



Indo-Global
Social Service Society



Ten Years of IGSSS Journey in Jammu & Kashmir



Contents

CHAPTER ONE.....	3
INTRODUCTION AND INTERVENTION TIMELINE	3
CHAPTER TWO	6
YEAR OF BEGINNING – 2004	6
CHAPTER THREE	9
GROUNDING OF DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES AND FIRST EMERGENCY RESPONSE AFTER KASHMIR EARTHQUAKE 2005	9
CHAPTER FOUR.....	16
REHABILITATION OF EARTHQUAKE AFFECTED FAMILIES AND INITIATION OF YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME 2006	16
CHAPTER FIVE.....	20
EXPANDING SELF HELP STRUCTURES IN BANDIPORA & BARAMULLA AND REHABILITATION WORK IN URI, 2007 20	20
CHAPTER SIX.....	22
FOCUS ON DIRECT IMPLEMENTATION AND STRENGTHENING LOCAL GOVERNANCE, 2008	22
CHAPTER SEVEN	25
CHANGE OF REGIONAL LEADERSHIP AND SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME 2009	25
CHAPTER EIGHT	27
STRENGTHENING CIVIL SOCIETY ACTION IN KASHMIR, 2010.....	27
CHAPTER NINE.....	29
PROGRAMME EXPANSION 2011	29
CHAPTER TEN	35
DONOR VISITS AND NEW INITIATIVES ON LIVELIHOOD IN FAR FLUNG AREAS, 2012	35
CHAPTER ELEVEN	37
RESEARCH STUDIES, STATE LEVEL CONSULTATIONS AND REALIGNMENT OF PROJECTS 2013	37
CHAPTER TWELVE	40
NATIONAL CONSULTATION ON GOVERNANCE IN J&K AND IGSSS EMERGENCY RESPONSE IN FLOODS 2014....	40
CHAPTER THIRTEEN	45
FUTURE JOURNEY	45



Chapter One

Introduction and Intervention Timeline

The state of J&K has a special geographic position in India as it borders with Pakistan, which has been disputing the state's merger with India since independence of the two countries from British rule in 1947. With the onset of insurgency in 1989, the State Assembly (legislature) was dissolved on 19th January 1990 under article 356 of Constitution of India - the state remained under President's rule till 9th October 1996.

The conflict, as per government figures, has consumed over 40000 lives and around three-lakh minority Hindus (known as Kashmiri Pandits) remain internally displaced in various parts of India. Many nationalized banks closed down their operations in 1990 due to law and order problems and the handicraft business/tourism industry was also impacted adversely with almost zero influx of tourists to Kashmir. The economy of J&K was in complete disarray. Whereas the rest of India was starting to enjoy the dividends of a liberalized economy, J&K was comparatively lagging behind on several developmental indicators, the security apparatus and insurgency taking centre stage. Lack of development initiatives and people's participation during this turbulent phase has resulted in poor grassroots mobilization, despondency and mistrust among the common people. There were very few community-based organizations seen at the village level, especially in Kashmir, and civil society platforms were generally absent. Protracted conflicts always tend to generate new causes (viz, sectarian/communal/regional conflicts), which help to prolong them further. However, from the last decade onwards, despite the unresolved conflict, the intensity and the volume of the violence has significantly reduced and has provided a glimmer of hope to processes of reconciliation and reconstruction.

The year 2004 - 2005 witnessed a paradigm shift in the strategic planning of IGSSS. Empowerment was identified as a thematic area for intervention. Sustainable Livelihood, Governance, Human Rights, Health and Disaster Mitigation were identified as the five core issues under Empowerment. There was a shift in the approach also. Small projects, scattered area of intervention with limited impact were no longer a characteristic of IGSSS programmes. Now large issue based projects in a consecutive geographical were taken up by IGSSS.

IGSSS started to think about intervention in J&K in 2003 but couldn't convince itself about the viability of programmes given fragile situation. However, in 2004 IGSSS made inroads and started a

programme based on partnerships with local NGOs and direct implementation in Jammu and Kashmir. IGSSS till 2014 has reached out directly to 21,597 families in 152 villages of 09 districts across three geographical and political divisions of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh.

This document has been prepared to trace the history of intervention programmes of IGSSS in J&K. The document covers journey of ten years of work of IGSSS in J&K and is expected to add value to the organizational knowledge.

IGSSS's J&K Intervention Timeline

2004

- Northern Regional Manager, Mr. Rajesh Upadhayay and Mr. Rakesh Jha, Field Executive, Uttarakhand visited Kashmir for the first time to initiate the Kashmir programme
- Makeshift office set up in Jammu with Field Executive, Murad Ali transferred from Delhi to roll out programmes in Jammu and Kashmir (June)
- Partnership programme initiated in Jammu and Kashmir with local & national NGOs- Hussainee Relief Committee (HRC) in Kashmir and Aman Trust in New Delhi (August)
- Dr. Heinz Peters of Welthungerhilfe visits Kashmir for project initiation (October)

2005

- Welthungerhilfe supports programme on Community Based Support to Women & children in Conflict Affected Areas of Baramulla Kashmir (January)
- Project sanctioned to Catholic Social Service Society, Jammu for promotion of community development programme in 10 villages of Kathua, Jammu (March)
- Project sanctioned to The NGO's Coordination Federation on promotion of sustainable agriculture practices in 10 villages of Ganderbal (March)
- Project sanctioned to Kristu Jyoti Social Welfare Society for Water Management & Horticulture Program to Improve Livelihood in Samba Jammu (March)
- Local field executive Ms. Fouzia Bukhari appointed for J&K (August)
- Regional Office shifted from Shivpora to Rajbagh (August)
- First Regional Project Implementation Meeting held in Srinagar (October)
- Earthquake Emergency Response initiated with Support from GAA, Misereor & ICCO Netherlands, in Uri Baramulla (October)

2006

- SMILE launched in Kashmir (June)
- Rehabilitation project for earthquake affected villages (Jabla/Nowpora) of Uri (July)
- Post Relief Project initiated in Uri, Baramulla with support from ICCO Netherlands (September)

2007

- Rehabilitation project started for earthquake affected villages of Balkote, Uri & Baramulla (April)
- Project on Support to Self-Help Structures in Conflict Affected Areas supported by GAA (May)
- Fellowship on Public Health in Banihal, Jammu (September)
- Evaluation study in Uri by Welthungerhilfe

2008

- EU&WHH funded poverty reduction project through self-help approaches in 25 villages of Baramulla & Bandipora (Jan)
- Final Evaluation of ICCO Rehabilitation Project (July)
- Documentary on IGSSS intervention in Kashmir 'Valley of Hope' initiated by M.K. Raina (Sep)

2009

- Change in Regional Leadership (August)
- Initiation of Scholarship Programme (September)
- Documentary on EIDHR project initiated (November)

2010

- Developing Rights Based Approach for Better Governance & Strengthening of CSA (Jan)
- Relief for Fire Victims of Nowshera, Uri (December)

2011

- EU&WHH funded 2nd phase of EIDHR project began in 50 villages of Baramulla & Bandipora (Mar)
- Visit by European Union Delegation to India (May)
- First peace building project with youth began in Srinagar with support from Caritas Italiana (Sep)
- Pilot project on carpet weavers in 2 villages of Bandipora with support from Label Step (Dec)

2012

- Visit by European Union Programme Manager (March)
- Shifting of Regional Office (September)
- SALAM project starts in Uri (October)
- Mid-term evaluation study of EIDHR project

2013

- Research Studies on Youth (March)
- Research Study on Gender and Livelihood (May)
- Documentary on Welthungerhilfe supported interventions produced by Naked Eye (September)
- Termination of SALAM Project at Uri (October)
- Initiation of K-CALEEN Project in Bandipora and Baramulla (November)

2014

- National Consultation of Good Governance in J&K held in New Delhi (February)
- Emergency Response Project supported by Misereor, Islamic Relief India, Faizal and Shabna Foundation and Caritas Italiana (Sep)
- Peace- Building Project (PLEAPS) started in Baramulla and Bandipora (November)



Chapter Two

Year of Beginning – 2004

1. *Journey to Kashmir for Exploration*

The thoughts behind extension of developmental programmes to Jammu and Kashmir, a Muslim majority state infested with violence and poverty started in year 2003 when IGSSS commissioned a study on knowing the socioeconomic status of Muslims in India well before Sachar Committee was commissioned to do the same in 2005 by the then Prime Minister Shri Manmohan Singh. The study was carried out by Prof. Yoginder Sikand of Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi. As per Mr. Rajesh Upadhyay, Manager Northern Region, "there was growing realization in IGSSS to have some programmes for marginalized Muslims and not working in Jammu and Kashmir where people were suffering would have been injustice to the whole idea of working with marginalized Muslims."

The journey to explore the possibilities of starting a developmental programme in Kashmir started on 26th May 2004 when Mr. Rajesh Upadhyay, Manager Northern Region and Mr. Rakesh Jha, Field Officer (Uttarakhand) travelled to Kashmir. Their travel was in the backdrop of 23rd May's massive attack on Border Security Forces near Qazigund, Anantnag on National Highway, in which 30 persons had lost their life. Rajesh Upadhyay recollects that, "everybody in our families was against the travel to Kashmir but it was our sheer enthusiasm and commitment to start work in Kashmir that all appeals against the travel fell on our deaf ears." The visit of these two officials was random and they had almost no contacts in Kashmir except for Mr. Gowhar Fazili, who was in touch with Bangalore SMILE Centre of IGSSS and had met Rajesh Upadhyay in Mumbai during World Social Forum in January 2004. Gowhar Fazili who spent his schooling and college years in Bangalore and Delhi was inspired by many NGOs there to start a student group in Kashmir to give them a free

space. Unfortunately in May 2004, when IGSSS team reached Kashmir, they came to know that Gowhar Fazili was shot by unidentified persons and was hiding. After lot of explaining to the father of Gowhar Fazili on phone, Rajesh Updahayay could talk to Gowhar Fazili and meet him in Kashmir.

In Kashmir the IGSSS team got many leads to likeminded social activists and met them. It was during these meetings that team met Mr. Sajad Hussain of Husainnee Relief Committee (HRC), the Committee which was doing lot of charitable and relief work for conflict affected families' particularly in Baramulla district, offered to take the IGSSS team around their working areas in Baramulla. The team visited Matipora village where HRC was running a health centre. The IGSSS team got fairly good idea about the situations prevailing given that Baramulla was also highly impacted by the violence due to conflict.

The first visit of IGSSS team panned out positively and good information and insights were gained to conceive a programme which contributes to the peace building process (lessening of tension) in the conflict-ridden state of Jammu & Kashmir. The Northern Region Project Committee meeting of 17th August 2004 held at IGSSS, New Delhi recommended preparation of action plan for future involvements in J&K and also including Ladakh region in the plan. It also sanctioned first project for J&K in favour of Husainnee Relief Committee (HRC) on Health Care Programme. Augmenting the work of Husainnee Relief Committee (HRC) was seen as starting point for IGSSS intervention and a boarder understanding was reached with HRC to roll out the programme of IGSSS. However, given that HRC lacked FCRA registration and couldn't get prior approval from Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), IGSSS was again constrained to start its partnership with HRC. IGSSS started to look out for legal holders (FCRA registered NGOs) willing or working in Kashmir. With its vast network of NGOs, IGSSS could identify and convince Aman Trust, a New Delhi based organization to partner and implement programmes in Kashmir with an understanding that HRC will provide the ground support. A project was conceived on community health care for Matipora village where HRC already had health centre running and the project was awarded to Aman Trust (SP/73(JK-1)04/N-4/61). This was the first project sanctioned for J&K and thus Aman Trust became the first legal implementing partner of IGSSS in J&K.

2. Health Care Programme for Children and Women in village Matipora of district Baramulla, (SP/73(JK-1) 04/N-4/61)

Well before IGSSS established its offices in J&K, the health care programme was initiated after analysing the situation around community health care in Matipora and neighbouring 20 villages, the project was conceptualized to address lack of awareness on preventive health care and community based mechanism to provide clinical or therapeutic support to the people suffering from PTSD or other psychological disorders in the area. As already mentioned HRC was already working in the area on health issues and were having health centre in the area. The focus of the IGSSS was to augment HRC's work and orient the HRC's work in the developmental mode than the existing charitable one. The overall objective of the project was to provide assistance to establish community managed health centre. The major planned initiatives of the project included;

- a) Formation of Village Health Committees
- b) Organise workshops on health care

- c) Organise medical/health camps in adjoining villages
- d) Organise training programs for community volunteers on first aid & preventive health care
- e) Advocacy and awareness programs at the village level with other local NGOs and the media on preventive health care

3. Setting up base in J&K

Setting up of regional office in Kashmir was always challenging, mostly due to security environment and lack of credibility of NGOs in the government and public circles. IGSSS realizing the problems at ground and lack of its rapport, started to operate from Jammu. It appointed its first Field Executive, Mr. Murad Ali for J&K in June 2004. He hailed from Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh and operated from an office cum residence at Jammu's Gujjar Nagar. His main work was to start identifying partners and build a rapport in the state. Murad Ali used to travel frequently to Kashmir to develop partnerships with local supporting organizations particularly The NGOs Coordination Federation and Hussainee Relief Committee (HRC).

