



# Annual Report

## India

(April 2023-March 2024)



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# Message from the Chairman



I am very happy to present the Annual Report for the financial year 2023-24. This year has been pivotal for RAF Global as we advanced our mission to uplift impoverished communities, especially in remote rural areas of India. Our unwavering dedication to improving the quality of life in these communities has enabled our multi-sectoral programmes to reach unprecedented depths and expanses.

Empowering women remains the cornerstone of our initiatives. RAF Global actively promotes self-help groups in rural communities of India to foster community development and inclusive growth, aiming to create sustainable, positive change, that benefits all members of society.

Infrastructure and resources are pivotal for India's development, especially in rural areas where majority of its population resides. RAF Global is dedicated to enhancing community infrastructure and resources, exemplified by the establishment of

the Thalassemia Wellness Centre for children at GMERS Hospital in Junagadh, Gujarat. This initiative underscores our commitment to improving healthcare infrastructure and accessibility for those in need, with plans to replicate this model in other regions to expand our impactful interventions. Additionally, we are in advanced discussions to establish a Horticulture Resource Centre in Barmer district, following the successful implementation of a similar model in Junagadh during the review period. These resource centres aim to strengthen local agricultural practices, provide essential resources, and ultimately improve the livelihoods of the communities we serve. Our dedication to promoting scientific innovation is evident through the establishment of science activity centres, the organisation of science fairs, and the provision of resources to under-resourced science laboratories in government schools. These initiatives are crucial in fostering a culture of scientific inquiry and creativity among young students.

Looking ahead, we remain committed to expanding our initiatives and extending our reach to positively impact more lives. I extend my deepest gratitude to our partners, supporters, and dedicated team members who have made these achievements possible. Together, we will continue to innovate, inspire, and transform lives across regions, striving for a brighter, healthier, and more inclusive future for all.

**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 six countries. It works with the most marginalised individuals, families, and communities in the poorest areas of Asia and Africa to improve their 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 lasting change. In pursuit of its mission, RAF Global endeavours to make long-term, strategic and systemic investment around the key sectors of health, nutrition, education, and sustainable livelihoods along with advancing good governance at the subnational level.

## 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.



# RAF Global in India

Operational since 2015, RAF Global is registered in India under section 8 of the Indian Companies Act, 2013. It implements a wide array of long-term and comprehensive projects in districts of Gujarat, Rajasthan and Jharkhand, across livelihood, public health, nutrition, water and sanitation, education, and good governance. In the western region, the focus districts are Junagadh and Porbandar (Gujarat), Barmer, Balotra and Jaisalmer (Rajasthan). In the eastern region, East Singhbhum in Jharkhand is the primary focus district.

64 per cent of India's population lives in its villages<sup>1</sup>. Approximately 70 per cent of rural households in India are primarily dependent on agriculture and its allied sectors<sup>2</sup>. In addition, the country's agricultural sector plays a crucial role in the livelihoods of rural women, employing about 80 per cent of them<sup>3</sup>.

Given this context, India, which is not only the seventh largest country by land area but also one of the fastest-growing economies globally<sup>4</sup>, presents unique challenges and opportunities in its rural regions. RAF Global strategically targets the most remote and rural areas of the country, focusing on empowering the agrarian sector and rural communities, with a particular emphasis on supporting women.

Self-help groups have emerged as a powerful social tool in all of RAF Global's programmes, facilitating participation and empowerment among rural populations. The groups serve as an effective medium for mobilising and organising community members, particularly women, to participate in a range of developmental initiatives. By strategically integrating women into SHGs, the programmes extend multiple benefits to them, thereby establishing a foundational basis for qualitative improvements in their lives. This holistic approach not only empowers women but also strengthens the social fabric of rural communities, fostering their overall well-being and socio-economic status.

The organisation 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 state governments, international NGOs, and Civil Society Organisations for convergence and optimal utilisation of resources, in keeping with its commitment towards effective and meaningful partnerships.

<sup>1</sup> World Bank. *Rural population (% of the total population) - India*. (Accessed on 4 July 2024) <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.RUR.TOTL.ZS?locations=IN>

<sup>2</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United States. FOA in India. *India at a glance*. (Accessed on 4 July 2024) <https://www.fao.org/india/fao-in-india/india-at-a-glance/en/>

<sup>3</sup> National Portal Of India. NITI AYOG. *Rural Women: Key to New India's Agrarian Revolution*. 3 March 2022. <https://www.niti.gov.in/rural-women-key-new-indias-agrarian-revolution>

<sup>4</sup> Food and Agriculture Organization of the United States. FOA in India. *India at a glance*. (Accessed on 4 July 2024) <https://www.fao.org/india/fao-in-india/india-at-a-glance/en/>



# Overview 2023-2024

RAF Global's interventions in India have laid strong emphasis on strengthening systems of education and public health, aimed at improving quality of public services to influencing the quality of life for communities. RAF Global is engaged in skilling youth for a range of trade, and in further supporting them to navigate finance and the market for income generation. Capacity building of farmers and providing supportive mechanisms for enabling their shift to organic farming have been growing areas of work. Rainwater harvesting in the Thar desert region of Barmer for improving access to drinking water, and linking women's self-help collectives with banks and government schemes for livelihood support have also been areas of engagement in India. Foundational Learning Improvement Programme has been carried out with children, to build a strong, age appropriate base in language, numeracy, comprehension and creativity at the elementary level, endeavouring smooth transition to higher classes, and addressing school dropout due to learning deficits.

RAF Global has facilitated infrastructural growth during the review period. It established a Horticulture Resource Centre at the Farmer Resource Centre in Junagadh, which was inaugurated in 2022-23. The Centre is a unique facility within the region, dedicated to advancing horticultural and organic farming practices while also providing essential support to local farmers. In the health sector, RAF Global has established a state-of-the-art Paediatric Thalassemia Wellness Centre at Gujarat Medical Education and Research Society Hospital in Junagadh, to help provide specialised medical care and comprehensive support services to children affected by thalassemia.






