

Shaping lives
for a better tomorrow



Annual Report 2017-2018

Empowering Communities for Sustainable Development





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Message from the Founder and Chairperson

It gives me great pleasure to present the Reliance Foundation Annual Report for the year 2017-18. A year that saw us take significant strides in transforming the lives of our fellow citizens, particularly those from the marginalised and disadvantaged communities, and one which engaged us in multifarious ways towards achieving our overarching aim of inclusive growth. It was also a year that threw up major challenges, requiring all our resources and resourcefulness to help thousands of people far and wide in their hour of need. And, undoubtedly, it was a year that saw us grow from strength to strength, achieving ever higher goals to impact millions of lives through our work in rural transformation, health, education, sports for development, disaster response, arts, culture and heritage, and urban renewal.

Reliance Foundation has been able to address the challenges faced by the rural communities through our rural transformation programme, by building institutions, making villages water-secure, mentoring farmer producer companies, and enabling alternative livelihoods on and off the farm. This year, our initiatives helped in enhancing the livelihoods of more than 1.2 million farmers, fishermen and livestock owners while our eco-consistent soil conservation programme resulted in bringing more than 7,000 hectares of

land under sustainable agricultural practices. Our water harvesting and conservation efforts have made 307 villages water-secure, and it resulted in bringing over 32,000 hectares of land under irrigation. Since inception, this initiative has created the capacity to harvest over 73 billion litres of water.

Reliance Foundation was recognised for its contribution in supporting and promoting Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) in India and received the NCDEX Krishi Pragati Award 2017 for Outstanding Contribution by Resource Institution for Promoting FPOs.

The year also witnessed our active participation in the Swachh Bharat Mission, which was initiated by our Honourable Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, to drive change on the ground through our many campaigns. These helped sensitise villagers and empowered them to leverage Government schemes. As a result, over 15,000 toilets have been constructed so far and 87 villages declared Open Defecation Free.

Under our health outreach programme that administers free or subsidised care for the underprivileged, over 0.44 million consultations were provided to patients through Reliance-managed hospitals, mobile and static medical units, and various health camps, while RF Drishti, the free corneal transplant programme, gave the gift of sight to over 1,200 visually impaired individuals.

The first robotic kidney transplant in western India was performed at the Sir H.N. Reliance Foundation Hospital in 2017, on a 59-year-old patient who had been on dialysis for 18 months. The surgery was a complete success, with both the donor and the recipient being in good health.

To address the malaise of malnutrition among the children of Maharashtra and to reinforce the Government of India's agenda of Sustainable Development Goals 2, a tripartite Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Rajmata Jijau Mother-Child Health Nutrition Mission (RJMCHNM), Department of Women and Child Development (DWCD), (Government of Maharashtra), and Reliance Foundation with improvement in nutrition as the key objective.

Reliance Foundation provides quality education to over 16,000 students through its 14 schools. Under the Dhirubhai Ambani Scholarship programme, 423 talented students were given scholarships to pursue higher studies.

Reliance Foundation believes that sport plays a key role in the holistic development of children and in building their character. By providing international quality sports facilities and opportunities, we are committed to promoting a sporting culture and fostering talent in multiple sports across the country.

Over the year, the RF Jr. NBA programme was scaled up to more than 10,000 schools in 34 cities through its physical education curriculum. The programme has inspired nine million children and youth to adopt a healthy and active lifestyle. The RF Young Champs programme is supporting 48 talented young football players through scholarships to hone their skills with world-class facilities and the best-in-class training, apart from quality education. The RF Youth Sports programme, now in its second year has introduced athletics, in addition to football which has been there from the very beginning. This programme has reached out to 4.7 million youngsters from over 3,400 educational institutions in 34 cities.

Reliance Foundation responds swiftly and effectively to disasters that endanger lives by engaging with affected communities on the ground, leveraging its technological capabilities and the competence and commitment of its development staff to provide long-term relief and rehabilitation support.

In August 2017, RF supported over 10,000 individuals from 22 flood-affected villages across 11 districts in Assam. When heavy rains battered Gujarat and floods wreaked havoc, causing normal life to come to a standstill, RF helped over 0.15 million individuals from 87 flood-affected villages across the districts of Banaskantha and Patan, and adopted four of the worst-hit villages for rehabilitation. Similarly, RF played a key role in saving lives when Cyclone Ockhi struck parts of southern India. RF disseminated advisories related to cyclone warnings in the coastal areas in Tamil Nadu and Kerala through its various

communication channels, saving the lives of 27,000 fishermen and over 4,600 hectares of paddy fields in the region.

Reliance Foundation has been working consistently to preserve the rich art and cultural heritage of our country, while making a conscious effort to improve the livelihood of traditional artisans and craftsmen. RF supported '8 Prahar', an event dedicated to Indian classical music, bringing together singers, including Padma Vibhushan Sangeet Martand Pandit Jasraj, to delight music lovers in Mumbai. RF also supported the annual concert 'Abbaji', organised by Ustad Zakir Hussain, in the memory of his late father, the renowned tabla maestro, Ustad Allah Rakha Khan.

Our direct engagement offers us multiple opportunities to empower the marginalised sections of society, and make a meaningful difference in their lives. Promoting self-reliance for sustainable development is central to our approach, and we strive to achieve this by connecting with underprivileged communities and encouraging them to participate in our endeavour towards achieving collective growth.

The lasting impact of our initiatives speaks for itself and would not have been possible without the dedication and commitment of every member of the RF family. I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the efforts of each and every member of Reliance Foundation for giving life to our vision of a prosperous and inclusive India.

As we stride towards social transformation and empowerment, we are enriched by the heightened understanding of the impact of our initiatives. On behalf of Reliance Foundation, I take this opportunity to once again reaffirm our commitment towards inclusive growth and development, and hope that you will all join us in making our dream a reality!

Best Regards,

Nita M. Ambani

Nita M. Ambani

Founder and Chairperson
Reliance Foundation

Changing lives and empowering India through community engagement and digital technology

Reliance Foundation was established in 2010 to support the efforts of Reliance Industries in achieving economic equality and sustainable development; leading to transformational change and improvement in the lives of marginalised sections of society. Under the leadership of Smt. Nita M. Ambani, the initiatives of Reliance Foundation have registered an impressive growth in recent years: touching the lives of over 20 million people across India.

Reliance Foundation focusses on seven areas: Rural Transformation, Health, Education, Sports for Development, Disaster Response, Arts, Culture and Heritage, and Urban Renewal.

The key philosophy of all social development initiatives of RF is based on three core commitments of Scale, Impact and Sustainability.

RF focusses on its social initiatives with a three-pronged strategy:



Direct engagement with the community

In the domain of rural transformation, RF directly engages with the communities through a team of trained professionals. It collaborates with the community right from understanding its needs, planning and implementing the programmes, and measuring the values and impact it has created. In the process, RF engages the community members in planning and implementation, empowers them through trainings, and works towards scalability and sustainability of the initiatives.



Leveraging the power of technology

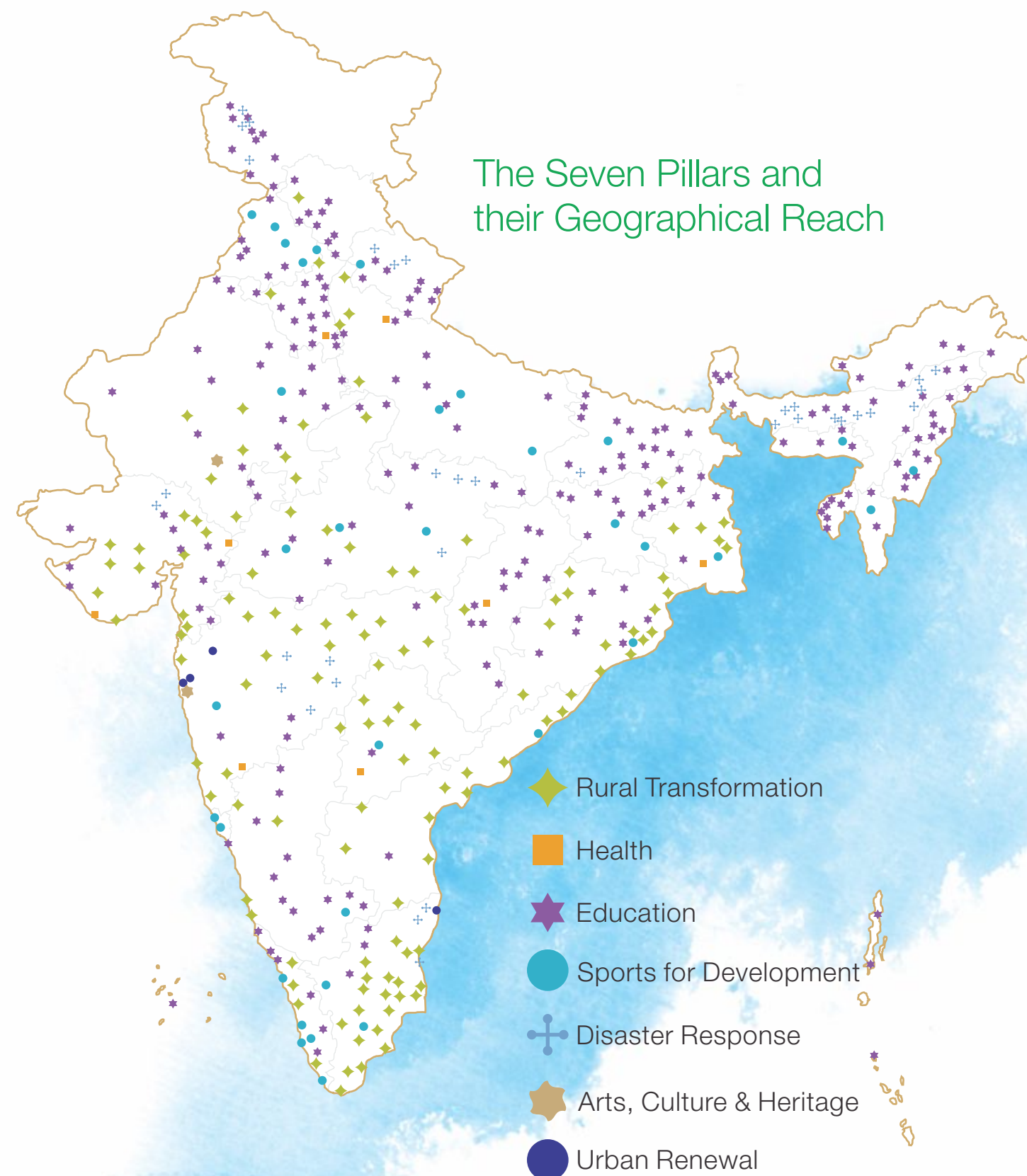
Reliance Foundation leverages technologies to provide sustainable solutions. These technological interventions connect communities on multiple digital platforms for optimum use of resources, informed decision making and capacity building.



