



2022-23

# PROGRESS & IMPACT REPORT





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# Chairman's Update

The year 2022-23 has been a fulfilling year for APPL Foundation, and I am pleased to share the key highlights in my capacity as the Chairman of the Board of Trustees.

The focus this year was to continue improving the lives of local communities in and around the tea growing regions of Assam and North Bengal in a sustainable way. The Foundation re-evaluated its initiatives and prioritized its programmes to help people recover from the pandemic years. For example, significant effort was spent in executing vocational training programs and subsequently ensuring enhanced placement to generate additional family income.

In 2022-23 the Foundation directly impacted 3,88,470 individuals with our interventions in health and wellbeing, education & skill development, livelihood generation, and environmental protection through 10 programmes carried out in 12 districts of Assam and West Bengal.

APPL Foundation will continue its attempts to meet the shifting needs of the populace. We anticipate another fruitful year and are grateful to our partners, employees, and donors for their ongoing support.

We condole the sudden demise of Mr. Dhiraj Kakati, who unfortunately passed away after a brief illness in March, this year. He joined APPL Foundation as the Managing Trustee in May 2014, post his distinguished career with the Indian Tea Association of over three decades. The notable programmes initiated during his tenure were, Shirish Festival for promotion of culture, tie up with GTET to expand APPITI curriculum on skill development, launch of Vocational Training Centres at Chubwa, Dam Dim and Rungamuttee, flood relief work in Assam in 2017, Small Farm Integration Project with Sir Dorab Tata Trust, launch of 3F and MHM programme with support from Zak Foundation and establishment of E-healthcare facilities in collaboration with HPE. Most of these continue till today. His service to the Foundation in the past will be gratefully remembered.

## Health

In February of 2022, APPL Foundation took over the responsibility of the Referral Hospital and Research Centre (RHRC) in Chubwa, which offers the locals specialised medical facilities, consultations, and treatments. We are appreciative of Tata Consumer Product Limited's (erstwhile Tata Tea Limited) ongoing support and are proud that over 2 lakh people's health concerns were treated this year at the RHRC.

A major public health concern in North-East India is Tuberculosis. APPL Foundation, under a pledge to contribute to The National Tuberculosis Elimination Program (NTEP), screened over 2 lakh people for TB, of which over 500 were diagnosed and treated, in 2022-23.

Other health issues seen among young girls and women, such as fungal infections and menstrual concerns became a priority for the Foundation. Community-based leaders were identified and recruited to increase awareness to walk against the tide of these rising health concerns. Out of 19210 women and girls in North Bank and Misa regions of Assam, 72% were made aware of personal hygiene practices to prevent fungal infection. Through increased number of medical camps and awareness meetings, the taboo around menstrual hygiene was reduced among 100% of women and young girls in 2022-23. The

programme also served as a source of income for over 20 female community leaders, who distributed quality menstrual absorbents at affordable prices to the community. Through increased experience sharing sessions and discussions, these women have also felt a sense of pride in being a part of a much-needed cause.

## Skills and Education

In an attempt to improve economic opportunities in the target regions, the Foundation ramped up its efforts on imparting vocational skills at Industrial Training Institute (APPITI), Rowta and the Vocational Training Centre (VTC), Chubwa. Bachelor of Vocation (B.Voc.) and Industrial Training Institute's (ITI) courses such as Electrician, Fitter, Sewing Machine Operator, Motor Mechanic were offered, and 579 candidates were trained in 2022-23. The record of placements was 60%, with an average starting income of Rs.10,000 per month.

School-based education had suffered during the pandemic, resulting in further deterioration in the quality of teaching in local schools and as a result, student dropouts had also increased. The reason behind these concerns was found to be the disproportionate student-teacher ratio in schools. Students found it difficult to cope with more complex concepts in Math and Science. Having identified this concern, the Foundation introduced Digital Learning



Centres in Dam Dim and Nowera Nuddy Tea Estates so that students from in and around, would benefit from remedial evening classes that focused on Math and Science. A total of 244 students were enrolled in the two centres by the end of 2023.

### Environment

The Foundation published an e-journal, "Organic Growth", as done in earlier years, highlighting critical issues on environment degradation and innovations for a healthier and greener future. The latest issue of Organic Growth focused on Water, Health and Sanitation.

