

**ANNUAL ACTIVITIES REPORT OF
MAHILA SHAKTI KENDRA (M A S K)**

FOR THE PERIOD

01 APRIL 2022 TO 31 MARCH 2023

MOLAN PUKHURI, BALIPARA,

DISTRICT SONITPUR, 784 101 ASSAM – INDIA

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1. Executive Summary

Mahila Shakti Kendra (MASK) is a registered society dedicated to empowering tribal women in Sonitpur, Assam, and promoting positive social changes. Our mission is to create a nurturing community that uplifts marginalized individuals and fosters sustainable livelihoods.

In the reporting period, MASK conducted various programs to achieve its objectives. The Women Empowerment and Livelihood Support program aimed to empower women through self-help groups (SHGs) and skill development. It impacted **412** beneficiaries, promoting financial independence and gender equality.

The Livestock and Agricultural Support initiative benefited farmers through training, distribution of seeds and livestock, and modern agricultural practices. This program positively impacted **1076** beneficiaries, promoting agricultural growth and sustainable practices.

MASK's Community Elephant Monitoring and Human-Elephant Conflict Mitigation Program aimed to promote coexistence with wildlife. With the help of **Assam Investment Advisory Society, Guwahati**, the program empowered **102** families and fostered sustainable practices.

Support to Interior Community-Run Schools enriched the learning experience for students. Through engaging classes and tutoring, **1200** students benefited from improved attendance and parental cooperation.

In Natural Resource Management, MASK rejuvenated the Balipara Reserve Forest, planted over **8,48,590** saplings, (**798 hectares**) and empowered **554** villagers with sustainable practices.

Through fruitful collaborations with **NABARD, KVK, Charduar State Veterinary Dispensary, Assam Agriculture Department, Balipara Foundation & IRRI**, MASK magnified its impact and synergized social initiatives.

The monitoring and review efforts ensured effective project implementation. The PHF project, supported by **[Insert Funding Agency] Paul Hymlin Foundation UK, Azim Premji Foundation, Bangalore, NECBDC-North East Cane and Bamboo Development Council, Byrnihat, Assam, Bread for the World, Germany**, witnessed substantial progress in promoting livelihoods and sustainable practices. CBOs, SHGs, and POs received extensive support, empowering **[Insert Total Number of Beneficiaries]** beneficiaries.

Exposure visits enriched learning experiences for **21** beneficiaries, enhancing their capabilities and impact.

As MASK looks ahead, we remain dedicated to creating an inclusive and empowered society. Our initiatives have collectively impacted **3413** beneficiaries, inspiring a better tomorrow for all.

2. Introduction

○ Overview of Mahila Shakti Kendra (MASK)

Mahila Shakti Kendra (MASK) is a federation of village women registered as a society, dedicated to empowering tribal women in Sonitpur, Assam. Our primary goal is to bring positive changes in society and uplift marginalized communities, with a particular focus on women.

○ Mission and Objectives

At MASK, we promote financial empowerment through savings, livelihood programs, and linkages with banks. We strive to create a nurturing and supportive community for underprivileged individuals, enabling them to help themselves and others. Our core belief is in granting women the power to enhance their lives and live with dignity.

3. Background and History

○ Establishment of MASK

MASK was established on April 1, 2002, by members of self-help groups. It was later registered under the Societies Registration Act XII of 1860 on February 8, 2006.

○ Organizational Structure and Team

● Leadership - Board of Directors

MASK operates under the guidance of seven dedicated Board of Directors members, who provide strategic direction and oversee the organization's functioning.



Figure 1-Annual general Body Meeting

● Dedicated Staff Members and Community Volunteers

Our dynamic team of 12 staff members and 16 community volunteers plays a crucial role in driving MASK's mission and achieving its objectives, particularly in empowering women and transforming communities. The team includes:

- ❖ 1 Secretary
- ❖ 1 Administrative Assistant cum Accountant
- ❖ 1 Project Manager
- ❖ 3 Project Coordinators
- ❖ 4 Field Workers
- ❖ 1 Trainer
- ❖ 1 Support Staff
- ❖ 16 Community Volunteers

4. Program Areas

4.1 Women Empowerment and Livelihood Support:

During the reporting period, Mahila Shakti Kendra (MASK) remained steadfast in its commitment to empower women, foster self-reliance, and promote sustainable livelihoods. With the generous support of our funding partners our organization conducted a series of impactful initiatives, each contributing to the advancement of our cause.

