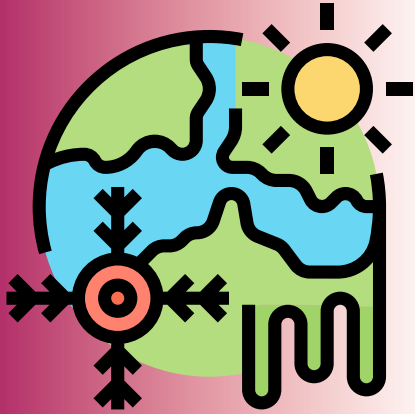
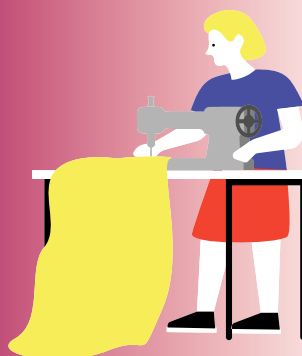


Scan QR code  
to view website



# Annual Report

FY 22 - 23



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# Our Mission




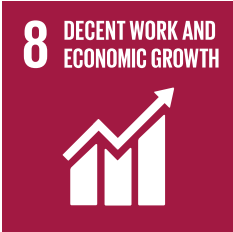

Raah Foundation is a Non Profit organization working to improve the quality of life and well-being of underprivileged and indigenous communities through water security, sustainable livelihoods while addressing the issues of climate change.



The image represents women carrying water back from the wells Raah Foundation built.

Our research and estimates indicate that women save an impressive 1000 to 1500 hours per year, translating to a **daily time savings of 3-4 hours**. What's even more remarkable is that nearly all women reported **improved health**, thanks to **reduced physical labor** and **enhanced hygiene** facilitated by year-round access to water.

# Raah Foundation adopts 11 Sustainable Development Goals of the 17

Program	SDG Mapping
Program Water Security	 
Program Sustainable Livelihoods- Climate Smart Agriculture	  
Program Sustainable Livelihoods for Women	  
Program Sustainable Livelihoods - Skill Training	  
Program Climate Action	  

## FOUNDERS MESSAGE



### Girish Kulkarni

Founder and Strategic Advisor,  
Raah Foundation



### Dr. Sarika Kulkarni

CEO and Founder, Raah  
Foundation

12 years - What a truly amazing and fulfilling journey. What started as a vision - a passionate seed is now a fast growing, healthy and nourished tree giving shade to a few thousand people otherwise struggling in the hot sun of life. In the past few years while growing organically, we also focussed on building a robust venture by putting in place systems, processes and investing in people. At this juncture we are so reminded of this beautiful quote by Vaclav Havel : **"Vision is not enough, it must be combined with venture. It is not enough to stare up the steps; we must also step up the stairs"**. We are now in four talukas (blocks) of Maharashtra and are so proud of the 50 odd team members who are passionately driving the change.

Our water program has consolidated into a strong, replicable model that is channelising a holistic growth and development of our communities. The UN recognition validated our efforts and has of course increased our responsibility. We are expanding our climate smart farming program. We now have over 1500 farmers growing food forests on 1500 plus acres and their tribe is growing every year. Our food forest program is a unique combination of income generation and climate action. Likewise very successful programs on floriculture, drip irrigated vegetable farming, zero input naturally grown monsoon vegetables and crops and rice & millets continue to expand each year. New pilots are introduced every year and successful ones are scaled. The turmeric pilot was hugely encouraging and we are now experimenting with dragon fruit and are excited about it.

Our tribal women entrepreneurs embraced digital tools to track their business and learnt financial literacy skills to become more resilient. Our dream of starting a state of the art skill training centre came to fruition and it is so satisfying to see underprivileged youth successfully completing the program and finding a dignified employment. Climate action program got a tail wind and is flying high. We are working on Phase I of forestation project which will create 525 acres of forest of barren hills of western Nashik. This is part of our endeavour to a-forest 15,000 acres of denuded hills and lands in the catchment area of the Godavari river in Nashik, the second largest river in India.

We are super excited and prepared for the coming decade and this year our entire leadership team huddled together and drafted "Mission 2030" which is an ambitious blueprint to quadruple our efforts to amplify our scale and our impact and the value we bring to the communities. We and our team are extremely well aligned and committed to making this world a little better and a lot happier..

