaching Program



Celebrating Teachers day at M. Khunou - 1 (Photo: Huampou Gonmei)

The Morung

A key aspect of the project involves constructing in each project village a Morung center which serves as a learning ground for Supervised Study Programs (SSP) for school-going children. The Morung classes encompass various extra-curricular activities to optimize learning and instil traditional knowledge and values. Community meetings and training sessions also take place at the Morung. (Traditionally, Morung is dormitory for the young men in the tribal villages. The project also aims to revive this dying tradition in the villages with a broader concept.) In its first year (August 2020 to March 2021), the project faced challenges due to the Covid-19 lockdown. However, in the subsequent years, activities were

implemented successfully, reaching 577 children in the first two years and expanding to 776 beneficiaries by the third year.

As the REAP Project nears its completion in March 2024, 16 villages, 7 from Tamenglong and 9 from Noney districts, have benefited significantly. The success and sustainability of the project now rest in the hands of the beneficiaries and the continued follow-ups by the project team. With the positive impact made, it is hoped that the people of Tamenglong and Noney villages will awaken to their rights and roles for a brighter educational future and a better society.

PM Joachim is Project Manager - REAP

Education Journey of Gainaipou Gonmei



By Lumthaoliu Hellen Kamei



The Morung program of AIDA's project REAP helped Gainaipou Gonmei overcome academic struggles and excel in studies. His story underscores the pivotal role grassroots initiatives can play in empowering rural student.

Born on January 27, 2009, to Mr. Keijinang Gonmei and Mrs. Namthankhuanliu Panmei in Duiluan-2 village, Gainaipou Gonmei is the third child among six siblings. Currently he is a class VI student in private school near Noney town.

Context and Challenge

Gainaipou's parents are illiterate; his father, aged 77, and mother, 38, solely rely on his mother for their livelihood. Lacking the potential for educating their children, Gainaipou's two elder siblings halted their studies to assist their parents. Initially attending the village Govt. Primary school until class III in 2017, Gainaipou's education was disrupted by negative influences, including smoking with peers. The Covid-19 lockdown in 2019-20 exacerbated the situation, leaving children without supervision during outdoor activities.

REAP Project Intervention

Introduced on March 10, 2021, the REAP Project reached Duiluan-2 village, enrolling 45 students at the Morung Centre. Gainaipou wasn't initially on the list. The Morung students received daily coaching, including a Supervised Study Program for 3-4 hours by the Morung Facilitator.

Saturdays featured co-curricular activities such as music, folktales, traditional crafts, games, and literary competitions.

Results

Witnessing positive changes in his peers, Gainaipou joined the Morung Centre, displaying significant improvement. He became the most punctual and top scorer in Morung center tests and excelled as the unbeaten badminton champion. In February 2022, he passed the entrance test for Pakriang Friendship Academy, entering class-V. He secured 7th and 2nd Ranks in the first and final exams of class V, respectively. As a class VI student, he achieved 1st, 5th, and 3rd Ranks in successive terms, set to complete his final exam by the first week of December 2023. Excelling in co-curricular activities, Gainaipou has earned the appreciation of his teachers.

Thanks to the intervention of AIDA, the REAP Project has positively impacted numerous children in Tamenglong and Noney districts. This success story underscores the importance of empowering beneficiaries for the realization of children's rights and roles in securing quality education.

Lumthaoliu Hellen Kamei is a Project Officer, REAP



Clinic on Wheels brings health services accessible to rural dwellers of Tirap district, Arunachal Pradesh (Photo: T.Yaba)

Rural Health

A year of Clinic on Wheels in Arunachal Pradesh's Tirap district



By Tarh Yaba

'SBI Sanjeevani Clinic on Wheels' is a collaborative healthcare initiative in Tirap district, Arunachal Pradesh, jointly led by the SBI Foundation and AIDA. Over the past year, the project has positively impacted 25 villages, providing essential health services, including diagnostic facilities, a dedicated medical team, and holistic well-being support through specialized health camps and awareness campaigns.

