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Welthungerhilfe South Asia
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Sri Lanka

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OUR VISION

All the people of this world leading their lives autonomously in dignity and justice – free from hunger and poverty.

WELTHUNGERHILFE SOUTH ASIA

Welthungerhilfe was founded in 1962 as the National Committee of the Freedom from Hunger Campaign set up by the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organisation. Non-profit making, non-denominational and politically independent, it is run by a board of honorary members under the patronage of the Federal Republic of Germany. The South Asia Regional Office with its headquarters in India serves the countries of India, Nepal Sri Lanka and Bangladesh.

In South Asia, Welthungerhilfe over the past 50 years has supported around 1000 rural development projects through local partner organizations who work with the most vulnerable and marginalsed people. The guiding theme of our work, 'helping people help themselves' also extends to emergency situations such as natural disasters or civil wars, where those affected are steadily supported to assume responsibility for their lives.

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Welthungerhilfe South Asia 2011-12

FOREWORD



Dear Reader,

The year 2011 has seen the world economy shaking once again. More and more people have started realizing that the paradigm of market liberalization and privatization which was at the centre of economic policies around the world, left people to worry about the volatility of economies and growing inequalities - be it in Europe or South Asia. It is now time to propagate a development agenda that is in line with social objectives.

Welthungerhilfe, in South Asia, supports initiatives that help disadvantaged groups to assume their rights as citizens in order to benefit from economic growth and the overall positive development framework. We have to reiterate that current economic growth in South Asia is not a product of politicians and investors alone, as entire societies and especially the poorest segment have contributed much. The poor have always paid a huge price for growth in terms of low wages, passive acceptance to inhuman working conditions and often by losing control over the land that they have occupied for generations. Further, they either silently accepted or remained indifferent to national policies and government spending which to a large extent did not reflect their interests.

On those grounds, in 2011, Welthungerhilfe commenced the implementation of the Fight Hunger First Initiative (FHFI) – a larger national programme across states with 10 Indian partner organizations (see page 7). The main objective of the programme is to combat the continuously high levels of hunger and malnutrition, which are the sad evidence of the growing inequalities in the Region.

The Prime Minister of India, Manmohan Singh, stated that a staggering 42 percent of underweight children in the country is "a matter of national shame". South Asia as a whole remains the region with the highest prevalence of hunger and malnutrition in the world, followed by Sub-Saharan Africa, which had significantly less growth, recurring conflicts and political unrest during the last decades.

The Fight Hunger First Initiative follows a rights- based approach to development and is set to be up-scaled in 2012 with further partners in India, Nepal and Bangladesh.

An empowerment agenda, though more on the social and economic level, has also characterized our work in Sri Lanka, where Welthungerhilfe has been working for more than 15 years to assist people affected by the conflict in the North. Despite many unanswered questions related to national reconciliation, substantial progress has been made to help people recovering from the conflict and re-establish their own livelihoods and communities. The process has been encouraging.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have contributed to our mission: our partners, donors such as the European Union, the German Government, the German public, Viva con Agua and other private foundations, as well as our teams in South Asia and Bonn.

Sincerely

Joachim Schwarz Regional Director, South Asia



Welthungerhilfe celebrates 50 years in 2012

We were founded in 1962 as part of the ground-breaking global "Freedom from Hunger Campaign". Established under the umbrella of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), Welthungerhilfe has been promoting secure food supplies for all people, rural development and the maintenance of natural resources for the past 50 years. The organisation in all has supported approximately 4,500 self-help projects, 1,100 projects for children and youths and more than 1,000 emergency assistance programmes in 70 countries, at a total of EUR 2.25 billion

History of Welthungerhilfe

At the beginning it was one man's vision: Binay Ranjan Sen (1898 to 1993), an Indian diplomat, Director-General of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and a man passionately committed to the fight against hunger. Working as a commissioner for humanitarian aid in Bengal during the 1940's, he had first-hand experience of the fate of hundreds of million people living on the verge of losing their livelihoods.

In his various roles, but particularly in his role as Director-General of the FAO, he did everything in his power to make the fight against hunger a global priority. In 1960, he started the "Freedom from Hunger" campaign. Commensurate with the size of its objective, it was designed as a far-reaching campaign that would be carried at a global level not just by governments but also non-governmental organisations, public institutions, religious representatives and committed individuals.

In Germany, this idea generated considerable interest. At the initiative of former Federal President Heinrich Lübke, the "Deutscher Ausschuss für den Kampf gegen den Hunger" (German Committee for the Fight against Hunger) was established as a part of the global campaign. In 1967, the committee was turned into an association: Deutsche Welthungerhilfe e.V., with the Federal President as its patron.

HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION

Acause and an effect of the deprived social status and denial of basic rights of entire communities, over generations...

Why is South Asia unable to take care of its children?

Inflation, rising prices, inaccessibility to markets, information and lack of knowledge is threatening the poor and vulnerable people of South Asia with considerably detrimental effects on their nutritive status. This region is a stark paradox: comprising of two distinct Asias, one that is 'shining' and the other that is home to more than 50% of the world's underweight children.

The high cost of food items has led to a lack of diversity in the food habits of people leading them to consume only few food items as part of their daily diet leading to a lack of wholesome nutrition intake. Thus this lack of proper nutrition (Box: What is Hunger) impacts child development and the overall health status of the family resulting in low



productivity at work. The prevalent situation marks the sad reality of millions of households across the region.

Though the economic growth within the last 20 years has benefited many, the developments have been irrelevant for a large number of rural poor and have actually worsened the situation of significant sections of the society; for instance, through losing control over their land due to corporate interests or growing dependencies on labor migration. Commercial agricultural inputs also play a role. Unfortunately, corruption levels have been fuelled by growth and have led to a further and continued disregard of the rights of the poor by a variety of actors that include public servants, employers, landlords and other vested interests.

It is clear that many people continue to be denied their fair share in the growth process of South Asian countries.

How is malnutrition measured?

Though malnutrition rates are a very good indicator for societal inequalities, there is a wide discussion, especially in India, on the accuracy of the figures: 'Is it possible that we have such high levels of malnutrition even though many other indicators point in a positive direction? Where are all those malnourished?' In fact, malnutrition figures are extremely reliable and comparable, much more so than let's say income, expenditure or education figures. This is because they are based on simple anthropometric measures of height and weight as well as the age of the person. Those figures can be extracted with a high level of accuracy and the main indicators of stunting, wasting and underweight are calculated from those values (Box: What is Hunger). To determine the nutrition status of a person the indicators are compared with a WHO standard which is based on a sample population from different countries.

What are the reasons for malnutrition?

Malnutrition is an inter-generational issue:

The low nutritional, educational and social status of women in South Asia are major factors that contribute to a high

What is Hunger?

The FAO defines it specifically as the consumption of fewer than about 1,800 kilocalories per day – the minimum that most people require to live a healthy and productive life.

The term 'under nutrition' signifies deficiencies in energy, protein, essential vitamins and minerals, or any or all of these. Under nutrition is the result of inadequate intake of food – in terms of either quantity or quality – or poor utilization of nutrients due to infections or other illnesses.

Malnutrition refers more broadly to both under nutrition (problems of deficiencies) and over nutrition. Both conditions contribute to poor health.)

Main Indicators of Malnutrition

Child under-nutrition can manifest itself in different ways, depending on the cause, severity, and duration. The three main measures of child under-nutrition are:

Wasting – Low weight for one's height

Wasting reflects acute under nutrition resulting from inadequate food and nutrient intake and/or

repeated or severe disease.

Stunting – Low height for one's age

Stunting is a good overall indicator of under nutrition because it reflects the cumulative

effects of chronic under nutrition.

Underweight – Low weight for one's age

Underweight reflects either stunting or wasting.

or both.

	Stunting	Wasting	Under Nutrition	Source
Bangladesh	51.4%	16.6%	57.4%	CNS - 2007
India	48%	20%	43%	NFHS-3- (2005/06)
Nepal	49%	13%	39%	UNICEF 2009
Sri Lanka	19.2%		21.6%	Dept. of Nutrition, MRI – 2009

prevalence of underweight children under the age of five. When looking at the graph below, one can see that South Asian babies are considerably smaller in size at birth, than those of other regions.

This has no genetic reasons, but points to the fact that many mothers are also facing the consequences of present and/or previous malnutrition. Malnutrition is 'hereditary' because under nourished mothers generally give birth to under nourished babies. It is clear that women with a higher status have better nutrition status and are able to provide higher quality food and care for their children. (GHI 2009)

Why the first 1000 days are very critical?

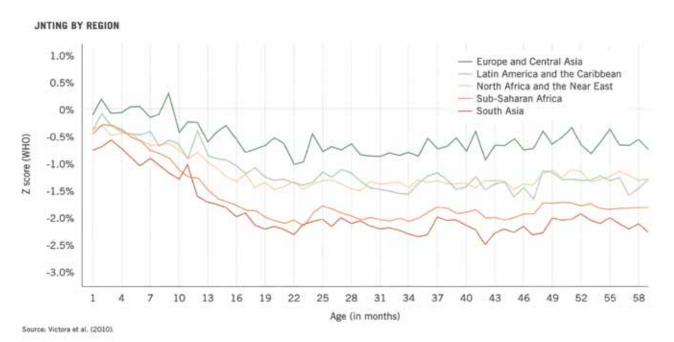
The mother's poor knowledge on what is good for her baby underlines the need to empower women on best practices in child bearing and raising the baby. The graph illustrates that the average South-Asian baby consistently loses out during the first two critical years of its growth; and, sadly, is unable to pick up thereafter. The high prevalence of malnutrition in children below two years and the proven need of arresting it before this age have highlighted the importance of mother and child care during the "first 1,000 days in the life of

a child". This period includes the nine months inside the womb plus the first two years outside. Any programme on child nutrition must target this critical time in order to be successful.