4. Initial Resource Mobilization of J&K Programmes

IGSSS was encouraged by two officials of Welthungerhilfe, Mr. Peter Heinz and Mr. Bernard Hoeper to start programme in Kashmir. While Mr. Heinz was incharge for Kashmir, Mr. Hoeper was looking after rest of the India. Both the officials were operating from Germany as Welthungerhilfe was yet to open its office in India. Mr. Peter Heinz was eager to initiate a developmental programme in Kashmir and had even prompted IGSSS to think on those lines well before 2004. He visited Kashmir in October 2004 along with Rajesh Updhyay and Murad Ali to gain insights about the ground situation and feasibility of starting an intervention. It was during this visit that IGSSS introduced its initial work on health care with support from HRC to Welthungerhilfe. A plan of action was envisaged to introduce focussed work with women and children in the affected areas and a proposal was developed on Community Based Support to Women & Children affected by conflict in Singhpora and Sumbal blocks of Baramulla (Sumbal was part of Baramulla district at that time) and submitted to Welthungerhilfe. The Welthungerhife accepted the proposal and rolling out of project was slated from the January of 2005.



Chapter Three

Grounding of Development Programmes and First Emergency Response after Kashmir Earthquake 2005

In the harsh winters of January 2005, Rajesh Upadhyay again visited Kashmir in the official van from Delhi on 6th January. It was a treacherous journey as the visit was planned at short notice and travelling in a van from Delhi to Kashmir was nothing short of adventure fraught with extreme danger. While recollecting the journey, Rajesh Upadhyay mentions that they had to roll out the project sanctioned by Welthungerhilfe by January 2005 and a project team had to be put in place in Kashmir. It was for conducting interviews and recruiting the first team of Kashmir programme that the journey had to be taken at a very short notice and in the above mentioned circumstances. The interviews were conducted on 9th January 2005 at Matipora Community Health Centre. Prior to the interviews, Rajesh Upadhyay along with Murad Ali visited Zalpora and other villages on 7th & 8th January 2005.

Year 2005 was also important in a sense that first time partnership programme was initiated by IGSSS in J&K. The programmes were being supported in all the three geographical and political divisions of J&K i.e. Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh.

During later part of the year, the massive earthquake necessitated IGSSS response in Uri and Baramulla and the Kashmir intervention mobilized resources to sustain the beginning.

1. Community Based Support to Women & Children in Conflict Affected Areas of Baramulla Kashmir- Welthungerhilfe (GAA) AS1244/IND1118-04

To initiate the process of establishing self-respect and self-reliance among the conflict ridden areas of Kashmir, two years project financial allocation of Rs. 27,48,520/- was initiated with support from German Agro Action (GAA) now known as Welthungerhilfe Germany in Singhpora and Sumbal block of district Baramulla. (Sumbal block later became part of District Bandipora which was carved out from district Baramulla in 2005.) The main objective of the project was to establish community based support structures and to improve the quality of life of violence affected women & children.

The project started on 1st January 2005. The project was directly implemented by IGSSS with logistical support at ground from Hussainee Relief Committee (HRC). The project was rolled out in 11 villages of Daslipora, Nowgam, Zalapora, Gadakhud, Harinara, Ganastan, Gonchipora, Odina, Trigam, Inderkoot and Najan with expected results as follows;

- a) 11 functional & organized Village Welfare Committees
- b) 15 women Self Help Groups engaged in savings/credit & income generation
- c) 270 young & grownup children cared for education and vocational training

The project concluded in April 2007 and successfully completed its targets, it reached out to 342 children and youth, 200 children were provided with educational support and 142 youth were provided with vocational training. 122 are girls were trained in various needle work/embroidery, computers and paper mashie craft. The project mobilized 175 women in 15 SHGs and promoted 11 Village Welfare Committees in target villages. 125 orphan & poor children were linked to Social Welfare Department and they are being provided scholarship to continue their school education and 40 dropout children were also mainstreamed back into the formal education system.

The project team, which joined IGSSS on 1st February 2005, comprised of Mr. Ali Mohammad, Mr. Showkat Hussain, Ms. Nageena Bano and Ms. Sumaira Akthar. They were provided with training in SHG formation and microfinance from MYRADA in April 2005. This was the first project team of IGSSS in Kashmir. Mr. Nizam-u-Rehman Wani who joined IGSSS on 5th May 2005 headed the project.

2. Initiating a Partnership Programme in J&K

The Northern Region Project Committee, which used to meet bi-annually, was presented with three proposals from J&K in its 29th March 2005 meeting held in Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh. These proposals were for three districts Kathua, Samba and Ganderbal. The ground work and pre-funding studies were carried out by Murad Ali. The projects were themed on sustainable agriculture, community development and water conservation and the applicants were The NGO's Coordination Federation for Ganderbal, Catholic Social Service Society, Jammu for Kathua and Kristu Jyoti Social Welfare Society for Samba respectively. All the proposed projects were to be part of NIEP.

The prefunding field visit of The NGO's Coordination Federation, Srinagar was carried on 21st December 2004, while as same for Catholic Social Service Society (CSSS) Jammu was conducted on 2nd January 2005. Kristu Jyoti Social Welfare Society, Samba was visited on 5th January 2005, for field study.

3. Promotion of Community Development Programme in 10 villages of Nagari in Kathua district of J&K (April 2005) through partner- Catholic Social Service Society (CSSS), Jammu

To improve the socio-economic and health standard in Nagari area of Kathua district, Catholic Social Service Society, Jammu proposed an intervention programme in ten villages of Sajiyal, Palgetar, Changran, Patiiyari, Nakkiya, Nodoli, Padyari, Badisumaha, Phagechak and Manja. The problems enunciated were lack of health awareness, sanitation and hygiene environment, absence of community based organizations and rampant social issues like dowry, Gender discrimination, illiteracy and child labour.

CSSS aimed to initiate people's organization through formation of 10 Village, health Committees, 10 youth groups of 20 women groups so as to create conducive environment to eradicate social evils,

develop educational interest among children and access better health services. They also planned to provide opportunities to the rural youths and women to develop their skills to become self reliant. The project application was received on 24th November 2004 and was approved with a financial assistance of Rs. 7,89,800/- for a period of two years. CSSS was also provided with grant of Rs. 4,00,000/- on 25th May 1999 (SP/73 (JK-001) 99/N-8/19 for construction of training centre at Ramkot, Kathua, J&K.

4. Promotion of Sustainable Agriculture Practices in 10 villages of Ganderbal District of J&K (April 2005) through partner- The NGO's Coordination Federation (SP/73 (JK-03))

IGSSS expanded its programme base to many parts of the state and after sanctioning a project in Jammu, supported a project on Sustainable Agriculture in Ganderbal, the peripheral area of Srinagar district then. (Now Ganderbal is separate district in the north Kashmir). The main objective of the project was, 'developing a sustainable model of agriculture to make it a remunerative and commercially viable trade.' The project was proposed to be implemented in 10 villages of Talebal, Gassu, Inderhama, Burzahama, Ahal, Danihama, Saidapora, Chatterhama, Khimber and Shuhama. After prefunding field visits carried out by Murad Ali on 21st December 2004 and 10th January 2005, the project was sanctioned in favour of The NGO's Coordination Federation, a valley based NGO headed by Mr. Imitiyaz Hussain at that time with a financial support of Rs.7, 78,400/- from IGSSS. The planned activities under project were;

- a) Awareness Generation and Survey of beneficiaries' selection.
- b) Formation and strengthening of one-village Development Committee and one Woman Self Help Group (SHG) in each project village.
- c) Demonstration of 1-model plots of ½ Kanal of growing crops/seed formation in each village each year.
- d) Demonstration of 1 model crops of ½ Kanal of cash crops such as floriculture/Nursery Cultivation/medicinal plants etc. in each village each year.
- e) Demonstration of 1 Horticulture nursery of ½ Kanal (capacity of 1000 plants) such as walnut, apple etc in each project village each year.
- f) Change the breed of 15 cows for increase in milk production through convergence with Animal Husbandry Department or BAIF in each project village.
- g) Linkage of 10 women self-help groups with bank and other financial institutions.
- h) To organize 3 training/exposure programs for farmers of village Development Committee on modern technology in agriculture and 3 training / exposure women self-help group members on leadership, account maintenance.
- i) In each village 4 women beneficiaries will be selected for kitchen garden.

The project couldn't achieve its objectives and targets as the partner didn't cooperate. There were various communications made by the regional and head office but no response was received from the partner. The project was to conclude by December 2007 and finally on 5th June 2008 progress report from the partner was received by the head office. The actual progress of the project was never known due to the zero response from the partner. The project was finally closed with only Rs. 278,400/- having been disbursed to the partner.

5. Water Management & Horticulture Program to Improve Livelihood Situation in Kummi & Kathar villages of Samba District of J&K (April 2005) through partner- Kristu Jyoti Social Welfare Society (SP/73 (JK-04)

The lack of access to drinking and irrigation water in hilly Kathar and Kummi villages of Mohar Garh Panchayat in Samba often resulted in drought like situations and food insecurity. The women had to travel 3 to 4 kms to nearby plain area for water. The runoffs during the monsoons always result in soil erosions and thus denying any farming during the season. Kristu Jyoti Social Welfare Society proposed to IGSSS to start an intervention in these two villages to improve the standard of living of the people through capacity building, land, and water and crop management. The project was conceived on the line of watershed development principles and model and approved with a financial assistance of Rs. 8,00,000/- from IGSSS. The main activities of the project included;

- a. Formation of Peoples' organizations such as Village watershed committee, farmers club, women self help groups, mahila mandals, etc.
- b. Construction of various soil and water conservation structures and promotion of organic farming practices.
- c. Promotion of milch animals through changing the animal breed.

During the course of the project, 90 families benefitted from the project in two villages. 12 SHGs were formed and are linked to banks. Four check dams were constructed, two in each village. There was also a deepening of three ponds, two at Kathar and one at Kummi . 80 kitchen gardens were prepared by families and two watershed committees were also formed. In addition, two farmers' clubs were also formed with active involvement of NABARD. The final project study was carried out by Ms. Fouzia Bukhari on 27th & 28th October 2008 and declared the project was declared completed.

6. Establishment of Regional Office in Kashmir

The full fledged regional office in J&K was finally established on 24th April 2005 at Shivpora, Srinagar and Murad Ali, Field Executive was shifted permanently to Srinagar. Murad Ali quit his job in June 2005 and Ms. Fouzia Bukhari from Kashmir joined IGSSS as Field Executive on 30th August 2005. The regional office at Shivpora, Srinagar was shifted to Rajbagh, Srinagar in October 2005.

7. Programmes in Kargil and Ladakh

As per the suggestions from the IGSSS Board, the Kashmir team began to initiate the programmes in Ladakh region of J&K. Skarchen Organization, Leh sent an application and proposal on 29th April 2005, while Kargil Educational Society, Kargil sent its application and proposal on 16th August 2005. The field visits to both the organizations were carried out by Fouzia Bukhari, Field Executive J&K on 13th and 10th September 2005 respectively and proposals were presented before the Regional Project Selection Committee on 4th & 5th October 2005 at its Srinagar meeting.

8. Improving Local Self Governance in Kargil district of J&K through partner- Kargil Educational Society (KES) SP/73 (JK-05)

Since 1989, like many other institutions, Panchayat Raj Institutions (PRIs) in J&K were also affected by insurgency and political instability. In Kargil, Panchayat elections were held in 2001 and 65 PRI members were elected. They were, however, not able to contribute much to the development

process due to the lack of knowledge about their role and responsibilities. Kargil Educational Society developed a project to promote good governance in 24 villages of Kargil by generating awareness among the people and PRIs about the Panchayat Raj and the decentralization process. The effort was to strengthen PRI's through capacity building as well as to sensitize the concerned govt. officials about the rights and functions of Panchayat so that their cooperation could be ensured. The project also focussed on promoting women's participation in the Panchayat election and decision making process and advocate micro level and need based planning. The project was sanctioned by IGSSS with a financial assistance of Rs. 7,22,700/-.

On 8th August 2008, the Kashmir Regional Office recommended the revocation of this project No. SP/073(JK-05)05/N-2/2 as work was not completed as per the plan and there was very less scope that KES would complete the project. The project was finally revoked and the IGSSS engagement in Kargil came to an end in 2009. Kargil Education Society was headed by Mr. Firoz Ahmad Khan at that time.

