

ANNUAL REPORT 2022-23



About ELFA INTERNATIONAL



ELFA International is an independent and impartial Aid and Development organization working in situations of poverty and exclusion, conflict and disaster. Working alongside YOUTH, WOMEN, CHILDREN and other vulnerable groups, our action and testimony are focused on responding to their essential needs, improving their living conditions and promoting respect for their Economic and Social Dignity and their Fundamental Rights. ELFA International is Not-For-Profit organization with no religious or political affiliation. It operates as an independent association believing in partnering with likeminded people, organizations and donors that provide it with human and financial resources, manage its projects and implement its actions and social mission.

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE



We're proud to be working with a wide range of dedicated individuals and organizations. Our strength since the inception has been our dedicated, sincere, enthusiastic and experienced volunteers, team members, board members and advisory board members.

This year we have implemented a range of projects like:

1. J&K WHOLE SCHOOL SAFETY PROGRAM
2. WINTERIZATION, EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT& FOOD PROGRAM (SOCIAL & CHARITY)
3. LIVELIHOOD SUPPORT
4. MENSTRUAL HYGIENE MANAGEMENT (MHM)
5. ADVANCED LIFE SUPPORT AMBULANCE
6. YOUTH DEVELOPMENT, LEADERSHIP AND SPORTS
7. DISABILITY & INCLUSION
8. WOMEN EMPOWERMENT AND LEADERSHIP

I, sincerely thank all our partners and donors to have shown faith and confidence in us. It is only because of their support that we could reach out and supported 1000s of people this year in the most difficult times faced by the entire world.

Our dream is to provide/ensure Inclusive Quality Education to every child and create avenues for the Sustainable Livelihood for women, youth and people affected by disasters and conflicts. I request all our partners/donors to support us in realising our noble cause/dream.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Uzma Bashir'.

Uzma Bashir
President
ELFA International

Vision

Education and Livelihood for All work as catalyst in bringing sustainable change in the lives of underprivileged children, youth and women with life cycle approach of development.

Mission

ELFA International is working to bring positive changes in the lives of Youth, WOMEN, CHILDREN and other vulnerable groups by promoting access to Quality Inclusive Education, Livelihood and Income Generation opportunities, Social and Economic DIGNITY.

Values

We believe that our partners (STAKEHOLDERS) are the most important people for us. We promote and respect honesty, commitment, integrity, constructive criticism, positive work environment and appreciate efforts of every individual and organisations associated with us.

Working Model

ELFA INTERNATIONAL's theory of change, operational strategy and framework for measuring results are being finalised after discussion with stakeholders and evaluating the end results, This is done by third party evaluators and the progress and impact tracking is carried out with detailed baselines. This is being taken in all fields of action then only the progress report commence.



Beneficiaries Covered 2022-23

36154
Persons

J&K WHOLE SCHOOL SAFETY PROGRAM

62298
Persons

WINTERIZATION, EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT &
FOOD PROGRAM

750
Persons

LIVELIHOOD SUPPORT

36154
Persons

MENSTRUAL HYGIENE MANAGEMENT (MHM)

50000
People Benefitted

ADVANCED LIFE SUPPORT AMBULANCE

660
Persons

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT , LEADERSHIP &
SPORTS

36154
Persons

DISABILITY & INCLUSION

410
Persons

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT & LEADERSHIP

MAJOR PROGRAMS



PROJECT REPORT: Whole School Safety Programme 2022



Implemented by **ELFA International**
in Collaboration with **Directorate of
Samagra Shiksha J&K and UNICEF INDIA**
Duration: June 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022



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1: BACKGROUND

ELFA International in collaboration with Directorate of SamagraShiksha J&K and UNICEF implemented the '**Safe Schools Pilot Programme**' in 2020, which was a grand success. The five-month pilot was implemented in 5 districts which included Baramulla, Kupwara, Srinagar from Kashmir division and Jammu and Doda from Jammu division. To further strengthen the school safety and to reach to all districts of Jammu and Kashmir, ELFA International in collaboration with Directorate of Samagra Shiksha and UNICEF implemented the '**Jammu and Kashmir Comprehensive School Safety Programme**' in 2021-22 (Phase-II) and the current phase of the project with a new title **WHOLE SCHOOL SAFETY PROGRAMME** aligned to the guidelines of Ministry of Education, Government of India in all 20 districts of Jammu and Kashmir from June 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022.

In the Union territory (UT) of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) very little had been done when it comes to the issue of School Safety and a lot more needs to be done especially in light of new guidelines issued by the Ministry of Education, Government of India on **Whole School Safety**. There are very rudimentary or little provisions in the UT of JK thus leaving children vulnerable to risk of abuse, violence, disasters, health concerns and many other forms of risks. The children face physical abuse, online safety issues, emotional ill-treatment, sexual abuse, neglect, negligence, exploitation, and etcetera.

The children in Jammu and Kashmir have already suffered a lot and are highly prone to all types of risk and abuses. The region is affected by the longstanding conflict, daily violence; there is high risk of disasters (earthquake, floods, etc.), ongoing climate change in the region, poor water, sanitation & hygiene (WASH) practice put children at a high risk.

