

# Summary of independent Impact Assessment studies conducted Year 2023-24

## Programme – WomenConnect Challenge

### 1. Study – End line Evaluation of WomenConnect Challenge (Round 1)



#### Impact Study Agency – SoulAce Consulting Private Limited

##### Background

The WomenConnect Challenge India by Reliance Foundation and USAID aims to empower women by improving access to and use of digital technology. The project has digitally connected over 3 lakh women.

##### Objectives

To assess women's access to different digital tools and services; measure the impact of technology use on women's economic empowerment; evaluate the impact of digital literacy training on women's proficiency and comfort with technology; and measure shifts in attitudes of family members and the community regarding women's technology use.

##### Key findings

- 76% women reported increased access to internet. Over half of the women participants reported increased access to digital tools, services and access to a feature or Android phone, post intervention.
- 74%, 88%+ and 59% of the women, reported increased comfort with digital tools, using a mobile device independently and using the internet independently, respectively, post intervention.
- 78% women reported an increase in their contribution to household expenses.

Overall, 41% women reported an increase in livelihood opportunities, income generation, and savings potential post-intervention. 13% women reported they had begun new entrepreneurial ventures. Qualitative data suggests that women value the role of increased access to information and knowledge, improved market access, and the ability to leverage technology to expand their businesses or income generating activities.

- 76% women reported agreement with the idea of men and women having equal access to social, economic, and political resources and opportunities. 54% women reported increased freedom to spend their money post intervention. 70% women reported increased participation in economic decisions in the family and 76% women reported a positive change in men's perception of the family.

### 2. Study: Evaluating the Impact of Disaster Preparedness and Response Interventions of Reliance Foundation Disaster Management Programme



#### Impact Assessment Agency – Centre for Environment and Regional Development (CERD)

##### Background

Reliance Foundation's interventions in Disaster Management cover immediate response and encompass preparedness, capacity building, and awareness campaign in close collaboration with government bodies and partners.

##### Objective:

To provide a comprehensive and systematic assessment of the various disaster management programmes related to 'Disaster Preparedness and Response; gauge the impact of these interventions on rural communities; and assess the alignment of the programme to national and international priorities.

##### Key Findings:

- 91% stakeholders reported improvement in reach and impact due to timely interventions. 1,732 volunteers have been trained in 14 states.
- 94% farmers reported an increase in annual income due to weather and expert livelihood advisories provided. 96% beneficiaries reported improved vaccination schedule for livestock against seasonal diseases due to weather advisories. 88% livestock rearers took decisions related to fodder management based on advisories while 87% modified sheds and shelters.
- 90% of the beneficiaries reported improved preparedness levels in dealing with disaster after RF's capacity building initiatives.
- More than 75% of partner stakeholders including grassroots level partners reported a rating of 4 or 5 on a scale of 1 to 5 Response Coordination and Resource Mobilisation, which ensures sustainability of the interventions and exchange of information between service providers and beneficiaries at crucial hours of disasters.

### 3. Study: Impact Assessment of Reliance Foundation Sports Programme – Promoting Grassroot Sports Initiatives.



#### Impact Assessment Agency – Kantar Public

##### Background

Reliance Foundation Sports for Development programme nurtures sporting talent from grassroots and helps them grow into high performers.

##### Objective

To evaluate the impact of the programme on skills, performance, opportunities, access to sports, and experience of the athletes associated with the programme.

##### Key findings:

- 98% RF athletes reported that RF provides superior training. Over 94% non-RF athlete respondents consider RF as competitive in comparison to other competitive programmes or foundations and expressed satisfaction, specifically in relation to programmes, competitions, and tournaments organised by RF.
- Across the eight sports programmes within RF, a majority (87% - 93%) of athletes perceive the benefits – encompassing improved mental and physical health, social cohesion, access to sports, and career development – as good or very good. 95% agree that RF offers a high-quality learning environment for athletes.
- Over 95% of respondents consider RF sports programme effective in enhancing their skills and performance. Over

92% agree that competitions organised by RF offer valuable opportunities to showcase their skills and abilities.

- In the case of RF Young Champs (RFYC), the achievement and competitiveness rating rose notably from 42% before RF enrollment to 93% post-enrollment. Athletes in RFYS and RFDL witnessed a surge from initial ratings of 47% and 43%, respectively, to 94% and 93% after associating with RF.
- Over 53% perceive the management staff at Reliance Foundation as very good. In assessing the performance of foundation programmes, a substantial 96% of Reliance Foundation (RF) athletes agree that RF outperforms; among non-RF athletes, 69% agree that RF's programme performance is superior.
- Over 91% of athletes reported strong alignment with the values and vision of RF leadership.
- 52.13% of participants consider the sports programme effective, while an additional 43.25% deem it highly effective in enhancing their skills and performance. These combined responses reiterates the significant perception among respondents that the sports programme excels in contributing to the improvement of their abilities and overall performance, increased awareness and interest in sports scholarships among athletes. Better quality of coaching delivered by trained PE teachers in schools.
- These impacts collectively contribute to the overall success and effectiveness of the Reliance Foundation Sports programme in nurturing talent and promoting

sports development across different levels.