9. Improving Agriculture Practices in Nubra Valley, Ladakh for Sustainable Livelihood through partner- Skarchen Organization SP/73 (JK-05)

In Nubra valley of Ladakh, Skarchen Organization headed by Ghulam Hussain identified many issues surrounding sustainable livelihood and reported problems of dependence of the population on wage labour from army, unavailability of fresh green vegetables during long winter months, lack of confidence and financial independence among women and Vitamin C deficiency among the population. A project was conceived by the organization and submitted to IGSSS on 29th April 2005. The project intended to introduce various agricultural practices which can reduce the dependence of people on unaffordable agricultural produce procured from outside. The major activities proposed were;

- a. Construction of Green Houses
- b. Construction of trenches
- c. Construction of compost pits
- d. Demonstration, Training and Capacity

The project was planned to be implemented in four villages of Terit-Lakjung, Tyagar- Pinchimik, Hunder and Parta-Hunderdok. The project approved in principle however, Skarchen Organization could not get FCRA in time so eventually, and this project never got implemented. IGSSS was very keen to work with this organization but due to technical issues could not forge partnership; however the relationship with Skarchen Organization was maintained for any future programme.

10. First Implementation Meeting held in Srinagar (4-6th October 2005)

The first meeting of Northern Region Projects Committee was held in Srinagar from 4-6 October 2005 at Kashmir Hilton Houseboat. The meeting was attended by

- Mr. K.P. Fabien, President
- Mr. Nripendra Mishra, General Body Member
- Fr. Donald H R DeSouza, CBCI Representative
- Dr. Pearl Drego, Northern Region Projects Committee Member
- Mr. Vindo C Khanna, Northern Region Projects Committee Member
- Dr. Sailaja D Sharma, Northern Region Projects Committee Member
- Mr. Gratian Vas, Executive Director

- Mr. Rajesh Upadhyay, Regional Manager North
- Ms. Preety Bhatnagar, Programme Executive
- Ms. Manorama Jana, Field Executive
- Ms. Manu Tyagi, Field Executive
- Mr. Ashok Kr. Singh, Field Executive

Dr. Pearl Drego, Northern Region Projects Committee Member chaired the meetings. Two spontaneous projects amounting to Rs.10,23,269/- and nine Process Based Projects amounting to Rs. 68,75,693/- presented at the meeting were approved under NIEP Fund supported by Misereor/KZE. Two projects from Kargil and Ladakh were also presented before the committee. The team also visited Baramulla to see health centre supported by IGSSS and few villages where IGSSS had initiated Community Based Support for Poor Women and Children (widows & orphans).

The Northern Region Projects Committee meeting concluded on 6th October in Srinagar and the delegates started their journey back on 7th October 2005. The participants had hardly reached their destination, when news of a massive earthquake broke, few participants who were travelling by road were still on the National Highway of J&K when the earthquake struck on 8th October morning.

11. Kashmir Earthquake and IGSSS Emergency Response

On October 8th 2005, a devastating earthquake measuring 7.6 on the Richter scale with its epicentre in Muzafarabad of Pakistan shook the valley of Kashmir leaving behind a trail of death and sorrow. Two border districts of Baramulla and Kupwara were severely hit. Around 50,000 houses collapsed killing about 1200 people, more than 150 children were orphaned, and 324 women were rendered destitute and 71 widowed (Sphere India).

Field Assessment by IGSSS Team

IGSSS team comprising of Fouzia Bhukhari, Showkat Hussain, and two Village Welfare Committee members from Nowgam village, Ali Mohammad Shama and Fayaz Ahmad visited Uri in the afternoon of the same fateful day of 8th October 2005 to carry out a rapid assessment of the situation. There were massive landslides along the road right from Boniyar to Uri and in Uri presented a look which was hard to bear. Many houses were razed to ground and people were in absolute shock. There was a complete helplessness among the people regarding how they should respond to the disaster.

All their belongings were under the rubble. They had nothing to eat, no shelter, no power supply and no drinking water as the pipes had either burst or were under the debris. People had to bury their dead without last ablutions and shrouds. In village Jabla alone, people had buried 18 bodies without any waiting for the dead as those alive were battling for life in the absence of food and shelter. Although the Army and civil administration had been doing their bit, they had been able to provide only first aid and that too largely to the easily accessible areas. The team saw people lying on the roadside after they had been given first aid as there was no arrangement for them to be carried back to their villages. The problem was further compounded with heavy thundershowers forcing the people to spend the night in the open without any shelter.

On 12th October 2005, IGSSS response team was bolstered with presence of other project team members, Nizam, Ali Mohammad, Kashmir University interns and volunteers from Hussainee Relief Committee (HRC).

The team felt that there was an immediate need to launch a coordinated effort and provide the much need help in terms of tents, mattresses, blankets, warm clothing, some basic utensils and stoves. The team visited the Salamabad area of the Uri block and could collect firsthand information about 22 villages of Nowpora, Kalgi, Dachi, Kamabalkote, Julah, Lalpul, Jabla, Golta, Darkote, Adosa, Navarond, Isham, Dani, Sultandaki, Shahdra, Dulanja, Uri, Garkote, Namla, Silikote, Bandisarai, Balkote.

IGSSS Intervention

The state administration was least prepared to handle an emergency of such a magnitude; hence the response was delayed and unorganized. First few days saw a lot of chaos and confusion, a number of national and international NGOs came forward to help but the quality of response was far from desirable; distribution of relief material by most agencies was done very casually without caring much for people's honour and dignity. In certain instances the food aid and clothes were just thrown on the roadside for the victims to pick up, putting a big question mark on the principles of humanitarian assistance.

IGSSS head office at the same was mobilizing its resources, both financial and human, to respond to the emerging situation in Uri. Misereor, Wethungerhilfe and ICCO Netherlands came forward with financial support. Six villages of Jabla, Kalsan, Zumbarpatan, Balkote, Rajarwani and Nowpora were selected for intervention. IGSSS having seen the initial days of destruction and chaos in affected villages of Uri, prepared a measured need based response plan in consultation with the affected families and district administration and decided to distribute relief items like tents, mattresses, blankets, cooking stoves, and utensils. IGSSS began its intervention in the project villages in last week of October 2005. The team promptly carried out their survey, identified the list of beneficiaries and began preparing for distribution of relief. Senior Field Executive Mr. Zubin Zaman having ample experience in emergency response was transferred to Kashmir on deputation to help Kashmir team. He was on the ground to plan and execute the response.

Looking at the large scale damage to residential structures and the fast approaching winter, the immediate objective was to save people from the cold winter. On the government's instructions, IGSSS took up the sole component of building of interim shelters in the three villages of Rajarwani, Zumbarpatan and Kalsan and were supported by ICCO Netherlands, in Jabla and Nowpora Welthungerhilfe provided financial support for relief while as in Balkote, Misereor pitched in with their support. In total 1185 households were provided with interim shelter and bedding and 302 families out of 1185 were also provided with food supplies. (25 kgs. rice, 10 kg. flour, 5 kg. pulses & 2 kgs. edible oil), a set of kitchen utensils, kerosene stove, water tank, 2 quilts and mattresses. For housing, a package of materials inclusive of 8 CGI sheets of 24 guage, nails & washers – 4 kgs each, tools like handsaw and hammer and a tarpaulin sheet of 12'x18' were provided.

The response team comprised of Mr. Hanief Khan Project Coordinator, Gh. Hassan Project Officer, Suhail Masoodi Procurement Officer, Shoaib Mir Project Associate and 31 volunteers from HRC, Help Foundation and Kashmir University. At Srinagar, Ms. Fouzia Bukhari was joined by Ms. Foziya Yousuf Bhat as accountant in October 2005.

It is worth mentioning that IGSSS was given a Special Award and a Souvenir by the Border Roads Organisation for excellent organisation of distribution of relief materials. Army & Civil Administration applauded relief 'Distribution Model' of IGSSS.



Chapter Four

Rehabilitation of Earthquake Affected Families and Initiation of Youth Development Programme 2006

IGSSS responded to the emergencies created by earthquake in Uri and provided immediate relief and interim shelters. It developed a good understanding about the locale and locals and positive rapport with the local communities. The socio-economic conditions of the people became worse after the earthquake. There were large-scale splits in families, break-up from joint families to nuclear families due to the cash compensation offered by the government and their inability to construct large houses where they lived earlier. Low literacy levels and gender gap in education, skewed sex ratio, large-size families, lack of easy access to good health services, destruction of all public institutions, lack of sanitation and safe drinking water added to the poor quality of life. Majority of the people were small or marginal farmers with mono cropped land which suffered from severe soil erosion. Since the agricultural income was minimal, they worked for the Army and other contractors as labourers. The irrigation system which was damaged by the earthquake was yet to be restored and there was severe environmental degradation. In a situation like this IGSSS thought it to be logical to initiate a rehabilitation project support for which was garnered from Welthungerhilfe and ICCO Netherlands.

The year also saw an increased urgency to engage with the youth of Kashmir valley through the SMILE intervention and programme was initiated with youth in educational institutions.

1. Initiation of Youth Development Programme, June 2006

SMILE (Students Mobilization Initiative for Learning through Exposure, known at that time) began its journey in the month of June and two in-house trainees, Ms. Nadeem Ahmad Bhat and Ms. Munazah Gulzar started the process. It began with twin objectives of "Development of Youth and Youth for Development" Wherein the focus of SMILE in Kashmir was to orient youth towards development. Activities like meetings, exposure visits, and capacity building workshops, film screening and social campaigns formed the core of the SMILE intervention.

During the series of meetings that were held with youth or SMILE volunteers as they were known at that time, the project team realized that there was an increased feeling of hopelessness and

pessimism lingering among majority of them which posed a major challenge to the project and the team. The common responses from the youth were;

- Nothing is possible!
- Nothing will change till the Kashmir issue is resolved!
- Who will change!
- We cannot do anything!
- How will we change?

As a resultant of these responses, it was decided that different methods and motivational strategies should be used to deal with the same. A Power Point Presentation was made in order to motivate the students to find answers for such responses instead of them giving the same kind of responses only to find themselves helpless. The project team started to target the educational institutions and planned sessions with in two colleges of Govt. Degree College for Women, Nawa Kadal and Amar Singh College, Gogji Bagh in Srinagar. However the team couldn't get permission from the authorities of Govt. Degree College for Women, Nawa Kadal. The session in Amar Singh College was very challenging but it gave enough confidence to the team to move forward. Later the project team also had sessions with youth in Degree College for Boys, Bemina, Vishwa Bharti Higher Secondary School for Girls and Dept. of Sociology and Social Work, Kashmir University.

The SMILE team organized workshops on Jammu and Kashmir Right to Information Act in collaboration with Centre for Law and Development at Kashmir University and residential Workshop in collaboration with Initiatives of Change. The SMILE volunteers carried out two social campaigns on garbage disposal system in Srinagar and on student victimization in educational institutions. A group of 10 SMILE volunteers were taken on an exposure visit to Pravah, New Delhi in July 2007 to have an experiential learning, share their experiences and learn from work done in their target areas. In the first year SMILE could build 350 contacts with youth and other stakeholders, and were able to mobilize 73 committed volunteers. Nadeem Ahmad and Munazah Gulzar left IGSSS in August 2006, Saima Gul and Saima Rashid (2006) were appointed in September 2006 as two fellows to implement this programme. SMILE was later headed by Mushtaq Ahmed Malla (2009), Altaf Hussain (2011) and currently Khursheed Farash (2011-present). SMILE converted itself into a community based youth development programme and has focused on Bandipora and Baramulla since 2011.

2. Rehabilitation project for earthquake affected villages (Jabla and Nowpora) of Kashmir, AS1343/NPL1154-06, July

After the relief phase, IGSSS, again with the support of Welthungerhilfe, went for a long term follow up rehabilitation program to address the most important needs of the communities namely livelihood, disaster preparedness and infrastructural development.

To restore the social infrastructure of the community and revitalize the economy of the earthquake affected villages of Jabla and Nowpora, IGSSS initiated a rehabilitation project from 1st July 2006 to June 30th 2008 with a support of Rs. 76,72,844/- from Welthungerhilfe.

The major activities of the project included;

- a) Construction of two school buildings and health centre
- b) Formation of ten SHGs involved in thrift and income generation activities.
- c) Promotion of two Village Welfare Committees (VWCs) in project villages.

- d) Promotion of two Youth Rapid Action Forces (YRAF) groups trained in risk management and disaster preparedness.

In the first month of the project implementation, the project team consisting of project supervisor, two community animators and a part-time project coordinator was recruited to carry out the project activities. The project progress suffered in the initial phase as the concerned govt. authorities took a long time to give permission for construction of the school building at Jabla. The site which was allotted for construction was challenging which ultimately resulted in a tremendous cost escalation and increased the completion time. Both these factors led to the cancellation of the construction of the other school building and the health centers as the funds were diverted towards the completion of the Jabla middle school building.

In the middle of the first year of project implementation, the project supervisor and the female community animator resigned and it took quite some time to find suitable people to fill the positions. However, the new recruits also couldn't take the challenge of a difficult area like Nowpora & Jabla for long and they too quit their posts. The project implantation was left to one community animator and the part-time coordinator.

In addition to the above, the general situation in Kashmir also worsened in the first quarter of the 2nd year of project implementation. The state government's decision to transfer 80 hectares of forest land to a religious trust was met with a massive public protest which resulted in huge public protest rallies. The rallies soon gained momentum prompting thousands of people to come out on the streets. The magnitude and intensity of the protests forced the state government to impose indefinite curfews. The general situation worsened beyond measure, and these factors negatively affected the project progress. The project period was extended by six months and the target of SHG formation was reduced.