During this period the mother needs to understand the significance of enhancing her diet during pregnancy and the benefits of an institutional delivery. After birth, her baby needs colostrum, exclusive breastfeeding for the first 6 months and nutritive semi-solids to be introduced at 6 months. It is also critical to monitor the child's growth, regularly, so any risk of malnutrition is identified immediately. In addition, the emphasis on hygiene and proper sanitation for those feeding and caring for the baby is critical.

A stable livelihood for the family makes a difference:

Clearly, the vulnerability of communities has remained high in many areas of the region. Household studies frequently show that many rural poor do not have adequate food stocks during the months before the harvest and, subsequently, suffer from low food intake, which often comes in pairs with health issues.



Brain neurons in normal 3-yr old

Brain neurons in malnourished 3-yr old

Commercialization of the agriculture sector and the decreasing diversity in agricultural production is making rural households even more dependent. This has also had negative effects on the food produced for consumption, which in many communities has become less diverse and unhealthy. In addition, many people are forced to migrate in search of labor several months of the year. Often the migration time is specifically harmful for the child's growth and health, as it means inappropriate care at the makeshift dwellings and a discontinuity of government services available in the village.

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Overarching issues, such as education and gender equality, must also be taken into account, as they are determining factors for the ability of a mother to make the right choices in food, family planning and child care.

What are the effects of hunger and child malnutrition?

The repercussions of malnutrition can plague an individual throughout her/ his life, from poor school performance and cognitive development to ill health and low productivity at work. According to the World Bank (2005) malnutrition results in low immunity and higher risk of death.

As the problem of malnutrition runs through generations in many of the most disadvantaged communities, it is often barely recognized as an issue – either by the communities or by the authorities. However, hunger and malnutrition of entire communities is an outcome of centuries of discrimination and has helped in manifesting and perpetuating their low status. It is a cause and an effect of the deprived social status of those communities at the same time.



How do countries in South Asia perform?

A widely recognized index for comparing countries or regions is the Global Hunger Index (GHI) of Concern, IFPRI and Welthungerhilfe. (Page No. 13: The Global Hunger Index). It uses a Composite Index that includes underweight children, child mortality under five years of age and the proportion of undernourished in the entire population.

When comparing the GHI among the countries of South Asia, one can easily realize that the three large countries, Bangladesh, Pakistan and India, started at very different levels in 1990, but have converged and now have nearly the same GHI value of 25.

Bangladesh has been very successful in reducing malnutrition in the 1990's. Much of the gains are usually attributed to a better outreach of nutrition and health services that was achieved during that time, with successful Vitamin A programs being specifically highlighted. This came along with a period of growth and infrastructure improvements.

The Indian scenario points at the country's inability to implement effective programmes to combat the malnutrition

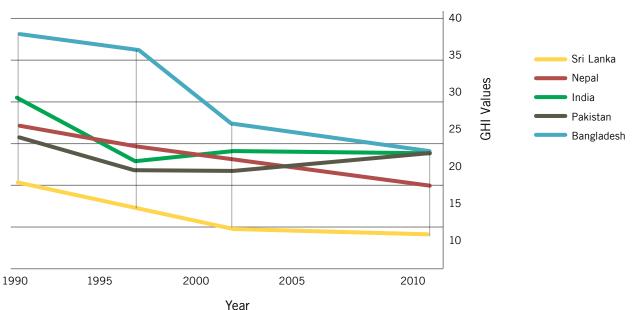
of children. The reasons are related to ill-designed programs when it comes to rural health and nutrition, high levels of corruption and the persisting discrimination of women and marginalized groups.

On the other hand, the small countries of Nepal and Sri Lanka have made considerable progress throughout this period. The case of Nepal is especially surprising, as the country has been politically unstable and recorded comparably low levels of economic growth during that time.

Sri Lanka has always been an outstanding country in South Asia. It has had significantly better social indicators than its neighbors and has, most notably, almost achieved near universal education.

This, as well as sound social policies related to education, welfare and health schemes, are the primary factors in improving nutrition levels, despite 30 years of ethnic conflict. However, the data has frequently excluded the Tamil areas, where social indicators are not as good.

Changes of GHI in South Asia



Change is possible, if appropriate programmes to combat hunger and malnutrition are in place

Short-routes:

Apart from the social obligation, it has been proven that investing in nutrition and hunger yields high returns. Frequently mentioned success stories related to community-based growth promotion from Thailand show that malnutrition rates have decreased considerably in 10 years.

A number of factors increase the effectiveness of community-based growth promotions: these include a focus on children under the age of two, a two-way counseling process between mother and community workers, attention to effective messages, and adequate training and motivation of medical/nursing personnel and service providers.

Other positive examples are the provision of related micro-nutrients e.g. Vitamin A supplements to pre-school children (including in India, Nepal and Bangladesh) or iron supplements and salt iodination.

The World Food Programme also highlights the importance of school feeding programs in order to provide additional nutrition as well as an incentive for attending school.

Long-routes:

Apart from the direct and instant improvements achieved through short routes, there are many policies and programs that have a longer-term and less direct impact on nutrition. In particular, these include:

- Economic development and inclusiveness of growth
- Social programs related to food and income
- Agricultural production, specifically if diversified and includes nutrition specific aspects
- Gender empowerment in all its complexity. This also includes girl education, decreased workload for women, Family Planning and other decision-making processes in the household etc.



A child being weighed in project area.

 Water, hygiene and sanitation – here, the importance of access to safe drinking water and behaviour change such as hand-washing of those caring for the children and availability of clean toilets especially within the school premises are frequently highlighted.

It is crucial to ensure physical and economic access to adequate food and nutrition in a dignified manner for every individual. The only way to reach this objective is through the development of strategies that take into account the principles of human rights and, in particular, involve the participation of the most affected people in the decision-making and implementation phases.

In short: it is important to bring malnutrition and hunger down in a short period of time, by prioritising it as a political and social goal.

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FIGHT HUNGER FIRST INITIATIVE

A rights-based program to combat hunger and malnutrition in South Asia

Inequalities and discriminations are deep-rooted in South Asia and continue to hamper the social mobility of many disadvantaged groups. The belief that poor people can "help themselves" if they are capacitated, for instance, to produce more on their fields, has dominated the development agenda for long and many programs have based their activities on this assumption. This school of thought was further influenced by the philosophy that "growth is good for the poor" and would automatically achieve some kind of trickle-down effect ... or that more yield would lead to food security. But this is still a farfetched dream.

However, it is the poor who are the most vulnerable, dependent and disadvantaged of all. They have only access to the poorest and smallest farms; they have not received formal education, are often deprived of their welfare benefits by corrupt administrations and are suppressed by upper classes or castes. There is always a conflict of interest between people with power and the powerless. This interest pushes the political and economic elites to maintain the status quo leaving the situation unchanged - as it is always easier to manipulate the uninformed or less empowered to suit their own interests. In the present circumstances, therefore, it is still most likely that the child of a poor dalit or adivasi will remain poor throughout his or her life.

The Fight Hunger First Initiative is designed on the premise that, in the longer term, poor people can only break out of this cycle if adequate welfare systems are in place and basic rights are fulfilled: such as access to proper education,

DEFINING THE NEW APROACH: From Development to Rights-based

Development Approach

Beneficiary Participation Satisfy Needs Service Delivery Micro level

Rights-based Approach

Citizen
Empowerment
Ensure Rights
Ensure Service Delivery
Micro to Macro-level

sufficient and adequate access to food and income, better health services and all people are treated like equal citizens by the state. Only, then, can the new generation of disadvantaged groups look forward to a new and better future. And only then, can growth benefit the entire society.

For Welthungerhilfe, this means that we need to abandon the traditional, developmental approach in South Asia and move towards a rights-based programming, which acknowledges the importance of the role of the state towards ensuring the (human) rights of its citizens. It is based on our belief in social justice and strives towards empowering the marginalized and poor. The box, (Defining the new approach), illustrates the change from the old process to the new, indicated by the terminology that we would like to avoid and that which we want to support.

In this sense, we would like to think of our target group as equal citizens not as beneficiaries. We look for empowerment and not participation in pre-defined processes. Satisfying

basic needs as well as service delivery, at least related to fundamental needs such as primary education, basic health and welfare systems, and justice, have to be the responsibility of the government and not that of non-governmental organizations, even though civil society must have roles in the delivery systems. Further, we strive towards programs that do not only have micro-level activities and impacts but also look at structural causes and work towards changes on both meso and macro-levels, e.g. through studies and advocacy.

Design of the Fight Hunger First Initiative

The program aims at significantly improving the key indicators related to food and nutrition security on sub-district levels, within a 6-year period, in the most vulnerable parts of the region. In 2011, we started to plan and implement the interventions with 10 partners in five states of India – Jharkhand, Karnataka, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal. In 2012, we plan to extend the initiative to include more partners and areas in India as well as Nepal and Bangladesh.

Tribal population in Rayagada district, Odisha

Graphical distribution of hunger time (poor HHs): warmer colour indicates hunger for more HHs or heavier hunger

January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	October	November	December
									1		

The program is based on the following key principles:

- A rights-based approach which believes that every person should have equal opportunities, responsibilities and rights - including the right to food and education, to participate in social, economic and political life and the right to access services and entitlements
- A commitment to a long-term involvement in at least 10 geographical focus areas by implementing scaled up programs through local partner organisations to create a sustained impact. We consciously avoid the counterproductive effects of short-term projects.
- To ensure cost-effectiveness by selecting accountable and motivated local partners, focusing on capacitybuilding and empowering local communities rather than involving large-scale investments - and applying a transparent monitoring system to measure effectiveness
- A strong national and state level advocacy campaign that would highlight key messages and issues collated and verified from the field.

