

WAOD was initiated in 2002 by Albina du Boisrouvray, President & Founder of FXB International, to bring attention to the millions of children left affected by the AIDS pandemic. Every May 7, FXB India Suraksha organizes a grassroots campaign to bring attention to the plight of children orphaned by AIDS and advocate on their behalf.

Unlike the years before the WAOD is now being recognized and observed as an official state event. This 7th of May, various programmes were organised in Manipur, Mizoram, Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan, Bihar and Andhra Pradesh. Mizoram State AIDS Control Society and GIPA Alliance came together to organize the event in Mizoram and strengthen their resolve to work for AIDS orphans. The theme was 'Education Support for AIDS Orphans'.

In Manipur, more than 300 children, 50 caregivers, NGO representatives and other dignitaries took out a rally. A candle light vigil and a brief panel discussion was organised.

In Jaipur a street play was organised to create awareness about the discrimination faced by AIDS orphans.

A workshop was organised on WAOD in Vishakhapatnam where NGOs and government officials participated to advocate for 10% state budget on AIDS programmes to be spent for the children orphaned due to AIDS.

WE ARE ADVOCATING FOR MORE ATTENTION TO THE CAUSE OF AIDS ORPHANS. JOIN THE MOVEMENT !

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We are working for the rights of vulnerable and marginalized children and their families affected by poverty and disease, especially AIDS. We began our operations in India in 1991 and have now completed five years registered as an Indian non-profit under section 25 of Companies Act.

Through our sustainable FXB-Village model we have empowered families and communities and made them self-sufficient by intervening in the areas of health, nutrition, education, sanitation and income generation. At present, we are working in the most underserved and neglected areas in 10 states across India.

# FX Bridge

FXB India Suraksha's quarterly newsletter

### *A word from the CEO*

#### **Greetings!!**

On 7<sup>th</sup> of May we observed the World AIDS Orphans Day- an initiative pioneered by FXB International and today celebrated across the world. In India, we have pioneered this cause and today we are glad that in many states- especially the north east, it is officially celebrated by the SACS.

In this issue we are happy to share with the first year results of our flagship model- FXB-Village which is being implemented in Manipur. In just one year, we have seen promising results, especially the dramatic change in confidence and capability of stigmatised women, who now are moving towards becoming dynamic social entrepreneurs. As we work towards fine tuning this transition and working with them to help them realize their full capability, the process has taught us the invaluable lesson of 'empowerment'. While almost the entire state of Manipur was 'paralysed' due to the economic blockade, my team relentlessly worked throughout, braving all internal constraints and not allowing any of these to stall or slow down the work.

We hope you enjoy reading this issue. We look forward to your comments and valuable feedback and help us improve our work.

**Mamta Borgoyary,**  
CEO, FXB India Suraksha



## From the States

**Andhra Pradesh:** CIPLA pharma has committed support for the education of orphan and vulnerable children under comprehensive care and support program at Visakhapatnam. 89 HIV/AIDS infected families comprising 135 adults and 145 children are being supported under this program. CIPLA Pharma's support will contribute to improve the life of 24 children.

FXB community kitchen garden in Chapaluppada Village Panchayat near Visakhapatnam has become a source of leafy vegetables for 28 families. In the month of April 15 cattle farmers purchased 1000 Kg of cattle feed through collective feed procurement and in the process saved a of minimum Rs. 2 for every kilogram.



FXB Vishakhapatnam has extended its supplementary education model in 3 other habitations covering needy primary class students. Two batches of training on DTP and two on MS Office are running smoothly. A total of 18 students are undergoing training in computer centre. 12 women from our IGA projects are continuing with functional literacy classes in Uppada.



**Delhi:** FXB India Suraksha on 4th June participated in a meeting called by Delhi Crime Branch on Human Trafficking to develop better understanding and coordination between the NGOs and the Anti Human Trafficking Unit for coordinated action against human trafficking in Delhi. In May FXB India Suraksha conducted training programme for more than 200 police official on Juvenile Justice at Sultanpur and CSM Nagar, Uttar Pradesh.



**Tamil Nadu:** With support from FXB India Suraksha, Revathi from Mathur Chinna Colony has started a Rasanna and cool drink retail business. Kothai Nayaki and Givindan Iyanar have started cattle rearing. In Pondicherry, construction of 55 household toilets is complete and construction of another 12 is in progress.



