



ANNUAL REPORT INDIA 2022



A female health camp in Gujarat, organised in collaboration with SHGs and Gram Panchayat

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN



Rizwan Adatia
Founder Chairman, RAF Global

The year 2022 has been one where India as well as the world's citizens demonstrated tremendous resilience and resolve to normalise their lives, after the deadly waves of Covid-19 of the previous years. While milder variants of the infection have persisted, economies, institutions and human movement were not stalled anymore. Adhering to better practices learnt during the epidemic, we resumed our normal lives finally. With this reclamation, the work of civil society globally, has taken a new direction --- we have endeavoured to build back, better. This has implied moving consciously to dismantle the past arrangements that were unfair, non-inclusive, not efficient or outmoded for present times. RAF Global in India reviewed and developed its programmes in this backdrop, and with insights of how critical it is to keep the nature-human relationship in balance, and why Climate Smart Agriculture was an emerging need for present times. We also realised how critical it is to have healthcare service delivery preparedness at the level of District hospital, Community Health Centre (CHC) and Primary Health Centre (PHC), besides promoting a shift in practices of hand hygiene, masking up in crowded places, and maintaining social distancing among rural and urban residents especially those who are vulnerable.

RAF Global's programmes in India have been thoughtfully designed in areas of sustainable livelihoods, health and nutrition, quality education, good governance, climate smart agriculture and humanitarian response. There is a system of annual planning of programme operations which is critical for monitoring the implementation as well as for evaluation. We have firmed up our programmes and ambitiously undertook expansion to new blocks, and districts for greater coverage and impact. We are collaborating with the

district administrations in diverse areas such as addressing gynaecological needs, addressing anaemia, promoting rainwater harvesting through tankas in Barmer and Jaisalmer districts, and inculcating an interest in science subjects among girl students. We also set up 5 vocational training centres covering 3 districts, called Mahila Kaushalya Kendra that are training women and youth in skill building and upgradation for enhancing their income earning capacity. Our work with farmers is promoting the culture of practising vermicomposting to enrich the soil and make a shift to organic farming.

I present to you the Annual report for 2022 with a special mention of Alkem Foundation, our partner with whom we began an initiative to address anaemia in 97 villages across 2 states, and work towards Gol's mission of 'Anaemia Mukta Bharat'. This has been a wonderful partnership to work together, for greater common good.

I am thankful to the local community, administration, various Government departments, institutions, programme partners and RAF Global's team who were pivotal for programme implementation in the year, 2022. I also take pride in our Village Facilitators who are the closest links to the community and extremely diligent workers who are energising all our programmes and building strong pillars to carry our ambitious projects. I dedicate this report to them.

I invite you to understand our work through this report, and get involved in our projects. We guarantee you an enriching experience and opportunity to serve the most marginalised and vulnerable people.

Best Wishes,
Rizwan Adatia
Founder Chairman, RAF Global

ABOUT RAF GLOBAL

RAF Global is a private, non-denominational, not-for-profit international organisation committed to improving the quality of life primarily in selected countries across Africa and Asia. RAF Global has branches and affiliates in 6 countries. RAF Global works with the most marginalised individuals, families, communities in the poorest areas of Asia and Africa to improve the Quality of Life by acting as a catalyst that brings together resources, technology, systems, and effective grassroots strategies, giving better choices and control to people for a lasting change. In pursuit of its mission, RAF Global endeavours to make long-term, strategic and systemic investment in the areas of Economic Integration and Livelihood Support for Women and Youth, Climate Smart Agriculture, Health and Nutrition Initiatives, Education and Technology, Good Governance and Humanitarian Response.



School Enrolment Drive in Gujarat

RAF GLOBAL IN INDIA

Operational since 2015, RAF Global is registered in India under section 8 of the Indian Companies Act, 2013. With long term interventions in the Indian states of Gujarat, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Jharkhand, it is reaching out to over 600,000 lives through multi-sectoral programmes. RAF Global presently implements a wide array of long-term and comprehensive projects in seven districts of the intervention states, across the sectors of livelihood, public health, nutrition, water and sanitation, education along with expanding the scale and scope of good governance.

RAF Global in India possesses rich and extensive experience of meaningfully engaging with both international aid agencies and the Government, across various levels. In the past, RAF Global has collaborated with various state governments, INGOs, and CSOs in a plethora of projects aimed at driving social change and sustainable development through better convergence and optimal utilisation of resources, demonstrating an effective and meaningful partnership for development.

Our interventions in India have laid strong emphasis on strengthening education and public health systems aimed at improving quality of public services thereby influencing Quality of Life on a sustained basis for our primary target group. RAF Global is engaged in skilling the youths with a broad range of trade, and further ushers them to favourable linkages around finance and market, in order to augment and sustain their income. Capacity building of farmers and providing supportive mechanisms for enabling their shift to organic farming has been a growing area of our work. Besides, we work on rain water harvesting in the Thar desert region of Barmer for improving access to drinking water, as well as economic integration of women SHG collectives with banks and Government schemes for livelihood support in three states. With children, we work on Foundational Improvement Learning Programme to build a strong, age-appropriate base in language, numeracy, comprehension and creativity for elementary level children, endeavouring smooth transition to higher classes and addressing school dropout due to learning deficits.

VISION

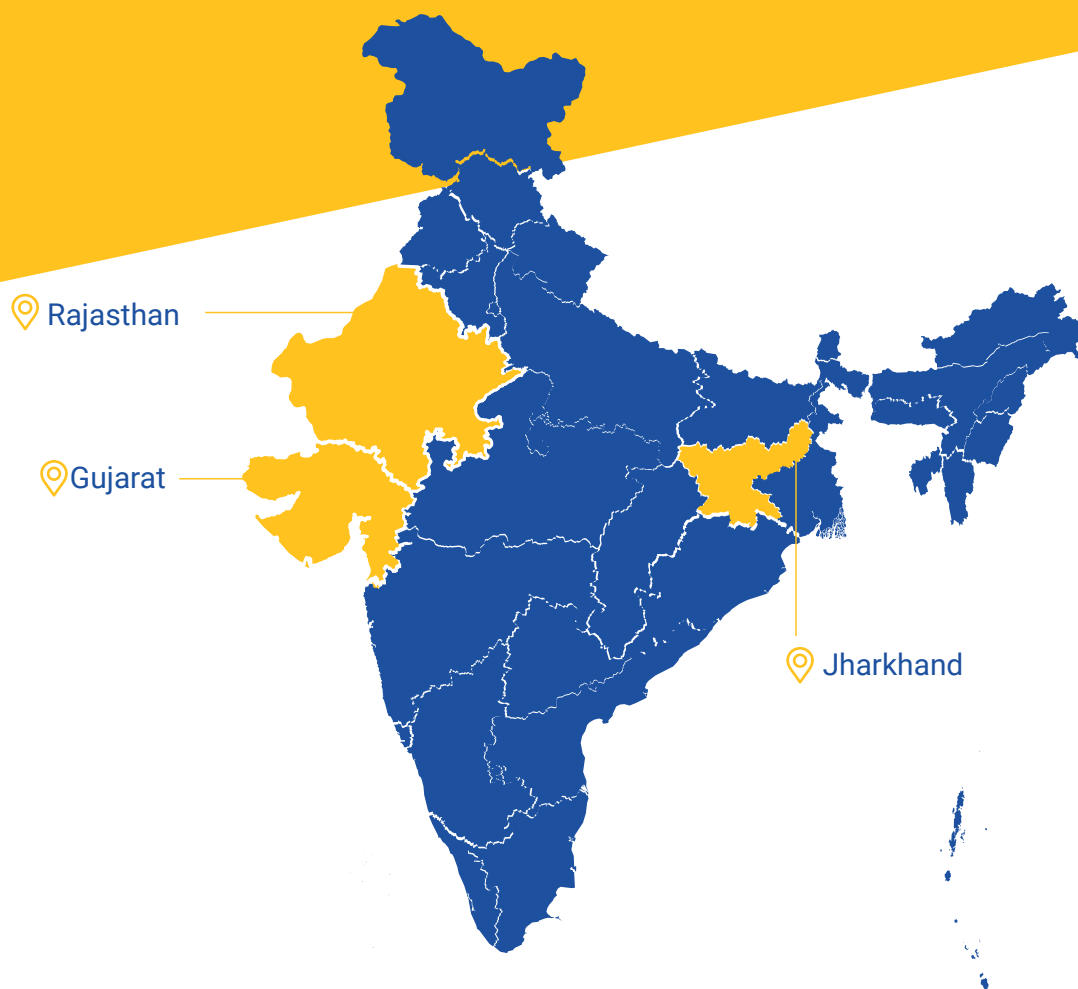
A resilient society that is free from poverty and where every woman, man and child leads a fulfilling life with dignity, peace and security of rights.

MISSION

RAF Global works with the most marginalised individuals, families and communities in the poorest areas of Asia and Africa to improve the quality of life by acting as a catalyst that brings together resources, technology, systems, and effective grassroots strategies, giving better choices and control to people for a lasting change.

PROJECT LOCATIONS IN 2022

The map as well as the table below shows the locations of RAF Global's initiatives in India in the financial year 2022-23



State/UT	District	Programmes
Gujarat	Porbandar District Blocks: Porbandar and Ranavav	EILSWY, CSA, HNI, ETP, GGP, Humanitarian Response
	Junagadh District Block: Maliya Hatina	EILSWY, CSA, HNI, ETP, GGP, Humanitarian Response
Rajasthan	Barmer District Blocks: Sindhari, Payla Kalan	EILSWY, HNI, ETP, GGP
	Jaisalmer District Block: Sam	ETP, GGP, HNI, EILSWY (initial groundwork)
Jharkhand	East Singbhum District Block: Potka	EILSWY, ETP

INTERVENTIONS IN THE YEAR 2022

A SNAPSHOT

During the reporting period, RAF Global in India has strengthened its programmes in the Western and the Eastern regions of the country with regular monitoring, strategic partnerships with panchayats, technical agencies, Government institutions and institutional donors. The credibility of RAF Global has been established across all stakeholders. The period was marked with several recruitments in area offices, orientation on programme to the new team members, and regular sessions on perspective building for the entire team besides, extending handholding support to them at regular intervals, towards smooth implementation of the programme activities. Covering the six thematic areas spread across sustainable livelihood for women and youth, agriculture, health and nutrition, education, good governance and humanitarian response, RAF Global has worked in **107 villages, 7 blocks, 5 districts** and **3 states**, in the Financial Year 2022-23.