2: ABOUT WHOLE SCHOOL SAFETY PROGRAMME

The main purpose of Jammu and Kashmir Whole School Safety Programme was to implement the **Whole School Safety Package**. The programme was designed to orient senior government officials, train master trainers, students, teachers and community members on Whole School Safety Package, which included:

- 1) COVID 19 IPC and COVID Appropriate Behavior (CAB)
- 2) Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)
- 3) Child Protection, with special emphasis on Mental Health and Psycho Social Support (MHPSS),
- 4) Elimination of Violence against Children (EVAC), Gender Based Violence (GBV)
- 5) Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)
- 6) Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability (CCES)
- 7) Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM)
- 8) School Health and Wellness Programme (SHWP)



3: AREAS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The project was implemented in all 20 districts of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, India. The schools (5 Model Schools in each district) were selected in close coordination and after seeking a written approval from Chief Education Officer from each district. (Annexure I)



4. ACHIEVEMENTS

4.1: Trainings at Schools and Community Level

A total of **36154** people were trained on COVID-19 IPC, Disaster Risk Reduction, Gender Based Violence, Elimination of Violence against Children; Climate Change & Environmental Sustainability, Mental Health and Psychosocial Support, WASH and Menstrual Hygiene Management in communities and schools.

- ξ Out of 36154 people trained, 15647 (Male 6379 and Female 9268) were trained in Jammu division and 20507 (Male 8780 and Female 11727) were trained in Kashmir division.
- ξ Based on the type of beneficiaries 33153 were students (Male 6663 and Female 8861), 2090 were teachers (Male 1575 and Female 886), and 911 were community members (Male 387 and Female 524)
- ξ 217 Master Trainers were trained on all the components of Whole School Safety. Out of 217, 69 (Male 38 and 31 Female) were trained in Jammu division and 148 (Male 108 and Female 40) were trained in Kashmir division.
- ξ 100 School Safety Kits containing emergency first Aid boxes and Fire extinguishers were distributed to 100 Schools (50 in Jammu division and 50 in Kashmir division), supported by ELFA International's another partner START NETWORK UK

The Data and Graphs of the people trained are provided below.

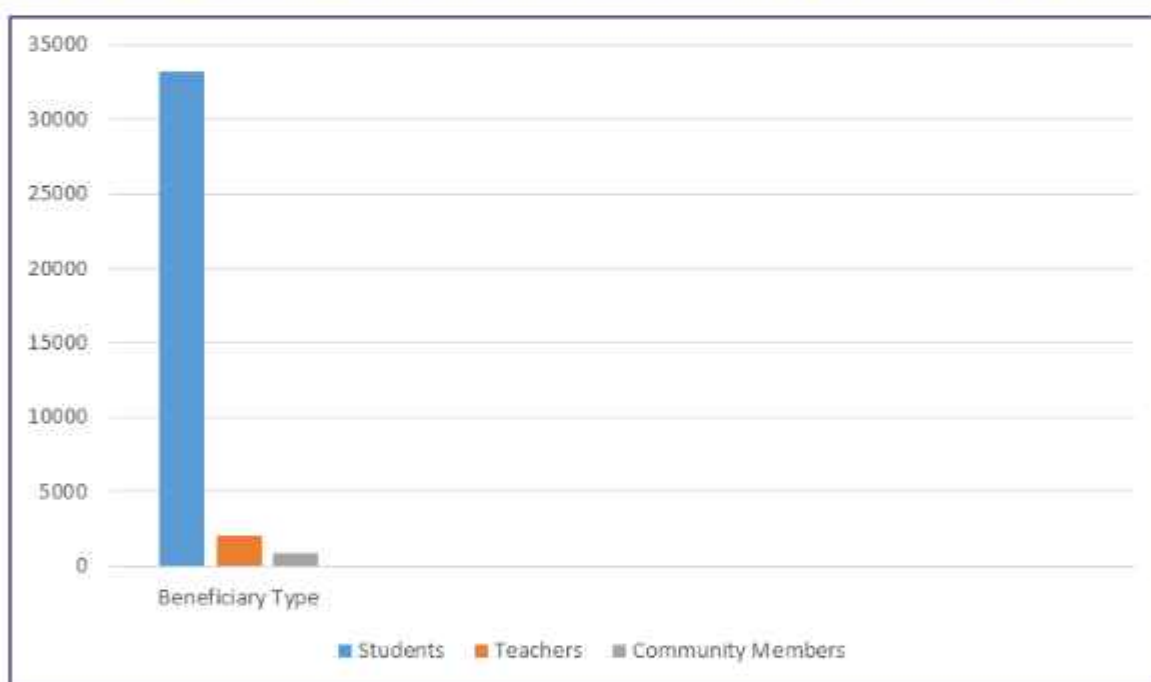
A: Tabular and Graphical Representation of People Trained Based on Their Region and Gender Number of People (Male and Female) Trained in Jammu and Kashmir

| REGION | FEMALE | MALE | TOTAL |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Kashmir | 11727 | 8780 | 20507 |
| Jammu | 9268 | 6379 | 15647 |
| Total | 20995 | 15159 | 36154 |

A1: Tabular and Graphical Representation of Beneficiaries Trained Based on Their Type

| TYPE OF BENEFICIARIES | TOTAL |
|-----------------------|--------------|
| Students | 33153 |
| Teachers | 2090 |
| Community Members | 911 |
| TOTAL | 36154 |