An important element of this process is to strengthen collaboration efforts among partners on aspects related to capacity building, advocacy and fund raising. To facilitate linkages and enable access of the community to entitlements, the program aims to achieve convergence with government schemes and programmes such as the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS), the Public Distribution System (PDS), the National Food Security Mission (NFSM), National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), Right to Education (RTE) Act and the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS).

Key Indicators for the Fight Hunger First Initiative	Sectors
Stunting rate of children under 5 years Maternal and infant mortality	Mother & Child Health and Nutrition
Access to adequate amounts of food % of households living below the poverty line Status of the Commons	Food Security
6. % of children completing primary education	Right to Education

To achieve its desired objectives the Initiative will operate at two levels.

On the local and field level where specific area programs will be implemented with specific partners in a certain

geographical area to directly benefit the target group. And at the national and state level for which key aspects of area programs will be taken up for the purposes of networking and advocacy in coordination with partners.

Living Farms, Fight Hunger First Initiative in Odisha – An Initial Experience

Living Farms in Odisha partnering Welthungerhilfe initiated the project in August 2011 with a baseline survey. The survey in the two blocks of Rayagada district involved: (a) a Nutrition and Education Census which was carried out in 2,050 households of 52 villages and (b) a Household Food Economy Survey based on the methodology of Save the Children.

The findings of the survey have been disturbing with all key indicators of malnutrition way above the national or state averages. The main reasons for malnutrition were low birth weight, inadequate/faulty lactating and weaning practices, marginal/ negligible hygiene and a high prevalence of disease. Poor levels of education and the low nutritional status are directly linked.

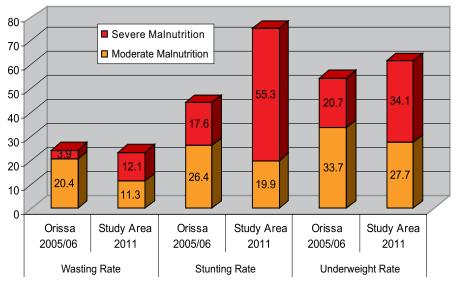
The Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS), in the meantime, has had little success in improving the nutrition of small children. Though most pregnant mothers or children are registered with the program, the coverage of services is very low, and while the quality of the distributed supplementary food is insufficient it is also mostly shared with other members of the household.

The Household Food Economy Survey further indicated that the main source of cash income of poorer households is from labour. However, the flagship program to increase income, the NREGS is practically dysfunctional in the study area. Even though many have registered under the scheme, the majority has not even worked for one day. These limitations of the program have serious consequences on the purchasing power of poorer tribal households, specifically during the lean period between July and October, every year. (See calendar page 6)

The second most important food security scheme, the Public Distribution System is functioning better in comparison to NREGS. Though food rations do contribute significantly to food security, they fail to enhance consumption levels to adequate standards for poor households, for most of the year. An additional result of the study was a very low access to education.

Only 65% of children within the school-going age are registered, and most of them do not attend classes regularly.

Results of the Nutrition survey in Rayagada district



Living Farms Rights Based Agenda

Post the survey results, the following agenda has been set for Rayagada district:

- The Findings demand for urgent and life-saving action with regard to setting up Nutrition Rehabilitation Centres in order to treat severely malnourished children.
- The Integrated Child Development Services require attention by the decision makers in order to improve the supervision system, supplies as well as the capacities and working conditions of the Anganwadi workers.
- 3. In a wider sense it seems necessary to assess the effectiveness of the ICDS system especially with regard to behavioural change communication, sufficiency and quality of the provided food, and if the food in fact reaches those in need, the malnourished children and pregnant mothers.
- 4. It is vital to mobilize the Panchayats as well as other institutions in order to improve the implementation of NREGA. More work-days, best utilized for improving community infrastructures/ sustainable / durable assets, as well as quicker request and payment mechanisms are critical to improve food security in the tribal communities.
- 5. Decision makers should join hands in order to achieve PDS provisions which are increased, both in diversity as well as amount. The implementation of a localized procurement, storage and distribution system of locally appropriate grains that includes local grains is recommended.
- To focus on improving primary education. This
 must be done by government as well as civil society
 bodies together, specifically by strengthening school
 management committees.
- 7. Facilitating community based action to ensure rights and entitlements to the citizens are accessed by them.
- 8. Advocacy on the various rights and entitlements at all levels.



FACTFILE

Indicator	Bangladesh
Population 2010/11 (Rank)	151,000,000 (8)
Human Development Index 2010 (Rank)	0.469 (132)
Global Hunger Index* 1990	38.1
Global Hunger Index 2011 (Rank of 81)	24.5 (70)
Economic growth (year)	6.5% (2011)
Gini Coefficient (0=totally equal)	0.33
Democracy Index (out of 10)	5.86 (2011)
Corruption Index (Rank)	2.7 (120) (2011)
Specific issues	Immense population pressure and vulnerability to disaster



The Country

Bangladesh has had a history of natural disasters, instability and internal strife. It is also one of the world's least developed countries. According to Government figures, just less than 40 per cent of the population lives below the national poverty line. The country is also the most vulnerable to climate change. The availability and access to food grown domestically, is a key issue that affects basic survival, nutrition, national security and stability.1

While Bangladesh is nearly self-sufficient in rice production. food security remains an elusive goal. Currently, 40% of children under-five in Bangladesh are stunted due to continuous malnourishment as a result of poor feeding habits and lack of access to nutritious foods. The average Bangladeshi diet lacks diversification with 75% of calories consumed coming solely from rice.2

Some facts about food security

- Bangladesh has increased its food grain production over the past 28 years, from 11.8 million metric tons in 1974 to more than 39 million metric tons in 2003.3
- 30% of the population consumes fewer than 1800 kcal per day.3
- 45% of women have low body mass index (less than 18.5)* Women eat last and eat less. They are the most malnourished group in Bangladesh.4
- Fifty percent of all Bangladeshi babies are born underweight.4
- Frequent floods, cyclones and other natural disasters pose special problems for assuring food security.4
- The Government relies increasingly on the private sector to help address food security.4

Overview

Welthungerhilfe and its partner organization, Anando, has been working in the south eastern Chittagong Hill Tracts bordered by India and Myanmar. The core work has been relief and rehabilitation work, which started in 1997 in the three newly created districts. This has helped to integrate the tribal people and the Bengali migrants and bring stability to the communities struggling to find food and security for many years.

The other prime focus has been on Integrated Development Initiative for Homestead Farming in Khagrachari, which provides for agro- extension through Homestead Farming, environmental awareness creation, and networking to raise the bar for poor families and marginal farmers in the most vulnerable regions of the country. The 'Community' Development of the Ethnic Minorities in Dighinala Subdistrict', in Chittagong Hill Tracts incorporated programmes on human rights and land issues with nutrition and income generation activities for the ethnic groups.

Pushpo learns about three tier rotational farming

My land has given birth to new dreams for us...

Pushpo Rani Chakma, migrated from India with a family of four. Since her husband had no regular work or income, they subsisted entirely on Government rations.

Over these hard times, the family's dreams of a happy future slowly diminished since they had no access to any resources or financial means. It was during this time Anando introduced the multi-tier orchard planning to Pushpo.

Post training, Pushpo started to tier her land with mango, litchi, banana, pineapple, ginger and turmeric and also cultivated seasonal vegetables. The substantial income from her successful efforts helped her add two pigs, and 10 egg laying hens to her farm.

The balance money was used for her son's education and to repay her initial loans. She and her husband now carry out all the activities such as planting, mulching, irrigating and rotating crops so that they are assured of food and money throughout the year. Pushpo is now determined to share her knowledge and success with her fellow community members.



http://www.usaid.gov/bd/programs/food_sec.html

World Bank Development Indicators Database, 2011

INDIA

Fact File

Indicator	India
Population 2010/11 (Rank)	1,210,000,000 (2)
Human Development Index 2010 (Rank)	0.519 (122)
Global Hunger Index 1990	30.4
Global Hunger Index 2011 (Rank of 81)	23.7 (67)
Economic growth (year)	8.5% (2010)
Gini Coefficient (0=totally equal)	0.37
Democracy Index (out of 10)	7.30 (2011)
Corruption Index (Rank)	3.1 (95) (2011)
Specific issues	High inequalities and social discrimination



The Country

India is a country of great contrasts. This is evident in various arenas, cultural, religious and also in its economy. The divide is more pronounced in the rural areas where the majority of the population continues living in penury. While the top 10 percent of the Indian population earns 33 percent of the total income, a quarter earns less than the government specified poverty threshold of \$0.40/day. The trickledown effect, with the poor benefiting from overall economic progress, has proven to have severe limitations in India, especially with lower caste and tribal communities, as reflected in most of the country's poverty indicators. At a global level, India leads malnutrition rates, with 42 percent of children under five being underweight.

Challenges

Connecting the marginalized sections of society to modern India is the most challenging task, as exclusive and discriminatory behaviors and perceptions seem to have such strong roots in India – in the mind of both the suppressors as well as the oppressed. Therefore, it is vital to create awareness amongst disadvantaged groups about their rights and entitlements so they are empowered to participate actively in the country's development. It is also critical to provide alternatives and models for empowerment and improved self-governance which have the potential to be scaled up and can be promoted through policy advocacy.

Apart from the above, Welthungerhilfe also looks at other challenges that are interconnected with the key issues of hunger and poverty. Those are ensuring universal education for its growing young population, large scale labor migration and revitalizing small-holder farming and providing women with economic and social rights.

Our Work

Since the 1960s, Welthungerhilfe has implemented more than 900 projects with local partner organizations across the world. In 2006, we established an office in India in order to have closer contacts with the rural communities, with our national partner organizations as well as some of our key donors.