On 10th June 2022, MASK organized a "Skill Upgradation Workshop," benefiting 29 women participants. This workshop aimed to equip them with essential livelihood skills to enhance their economic prospects.

Subsequently, on 7th June 2022, we facilitated a "Village Level Program for SHGs" under the auspices of NABARD. This program empowered 54 women with knowledge about self-help groups and various schemes, enabling them to create a strong foundation for their economic and social development.



Figure 2-Farm Machinery Training

On 18th September 2022, MASK provided valuable "Inputs to a Collective Women Weavers Group."

The support and inputs given strengthened the livelihoods of 12 women, contributing to their economic independence and sustainable growth.

As part of our efforts to combat gender-based violence and promote gender equality, on 3rd and 4th December 2022, we conducted "Awareness Programs" in Bhalukpong and Bogijuli villages. Through film screenings and workshops, we reached 56 women, raising awareness about menstrual hygiene and advocating for women's rights and safety.

On 12th to 14th November 2022, our "Farm Machinery Training" offered valuable knowledge about gender-friendly farming equipment to 49 women participants. This

training equipped them with the necessary skills to improve agricultural practices and increase their productivity.



Figure 3 International Women's Day

To foster collaboration and networking, on 19th October 2022, MASK conducted a meeting for "Linkage and Networking" with government institutions under the State Flagship Scheme Swanirbhar Nari. The meeting facilitated the registration of 100 weavers, enabling them to sell their handwoven cloths through the State Handloom and Textile Department.

The significance of International Women's Day was celebrated on 14th March 2023. MASK took this opportunity to felicitate and recognize 61 women for their invaluable contributions to society.

In total, our organization's unwavering efforts positively impacted 412 beneficiaries, creating lasting change and paving the way for women's empowerment and sustainable livelihoods.

Table 1: Women Empowerment and Livelihood Support

Program Activity	Date	Beneficiaries
Skill Upgradation Workshop	10-Jun-22	29
Awareness and Procurement under Swanirbharnaari	13-Mar-23	102
Awareness and Procurement under Swanirbharnaari	19-Oct-22	32
Farm Machinery Training	12-14 Nov 22	49
Awareness - Gender-Based Violence, Gender Equality, and Menstrual Hygiene	03-04 Dec 22	56
Inputs to a Collective Women Weavers Group	18-Sep-22	12
NABARD - Village Level Program for SHGs	07-Jun-22	21
NABARD - Village Level Program for SHGs	07-Jun-22	33
International Women's Day Celebration	14-Mar-23	61
Women Entrepreneurs Workshop	21-22 Sep 22	17
Total		412

4.2 Livestock and Agricultural Support:

Mahila Shakti Kendra (MASK), through its Agriculture Promotion Initiative, has been dedicated to enhancing livelihood opportunities for farmers in Balipara, Sonitpur, Assam. The organization has successfully implemented various programs and distributions to support livestock and agriculture, making a positive impact on the lives of beneficiaries.



Figure 4-Spaling Distribution at Bogijuli

In April 2022, MASK conducted "Training on Horticulture at KVK Tezpur," benefiting 11 participants with valuable knowledge and skills.

In the same month, "Spaling Distribution at Bogijuli" reached out to 50 households, promoting agricultural growth in the region.

Moving forward to June 2022, MASK organized "Exposure Visits to KVK Tezpur" for 38 Self-Help Groups (SHGs), providing valuable insights into successful agricultural practices. In the same month, MASK conducted three "Livestock Training - Fish cum Duck Farming" sessions, empowering a total of 106 participants to explore alternative livelihood opportunities and generate additional income.



Figure 5-Community paddy nursery

In September 2022, MASK carried out a comprehensive 11-day "Micro Enterprise Development Training" (MEDP) for 30 participants from 11 SHGs, focusing on pig farming

and market linkages. This training empowered participants with crucial skills and knowledge for micro-enterprise development.

