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Annual Report 2016-17





Giving Wings to Hopes & Dreams

# **Message from the Founder & Chairperson**



I am pleased to present the Annual Report of Reliance Foundation (RF) for 2016-17. It has been yet another year of concerted efforts towards realising our vision of an inclusive India through our work in rural transformation, health, education, sports for development, disaster response, arts, culture and heritage, and urban renewal. Continuing our commitment to take millions of marginalised Indians to the development mainstream and working on the frontlines of social and economic challenges. RF has so far been able to reach out to over 12 Mn people across India covering more than 12,500 villages and 74 urban locations.

On 23rd July, 2016, our Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri. Narendra Modi launched the Reliance Foundation Youth Sports (RFYS) programme, a multi-city, multisports school and college competition. RFYS organised football tournaments in eight centres, with 20,000 students from 4,000 educational institutions participating in them. That RFYS has been able to reach out to 2 Mn children in the inaugural year is proof of its potential to contribute to the nation's sporting landscape. The RF Jr. NBA programme has this year reached out to an additional 0.6 Mn children while cumulatively benefitting over 3.4 Mn children, 45 percent of them being girls. The Reliance Foundation Young Champs programme has so far benefitted 41 youngsters, some of whom got the opportunity to be trained at leading football clubs in Europe. RF's grassroots sports initiatives have cumulatively reached out to about 6 Mn youngsters.

The 13 RF schools provided quality education to 15,000 children and enabled them to excel in academics as well as in sports and co-curricular activities. Dhirubhai Ambani International School (DAIS), which provides world-class education to over 1,000 children, has

been ranked the best International School in India consecutively for the fourth year, the best school in Mumbai for the fourth time, and the No. 1 school for academics in India. DAIS received international accreditation from the Council of International Schools (CIS) and the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC).

For over two decades, the Dhirubhai Ambani Scholarship programme has benefitted over 11,000 meritorious students, 50% of them being girls and 20% being specially-abled. The 'Education for All' initiative has impacted the education of 0.1 Mn underprivileged children, while its 'Digital Learning Van' project launched this year has taken knowledge to the doorsteps of thousands of underprivileged children across Mumbai.

Truly living its motto 'Respect for Life', the Sir H. N. Reliance Foundation Hospital and Research Centre continues to provide international quality healthcare at affordable pricing. It has carried out several path-breaking surgeries and medical procedures, including Maharashtra's first robotic kidney transplant. Reliance Foundation Drishti has so far carried out more than 15,500 transplants. RF's health outreach programme, which offers free or subsidised medical care, has reached out to 0.45 Mn people.

Our Rural Transformation initiative has till now enhanced the livelihoods of more than 3 Mn farmers, fisherfolk and livestock owners. The Reliance Nutrition Garden (RNG) programme has been appreciated by various state governments. The Government of Maharashtra has adopted the RNG model in eight districts. Our Information Services continue to play a pivotal role in disseminating information on crop management, livestock care, schemes and subsidies, healthcare, employment, disaster risks, etc.

RF supplied over 60 Mn litres of drinking water to over 0.2 Mn people in 100 drought-affected villages in the Marathwada region of Maharashtra, apart from constructing structures to conserve and harvest water. Using Jio 4G technology, we reached out to the flood-affected communities in Madhya Pradesh. Through Swachh Bharat campaigns in 500 villages, RF has spread awareness about the importance of cleanliness and hygiene. Our skilling and employment programme has facilitated the placement of employable youths in urban areas, while the financial literacy programme has helped underprivileged women in urban areas save money and better manage their expenditure.

Towards preserving and promoting India's rich artistic legacy, RF commissioned the families of 100 Pichvai artists in Nathdwara in Rajasthan, to create 17,000 Pichvai paintings, one of the oldest living art forms in the world. It has created employment opportunities for these artists and helped them keep their art form alive.

On the whole, this year all our philanthropic initiatives, with direct engagement as a core pillar of our policy, received a new momentum. Directing resources where they were needed the most and through outreach actions in partnership with like-minded institutions, we have helped maximise the impact in all our intervention areas. Devising new ways of empowering people, especially women, and increasing access to resources and information, in six years, we have been able to make a mark on the nation's social development ecosystem.

RF has so far been able to reach out to over 12 Mn people across India covering more than 12,500 villages and 74 urban locations.

I take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to everyone at RF for their deep commitment towards achieving our goals. We are also grateful to all our partner institutions and governmental organisations for their unstinted support in accomplishing our shared mission. The road ahead for development presents extraordinary opportunities along with significant challenges, which call for bringing scale and speed to our initiatives, pushing the boundaries of innovation, and intensely leveraging game-changing technologies.

We look to the future with optimism in our ability and conviction in our intent to unlock people's potential for development and stand by their aspiration for a better tomorrow. We seek everyone's support in shaping lives and spreading smiles, and for making RF a movement.

With best regards,

Mila M. ambani

Nita M. Ambani Founder & Chairperson, Reliance Foundation

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Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) has achieved significant milestones and measurable progress in the last 40 years. The Company has always believed in creating societal value through its philanthropic activities for more than two decades, with its approach towards social development evolving as per contemporary needs over the years. To create positive social impact, Reliance Foundation (RF) was set up in 2010 as a separate entity to promote and manage the social initiatives of Reliance Group. RF is registered as a not-for-profit company under Section 25 of the Companies Act, 1956 (Section 8, of the new Companies Act, 2013).

Led by Smt. Nita M. Ambani, RF is committed to the spirit of maximising societal value for all, bringing it in sync with vision, mission and values of its parent organisation, Reliance Industries Limited.

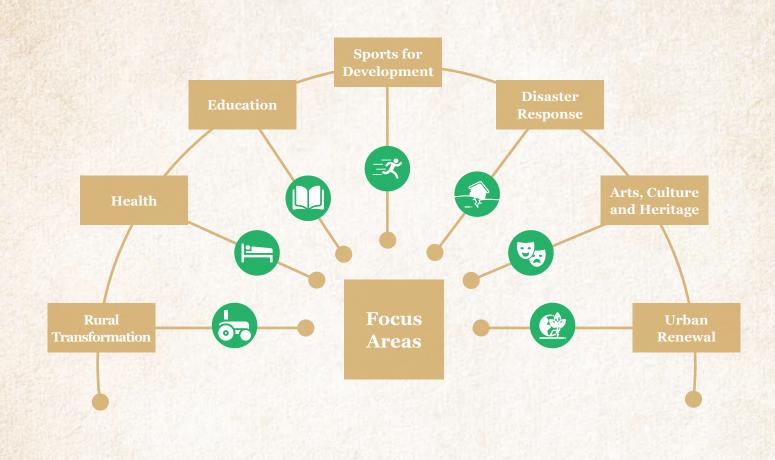
### Approach for achieving inclusivity

As one of the largest corporate foundations in India, RF has aligned its focus areas to national development goals and the international development agenda. Providing hope to individuals who need it the most, giving them an equal opportunity to dream big and fulfil their potential, RF's steadfast endeavour is to create replicable and scalable models of development through an integrated approach that nurtures the dreams of millions and leads the way towards a self-reliant nation.

RF creates and supports impactful initiatives through innovative institutions. Following a model of direct engagement, RF directly reaches out to identified, underprivileged communities with trained professionals, with the ultimate aim of making them

The vision of RF is to build an inclusive India by pioneering a holistic model to address our nation's multifaceted development challenges, and contribute to its collective aspirations.

self-reliant in achieving their development goals, simultaneously addressing areas of national importance.



To maximise its reach and optimise societal outcomes, RF has adopted a three-pronged strategy – Direct Engagement, Partnerships and Use of Technology.

RF directly engages with marginalised communities through a team of trained professionals dedicatedly working for their upliftment and sustainable development.

RF has forged partnerships with organisations that have the technical expertise and experience to undertake various programmes in the key focus areas of operation. RF also engages with government in several initiatives. This year, RF has collaborated with several state governments including Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Telangana, besides its partnership with the Government of India institutions.

RF leverages technology and innovation to provide sustainable solutions for the enhancement of agriculture, livelihood, health and well-being of the marginalised and underprivileged communities across India.

# 12 Mn Lives touched

In a short span of six years, the efforts of RF have already given wings to hopes and dreams of more than 12 Mn people across India.



# 2012-13

2010-12 1. RF was set up in 2010 as a separate service delivery. entity to promote and manage

all the social sector initiatives of

2. Launch of 'Bharat India Jodo'

3. Launch of the 'Education for All' initiative to make quality education accessible to underprivileged children.

4. Under the 'Drishti' programme, India's first registered national Hindi newspaper in Braille was launched. This was for circulation to over 20,000 visually impaired across the country.

programme to support small

Reliance Group.

landholding farmers.

2. A technology-backed Information Services programme to connect knowledge seekers and knowledge providers was launched, to address rural developmental and livelihood

# 2013-14

- 1. Set up a taskforce to support relief operations in the aftermath of Uttarakhand floods.
- 2. The 'Bharat India Jodo' programme was awarded ISO 9001:2008 certification.
- 3. The 'Drishti' programme, a longstanding initiative of RF, completed 10 years of continued support for the visually impaired underprivileged people.
- 4. Launched Junior NBA, a schoolbased programme aimed at promoting basketball as a Sports for Development initiative under RF.

# 2015-16

1. The Dhirubhai Ambani Scholarship programme completed two decades of continued financial support towards higher education of economically weak meritorious students.

2014-15

1. Rebuilt Sir H. N. Reliance Foundation

2. Relief material provided during the

unprecedented floods in Jammu &

facilities.

Kashmir.

Hospital and Research Centre to provide world-class tertiary healthcare

- 2. Launched the 'Young Champs' programme, a full-scholarship based, full-time residential football and education programme.
- 3. The health outreach programme was awarded ISO 9001:2008 certification.
- 4. 'Bharat India Jodo' programme received the Rama Krishna Bajaj National Quality Award, Certificate of Merit 2015, under the NGO category.

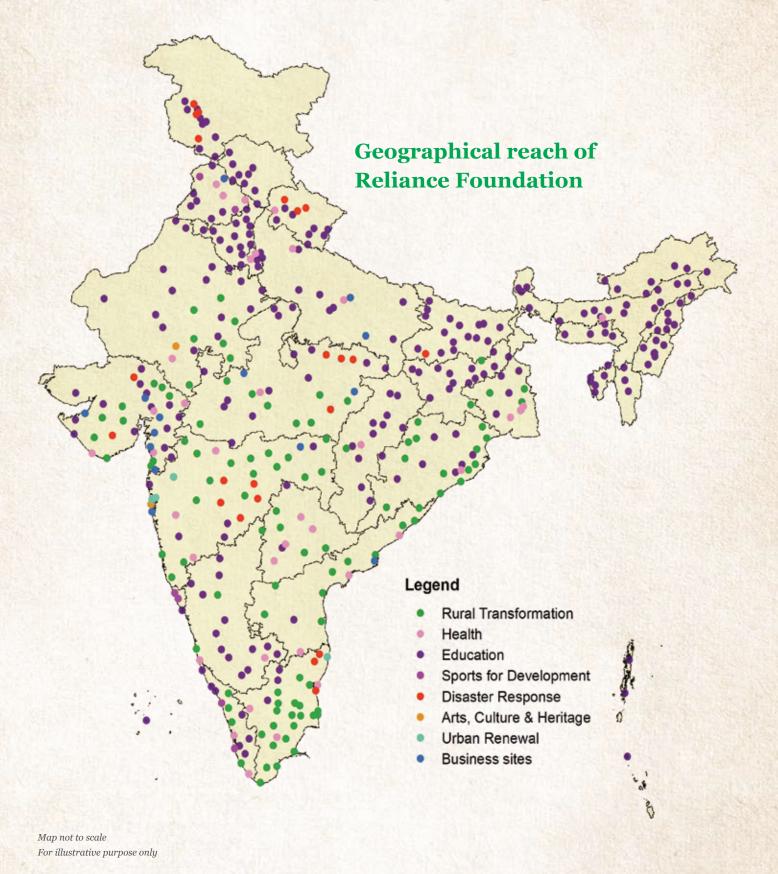
# 2016-17

- 1. The Hon'ble Prime Minister of India Shri. Narendra Modi launched the 'Reliance Foundation Youth Sports' programme.
- 2. Received the 'India CSR Award', in recognition of its work to create water security, setup producer companies and its deployment of innovative communication methods through information services.
- 3. Initiated technology-enabled solutions to the flood-affected communities in Madhya Pradesh.