Do write to us to walk with us on our "Raah" (path) and augment our efforts.

## A MILESTONE YEAR

# The year that was

In January 2023, Raah Foundation completed 12 years since inception and 8 years of active grassroots work. And what a year it has been. Raah went both deeper and wider. Raah expanded to other nearby geographic locations while also adding more value to existing beneficiaries.

This year will always go down in the history of Raah Foundation as one that has set pace for future robust growth.

### Some of the highlights of this year are:

- Continued strong growth in our existing programs of water, agriculture and gender.
- Adopting & Implementing a value chain framework across all thematic areas.
- Successfully implementing Blended finance models - a model that promotes ₹ for ₹ philanthropy
- Expanding to three geographic locations (talukas/ blocks)
- Expanding Climate Action work in the ecologically sensitive catchment of the Godavari river.
- Starting Skill Training vertical for underprivileged youths.
- Launching mission 2030 while aligning with the UN Sustainable Development Goals

**For the first time we crossed ₹65 million in funds taking us closer to our mission of creating a dignified world for the underprivileged communities.**



Accreditation by UN for our work on water.  
Signatory to UN charter for contributing for achieving the SDG 6 in our areas of work.



Invitation to be part of the Asia Gender Network.

# PROGRAMMATIC PILLARS:

A results based framework to fulfill our mission

## VISION

A world where the marginalized and indigenous tribal communities live with dignity

## MISSION

Improve the quality of life and well-being of underprivileged and indigenous tribal communities through water security and sustainable livelihoods while addressing the issues of climate change

## PROGRAMS

	WATER SECURITY	CLIMATE ACTION
GOALS	Ensure year-round water availability for drinking (humans and cattle), hygiene and livelihoods	Convert barren land into carbon sinks and rejuvenate biodiversity while improving ground water table
KPI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demand for water remains less than water availability</li> <li>• Migration reduces / stops</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improvement in soil quality, water availability</li> <li>• Revival of biodiversity</li> </ul>
SUSTAINABILITY	Water management committee works effectively	Forest management committee and creating awareness about the criticality of the project

# PROGRAMMATIC PILLARS:

A results based framework to fulfill our mission

## SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS PROGRAMS

	CLIMATE SMART FARMING	MICROBUSINESS FOR WOMEN	PRODUCT BASED LIVELIHOODS	SKILL TRAINING
GOALS	Facilitate year - round income opportunities through farming while addressing issues of climate change	Facilitate year - round income opportunities for women in their own villages through entrepreneurship	Revive art and provide market linkages through bespoke product training	Improve employability of the youth through niche skill training
KPI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Percent change in farmer income levels</li> <li>• Number of months of migration</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Percent change in income of women</li> <li>• Qualitative change in status of women</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Percent change in income of women</li> <li>• Qualitative change in status of women</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Percent change in income of youths</li> <li>• Qualitative change in personality, confidence and self esteem.</li> </ul>
SUSTAINABILITY	Two year tracking and hand holding of the farmer with appropriate capacity building where needed	Digital and financial inclusion through tracking and handholding of women	Market linkages and capacity building of women in product and market training	Tracking and monitoring of youths until such time needed



# PROGRAM OVERVIEW



## Water

Streamlined water work into three parts - work on surface water enhancement, on ground water table improvement and on on water usage & a demand lens by catalysing people around cooperatives to ensure water use efficiency.



## Sustainable Livelihoods: Climate Smart Farming

After a successful pilot on turmeric, started another pilot on dragon fruit known as a resilient crop. Our flagship food forest and other projects continue growing impacting over 2000 small & marginal farmers directly.



## Sustainable Livelihoods: Skill Training

The first centre was inaugurated at Dadar to provide skill training for employment in service sector to urban poor youths. The program provides guaranteed employment. The program has enormous potential and will be expanded soon to other locations.



## Sustainable Livelihoods: for Women

In Jawhar & Mokhada: focus was on digital literacy & financial inclusion to ensure women got better grip on their micro businesses to become more confident that supports scale up.

In Pen the product based livelihoods project was further strengthened and expanded. The focus is first on identifying the market & then moving backwards to teaching the relevant skill to the women.