### Plan Going Forward

The focus will be on empowering local communities by improving their access to basic necessities for an improved standard

of living. Along with health, education, and income-generating interventions, this will involve enlisting an increasing number of individuals at the grassroots level to serve as the change ambassadors. The Foundation will add additional enrichment initiatives, while strengthening the oversight and administration of already-existing ones.

I take this opportunity to thank my colleagues and fellow Trustees for their support. I also welcome Dr. Debasish Sengupta as a Trustee of the Foundation.

**Ajoyendra Mukherjee,**  
Chairman, Board of Trustees  
APPL FOUNDATION

**Date: December 4<sup>th</sup> 2023**

Programmes	2022-23	2021-22
<b>Overall</b>		
Beneficiaries (nos.)	388470	269928
Programmes (nos.)	10	13
Locations (no. of districts)	12	12
<b>Healthcare</b>		
RHRC (no. of OPD and IPD Patients)	44409	29154
Covid-19 Support (no. of tests)	-	27654
e-Healthcare (no. of patient registrations)	58961	51322
TB Case Findings (no. of screenings)	219903	150402
MHM Programme (no. of women and girls given awareness)	44504 from 15 estates	15268 from 8 estates
Community Leaders (no. of women trained)	20	14
<b>Skills &amp; Education</b>		
APPITI & VTC (total trainees)	761 trainees	412 trainees
APPITI & VTC (total placements)	60% (342 trainees)	39% (161 trainees)
TEACH Me (no. of children)	244	-
<b>Disaster Response</b>		
Flood Response (no. of beneficiaries)	6000	-
<b>Financials</b>		
Total income (Rs. crores)	16.54	16.74
Total expenditure (Rs. crores)	16.70	2.29
Surplus/Deficit (Rs. crores)	(0.20)	(0.37)







APPL Foundation, an irrevocable trust with the dominant objective of welfare of the general public in distress was formed in 2011. For 12 years the focus of the Trust has been to support local communities with medical aid, health services and relief, education and learning, environment protection and revival of indigenous tribal, music and dance. The initiatives of the Trust has had far-reaching impact within the communities in Assam Valley region and Dooars, West Bengal.

## APPL Foundation Drives Sustainable Development

Development which meets the needs of the present and enables the future generations to meet their own needs.

### Our Vision

Catalysing change

### Our Mission

Significant improvement in the quality of life and livelihood sustenance of marginalized communities in the North East.

### Our Approach

Launch social impact initiatives in the fields of skill development & livelihood, education, healthcare, environment and culture in the North East.

In 2022-23

We Implemented  
**10**  
Programmes

Across **3** Verticals  
Touching  
**3,88,470**  
lives

Across **12** districts  
of Assam and  
West Bengal







# HEALTHCARE



**SDG 2**  
NO  
HUNGER



**SDG 3**  
GOOD  
HEALTH AND  
WELL-BEING

The greatest hindrance to an effective healthcare system is the wide urban-rural variation in standards and access. Communities face a number of challenges, the most crucial being lack of doctors and specialists. APPL Foundation, along with its partner organizations, tries to bridge the gap between rural healthcare requirement and its availability. Our objective is to provide access to quality healthcare to the rural areas in North East India by equipping the healthcare units at the remotest locations with latest technology, treatment by medical specialists and skilled healthcare personnel.

## Referral Hospital and Research Centre (RHRC), Chubwa

RHRC, a 80-bed hospital with state-of-the-art medical facilities, was set up at Chubwa Tea Estate by Tata Consumer Product Limited (erstwhile Tata Tea Limited) in 1994. The hospital has been offering treatment at affordable rates to the public. On April 1, 2007, the hospital was transferred from Tata Tea Limited to Amalgamated Plantations Private Limited and then again to APPL Foundation on February 21, 2021.

The hospital was built to provide secondary care medical facilities for nearby residents and the population in and around that area. Majority of the patients of RHRC earn less than Rs. 6,000 per month and 100% of patients consider RHRC to be the most affordable hospital in the region. It is also the only medical facility in the area with SA8000 accreditation.

## Our Vision

**Good Health for all**

## Our Mission

**Provide Quality, Comprehensive and Accessible Healthcare at affordable cost.**

**44,409**

OPD and IPD Patients provided treatment at RHRC.