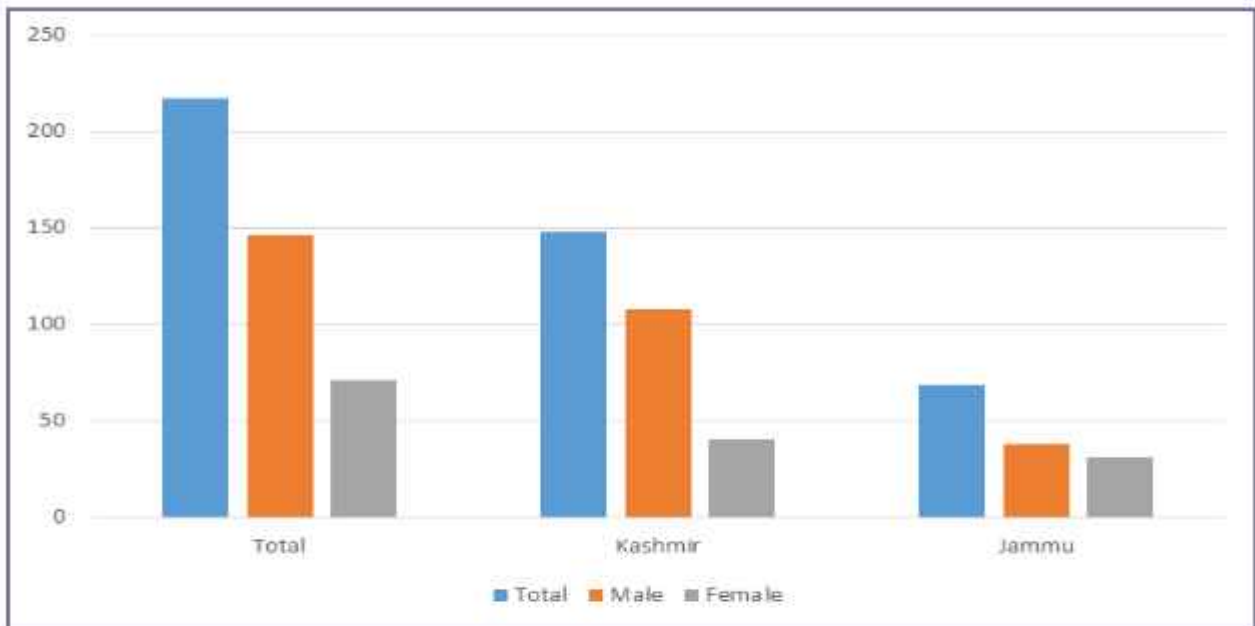
A2: Graph- Number of beneficiaries trained as per their type



A3: Tabular and Graphical Representation of Master Trainers Trained Based on Their Region and Gender

| REGION | MALE | FEMALE | TOTAL |
|--------------|------------|-----------|------------|
| Kashmir | 108 | 40 | 148 |
| Jammu | 38 | 31 | 69 |
| TOTAL | 146 | 71 | 217 |

A4: Graph- Total number of Master trainers (Male and Female) trained

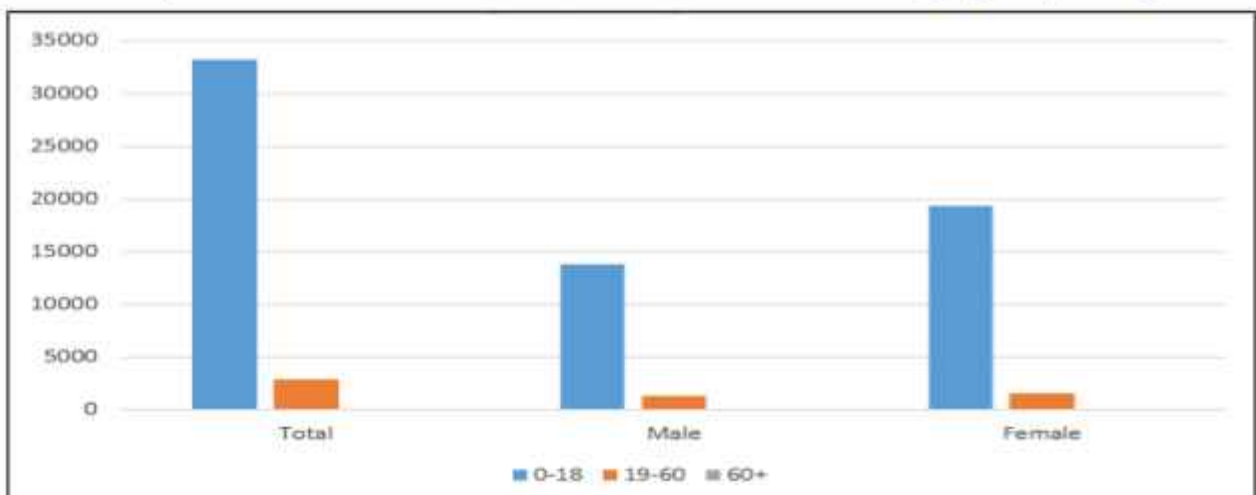


A5: Tabular and Graphical Representation of People Trained Based on Their Age Group and Gender.

Tabular Data for People Trained Based on Their Age Group and Gender.

| AGE GROUP | FEMALE | MALE | TOTAL |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| 0-18 | 19402 | 13808 | 33210 |
| 19-60 | 1579 | 1345 | 2924 |
| 60+ | 14 | 6 | 20 |
| TOTAL | 20995 | 15159 | 36154 |

A6: Graph- Number of beneficiaries trained based on age group and gender



5: Advocacy and Coordination

This year the Whole School Safety Manual was finalized and printed by the Directorate of Samagra Shiksha, 94000 copies of the manual were printed to be distributed among all the line departments and all 23000 school of Jammu and Kashmir, this has been a major achievement of the programme. For the first time in Jammu and Kashmir, all schools will now have school safety manuals. Samagra Shiksha has already printed and distributed training manuals to all schools, and they will be available for the next session.