School Enrolment Drive in Porbandar, Gujarat

Key Achievements

- » The Farmer Resource Centres (FRCs) in the state of Gujarat have created an impact in propagating organic farming practices at the Block level. As a result, RAF Global has emerged as a resource organisation in the area of agriculture, within a short duration.
- » A massive capacity building effort for Village Facilitators (VFs) has transformed it into a cadre of change makers that is improving learning outcome for over 600 primary school children enrolled in Foundational Learning Improvement Programme (FLIP), in the states of Gujarat and Rajasthan.
- » In Jaisalmer district of Rajasthan, efforts to popularise science education (among children from economically weak and marginalised background) with technical partnership of Vikram Sarabhai Community Science Centre is winning accolades of the District Administration. As a result, the Science Activity Centre set up by RAF Global at Jaisalmer is being run in collaboration with the concerned Education department.
- » The work on rainwater harvesting carried out under the theme of Health and Nutrition has attained new heights in the Barmer and Jaisalmer districts of Rajasthan, improving the access to safe water for 107 households and over 400 community members. Resultantly, this low-cost solution to addressing water woes has gained high visibility at the district level.
- » In the health sector, many new interventions were rolled out such as female health camps, cataract screening camps, anaemia screening camps and awareness campaigns on it. With the signing of an MoU, RAF Global entered into long-term partnership with GMERS General Hospital in Junagadh in Gujarat to set up a 'Thalassemia Wellness Centre' catering to paediatric patients, at the above mentioned district hospital.
- » In the area of livelihoods improvement of women and youth in low-income poverty pockets and rural areas, RAF Global has actively provided financial support to identified beneficiaries to start commercial activities, under its Social Enterprise Fund. Skill Development Centres were initiated and have been successfully conducting training in tailoring and garment construction (in Junagadh district of Gujarat and Barmer and Jaisalmer districts of Rajasthan) and Beauty and Wellness (in Porbandar district of Gujarat). In addition, training in industrial set up have been initiated, in association with the Sameera Group of Industries and Akzonobel Decorative Paint Academy, for training youth in western region.
- » In the Eastern region of programme activities, the SHGs are capacitated to better manage their functioning such as regular meetings, book-keeping and the like. Several SHG members across groups have successfully undertaken various economic activities such as Pig farming, Goat farming, Poultry farm etc. as a result of regular support of RAF Global's field team and coordination with Government officials.

Overall, RAF Global has pro-actively engaged with concerned district Administration across Western and Eastern regions, to scale up the programme and advance the mandate of RAF Global in India. This year has also witnessed beginning of an intensive phase of interventions in the Jaisalmer district, in the state of Rajasthan.

PROGRAMME THEMES



1

ECONOMIC INTEGRATION AND LIVELIHOOD SUPPORT FOR WOMEN AND YOUTH (EILSWY)

With a focus on poor and marginalised women and youth, the livelihood improvement programme of RAF Global in India promotes decent work opportunities for the target population in wage employment as well as self-employment, by aiding their income generating skills, enabling them for a strong market and financial linkage as well as supporting them to start businesses and build productive assets.

RAF Global works with women, using a group approach and through the widely approved and Government promoted collectives called the Self Help Groups (SHGs). An SHG is an effective platform for women to save money, engage in inter-lending activities at low interest rate, plan for income generation activities and access higher order loans offered by RBI approved banks to SHGs, under the mandate to promote financial inclusion. Besides, an SHG acts as solidarity group for its members and is a remarkable vehicle for information dissemination esp. on health and education related programmes at the smallest unit of programme implementation be it a dhani in rural Barmer, a village in Gujarat or a low-income urban neighbourhood in Porbandar city.

Our approach to working with youth is mainly through the hubs of Skill Development Centres started by RAF Global in project districts as well as, through skill academies and hands on training by partner industries under their corporate social responsibility.

KEY INTERVENTIONS

For a comprehensive understanding of various interventions under the EILSWY programme, we are categorising them here as initiatives centred on Self Help Groups (SHGs), then those centred on skilling or upskilling individuals in vocational training centres and other institutional learning set up and lastly, initiatives to link these groups and individuals with RAF Global's Social Enterprise Fund and other credible funds and financial institutions that would give wings to the dreams of SHG members and youths trained in a range of vocational trades, to enhance their income earning opportunities, significantly.

A. Initiatives centred on Self Help Groups (SHGs)

Self Help Group Formation and Revival

RAF Global has continued the groundwork to identify SHGs in project districts that were formed in the past under various initiatives and are presently either functioning loosely or have been defunct for various reasons. Building on past human investments and efforts and nurturing these institutions has been an enriching experience as a result of which, **69 SHGs are revived in three project districts in the Western region namely, Porbandar and Junagadh in Gujarat and Barmer in Rajasthan. Besides, 61 SHGs have been formed.**

Presently, RAF Global in India is working with **294 SHGs, covering 3147 women** covering the states of Gujarat, Rajasthan and Jharkhand. The revival or formation of SHGs has involved intensive field level efforts. Camps were organized where women were oriented/ re-oriented on the concept of SHG through stories and pictorial charts, and how membership in such a group could benefit women members especially, economically,

Strengthening the Self-Help Groups

In the Western region, 177 SHGs, 12 Village Organisations (VOs) and 1 Federation have been capacitated during the year, with various sessions on group management, standard norms of SHG operations, and in book-keeping for maintaining an efficient and transparent financial transaction system. The VOs have been capacitated on guiding the SHGs in their villages for timely repayment of loans and inter-loaning principles. Each VO has 20 SHG members who meet once a month to discuss about the issues in the village and the SHGs and how they could support the women members. The federation, an apex body that represents all SHGs in the cluster has received active facilitation support of RAF Global during its meetings, along with the NRLM. RAF Global has also linked the federation members with its Skill Development Centres and Social Enterprise Funds.

In the Eastern region, efforts were made to strengthen the SHGs in Potka block, Singhbhum East, in the state of Jharkhand. A survey was done to identify the SHGs under Manpur, Bara Tiliajhor and Janumdih panchayats in Potka block, for financial inclusion and skill building component under RAF Global's sustainable livelihoods programme. At first, 100 SHGs were identified in which most of the activities were irregular such as regular meetings, attendance, savings and book-keeping. Due to the irregular and poor register-maintenance, most of the SHGs had discrepancies in cash book statements and bank transactions details which resulted in SHGs not functioning well and members being deprived of many facilities from Government. At the end of FY 2022-23, as per our target, all the SHGs are active and regular. Insurance facility has been extended to 90% members of the SHGs and now, they are able to manage their family expenses better.

Establishing Bank linkages

In the Western region, 60 SHGs have been linked with public sector banks so that the women members could avail various schemes rolled out by the Government. A Micro Credit Camp was organised in Maliya block in Junagadh on May 9th 2022 where 25 SHG leaders participated. This was organised in collaboration with NRLM and Bank of Baroda at Maliya. The objective of this camp was to inform the SHG leaders about the various loan facilities available for the SHGs. As a result, 24 SHGs applied for the loan for various income generation activities and availed the benefits.

RAF Global in India believes that grassroots structures and institutions could be built effectively and sustained only with the support of a strong cadre of frontline workers that is a crucial link between RAF Global team and the communities it serves. Therefore, the reporting year has witnessed intensive work on identification and training of SHG leaders and Village Facilitators, who live amongst the served communities, experience the pressing issues and are able to troubleshoot locally in real time as well as, amplify the community voices at various platforms. So far, 28 Village facilitators have been identified and capacitated on SHG and FLIP sessions. This strategy has not only helped in the expansion of RAF Global's work but also, ensured deep and nuanced understanding of issues of each of the intervention village.

B. Initiatives centred on Skilling and Upskilling Women and Youth

RAF Global has focused initiatives in the states of Gujarat and Rajasthan in the area of skill development of women and youth. 5 Skill Development Centres (SDCs) have been initiated this year, catering to Tailoring and Beauty and Wellness Courses at Porbandar and Junagadh districts (in the state of Gujarat) and Barmer district in the state of Rajasthan. In Barmer district we have established 2 SDCs on Tailoring Course, while in Junagadh district - one centre on tailoring course and in Porbandar district – one centre on Beauty and Wellness and another on Tailoring course are functioning.

Total enrolment of women and girls in these courses is remarkably high, with 86 trainees who have regularly attended the training. The Skill Development Centres not only train interested candidates in the enrolled trades but also help them to start off a commercial activity using their newly learned skills, through viable linkages as well as, by incubating start up ventures.

The Skill Development Centre in Porbandar that conducts training on Beauty and Wellness has brought together a group of 11 women that it has trained and is supporting them launch a start up venture named as JANANI that offers Home based Beauty and Wellness services to women customers in Porbandar city. This is one of the firsts in Porbandar and has been appreciated by the district officials and other stakeholders who attended the launching ceremony of JANANI. JANANI has started getting the orders and the customers are all praise of the services given by the women. This venture has also motivated other women to learn new skills and start earning for themselves and families.

The tailoring and garment construction students are also well-trained now in Junagadh to stitch finished products such as suit sets, blouse, tops (kurtis), skirt and top (traditional chaniya-choli) etc. Some of them have already started taking orders and earn from it.