- 1. Launched the 'Health for All' initiative to provide primary and preventive healthcare to the underprivileged, using state-of-the-art technology for
- security issues.



# In Each Indian State, Giving Wings to Hopes and Dreams



# 2016-17 Key Highlights

# **RURAL TRANSFORMATION**

# >0.8 Mn

Number of livelihoods, including farmers, fisherfolk and livestock owners, enhanced (> 2.8 Mn since inception).

# >2,200 Hectares

Land area brought under improved cultivation (>56,000 Hectares since inception).

# >2,900 Hectares

Land area brought under irrigation through water harvesting and conservation efforts (>23,500 Hectares since inception).

# >20,000

Rural households provided with food security till date by bringing land under sustainable agricultural practices.

# >3.2 Bn litres

Rainwater collected with water harvesting structures (>58.6 Bn litres since inception), securing habitats across 131 villages with drinking water. Out of these, 51 villages were secured with water for drinking and agricultural use.

# >0.87 Mn

Saplings planted (>3.0 Mn since inception).

# >Rs. 29.4 Mn

Amount accrued as Village Development Funds (>Rs. 170 Mn since inception).

### 106

Women's Thrift Groups formed to enhance financial decision-making, with a corpus of >Rs. 2.2 Mn.

# ~8,000

Reliance Nutrition Gardens (RNGs) developed, producing 6,000 Metric tonnes of fresh vegetables.

# **HEALTH**

# >0.17 Mn

Health consultations provided to patients through mobile and static medical units and various health camps (>0.43 Mn since inception).

# ~34,000

Women screened for anaemia, of which 8,000 women were diagnosed with the condition and provided treatment (since inception, ~46,000 women screened for anaemia, of which >12,000 women provided with treatment).

# HEALTH

# ~30,000

Children screened for malnutrition.
Out of these, >2,000 children
found malnourished and linked to
next level of care and treatment
(since inception, >42,500
children screened and >3,500
received follow-up treatment).
>1,000 severely malnourished
children provided intensive care
through linkages to government
rehabilitation centres for treatment.

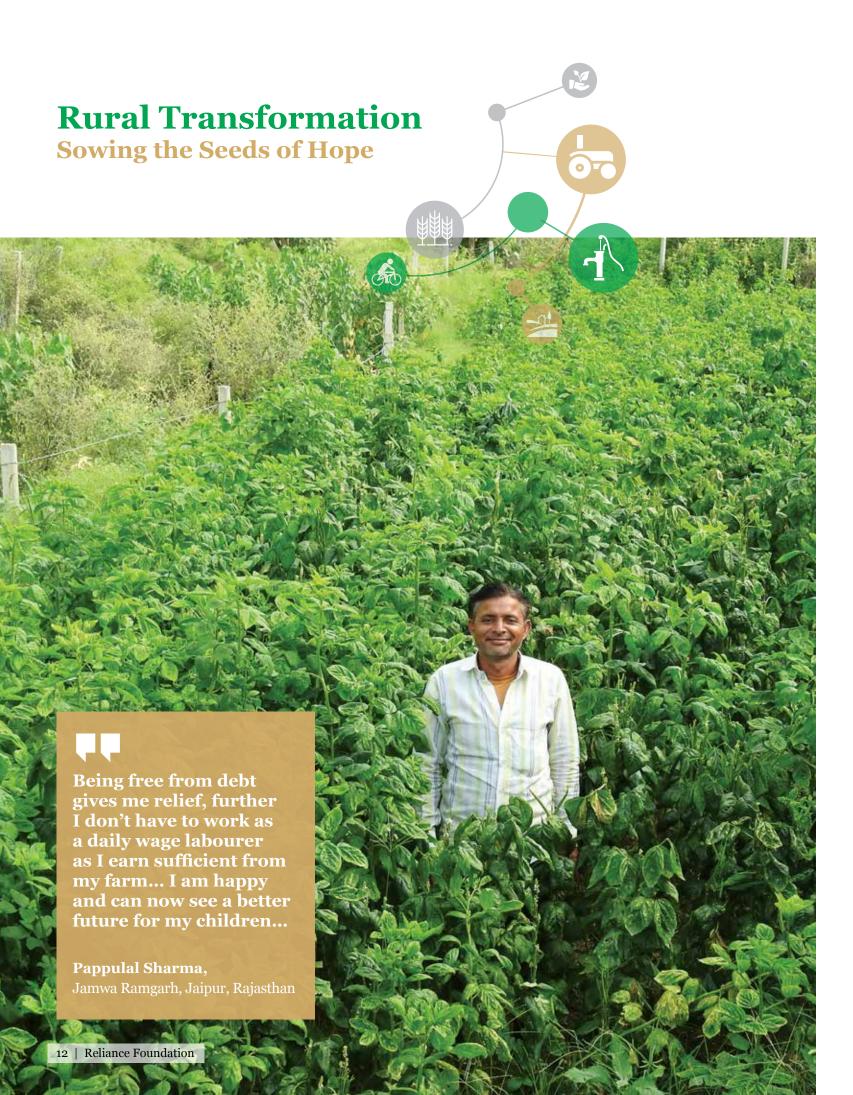
## ~1,100

Individuals with visual disability supported for corneal transplants under the Drishti programme (>15,500 transplants provided since inception). Two of the project villages certified as Preventive Visual Disability, controlled by the district health administration.

### 2

Mobile Medical Units (MMUs) launched this year to provide preventive and primary healthcare services. Of this, 1 MMU completely run by female health professionals, dedicatedly providing services on women-centric health issues.

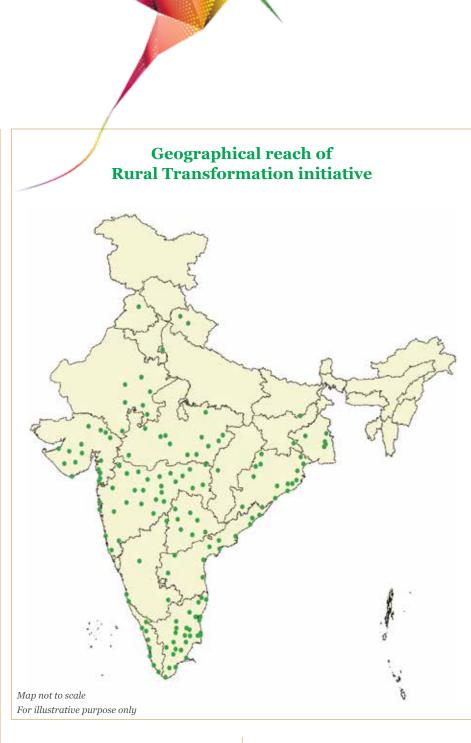




The Rural Transformation initiative works closely with farmers for co-creating and co-designing strategies for holistic rural development. The process of harvesting change begins with selecting the right pathways. Meaningful interventions that can have a transformational impact are undertaken after a deeper understanding of ground realities.

### Approach for harvesting change

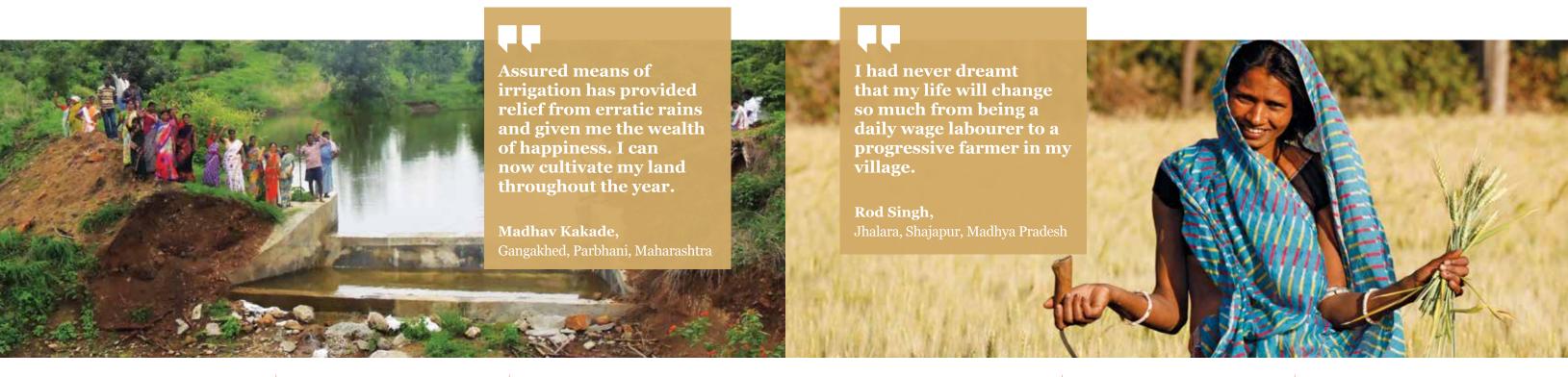
Launched in 2010, RF's Bharat India Jodo (BIJ) programme draws inspiration from the Hindi word bij, meaning 'seed'- the bearer of infinite potential, for generating and sustaining life. The BIJ programme aims to sow the seeds of hope for marginalised rural farming communities by bridging the development gap between rural Bharat and urban India. Guided by its objective, the BIJ programme has been working tirelessly to create a holistic, selfreliant and sustainable model of rural transformation. RF deploys appropriate rural technology that is simple, replicable and farmer-friendly, thereby reducing the community's dependence on external factors. The RF Information Services (RFIS) programme supports farmers, fisherfolk and livestock owners with timely information that is tailored to their local needs. The information services are aimed at empowering the community in more effective decisionmaking in the interest of their livelihoods.



By March 2017, the RF BIJ programme reached out to more than 52,000 households spread across more than 500 villages from 32 districts of 12 states, which fall under 19 different

agro-ecological sub-regions. The RFIS programme reached out to over 2.8 Mn people using technological platforms across 12,000 villages in 11 states and two union territories.

# Water Security Food Security



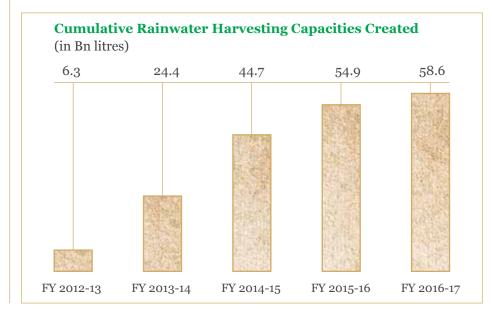
**Objective:** Ensuring water self-sufficiency in rural areas.

**Approach:** RF is contributing significantly towards harvesting and conserving rainwater in all its programme villages. Various technological options such as new or renovated earthen dams, masonry/concrete check dams, farm ponds and open wells, dikes and temporary structures such as the Bori Bandhan have been deployed to harvest surface run-off and recharge groundwater. For effective planning and management, water budgeting has been undertaken in 354 villages. Communities are putting water governance mechanisms in place to ensure that both surface and groundwater is accorded the status of common property and treated like a shared resource to ensure sustainable utilisation.

**Results:** Rainwater-harvesting capacity has exceeded 3.2 Bn litres in this year (58.6 Bn litres since inception).

The water security initiative has made habitations across 131 villages

secure for drinking water and helped 51 villages attain complete water security for both drinking and agricultural use. Further, over 2,900 Hectares of land has been brought under irrigation this year.



**Objective:** Reducing hunger and malnutrition in rural India.

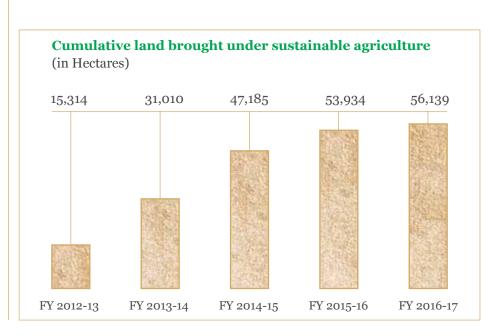
Approach: While India has emerged as global agricultural powerhouse, a large section of its population continues to face the challenge of food security and malnutrition. A recent report on food security states that India is home to a quarter of the world's undernourished population (194.6 Mn). Almost 51 percent of its women are anaemic and 44 percent of its children under the age of five are underweight (FAO, IFAD & WFP, 2015).

