



ANNUAL REPORT 2021

(Resumption, Scale, and Innovation)

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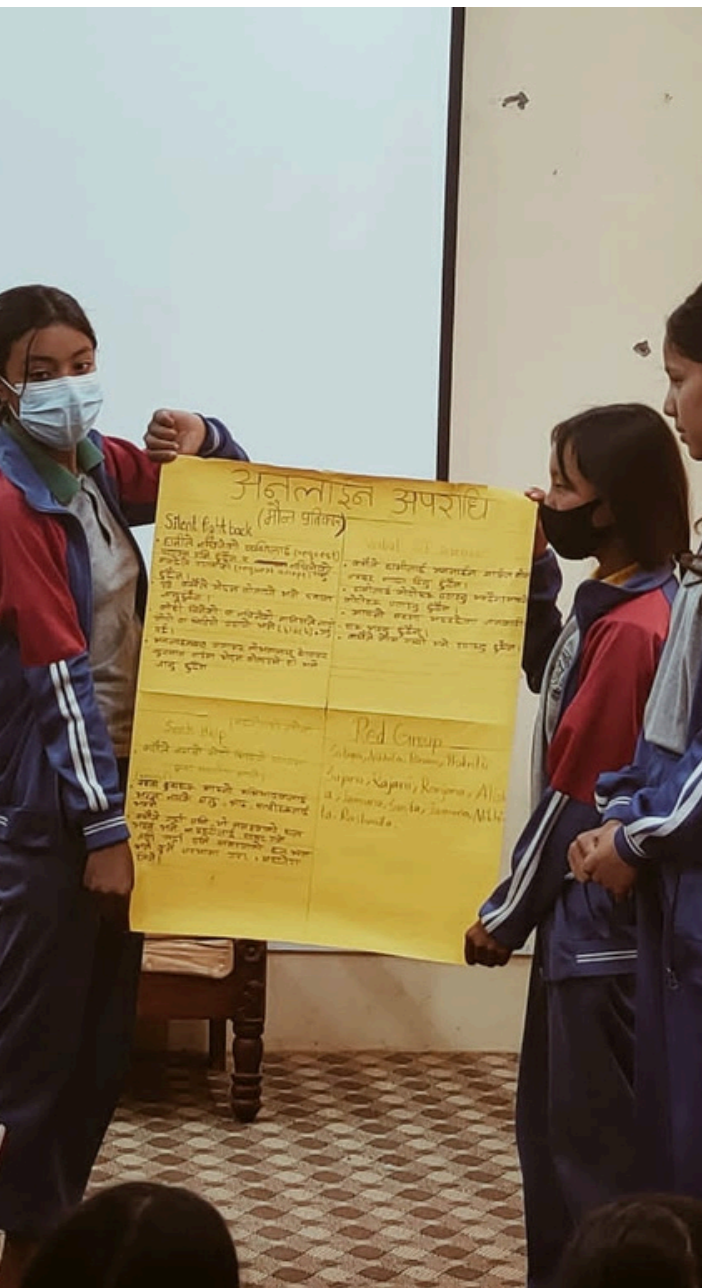
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INTRODUCTION

"Safety Education in a Recovering World"

Fightback is a social enterprise committed to the prevention of sexual violence through practical, preventive safety and self-defense education. In 2021, as the world began to emerge from the shadow of the pandemic, our mission became even more urgent. We transitioned from the **"Safety Without Borders"** digital model of 2020 back into the heart of communities, schools, and workplaces across Nepal.



From Digital Pivot to Ground-Level Scale

While 2020 tested our agility, 2021 tested our ability to scale. This year was defined by the resumption of intensive on-ground training, reaching more than tens of thousands of individuals who had been isolated during lockdowns. We didn't just return to the field; we expanded our footprint to more than 20 districts, proving that our model is not only resilient but deeply scalable.

LEADERSHIP REFLECTION:

VIKRANT PANDEY *FOUNDING DIRECTOR*

As we reflect on 2021, I am filled with immense pride and hope. This year marked a period of recovery, growth and renewed purpose for Fightback. After the profound challenges of COVID pandemic, we returned to the field with greater determination, reaching communities with structured, inclusive and evidence-based safety education.

Building on our digital innovation and partnerships from previous year, we expanded our school and community based programs across more than 20 districts of Nepal. Through Fightback trainings for girls, boys, teachers, and parents, we focused on building confidence, understanding consent, and reducing the risk of sexual violence. Through collaborations with partners such as VSO Nepal and Bhaskar-Tejshree Memorial Foundation, we reached more than nineteen thousand adolescents while also maintaining program quality.

This year, we worked to ensure safety education reached those most vulnerable, from specialized programs for visually impaired women to safety training for women in informal and high-risk work environments. It was an honor to see our local work gain global recognition, including representation at the UN Secretariat's Multi-Stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the SDGs.