**2,73,299**

medical services, including surgeries, diagnostic tests, treatments and e-consultations, conducted at RHRC and e-Hubs.

**58,182**

women and adolescent girls sensitized on personal hygiene for preventing skin and menstrual diseases.

**2,27,299**

people diagnosed and treated through for Fungal Infection and Tuberculosis.



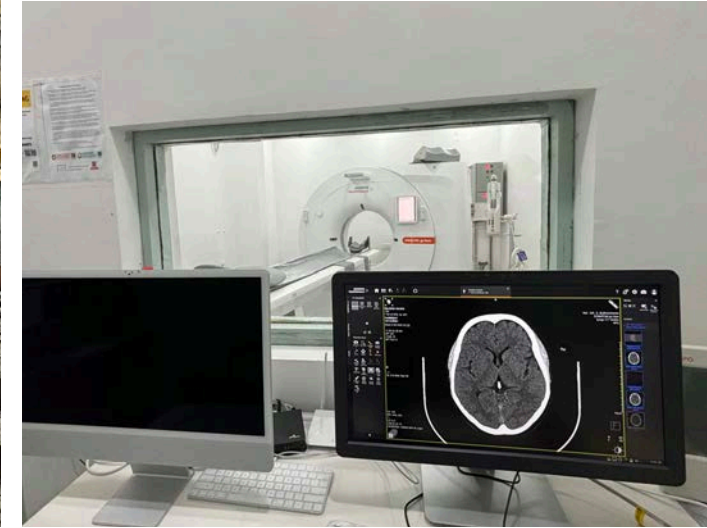


## Facilities

Outpatient Department, Inpatient Department, Orthopaedic consultations /surgery, Cardiology consultations/investigations, Eye & ENT consultations / surgery, Dental Department, executive suites, Pharmacy, 24 X 7 Blood Bank services, Cashless Insurance, Digital Medical Record System and 24 X 7 ambulance services.

## Departments with advance modern facilities

Laparoscopic Surgery, Pathology Department with latest diagnostic facilities, Radiology Department with USG, Digital X-Ray & C Arm, 24 X 7 SCU and ICU with Ventilator, Modern Anaesthesia Unit, Echocardiography Unit



## 2022-23 at a glance



**41466** patients treated in Outpatient Department (OPD)

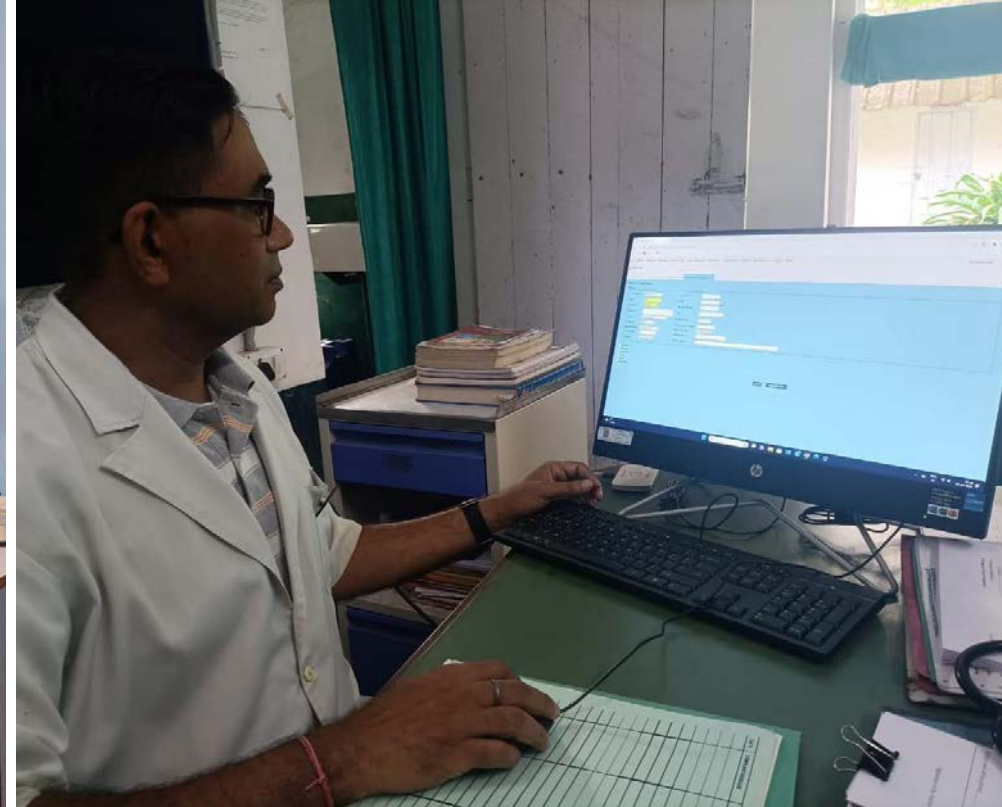
**2943** patients treated in Inpatient Department (IPD)