Besides promoting skill development among women and youth in various trades through RAF Global's Skill Development Centres, the institution has also promoted linkages with credible Government and private institutions on skill development. As a result, 92 SHG members have been linked with Rural Self Employment Training Institute (RSETI) in Junagadh and Porbandar, where 35 members were trained on rope-weaving, 30 members on pickle and papad making and 27 members on soap, phenyl, detergent making. Out of these, 10 of them have already started their micro-enterprises and earn income from it.

Through tie up with industries that offer training of youth from poor regions and low-income background, RAF Global has successfully facilitated the training of 16 youths in skills like house painting, Auto Electric, Diesel Mechanic, Customer Care Services and Tally in Junagadh and Barmer districts of Gujarat and Rajasthan respectively. Youth were sent to Delhi for the training on House Painting by Akzonobel Decorative Paint Academy. The duration of the course was one month, after which some of them were placed in Rajasthan. In Junagadh, 11 youth have been linked with Samira Group of Companies for 3–6-month courses in auto electric, diesel mechanic, customer care services and tally. Before enrolling them in different courses, they were counselled so that they could decide on a trade as per their aptitude and interest.

C. Promotion of Micro-Enterprises through Social Enterprise Fund

RAF Global has established a Social Enterprise Fund in India's western region to provide financial support to women SHG members that focuses on bolstering their aspirations for micro-enterprises and promoting their financial independence in true form. This is a refundable fund for the women and their families who have entrepreneurial skills and ideas but lack financial resources to drive the same and augment their incomes. This fund shall help them to set up or strengthen their micro-enterprises and be economically independent and improve their standard of living.

The interested SHG members share the idea of their businesses with their SHGs, who then share the shortlisted proposals with RAF Global. After a feasibility study, funds are released to the selected SHG/VO/ Federation. 12 SHG women have been supported with this fund to kick-start a new business or expand their existing setup. This fund acts like a loan to them which they have to return to their SHGs in instalments on a monthly basis. The funds have been taken for micro-economic activities like purchase of sewing machine, expanding the grocery shop in the village, purchase of readymade garments for the ladies for sale, etc. These loans have been granted in the range of Rs 15,000 to Rs 75,000.



2

CLIMATE SMART AGRICULTURE (CSA)

The main goal of RAF Global's programme on climate smart agriculture is to promote and strengthen farming practices and systems that adapt to climate change in order to ensure sustainable income and food security for smallholder farm families. This emerging programme has five sub-components namely

- » Promotion of Organic Farming that will result in sustainable use of land and natural resources
- » Conservation Agriculture that will make farming practices resilient to climate change so that crop production as well as food security of farmers is unaffected by the vagaries of nature
- » System of Rice Intensification that will increase crop yield as a result of scientific planting techniques
- » E Agriculture that will harness information technology to the benefit of the farmers esp in disaster management
- » Micro-Irrigation that will efficiently and effectively channel water to the cropping fields throughout the year, complementing rain-fed farming

It is established fact that use of chemicals and input sensitive model of agriculture harms the groundwater and poses a threat to the ecosystem. Climate Smart Agriculture practices on the other hand, contribute to good health, chemical-free food, mitigate climate change and create a healthier ecosystem. Climate Smart Agriculture is a promising programme of RAF Global in India that is being nurtured across the districts of Junagadh and Porbandar in the state of Gujarat with men farmers, women of the households, college students, Government agencies and other stakeholders. It is also aligned to the Gujarat state government's focus on organic farming popularised through several schemes for farmers to adopt Organic Farming techniques.

KEY INTERVENTIONS

A. Expansion of Farmer Resource Centres

A collaborative initiative with farmers and other community serving groups, the Farmer Resource Centres are pivotal to RAF Global's strategy of propagating the Climate Smart Agriculture movement across intervention

districts, especially promoting the shift to organic farming among the farmers. The FRCs act as demonstration sites for farmers, students and stakeholders to get an on-field exposure on various organic farming methods, like vermicomposting, producing organic pesticides, water management, selection of various crop patterns based on the yield etc.

Since last financial year when Farmer Resource Centre was first set up and being tested as a model, today the FRC is already an established model and gaining prominence in both, Junagadh and Porbandar districts of Gujarat. Presently RAF Global provides technical guidance to 3 FRCs in Junagadh and Porbandar districts, and has increased the range of activities at these demonstration sites in alternative farming.

In Junagadh, a demo plot has been prepared for the demonstration of various types of fruits and vegetable crops, like guava, mango, ber (jujube), pomegranate, banana, brinjal, tomato, cabbage, chili, radish etc. Bio-pesticide unit has also been setup at the FRC. Bio-pesticides like Jivamrut, Ghanjeevamrut, Sapt Dhanya Ankur, Bijamrut etc. are prepared in the unit for the practical demonstration to the farmers.

The Farmer Resource Centre helps farmers to make an informed farming decision for their agricultural land as they get to see the practical demonstration of the crop patterns, effects of vermicompost and bio-pesticides in the crops etc.

B. Setting up of Vermicompost Units

RAF Global has set up 4 vermicompost units under the Farmer Resource Centers in Junagadh and Porbandar. Here, Compost is prepared through three methods – HDPE beds, land-based tarpaulin beds and the pit method. RAF Global has developed all three types of beds at the Vermicompost Unit in Junagadh district. The purpose of these activities is to make vermicompost readily accessible to the farmers with landholding of various sizes, so that they are encouraged to make the shift to practice organic farming. So far, 48 beds have been set up in these vermicompost units.

C. Capacity building of farmers to develop Vermicompost beds at individual farms

The RAF Global team has not only endeavoured to make vermicompost available to farmers who are either practising organic farming or interested to pursue it, but has also taken steps to help them gain self-sufficiency in this area, and trains them in developing vermicompost beds at their farmland. The twin approach is to address the issue of poor soil health due to persistent use of chemical pesticides and insecticides. RAF Global team understands that while farmers are suffering from sub-optimal farm yield due to poor soil health, unless the exorbitant cost of organic fertiliser and pesticide is addressed,

significant gains cannot be made in terms of visible shift to natural methods of farming. Due to high costs and poor access to organic manure, farmers may thus carry on with old farming methods that heavily uses chemical products.

With this insight, RAF Global decided to facilitate easy access of organic fertilizers and pesticides at cheaper rates to boost the confidence and motivation of the farmers. To achieve this objective, RAF Global started to setup vermicompost beds with the farmers in Junagadh and Porbandar districts. Total of 100 vermicompost beds were set up during the FY 2022-23 using methods such as readymade HDPE beds, tarpaulin floor beds and pit (cemented) beds. Thus vermicompost is being made readily available through these farmers to other farmers who want to use them in their farm. The long travel of over 50 Kms to the district headquarter for the purpose of organic compost procurement is therefore cut short. The farmers have collectively generated 34,200 Kgs of vermicompost in FY 2022-23 for self-use as well as, for sale.

D. Training of farmers on organic farming

RAF Global offers regular training to farmers on the techniques of organic farming to help them grow their own organic produce. Executed at scale in the Junagadh and Porbandar districts, the trainings and handholding support has encouraged the farmers to shift to organic farming in Gujarat. In FY 2022-23, total of 159 farmers were trained in various components of Climate Smart Agriculture. Trainings have focused on the practical application of organic farming on kitchen gardens as well as farms. The sessions focused on the purpose and use of organic fertilizer and the fundamental differences between organic and inorganic fertilizers. Practical demonstrations of making organic bio-pesticides were given. As a result, the participants gained information and skills to practice sustainable agriculture. Total of 60 farmers are actively maintaining vermicompost beds at their farms and generate vermicompost for nourishing their crops.

E. Promoting Organic Kitchen Gardens

In the present time, cultivating and producing food with proper nutrients is difficult because of the amount of pesticides and chemicals used by the farmers. Kitchen gardening is yet another strategy of RAF Global to persuade a farmer household observe the gains from practising organic farming on a small scale, and eventually make the shift towards it. Compared to gaining firsthand experience on organic farming in large tracts of land, kitchen gardening undertaken in unused patches of land of a dwelling space requires less time and effort for daily care. The other key objective of RAF Global in promoting kitchen gardening has been to promote adequate nutritional intake by the family members. This fits well

with RAF Global's project on addressing the menace of anaemia in its project locations in the states of Gujarat and Rajasthan. Kitchen Garden Kits have also been distributed to 177 women. These women had earlier participated in the webinar on Kitchen Gardening and got inspired by it. Each kit included 5-7 types of vegetables, a packet of vermicompost and a bottle of vermiwash. Encouraging stories pertaining to these beneficiaries have been documented throughout the year.

F. Webinars on Organic Farming – A Knowledge building Initiative

RAF Global through its western region office in Gujarat has organized three webinars on various aspects of Organic Farming for pan India audience. Webinar on “Efforts by Farmers, NGOs & CSRs in promoting innovations on agriculture and farm-based practices” was organised on 31st January 2023. The webinar had three key speakers – Mr. Biren Brahma, CSR Head of Agrocel Industries Pvt. Ltd., Mr. Kuldeep Sagar, Farmer Leader and Development Professional and Mr. Bharat Patel, an innovative Farmer from Junagadh. The webinar was attended by 120 participants from the states of Gujarat and Rajasthan.

The webinar on “Organic Farming: An approach towards Climate Smart Agriculture” was organised on 25th August 2022, aiming to bring the Government officials, civil society practitioners and the farmers on one platform to share innovative and essential ways to slowly shift to Organic Farming. The webinar had four resource persons, representing all the three major stakeholders – Mr. R.R. Tilva, Deputy Director – ATMA, Porbandar and Ms. Mansi Lakhani, Agriculture Officer – Porbandar from the Government Department., Mr. Gigabhai Sisodiya – an organic farmer and Mr. Mitul Parmar – a development practitioner. The webinar saw the participation of 165 people both through virtual and physical platform. For the convenience of the farmers, laptops were setup at seven locations so that they could watch it through one screen. Seeing the level of engagement and responsiveness of the participants during the open discussion session, it was clear that this webinar was relevant to the farmers to learn about the myriad support they could get – both from Government, and RAF Global - to shift to organic farming and they found it very informative.