Given the context especially, the difficult circumstances in which the project was implemented, satisfactory progress was made with regard to the above mentioned indicators.

The construction of the middle school building at Jabla was completed in the stipulated extension period. Although the formal handing over process could not be undertaken because of frequent closure of Government offices and curfew but the school was handed over to the local school authorities and community leaders for the benefit of children who were suffering because of unavailability of space. Six SHGs of women comprising of 78 members were formed, trained and linked to District Rural Development Agency. For the first time IGSSS formed four SHGs of 52 men and trained them in thrift and income generation. All these 10 SHGs were provided with grant of Rs. 6,00,000/- Two village welfare committees were also constituted who were actively involved in project activities. Two YRAF (Youth Rapid Action Force) groups were formed in both the villages. Training on earthquake proof construction was provided to them in collaboration with Kashmir Government Poly Technique.

3. Strengthening Livelihood Options for Victims of Earthquake, Kashmir, India Project No. IN 253021 (ICCO Netherlands) September 2006

In September 2006, IGSSS, with financial support from ICCO Netherlands, started the post relief rehabilitation project in the previously supported three villages of Uri namely Zumbarpattan, Kalsan & Rajarwani. For the rehabilitation phase, a project proposal was conceived which aimed at restoration of normalcy for the disaster affected people living in the target villages. The emphasis

was to strengthen the means of livelihood support by way of organizing people in groups which through micro-credit could take up income generating activities, get linked to relevant government institutions and derive benefits by the existing government schemes to raise their standard of living.

The project was able to form 35 Self Help Groups in all the three villages comprising 344 people. Of these 35 groups, 21 consisted of men and 14 of women. The largest village i.e. Zambarpattan had 17 SHGs (11 men and 6 women), Zambarpattan was followed by village Kalsan in which 11 SHGs were formed (8 men and 3 women). Rajarwani had 7 SHGs (5 women and 2 men). The quantum of savings generated by the SHGs amounted to Rs. 2,96,110/- of which savings by men's groups were Rs.2,25,600/- & by women's groups were Rs.70,510/-

IGSSS also provided services of a qualified psychiatrist, clinical psychologist, orthopaedic and other psychosocial workers by providing free medical checkups, free medication, transport to the mental health team and to patients for follow up together with facilitating referrals for specialized treatments as and when needed. A total of 620 patients were checked in six camps and 258 pts reported for follow up. 127 (20%) Patients were diagnosed with psychiatric illness.

The project ended in March 2008 after an extension of six months from ICCO. The project team comprised of Mr. Sarfaraz Ahmed, Ghulam Ahmad and Foziya Yousuf Bhat.

4. Visit by Dr. Peter Heinz, Welthungerhilfe (October 2006)

Dr. Peter Heinz, Head Asia Desk arrived in Srinagar on the 8th of October to see the progress of the Welthungerhilfe supported Community Based Support project at Sumbal, Baramulla and the possibility of its continuation. He also visited Kargil and Ladakh and to see possibility of supporting IGSSS' initiatives there.

Dr. Heinz suggested about the possibility of introducing new and innovative income generating activities which could have a good scope of growth and also substantial impact on the HH economy of the women. He was of the opinion that the women were anyway involved in traditional handicrafts and given the stronghold of middlemen and the state of market saturation, there was little scope of it contributing substantially to their economic up-liftment.



Chapter Five

Expanding Self Help Structures in Bandipora & Baramulla and Rehabilitation Work in Uri, 2007

The focus in year 2007 continued to be on rehabilitation measures in Uri, a new project was initiated with the support from Misereor in Balkote to bolster the rehabilitation measures. On the other front in conflict affected areas of Baramulla and Bandipora the expanding of self help structures remained the priority. With initial pilot phase in 11 villages, the new project with support from Welthungerhilfe was extended to 25 villages with a focus on women empowerment. The work was also initiated in Banihal of Ramban district through a fellowship on public health. The year saw evaluation study commissioned by Welthungerhilfe for earthquake emergency response and rehabilitation in Uri.

1. Rehabilitation Measures for Earthquake affected village Balkote, Uri (321-073-1009ZG) supported by Misereor, April 2007

Balkote was one of the highly affected villages and IGSSS had responded to the needs of the village through distribution of relief which were supported by Misereor. Hence, it was logical to start the rehabilitation measure in the village with the help from Misereor. A rehabilitation project focussing on livelihood restoration, community based disaster management and collectivization of women for social and economic mobilization was developed and rolled out in the village in April 2007.

The project reached out to 150 families in the village. It formed 10 SHGs of men and women with membership of 77 women and 07 males. The vocational and skill building training on craft and local businesses were imparted to groups. Most of the women SHG members were involved in different skill development trainings with; 32 women in needle (sozni work) skill, 35 women in chain stitching (Aari work) skill, 28 women in tailoring skill and 26 women in knitting skill. The project also formed four Disaster Management Teams and trained them in basic response to disaster situations. Several awareness generation and other workshops and training programmes were organized for them during the whole project period. The project team comprised of Zahoor Ahmad Project Coordinator (2007), Mushtaq Ahmad Malla Project Coordinator (2008), Altaf Hussain Project Coordinator (2009), Iqbal Ahmad, Majid Khan and Aliyas Parray.

The project was completed in December 2010 with two additional extensions of six months each due to unfavourable security situation in Kashmir in 2008 and 2010.

2. Support to Self Help Structures in Conflict Affected Areas of Kashmir (AS 1370/IND 1167-07) May 2007

To expand the continued work, Welthungerhilfe supported a continuation project with slightly different objectives in 25 villages of Mandiyari, Gund Ibrahim, Trikolbal, Zadi Mohalla, Chek-e-Jamal Mir, Kripal Pora Sari, Singhpora, Harthrath, Khanpeth, Shiganpora, Nowgam Payeen, Rakh Mohalla, Ankholla, Chek-e-Ganastan, Daslipora, Trigam, Nowgam, Zalpora, Gadakhud, Harinara, Ganasthan, Gonchipora, Odina, Inderkoot and Najin in Baramulla and Bandipora.

The primary aim of the project was to strengthen and promote community based organizations for development and peace. The focus of the project was to have SHGs of women so that they can be engaged in gainful income generation activities. The project also focused on creating village welfare committees so that development of villages could be initiated. Sixteen new women Self Help Groups were formed with membership of 178 women. Fourteen Village Welfare Committees were also formed. This project later got converted into the EIDHR project from 1st January 2008 as European Union co-funded this project with Welthungerhilfe.

3. Evaluation Study of Earthquake Emergency Response & Rehabilitation Project (Welthungerhilfe) by Mr. Dipankar Dasgupta & Mr. Vijaya Chauhan, Aug 2007

Mr Dipankar Dasgupta and Mr. Vijaya Chauhan carried out an evaluation study of emergency response and rehabilitation projects in the earthquake affected villages of Uri from 28th to 29th August, 2007. The projects were supported by Welthungerhilfe and evaluators were arranged by them. The evaluation studied the relief phase as well as the rehabilitation phase in Jabla and Nowpora villages. Evaluators were happy with the professional management and implementation of the projects. The study reported that IGSSS deserves all compliments and credit for its efficient and effective completion of the planned activities. They made special mention of the arrangements made at the time of distribution of the materials. IGSSS staff was properly oriented on the entire process of distribution by giving them on-the-spot training. IGSSS was sensitive to the needs of religious minority groups, single women and old people. Systems were developed through prior distribution of cards and putting different tables for tallying the cards with the names in the registration list, entry on the cards for receipt of different types of materials and lastly signature of the recipient on the card in duplicate, which completed the process. The Army not only provided security, but helped in the entire distribution process, which went on for 32 hours. Since the distribution required help from local organisations and youth, it strengthened their capacity to face similar situations in future in a much more organised manner.

They observed that it was indeed a great challenge to mobilize the people into a developmental mode shifting focus from a relief and charity mode.

4. Studying the status of Public Health in Banihal, Ramban (September 2007)

A fellowship for period of one year (2007-2008) was awarded to Abdul Roof Mir (DSF/DOC/NR0193/JK0022/2007/01145) to assess the existing situation of the health care facilities available in the government health care establishments at different levels in terms of infrastructure, staff, supply and equipment in Banihal. The fellowship organized many meetings with stakeholders and the target community to help them identify their problems and their respective solutions. Various awareness activities were also organized in 10 villages of Chareel, Tethar, Takiya, Gund, Lamber, Ashar, Duligam, Gujarnar, Danar and Kaskote.



Chapter Six

Focus on Direct Implementation and Strengthening Local Governance, 2008

Welthungerhilfe in 2007 had floated an idea with IGSSS to bid for EIDHR call for proposal to fund its existing project in Baramulla. A concept note was submitted to the European Union on 16th January 2007 by Wethungerhilfe which was accepted by the EU. The final proposal was submitted to EU on 20th May 2007 and EU approved the project from 1st January 2008. This was the first time that European Union directly supported an initiative in volatile Kashmir, though ECHO was supporting some humanitarian initiatives in Kashmir.

With the focus shifting to rehabilitation projects and newer donor relationships in Kashmir, the partnership programme took a heavy toll. The four partners in J&K were hardly visited for accompaniment and monitoring. In absence of this, the partners also took an undue advantage and didn't do justice to their projects. Many of the reports due were not submitted by partners and communications began to break down. In one of the meetings in Srinagar in 2008, the North Region Manager and Kashmir team decided that partnership programme cannot sustain in the current scenario and focus on direct implementation was emphasised.

1. Poverty Reduction through self-help structures in conflict affected areas of Kashmir under EIDHR supported by Welthungerhilfe (January 2008)

The overall objective of the project was 'lessening of tension in conflict ridden Kashmir by improving the living conditions of disadvantaged people in this region'. The project aimed to revive the 'conflict ridden & impaired' development process in Kashmir, by:

- a) Organizing women into Self Help Groups (SHGs), supporting these groups in their income generation initiatives to raise the economic status and strengthening village welfare committees to rejuvenate the general development processes in the area.
- b) Showing new ways to youth by organising them in groups and creating organizational structures (youth clubs) for engaging them in positive peaceful action and equipping them with some additional livelihood skills.
- c) Helping the orphans and poor children in continuing their studies, thereby improving the educational situation.

The project was implemented in 25 villages of Mandiyari, Gund Ibrahim, Trikolbal, Zadi Mohalla, Chek-e-Jamal Mir, Kripal Pora Sari, Singhpora, Harthrath, Khanpeth, Shiganpora, Nowgam Payeen, Rakh Mohalla, Ankholla, Chek-e-Ganastan, Daslipora, Trigam, Nowgam, Zalpora, Gadakhud, Harinara, Ganasthan, Gonchipora, Odina, Inderkoot and Najin in Baramulla and Bandipora.

The Project during implementation phase formed 35 SHGs consisting of over 383 women, including 36 widows from the resource poor families. The Project organised 125 members (including 10 female members) in 25 VWCs (Village Welfare Committees). As envisaged in the project, support to orphans and poor children was provided in all targeted 25 villages. The Project provided educational material support to 2720 children and also promoted Teacher - Parents Committees (TPC's) to monitor, ensure and advocate for school drop-outs. These committees were promoted in 14 villages. As envisaged in the project, Youth Groups were formed in all 25 villages. The Project organised 173 youths (Male and 107 Female 66) in 25 groups. Vocational trainings were provided to 250 young girls.

2. Promoting Legal Aid and Literacy, April 2008

Prior to 1997, Legal Aid in the state of J&K was under the direct control of state administration but there was no legislation to guide and govern the legal aid system; in fact it was used as a favour to the needy rather than their right to have it. In the year 1997, Legal Aid was covered under legislative law and enacted in the shape of "Jammu and Kashmir State Legal Services Authority Act, 1997." This is one of the best legislations the state assembly enacted for achieving complete social justice. By enacting this Act the state extended its helping hand towards the vulnerable groups so as to bring them at par with other sections of the society. The object of this legislation was to provide a means to fight for the rights, honour, dignity and welfare of the weaker sections of the society. This meant that any person belonging to the under privileged class of the society could file a case or defend himself or his property in a legal battle without bothering about the expenses.

A one year fellowship was awarded to Mr. Imtiyaz Hussain (DSF/FEL/NR-243/JK-2708/13078) to generate awareness about legal aid among people in general and women in particular and also advocate & lobby for the reform of Legal Aid from 1st April 2008 to 31st March 2009.