Currently we work in four main areas to contribute to combating poverty, hunger and malnutrition. These are:

(i) Ensuring access to rights and entitlement with a focus on income, food, nutrition, primary education and gender;

- (ii) Promoting sustainable agriculture and natural resource management with a farmers focus on smallholder and marginal areas;
- (iii) Promoting alternative green livelihood opportunities especially with regard to trades and products that promote ecological conservation in rural areas; and
- (iv) Welthungerhilfe also has a mandate to respond to emergencies, though there hasn't been a major disaster in the year 2011.

To achieve progress on those fronts, Welthungerhilfe works exclusively through national partners. A network of thirty partners in India is presently supported by Welthungerhilfe. Most of the partners are located in our priority states that include Odisha, West Bengal, Jarkhand, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Kashmir. All our partners have a good and long-term presence in the project locations, follow the principle of self-help and engage with numerous community based institutions in order to help in building a vibrant civil society and achieve more sustainable outcomes. Since 2011, all projects follow a rights-based agenda, as outlined earlier. Direct service delivery by partners in sectors that are clearly government roles e.g. primary education or provision of basic health and nutrition services, are not supported by Welthungerhilfe any longer.



Women participating in community meetings

Overview

Rights and Entitlements

Our program on rights and entitlements in India includes the Fight Hunger First Initiative which started in 2011 with nine partner organizations in India. Apart from this, Welthungerhilfe also supports a few targeted initiatives in the area of Primary Education aiming at increased levels of attendance and quality in government schools and in a wider sense the implementation of the Right to Education Act of 2010. A pioneering effort in this regard has been the introduction of local Ho language teachers in the tribal villages of Odisha in order to encourage enrolment and attendance of tribal children. The initiative has encouraged other organizations to replicate the model and hence, contextualizing tribal education as per the local needs and resources is gaining momentum.

Gender equality is addressed in a EU-co-funded program with four partners and looks specifically at issues related to livelihoods, access to land and female literacy. Unequal treatment of women in those areas is seen as a key-factor in manifesting the low social status of women in the society. Therefore, the project works on informing and empowering women in literacy classes, women groups and resource centers in order to change their own perceptions as well as their roles in the society.

Welthungerhilfe is also engaged in the Kashmir Valley to capacitate and empower youth and women with regard to their economic and political rights. Youth information centers provide a nodal space for educated, unemployed youth to discuss and find solutions for issues which affect their daily lives. People are informed on how to access government welfare schemes, on the Right to Information and other issues that could help in making them a more integral part of the society.

Sustainable Agriculture and Natural Resource Management

Besides looking at rights and entitlements, Welthungerhilfe has a long history of supporting livelihood activities, especially smallholder farmers. In India we promote a farm systems approach through the implementation of the Sustainable Integrated Farming Systems (SIFS) program, financed by the German Government, with the aim of more diverse, productive and ecologically sound farm management. The programme was launched in 2011 with four partner

organisations. Each farmer will be capacitated through a series of training activities that include planning methods, Farmer Field Schools as well as detailed community based monitoring. Apart from supporting the farmers, we also look at how the government could provide better and cost-effective extension services to smallholders and how market frameworks could be improved.

Welthungerhilfe supports Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) as a tool for poverty alleviation, food security and social equity. Our IWRM programme is implemented with three partners in Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Jharkhand and addresses water management issues related to agricultural production and food security, clean drinking water, sanitation and hygiene. The programme adopts a community based approach by making the community the key actor for solutions- both for technology as well as for processes- that emanate from within. Pilots aiming at reviving traditional water harvesting systems as well as modern low cost technologies are promoted for rain water conservation and water use efficiency. Our partners have taken good initiatives by making local governments more accountable and mobilising support from programmes such as NREGS, the Total Sanitation Campaign as well as programs related to providing safe drinking water.

Livelihoods

Welthungerhilfe's third key area in India with regard to reviving local economies and combating poverty is vocational training. The development of forest-based trades such as tussar silk or lac production have been promoted by Welthungerhilfe for long. Currently, we support a Vocational Education and Training Program with four partner organizations in West Bengal, Jharkhand and Odisha, financed by the European Union. The programme aims at rural youth becoming successful producers or service providers, as "ecopreneurs", on businesses related to agriculture, forestry or renewable energy. Apart from silk and lac, examples for such trades include making disposable plates from sal leaves, cultivating mushrooms, harvesting and processing palm jaggery, or maintaining solar equipments.

So far the program has been successful in providing alternative livelihoods to young people. The main factors for the success are close monitoring and follow up of each trainee after completing the training, development of a clear business plan as well as hand holding by program staff when

it comes to accessing credit, developing producer groups or marketing of the produce.

Basavarajappa: Organic all the way!

"Now I am showing others the way to farm organically and make profits ..."

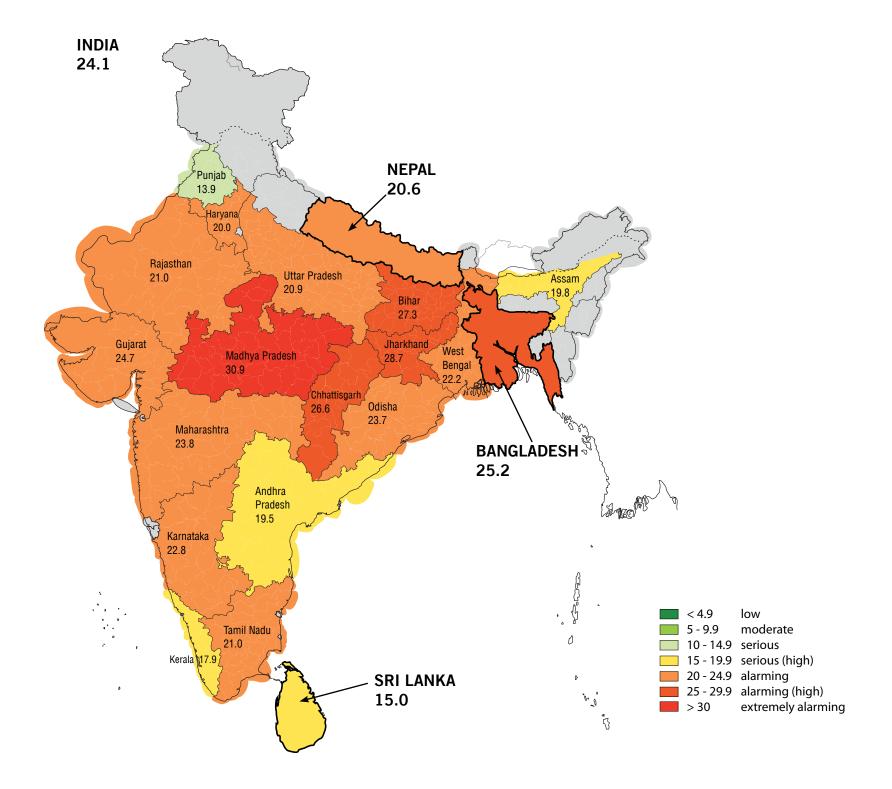
Fifty five year-old Basavarajappa's story has become a legend in the small village of AA Devanahally in Bellary district of Karnataka. It is not one of overnight success but more of a systematic effort to utilize opportunities that are presented to the farmers..

It all began in 2007 when 55 year-old Basavarajappa as part of a project initiative took financial assistance from Welthungerhilfe and its partner organization Myrada, to construct a vermicompost tank adjacent to his cattle shed. He filled it with worms collected from a neighbouring village, agriculture and kitchen waste, added cow dung slurry regularly and sprayed water every day.

So far he has collected 5,500 kgs of vermicompost, utilized it for his land and minimized the application of chemical fertilizers. In addition he has also adopted appropriate practices, like selecting quality seeds, inter cultivation, weed removal and regularly monitoring his farm. Today, this successful farmer is a member of the watershed association in his area. He also receives support from the association for land development activities like silt application, vermicompost, sprinkler irrigation etc.

Motivated by him, many other farmers in the village and neighbouring villages have adopted organic cultivation. "He has become an ideal farmer in the village relied upon by others for information and advice. It is evident that adopting organic farming is a very cost effective measure, resulting in a high yield. Free from diseases and pests, it also improves soil health and is both user and eco friendly" says an official from Myrada.

"All members of my family are thrilled with the way things have turned out," exclaims an excited Basavarajappa.



Welthungerhilfe South Asia 2011-12

The Global Hunger Index

The Global Hunger Index (GHI) is designed to comprehensively measure and track hunger globally and by country and region. It is published by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), Welthungerhilfe and Concern International. The GHI highlights successes and failures in hunger reduction and provides insights into the drivers of hunger.

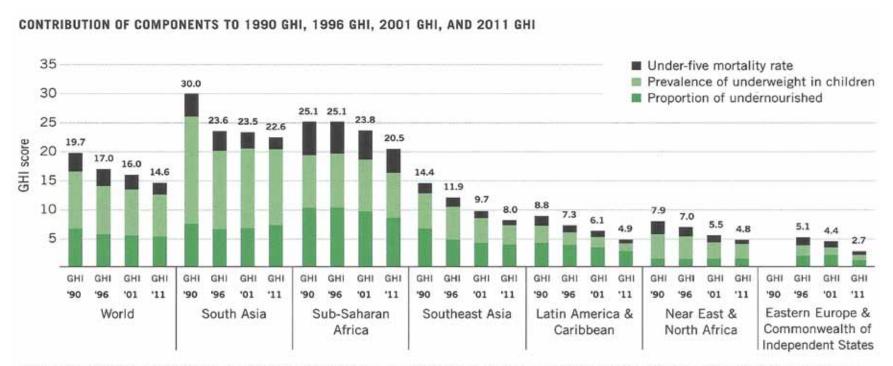
A number of different indicators can be used to measure hunger. To reflect the multi- dimensional nature of hunger, the GHI combines three equally weighted indicators in one index number:

- 1. Undernourishment: the proportion of undernourished as a percentage of the population (reflecting the share of the population with insufficient calorie intake);
- 2. Child underweight: the proportion of children younger than the age of five who are underweight (low weight for age reflecting wasting, stunted growth, or both), which is one indicator of child under-nutrition; and
- Child mortality: the mortality rate of children younger than the age of five (partially reflecting the fatal synergy of inadequate dietary intake and unhealthy environments).