# Programme Locations in India

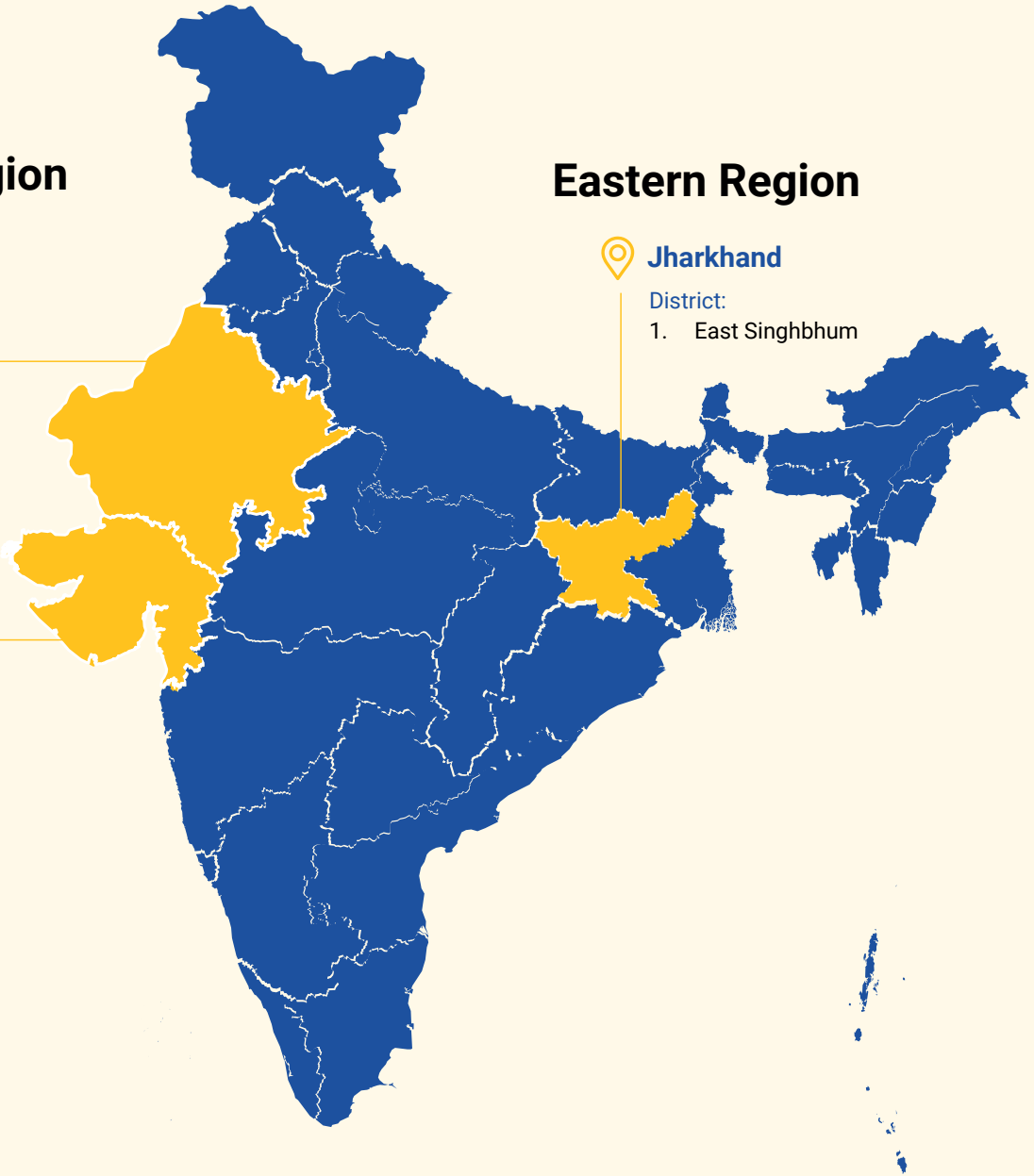
## Western Region

## Eastern Region

-  **Rajasthan**
- District:
1. Barmer
  2. Balotra
  3. Jaisalmer

-  **Gujarat**
- District:
1. Junagadh
  2. Porbandar






-  **Jharkhand**
- District:
1. East Singhbhum



## The year in review

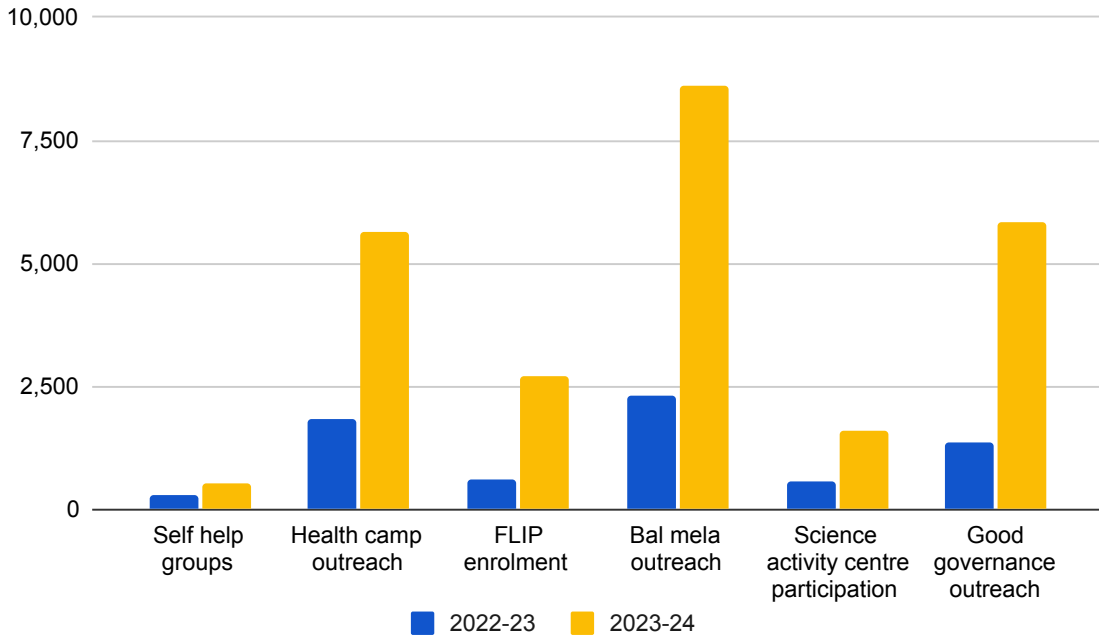
During the review period, RAF Global significantly expanded its outreach across its five key programme areas, achieving four-fold growth in outreach from 21,169 people in 2022-23 to 85,207 in 2023-24. Improving healthcare services and infrastructure represented 41 per cent of the total outreach. Of the total number of people reached, women comprised 60 per cent. Furthermore, in its commitment to promoting holistic well-being and qualitative improvement, RAF Global ensured 46 per cent people benefited from participation in two or more programme activities.