ELFA International collaborated with Start Network UK and the Directorate of School Education, Kashmir to organize an awareness and school safety kit distribution programme at the Directorate of School Education, Kashmir. The programme aimed to raise participants' awareness of school safety and inclusion issues.



In addition to distributing "School Safety Kits" to the heads of institutions from 50 schools in the Kashmir region, these heads of institutions



Dr. Tassaduq Hussain Mir (JKAS), Director of School Education, spoke about the importance of safe and inclusive schools, emphasizing that no educational endeavor is complete unless it is designed with safety and inclusion in mind. Recalling ELFA International's

role in making schools safer and more inclusive, as well as sensitizing children on the various aspects of school safety, he stated that ELFA International has done an excellent job and has set a precedent by standardizing the school safety programme. He stated that the department is always willing to collaborate on such activities, or any other activity aimed at improving the school environment and students' well-being.

6: Whole School Safety Program Innovations

Ladi Shah, a storytelling musical genre, originated in Jammu and Kashmir, with roots in traditional and humorous folk singing originally sung by minstrels while travelling from place to place. It is commonly sung in Kashmiri to express anguish or entertain people in a rhythmic form that primarily revolves around political, social, and cultural issues in the form of a ballad or melodious satire. On some occasions, it is identified when an entertainer



raises their concerns in the form of humorous and melodic singing without a voice break. **Syed Areej**, the valley's first female **Ladishah** and an ELFA International team member, was instrumental in staging **Ladishah** plays centered on education and school safety, which included both a cheerful element and an innovative method of raising awareness among the participants.



In addition, members of our team performed street plays in various locations. A street play is distinguished by its catchy dialogue, appealing slogans, and powerful dramatic elements such as tragedy, humor, mimicry, and so on. These street plays were mostly held in the Jammu region to educate students and the general public about school safety.



7: Field Visit by Chief of Field Services UNICEF, India

Ms. Jalpa Ratna, Chief of Field Services UNICEF India, Mr. Tanveer Dar (Child Protection Specialist UNICEF), and Mr. Danish Aziz (Education Specialist UNICEF) visited our field in Jammu and participated in a one-day Whole School Safety training workshop



at Govt. Middle School Railway Colony Jammu. The workshop was interactive,



and many other activities were held in which students, teachers, and UNICEF India team guests took part. Ms. JalpaRatna was pleased after interacting with the students and teachers and asking them questions interacting with the students and about various aspects of

school safety. She also inspected the hand washing station, sanitary napkin dispenser, incinerator, and IEC material installed by ELFA International in the school during 2020 and praised the efforts of the ELFA International team.



8: Testimonials of Stake Holders

For the first time during my tenure, I attended a workshop of this nature, which was both informative and interactive. This programme will assist us in addressing many issues related to child protection and safety in due time, and we will know the proper system and procedure to report any untoward incident related to child abuse with its assistance. I sincerely appreciate the efforts of ELFA International and SamagraShiksha to make schools more accessible and child-friendly throughout Jammu and Kashmir.

(Mr. Tara Mani, Lecturer Govt. Higher Secondary School Hiranagar)

I used to be very hesitant when it came to maintaining personal hygiene during periods because I had many misconceptions. I feel very confident and prepared to deal with stereotypes that frequently lead to girls experiencing emotional abuse after attending the Whole School Safety Training Workshop. This is probably the most important thing I've learned this year. I plan to share this information with other girls in my family and friends so that they, too, can deal with the health and violence issues caused by poor menstrual hygiene management.

(Meenakshi Thapa , Class 11th Student Udhampur)

I was unaware of the devastating effects of harmful gases such as CO₂ and methane, which are steadily increasing in the atmosphere as a result of rapid industrialization and urbanisation. These gases are the primary cause of global warming and climate change. Following the Whole School Safety Training workshop, I learned about how we can reduce consumption, reuse items, and recycle goods to maximise resource utilisation in response to changing climatic conditions, as well as the importance of planting trees for environmental sustain ability.

(Vikram Singh, Class 10th Student Samba)

9: Media Coverage of Whole School Safety Programme (WSSP)

ELFA in collaboration with Samagra Shiksha organises One Day Workshop on Whole School Safety

ELFA International in collaboration with the Directorate of Samagra Shiksha, Jammu and JNECIP INDI organised a one-day training workshop for School Safety and DPT faculty members from 100+ Schools in Jammu, Jammu. The event was organised under the guidance of State Project Director Mr. Deep Raj Kapadia (JNECIP) and attended by Mr. Dinesh Kaur, Educational Specialist (JNECIP), Jammu, Mr. Sandeep Kumar (Coordinator) Samagra Shiksha, Mr. Ajay Sharma (State Coordinator) Samagra Shiksha, In-charge of Water Safety, Jammu and various officials of Jammu Division were present in Jammu & Kashmir Whole School Safety Programme (WSSP).

Following the guests, CEO ELFA International Mr. Ajay Sharma appreciated the participants and dignitaries of the essence and importance of the Whole School Safety Programme and the role of ELFA International in implementing the same. He also paid a vote of thanks to Samagra Shiksha and JNECIP for their ardent technical and logistic support. He also presented an encouraging outlook of the components like DPT, WSSP, SARF, WSSP and others which are integral to Whole School Safety and the responsibility both government and individuals have to play in ensuring the implementation of all these components in letter and spirit.

Mr. Dinesh Kaur spoke of the activities and their status of WSSP while at the same time ensuring general support from JNECIP in programme for these. He spoke at length about the activities and activities of WSSP and its contribution into the present phase. He stated that the workshop was a very important step in making WSSP a reality and asked if their paper is ground, he appreciated the entire crew of ELFA International in Jammu.



