

## **Comprehensive Annual Report NECHA 2019**

**The Annual General Body Meeting (AGBM)** of NECHA 2018, was held at Bakdil Tura on the 30<sup>th</sup> of October 2018. The year 2018, being the **Platinum Jubilee (75) of the foundation of CHAI** by Sr. Dr. Mary Glowrey, NECHA decided to combine the AGBM with platinum Jubilee celebrations. This was in agreement with the proposal of CHAI Executive Board, which suggested the Regional Units to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee. The selection of the venue of the Jubilee, was done because of the success story, where Bakdil Training Centre Tura under the guidance of Fr. Sunny Mavelil, is running successfully a 5 primary health centers of the government of Meghalaya, reaching out health care to the remote corners of Garo Hills with dedicated Sister Nurses. All the Presidents and Directors of NECHA, were invited to the Platinum Jubilee at Tura. Sister Provincials, Bro. Provincials and Fr. Provincials whose service is rendered in Garo Hills, were also invited. Among the many Bishops invited, Most Rev. Dominic Jala Archbishop of Shilling visited the participants on the previous day because the funeral of Fr. Varkey Chittoor pioneering missionary in Shillong Archdiocese, who died two days ago. Bishop Andrew Marak, the host and Bishop George Mamalassery Bishop Emeritus, were present at the celebrations. The chief guest of the function was Sr. Nirmala MMS who has pioneered the health works in the Garo Hills last 50 years. The Chief Minister Mr. Conrad Sangma, and Health Minister could not attend as they were required for launching “Ayushman Bharat” in Meghalaya.

The amendments of NECHA MOA and By Laws which approved by the Board Members in the Board meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2018, were explained and passed by the General Assembly during the Business session of the AGBM. The CHAI delegate was Fr. George Kannamthanam CMF who is the Secretary General of CHAI. The jubilee celebrations became a great success because of the cooperation extended by Bishop Andrew Marak, Fr. Sunny Mavelil, Fr. C.J. Jose, Fr. Lyngdoh Sangma and the Board Members of NECHA. It was an occasion to remember and thank the founder of NECHA Fr. K.C. George of Imphal, Fr. Kurian Joseph, now known as Fr. Sevanand, Abbot of kurishumala, Fr. Lazar Kakkashery, Fr. George Parackal who were Directors and Fr. K. C. George, Fr. Thomas Meckalath (RIP), Sr. Barbara SCCG, Sr. Elizabeth Edattukaran FMA, Sr. Maria BS, Sr. Martha SCCG and Sr. Rose Alex MSMHC who were the Presidents of NECHA.

All the past presidents and Directors were given mementoes of the jubilee, together with a Tribal shawl. The memento was sent to those who were absent at the celebrations, even though they live now very far from the venue of celebrations.



Participants Platinum Jubilee



Inaugural Ceremony, Tura



Delegates of Platinum



Memento to Archbishop John Moolachira of Guwahati



Fr. Sevanand, Abbot of kurishumala



Sr. Nirmala MMS, Chief Guest, 50 Yrs. of Nursing Ministry

**The Assamese language for Beginners** was organized and conducted from 9<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> July 2018 at NECHA, Sixmile, Guwahati. There were 23 students from various diocese of Assam comprising of 13 sisters, 1 brother and 9 priests. During the course the students were taught Alphabets, Conjuncts, Words, sufficient Vocabulary, Grammar and Conversational models from the text book ASSAMESE FOR BEGINNERS which was released for the purpose, in June 2018. The participants also were introduced to prayers of Holy Mass in Assamese language, recitation of Rosary, singing of hymns and reading of the Holy Bible. Although some students experienced difficulties in the initial stage, they were assisted by two teachers. They made remarkable progress in the study of the language.



Certification, Assamese Course



Learning in pairs

## Activities in the Diocesan Units of NECHA in North East

### SHILLONG (CHAS) Report given by Sr. Blinda Marwein MSMHC

There are 21 Member Institutions registered with CHAI in the Diocesan Unit of Shillong. There are also 8 newly opened Health or Rehabilitation Centers which are yet to be registered with CHAI. Although Meghalaya has very good government health centers, yet Catholic Health Centers and rehabilitation centers are well frequented, due to the availability commitment and creativity of the nurse sisters serving the various health units. They conduct awareness classes in the villages on various health issues, organize health camps and conduct special camps, for specified illness such as blood pressure, diabetic, problems related to ENT. The training of women leaders to monitor the health indicators, Institutional delivery, Immunization and Nutrition are also done.