The adjoining table shows the spread of its impact to the community through one or more programmes.

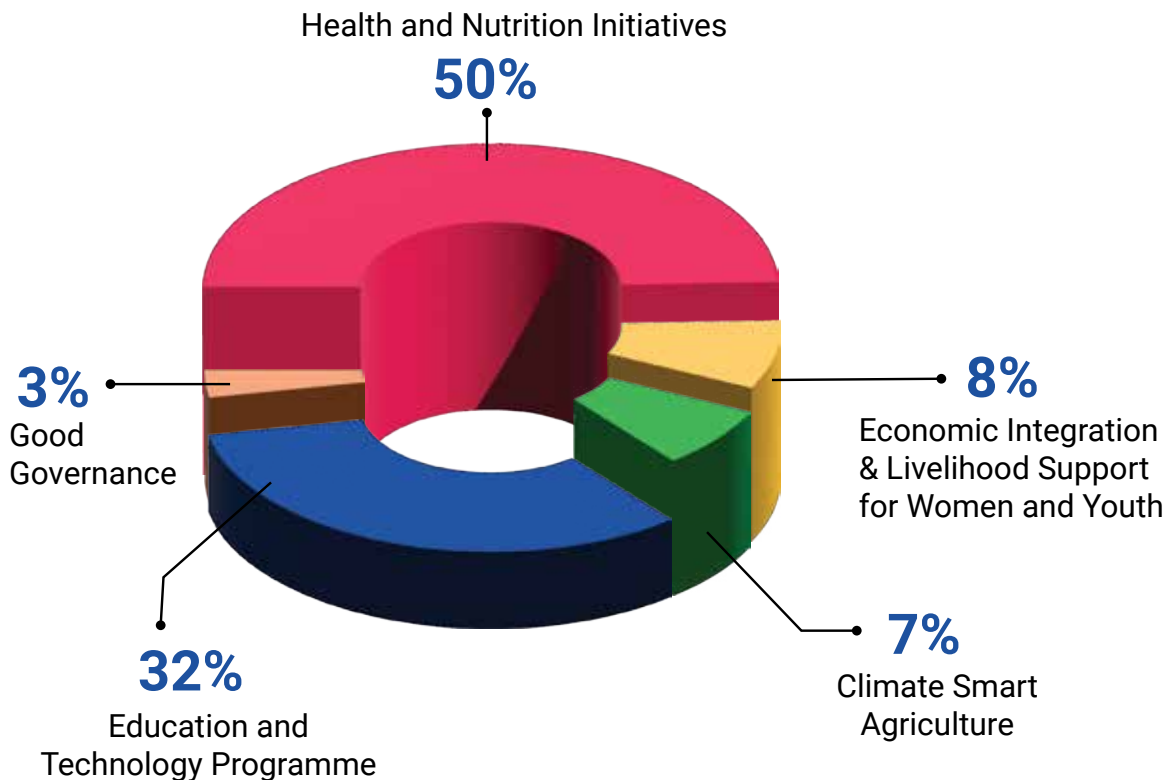
Programmes	No. of persons reached	Of them, proportion of people who have benefited from other programmes as well
 Health and Nutrition Initiatives	55,823	45%
 Economic Integration & Livelihood Support for Women and Youth	6,143	93%
 Climate Smart Agriculture	1,074	39%
 Education and Technology Programme	16,333	36%
 Good Governance	5,834	24%

There has been notable increase in the outreach by RAF Global in India, from 2022-23 to 2023-24, as depicted here. Further, the year witnessed the introduction of a new initiative aimed at enhancing the effective delivery of early childhood development across 95 *anganwadis*, enrolling 1,900 students in four programme districts in the western region.

### RAF Global's outreach - 2022-23 to 2023-24



### Investments across programmes





# Programme Account



## Health and Nutrition Initiatives

RAF Global made strategic interventions to improve the healthcare system in the rural parts of Porbandar, Junagadh, Barmer, and Jaisalmer, by mobilising the collective effort of government functionaries and building the capacity of local stakeholders. Key interventions during the review period included organising 57 health camps, improving services by way of essential items required at childbirth in five healthcare centres, and setting up a paediatric, thalassemia wellness centre. One health centre was supported for toilet construction. Additionally, RAF Global restored four underground, community, water tanks (*tanka*) and 200 individual household *tanka* in Barmer and Jaisalmer. These comprehensive efforts have bolstered healthcare services for 55,823 beneficiaries. Among them, 45 per cent people benefitted from participating in two or more initiatives of RAF Global. Of the total people reached out to, 60 per cent were women.

### Strengthening the healthcare system

#### Improving healthcare services and infrastructure

RAF Global provided essential medical items required for childbirth - delivery trays, delivery beds, and baby weight machines to sub-centres in four villages of Sam block (Jaisalmer) and to a community health centre in Barmer. Toilets were constructed in a sub-centre in Nimba village in Jaisalmer. These support services are expected to benefit 32,400 patients annually.