In the serene landscapes of Tirap, Arunachal Pradesh, Mrs. Ningrong Namati, a resilient 60-year-old from New Doidam, grappled with Infective Dyshidrotic Eczema. Isolated in a village devoid of healthcare facilities and childless with her husband,

accessing treatment seemed like an insurmountable challenge for the lower-middle-class couple. The absence of a sub-centre and the financial burden of travel made their plight even more daunting

In this dire moment, AIDA-implemented 'SBI Sanjeevani Clinic on Wheels' emerged as a lifeline for Mrs. Ningrong. Seeking help for her ailment, she found compassionate care from Dr. Priyank, the medical officer. Personal counseling, hygiene tips, and meticulous care resulted in a remarkable change in her life. Her once-afflicted hand stood completely healed, a simple testament to the effective intervention of the project.

Her story echoes countless others encountered by the SBI Sanjeevani Clinic-on-Wheels, a mobile medical unit implemented in Tirap district

Operating for over a year, this collaborative initiative between AIDA and the SBI Foundation brings vital health services to the doorsteps of communities.



Mrs. Ningrong's once afflicted hand stood completely healed with medical care from SBI Sanjeevani Clinic on Wheels, Tirap district (photo: T Yaba)

Covering 25 villages in Tirap, including places like Wathin, Sikho, and Namsang, which are hilly rural villages with bare minimum basic infrastructure availability, the Clinic-on-Wheels is equipped with state-of-the-art diagnostic facilities.

The medical team, consisting of a doctor, lab technician, and nurse, conducts regular visits,

providing primary, preventive, diagnostic, curative, and referral health services.

Beyond clinical care, the project extends its impact through specialized health and awareness camps, Swachh Bharat Abhiyan activities, and the distribution of hygiene kits and dustbins. The emphasis on holistic well-being echoes in the efforts to promote a healthy lifestyle and surroundings among the villagers.



The Clinic on Wheels with a medical team, consisting of a doctor, lab technician, and nurse, conducts regular visits to 25 rural villages (Photo: T Yaba)

The journey of AIDA-SBI Sanjeevani began with meticulous planning and execution, from branding the mobile unit to conducting a baseline health survey in the 20 identified villages. The official launch on April 4, 2022, marked a significant moment for Tirap.

This unique initiative, a collaborative effort between state and local health departments, local NGOs, and the SBI Foundation, stands as a beacon of community-centric healthcare.

The clinic-on-wheels conducts regular visits, ensuring the delivery of primary medical facilities free of cost to the doorstep of those in need. Mrs. Ningrong's transformed hand is a living testament to the impact this initiative is making in the lives of the people of Tirap, illustrating the power of accessible and compassionate healthcare

Tarh Yaba is Coordinator of SBI Sanjeevani Clinic on Wheels, Tirap district of Arunachal Pradesh



AIDA-Job Placement Network Services is Committed to providing career guidance, training, and job placement support to rural youth (Photo: Fr. Daniel Sdb)

Empowering My journey with AIDA-Don Bosco Job Placement Network



By Sebi Chacko

Embarking on my role as a program coordinator with AIDA – Don Bosco marked the beginning of a transformative journey, offering me valuable insights into career guidance and placement. This article aims to provide an overview of my experiences and lessons learned during this tenure, shedding light on the significant impact of the AIDA – Don Bosco Job Placement Network on underprivileged youth in India

AIDA Don Bosco, serving as the Development Office for the Salesians of Don Bosco, Dimapur Province, established AIDA-Job Placement Services in October 2019.

Committed to providing career guidance, training, and job placement support to rural youth, the organization plays a vital role in raising awareness about employment prospects and career-oriented services.