At organizational level, this year strengthened our foundation for the future. We advanced our e-learning platform, received validation through the UN STI Award catalyzed by COVID-19, and contributed to digitalizing ILO Convention No.190 on ending violence and harassment at work. Each step reinforced our belief in combining innovation with impact.

As we step into another exciting year, we once again thank our trainers, partners, schools, local governments and support who made this work possible. Looking forward, we remain committed to building safer, more resilient communities where every individual has the knowledge and confidence to live free from fear and violence.



2021 YEAR IN REVIEW

Executive Summary: Scaling the Movement: In 2021, Fightback significantly expanded its on-ground training programs. By blending the digital innovations of the previous year with a robust return to field-based education, we reached a major landmark: training over 16,000 adolescent girls and boys across diverse districts.

2021 IMPACT IN GLANCE



24,100+
Individuals



90+
Schools and
institutions



20+
Districts across
Nepal

OUR PROGRAMS AND KEY ACTIVITIES

1. Education & Institutional Outreach: Scaling Safety across the Provinces

In 2021, Fightback successfully transitioned back to intensive, on-ground training, demonstrating incredible resilience and scale. Following the digital adaptations of the previous year, we resumed our multi-day (1-4 days) structured workshops, reaching government and community schools in **over 20 districts** of Nepal.

2021 Educational Partners & Regional Highlights

Our mobilization efforts spanned from the Terai to the hills, ensuring that safety education reached diverse student populations, educators, and parents.

- **Morang (Pathari):** In collaboration with UNHCR, we delivered multi-group training at Shree Panchayat Ma. Vi. for girls (Grades 5–10), boys, teachers, and parents.
- **Lalitpur:** Focused on rural and semi-urban communities including Thecho (Saraswati Higher Secondary), Lele (Shree Saraswati Secondary), Pyangaun (Bani Bilas), and Chhampi (Chhampi Devi).
- **Dang & Jhapa:** Reached key institutions such as Janta Sanskrit Secondary and Shree Dipendra Ma. Vi. in Dang, alongside schools in Birtamod, Jhapa.
- **Saptari & Lamjung:** Conducted extensive outreach across multiple secondary schools, including Shree Shankar Madhyamik and Jana Jyoti, strengthening community safety nets in these regions.
- **Dhading, Surkhet, Parsa & Bara:** Implemented wide-scale ward-level programs and school workshops in Gumi, Chepang, and Salyantar.



Our Holistic Curriculum: Beyond Physical Skills

Consistent with our 2020 methodology, our 2021 programs provided a comprehensive safety framework designed for real-world application: Physical Empowerment, Risk Reduction, Assertive Communication and Awareness & Consent

2. Large-Scale Adolescent Protection Programs: Scaling for Impact

In 2021, Fightback reached a new milestone in operational scale through high-level strategic partnerships designed to protect the next generation. By moving beyond individual school sessions to systemic regional programs, we provided life-changing safety education to more than 16,000 adolescents.

The 'Safe to Learn' Initiative: In partnership with VSO Nepal

Our most significant achievement in 2021 was the large-scale rollout of the Sexual Violence Risk Reduction (SVRR) training under the End Violence Against Children project. Despite the year's logistical hurdles, we achieved unprecedented reach:

15,695 Girls and Boys Reached: Delivering age-appropriate, gender-sensitive safety education.

5 Districts Mobilized: Impacting schools and communities through a systematic, evidence-based curriculum.

Outcome: Equipping a new generation with the tools to identify risks and the confidence to seek help, creating safer learning environments. [\[Click here to read full report\]](#)

In collaboration with the **Bhaskar-Tejshree Memorial Foundation**, we conducted a pilot study of the Tejshree Initiative for Empowerment of School Adolescents for Prevention of Sexual Harassment (TIPSH), reaching a targeted group of grade 8-10 students in Tanahun District. Launched in memory of human rights advocate Tejshree Thapa, the project utilized a pre-post test quasi-experimental method to evaluate students' knowledge, attitude, and practice regarding gender and sexual harassment. Despite being held entirely online due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 24-hour experiential learning program yielded significant results. In the intervention group, the proportion of students able to identify "good touch" and "bad touch" surged from **43.3% to 93.3%**, and those who recognized that sexual harassment is preventable reached 100%. By challenging patriarchal values and equipping youth with mental, vocal, and physical safety tools, this pilot provided a validated, science-backed framework ready for nationwide scaling. **[\[Click here to read full report\]](#)**

3. Community & Municipality-Level Trainings: Grassroots Empowerment

Our 2021 strategy emphasized deepening our presence within local governance structures, ensuring that safety is prioritized at the ward and municipality levels.

