



ANNUAL REPORT 2021-22



45
Years of
Solidarity

MESSAGE FROM THE FOUNDERS

Yet another annual report and another general meeting of SOPAR-Bala Vikasa, the forty-fifths.

We, the founders, cherish this moment. It allows us to thank from the bottom of our hearts all those who, since the origins of the organization, have accompanied us in the mission that we gave ourselves more than four decades ago: Sharing with the most disadvantaged of our poor blue planet which, in addition to suffering the consequences of a deadly pandemic, is now more than ever shrouded in the blood of wars and the hatred of racial and doctrinaire struggles within a world which nevertheless claims to be civilized and democratic.

Thus, our deep gratitude for all those who work with us: our donors, our active members: our volunteers, the officers of our boards of directors. Finally, those who are on the front line: our approximately three hundred employees.

A few weeks ago, we received an email from one of them. Here are a few lines, it describes admirably well the context and the state of mind in which our young professionals find themselves and which is becoming a major challenge for the organization to recruit them, train them and allow them to make their place within the organization to become a stakeholder.



“Dear "uncle and aunt”,

Today marks the ... th anniversary of my full-time work with Bala Vikasa.

There were times when I felt like I wouldn't stay that long, but with different support systems in place, I was able to (carry on) with the organization.

This is a personal milestone for me, and I just wanted to take a moment to express my gratitude for the constant encouragement and support I have received from you both of across various professional engagements. I have always felt at ease, both in approaching you and working together with you whenever required. I believe it was important and valuable for me as a young professional trying to figure my way out working in a large, complex, challenging and demanding professional environment like in Bala Vikasa.

Thank you so much for the faith, support, guidance, and encouragement. I have found comfort in it while going about my work and I am grateful to you for providing me with that.

Thanks again for everything!

Best regards,

XXX”

Recruiting and retaining a skilled and motivated workforce is one of the most significant challenges for our organization in India. Young professionals, especially in urban areas, are driven by the priorities set by the younger generations: Generations Y and Z.

Generation Y (between 19 and 39 years old) who know full well that throughout the years, a career will not be made in one and the same enterprise; that prioritizes a good quality of life at work; who is attached to values and nature with great importance to ecology and social work to stay motivated; who is looking for meaning in professional life; etc.

Generation Z who is beginning to join the workforce; who prefers "managers" who look like them and who are "understanding" which was not the case during far the pyramidal system of yesteryear; who has a strong taste for entrepreneurship; who is ultra-connected on the internet in search of freedom and thirst for learning; who wants to improve and prove itself.

For these two generations, it is not uncommon to see that agreements with a new employer quickly become obsolete with the lure of higher compensation and better working conditions from elsewhere.

In this modern and complex context, it is essential to put in place management strategies adapted to all employees. Not always easy when you know that intergenerational conflicts, even if not part of the organization culture, persist society at large .

One might wonder if the key to getting everyone to live together is not mutual aid and recognition, allowing the youngest to help the oldest not to remain on the hot seat in a world where everything is going very fast, and to the older ones to value the younger ones in perpetual quest for recognition, for more collective performance.

Creating moments of conviviality between employees is also one of the keys to improving collaboration within these different generations.

These are new avenues for a human resources strategy at SOPAR-Bala Vikasa. The personal message sent to us recently by one of our key employees and which we have reproduced above, seems to confirm these directions to take.

As the pillars of the organization grow older and the challenges facing SOPAR-Bala Vikasa become more specialized and more demanding, we, and its management should, as a matter of priority, take due note of this reality and act accordingly.

The future of our organization and its mission in service of the poor demand it.

André Gingras

Bala T. (Angel) Singareddy-Gingras, M.S.C.

André Gingras, M.S.C.

June 9, 2022



PORTRAIT OF 45 YEARS OF SOPAR...