The workshops, seminars and other programmes were carried out in; Women's college Baramulla, SHG members of Tehsil Sumbal (District Bandipora), College of education at Srinagar, Department of Distance Education (university campus) Srinagar, Female Resident of Dal lake in partnership with Family Planning of India & Kashmir AIDS Society, Aanganwadi workers and students of Kakpora village of District Pulwama

The major achievements of this fellowship was that meetings were held with Principal District and Sessions Judge Srinagar, J&K High Court Bar Association, District Legal Aid Cell Srinagar and Tehsil legal aid cell Srinagar for smooth functioning of legal aid system in Srinagar district. These meetings became a basis for understanding the problems and for acceptance of the fact that changes needed to be carried out for the smooth functioning of the legal aid cells. IEC material relating to the legal services authority was distributed in 4 districts and efforts were made to ensure that it reached the people. Problems of lawyers came to be discussed with the concerned authorities and in some cases immediate action was taken by judges to make pending payments to the lawyers.

3. Final Evaluation of ICCO Rehabilitation Project by Mr. Munish Kaushik and Mr. Manas Bhattacharyya (ASK)

A final evaluation of ICCO supported rehabilitation project in three earthquake affected villages of Zumbarpatan, Kalsan and Rajarwani in Uri was carried out by Mr. Munish Kaushik and Mr. Manas Bhattacharyya from Association for Stimulating Know-how (ASK) from 19th to 25th July 2008. The evaluation found that the interventions made by IGSSS in the earthquake affected areas were highly relevant for the affected people, particularly for the most vulnerable groups, considering the overall conditions of the people and the then vulnerability, poverty and marginalization of people.

The Interim shelter was highly relevant as all people in the three project villages lost their houses (fully or partially damaged) in the earthquake and had a genuine need for such interim shelters. Community Based Disaster Preparedness program was also relevant as the project area is prone to various types of disasters, because of which the people are extremely vulnerable to disasters and they did not have the required knowledge, awareness and preparedness to tackle the problem.

The evaluation further found that the formation of self help groups were relevant considering the need for mobilizing the communities around their issues and problems and also facilitate the process of livelihood recovery through provision of grants & linkages. It was also reported that the formation of the village welfare committees was also relevant, considering the need for a platform for the villagers to take collective efforts for their village development, after the earthquake that destroyed almost everything in the villages. The reported mentioned that the physical and psychosocial care of the villagers was needed as people had tremendous medical and psychological problems and needs as a result of the earthquake.

4. Documentary on IGSSS initiatives in Kashmir, 'Valley of Hope'

A documentary film on the genesis and achievement of IGSSS work was started by Mr. M.K Raina in 2008, however due to volatile situation in Kashmir at that time; the documentary got completed in 2009. The documentary traced IGSSS's work in Baramulla and recorded the feedback from the beneficiaries.

5. Changes in Northern Region Office, New Delhi

In September 2008, Mr. Rajesh Upadhyay, Regional Manager, Northern Region and brain behind the J&K programme left IGSSS. The supervision of the region was taken over by Mr. Ravi Aggarwal, Assistant Manager Programmes with additional charge of Northern Region from 1st October 2008.



Chapter Seven

Change of Regional Leadership and Scholarship Programme 2009

The 2009 year was quite lean in terms of IGSSS's new initiatives in the region. There were lot of changes happening in structures and systems of IGSSS across the board. The focus of the region remained the consolidation of work; however the pace of programming suffered due to two months agitation of the Shopian rape and murder controversy erupting in May. With the change of leadership, the region started to begin afresh in some areas of work. The scholarship programme was initiated under SMILE which itself was reorienting its programming under the new team. Towards the end of the year, women from EIDHR went for an exposure visit and video documentary was initiated to cover the achievements of EIDHR programme.

1. Change of Regional Leadership

The Kashmir region saw many changes in its leadership team in 2009. Ms. Fouzia Bukhari Officer Programmes, left in August 2009. The region was managed by Ms. Saima Gul, Project Coordinator EIDHR project for two months before incumbent Regional Manager Mr. Yasir Qureshi was appointed on 16th August 2009. He joined Kashmir team on 16th September. Ms. Saima Rasheed, SMILE Coordinator also left in August 2009 and was replaced by Mr. Mushtaq Ahmad Malla who joined IGSSS second time in September 2009 as SMILE Coordinator. Mr. Altaf Hussain joined IGSSS as Project Coordinator for Earthquake Rehabilitation Project at Balkote in August.

2. Visit by Mr. Bernhard Hoeper, Country Director Welthungerhilfe (Sep 2009)

Mr. Bernhard Hoeper, Country Director Welthungerhilfe visited Welthungerhilfe supported projects along with Ms. Lata Raman from 10th to 12th September. The team visited target areas of Bandipora and Baramulla and interacted with SHG members. Mr. Bernhard Hoeper stressed upon adoption of improved agricultural practices by the villagers.

3. Scholarship Programme

IGSSS awarded scholarships amounting to Rs.82,450/- to nine students to pursue job oriented technical courses. The students belonged to Srinagar, Kupwara, Pulwama and Ganderbal districts of

Kashmir division. The courses for which scholarships were provided included garment technology, computer applications, textile designing, electronics and communication and medical technology courses.

4. Documentary on EIDHR Project Achievements by Moving Images (Nov 2009)

A documentary and other documentation of the EIDHR project was started in November 2009 and the team of Moving Images visited project areas to start the documentation process. During the documentation process Moving Images and IGSSS took 28 women SHG members to Samaj Pragati Sahiyog, an NGO in Bagli, Madhya Pradesh for an exposure visit from 6th to 12th December. The group also visited Delhi Haat for understanding market linkage and sales of products especially Hand-made items as per market demand vis-à-vis cost effectiveness (cost management). It also included a thorough interaction with people working in Dastakaar, a Delhi based organization working to promote handicrafts.



Chapter Eight

Strengthening Civil Society Action in Kashmir, 2010

During the initial days of 2010, the NRO, Kashmir team and Wethungerhilfe team started to develop a rights based concept for second phase of EIDHR. The concept note was accepted by EU in March and subsequently the proposal was developed and submitted to EU. The proposal was finally accepted by European Union and second phase of EIDHR was sanctioned.

During months of June, July, August and September the overall security conditions in Kashmir valley deteriorated considerably following a series of violence incidents of clashes between civilian population and security forces which also resulted in several casualties among the civilians. The tense and unstable situation initiated by a recurrent cycle of violence continued unabated till October. Curfew was repeatedly imposed from July in Srinagar and adjoining districts.

Besides the curfew, there were regular shutdowns, and organized protests led by different political parties. The continued shutdown and imposition of curfew severely crippled the day to day life of the larger civilian population impacting routine work.

The work of IGSSS also suffered and affected the implementation of some of the planned activities of the European Union and Welthungerhilfe supported project. However, most of the project areas which were in the rural areas of Baramulla district, remained largely unaffected by the situation in Kashmir. But as access to the villages was mainly through the town areas in Baramulla and Bandipora districts, which were amongst the worst affected, it made the movement of the project team to the villages virtually impossible.

Despite the situation, the Srinagar office kept operating except for break of ten odd days during strict curfews and flag marches of army. Regular staff meetings were held. The field office at Shiganpora, Baramulla was also operational but it kept a low profile. Towards the end of the year, Mr. Ravi Aggarwal, Regional Manager NRO left IGSSS on 17th September 2010. The region was directed to report to Executive Director and NRO was disbanded. Ms. Shikha Srivastava, Head Programme Quality and Support took over the reins of Kashmir region from December 2010 and region reported to her till her departure from IGSSS.

1. Developing Rights Based Approach for Better Governance and Strengthened Civil Society Action

Wethungerhilfe was always supportive of the sustainable development initiatives in Kashmir. However, all these initiatives were primarily service delivery ones. For the first time there was an opportunity under EIDHR for a paradigm shift towards empowerment and rights to be achieved. The Kashmir, NRO and Welthungerhilfe teams had many meetings in New Delhi and Srinagar to develop a framework where the rights based approach could be developed and adopted for empowerment and strengthening of civil society action. Mr. Bernhard Hoeper who had vast experience of such work also guided the discussions.

Baramulla, Bandipora and Kupwara being bordering districts are highly militarized; having borne the brunt of the conflict and witnessed large scale violations of human rights inflicted upon the common people both by the security forces and the armed opposition groups. The prolonged conflict has had a devastating impact particularly on the vulnerable population - women, children and youth. While the conflict has a political dimension which grabbed national and international attention, there was a more serious socio-economic dimension which had been neglected. Some of the problems arising from this situation included, non-existing and dysfunctional village local self governing institutions – the Halqa (village) panchayats (at that time in 2010), lack of information on rights and access to justice and conflict resolution mechanism and non-existent community based organizations. For almost five months, the teams worked in tandem and presented a framework which could contribute to lessening conflict through strengthening local governance and promoting affirmative civil society action for holistic development in Baramulla and Bandipora. Specifically the framework aimed at - increased awareness towards entitlements and rights (socio-economic, political and human) of local community and their protection and promoting multiple stakeholder dialogue on human rights issues of local communities. The framework took a shape of complete project proposal and was submitted to European Union Delegation in New Delhi who accepted that as proposal under EIDHR.

2. Relief for Fire Victims in Nowshera, Baramulla (December 2010)

Thirty-two families were affected by fire that engulfed the Hundi village in Nowshera, Baramulla on 6th December. The community approached IGSSS for relief as authorities were able to just provide food rations. During the community visit, it was found that the people were in a bad shape. They had food supplies but no utensils to cook them. IGSSS immediately provided relief materials, including household items like blankets and utensils.



Chapter Nine

Programme Expansion 2011

After 2005, the year 2011 was one of the busiest years for teh Kashmir unit and programmes kept rolling out. The region started one of its biggest programmes supported by Welthungerhilfe and European Union in 50 villages. The region was also visited by dignitaries from European Union and ambassadors from various countries. For the first time the region presented its work to the Chief Minister. Towards the end of the year, the region initiated two important projects on completely different themes. Youth Action for Peace project was initiated in urban areas of Srinagar following large scale violence in 2010 and a new project on workplace conditions of carpet weavers was started in two villages of Bandipora on pilot basis.

1. Second Phase of EIDHR Project in 50 villages of Bandipora and Baramulla

The second phase of EIDHR focussed on Empowering the Vulnerable, Strengthening Grassroots Governance and Empowering Civil Society Action in 50 conflict affected areas in Bandipora and Baramulla. The project in its first phase had reached out to 25 villages and in the second phase added 25 more villages. The project was a clear shift from the first phase which focussed on poverty reduction. In this phase it focussed more on rights, entitlements and civil society action. The project was implemented in 50 villages of Mandiyari, Maula Aabad, Gund-e-Ibrahim, Tikolbal, Chak Jamal Mir, Beighpora, Rakhmohalla, Burran, Ganaipora, Gangipora, Mallapora, Harinara, Daslipora, Khanpeth, Matipora Bala, Hanjiwera Bala, Hanjiwera Payeen, Inderkoot, Gund Nowgam, Nowgam, Zalapora, Nowgam Payeen, Gonchipora, Shiganpora, Ankhood, Chak Ganastan, Ganastan, Najin, Gadakhud, Odina, Trigam, Malikpora, Sarai Dangerpora, Dangerpora, Rakh Shilwat, Shadipora, Shahtulpora, Kawpora, Shilwat, Rakshi Ashm, Sumbal, Wangipora, Raipora Palhalan, Katipora Palhalan, Tantraypora Palhalan, Yadipora Palhalan, Saderbal Palhala, Ghat Palhalan.

The project promoted 60 SHGs with 780 members in 50 villages. 200 PRI members from Baramulla and Bandipora were capacitated on governance and development and trained on micro planning. Three block level Youth Information Centres were created with 1587 members (772 female and 815 male). 240 youth oriented through on event management, advocacy and leadership. The project promoted and trained 100 human rights defenders. The project ended in August 2014. The project team comprised of Nazia Nabi, Shazia Dar, Showkat Hussain, Parvaiz Makhdoomi, Shafayat Hussain, Tawheeda Bano, Sajad Ahmad, Nisar Ahmad and Javed Ahmad.

2. Research Study on Availability and Accessibility of Government Schemes and Programmes (April 2011)

A research study was carried out by Praxis Institute for Participatory Practices in Bandipora and Baramulla under EIDHR project from March 2011 to July 2011. The main objective of the action research was to assess the accessibility and functioning of the four main social security schemes vis-a-vis Public Distribution System (PDS), Mid-Day Meal (MDM), Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS), and Jammu and Kashmir Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (JKREGS). The study explored the barriers and constraints faced by the community in accessing and availing the benefits and were carried out:

- a) To understand the implementation status, factors hindering and/or promoting effectiveness and accessibility (with focus on exclusion and redress mechanism) of four social security schemes.
- b) To understand women/girls as one of the primary stakeholders in accessing the above benefits and their perceptions towards these schemes
- c) To understand the role of stakeholders – concerned official departments, Panchayats, CBOs, NGOs – in delivering and encouraging people to access these benefits

However, it was found that the study was not a quality work of Praxis and that it lacked many key analytical aspects.