**212452** diagnostic tests conducted

**1886** surgeries performed







## e-Healthcare

eHealthcare is one of the ambitious projects of APPL Foundation, in association with Hewlett Packard Enterprise (HPE) to promote telemedicine services in 5 Tea Estates in Assam and North Bengal. The project was started in 2015 at Dam Dim, Kellyden, Hathikuli, Namroop, and Powai Tea Estates. Currently, the eHubs offer consultations on medicine, surgery, gynaecology, eye, ENT, and lab test services.

### KEY OBJECTIVES

- To deliver advanced medical services in remote locations
- To increase resources to make them accessible to the neighbouring rural population within a 10km radius
- To provide timely treatment to patients who are unable to travel for better medical consultation
- To establish a structure capable of responding quickly in the event of a widespread medical emergency



# 2022-23

**58961**  
patients registered

**305**  
patients received tele-consultations with specialists

**12524**  
lab tests conducted

**3341**  
outside referrals

## TB Case Findings

The TB Case Findings Programme has been initiated by the Foundation, in collaboration with Hewlett Packard Enterprise (HPE), across 25 tea estates in West Bengal and Assam.

Tuberculosis has been a longstanding issue in the tea garden communities, mainly due to lack of sanitation practices and increased exposure to germs. APPL Foundation has pledged to support these communities in being TB free by aligning with The National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP), which aims to strategically reduce TB burden in India by 2025.

### The programme offers:

- Screening of communities for TB across tea estates and nearby communities
- Diagnosis of people showing TB symptoms and their subsequent testing
- Connecting diagnosed patients with the first line of treatment and monitoring their treatment
- Building capacity of tea garden hospitals to serve as TB identification/diagnosis centres for the community at large.

**219903**  
people  
Screened for TB Symptoms

**5074**  
people  
Tested for TB

**544**  
people  
Diagnosed with TB

**544**  
patients  
put on treatment

**336**  
patients  
completed treatment







## Fungal Free Frocks (3F) Project

The Fungal Free Frocks (3F) Programme is an initiative of APPL Foundation supported by Serra Foundation, The Netherlands, with the aim to prevent and cure fungal infection through preventive and curative medical interventions. The programme was piloted in 3 tea estate communities in North Bank of Assam in 2019 which has now expanded to 7 tea growing regions. A reflection of the success of the programme can be seen in the health and lifestyle change that the community has adopted.

The initiative has helped in breaking the silence around fungal infection and improving health-seeking behaviour.



### Awareness Campaigns

**3760**

awareness sessions

**13826**

people sensitized

**7396**

people screened

(38% of total population)

**1932**

infected people identified



### Hygiene Promotion for prevention

**2122**

petticoats and detergents distributed



### Treatment for cure

**3787**

ointments and medicine strips distributed

### 3F 3rd Phase

2021 onwards

7 Estates: Nahorani, Nonoi, Sagmootea, Kellyden, Lamabari, Hattigor and Majuli





## Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) Programme

APPL Foundation dedicated the year 2022-23 to improve menstrual hygiene management practices in their areas of interventions. The Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) Programme has been running in and around 15 tea estates and aims to normalize conversations on menstrual hygiene among adolescent girls and women. Our trained female community leaders, known as Sakhis, have enabled a free learning and sharing environment by conducting regular awareness programmes and door-to-door awareness campaigns. The women and young girls now freely approach for help with their menstrual problems and are also provided easy access to affordable and good quality menstrual hygiene products.