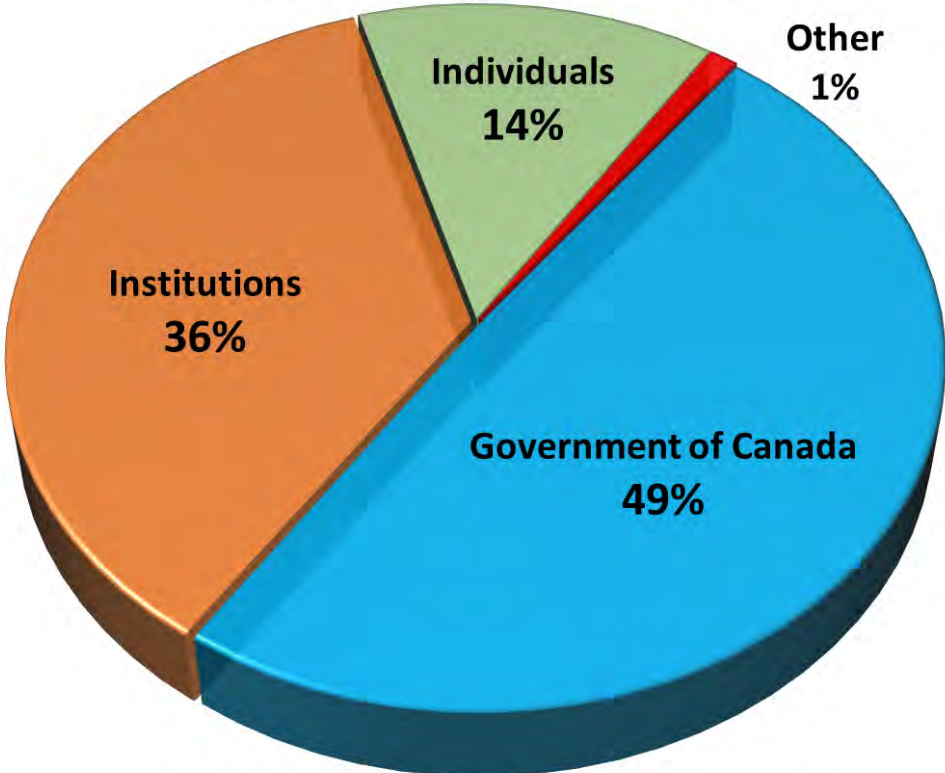
Our solidarity family has kept faith with us for now 45 years and we have come a long way together, holding firm to our vision, while our mission kept evolving with the needs of a growing number of communities and with their step by step advancement toward their own goal of community self reliance. Our community development goals have preceded the United Nations Sustainable development goals, most of these suffering from delays in being achieved. Most of our own achievements are measured in the ever growing of communities that are making their way out of poverty and desempowerment and in the equally growing number of them constantly joining in the movement forward.

Even during the last few years of the catastrophic pandemic, we all ensured that the momentum was kept up and that there was no regression. We can all take pride in this, and be proud of each others. What we contributed in solidarity in difficult time with those who have far less than we do, we gained in witnessing how it was experienced and received by them in what was an even more trying time: with immense relief, renewed hope and sincere and dignified gratitude.

There has not been a year when our Report was a harbinger of mediocre achievements. We hope you will agree with us that this is worth celebrating, and will trust that we can find ourself saying the same in another 5 years time!

Happy 45th to our Founders, Angel and André Gingras and Happy Anniversary to you all!

SOPAR-Bala Vikasa (45 years)
TOTAL INCOME: \$51,948,174



- SOPAR**
- 97 Board members
 - 547 years of service
 - 5,800 Donors
 - 720 Schools

45 years

300 km

200 mi

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INDIA



Our Reach: in India:

- 9 states
- 6,500 villages
- 7 Million beneficiaries

Globally: 84 countries through our Knowledge sharing program

Bala Vikasa in India:

- ISO certified Society
- 300 staff
- 8,000 volunteers

About SOPAR-Bala Vikasa

SOPAR-Bala Vikasa is an international development organization founded in 1977 by Angel and André Gingras with the mission to support and strengthen the development process of India’s poor communities. Since its inception, SOPAR-Bala Vikasa has grown to be regarded as a model non-for-profit organization because of its concrete results helping entire communities come out of poverty. In addition to community driven development programs, our organization is ardently involved in building the capacities of development professionals in best practices of sustainable development gleaned from over 45 years of field experience. SOPAR-Bala Vikasa works with local partner organizations to enhance impact. We also support entrepreneurs and the corporate sector in order that they develop the tools to participate effectively in the sustainable development of their communities.