## Climate Action

The program was consolidated after an elaborate stakeholder engagement that led to a strategic focus on rejuvenating and reviving the barren & degraded land in the upstream catchment of Godavari river in Nashik.

This involved planting 45,000 saplings on 163 acres in the first phase. The plan for next five years is to work extensively over 15,000 acres.

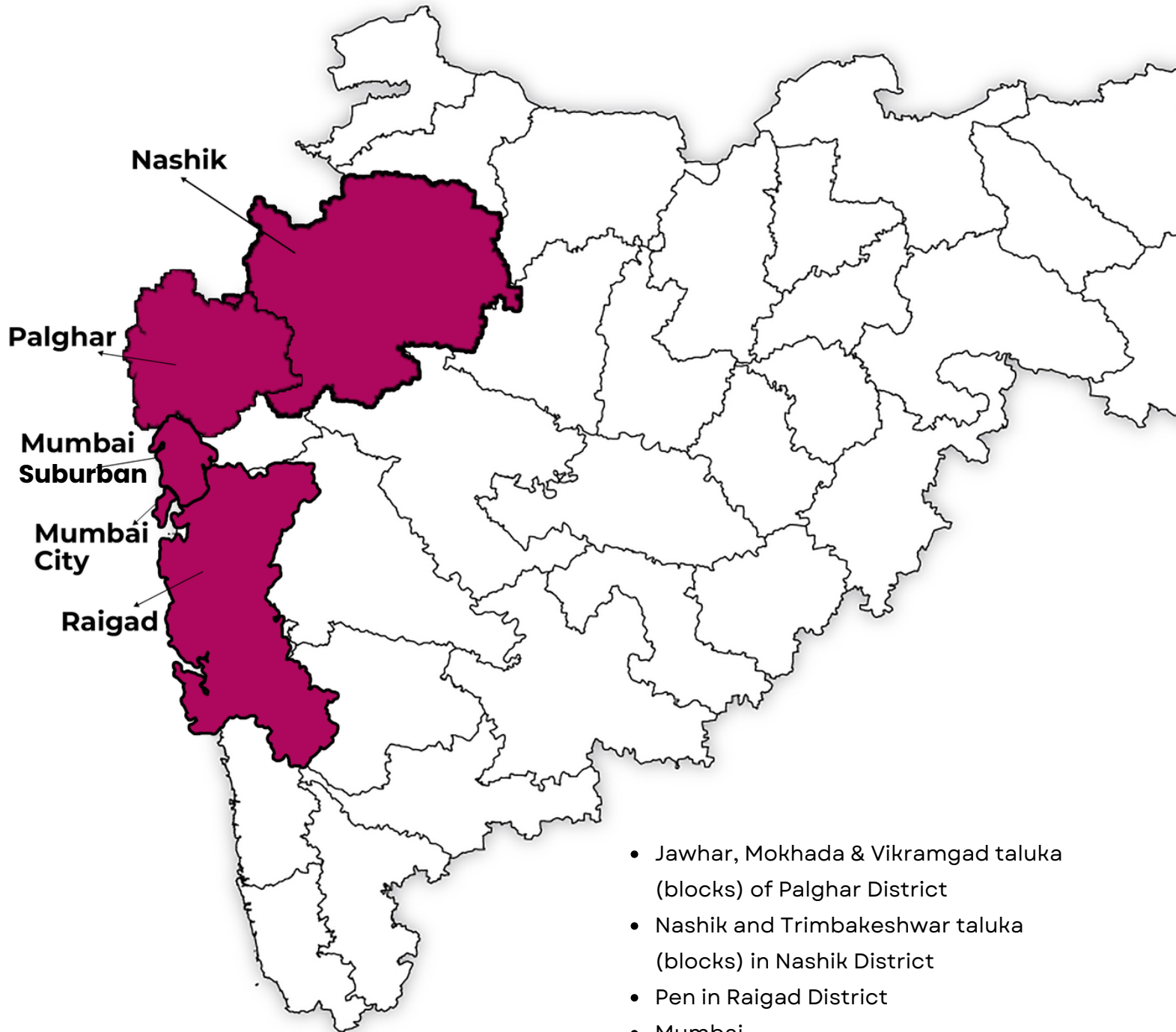
Partnership with the Government: .

