

# Quarterly Progress Report

July - September 2022



## BACK TO SCHOOL

Founder: Safeena Husain | 3 States | 17,624 Villages | 18,298 Volunteers | 2,560 Employees



**Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world**

~Nelson Mandela

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



This quote summarises what Educate Girls strives to achieve while working towards girls' education in remote areas of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh. Changing mindsets in the communities where we work has always been a challenge. Our beneficiary group includes out-of-school girls (OOSG) belonging to marginalised communities and are first generation learners who come with no connect whatsoever to education. Even in the face of grave challenges, we persevere and remain motivated when

devising innovative approaches to overcome all hurdles like increased parental hesitancy in sending their children to school.

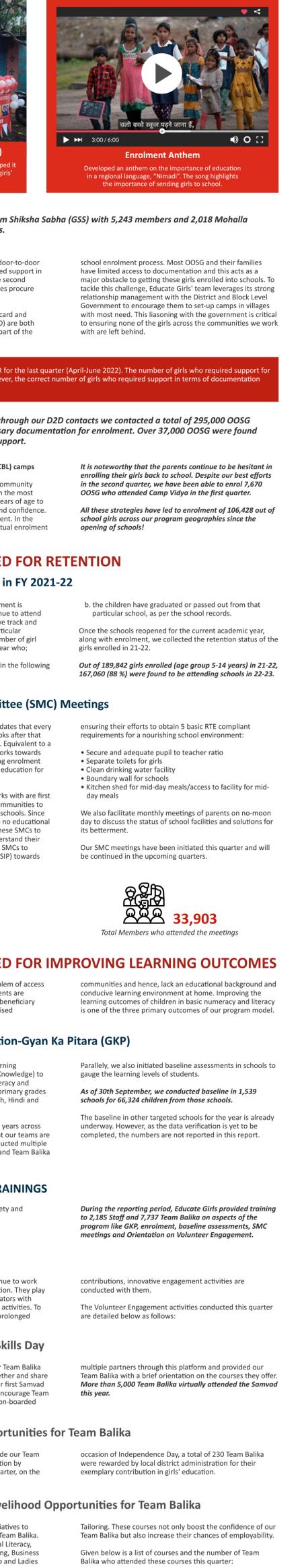
During the second quarter, we focused on OOSG. Along with enrolment, we also initiated baseline assessments for our in-school supplementary learning intervention-Gyan Ka Pitara (GKP).

## SNAPSHOT OF ACTIVITIES - July to September 2022

ACTIVITIES	IMPACT Nos
No. of OOSG enrolled	106,428
<b>In School Learning Intervention- Gyan Ka Pitara (GKP)</b>	
Total no. of GKP Schools	1,539
Total no. of GKP beneficiaries	66,324
<b>Staff and Team Balika trainings</b>	
No. of staff trained	2,185
No. of Team Balika trained	7,737
<b>School Management Committee (SMC) trainings</b>	
No. of SMCs formalized	3,114
No. of SMC members trained	33,903

## PROGRAMMATIC ACTIVITIES

July to September 2022



### ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED FOR ENROLMENT

#### Enrolment of OOSG in schools

After schools reopened at 100% capacity after a gap of over two years, the teams intensified their efforts to maximise enrolment of OOSG in schools. Different strategies were adopted to ensure that the teams were equipped with the proper support to achieve high enrolments.

Since schools opened up in July, Educate Girls has successfully enrolled 106,428 OOSG back in schools!

To ensure that girls return to school, the following strategies and innovations have paved the way in Q2 (July-September 2022):

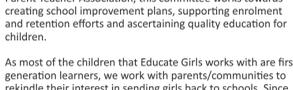
#### Innovations in Community Mobilisation Activities

• **Community Mobilisation Meetings-Gram Shiksha Sabha (GSS) and Mohalla Meetings (MM)**

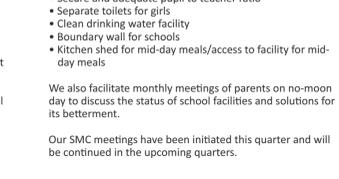
In order to bring mindset change in people towards girls' education and to create a sustainable ecosystem of support for girls, we mobilise parents and communities. As an initiative to build trust among parents and create a safe space for all their concerns, we conducted multiple home visits and counselling sessions in the form of Community Mobilisation Meetings called Gram Shiksha Sabha (GSS) and Mohalla Meetings (MM).