The webinar on “Kitchen Garden: A step towards healthy life through organic vegetables” was organised on 21st December, 2022. The main speakers at the webinar were Ms. Namrata Acharya (Co-founder of Khedut Samrudhi, Vyara) and Ms. Shashi Shikha (Founder of Kikaboni Farms, Delhi-NCR). Both of them highlighted the importance and significance of a Kitchen Garden in an individual's life, especially in the current scenario where the use of chemical products is immense. Representing the women farmers, Ms. Laxmiben from Junagadh, shared her experience of organic farming and kitchen gardening. She emphasized on the money her family saves on monthly basis by growing

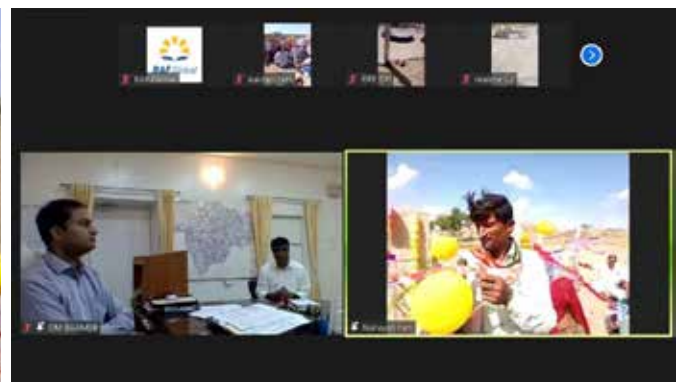
their own food and the reduced number of hospital visits. The webinar was attended by more than 200 participants across Gujarat.

G. Making the Youth interested in Farming through Exposure cum onsite training of college students at Farmer Resource Centre

RAF Global has collaborated with several colleges in Gujarat to prepare students pursuing MSW and Agricultural studies, in organic farming practices and understand the challenges on ground. Total of 160 students in Gujarat have visited the Farmer Resource Centres, during the year. They were shown practical demonstration of making pesticides. They also got to see the vermicompost unit setup at the Farmer Resource Centre and learnt its benefits. The students shared that it was one-of-a-kind experience for them as earlier, they only got to learn from the books about these aspects. Going beyond theory helped them to understand the concept and the importance of the organic farming in a better way. Demo Plot also attracted the students as it is an organic plot demonstrating how a small piece land could be utilised at its full potential without degrading the soil, using scientific techniques. RAF Global team also conducted sessions in their colleges on organic farming with audio visual materials and clarified the doubts of the students. The exposure gave the students a flavour of on-ground challenges they are likely to face while working in development sector, and skills they'd need, to engage with farming communities.

H. Linking Farmers with Government Agricultural Schemes

In Gujarat, the Government is also emphasising on organic farming and has rolled out various schemes to promote the farmers to adopt Organic Farming techniques. RAF Global through the above cited interventions not only supports the farmers and guide them in making an informed decision on farming techniques but also supports farmers in accessing the various schemes in coordination with the Government departments. During the FY 2022-23, 27 farmers have been enrolled under PM Kisan Yojana through the Government. scheme camps organized by RAF Global, this year. All of them have also benefitted from the linkage.



3

HEALTH AND NUTRITION INITIATIVES (HNI)

The broad goal of Health and Nutrition Initiatives of RAF Global in India is to improve the health of millions of women, children, adolescents, and the elderly belonging to the most marginalised section of society, in selected states of Gujarat, Rajasthan, Jharkhand and Maharashtra. Through its various interventions, RAF Global has aspired to improve access to specialised treatment of critical diseases, improve access and utilisation of public health services, complement Health System Improvement through investment in Government hospitals, Community Health Centres and Primary Health Centres and lastly, increase the nutritional status of children and women of high-risk category through building access to social safety nets.

RAF Global assesses and responds to the community health requirements in the intervention districts of Gujarat and Rajasthan by way of finding the depth and spread of the health problems, spreading awareness among the community to reach out to the institutional healthcare service providers and, facilitates the process through camps organised in partnership with accredited healthcare providers, Community Health Centres (CHCs) & Primary Healthcare Centres (PHCs) and supported by the District Administration.

The efforts are focused on organising camps for gynaecological check-up, anaemia screening for target population and eyecare check-up for the elderly & children (in primary schools). Besides, it actively supports local blood banks in Porbandar district, Gujarat through regular village level, blood donation camps that benefit participating blood banks in accessing safe blood for public health systems. Through these measures, RAF Global is committed to complement and support the healthcare infrastructure at the district, block and village level. Besides, its active outreach among SHG women and adolescent girls on menstrual hygiene and basic healthcare is also breaking the barriers to reach out to the institutional healthcare providers at the village and block levels.

The hallmark of the programme in FY 2022-23 has been the intense level of community outreach, ensuring participation and screening of large numbers of women, adolescents and men for various ailments, by roping in Government doctors and public health delivery institutions across all tiers, up to the district level. Referrals, linkage with appropriate hospitals (on case to case basis) and follow up by RAF Global field team has further

added to the effectiveness of the programme delivery. RAF Global believes in complementing and further strengthening the existing public health systems in the states of its operation. It has signed a MoU with the GMERS Hospital in Junagadh for setting up a Thalassemia Wellness Centre in the hospital for child patients.

For safe drinking water, RAF Global has re-constructed more than 100 catchment areas of water tanks/ 'tankas' in Barmer district, which was inaugurated by the District Collector via virtual platform. Rainwater harvesting system is the need of the hour in the Thar Desert region and the same was voiced out by the collector during the inauguration.

KEY INTERVENTIONS

A. Cataract Screening camps

A series of Cataract Screening Camps were organised in Porbandar and Junagadh districts of Gujarat. Organised in association with Shri Ranchoddasji Bapu Charitable Hospital - Rajkot in both the districts, and Ashirwad Charitable Trust at Junagadh district, these camps have screened a total of 1030 people. Out of them, 244 were detected with Cataract. All the detected Cataract patients were operated at Ranchhoddasji Bapu Charitable hospital at Rajkot. Operated patients were discharged with the required medicines, a pair of sunglasses and counselling for post-operative care. These camps have provided timely eye care service in the rural areas to those who could not afford the same and, saved them from complete blindness in the future.

B. Female Health Camps

In the remote rural areas and urban poverty pockets where RAF Global works, women neither have easy access to health services nor can they freely discuss their gynaecological health issues (esp reproductive and menstrual healthcare) and thus neglect their health as a priority area. Based on this feedback and emerging requirements during the SHG meetings, RAF Global team decided to organise Female Health Camps, instead of general health camps in the villages. In the three districts – Porbandar, Junagadh and Barmer – 14 camps were organised during this financial year, reaching out to 155 women. The objective was to provide a safe and healthy platform for women to share their problems with the specialised and qualified female gynecologist in their village itself. The collaboration with Community Healthcare Centre (CHC) at places, also proved useful as women received free medicines by the CHC on furnishing the prescription given by the doctor at these camps.

The voluntary engagement of women residents at the camps was encouraging and affirms the requirement of doorstep health services to them, esp pertaining to reproductive and other health concerns.

C. Menstrual Hygiene Awareness

Menstrual hygiene is an essential practice during menstruation which can prevent women from the infection in the reproductive and urinary tract. Across RAF Global project locations, 1136 adolescent girls and 1853 women have been oriented on the basic menstrual hygiene practices. Further, the GMERS district hospital in Junagadh was donated a Sanitary Destroyer Machine, for proper disposal of sanitary pads used by women patients. This machine has a capacity to destroy about 120 pads per day and will effectively reduce the specific medical waste at the district hospital.

D. Eye Check Camps at Schools

RAF Global organised two eye check camps at the primary schools of Porbandar, in coordination with the Government Ophthalmic Assistants. 157 students were examined and 17 students were advised further check-up and linked with the Government Civil Hospital at Porbandar.

E. Project AAMA: RAF Global's partnership with Alkem Foundation to address Anaemia

From 1st January 2023, RAF Global in India has entered into a partnership with Alkem Foundation-- the CSR arm of Alkem Laboratories Ltd., to address the menace of Anaemia across 95 villages, in 4 districts in the states of Rajasthan and Gujarat.

The Alkem Foundation has been supporting RAF Global's efforts in creating awareness among the community on Anaemia (including, understanding possible causes), prevention measures (in case of iron deficiency anaemia) and encouraging and enhancing behavioural changes. The project intends to complement and energise the efforts of Government institutions such as Anganwadi centres, PHCs, CHCs and schools, along with women's collectives nurtured by RAF Global, towards reducing the incidences of anaemia in project locations. The project contributes in Government of India's mission started in the year 2018 towards making India Anaemia Mukta.

Globally, Anaemia poses a serious public health problem with nutritional deficiency (such as deficiency of iron, vitamin B12, vitamin A and folates), infectious diseases (including malaria, tuberculosis and HIV), acquired disorders, and parasitic infections. In India, it particularly affects young children, adolescent girls and women, especially pregnant & lactating women.

Activities carried out under Project AAMA (including preparatory stages)

Baseline survey through Questionnaire: A survey was carried out in 30 villages in the four districts, covering 310 women. A questionnaire was prepared and the Village Facilitators administered the survey with random 10 –15 women and adolescent girls in the villages. The Anganwadi Workers, ASHA workers and ANMs were also covered in the survey. The survey found low level of awareness about anaemia in the village, with only a small percentage of women knowing about the causes and symptoms of the condition.