Mr. Ajay Sharma spoke of the importance of WSSP and its role in ensuring school safety. He spoke of the growing concern and anxiety among the stakeholders in the various aspects of school safety and the welcoming change of growing government response to these vulnerabilities by means of the enactment of programs like WSSP. Mr. Sandeep Kumar expressed his appreciation for the programme and the role of ELFA International in making WSSP a reality and asked if their paper is ground, he appreciated the entire crew of ELFA International in Jammu.

The workshop concluded by Mr. Ajay Sharma, CEO ELFA International, who thanked the participants and the organizers for their participation in the workshop. He also presented the role of ELFA International in making WSSP a reality and asked if their paper is ground, he appreciated the entire crew of ELFA International in Jammu.

ELFA in collaboration with Samagra Shiksha organises 2 back to back One Day Workshops on Whole School Safety Programme

ELFA International in collaboration with the Directorate of Samagra Shiksha, Jammu and JNECIP INDI organised 2 back to back training workshops for Water Safety (WSSP) and DPT faculty members from 100+ Schools in Jammu, Jammu. The event was organized under the guidance of State Project Director Mr. Deep Raj Kapadia (JNECIP) and attended by Mr. Dinesh Kaur, Educational Specialist (JNECIP), Jammu, Mr. Sandeep Kumar (Coordinator) Samagra Shiksha, In-charge of Water Safety, Jammu and various officials of Jammu Division were present in Jammu & Kashmir Whole School Safety Programme (WSSP).

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"School Safety Kits Distribution Program"

ELFA International in collaboration with Directorate of School Education, Jammu, organised an awareness cum School Safety Kit distribution program under the title "School Safety Kits Distribution Program". The program aimed at raising the awareness of the stakeholders on School Safety and Disaster Preparedness by distributing the "School Safety Kit" among the faculty members from 100+ Schools in Jammu region. Mr. Dinesh Kaur, Educational Specialist (JNECIP), Jammu, was the chief guest on the occasion. Mr. Sandeep Kumar, Educational Specialist (JNECIP), Jammu, was the guest of honor. The event was organized under the guidance of Mr. Sandeep Kumar, Educational Specialist (JNECIP), Jammu, and Mr. Ajay Sharma, CEO ELFA International, Jammu.

The program started with a cultural performance by Mr. Sandeep Kumar, Educational Specialist (JNECIP), Jammu, who presented an encouraging outlook of the components like DPT, WSSP, SARF, WSSP and others which are integral to Whole School Safety and the responsibility both government and individuals have to play in ensuring the implementation of all these components in letter and spirit.

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The program concluded with "School Safety Kit" comprising of the participants and other stakeholders being presented by Mr. Sandeep Kumar, Educational Specialist (JNECIP), Jammu, who presented an encouraging outlook of the components like DPT, WSSP, SARF, WSSP and others which are integral to Whole School Safety and the responsibility both government and individuals have to play in ensuring the implementation of all these components in letter and spirit.

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ELFA International observes International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction 2022

Jammu, Oct 13:

In the wake of International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction and as a part of its "Whole School Safety Program", ELFA International in collaboration with Directorate of Samagra Shiksha today organised two grand awareness cum orientation workshops for the students and faculty of MPM Higher Secondary, Bag 1 Dillawal Khan, Srinagar and Govt. Boys Higher Secondary School, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu, respectively.

The event kick-started with the members from ELFA International introducing students and faculty members to ELFA International, its aims and objectives, previous accomplishments and future endeavours. In his inaugural speech, Mr. Mahan introduced students to the contours of the Whole School Safety Program (WSSP), explicating its scope, importance and urgency. He also traced the trajectory of WSSP - its conception and inception in 2020 and its further evolution in 21 and 22. He introduced comprehensive to the components of WSSP including MHM, DRR, WASH, MHPSS, EVAC, GBV and other allied and auxiliary domains. Syed Ashraf, Regional Coordinator at ELFA International, gave



a thorough and comprehensive presentation on Disasters, their classification, mitigation and loss minimisation among these. He sensitised the participants to the practice of disaster preparedness and emphasised the exigency of proactive structural and administrative measures. Speaking on the loss of life and property rising in the wake of any disaster, he delineated the necessity and pressing urgency to take these disasters seriously.

WINTERIZATION, EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT & FOOD PROGRAM (SOCIAL & CHARITY)-

ELFA International as part of its mandate distributed monthly/seasonal Ration Packs among 51678 persons belonging to the poorest/neediest families and the people affected by the heat wave (Jammu Region) across the union territory of Jammu & Kashmir in close coordination and collaboration with the district administrations in every district.

This year has been very difficult because of the harsh winters; many people were badly affected across the Kashmir. ELFA International distributed 1020 winter packs consisting of blankets, quilts, mattresses, pillows, hot water bags, winter caps and socks. ELFA International also distributed 750 monthly Ration Packs during the month of Ramadan (March 2023). In addition, organization also provided educational support to the needy children in Jammu & Kashmir.



LIVELIHOOD SUPPORT



150 Families - 750 persons

ELFA International, in collaboration with Development Commissioner (Handicrafts), Ministry of Textiles, Government of India, organised a one day awareness cum orientation seminar/workshop under Research and Development scheme, National Handicrafts Development Programme (NHDP) with artisans and handicraft workers, here at hotel Solar Residency, Rajbagh. The event aimed at introducing various schemes offered by DCH to artisans, and to raise their awareness regarding allied schemes and the means and methods to avail the same. The resource persons drawn from various departments and sectors disseminated the necessary information among the participants, opening up various dimensions and bringing into light the various facets of the sector.