The GHI ranks countries on a 100-point scale. Zero is the best score (no hunger), and 100 is the worst, although neither of these extremes is reached in practice.

The 2011 GHI is calculated for 122 countries for which data on the three components are available and for which measuring hunger is considered most relevant (some higher-income countries are excluded from the GHI calculation because the prevalence of hunger is very low).

The GHI is only as current as the data for its three component indicators. (Global Hunger Index, 2011)



Notes: For the 1990 GHI, data on the proportion of undernourished are for 1990–92; data on child underweight are for the year closest to 1990 in the period 1988–92 for which data are available; and data on child mortality are for 1990. For the 1996 GHI, data on the proportion of undernourished are for 1995–97; data on child underweight are for the year closest to 1996 in the period 1994–98 for which data are available; and data on child mortality are for 1996. For the 2001 GHI, data on the proportion of undernourished are for 2000–02; data on child underweight are for the year closest to 2001 in the period 1999–2003 for which data are available; and data on child mortality are for 2001. For the 2011 GHI, data on the proportion of undernourished are for 2005–07, data on child underweight are for the latest year in the period 2004–09 for which data are available, and data on child mortality are for 2009.

NEPAL

FACTFILE

Indicator	Nepal
Population 2010/11 (Rank)	28,500,000 (43)
Human Development Index 2010 (Rank)	0.428 (141)
Global Hunger Index* 1990	27.1
Global Hunger Index 2011 (Rank of 81)	19.9 (54)
Economic growth (year)	5.6% (2007)
Gini Coeficient (0=totally equal)	0.47
Democracy Index (out of 10)	4.24 (2011)
Corruption Index (Rank)	2.2 (2011)
Specific issues	Unsettled political landscape and high inequalities



Where does Nepal Stand?

- 49% of children under the age of five are stunted,
- 39% are underweight,
- 13% are wasted
- Life expectancy 67 years

* Source: UNICEF 2009. State of the World's Children

The Country

Nepal belongs to the world's Least Developed Countries (LDCs). According to the World Bank, with a per capita income of USD 400 (2009), Nepal is one of the poorest countries in the world and the poorest in the region. One-third of the population lives below the poverty line of USD 1 per day. According to the Global Hunger Index 2010, Nepal is one of the countries with an "extremely alarming food situation." The World Food Programme (WFP) estimates that 2.5 million people depend directly on food aid (2006-07). Forty-two of the 75 districts in Nepal are classified as chronically food insecure and 4.4 million people are considered at risk with regard to their food situation (OCHA, 2008).

Challenges

Approximately 85% of the country's population is rural. Food and living standards have not improved significantly in the last few years. One-fifth of the population is under-nourished and has no access to clean drinking water. Every second child suffers from malnutrition. The unemployment rate is around 50%. Just under half the population is still illiterate (CIA Factbook 2010). Women, the ethnic minorities (Limbu, Rai, Tamang, Gurung or Tharu) and Hindu caste of Dalits (untouchables, constituting 10% of the population) are particularly hard hit by poverty.

The overall health situation is unsatisfactory. Food is not used or utilised according to need. Awareness of food and health issues is frequently lacking and the one-sided and inadequate nutrition leads to protein-energy malnutrition (PEM), iron deficiency (anaemia), or a deficiency of vitamin A and iodine. Several children suffer from diarrhoea, pneumonia and measles. Chronic respiratory problems are common, caused by the open fires that are widespread in the area.

Due to the civil war, there have been no elected government representatives who are accountable to the people, since 1997. The fragile security situation and the faltering peace process in Nepal have had an adverse impact on food security. The youth, in particular, is at risk of being caught between political actors and militant groups and of eventually falling victim to political conflict. Social groups such as women, the youth, ethnic minorities, and the low castes are rarely involved in any decision-making process and are largely excluded from the country's development.



Our Work

Following the concept of integrated rural development, our programs work towards linking food and nutrition security, livelihood promotion, climate change adaptation and biodiversity conservation in remote and neglected locations of the country. The focus is to transform small farms and community forests into sustainable integrated agro-forestry systems.

By promoting organic agriculture and sustainable wild collection of non-timber forest products (such as ayurvedic medicinal and aromatic plants) the program aims to increase business opportunities and enhance the income of poor and marginalized small holder farmers while creating incentives for conservation of these resources.

A comprehensive marketing strategy aims to establish cooperatives, develop market information systems (MIS), create linkages to service providers and companies along the value chain, ensure organic/ fair-trade certification and collaboration with national and international marketing partners.

The program's ecosystem-based adaptation approach incorporates reforestation of degraded areas and protection of forests, development of energy-efficient technologies and conservation of agro-biodiversity.

An important element is the development of a vocational training program for youth in sustainable and organic

agriculture. The objective is to train young people who will be able to understand the environmental problems of their regions and will promote viable and sustainable alternatives in their communities.

Overview

A project to address the food crisis was implemented from November 2008 to April 2009 in 14 districts. Through food-for-work programmes, it supported the construction of rural infrastructure for 20,000 families. During this time, roads were constructed, schools, health centres and community halls established, irrigation systems set up and more than 300,000 days of employment created. Over 60% of the workforce comprised women who were able to earn an income and improve their status within the family and community.

From December 2009 to April 2011, a new programme supported the efforts of the community in 5 districts to build and maintain a productive infrastructure: schools were rehabilitated and equipped; roads built and irrigation systems developed for arable land. To ensure sustainability, user groups/committees were formed and made responsible for maintenance.

All this has helped increase agricultural production and productivity in the target areas so communities in the districts of Ramechhap, Sankhuwasava and Morang now have better livelihood opportunities and availability of food.



Seti Maya in her vegetable garden

A respected farmer of her community

After so much effort and hard work I could not meet the basic livelihood needs of my family even for five months in the year ... now, I am part of the farmer's cooperative and even growing vegetables in winter!

From the backward ethnic community of Tamang, Seti Maya Tamang supports a family of ten children. At an altitude of 400 metres, her farm is located 11 kms away from the highway. Due to the undulating land and erratic rainfall the land could not sustain her family's basic needs even for five months in the year.

Under the RRN (Rural Reconstruction Nepal) project Seti participated in the kitchen gardening program where she learnt how to develop a nursery, grow quality seeds, understand fertilizers, irrigation methods, covering for seed beds and pest management options. Besides gaining valuable knowledge about intensive farming and income generation she was also provided technical support on the field. Before her training she used to grow pumpkin, clocasia, ash gourd and beans. Now she has learnt all

about growing quality crops that offer higher returns.

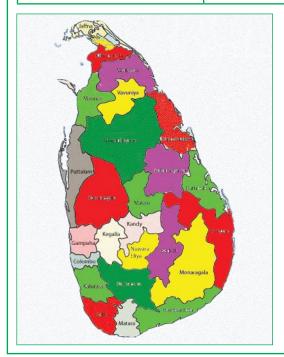
During the winter season, her produce yielded an income of NRs. 30,000. She spent NRs 5000 on home expenses and medical needs and decided to loan the balance NRs.25, 000 at a 36% interest rate. Today, she is a proud and respected member of the newly formed farmer's group, Namuna Krisak Samuha and member of the Korak fresh vegetable and fruits cooperative collection center.



SRI LANKA

FACTFILE

Indicator	Sri Lanka	
Population 2010/11 (Rank)	21,045,400 (55)	
Human Development Index 2011 (Rank)	0.691 (97)	
Global Hunger Index* 1990	20.2	
Global Hunger Index 2011 (Rank of 81)	14.0 (36)	
Economic Growth (year)	7.8% (2011)	
Gini Coeficient (0=totally equal)	0.40	
Democracy Index (out of 10)	6.58 (2011)	
Corruption Index (Rank)	3.1 (95) (2011)	
Specific Issues	Post-conflict situation in the North	



The Country

Sri Lanka is doing better in most social indicators than lits South Asian neighbors. Nevertheless, there remains a highly vulnerable situation in the North of the country, where the three decade long civil war has shaped the course of development. Conflict and repeated displacement has devastated infrastructure, basic livelihood, food security and community life.

Many of the 300,000 people who had been hemmed into the continually shrinking area of conflict had been put into camps (initially closed) before being able to return to their homes. The resettlement could only take place once the demining process had been finalized. Some areas are not yet accessible and around 10.000 people are still in camps and many live with host families. But Humanitarian Assistance in form of shelter, food, health, nutrition and education as well as restoration of basic services, infrastructure and livelihood has shown a considerable progress in regard to the improvement of the situation in the North in the last 2.5 years.

Challenges

However, communities are still traumatized and distressed, one of the gravest concerns due to the aftermath of the war. There is probably not a single family who has not suffered repeated displacement, loss of family members or loss of property and livelihood.

In the given background, communities face a multitude of different challenges. Rehabilitation of productive infrastructure and resources is critical, and there is an urgent need to help people to build up their livelihood in order to gain hope and an independent income, after living in volatile conditions and often being dependent on aid for so long. People are not used to function as a society and make collective decisions. Building trust and bringing the communities back into Sri Lankan society needs to be addressed as well.

Furthermore, the special needs of particularly vulnerable groups - women headed households, the elderly, disabled and others - demand more attention. In addition to their material needs, returnees are seeking solutions to issues such as land ownership, civil and legal documentation, equal access to resources, and response to sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV).