Anaemia Screening Camps: Detection of anaemia in the community was carried out across the project locations in the states of Rajasthan and Gujarat, through Haemoglobin (Hb) screening camps. The first camp at Kanoi Sub Centre in Jaisalmer district in Rajasthan that was organized collaboratively with the District Administration tested 183 villagers, mostly women and children for free. Iron Folic Tablets were provided to the anemic. To facilitate the screening, a doctor, a CHO, two ANMs and four ASHA workers were involved. The District Collector, Ms. Tina Dabi, visited the camp and motivated the villagers for getting tested for anaemia. Similar camps were organised in all the four districts – Barmer, Jaisalmer, Porbandar and Junagadh. Total of 1360 people were screened across 25 villages, without any private labs, as a result of support of District Administration and the Government Health Centres.

Poshan Mela at Schools: To raise awareness on anaemia among school children and sensitise the teachers, Bal Mela were organized in 22 schools across Gujarat and Rajasthan in which 1966 students and 553 parents along with panchayat members, teachers and youth participated. The theme of the Bal Mela was Health and Nutrition, with a special focus on awareness on anaemia. Students were engaged during the Bal Mela in various indoor and outdoor activities like drawing, colouring, essay-writing, Poshan Thali (nutrient-rich food plate) making competition, sack race, musical chair, three-legged race etc. After the activities, a brief session was facilitated on anaemia, its causes and ways to be Anaemia-free.

Village Campaigns: Village Campaigns have been carried out in the identified villages to raise awareness on Anaemia. Total of 444 women and adolescent girls (esp those detected Anaemic) participated in these campaigns. Session on anaemia, rally with communicative banners, and display of Poshan Thalīs by the participants made with nutritious food materials, were carried out. The panchayat members and the ANMs judged the best Poshan Thali and the women were awarded with iron vessels. The campaign ended with a rally with slogan placards on Anaemia.

Follow up: To keep up the momentum on addressing Anaemia in the villages, a constant follow up is being carried out by the Village Facilitators in their respective villages. Those who have been screened as Anaemic are being constantly motivated to consume the IFA Tablets. During the screening, IFA Tablets were given to some of the anaemic people. The Village Facilitators through their visits are trying to ensure that the patients consume the IFA tablets as advised by the ANMs so that they become anaemia free over time.

F. Building an Ecosystem of Supporting Safe Blood availability and Enhancing Ease for patients of Thalassemia during blood transfusion at district hospital, Junagadh

a. Blood Donation Camps

For past several years, RAF Global in the Gujarat region of India has contributed to the cause of promoting volunteer blood donation through camps organised in coordination with various agencies. From June 14th to 17th, 2022 RAF Global joined the WHO's thematic campaign on the occasion of World Blood Donor Day and organised blood donation camps in Porbandar and Junagadh districts in collaboration with Shree Ram Voluntary Blood Bank and GMERS General Hospital, respectively. Apart from these camps, two more camps were organised during the year, on the same lines. 157 people donated blood in these camps, leading to a collection of 42,500ml of blood. The team started the mobilisation process weeks before the camps, by distributing pamphlets at Government offices, banks and also to the SHGs and youth groups. Banners were displayed in the main market areas to attract eligible donors.

The medical team ensured that every donor was eligible to donate by checking their medical history, haemoglobin etc. The camps had all the required provision for the donors to take sufficient rest after the blood donation. GMERS General Hospital gave appreciation letter to RAF Global team in India for organising the camp effectively and efficiently. They were impressed by the inflow of the donors and the enthusiasm shown by each of them.

b. Thalassemia Awareness Programmes

To build an awareness on Thalassemia among the youth, sessions were carried out for college students in Porbandar and Junagadh districts. Total of 185 students participated in these sessions, facilitated by the medical practitioners from the district hospital and Mr. Amurtojoy, an external resource person. The students were oriented on Thalassemia, how to manage the condition and, how it could be prevented from scaling up.

c. Long-term partnership with GMERS General Hospital to set up a Thalassemia Wellness Centre

On February 24, 2023, with the signing of an MoU, RAF Global in India has entered into long-term partnership with GMERS General Hospital, Junagadh to set up a 'Thalassemia Wellness Centre' at the GMERS General hospital, Junagadh. The children ward is the key recipient of this intervention. Thalassemia Wellness Centre will be equipped with modern beds & medical equipment assuring high level of physical comfort for young patients undergoing transfusion, apart from creating an assuring, hopeful environment with an indoor kids play area with toys and games, brightly painted walls, AC, television, library, improved nursing station, comfortable reception area and other facilities for young patients and their caregiver/attendant.

Around 200-250 children attend the GMERS General hospital every year, for blood transfusion. The young patients visit the hospitals once in every 15-30 days for blood transfusion, depending on their medical condition and requirement. On an average therefore, a child patient requires between 12-24 transfusion every year. One blood transfusion involves at least several hours so, a patient friendly Thalassemia Wellness Centre is a significant step towards making the process painless to a large extent and ease the experience of blood transfusion.

Besides the Thalassemia Wellness Centre, in future, RAF Global will address an entire chain of blood disorders diseases affecting both adults & children esp Thalassemia that is prevalent in Junagadh and adjoining districts, by spreading awareness among youth, establishing and building access to testing facilities for bulk testing and large-scale mobilisation of safe blood through voluntary blood donors.

G. Building Access to Safe Drinking Water

During the FY 2022-23, RAF Global reached out to 112 families to facilitate access to drinking water in Barmer and Jaisalmer districts in Rajasthan. This area is largely arid, known for its dryness, extreme temperature and erratic rainfall. In such extreme conditions, water becomes the most precious asset for survival. People spend a large portion of their annual income to buy drinking water for their families here. Though most of the community members have water tanks (tankas), over a period of time, most of them are not in a usable condition and cannot store enough rainwater due to the damaged catchment areas. Most of the families cannot afford its re-construction. As a result, these families end up buying drinking water for 6-8 months, spending about INR 8000 to 10000/- per year.

So, RAF Global facilitated the formation of a committee which supported in the identification of the marginalised families, single women, differently abled and elderly citizens who do not have any major source of income and are forced to spend huge amount on buying drinking water. At Barmer, after the strengthening of the catchment areas, the tanks are capable of storing more than 40,000 litres of rainwater. Apart from the individual tanks, 1 community tanka and 1 community well was also repaired and revived, supporting 60 people.

On March 24th, soon after the World Water Day was celebrated globally on March 22nd, RAF Global team in Barmer and Balotra districts in Rajasthan, celebrated #WaterAction in a way that demonstrates their efforts in rainwater harvesting as a way of life. 108 beneficiary families (whose tankas underwent complete reconstruction of catchment areas) in 10 villages of Barmer & Balotra districts of Rajasthan, welcomed Mr. Lok Bandhu, the District Collector & Magistrate of Barmer to inaugurate their tanks, virtually. RAF Global facilitated the entire process. More than 130 people were present at these locations including the beneficiaries, Panchayat members and Committee members.

Mr. Lok Bandhu, the District Collector & Magistrate of Barmer motivated people to bring back the tradition of rainwater conservation into their lives. During the open session, people also requested the Collector to link the reconstruction work of the catchment areas with the MGNREGS.



4

EDUCATION AND TECHNOLOGY PROGRAMME (ETP)

RAF Global strives to equip girls, boys, and young adults with knowledge, skills, technology, and values so that they can maximize their potential and further contribute to the process of nation-building by becoming responsible citizens. The programme is geared towards the following outcomes:

- » Bridging the digital divide: Improved access to technology-based learning and enhanced computer skills among student
- » Early Childhood Development for stronger foundation for cognitive, social and overall development of children, translating into better adolescent and adult lives
- » School Improvement Programme for increased access to quality education services by investment in school infrastructure, teaching and learning aids, as well as capacity building of teachers in the areas pedagogical and content enrichment
- » Leadership and Ethics Building, for sustenance of a peaceful society and active citizens

Through its Foundational Learning Improvement Programme (FLIP), RAF Global in India is addressing the learning needs of children by improving their language comprehension and numeracy skills. The focus of this programme is to address the learning deficit among the children in basic language comprehension and numeracy skills through activity-based learning. With the emphasis on the enrolment drives and engaging the parents in the school activities, RAF Global aims to support the Government's efforts in curbing the dropout rates in the project districts. Besides, RAF Global in India has also set up Science Activity Centres this year in Government schools, in Gujarat and Rajasthan. It has been appreciated by the concerned District Administrations.

KEY INTERVENTIONS

A. Foundational Learning Improvement Programme (FLIP)

Foundational Learning Improvement Programme (FLIP) addresses the learning needs of children by improving their language comprehension and basic numeracy skills. The focus of this programme is to address the learning deficit among the children in Grades 2 to 5 in basic language

comprehension and numeracy skills through activity-based learning by using appropriate Teaching Learning Materials. This helps the children in building their overall confidence and aspiration for continuing education.

During the year, 25 FLIP centers were initiated. Baseline assessments were conducted in Junagadh, Porbandar and Barmer districts. 1268 students from classes 3 to 5 participated in the baseline to identify those with the learning deficit. Out of these 627 students, identified as learning deficit, were enrolled in the Foundational Learning Improvement Program (FLIP) programme, run in 25 centres across Gujarat and Rajasthan. FLIP centres had been inaugurated by the Sarpanch in the presence of the school staff, parents and community leaders. Parents meeting have also been organized in the centres to make them aware about the initiative and get their support in ensuring regularity of the students in their respective FLIP class.

The FLIP sessions are facilitated by trained Village Facilitators, six days a week. Each session has been prepared by RAF Global after detailed study and field testing. Midline assessments and endline assessments were also carried out to track the progress of the children. From the endline assessment data, it has been noticed that around 90% of the children have progressed and overcome the learning deficit.