A Nine-Day Swavalamban Silai Schools Capacity Building Program was organized at Kalaros and Vilgam, Kupwara by ELFA International in collaboration with USHA International. The program is a part of ELFA International's commitment to livelihood generation program and is an essential part of its Capacity Building and Leadership Programme. The event was attended by the Additional District Development Commissioner Mr. G.N. Bhat (JKAS), Mehran Khan, CEO ELFA International, Mr. Mir Iftikhar, Sr. Vice President ELFA International, Senior Management of ELFA International and Ms. Shayista, State Manager from USHA International. The Program intends to provide livelihood and income generating opportunities to 50 women from various parts of the district Kupwara who can in turn be Master Trainers, teach and mentor their fellow villagers interested in the programme. The program was conceived with a view of ushering avenues of dignified livelihood to the trainees and kicking in a chain reaction of sorts aimed at the poverty alleviation of the beneficiaries.

ELFA International implemented an innovation project on introducing summer peas in district Baramulla in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture, 50 families were provided support under this project.

MENSTRUAL HYGIENE MANAGEMENT (MHM)



The U.N commission on status of women recommends creating health and educational opportunities that promote menstruation as normal and natural. Around the world, a growing coalition of academics, donors, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), United Nations agencies, grassroots women's organizations, multinational feminine hygiene companies and social entrepreneurs are mobilizing to bring attention and resources to address the menstrual related shame, embarrassment and taboos experienced by many girls in low and middle income countries. This informal coalition is advocating the improved provision of puberty guidance, sanitary materials, and water and sanitation facilities for girls in school.

Changing taboos requires systems to change and education is the only way out. Persistent and skilful mobilization of individuals from the academic, NGO, and social entrepreneurial sectors, combined with leadership from select United Nations entities and important private-public-partnerships can collectively raise awareness and make a huge difference.

ELFA International is working for gender equality. We happen to be a team of dreamers with a collective vision who believe, world without barriers should be right of everyone irrespective of gender, religion, caste, place of birth and so on. We are striving hard to advance rights of women folk who unfortunately happen to be in a very disadvantageous situation. We are doing our bit to ensure, our society is well educated with respect to MHM needs of our womenfolk. Our mission is to end period stigma and to empower all menstruators. So far in this financial year our organization has been able to reach out 26746 students, teachers (women & men) and women with respect to MHM.

MAJOR COMPONENTS:

Major components of ELFA International:

1. ELFA International does a great job to provide awareness, knowledge and information to every adolescent girl and woman, and their families including men and adolescent boys, so that menstruation is understood and can be managed safely with confidence and dignity.
2. ELFA International does provide three Sanitary napkins in schools they visit to every girl student and to the female staff working there. Intention is to make menstrual materials accessible to everyone.
3. Sanitary napkin vending machines in toilets which are semiautomatic are being installed in schools across J&K by ELFA International. So far, we've done it in almost 60 schools and we are looking at covering almost every school.
4. Incinerators or feminine hygiene bins are also being provided to schools for disposing menstrual waste material.
5. ELFA International is putting in great efforts for the differently-abled of our community to aware masses of their rights and does take special care of their MHM needs. Women and girls with disabilities are consulted and made a part of the MHM program in all stages of the intervention.
6. Our organization is committed to provide, promote and improve WASH facilities to promote safe and hygienic practices among women and adolescent girls. Inadequate WASH facilities at schools have been reported to be the reason of school absenteeism and diminished school performance so lot of efforts are being made to make sure, we're overcoming this problem.
7. ELFA International does conduct workshops in every School we visit to generate awareness among teachers and employees about menstruation and MHM so that they support girls by providing safe environment.
8. We do encourage teachers to set up committees in schools to collect funds for providing Sanitary napkins, soaps, water and toilet facilities in schools.
9. We are reaching out to Community health workers to connect them to schools and deliver puberty education and sex education. ASHA and Anganwadi workers can help in breaking taboos and embrace the work of MHM.
10. Comprehensive programs that engage boys and men are being organized by ELFA so that they can support women and girls in managing menstruation in schools, workplaces and at home.
11. We are reaching out to different civil society groups, organizations and administrative higher ups to help us for this noble cause and we did get great support. Recent General Administrative Department (Government of J&K) order about installing of Sanitary napkin vending machines and incinerators in schools does stand a testimony of it.
12. Expansion beyond schools is what we've been working for really hard and after the outbreak of deadly corona virus, we happen to be first NGO to reach out to quarantine centres throughout Kashmir to deliver reusable sanitary kits.
13. ELFA International last year launched the VYES (FRIEND) initiative with the objective to spread awareness on MHM and address taboos related to menstruation. Under this initiative we provide free sanitary napkins for a period of six months irrespective of the age or economic background.
14. In this process of Menstrual Hygiene Management, we make sure that the customs and beliefs of communities aren't offended.

ADVANCED LIFE SUPPORT AMBULANCE:

ELFA International handed over an Advanced Life Support Ambulance to Primary Healthcare Centre, Kachwari, Khansahib, Budgam with financial support from NTT DATA, a global digital business and IT services leader. As part of its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) efforts, NTT DATA joined with ELFA International to support its mission of addressing the healthcare needs of the people in Jammu & Kashmir by enabling first-line treatment and safe transportation of patients from far flung areas.