In June 2022, two "Training on Organic Pesticide and Manure Preparation" sessions were conducted, benefiting 50 participants and promoting sustainable agricultural practices.

Fast forward to December 2022, MASK organized a "Use of Drone Sprayer Demonstration," introducing farmers to modern agricultural techniques and promoting efficient and effective farming practices.

Moving into 2023, in May, MASK provided "Duckling " to 9 households, empowering them with opportunities for duck farming and improving their livelihoods.

In the same month, "Seedling Distributions" of paddy and blackgram were conducted, benefiting 150 households, along with support to a community paddy nursery with seedlings. These initiatives aimed to encourage sustainable agricultural practices and boost crop productivity.

In May 2023, "Vermin-Bed Support" was extended to one beneficiary, promoting organic farming methods and sustainable agricultural practices.

In March 2023, MASK provided "Homestead Farming Support" to farmers in Bogijuli village by distributing banana suckers and vegetable seeds. This initiative aimed to promote homestead farming and empower women with sustainable agricultural practices.

Finally, in February 2023, MASK organized a "TOT Programme for Community Resource Person," benefiting 9 participants and strengthening the agricultural community.

Overall, the Livestock and Agricultural Support initiatives have significantly impacted the lives of 1,076 beneficiaries, fostering sustainable agriculture, enhancing livelihoods, and promoting self-reliance among farmers in Sonitpur, Assam. MASK's dedication to empowering rural communities continues to make a positive difference in the region.

Table 2: Livestock and Agricultural Support

Program Activity	Date	Beneficiaries
Training on Horticulture at KVK Tezpur	01-Apr-22	11
Spaling Distribution at Bogijuli	04-Apr-22	50
Duckling Support	01-May-23	9
Seedling Distributions	01 Apr 22 - 31 Mar 23	128
Vermin-Bed Support	01-May-23	1
Exposure Visits to KVK Tezpur	28-Jun-22	38
Livestock Training - Fish cum Duck Farming	23-Jun-22	43
Livestock Training - Fish cum Duck Farming	29-Jun-22	25
Livestock Training - Fish cum Duck Farming	29-Jun-22	38
Livestock Training and Vaccination at Bogijuli	12-Apr-22	25
Livestock Training and Vaccination at Bogijuli	08-Jun-22	38
Training on Agri Fruits and Spices	27-Jun-22	32
Micro Enterprise Development Training (MEDP)	05-20 Sep 22	30
Training on Organic Pesticide and Manure	04-Jun-22	25

Preparation		
Training on Organic Pesticide and Manure Preparation	28-Jun-22	25
Livestock Training on Goatary	08-Jun-22	34
Homestead Farming Support	01-Mar-23	500
Use of Drone Sprayer Demonstration	01-Dec-22	15
TOT Programme for Community Resource person	02-Feb-23	9
Total		1076

4.3. Elephant Monitoring & Human-Elephant Conflict Mitigation Program:

Mahila Shakti Kendra (MASK) takes pride in its commitment to wildlife conservation and promoting harmonious coexistence between rural communities and wild elephants. During the reporting period, the organization successfully implemented the Community Elephant Monitoring and Human-Elephant Conflict Mitigation Program.



Figure 6-Community Elephant Monitoring Network

One of the key components of the program was the "Wild Elephant Movement Monitoring and Data Collection" initiative. A dedicated team of 25 community volunteers diligently monitored the movements of wild elephants and collected essential data on human-elephant conflict incidents. This data was instrumental in identifying areas of concern and prioritizing mitigation efforts to ensure the safety and well-being of both humans and elephants.



Figure 7-Monitoring and Human-Elephant Conflict

To foster awareness and understanding among villagers, MASK conducted regular workshops and awareness campaigns. These efforts aimed to educate the community on

best practices for coexisting safely with wild elephants, thereby reducing human-elephant conflicts without causing harm to the animals.

Another significant achievement of the program was the successful adoption of solar electric fences in three villages. These fences provided effective deterrence against wild elephant raids on agricultural fields and settlements, significantly reducing conflicts and potential harm to both humans and elephants. To enhance the capabilities of the Community Elephant Monitoring Network, MASK introduced a mobile app-based Geographic Information System (GIS). This technology empowered community volunteers to report human-elephant conflict incidents promptly. The swift reporting enabled timely responses and the implementation of appropriate mitigation strategies.

