



ANNUAL REPORT 2020



A photograph of a woman wearing a vibrant red and orange sari with gold floral patterns. She is walking outdoors, possibly in a rural or semi-urban setting, with trees and a building in the background. The lighting is natural, suggesting daytime.

ANNUAL REPORT 2020

Rizwan Adatia
Foundation
INDIA

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN



The year 2020 was one which will be deeply etched in our minds for a long time, as it brought us face to face with a pandemic that tested our immunity, our resilience, our health infrastructures and public delivery systems, and economies at large. The year was particularly challenging for a country like India, given its size, dense population habitations and complexities in its social and political systems.

In the past several years, Rizwan Adatia Foundation in India brought about visible changes in under resourced areas spread across several states. In the year 2020, we re-prioritised sectoral interventions considering the pandemic situation which on one hand made it challenging to undertake work involving social contact, on the other hand it indicated the urgency to protect livelihoods as a key strategy for building resilience in the communities. RAF's efforts on financial inclusion- bank linkages and loans to SHG women supported families at the critical hour.

I am happy to share with you the Annual Report, 2020 for India and congratulate the team for its

resilience and commitment towards RAF's mission for improving the quality of life of marginalised communities. Despite the pandemic, we carried on the work, even with regular programmes such as health camps and leprosy care so that people do not suffer due to lack of access to appropriate health services.

It is important to acknowledge that RAF's partners, banking institutions, and collaboration with other organisations made the outcomes possible. Such partnerships also create synergies and sustenance of interventions.

Lastly, I thank the communities we work with for the trust they have in us and for providing invaluable information, suggestion and feedback which is a key driving force for Rizwan Adatia Foundation.

Best Wishes,
Rizwan Adatia

ABOUT RIZWAN ADATIA FOUNDATION

Established in 2015 and registered under Section 8 of the Indian Companies Act, 2013, Rizwan Adatia Foundation's core philosophy is to encourage self-reliance through sustained access to productive roles and resources and building resilience through prosperous and adaptable communities. Our partnerships and initiatives are grounded on the belief that access to quality education and healthcare, fulfilment of human potential and the assurance of good governance are indispensable to improving the quality of life. We work with local communities, civil societies, and private and government agencies to promote innovative and impactful development solutions in India. Backed by its experiences of implementing an Integrated

Village Development programme in Gujarat, and supporting a range of women's livelihood projects, early childhood development and school education interventions across states, RAF (India) lays key emphasis in supporting Government systems, be it in public health, education, strengthening livelihood or any other.

It currently reaches out to more than 5,00,000 lives in six districts across the states of Gujarat, Jharkhand, Maharashtra and in New Delhi (UT) through a range of programmes in livelihoods, healthcare, nutrition, water and sanitation, education, skill development, economic integration (for women and youth) and humanitarian response interventions.