**44504** women and adolescent girls sensitized on good Menstrual Hygiene Practice

**5587** awareness campaigns conducted in households and community spaces

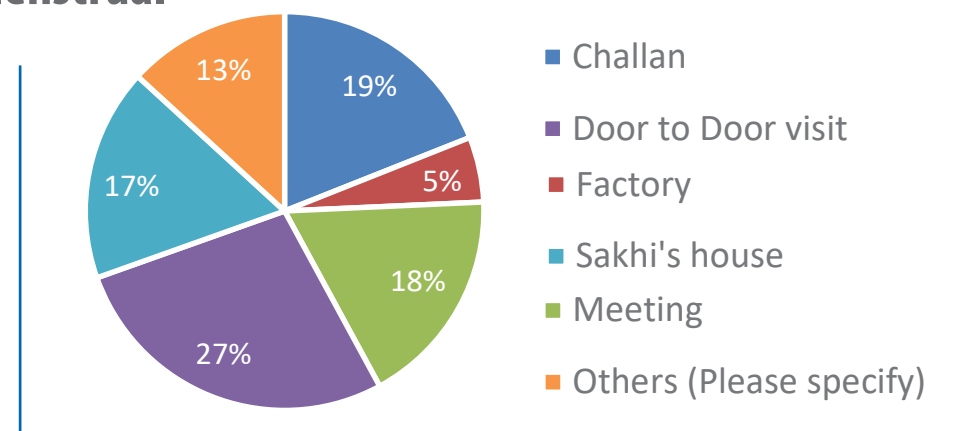
**7238** menstrual absorbents were availed by the women in the community

**20** community leaders (Sakhis) nurtured to improve menstrual hygiene practices

More than **50%** women and girls adopted healthy menstrual practices by using sanitary napkins

Menstrual absorbents are placed in various locations throughout the tea estates, so that women can easily access them. Pads are made available at doorsteps and common places of gathering such as challans, factories, and at awareness meetings.

### Sale of Menstrual Products




### No. of People Covered through Awareness Campaigns

**16677**  
Challan Visits  
**15225**  
Meeting  
**12602**  
Door-to-Door Visits







# SKILLS AND EDUCATION

Right to Education is one of the 7 Fundamental Rights of the Indian Constitution. It is also recognized as crucial to realize some of the other rights such as Right to Work, Right to Social Security, and Right to a Decent Standard of Living. However, the average rate of literacy in India is only 74%. In comparison, the rate of literacy among Tea Tribes in Assam and West Bengal is only about 46%.

APPL Foundation aims to improve levels of education and employability by promoting education and skill-development amongst the young and old. Including improving formal school education, APPL Foundation also takes a realistic approach to increase employability of youth by skill trainings. Expanding the horizon of education, the Foundation is enabling the youth and women from socially disadvantaged backgrounds to improve their socio-economic condition by opening new avenues of income and employment.



**SDG 1**  
NO  
POVERTY



**SDG 5**  
GENDER  
EQUALITY



**SDG 4**  
QUALITY  
EDUCATION



**SDG 8**  
DECENT WORK  
& ECONOMIC  
GROWTH

**761**

Youth from Tea Tribes and surrounding communities were trained in technical and vocational skills.