Health post in Zadka village

RAF Global constructed a health post in Zadka village of Maliya Hatina block (Junagadh) following a needs assessment conducted in collaboration with the *gram panchayat* and village members. During the review period, RAF Global initiated construction of a two-room health post with a toilet facility for ANM, ASHA workers, and other visiting health staff, who did not have an appropriate sitting area. The health post will benefit the 2,000 residents of Zadka village.

In Junagadh, RAF Global upgraded a Paediatric Thalassemia Wellness Centre at GMERS Hospital, to address the pressing issue of Thalassemia in the region. This state-of-the-art, 30-bed facility, featuring two air-conditioned wards with LED TVs, provided essential transfusion and therapy services, along with comprehensive counselling for children and their families, benefiting 250 children annually. The Centre comprises dedicated areas for a nursing station, pantry room, nursing rest room, play area with swings and toys, and a consultation room for doctors, all furnished with advanced medical facilities and infrastructure to enhance care and comfort. A similar model is in discussion for Porbandar and Barmer.



### Health camps

RAF Global conducted 57 health camps for 5,657 people in Porbandar, Junagadh, Barmer and Jaisalmer. Apart from general health camps, dedicated camps were organised for cataract, thalassemia, blood donation, and for women.



The cataract screening camps were organised in Junagadh in partnership with Shri Ranchoddasji Bapu Charitable Hospital. A total of 2,050 individuals were screened during these camps and among them, 450 individuals diagnosed with cataract were provided free cataract surgeries by the Hospital. The patients were also supported with post-operative care such as medicines, sunglasses and counselling sessions. In thalassemia screening and awareness camps, 577 students at MD Science College, Government Polytechnic & Vinayan College in Porbandar were educated on thalassemia and among them, 432 students participated in free blood test for HPLC (High Performance Liquid Chromatography). These camps were organised in association with the Red Cross Society.





In women’s health camps in Porbandar, Junagadh, Barmer and Jaisalmer districts, 1,155 adolescent girls and women were reached out to through free medical check-up and were sensitised on anaemia, its prevention and treatment. In 15 general health camps in Porbandar and Junagadh, medical check-up was extended to 1,090 individuals in rural communities.



785 people donated blood in donation camps in Porbandar, Junagadh and Jaisalmer. The camps were organised in collaboration with Asha Blood Bank (Porbandar), Shree Jawahar Chikitsalaya Blood Bank (Jaisalmer), local youth groups and police personnel. The collected blood is expected to directly benefit thalassemia affected children in the respective districts.



		Health camps conducted during the review period	
Western region	Cataract screening camps		10
	Thalassemia awareness and screening camps		6
	Blood donation camps		10
	General health camps		15
	Health camps for women		16

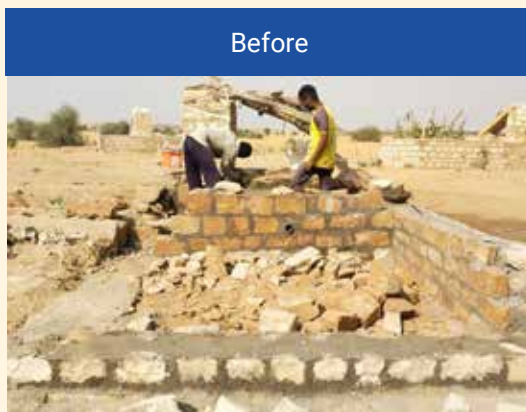


## Improving water and sanitation infrastructure

RAF Global restored 200 individual household *tanka* in Barmer and Jaisalmer and four community *tanka* in the same districts. The most impoverished families were selected with the help of village committees who could not afford to repair their *tanka*. This initiative has led to the possibility of safe water access for 2,044 individuals.



In **Lakhmano ki Basti**, Sam block of Jaisalmer, a traditional well has been transformed into a vital water source, benefitting 250 families across three villages. This initiative, part of RAF Global's mission to aid impoverished communities in the Thar desert region, focused on reviving traditional wells and defunct underground *tanka*.



Despite past community attempts to repair these water sources, limited resources led to malfunction, causing soil and sand deposits, and water leaks. Consequently, villagers resorted to buying expensive drinking water. With RAF Global's technical expertise and financial support, the *tanka* was successfully restored, providing safe drinking water and saving each household approximately INR 8,000-10,000<sup>5</sup> annually. Additionally, it has benefitted those who depend on livestock for their livelihood by providing water for cattle.

<sup>5</sup> INR 1 = USD0.012 (4 July 2024)



## Health education and strategic intervention

### Alkem Anaemia Mukti Abhiyan

RAF Global partnered with the Alkem Foundation under the AAMA project (Alkem Anemia Mukti Abhiyan) to raise awareness and work towards the goal of anaemia eradication in 95 villages across Gujarat and Rajasthan. During the review period, 10,053 people (86 per cent of whom were women) were tested for anaemia. Of the tested individuals, 44 per cent were found to be anaemic. The project employed a range of initiatives, such as capacity building and liaising workshops with government stakeholders at all administrative levels, along with village *panchayats*.

The workshops served to plan interventions at the field level with a range of stakeholders, especially Auxiliary Nurse and Midwife (ANM), Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHA) workers and *anganwadi* workers. Awareness campaigns were held in schools, villages, *anganwadis*, and among self-help groups. Interactive activities and events, such as *bal melas*, wall paintings, quiz sessions on nutrition, *godh bharai* ceremonies, and *mamata diwas* in *anganwadis* were used to engage and educate the community.





Under the AAMA project, awareness campaigns reached 3,076 women in *anganwadis* and among them 748 pregnant women were reached out to through *godh bhara*i at the *anganwadi*. A total of 8,600 students participated in *bal melas* while 4,200 women from self-help groups were reached out to, all under the AAMA project. During these activities, 525 nutritional kits were distributed to pregnant women, and 380 kitchen garden kits were provided to anaemic women. Consequently, 196 women who received kitchen garden kits were able to initiate their own gardens with support and regular follow-up of village facilitators. Grassroots workers, including village facilitators (*gram sakhis*), *anganwadi*, and ASHA workers, played a crucial role in these initiatives; 343 *anganwadi* and ASHA workers were trained to carry out their role. Additionally, 8,600 school students who participated in *bal melas* received education on anaemia through various interactive activities.