Partnerships and collaborations

Reliance Foundation forms strategic partnerships with organisations that have similar goals as well as certain unique strengths. Our partners include state and local governments and non-government organisations working at the grassroots level. RF collaborates with the organisations for sharing technical know-how, human resources and infrastructure. These partnerships support us in delivering better results for the communities we engage with and help us address the issues at a larger scale than what the direct interventions can achieve.

The Seven Pillars and their Geographical Reach



Highlights 2017-18



Rural Transformation



Over **1.2 million**

livelihoods, including farmers, fisherfolk and livestock owners enhanced (over 4.8 million since inception)

More than **32,000 hectares**

of land area brought under irrigation through water harvesting and conservation efforts since inception

Over **7 million saplings**

were planted during the year to promote biodiversity (over 20 million since inception)

More than **73 billion litres of water harvesting capacity**

has been created since inception. As a result, 307 villages were made water secure

Eco-consistent soil conservation resulted in bringing more than

7,000 hectares

of land under sustainable agricultural practices (over 64,000 hectares since inception)

Sports



The RF Jr. NBA programme has scaled up to 10,000+ schools across 34 cities through its physical education curriculum. So far, the programme has inspired

9 million children & youth

to adopt a healthy, active lifestyle

In its second year, RF Youth Sports programme introduced athletics while continuing with football. The programme reached out to

4.7 million youth

from 3,400+ educational institutions across 34 cities

The RF Young Champs programme is supporting

48 talented young football players

through scholarships to hone their skills with world-class facilities and best-in-class training



Health



Over **0.44 million** health consultations provided to patients through Reliance-managed hospitals, mobile and static medical units, and various health camps (4.5 million since inception)

The eye care services supported

1,207 visually impaired

individuals under the RF Drishti programme (17,000+ corneal transplants since inception)

Education



16,000 students

are being provided quality education through 14 Reliance Foundation Schools

423 talented students

demonstrating financial needs were given scholarships to pursue higher studies under DAS programme (11,781 since inception)

Arts, Culture and Heritage



Supported '8 Prahar', an event dedicated to Indian classical music, bringing together singers including Padma Vibhushan Sangeet Martand

Pandit Jasraj

to delight music lovers in Mumbai

Supported the annual concert 'Abbaji', organised by

Ustad Zakir Hussain

in the memory of his late father, the renowned tabla maestro, Ustad Allah Rakha Khan

Disaster Response



The early warning advisories disseminated during cyclone Ockhi in southern India saved lives of

27,000 fishermen and over **4,600 hectares** of paddy fields

Helped over **0.15 million individuals**

from 87 flood affected villages across the districts of Banaskantha and Patan in Gujarat. Adopted four worst-hit villages to provide required assistance for rehabilitation, beyond the immediate relief efforts

Supported over **10,000 individuals**

from 22 flood-affected villages across 11 districts in Assam



Sculpting the transformation

RURAL TRANSFORMATION

Reliance Foundation has been addressing the challenges of rural communities through its rural transformation programme. Key initiatives in this programme include building rural institutions, making villages water secure, mentoring Farmer Producer Companies and enabling alternative livelihood options on and off the farm. The programme also uses technology based solutions for securing livelihoods of farmers, fisherfolk and livestock owners across the country.

In addition to direct engagement, RF has supported several

organisations working in the field of rural development with an aim to benefit the rural community. This year, the initiatives supported are aimed at building drought-resilient villages by ensuring water sufficiency, income enhancement through women-led cooperative societies and fishermen producer companies, as well as capacity building of farmers for better price realisation. Together, these initiatives help achieve the SDGs – Goal 1: No Poverty, Goal 2: No Hunger, Goal 6: Clean Water and Sanitation, and Goal 10: Reduced Inequalities.

Institution Building

Through institution building interventions, Reliance Foundation engages the rural communities in co-creating and co-designing development for sustaining its initiatives on ground. These are Village Associations, Farmer Producer Companies and Women Thrift Groups that are based on the values of democracy, inclusiveness and transparency. The primary outcome envisaged from the intervention is an empowered and self-reliant community-based organisation with robust membership base and strong leadership. These institutions act as platforms for bringing the community together for holistic rural development. These community level institutions have facilitated the development of village level leadership for addressing local social development issues. Many of these institutions have taken up advocacy roles at different levels.



Ensuring Sustainability

For long-term sustainability of these institutions, the members come together to contribute towards creating a community owned fund, infuse equity into producer companies, and to undertake savings and thrift activities. They have also been instrumental in mobilising physical and financial resources in times of crisis. Some of these leaders are also elected by people as representatives of Gram Panchayats, given their active participation in community development initiatives.



Self-Accountable Leaders

The transformation of villages calls for leaders who are goal obsessed, accountable, motivated, and credible with an ability to collectivise people through the power of the leader's vision and dreams. Easier said than done as there is paucity of such accountable leaders because it involves taking personal pains for voluntary contribution of one's time and resources for the cause of transformation for the development of community as a whole. To address this gap of community leaders who drive the transformational change, RF intervenes in developing self-accountable community leaders. "A self-accountable leader is one who accepts and shoulders the responsibility for actions, decisions, governance, and implementation of the tasks which he/ she is entrusted with and includes the responsibility to report, explain and be answerable for consequences."

Nishaben

Parvat Village, Netrang, Gujarat

Nishaben is the epitome of a true leader, whose endeavours have impacted the future of many in her village and community. Empowered with a 10-day masonry training provided by RF, Nishaben, along with her group of 10 other women, completed the construction of 50 toilets in her village. This achievement not only earned her group the Swachhata award but also additional work under MGNREGA.

With RF's support, Nishaben's SHG was linked to the government's Tribal Sub Plan vegetable collection centre. In a span of two months, her collective supplied 52 metric tonnes of cluster beans and achieved a turnover of more than Rs 1.8 million.

A homemaker with two children, Nishaben is also the president of a women's federation comprising 15 villages, secretary of a Self Help Group, and member of her village association.



Satyanarayan Budek

Budelguma Village, Bolangir Cluster, Odisha

Forty-one-year-old Satyanarayan is an enterprising farmer, who has shouldered the responsibility of bringing transformative change to his village and community. As a leader of his Village Association, Satyanarayan had implemented several initiatives that influenced the socio-economic development of Budelguma. Notable among these were the prohibition of liquor, establishing of a haat (market) in Bolangir cluster, instituting an adult literacy programme and installation of street lights. His haat has inspired neighbouring villages to adopt the model, and also received the support of NABARD and Gram Panchayat. In 2016, Satyanarayan was appointed as Chairman of the Bolangir Producer Company. Under his chairmanship, the entity has earned a Grade A recognition for quality processes.

Water Security

Reliance Foundation is committed to helping villages with water scarcity conserve every drop of rain. The programme aims to provide water security to villages for irrigation and domestic use. More than 73 billion litres of water harvesting capacity has been created since inception by constructing or renovating water harvesting structures, including earthen/ masonry dams and check dams, farm ponds, and open wells. Over 32,000 hectares of farm land received assured irrigation for two cropping seasons, despite rain deficiency in many parts of India, courtesy the programme. These efforts resulted in drinking water security of 307 villages. Moreover, several villages have reported an increase in ground water level by over two metres, even at the peak of summer seasons.

For efficient water management, water user groups were formed across 260 villages that manage and regulate sustainable water use. Assessments show that the intervention has positively impacted farmers’ livelihoods in terms of land use pattern, cropping intensity and income levels.

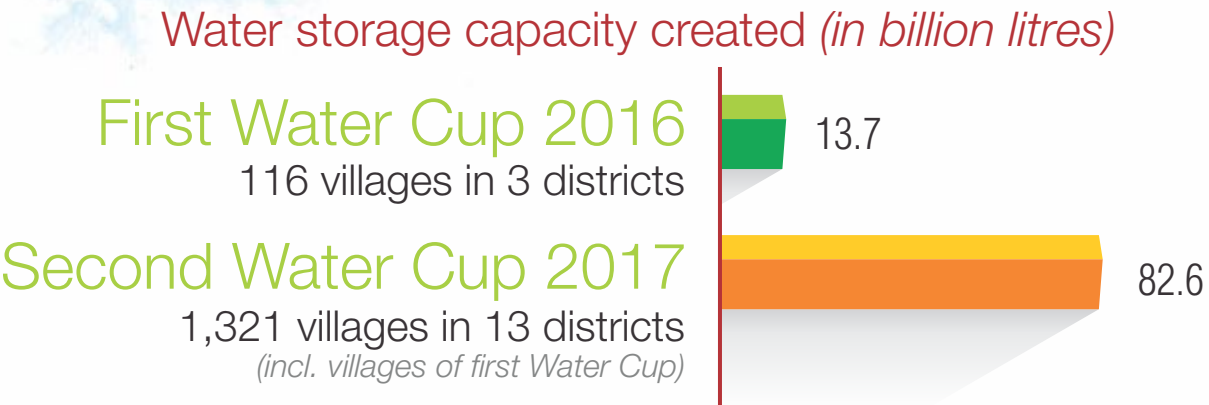
Reliance Foundation supported Paani Foundation’s Water Cup initiative to ensure water security in rural Maharashtra. Through this initiative, over 96 billion litres of water storage capacity has been created across 1,300+ villages.