In total, the Community Elephant Monitoring and Human-Elephant Conflict Mitigation Program directly benefited 102 individuals. The success of this program underscores MASK's dedication to safeguarding human livelihoods and fostering a peaceful coexistence with the magnificent wildlife of the region.

Table 3: Community Elephant Monitoring & Human-Elephant Conflict Mitigation Program

Program Activity	Date	Beneficiaries
Wild Elephant Movement Monitoring and Data Collection	02-Mar-23	25
Awareness and Education on reptiles	31-Jul-22	27
Adoption of Solar Electric Fences	01 Apr 22 - 31 Mar 23	50
Total		102

4.4. Extending Support to Interior Community-Run Schools:

Mahila Shakti Kendra (MASK) demonstrated its commitment to promoting education and



Figure 8-Figure 5-Training of Trainers (TOT)

empowering rural communities by providing vital support to eight community-run village schools in remote areas. The initiative aimed to enrich the learning experience for students and foster education as a pathway to empowerment.



Figure 9-Training of Trainers (TOT)

Under the programme, daily 2-hour classes combining academics and extra-curricular activities were initiated in eight different schools within the Bhalukpong region. Thirteen volunteers and one supervisor engaged students

with sports, music, and art activities. The program's progress was reviewed in April, highlighting the significance of community efforts in addressing resource scarcity concerns.

A "Training of Trainers (TOT)" program equipped new teachers with the necessary skills to engage children in extra-curricular activities.

A follow-up meeting assessed students' arithmetic and linguistic abilities, and teacher volunteers' roles were clarified at Baligaon Malsing LP school.

MASK empowered 15 community volunteers with training and teaching materials to support regular teachers in community-run schools. Additionally, local youths well-versed in the students' native language were trained as tutors, bridging the language barrier and enhancing the learning environment.

The initiative's impact was evident in improved attendance rates and enhanced parental cooperation, supporting students' holistic development.

Despite facing challenges of geographic isolation and resource constraints, MASK overcame these obstacles through trained volunteers and tutors, successfully providing quality education to students in interior communities.

In total, the Extending Support to Interior Community-Run Schools program directly benefited 1323 individuals, contributing to the enrichment of education and fostering positive change in marginalized communities.

Table 4: Extending Support to Interior Community-Run Schools

Program Activity	Date	Beneficiaries
School Programme-follow-up meeting with teacher volunteers and students of Baligaon Malsing LP school	25-Feb-23	67
TOT Programme for Community Resource person	24-Mar-23	9
School Programme with Students	01 Apr 22 - 31 Mar 23	1200
Empowering Community Volunteers	24-26 May 22	33
Leveraging Local Youths as Tutors	01 Apr 22 - 31 Mar 23	14
Total		1323

4.5. Natural Resource Management: Empowering Forest-Dependent Communities

MASK's Natural Resource Management Program has been instrumental in uplifting forest-dependent communities near Nameri National Park and Balipara Reserve Forest through sustainable practices. This initiative has made a positive impact on 45 villages, promoting a harmonious coexistence between human needs and conservation efforts.

One of the significant achievements of the program is the improvement of the traditional irrigation system in Mainuguri village. Through the implementation of the traditional water channeling method known as Dong making, 44 households across Mainuguri and Rwmaigaon have benefitted from improved irrigation facilities for 500 bighas of agricultural land.



Figure 10-Traditional irrigation system in Mainuguri village

The program has also focused on restoring the degraded Balipara Reserve Forest by renovating traditional diversion-based irrigation systems in two villages. This endeavor has not only promoted biodiversity but has also provided support to local agriculture, benefiting the forest-dependent communities.



Figure 11-Tarabari Plantation

To restore habitats and enhance biodiversity, over 8,48,590 saplings, (798 hectares) were meticulously planted in Forests. Villages like Tarabari, Bogijuli, Chenglijan, Fakim, and Phuluguri actively participated

in the plantation activities, contributing significantly to the increase in green cover and biodiversity in the region.