### 4. Study: Impact Assessment Study of Reliance Foundation's Drishti Programme for Improving Vision Care among underprivileged communities



#### Impact Assessment Agency – Sustainable Outcomes Private Limited

##### Background

RF's Drishti programme aims to enhance and restore the vision of individuals from underprivileged segments of society.

##### Objective

Measure the overall impact of the programme on the quality of lives of the visually impaired; quantify the economic benefits of the beneficiaries achieved through the programme.

##### Key findings

- Corneal transplants have proven instrumental in enhancing the quality of life for the beneficiaries. Individuals reporting 'severe or extreme pain' decreased from 48% before the surgery to 13.2% after the surgery. The percentage of beneficiaries reporting 'good or very good' in carrying out daily activities increased from 16.3% to 34.7%. Assessment of Vision-Related Quality of Life (VFQOL) Index, which assesses general functioning, visual functioning and psychosocial wellbeing of the patients on a scale of 10, reported an increase in quality from point 5 before intervention to point 8 after intervention. Social participation increased from 17% to 44%. 69% of

the individuals expressed satisfaction with the quality of service they received.

- The programme saved ₹ 4.3 crore in potential out-of-pocket expenses of beneficiaries on corneal transplants. It has averted 3,347 DALYs (Disability-adjusted life year is sum of life years lost due to disability).

## 5. Study: Social Impact Assessment of Infrastructure Project at National Cancer Institute, Nagpur



### Impact Assessment Agency – Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Nagpur

#### Background

To help vulnerable sections of the society to avail affordable cancer treatment, Reliance Foundation established modern facilities at the National Cancer Institute (NCI), Nagpur, for diagnosis, prevention, and treatment of various types of cancers.

#### Objective

Assess impact of RF's support in improving access to and quality of healthcare services provided through NCI-Nagpur. Analyse the impact of medical care on patient health outcomes, quality of life and treatment effectiveness in medical specialties.

#### Key findings

- More than 87 % of the patients or their relatives are satisfied with the NCI infrastructure and other facilities.
- Apart from Maharashtra, patients from Madhya Pradesh and Chattisgarh also avail services from NCI

- Close to 92% of the patients' families have an annual income of less than ₹ 7 lakhs out of which 68% have incomes less than ₹ 3 lakh per annum
- 85% believe that the treatments and other costs like diagnostic tests are lower at NCI compared to other similar institutions
- Over 95% respondents are satisfied with the quantity and quality of free food given to patients and their attenders.

## 6. Study: Impact Assessment Report on Findings from Community Development Programme in Shahdol, Madhya Pradesh



### Impact Assessment Agency – Samhita Social Ventures

#### Background

Reliance Foundation's interventions in Shahdol and Kotma, Madhya Pradesh, focus on strengthening agriculture and allied livelihoods, water resource development, strengthening community interest groups, etc.

#### Objective

Assess the socio-economic impact of programme interventions and measure the improvement in quality of life in targeted communities.

#### Key Findings

- The top three benefits from the agriculture support received from Reliance Foundation were reported to increase in crop yield (87% respondents), increase in income (60%) and improved crop quality (50%). 53% found Sustainable Intensification

of Rice (SRI) to have reduced their costs. Reliance Nutrition Garden (RNG) initiatives offer combined livelihood and health benefits with 96% reporting improved availability of fresh vegetable, 64% reporting increased dietary diversity and 61% reporting reduced expenditure. The median income reported from agriculture is ₹ 50,000.

- Most farmers reported earning up to ₹ 10,000 through off-farm livelihood activities. Improved vaccination rates (80% respondents) and reduced diseases (40%) in goat farming have been found to be the key benefits resulting from the support given by Reliance Foundation.
- 61% reported increased availability of drinking and household water, which was primarily attributed to the installation of new hand pumps (81% respondents) and deepening of farm ponds (43%). 23% reported decreased water fetching time as a result of installation of hand pumps.
- Most (90%) community members reported accessing the mobile medical unit. Provision of free of cost medicines (98% respondents) and free of cost screening (70%) were the key benefits reported. 46% have received protein supplements through the Anganwadi and 13% through Mobile Medical Unit (MMU) as part of the anaemia control programme for Antenatal and Postnatal (ANC/PNC) mothers.
- Most respondents reported gaining new skills (91%) and increased confidence (76%) as primary benefits of the skilling programme.

## 7. Study: Impact Assessment of Interventions at Hazira



### Impact Assessment Agency – ThinkThrough Consulting Private Limited

#### Background

Reliance Foundation has been implementing an Integrated model for sustainability at the Hazira business site of the Company, focusing on holistic community development.

#### Objective

Evaluate the effectiveness, and sustainability of interventions in health, skill development, education and community infrastructure support, and assess the extent to which the activities have contributed to the well-being of the targeted communities including students, vulnerable children and patients with HIV, pregnant mothers, truck drivers, industrial workers, village and community members of Mora and Suvali village.