>32,000
hectares
received assured irrigation
for two cropping seasons



307 villages
drinking
water secured



Revival of traditional Holiya system

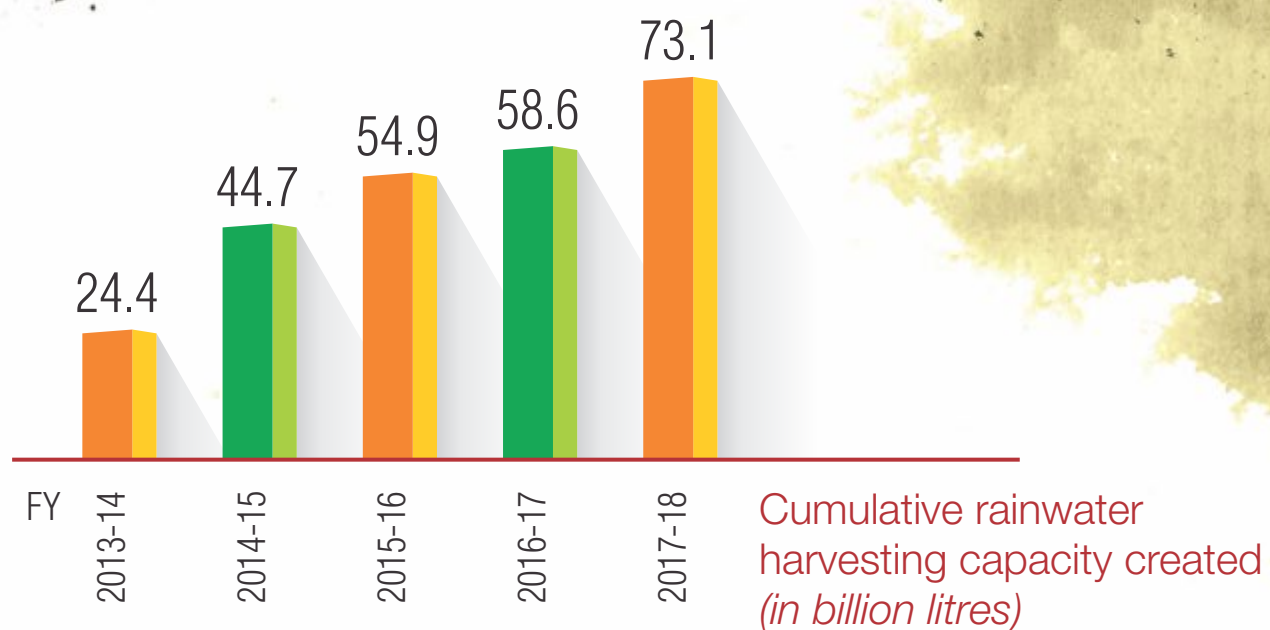
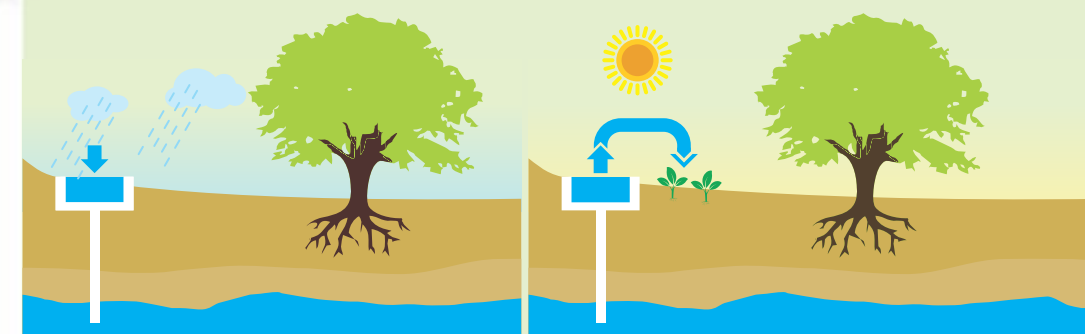
A remedy for **Laxman Bhai** in
saline dry lands of Santalpur, Gujarat

Initially, Laxman Bhai Rabari, a resident of Unrot village in Radhanpur, Gujarat used to pump water from the Narmada Canal for irrigation and livestock use. However, for the flood prone area like his village, he felt that it would not be a very reliable method during the monsoon.

Before the monsoon arrived last year, Laxman Bhai, with support from RF, completed the construction of Holiya, a traditional water harvesting system (also known as *Bhungroo*). His foresight proved to be a boon not only for him but for the whole village. When the monsoon flooded the area and his village, his Holiya provided sufficient potable water to tide over the disaster. Revival of Holiya provided a very reliable source of water to his village and earned him the appreciation of his village community.

During the winter, when the canal was shut due to water scarcity, Laxman Bhai used sprinkler irrigation sourced from the Holiya and grew crops and fodder. This saved him the cost of purchasing fodder and migrating to greener pastures with his livestock.

Drawing from Laxman Bhai's experience, the cluster now has 227 Holiyas, constructed across six villages. To scale-up water security, the government has also started to construct Holiyas in the area under the MGNREGA scheme.



Farmer Producer Companies

Perennially, India's farmers have faced the challenge of establishing market linkages. To help the farmers overcome this challenge, Reliance Foundation empowers them to set up Farmer Producer Companies (FPCs). These farmer-owned and farmer-driven companies sensitise rural producers on the need to come together as collectives, aggregate farm produce to bring in economies of scale for fetching better prices, have sustainable access to markets, etc.

This aggregation also enhances the bargaining power of farmers. So far, RF has mentored 19 FPCs, spanning 10 states. As on March 31, 2018, the RF-mentored FPCs had 21,500 farmers associated with them. During FY 2017-18, the annual turnover of FPCs was Rs 675 million. Each farmer who transacted through FPCs, on an average had an additional annual income of Rs 5,000 to Rs 6,000.

Improving market linkages

RF-mentored FPCs have played a pivotal role in providing the access to markets to marginal farmers. Commodities of 141,000 quintals worth Rs 675 million have been transacted across 19 FPCs during the financial year. The commodities primarily aggregated and traded were groundnut, red gram, soyabean, mustard, wheat, tuar and cotton cake. The 19 FPCs have opened up 50 procurement and collection centres in core, but remote villages to enable procurement of produce from farmers' doorsteps.

Collaborations with government agencies like SFAC, NABARD, NAFED, ATMA, NCDEX, GUJPRO, GUJCOT, etc, have provided the FPC members a fair and transparent market to sell their produce.



During FY 2017-18,
the annual turnover of
FPCs was **Rs 675 million**



Highlights of FPCs (2017-18)

Jamwa Ramgarh FPC received

**Krishi Pragati
Award 2017**

from NCDEX as the **Most Promising Producer Company** for outstanding contribution in improving income of small and marginal farmers through FPCs

Bhimpahad Krushak Producer Company

in Bolangir, Odisha was licensed as a supplier of seeds and fertilisers by the Government of Odisha. This would benefit the FPC members in getting quality seeds at nominal subsidised government prices. The FPC has also been ranked as one of the

Grade 'A' FPCs
by NABARD.

In collaboration with Gujarat State Co-operative Cotton Federation Limited, **Jasdan Producer Company** transacted

54,000+ quintals of groundnut
that benefitted 5,700 farmers.

Food & Nutrition Security

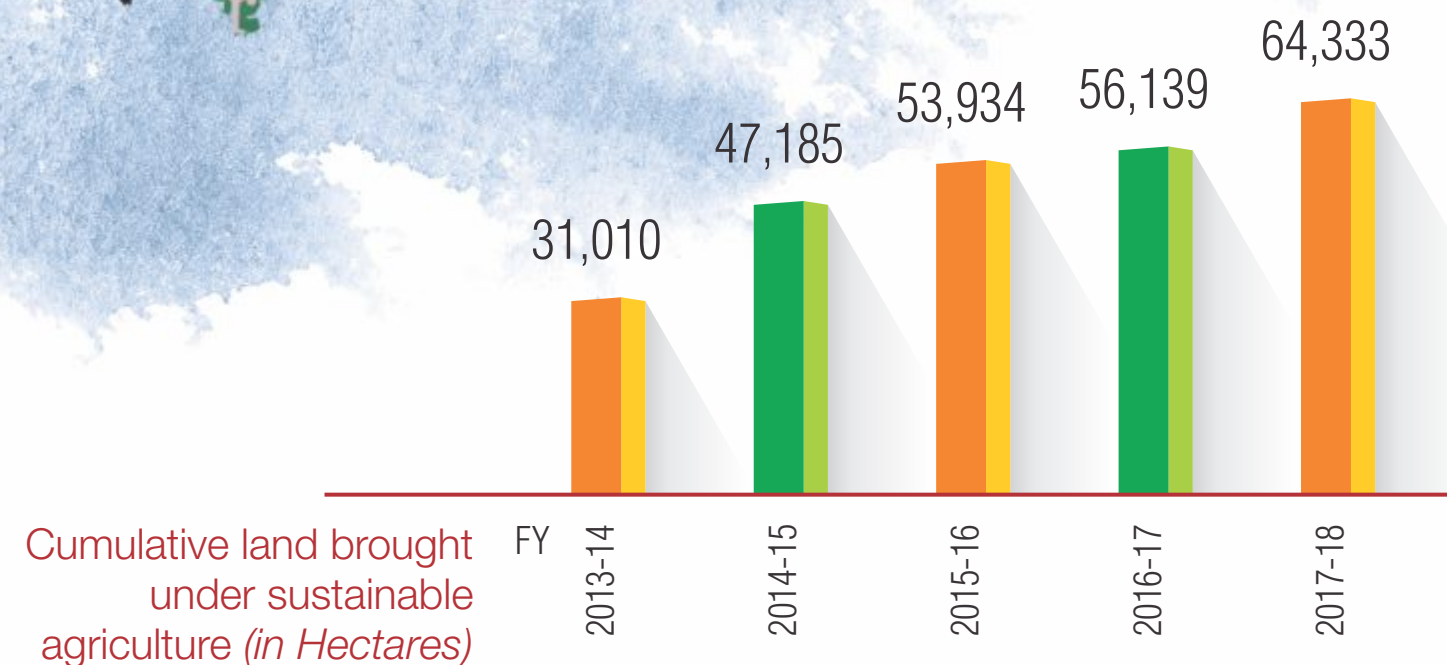
Reliance Foundation has been working to achieve nutritional security in rural marginal households by helping communities set up Reliance Nutrition Gardens (RNGs). These small kitchen or backyard gardens have improved health and nutritional outcomes of marginalised farmer families, providing them with a diverse mix of vegetables, fruits and medicinal plants throughout the year.