Another crucial aspect of the program is its commitment to economic empowerment and conservation. Through restoration activities, the program has enabled 500 families to earn a sustainable income. This highlights the potential of livelihoods intertwined with environmental stewardship, promoting a balanced and sustainable future for the forest-dependent communities.

MASK's Natural Resource Management Program has also emphasized the adoption of sustainable farming practices. Villagers have enthusiastically embraced eco-friendly alternatives, utilizing organic fertilizers and pest control methods. Moreover, collective bans on hunting and fishing in certain areas have been established to further protect the environment and its inhabitants.

Institutionalizing change has been a key focus of the program, with village councils adopting eco-centric decisions. By safeguarding their surroundings and natural resources, these communities are ensuring a better future for generations to come, striking a balance between development and conservation.

To ensure the sharing of knowledge and best practices, comprehensive training materials have been developed as part of the program. These materials document transformative changes and are shared with neighboring villages, promoting a broader understanding of sustainable practices and encouraging similar initiatives in other regions.

In addition to the commendable work in natural resource management, the program has undertaken bamboo plantation and nursery activities in Chariduar. The plantation of bamboo across 10 hectares and the establishment of a bamboo nursery in 3 hectares have further contributed to the restoration of habitats and provided additional economic opportunities for the forest-dependent communities.

Overall, MASK's Natural Resource Management Program has demonstrated its commitment to community empowerment, conservation, and sustainable practices. The impact on 554 beneficiaries and the successful engagement of 45 villages underscore the program's significance in fostering positive change for both the communities and the environment. Through continued support and collaboration, MASK can further strengthen its efforts to uplift forest-dependent communities and create a lasting impact on the region's ecological well-being.

Table 5: Natural Resource Management: Empowering Forest-Dependent Communities

Program Activity	Date	Beneficiaries
Improve Traditional Irrigation System	01 Apr 22 - 31 Mar 23	44
Bamboo Plantation in 10 hectares at Chariduar	15-Jun-22	5
Bamboo Nursery 3 hectares at Chariduar	15-Jun-22	5
Economic Empowerment and Conservation	01 Apr 22 - 31 Mar 23	500
Total		554

5. Collaborations and Partnerships

In 2022, MASK (Mahila Shakti Kendra) forged valuable collaborations and partnerships with various organizations, amplifying its impact and fostering collective efforts to promote social welfare in Assam.



Figure 12-Micro Enterprise Development Programme (MEDPs)

One notable collaboration was with NABARD to implement the Micro Enterprise Development Programme (MEDPs). Through this partnership, MASK provided financial assistance and training to 100 women entrepreneurs in rural areas, enabling them to establish and run their own businesses.

Teaming up with KVK, MASK promoted the cultivation of GI tagged Tezpur Litchi, enhancing awareness among 200 farmers and consumers while improving crop quality and productivity.

Working in conjunction with the Charduar State Veterinary Dispensary, MASK successfully implemented the National Animal Disease Control Programme (NADCP).

A significant environmental effort was made through the collaboration with NECBDC, leading to the plantation of bamboo in rural areas. This initiative generated employment opportunities for rural youth and contributed to environmental conservation.

In partnership with the Assam Agriculture Department, MASK executed the Assam Agribusiness and Rural Transformation Project (APART), training over 518 farmers on improved agricultural practices for sustainable rural development.

MASK's collaboration with the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) focused on promoting mechanical transplanting of rice, resulting in training for over 20 farmers and improved yield and quality of rice production.

Additionally, MASK actively participated in the FVSA annual meeting, reinforcing the organization's commitment to the voluntary sector in Assam.

Collectively, these collaborations and partnerships have impacted 838 beneficiaries in 2022-23, fostering empowerment, social welfare, and environmental conservation.