**244**

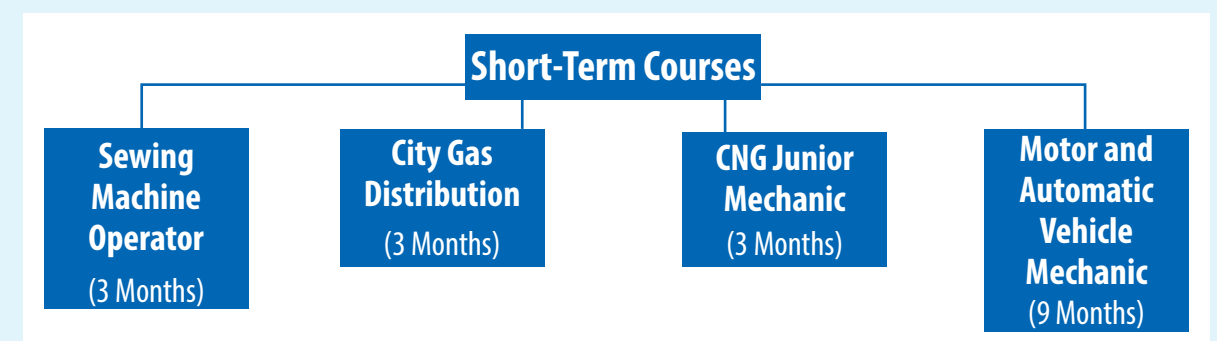
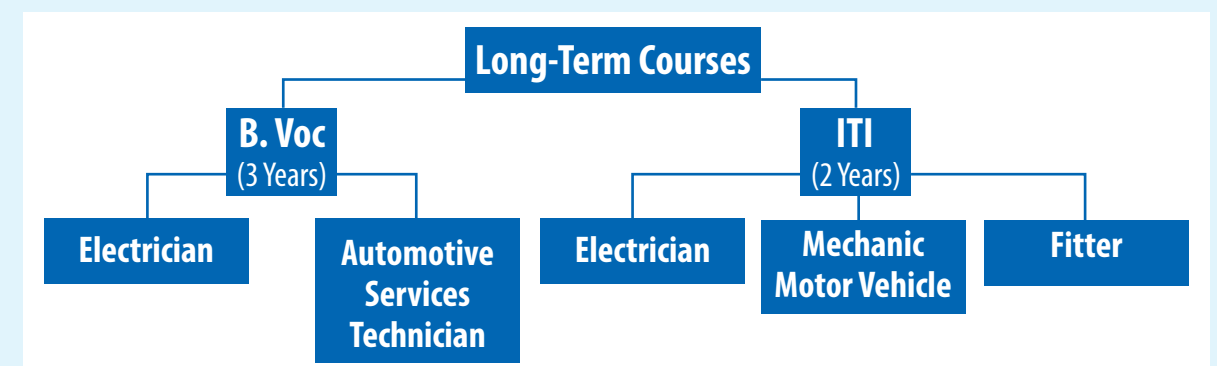
school-going children educated through remedial classes in Math and Science.



## Amalgamated Plantations Private Industrial Training Institute (APPITI), Rowta

Amalgamated Plantations Private Industrial Training Institute (APPITI) is a flagship programme of APPL Foundation that provides certified vocational training to youths. The institute was established in 1997 by Tata Consumer Products Limited (erstwhile Tata Tea Limited) out of the need for skill-based courses for the youth from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds in order to generate technical manpower and employability. Since 2014, APPITI in partnership with Gram Tarang Employability Training Services (GTETS) has been training and creating employment opportunities for thousands of youth in the region.

We offers short term and long-term courses.





# APPITI, Rowta: A Trendsetter in Skill Development



## Hostel Facility

**96**  
seats in Girls Hostel  
(51 occupied)

**72**  
seats in Boys Hostel  
(29 occupied)



**461**  
NO. OF TRAINEES  
ENROLLED

**259**  
NO. OF TRAINEES  
COMPLETED TRAINING

**224**  
NO. OF TRAINEES  
PLACED



50%  
of the trainees  
at the centre are  
women

Self-financed  
ITI courses  
at subsidized amount  
offered to youth from  
Below Poverty Line  
families

Trainees earn  
Rs. 10000  
per month  
(on average)  
in their very  
first job

A well-maintained canteen  
providing quality **affordable  
food to students** and people  
visiting the centre in general

Forged partnership with  
**Kaziranga University** and  
companies such as OIL India  
and AGCL for running new  
short and long-term courses.







## VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTRE (VTC), CHUBWA

The objective of establishing the Vocational Training Centre (VTC) in Chubwa was to upskill the youth of the tea tribe community through certified courses.

Since 2016, APPL Foundation in partnership with Gram Tarang Employability and Training Services (GTETS) is providing free quality skill-based training, hence generating employment opportunities for the underprivileged youth of the region.

We provide short-term courses in collaboration with DDU-GKY:  
**Sewing Machine Operator**

### Our uniqueness

**65%** of the trainees are from tea tribes

**81%** of trainees from tea tribe secured jobs after completing the trainings

Youth across **8 districts** of Assam were trained at the centre

The centre holds record of placing **75%** of its trainees

Trainees earn **Rs. 8500/-** per month (on average) in their very first job



**300**

No. of Trainees Enrolled

**118**

No. of Trainees Completed Training

**118**

No. of Trainees Placed

## Teach Me Programme



In local schools, the student-teacher-ratio is high, making it difficult for teachers to give individual attention to each child's education. As a result, students often suffer from understanding difficult concepts, especially for Math and Science, thus, increasing the rate of student drop outs.