Recognising the success of RF's model of nutrition gardens in reducing malnutrition, Department of Women and Child Development (DWCD) and Rajmata Jijau Mother-Child Health & Nutrition Mission (RJMCHNM) signed an MoU with Reliance Foundation for developing RNGs in the premises of anganwadis in Maharashtra. Over 25,000 RNGs are being developed in 16 districts to improve the nutritional value of malnourished women and children in the State.

In an effort to ensure food security of small and marginal households, integrated sustainable agriculture practices like use of better quality seeds, application of organic manures, integrated nutrient management, integrated insect pests and diseases management measures were promoted in the programme. During the year, more than 20 location-specific, sustainable agriculture solutions were provided to farming communities that could contribute substantially in improving crop productivity, reduce cost of production and enhance income levels of member households. Over 32,000 households have been made food secure with access to at least 10 quintals of food grains in a year on sustainable basis.



32,000 households have been made food secure with access to at least 10 quintals of food grains in a year on sustainable basis



Alternative Rural Livelihoods and Entrepreneurship

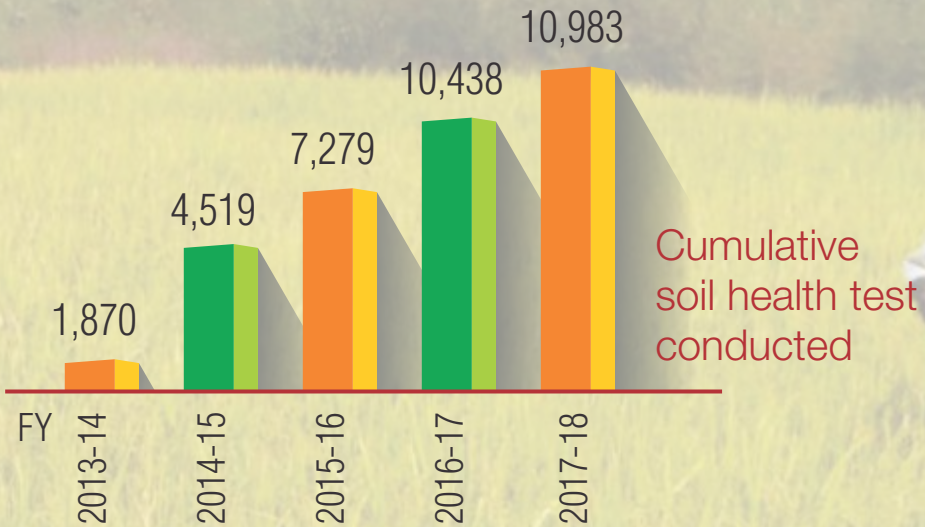
Reliance Foundation promotes alternative livelihood options to provide protection against uncertainties and catastrophes that affect farm-based livelihoods. RF encourages small farmers to initiate livestock-rearing, poultry farming, nursery raising, vegetable production, vermi-composting, mushroom cultivation, dairy farming, and tailoring among others. Till date, over 14,000 rural families have benefitted from alternative livelihoods (over 7,000 families during FY 2017-18).



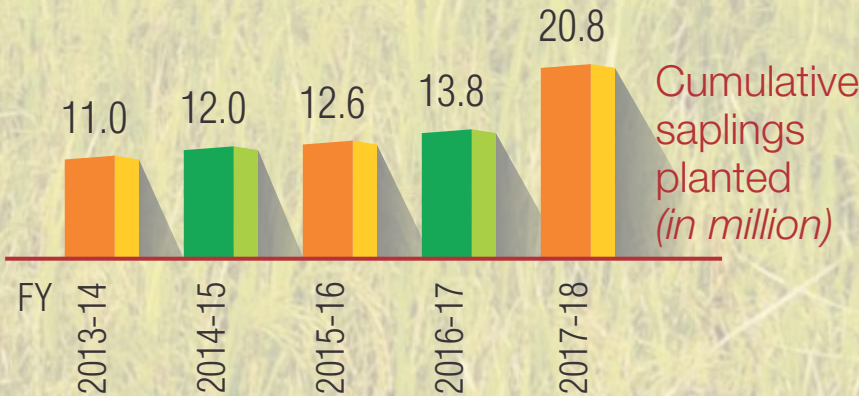
More than 14,000 households were directly impacted by enabling various farm and non-farm based livelihood opportunities like nursery, vegetable production, vermi-compost preparation, mushroom cultivation, dairy, poultry, goat/ sheep rearing, tailoring, etc.

Ecological Security

Reliance Foundation promotes ecological security in three ways: increasing the supply of cultivable land; enhancing the green cover through large-scale plantation activity; and improving soil health. RF adopts eco-consistent soil conservation methods that resulted in bringing an additional 7,000 hectares (64,000 hectares since inception) under sustainable agricultural practices. This has led to an improvement in soil texture, structure, microbial activity and aeration, and almost 80% of this land has been used for food production.



To promote biodiversity, over 7 million saplings were planted during FY 2017-18 (over 20 million saplings planted since inception). RF observed World Environment Day and motivated rural communities and employees to plant saplings. The event saw an enthusiastic participation of 20,000+ people from over 150 villages across 12 states. RF endorses the protection of soil eco-system. RF has conducted nearly 11,000 soil health tests since inception and disseminated relevant advisories.



Information Services

Reliance Foundation, through its information services programme, empowers communities by providing reliable information, tailored to the needs of farmers, fisherfolk, livestock owners, etc., in more than 13,000 villages across 12 states. This is disseminated both digitally and through community level interventions that include information on crop management, livestock care, schemes and subsidies, healthcare, civic services, etc. The mobile-based advisories have reached an additional 1.2 million individuals during the year. Overall, these advisories have reached 4.8 million individuals since inception; thus emerging as a powerful tool of knowledge dissemination.

Virtual platforms for informed decision-making

Reliance Foundation has been using multiple digital solutions tailored to the needs of its beneficiaries. This year, RF leveraged Jio Infocomm’s “JioChat” application and added essential features in it to provide solutions to a range of rural users seeking customised information and advice on improving their lives and livelihood. The app allows users to send and receive information in the form of text, images, voice and video.

In addition, the users can also seek information with the help of keywords through chat. So far, 15,000 different advisories have been uploaded in nine Indian languages, thus making these accessible to many more people. The content disseminated through the app is benefitting a large population which seeks information to make the best decisions about their livelihoods.

As part of the programme, RF has created an eco-system that comprises of more than 1,000 knowledge and infrastructure partners, thematic experts, including research institutions, government departments, NGOs, etc. This eco-system enables RF to communicate locally relevant and technically sound advice and information to the target groups efficiently and effectively.

Some key partners:

- India Meteorological Department, Pune
- Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services, Hyderabad
- Agriculture Technology Management Agency (centres across India)
- Central Institute of Fisheries Education, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra
- District Agriculture Advisory and Transfer of Technology Centre, Andhra Pradesh
- Krishi Vigyan Kendra (centres across India)
- Indian Red Cross Society, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Madhya Pradesh
- Indian Farmers Fertilizer Cooperative Limited, Maharashtra



Collaborations with Development Partners for Rural Transformation

Contribution to Maharashtra Village Social Transformation Mission

In 2017, Reliance Foundation joined hands with the Government of Maharashtra to advance the State’s holistic mission of transforming 1,000 villages. As part of the partnership, RF is demonstrating a comprehensive model of rural transformation. The model empowers communities to establish a transparent and accountable governance system; achieve food, water, nutrition and energy security; and contribute to sustainable livelihoods. The model also emphasises on education, and awareness of rights and entitlements. It works towards strengthening physical and digital infrastructure, and making villages resilient to natural disasters.

Early results from RF’s direct engagement with 51 villages (located in Parbhani and Yavatmal districts of Maharashtra) indicate:

252 community leaders have emerged as change agents, driving the transformation in 33 villages

Increased water harvesting capacity has assured irrigation for 2,600 hectares

3,500 families are earning income of more than Rs 100,000 per annum





Shaping a healthy India

HEALTH

Reliance Foundation's health programme addresses issues around affordability and accessibility of quality primary healthcare. It strives to improve awareness and healthy living practices, and provides a range of healthcare services, spanning the entire life cycle. RF also provides specialised services through tertiary healthcare facilities, such as multi-specialty Hospitals, at subsidised rates to the communities. The objectives of this programme are aligned to SDG 3: Good Health and Wellbeing.

Collectively, the health programmes have reached out to 2.5 million people and provided over 4.5 million patient consultations since inception. Through partnerships, RF supported several organisations working in the field of healthcare in providing a range of services, both at primary and tertiary level. These services include preventive care, maternal and child health, specialised care for patients with cardiac and kidney problems, palliative care for terminally ill cancer patients, etc.



Reached out to 2.5 million people and provided over **4.5 million** patient consultations since inception.

