

## Summary of Independent Impact Assessment Studies Conducted Year 2023-24

### 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 and 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 the 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. The consistent design and implementation strategy of the programme enhanced its replicability in other contexts, scalability to reach a larger population and contributed to a shift in gender norms and reduced gender inequality.

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

**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 on Response Coordination and Resource Mobilization, 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. The sports initiatives are free and open to all and have reached the remotest parts of the country.

#### **Objective**

- To evaluate the impact of 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 organized 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 organized 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 (Reliance Foundation Development League) witnessed a surge from initial ratings of 47% and 43%, to 94% and 93%, respectively, 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 program 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 program 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, showed 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 3347 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 also come from nearby states such as Madhya Pradesh and Chattisgarh.
- Close to 92% of the patients' families have an annual income of less than Rs. 7 lakhs out of which 68% have incomes less than Rs. 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.