While SOPAR-Bala Vikasa is headquartered in Gatineau, Canada with a charitable initiative in the USA, Bala Vikasa has its head office and training center in Warangal, India. Together, the three entities work as sister organizations pursuing the same mission and vision.

Our Mission

We support and strengthen the development process of the poor communities in our world by:

- Helping the poor, particularly women, to help themselves through development programs
- Building the capacity of the people at the grassroots, the non-governmental organizations and the community-based organizations, through participatory training
- Providing technical support to agencies, institutions and government organizations involved in people’s development.

Our Vision

We long for a just and peaceful society in which each individual and each community is empowered and self-reliant; where human dignity, equal rights and equal opportunities are enjoyed by all.

Our Approach

WE CHANGE HOW PEOPLE THINK	WE GET THEM INVOLVED	WE STAY COMMITTED
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We believe that real change can only be achieved by the poor for the poor. • We help bring a change in attitude to the villagers by drawing on their own capacity to lead development projects. • We inspire villagers to shape their own future. • Our programs empower communities by creating elected committees within the village and by encouraging the villagers to contribute financially to the project. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We believe development activities must be brought into action by and for the people they benefit. • Our programs spark people’s desire to contribute their time, money, and energy to improve their living conditions. By doing so, they feel a sense of pride and ownership which leads them to participate in other development projects in their communities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We believe that real change takes time. • We consider each development project as a powerful stepping-stone to further encourage individuals and entire communities to improve themselves and their situation. • We continue to guide and support and phase out our role as the communities acquire the needed skills and drive.

OUR 10 RULES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

1. Development is **people**
2. Development is **women first**
3. Development is **change of attitude**
4. Development is **solidarity**
5. Development is **iterative**
6. Development is **participatory**
7. Development is **intra-cultural**
8. Development is **long term**
9. Development is **not free**
10. Development **builds on results and credibility**

SOPAR-Bala Vikasa's rules are the result of experience gained over 45 years and are at the heart of its development approach. These rules are embedded in SOPAR-Bala Vikasa's motto.

"Helping Communities Help Themselves"

INTERCONNECTEDNESS OF OUR PROGRAMS



COVID-19 RESPONSE IN RURAL INDIA



Thanks to the support we received from our SOPAR family of donors who demonstrated their collective caring and helping, as highly transmissible Delta, and Omicron variants emerged and spread rapidly through communities. This assistance included the short-term funding granted by Global Affairs Canada.

Our team in India has put in place vital response measures during the devastating pandemic waves, as the significant inequality in access to healthcare impacted every aspect of rural villagers' already precarious situations. This included measures to deal with school lockdown and with the shift to online schooling for orphans and poor children.

Project responded to the threat of COVID-19 pandemic by supporting and strengthening the capacity of the local health system, delivering essential health services, providing an awareness, and building resilient and inclusive communities with a focus on reaching women, widows, girls and elderly whose life has been impacted by COVID-19 waves that swept across the country.

Some of the Key Project activities included are fostering a safe environment in rural poor schools with protective, monitoring and hygiene measures (masks, monitoring devices, sanitizing material);

providing community level monitoring kits, Grocery kits to COVID-19 affected families; delivering various COVID-19 awareness messages; providing orphans and poor children with smartphones to pursue their education during lockdowns; Consultations and Counselling sessions for COVID-19 affected (including Long COVID) people and Training sessions, offered to community leaders, health worker strengthening COVID-19 preparedness and equitable response by governments and key stakeholders.

Our SOPAR-Bala-Vikasa COVID-19 emergency program was carried out effectively and expeditiously because the implementing staff, volunteers and partners possessed an in-depth understanding of the communities' structure, culture, and language.

The culture of solidarity and active participation that had been built up in communities and with our donors over the last 45 years has generated the trust that enables us to engage their support and collaboration and to carry our interventions in the expeditious manner required in times of crises.

SOLIDARITY IN ACTION

Many villagers sick with COVID 19 were unable to obtain food, increasing their risk of a serious deterioration in their health condition. At their own risk, neighbours and staff volunteered to bring grocery kits to their fellow villagers affected by covid19, thus preserving their health, keeping the moral and even saving the live of many.