- Prasauni Municipality Collaboration: Partnering with the SHAKHI Organization, we delivered specialized Sexual Violence Risk Reduction (SVRR) trainings to adolescent girls across 7 wards in Bara.
- Beyond awareness, we implemented multi-day, intensive Fightback workshops in Wards 1, 3, 5, 6, and 7 of Prasauni, providing participants with a robust toolkit of mental, vocal, and physical skills.

4. Inclusion & Disability-Focused Programming: Breaking Barriers

At Fightback, we believe that safety is a fundamental human right that must be accessible to all, regardless of physical ability. In 2021, we took a significant step toward inclusive programming by addressing the unique risks faced by the disability community.

- Empowering the Visually Impaired: In August and September 2021, we successfully completed 5-day specialized self-defense workshops for visually impaired women.
- Conducted at DAV School in Lalitpur in partnership with Prayatna Nepal, these sessions were tailored to transform vulnerability into strength through trauma-informed and adaptive safety techniques

5. Workplace Safety & Ride-Sharing Initiatives

In a strategic move toward enhancing workplace safety, Fightback partnered with the International Labour Organization (ILO) to pilot a specialized Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) and Ride-Sharing Harassment and Violence Reduction Training. This initiative, match-funded by both organizations, successfully reached 4,020 riders surpassing our initial target and addressed critical safety gaps for Nepal's transport workers. This training not only provided riders with essential road safety knowledge but also catalyzed a broader cultural shift toward a safer, more respectful environment for both service providers and customers.



GLOBAL RECOGNITION & INNOVATION

Leading the Dialogue on Social Innovation: In 2021, Fightback's unique model: one that combines physical skills with digital accessibility and mental empowerment gained significant traction on the global stage.

UN Secretariat Recognition: Fightback was selected to represent Nepal at the 6th Multi-Stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) for the SDGs. We showcased Fightback as a "cutting-edge innovation catalyzed by COVID-19," specifically highlighting how we utilized technology to reach vulnerable communities during global restrictions.

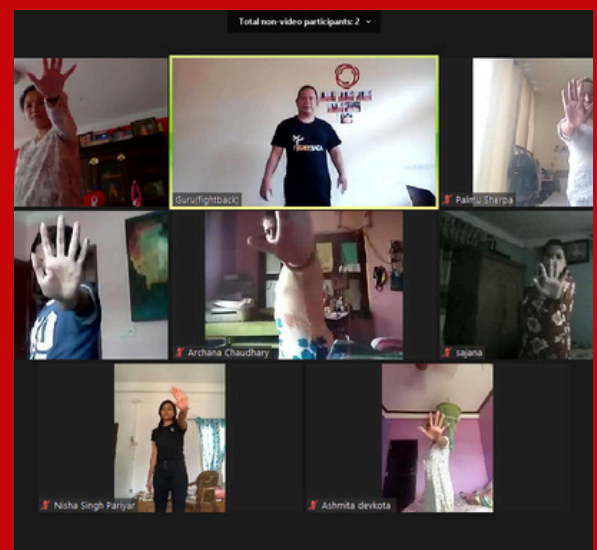
The UN STI Award (May 2021): Our digital evolution was formally validated by the UN STI Award, recognizing our efforts to digitize safety education.

Global Dialogue - "We Scale Impact": Our founding director Mr. Vikrant Pandey participated in the global 'We Scale Impact ' dialogue, sharing Fightback's unique strategy for scaling social innovation within emerging markets.

Technology Integration

E-Learning Platform: Throughout 2021, we focused on the conceptualization and foundational development of our E-learning platform, supported by GCC funding, to ensure our curriculum remains accessible regardless of geography.

ILO Partnership & Convention 190: In a pilot partnership with the International Labour Organization (ILO), we worked on making ride-sharing safer by addressing harassment and occupational health. We also led the digitalization of ILO Convention No. 190 modules, focusing on eliminating violence and harassment in the world of work.



TRAINER RECOGNITION: THE HEART OF FIGHTBACK

The Gratitude Ceremony:

The success of 2021 reaching **over 16,000 adolescents** in **20+ districts**, was made possible by the tireless dedication of our training team. To honor this, we organized a Gratitude Ceremony, recognizing the trainers who traveled to the most remote corners of the country to deliver the Fightback curriculum. Their resilience is the foundation upon which this organization stands.



2021 demonstrated that the resilience we built during the pandemic was not just for survival, but for growth. As we resumed our on-ground training across 20+ districts, we saw a nation ready to reclaim its safety. Through the unwavering dedication of our trainers and the trust of our global partners like VSO and UNHCR, we have turned a period of global uncertainty into a year of record-breaking impact. We enter the next year stronger, larger, and more committed than ever to building a resilient future for all.

Our Partners

- VSO Nepal,
- UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees),
- International Labour Organization (ILO),
- UN Secretariat,
- Grand Challenges Canada (GCC),
- Bhaskar-Tejshree Memorial Foundation,
- Prayatna Nepal,
- SHAKHI Organization,



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