**Uttar Pradesh:** In Noida, over the last two months, FXB India Suraksha, Collaborative NGO, CHILDLINE NOIDA, has rescued five cases of minor maids being abused physically and emotionally by their employers. FXB India Suraksha along with Assam police, Noida Police and Delhi Crime Branch recently busted an organized trafficking ring that supplied underage children from Assam to various placement agencies in Delhi-NCR. FXB India Suraksha played lead role and 19 girls were rescued by the Delhi Police. In another case along with ARZ and ABC, Nepal we rescued a 18 year girl from Delhi and played vital role in repatriating her to Nepal.

41 more children from the NOIDA Slum project area have been identified and enrolled to Moonlight school in NOIDA Sector 16.



**Rajasthan:** Under the Care and support programme for Railway Children in Jaipur 34 children were mainstreamed in schools and 15 children were reached through non-formal education support in this quarter of the year. We have also provided for the school fees of 24 children. 7 more kids have joined the computer class. 22 girls were inducted into vocational training in stitching.

**Manipur:** The self-help groups on traditional kauna crafts, weaving and shoe making in East Imphal have established formal marketing linkages with a NGO called Emoinu Handicrafts taking them one step ahead in the journey.

AIDS ARK ARVT programme in Moreh received a major breakthrough by getting a formal approval and permission from the Mayanmarese authorities for allowing program activities like follow up referral, networking and home visit in the Tamu province of Myanmar. The programme was launched in 2009 and till date has been successfully rendering services including ARV, OI and testing facilities to 56 beneficiaries.



## A lesson in Humility

by Neeraja Phatak

I was on an assignment for a national NGO in Delhi towards the end of 2011. My assignment was to map work done by other NGOs at national level to feed into the strategic planning process of the assignee NGO. I had completed mapping the agreed number of agencies, the same issues, the same jargon I could almost predict what I would hear in most cases. Then I was told of a little known agency 'FXB India Suraksha'. On visiting the website I felt rather 'cheated' that as a person who has been in the field for so long I had not had the opportunity to know about FXB India Suraksha's work in India and decided I would add this agency to my list of agencies. When I sounded others, they were as ignorant as I, except for one person who had worked in the North-East of India and the name FXB India Suraksha rang a bell, but only a bell!

So here I was meeting Mamta, the CEO of FXB India Suraksha who agreed to an appointment without fuss about the lack of time, and what's in it for me? As I learnt more about the work and the attitude towards issues my thoughts were – these guys work from head and heart. I would like to be associated with them in any which way. I am happy I have been able to connect with the Care and Support Program for PLHIVs in Visakhapatnam.



What strikes me is the refreshing attitude of humility and commitment of each member of staff. Here is a CEO, who lives on the ground and not in an 'ivory tower' who gives time to people; and to me this is the most important ingredient of any relationship, be it with family, friends or the community you work with. The members of the Care & Support program recall the fun times they have had with Mamta didi – she gives them time which means she respects them. While they need the funding it is this component that actually 'nurtures their lives'. These are values that are visible in every member of staff, Sweta while she films, Sayani as she briefs me on the program and interacts with members of the Care and Support program, Satya as he describes the Childline program in Noida or the good doctor Dr. Raju who is even a marriage consultant for the people in the program! Their humility from a position of strength is a humbling experience for a 'Consultant' who must necessarily have years of experience! A reflection of values of the organisation.

As I understand FXB India Suraksha in greater depth, I find almost a text book case of a bottoms up approach in development. Interventions emerge from those who need them; the people's agenda is above the organisation's agenda. So caught up are they all in their work, they haven't yet thought of 'Branding' themselves or a 'Brand Image' in the public eye, but they have a Brand name with the people they work. Its only the committed who will come across FXB India Suraksha and some like me who are plain lucky to have had the opportunity to work with them.

Neeraja Phatak is an independent consultant working on child rights issues. She has worked with a number of NGOs including UNICEF, Save the Children, CRY and SOS Children's Villages India. She recently visited our Care and Support Programme for PLHAs in Vishakhapatnam.