As the program coordinator, I've had the privilege of gaining comprehensive insights into job placement opportunities, the dynamic job market, and the role of technology in human resources and youth empowerment. Positive outcomes and valuable lessons emerged from facilitating recruiter visits, conducting impactful career guidance sessions,



AIDA-DBJPN follows a structured process for both job seekers and recruiters (Photo: Braenzil Dimary)

and organizing job opportunities for the youth. AIDA – Don Bosco has not only been a career guidance and placement program but a nurturing ground for both individuals and communities

This Job Placement Network has been a beacon of hope for underprivileged youth, addressing the challenges they face in securing job opportunities. Beyond mere job connections, the network offers skill development, career counselling, and job market guidance, fostering empowerment and self-sufficiency among disadvantaged youth. The program prioritizes transparency, making candidates aware of bonding programs and current job market trends through its career guidance initiatives. We follow a structured process for both job seekers and recruiters. Jobseekers, including the underprivileged youth, register on the web portal or mobile app to access personalized or group career guidance and employability training.

Recruiters undergo a verification process to ensure standards and benefits for employees. We collaborate with other Don Bosco Job Placement centers elsewhere in the country, creating a dynamic platform that offers crucial support to underprivileged young job seekers

In my mission to create pathways for success, the AIDA - Don Bosco Job Placement Network has demonstrated the transformative impact of targeted initiatives on the lives of underprivileged individuals.

The organization's commitment to providing career guidance and job placement services remains steadfast, equipping young individuals with the tools and opportunities needed to build sustainable careers and brighter futures within their homeland

Sebi Chacko is Project coordinator of AIDA-Don Bosco JPN

Inspiring Hiyo's journey from school dropout to café team member



Meet Hiyo, a resilient individual whose path from a higher secondary dropout in Ukhrul District, Manipur state, to

becoming a staff team member at Beatles Grills and Café in Kovalam, Kerala state showcases the transformative power of community support.

Born into a farming family, Hiyo faced educational disruptions and financial challenges due to violence in his region. Determined to overcome these hurdles and support his family, Hiyo sought guidance from a Don Bosco priest known for empowering communities. The priest directed him to AIDA's Job Placement Network (JPN), a subsidiary of Don Bosco, where specialized assistance in securing employment was provided.

AIDA-JPN identified Hiyo's interest in a job opportunity at a well-known café in Kerala, and with the coordinator's help, the entire process was facilitated. In August 2023,

Hiyo began his journey as a Staff Team Member at Beatles Grills and Café, earning a steady income of Rs. 11,000 per month. This intervention not only gave him a job but also ensured safe travel, food, and accommodation

