Sonali Ray, who has been a member of the local Frisbee team and the youth group besides being one of the 50 Girl Icons selected and trained by the ant, added another feather to her cap when she got selected to the Indian team for the World Junior Ultimate Championship 2020 in Sweden. Pungbili Basumatary, was among the 7 girls who participated in the TRYOUTS (National Selections) in Delhi, received special mention as a developmental player.

**TRUSTEES MEETING**

From September 28th to the 30th, the Coordinators and Assistant Project Coordinators of the ant gathered at Siloam, Meghalaya for the half-yearly Board of Trustees’ meeting and to discuss important issues. This was the first time the assistant project coordinators got to interact with the Board of Trustees. The second and third days consisted of both indoor and outdoor activities. An announcement was made regarding Sunil Kaul’s retirement as the ED of the ant by April 2020. The teams reflected on the functioning of the organisation, discussed strategies to enhance its efficiency, and also gave their views on the values and strengths of the next Executive Director. The meeting came to an end after the team decided the different committees for the Annual Meet in October.
Multi-Stakeholders’ Development Conclave

IDeA, the ant along with 6 other Civil Society Organisations of Assam and on behalf of Voluntary Action Network of India organised a conclave of CSOs, Government departments and CSR to triangulate efforts for effective development at the Assam Staff Administrative College Guwahati, on the 20th and 21st of September. Honorable Minister, Mr. Bhabesh Kalita inaugurated the event that had invitees from UN Women, Assam SDG cell and other national levels organizations.

Cultivate & Incubate

Program managers and account officers from 17 organizations covering the states of Meghalaya, Assam, Nagaland, and Manipur attended the 3rd module of the training series “Future Ready Organisations” from 18th to 20th September 2019. The training series is jointly organized by IDeA and the IIhub Jorhat with financial support from Childaid Network. IDeA is the technical team for the training series.

Significant Interventions under CF

The IDeA steering committee on July 13 approved 9 projects out of 13 proposals. Among these, 4 are new organizations that had not received support from IDeA earlier. Due diligence (pre-funding) visits to these organizations were made to understand their vision, mission and strategy, relationship with the community, needs of targeted beneficiaries, and governance and accounting practices. The team also made facilitation visits to 4 existing partner organizations to provide support to strengthen their interventions.

Mental Illness Treatment in Assam (MITA)

MITA program has reached out to 12 districts now with the addition of Goalpara, Darrang, Majuli, Sivasagar, and Karbi-Anglong. The new partners have undergone three days training from 26th to 29th July on MITA protocols and camp management. Our new partner ‘JirsongAsong’ from Diphu organised a community meeting on the 2nd of September where Dr Nilesh Mohite gave a talk on mental illness... We are now touching the lives of over 1700 patient families every month!
Conscious Citizenry sessions to tackle child sexual abuse

Project LEAP has begun Conscious Citizenry sessions against Child Sexual Abuse in 16 middle schools of its project area. The intervention helps children to identify early signs of potential threat and to seek help. The sessions are a way to “immunise” children from the growing epidemic of child sexual abuse in the recent past. The sessions will soon be extended to other child-centred projects and areas of the ant.

Session on Menstrual Hygiene

Girl Icons from Chirang and Udalguri districts conducted awareness programmes on Menstrual Health and hygiene as a part of their Social Action Project. The icons themselves designed the sessions after their latest residential training. Over 100 girls attended the sessions that were conducted in their respective schools. They confidently demonstrated how to use sanitary napkins and also stressed on the need to shift to reusable cloth pads and menstruation cups as they are eco-friendly.

FridaysForFuture Campaign Observed

The youth of Bengtol played their part in the global movement against climate change on the 25th of September. Amidst the weekly market crowd of nearly 250 people, 25 youth (12 girls & 13 boys) performed a skit on Deforestation and its impacts. The event was supported by I/C of Bengtol Police Outpost, VCDC Chairman and the Bazaar Committee. The posters, songs and dance added to the vibrancy of the evening. The youth also created a flash mob to draw attention to the negative impacts of mobile phones on youth and children.
From supporting women against domestic violence to stress management sessions with men, team AVAHAN has expanded its contours by reaching out to the youth of Chirang. 47 boys and 25 girls from 10 clusters were united by the slogan “Ajir Juvok, Kalir Bhobisot” (Today’s Youth Tomorrow’s Future) at Udangshri Dera. Efforts were made to shed prejudices and to disseminate key concepts of Human Rights, Sex & Gender, Masculinity, Femininity and Patriarchy. The camp was aimed to equip the youth to bring about changes for a society to bring equality for all genders, starting from oneself.

Rwmwi, the Team Lead-Programmes and Laxmi and Indradeo as Coordinators of AVAHAN and LEAP projects attended the first phase of “Programme for Partner Leadership” by Azim Premji Philanthropic Initiatives in August.

Exhibitions of science models made by school children were held in 16 Middle Schools of project LEAP.

Tarpaulin Sheets, Water Filters, Bleaching Powder, Phenyle bottles were distributed to the flood-affected area of Deosiri, Bengtol and Malipara VCDCs.

Bicycles were distributed to 2 vulnerable families of Bengtol and Kuklung clusters.

Charcha Café
IDEA hosted ‘Ek Madhab Baug’- a play-reading in collaboration with the Humsafar Trust, Mumbai to celebrate the first anniversary of the striking down of Section 377 of IPC by the Supreme Court of India. Written by Chetan Datar, the play is about a 21 year old coming to terms with his sexuality. Approximately 60 people attended the play performed by Mona Ambegaonkar on the 8th of September.

Other Happenings

- Young Chirang Summer Camp held
- Young Chirang Summer Camp held
- Young Chirang Summer Camp held