This year also saw a successful collaboration with the District Administration and Forest Department as well as multiple Gram Panchayats'. There is also a liaisoning with other organisations working on environment in Nashik. .

---

We are on a mission of creating a better and dignified world for some of the poorest communities that are stuck in intergenerational intertwined layers of poverty. We are moving closer to our mission - thanks to amazing passionate partners, donors and an incredible team.

# OUR INTERVENTION AREAS



# WITH DEEP GRATITUDE

This year was an amazing year, thanks to the generosity and kindness of our national and international supporters and partners.

They motivated us to go above and beyond, conduct experiments, implement innovative practices, move to different geographies, provide support to build our capacity, help us with strategic inputs and sharpen our focus etc.

We are deeply grateful to everyone who made it happen and believed in us.





# Program Water Security

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“

**Providing opportunities to improve access and alleviate hardships of water availability**

## **ENHANCED WATER RESOURCES**

DAMS | WELLS | BORE WELLS | PONDS | PIPELINES | WATER FILTERS | RAIN WATER HARVESTING SYSTEMS

**900** million litres of annual rain water harvesting capacity created.

Accredited by the United Nations, our program on Water Security works towards building water-positive villages across Maharashtra. This year, we streamlined our water work into three parts - (i) On Surface Water Enhancement, (ii) On Ground Water Table Improvement And (iii) On Water Usage & Demand Lens by catalyzing people around cooperatives to ensure water-use efficiency.

## PROGRAM WATER SECURITY



**900**  
million litres of  
annual rain water  
harvesting  
capacity created.

**60,000**  
Water  
beneficiaries  
across 110  
villages

In January 2023, Raah Foundation completed 12 years since inception and 8 years of active grassroots work. And what a year it has been. Raah went both deeper and wider. Raah expanded to other nearby geographic locations while also adding more value to existing beneficiaries.

This year will always go down in the history of Raah Foundation as one that has set pace for future robust growth.

### Impact created by :-



Improving ground  
water table



Improving surface  
water availability



Mapping water  
structures with  
usage



Improving water  
usage & demand

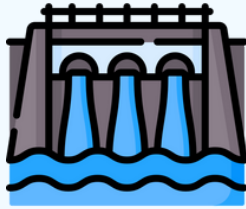
## RAAH FOUNDATION BUILDS





## RAAH FOUNDATION'S WATER FOOTPRINT

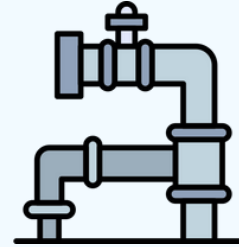
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**67 dams**  
constructed  
including 6  
in FY 23



**66 wells**  
constructed  
including 6  
in FY 23



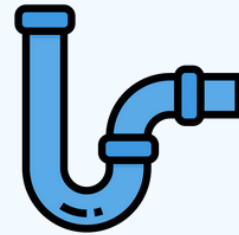
Water  
pipelines in  
**3 villages**



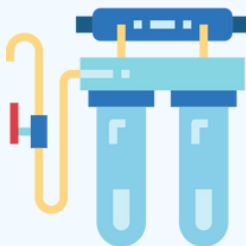
**76 ponds**  
including 2  
in FY 23



**20 houses**  
fitted with  
roof top  
rainwater  
harvesting  
systems



**99 bore wells**  
constructed  
including 4  
with  
recharge  
structure in  
FY 23



Water Filter  
in **7 villages**



## RAAH FOUNDATION AT THE UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS FOR THE UN WATER CONFERENCE



UN organised water conference for the first time in 50 years to bring the attention of the world on the most critical SDG 6. Water is a dealmaker for the Sustainable Development Goals, and for the health and prosperity of people and planet. But our progress on water related goals and targets remains alarmingly off track, jeopardizing the entire sustainable development agenda.

Raah Foundation became one of the few organizations from India to get the accreditation by UN for its work on water and attend the conference to talk about the work. Dr. Sarika Kulkarni, co-founder of Raah Foundation attended the conference.