In partnership with the Health and Family Welfare Department, RAF Global organised district-level consultations in Jaisalmer, Barmer, and Junagadh to collaboratively work towards creating anaemia-free districts. The primary objective was to gather key stakeholders from the District Administration, including the Health and Family Welfare Department, Education Department, Integrated Child Development Scheme, for strategic planning. These consultations facilitated discussions on the roles of *panchayats*, media, and medical professionals in the campaign to eliminate anaemia.



Similarly, block-level consultations were conducted in collaboration with the respective Health Departments in five blocks of intervention states in the western region. Participants included village women, adolescent girls, ASHA workers, *anganwadi* workers, and ANMs, who shared their experiences to develop actionable plans. The consultations also highlighted the significance of community involvement and grassroots efforts in an effort to promote anaemia-free districts, promoting sustained engagement and support from all sectors of society.



**Dhanesha Manisha**, from Vadala village in Maliya Hatina block, faced severe health challenges due to anaemia. During the baseline survey under the AAMA project in April 2023, her haemoglobin (HB) level was alarmingly low at 9. She often felt tired and dizzy, especially when walking and standing for a long time. After RAF Global's intervention, Dhanesha regularly took iron-folic acid tablets and followed a nutritious diet. Thanks to close monitoring by village facilitators, her condition improved significantly. In November 2023, her HB level had risen to a healthy 13.5, eliminating her symptoms of physical weakness and dizziness. Dhanesha, in turn, inspired 200 women during a block-level consultation on, encouraging them to take proactive measures for their health, underscoring the importance of regular health monitoring, timely medical intervention, and community support.

Empowering communities under Alkem Anaemia Mukti Abhiyan		
Western region	Villages covered	95
	Number of village campaigns	205
	Women reached out through <i>anganwadis</i>	3,076
	Individuals diagnosed with anaemia	4,404
	Self-help group members' covered under anaemia awareness	4,200
	Students in <i>bal melas</i>	8,600
	<i>Anganwadi</i> and ASHA workers capacitated	343

### Menstrual hygiene and awareness

RAF Global actively engaged communities during the review period, focusing on menstrual hygiene education and related health issues. It reached out to 1,192 adolescent girls and 1,993 women across Gujarat and Rajasthan through a series of educational initiatives. These efforts were conducted via health camps, *anganwadi* and self-help group meetings, and awareness sessions in adolescent girls' groups. Concurrently, RAF Global initiated the formation of 40 adolescent girls' groups in 40 villages, from which 400 adolescents participated enthusiastically in various community awareness events organised.



## Outreach through Health and Nutrition Initiatives

Strengthening the healthcare system	
Improving healthcare services and infrastructure at healthcare centres	34,650
Health camps	5,657
Cataract surgeries	450
Improving water and sanitation infrastructure	
Revival of community <i>tanka</i> (underground water tanks)	640
Revival of individual <i>tanka</i>	1,404
Health education and strategic intervention	
Alkem Anaemia Mukti Abhiyan	26,672
Menstrual health and hygiene awareness	3,185







## Economic Integration & Livelihood Support for Women and Youth

In 2023-24, RAF Global concentrated its outreach in three key areas of economic integration and livelihood support for women and youth - strengthening self-help groups; skilling youth and women in income-generating trades; and, providing funds for new and existing start-ups. In the period under review, 6,143 individuals were reached through these initiatives. Almost all of them were women who also benefited from initiatives under other programmes.

### Strengthening self-help groups

In the review period, RAF Global facilitated the active functioning of 538 women's self-help groups (SHG) covering 436 groups in Gujarat and Rajasthan, and 102 groups in Jharkhand. In the western region (Gujarat and Rajasthan), it facilitated the formation of 52 new groups, regularised 101 non-operational ones and 125 groups that were not operating regularly (formed under NRLM). In the eastern region (Jharkhand), RAF Global worked on reviving 102 existing groups formed under Jharkhand State Livelihood Promotion Society (JSLP). A total of 5,717 women were part of the SHG programme in the review period.

In the western region, training sessions on group management, bookkeeping and financial literacy, were provided to SHG members along with capacity building of 29 village organisations and one SHG federation. (A group of 10 SHGs come together as a village organisation, and 10 such organisations form a federation) All SHGs without bank accounts were supported in opening accounts and the new groups were registered under NRLM. A total of 114 SHGs were linked with local banks in the period under review.



## Self -Help Group participation

	No. of groups	No. of group members
Western region	436	4,418
Eastern region	102	1,299

## Vocational training

RAF Global provided skill building training in the western region to 181 men and 522 women. Of all participants, 277 were SHG members and 245 were those who were not part of SHGs. They were enrolled at various skill building courses in the western region. The enrolled women and youth were part of skill building courses at Skill Building Centres (SDC) and Rural Self Employment Training Institutes (RSETI) apart from and a small percentage who joined tally and customer care services courses offered by a private company, Samira Group.

From six skill building centres (5 RAF Global supported and 1 private centre) in the inception year (2022-23), there was an expansion to 12 centres (3 new RAF Global supported and 3 new private centres) in 2023-24. The skill building centres and RSETI offered courses in trades - beauty and wellness, tailoring, hospitality, motor mechanic, electrical and welding, soap, phenyl powder-making, *papad*- and pickle-making and animal husbandry.

In the eastern region, RAF Global trained 27 self-help group members on goat rearing and a new skill building centre was set up during the year in Potka block, Jharkhand.





