

Music Unites

ACT Alliance tells stories from across the world through music...



Action by Churches Together - ACT Alliance is a global alliance of World Council of Churches (WCC) and Lutheran World Federation (LWF) member churches and related organizations committed to working ecumenically. ACT Alliance through its member churches and church-related organisations, work together for positive and sustainable change in the lives of people affected by poverty and injustice through coordinated and effective humanitarian, development and advocacy work.

ACT International has unified with ACT Development from 1, January 2010 under a new name, ACT Alliance. It has its presence in more than 90 countries across the globe through more than 150 agencies & churches. The new merger will expand our potential as churches and related organizations to better respond to emergencies, increase our collaboration in development work, and provide a shared voice for advocacy. This is by far the biggest network engaged in the development, advocacy and humanitarian aid work around the world in terms of its outreach.

The formal launch of the ACT Alliance will be held on the 24, March 2010 simultaneously in more than 60 countries where ACT has a presence. We are happy to inform you that the ACT Alliance India Forum is going to launch the **ACT Alliance** on the same day at the PHD House, New Delhi. The launch of the ACT Alliance will be marked in the Ecumenical Center in the presence of media, invited officials, Non-Governmental Organizations and diplomats.

ACT Alliance will bring new hope for a dignified life and development to millions of the poor, needy and victims of emergencies. A centrepiece for the launch communications would be a music video that would form the core of a multimedia strategy and will provide a powerful feel-good energy of the launch.

CNI SBSS's intervention with the indigenous communities in the state of Jharkhand as virtue of being a part of the ACT Alliance was documented to be a part of the music video shoot. To this

effect the team had visited CNI Resource Centre for Tribal Identity & Indigenous Rights and shot



footage for their video from two of our intervention area in DBSS Chotanagpur. The team accompanied the CNI SBSS staff to various locations in their intervention areas to capture the life and struggles of the communities.

On January 21st and 22nd the team from ACT was in Jharkhand for the shoot. Sounds of drums reverberated in the air as the team approached village Sainda in the Sisai block of Gumla district of Jharkhand accompanied by Sean

Hawkey, Communications Officer, ACT Development along with his team Sean Woollgar and Jean Jacques Maurage. The sound echoed the cry of the indigenous communities to safeguard their land and identity.

On their first day of visit to Sainda village the team experienced the warmth and hospitality of the adivasis that is usually extended to the guests. The traditional welcome with dance and music followed by washing of the guests' feet and an adivasi breakfast enveloped the trio in their community. The team spent one complete day interacting with the community, participating in their day to day activities and in the process shooting footage for their video.



The happiness to have these guests was more than evident on the smiling faces of the villagers as they welcomed the three tall white men. They were curious to know who they were, where did they come from, why did they come to their small village and what were they there for? But all these un-answered questions did not discourage them from extending their love and warmth to the guests. The team was also more than obliging to answer all their questions and mix up with their hosts. After a point of time it seemed like a family get together.

The day was well spent with taking shots of traditional musical instruments, the day to day activities like tilling of the land, pulling water from a well, digging the ground, separating rice from its skin etc. Sumptuous meal was laid down on the *pattal* (green plates made from leaves) and enjoyed by all. The long warm day visit to Sainda aptly ended in the traditional form of relaxation for a farmer....you guessed it right! The guests treated themselves to *Mabua* and *Hadia* (local form of beer) and they liked it.

The second day the team went to Kamdara another village in Gumla district and shot footage at a stone quarry, fishing pond and mid day meal at a government school. By the time we finally sat down to have our meal at the Diocese office in Kamdara, the team expressed their satisfaction in

spending the two days with us. After the meal, the whole team participated in the traditional send off with dance and music where Sean, Jean and Sean Woollgar matched their steps well with the women folk.



Boys happy after their mid-day meal

'It is hard to think how the trip could have been improved' said Sean Hawkey when and his team gathered together at the RCSA Ranchi office before their departure, just to share and unwind about their visit. They said that they were quite moved with their whole experience in Sisai and Kamdara and would always remember it. Sean Woollgar, promised to be back to properly document the plight of the adivasis and their struggle for their

land and identity.

The video will be a rallying cry to ACT Alliance members and supporters, it will make people feel part of something big, bigger than their own organisation. They will see themselves in it. It will say "We are here, we are dynamic, we are global, we are people-focused, we are participatory, we are energetic, we are worldwide, this is what we do". It will be a hi-energy, celebratory video that everyone will feel good about and feel proud of.

The video will be about four minutes long with percussion-only rhythms from around the world, including samba. It will be a collage of shots from around the world, and in each location people play a small part of the music, together making a single continuous piece of music. The footage will build a picture of the number of countries and diversity of people ACT Alliance is working with. The video would be showcased on the 24th March at the PHD house, New Delhi amidst media and dignitaries.



Sean matching his steps well