VISION

Creation of a resilient and self-reliant society



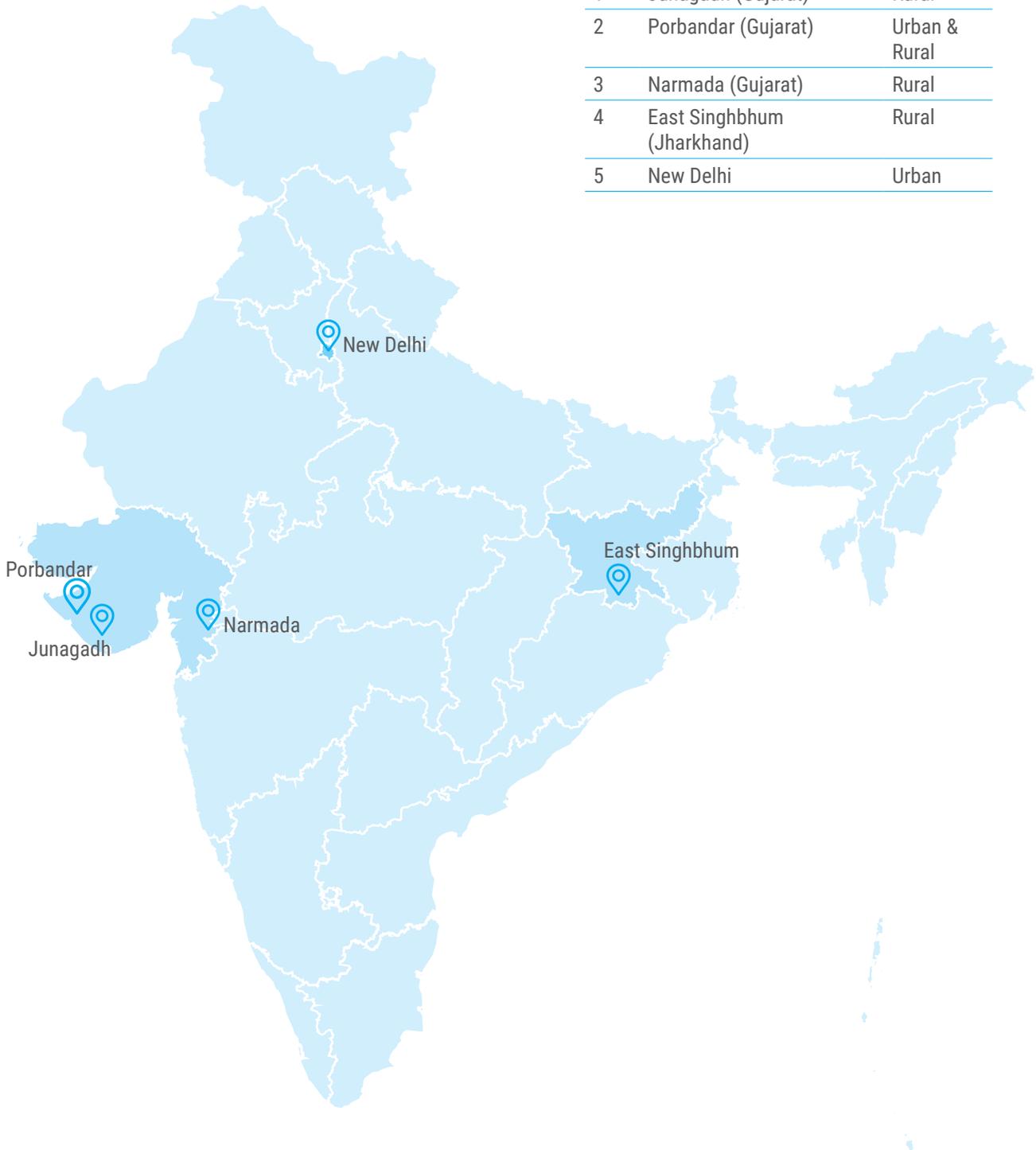
MISSION

RAF strives to achieve the improvement in the quality of life of marginalised and disadvantaged communities in focused geographical areas across Asia and Africa, by making appropriate and strategic investment in the sectors of health, education, livelihoods, along with harnessing human potential.



WHERE WE WORK IN INDIA

S.No	Name of District, State/UT	Location
1	Junagadh (Gujarat)	Rural
2	Porbandar (Gujarat)	Urban & Rural
3	Narmada (Gujarat)	Rural
4	East Singhbhum (Jharkhand)	Rural
5	New Delhi	Urban



INTERVENTIONS IN INDIA (2015-19)

Operational since 2015, RAF (India) has implemented as well as invested in a range of programmes in healthcare, nutrition, education, livelihoods, skill development and entrepreneurship (for women and youth) and supported humanitarian relief activities carried out by local implementing partners, the states and the Central Government.

Since the initial years, the organisation has contributed in improving teaching and learning environment in children's pre-primary (ECD)



centres, and primary and secondary school improvement through sanitation facilities (including supply of potable water) and hygiene promotion, introduction of computers and sports for both girl and boy students and up gradation of school infrastructure, apart from building affordable students' hostels, providing scholarships and operating remedial classes for children from marginalised communities. These interventions covered Gir Somnath, Amreli and Junagadh districts of Gujarat, Sindkhedraja town in Buldhana district of Maharashtra and 3 districts of Bihar (108 anganwadis, 12,000 children and parents and about 60,000 community members, covering both rural and urban locations).

Following the footsteps of Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana, RAF (India) adopted the Maliya Hatina village (Junagadh district) in Gujarat, with an integrated village development approach, aspiring to improve the Quality of Life of 15,000 inhabitants-- in education, health and hygiene, building community assets and promoting women focused livelihoods improvement programme.





By end of 2019, over 100 Self Help Group (SHG) were functional, covering over 1000 women who were engaged in thrift and credit activities (with a total savings of over 27 lakhs) and 755 members received loans from SHGs for various purposes, including income-generation. 82 SHGs have also been linked with the National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM) and received 4.10 lakhs as revolving fund, while 27 SHGs received over Rs 25 lakhs in loan from banks for livelihood activities. Income generation activities of both individuals and groups were supported in areas such as tailoring, broomstick preparation, segregation of waste products, preparing and selling vermi-compost, dairy farming, and making incense sticks.

Other significant intervention in Maliya Hatina village has been the work pertaining to Micro Solid Waste Management which built awareness and created a system of segregation of waste into dry and wet waste, promoting behaviour change among 2300 households, 6 schools and 500 shops. RAF (India) provided waste segregation baskets to the target population and institutions, worked with the panchayat for monitoring segregated garbage collection and its disposal at the dumping site created outside of the village. SHGs played critical role in the process and later, worked at the dumping unit for final segregation of the waste for either selling them or using them in pits for developing vermi-compost.





RAF (India) has supported several women focused livelihoods interventions spread across the states of Jharkhand and Uttar Pradesh and in Delhi (UT). In Jharkhand, the livelihood intervention integrated the component of better health promotion for women and adolescent girls. It involved spreading awareness on menstrual hygiene management and promoting low cost and hygienic sanitary napkins in Hussainabad block of Palamu district, through 37 Urmi Vikray Kendras that sold low-cost sanitary pads produced by women enterprises, with the support of manufacturing units and reached over 56,000 people.