The Rural Transformation initiative promotes integrated sustainable crop management practices to enhance crop productivity, thereby ensuring the availability of food grains for households throughout the year. The interventions also aim to reduce the cost of production by promoting the adoption of organic fertilisers, bio-pesticides,

standard agronomical practices etc., thereby enhancing the net income of the farmers.

**Results:** Till date, land area in excess of 56,000 Hectares has been brought

under sustainable agriculture with nearly 5,000 Hectares of private wasteland being brought under cultivation for the first time. This has ensured food security for more than 20,000 rural households.



# **Nutrition Security**



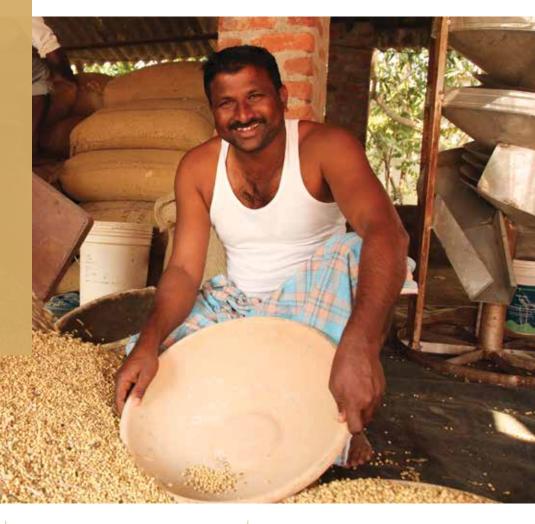
Apart from all the earnings from agriculture fields, I am getting plenty of vegetables from RNG. Now we are not purchasing vegetables from the market, rather selling to others.

Ghuchepali, Balangir, Odisha

# **Farmer Producer Companies**

We learned to support each other through our **Producer Company** not only for getting better price, but also for lowering our cost, improving the quality of produce for better marketability and gaining information for productivity enhancement.

Mallesh Dandugula,



Objective: Increasing the intake of nutritional food in rural India.

**Approach:** RF has been promoting its unique model of nutrition gardens, which are water-efficient kitchen or backyard gardens that can produce diverse varieties of fresh organic vegetables. Reliance Nutrition Gardens (RNGs) are usually set up by rural women, many of whom have now emerged as leaders in their communities, motivating other women to take up similar interventions. This nutrition security initiative has received wide appreciation from various

Government and Non-Government organisations. Several organisations have also adopted the RNG model and scaled it up in their project areas with technical support from RF.

Results: This year, RF developed nearly 8,000 RNGs across its villages. The Government of Maharashtra has adopted the RNG model in eight districts. Under this initiative, RF has trained 1,066 master trainers from various departments on the technical aspects of RNGs including design, layout, maintenance and its management. This

has resulted in the establishment of 3,035 nutrition gardens benefitting over 62,000 children across these districts. The RNG technical guidelines developed by RF are being used by the Department of Women and Child Development, Government of Maharashtra, in a newly developed smartphone application 'WCD Anganwadi'.

**Objective:** Providing income security to farmers through establishment and promotion of farmer collectives in the form of **Farmer Producer Companies.** 

**Approach:** Reliance Foundation promotes community owned and managed producer institution under the legal framework of Producer Company as the end piece of its institutional design to build sustainable institutions at the grassroot level. Farmer Producer Company (FPC) aims at collectivisation of producers especially small and marginal farmers, to form an effective alliance to

address many challenges of agriculture such as just and transparent market, farm inputs, improved access to formal financial institutions and advanced technology.

### **Uniqueness of the model**

- · Producer member owned and managed
- · Farmers' equity
- FPC board governed by members only
- · RF plays the role of knowledge partner and mentor for establishing institutional and market linkages for FPCs

The formation of FPC is an evolutionary process where the FPC is organised once there is felt need amongst the community seeking an organised structure for marketing of the farm produce.

**Results:** So far, 17 Producer Companies have been established, benefitting over 20,000 families. These companies have transacted over 4,500 Metric tonnes of farm and non-farm produce, with a business turnover in excess of Rs. 100.0 Mn till date.

# **Information Services for Livelihood Enhancement**

# **Institution Building**



Objective: Creating a culture of empowerment through information dissemination to rural families.

Approach: Since 2013, the RF Information Services programme has been disseminating information on crop management, livestock care, schemes and subsidies, healthcare, education, employment and civic services advisories to boost income of rural families. The information is shared with farmers, livestock owners, fisherfolk, pregnant women, disaster-affected populations, young people and other segments of the population. These advisories are transmitted through technological platforms such as mobile phones, cable television, print and electronic media, audio-video conferences etc.

In addition to reaching out through technological platforms, the programme directly serves marginal communities through camps providing medical services livestock management, plant diagnostics, soil testing. It also conducts various demonstrations and training programmes, with technical support from government departments, universities, research institutions, hospitals etc.

This entire eco-system is supported by cloud telephony, based around the toll-free helpline number (1800-419-8800).

**Results:** A collaboration with 619 information providers and 284 grassroots organisations to provide effective information services that reaches out to over 0.8 Mn individuals this year (over 2.8 Mn since inception). Additionally, queries of over 0.12 Mn farmers, fisherfolk and livestock owners have been resolved this year (over 0.22 Mn since inception).

Objective: Promoting local selfgovernance in villages as part of the larger goal to promote sustainable rural development.

Approach: For creating long-term, sustainable local self-governance, RF mobilises poor and marginalised farmers to form people's collectives known as Village Associations (VAs). These institutions ensure fair representation of all residents — especially marginalised groups such as women and the poverty-stricken, in providing strategic directions for village development; they also ensure collective planning and decision-making.

VAs interface with their Gram Panchayats by improving the vibrancy of Gram Sabhas with active participation and contribution towards village planning. The VAs also provide platforms for exchange of information, views and resources at a local level, and promote a larger stewardship for developmental issues in the region by leveraging programmes and resources from various developmental organisations.

RF also promotes Women's Thrift Groups (WTGs), aimed at improving the participation of women in rural transformation. This model encourages women to drive the process of socioeconomic change by making them financially self-reliant and ensuring that they play an active role in decision-making.

To promote self-reliance and success of the WTGs, RF focusses on capacity building of women, with a special focus on leadership development, documentation and processes.  $\,$ 

**Results:** The primary outcome is the emergence of empowered and self-reliant community-based organisations with robust membership bases and strong leadership. The uniqueness of the design lies in the co-creation and co-designing of solutions contextualised as per social, economic and ecological situations that are self-sustaining. Till date, more than 52,000 rural families have joined hands to form 529 VAs, to drive the village transformation initiative.

Regarding the progress of WTGs, till date, more than 3,000 women have formed 106 thrift groups across 14 districts in seven states, having saved over Rs. 2.2 Mn.

# **Biodiversity**



Objective: Restoring the ecological balance in rural landscapes and protecting farmers' livelihood.

Approach: Rain-fed areas in India are characterised by land degradation and depletion of vegetation, crop biodiversity and groundwater levels. RF deploys sustainable practices to revive the ecology, focussing on revegetating the landscape by adopting soil and water conservation measures, improving biomass productivity and enhancing crop biodiversity. Plantation activity on individual and common lands, preparation of local biodiversity registers, promotion of sustainable agricultural practices and eco-friendly livelihoods such as bee-keeping, lac cultivation and biogas plants are brought into practice in RF's clusters across India.

In an effort to promote biodiversity and preserve the ecology, the number of saplings planted this year crossed 0.87 Mn. So far, the number of saplings that have been planted by VAs on both individual and common landholdings has crossed 3.0 Mn. To get high yields from cost-effective farming, RF supported and conducted soil health activities such as camps and workshops, facilitating soiltesting and ensuring the application of essential nutrients in about 797 Hectares of agricultural land. In collaboration with different knowledge partners, more than 4,500 soil health tests were conducted this year (above 15,000 soil tests since inception), based on which relevant advisories were disseminated at the village level. Till date, RF has helped construct more than 2,000 biogas plants in rural households. A survey found that these biogas units have helped in reduction of health problems by 92 percent, reduced the drudgery of women by seven hours a week, saved 2.1 metric tonnes of firewood per year and reduced 102 metric tonnes of methane gas emission.

**Results:** This year, RF has supported the conservation of more than 2,200 Hectares of unproductive land and converted it into cultivable land (more than 56,000 Hectares since inception). More than 80 percent of this land has been used for food production, while the rest has been used for activities such as cultivation of fodder and other commercial crops.





Objective: Extending all possible assistance to owners for successful livestock development.

Approach: Recognising that livestock are an important source of livelihood for the rural population and a vital resource for agricultural development, RF has collaborated with different government departments, veterinary colleges and

milk society unions to organise livestock camps. These camps provide veterinary services such as free consultation, vaccination, castration, deworming, liver treatment, artificial insemination etc. During these camps, livestock owners are also provided medicines, mineral mixtures, fodder and fodder seeds for their livestock along with information on various government schemes related to it. Besides direct on-field support, the intervention also uses virtual platforms such as video and audio conferences and meetings to provide expert solutions to the queries of livestock owners.

**Results:** This year, over 53,000 livestock animals have been treated through 230 camps (over 0.13 Mn livestock since inception) across seven states.

### **Contribution to Government Initiatives**

### Complement to Swachh Bharat **Initiative**

### Village-level efforts

Since the launch of Government of India's Swachh Bharat Mission, RF has been conducting several activities to improve cleanliness, health and hygiene in its programme villages. This year, awareness campaigns were carried out in around 500 villages through posters, kala jathas and rallies, to sensitise villagers on the importance of cleanliness, hygiene, sanitation and the use of toilets. Additionally, through teleconferences and toll-free helplines, citizens were informed about the procedures to avail benefits of schemes such as the Sardar Patel Awas Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Gramin Awas Yojana, Vriddha Pension Yojana etc. To facilitate villages achieve 'Opendefecation Free' status, information is being shared for leveraging funds from different government schemes for construction of toilets. As a result of these efforts, more than 14,000 toilets have been constructed in around 263 villages, of which 48 villages have been declared 'Open-defecation Free' by the government.

### E-Toilets at Cities

RF extended support to Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation (NMMC) in construction of 12 E-toilets across Navi Mumbai. These are women-friendly public toilets designed with stainless steel interiors that ensure easier cleaning and thus maintain hygiene. It has other specifications such as separate toilet and rest room, automated washing, sensors for conservation of water and electricity, water empty indication, power backup, napkin vending machine and incinerator, exhaust fan etc.

# **Village Social Transformation**

RF partners with the Government of Maharashtra's village transformation initiative that aims to transform the 1,000 poorest villages of the state in over 18 months. RF is taking up 53 villages in the Parbhani and Yavatmal districts of Maharashtra to support this initiative, focussing on sustainable development of its villages through 'Mission Village Transformation'. In addition to steering the work in these villages, RF is on the governing board of the Village Social Transformation Foundation, which is the governing board for the mission.