Sir H N Reliance Foundation Hospital and Research Centre

Since its inauguration in 2014, Sir H N Reliance Foundation Hospital and Research Centre has emerged as a centre of quality care in Mumbai. By keeping abreast of medical innovations and adopting the best practices in clinical care, RF Hospital is poised to offer world-class medical services. It has won India's foremost quality accreditation from National Accreditation Board for Hospitals and Healthcare Providers (NABH). A large number of patients with complex medical issues have been treated here. Its state-of-the-art operation theatre complex, including robotics, cutting-edge diagnostics and imaging facilities, enable RF Hospital to offer excellent care.

During the year, RF Hospital successfully performed 6,500 procedures with excellent outcomes within a strong ethical framework. These include some of the most complex surgeries across different specialties such as cancer, paediatric cardiac surgeries, spine surgeries, joint replacement surgeries and vascular interventions. The Hospital conducted the first Robotic Kidney Transplant in Maharashtra. The Hospital has successfully undertaken advanced Child Haplo-identical Transplant by TCR Alphabeta and CD45RA Depletion Method, the first such transplant in India.

RF Hospital organises health awareness programmes to empower people to take informed decisions on health issues. Over 9,000 people have been covered so far, through approximately 100 programmes. The Hospital also organised corporate health awareness talks and school screening camps covering over 5,000 people. Through subsidised and free services,

the Hospital benefitted over 10,000 out-patients during the year. True to the Hospital's motto, 'Respect for Life', it provided over 200 charity patients with varied medical services, including paediatric cardiac surgeries, cochlear implants and cancer therapies. In fact, RF Hospital has an entire floor dedicated to free or subsidised treatment for patients belonging to economically weaker sections.

RF Hospital's Emergency Care Department caters to a large number of patients every year, and saved many from death and permanent disability. Its emergency teams meticulously follow international best practices to offer lifesaving services in the 'golden hour' to treat stroke, heart attack, other



Successfully performed 6,500 procedures in FY 2017-18

Conducted the first robotic kidney transplant in Maharashtra

Provided over 200 charity patients with varied medical services, including paediatric cardiac surgeries, cochlear implants and cancer therapies

ailments, and accidents. Over 9,000 patients benefitted from the services in FY 2017-18. RF Hospital has initiated "Digital Push" mobile application, using which individuals can digitise and manage their medical records. The app is free to download and over 5,000 people are already using it. The Hospital's ethos of 'patient first' is exemplified in the numerous steps it has taken to improve patient care and give patient's family members a reassuring experience. The Hospital has leveraged technology

not only to improve medical care but also to ensure service excellence. Its online reports reduce visits to the hospital and the online registration and mobile applications help find suitable doctors and expedite online appointments. Efforts have been made to reduce waiting time and discharge time of out-patients. All these make RF Hospital truly a place where people, processes, technology and infrastructure converge to provide the best experience and care.

Dhirubhai Ambani Hospital

The Dhirubhai Ambani Hospital at Lodhivali, near Patalganga in Maharashtra, has provided free and subsidised healthcare to 1,923 patients during the year, taking the number of total subsidised patients to 18,600 since inception. A majority of these patients include the underprivileged, senior citizens, and trauma victims from the economically weaker sections of the society.

The Hospital's Anti-Retroviral Therapy centre is the largest in Raigad district. It has registered over 4,000 persons with HIV/AIDS (PLHIV) since inception, of which 210 were registered during FY 2017-18. The patients receive free consultation, counselling, investigation and treatment. In FY 2017-18, specialised health consultations were provided to over 17,500 PLHIV taking the total number of consultations to 0.14 million.



17,500
people living
with HIV (PLHIV) were
provided specialised health
consultations in FY 2017-18

0.14 mn
the total number of
consultations provided to
PLHIV till date



Alliance for Saving Mothers and Newborns (ASMAN)

Through Project ASMAN, Reliance Foundation, along with four other organisations – **Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Tata Trusts, Merck Sharp & Dohme Corp., and United States Agency for International Development (USAID)** – is working in Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh to strengthen the health systems by enhancing quality of services in public health facilities for improved maternal and newborn health outcomes.

The intervention provides technology-based solutions to healthcare providers, backed by on-site mentoring and supportive supervision visits during critical phases of intra-partum and post-partum care. Covering 81 multi-level health facilities, the programme has trained 80 Medical Officers and 338 staff nurses on obstetric and newborn care. During the project cycle, the programme will benefit at least 0.5 million mothers and newborns.

Corneal Transplant Surgeries

For more than a decade, through RF Drishti programme, Reliance Foundation has been supporting visually impaired underprivileged people to undergo corneal transplants by partnering with the National Association for the Blind, Arvind Eye Hospital and Sankara Eye Foundation. The procedures have been conducted in 19 states across the country. During the year, 1,207 visually impaired individuals were supported under the programme (17,031 corneal transplants since inception).

To increase awareness about importance of eye donation, the programme organises a week-long Drishti Art and Essay Competition every year. In 2017-18, about 10,000 children participated in it.



17,031
total number of
corneal transplants
since inception



Strengthening of Public Health System

Reliance Foundation is working towards improving the quality of healthcare in Warangal, Telangana by strengthening the public healthcare system through technical support to the Government. The objective is to achieve the process quality standards according to benchmarks of the National Accreditation Board for Hospitals and Healthcare Providers and National Quality Assurance Standards.

The project works towards improving the quality of care through the adoption of quality management health systems, process standardisation, capacity building and technology integration. The

programme positively impacted eight primary and secondary healthcare facilities and a tertiary care teaching hospital – Mahatma Gandhi Memorial (MGM).

The project has shown improvement in quality parameters such as safe disposal of biomedical waste, improvement in management of deliveries and informed decision-making of district health administration officials. It also assisted in improvement of counselling and implementation of digital record keeping, among others.

MGM stands at 5.02 out of 10
on NABH assessment scale



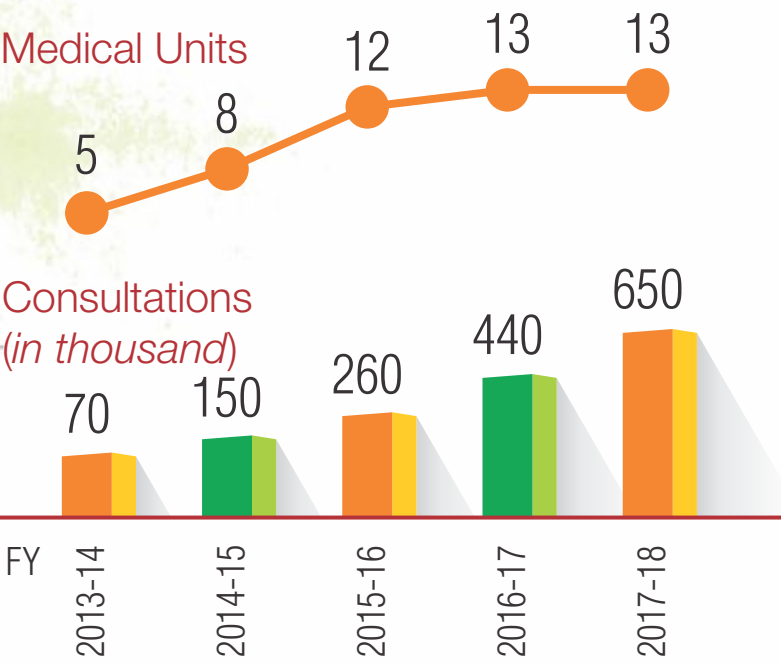
Healthcare through Outreach and Referrals



Reliance Foundation's health outreach programme provides primary health services including screenings and consultations. It employs ten Mobile Medical Units (MMUs) and three Static Medical Units (SMUs) across Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Uttarakhand to offer medical help to underprivileged communities. In Mumbai, the high-risk cases are further referred to tertiary level facilities. RF reaches out to underprivileged segments with information, education and communication messages through camps and technology-enabled information services to emphasise preventive care and correct health behaviours.

The medical units are equipped with state-of-the-art technology to store patient information, which helps healthcare providers in taking decisions based on the case history. Through MMUs, SMUs and camps, over 0.2 million consultations were provided during the year. Further, 35,000 individuals were provided health related advisories through digital platform. The health outreach programme also empowers community volunteers to help prevent seasonal outbreaks.

Cumulative health consultations and number of Mobile and Static Medical Units



A golden sculpture of two hands, one larger and one smaller, working together to shape a clay bowl on a pottery wheel. The hands are positioned as if they are actively molding the clay, with the fingers of the larger hand supporting the base and the smaller hand refining the rim. The pottery wheel is shown in motion, with concentric rings of clay visible. The entire scene is set against a warm, textured background that transitions from a light beige at the top to a darker orange at the bottom.

Moulding the future

EDUCATION

Initiatives of Reliance Foundation in the field of education are aimed at promoting primary and secondary education and enabling higher education through merit-cum-means scholarships across the country. RF has been leveraging appropriate technologies and learning resources for improving the quality of teaching and, in turn student performance.

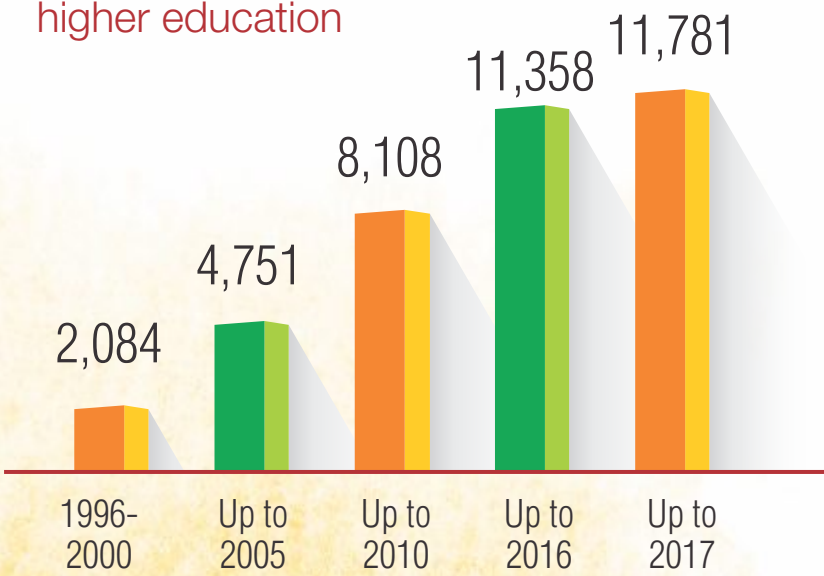
To diversify its initiatives in this space, RF supported various organisations in providing quality education to children from underprivileged communities. The

initiatives of these organisations focus on improving enrolment rate, improving skill sets of teachers, improving English language skills of children, education on child sexual abuse and positive communication, mainstreaming of children with special needs and improving educational infrastructure. Through these partnerships, RF is improving the learning outcomes of over 100,000 children across the country. RF's work in education sector corresponds to SDG 4: Quality Education.