B. Enrolment Drive

RAF Global in India joined the efforts of the Government of Gujarat and Rajasthan, enrolling all the eligible students in a village, to class 1. Enrolment drives were organised in 31 intervention villages. The teams organized the drives in collaboration with the School Management Committees, teachers and the youth groups in the village. Prior to the drive, a list was made of the children who were eligible to be enrolled in Class 1. This list was made through household visits. The team met the parents of the identified children to ensure that they send the children for admission to the school.

On the Enrolment Drive Day, which began from 24th June and continued till 27th June and even in July, in some places, rallies were organized. More than 500 children were enrolled in these intervention villages as a result of the drive. The rallies conducted were participated by the village youth groups, Anganwadi workers, teachers and parents. During the rallies, dhols were played and slogans were raised carrying placards on the importance of education. The purpose was to welcome the children to the school with pomp and show so that they feel motivated and enthusiastic to attend the school.

This drive was possible due to the efforts of the active youth groups in the villages. In four villages in Maliya Hatina Block, the youth groups, with the support of RAF Global, organized an award ceremony event wherein they recognized the efforts of those students from Class 1-3 who scored the first, second and third position in their respective classes. They also gave an enrolment kit to the students who got

admitted to Class 1. School administration appreciated the efforts of RAF Global as the Enrolment Drives were organized with much fervour and zeal this time, involving the youth groups and the parents.

C. Bal Mela

RAF Global organized 25 Bal Mela at schools in Gujarat and Rajasthan, under FLIP, spread across the year including on children's day. Children were engaged in various indoor and outdoor activities like drawing sessions, coloring sessions, lemon spoon race and musical chair. Parents were invited to witness their wards actively participate in the activities. Students had also prepared cultural performance, such as group dance, group songs which they performed for their parents. Parents were informed about their child's progress in FLIP class and improvement made by each of them as compared to the baseline. The purpose of Bal Mela was to engage the students in cultural and physical activities for their personal growth and development and also to motivate their parents in sending their children to school regularly. School teachers, SMC members and the youth group collaborated with RAF Global to organize these educational fairs. 2330 students and 610 parents and the School Management Committee members participated in the Bal Mela.

D. Science Activity Centres

RAF Global has set up two Science Activity Centres – one, at Jaisalmer in Government Girls' High School and second, at Porbandar in Bakharla Primary School, benefitting more than 3000 students. This kind of centre is a first at both the districts. It has been set up with a technical collaboration with Vikram A Sarabhai Community Science Centre.

In Jaisalmer, it was inaugurated by the District Collector of Jaisalmer, Ms Tina Dabi, in the presence of the Chief District Education Officer and other Senior Government officials. The collector appreciated the efforts of RAF Global and encouraged the concerned officials to ensure the accessibility of students to the centre.

The centre works on a Hub and Spoke model for the rest of the schools. It is equipped with various models and Do It Yourself activities, to engage the students from classes 6– 10, so that they develop an interest in science subjects.

E. Training of Government School Science Teachers

RAF Global in India organised a two-day training session for the Government School Science Teachers at Kisani Devi Magni Ram Government Girls School in Jaisalmer in collaboration with the District Administration. A team from Vikram Sarabhai Science Centre – Ahmedabad provided the technical support by

facilitating the sessions to 26 Science Teachers from 23 schools. The teachers were identified by the CDEO (Chief District Education Officer).

The sessions included a detailed explanation and DIY activities, covering biology, physics, chemistry, rocketry science and astronomy. The activities were aimed at providing hands-on experience to the teachers and broaden their knowledge on various ways to make the concepts easier for the students. The training also focused on equipping them to use the model setup at the Science Activity Centre (SAC) at Jaisalmer.

Positive feedback on the training programme was provided by the participating teachers. They shared that for the first time they attended a training programme with so much interest and passion. The practical and interactive approach was appreciated by them all.

Post the training, a resource group, consisting of 6 teachers, was formed, who were from the neighbouring schools. These teachers would take the lead in bringing the students from their schools to visit the SAC and conduct the sessions with them on various topics.

F. Career Counselling Seminars

RAF Global in collaboration with the District Administration organized Career Guidance Seminar for the students of class 9 and 10 at Government Girls School in Jaisalmer in Rajasthan on 15th February, 2023. The seminar was organized under the banner of "Jaisaan Shakti" – an initiative of District Administration of Jaisalmer.

The seminar was attended by several dignitaries from the administration, including CMHO, CDEO, SSA director and Jaisaan Shakti Director. The seminar was facilitated by external subject expert and in-house resource person. 300 girls participated in the seminar. The seminar was designed to provide students with an overview of career and selecting Grade 11 subjects as per their aptitude and interest. The resource persons also discussed the benefits and career opportunities that science can offer, as it is seen that students, especially girls are not encouraged to take the Science Stream in the district as it is seen as a male-dominant field.

Another such seminar was organised in Porbandar at the district level, where students from six schools participated from Grades 10 to 12 and interacted peers from different schools.

Another workshop was also organised - Connecting to Career - for the college students at Junagadh. The workshop was mainly focused on the various types of soft skills required for job-readiness. Sessions covered the major requirements for job readiness such as resume development, effective communication, body language, confidence building, interview tips, self-motivation, team work, public speaking and other soft skills facilitated by the in-house expert.

Overall, 7 career guidance seminars/workshops were organized during the year with, involving 692 students.

G. Preparation Classes for the Girl Aspirants

In Porbandar in Gujarat, RAF Global started preparation classes for the girl aspirants for competitive exams. 35 girls were enrolled for the 2-month class facilitated by subject experts. It is an effort to facilitate the girls to provide a platform so that they could prove their mettle in the society.

H. School Improvement Programme

RAF Global supported the Gram Panchayat of Maliya Hatina of Junagadh district in the construction of Gram Panchayat Girls High School. On the occasion of the 75th Independence Day of our country, the newly constructed school building was inaugurated by the Gram Panchayat Sarpanch of Maliya Hatina, Shri. Jitubhai Sisodiya. The school has the strength of 230 girl students from Grades 9 and 10 and, RAF Global takes pride in enabling the girls to have an access to a safe environment for education.

At Barmer, in the state of Rajasthan, the catchment area of the school tanka was re-constructed to enable the students to have access to drinking water. A handpump was also fixed at the tanka, keeping in mind the safety of the children.

In the Eastern region's, East Singhbhum district (state of Jharkhand), two schools in the Potka block namely, 'Project +2 Girls High School, Potka' and 'Upgraded +2 High School Manpur, Potka' were identified for the infrastructure and other facilities upgradation, to provide a good environment to avail academic advancement for the students. Here, RAF Global has supported the schools with benches, white boards, pipeline connections in the toilets, inverter for online education and computer class. Because of the support, student enrolment has improved drastically and the reputation of these schools have enhanced in the block. Compared to last year, the performance of the students has also improved. State of the Art Library and Laboratory setup is in progress in these schools.

I. Building School Readiness of the Anganwadi children

RAF Global in India has also endeavoured to orient the Village Facilitators (VFs) in project locations on the basics of the Early Child Development and has capacitated them on the sessions to be taken for the Anganwadi children of age 4 and 5. The sessions by Village Facilitators aims to develop motor and cognitive skills of the children. These efforts in totality, seek to build school readiness of the Anganwadi children.



5

GOOD GOVERNANCE

Under its Good Governance Programme, RAF Global in India has sought to promote citizen's access to services and entitlements and strengthening e-governance so as to ensure access to information for the target communities. In line with this objective, a series of Camps have been organized across the intervention villages such as access to Social Security Schemes, Widow pension, Awas Yojana, Enrolment of Aadhar card, Ayushman Bharat Yojana, etc. These camps have been organised in coordination with the Common Service Centres (CSCs).

KEY INTERVENTIONS

A. Common Service Centers (CSCs)

RAF Global in the western region of India has supported 4 CSCs in Porbandar, Barmer and Junagadh districts. RAF Global intends to strengthen the CSCs infrastructurally and technically so that these could help the community members in getting linked with the schemes and entitlements. The camps organised by the Citizen Leaders were in coordination with these CSCs who helped the community members with the documentation and online application processes. This ensured that each of the community members who are eligible for the identified schemes are linked and benefitted. 520 people have thus benefitted from the CSCs through these interventions.

B. Camps on Government Schemes

Local youth have been identified from the project intervention villages and they were trained on selected Government schemes to organise camps on these schemes in their respective villages. 40 youth participated and were trained on four main Government Schemes namely, E-Shram Card, Ayushman Bharat Yojana, PM Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana and PM Shram Yogi Mandhan Yojana. They were trained about all the nitty-gritties of these schemes – who could benefit from these schemes, how can one apply for it, what are the benefits etc. The participants were also capacitated on how to organise a camp in their villages so that the eligible community members could get linked to these schemes and avail all the benefits. This was an

effort to build human assets in the village itself so that they could ensure that Government schemes reach even the last mile.

21 Government scheme camps were thus organized in the intervention villages in Junagadh and Porbandar districts through which 751 people got enrolled in various schemes. SHG members were also facilitated to get linked with the schemes like Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY), Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana, Mukhya Mantri Mahila Utkarsh Yojana and Atal Pension Yojana. More than 100 SHG women were linked with these schemes.

C. Micro Planning Process

As part of the micro planning process, the youth group of Zadka village at Maliya Hatina block in Junagadh and Aniyari village in Porbandar were oriented on the need-based planning exercise. The focus during the orientation was to capacitate the core team, which includes 20 members, on need identification process.

After the training, the core team identified the major issues in their villages. Based on the need-based exercise and discussions, they submitted the development plan to the Gram Panchayat. The plan included key issues identified during the ward wise need identification survey, such as house hold soak pit for grey water, health room for health workers, check dam repairing, waste collection and dumping point in the village etc. The Panchayat agreed to include these points in the Village Plan in the Gram Sabha.