### **Sona River Revival**

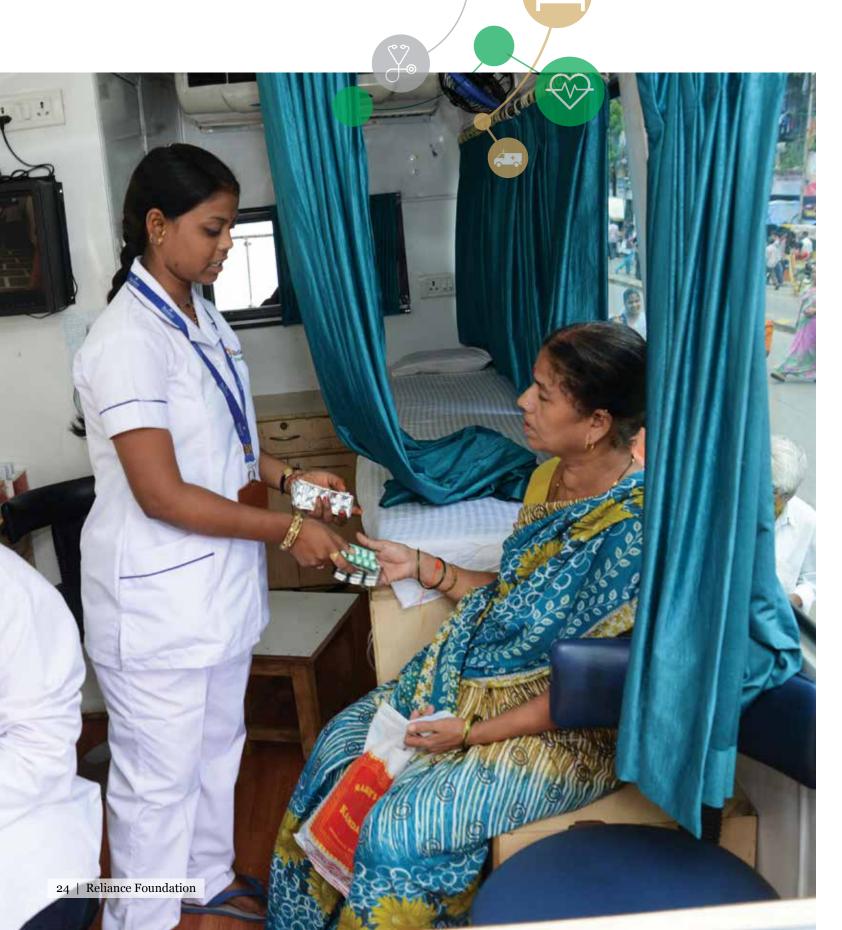
RF took on the challenge of ending water woes plaguing five villages around Soygaon in Aurangabad District, Maharashtra, by reviving the Sona River. With just one-and-a-half months to go for the monsoons, the RF team swung into action and deployed all its managerial skill and technological expertise to accomplish the task. Heavy machinery including earth movers and tractors were deployed for de-siltation along a 5-km stretch of the river. All these activities created a water storage capacity of 1.5 Bn litres. Additionally, three gated structures were repaired while one new structure was constructed for releasing water.

The revived Sona River ensured drinking water security for over 14,000 people and assured irrigation for about 2,500 acres of land in five villages.



# Health

**Improving Quality of Life** 





From RF Swasth Samuh, I realised that the development of a community is in the hands of its residents. 'Swachh Mumbai', a cleanliness drive was our first activity as a Samuh. We went door to door, lane by lane, spreading the message of cleanliness; put up posters, organised rallies and made sure that everyone in our locality received the message.

Beena Saini (RF Swasth Samuh Member),

Bharat Nagar, Bandra Kurla Complex, Mumbai, Maharashtra

RF addresses issues around the affordability and accessibility of quality healthcare and brings about improvement in awareness of healthy living practices. Its 'Health for All' motto and integrated healthcare model caters to the most vulnerable sections of society through a network of healthcare delivery mechanisms.

# Approach for improving the quality of life:

RF's health initiatives range across the

spectrum of preventive and primary care, maternal and child health, malnutrition, communicable and non-communicable diseases, ophthalmological services, health system strengthening etc.

Map not to scale

For illustrative purpose only

The focus of these initiatives is to enhance preventive healthcare, improve access to primary and secondary healthcare services, reduce economic burden due to healthcare expenditure, and provide need-based referral services for tertiary care. RF also works on bringing about positive behavioural change for the improvement of health outcomes, with a special focus on maternal and child health. The programmes inform and engage community members to meet their healthcare needs. The programmes also utilise technology for effective processing of patient information.



# **Preventive and Primary Healthcare**

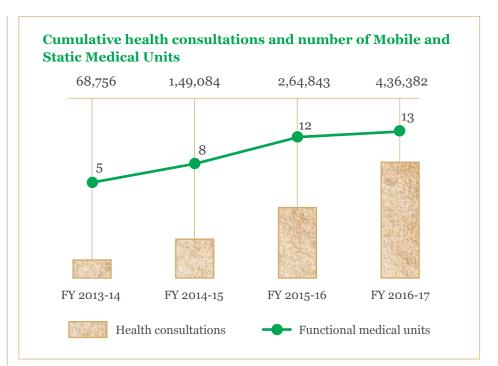


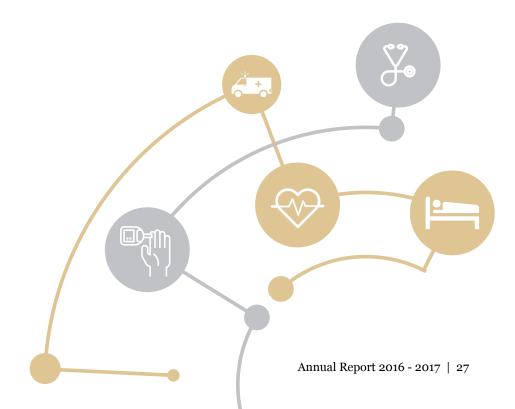
Objective: Addressing preventive and primary healthcare needs of the underprivileged living in both rural and urban areas.

Approach: Launched in 2012, the health outreach programme works through Static Medical Units (SMUs) and Mobile Medical Units (MMUs) with a team of healthcare professionals. This programme imparts health education and promotes health-seeking behaviour, besides providing preventive and primary health services. The programme also offers specialised services through SMUs, with an emphasis on non-communicable diseases. The medical units are equipped state-of-the-art technology, including cloud-based software, to store patient information. The intervention is currently operational in Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Uttarakhand.

This year, two new MMUs were launched - one in Palghar district of Maharashtra, which will provide health services to nearly 18,000 people across 11 villages, while the other MMU is at Shahdol, Madhya Pradesh to provide healthcare services around women-centric issues. The latter is fully run by women healthcare providers.

**Results:** Overall, RF runs 13 medical units across the focus states. Health consultations carried out this year crossed 0.17 Mn (over 0.43 Mn since inception), providing advice on general health issues, diabetes, hypertension, physiotherapy, gynaecology etc.





# **Maternal and Child Health**

# **Child Malnutrition**



Sangini has been a life changing experience for me. It has garnered for me new respect and recognition in family and society. The trainings and the skills I acquired as a Swasth Sangini have empowered me as a person.

Anita Soren, (Swasth Sangini), Joramo, Deoghar, Jharkhand

Objective: Addressing the key health challenges faced by women and children, such as malnutrition, anaemia, maternal health and improved menstrual hygiene. Approach: The Maternal and Child Health (MCH) programme, started in Mumbai in 2014 and scaled up to meet the needs of rural transformation villages, has adopted a unique community engagement model for effective service delivery. Community volunteers, called Swasth Sanginis, are trained to cascade their learnings and provide basic healthcare and diagnostic services to women during prenatal and postnatal period. Additionally, regular health screenings are conducted for anaemia among adolescent girls and women of childbearing age.

Health professionals routinely conduct awareness campaigns on health and nutrition. This year, the campaign was scaled up through the use of technology, with Jio TV conferences being organised to provide information to the local communities.

Results: Currently, the MCH programme is scaled-up and being implemented across eight states. Over 1,440 women enrolled this year for availing maternal health services (2,441 women since inception). The community effort under the intervention has ensured safe childbirths of more than 350 high-risk pregnant women that potentially could have resulted in fatalities. This year, 33,958 women were screened for anaemia (45,979 screenings since inception) and those diagnosed were provided with appropriate care.

Objective: Addressing the major concern of malnutrition among children in the early years of life.

**Approach:** Prevalence of child malnutrition is our country's silent emergency as almost 38% of our children are stunted, 30% underweight and 15% wasted (Ministry of Women and Child Development, 2014). Focussed attention is required for significant reduction in the prevalence of malnutrition among children under 5 years. RF is addressing child malnutrition issues in urban and rural areas across eight states by involving 233 community volunteers. These volunteers are trained on malnutrition screening and empowered with measurement kits.

identified as malnourished at the health camp. They advised that I also take my child to the camp. When Didi (Nutritionist) tied a band around my child's hand and told me that my baby is healthy, I breathed a sigh of relief. Didi also counselled me on healthy practices to prevent malnutrition in children.

**Shakuntala Singh** (Mother of Samskruthi), Sambhaji Nagar, Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra

Under the programme, RF started an e-learning initiative wherein Swasth Sanginis were trained by nutritionists via virtual platforms. These virtual culinary workshops guided them on nutritional values of various local food products and demonstrated healthy recipes for improving nutrition among malnourished children as well as pregnant/lactating mothers and anaemic women in their programme area.

**Results:** The programme has screened 29,706 children under five years of age this year, of which about eight percent of children were found malnourished and received treatment. Since inception, the malnutrition intervention has screened over 42,500 children, of which 3,500 children were found malnourished and received treatment.

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# **Eye-care Services**

# **Strengthening Health Systems**



Objective: Restoring sight of the underprivileged people suffering from visual impairment.

Approach: Since over a decade, RIL and later under the aegis of RF, has been supporting visually-impaired underprivileged people through 'Drishti' programme that supports corneal transplant surgeries. As part of the eyecare awareness programme, a week-long Drishti art and essay competitions is also organised annually.

Besides Drishti, RF has been conducting vision care camps across different programme areas. This year, a unique community co-participated vision care initiative was launched across six

villages at Shahdol, Madhya Pradesh. The purpose was to improve awareness and control visual disabilities through community-based screening and provision of appropriate care such as provision of glasses to correct refractory errors, and correction of Vitamin-A deficiency induced visual impairment etc.

**Results:** This year, the programme partnered with the National Association for the Blind, Arvind Eye Hospital and the LV Prasad Eye Institute in Hyderabad, supporting 1,096 corneal transplants (15,824 corneal transplants since inception). Around 10,000 people participated in the art and essay competition. Two of the programme villages - Lalpur and Deori in Shahdol

was having a hard time getting sleep at night. I experienced a burning sensation in eyes all through the night. It had started to affect my daily routine. That's when I visited the RF vision camp held near my house. The doctor at the camp examined my eves and told me that I am in need of corrective glasses. I am so thankful to RF for organising this camp in our locality.

**Ratna Baban Shinde,** Yadav Nagar, Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra

district - were certified as Preventive Visual Disability Controlled by the district health administration.



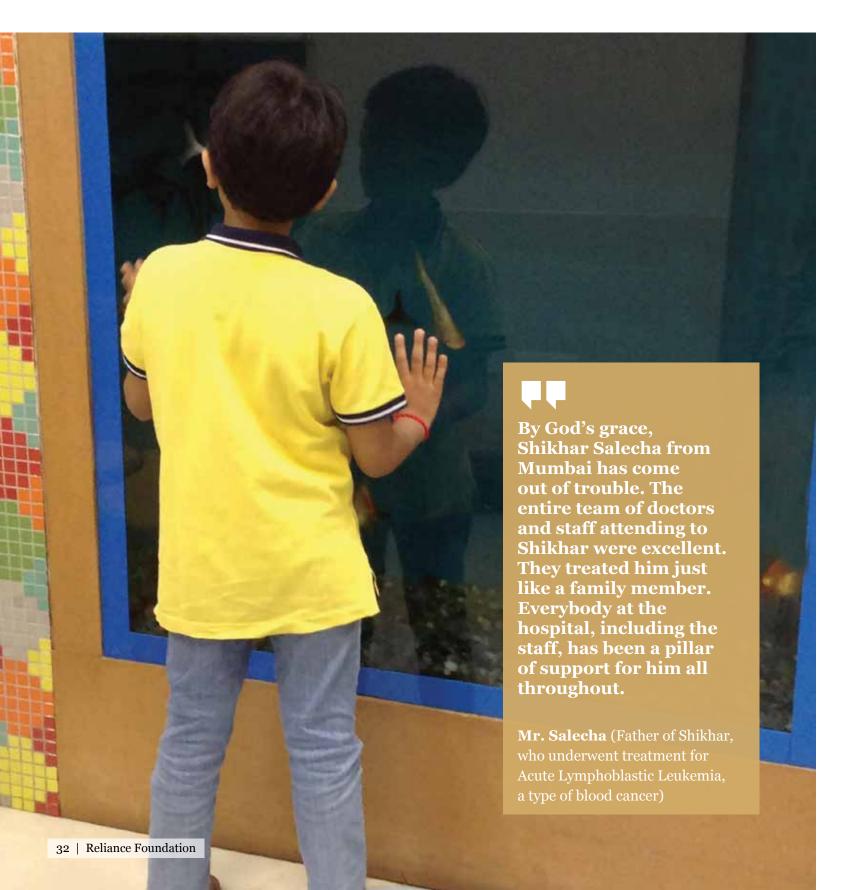
**Objective:** Providing support for provision of quality care at government healthcare institutes.