Scholarships for Higher Education

In order to nurture talented young leaders, the **Dhirubhai Ambani Scholarship (DAS) programme** has so far provided financial support to 11,781 meritorious students to pursue graduation in any stream and institution of their choice. Nearly half of the DAS scholars are girls, while one-fifth are specially-abled students. During FY 2017-18, the DAS programme supported 423 students across the country.

Scholarships to needy and deserving students for higher education



Dhirubhai Ambani Scholarship helped Zarana realise her dreams

Zarana Maheshwary was selected for Dhirubhai Ambani Scholarship in 2002 under specially-abled category. She is visually impaired from childhood and hails from a humble family background. Zarana secured 3rd position in Class 12 examinations in Banaskantha district of Gujarat.

She says, “The scholarship not only provided financial assistance, but also inculcated responsibility in me, the responsibility of an intellectual being. I embarked on a journey of sensitising myself. It pushed me to work hard to realise my dreams. I invested the scholarship in procuring books which enabled me to successfully engage myself in academics. As a result, I topped the university in B.A. and M.A. in English in 2005 and 2010 respectively. Then, I joined integrated M.Phil and Ph.D. programme in Central University of Gujarat. I performed well in both M.Phil and Ph.D.”

Currently, Zarana has a successful career and works as an Assistant Professor at Central University of Gujarat, in Gandhinagar.



Reliance Foundation Schools

Thirteen **Reliance Foundation Schools** located in Jamnagar, Surat, Vadodara, Dahej, Lodhivali, Nagothane, Nagpur and Navi Mumbai, provide education to over 15,000 children annually. The schools offer education from Kindergarten to Class 12 and are affiliated to the Central Board of Secondary Education and State Education Boards of Gujarat and Maharashtra. In 2017, Reliance Foundation School, Koparkhairane was ranked among the Top 10 schools of Navi Mumbai by *Hindustan Times*.

The RF Schools have constantly maintained excellent standards of academic performance. In 2017, 22% students secured the maximum achievable score of CGPA 10 in the CBSE Class 10 Board examination, 30% Science students scored above 90% in CBSE Class 12 Board examination, and 27% Commerce students scored above 80%. Schools affiliated to Maharashtra State Board of Secondary & Higher Secondary Education reported 100% pass percentage, both in Class 10 and Class 12 Science stream, whereas the schools affiliated with Gujarat

State Board reported 93% pass rate in Class 10 Board examination, and 97% and 88% pass rate, in Class 12 Board exam for Science and Commerce streams respectively.

Besides academics, the students of RF Schools continue to excel in co-scholastic, sporting and co-curricular pursuits, winning awards and recognition at the district, state and national levels. RF School, Koparkhairane won the 'Best School' award for the 3rd consecutive year at the Inter-School Elocution Competition. Other achievements included gold medals in International Skating Competition, Senior National Aquatic Championship and CBSE National Level Athletics Meet 2017; bronze medal in athletics at the inaugural Khelo India School Games, football team representing the School at the national level; and Swami Vivekananda Award and Scholarship for state and national level sports achievement. Three RF Schools were selected for presenting their Science Projects at the National Level CBSE Science Exhibition.



Dhirubhai Ambani International School

Dhirubhai Ambani International School (DAIS) prepares students for the ICSE, the IGCSE and the IB Diploma examinations. The school is a member of the Cambridge International Primary Programme. DAIS provides world-class education to 1,000+ children annually; and has about 150 teachers with rich experience in national and international curricula. Students have consistently achieved outstanding results across all three curricula.

In 2017, two students of IGCSE Class 10 topped the world in Mathematics and five students topped in India in various subjects. The School's ICSE average score was 96% and the highest score was 98.4%. In the IB Diploma examinations, eight students earned the perfect score of 45, average score of the class being 39.2. The IB Diploma graduates of 2017 earned admissions and scholarships to 22 of the top 30 universities worldwide. During the

year, students won over 500 awards in various sporting, scholastic and co-curricular events at the state, national and international levels.

Over the years, the School has achieved highest standards of excellence on all performance parameters. DAIS is among the very few schools in India to be jointly accredited by the Council of International Schools and the New England Association of Schools & Colleges. In 2017, Education World ranked DAIS as the No.1 International School in India for the fifth consecutive year. *Hindustan Times* ranked DAIS as the No.1 School in Mumbai for the fifth time. *The Times of India* ranked DAIS as the No.1 'National and International Curriculum' School in Mumbai for the third consecutive year. DAIS is also one of India's few schools to be certified by the Indian Green Building Council with the highest-level 'platinum' rating.

Hindustan Times ranked DAIS as No.1 School in Mumbai for the fifth time



In 2017, Education World ranked DAIS as the No.1 International School in India for the fifth consecutive year



Jio Institute Infrastructure Support to Schools

Reliance Foundation is working towards establishing a globally benchmarked, multi-disciplinary university in Maharashtra. It will provide an enabling environment and cutting-edge research facilities to students.

Reliance Foundation reconstructed two schools for the Government of Uttarakhand as part of its relief and rehabilitation support in the aftermath of devastating floods in 2013. The two schools, which are now operational, stand testimony to RF's commitment towards rebuilding Uttarakhand. These schools cater to nearly 1,000 students from around 30 villages in the vicinity.

RF's school reconstruction reassures Bimala of safety to her daughters

"Earlier, I would feel anxious every time my children went to school during monsoons. We were afraid the roof might collapse. Moreover, the lack of basic facilities like toilets and electricity made the environment extremely unfit for studying. Things were so bad, we would rather let our kids stay at home and help with the household chores, than go to school. However, ever since the building has been reconstructed, I do not have to worry about my children's safety anymore and have also seen an improvement in their studies. I am grateful to Reliance Foundation for making all this possible", says Bimala Devi, a mother of two students at GIC Tenth School, Uttarakhand. Bimala Devi's relief is palpable as she tells us her story.

The 2013 flash floods had unleashed unprecedented destruction upon Uttarakhand and the district of Rudraprayag was one of the worst

affected. Reliance Foundation was one of the first to reach the area and joined hands with the Government for rebuilding the district, and the reconstruction of the GIC Tenth School was one such initiative.

Before the reconstruction, the structure of the school building was so weak that there was a risk of the roof collapsing during heavy rains. A part of the building did not even have a roof. The absence of toilets forced the children to go out into the fields to relieve themselves. To add to the list of woes, the students of junior and senior classes would have to study in the same room, due to lack of classrooms and blackboards.

All of this changed with RF's intervention. The new school building not only has all the basic necessities in place, but also science laboratories, art and music rooms and a playground. As a result, there has been a remarkable increase in students' attendance and studying has become an enjoyable process now.

Ankita Negi, a ninth standard student is all smiles as she talks about how she is better able to focus on her studies and shares that now, she and her friends actually look forward to coming to school every day.



Digital Classrooms

Reliance Foundation has worked with local governments to establish model digital classrooms in 129 government schools across Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Telangana, benefitting about 30,000 students.

A central relay station connects teachers to all schools for teaching live virtual classes and facilitates

interaction between teachers and students. Offline classes on specific subjects are also conducted. The virtual classroom has bolstered the confidence of students and has resulted in higher pass percentages. Additionally, the platform is being used for conducting classes on development of life-skills, career guidance, etc.

e-Learning initiative at Village Gunjegaon, Gangakhed, Maharashtra

To enable students to become thinkers and active learners, it's necessary to provide them a quality educational environment along with improved study materials. With such an objective, Gunjegaon Shetkari Samiti, in co-ordination with Gunjegaon Primary School, established an e-learning school. The villagers and Village Association contributed Rs 75,000 to purchase digital equipments like computers, projectors, inverters, digital offline syllabus and projector screens.

Initially, Gunjegaon Primary School used digital offline syllabus and study material from Sundaram, which provided access for first to seventh

standards, at an annual cost of Rs 35,000. To continue using the services, the school needed to update the software by paying a subscription. This was a costly affair. Moreover, the quality of material was also not good. The teachers discussed the issue with the school management committee, which raised the issue at a Village Association (VA) meeting. The VA members unanimously decided to provide support to the School to purchase new software/ education materials.

The VA and teachers requested the Reliance Foundation team at Gangakhed to help in sourcing a cost effective and reliable vendor for

software/ education material. The RF team facilitated the discussion between Kore's Home Revise educational materials and the School's teachers. Kore's Home Revise staff visited the School many times and offered better quality study material at a very economical rate. What's more, there were no annual subscriptions and the software would be updated to include all syllabus changes without any extra costs.

VA members collected Rs 6,000 and the software was purchased for Rs 17,000, the balance coming from the village development fund.



TESTIMONIALS

“ With the support of the Village Association and facilitation from Reliance Foundation, Gunjegaon Primary School became the second digital school in the Taluka. Today, our School is able to provide quality education like urban schools due to the availability of quality education resource. Digital learning helps students to understand the topic more easily and improves grasping power as it engages more of their senses.



Mr VS Dhele
Headmaster, Gunjegaon Primary School

“ Earlier, students were going to the city to get quality education. The cost of education was very high and not everybody could afford it. Availability of digital educational facilities in the village reduced the cost of education. Digital education initiative also resulted in increased interest in learning among the students.