D. Webinar

As part of its Webinar series, the Western region team of RAF Global organised a webinar on 16th February 2023 on “Role of Panchayat, School and Community in Creating Child Centric Environment”. The webinar was facilitated by renowned speakers – Mr. Rajesh Bhat (Managing Trustee of Swapath Trust), Ms. Parul Sheth (Co-Founder of Shaishav) and Mr. Yuvraj Singh Gohil (Award-winning teacher and Principal). The webinar had participation of more than 130 people from across the country including students from TISS, NGOs, CSRs, Panchayat members, SMC members and teachers. The three sessions emphasised on the role of Panchayat, teachers and community in creating a child-centric environment. It also focused on ways in which children could participate in the governance.

E. Capacity Building of the Field Team

The Western region team organized a 2-day training of the field team members on April 29th and 30th, 2022 at Maliya Block in Junagadh district in Gujarat. The training was attended by all the field team members of Junagadh and Porbandar teams. There were 12 participants in total. The training was

facilitated by the Regional Head of the Western Region, Mr. Tapas Satpathy; and one session on Self-Help Group was facilitated by the Regional Programme Manager, Ms. Minu Marydas. The purpose of the training was to capacitate the team members on the concept of Governance and Self-Help Groups. The training also focused on the strategy and processes for the new financial year as per the annual plan. The training helped the team members to clarify all their doubts with regard to the Annual Plan and helped to worked on a strategy to implement the plans. It also helped them to bond with each other and help each other in planning the activities under each theme.



6

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

RAF Global has worked proactively in its response to emergency situations in India. In the past, it has supported Central and state Government initiatives, besides working directly with volunteers, inter-agency networks and local administration for a coordinated response in order to provide life-saving assistance. Primacy is accorded to addressing the needs of women, girls, the specially-abled, elderly and other vulnerable groups to ensure that appropriate and timely relief support reaches them to alleviate their suffering.

During the monsoon of 2022, when heavy rainfall and devastating floods in the Porbandar and Junagadh districts of Gujarat took away shelter from many families, RAF Global team was quick to respond with initial surveys across all the intervention villages to assess the damages. Eligibility criteria were set for selecting the beneficiaries. 10 families were shortlisted from each of the district based on the criteria ie the individual/family should be from a marginalised community and, should not be listed under PMAY or any other Government scheme on housing relief. Preference was given to the single-woman headed household, and Individual/family had to be listed with the Panchayat and the Village Committee. Total of 12 houses were therefore either repaired or re-constructed.

The list of the shortlisted families and individuals were shared with the concerned Government officials who confirmed that none of the shortlisted were enlisted in any of the housing schemes. Community validation were also carried out, involving the Sarpanch also. RAF Global involved the community to contribute labour and other kind, such as their tractors and autos to transport the materials for the work, etc in this humanitarian rehabilitation endeavour. During the community meetings, additional list was also made, listing the families whose economic condition is worse and need to be covered under PMAY. RAF Global asked the Sarpanch to facilitate the families in the document completion process and include the remaining identified families under PMAY.

OUR REACH

Program Theme	Program Component	Nature of Activity	Expansion & Direct Beneficiaries
EILSWY	Financial Inclusion	SHGs Formed/ Revived	130 SHGs
		SHGs linked with Bank	160 SHGs
		SHGs given training sessions	185 SHGs
		Handholding support to Village organisations (VO)	12 VOs
		Handholding support to Federation	1 Federation
		SHGs linked with NRLM, RAJEEVIKA,	160 SHGs
		Total Number of SHGs	394 SHGs
		Total Number of SHG women	4447
		Number of women given Social Enterprise Fund for economic activities	12
	Skill Building	Linkage with Govt. Vocational Training Institute (SBI-RSETI/ other private institutions), Jharkhand Livelihood Promotion Society	Total 108 beneficiaries (W:92, Y: 16)
		Number of Skill Development Centres Initiated	5
	Total number of beneficiaries of various skill training	86	
Climate Smart Agriculture	Promoting Organic Farming	Number of vermi units	4
		Number of farmers with active vermi beds	60
		Training of farmers on organic farming	159
		Training of students on organic farming & exposure to FRCs	160

Program Theme	Program Component	Nature of Activity	Expansion & Direct Beneficiaries
Climate Smart Agriculture	Kitchen Gardening	Number of active kitchen gardens	108
	Farmer Resource Centre	Demo sites for promoting Organic farming	3
	Linkage with Government Agricultural schemes	Number of farmers linked with Government agricultural schemes	27
Health & Nutrition Initiative	WASH	No. of school children made aware on Health & Hygiene	1136
		No. of women made aware on Health and Hygiene (as well as anaemia and menstruation)	1853
	Tanka Improvement (catchment repair/reconstruction)	No. of people benefited from 112 individual tanka improvement	386
		No. of people benefited from 2 community tanka improvement	60
	Collaboration for Health System Improvement	No. of people who donated blood in camps	157
		No. of people screened for cataract	1030 (including those operated ie 244)
		No. of people who participated in Thalassemia Awareness camps	185
		No. of people who participated in Female Health camp	469
		No. of people screened for Anaemia	974
		No. of people who participated in Village campaign	444
		No. of students who participated in Bal Poshan Mela	1966
	Education & Technology Program	Bridging the Learning Deficit	FLIP Centres
		No. of students enrolled in FLIP intervention with Primary schools	627

Program Theme	Program Component	Nature of Activity	Expansion & Direct Beneficiaries
Education & Technology Program	Improving classroom learning: Conceptual understanding & Science application	Initiation of Science Activity Centre	2 Hub Centres initiated
		No. of students benefiting from Science Activity Centres	559
	Improving Activity based Learning & stakeholder participation in schools	Bal Mela organised	25
		No. of students participated in Bal Mela	2330
		No. of parents & School Management Committee (SMC) members participated in Bal Mela	610
	Guiding students for career through appropriate course selection	No. of Career Counselling programmes	7
		No. of student participants of career counselling programmes	692
		Competitive Exam preparedness for Girl students	35
	School Improvement Program	Expansion of G.P Girls' High School (Maliya, Junagadh district)	230 girl students
		Infrastructure Development & Facilities improvement at 2 Government schools (Potka, E.Singhbhum district)	880
Good Governance Program	Citizen's Access to Services and Entitlements	No. of Common Service Centres supported by RAF Global	4
		No. of people benefited through CSCs	520
		No. of people enrolled/ linked with Government institutions & depts. through camps etc	851

Total number of direct beneficiaries = 21,169 

Indirectly, RAF Global in India has reached over 30,000 people who have benefited from one or more programmes.



Bal Mela at Anganwadi Centre, Barmer



CASE STORIES



Economic Integration and Livelihood Support for Women and Youth

CASE 1: Social Enterprise Fund gives wings to Vanitaben's Entrepreneurial Journey



Vanitaben at her chicken shop

Vanitaben Hiteshbhai Makwana, resident of a slum area in Rana Kandorana village of Porbandar district, Gujarat is a member of Dvarkadhish Mahila Mandal. She runs a chicken meat shop from her house. Earlier, she purchased chicken from the wholesale vendor on loan as she did not have enough money to purchase the materials. She was therefore forced to purchase less material, and this resulted in less profit.

When she heard of the Social Enterprise Fund given by RAF Global during the SHG meeting, she immediately applied for it. Her proposal was considered and shortlisted by the SHG and RAF Global. She was given a refundable grant of Rs.15,840/- which was routed through her SHG for 12 months, without interest. She has utilised the money by purchasing the required materials for her shop and is running in a good profit. She has even started repaying the instalments to the SHG.

CASE 2: Champaben's Victory against odds

Champaben Mansukhbhai Makwana, a resident of Punjapara Dhar of Rana Kandorana village in Porbandar district, used to run a vegetable cart around Porbandar city, along with her husband Mansukhbhai. Suddenly, one day her husband became ill, and was on complete bedrest. Even after two months, there were no signs of improvement and all her savings were spent on his treatment. During the time, she could not go for vegetable selling. This was a very hard time for her family.

Champaben had to re start her business to make the ends meet. Through Social Enterprise Fund, she received Rs 15,000/- with which she started her business of selling vegetables and is now financially stable.



Champaben with her vegetable cart

CASE 3: Jyotiben's Inspiring Story of Transformation through SHG



Jyotiben facilitating the SHG meeting

Jyotiben Makwana belongs to Punjapara Dhar area in Rana Kandorana village of Porbandar district. She was a homemaker at the beginning of the year. In August 2022, she became a part of the SHG formed by RAF Global and was elected its President. This was a turning point in her life.

She was trained by RAF Global on SHG norms and practices which she used to pass on to her fellow SHG members during the meetings. She slowly inculcated leadership skills through her actions and words. She realised the importance of SHGs and formed

5 new SHGs and linked them with the banks. During this process, her leadership skills were seen. A woman who was hesitant to even speak in front of men in her village, has now gained confidence and meets the Government officials at the block level on a regular basis for the work related to SHGs. She also applied for Social Enterprise Fund to start an earning of her own. She has taken an agricultural land on rent in which she has started cultivating watermelon and other crops. So now she has become an agricultural entrepreneur and a strong SHG Leader.

CASE 4: RAF Global's Humanitarian Response in Gujarat: Restoring Dignity through secured Housing- I

Munghiben Ramabhai Vadher is single women hailing from Samadhiyala village of Maliya Hatina, Junagadh. She lives alone and doesn't work as she is differently-abled.

Mughiben's house was completely damaged due to heavy rain during the monsoon. Her house was not in a living condition. During the community meeting organised by RAF Global, the Sarpanch and the villagers realised her condition and decided to shift her to a safe house on a temporary basis, till her house got re-constructed. The impact of the community meeting was that the villagers realised the urgent need of constructing the house and agreed to contribute their labour for free. They also contributed stones and cement for the work.

After the work, she shifted back to her home. She is relieved and very happy to see her house in a good shape. The Sarpanch, Dineshbhai, shared that he is grateful for RAF Global's efforts in repairing and reconstructing the houses of the most marginalised families in the village as these are the families who were not covered in any housing scheme.