Training on Emergency



Awareness Class



Postnatal Check



Village Awareness Class



Income Generation



Family Health & Hygiene

### TRIPURA (TCHA) Report given by Sr. Dr. Prema Mary BS

1. TCHA organized a gathering for all the doctors and nurses of the Diocese this year. 30 members were present including the Bishop of Diocese of Agartala, Fr. Kennedy of JUST, Agartala and Fr. Paul Thettayil, Director of NECHA.



AGBM welcome speech by Sr. Dr. Prema



Participants of AGBM 2018

## 2. CARE TO CANCEL CANCER

In collaboration with JUST, cancer awareness program was conducted in 15 parishes. Around 750 people have benefitted from the awareness class given.

### Act on Cancer Group

In each parish we have formed a “Act on Cancer Group” (ACG ) consisting of 4-5 members who have been given an additional input session by the Doctors from Cancer hospital, Agartala, who will mobilize the people of their locality and parish regarding this dreaded disease and help them as they can.

### No Tobacco Rally

In the same regard we also organized a “No to Tobacco” rally at Nepaltilla by the students of Holy cross and Nepaltilla Bengali medium school to create awareness among the people on ill effects of tobacco, in which 150 students participated.

**3. National Tobacco Control Program:** In collaboration with NHM, we organized 5 School awareness and 6 village awareness programs on Tobacco Control.



Rally against substance abuse in the city



Rally against substance abuse in the village

## Activities of various centers:

### 1.St. Joseph Hospital, Amtali, Agartala

The diocesan hospital run by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Annecy (SJA) has Lab facilities, X-ray, ECG with resident Sr. Doctor and IPD, OPD facilities. There were 6500 patients treated in a year with 7500 follow up cases. They get additional consultation from new hope Hospital Chennai. They also conducted 6 village health camps for Neuro and Ortho complaints which benefited 800 patients.

## **2. Ferrando Rehabilitation Centre, Nandannagar**

Under the care of sisters of MSMHC congregation, care for the visually impaired and hearing impaired as well as differently able patients is given from 2004. The number of people cared in 2018 are 967 Visual cases, 435 Hearing impaired cases and 756 cases of Physiotherapy. They also conducted eye camps and screening of school children which benefited above 1500 persons.

## **3. Nirmala Shishu Bhavan, Agartala**

The Missionary Sisters of Charity (Mother Theresa), they help patients from the villages to visit Government and Civil Hospitals and give them facility to stay and treat, when they come from distant villages.

## **4. Bethany Health Centre, Kathalcherra:**

Bethany Health Center established in 1986 and run by the Bethany Sisters assist patients who come for diagnosis and treatment. 1867 patients were treated while 440 school students were reached. A number of Health Camps and Health Education sessions in schools were organized. Home based medical care is given to the people through health workers, dressing of wounds, administration of Injections, IV fluids and medicines.



Health Awareness to rural population

## **GARO HILLS (GCHA) Report given by Sr. Francy V HCM**

### **1. Govt. PHCs run by the religious congregations under Bakdil Training Center, Tura**

The government of Meghalaya had requested the Bishop of Tura to take up running of government PHCs since the dedicated Sister Nurses in Garo Hills have done yeoman's service to the rural population of Garo Hills. Fr. Sunny Mavelil, passionate in his ministry to empower the people of Garo Hills, took up the challenge and got various Sister Congregations involved in the PHCs. It is praise worthy to note that the five centers of Babadam Govt. PHC, Salmanpara Govt. PHC, Wageasi Govt. PHC, Gabil Govt. PHC and Siju Govt. PHC, managed by various religious Congregations have, saved thousands of lives of mother and children in the last 10 years. It is a unique example of successful collaboration between the Government and Catholic NGO in the whole of India. The Ministry of Health of

the Government of Meghalaya have been able to reach health care to the remote areas of the state, through partnership with Catholic Organizations. It also have proved that the Government has great trust in the Catholic Health Care Ministry and it is the best way to give health care to the poor and unreached.