3. Visit by Head of Delegation of the European Union to India, Her Excellency Mrs. Daniele Smadja and the Excellencies Ambassadors of Ireland and Belgium (May 2011)

Her Excellency Mrs. Daniele Smadja, The Head of Delegation of the European Union to India visited IGSSS implemented project areas of Khanpeth, Gonchipora and Chak-e-Gansatan in Kashmir on 15th May 2011, she was accompanied by a distinguished group of delegates including His Excellency the Ambassador of Ireland Mr. Kenneth Thompson, His Excellency the Ambassador of Belgium Mr. Pierre Vaesen, Mr. Philipp Oliver Gross and Ms. Anne Chatterjee from the Political Section of the Delegation of the European Union to India.

The team interacted with women's Self Help Group members, Village Welfare Committee members, youth groups and the project team. The Self Help Groups were engaged in activities like carpet weaving and shawl making. The collective effort enabled them to directly link with the market eliminating the middlemen. Women youth groups were trained on traditional Kashmiri embroidery and their male counterparts were engaged in horticulture and development initiatives. These activities were aimed at engaging community members in various development activities for their betterment.

"It is very nice to see so many young faces so interested to make a change and taking their destiny in their hands by equipping themselves with good training in order to make a better living for themselves and their children", said the Head of the Delegation of the European Union to India, Her Excellency Mrs. Daniele Smadja, during a visit of European Union (EU) Heads of Mission's to the areas of Baramulla and Bandipora where the project "Poverty reduction through support to self help structures" is being jointly implemented by Welthungerhilfe and Indo Global Social Service Society (IGSSS).

Her Excellency Mrs. Smadja also expressed her support for the initiative by saying that the European Union was extremely happy to be partnering in a project that has provided opportunities to make a difference in the lives of young people in the state of Jammu and Kashmir.

Initiated as a pilot project of 'development approach in conflict areas' in 2005, the project received a much needed impetus with the European Union facilitating rural development through support to self help structures in 25 villages in the area. Women and youth were the major target group of the initiative and they were provided with skill enhancement trainings. The project was further up scaled up to include a rights, entitlements and governance based approach.

The European Union Ambassador's interactions were geared towards understanding the project and how it has made a difference in the lives of the people.

4. Visit by NABARD Chief General Manager (CGM) to Uri (May 2011)

There was continuous discussion with NABARD to start partnership with IGSSS in Kashmir. The discussions with Mr. P.L. Negi, the Assistant General Manager, NABARD, Kashmir and Mr. M.L. Sukhdev, Chief General Manager (CGM), NABARD, Regional Office, Jammu at visited IGSSS Ragbagh twice to forge a partnership. It was during these discussions that IGSSS proposed to undertake watershed development project in Balkot area of Uri.

The two officials visited Balkote area of Uri on 27th May 2011 and in principle agreed to support IGSSS in implementing watershed development project and called for proposal for initial capacity building phase (CBP) for one year. The CBP was a kind of pilot project wherein 200 Ha were proposed to be treated and community mobilized. A proposal was developed and submitted to NABARD. However, the local watershed development officials did not give a No Objection Certificate, which was mandatory for getting support from NABARD and the project could never be implemented.

5. Meeting with Shri Omar Abdullah, Honourable Chief Minister of J & K

Mr. K. P. Fabian, President IGSSS along with Yasir Qureshi met Shri Omar Abdullah on 11th June 2011 at his residence to brief him about the work carried out by IGSSS and scope of future partnership with government of J & K. The CM was briefed about the intervention of IGSSS in Baramulla and Bandipora with special reference to work carried out in Uri during earthquake of 2005 and thereafter.

The CM was also apprised about the concept/proposal of establishing Youth Information Centres at Block level with support from government. The CM appreciated the work of IGSSS and stressed on the need to work more closely. He directed his office to arrange meetings with Commissioner/Secretaries of Social Welfare, Rural Development and Labour and Employment departments to see possibility of mutual interest and work.

3. Field Visit of Ambassador of Finland, Her Excellency Ms. Terhi Hakala

Her Excellency Ms. Terhi Hakala visited two villages Chak Jamal Mir and Tregam in Baramulla and Bandipora districts respectively on 13th June 2011. She had interactions with SHG members and some youth groups. She appreciated the efforts of women in leading a change in the socio economic dynamics of villages, thus thereby strengthening the social fabric.

She also stressed upon women to encourage their daughters to take up higher education, engage with local Panchayats for resolution of day to day issues and problems and involving more women for greater political participation.

She visited the cocoon production units (part of sericulture) of SHG members at Chak Jamal Mir village and congratulated SHG members of taking such initiatives. She also visited poultry farm of Ms. Fareeda of Kirmania SHG at Tregam.

4. Meetings with Commissioner Secretaries Social Welfare and Labour and Employment

Mr. K. P. Fabian and Yasir Qureshi met Mr. Jeet Lal Gupta Commissioner Secretary Social Welfare Department on 13th June 2011 and briefed him about the work being done by IGSSS since 2004. He was very appreciative of the work of IGSSS and was willing to lend every possible support.

He said that if IGSSS was to have funding from the State government it needed to register with Registrar Societies Registration under J & K laws. He also wanted to receive a set of registration documents of IGSSS for perusal to look for any possibility of funding from the J & K government. However, he also mentioned that based on IGSSS work in Kashmir, the department would recommend it for funding from the Central government as and when required. He also wanted the IGSSS unit head in Kashmir to meet him often. Mr. K. P. Fabian and Yasir Qureshi also met Mr. Farooq Peer, Commissioner Secretary Labour and Employment and briefed him about the work being done by IGSSS since 2004. The purpose of the meeting was to see the possibility of enhancing employability of youth and establishing youth centres at block level. The Commissioner said that the department is getting active to tackle growing unemployment and unleash the network of counselling centres at district level. He also assured possible help in IGSSS initiatives for youth.

5. Initiation of Peace Building Programme with Urban Youth of Kashmir- Youth Action for Peace/YAP (September 2011)

During the summer of 2010, for almost four months starting from June till October, the overall security situation in Kashmir valley deteriorated considerably due to mass agitation against the killing of youth. This initiated a cycle of violence which went unabated till October 2010 and consumed 120 precious lives, mainly teenagers. Each killing led to further killings, separatist leaders, urging people to observe shutdowns and organize rallies, issued simultaneously a comprehensive protest calendar. The government in order to thwart the protests clamped with curfews and curfew like restrictions in almost all the districts of the valley.

The youth of urban Kashmir had been facing unending problems; they had been on the forefront of the conflict, soaring unemployment figures, high stress levels, fewer avenues to partner socio-economic development and frustration due to restricted social interaction obtaining out of conflict and absence of recreational facilities. The conflict in Kashmir had an adverse impact on the youth, who according to a study by Action Aid, suffer from psycho-social disorders like stress, loneliness.

With several of the youth being unemployed, they also seek solace in drugs to overcome stress and anxiety. The State administration in order to quell dissidence and agitation frequently cracks down hard on youth leading to a situation of non reconciliation, further conflict and the youth are susceptible to the blandishments of those who advocate armed conflict.

IGSSS who had had a deep relationship with the section of youth in Kashmir realized the need to initiate a peace building project in volatile areas of Srinagar given the background of 2010 agitation. A programme for youth was conceived and discussions with Mr. Beppe Pedron of Caritas Italiana were initiated for financial support. This was for the first time that discussions with Caritas Italiana were being held. The proposal on Youth Action for Peace (YAP) was developed and submitted to Caritas Italiana in April 2011, on 7th June 2011 which was approved and the project started in September 2011.

The main aim of the project was to contribute towards lessening conflict and promoting affirmative youth action for peace and development by reducing the gaps between stakeholders in Kashmir. The project focussed on two main objectives of mobilising and organising vulnerable youth for increased awareness towards, services, entitlements, rights and duties through capacity development; and promoting multi-stakeholder dialogue between youth, activists, intellectuals, government officials and representatives from civil society organisations on Peace, Democracy, Human Rights, and entitlements. The project was implemented in Batapora, Lal Bazar, Rainawari, Dal Kalan, Eidgah, Habak, Hawal, Behrar, Qamarwari and Chinar Bagh of Srinagar. The first phase of the project ended in October 2013 and second phase was started from November 2013.

The project was the first community based programme in Srinagar where earlier SMILE focussed on students from educational institutions only. The main activities of the project included;

- a. Formation and promotion of youth groups
- b. Capacity Building Trainings for youth on life skills, governance, human rights, development, conflict management and negotiations, alternate expressions etcetera
- c. Exposure Visits
- d. Promotion of youth information centre
- e. Promotion of youth network
- f. State level consultative workshops on youth issues, effective governance, democracy and development entitlements
- g. Research study on youth issues
- h. Youth Media Fellowship

In the first phase of project 650 youth were reached out to through direct and indirect intervention. In the second 715 youth were reached out to till December 2014. The project was headed by Mr. Ashraf Wani in first phase in 2011 and then by Mr. Gulzar Ahmed Wani from 2012 and then by Ms. Essar Batool since November 2013. The YAP team comprised of Ms. Saba Shawal (who later joined government services as Superintendent Prisons in 2012), Mr. Waseem Joo (who joined J&K Bank Ltd in 2012) Mr. Suhail Malik, Ms. Shabnam Qadir, Ms. Affirmand Rashid and Ms. Sadaf Yousuf.

6. Initiation of Pilot Programme on Carpet Weavers (December 2011)

Mr. Mayank Srivastava, Country Representative of Label STEP, a Swiss based benchmarking organization visited Kashmir in the month of August 2011 to explore the possibility of starting a pilot project on carpet weavers. He approached IGSSS Kashmir office through a contact in Kashmir and

his field visit to IGSSS target areas was facilitated in August 2011. In September 2011 he wrote to then Executive Director Dr. Joseph Sebastian about the possibility of Label STEP working together with IGSSS on some areas of common interest and the discussions began on starting a pilot intervention on carpet weavers. IGSSS through its poverty reduction project was working with families engaged in carpet weaving but had no specific programme for this occupational group. After lot of discussion between IGSSS and Label STEP, a proposal on Participatory Verification & Monitoring (PVM) Project for Carpet Weavers was developed and rolled out in December 2011.

The project aimed to contribute towards bringing carpet industry in Kashmir within the ambit of STEP Label Standards through collective action of supply and export chain, extension services and multi-stakeholder dialogue and linkages. The project focussed on mobilizing and organizing vulnerable carpet weavers for increased awareness towards, services, entitlements, rights and duties through capacity development. The main activities of the project included;

- a. Formation and Promotion of two Weaver's groups
- b. Sensitization and Orientation meetings for Weavers
- c. Capacity Building Trainings
- d. Functional Literacy Enhancement
- e. Dialogue and Meetings with various trade associations
- f. Multi-stakeholder interactions and interface
- g. Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials development

The pilot project was implemented in Zalpura and Nowgam Payeen villages of Sumbal block of Bandipora. In November 2012, Ms. Magdalena Stranner, Head Business Unit Label STEP based at Basel Switzerland, visited our target villages and was satisfied with the pace and result of the work. She requested IGSSS to take forward the learning from the pilot phase and prepare a long term proposal of three years. The long term proposal of three years was prepared and submitted to Label STEP in January 2013. However, due to some change of leadership at Label STEP and backing out of the Max Havelaar Foundation as the supporting organization of Label STEP, they were compelled to terminate the existing PVM project in April 2013. In the pilot phase 54 weavers were reached out to in the project through various activities.

The pilot project was headed by Natasha Rather who joined the IGSSS on 19th December 2011 with local organizers Mr. Nisar Ahmed Allie and Ms. Shahida Bashir who joined IGSSS on 15th December 2011.



Chapter Ten

Donor Visits and New Initiatives on Livelihood in Far Flung Areas, 2012

The year saw lot of visitors from donor agencies and initiation of a livelihood project in areas of Uri. The region hosted visitors from three donor agencies who through their field visits and interactions with beneficiaries appreciated the work of IGSSS and also suggested the way forward. In February, with departure of Ms. Shikha Srivastava, Head Programme Quality and Support, the region started again reporting to the Executive Director Dr. Joseph Sebastian. The regional office was shifted from Rajbagh to Barbarshah and mid-term evaluation study of EIDHR project was carried out.

1. Visit of Welthungerhilfe Team (March 2012)

The Welthungerhilfe team comprising of Mr. Joachim Schwarz, Regional Director Ms. Saraswathi Rao, Programme Manager and Sasmita Jena Project Coordinator to the Kashmir project visited project areas on 4th- 7th March. This was the first visit of Regional Director and Programme Manager to Kashmir programme. The three days visit was quite diverse in terms of interacting with different groups of community members. The team visited Khanpeth Field Office, Carpet weaving by youth group member and tailoring unit of female youth members at Khanpeth, Youth Information Centre Sumbal, Carpet weaving unit Nowgam, Self Help Groups at Hanjiweera and Trikolbal. As per their feedback, the selection of the intervention area was given enough scope to work in the most politically sensitive area of Jammu and Kashmir. Baramulla and Bandipora being the most disturbed districts witness to massive insurgency continued to be also the most militarised. It was felt that the approach adopted by IGSSS to address the Human Rights issues in a conflict state like Kashmir was appropriate. It was felt that the could be a model project for other similar projects in South Asia Region. The project focussed on a rights based approach and it worked towards empowering the target community and ensuring their socio, economic and political rights.