The intervention in Delhi supported livelihoods in Basti Hazrat Nizamuddin through a career development centre for skilling and facilitating placement of youth, and 2 women's led enterprises, Insha e Noor and Zaika e Nizamuddin-- built around promoting local artisans and local specialists in authentic mughlai cuisine. In Uttar Pradesh, the intervention built livelihoods and life skills



among inmates of Dasna prison to enable their integration back into the society, in a dignified way. The financial support rendered by RAF in Asia, in the area of livelihoods until March 2020 is not less than 4crores in INR.

During the early years in health interventions, RAF (India) supported 5 dialysis centres for poor and needy patients and support to heart patients in Mumbai for subsidized access to healthcare, covering 400 patients. Dialysis machines were also donated in Surendranagar district of Gujarat. Infrastructure support was provided to ADHAR home in Badlapur, Maharashtra to improve the



living conditions of 180 mentally challenged residents whom ADHAR also engaged in vocational training, treatment, recreation and rehabilitation, apart from providing lifelong care and protection. Infrastructure development support was also provided to Bharat Sevashram Sangha to build lodging facilities for poor out-stationed cancer patients visiting Mumbai for cancer treatment.

Thereafter, RAF (India) concentrated significant on-ground efforts in reviving a Leprosy hospital in East Singbhum, Jharkhand and improving community



access to specialised leprosy healthcare. The intervention supports detection of early cases of leprosy and provides specialised treatment and referral facilities for patients from poor families, covering 4 blocks of East Singbhum district.

In the domain of Governance and Civil Society, the approach of RAF (India) has been to help common citizens from low-income and marginalised sections to avail the benefits of Government programmes, schemes and various entitlements. It therefore supported a 3 year long project of Aga Khan Foundation in Phulwarisharif and Danapur wards of urban Patna, Bihar where 31 existing Government approved Common Services



Centres (CSCs) were strengthened and 4 of them emerged as e-resource centres to guide other CSCs. The e resource centres were provided with support such as a printer, single biometric device, pen drive, broadband and 4 G data card for operational efficiency. RAF's grant support to the project translated into 7,82,000 benefits for slum communities for accessing various Government schemes and entitlements and consequentially, benefited the entire delivery system, as well as, proved a viable business for Common Service

Centre entrepreneurs with an increase in average income from INR 9767 to INR 32,876 per month.

In another collaboration, RAF (India) and PRIA jointly instituted an award to recognise individuals and organisations who contributed significantly towards gender empowerment and equality.

In the area of Relief, RAF (India) has supported humanitarian efforts such as drought proofing measures and watershed development for two drought affected villages in Latur, Maharashtra. The implementing NGO and local community was involved in percolation of a lake and creation of an enclosure for the canal, benefitting over 7000



people in terms of access to clean water for drinking and domestic use as well as, for irrigating agricultural land. In Mahua, Bhavnagar, Gujarat tube wells and water pumps were constructed to improve the supply of potable water for communities. These interventions had an overall beneficial effect on community health.

Apart from its regular programmes, RAF (India) has responded to the appeals for financial contribution by Centre and state Governments during disasters and humanitarian crises and has made generous donations to the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund and Chief Minister's Relief Fund (in Gujarat and Maharashtra). The programmes of RAF (India) have benefitted more than 500,000 lives over a period of 5 years.

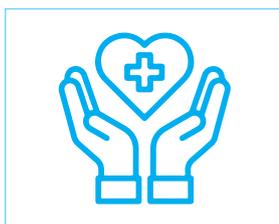


RAF PROGRAMMES IN 2020

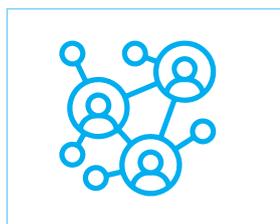
The year 2020 was an unprecedented one for India as for rest of the world. During the first quarter of the year, Covid-19 outbreak was reported in parts of the world, and soon spread across continents. A public health emergency situation arose that shook the very foundation of our established patterns of living, revealing the fragile state of our being. There were disruptions in daily routine,

mobility and employment. Implementation of RAF programmes too, were affected for a few months due to the lockdown declared by the Government of India and the requirement to maintain Covid-19 related protocols. The efforts of RAF (India) and commitment towards improving the Quality of Life of target communities despite the emerging challenges, has to be seen in this backdrop.

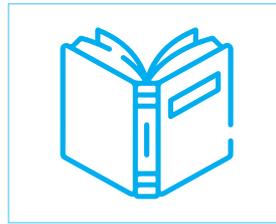
RAF (India) has 5 Key Thematic Programme Areas namely,



1. Health System Strengthening



2. Economic Inclusion



3. Education System Strengthening



4. Governance and Civil Society



5. Humanitarian Response

During the year 2020, RAF (India) had project interventions in Junagadh, Porbandar and Narmada districts of Gujarat, East Singhbhum district of Jharkhand and Hazrat Nizamuddin Basti and neighbouring area, Sarai Kalekhan in New Delhi. The table below provides a snapshot of sectoral interventions in these regions.