GSS are organised at a village level where there is a high concentration of OOSG or where we require extensive support from village influencers. On the other hand, MM are conducted in small lanes or mohallas with a concentrated number of OOSG.

Our Team Balika usually play a lead or supportive role to our Field Coordinators in organising these meetings. The focus of discussions in these meetings revolve around barriers to enrolment, possible local solutions and support required from community members for the same.



**Siksha Rath (Education Chariot)**  
We discovered a vehicle with posters and equipped it with large LED displays that played videos on girls' education travelling across villages.



**Enrolment Anthem**  
Developed an anthem on the importance of education in a regional language, "Nimadi". The song highlights the importance of sending girls to school.

**In this quarter, we organized 174 Gram Shiksha Sabha (GSS) with 5,243 members and 2,018 Mohalla Meetings (MM) with 27,652 members.**

This year during Q1 when we conducted our door-to-door (D2D) contacts, we identified girls who required support in terms of documentation for enrolment. In the second quarter, we helped those girls and their families procure these documents.

school enrolment process. Most OOSG and their families have limited access to documentation and this acts as a major obstacle to getting these girls enrolled into schools. To tackle this challenge, Educate Girls' team leverages its strong relationship management with the District and Block Level Government to encourage them to set-up camps in villages with most need. This liaisoning with the government is critical to ensuring none of the girls across the communities we work with are left behind.

Government ID proof in the form of Aadhaar card and Samagra Samajik Suraksha Mission ID (SSMID) are both required in our programme geographies as a part of the

\*There was a typographical error in the QPR for the last quarter (April-June 2022). The number of girls who required support for documentation was given as 300,064. However, the correct number of girls who required support in terms of documentation identified in Q1 was actually 30,064.

**In the first two quarters of this year, through our D2D contacts we contacted a total of 295,000 OOSG and out of them over 23% lack necessary documentation for enrolment. Over 37,000 OOSGs were found in Q2 who required documentation support.**

• **Camp Vidya - Community based learning (CBL) camps**

In the first quarter, Educate Girls conducted Community Based Learning camps (CBL)-Camp Vidya- with the most marginalised OOSG in the age group of 7-14 years of age to build their foundational literacy, motivation and confidence. This was an effort made to incentivise enrolment. In the second quarter, our teams focused on the actual enrolment of these girls into schools.

It is noteworthy that the parents continue to be hesitant in enrolling their girls back to school. Despite our best efforts in the second quarter, we have been able to enrol 7,670 OOSG who attended Camp Vidya in the first quarter.

All these strategies have led to enrolment of 106,428 out of school girls across our program geographies since the opening of schools!

### ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED FOR RETENTION

#### Retention of OOSG enrolled in FY 2021-22

One of the critical factors of a successful enrolment is retention of the out-of-school girls who continue to attend school and gain education. At Educate Girls, we track and ensure retention of OOSG enrolled in that particular academic year. We define retention as the number of girl children enrolled by Educate Girls in a given year who;

b. the children have graduated or passed out from that particular school, as per the school records.

a. continue to be in the attendance register in the following year or

Once the schools reopened for the current academic year, along with enrolment, we collected the retention status of the girls enrolled in 21-22.

**Out of 189,842 girls enrolled (age group 5-14 years) in 21-22, 167,060 (88 %) were found to be attending schools in 22-23.**

#### School Management Committee (SMC) Meetings

The Right to Education Act (RTE) of India mandates that every school should have a functioning SMC that looks after that school's governance and infrastructure needs. Equivalent to a Parent Teacher Association, this committee works towards creating school improvement plans, supporting enrolment and retention efforts and ascertaining quality education for children.