The ceremony was graced by Honourable Justice Ali Mohammad Magray, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, Mr. Mohammad Ashraf Malik, Principal District & Sessions Judge/Chairman DLSA Budgam, Mr. M. K. Sharma, Member Secretary JKLSA, Mr. Malik Shabir, Chief Judicial Magistrate, Budgam, Mr. Syed Fakruddin Hamid (IAS), District Development Commissioner, Budgam Mr. Tahir Saleem Khan-JKPS, SSP Budgam, Mr. Abdul Baari, Joint Registrar, High Court, Ms. Fozia Paul, Secretary District Legal Services Authority Budgam, Dr Lahoot Hassan Khan I/C CMOS, Budgam, Dr. Arshad Qadri, BMO, Khansahib, Dr. Sadaf Shah, Communications Senior Analyst, Corporate Social Responsibility NTT Data Services, Mr. Mir Iftikhar Ahmad, Sr. Vice-President, ELFA International, Mr. Mehran Khan, CEO, ELFA International and senior team member of ELFA International.

Honourable Justice Ali Mohammad Magray, speaking at the occasion said that ELFA International is doing a commendable job in Jammu & Kashmir, "I thank ELFA International and its partner NTT DATA to donate an Advanced Life Support Ambulance to primary healthcare center Khansahib, Budgam, the entire district will be benefited by this service", he congratulated the entire team of ELFA International and its partners for doing a wonderful job. He also invited the team members from NTT DATA to visit district Budgam to take forward the partnership with ELFA International. All other dignitaries present at the occasion also appreciated the work of ELFA International

Commenting on the occasion, Mr. Ankur Dasgupta, Vice President, Global CSR & India Marketing, NTT DATA Service said, "We believe healthcare should be accessible to everyone-where they need it and when they need it. We are inspired by ELFA International's mission to address these needs of people in the remote areas of Jammu & Kashmir and are proud to support their vision by providing an Advanced Life Support Ambulance to Primary Healthcare Center in Kachwari, Khansahib, Budgam. It is a small step, but we feel the ambulance will serve the local community well."

Adding to this, Ms. Uzma Bashir, President ELFA International said "We are delighted to join hands with a global leader like NTT DATA in our mission to improve the healthcare facilities across Jammu & Kashmir. Today, as we donate an Advanced Life Support Ambulance to Government Primary Healthcare Centre in Kachwari, Khansahib, Budgam, we are happy that many lives will benefit from this."

50,000
People
Benefitted.



YOUTH DEVELOPMENT, LEADERSHIP & SPORTS

ELFA INTERNATIONAL through its expertise and efforts has tried to reach out to the youth, using HAND in HAND approach in various districts of Jammu & Kashmir.

ELFA International organized a mega Football Tournament in Gurez Valley of district Bandipora. Among others present at the Finals were Mr. Mohamad Ashraf Hakak ADDC Bandipora, DR. Mudasir, SDM Gurez, Mr. Bashir Ahmad SDPO Gurez. The final match ended up in a round of penalties and SFA Football club emerged as winners, Sports Club Bandipora Dawar football came up as the runner up and Dawar Football club as the 2nd Runner up. Zakir Hussain Dar was awarded Man of the tournament.

The event which was kick started by SDM Gurez Dr. Mudasir on 1st of July 2022, concluded here on 5th of July 2022. The event was attended by a huge crowd who had gathered from Gurez and adjacent areas. The event not only provided a rear occasion to the players to show their talent and sportsmanship, but provided the spectators with a climax of entertainment and show. The people appreciated the efforts of district administration and ELFA International for making the event possible and also asked the ELFA International to continue such events in future too. The people also hailed the ELFA International for its tireless efforts in the field of humanitarian sector and requested the organisation to extend its educational and healthcare programs in the area.



Mr. Hakak said in his speech that the district administration Bandipora and sub divisional administration is committed to the overall and holistic growth and development of youth. The event was also graced by SDPO Gurez, Mr Bashir Ahmad (JKPS) Expressing himself on collaborating with ELFA International, he appreciated the initiatives taken up by ELFA international in the direction of youth leadership programs, drug de-addiction via sports activities and the overall spectrum of their humanitarian and social work. He said that the administration aspires to take these events to all zones of district Bandipora and expressed his intent to collaborate with ELFA international to organise events like these in future too. The winning team was given a cash award of Rs. 50,000 and the runner-up team received a cash prize of Rs. 25,000, second Runner- Up received a cash prize of Rs. 15,000 and each participating team was presented a token of appreciation of Rs. 3000 to encourage them and enhance their sporting activities from ELFA International. Hakak, while complimenting Elfa international appreciated ELFA International's efforts in carrying these activities far and wide to all corners of the Union territory. He ensured the administration's active support to events like these which not only provide positive engagement to the youth but also act as anti-drug addiction agents. Dr Mudasir Ahmad SDM Gurez, emphasised the role of such programs in places like Gurez which are otherwise cut off and therefore left alone from the mainstream buzz of the state and people lack the requisite exposure. He said that programs like these are pivotal in developing leadership qualities among youth and also have a positive role in acting as a deterrent against the growing menace of drug abuse. He said that these activities also have the potential to engage youth in long-term sports activities, ensuring their physical, mental and social well-being.

ELFA International also organized first ever Souz Loung competition in district Kupwara, Souz Loung is a centuries old local support played throughout the Kashmir Valley, everyone appreciated this event and were very happy about ELFA International's efforts of reviving the local sports



DISABILITY & INCLUSION:



ELFA International since its inception has been working to promote equal rights of persons with disabilities, organization has been organizing awareness and advocacy programs across the UT of Jammu & Kashmir. This is the commission for persons with disabilities has been reconstituted, immediately after the commission became functional ELFA International in collaboration with the Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities organized 2 major events to celebrate International Day of Persons with Disabilities both in Kashmir as well as Jammu region.