Approach: RF is providing technical support for process standardisation, capacity building and technology integration to the healthcare institutes and public health facilities in Warangal District, Telangana. The initiative in collaboration with the local government has trained 103 staff members of eight primary and secondary care facilities on primary health centre management and maternal and child health skills. 50 staff members have been trained on communication skills, effective meetings, team building and decision-making, vastly improving the services provided

through these facilities. Moreover, 213 frontline workers have been trained on communication skills and select tools developed by RF on antenatal care. First phase of Health Management Information System (HMIS) covering Out-Patient Department (OPD) and Lab services is near completion and will be inaugurated shortly.

**Results:** The success of RF pilot has resulted in a multiplier effect with the pilot being adapted across all health facilities in five districts of Telangana.

# Sir H. N. Reliance Foundation Hospital and Research Centre



Inaugurated by the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri. Narendra Modi, Sir H. N. Reliance Foundation Hospital is gaining recognition as a Centre of Quality Care. Located in Mumbai, the hospital is currently in its third year of operations. True to its core value – Respect for Life – the hospital provides specialised services to underprivileged patients, including complex paediatric cardiac surgeries and cancer therapies.

Objective: Providing state-ofthe-art medical facilities, both in terms of expertise and required infrastructure, so that the best possible treatment is available at affordable rates in India.

Approach: In addition to providing world-class medical services, the hospital believes that 'prevention is better than cure'. This year alone, 7,210 medical screenings were conducted. The hospital organises health awareness and education programmes. This year, 30 community awareness programmes, attended by over 2,800 people, were conducted. The hospital also held 50 events such as corporate health awareness talks, awareness and school-screening camps, attended by over 4,800 people. As part of an ongoing Continued Medical Education programme, the hospital organised 23 symposiums, workshops and seminars, attended by almost 2,400 doctors.

With a commitment to its fundamental principle - Patient First - the hospital has launched a number of initiatives to improve the experience of patients and their family members. Visits to the hospital are substantially reduced by online availability of reports. Similarly, online registration and mobile applications help find suitable doctors and secure online appointments. An outstation clinic has also been opened in Surat to provide patients in Gujarat access to the best doctors. The hospital is designed in accordance with the highest international quality standards. It has been awarded IGBC's LEED GOLD certification.

Results: In a short span of time, the hospital has crossed many medical milestones. This year, the hospital performed 3,415 surgeries and 608 cathlab procedures with excellent outcomes. Also, in the course of the year, the hospital provided medical benefits to more than 180 underprivileged individuals, besides providing 9,024 free OPD consultations. Recently, the hospital reached a major milestone, starting an Organ Transplantation programme. A large number of patients who required complex medical management have also been treated at the hospital. Some of these patients required high-end equipment like ECHMO, which are not available in most hospitals.

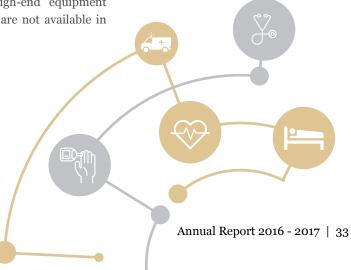
### Dhirubhai Ambani Hospital

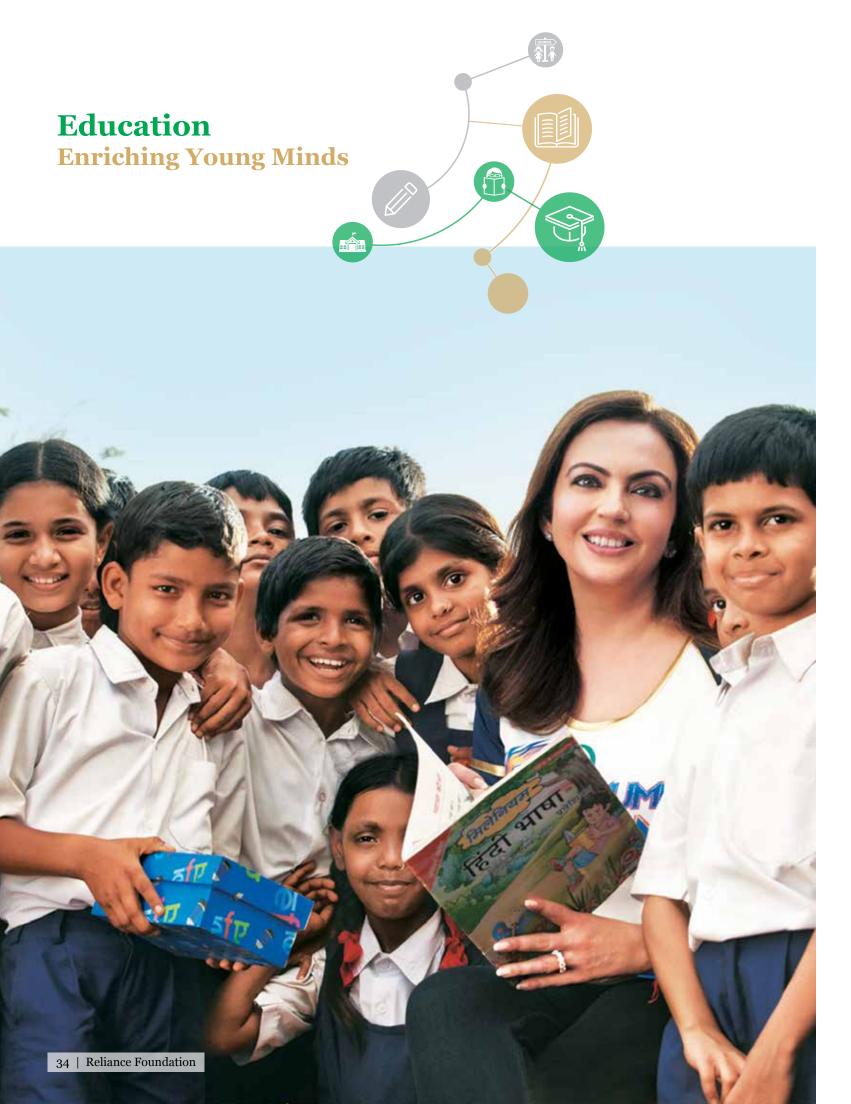
# World-class medical facilities in rural India

The Dhirubhai Ambani Hospital at Lodhivali near Patalganga is an 82-bed state-of-the-art hospital catering to the industrial and rural population in the Raigad District of Maharashtra. A majority of these patients are underprivileged or senior citizens, or trauma accident victims from the economically weaker sections of society. Dhirubhai Ambani Hospital has one of the country's largest Anti-Retroviral Therapy (ART) centres – a major Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative – which caters to HIV patients.

### RESULTS ACHIEVED IN THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2016-17

- 2,211 patients provided free outpatient and subsidised inpatient treatment
- 237 HIV AIDS patients registered (3,809 patients since inception); all these patients have been provided free consultation, counselling, investigation and treatment
- 14,621 consultations were offered at the centre (1,26,280 consultations since inception)







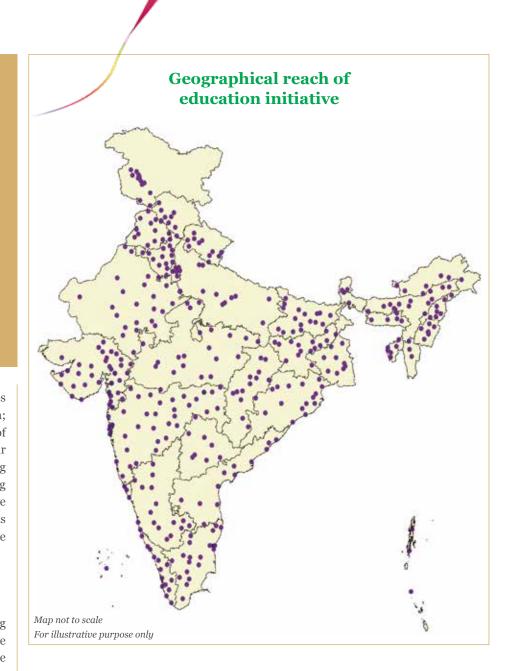
I am glad to be selected by your Company for financial assistance. My family was facing a financial crisis, and the scholarship has given me the opportunity to fly with glorious colours.

Kishor S. Dixit,

There are unmistakable inequalities in access to education in India; further affecting the entire lifecycle of disadvantaged individuals, stunting their intellectual development and limiting their employment options. Understanding this, RF has identified education as one of the most pressing development needs to bring transformational change in the society.

### Approach for enriching young minds:

RF provides quality education, training and skill enhancement to improve the quality of lives and livelihoods. The initiatives are aimed at promoting primary and secondary education and enabling higher education through merit-cum-means scholarships across the country. RF has set up schools, and promotes higher education by setting up as well as supporting universities. It has leveraged technology, including digital education platforms, for a richer learning environment and greater reach.



# Dhirubhai Ambani Scholarship Programme

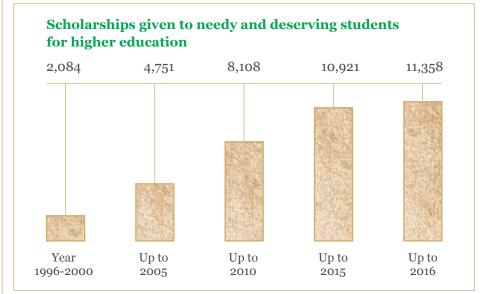
# **Education for All**



Objective: Making higher education accessible to meritorious underprivileged students.

Approach: The Dhirubhai Ambani Scholarship (DAS) programme has been providing educational scholarships to students since 1996 to pursue college education in their preferred stream. The programme continues to further the vision of Late Shri Dhirubhai Ambani towards honing youth leadership within the country.

**Results:** In the 21st year of the DAS programme, 437 meritorious students across India, including 143 specially-abled students, were provided scholarships to pursue higher education (11,358 scholarships since inception). A survey conducted by Indian Market Research

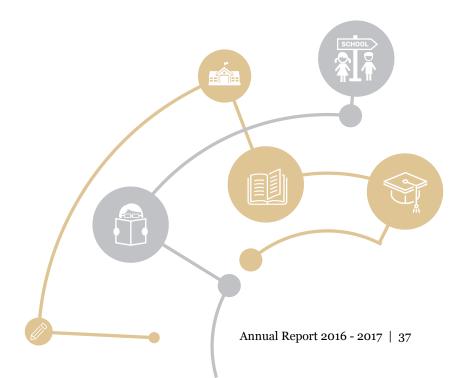


Bureau (IMRB) in 2016 found that the programme is unique as compared to other scholarship programmes as its

scope is diversified and does not limit support to particular disciplines or stream of education. Objective: Providing access to quality education to underprivileged children to enable them to improve opportunities in life.

Approach: RF launched the 'Education for All' initiative in 2010 with ardent support from Mumbai Indians. The initiative supports like-minded organisations dedicatedly working in the education space for underprivileged children. In 2017, the initiative started supporting 12 partner NGOs. This year, a Digital Learning Van was launched to provide a virtual learning experience to underprivileged children.

**Results:** Since inception, the initiative has positively impacted the lives of 0.1 Mn underprivileged children.



# **Digital Classrooms**

# **Reliance Foundation Schools**



Objective: Introducing innovative web-enabled methods providing access to quality education and improve learning outcomes.

**Approach:** RF has promoted Digital Classrooms for improving the teaching-learning process to ensure quality education.

RF has been implementing digital learning initiative in 100 schools across Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat. This year, RF supported setting up 16 virtual classrooms in the Secondary Schools of Thane Municipal Corporation (TMC), Maharashtra. These schools impart

education through the medium of Marathi, Urdu and English languages. The initiative aims at creating world-class infrastructure for educational classroom training and interaction beyond the school syllabus. While the students of TMC schools cannot afford high cost education, the initiative aspires to provide them with equal opportunity for obtaining quality education through a digital platform.

Results: The schools in Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat are benefitting over 25,000 children. The State Council of Educational Research and Training has used the setup to train more than 800 teachers virtually. In Thane district, over 3,000 students have benefitted from the virtual classroom initiative this year.

Objective: Providing a complete and an enriching educational experience that helps students realise their full potential.