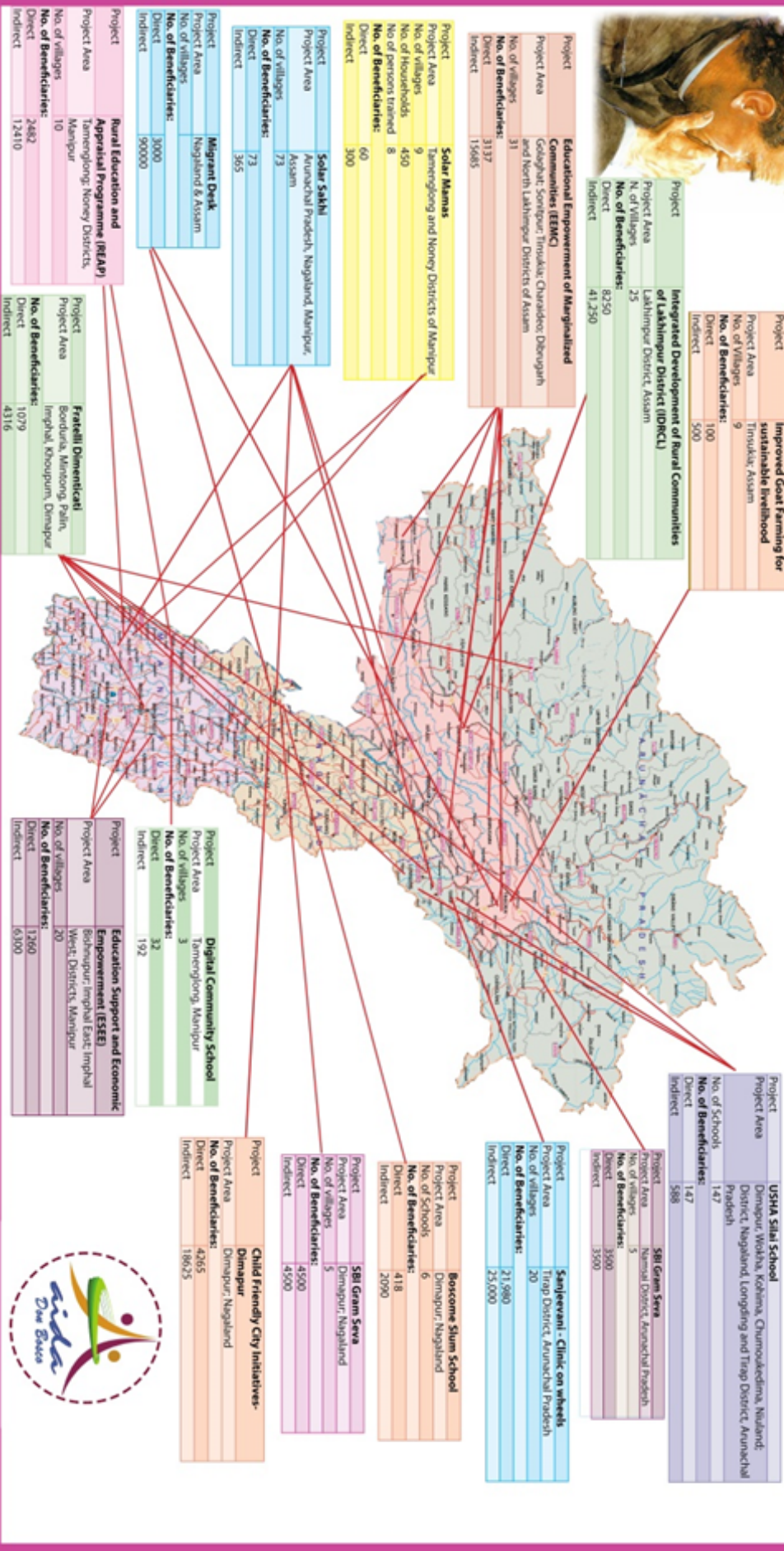
Hiyo's transformation from a dropout facing financial hardships to a contributing member of the workforce illustrates the positive impact of community-focused initiatives. With newfound financial stability, Hiyo took on his role as the eldest son, supporting his family and providing them with a secure future.

His story reflects the potential for positive change when communities, guided by dedicated individuals and organizations, come together to uplift and empower those in need

By Sebi Chacko AIDA-DB JPN is Project coordinator



AIDA'S PROGRAMMIE AREAS



17 Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations

- 1 No. Poverty
- 2 Zero Hunger
- 3 Good Health and Well-being
- 4 Quality Education
- 5 Gender Equality
- 6 Clean Water and Sanitation
- 7 Affordable and Clean Energy
- 8 Decent Work and Economic Growth
- 9 Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure
- 10 Reduced Inequalities
- 11 Sustainable Cities and Communities
- 12 Responsible Consumption and Production
- 13 Climate Action
- 14 Life Below Water
- 15 Life on Land
- 16 Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions
- 17 Partnerships for Sustainable Development

Training facilities available at AIDA



Don Bosco Campus, P.B. -2, N. N. Goan, River Belt Colony, Dimapur Nagaland - 797113

Type of facility	Details	Person capacity	Food available
Conference hall	A/C, LCD, PA system	50	Yes
Conference hall	Non-A/C, LCD, PA system	50	
Training hall	A/C, LCD, PA system	100	
Training hall	Non-A/C, LCD, PA system	100	
Guest rooms	A/C	2	
Guest rooms	Non A/C	4	
Dormitory	Non A/C	80	

For booking / Inquiry:

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