Our Work

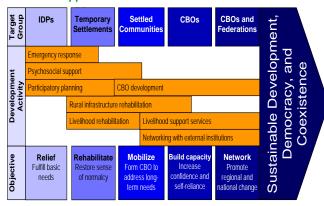
Since nearly two decades, Welthungerhilfe and its partner the Sewa Lanka Foundation have been major stakeholders in supporting people who have faced critical situations due to the war as well as the tsunami, mainly in the North and the East of Sri Lanka. So far 80 projects have been carried out in the country that includes:

- primary emergency aid with food and basic household items.
- critical support with shelter and sanitation facilities,
- income generation schemes especially for vulnerable groups such as women headed households,
- cash for work activities,
- a diversity of agricultural assistance and capacity building, including irrigation development
- developing water supply schemes
- and establishing the Islander and Trincomalee Training Centres providing lasting training opportunities in leadership skills, agriculture as well as income generation to young people.

Overview

The strategy of Welthungerhilfe in Sri Lanka is strongly linked to the LRRD approach of Linking Relief and Rehabilitation to Development (see box). Since most people have now returned to their home, we put specific emphasis on creating conditions that enable people to live a dignified and independent life. Through systematic situational analysis and the exceptional experiences and local know-how of our partner Sewa Lanka, we can ensure that our interventions are suitable to meet

The LRRD Approach in Sri Lanka



the needs, without creating dependencies. Much emphasis is given to implementing the project transparently with the communities and coordinating with all relevant stakeholders.

The resettlement process began end of 2009 and the focus has been mainly on reconstruction and early recovery up to now. The demand for basic humanitarian needs was very high ranging from food assistance, shelter support to supply of in-kind livelihood packages for all families.

Welthungerhilfe supported the first returnees who went back to their homes in Pungudutivu Island in Jaffna with transitional shelters & latrines, small & micro enterprise and organisational development as well as pyscho-social activities.

In other areas in the districts of Kilinochchi, Mulaitivu and Vavuniya similar activities have been implemented where an important criteria was to combine the immediate support with a medium or long-term perspective. Therefore renovation of infrastructure focused on the re-establishment of productive assets like minor water tanks and ponds being used for agricultural irrigation or rural roads in remote areas in order to connect farmers with the town areas. This has been done partly through cash-for-work programmes which at the same time increased the purchasing power of the families to secure their food security. Through a net of cooperative shops all necessary food items and goods were available. Provision of agricultural inputs like water pumps, two wheel tractors and seed and seedlings had a major impact on the fast re- establishing of livelihoods. The supply of those goods has been accompanied by training in best farming methods with a focus on Organic Farming. Regular psychosocial activities contributed to the well-being of the families.

Welthungerhilfe also implemented developmented-oriented projects in Vavuniya South and Mannar at the same time. Social mobilisation and organizational development are among the core topics aiming at the formulation of village development plans by the community itself. Participatory planning for inclusive infrastructure and livelihood projects form an integral part. The social problems are addressed through the creation of conflict mitigation groups, legal awareness campaigns and the establishment of referral systems as well as the conduct of pshycho-social activities.

In 2012, the program moves firmly into the development phase, with four integrated rural development projects forming the backbone of Welthungerhilfe's work. With a combined value of around €7.5 million, substantial improvements in agriculture practices and livelihood options in the North will be achieved through innovative approaches like:

- Global Plant Clinics and Farmer Fields Schools
- LANN Linking Agriculture, Natural Resource Management and Nutrition
- Post Harvest Technologies

Better market linkages will be established through new storehouses and rice mills under the management of newly formed and supported Farmer Companies. Value-addition plays a major role mainly for milk, rice and horticulture products but also handicraft. Exclusive support to women is inherent. The extension services of the government are strengthened with support of field assistants being trained through the projects in various areas. Coordination among all stakeholders is seen as crucial.

Sivakumar did not give up!

"I helplessly watched my children starving, unable to even get them one meal a day."



Once upon a time, Mr. Thuraisamy Sivakumar, was a happy farmer living in Olumadu with his wife and four young daughters. After he lost an eye in a bear attack while collecting firewood, the family was put under great financial strain; the sole earning member was now struggling with a huge disability.

With the war between 1997 and 2009 the family of six was displaced time and again, unable to even get one meal a day at times. In June 2010, the family was allowed to return home, only to find their land overrun with bushes and

shrubs, ruined fences and a broken hut. They had no source of income nor the tools needed to clear and farm the land. As a first step, they managed to build a makeshift shelter and get food from the Internally Displaced Persons' camp.

As part of its returnee's assistance program, Welthungerhilfe provided people like Siva Kumar with complementary food packages, seeds and saplings to grow perennial crops.

After years of hardship, Sivakumar smiled as he saw his daughters enjoying a nutritious meal. With the agricultural tool set provided by the organisation, he cleared the land and planted crops in time for harvest. He was also given a semi- permanent house with a built-up latrine and gifted a water pump to irrigate the land.

Soon he was able to expand his agro activities by leasing out fertilized land, and doubling his home gardening land. By using the rotational method of cultivation, he was able to diversify his crop and combat erratic weather conditions. It was not long before he was earning a profit of LKR 2500. Today, with the regular income from agriculture, he is able to fulfil his family's basic needs.

Through the project training programmes he has further enhanced his skills and knowledge and has also learnt how to utilize home waste to make fertilizer for his field. Life has changed for them all!

IN FOCUS

Building Capacity and Empowering Communities to take Ownership of Development: India



Sunder Lal, Director SCRIA in conversation with Vaishali Mishra, Welthungerhilfe

SCRIA and Welthungerhilfe have been working together in the western states of Rajasthan and Haryana since the 1980s. How has their cooperation helped in the development of these regions?

In the early 80's the area was predominantly arid and people were mostly engaged in subsistence agriculture and livestock activities. Completely ignorant of its rights the community was entirely dependent on the government for service delivery and fulfilment of basic needs. On the social front, there was and still is deep rooted patriarchy.

SCRIA's continuing partnership with Welthungerhilfe has played a key role in facilitating awareness and empowering the community through capacity building of stake holders, mobilizing women to engage in local initiatives, and facilitating an enabling environment by institutionalizing community based self-help systems.

These activities have helped the community, particularly women and those marginalized to articulate their needs, participate in social and political decision-making, become important stakeholders in the management of community resources and proposed changes. Now, the Gram Sabhas (primary units of local government) collectively decide issues of development and governance; community-managed rain water harvesting has been revived; public delivery systems have improved; apathetic public offices have become more

responsive; and the selection process for public welfare schemes has become transparent.

Is there a difference in the methods of project work now and then?

Earlier our work was more welfare oriented or service based. Now it is a mix of service with a rights based approach. Since community ownership is a primary goal, people's participation has become more focussed and meaningful. From the very beginning, activities are planned, implemented and monitored with the active involvement of the community. Their skills are solely responsible for the successful completion of projects and the sense of ownership ensures post project sustainability.

The most important learning has been that if the community is capacitated with knowledge about its rights/ entitlements, equipped with relevant management skills and provided adequate opportunities, it is ready to proactively engage in the attainment of rights and management of resources. When the people are responsible for both the challenges and outcomes of initiatives, they take charge to ensure quality and sustainability of programs.

SCRIA aims at "building capacities of rural communities for their active and meaningful participation in self governance processes for inclusive and good governance". What does that include?

Inclusive governance means that every citizen whether man or woman, and those from socially and economically disadvantaged communities are included in the decision making of governance and development processes at block and village levels. This offers a greater chance of benefits



being maximized for those who need it most and governance and development systems becoming more accountable and transparent.

The sustainability of a project is critical. Can you define why it is important not only to provide an infrastructure but to educate the local people about it?

Merely providing an infrastructure is not always the panacea for all problems. Infrastructure is only part of the solution and is successful only when those who need it are clear about why they need it. It is important for them to be an integral part of its planning, construction and post construction; take ownership and responsibility for its management, usage and maintenance.

How does this work? When the benefits and pitfalls of an infrastructure are discussed with the community right from inception, the decision-making process becomes participatory, it dissolves negativity in the community, helps in appointing those willing to take responsibility and identify the resources needed. Thus, the community becomes an empowered stake holder.

Can you think of one specific project which was extraordinary during the joint work of the two organizations? What made it so special?

Yes, it was the rainwater harvesting project, initiated in 1989, for villages in north Rajasthan and south Haryana. Till that time, no one had invested in such an invaluable project in our outreach area. It was unique and became a model for similar initiatives that followed.

How do you personally experience the cooperation with the Welthungerhilfe?

What immediately comes to my mind is that Welthungerhilfe offers real flexibility to incorporate changes and integrate the values of its partners into the projects.

Since extreme natural events like droughts and floods have increased in the recent past, it has become even more important to sustain natural resources? How do the joint projects of SCRIA and Welthungerhilfe work to accomplish this?

Natural resources are the lifeline of the people and the villages they inhabit, it is crucial for the community and our work to sustain these resources. Our joint projects integrate special ecological initiatives such as harvesting rainwater

and adopting sustainable usage practices for it, regeneration of local vegetation, rejuvenation of local ecological systems, natural farming, moisture based agriculture and community management of natural resources. For this we initiate the community's participation, build capacities, transfer required knowledge and skills and facilitate the required infrastructure.

What is SCRIA's strategy to generate women's access to resources and planning of resource use?

In brief, we organize and mobilize women through regular capacity building and work towards strengthening community based institutional support systems facilitated over the years. The strengthening of individuals and support systems helps in building up a united cadre of women who enjoy their communities support. This group, which draws its strength and confidence from its members, is empowered to initiate local actions for access to entitlements and ensure participation in local governance and developmental processes. Our role is to support and build capacity to promote leadership from within the communities we work with.

What has been accomplished to fulfil SCRIA's vision of "sustainable rural development by rural communities"? What needs to be addressed in the future?