Approach: A total of 13 Reliance Foundation Schools that educate around 15,000 children are located in Jamnagar, Surat, Vadodara, Dahej, Lodhivali, Nagothane, Nagpur and Navi Mumbai. These schools offer educational programmes right from Kindergarten to Class 12 and are affiliated to Central Board of Secondary Education, Gujarat State Board and Maharashtra State Board, offering instructions in English, Gujarati and Marathi. In 2016, a new

Reliance Foundation School providing primary education was set up in Dahej. The School's educational programmes, a fine blend of curricular and co-curricular elements, equip children with knowledge, skills and values that will make them aware, successful and responsible citizens.

**Results:** Students of Reliance Foundation Schools continue to excel in academics as well as co-scholastic, sporting and co-curricular pursuits. Most of the schools have reported 100 percent results in Class 10 and Class 12 examinations, with one school achieving 100 percent distinction in the Class 12

Science stream. So far, about 25,000 children have graduated from these schools. Students are encouraged to participate in state and national level Olympiads, competitions and events that make them familiar with academic rigour and trends, preparing them for the emerging world. Students have won several awards at the district, state and national levels in various co-curricular and sports competitions like CBSE Nationals, School Games Federation of India Nationals, Indian International Model United Nations etc.

# **Dhirubhai Ambani International School (DAIS)**

# **Partnerships to Enhance Education**



Objective: Offering students in India a world-class and pioneering educational experience that prepares them to succeed at national and international levels.

Approach: The Dhirubhai Ambani International School (DAIS), Mumbai, prepares students for the ICSE, IGCSE and IB Diploma Examinations. The School is also a member of the Cambridge International Primary Programme, provides world-class international education to over 1,000 children and has 150 teachers with rich experience in national and international curricula.

**Results:** Over the years, the School has achieved highest standards of excellence on all performance parameters:

- In 2016, 'Education World' ranked DAIS as the No. 1 International School in India for the fourth consecutive year
- DAIS was also ranked the No. 1 ICSE School in India in the Education World Academic School Rankings 2016

- The 'Hindustan Times C fore School Survey 2016' ranked DAIS the No. 1 School in Mumbai for the fourth time in five years
- The 'Times School Survey 2016' ranked DAIS the No. 1 School in Mumbai in the 'National + International School' category
- DAIS has also been recognised as the No. 1 School in Academics in the country, with the conferment of the 'Excellence in Academics' award in the 'NDTV Education Awards 2016'
- In 2016, DAIS received international accreditation from the Council of International Schools (CIS) and the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC)
- DAIS is among the seven schools in India to be awarded joint accreditation by CIS and NEASC
- In 2016, the School also received the 'Green Building Certificate' from the Indian Green Building Council with the highest-level 'platinum' rating, making it one of only 19 schools in India to receive this honour

The students have consistently achieved outstanding results across all three curricula - the ICSE, IGCSE and IB Diploma. The IB Diploma Class of 2016 earned an average of 39 points (out of the maximum possible score of 45). Three students obtained the perfect score of 45 points, achieved by only 201 students worldwide. In 2016, two students topped the world in Mathematics, one topped the world in Biology and two students topped in India in various subjects in the IGCSE examinations. The School's average in the 2016 ICSE examinations was 95% and the highest score was 98.40%. During 2016, DAIS students won over 450 awards in various sporting events, and over 70 awards in various co-scholastic and co-curricular events at the state, national and international levels.

The Class of 2016 earned admissions in 16 of the top 30 global universities like Cambridge, Yale, UCL, Imperial College, King's College, Johns Hopkins and Brown, to name a few. Many leading universities offered scholarships to the students.

Objective: Providing children in rural areas with a comprehensive learning environment that helps prevent school drop-outs and improve learning levels.

**Approach:** RF, in partnership with Eklavya Foundation, implemented a pilot project reaching out to 1,300 children in 41 villages of Madhya Pradesh to improve the learning abilities of children through Shiksha Protsahan Kendras (SPKs). By creating a positive and conducive learning environment, the programme addressed the bottlenecks in learning that most of the children have.

In another education initiative, RF supported The Bombay Community Public Trust's 'English E-Teach' (EET) project. The project aims to improve quality of English of poor children so as to better their employment opportunities.

Results: An assessment done to review the intervention found active participation of children in SPKs and demonstrated the remarkable improvement they had from the programme to be able to participate effectively in mainstream education. Till date, the EET initiative has reached about 0.2 Mn children in Maharashtra.



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# **Sports for Development**

**Encouraging Active Participation & Promotion** 



The Government of India's National Sports Policy, 2001, highlights the need to promote sports with the twin objective of achieving excellence at national and international levels as well as integrating sports and physical education more effectively with school and college curricula. The 'Khelo-India' national programme for development of sports is aimed at reaching out to the largest possible section of the population, identifying and grooming talent, and improving sports infrastructure.

### **Approach for sports promotion:**

RF understands the need to formally engage and bring together young sporting talent, and provide them a platform to perform and excel in sports. RF's sports initiatives are also aimed at using sports as a tool for all-round development of India's young people by encouraging learning and inculcating leadership skills. Through the initiative, RF promotes health, fitness and an active lifestyle to bring about a positive change in society.



# **Reliance Foundation Youth Sports**

# **Junior NBA Programme**



In July 2016, Prime Minister Shri. Narendra Modi and Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Shri. Vijay Goel, along with Smt. Nita M. Ambani, Founder and Chairperson of RF, launched the Reliance Foundation Youth Sports programme. The digital launch linked eight sports grounds at Kochi, Chennai, Goa, Mumbai, Delhi, Kolkata, Guwahati and Pune through a live broadcast. In his interaction with school children, the Prime Minister urged the nation to 'Play' and hailed the initiative as a unique step towards promoting sports culture among the youth.

Objective: Identifying and nurturing young sporting talent to facilitate India's emergence as a sporting nation.

Approach: As part of the programme, incentives have been announced to motivate educational institutes and also Physical Education (PE) teachers, to pick a sporting talent pool for the country. Also, the PE teachers have been provided exposure and training from renowned football academies across the world, which will help them train their students. The programme is aimed at promoting sports in more than 50 cities by 2020 and creating opportunities for youngsters to pursue sports as a career.

**Results:** The first phase of the programme witnessed participation from 4,000 educational institutions across eight cities in India and motivated about 2 Mn students studying in these institutions. More than 20,000 students participated in the football tournament organised through the programme. These students are aspiring football players who were nominated by their educational institutions to take part in the programme. The students were scouted by more than 4,000 PE teachers, who are secondary beneficiaries of the programme. Of these, over 400 of the best teachers were shortlisted and their "D-License Coaching Certification" was sponsored through the programme.

Objective: Promoting sports among the children, and through the medium of sports, impart social and ethical values.

Approach: The Reliance Foundation Junior NBA programme is a comprehensive school-based youth basketball programme. Through this collaborative programme, RF is committed to promote sports among millions of young people across the country. The programme promotes health, fitness, an active lifestyle through basketball and teaches values of life such as teamwork, sacrifice, discipline, dedication and sportsmanship.

**Results:** Launched in 2013, the first phase of the programme covered 2.8 Mn youth across 18 cities in India. The second phase started in 2016, reaching out to 0.6 Mn youth. Since inception, the programme has reached out to about 3.4 Mn youth across 18 cities in India.

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# **Reliance Foundation Young Champs**

# **Rural Sports**



Objective: Providing aspiring football talent from across the country the opportunity to hone their skills with world-class facilities and best-in-class training.

**Approach:** RF has launched 'Young Champs' - a unique, full scholarship-based, full-time residential football and educational programme. The programme invests in nurturing football talent for top performance. Children and coaches are provided exposure to advanced level sporting abilities. This year, tours were

organised to six international football academies. Close observation of elite youth footballers from across the world will encourage the upcoming talent from India to lift their performance to the highest level.

**Results:** This year, 18 children were awarded scholarships to develop their football skills, taking the total number of scholarships to 41.

Objective: Engaging the children in rural areas in sports or physical activities for their holistic development.

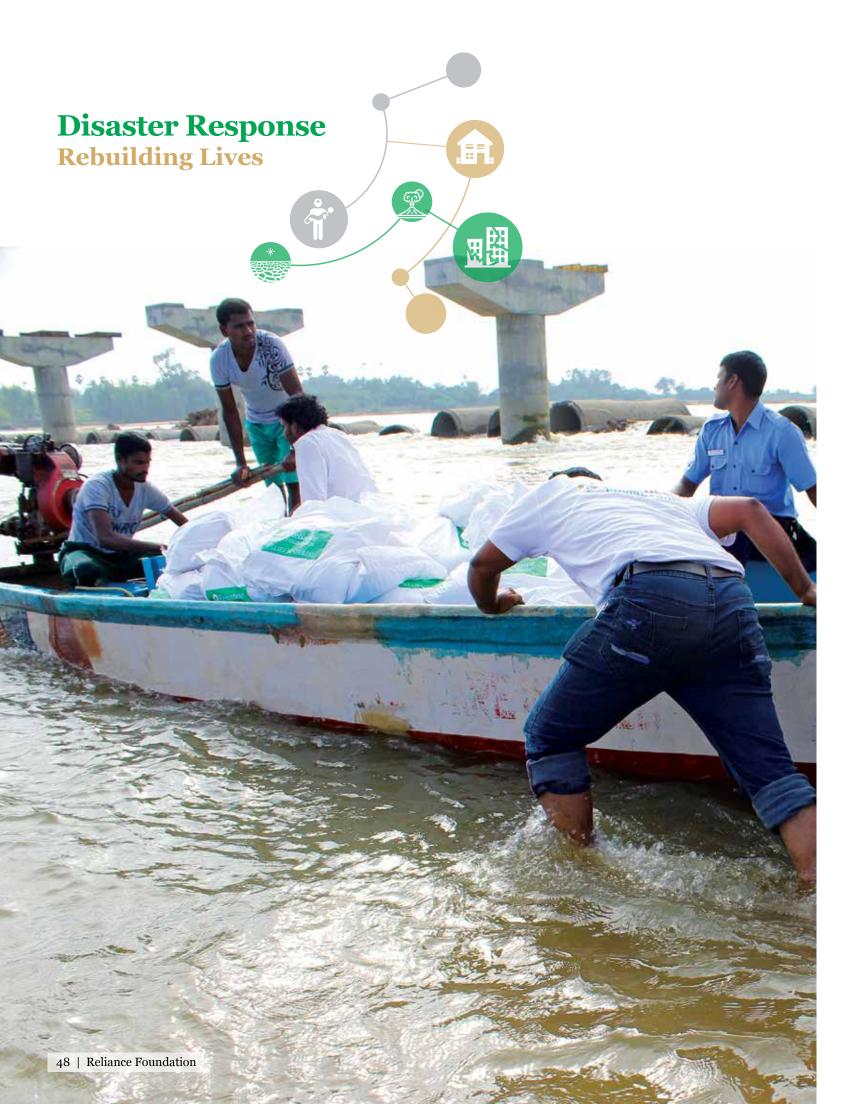
**Approach:** RF supports the cause to contribute to the overall physical and mental well-being of children in rural areas, inculcate the quality of team spirit, nurture their leadership abilities and make them confident. The Rural Sports initiative has been implemented by RF in Madhya Pradesh. The programme is run by the community members, with

young volunteers leading the activities. In another initiative to promote football sports in rural areas, more than 34,500 footballs were distributed to over 6,520 village schools and youth clubs.

**Results:** This year, more than 1,500 children were enrolled in the programme (over 4,000 children since inception). By encouraging sports as an activity, concentration and fitness levels of the children have also improved, leading to better education, health and all-round development.

the community recognised me for my contribution in educating the children through sports activities. Proud that I am bringing back dropout children to school and creating new hope.

**Toli Kharadi,** Banswara, Rajasthan

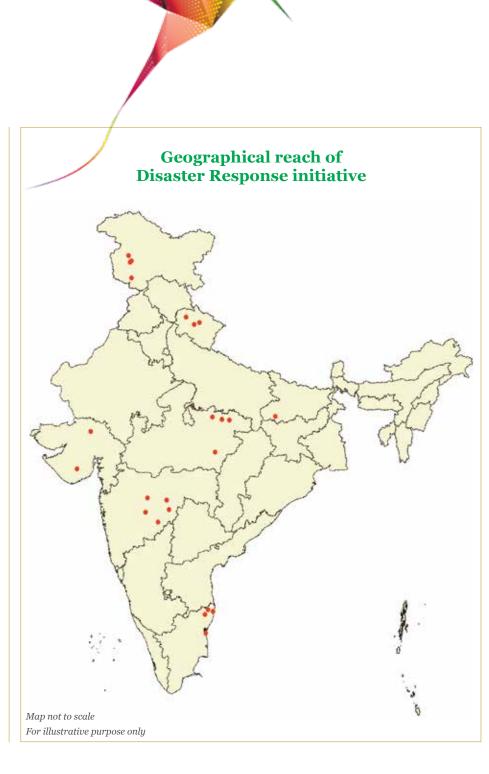


RF's work in the field of Disaster Response aims to reduce the vulnerability of the poor and the marginalised during and after the incidence of disaster. The programme aims to ensure dignity of life by making communities more resilient to natural disasters, equips them to help themselves; and provides relief during a disaster.