Mr Gokul Mote
Village Association Representative,
Gunjegaon Shetkari Samiti

Nurturing young talent

EDUCATION AND SPORTS FOR ALL

Using sports as a vehicle, Reliance Foundation promotes health, fitness and active lifestyle to bring about a positive change among youth and children in both urban and rural landscapes. Popular sports such as football, basketball and athletics are used to cultivate strategic thinking, competitive spirit and leadership abilities among children and youth. RF partners with various national and state sports bodies in improving the quality of sporting ecosystem through better facilities, training, infrastructure and equipment.

QUALITY EDUCATION TO UNDERPRIVILEGED

Under ESA, Reliance Foundation supports education of underprivileged children by partnering with NGOs and works at grassroots level. As an extension under this initiative, an innovation in the form of Digital Learning Van was launched in 2017. The van has reached out to more than 4,000 children from 10 government schools in Mumbai and Thane districts. This initiative has positively impacted 0.2 million children.

Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puraskar

Reliance Foundation was conferred with Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puraskar in 2017. On behalf of Reliance Foundation, Smt. Nita M. Ambani received the prestigious award from Honourable President of India Shri Ram Nath Kovind, for her influential role in transforming India into a sporting nation.





Reliance Foundation Jr. NBA programme

RF Jr. NBA programme, a comprehensive school-based basketball initiative, completed its fifth consecutive year. The programme has successfully integrated basketball into the physical education curriculum in 10,000+ participating schools nationwide. The programme has reached out to 9 million students across 34 cities in India since inception, with 5.6 million students getting added in FY 2017-18 alone.

The programme
has reached out to
9 million students
across **34 cities**
in India
since inception



RF Jr. NBA enters Guinness Book of World Records

In 2017, the RF Jr. NBA programme entered the *Guinness Book of World Records*. The programme witnessed over 3,400 Jr. NBA students at Delhi, Bengaluru, Chennai, Hyderabad and Kolkata receiving basketball lessons from the legendary Kevin Durant in the world's largest ever tech-enabled NBA clinic held for the future basketball talent on July 28.

RF Chairperson presented medals at 2018 Winter Olympics

Mrs Nita M Ambani, RF Founder and Chairperson, presented medals to Switzerland (winner) and Austria (runners-up) of the Alpine Skiing Team Event, at the 2018 Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang.

Mrs Ambani is India's first woman IOC Member and also a member of two important global commissions of the IOC, including the prestigious Olympic Channel.



Reliance Foundation Youth Sports (RFYS)

RFYS provides a nation-wide unique platform for promoting grassroots sports. In 2017-18, the programme continued with football and introduced athletics to further identify and encourage sporting talent across the country.

During FY 2017-18, football tournaments of RFYS expanded to 34 cities, including the cities of Northeast India, entire Kerala and key cities like Bengaluru, Hyderabad and Chandigarh. Overall, 4,900 teams (including 450 girls' teams) from 3,400 institutes participated in the tournaments. All India Football Federation has backed the RFYS grassroots development programme, counting these players among 'the finest young players in the country'. The programme also sponsored 400 best physical education teachers for 'D-License Coaching Certification'.

Under athletics, different categories have been promoted, including sprints, relays, long-distance run, high jump and long jump. Competitions were held across eight centres, including the traditional sports hubs such as Punjab, Haryana and Kerala. An inaugural National Athletic Championship was held in Mumbai, which saw participation from 2,900 institutes with over 9,000 athletes competing in over 3,000 events.

The programme strategically partnered with 20 institutes across the country for effective implementation. On the ground, the tournaments were conducted by officials from Athletics Federation of India and All India Football Federation. Reliance further donated equipment to the participating institutes to promote sports. For motivating young talent and expanding the reach of RFYS, all final matches at city level, zonal level and national level were live-streamed on the RFYS website.

During FY 2017-18,
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National Athletic Championship
held in Mumbai, saw participation from
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Reliance Foundation Young Champs (RFYC)

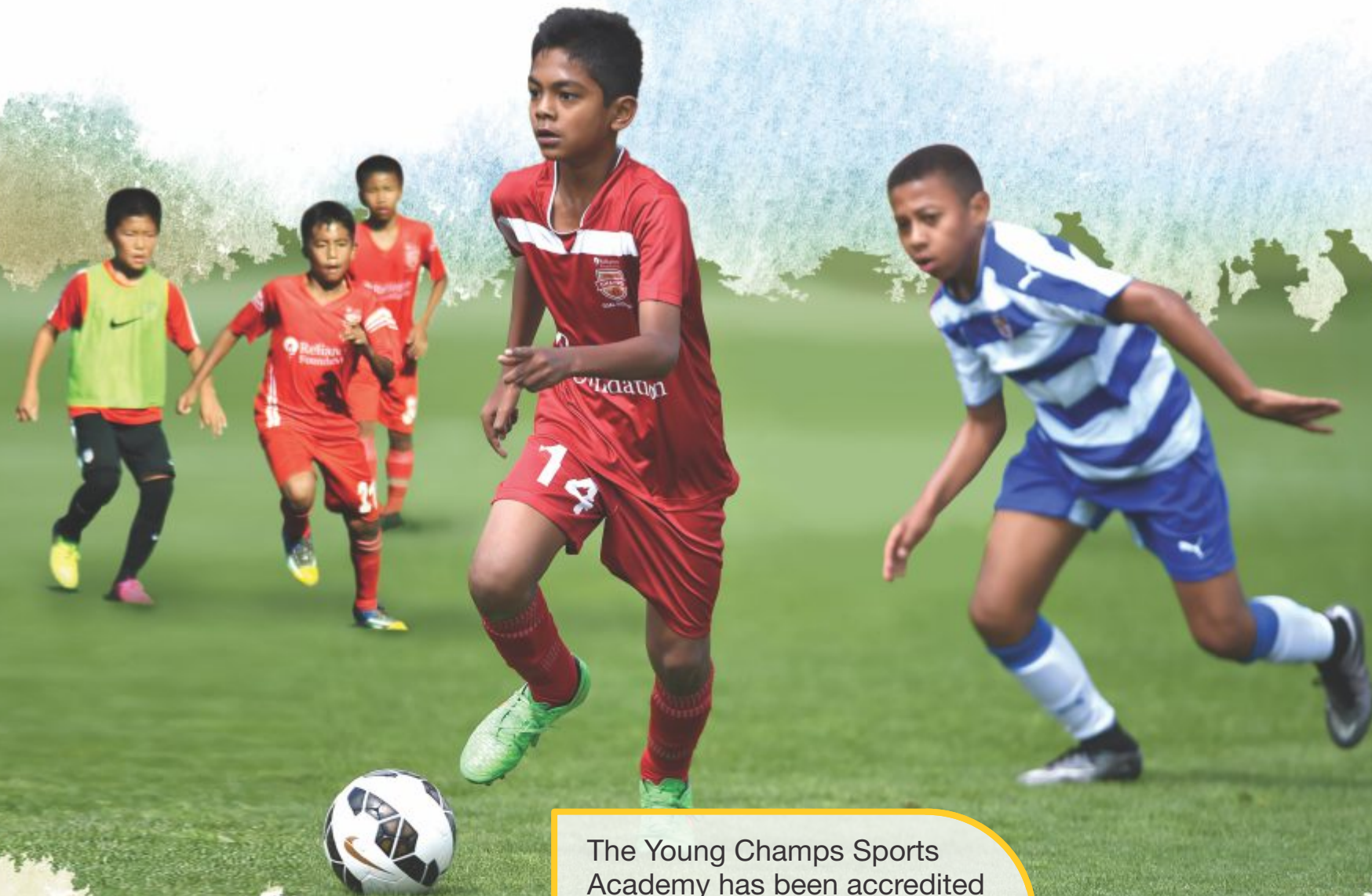
RFYC is a unique, scholarship-based, full-time residential football and education programme. It aims to provide India's aspiring football talents the opportunity to hone their skills with world-class facilities and best-in-class training.

During FY 2017-18, eight young football talents were awarded scholarships to

develop their football skills, taking the total to 48 scholarships. Under the programme, 30 Young Champs were sent for international exposure trip to Spain where they got an opportunity to play friendly matches, with teams including Real Madrid, Atletico de Madrid,

Valencia, Villarreal, Rayo Vallecano and Leganes.

The Young Champs Sports Academy has been accredited as one of the best in India by the All India Football Federation. RF's objective is to maintain this position; and also strive towards the cherished milestone of achieving 5/5 grade.



The Young Champs Sports
Academy has been accredited
as one of the best in India by
the All India Football
Federation



Rendering support

DISASTER RESPONSE

Reliance Foundation aspires to respond swiftly and effectively to disasters that endanger human lives, by engaging with affected communities directly. It leverages its strengths in human resources and information technology to provide essential relief and rehabilitation support. During FY 2017-18, RF was quick to help communities affected by floods and cyclone in Assam, Gujarat and southern India.

Flood Response in Assam

The Assam floods in August 2017 affected over 1.7 million people in 26 districts of the state, leaving them stranded and dispossessed. Responding to the need, Reliance

Foundation identified 22 villages in 11 districts that had not received adequate relief support, supplying ration-kits to more than 10,000 people to sustain them for 15 days.

Flood Response in Gujarat

With heavy rains battering Gujarat, floods wreaked havoc in the state causing widespread damage, and bringing life to a standstill. Taking note of the grim situation, Reliance Foundation worked relentlessly to support the affected communities. Our teams, with support from community volunteers, distributed relief kits to 0.15 million people across 87 villages for immediate sustenance of the victims. Additionally, health camps were also conducted to secure over 6,000 people, against immediate and medium-term health risks emanating from floods.

To maximise benefits, RF utilised modern technology to reach out to the affected communities with useful information. Advisories were sent across to over 0.3 million flood victims to guide them on the correct use of chlorine tablets in water, health precautions, livestock care, and government schemes. Additionally, over 0.1 million people contacted our toll-free helpline for specific relief requirements.