2. Visit of Ms. Renuka Srinivasan, Project Manager Human Rights, EU Delegation to India (22-25 March 2012)

Ms. Renuka Srinivasan, Project Manager Human Rights, EU Delegation to India visited the project areas of EIDHR/2010/232181 – Empowering the vulnerable: strengthening grassroots governance and empowering civil society action in conflict affected areas of Kashmir, from 22-25 March 2012. She met with Project staff, Panchayat and Village Welfare Committee members from surrounding villages at the Khanpeth field office in Baramulla district, Officials of District Rural Development Authority (DRDA) and also two SHG groups and a Youth Group in Sumbal Block. She observed that focusing directly on human rights issues was difficult in J&K, therefore, it was decided that the project should focus more on economic empowerment of women and youth and capacity building of Panchayats and village level committees for the realisation of their rights.

3. Shifting of Office from Rajbagh to Barbarashah

The Srinagar office at Rajbagh was shifted to Barbarashah Srinagar from 1st September 2012. It was in April 2012 that shifting of office from the existing location was thought about. The main reason of shifting the office was to have more space as team was expanding and also to house Youth Information Centre for youth under YAP project. It was after six years and eleven months that the office was shifted since its establishment in 2005.

4. Visit of Mr. Beppe Pedron, Country Representative Caritas Italiana for Sri Lanka, India, Maldives, Bangladesh (September 2012)

Mr. Beppe Pedron visited Kashmir for the first time from 3rd to 5th September to get an insight into the YAP programme. He visited Moti Mohalla, Dal Lake for interaction with youth group members and also had meeting with Youth Network Members at Island of Peace, Nigeen Srinagar. During the visit of Beppe Pedron, Caritas Italiana also showed interest in supporting livelihood project in Uri.

5. Initiating Livelihood Project (SALAM) in Uri, Baramulla (Caritas Italiana) October 2012

IGSSS had invested heavily during the relief and rehabilitation phase after the 2005 earthquake. The last project to be implemented in Uri was the Misereor supported rehabilitation measure in village Balkote which ended by 2010. There was a constant endeavour to start a long term development project in Uri particularly on watershed development given the terrain of Uri.

Sustainable Actions for Livelihood and Mainstreaming (SALAM) Initiatives in Far-flung Areas of Uri was started in October 2012. The project was implemented in Kashmir, i.e. eight villages of Balkote, Saidpora, Bandi, Ladibal, Mothal, Silikote, Thajal and Tilawadi. The project targeted 150 vulnerable women from economically backward households, 100 youths and 20 halqa (local) panchayat members. Till October 2012, the project formed 14 SHGs with a membership of 143 women members, five youth groups with a membership of 55 youth members and also trained 20 PRI members in governance.

6. Mid-Term Evaluation of EIDHR Project

The mid-term evaluation of EIDHR project was carried out by Mr. Amod Khanna and Ms. Rena Sanyal from 15th to 21st November 2012. The evaluation team found that during the implementation period, the project team has completed most of the planned activities.



Chapter Eleven

Research Studies, State Level Consultations and Realignment of Projects 2013

The year 2013 was full of activities for Kashmir region. The organizational leadership changed with leaving of Dr. Joseph Sebastian and promotion of deputy director, John Peter Nelson as Executive Director in May 2013. The reporting lines of Kashmir region remained with the new Executive Director and he showed a keen interest in developing the Kashmir programme further and also in re-strategising the existing programmes. The region was visited by many donors and with an aim to create a knowledge base on issues surrounding women and youth, research studies were also commissioned. The SALAM project in Uri was terminated and project for Carpet Weavers initiated in an empowerment mode. The region also organized a major state level consultation on Right to Information and Governance.

1. Research Study on Urban Youth in Kashmir: Aspirations and Challenges (Mar 2013)

A study on urban youth, their aspirations and challenges was carried out by Dr. Bilal Bhat (IMPA) in March 2013. The study dwelled upon various aspects which affect aspirations of youth. It studied education and opportunity, employment and unemployment, media exposure and telephone connectivity, peer group networks and interaction, sex and gender, the knowledge of sexual and reproductive health matters, love affairs and romantic relations. The study was able to draw findings on substance abuse and youth's civil society and political engagement in a conflict scenario. The study was commissioned under Youth Action for Peace project supported by Caritas Italiana.

2. Visit of Ms. Kiran Sharma, Country Director Welthungerhilfe (April 2013)

The visit of Ms. Kiran Sharma who had been appointed as Country Director for India was mainly to view the progress of the EIDHR work on ground and review the overall performance of the project. The other main participants in the review process were Ms Sasmita Jena and Mr. Vineesh Bisht, from Welthungerhilfe and Mr. John Peter Nelson, Mr. Benny, and Ms. Ninu Mary Simon from IGSSS head office. The team also visited target areas from 23rd to 25th April 2013.

3. Research Study on Gender and Livelihood: Aspirations and Challenges (Special focus on conflict affected areas of Kashmir) May 2013

A study on gender & Livelihood was carried out by Ms. Afsana Rashid (Freelance Researcher) in May 2013 under EIDHR project supported by Welthungerhilfe. As per the findings of study, most of the

widows and youth said that the conflict in Kashmir over the past several years had affected livelihood activity in many ways. Some couldn't market the goods, some became unemployed due to adverse impact of conflict on business, and others shifted to other livelihood alternatives. Some even lost the bread earner of the family in the conflict. Most of the respondents said that they were still struggling hard to bring the family back to the way it was when their husbands were alive. The study has shown that livelihood patterns have severely disturbed the education, health and basic needs of the family. A comparison of pre-conflict and post-conflict income that post-conflict revealed that average income had reduced drastically, at 50 per cent of pre-conflict average income.

4. Visit of Beppe Pedron, Country Representative of Caritas Italiana, May 2013

Mr. Beppe Pedron, visited Kashmir for a monitoring visit of YAP and SALAM project from 3rd -5th September 2013. This was actually the same date when he visited in 2012. He visited Uri on 4th September to have insights about the SALAM project.

5. Termination of SALAM Project in Uri, November 2013

Sustainable Actions for Livelihoods and Mainstreaming (SALAM) project was started in eight villages of Uri block of District Baramulla of J&K from 15th November 2013. Uri area is a border area commonly known as Line of Control (LoC) between India and Pakistan. The project was visited by the Country Representative of Caritas Italiana and the IGSSS team on 4th September. Based on the visit and our interactions it was found that the project is not a viable option to continue any further due to the following reasons.

Uri is situated on the Line of Control between India and Pakistan. Due to the escalation of tensions along Indo-Pak border and incessant ceasefire violations between the two armies, Uri had been affected by the prevailing situation. There had been heightened security in the bordering villages hence the restrictions in physical mobility of people. Two of the project areas were declared out of bounds to outside civilians by the Indian army. There were also cases of shelling and killings in the border villages which vitiated the atmosphere. The attempts of infiltration into Kashmir by militants were also been reported from the area. This led to growing suspicion by army and other agencies about the activities of the team. Moreover there was a lukewarm response from the community towards the project initiatives.

The Indian army too was heavily investing in these villages and areas through various programmes to build the village infrastructure, establish vocational trainings for girls and women and recruitment drives for young boys in the army and paramilitary services. No NGOs could match these services. Moreover the community was dazzled by tangible individual benefits and were not so interested on community mobilization, entitlements and empowerment. The dependency on tangible services was high and sustainability of initiatives mentioned in the proposal was very bleak. Most of the men from these villages were getting daily wage work from the army and other agencies and their participation in the project was insignificant.

The empowerment approach in these villages was also not encouraged by agencies, political workers and other concerned quarters given that it was a border area. The participation of government officials in the activities was minimal because of the same reasons. The targeted women in this project were mostly interested in having tailoring/knitting training centres opened up in their respective villages by IGSSS; however, such kind of provision would have badly reversed the

idea of the sustainability of the project. They were not interested in the socio-economic issues and given the context and terrain of the place, one could not impose a change on them.

The field team which was from the target areas were not been able to think in terms of empowering communities primarily given the culture of dependency prevalent in the area despite orientation and trainings. Changing team or reorienting them would have an impact on the resources which was not feasible.

6. Initiation of KCALEEN (Carpet Weavers) project in Bandipora and Baramulla (Caritas Italliana) November 2013

After Label STEP terminated its support for carpet weavers' project, IGSSS supported the initiatives from its own corpus and at the same time tried to mobilize the resources for supporting such an initiative for a longer term. It was then Caritas Italiana, who after termination of SALAM project in Uri showed willingness to support this initiative. The PVM project was now rechristened as K-CALEEN, Kashmiri Carpets for Artisans' Livelihood Enhancement and Empowerment Needs. The project was proposed in eight villages of Bandipora and two villages of Baramulla and to target 200 families of carpet weavers. The villages are; Nowgam Payeen, Zalpora, Nowgam Bala, Shiganpora, Beighpora, Najan, Odina, Tularzoo, Gadkhud, and Yakwanpora. The project now focussed on creating a capacitated community of Carpet Weavers, able to improve the workplace living conditions and contribute to the overall development of carpet industry through focussed interface with the other stakeholders of the carpet industry of Kashmir.

The project changed its orientation from the pilot phase and set out its objectives of creating an enabling environment for weavers and other stakeholders to improve the working and workplace conditions as per the established Standards through a participatory approach; It also proposed to mobilize and organize vulnerable carpet weavers for increased awareness towards, services, entitlements, rights and duties through capacity development. Till September 2014 the project had reached out to 250 weavers through functional literacy centres and capacity building programmes. The project team comprised of Nusrat Ali, Sajad Ahmad and Javed Ahmad.

7. Documentary on EIDHR project achievements by Naked Eye, September 2013

A documentary on work carried out under EIDHR project was made by Naked Eye, a documentary production house in September. The documentary, "The Hope Weavers" was a 22 minutes film which highlighted how the intervention had brought positive changes in the lives of the people despite odds in the Valley. The documentary was screened in New Delhi during National Consultation on Governance in J&K in February 2014.

8. Consultation on Right to Information, December 2013

To initiate a long term dialogue on people centric good governance with different stakeholders, IGSSS organized one day Consultation on Role of RTI in Promoting Effective Governance in J&K under European Union's EIDHR Project being jointly implemented with Welthungerhilfe in Baramulla and Bandipora. The Consultation was held on 21st December and attended by 80 participants including Mr. G. R. Sufi, Chief Information Commissioner for J&K, representatives from civil society organizations, senior journalists, academicians, judicial officials, government officials, RTI activists, lawyers and HR activists. The workshop was organized in collaboration with Koshish, local NGO working on governance and other social issues.



Chapter Twelve

National Consultation on Governance in J&K and IGSSS Emergency Response in Floods 2014

The Kashmir region was in one of the most challenging situations in year 2014. The EIDHR programme was coming to an end and so was the long term association with Welthungerhilfe and European Union in Kashmir. There was tremendous focus on starting new initiatives and expanding to other areas of J&K. A SMILE intervention was planned to be spread to Jammu division starting from Banihal. The start of the year saw a greater visibility of Kashmir programmes at national level through series of events to deliberate upon governance in J&K and work carried out to empower the vulnerable. Towards the last quarter of the year, the Kashmir region was challenged beyond imagination by the massive floods in September. The Kashmir team rolled out of the largest emergency response projects to reach out to more than 15,000 families and succeeded in doing that.

1. National Consultation on Governance in J&K (February 2014)

National Round Table Conference was organized from 5th February, 2014 to 7th February, 2014 at Indian Islamic Cultural Centre (IICC), New Delhi by Indo-Global Social Service Society (IGSSS) in collaboration with its co-implementing partner Welthungerhilfe (WHH). The purpose of the National Round Table Conference was to look at strengthening interface between the various actors in the development discourse, including government agencies, civil society groups and members of the community. However, the National Consultation was also held with the objectives to showcase and highlight the resilience and significant changes brought about by the people of Baramulla and Bandipora in their lives and communities, despite the unfavourable conditions created by three decades old conflict and to explore and discuss the opportunities to further strengthen the civil society groups and initiatives, leading to sustainable results and people centric governance in Kashmir.

On 5th February, 2014, the National Round Table Conference was set off with the screening of documentary film "The Hope Weavers". This was a 22 minutes film which highlighted how the intervention had brought positive changes in the lives of the people despite odds in the Valley. Afterwards, a photo-exhibition was thrown open for the public on the same day. The photographs put on display were clicked by Bilal Bahadur, Media Fellow for the year 2012-2013. The photographs

were taken in district Baramulla and Bandipora and depicted the life and struggle of the people in the intervention areas.