	Nature of participants	SHG members	Non-SHG members
Western region	Women	277	245
	Men	-	181
Eastern region	Women	27	-

## Seeding entrepreneurship

### Social enterprise fund

RAF Global rolled out INR 10,50,000 in loans to self-help groups in the western region as a 'social enterprise fund'. This helped 51 SHG members to initiate or expand their businesses ranging across grocery shops, beauty parlours, meat shops, among other businesses. The recipients paid back 35 per cent of the loan amount from the profits earned through their ventures along with INR 23,083 as interest to the groups during the review period. Furthermore, 168 women, of whom 94 are members of self-help groups received training from SDC or RSETI in a number of trades – beauty and wellness, tailoring, hospitality, motor mechanic, electrical and welding, soap, phenyl powder-making, *papad*-making, pickle-making, and animal husbandry. They went on to earn INR 3000-4000 monthly from their start-ups or jobs, as a result of the training. Prior to this, most of the women had seasonal earning from agriculture labour or had no income source.





**Villiben Odedara**, is a member of Rameshwar self-help group in Amardad village of Ranavav block, Porbandar. She received INR 50,000 loan for seed capital with which she purchased a buffalo. Building on her experience of animal husbandry, she started a milk business. In a year's time, she started earning INR 5000-6000 per month. Prior to this, she had no source of income. This has boosted her confidence to grow her enterprise even further.



**Luni Junjharam**, is a member of Laxmi self-help group. She lives in Indra Colony, a small village in Adarsh Chava *panchayat* of Barmer. They are a family of seven, and her son had been the primary breadwinner. However, his earnings from wage labour were insufficient to meet the family's needs. Their 2.5 acres of rainfed agriculture land sustained them for only 3-4 months in a year. From goat rearing, they earned INR 30,000 per month. Luni applied for a loan of INR 10,000 from RAF Global's social enterprise fund through her self-help group. She purchased a sewing machine and put her tailoring skills to use. Within a couple of months, she was earning between INR 3,000-4,000. This has significantly eased the economic situation of the family.

## Exposure visit

RAF Global organised an exposure visit for 26 women of self-help groups, to Aatomize Manufacturing Pvt. Ltd in Rajkot. The company manufactures small-scale flour mills, mixers, grinders, and snack production equipment. The women got an opportunity to see their operations and got ideas for setting up their own related businesses. Three of them have decided to start their own venture and have applied for the social enterprise support from RAF Global.

Other members visited Gopi Business, a shop run by a women's group in Junagadh, and to People's Education and Development Organisation in Rajasthan to learn about SHG functioning.



## Outreach through Economic Integration & Livelihood Support for Women and Youth

### Strengthening self-help groups

Self-help groups and members 538 SHGs (5,717 members)

Linking SHGs with banks 114 SHGs

Capacity building of members of village organisations and SHG federations 165 members

### Vocational training programme

Skill building courses 730 women

### Seeding entrepreneurial futures

Social enterprise fund 51 women

Exposure visits 26 women





# Climate Smart Agriculture

In 2023-2024, RAF Global reached out 1,074 farmers through training initiatives on natural farming and facilitated allied support services to them. With a view to promoting collective, organic farming and a common support centre for farmers, RAF Global set up three Farmer Resource Centres in Junagadh (two centres) and Porbander (one centre), in 2022-2023. In the first year, 159 farmers were trained at the Centre, while in the review period, 337 farmers received training. A similar Farmer Resource Centre is also under process in the eastern region, in Potka block. Of the total participants, 39 per cent benefitted from two or more initiatives of RAF Global. Of them, 21 per cent were women.

## Training at Farmer Resource Centres

In the period under review, 337 farmers were trained in organic farming at the Farmer Resource Centres in the western region. This included training in making organic pesticides, systematic wheat intensification and in setting up Farmer Producer Organisations. The Centre also offered expertise and advice to farmers on farm techniques (azolla farming, honey farming and 3-tier vegetable cultivation), solar traps for pest management and a practical demonstration of making different types of vermicompost beds (HDPE Bed, Pakka Bed, Land Based Vermibed, and Windrow bed). Additionally, 27 farmers from Junagadh and Porbandar were linked with government agricultural schemes.





Sixty farmers initiated systematic wheat intensification cultivation and 125 farmers initiated vermicompost beds in their farmlands after the training and support received from RAF Global. These vermicompost beds have ensured easy and affordable supply of vermicompost to other farmers as well, leading to a positive disposition towards natural farm practices. A total of 73,200 kgs of vermicompost was produced by farmers through their vermicompost beds in 2023-24. Additionally, 303 students from Bhakta Kavi Narsinh Mehta University, Porbandar, were also given training on organic farming at Farmer Resource Centres.

In the eastern region, training sessions were conducted in three villages of Potka village, with a total of 84 (women) farmers participating. All participants were also members of self-help groups. The training focused on the preparation and use of organic pesticides, and other sustainable farming practices. RAF Global also provided the farmers with storage drums (200 litres), spray machines, and other necessary equipment for preserving and applying the bio-pesticides in their fields. Following the training, eight members from two villages produced 120 litres of various bio pesticides, and 62 farmers initiated the use of organic pesticides.



## Mapping adoption of organic farming practices

Western region	Number of farmers who initiated vermicompost beds	125
	Number of farmers who initiated systematic wheat intensification cultivation	60
	Total vermicompost produced	73,200 Kg
Eastern region	Number of farmers who initiated using organic pesticides and manures in their farms	62
	Total bio-pesticides produced by the farmer (pilot initiative)	120 litres

**Kagada Kalabhai Punabhai**, a farmer from Maliya Hatina in Junagadh, transformed his farming practices with the help of RAF Global. At an organic farming training in RAF Global's Farmer Resource Centre, he learned about vermicomposting using earthworms and ways to make natural manures and pesticides. Kalabhai began using natural inputs like Jeevamrut (a bio-enhancer), Neemastra (a neem-based pest repellent), and cow urine in his farming. He set up two vermibeds for composting—one directly on the land and another in a specialised HDPE bed. Over time, he completed three cycles of vermicomposting, producing over 1500 kg of nutrient-rich compost, which improved crop quality and soil health. Practicing organic farming on his 2.5 acres of land for the past year-and-half, Kalabhai has seen an increase in his yearly income by INR 10,000. Using natural manures and vermicompost has saved him INR 25,000-30,000 annually, on expensive chemical fertilisers and pesticides. His farm is on the way to becoming a model of environmental sustainability, demonstrating that traditional farming methods can be both productive and eco-friendly.