Table 6: Collaborations and Partnerships

Collaborating Organizations	Initiative
NABARD	Micro Enterprise Development Programme (MEDPs)
KVK	GI tagged Tezpur Litchi
Charduar State Veterinary Dispensary	National Animal Disease Control Programme (NADCP)
NECBDC-North East Cane and Bamboo Development Council, Byrnihat, Assam	Bamboo Plantation
Assam Agriculture Department	Assam Agribusiness and Rural Transformation Project (APART)
IRRI	Mechanical Transplanting of Rice
Balipara Foundation	Natural Resource Management

6. Monitoring and Review

The Mahila Shakti Kendra (MASK) has been diligently monitoring and reviewing its transformative projects and initiatives, ensuring effective implementation and impact assessment. Collaborations with various organizations have strengthened the organization's efforts, with notable progress witnessed in promoting livelihoods and sustainable practices. Extensive support and guidance have been provided to Community-Based Organizations (CBOs), Self-Help Groups (SHGs), and People's Organizations (POs), fostering community empowerment. These combined efforts have positively impacted 3,200 beneficiaries in the communities served.

The Natural Resource Management Program has been a key component of the initiative, uplifting forest-dependent communities through sustainable practices. The rejuvenation of the degraded Balipara Reserve Forest and the plantation of over 200,000 saplings in multiple villages have significantly enhanced biodiversity and promoted coexistence with conservation efforts. Economic empowerment to 500 families has been achieved, showcasing the potential for sustainable livelihoods intertwined with environmental stewardship.

Additionally, the Livestock and Agricultural Support program has empowered farmers with alternative livelihood opportunities. Training sessions on livestock and agricultural practices have led to skill development and income generation for 38 participants in piggery and 16 participants in goat farming. Distribution of essential agricultural items and support for ducklings and seedlings has further bolstered agricultural productivity and livelihood opportunities.

MASK's commitment to education and empowerment is evident in the Extending Support to Interior Community-Run Schools program, benefiting 1200 students by enriching their learning experience and promoting education as a pathway to empowerment.

The project monitoring and review have been executed with utmost diligence, ensuring effective implementation and impact assessment. Valuable insights gathered through

meticulous monitoring and assessment has guided the development of targeted interventions and support measures, making the projects more effective and impactful.

The collaboration between MASK and its partners funding agencies and government agencies has been a resounding success, showcasing effective social work and sustainable development.

Table 7: Monitoring and Review

Review Activity	Date	Participants
Video Documentation	01 Apr 22 - 31 Mar 23	1
Strengthening of CBO, PIO's & Existing Institutions Component	01-Feb-23	15
State Level Forum Consultation	16-17 Dec 22	2
SHG Reviving Meetings, Place Dowangani Village	29-Oct-22	30
SHG Reviving Meetings, Place Garogaon Village	29-Oct-22	27
SHG Reviving Meetings, Place Nolghagori Village	20-Dec-22	25
SHG Reviving Meetings, Place Majuli Amologa Village	20-Dec-22	29
SHG Reviving Meetings, Place Phuloguri Village	21-Dec-22	25
SHG Reviving Meetings, Place Sotai Garogaon Village	21-Dec-22	23
SHG Reviving Meetings, Place Torabari Village	22-Dec-22	23
SHG Reviving Meetings, Place Torajan Village	22-Dec-22	26
SHG Reviving Meetings, Place Morisuti Village	28-Dec-22	25
Kapila Marak from MASK participated in regional consultation program on Mental Health and safe abortion at Konark, Odisha	21-22 Jan 23	1
FVSA Annual Meeting, Two Staff from the organization participated in the meeting at Kuwafola Dhemaji	15-16 May 22	2
Total		392

7. Exposures

MASK, as a dedicated social organization, has facilitated enriching exposure visits for village youth, farmers, and staff members, fostering capacity building and knowledge exchange. Through these visits, participants gained valuable insights and experiences that have further enhanced the impact of the organization's initiatives.

One such exposure visit was to the Farm Machinery Training & Testing Institute (FMTTI) in Biswanath Chariali on 5th August 2022. Village youth and farmers from Chengelimari and Bhalukpong villages had the opportunity to explore various training programs related to agricultural machinery. The participants received orientation on the selection, use, operation, repair, and maintenance of tractors, power tillers, and other farm machinery. This exposure has empowered them with vital skills and knowledge to improve their agricultural practices.

Another significant exposure visit took place on 6th and 7th December 2022 when the MASK team visited Diya Foundation in Kamrup. The purpose of this visit was to gain firsthand knowledge and understanding of the project's implementation and the livelihood

activities undertaken by the organization. This visit provided valuable insights to the team, enhancing their expertise and approach to project implementation.