#### Key Findings

- 86% of caregivers reported significant improvement in the overall health and well-being of malnourished children due to provision of nutrition kits. 88% caregivers reported a significant increase in energy and activity levels of children and 92% believed the nutrition kits contributed to their child's ability to attend school regularly. Majority (84%) of caregivers reported a significant increase in their child's appetite and food intake since receiving nutrition kits.
- 97% respondents reported moderate to significant cost

saving because of mobile health unit (MHU).

- 93% rated the accessibility of ART centre as 'excellent'.
- Truck drivers reported saving ₹ 1,000-1,500 on medical costs due to Project Khushi, which is an initiative to provide medical services within truck parking areas.
- 63% respondents deem industrial trainings relevant to their jobs and responsibilities. Over 60% trainees reported an improvement in problem-solving abilities and 53% reported an increase in productivity after the training. 65% participants indicated taking on more challenging tasks or responsibilities.
- Over 91% respondents reported daily usage of distributed potable water, showcasing high reliance on water distribution plant intervention. 97% community members drink the water supplied by Reliance Foundation. 91% of respondents reported no interruptions in the pipeline distribution system. 86% respondents expressed confidence in the long-term sustainability of the water distribution system.

awareness, education, skilling, women empowerment, animal welfare, etc., at the Jamnagar business site of the Company.

#### Objective

Assess the impact of the integrated initiatives across the diverse themes of Health; Education; Skilling; Women Empowerment; Animal Welfare. The targeted beneficiaries include women, youth and other community members from Motikhavdi, Jamnagar, Padna and nearby villages, vulnerable children with HIV, fishermen, students, etc.

#### Key Findings

- 98% caregivers of HIV positive children expressed high satisfaction with the quality of ration kits provided. 98% caregivers expressed satisfaction with the counselling support provided by the Reliance Foundation medical team.
- Quality of education was enhanced by focusing on school infrastructure development. This led to increased enrolment, attendance and student engagement.
- Free-of-cost forklift training was provided to youth. The training enhanced employability and personal development. Over 35 trainees secured positions through vendors, while others received job assistance.
- Regarding the Swashray initiative that trains women in diverse fields and offers employment opportunities, approximately 80% of the women reported fair compensation and stable monthly pay, while 100% reported improvement in their economic well-being.

## 8. Study: Impact study of interventions at Jamnagar



### Impact Assessment Agency – ThinkThrough Consulting Private Limited

#### Background

Reliance Foundation has been implementing community development initiatives focusing on healthcare, nutrition and

- With respect to the veterinary hospital established by Reliance Foundation, 92% respondents felt satisfied with the helpline assistance, and hospital services.
- 98% of the fishermen who were provided with fishing equipment and bicycles noted a significant improvement in catch quality and transportation time, 65% reported daily increase in income by ₹ 500.

## 9. Study: Impact Study of Rural Community Infrastructure Development Initiatives



### Impact Assessment Agency – Athena Infonomics India Private Limited (AIPL)

#### Background

Reliance Foundation extended grants support towards community infrastructure initiatives in multiple states for road construction, foot pathway and other community infrastructure development, installation of solar power facilities, etc., promoting sustainable community transformation.

#### Objective

To evaluate the relevance, effectiveness and impact of the community infrastructure initiatives.

#### Key findings

- The 1.2 km road constructed by Reliance Foundation in Baharagora, Jharkhand, connecting four villages was found to be used by all villages and 98% respondents reported ease of plying vehicles/bicycle and increased availability of public transport. More than 90% villagers noted reduction in travel time to access basic facilities and healthcare services.
- 93% of villagers reported improved access to emergency healthcare after road construction by Reliance Foundation in Baharagora; 83% reported improved students' attendance; 97% reported optimisation of transportation cost of agricultural materials; 57% observed increase in local employment opportunities, while 38% reported establishment of new businesses. The road construction positively impacted establishment of new community infrastructure (reported by 69% respondents) like WASH facilities, schools and communication centres. 85% villagers reported increased social interaction.
- Re-construction of a 6-km sheltered pathway from Alipiri to Tirupati in Andhra Pradesh to address the needs of pilgrims visiting Tirumala was found to be highly relevant in ensuring safety and convenience for the pilgrims.
- 97% of pilgrims found the new foot-pathway in Tirupati offering greater convenience compared to the old pathway, while 94% perceived enhanced safety and security.
- The increased capacity of the solar power plant (60 kW to 90 kW) at Govardhan Eco Village in Maharashtra addressed the increasing demand for solar power. 97% of the Govardhan eco-village residents and visitors expressed satisfaction with the effectiveness of the upgraded solar grid in providing consistent electricity supply. Over 90% of power-cut incidents lasted less than 10 minutes, significantly minimising the adverse effects on community initiatives and student training.
- The upgraded solar power plant in the village increased solar usage from 20% to 55% and contributed significantly to environmental and economic sustainability, resulting in the saving of 267.7 tonnes of carbon dioxide and a 52.35% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions. Furthermore, the upgraded solar grid yielded savings of ₹ 67,96,935 in electricity bills.