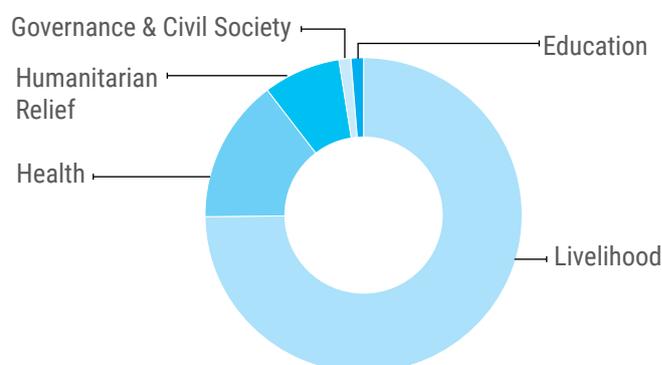
PROJECT LOCATIONS

S.No	Name of District	Intervention	Location
1	Junagadh (Gujarat)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Education (Chitradvad), Integrated Village Development in Maliya Hatina (Covering Livelihood, Education, Health and Social Resilience) Covid-19 Relief 	Rural
2	Porbandar (Gujarat)	Porbandar Development Covid-19 Relief	Urban & Rural
3	Narmada (Gujarat)	Governance & Civil Society	Rural
4	East Singhbhum (Jharkhand)	Health	Rural
5	New Delhi	Skill Development & Livelihood	Urban

OUR REACH

In the year 2020-21, the benefits of programme interventions of RAF (India) have reached out to no less than 25,000 individuals (tribal women & men of Jharkhand, residents of 7 Gram Panchayats in Dediapada block of Narmada, Gujarat, women SHGs & children in Junagadh district, Gujarat, youth and women's enterprises in Delhi, and beneficiaries of food relief in Porbandar & Junagadh district, Gujarat).

PROGRAMME EXPENDITURE (SECTOR-WISE)



The sectors of livelihood and health received significant funds, apart from humanitarian relief, considering the pandemic situation. The investment made in rural self-governance in last several years, bore results, working in tandem with Government administration and departments to build resilience in the local communities during the pandemic.



HEALTH SYSTEM STRENGTHENING

RAF's health programme is focused on addressing Novel Infectious, Chronic and Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) and the Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs). According to the Global Status Report on NCDs (2014), NCDs (cardiovascular diseases, cancer, hypertension, chronic respiratory illness, diabetes etc) contribute to around 5.87 million deaths globally, that account for 60% of all deaths in India. RAF (India) intervenes on the issue through awareness generation events and campaigns pertaining to risk factors associated with the NCDs particularly on tobacco and alcohol dependencies, and food assurances in poor, rural households through linkage with the PDS and ICDS systems that are critical in intake of nutritious diet.

With regard to NTDs, RAF (India) intervenes on the issue through firming water and sanitation services in schools and communities and spreading awareness among school children, SHG women and community at large, on the linkage of personal hygiene with health and its role in averting diseases such as diarrhoea and malnutrition, apart from other vector borne diseases. It is known that NTDs disproportionately affect children, girls, elderly and women especially when certain NTDs such as leprosy, cause visible scars or disfiguring of limbs, delaying their health seeking behaviour.

Since April 2017, RAF (India) undertook 3 year engagement with Bharat Sevashram Sangha on Strengthening Community Access to Specialised Leprosy Care in East Singbhum district, covering a population of 4.5 lakhs across 4 blocks of the district. RAF (India) has positively impacted the lives of 995 leprosy patients from low-income as well as disadvantaged backgrounds through a process of continuous engagement and follow-up lasting at least 6 months to 1 year or more. The project's focus is multi-fold:

- » Active identification of leprosy cases through screening camps and OPDs. Timely diagnosis and treatment in early stages of the disease before nerve damage has occurred can prevent permanent physical disability due to leprosy. It also helps put a stop to transmission.
- » Organise regular, advanced detection camps for diagnosis and support to patients requiring urgent care, support and treatment
- » Support critical leprosy patients in taking care of their illness with treatment, as well as





maintaining good health through preventive measures and healthcare education

- » Infrastructure development and financial support for running the operations of 20 bed hospital for resident patients of leprosy who are very poor and to aid their care, nutrition and specialised treatment
- » Promote community linkages with Community Health centres and Government systems for timely intervention through referrals in East Singbhum district, thus supporting improvement in uptake of Government's support to at-risk and infected population
- » Organising regular health camps in villages surrounding target areas, making healthcare accessible to nearly half a million vulnerable people in the area. In addition to providing general treatment and medicines to people, the health camps also identify new cases of leprosy and build awareness of villagers about leprosy care, its transmission and that it is completely curable with MDT treatment. Such village level health camps and awareness programme promotes good health as well as, minimize the stigma associated with leprosy.