RAF Global conducted a training programme on chemical-free farming with self-help groups in Potka block in Jharkhand. Inspired from the training, **Baha Tudu**, a self-help group member from the Marshal Ajivika Mahila Mandal in Namo Da Bahanki village began producing bio-fertilisers and pesticides and used them on her vegetable farming plot. With the support of her self-help group and continuous guidance from RAF Global, Baha Tudu and her SHG members produced Beejamrit, Neemastra, and Jeevamrit. Implementing chemical-free farming on a pilot basis, Baha Tudu cultivated Indian bean, cowpea, and brinjal on her 6,500 square feet plot, using Jeevamrit for nutrition and Neemastra and Agni Astra for pest control.

Her efforts led to improvements in yield and quality, with a reduction in pest attacks. In November 2023, she harvested 50 kg of fresh vegetables, boosting her confidence in chemical-free farming. This success sparked interest among other women in the village. Baha Tudu's journey demonstrates the potential of chemical-free farming to enhance agricultural productivity and sustainability.

### **Horticulture Resource Centre**

Within the premises of the Farmer Resource Centre in Junagadh, RAF Global established a Horticulture Resource Centre during the review period. The Horticulture Resource Centre has an organic fruit farm with 40 varieties, as a demonstration site for farmers. A similar farm with six varieties of fruit plants is being set up in collaboration with Krishi Vigyan Kendra in Gudamalani block, Barmer.





## District level farmers' conclave

Five hundred farmers from Porbandar, Junagadh, and Somnath districts attended a farmers' conclave organised by RAF Global in Porbandar. The Governor of Gujarat, Acharya Devvrat, was the chief guest. The event was also attended by KD Lakhani, District Collector of Porbandar and Rizwan Adatia, CEO and Founder of RAF Global. Experts in organic farming, including the Deputy Director of Agriculture Technology Management Agency (ATMA), the Principal of Porbandar Agricultural University, and a farmer from Junagadh who has been practicing natural farming for 19 years, shared valuable insights on sustainable agriculture. Farmers from the three districts showcased their chemical-free farming models and products. The Conclave provided a platform for collaboration among farmers, government departments, agricultural scientists, and key stakeholders. A WhatsApp group was also initiated by the farmers post the event as a virtual platform to share, support and learn from farmers across different districts.



## Outreach through Climate Smart Agriculture

### Organic Farming Training

Farmers	421
Students	303
Farmers linked with government schemes	27
District Level Farmers' Conclave	500





## Education and Technology Initiatives

Children in rural India face multiple educational challenges, including limited access to quality education, digital literacy, opportunities for innovation in STEM fields, access to competent teaching and well-resourced learning spaces. These obstacles hinder their academic and personal development, underscoring the urgent need for comprehensive solutions to bridge the educational divide. RAF Global, through strategic interventions and partnership approach with private and public stakeholders, has attempted to address these challenges in its work areas, across key stages of learning – foundational, secondary, and higher education – facilitating quality and comprehensive learning opportunities for 16,333 students during the review period. RAF Global advocated at a district level consultation programme in Jaisalmer for the need to improve the quality of education for girl students, foster foundation learnings and address their dropout rates. Of the total participants in Education and Technology initiatives, 36 per cent benefitted from participating in two or more initiatives of RAF Global. Of the total students reached out to, 48 per cent were girls.

### Improving learning spaces

RAF Global supported two government schools (one each in Junagadh and Jaisalmer) in the western region by constructing toilets for girls. In a government school in Jaisalmer, RAF Global set up a geography lab and provided necessary teaching material such as maps, tables, compasses and globes. This support has benefitted 300 children in the western region.

In the eastern region, two schools, Manpur High school and Potka Girls High school in Potka block in Jharkhand underwent renovation work in science labs. Potka Girls High school also received 109 books for the library with complete renovation support. These initiatives are expected to have benefitted 200 students during the review period.



## Early childhood development

During the year, RAF Global initiated new outreach to strengthen early childhood development in 95 *anganwadis* across five districts: Junagadh, Porbandar, Barmer, Balotra, and Jaisalmer. The programme catered to the foundational learning of children aged three to six years supplementing the learning inputs received at the *anganwadi*. During the review period, it reached 1,900 children, with 53 per cent of whom were girls. The sessions were facilitated twice a week by village facilitators who received training from RAF Global. The sessions covered an understanding of learning and development, as well as introduced innovative activities that can be conducted with children. Additionally, two-day special training sessions on Early Childhood Development were arranged for 30 *anganwadi* workers in Porbandar. The aim of the programme was to build the capacity of *anganwadi* workers to conduct early childhood education programmes.



## Improving primary education

RAF Global initiated FLIP (Foundational Learning Improvement Programme) centres in 2021-22, aiming to address learning gaps among primary school students. Through FLIP, RAF Global is addressing the learning needs of children by improving their language comprehension and numeracy skills. The focus is on addressing the learning deficit among children in basic language comprehension and numeracy skills through activity-based learning. The programme began in three project districts, enrolling 551 students from the third to the fifth grades. During the review period, the programme expanded to 83 centres across all four project districts, with an enrolment of 2,700 students. RAF Global supported all the centres with a regular supply of notebooks, workbooks (developed by the organisation), and other learning resources.



## Expansion of FLIP centres

Financial Year	No. of centres	Enrolled students
FY 2021-22	18	551
FY 2022-23	25	627
FY 2023-24	83	2,700



**Salim Rathod**, an eighth-grade student from a village in Maliya Hatina block of Junagadh, faced a lot of difficulty in academics in school. Due to his family's poor economic condition, he was unable to afford tuitions for supplementary support.