APPL Foundation in partnership with Vahdam Teas and BYJUS launched the TEAch Me Programme- an initiative to reach quality education to children of classes 4 to 12 in and around the Estate communities, on Math and Science. Learning Centers were established in 2 estates of Dooars, West Bengal- Dam Dim and Nowera Nuddy- where supplemental tuition classes are run using pre-loaded and grade-specific BYJUS study content. The facilitators use these pre-loaded interactive videos to explain complex concepts in Math and Science, also allowing children to develop an interest in the subject.

**244 students**

are benefiting from this programme.







# FLOOD RESPONSE

August of 2022 saw one of the worst floods in Assam, due to a total of 251.20mm of rainfall- the highest in a ten-year period. Cachar district was worst affected with over 780 villages across 5 revenue circles being inundated.

Amalgamated Plantations Private Limited (APPL) was the Lead Company in the flood response, supported by APPL Foundation (APPLF), being the Legal Entity for the receipt and disbursement of funds. The team coordinated closely and with government counterparts including the Assam State Disaster Management Authority, 39 Assam Rifles unit the Cachar District Administration and local civil society organizations to ensure that response was aligned with needs and requirements of the affected communities.

Tata Communications, Tata Steel, Tata Capital, Indian Hotels Company Limited (IHCL), Tata Projects, Titan, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), Tata Power Company and APPL donated Rs 1.2 Cr towards the relief effort which reached out to 1200 affected families. A total of 6,000 lives of affected population, belonging to the highly vulnerable category (socio-economically and impact-wise) were reached through the combined efforts.

The process of distribution began with a family needs assessment to understand their socio-economic vulnerability, identification, and selection of beneficiaries, and finally, procurement and distribution, utilizing a total of 2022 volunteer hours of 24 volunteers from APPL, and other Tata Group Companies.



Number of volunteer hours	<b>2022</b>
Location	<b>Assam, Cachar District: Borkhola, Kalain, Katigorah, Palonghat, Salchakra Blocks</b>
Beneficiaries	<b>1200 households, 6000 lives touched</b>
Kits Distributed	<b>Shelter Kit- 842 Household Kit- 794 (Water Purifier, Kitchen Utensils, Blankets, Reusable Menstrual Cloth)</b>