# Program Sustainable Livelihoods: Climate Smart Agriculture



# Making small & marginal farmers resilient through year round farming

## MULTIPLE OPPORTUNITIES CREATED FOR FARMERS

AGROFORESTRY | FLORICULTURE | COMPACT FARMING

**83** farmers engaged

After a successful pilot on turmeric farming, this year, we started another pilot on dragon fruit cultivation, widely known as a resilient crop. Our flagship food forest and other projects continue growing, impacting over 2000 small & marginal farmers directly.



## Pilots

### TURMERIC PLANTATION

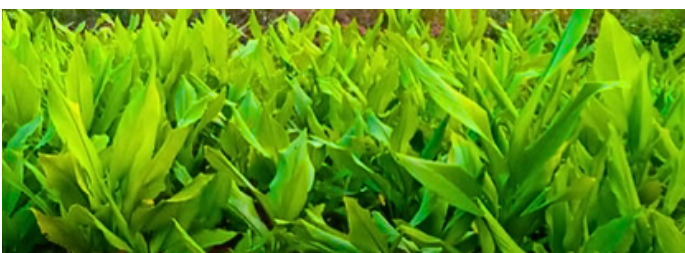
**43** farmers engaged

- Plantation was done in June 2022 and harvesting was done in Mar 2023
- 4505 Kgs seeds were planted on 246 Guntha (6.15 Acres) /Average 6 Guntha per farmer
- Total yield from 43 farmers 13,569 Kgs

### DRAGON FRUIT PLANTATION

**40** farmers engaged

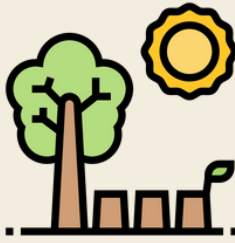
- Total area under cultivation: 6 acres
- Plantation month: December'22





## Other opportunities created

### AGROFORESTRY



**1600**  
farmer beneficiaries

**1600**  
acres

**1,25,000**  
saplings



### FLORICULTURE



**800**  
farmer beneficiaries

**200**  
acres

**2,50,000**  
saplings



### COMPACT FARMING



**300**  
farmer beneficiaries

**120**  
vegetables & jasmine





# Program Sustainable Livelihoods: For Women

“

**Facilitating  
income  
generation  
opportunities  
for women to  
help them lead  
a life of dignity  
and become  
self reliant.**

## **INCOME GENERATING OPPORTUNITIES CREATED**

DIGITAL LITERACY | FINANCIAL LITERACY | PRODUCT BASED LIVELIHOOD

**1000s** of women engaged in product based livelihoods and financial literacy

In the rural hamlets of Jawhar & Mokhada: this year, we focused on digital literacy & financial inclusion to ensure women got a better hold on their micro-businesses, upskilling and preparing them for a scale-up in their businesses. In Pen, our project on product based livelihoods was further strengthened and expanded. The focus here is to first identify the market & then move back to train the women in relevant skills.



**PALGHAR - JAWHAR & MOKHADA BLOCKS**

**300** women were trained

at grass weaving, textile waste upcycling and plastic waste upcycling skills. They were also trained in tailoring and patchwork skills.

**RAIGAD - PEN BLOCK**

**170** women were trained

at product based livelihoods with appropriate market linkages.





# RAAH FOUNDATION PRIMING





## DIGITAL & FINANCIAL INCLUSION OF MICRO - ENTREPRENEURS



### DIGITAL LITERACY

**353** women were trained

and supported with digital tools to track their micro enterprises to facilitate scaling.

### FINANCIAL LITERACY

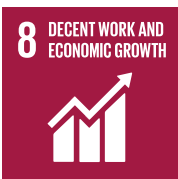
**4990** women were trained

on financial literacy and provided with handholding support to facilitate resilience.