### Approach to disaster preparedness:

RF invests in prevention, preparedness and relief as the necessary aspects of a systematic approach to increase disaster preparedness. RF brings in its large asset of professional human resources to improve the efficiency of delivery and quality of decision-making. It uses the large volunteer force available with it from across RIL's employee base to deliver immediate relief, information and communication technology. RF also leverages its social mobilising skills to organise communities to provide planning and implementation capacity.

In the previous year, India was struck by several disasters including floods and droughts, which severely damaged rural lives and livelihoods. RF's Mission Rahat acted swiftly to help people tackle these situations, taking on the challenge to reach out to people in drought-stricken Marathwada with interventions of immediate and long-term impact.



# **Drought Relief Support in Maharashtra**

# **Technology Support to Flood Relief in Madhya Pradesh**



providing drinking water by RF is very helpful. Even God has not favoured us but you have with this water. If you see today's situation, the cattle have gone without water for four days. You have really obliged us by providing drinking water.

Mahajan Anandrao Shinde, Harbal, Nanded, Maharashtra Objective: Extending support to the four most distressed districts of the Marathwada region – Latur, Hingoli, Jalna and Nanded – with drinking water.

Approach: In summer 2016, the Marathwada region suffered from severe water crisis. RF's relief team deployed all technological options at its disposal to ensure supply of safe drinking water to the affected communities. Water samples were tested to check if the water sources were potable, tankers were deployed, and RF's helpline was used to swiftly connect villages with the relief team to ensure timely supply of water. As a sustainable

solution to the prolonged water crisis, experts from RF supported water development and conservation plans in all 106 villages across the four districts, besides seeking implementation support from government and other agencies.

Results: More than 60.0 Mn litres of drinking water was supplied to about 0.21 Mn people in 106 villages across the four districts. Further, sustainable water conservation solutions helped reduce the woes of many local women who earlier had to travel long distances to fetch water.

Objective: Use of technology for information dissemination in the aftermath of 2016 Madhya Pradesh floods, especially which related to compensation packages and crop disease management.

**Approach:** RF, for the first time, experimented with technology solutions to address relief requirements. As a part of the relief measure, 5,500 helpline calls were attended to, in addition to 21 multilocation audio and video conferences organised using Jio's 4G network.

A WhatsApp group was formed with 104 Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan volunteers of Panna District, Madhya Pradesh. The group provided dynamic update from the field, disseminated information on flood relief operations and coordinated activities from various affected locations. To curb the spread of serious illnesses such as malaria, RF facilitated malaria control and prevention meeting at Jio Centre, Panna with the support of district line departments and technical partners. A dial-out conference facility was organised to discuss various relief operations among Home Guard Officials, Panna. Additionally, RF used Jio Chat to coordinate its relief operations across several affected locations and by uniting volunteers.

Results: More than 76,000 individuals benefitted from 78 different advisories provided through mobile phones. Apart from the medium of technology, the affected communities were also served through direct interventions under flood relief, including disease prevention measures, distribution of wheat flour, tarpaulin sheets, plastic thin rope, gambusia affinis (mosquito fish species), diagnostic camps for malaria etc.

**Arts, Culture & Heritage** 

**Celebrating India's Glorious Legacy** 



**Improving India's Cities** 



Objective: Preserving India's rich heritage of art and culture as well as enhance avenues for livelihood of traditional artisans and craftsmen.

**Approach:** Aligned to its objective to preserve, protect and promote India's arts, culture and heritage, RF undertakes various promotional and developmental projects and activities.

**Results:** This year, RF commissioned the families of 100 Pichvai artists in Nathdwara in 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.

This year, RF continued its support to the annual concert, 'Abbaji', organised by Ustad Zakir Hussain in the memory of his father, Ustad Allah Rakha Khan. This concert featured renowned musicians who came together to pay tribute to the legendary Guru.

Objective: Demonstrating greater sensitivity towards the upkeep and restoration of urban public spaces.

**Approach:** Many urban spaces in India are losing their visual and aesthetic beauty due to the sustained pressures of commercial development and burgeoning population. Under its focus on enhancing the quality of public spaces in urban areas,

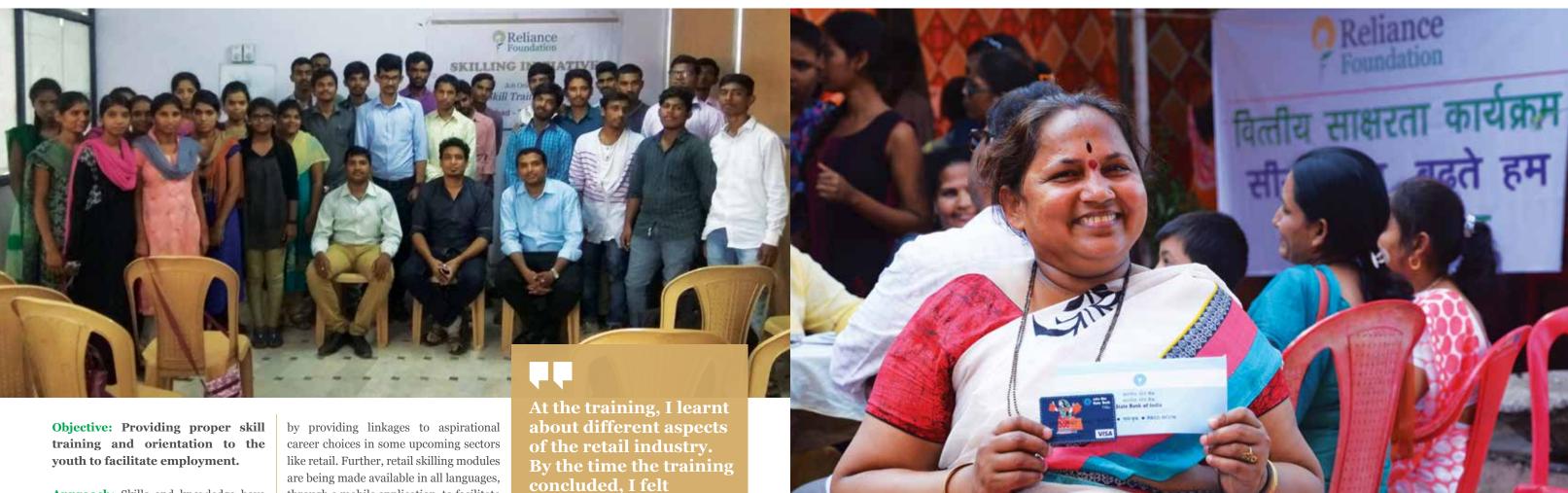
RF supported the Municipal Corporation in beautification of two lakes of Thane District - Upvan and Masunda. Both these lakes have been illuminated with various types of colourful LED lights. A floating musical fountain comprising five different patterns of colourful lights and sound system has been installed in Upvan Lake.

**Results:** 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.

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# **Skilling and Employment**

# **Financial Literacy**



**Approach:** Skills and knowledge have become the driving force of economic growth and social development. India, with a large portion of its demography between 15 and 35 years, is well poised to tap this opportunity, provided that the poor and marginal sections of society are provided an equal opportunity to participate in this journey. Additionally, RF realises that there is an urgent need to diversify the rural livelihood basket and provide job opportunities in urban areas, which will act as a cushion when agriculture gets disrupted due to the factors beyond human control. RF's programme acts as this catalyst by skilling the youth with the required expertise and through a mobile application, to facilitate a faster and larger outreach of skilling. Last but not the least, the importance of a centralised, multilingual tracking of trained youth has been identified. This will help to increase the efficiency of the Skilling programme.

**Results:** The learnings from first few training sessions have immensely helped in evolving a better strategy for placement oriented mobilisation, profiling, training, assessment & certification and final placement. There have been pilot skilling cum placements in the skill trades of Bank Mitras (banking associates) and bedside assistants.

confident talking to people from different walks of life. Thanks to my training, I easily secured a position as a retail executive in the civil construction and home appliances department of a company.

Kirthi Gavali,

Objective: Facilitating financial empowerment urban underprivileged women inculcate in them the habit of saving money.

**Approach:** A financial literacy programme is being implemented by RF. The programme is aimed at developing capabilities in financial planning, budgeting and saving, so as to enable underprivileged women manage their unpredictable sources of income sustainably.

**Results:** Till date, the programme has trained over 7,500 women on aspects related to financial literacy. A survey found that the programme has been successful in developing the capabilities of about half of the beneficiaries, who reported positive change in managing their finances, making long-term financial planning and dealing with financial emergencies. About 80 percent of the women were satisfied with the financial literacy programme, stating that they have become more confident in dealing with financial institutions and budgeting for their families' expenses.





# Ferro-Cement Technology for Water Storage in High-Altitude Geographies



Challenge: In hilly and mountainous terrains, tapping of water for critical irrigation to agriculture fields at higher elevations is a challenge. Water-storage and water-harvesting structures have been recognised as sustainable agricultural solutions, ensuring water security throughout the seasons. However, these structures require immense planning, implementation consuming enormous technical and monetary resources, as well as human labour. Considering the investment incurred, it is essential that these structures sustain under adverse climatic conditions, so as to yield better returns on investment in the long run. In this scenario, engineering skills and techniques become imperative, and technologies and innovations play a key role in determining design.

**Solution:** This year, RF used an innovative tool to optimise water storage in a manner that is socially acceptable and environmentally sound. Ferro-cement technology was used to effectively overcome the challenges faced in construction of conventional water storage tanks in the hilly, rugged terrain of Uttarakhand.

Impact: Ferro-cement tanks require fewer building materials than conventional technologies, and less number of days for construction. Built without causing any disruption to the local ecosystem, these tanks have helped reduce the cost of water storage by 50 percent. The biggest advantages of using this technology are its longevity, ease of replication for local communities and cost-effective maintenance.



I was just an ordinary mason a couple of years back, but now people know me as Ferro cement Tank technician and mason who has constructed tanks in entire watershed of

K**eshar Singh,** Dhankurali Village, Rudraprayag, Uttarakhand

my area.

# Plastic Sheets to Enhance Agricultural Livelihood



**Challenge:** Rural India needs innovative methods that are both farmer-friendly and easy to scale up in order to sustainably increase the income of small and marginalised farmers.

**Solution:** RF leverages plastic technology for the enhancement of rural livelihoods in agriculture and its allied sectors. This year, the use of plastic sheets was introduced for two different productions - for banana plantation and for the production of Azolla - a nutritive feed supplement for cattle.

These cost-effective and highly productive technologies is being introduced in rural areas, where they have a huge potential for replication and scaling up.

**Impact:** Using the plastic technology, over 950 farmers in Andhra Pradesh have benefitted from production of Azolla and over 450 farmers have benefitted from



banana cultivation. About 70 percent of the beneficiaries using Azolla as cattle feed confirmed increase in milk production with rich fat content. About 87 percent of farmers using plastic sheets to cover banana bunches have reported better colour, quality, and lesser attacks of pest/birds, resulting in better realisation of market price.

# **Primary and Preventive Care**



Challenge: Well-being and health protection has a positive impact on economic and social development of people. Unfortunately, in India, the healthcare sector faces a major challenge of a large number of people still not having access to affordable, high-quality primary healthcare and preventive services.

**Solution:** RF's Static Medical Units (SMUs) use state-of-the-art technology to provide primary and preventive care to its beneficiaries.

Impact: Through digitalised health screening and investigations, teleconsultations, audio message based follow-ups, health awareness mechanisms, custom-made and user-

friendly electronic medical records, RF has leveraged technology to provide quality, accessible and affordable healthcare to the marginalised sections of society.