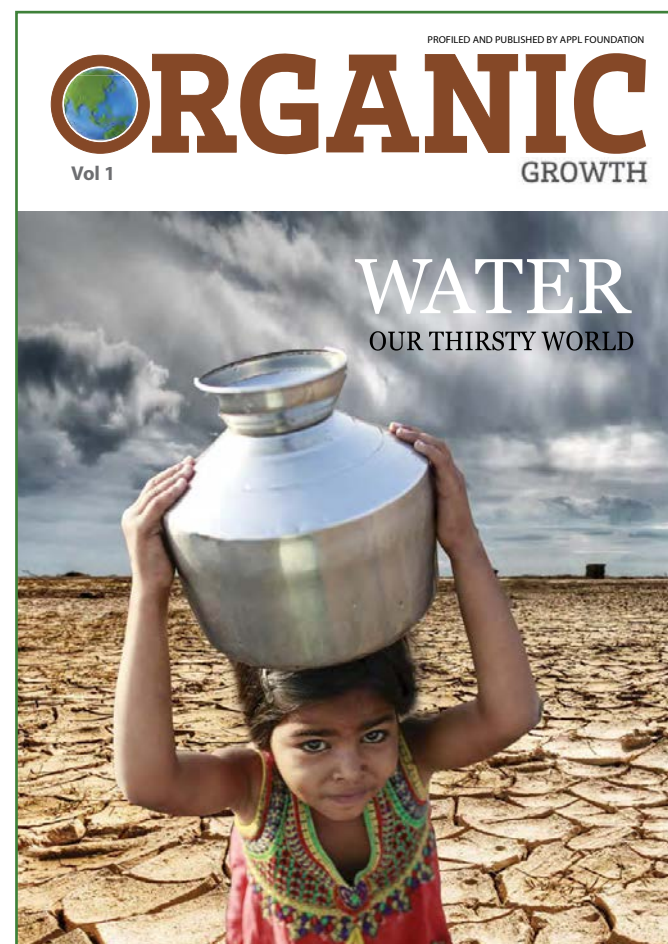




# ENVIRONMENT AND LIVELIHOOD

## Organic Growth

In contribution to global discussions around environment conservation, APPL Foundation also publishes an e-journal, “Organic Growth” with **over 400 readers** in East and North-East India. It highlights issues of environment degradation and innovative technical and non-technical breakthroughs towards environment conservation for a healthier greener future. The latest issue of the journal in 2022 focuses on Water, a subject which had held the focus for major academic and non-academic discussions, articles and research papers for at least 2 decades. This issue of the journal explores the interlinkages between water, sanitation and health; and its impact on the vulnerable communities.



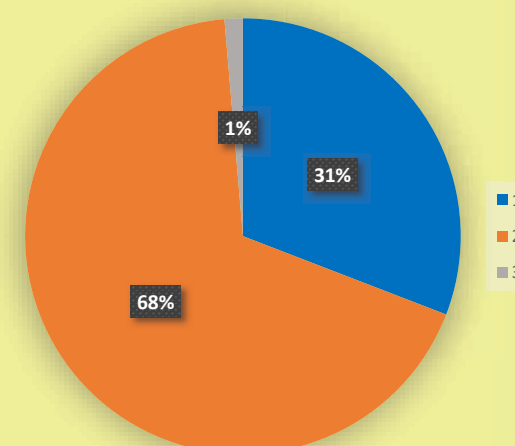
**ORGANIC GROWTH Vol 1 2022**  
promotes sustainable management of Clean Water & Sanitation

## FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2022-23

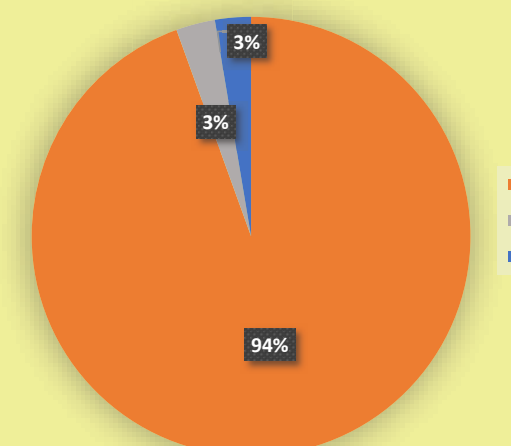
(All amounts in Rs)

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED	31st March 2023	31st March 2022
<b>PARTICULARS</b>		
<b>INCOME</b>		
Donations and Grants	51,032,944	4,760,713
Income from RHRC	112,110,100	11,273,101
Other Income	2,245,090	701,730
<b>Total</b>	<b>165,388,134</b>	<b>16,735,545</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Expenditure on the Object of the Trust	157,778,105	21,268,707
Administration & General Expenses	4,805,757	1,583,716
Depreciation and Amortisation	4,416,027	24,585
<b>Total</b>	<b>166,999,889</b>	<b>22,877,008</b>
Excess of (Expenditure) over Income	(1,611,756)	(6,141,464)
Amount Transferred (to) / from Project Earmarked Funds	(344,834)	2,416,293
Surplus/ ( Deficit) for the Year carried to Balance Sheet	(1,956,590)	(3,725,171)

Financial Inflow



Financial Outflow





# OUR PARTNERS IN PROGRESS

Our partners are pillars on which our interventions are established. We are thankful to our partners and associates for their continued support in our transformational journey.



# OUR TEAM



**AJOYENDRA MUKHERJEE**  
Chairman



**AMITAVA RANJAN SEN**  
Secretary Trustee



**MAHFUZA RAHMAN**  
Trustee



**RUMA RAO**  
Trustee



**DIPANKAR BORAH**  
Trustee



**RIZWAN AKHTAR SADIQUE**  
Trustee



**P K SASIKUMAR**  
Trustee



**DEBASISH SENGUPTA**  
Trustee





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