He faced difficulties in understanding math and science subjects. After enrolling in a FLIP centre,

Salim not only became at par with other students, but also started designing science and math models. The FLIP centres, facilitated by village education facilitators (VEFs) were not only interactive classes but also involved innovative DIY activities, video lessons, and experiments, which ignited Salim's interest in learning. These VEFs were thoroughly trained by RAF Global for facilitating these FLIP classes. As a result, Salim became more interested and consistent in class, considerably enhancing his comprehension of essential mathematical and scientific concepts. Salim's renewed confidence led him to participate in a school science fair, where he created electrical models of a spider and boat. Salim's story reflects the positive impact of FLIP classes, which have helped many students like him bridge learning gaps and develop a keen interest in their studies, especially in math and science.

## Innovation in STEM education

### Science Activity Centres

In collaboration with Vikram A Sarabhai Community Science Centre, RAF Global started two Science Activity Centres in 2022 (one each at Jaisalmer and Porbandar) and expanded to five centres (one new centre in Porbandar, and two new centres in Junagadh) in the review period. The initiative aimed at promoting innovation, science and technology among government school students in classes sixth to eighth. The set up has been established in government schools, and is open to neighbouring schools as well, equipped with a range of science models and DIY activities designed to engage students. In the review period, the centres benefited 1,593 students with 56 per cent participation of girls.



### Teachers' training

A group of 34 science teachers from different government schools in Junagadh participated in a two-day training programme to upscale their teaching skills in science and technology. The training was organised in collaboration with Vikram A Sarabhai Community Science Centre at Maliya Hatina block, Junagadh. Additionally, 15 teachers from two government schools in Jaisalmer were trained in basic computer skills to help them facilitate classes for students. Further, 30 students benefited from the computer classes facilitated by RAF Global.

## Science Fair and Bal Mela

A science fair was organised and attended by 150 school students, at the district level in collaboration with the District Education Department in Jaisalmer. The CEO of Zilla Parishad and the Chief Medical Health Officer, Jaisalmer were chief guests and science professors from MSRS Girls College in Jaisalmer were part of the judging panel. There were more than 60 science models from school students at the fair – vacuum cleaner, cooler, windmill, and microwave among others.



Bal melas (children's fair) in 90 government schools of Gujarat and Rajasthan, provided interactive and learning opportunities through fun and engaging activities for 8,600 students, (47 per cent of whom were girls). They were organised in collaboration with the school, School Management Committee and adolescent girls' group. The *Bal Mela* theme was around science and health & nutrition, with a special focus on awareness of anaemia. Parents were invited on the second day of the two-day event to watch their children perform activities and demonstrate models.



## Guidance for higher education

Four guidance sessions were organised, covering 402 students of colleges and senior secondary government schools. They were offered guidance and tips on approaching competitive exams, career options, and related information. The sessions were organised in Jaisalmer and Junagadh.





Further, five students from Government Girls' College in Maliya Hatina, Junagadh and 30 women students from Government College, Jaisalmer, were supported with special coaching classes and English classes respectively, for preparing competitive exams.

## **Strengthening School Management Committees**

RAF Global provided capacity-building sessions for School Management Committee (SMC) members, on their roles and responsibilities. The objective was to create a space for SMCs to collectively discuss issues, define their roles in enhancing school governance, and implement corrective measures. The session also enabled members to actively support school initiatives like *bal melas*, quiz competitions, and science fairs. A total of 589 SMC members of 72 schools were part of the capacity-building efforts.



## Outreach through Education and Technology Programme

Improving learning spaces	500 children
Early childhood development	1,900 children
FLIP centres	2,700 children
Science activity centre	1,593 children
Science Fair and Bal mela	8,750 children
Teachers Training	34 teachers
Special classes and career guidance for higher education	437 children
School Management Committee	589 members







## Good Governance

RAF Global reached out 5,834 individuals under its initiative for good governance. Among them, 65 per cent participants were women and 24 per cent benefitted from multiple programme initiatives by RAF Global.

In the western region, 5,362 individuals reached out to, through 12 public service camps and four Common Service Centres. Twelve village-based camps in Porbandar, Barmer, and Jaisalmer districts facilitated the enrolment of 2,024 individuals in government schemes, including those for health, old age pension and widow pension. These camps were supported by local youth who received thorough training from RAF Global to identify eligible villagers and assist them in the enrolment process. They also followed up regularly to ensure that the villagers received the schemes' benefits.

RAF Global provided technical guidance to Common Service Centres (one each in Junagadh, Porbandar, Barmer, and Jaisalmer districts) to enhance their service delivery to villagers. The Centres, set up by the Ministry of Electronics and IT, serve as comprehensive one-stop shops offering a wide range of services, including obtaining passports, PAN cards, birth and death certificates, Aadhaar card application and government scheme enrolment. Additionally, in one under-resourced Centre, RAF Global provided infrastructure support – laptop, table, chair, wall painting, lamination machine, etc. The Centres, assisted 3,338 individuals with services during the year.

In the eastern region, RAF Global initiated special camps for enrolment of poor beneficiaries in the government sponsored insurance schemes, including Pradhan Mantri Bima Surkhya Yojna, Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojna, and Atal Pension Yojna with the support of the banking correspondence of Bank of India, benefitting 472 individuals.

### Outreach through Governance Programme

Common service centres	3,338
Public service camps	2,496

# Acknowledgement

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all the stakeholders who have contributed to our endeavour over the past year. Our greatest appreciation goes to our dedicated team members, whose tireless efforts and unwavering commitment have driven our initiatives forward. We are deeply grateful to our partners and donors for their support and collaboration, enabling us to expand our reach and impact. We would like to thank the Alkem Foundation for their support in the Alkem Anaemia Mukti Abhiyan project, the district administration, village *panchayat* members and community workers for their essential support and collaboration.

Most of all, we express our sincere gratitude to the communities we serve, for their trust, participation, and engagement, which inspire us to continually strive for excellence. Together, we look forward to achieving even greater milestones in the coming year.











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