The project completed its course by end of March 2020. Around this time, there was also sudden rise of coronavirus infection and declaration of lockdown by the Government of India. However, looking at the project's impact and its reach to the poorest of the poor, RAF (India) extended the support from August to December 2020 and further (from January 2021 to 31st March 2021), to ensure the poor patients receive treatment and advanced medical care. Till date, 407 schools are covered under the programme, reaching out to 53,321 children. In the year 2020-21, 17,445 people were reached through 113 health camps and 63 OPDs. 119 new cases of leprosy were detected and received appropriate counsel and treatment, apart from on-going treatment and care of old patients.

Under its Village Development Programme in Junagadh district of Gujarat—a direct implementation initiative, preventive care awareness campaign was undertaken covering 380 SHG women of Maliya Hatina, Lathodra, Vadala and Gadodar villages to enhance their knowledge of waterborne diseases and was also relevant, in the wake of Covid-19 infection outbreak.



ECONOMIC INCLUSION

During the year 2020-21, there were 2 key initiatives of economic inclusion for women and youth namely, the 'Women's Empowerment Programme' (RAF's direct intervention) in Junagadh district of Gujarat and 'Supporting Livelihoods in Basti Hazrat Nizamuddin' undertaken in partnership with Aga Khan Foundation (India) in New Delhi.

'Women's Empowerment Programme'

Since 2015, RAF (India) has been directly involved in the Village Development Programme in Maliya Hatina, Junagadh district of Gujarat. Women's Empowerment related Initiatives is a component of this programme which is executed in Maliya Hatina and 8 neighbouring villages through which 1228 women are being reached out through 112 Self Help Groups (SHGs). RAF (India) has helped women to collectivize under SHGs where they undertake thrift and credit activities and thereafter, promotes the financial inclusion of the SHGs i.e making available financial services to them such as savings accounts for SHGs, cash credit from banks and insurance services at affordable cost. These groups together, have a savings of over Rs 65 lakhs. During the year, 175 SHG women benefitted from various bank linkage facility and 12 SHGs were granted cash credit over 11 lakhs by the banks.

The WEP closely works with 5 key partners namely the block office, Bank of Baroda, IRDA, SBI-RSETI and National Rural Livelihood Mission to benefit the SHG members. WEP has also received significant support from Mission Mangalam—a livelihood development scheme being implemented in the state of Gujarat. 5 clusters/Village organisations have been granted funds totalling Rs 39 lakhs. One unregistered federation of cluster has also been established in Maliya Hatina.



In the areas of Institution building/strengthening as well as livelihoods promotion, during the reporting period, RAF (India) team

- » Continued its efforts for formation of SHGs in Bhanduri, Panidhra, Avaniya, Juthal and Amarapur villages of Maliya Hatina. This has resulted in formation of 23 SHG, covering 232 women in the programme
- » Conducted trainings for strengthening of newly formed SHG groups
- » Built awareness on cluster formation with stabilised SHG groups so that they could have larger platform for economic and social development. The NRLM district and taluka team visited Panidhra, Bhanduri and Maliya villages of Maliya Hatina taluka to conduct promotional meetings with SHGs for cluster formation.

- » Successfully linked one SHG federation with NRLM to receive the benefits of CIF and opened the savings bank account in its name
- » Conducted 3 awareness camps on Mukhyamantri Mahila Utkarsh Yojana, informing 352 SHG members about the scheme and its eligibility criteria. Under this state Government promoted scheme, rural women SHGs can take interest free loan upto Rs 1 lakh from the state Government that will be paid directly to the banks.
- » Facilitated livelihood support to three marginalised women (from BPL families) through NRLM under which Cotton Wick making machines were provided to them to increase their production and subsequently, their income. Approximately, Rs 1500-2000 would be earned monthly, by each beneficiary using the machine
- » Organised Mask making training programme in association with AKRSP (I) in Lathodra village, benefiting 33 women (10 SHG members and others).

The work under WEP was affected for several months due to the Covid-19 infection, the pandemic and lockdowns. Despite this and because of the RAF (India) team's efforts, the work carried on and demonstrated progress as well as benefits to the communities.

Supporting Livelihoods in Basti Hazrat Nizamuddin (and neighbouring areas)

RAF (India) supported the livelihood programme of the Nizamuddin Urban Renewal Initiative since January 2018 until end June 2020, impacting over 1100 families through 3 interventions namely, a Career Development Centre for youth and two women's enterprises namely, Insha-e-Noor and Zaika-e-Nizamuddin. The goal of the project was economic empowerment of women and youth through enhanced access to productive, sustained and dignified income.



Career Development Centre (CDC)

The CDC offered both, professional training courses (IT for professionals, Customer Service Associate Training in Sales & Retail, Certificate in Data Entry- in partnership with NIIT Foundation, Beauty & Wellness courses through LOOKS Academy, paramedical course from DIPS Institute, Early Childhood Care & Development from Jamia Millia Islamia, and Tourism & Travel Management from DITTM, Delhi Government) and facilitated linkages with job opportunities. During the total project period of 2.5 years, 3392 households in Basti Hazrat Nizamuddin, Sarai Kale Khan area and 16 neighbouring schools & NGOs were contacted to create awareness about training courses. During the same period, a total of 896 youth were trained by CDC -491 in professional courses and 405 in non-professional courses and a total of 336 trainees were placed. Students who successfully completed their professional courses were awarded certificates. Additionally, 160 non CDC youth found employment by participating in placement drives organised by CDC. From January 2020 to end June 2020, a total of 82 students were enrolled for various professional & non-professional courses, and 50 youth were placed through CDC (covering both, CDC & non CDC youth).