Leading the rescue efforts from the front was RF's Chairperson, Smt Nita M. Ambani, who visited several of the worst-affected villages to assess the immediate needs of the people who lost their homes in the deluge. She also supervised the rescue and relief work being carried out by Reliance Foundation.

RF ration brings relief to flood-affected people of Gujarat

"It was raining incessantly, and we could hear the water flowing fast and heavy outside, soon the water level started rising dangerously. I pulled out all my blankets, some clothes, my most important documents and wrapped them in a bed sheet to protect them. I gathered my family and we climbed up on the roof of my hut with my family, screaming for help and praying to God for protection. It was a nightmare and I've never been so frightened in my life."

This is how Dineshbhai Shankarbhai Bhil recalls the terrifying experience of being trapped in the floods that submerged large parts of Gujarat, claiming lives, displacing thousands and disrupting livelihoods.

Dineshbhai, a daily wage labourer living with his wife and four children in Radhanpur, Gujarat, lost almost all his material possessions to the fury of the floods. "My entire home was filled with water. I took my family to a nearby school building, where others had also gathered for safety. I own two cows and a calf, but I had to leave them on the side of the road at

Radhanpur, because all the dry fodder I had stocked up at home for them was washed away. The small cattle shed I had built for them was also severely damaged."

Since the floods, Dineshbhai has been having a hard time finding jobs as a daily wage labourer, since all labour work in the vicinity has been stalled. As he works painstakingly to rebuild his life, his only source of hope and relief is the ration kit and supplies he received from Reliance Foundation. He says, "All my savings had dried up and I was wondering how we would make ends meet – when my prayers were answered. A group of people from Reliance Foundation reached out to us and gave us food, rations, tarpaulins and blankets – things we needed desperately. We were so hungry that the moment we received the food, we immediately consumed it. My wife is using the rations we received from Reliance Foundation to prepare roti and daal for us now. God bless Reliance Foundation and I hope they continue to serve people in need like us, in future."



Support during Cyclone Ockhi using Information Services

Reliance Foundation played a key role in saving lives when Cyclone Ockhi struck the southern parts of India. RF disseminated advisories related to cyclone warnings to the coastal areas of Tamil Nadu and Kerala, through its various communication channels.

Fishermen in these areas were cautioned not to venture out into the sea due to high waves and wind speeds, accompanied by heavy rainfall. The timely information provided by RF helped save the lives of over 27,000 fishermen.

Likewise, farmers were contacted through different communication modes such as 'Flag Method', 'Knowledge on Wheels', toll free helpline and multi-location audio conferencing, saving over 4,600 hectares of paddy fields.

Reliance Foundation leveraged the latest technology to act as a bridge between the government agencies and the fishing community. RF's toll free helpline received several calls asking for help to locate missing boats and fishermen. To facilitate rescue work, information was shared with the coastguard and the Indian Navy on an urgent basis and details of rescued fishermen provided to their anxious families. Over 300 fishermen and 35 boats were rescued from the deep sea. An assessment shows that almost 91% of cyclone-affected fishermen reported having benefitted from the advisories.





Sustaining our heritage

ARTS, CULTURE AND HERITAGE AND URBAN RENEWAL

Reliance Foundation works relentlessly to preserve the rich heritage, art and culture of India for posterity, making a conscious effort to improve livelihood opportunities for traditional artisans and craftsmen. This is primarily done by supporting the fine arts and documenting India's heritage for the benefit of our future generations.

Abbaji Annual Concert

Reliance Foundation continued to support the annual concert 'Abbaji' organised by Ustad Zakir Hussain. The concert featured several renowned musicians who came together to pay tribute to the legendary Guru, Ustad Allah Rakha Khan.

8 Prahar: Concert on Indian Classical Music

Reliance Foundation supported '8 Prahar', an event dedicated to Indian classical music. This unique event, jointly organised by Art and Artistes, and Pancham Nishad, brought together leading exponents of classical music, including Padma Vibhushan Sangeet Martand Pandit Jasraj, to the delight of Mumbai's music connoisseurs. The event featured continuous performances, with artistes performing the Ragas of the respective 'Prahar' (time of the day) from 6.30 am to 3 am the next day.

Beautification of Public Places

Reliance Foundation works on city modernisation initiatives through its urban renewal programme in order to improve the quality of life and infrastructure in cities. These initiatives strive to improve public spaces by revitalising the ageing infrastructure and providing newer facilities. Reliance Foundation supported the beautification of public places during FY 2017-18 to improve available infrastructure for ease of people.



Past Initiatives

Arts, Culture & Heritage

2016-17: RF commissioned the families of 100 Pichvai artists in Nathdwara, Rajasthan, to create 17,000 Pichvai paintings, one of the oldest living art forms in the world. While encouraging the continuity of this rare art form, RF's intervention has also helped to create employment opportunities for Pichvai artists.

2015-16: RF extended support to the annual concert, 'Abbaji', organised by Ustad Zakir Hussain in memory of his father, Ustad Allah Rakha Khan. This concert featured renowned musicians who came together to pay tribute to the legendary guru.

2014-15: RF, in partnership with British Petroleum (BP), brought to India, the internationally acclaimed exhibition 'Mummy: The Inside Story'. It gave viewers a peek into the life & history of Egypt through an immersive 3D film.

2013-14: RF has partnered with Samanvay Prathisthan, an institution working in the educational, social and cultural spheres. RF supported Samanvay in organising the "Vasant Bal Mahotsav", a cultural festival in Mumbai. Over 50,000 students participated through music, dance and other cultural activities.

2012-13: RF was the lead sponsor for the Elephanta Festival, held in March 2013. This festival, held annually at Elephanta Island, adjacent to Elephanta Caves, a World Heritage Site, commemorates the heritage of dance, art and sculpture in India. Thousands of people attended the festival.

Urban Renewal

2016-17: RF supported the Municipal Corporation in beautification of two lakes of Thane District – Upvan and Masunda. The beautification effort has resulted in the lakes becoming prominent places for leisure and physical activities. Upvan Lake is also being used by Thane Municipal Corporation for organising art festivals.

2015-16: RF developed Goda Park on the banks of river Godavari in Nashik, in partnership with the Nashik Municipal Corporation. It includes construction of a children's park, walkways, jogging tracks, etc.

2012-13: RF, along with NASSCOM, has set up the country's first Social Media lab for Mumbai Police to engage and understand issues concerning the citizens and their safety.

RF has also assisted the Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai (MCGM) in setting up a CSR cell. The initiative will enhance MCGM's efforts to build capacity to engage with corporate houses to support various civic services.



Embellishing Life

OTHER INITIATIVES

OTHER INITIATIVES

‘Swachhata Hi Seva’ Initiative

Committed to the success of Swachh Bharat Mission, Reliance Foundation organised a nation-wide awareness and cleanliness campaign to support the Government’s ‘Swachhata Hi Seva’ initiative.

The campaign mobilised communities and enabled them to actively participate in the initiative by offering ‘shramdaan’, that is, donating labour. RF’s endeavour covered 15 States and Union Territories and engaged around 100,000 people.

The Prime Minister of India acknowledged RF’s contribution through twitter.



Reliance Foundation has been motivating its programme beneficiaries, across rural and urban areas, on the importance of cleanliness, hygiene and sanitation. The sensitised villagers are leveraging government schemes to construct toilets, with almost 15,000 toilets constructed so far, and 87 villages declared Open Defecation Free (ODF) by the Government. Of these ODF villages, nine are located around RIL business sites.

RF has been instrumental in informing these villagers about the application procedures for availing benefits of government schemes, such as Sardar Awas Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Gramin Awas Yojana, and others, using digital platforms.



Empowering Women through Collectivisation and Financial Literacy

Women have been a disadvantaged group in India owing to various socio-cultural reasons. Driven by a firm belief in inclusive growth, Reliance Foundation undertook systematic efforts to accelerate financial inclusion by promoting financial literacy among them. Under this programme, participants learn the nuances of personal finance and savings, and get formally linked to at least one formal financial institution. In addition, rural women have been encouraged to form Women Thrift Groups (WTG) providing them a platform to participate, drive and manage socio-economic change, while being financially self-reliant. RF’s initiatives for women take our intervention areas closer to achieving SDG 5: Gender Equality.

The model has not only helped in wealth creation but also enabled women to make their presence felt in male-dominated spaces. Besides starting their own enterprises, women have also taken the lead in addressing issues related to health, hygiene and sanitation, positively impacting them and their families. Till date, over 12,000 women have been provided financial literacy training and more than 3,000 rural women have formed 110 thrift groups across 14 districts in 7 states, collecting over Rs 4.5 million in the process.



Skilling and Employment

One of our Government's key priorities is skilling and creating employment opportunities for the youth. Reliance Foundation, through its skilling and employment programme, is working towards making the youth employable by equipping them with marketable skills, and providing placement support. This year, nearly 11,000 youth were provided skill training, of which 70% were assisted with placements across retail and other sectors.

Wildlife Conservation and Animal Welfare

Reliance Foundation supports several organisations that are working for wildlife conservation and animal welfare. These organisations not only protect wildlife against poachers, reducing the incidence of wild animals straying into human settlements, but also provide relief and rehabilitation support to the injured animals including rescue, treatment, surgical care and shelter. These organisations also sensitise communities about the importance of protecting wildlife, and avoiding human-animal conflict.

Improving Access to Sports Infrastructure

Reliance Foundation has built a multi-sports complex in two stadiums under the Thane Municipal Corporation. This facility has a specially designed net cage to suit all playing fields, with LED illuminated line markings to facilitate the sport being played. The sports facility can accommodate six different games: soccer, ring hockey, volleyball, handball, cricket and tennis. With space for sportspersons and fitness enthusiasts shrinking in urban areas, these multi-sports stadiums in the centre of densely populated cities, address this acutely felt need.



NOTES

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