## Donors and Partners



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# Empowering marginalised HIV infected and affected people

by Samik Ghosh and Khoi Dinesh

## Year end intermediate evaluation of FXB-Village, Manipur

The area covering six villages of Lilong, Thongju, Khongman, Kongba, Wangkhei, Khurai and Heingang in East Imphal has been identified as one of the worst hit by drug addiction and HIV and AIDS in Manipur, a state that has been frequently shattered by militant insurgency. In early 2011 FXB India Suraksha began its FXB-Village programme for HIV/AIDS infected or affected families in this area. Among this cluster of 6 geographic villages, FXB-Village network identified and enrolled a total of 114 participating households who were found to be economically and socially vulnerable. FXB-Village is a low-cost, sustainable, community-based instrument that enables families to lead healthy, productive lives by improving their environment, health, education, and economic opportunities. Individuals are equipped with the training and resources so they can achieve lasting self-sufficiency and stability and ensure the well-being of their children. MAC AIDS, France bestowed their comprehensive support to implement this FXB-Village program. In the past one year, we worked very closely with this highly vulnerable and marginalized group through our multipronged approach. We bring to you the interventions and the results observed at the field level.



**Nutrition** When we started the program, majority of target population were reported to be malnourished, especially women and children, and were highly susceptible to different types of communicable and non-communicable disease. A high proportion of them suffered from intergenerational micronutrient deficiency. FXB India Suraksha's nutritional support and sharing of knowledge to maintain proper nutrient enriched dietary intake has made a direct impact on the families. As a consequence in just one year's time remarkable improvement is seen in their health. 74% of beneficiary households are moving towards food security as compared to just 61% in 2011 who reported 'just enough' food at home. While the midday meals has helped children to restore nutrient content in their daily food chain.



**General Health** At the inception phase of the program, majority of the target areas were hardly reached through any existing government services. The failure of timely delivery of government outreach services affected the 'weaker section'. In particular, access to health service was abysmally poor with only 26% of the population reported access to any kind of health services in 2011. FXB India Suraksha has organized 137 community health camps at remote locations where patients were treated and provided free generic medicines. Comprehensive field work and handholding support for community mobilization has endeavoured to link 53% of household population with government health scheme or policies over a period of 1 year. From just 8% of household beneficiaries accessing government's facility for Anti Retroviral Therapy in 2011, the percentage has increased to 53% in 2012. Total 570 cases were referred to district hospital to receive treatment for severe ailments.

**Health & HIV** FXB-Village network program has involved the youth by training and sensitizing them on prevention, transmission and care for HIV/AIDS infected or affected population as well as social stigma and discrimination associated with it. In all 668 sessions were organised for client care and support counselling that included intensive community home visits by the staff. Solutions were sought through focused group discussion, individual problem analysis and community meetings. As a result, in 2012 84% of household beneficiaries expressed their enhanced knowledge of family planning. Within this population having good level of knowledge of family planning 58% reported regular use of family planning methods and among them 50% used condom to avoid any form of sexual route of transmission and unwanted pregnancy. This, indeed, is a remarkable change in practice.



**Psycho-Social** Social stigma, low self esteem and discrimination becomes a part of life for the People Living with HIV/AIDS once their clinical status is revealed to their family or community. FXB India Suraksha's qualified psychological counsellor has helped these families to rebuild their self esteem and confidence and to lead a normal life. FXB team members periodically conduct meetings and campaigns at community information centres to sensitize the entire community on the issue. It is evident that after a year 94% of household population is receiving regular psycho-social counselling which is much higher than that of the baseline report where 72% received irregular psycho-social counselling from other sources.



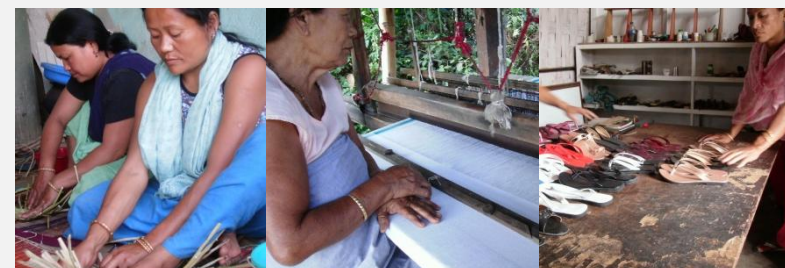
**Household Finance and Economics Scale** Manipur enjoys a distinct place amongst the Handloom zones in India and according to the National handloom Census Reports 1988 there are about 2.71 lakh looms in Manipur. The weaving skills of workers in some of the proposed intervention villages like Wangkhei, Kongba and Khongman are widely acclaimed in respect of fine silk items. Fabrics and Shawls of Manipur are in great demand in the national and international markets. In the proposed project area, there is at least one loom in every three households. Besides weaving, another important household industry is handicrafts and water reed crafts which are prominent in Khurai and Kongba village.