Communities must be given real opportunities to manage development activities independently and be included meaningfully in the management of their various dimensions such as the social, political and economic aspects. To make this a ground reality, we constantly endeavor to make the people and particularly women active partners in the planning, implementation and management of all initiatives. This gives them the much needed confidence and experience to move beyond and participate in larger decision making processes at both village and block level.

Though our outreach constituents were mainly women, we now include men, elected representatives of local governance institutions, Gram Sabha members, like minded citizens, government functionaries and members of civil society. Experience has shown us the importance of reaching out to people beyond the outreach constituents in our endeavor to mainstream people's participation in development in as many villages as possible.





The Chepangs are among the twelve highly marginalized, indigenous nationalities of Nepal. They inhabit scattered settlements in remote, steep and difficult terrains of the fragile Mahabharat Mountains in the Himalayan foothills. Their natural habitat, rich in forest and agro biodiversity, has been sustained so far by their close cultural and spiritual relationship with nature. The bond is further strengthened by their complete dependence on the forest for survival.

The fascinating connection between the Chepangs, the Chiuri tree (butter nut tree), its flower and fruit berries is legendary. Unique customs such as gifting a Chiuri tree to daughters on their marriage have protected these forests over generations. Naturally, the Chepangs are highly knowledgeable about the value of plants and their medicinal properties. Their distinct language is derived from one of the Tibeto-Burman strains.

Unfortunately, the Chepangs and their habitat are facing the risk of extinction with their numbers already dwindling to just 50,000. Traditionally, this nomadic tribe has been entirely dependent on forest resources for hunting and gathering. Civilization and population growth forced them to settle and practice sedentary and subsistence rain-fed agriculture on meager, marginal land yielding insufficient produce.

Food insufficiency and food insecurity have become serious concerns. insecure land tenures and lack of citizenship documents have further compounded the vulnerability. Though many have attempted to adopt multi-pronged livelihood strategies such as wage labor and collection of forest products, this has proved to be insufficient to cater to the needs. Unfavorable forest policies has also restricted the community's access to forest resources.

The situation is further aggravated by the over-exploitation and degradation of forest resources and the impact of climate change. In the last ten years, long droughts have worsened the food situation and heavy rainfalls during the monsoons have resulted in devastating landslides and flash floods.

Helping people to help nature

A long-term development programme, initiated for the Village Development Committees (VDC) of Chitwan District, targets over 2,000 households most of whom belong to the Chepang community. The program aims to improve food security and promote the sustainable use of existing natural resources.

Through the development of integrated agro-forestry systems small land holders' production would increase and diversify. Farmer and forest user groups will be trained in ecological agriculture and sustainable forest management techniques. In addition, the program will promote local seed production, establish nurseries and develop irrigation systems to enhance quantity and quality of yield. Members of two cooperatives will receive technical and institutional support for the production, processing, organic certification and marketing of high value non-timber forest products and agricultural commodities.

Collective marketing systems will be developed and local resource persons and resource centers established for input and output marketing services. Other activities include the implementation of infrastructure (green roads, community centers, and irrigation channels), reforestation activities, and the promotion of energy saving technologies.

Within an uncertain political future of Nepal, the intervention helps the Chepang comunities to lead a more self-determined life and gives them a voice in the Nepalese society.

'elthungerhilfe South Asia 2011-1

WELTHUNGERHILFE - PARTNERS

BANGLADESH	ANANDO	www.anando-bd.org
INDIA-STATES		
ASSAM	INDO-GLOBAL SOCIAL SERVICE SOCIETY (IGSSS)	www.igsss.org
ANDHRA PRADESH	MVF – M. VENKATARANGAIYA FOUNDATION	www.mvfindia.in
	BAPUJI RURAL ENLIGHTENMENT DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY (BREDS)	www.breds.org.in
BIHAR	GHOGHARDIHA PRAKHAND SWARAJYA VIKAS SANGH (GPSVS)	www.gpsvs.org
HIMACHAL PRADESH	TIBETAN CHILDREN'S VILLAGE	www.tcv.org.in
JAMMU & KASHMIR	INDO-GLOBAL SOCIAL SERVICE SOCIETY (IGSSS)	www.igsss.org
	CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENT EDUCATION (CEE)	www.ceeindia.org
JHARKHAND	SAMPURNA GRAM VIKAS KENDRA (SGVK)	
	CENTRE FOR WORLD SOLIDARITY (CWS)	www.cwsy.org
	PRAVAH	www.pravahjharkhand.org
	SWADHINA	www.swadhina.org.in
	SOCIETY FOR PROMOTION OF WASTELANDS DEVELOPMENT (SPWD)	www.spwd.org
KARNATAKA	MYRADA	www.myrada.org
MADHYA PRADESH	JAN SAHAS SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY	www.janhansindia.org
	PARMARTH SAMAJ SEVI SANSTHAN	www.parmarthindia.org
	INDO-GLOBAL SOCIAL SERVICE SOCIETY (IGSSS)	www.igsss.org
	FOUNDATION FOR ECOLOGICAL SECURITY (FES)	www.fes.org.in
ODISHA	AGRAGAMEE	www.agragamee.org
	SIKSHASANDHAN	www.sikshasandhan.org
	LIVING FARMS	www.living-farms.org
RAJASTHAN	VAAGDHARA	www.vaagdhara.org
	SOCIAL CENTRE FOR RURAL INITIATIVE AND ADVANCEMENT (SCRIA)	www.scria.org
TAMIL NADU	REACHING THE UNREACHED (RTU)	www.rtuindia.org
	PEOPLES ACTION FOR DEVELOPMENT (PAD)	www.padgom.org
	POETS	www.poetsindia.org
WEST BENGAL	SRI RAMKRISHNA ASHRAM (SRAN)	www.nimpithrkashram.org
	RAMAKRISHNA MISSION ASHRAMA (RKM)	www.rkmnpur.org
	KALYAN	
	DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH COMMUNICATION AND SERVICES CENTRE	www.drcsc.org
	PRADAN	www.pradan.net
NEPAL	RURAL RECONSTRUCTION NEPAL	www.rrn.org.np
	FORWARD	www.forwardnepal.org
SRI LANKA	SEWALANKA FOUNDATION	www.sewalanka.org

PROJECT LIST: SOUTH ASIA

S. No.	Partner	State / Region	Project Title	Period	Co-funded by
BANGLA	DESH				
1	ANANDO	Chittagong Hill Tracts	Sustainable Integrated Farming Systems (SIFS) in South Asia	Feb 2012 - Dec 2014	Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development
INDIA					
Fight Hur	ger First Initiative / Food and Nutrition Securit	у			
2	Center for World Solidarity	Jharkhand	Community empowerment and strengthening of advocacy groups for disadvantaged people in Deoghar District	Jan 2008 – Jun 2012	European Union
3	KALYAN	West Bengal	Millennium Development Project Gandhiji Songha, Purulia District Phase II	Jan 2000 – Mar 2012	St. Ulm
4	Sri Rama Krishna Ashram Nimpith	West Bengal	Improvement of nutritional status of women, children and adolescent girls in Sundarbans	Apr 2009 – Mar 2012	
5	MYRADA	Karnataka	Sustainable Approaches to Improving Food & Nutrition Security in Rural Populations of North Karnataka	Oct 2011 – Sept 2014	
6	Living Farms	Odisha	Realizing Rights and Livelihood Opportunities in Rural India	Sep 2011 – Aug 2014	
7	Jansahas Social Development Society	Madhya Pradesh		Dec 2011 - Nov 2014	
8	Foundation for Ecological Security	Madhya Pradesh		Feb 2012 – Jan 2015	
9	Pravah	Jharkhand		Feb 2012 – Jan 2015	
10	Center for World Solidarity	Jharkhand	Fight Hunger First Initiative in Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand and West Bengal	Dec 2011 - Nov 2014	Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development
11	Pradan	West Bengal		Feb 2012 – Jan 2015	
12	DRCSC	West Bengal		Dec 2011 - Nov 2014	
13	Sri Rama Krishna Ashram Nimpith	West Bengal		Dec 2011 - Nov 2014	
Natural R	esource Management				
14	Parmarth	Madhya Paradesh		Mar 2011 – Feb 2015	
15	Sampurna Gram Vikas Kendra	Jharkhand	Integrated Water Management for Poverty Reduction and Sustainable Development amongst marginalised communities in Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and Jharkhand	Mar 2011 – Feb 2015	European Union, Viva con Aqua
16	GPSVS	Bihar		Mar 2011 – Feb 2015	
17	GPSVS	Bihar	Rehabilitation of fire affected families of Jahlipatti Village of Madhubani District, Bihar,	Mar 2012 - Sep 2012	
18	SCRIA	Rajasthan	Sustainable Water Resource in the Desert Districts of Churu and Bikaner in Rajasthan	Jan 2011 - Dec 2012	Viva con Aqua
19	VAAGHDHARA	Rajasthan	Agriculture - Animal husbandry System (AAS) to sustain Livelihood of vulnerable families at Banaswara	Jul 2010 to Jun 2013	
20	Living farms	Odisha	Forest for Life and Livelihood improvement of Adivasi groups in Odisha	Aug 2011 – Dec 2014	Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development
21	DRCSC	West Bengal		Nov 2011 – Dec 2014	
22	CWS	Jharkhand	Sustainable Integrated Forming Sustama (SIFS) in South Asia	Nov 2011 – Dec 2014	Federal Ministry for Economic
23	Pravah	Jharkhand	Sustainable Integrated Farming Systems (SIFS) in South Asia	Nov 2011 – Dec 2014	Cooperation and Development
24	SPWD	Jharkhand		Nov 2011 – Dec 2014	