On 6th & 7th February, 2014, National Round Table Conference was conducted in order to share the work of communities and deliberate upon the issues related development and governance in Kashmir. The intent was to connect various stakeholders like the community members, government officials, media persons and other NGOs operating in Kashmir with National Level Organizations and Civil Society Groups. Moreover, the theme of the National Round Table Conference was Good Governance: Key to Development in Kashmir valley. The Chief Guest of the National Round Table Conference was Mr Wajahat Habibulla. The other guests who graced the occasion were as:

- Mr Wajahat Habibullah, Chairperson, National Commission on Minorities, Government of India.
- Dr Arno Schaefer, Minister Counsellor and Head of Cooperation, Delegation of EU to India.
- Mr Joachim Schwarz: Regional Director (South Asia), Welthungerhilfe
- Ms Veena Sikri: Convenor, South Asia Women's Network
- Ms Nivedita Varshaneya, Country Representative, WHH
- Mr John Peter Nelson (Executive Director, IGSSS)
- Ms Renuka, EU Delegation
- Professor Gul Mohammed Wani, Director, Institute of Kashmir Studies, Kashmir University
- Dr Rouf Mohideen, Director, Koshish
- Ms Afsana Rashid, Freelance Journalist
- Mr Ashfaq Ahmad Mattoo, Director, Jammu and Kashmir Association of Social Workers
- Ms Sushobha Bharve, Executive Director, Centre for Dialogue and Reconciliation
- Mr Shafat Naseem, Director, Centre for Law and Development
- Mr Vijay Rai, Programme Manager, Welthungerhilfe
- Dr Seema Kazi, Senior Fellow, Centre for Women's Development Studies
- Mr Venkatesh Nayak, Programme Coordinator CWHRI

2. Taking SMILE Programme to Banihal, Jammu

In May 2014, it was decided after internal discussions that the SMILE programme would be launched in the Banihal tehsil of Ramban district of Jammu. The team started to explore the villages where the community based youth programme could be initiated. The team visited two villages of Kaskote and Ashar to get first hand information about the status of the youth in the Banihal. Later the team also had meetings with functionaries of Govt. Degree College, Boys & Girls Hr. Secondary Schools, Block Development Officer and other officials. A field office was set up near the railway station at Banihal and a baseline survey was conducted in 10 villages in the month of August 2014. However, due to floods in Kashmir and IGSSS focus on the emergency response, the project was terminated in October 2014.

3. Consultation on Rights and Entitlements of Children (June 2014)

Indo-Global Social Service Society (IGSSS) and J&K Association of Social Workers (JKASW) organized a state level consultation on Rights and Entitlements of Children with special focus on

Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) scheme in Kashmir on 28th June 2014. The purpose of this consultation was to impress upon policy makers, service delivery departments, institutions and civil society groups to review the progress and efficacy of existing child centric services with special focus on ICDS and nutrition.

Shri Baldev Raj Sharma, Director Department of Family Welfare and Immunization, was chief guest for the function. Around 100 members from government departments, villages, local civil society groups, INGOs and other academic institutions deliberated upon the gaps and challenges in ICDS and set of recommendations were drafted which were forwarded to the concerned government authorities for their immediate consideration.

4. Establishing Mini Rural Libraries cum Information Centres in Baramulla and Bandipora Districts (July 2014)

Label STEP had initiated a programme for the adult education of women in 5 villages / urban slums of Badohi district through Dr. Shambhunath Singh Research Foundation, Varanasi in 2009. Later, mobile and fixed libraries were introduced at these locations for the continuance of the literacy efforts of the women. These libraries were not only used by the women who had attended the centres but also by other members of the weaving community, including children and youth living in those areas. To initiate such libraries in rural areas within the community of carpet weavers in particular and women and young people in general, Label STEP & Dr. Shambhunath Singh Research Foundation supported the establishment of three libraries which were established in Nowgam Payeen and Najan in Block Sumbal (Bandipora) and village Yakawanpora in Block Singhpora (Baramulla) at the cost of Rs. 1,22,430/-. These libraries cum information centres were provided with books relevant to local culture, language and trade. The choice of books mostly came from the educated villagers and project volunteers. Books worth Rs.12,000 were provided for each centre. Indoor games, like carom for children, were also provided at these centres to encourage children to visit these centre and become users and readers in the coming years. Music instruments like 'Dholaks' (drums) and harmoniums were also provided at these centres as a means of self expression and creativity for women and youth. Unfortunately the September floods damaged all the books and other items and rendered them useless.

5. Final Evaluation of EIDHR project August 2014

The final evaluation of EIDHR project was conducted by Dr. Harish Vashistha and Dr. Adil Bashir from 25th to 30th August 2014. The evaluation reported that the project was able to build the capacities of the SHG members and their office bearers for functioning of the groups which had also become self-reliant in terms of their day-to-day functioning (Meeting, saving, repayment of loans). The project had also successfully created a cadre of human right ambassadors, youth groups, human right forum and Youth Information Centres (YICs). The members had been trained and capacitated to take up local level development issues and HR issues. They were making voluntary contributions to support schools, SHG's and other local level processes. It was felt that these individual initiations were likely to continue in the area beyond the project period.

Project had also been able to promote linkage of Human Right forum and YIC's with other stake holders in the project area. This would help in continuing the functioning of these institutions. It was reiterated that IGSSS had a long term commitment in the region. The linkage of the above mentioned institutions would continue with IGSSS, which would also support their future capacity

building and information needs. The youth in YIC has expressed a desire to continue these centers beyond the project period, through their voluntary contributions and membership fee. The shape of decentralized governance and functioning of PRI's was seen to be emerging.

The Project had supported efforts in the project areas which aimed at making the Panchayats effective and responsive. A cadre of new leadership had emerged in the Panchayats, who understood and had the willingness to make local self-governance processes responsive and accountable. It was also felt that media support was crucial for advocacy initiatives by the forum. Fellowship programme had developed the commitment of journalists to these process.

6. Kashmir Floods, September 2014

The Kashmir office sent first SitRep (Situation Report) to the Head office on 4th September about the precarious situation developing in J&K with every passing hour of relentless rain. The SitRep was forwarded to Sphere India to activate the IAG. The second SitRep was sent to Head Office on 5th September and Kashmir office and Sphere India began discussions on the evolving situation through a teleconference. The external audit team from Account Aid which was in Kashmir audit were left panic stricken as their hotel was on the banks of river Jhelum and they left Kashmir on 5th afternoon leaving the audit process in midway. The Executive Director called on 5th September to assure of every possible help if a response was required from IGSSS. The flash floods had already started in south Kashmir leaving a trail of destruction and causality.

On 6th September the situation worsened and Kashmir office sent third SitRep and also attended a teleconference with Sphere India at around 3 pm. Most of the staff on 6th September couldn't reach office in Srinagar due to water logging and absence of public transport. By 5 pm the situation got so precarious around the City Centre that people were most of the time on roads and praying hard. During the intervening night of 6th & 7th September the city got flooded on its western side. The regional manager visited some areas of Sumbal Bandipora on Sunday 7th September to assess the ground situation. He got in touch with some of the staff members (Shafayat and Tawheeda) who were mobilizing communities for the initial response and were setting up relief camps. The pre-emptive efforts to strengthen the embankments by people were on. The area was on the brink of the flood and finally the area was struck by floods in the evening of 7th September.

On 7th September the entire communication network was snapped around afternoon. The situation was compounded by a paralytic flood attack on the state capital Srinagar, cutting off all communication and connectivity. The last update sent to Head office was on 7th September. The Srinagar office at Barbarshah was also flooded in the intervening night of 7th & 8th September.

On 8th September Head Office had a meeting and discussed the way ahead for IGSSS in responding to the disaster. The board sanctioned Rs. 10 lakhs for emergency response in the target areas.

The communication with the Head Office was established only on 9th September when Regional Manager made a call to the Executive Director around noon from a particular cell phone network operational in few areas at that time. IGSSS head office was worried at lot about the safety of staff and had tried hundreds of time on the cell phones of staff members. There was no update on status of Srinagar office and its night watchman Kul Bahadur despite repeated attempts. The regional Manger and Imran Shah finally were able to make contact with Kul Bahadur on 12th September; however they were not able to visit office due to inundation.

The first coordination meeting of NGOs was held on 14th September at Rawalpura Srinagar. The meeting was called by Sphere India and IGSSS attended this meeting to chalk out the response strategy.

On 18th September Mr. Mangneo and Mr. Joel reached Srinagar at 7 AM to assess the ground situation and start emergency response measures. A team meeting at the temporary office was called which was attended by Regional Manager, Mangneo, Joel, Essar, Natasha, Imran, Fozia. A quick status update was presented by team members including their personal reflections on the situation.

The team then straightaway headed to Singhpora field office to meet other team members and some of the target villages. The rapid needs assessment was initiated by Joel along with the team from 19th September and was completed by 25th September.

Office Damage Assessment was made by team along with Yasir and Mangneo on 19th September 2014 at the office premises. The approach road was still 1 foot under water though flood water had receded from the ground floor. The office and assets mostly kept on ground floor were damaged. The office was made functional in shortest possible time on 22nd September 2014.

7. Floods Emergency Response, October 2014

IGSSS as an active part of Sphere India network in Kashmir carried out Rapid Needs Assessment in 70 areas on Srinagar, Bandipora and Baramulla in September. The response was activated within days of floods and IGSSS after assessment planned to reach out to 15750 families through, unconditional cash transfer, relief materials, medical attention and psychosocial support in 56 areas of Pattan and Singhpora blocks in Baramulla, Sumbal and Hajin blocks of Bandipora and 14 urban area Srinagar district. The Flood Response Project was supported by Misereor Germany, Islamic Relief India and Faizal & Shabana Foundation. The major achievements of the response project were;

- Unconditional Cash Transfer provided to 12461 families
- Relief Materials (NFI, Hygiene Kits and Blankets) provided to 15558 families
- Food Items (rice, cereals, edible oil etc) was provided to 3736 families
- Medical attention to 10117 people was provided through mobile health camps
- Health Education was imparted to 2140 women and adolescent girls
- Psychosocial support to 1060 children through creation of Child Friendly Spaces

8. Peace Building Project, November 2014

A peace building initiative was started in 20 conflict affected areas of Pattan, Singhpora and Sumbal of Baramulla and Bandipora districts. This project is being supported by Misereor and will run till October 2017. The project is being headed by Ms. Nazia Nabi.



Chapter Thirteen

Future Journey

IGSSS, as it operates in J&K in a volatile, uncertain and fragile environment characterized by rising vulnerability to violence, is committed to continue with its programmes with current strategic direction, and will further bolster the initiatives and programmes in a graduated and calibrated manner. IGSSS would like to position itself as a leading agency on the key strategic issues and develop and intensify local initiatives for strengthening peace and stability in the region.

Given IGSSS's decade old partnerships with community and various other stakeholders in the region, innumerable cases and success stories further reinforces the hope for a paradigm shift in conflict-affected areas of Kashmir. Despite living in the midst of a culture of violence and trauma, the communities are moving towards reparation with their resilience. The people are breaking the siege of conflict and victimhood, through small assertive actions and the urge to reclaim stake in the future of their families and communities, is taking prominence. The future journey will respond to an evolving external and internal operating frameworks and the drivers of change that are likely to have an important impact on socio-economic fabric of J&K.

The future course of programming in J&K will continue to contribute towards conflict mitigation and strengthening peace and stability through the socio-economic development of marginalized and vulnerable people, and promote them as actors of change within their communities in Jammu and Kashmir.

The region envisages facilitating greater coherence, coordination and alignment around broader objectives of the National Plan and concerted efforts to yield new opportunities to increase operational efficiency by focusing on our core strengths and capability of value addition. It will act in accordance with established law and the core principles of humanity, neutrality, and impartiality and in a way that does not expose people to further harm and miseries.

To achieve its Goal and Objectives, IGSSS will work with, communities and community based organizations, NGOs and government departments to design and implement programmes that enables quality access of the poorest and most vulnerable to basic amenities of life and assert their developmental needs and aspirations. IGSSS will implement programmes that strengthen the capacity of communities and other stakeholders to manage underlying risks, enhance sustainable

livelihoods, and meet their socioeconomic needs. To carry out these programmes, the Regional Office has devised appropriate strategies.

The region has set itself a target for the next five years, which aim at:

1. Increasing food security of 5,000 families in Jammu and Kashmir by 30% - 40% and enhanced production and productivity of 500 artisans in conformity with the established occupational health and workplace standards.
2. Ensuring livelihood assets & options for 500 marginalized women in rural communities
3. Enhancing autonomy of 2000 marginalized women and young girls (adolescents) over sexual and reproductive health rights leading to increased powers of decision making and control over their bodies.
4. 2000 youth from marginalised communities acquired position in democratic governance mechanism for leading and addressing societal changes and a dialogue initiated to address the gaps in youth policy to facilitate employment generation
5. Acquire a key strategic position in the voluntary sector of the region to influence the developmental discourse.

The priority geographical areas based on the socio-economic indicators and conflict affected will be;

1. Srinagar: Capital city of J&K
2. Baramulla: North district in Kashmir
3. Bandipora: North district in Kashmir
4. Kupwara: North district in Kashmir
5. Budgam: Central district in Kashmir
6. Anantnag: South district in Kashmir
7. Kulgam: South district in Kashmir
8. Doda: East district of Jammu
9. Ramban: East district of Jammu