CASE 5: RAF Global's Humanitarian Response in Gujarat: Restoring Dignity through secured Housing -II



Dhudhiben with her renovated house

Dudhiben Rambhai Makwana of Porbandar was found living in a poor condition in a 50-year-old house, which was damaged heavily during the monsoon. Her son is mentally differently-abled.

As a Humanitarian Response, RAF Global team reached out to her. She was living in a deplorable condition. The team called a community meeting to take up the issue. The community came forward to construct the house and offered free labour. Dudhiben is relieved and very happy to live in her re-constructed house. She is free from the fear of living in a house that would collapse anytime.

Climate Smart Agriculture

CASE 6: Advocating for Organic Kitchen Gardening and Household Nutrition: Manjuben's Story



Manjuben Majethiya lives with her family in Maliya block's Gadodar village, in Junagadh district of Gujarat. She is actively engaged with her Self-Help Group for the past 6 years. She participated in one of the trainings of RAF Global on organic farming. Since then, she had been growing organic vegetables.

Manjuben was also given kitchen garden kit. She has been so inspired by the concept of kitchen gardening that she has been promoting it in her village to her fellow SHG members. She shares that the kitchen garden has been impactful for her family and has proved to be cost-effective. She grows eggplant, chilli, tomatoes, papaya, cabbage, onion etc.

Health and Nutrition initiatives (HNI)

CASE 6: Making Life Liveable in Thar Desert Region: RAF Global's Investments in Rainwater Harvesting Structures- I



Before Re-construction work

Samaram, a 75-year-old, lives in Indra Nagar village at Barmer district in Rajasthan. His family has eight members – 5 males and 3 females. One of his sons is employed at the mining site for about 15 days a month which is not enough to provide for the family. It is mainly Samaram's Senior Citizen pension which sustains the family of 8 and results in their food security. Samaram supplements this with livestock- 4 goats through which he earns Rs. 8,000/- annually. He also owns land that is used for subsistence agriculture for 3 months, provided the crops get sufficient rains during the monsoon.

The tanka used by the family was constructed in 2009-10, with the catchment size of 6ft. The catchment area got damaged within 3 years due to which the rainwater could not get collected in the tanka as per its maximum potential.

With the re-construction of the catchment area of the sump tank, he will now save Rs. 4,000/- spent on buying the water. During the monsoon this year, the tanka got filled and now it has 12 ft of water, instead of 3ft water, which was the case before the re-construction. Now, he has secured safe water for drinking and domestic use for approximately 7 to 8 months, as compared to previous times. RAF Global also increased the catchment area considerably. The storage capacity of the tank has therefore increased.



During Re-construction work



During Re-construction work



After Re-construction work

CASE 7: Making Life Liveable in Thar Desert Region: RAF Global's Investments in Rainwater Harvesting Structures- II



Before Re-construction work

Chauthidevi, a 65-year-old, lives in Saranu Bhimji village at Barmer district in Rajasthan. Her family has thirteen members – 3 males and 10 females. One of her sons work in the mining site, however he gets work for only 15 days a month. Due to unstable income and many members in the family, it often becomes difficult to feed everyone. She has 6 goats through which she earns Rs. 12,000/- annually. A patch of land provides her family millets for 7 months.

The tanka used by the family was constructed in 2011-12, with the catchment size of 3ft. The catchment area got damaged in 4 years due to which the rainwater could not get collected in the tanka as per its maximum potential.



After Re-construction work

With the re-construction of the catchment area of the sump tank, she will now save Rs. 5000/- spent on buying the water. During the monsoon this year, the tanka got filled and now it has 10 ft of water i.e., 25,000, instead of 3ft water, which was the case before the re-construction. Now she would be able to get water for 7-8 months, as compared to 2 months before the re-construction.

CASE 8: A young Village Facilitator energises a Desert community to improve Human Development Indices: Tabu's Story



Tabu resides at Indra Colony Village in Barmer District in Rajasthan. She is a 26-year-old woman who has studied till 12th standard. She is a mother of two children and lives with her husband and children. She was selected as a

Village Facilitator (VF) in 2022 by RAF Global to facilitate the planned interventions in her village.

Tabu's husband migrates for 6-7 months in a year to the neighbouring districts to work as a labourer. Apart from his income, their livelihood depends on the 4 bigha of land in which they grow Bajra provided they are blessed with good rain.

Tabu had been working with RAF Global as a Village Facilitator for past one year, and was mainly involved in facilitating FLIP sessions for the students across primary grades, who were identified with learning deficit. She also facilitated sessions at Anganwadi centre, preparing the children for school readiness. Tabu worked towards the strengthening of Self-Help groups and formed 5 new SHGs in her village. She supported in organising female

health camp in her village, and mobilised women and girls to avail the facility of the camp.

After working towards the development of her village, Tabu has gained self-confidence. She shared that earlier she used to shy away from public space. But today she can speak without any hesitation in front of 50-60 women. She has also become a recognisable face in the village. Tabu has established her own identity in the village. She dreams of collectivising more and more women in her village, and facilitates them to earn a living.

Tabu shares that her work as a Village Facilitator was definitely not an easy one. Due to geographical distance between the houses in the village, she used to find it difficult to roam around in the village alone, to organise and mobilise women for meetings and camps. The communication and transportation within the village was a great challenge for her. Apart from this, she had to face unnecessary comments from the villagers as she was engaged in work. However, despite all these challenges, she never gave up. These challenges only made her stronger, and now she continues to work in the village with even more zeal and passion.



Meeting of Village Volunteers in Gujarat



EVENTS

World Health Day: Our Planet, Our Health

World Health Day was celebrated on 7th April 2022 in Junagadh and Porbandar districts emphasizing on the theme - "Our Planet, Our Health". More than 120 SHG members gathered in three villages to mark the importance of the day. Sessions were organized, focusing on the importance of healthy life and planet for the benefit of the future generations. Discussions revolved around maintaining hygiene at home and the neighbourhood and how SHG members could contribute to it. Dr. Prashant Dabhi, MD of Thakor hospital in Porbandar was called as the resource person to lead the discussions. RAF Global in India planned many more initiatives on Health and Hygiene during the year, to keep up the enthusiasm and spirit of leading a "Healthy Life" among the SHG members.

Environment Day Celebration

RAF Global in India organized an orientation workshop on 6th June for the farmers on Organic Farming and process of Vermicomposting at the Vermicompost Unit at Porbandar. This workshop had 32 participants. As Environment Day fell on 5th June, the team linked the workshop with the importance of Environment Day. The theme of Environment Day 2022 - "Living Sustainably in Harmony with Nature" – is very much in line with the

interventions of RAF Global.

Practical demonstrations on vermicomposting enabled a deeper understanding on the process. Testimonials by the organic farmers added more value to the purpose of the workshop. The farmers were made to realize the importance of acknowledging everything that the environment has given and protecting it for future generation.

Similarly, in Barmer district in Rajasthan, a focussed group discussion was organized involving 50 participants. The families whose catchment areas had been re-constructed this year were present along with the village committee members. The purpose of such discussion was to highlight the ways of maintaining the tanks before and during the monsoon season and storing the rainwater so that the families get safe water for household consumption. As Rajasthan faces drought very often, it becomes essential to ensure that maximum rainwater gets stored, without exploiting the environment. Emphasis was also given on maintaining hygiene around the tanks so as to prevent various diseases.



International Women's Day

RAF Global in India had setup a Skill Development Centre in Porbandar and Junagadh in October 2022 which focused on skilling the women by training them on Beauty and Wellness and Tailoring. The first batch at both the centres completed the course and their graduation ceremony was organised in March 2023. The ceremony was organised along with a seminar on "Women as Entrepreneurs" in Junagadh and Porbandar, giving more importance to Woman's Day celebration. The speakers emphasised on the importance of women's presence in entrepreneurial sector. Along with the seminar, the students of Skill Development Centres

were given certificates for completing the course on Tailoring and Beauty & Wellness. At Junagadh, the graduated students put up an Exhibition of their stitched materials like lehenga, suit, tops, frocks for kids etc. which was appreciated by all the attendees.

In East Singhbhum district, International Women's Day was celebrated in Digarsai village, under Hensal Amda Panchayat, Block Potka. During this event, the field team discussed about the importance of international women's day, how girls' education is important, information on various Government schemes and shared all the toll-free numbers for women and child helpline.

FINANCIALS

During the financial year 2022-23, RAF Global in India had a remarkable phase of programme expansion in the states of Gujarat and Rajasthan, while in the state of Jharkhand, the Education and Technology Programme (ETP) as well as, the sustainable livelihood programme namely, Economic Integration and Livelihood Support for Women and Youth (EILSWY) was given a new visibility and thrust.

The highest investment across programmes was in the area of Education and Technology Programme, in the state of Gujarat. That the FLIP centres are making deep impact in bridging the learning deficits is a testimony of the nurturing they have received, in terms of resources. Gujarat also tops the resources utilised in the sustainable livelihoods programme. The state of Rajasthan tops the investment in Health and Nutrition Initiative (HNI) programme. In the state of Jharkhand, focus has been on working with the Government system to fix the gaps in the Education sector. The investments are poised to grow in the state, following the programme growth.

Overall, in the FY 2022-23, RAF Global in India has invested significant resources in the Health and Education sector, followed by sustainable livelihoods. It is heartening also to see under the Climate Smart Agriculture programme how low-cost strategies are bringing a shift to organic farming practices, among farmers in the state of Gujarat. The Good Governance programme that is built around utilising Government platforms, has made a promising start in the state of Rajasthan and renewal in the state of Gujarat.

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A Gynaecology camp in Porbandar



School students of Manpur high School, Jharkhand with a team member of RAF Global in India



Anaemia Screening Camp, in Gujarat.



Inauguration of Mahila Kaushalya Kendra, Junagadh



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