Insha-e-Noor (IeN)

Aga Khan Foundation had initiated a livelihood initiative in the Hazrat Nizamuddin basti in 2008, through a training centre in embroidery and tailoring considering the fragile economic situation of families in the area.

91 percent of women residents were dependent on their male family member for all their financial needs. The average household income was Rs 9700/ month, average family size was 5.75, most families had one earning member only and it was a highly conservative community with limited mobility for women. In 2011, after providing training to over 200 local women residents, Insha-e-Noor (IeN)/Creation of Light, the production centre came into being, with several trained women involved in production of crafts of embroidery, sanjhi, garment construction and crochet that were marketed through various platforms. In 2016, an ancillary group called Binding & Packaging unit was initiated to meet all the packaging needs of the different producer groups in Nizamuddin basti like boxes, paper bags, envelopes as well as to explore market for packaging products created by the women. Insha-e-Noor thus started functioning as a micro-enterprise in the handicrafts sector.

RAF's support to Insha-e-Noor for 2.5 years has been in 10 critical areas, contributing to strengthening and stabilising the craft producing membership base for increasing production to attain sustainability, refining craft skills of members/training new members in developing skill sets required for meeting client expectations,

product development and exploring its financial viability, exposure and development of producer members for managerial and leadership roles, training of members in understanding producer company's functioning and operations, training of selected members in client communications and marketing skills, training of the groups to work as a whole unit with participatory decision-making and ownership, training of existing and new members in SHG skills for better integration into the aspired producer company, creation of new market linkages for increasing turnover (through participation in fairs, sales & marketing outlets, image building, staying in touch with clients and vendors) and retention of existing clients, and finally, Registration of Insha-e-Noor as a Producer company that took place in 2019. The enterprise is therefore poised to work as a legal entity, with the required Government mandated system in place including a PAN & a GST number.

With RAF's support, a total of 110 producer members of the Insha-e-Noor enterprise residing in Nizamuddin basti and Sarai Kale Khan areas, and with low educational level and little mobility due to socio-cultural factors, were able to earn a sustained supplementary income due to quality training by dedicated instructors in a range of crafts, regular work orders and a safe workspace. Close to 50 women got training in skills of their choosing and preferred to work independently. In the years 2018, 2019 and 2020 (until June) the annual sales figures of Insha-e-Noor were 41.56 lakhs, 32.69 lakhs and 11.52 lakhs respectively. The



sale of 2020 was deeply affected by the pandemic situation, including the lockdown. Despite the complete shutdown of the production centre from 22nd March 2020 until 2nd May 2020 due to the Covid situation & Nizamuddin area being declared as one of the hotspots of the disease in Delhi, the centre involved women in immediate production requirement for masks (totalling 15,000) in Nizamuddin area for local residents & the homeless paid for, by AKTC and distributed at various points such as community toilets, school and ration shops. Some of the members earned as high as Rs 20,000 by making masks during the lockdown.

The producer company also extended a small financial support to its regular members first as a fixed one-time advance (Rs 1000 each to 60 members) and then an annual bonus. Rs1,06,000 was disbursed as bonus to 72 members in cash to provide them with some financial relief during the Covid period until June 2020.

Zaika-e-Nizamuddin (ZeN)

Zaika-e-Nizamuddin was started as a women's self-help group in Nizamuddin basti as a response to an AKF study on early childhood that indicated 50 percent children under the age of 6 in the area were malnourished. Poor quality of snack food for children was identified as a key factor, and thus a mother's group was constituted to prepare and supply healthy, low-cost snack option for children in the area. Since 2015, the group forayed into catering artisan cuisine of Nizamuddin for revenue generation, apart from supplying meals to severely malnourished children under AKF's Community Health Programme.

A group in its early stage of development, Zaika-e-Nizamuddin required support in developing itself as an entrepreneurial unit. It required infrastructure support, operating & human resources cost for continuous capacity enhancement of members in culinary skills and introducing new viable recipes, training of members in purchase, inventory management, operational efficiency for large orders, basic accounting and cash handling & use of new



technology like paytm, training & exposure in client interaction & marketing skills through food fairs & festivals, training to members to work together as a team with shared responsibilities, training of members in managing SHGs, and creation of new market linkages (checking market trend, staying in touch with clients and vendors). All this was made possible with the committed support of RAF (India) to the enterprise for 2.5 years. During the total project period, the production basket expanded to cover pop-up restaurants, bulk catering, home delivery, exhibition & food fests, customised meals for private gatherings and supplementary nutrition programme. The total annual sales in 2018, 2019 and 2020 were 15.37 lakhs, 28.48 lakhs and 10.24 lakhs respectively. The sale of 2020 was deeply affected by the pandemic situation, including the lockdown. However, the group had built enough corpus over the years, to extend standard monthly stipend & bonus to its members during the lockdown.