**FF** 

I have always hated the long queues and never-ending paper work at hospitals. I end up spending hours waiting at the registration counter, for laboratory reports, prescription sheets and medicines. I also have to carry my 100-page medical file on each visit. If by any chance I forget the file, I have to wait even longer for the staff to go through their patient files to find history and details. But recently, on a visit to an RF Static Medical Unit I saw how much things had changed and how technology is being used to maintain records for patients like me.

Today at the RF SMU, I do not have to carry my medical files or papers for consultations. Once I receive audio messages on my mobile phone reminding me about follow-up visits to the doctor, I just need to go to the clinic with my health card. All my medical information is stored in a tablet and the doctor can access it at the click of a button. No time is wasted in completing paper work, waiting for tests results and drug prescriptions. I don't even have to worry about the doctor's handwriting! Everything is fed into the doctor's tablet and I get to take home a neat printout with all the details. What makes me most happy is that all these facilities are available to me at subsidised rates!

V**imladevi Solanki**, Mumbai

# Tab Didi: Digitally-Empowered Swasth Sanginis



Challenge: Despite recent advancements made by India in the medical and healthcare sector, a large section of its population still does not have access to quality and affordable healthcare.

**Solution:** RF believes in a healthcare model that is accessible and affordable to all. Emerging technologies in the field of healthcare have provided the means to realise this vision. RF Swasth Sanginis, who are community health workers identified and trained by RF, can now use different gadgets to administer digitalised tests for blood, blood pressure, doppler foetal monitoring, etc. in addition to using tabs to collect and store data.

Impact: Swasth Sanginis, empowered by their skills in using healthcare technology tools, are the new-age community health workers that Developing India needs. They are facilitating the provision of basic healthcare solutions to economically weaker sections of the society.

As the RF Swasth Sangini in my village, I visit people in their homes to understand their health concerns. I also collect data related to their health and provide basic healthcare services. Before joining RF as a Swasth Sangini, I was associated with another organisation that provided health services. The work used to be tiring and unending. During our home visits, we had to write down details of all our patients and their family members in a register. After returning to office, we had to enter all the data into an Excel sheet and send the same to the head office. This was a tedious task and often information was lost or wrongly entered

At RF, I collect all the data in a tab. I no longer have to carry bundles of papers and registers. I saw a tablet for the first time at the RF training. The RF team trained us on how to conduct surveys, enter investigation findings, and use audio-visual aids during health education sessions. A lot of our time is saved on the ground because we can use tabs. In the initial days, patients used to stare curiously at the gadget when I used it to enter data. Now, after months of use, these tabs have become an integral part of our routine work and our lives!

**Nirmala Devi** (Swasth Sangini), Deoghar. Jharkhand

# Piloting Digitisation for Primary Healthcare in Punjab



**Challenge:** Adoption of digital health practices is imperative to improve the quality of care and strengthen the reach of services. At the same time, to achieve digitalisation of primary healthcare, improved network connectivity is fundamental.

**Solution:** Keeping this in mind, RF has partnered with Reliance Jio to implement a pilot project for healthcare solutions in three Primary Health Centres (PHCs) and 11 sub-centres in the Mukundpur block of Nawashahr District, Punjab. The objective of this project is to help digitise patient records and provide tools to better administer local healthcare facilities through the

implementation of professional health applications. The project aims to support healthcare providers in PHCs and sub-centres as they adopt technologybased patient records systems, demonstrate risk stratification for noncommunicable diseases and help create the building blocks for a digital platform for continuity of care throughout the healthcare lifecycle. The Jio Healthcare Solution application includes forms to be used by ANMs (Auxiliary Nurse Midwives) on ground, a PHC application to be used by doctors, pharmacists and receptionists at PHCs and integrated phone-based applications for patients, using which they can access and manage their own health records.

**Impact:** Health information systems developed by RF is helping increase efficiency in healthcare delivery, benefitting the selected communities. Enhanced clinical decision-making and improved coordination across different strata of care are the other advantages of the use of digital technology.

# Using the 'Flag Method' to Save Paddy Fields



Challenge: While communication channels such as television, radio and mobile phones act as primary mediums of information dissemination, these services are often unavailable to poor farmers, thus restraining their productivity and profits.

**Solution:** The Flag Method, a technique developed by Korean extension workers in the year 2006, is an innovative communication technique used by RF to fill this gap.

In this method, RF experts visiting the fields and villages place the written form of their information or recommendation in a red vinyl flag, attach it to a thin pole, and place the pole in the field, in a place where the farmer can easily spot it. After reading the message, the farmer rolls up the flag and puts it back in the same place for the expert to collect it during his next visit. This method ensures that the farmer

receives critical information from the expert even if he is absent at the time of the expert's visit. It also saves the expert valuable time and energy and speeds up his work. This method is also particularly useful in the event of natural disasters such as cyclones, floods and earthquakes – when it is essential to communicate life-saving information to farmers and other rural citizens.

**Impact:** This method was used to disseminate crop advisories to farmers in several villages across Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh to manage aftermath of cyclone. The method helped save about 10,000 acres of paddy fields from destruction.



# **International Delegates Learning from Technology Interventions of RF**



Eager to learn about RF's different technological engagement models, several like-minded organisations have been visiting RF's operational areas. Delegates from the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation & Livestock, Afghanistan, recently paid a visit to learn about RF methodologies for the implementation of Digital Extension Services. The visit was prompted by their desire to replicate the technology in their own country. The team of delegates was introduced to various technology-based dissemination tools and also enjoyed the live demonstration of a farmer videoconference at the Jio centre in Yavatmal, Maharashtra.

IBM officials from Romania, USA and the Czech Republic also visited a fish landing centre in Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh, to better understand Reliance Marine Advisory systems, implemented to map information needs of marine fisherfolk and to disseminate advisories to beneficiaries. They interacted with staff members and users to understand how linkages have been established with different government departments.

Delegates from the Malaysian Industry Government Group for High Technology also visited the RF office in Chennai to learn about RF's digital extension services and technological platforms used for information dissemination, with the intent of implementing technologies for supporting palm oil farmers under the Smart City Programme in Malaysia.

The students and professors from Agricultural College Public Charles Baltet, Saint-Pouange, France visited Dindigul, Tamil Nadu and interacted with farmers who were receiving the weather-based agro-advisories disseminated by RF.

# Soil Testing Yields Positive Results among Banana Plantations



Narayan Chavan, a resident of Jalna district, Maharashtra, had been practicing traditional farming on his 22-acre plot for years. Even though his plot was quite large and he had access to irrigation facilities, production was far lower than desirable.

When the RF Information Services team conducted a programme on soil testing at Chincholi Village, Narayan decided to attend it. Based on the recommendations from the soil testing done on his farm, Chavan started growing bananas on a 1.25-acre plot, using drip irrigation techniques and applying the recommended fertiliser.

The results have been phenomenal. The plot, which used to remain fallow, has been yielding profits around 0.25 Mn, solely from the banana yield. In this way, soil testing analysis obviates excessive expenditure on chemical fertilisers and arrests the deterioration of soil quality.

# Geographical Information System Technologies in Measuring Rural Transformation

# Titmoh Village, Deoghar Cluster, Jharkhand: Land Use Change (based on Google Earth images)





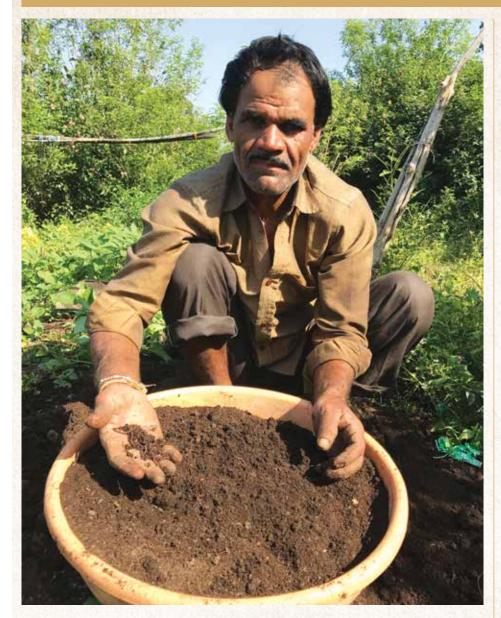
The boundary of wasteland patch marked with yellow colour mapped using GPS. It has been converted to cultivable land due to RF intervention and changes are clearly visible on after image (2017)

Challenge: For India to sustain high growth rates, an inclusive growth strategy that includes both urban and rural segments is paramount. Agricultural productivity and farmers' income must be significantly enhanced to improve the rural economy.

solution: RF has been extensively engaged with rural communities in improving agricultural production through multifaceted interventions. These interventions include land development activities, conversion of waste and fallow lands into cultivable lands, soil and water conservation, among others. For systematic implementation of the programme activities, RF is using technologies such as geographical information systems and remote sensing for programme planning and evaluation.

Impact: Through its land development activities, so far, RF has brought over 56,000 Hectares of land under improved cultivation, thereby leading to increased production and additional income to the families. The maps presented above shows the status of waste/fallow land brought under cultivation after RF interventions.

# A Transformational Story of a Vermi-compost Producer



"There is gold in the waste," says 45-yearold Sahablal Yaduvanshee, a progressive vermi-compost producer from Umradi village, Jamai, Madhya Pradesh. He stays with a family of 5 members and owns eight acres of rainfed agricultural land that fetched a mere annual income of about Rs. 38,000. The major constraint behind the low production were poor soil conditions and unreliable monsoons that lead to high input cost.

After connecting with RF in 2011, Sahablal learnt about the ill effects of using chemical fertilisers and its role in degradation of soil health. At the awareness sessions, he also learnt how to prepare and use vermi-compost for enhancement of soil fertility and productivity. Guided by these insights, Sahablal decided to produce vermicompost for consumption of his crops with an investment of Rs. 1,500 in one production bed. Within four months, he produced 10 quintals of manure. Using the culture developed in the initial bed, he prepared and produced another five beds. Within two years, he harvested vermi-compost six times, producing 120 quintals of manure and utilised it in the vegetable cultivation and farming. He even provided earthworms to his producer friends, who took interest in undertaking similar intervention.

As a result of Sahablal's effort, moisture retention of the soil increased along with decrease in pest attack. The yield from his farm increased up to 2 to 3 quintals per acre. The quality of the crops also improved. For the first time, he earned about Rs. 50,000 from vegetable cultivation. Through this intervention, he is able to meet the need for manure besides saving the cost of buying chemical fertilisers amounting to nearly Rs. 5,000.

Now Sahablal is also an inspiration for neighbouring villagers, who visit him to learn about vermi-composting.

# A Transformational Story of a Rickshaw Puller who became a driver of Community Change



Praful Singh, a resident of Titmoh was barely able to manage three months of food for his wife and three children despite all his efforts on his land. Out of the two Hectares of land he owned, he cultivated paddy and horse gram on only 0.2 Hectares, which fetched him an annual income of Rs. 9,200. For fulfilling the needs of his family, he worked as

a rickshaw puller and earned about Rs. 24,000 per annum. Missing a day's work meant that his family would have to starve that day. With below subsistence level of living, he could scarcely afford new clothes, school fees and stationery for his children. Adding to this grave situation, health issues further saddled him with a debt of Rs. 10,000.

While Village Association (VA) was formed in Titmoh, Praful hardly had time to participate in the meetings or plan his progression. Gradually, with support and encouragement of VA members, he planned agricultural development on his land. VA supported him with border bunding, quality seeds, well, vermicompost pit, nutrition garden and deep plough. He has donated 0.2 Hectares of land for community pond construction that has ensured irrigation in his farm. The total monetary value of the support provided by RF is Rs. 0.25 Mn.

As a result of land developmental activities, he is able to grow a wide variety of crops in all the three seasons (Kharif, Rabi and Zaid) on his One Hectare of land. He cultivates paddy through the System of Rice Intensification (SRI), vegetables, arhar, horse gram and wheat during Rabi season and moong during Zaid, which has significantly increased his agricultural income from Rs. 9,200 to Rs. 72,900. Agricultural prosperity has allowed Praful and his family to live a life of dignity and buy new assets like mobile phone, light and fan for themselves, as well as bullock and buffalo for the fields. The milk produced fetches him an additional annual income of Rs. 27,000, which is higher than his earlier non-farm income. He is happy with this transformation and now all three children are able to attend school.

# **Notes**