“ *When I met COVID-19 patient families most of them were distressed. Apart from giving the grocery kits we also tried talking them out of it. I suggested the measures they can take to recover or contain the spread of the virus. I felt helping them to stay strong, try and be hopeful about the situation was also important at the time.*

- Hemalatha, Area Coordinator

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“ *As the village health worker, I had traced and supported many who were suffering from COVID. However, when I got infected, nobody reached out to me with any form of assistance. I felt very moved when Bala Vikasa women came to me with grocery kits and words of encouragement.*

- Padma, ASHA Worker

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“On behalf of our school and all the schools you have helped, I convey my heartfelt thanks to SOPAR- Bala Vikasa Social service Society and all the donors in Canada for supporting and encouraging us to attend School every day.”

Sharon Rose, 8TH grade in Primary School Grain market Warangal District.

2021-2022

- **1,015** rural communities, (in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh states) received help reaching more than **500,000** direct beneficiaries, (2 million indirect beneficiaries) through COVID-19 response project.
- **7500** Grocery kits with nutritious food provided to COVID-19 affected villagers (in two phases).
- **460** rural poor schools (69124 students) supplied with protective, monitoring and hygiene measures (single or double tap Stainless Steel Hand Wash units with 5 litres of liquid soap, Automatic Sanitizer Dispensers with 5 liters of sanitizer, Infrared thermometers, and masks to Public Schools)
- **1015** community level monitoring kits (more than 330,000 gained access)
- **107** creatives (Social Media including 12 Videos) COVID-19 awareness messages and appropriate behaviors delivered in all 1015 villages through 1213 WhatsApp groups.
- **529** village health workers received virtual training sessions on COVID-19 measures and management
- Through Toll free number, villagers gained access to virtual counseling, consultations and referral to hospitals in severe cases for those affected by COVID-19 and post-COVID complications.
- **330** orphans and poor children received cell phones to continue their studies during school lockdowns.

WATER PROGRAM



Water is not just a necessity, IT IS LIFE ...

For 45 years, SOPAR-Bala Vikasa has worked to ensure the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation in the poorest communities in rural India. This mirrors the United Nation's 6th goal of sustainable development (one the 17 goals agreed in 2015 by world leaders) aiming to create a better world by 2030.

SOPAR-Bala Vikasa's approach to achieve its own sustainable community development goals has always involved the participation and contribution of people from the most vulnerable communities in India and the active solidarity of institutions, schools and individual donors in Canada.

This year, because and in spite of the resurgence of the pandemic, the understanding and compassionate support of our Canadian donors ensured our most vulnerable villagers directly affected by COVID 19, as well as their family, had access to the safe water, sanitation, and hygienic conditions that were crucial to protect their health, physical survival as well as their mental/psychological wellbeing during the pandemic. The impacts of their generosity went beyond mere convenience or opportunities for enhanced livelihood, education, and the eradication of water born diseases. It provided access to safe water through the

construction of both borewells and water purification systems. In certain communities, the underground water source can contains high levels of fluoride (example 2.5ppm). Excess fluoride is considered a public health issue, causing tooth decays, joint and knee pains, and water borne diseases like kidney stones. Borewells and water purification systems provide a choice to ensure villagers' access to clean water according to the safety of local underground water sources. Once again, this year villagers benefited from clean drinking water.

The 24 reverse osmosis technology purification plants installed this year are part of our pioneering, effective community-based sustainable access-to-safe-water model. Projects were planned, implemented and are monitored with the active participation of the villagers, fostering pride and a sense of ownership in each individual. Through our village-level meetings, training and capacity-building sessions, elected water committee members, learned to trust their ability to take on the management of their project. With further training and practice, these committees are evolving into development committees that undertake and fund a series of essential activities chosen by the community.

SOLIDARITY IN ACTION

When a donor offers to participate in the installation of a water purification system, Villagers must come together in unity and be ready to contribute. This creates among them a sense of solidarity and ownership, as they help each other make decisions about the preparatory tasks. They elect members of the community, who will maintain and manage the station. This approach exemplify the collaboration and solidarity created by SOPAR between donors and beneficiaries.



"My children and I had to walk 4 km every day to reach the nearest well. A group of women and I approached SOPAR-Bala Vikasa to get a well built in our village. I encouraged my neighbors to attend the awareness sessions and to participate actively. With this project, I realized that I can be an active player in bettering the living conditions in my village."

