



**INVOLVE**  
INDIVIDUAL ASSOCIATED FOR  
INCLUSIVE EMPOWERMENT

# Annual Report

2023-2024

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## Message from the Secretary

Dear Friends,

The year 2023 marked significant growth for INVOLVE, as we progressed as an organization and took initial steps toward establishing visibility and relevance in the communities we serve. We extend our gratitude to our dedicated volunteers, including Ms. Mira (Tamang) Pradhan, Ms. Maxima Bhagat, and Ms. Sima Pradhan, who ensured our alignment with the initiatives we pledged to undertake within their respective communities.

Our primary focus during the early stages of our organization has been to solidify our legitimacy and enhance transparency. Efforts have been ongoing behind the scenes to strengthen our legal foundation, and we've successfully established a digital presence through our website [www.involveindia.org](http://www.involveindia.org) and our Facebook Page <https://www.facebook.com/individualassociated/>.

Throughout 2023, we diligently worked to include individuals who had been excluded from government schemes due to documentation issues, enabling them to access various governmental facilities. Education remains a key priority, as we believe that equity can only be achieved through educational empowerment. We've been providing additional tutorial support to students beyond school hours to facilitate their academic progress.

We've also invested in building community connections to facilitate the implementation of upcoming programs. Thanks to the support of our allies, we were able to directly assist families facing hardships, primarily due to job insecurity.

Looking ahead, we're eager to collaborate with PROJECT BAALA to promote menstrual health and hygiene, ensuring dignity for women and girls.

We express our gratitude to President Shri Ratan Lama for his guidance, Treasurer Shri Samir Chettri, and all our members, friends, and supporters for their unwavering support and kindness.

*Truly yours,*

*Arpan Rai*

*Arpan Rai,*

*Secretary*

*Individual Associated for Inclusive Empowerment (INVOLVE)*

## **Our Aim**

INVOLVE seeks to contribute to inclusive and sustainable development at the grassroots. It promotes the empowerment of communities dependent on the tea industry and local forests in districts of North Bengal, India. The key focus areas are education, environment and enhancing access to entitlements. INVOLVE aims to strengthen participatory approaches, convergence and linkages wherein community members can seek their solutions, nurture innovations and grow as catalysts of change. We value inclusiveness both within INVOLVE and among our partners. We aspire to be diverse and pluralistic and engage with varied opinions and beliefs, socially and culturally.

## **Our Vision**

Tea garden, Forest based and other communities in disadvantage become drivers of their own development, enhance their wellbeing and live in harmony with the natural environments.

## **Our Mission**

To work with communities as co-learners and support growth in education, access to entitlements, environmental initiatives and other emerging themes for their socio-economic development

## **Who we are**

We at INVOLVE are a group of diligent individuals that work in different milieus of the society, and have come together to work for the communities in disadvantage since 2007 in some little way or the other and got registered as Society in 2023. We seek to gradually work towards realizing progress that evolves ingeniously through participation and voluntary contribution. We are currently working in the adjacent areas of Siliguri, Alipurduar and Jalpaiguri. Our initiatives focus largely on strengthening Community access to various Government schemes and entitlements through awareness and social engagement activities.

## **Upholding gender transformative approaches**

**Appreciating diversity**

**Ensuring inclusion**

**Promoting environmental sustainability**

**Ensuring transparency and accountability**

## **Where we work**

We work with communities in the tea gardens and forest areas of North Bengal. We facilitate community-based processes through our theme-based programmes primarily in education, and environment. These participatory processes build on strengths and encourage communities in accessing various schemes and services (i.e. their entitlements) and become active agents for their development.

## Annual Activities

- i. Organizational Development work (Website and email)

Our website and email id were created in April 2023, we can be contacted through our website,

[www.involveindia.org](http://www.involveindia.org) and our email id: [contact@involveindia.org](mailto:contact@involveindia.org)

- ii. Supporting Gram panchayat and Community in the Govt outreach program (Duare Sarker) in Chuapara GP, Kalchini Block, Alipurduar District in April and September 2024.



- iii. Observation of May Day in Mechpara Tea Garden with workers. We could sensitize 30 Laborers in the program, our Volunteer Ms Mira Tamang facilitated the program for INVOLVE.