# RAAH FOUNDATION TRAINS





# Program Sustainable Livelihoods: Skill Training

“

**Facilitating  
income  
generation  
opportunities  
for youth to  
help them lead  
a life of dignity  
and become  
self reliant.**

## **PROGRAM START DATE : NOVEMBER 2022**

EMPLOYMENT FOR SERVICE SECTOR

**70** Students trained till  
March 31st'23

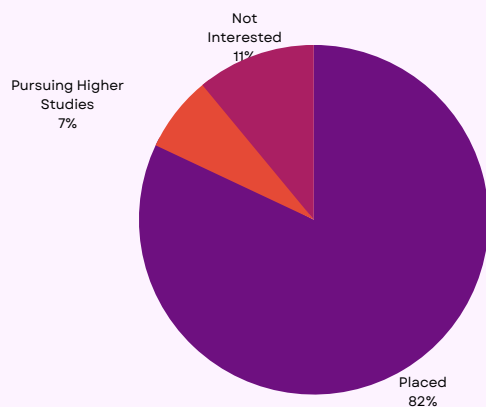
The first centre under this program was inaugurated at Dadar to provide skill training for employment in the service sector to urban youth from the economically weaker sections. This program provides guaranteed employment. It has enormous potential and will be soon expanded to other locations.



### Programs to begin in 2023-24

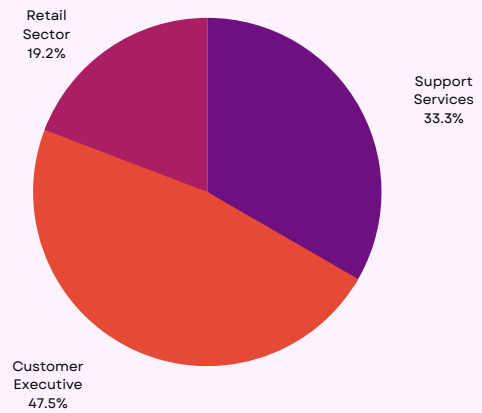
- College to Corporate for final year students
- Employment for manufacturing sector

#### Placement Status



Average Salary: ₹10,000 - ₹15,000

#### Types of Sectors



## WHAT OUR LEARNERS SAY



### **Narsama Siddappa Kantikar**

from Vileparle after a 35 days training from Raah foundation was absorbed by Knex at a salary of fifteen thousand rupees a month



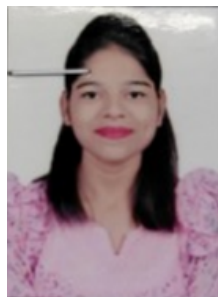
### **Namira Diwan**

Hello I am Namira Diwan from batch-002 I just wanted to thank you for all that have you have done for our class and for me personally over the last 5 weeks. It was truly wonderful instructors and beacons of Skill Development . This has been the most challenging yet rewarding 5 weeks of my 22 years of life but I'm truly amazed at how much I've grown. I have no one to thank besides the Raah Foundation ,Trainer and your wonderful curriculum. Your efforts are beyond appreciated and thank you for pushing me out of my comfort zone and Giving me A Job at good company Reliable.



### **Shivchand Rajbahar**

Hello I am Shivchand Rajbahar from batch -003 Of Raah Currently working at Ebixcash as Customer relation management Raah Foundation exceeded my expectation. A lot more information than what I would expect!" "The presentation of material is beyond excellent. I was worried that I would struggle to focus for such a long period of time, but the lectures were consistently engaging. Thank you for providing such an excellent environment to learn in.



### **Suchita More**

I'm Suchita More,Currently Working at HDFC Customer excecutive at Andheri "I am so glad I found Raah foundation" which is one of the best For skill development. The Teachers and the Staf s are very friendly, dedicated and committed towards teaching and guiding the students to strive for the best. Your contribution in conjunction with the resources resulted in my achieving a successful outcome in Raah foundation. Thank you so much for your timely guidance.



## RAAH FOUNDATION NURTURES







# Program Climate Action:

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“

**Rejuvenate and revive the barren land in the upstream catchment area of Godavari & Alandi.**

## **CREATING FOOD FORESTS AND REWILDED FORESTS**

NATIVE TREES | MEDICINAL PLANTS | GRASSES | HERBS AND NITROGEN FIXING CROPS

**100** acres hill is covered in grass

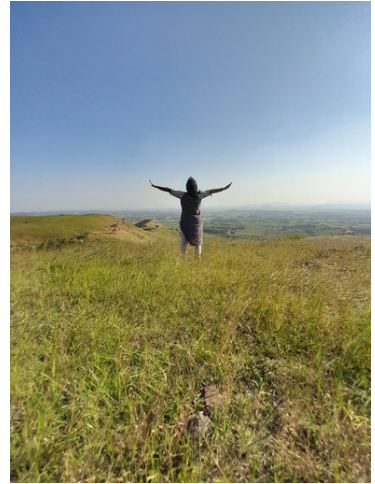
This program was consolidated after an elaborate stakeholder engagement led to a strategic focus on rejuvenating and reviving the barren & degraded land in the upstream catchment of the Godavari River in Nashik. This involved planting 45,000 saplings on 163 acres in the first phase. The plan for the next five years is to work extensively over 15,000 acres.