The Income Generation Activities are the essence of the FXB-Village since they enable adults and youth to become self-sufficient and meet their own families' needs. Impoverished households with many vulnerable people face several barriers that prohibit them from generating income and assets without assistance. Foremost among these are lack of skills and start-up capital to gain entry to the market. Our experience in livelihood programs for vulnerable households is that micro-credit is not accessible for households living below every poverty line. We therefore strategized to identify motivated household families to come together for group activity to produce steady income. Individuals from 98 families were identified particularly keeping in mind the number of affected women in the community, caregivers, young person in the family and willingness to participate in the activities which could help them to become self sustained and self reliant over a period of three years. Three main types of income generation activities were introduced viz. Water reed (kauna) crafts, Weaving, Handmade shoe production. Year 1 intervention assessment reflects that there are successive changes among household beneficiaries as 83% of household beneficiaries in 2012 responded they were associated with FXB-supported group income generation activity and correspondingly there is a positive change in occupation profile as women members are moving away from an unsteady uninsured wage labour (Baseline 2011, 68% and 10% in 2012) to taking up traditional handicrafts promoted by FXB India Suraksha.

On the contrast, it is also observed that, our effort to promote community entrepreneurship model has proved sustainable changes among the members of the 3 different Income Generation Activities and they are prepared to scale up their action. During the year one three Self Help Groups (SHG) with 49 members in total were supported with skill development training, stipend and seed money to start up their own IGAs. 14 SHG members of Shilhibi shoemaking IGA group on an average earned INR 2310 and saved in bank, while 20 SHG members of Yaiphabi weaving IGA group earned INR 4794 and 15 SHG members of Women Economic Development earned INR 2400 on business through Kauna water reed craft.

FXB India Suraksha team is putting its best effort to scale up the Income Generation Activity and introduce more household beneficiaries to SHGs. In future, this SHGs will be linked with cooperative bank and other micro finance institutions to receive economic support and thus to attain self sufficiency. The vision and mission of FXB-Village network is to develop income generating activities for HIV and AIDS affected or infected caregivers so that they are able to raise the orphans and vulnerable children in a protected, secure and dignified manner.

Visit our website [www.fxbsuraksha.in](http://www.fxbsuraksha.in) to read the complete document 'Year 1 review and demonstration of process evaluation for integrity in development process'





## Beneficiaries Speak

**Manipur:** *'When both my parents died, we four siblings were left in the care of my grandmother. I'm youngest among two brothers and two sisters. My elder siblings are school drop-outs. Earlier one NGO supported me and my sister with partial school fees. But as soon as the support ceased we were bound to drop-out from school. My old grandmother expired in 2010. Left without any adult in the family, FXB India Suraksha enrolled our us into FXB-Village program in 2011. I'm 12 years old and am studying in VI standard. At least two of us have returned back to school. I'm on 1st line ARV since 2008. I often ask myself the reason I'm suffering alone. Why do I have to take medicines daily? Why other people are saying bad things about me?' - Purnima.*

**Tamilnadu:** *'My name is **Lourdu Marry**. I live in Chinna Kalapet with my husband and my daughter. My husband is an alcoholic. Despite of all the counselling he is unable to give up his drinking habit. He does not earn any money and sometimes he does not even returns home. FXB India Suraksha helped me in setting up an idly shop (mini hotel) near my house. They helped me in purchasing vessels, containers and other materials to start this enterprise. I have started to run my business and earn about Rs. 100/- every day. Now I feel I am economically independent. I wish that my husband will soon realize his fault and join with the family. I express my sincere thanks to FXB India Suraksha for their timely help.'*



**YOU can make a child's  
future  
brighter!**

**Join hands with Us!**

Support FXB Suraksha to ensure a brighter future for orphans and children most affected by poverty and AIDS.

**HEALTH AND NUTRITION :** A donation of Rs. 1000 can help 25 children avail healthcare for a period of 6 months.

**EDUCATION :** With Rs. 1500 you can support a child's education for a year.

**LIVELIHOOD :** Rs. 100000 helps villagers setup a livelihood project and improve the lives of marginalized women and children.

**COMBATING HIV/AIDS :** A contribution of Rs. 3000 per year will provide for the medical treatment of a HIV/AIDS infected person.

All your contributions are allowed for tax exemptions under Section 80 G of the Income Tax Act.

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