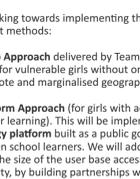
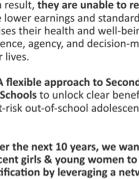
ensuring their efforts to obtain 5 basic RTE compliant requirements for a nourishing school environment:

- Secure and adequate water supply to teacher ratio
- Separate toilets for girls
- Clean drinking water facility
- Boundary wall for schools
- Kitchen shed for mid-day meals/access to facility for mid-day meals

As most of the children that Educate Girls works with are first generation learners, we work with parents/communities to ensure personal growth and development of Team Balika. Since these community members have minimum to no educational qualifications, we support towards formalising these SMCs to help build their capacity so that they can understand their roles and responsibilities. We handhold these SMCs to prepare effective School Improvement Plans (SIP) towards

We also facilitate monthly meetings of parents on no-moon day to discuss the status of school facilities and solutions for its betterment.

Our SMC meetings have been initiated this quarter and will be continued in the upcoming quarters.



### ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED FOR IMPROVING LEARNING OUTCOMES

Going to school alone does not solve the problem of access to quality education, it is important that students are provided quality education to learn well. The beneficiary group that we work with come from marginalised

communities and hence, lack an educational background and conducive learning environment at home. Improving the learning outcomes of children in basic numeracy and literacy is one of the three primary outcomes of our program model.

#### In-school Learning Intervention-Gyan Ka Pitara (GKP)

Our staff delivers in-house supplementary learning curriculum i.e. Gyan Ka Pitara (Repository of Knowledge) to build micro competencies in Foundational Literacy and Numeracy in schools for children studying in primary grades upto class 5. The curriculum focuses on English, Hindi and Mathematics.

Parallely, we also initiated baseline assessments in schools to gauge the learning levels of students.

This year, we are implementing GKP after two years across our program geographies. Thus, to ensure that our teams are equipped with the right information, we conducted multiple training sessions with our Field Coordinators and Team Balika this quarter.

As of 30th September, we conducted baseline in 1,539 schools for 66,324 children from those schools.

The baseline in other targeted schools for the year is already underway. However, as the data verification is yet to be completed, the numbers are not reported in this report.

#### STAFF AND TEAM BALIKA TRAININGS

Staff and Team Balika while ensuring their safety and wellbeing at all times.

During the reporting period, Educate Girls provided training to 2,185 Staff and 7,737 Team Balika on aspects of the program like GKP, enrolment, baseline assessments, SMC meetings and Orientation on Volunteer Engagement.

#### VOLUNTEER ENGAGEMENT

Team Balika, our community volunteers continue to work relentlessly towards the cause of Girl's Education. They play the crucial role of providing clear benefits for the support in implementation of all of our program activities. To retain these Team Balika and to ensure their prolonged

contributions, innovative engagement activities are conducted with them.

The Volunteer Engagement activities conducted this quarter are detailed below as follows:

#### 1. Samvad on World Youth Skills Day

In 2021, we initiated Samvad as a platform for Team Balika across our program geographies to come together and share their experiences. This year, we conducted our first Samvad on the occasion of World Youth Skills Day to encourage Team Balika to join Skill Development Courses. We on-boarded

multiple partners through this platform and provided our Team Balika with a brief orientation on the courses they offer. More than 5,000 Team Balika virtually attended the Samvad this year.

#### 2. External awards and opportunities for Team Balika

Along with internal recognition, we also provide our Team Balika with opportunities for external recognition by nominating them for external awards. This quarter, on the

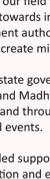
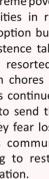
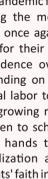
occasion of Independence Day, a total of 230 Team Balika were rewarded by local district administration for their exemplary contribution in girls' education.

#### 3. Skill Development and Livelihood Opportunities for Team Balika

This quarter, Educate Girls piloted various initiatives to ensure personal growth and development of Team Balika. These courses include English Speaking, Digital Literacy, Agriculture and allied courses, Digital Marketing, Business Literacy, Tallying, Basic Computers, Leadership and Ladies

Tailoring. These courses not only boost the confidence of our Team Balika but also increase their chances of employability.