Active Projects as on 31st December 2011 are mentioned in the Project List

Vocation	al Training & Marketing						
25	Ramakrishan Mission	West Bengal		Jan 2010 to Dec 2014			
26	Center for World Solidarity	Jharkhand	Vocational education and training for inclusive growth for tribal communities in East Indian states of Jharkhand, West Bengal and Odisha.	Jan 2010 to Dec 2014	European Union		
27	DRCSC	West Bengal		Jan 2010 to Dec 2014			
28	Agragamee	Odisha		Jan 2010 to Dec 2014			
29	Center for World Solidarity	Jharkhand	Facilitating market access for local communities in three watersheds of Jharkhand (Phase III)	Nov 2009 – Oct 2012	Hivos		
30	DRCSC, Agragamee, RKM	West Bengal & Odisha	Start-up fund for VET	Sep 2011 – Jan 2013	Commerzbank		
Educatio	on Program			•	Donations, Hivos		
31	RTU	Tamil Nadu	Children's Programme	Apr 2009 – Mar 2013	FUTURA, Bild Hilft, Other Private donors		
32	Sikshasandhan	Odisha	Ensuring Right to Education Act Work for Tribal Children in Odisha	Jan 2010 - Dec 2012			
33	MVF	Andra Pradesh	Enabling Implementation of the Right to Education Act	Jan 2010 – Mar 2012	Hivos		
Gender F	Program			•			
34	IGSSS	Madhya Pradesh		Jan 2010 – Dec 2012			
35	Agragamee	Odisha	Empowering Women: Access and ownership over land and land based activities through	Jan 2010 – Dec 2012]		
36	SCRIA	Rajasthan	education, legal literacy and advocacy in rural India	Jan 2010 – Dec 2012	- European Union		
37	SWADHINA	Jharkhand		Jan 2010 – Dec 2012			
Kashmir Program							
38	IGSSS	Kashmir	Empowering the vulnerable - strengthening grassroots governance and promoting civil society action in affected areas of Kashmir"	Mar 2011 - Feb 2014	European Union		
NEPAL							
39	Rural Reconstruction Nepal	Chitwan	Integrated Rural Development and environmental Protection	Aug 2011 – Jun 2015	Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development / Dortmunder Freundeskreis		
40	Rural Reconstruction Nepal	Eastern Nepal	Food Security and Disaster Prevention in poor rural districts in Eastern Nepal	Sep 2011 – Sep 2014	Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development		
41	Forward	Central Nepal	Sustainable Integrated Farming Systems (SIFS) in South Asia	Nov 2011 – Dec 2014	Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development		
SRI LANKA							
42	Sewalanka Foundation	North	Social-economic empowerment of conflict-affected communities in the Northern and Eastern Provinces of Sri Lanka	Aug 2009 – Feb 2013	European Union/ACTED		
43	Sewalanka Foundation	North	Social and Economic Livelihood development	Sep 2011 – Jun 2014	Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development		
44	Sewalanka Foundation	North	Sustainable Forest Management	Sep 2011 – Dec 2014	Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development		
45	Sewalanka Foundation	North	Going Green — Empowering Communities towards sustainable agriculture.	Dec 2011 – Oct 2014	European Union		

Active Projects as on 31st December 2011 are mentioned in the Project List

OUTLOOK FOR 2012

In the 50th year of Welthungerhilfe, our South Asia program continues to emphasize on the fight against hunger. Accordingly, the citizens' right to food and nutrition as well as smallholder support, both in relation to improving policy frameworks and capacitating communities is in the centre of our strategy, also specifically in 2012.

On an operational level, we are looking forward to the following processes and programs:

- 1. In Sri Lanka, we will continue to help stabilizing the rural economies and livelihoods among resettled communities in the North of the country that have suffered from conflict and displacement for decades. This is an important part of our LRRD (linking relief and rehabilitation to development) approach which firmly places our target areas on a positive path of development to help limit the possibility of a relapse into conflict. Welthungerhilfe and Sewalanka have an experienced team and good funding especially from the German Ministry for Development Cooperation and the European Union to make a significant contribution. Attention is given to organic farming practices specifically in dairy production, to community based forest management methods that protect the vast natural resources of the area and community development that helps to rebuild people's lives and restore hope and togetherness.
- 2. In Bangladesh, Nepal and India, we focus on small-holder support through new initiatives, especially a program on Sustainable Integrated Farming Systems that has just commenced and is expected to break new grounds in relation to participatory learning and action methodologies as well as integrated farming models for different agro-ecological zones which can be promoted with government agencies for up-scaling. The program also includes marketing aspects and value additions along the value chain for a number of agricultural products. The program complements other innovative efforts related to Vocational Training in rural trades in India as well as Livelihood development in Nepal.
- 3. Adaptation to Climate Change is identified as a critical factor for ensuring decent production levels among

small-holders, especially in the vulnerable rain-fed and disaster prone areas of the region. In 2012, we mainstream *Welthungerhilfe's Climate Proofing Tool* in all agriculture intervention in South Asia and fundraise for adaptation programs, especially related to community-based disaster risk management as well as agricultural training and information services to enable communities to cope with changing climatic patterns.

- 4. Starting with Nepal and India, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) is given more acknowledgement as key-factors that cause malnutrition and morbidity. A WASH program with three partner organizations will be financed by the German foundation Viva con Agua and is set to advocate for the "right to water", and capacitate communities through innovative learning methods on better hygiene and sanitation practices. The project also scales up community planning methods and water conservation technologies that are part of our ongoing Integrated Water Resource Management Program.
- 5. We are also committed to up-scale our Kashmir intervention, which made very promising progress towards a right-based intervention in 2011. The intervention focuses on claiming and advocating for rights and entitlements, as well as strengthening local Governance systems / Halqa Panchayats and empowering Youth Groups. In order to further combat the problem of youth unemployment, which is interconnected with the political volatility of Kashmir, we would like to engage more in vocational training programs that can provide a future for young people of the Kashmir valley.
- 6. Finally, we intend to extend our Fight Hunger First Initiative to Nepal and Bangladesh in order to provide a rights-perspective on food and nutrition security in those highly aid-dependent countries and support platforms on all levels, community to nation, in order to advocate for more government responsibility and improving welfare systems for the most vulnerable people. We also look forward to develop our concept of the Fight Hunger First Initiative further by looking at critical learning from our projects on Right to Education and Gender Empowerment in India.



THE ORGANISATION



Patron of Deutsche Welhungerhilfe e.V. and President of the Federal Republic of Germany

Joachim Gauck

THE EXECUTIVE BOARD



Dr. Wolfgang Jamann became Welhungerhilfe's **Secretary General** and Chief Executive's Board as well as manager of the Foundation Welhungerhilfe in **August 2009**. Dr Jamann is a development sociologist with over 20 years of experience in development cooperation and humanitarian aid. His previous position was managing director of **CARE Deutschland-Luxemberg** and he is also chairperson of the charity Gemeinsam für Afrika (Together for Africa) e.V.



Mathias Mogge has been Executive Director Programmes since March 2010. He is an agricultural engineer and environmental scientist (MSc) and has been working for Welthungerhilfe for 12 years. Previously he was acting head of the Programmes and Projects department. Mogge has worked for Welthungerhilfe as programme manager for Sudan, Uganda and Ethiopia, regional coordinator for West Africa and head of the Knowledge – Innovation – Consultancy group.



Michael Hofmann is Executive Marketing Director of Welthungerhilfe since March 2012. He has a degree in Business Administration. He started his career in development cooperation, first with the German development bank DEG and then with the Friedrich Ebert Foundation as project manager in Mexico and Chile. He then took on management positions in various multinational corporations like Sony, Deutsche Telekom and most recently Nokia, where among others he was in charge of global

Marketing and finally became Vice President Customer Solutions & Delivery.

THE SUPERVISORY BOARD



Bärbel Dieckmann was elected Welhungerhilfe's president in 2008. She was **mayor of Bonn** from 1994 to 2009. She is a member of the **SPD** and was on the party's executive committee until 2009. She was chairperson of the World Mayor's Council on Climate Change and president of the German Section of the Council of European Municipalities and Regions until 2009. Since 2009 she has been a member of the Development and Peace Foundation Board of Trustees.

Other Members of the Board are: Prof. Dr. Klaus Töpfer, Norbert Geisler, Prof. Dr. Hartwig de Haen, Prelat Dr. Stephan Reimers, Dr. Evelyn Schmidtke and Dr. Tobias Schulz-Isenbeck

STAFF IN SOUTH ASIA

India



Joachim Schwarz Regional Director South-Asia



Ms. Saraswathi Rao Programme Manager



Mr. Kuljeet Mangat Team Leader Programme Finance



Ms. Wendy Zavala Programme officer M&E



Ms. Sreetama Gupta Project Co-Ordinator



Ms. Sweta Banerjee Project co-ordinator



Mr. Sanjib Dey Project co-ordinator



Mr. Vineesh Bisht Programe Finance Officer



Mr. Swaroop Office Attendant



Mr. Karun Behera Finance & Admin. Manager



Ms. Nivedita Varshneya Programme Manager



Mr. Subhankar Chatterjee Programme Manager



Ms. Sasmita Jena Project Co-Ordinator



Ms. Vaishali Mishra Communication & Documentation Officer



Mr. Anshuman Das Project co-ordinator



Mr. Bidyut Sagar Programe Finance Officer



Ms. Poonam Mishra Finance & Admin Assistant



Mr. Rajpal Singh Driver



Ms. Barbara Zi**ll**y Country Director Sri Lanka



Mr. Marc Gloekle Head of Project



Cesare Tave**ll**a Head of Project



Raquel Nerger Head of Project



Mr. R. Balasubramanian Programme Administrator



Valerie Batcho Office Administrator / PA

Nepal



Mr. Philippe Dresruesse Country Director



Surendra Gautam Program Coordinator



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