



Akino Ogawa

Church of North India,
Durgapur Diocese

About the Durgapur Diocese

The Diocese of Durgapur is doing some outstanding development work amongst the children and communities living within the urban slum areas and in the underdeveloped rural areas in West Bengal. Many of these families struggle to access sufficient income to provide for the needs of their families. UnitingWorld Relief and Development are partnering with a number of these projects.

About Akino

I decided to take up this placement with UnitingWorld because of my positive interning experience with the organisation in 2010. I graduated from university in 2009 with a Bachelor of Social Science in Social Science, Policy and Development and felt an internship with UnitingWorld would be beneficial in gaining practical experience in the field of development. I learnt a lot about the different approaches to development during my time there and really enjoyed the general vibe of the organisation so I feel an overseas

Experience program with UW would further build on this.

I am looking forward to building relationships and working with those in the partner organisation in Durgapur as well as with the community members I will be working with. It will be a challenging and eye opening experience, and I will have the opportunity to see firsthand how development works on the ground level and to learn so much from the local development team who have been working in the area for a number of years. I am definitely looking forward to it!

Akino is assisting the Church of North India for four months as a development assistant through their local development office with the children and communities living in the urban slum areas in the Durgapur diocese.



Experience Program



Our Church Partner

The Church of North India is the dominant Protestant denomination in northern India and is a united church established in 1970. The Church was formed by the merger of Church of India, Pakistan, Burma and Ceylon, the United Church of Northern India, the Baptist Churches of Northern India, the Churches of the Brethren in India, the Methodist Church and the Disciples of Christ denominations.

The Church's jurisdiction covers all states of the Indian Union with the exception of the four states in the south and has approximately 1,250,000 members in 3,000 pastorates. This accounts for around two thirds of India and is spread over varied areas, ranging from hills to deserts and to coastal regions, covering both rural as well as urban populations. The church unites people of diverse cultures, traditions and life-styles, journeying with them in their struggles and their joys.

The priorities of the Church of North India include rejuvenating pastoral ministry, solidarity with the



marginalized, formation of healing communities and re-structuring its internal organization. The concerns of the dioceses are linked with the seven desks of the programme office. These are children, women and gender, youth, peace and interfaith concerns, marginalized, local congregational concerns and human resources development.

Our partner church has a long history of addressing the development needs of those who are marginalised and struggling with poverty, regardless of their religious or cultural background. Their considerable experience and commitment to social justice for all provides a valuable model for the church worldwide.

Contact UnitingWorld
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Sydney South NSW 1235
Phone: +61 2 8267 4267
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