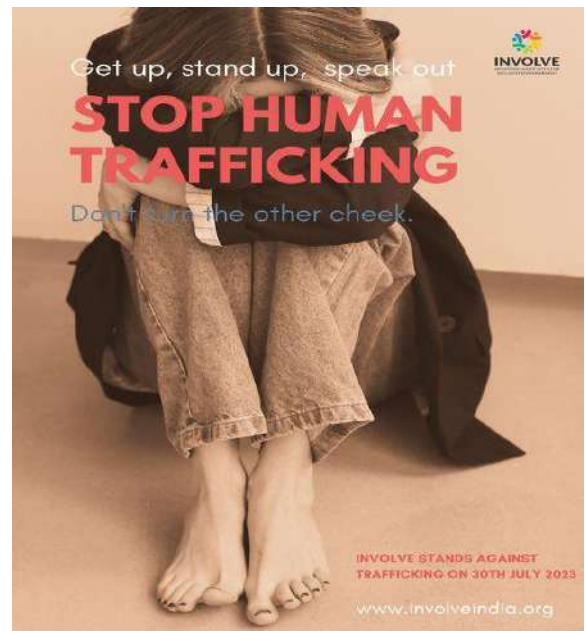
- iv. Workshop on Internation Tea Day, 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2023, Mr. A Gomden, eminent Personality of the Tea Industry was facilitated for his work on Tea and the Tea Industry.



- v. Observation of World Environment Day, 6<sup>th</sup> June, 2024 in Mechpara Tea Garden, Chuapara GP, Kalchini, Alipurduar. More than 30 Children attended the program, tree planting and information about Chipko Movement was shared with the Children.



- vi. Sensitization on Human Trafficking on the occasion of World Day against Trafficking in Person, 30th Jul 2024 in Mechpara Tea Garden with our Children's group 15 members.



- vii. Observation of Karam Festival in Shikarpur on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2023. Our Volunteer Ms Maxima Bhagat, helped the community organize the Karam festival (Tribal festival) in Shikarpur Tea Garden and also participated in the program.



- VIII. Emergency Support to 6 families in Raimatang Tea Garden, October 2023, as the garden was closed during the puja, we provided some emergency support to 6 families, who were in disadvantage due to the closure of the Garden.



**Thanks to our wonderful friends, we managed to deliver aid to six families in dire straits.**

**Date-21st October, 2023, Raimatang Tea Estate**

**"Small Acts of Kindness Make us believe in Humanity."**

Sl.No	Item name	Quantity
1	Refine oil.	2 Ltr
2	Dal	4Kg
3	Chana	1kg
4	Matar	1 kg
5	Salt	2 Kg
6	Sapla soap	4 Pcs
7	Lifbuoy soap	4 pcs
8	Soya beans	1/2 kg
9	Surf Excel	1/2 kg
10	Amila oil	50 Ml
11	Papad	2 Packets
12	Aata	5kg
13	Mustard Oil -	1 Ltr
14	Tooth Paste	100 Gm
15	R.K soap	3 pcs
16	Chicken (Meat)	2 Kg

IX. Special Class for class X and XII students in Mechpara Tea garden, 25 Children from Mechpara TG were provided special classes for their exam, a teacher was appointed for the special classes from December 2023 to Jan 2024 to help the children especially in Mathematics and Science subject.



IX. Observation of National Girl Child Day, 24<sup>th</sup> Jan 2024 at Shikarpur Tea Garden, Rajganj, Jalpaiguri, the importance of Girls in the society, the schemes for Women and Girls were shared with the Community.



XI. Celebrating, world River Day, September 2023, Women's Day- 8th March 2024 through Social Media Campaign



#### 6. Working with small time livestock farmers our experience as we are learning the art of Piggery for community development in the future-

The year 2023 showed varied outcomes in our efforts with small-time farmers, particularly in livestock farming. While our sows bore piglets throughout the year, the lack of guidance, experience, and care hindered profitability. However, this experience has provided valuable insights for future endeavors. The scarcity of qualified livestock assistants and funding remain significant challenges in this initiative.

7. Like in 2023-2024, we will keep our pilot initiative in the Tea gardens for understanding the issue which will help us make the problem statement in the tea garden better. The experience we will receive in the field through our two volunteers will help us make our Theory of Change as well have our strategic planning for the organisation more simplified and systematic. Due to logistic and other issues, we will not be working directly in Shikarpur Tea Garden for the period 2024-24, though we will organize small and important programs needs wise. We will be focusing in Tea Gardens of Kalchini block especially Raimatang and Mechpara TG. Through our Menstrual Health program, which is being supported by Project Baala, we will be reaching Tea Gardens and Forest based communities of Darjeeling, Kalimpong, Alipurduar, Jalpaiguri and some remote village in Cooch Behar if needed in the year.