Given below is a list of courses and the number of Team Balika who attended these courses this quarter:

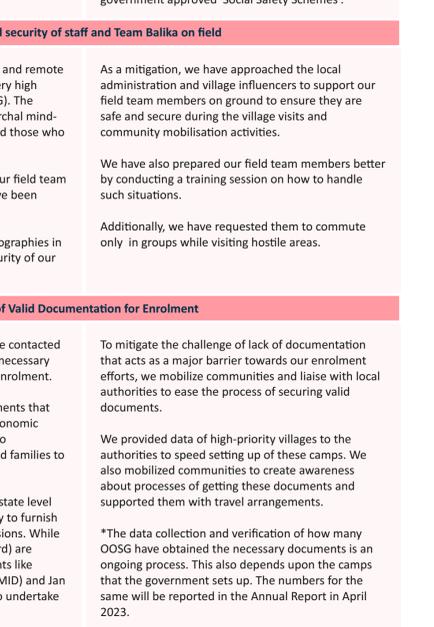


A total of 1,444 Team Balika were benefitted from these courses and 97 of them have been linked to job opportunities.

Competency Mapping conducted as an engagement activity last quarter enabled us to identify these Team Balika. Witnessing their peers as trainers also motivated the rest of the Team Balika to participate in engagement activities.

Additionally, this year for the first time, we have been able to identify 32 Team Balika as Master Trainers for GKP trainings.

## SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVES



#### 1. Project Pragati- A second chance program

66 million\* girls in India between the ages of 15-25 are permanently at risk of never completing their secondary education. As a result, they are unable to reach their full potential, have lower earnings and standards of living. This in turn compromises their health and well-being, as well as their independence, agency, and decision-making across all aspects of their lives.

Improve life chances by building aspiration, confidence and agency.

**The Solution: A flexible approach to Secondary Education through Open Schools** to unlock clear benefits for the permanently at-risk out-of-school adolescent girls and young women.

We are working towards implementing the Pragati solution via 2 distinct methods:

• **The Camp Approach** delivered by Team Pragati & NGO Partners (for vulnerable girls without online access in the most remote and marginalised geographies)

• **The Platform Approach** (for girls with access to digital devices for learning). This will be implemented via a technology platform built as a public good for all 10th grade open school learners. We will adopt a strategy to reduce the size of the user base accessing the open school opportunity, by building partnerships with other NGOs, social businesses and by developing individual mentors as social entrepreneurs.

**Our Vision: Over the next 10 years, we want to enable 8 million adolescent girls & young women to achieve their secondary certification by leveraging a network of open schools.**

The model is being developed by testing out efficacy of various components of the program and the principles of scale through pilots for the hardest to reach beneficiaries.

**Project Pragati** aims to enrol Permanently at Risk Out of School Adolescent Girls and young women into 4-month-long village-based bridge camps run by trained mentors in the community to:

- Help them gain credentials by passing the 10th-grade exam through open schools.

1. Census 2011, UDISE 2019-20 and PLFS 2018-19

#### 2. Government Collaborations-MoU for Technical Partnership with the Government of Rajasthan

Our 15-year intervention in 10 of the most adverse districts of Rajasthan is brought to fruition as we observe lesser number of OOSG in these geographies. Furthermore, the most recent National Achievement Survey (NAS) reported significant improvements in the student's enrolment and learning levels in the state.

these districts. Acknowledging the success of our program, the Government of Rajasthan invited us to partner with them for all 33 districts in the state and train government machinery on identification and enrolment of out-of-school children.

As a sustainability measure, we approached the state education department for an agreement to train teachers and local authorities to sustain the impact of our efforts in

We will be training over 20,000 government teachers, education officials and local authorities in the upcoming year.

#### 3. Expansion into new geographies

Educate Girls has initiated expansion to 4,000 new villages across the geography of Uttar Pradesh in 6 districts namely Maharajganj, Kushinagar, Bahraich, Gonda, Shravasthi and Balrampur. These villages were identified to have the highest concentration of OOSG.

- Recruited 291 Field Personnel
- Set up operational units in Maharajganj, Bahraich and Gonda

The program implementation across these new villages will start on 1st April 2023.