Partnership with the Government :

This year also saw a successful collaboration with the District Administration and Forest Department as well as multiple Gram Panchayats along with liaising with other organisations working on the environment in Nashik.

## OUR IMPACT (in just one year)

Entire 100 acres hill is covered with grass. Villagers say they have not seen grass like this on the hill in 20 years



Wildlife is making a comeback. Spotted leopard pug marks, peacock eggs, snake skin.



"All these years , my well used to dry out by mid January. But since the grasses and the forests are protected, I have water in the well till May."

**Farmer Nivrutti Khade from the village**



## OUR MODEL



Identify barren land parcels - individual farm lands or commons



Engage government and other stakeholders



Regulate grazing and let nature thrive for a year



Plan the schema - after understanding the micro habitat, soil quality, depth etc.



Conduct annual assessments against the multiple KPIs



Create village level committee, create awareness on conservation, nurture the plantation - monitor & evaluate.



Create fire lines and start plantation after a year. Plant grasses



Conduct base line assessments - bio diversity, soil etc.



Use multiple technology tools like geo tagging, remote monitoring etc.

---

## OUR STRATEGY

Stakeholder engagement after an elaborate mapping through a strategic approach. Build capacity of all partners through best practice sharing, Using technology tools for monitoring and evaluation Create awareness about bio diversity, human-animal conflict etc.

# RAAH FOUNDATION DRIVES SUSTAINABLE CHANGE



## WHAT OUR STAKEHOLDERS SAY



**Rohan Das, Vice President**

Sustainability/CSR, DBS Bank, donor.

"The most spectacular aspect is community involvement because a project of this kind doesn't survive and doesn't sustain unless there is local involvement and support of the local community. Raah Foundation has achieved this and it is phenomenal."



**Ganesh Zole, Asst. Conservator of Forest, Nashik**

"I felt good coming here. The protection of grasses is done well. 90% of saplings that have been planted have survived. Vetiver is growing well and providing good soil and moisture conservation. This effort will set a great example for other to follow on the nearby hills."



**Vikrant Srivastava, CEO**

Nisarg Foundation, USA, donor.

"The land that was barren is now a beautiful grassland. I am blessed to have funded this project and in the process also created sustainable livelihood. Raah Foundation has adopted scientific practices and has made a remarkable change in just 5 months. I am eager to return after 5 years to see a beautiful forest".



**Luis Miranda,**

Individual Donor

"This is a great example of how we can work in partnership between local panchayats, civil societies, villagers, NGOs, government, forest department to create changes that will affect the lives of people, the climate, save the environment and make this a better world."



**Alka Gangode,**

Sarpanch, Dari, Nashik

"Raah Foundation has put in a lot of efforts during plantation and this will certainly improve the environment. Our people are grateful for the employment opportunities that have been created. We are sure that this will increase the water sources in the village, leading to prosperity."