Sitha, a beneficiary of SOPAR-Bala Vikasa's women program in India



Testimony of Jyothi, President of Water Committee in Ramannapally village:

"Our village Ramannapally has 230 families. We depend mainly on agriculture, daily wage work and as house maids for our living. Our main concern is about our drinking water source which is contaminated with excess levels of Fluoride and causing various health problems. We cannot afford, but we are obliged to purchase purified water from commercial water plants.

I am a member of "Bala Vikasa's Women development program" in our village. All women members participate actively in program and discuss various topics. As our village is facing daily struggles in accessing drinking water, one day when I heard about a community water project in the neighboring village, I thought it could solve our problems as well, if we get a plant in our village. I discussed with our women group members as well as our villager councillor.

They appreciated the idea and very soon we approached Bala Vikasa to submit our request. Within a short time, we were asked to meet, and after agreeing to the project procedure, our application was selected. That was a turning point for us. Our committee participated in all training sessions took charge of the project all through the process. I am proud to say that our Water Committee in composed of Women only members. We also chose one young, widowed woman as our machine Operator. She is happy and dedicated in her job. We recently celebrated the inauguration of the water plant. We thank the generous donors for the precious gift of water! "

2021-2022

64 borewells built in rural communities

24 water purification systems installed

51,165 people gained access to drinking water through borewells and water purification systems.

50+ rural schools participated in World water day walks

WOMEN INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM



The poorest and most vulnerable women learned to take their rightful place in their community and to influence the decisions that affects them, their children and family.

Gender equality and empowerment of all women and girls is the fifth sustainable development goal set by the UN to be achieved by 2030. The UN Women' assessment of progress to date concludes that the world is currently not on track to achieve this goal.

The poorest, uneducated and vulnerable Indian women in underprivileged rural communities face challenges in every aspect of their life. Building on the individual and collective changes as they evolved over the last 45 years, SOPAR-Bala Vikasa has advanced its own sustainable development goals this year by focusing on all socio-economic, political and intellectual factors that facilitate gender equality and women's empowerment. Countering their lack of awareness, deprivation of basic freedoms and constant discrimination, our Women Integrated Development program has empowered women at multiple levels: social, economic, intellectual, psychological moral and ethical by offering multiple activities and capacity-building initiatives. .

The calendar of monthly awareness-raising and counselling meetings, the microcredit initiatives and skills trainings sessions have strengthened women and widows' resilience, restored their dignity, and helped them to understand their personal and collective capacity to exercise their rights and change their own life. Taking advantage of enhanced education opportunities for themselves and their

children, and using the skills they had acquired through the program, women were able improve the stability of their family's livelihood. They used the competencies they acquired to set up small businesses through the programs offered to them.

WIDOWS: The most important changes that the Women Integrated Program has facilitated and accelerated has been those that have transformed the life of the most excluded and ostracized among women: young widows, especially the **young widows**. Condemned to a lonely and destitute life, many uneducated widows attended the counselling and awareness sessions offered through our Women integrated Development program. They gained confidence in themselves, found their voice to defend their rights, and regained the respect of their families and community.

Organizing learning and sharing activities that bring women, particularly widows, together in large numbers has a huge influence on their emancipation process. Looking at all the women around them, they begin to realize that they are not alone and that there are others ready to give them support and understanding. For the first time in their life, they gain a new perspective on their legitimate rights, power and influence as women.

SOLIDARITY IN ACTION

A profound sense of empathy and social responsibility has been created among women in the program, leading to mutual help and encouragement. Widows are inviting other widows to participate in family celebration and community gatherings, and to decorate themselves. Widows' children show support of their mothers by convincing other family members to accept their mother into family life.

My parents arranged my marriage when I was 16 during my high school. I have 3 children. When I was 26, my husband Upendar died from a heart attack. Shocked and depressed, I realized that I had to manage alone with 3 children, with no skills to get a livelihood. I suffered a lot as a widow because of the social stigma.

Later, I became a member of Bala Vikasa's Women development program in our village and started attending monthly meetings. I was happy, as those meetings were like a therapy, helping me to heal, gain courage, and to become aware of my rights. Now, I go out in the community and freely mingle with others.