Overall, these exposure visits have benefitted a total of 21 participants, including village youth, farmers, and MASK staff members. MASK is committed to continuous improvement and aims to provide meaningful exposure opportunities to further enhance the capabilities and impact of its initiatives.

Table 8: Exposures

Exposure Activity	Date	Beneficiaries
Exposure Visit to FMTTI, Biswanath	5th Aug 22	12
Exposure Visit - Staff, Diya Foundation, Kamrup	6-7 Dec 22	9
Total		21

8. Capacity Building Program

A comprehensive Capacity Building Program was conducted for the Meghalaya Basin Development Authority. This program aimed to enhance the skills and knowledge of the beneficiaries in accounting.

Two training sessions were held, from 10th to 24th October 2022 and from 26th October to 9th November 2023, benefiting a total of 44 participants. Through these training sessions, the participants gained valuable insights and expertise in accounting practices, empowering them to contribute more effectively to the development initiatives of the Meghalaya Basin Development Authority. The program exemplifies MASK's commitment to capacity building and fostering sustainable development in the region.



Figure 13-Capacity Building Program - Meghalaya Basin Development Authority

Two training sessions were held, from 10th to 24th October

2022 and from 26th October to 9th November 2023, benefiting a total of 44 participants. Through these training sessions, the participants gained valuable insights and expertise in accounting practices, empowering them to contribute more effectively to the development initiatives of the Meghalaya Basin Development Authority. The program exemplifies MASK's commitment to capacity building and fostering sustainable development in the region.

Table 9: Capacity Building Program for Meghalaya Basin Development Authority

Program Activity	Date	Beneficiaries
Accounting Training for beneficiaries of Meghalaya Basin Development Authority	10-24 Oct 22	22
Accounting Training for beneficiaries of Meghalaya Basin Development Authority	26 Oct - 09 Nov 23	22
Total		44

9. Funding Partners

We are immensely grateful to our esteemed funding partners for their unwavering support in driving positive change in the communities we serve. The **Paul Hymlin Foundation UK**, has been a valuable contributor to our Education and Natural Resource Management Program. With their support, we have been able to foster a nurturing learning environment and promote sustainable practices that benefit both the community and the environment.

The **Azim Premji Foundation, Bangalore**, has been instrumental in empowering the marginalized through our Livelihood Program. Their commitment to skill development and income generation has uplifted the lives of many farmers and forest-dependent communities near Nameri National Park and Balipara Reserve Forest.

We also express our deep gratitude to **NECBDC - North East Cane and Bamboo Development Council, Byrnihat, Assam**, our major funding agency, for their generous support in enabling us to plant bamboo and raise bamboo nurseries. This partnership has significantly contributed to sustainable bamboo cultivation and its positive impact on the environment and livelihoods of the communities we serve.

Bread for the World, Germany, has played a pivotal role in advancing our Women Empowerment and Livelihood Initiative. Their support has empowered women with opportunities for economic self-sufficiency, promoting gender equality and social welfare.

The **Assam Investment Advisory Society, Guwahati**, has been a key partner in our Education and Elephant Conservation Program. Their collaboration has facilitated educational opportunities for the underprivileged and contributed to elephant conservation efforts in the region.

We extend our sincere gratitude to all our funding partners for their unwavering support and belief in our vision. Their contributions have been pivotal in empowering communities, conserving nature, and fostering sustainable development, making a lasting impact in the lives of thousands of beneficiaries. With their continued support, we remain steadfast in our commitment to bring about positive social and environmental change for a better future.

**MAHILA SHAKTI KENDRA
GOVERNING BODY MEMBERS**



*Mrs. Akhai Marak,
President*



*Mrs. Sushila Sangma,
Vice-President*



*Mrs. Pherpin Momin,
Treasurer*



*Mrs. Indu Basumatary,
Trustee*



*Mrs. Mainu Marak,
Trustee*



*Mrs. Anita Devi
Jt. Secretary*



*Mrs. Eliza Boro
Secretary*

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Date -31st April 2023

Place- Balipara

**Eliza Boro
Secretary
Mahila Shakti Kendra**