Though RAF (India) had to foreclose the project 6 months before its planned cycle due to multiple challenging situations, its financial commitment to the livelihoods programmes has translated into two strong enterprises and a skilled work-force from Nizamuddin basti and adjoining areas who are linked to employment, thus translating into benefit to the target communities to the tune of Rs 3,68,86,000 according to a very conservative estimate.



EDUCATION SYSTEM STRENGTHENING

With schools closed due to the pandemic, the school related project of RAF (India) that focused on Sports training and Computer literacy could not be carried out and had to be closed. RAF had earlier supported Diamond High School at Chitrawad, Junagadh from June 2016 to December 2019 (sustained support for 3 years and 7 months) to provide holistic learning environment in sports and computer skills to both- girl and boy students enrolled at the school. Reaching out to 275 students, the project nurtured them in sports resulting in over 100 students participating in various block and district level competitions and winning accolades.

Looking at the outcome and positive response, RAF (India) considered another one year's extension for school to make the initiatives sustainable. The 3rd phase of the project, Quality Education Improvement: Phase III started from 1st January 2020. However, the project did not witness any activities until June 2020 as the school was closed during the complete lockdown declared in India. Due to Covid-19 related complications



and subsequent consequences, RAF (India) decided for an early closure of the project at the end of June, 2020. Due to the same reasons, the Education intervention under Village Development Programme in Maliya Hatina- that provided remedial classes in languages and mathematics to over 100 students hailing from marginalised social and economic background also had to be temporarily halted.



GOVERNANCE AND CIVIL SOCIETY

In partnership with Aga Khan Foundation (India), the project 'Developing a model for SMART Gram Panchayats' was under implementation in 7 Gram Panchayats of Dediapada block of Narmada district in Gujarat from 1st August 2018 to 30th June 2020. The key objectives of the project were:

- » Promote and strengthen good governance practices among panchayats.
- » Provide enabling assistance to panchayats towards developing and implementing long-term participatory multi-sector plans in the key development areas of: early childhood development and education, water and sanitation; agriculture (including natural resource management) and financial inclusion.
- » Enable panchayats to improve citizens' knowledge of government schemes and entitlements and strengthen access to these.
- » Develop a panchayat-led service delivery model which will influence government policies related to rural self-governance.

Several capacity enhancement initiatives were undertaken for the elected representatives (23 trainings, workshops & exposure visits) that focused on the structure of Panchayati Raj Institutions and provisions of the State Panchayati Raj Act with budget development and community based planning related inputs. Exposure visits to Paani Foundation, Hirve Bazaar in Maharashtra and AKRSPI's intervention in Dang district helped in building an understanding on community led initiatives on natural resource management, watershed development and livelihood enhancement.



At the same time, 19 trainings/exposure visits/workshops were organised for citizens including CBOs and citizen leaders—covering a total of 640 citizens from 7 Gram Panchayats. One of the key areas of awareness was building an understanding of the powers of Gram Sabha under PESA and know about the roles & responsibilities of its various sub-committees (as applicable in Gujarat). Participatory planning exercises were conducted regarding citizen's vision for development of their gram panchayats and 41 gram sabhas were convened with preparedness with participation of



2516 citizens where 58 issues were raised & 23 were resolved. 172 Mahila Sabhas were organised, covering a total population of over 3232 women. Women's participation increased considerably in panchayat meetings after the trainings on PRIs.

The Gram Panchayats are now regularly convening Panchayat meetings, which are key to the effective functioning of the Panchayat and in particular to ensure that all resolutions of the Gram Sabha are implemented by the Gram Panchayat. At these meetings, the gram panchayat discusses their plans and follows up on the pending work for all the resolutions passed in each meeting. The ward members have now started taking the lead on all sectoral issues in their ward like engaging with parents for the Panchayat Shikshan Kendra, mobilising farmers for the Krishi Mahiti Kendra etc.

Till the end of 2019, Gram Panchayats initiated several multi-sectoral works due to the project's involvement such as:

- » Revival of non-functional lift irrigation schemes in Bedada and Sabuti gram panchayats
- » Setting up of fortnightly Krishi Mahiti Kendras (Farmers' Information Centre) in the form of Khedut Samvad (farmers' dialogue) in which crop related information is being provided by respective officers from KVK, ATMA and the state Department of Agriculture
- » Initiating plantation of 3000 trees on common land in Sabuti panchayat along with citizens, to meet the fuel wood and fodder needs

- » All the 7 panchayats collected pre-monsoon water samples from 18 villages that were tested in Government laboratory after which, the panchayats decided to establish soak-pits and platforms around all water handpumps to reduce the nitrate levels

- » Kundiamba panchayat is addressing the issue of malnutrition by promoting kitchen gardens and has completed the planting work of good quality seeds of nutritious plants with all the 400 families. The panchayat is also strengthening nutrition at five of its anganwadi centres, with contribution from parents, community and their own funds

- » In Zari village (Moskut Gram Panchayat), the gram sabha & panchayat plan to develop an eco-tourism site on a pond that was constructed earlier by AKRSP (I), with facilities like boating, garden etc. The project team is providing technical support and Panchayat had submitted a proposal to the forest department which has been sanctioned.