**Rajendra Singh,**

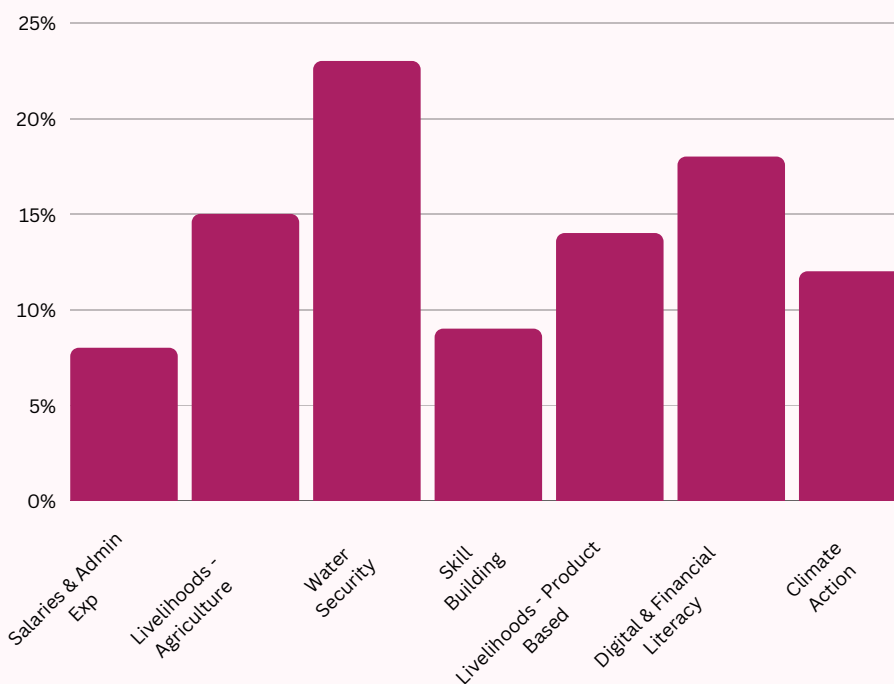
Waterman of India, Magsaysay award winner

"The work you have started is going to save lives. This work is liberating and will bring water security and biodiversity to this place."

# FINANCIALS :

## Spend Analysis 2022 - 23 across Program Pillars

Financials : Spend Analysis 2022 - 23 across Program Pillars



## OUR STRENGTHS

- Deep understanding of tribal communities leading to holistic approach to tribal development
- Design thinking approach- we include the voice of the community in every step of the project.
- All field team members are local
- Climate Change mitigation and adaptation is integrated across all projects
- Successfully implementing model of “Change without Charity” which necessitates beneficiaries to participate by contributing in cash and/or kind in the solutions curated and being implemented
- Scaling steadily by adding programs and area of operation – yet focused
- Founders and family are significant donors to the Foundation
- Partnership approach – Work closely with local leaders, District Administration and State Government.
- Experienced collaborators and technical partners – ACWADAM (Hydrogeology), FES (Ecological Restoration), BNHS and Oikos (Bio diversity and Climate Change), BAIF (Livelihoods), Maandeshi Foundation (Financial Literacy), Mera Bills (Digital Empowerment)
- Founder/CEO, a women-led non-profit with 100 % women in executive positions.
- CEO and most of the senior leadership team are pro bono - hence admin costs are low – 90% of the funding goes directly to programs and beneficiaries.
- A strong advisory board and committed donors and partners

## Partner with us by being a donor and supporter

### FOR CORPORATE / INSTITUTIONAL DONORS:

Please mail us at [greetings@raahfoundation.org](mailto:greetings@raahfoundation.org) OR  
call Sonia on +919320019195

### FOR INDIVIDUAL / RETAIL DONORS:

Choose your passion/ theme you wish to support and use the link below to donate

#### WATER SECURITY

Support a Wello Wheel  
₹5,000 per woman

#### CLIMATE ACTION

Support a Tree Wheel  
₹2,500 per sapling

#### SKILL TRAINING

Support a Youth  
₹5,000 per youth

#### WOMEN IN MICROBUSINESS

Support a Woman  
₹15,000 per Woman



### VOLUNTEER WITH US

Mail us your details at  
[hr@raahfoundation.org](mailto:hr@raahfoundation.org)



## OUR PARTNERS



## OUR ADVISORS



## OUR COLLABORATING PARTNERS



## Looking Ahead: Mission 2030



### **Water**

Make 150 villages water secure directly impacting over 1,00,000 people



### **Sustainable Livelihoods: Climate Smart Farming**

Enable year round farming opportunities for at least 4000 additional farmers



### **Sustainable Livelihoods: for Women**

Support 5000 women start a micro business and digitally and financially empower them.



### **Sustainable Livelihoods: Skill Training**

Skill 75,000 youths across all three programs



### **Climate Action**

Rejuvenate 15,000 acres across the upstream catchment area of the Godavari river & its tributaries



+91 87790 65171



[info@raahfoundation.org](mailto:info@raahfoundation.org)



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South Shivaji Park, Dadar,  
Mumbai 400028