As of 30th September, we have:

### KEY EVENTS / CONFERENCES

Some of the events Safeena participated in Q2 (July - August 2022) were:

- Attended a webinar on Leading in a Challenging Time organised by Children's Investment Fund Foundation (CIFF) as an Independent Advisor
- Speaker at the Fireside Chat on the Future of outcomes based financing: Transforming results for children organised by Centre for Universal Education
- Attended Education Climate Brain Trust Management event organised by Wendy Kopp
- Speaker at a panel discussion on 'A Walk on Thin Ice': Factoring in the Human Cost of 'Climate Change' organised by Dasra Philanthropy Forum

### ORGANISATION WIDE CHALLENGES

#### Challenges

##### Parental hesitancy in sending girls back to school

The pandemic fueled the resurgence of extreme poverty among the most marginalized communities in rural India, once again leaving them with no option but to fend for their basic survival. With substance taking precedence over growth, families have resorted to depending on their children's support in chores and menial labor to make a living. Our teams continue to face growing resistance among parents to send their children to school, especially girls, as they fear losing extra hands to earn. Despite rigorous community mobilization activities, it is challenging to restore parents' faith in long-term benefits of education.

#### Mitigation

To mitigate this challenge, our field teams and staff are continuously working towards innovating their interactions with government authorities, parents and community influencers to create mind-set shift.

- Closely liaising with the state governments of Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh through regular meetings and through participation in important government led events.
- Educate Girls also provided support to the government-led identification and enrolment-promoting initiatives.
- The field teams are also actively supporting the communities to secure valid national/state mandated documents that will further help them to access the government approved 'Social Safety Schemes'.

#### Safety and security of staff and Team Balika on field

Educate Girls works only in the most rural and remote geographies. These geographies have a very high concentration of out-of-school girls (OOSG). The communities residing here are of a patriarchal mind-set and do not support girls' education and those who advocate for girls' education.

As a mitigation, we have approached the local administration and village influencers to support our field team members on ground to ensure they are safe and secure during the village visits and community mobilisation activities.

Often, there have been incidents where our field team members have received life threats or have been banned from entering the villages.

We have also prepared our field team members better by conducting a training session on how to handle such situations.

As we enter more complex and hostile geographies in the state of Uttar Pradesh, safety and security of our teams on-ground is a key concern.

Additionally, we have requested them to commute only in groups while visiting hostile areas.

#### Lack of Valid Documentation for Enrolment

During our door-to-door contacts, we have contacted 295,000 OOSG and out of them 23% lack necessary national/state mandated documents for enrolment.

To mitigate the challenge of lack of documentation that acts as a major barrier towards our enrolment efforts, we mobilize communities and liaise with local authorities to ease the process of securing valid documents.

These government certified official documents that support identity, residential, social and economic status of the beneficiaries are important to successfully enrol children into schools and families to access relevant government schemes.

We provided data of high-priority villages to the authorities to speed setting up of these camps. We also mobilized communities to create awareness about processes of getting these documents and supported them with travel arrangements.

The situation further gets exacerbated at state level when local authorities make it compulsory to furnish additional documents to complete admissions. While IDs like Aadhaar (Unique identification card) are mandated at central level, other documents like Samagra Samajik Suraksha Mission ID (SSMID) and Jan Aadhaar are requirements at state level to undertake enrolment.

\*The data collection and verification of how many OOSG have obtained the necessary documents is an ongoing process. This also depends upon the camps that the government sets up. The numbers for the same will be reported in the Annual Report in April 2023.

### PARTNERSHIPS



Educate Girls works in partnership with the governments of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh as a part of the larger Public-Private collaborative framework.

Educate Girls delivers measurable outcomes to a large number of beneficiaries and avoids duplication or parallel delivery of services by leveraging the Government's existing policies and investment in schools.

Educate A Child (EAC), a programme of the global Education Above All (EAA) Foundation and Educate Girls have partnered to provide quality primary education to school children (with a particular focus on girl students) living in some of the most remote, tribal and marginalised communities of India.