- » The Panchayat Shiksha Kendras are running in 4GPs where extra classes were started for students of Grades 3 to 5 with low learning levels while the teachers who are paid directly by the panchayat, have initiated learning support for higher classes to help the children compete in Eklavya and Navodaya entrance exams. To monitor students' attendance, teachers have to send regular reports to the Sarpanch. Playground for children and child friendly safe spaces were also planned under

ECD.

- » The Khokhraumar Gram Panchayat has developed a piece of panchayat wasteland into a sports ground of high-standard in dialogue with the District Development Officer (DDO). The Panchayat proposed that the playground levelling work should be done under the MGNREGA labour budget. Similarly, the Patdi Panchayat put up a proposal for developing playground for children to the Block Panchayat under MGNREGA for levelling work which got sanctioned and the work was completed in January 2020
- » With the support of Panchayat E Resource centres/Nagrik Soochna Kendras (NSK) located at the panchayat bhavan and managed by a Nagrik Mitra as well as through Mobile Mahiti Karyakram, which are fee based services, access to information on various schemes and services have improved. Through NSKs operating in 6 GPs, 26,893 citizens accessed information, 5510

completed forms were submitted for various entitlements and 4887 citizens accessed their entitlements.

Most input driven support for the project from RAF (India) was completed by the 1st quarter of 2020. Around the same time, with the declared emergency situation and the pandemic, project did witness set back. However, with enhanced capacity and informed citizens, the GPs responded to the situation in several aspects such as conducting household surveys for early identification of symptoms (with the help of frontline health workers), listing of migrants and encouraging their home quarantine upon return to their villages, listing of vulnerable families for ensuring their food security through the PDS, setting a system for safe distancing norms when people visit PDS for ration collection and working actively for commencement of activities under MGNREGA to ensure work availability. The panchayats also worked to clear the delayed wage payment under the programme.



HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE



During the lockdown imposed due to the spread of Covid-19 infection, RAF (India) distributed food supplies in both, Junagadh and Porbandar districts of Gujarat where it directly implements projects. Food supplies (in the form of ration kits) were provided to 162 marginalised families in Maliya Hatina and Gadodar villages to support them during the lockdown. In the Porbandar, ration kits were distributed to 715 poor and marginalised families in slum areas and nearby villages of Porbandar. Most of them were informal sector workers and earned their living by working as daily wage labour. The food supplies provided immediate relief to survive the hardships.

EVENTS

The period 2020-21 witnessed 3 main observances that lay emphasis on Environmental Protection and have reinforced that protection of health and environment goes hand in hand. How we live and negatively affect the environment through human activities (e.g habitat degradation, illegal wildlife trade, and intensive livestock farming) could contribute to major outbreak of epidemics. RAF (India) believes that for better health outcomes for humanity, One Health Approach is becoming important. According to the Geneva Environment Network,



‘Around 60% of existing human infectious diseases are zoonotic and 75% of emerging infectious diseases (such as Ebola, HIV, influenza & Covid-19) have an animal origin. Controlling zoonotic pathogens at their animal source is the most effective & economic way of protecting people’.



RAF (India) celebrated World Environment Day on 5th June, 2020 on the theme ‘Time for Nature’ in association with the Forest department in Maliya Hatina. SHGs in Maliya and Gadodar villages received 140 saplings of nutritious fruits and vegetables to plant at home or in their farms.



In Porbandar, RAF (India) organised a saplings distribution event, under the Harit Bharat Initiative. On association with JCI, Porbandar and the Forest department, 600 saplings were distributed to residents of Porbandar city. In the Ranavav block, close to 200 saplings were distributed to 2 schools and the court.

In September 2020, RAF (India) celebrated the 51st birthday of Hon. Mr. Rizwan Adatia, Founder and Chairman, RAF (India) in a unique way by spreading public awareness on environmental protection in Junagadh and Porbandar districts of Gujarat. Over 100 saplings were planted at various places.



ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF PARTNERS AND DONORS

Donors and programme partners are the key pillars of strength for RAF (India), helping it translate a vision into reality and bringing significant change in the Quality of Life of many lives, spread across regions in India. We express our gratitude to the following institutional and programme partners for the year 2020.

Bharat Sevashram Sangha	Aga Khan Foundation	Aga Khan Trust for Culture
Diamond High School, Chitradav	Aga Khan Rural Support Programme	Saurashtra Garmin Bank
Bank of Baroda	National Rural Livelihood Mission	Gram Panchayats of Khokhraumar, Kundiamba, Patdi, Sabuti, Moskut, Bharada and Babda in Dediapada block, Narmada district of Gujarat



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