OPD patients in Holy Cross Hospital

Emergency care

The other Health Centers run by the various congregations are the following:

Holy Cross Hospital, Tura run by Holy Cross Sisters & other Health Centers run by MSMHC congregation, SMI congregation, SMMI congregation, Medical Mission Sisters, Daughters of St. Thomas, DSFS Sisters, Sacred Health congregation, Sisters of the Cross (SCC), Sisters of the Providence and Sisters of Christ Jesus (SCJ).

#### **NONGSTOIN (NOCHA) 22 MIs, Report given by Sr. Helen Nongrum SCJ**

Dental Health Camp was conducted in the Christ King Care and Support Center Sonapahar with the help of Dr. Nitu Mawrice and Dr. Pearl Nongrong from Shillong, on 19<sup>th</sup> March 2018 in which 200 patients were checked and medicines given. The arrangement was done by Sr. Merlyn Wahlang FMA from Umdong Parish.



Sr. Helen Nongrum, the highest fund raiser for CHAI Platinum Jubilee 2018



Medical check



Dr. Nitu checking children

**BONGAIGAON (CHAB) Report given by Sr. Mahima CSN**

The unique feature of CHAB AGBM or any meeting of health workers, is the whole hearted presence of Bishop Thomas Pulloppillil who invites all health workers, nurses in the diocese for any event. He gives the whole day to the AGBM and gives guidance and suggestion to all the sister nurses to work with dedication for the people. Therefore, there is always 100% participation of all MIs. The various MIs, besides the regular services at the health centres, visit the villages and give awareness classes on the various health issues of the day. The CHAB office bearers conducted a training on the use of herbal medicines and another programme of the building awareness on health and hygiene. Sister nurses also conduct nurses in the schools on health hygiene, communicable diseases among children, HIV-AIDS and nutrition and food. There are 19 MIs in the diocese.



AGBM 2018



Herbal Training



Awareness Class on Health

**TEZPUR (CHAT) Report given by Sr. Marina Abraham**

There are two hospitals run by Sacred Heart Sisters, at Borgang and at Dhekiajuli. Both Hospitals have Pathological lab, x-ray, OPD and IPD. Both hospitals are utilizing the health Insurance schemes of the government for the poor patients. The Health Care Center of the Holy Cross Sisters at Harmutty is looked after by Sr. Marina Abraham who also with the help of a Dentist, runs a Dental Clinic.



NGO visiting Harmutty



General check up of women



Village health leaders training

**AIZAWL (ACHA) Report given by Sr. Irene Crasta UFS**

All the MIs of ACHA are very active because of the support from the government in giving training and implementing various health programs in the district level. Cancer and substance abuse are two major health issues of Mizoram. Therefore awareness classes to parents, adolescents, school children, ASHA workers and village health monitoring units are the activities taken up by all MIs. The various parallel treatments such as acupressure, acupuncture herbal medicines, treatment using cupping and Sujok are being used by the nurse sisters in various Health Centres. MCH for others and children supplying micronutrients and vitamin A together with Albendazole are being given by every Health Centre. Mobile clinics are conducted in the rural areas and first aids is given to all patents visiting the Catholic Health Centres. Caring for the elderly in homes and immunizations of newborns and their mothers are also activities taken up the by the nurse sister and her team. The Rehabilitation centre (Peace Home) for HIV infected and affected children are being given special attention by way of animation, orientation, counseling and preparing the inmates for a self reliant future. Every year ACHA conducts AGBM, where all MIs participate whole heartedly.



AGBM Aizawl 2018



Care for the elderly



Cancer awareness to parents



Teaching First Aid to ASHAS



Cancer & HIV awareness to school children

**GUWAHATI (CHAG) Report given by Sr. Lizzie Mathew**

There are 9 active MIs in CHAG including 2 hospitals and 1 palliative care centre. Village camps and awareness classes for mothers, facility for sputum collection and DOTs programmes, networking with the PHCs, free eye camps, general medical camps and awareness on Disaster Management are undertaken. The issues dealt are Malaria and its prevention, hygiene and sanitation, ante natal and post natal care of mothers, communicable diseases, sex education in schools, immunization of mother and child, cancer awareness and nutrition.

