

Research and Evaluation

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Three-Phase Impact Assessment of the Rajhara Trans-Mine Field Site under ACPET's People-Centric Energy Transition Initiative

Impact360 Foundation is implementing a comprehensive three-phase impact assessment of the Rajhara Trans-Mine Field Site under the Ashoka Centre for a People-Centric Energy Transition (ACPET). The study evaluates the socio-economic, institutional, and energy transition outcomes of key interventions, including Solar Lift Irrigation systems, Farmer Producer Organisation strengthening, and clean cooking initiatives in mining-affected communities. Anchored in a mixed-methods design, the assessment integrates household surveys, stakeholder consultations, and longitudinal analysis across baseline, midline, and endline phases. Analytical lenses such as the Sustainable Livelihood Framework (SLF) and the AARQA energy access framework are applied to examine changes across livelihood capitals, governance quality, energy reliability, equity, and resilience.

Beyond outcome measurement, the exercise incorporates Social Return on Investment (SROI) principles to assess value creation across economic, social, and environmental dimensions. The study identifies systemic strengths, institutional gaps, and scalable models to enhance long-term sustainability and community ownership. Serving as a strategic learning and accountability tool, the assessment supports ACPET in refining its people-centric energy transition and following the Just Transition model, strengthening program effectiveness, and aligning field interventions with climate resilience, inclusive growth, and national development priorities.



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Study on Export Roadmap for Agarwood and Value-Added Products from North East India

The Agarwood Export Development Study undertaken by Impact360 Foundation focuses on assessing and strengthening India's position in the rapidly growing global market for natural aroma compounds and bio-based fragrance ingredients. Agarwood (*Aquilaria* spp.), widely known as Oud, is among the most valuable natural fragrance materials used in perfumery, wellness, cosmetics, and aromatherapy industries worldwide. With rising global demand across luxury markets in the Middle East, East Asia, Southeast Asia, and increasingly Europe and North America. India—particularly the North-Eastern Region including Assam and Tripura—holds significant potential due to its favourable agro-climatic conditions, established cultivation practices, and expanding base of agarwood plantations. Through a comprehensive mixed-method research approach involving sector assessment, value chain analysis, regulatory review, stakeholder consultations, trade data analysis, and international benchmarking, the study aims to identify strategic interventions to enhance India's competitiveness in the agarwood industry. The key outcome will be the development of a structured Export Roadmap for Agarwood and Value-Added Products from North-East India, outlining short-term, medium-term, and long-term strategies to strengthen the export ecosystem, promote value addition, support smallholder producers, and ensure sustainable resource management. The study has been commissioned by Shellac & Forest Products Export Council (apex agency sponsored by the Ministry of Commerce, Govt. of India)



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G-SAFE Feasibility Study

The G-SAFE Feasibility Study, sponsored by TDH Germany, examines the rights, safety, and living conditions of children, youth, women, and LGBTQ+ individuals living in the urban slums of Kolkata, Bhubaneswar, and Ranchi. It highlights pressing issues such as gender-based discrimination, domestic violence, limited access to healthcare and education, livelihood opportunities, and social exclusion, all of which restrict access to essential services and a dignified life. Using a mixed-method research approach—surveys, interviews, focus group discussions, and community consultations—the study identifies city-specific vulnerabilities alongside common challenges driven by rapid urbanisation, poverty, and informal employment. It further documents gaps in education, health, skills, and income generation, as well as varying patterns of abuse, substance use, and infrastructure deficits across the three cities.

Building on these insights, the study proposes targeted and inclusive interventions that align with government schemes and policies. Key priorities include child protection, youth skill development, women's and LGBTQ+ entrepreneurship, community-based support systems, and strategic partnerships. By systematically mapping needs, opportunities, and viable solutions, the G-SAFE Feasibility Study provides a clear roadmap for impactful initiatives designed to advance safety, dignity, and sustainable livelihoods for the most vulnerable urban populations.



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Tata Metaliks Ltd. CSR Interventions

Tata Metaliks Ltd. (now part of Tata Steel) commissioned a comprehensive assessment of CSR interventions implemented by their Trust in Medinipur district, West Bengal. The study generated evidence-based insights into community development contributions and offered strategic recommendations for strengthening the programmes. Using a systematic, participatory approach guided by OECD-DAC criteria, the assessment examined both quantitative and qualitative changes across stakeholder groups, with a focus on identifying gaps, best practices, and scalable models to enhance long-term social value and ensure greater alignment with evolving community needs.

The impact assessment exercise focused on key thematic areas of Tata Metaliks Ltd.'s CSR vision—Education, Water-Health-Sanitation, Employability, Entrepreneurship, and Environment—evaluating access, quality, livelihoods, resilience, and sustainability. The study generated actionable recommendations to refine programme strategies, optimise resources, strengthen monitoring, and enhance community ownership. Serving as a strategic tool, it guides the Trust in resetting and scaling its CSR vision to achieve greater effectiveness, long-term sustainability, and alignment with evolving community needs and national development priorities.



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The Sundarbans' resilient agriculture

While the Sundarbans' ecological attributes are globally acknowledged, it still is one of the most challenging places to live in as the area is characterized by severe poverty, making the region's population vulnerable to growing natural hazards. This calls for developing sustainable livelihood programs that provide gainful employment on the one hand and help preserve the ecology on the other.

In order to initiate the project, a scoping study was conducted in the Sundarbans to gauge the problems faced in agriculture and livelihood activities. The main aim of this study was to design an agriculture development program, including specific interventions, that lead to climate-resilient sustainable agriculture development, augmenting farmers' incomes. Our team of experts had focused discussions with the target community, exchanged ideas with institutions engaged in developing agriculture in the Sundarbans, and solicited expert consultation. What emerged from these discussions were that, an increase in soil salinity because of frequent cyclones and floods was triggering climate change, causing hindrance in the agricultural practices. The farmers of the Sundarban do not have access to good agriculture inputs, including quality seeds, mechanization and are unaware of different agricultural schemes of the government due to low awareness. Impact360 is approaching this situation through a micro initiative – creating a consortium of experts, researchers, practitioners, and market advisors who will be able to disseminate knowledge to the farmers on the application of climate-resilient agricultural practices. Interventions designed by Impact360 under this project address these critical issues that can change their lives through increased income, introduction of technology, improved agriculture product quality and access to markets not previously approached.