Panel discussions were held at Srinagar as well as Jammu on Affirmative Action's for Children with Disability whereby the provisions in legal framework have notified to provide aids and appliances to persons with disability. Discussing about the education standard from the perspective, it was stated in the higher education context, disabled students struggle and have to face accessibility barriers including bad roads, no provision for ramps to help with wheelchair mobility, and inaccessible washrooms. In places where these facilities are provided, they are not in good condition. The failure to provide barrier-free infrastructure, the unavailability of lifts and the lack of a special transport system make it extremely difficult for disabled students to survive life on campus. In addition, the failure to provide adequate and accessible accommodation and transportation increases the financial burden on disabled students and their families as they have to provide these facilities for themselves, leading many to drop-out due to unaffordability.

Educational institutions have less number of specialists which becomes challenging to retain the percentage of disable children in schools because there are very less chances of understanding the specialized needs to make their institutions accessible for the disabled students. This argument is problematic because disabled students will not apply to institutions which do not have adequate and accessible infrastructure. Thus, even with the 5% reservation, the enrollment rate of disabled students remains low. To attract disabled students, higher education institutions must provide adequate and accessible facilities. Inclusive approach should be incorporated to promote child-to-child learning and participation of stakeholders in the execution of services.



The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 simply called the RPWD act, promotes and protects the rights and dignity of people with disabilities in educational, social, legal, economic, cultural and political spheres. The RPWD Act, 2016 was enacted in 2016 and came into force in 2017. The Act lays responsibility on the appropriate government to take measures and ensure that PWDs enjoy equal rights. The types of disabilities are shown in the RPWD Act 21 (twenty one) publicized from blindness to Parkinson's disease. All children with benchmark disabilities between 6 and 18 years shall have the right to free education. The act increased the reservation for people with benchmark disabilities from 3% to 4% in government jobs and from 3% to 5% in higher education institutes. Stress has been given to ensure accessibility in public buildings.

For an ideal inclusion program there must be strong parent teacher association group insisting on the importance of parental involvement. This would enable to bring attitudinal changes on disability related issues in parents. It is critical that parents are made aware of the goals of inclusive education. The emphasis were put on promoting INCLUSIVE EDUCATION in Jammu & Kashmir, the panelists/experts were,

JAMMU PANEL DISCUSSION:

1. Mr. Iqbal Lone - Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities
2. Ms. Sukaniya Bhan - Disability Rights Activist, Jammu
3. Ms. Sandhya Dhar - Disability Rights Activist, Jammu
4. Mr. Prem Sagar - Secretary J&K High Court Legal Services Committee, Jammu
5. Mr. Mehran Khan - CEO ELFA INTERNATIONAL

SRINAGAR PANEL DISCUSSION:

6. Mr. Danish Aziz - Education Specialist, J&K, UNICEF India
7. Ms. Aurelia Ardito - Education Specialist, UNICEF India
8. Ms. Naila Neelofer - Assistant Director Academics, JKBOSE
9. Ms. Fozia Paul - Secretary, DLSA Srinagar, Kashmir
10. Ms. Rubeena Salma - HOD Inclusive Education, JKSCERT Kashmir
11. Mr. Amir Suhail Wani - Social Innovations Officer, ELFA International



WOMEN EMPOWERMENT & LEADERSHIP:



ELFA International has been working for the promotion of Women Empowerment and Leadership since its inception, under the same program this year ELFA International trained more than 300 Women PRI members in collaboration with the Department of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj supported by Netherlands Embassy. Training included components like, Micro Planning, Use of Social Media, Representational Skills, Life Skills, Awareness on Electoral Process, Legislations, Different Helplines at Country and State Level.



INTERNSHIP & VOLUNTEERISM:

There are more than 1.2 billion young people (defined by the United Nations as between 15 and 24 years of age) in the world today, the largest group in history. Young people are key agents for social change, and are providing the energy, creative ideas and determination to drive innovation and reform. Volunteerism is an important and increasingly popular mechanism for young people to bring out positive change in society, and it is becoming more and more relevant mechanism to engage young people in global peace and sustainable human development. For instance, as governments, United Nations entities and civil society organizations debate and articulate the post-2015 development agenda, there is a strong call for a bottom-up process in which young people's voices are included and youth are actively engaged in the process, and volunteering is a viable mechanism for this. Young people increasingly feel that the volunteerism complements formal education in teaching the skills that are required for job market, such as leadership, teamwork, problem-solving, planning, management, creativity, communication and negotiation. This is especially important given the current global economic downturn, where competition for jobs is increasing. We at ELFA INTERNATIONAL promote volunteerism and encourage people to associate with us, in case you are interested please contact us on info@elfainternational.org



OUR PARTNERS

- 1) Government of UT of Jammu & Kashmir
- 2) Directorate of School Education - Kashmir
- 3) Directorate of School Education - Jammu
- 4) Directorate of Samgra Shiksha, J&K
- 5) UNICEF
- 6) Niine India
- 7) NTT DATA Services
- 8) Netherlands Embassy
- 9) START NETWORK UK
- 10) Ministry of Textiles, Government of India
- 11) Response USA for Relief & Development



सत्यमेव जयते

Government of Jammu and Kashmir



unicef 
for every child

Niine

NTT DATA



Kingdom of the Netherlands



सत्यमेव जयते

वस्त्र मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF
TEXTILES



Response USA
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