**Major Challenges:**

- \*The sister nurse run Health Centres have difficulties in functioning without formal registration required by the CEA of the government.
- \*Non availability of doctors for rural health activities.
- \*Lack of financial support.
- \*Lack of equipment.
- \*Poor transportation and communication.



**Immunization of child**



**Health & Hygiene to school children**



**Medical camp**



**Vitamin A to children**



**Albendazole to mothers**

## **IMPHAL (CHAM) Report given by Rev. Fr. James Tangshel**

CHAM, Manipur has 15 MIs. They had organized Health Care Promotion activities, like classes, conducted health camps and awareness sessions in the last one year. Catholic Medical Centre (CMC) is the only CHAI hospital in Manipur. It is 150 bedded, with MICU, four OTs, Cardiology equipments and facilities, Kidney dialysis, Lab. and x-ray facilities.



Medical Care for Flood Victims



General Check up



Rural Medical camp

Other activities conducted are Village health training for village girls, Nurses training institute to train its own nursing staff to provide quality nursing care, Immunization programmes in collaboration with the government, Designated Microscopy centre under RNTCP and ICTC under Manipur State AIDs Control society. Dr. Jaminda and her team members conducted camp for flood affected people of Manipur, Free Blood test for Hepatitis B and C was conducted in CMC Hospital Koirengai. CHAM treasurer Sr. Jancy MSMHC and team conducted orientation programme on Mother and Child Health and Nutrition.

The National CHAI AGBM 2018 at Secunderabad was attended by 3 members from CHAM.



Rural awareness class & Medical camp

### **The activities taken place at NECHA premises were the following:**

1. NEHCA board meeting 28<sup>th</sup> April 2018.
2. Vitamin Angles Training Programme at NECHA for stake holders.
3. World Vision review meetings.
4. Jan Vikas Samitee Review meetings of Partners caring for differently able.

5. Health submit organized in Social Forum 11<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> march 2019.
6. CHAI's sponsored solar power to remote health centers and small hospitals in North East. Animation to beneficiaries in NECHA.
7. Participation of NECHA director Pastoral Conference of the region in September 2018.
8. Rehabilitation programme of HIV infected and affected children by NE AIDS Control society attended by Fr. Mathew Perumpil CBCI, and Fr. Paul Thettayil, NECHA.
9. Launching of Ayush by Voluntary Health Association of India in Guwahati.
10. Prison Ministry of India meeting in Dispur, Guwahati.
11. RUBY Jubilee of George Mamalassery, Bishop Emeritus Tura in March 2019.
12. Fr. Paul visited Fr. Sevanand, & felicitated with memento of CHAI Platinum Jubilee. He is now the Abbot of Kurishumala, who was Director of NECHA (1997-2002).
13. Power Point Presentation (PPT) on various health themes 172 nos. by NEHCA.
14. Annual General Body Meetings of the Diocesan units (DUs).
15. Funeral Services of Late Rev. Bishop Robert Kerketta, Tezpur.
16. Episcopal Ordination of Coadjutor Bishop, Dibrugarh Albert Hemrom, 24.02.2019



North Eastern Bishops at Ruby Jubilee of Bishop George Mamalassery



JVS Partners Meet 2018



Funeral of Bishop Emeritus Robert Kerketta at Tezpur



Bidding farewell to Emeritus Bishop Robert Kerketta who ordained Fr. Paul



Participants JVS Meet at NECHA



Vitamin Angles Training



Ruby Jubilee of Bishop George Mamalassery



Visit to Fr. Sevanand, Earlier NECHA Director



Vitamin Angles Session at NECHA

### FUTURE PLANS:

NECHA will continue to concentrate on communicable diseases in the rural areas. There are still many depts. in the MMR and IMR category in the rural areas of North East India. Even though, the government has undertaken programmes of immunization, many distant villages are still to benefit from the health schemes. We hope to continue to work in the field of vector born diseases, TB, Malaria, Addiction to drugs and alcoholism. Human Trafficking is still a major concern in North East India. Children and girls are being trafficked through a network of traffickers. NECHA plans to build awareness on the urgency of stopping child labor and eradicating trafficking of girl child from North East to other parts of India.