I learned how to better our life, but, during the pandemic, life became difficult again. My daily wage was uncertain, but thanks to my sponsor in Canada my children and I were able to get help. My children are good students, and I am happy they won't have to experience what I went through.

- Rudrarapu Swapna from Hasanparthy Village, India

"My wish is that my children learn to stand on their own and help others as you are helping me."



2021-2022

94,023 women participated in our Integrated Women Development Program (IWDP)

5253 women started business -through our microcredit program

Backyard Poultry: **101** women members received 1625 chicks (58 villages).

101 women took advantage of our skill training program

20,000+ widows are members in our program

200+ young widows received adapted trainings.

72 widows received Entrepreneurship Training

41 widows are being sponsored for survival means and their 88 children helped for education

CHILDREN AND YOUTH



Building a bright future for generations of disadvantaged orphans

Statistics show that there are over 30 million of orphaned children in India, almost 4% of the youth population. According to the *Lancet Child & Adolescent Health journal*, the pandemic has placed India as the sixth country with the highest number of COVID orphans.

In poor rural communities, the impacts of the pandemic on orphans have been enormous. Their wellbeing s always on our mind and in our hearts.

With the kindhearted and generous support of our donors and the collaboration of our frontline team in India, SOPAR's Children and Youth Program has provided material, psychological and educational support to respond to the situation. It provided orphan and impoverished youth with free smartphones to continue their studies when schools were closed, Through local contributions, the project reached more youth than expected, once again in the reporting fiscal year.

With a focus on , orphans following postsecondary schooling, who had obtained excellent results

through their meritorious efforts received financial support to pursue their higher education. These students were gathered at Bala Vikasa for a daylong session on personality development and counselling.

Several Vikasa children graduated with degrees in various field and were able to be hired in professional positions and live a dignified life. They are regularly visited by the women members of the program who have welcomed them under their care and who provide the encouragement and affection their need.

Like adult members of impoverished rural communities, the majority of orphans to ensure their survival. This year, one of our new initiative in demand was a three month long Hotel Housekeeping training, provided to unemployed orphan youth, along with accommodation and food, giving them opportunities for employment and a better future.

SOLIDARITY IN ACTION

Committed to protect orphans and provide the mother love they need, women members of the program, who earn up to three dollars a day, have contributed from these earnings to help with the welfare and education of orphans. In January, as part of the Orphan Solidarity Day, they organized special birthday celebrations.



"My mother is a member of Bala Vikasa women Development Program. Because of my mother I have received a Smartphone with your generous help. It became very hard for me to attend my classes in this pandemic. But now, with Testimonials the smart phone I got, I am able to not only to attend classes but also stay updated on the subjects of my interest. I am very thankful to the donors of SOPAR-Bala Vikasa who made this possible helping us to study further. I am very grateful and indebt to you. My heart just keeps thanking you and thanking you".

- **Pujitha**, from Jammikunnta studying Intermediate 2nd year.

"I joined Bala Vikasa only in December and I didn't know much about the Orphan solidarity program. When I first met the Vikasa children, I wanted to contribute something for them. So, for the first time I went to do agricultural work for 10 days just to donate for their birthday celebrations. I am giving them 2000 rupees this year (33.49 dollars) and will be able to contribute more for them in the coming year"

Mounika

I have friends who were married off at a very young age, giving up on their dreams due to financial issues. But, even as an orphan, everyone at Bala Vikasa has encouraged me to pursue my dreams despite all odds. I am grateful to everyone here for motivating, guiding and supporting me to live an independent life. I wish to work hard and pay it forward to everyone who has given me all the love, care and affection that I missed from my parents.

Poodja, Maripeda village



2021-2022

- **1500+** Orphan children in the program villages
- **181** college level children & **56** Below college level children received financial assistance for education (BV-Centers)
- Solidarity Days: **5135** Women attended; 106 Guests, & 132 Vikasa children attended. (Due to COVID only group leaders were invited) **\$35,000+** total donations: (Rs 20, 52,114/)
- **330** poor students helped with Smartphones
- **5** orphans whom we supported now successfully got Jobs

HUMANITARIAN PROGRAM



Creating and practising a culture of solidarity

In addition to the poverty, loneliness, anxiety and health issues that vulnerable, indigent elderly people in rural India habitually have to confront on a daily basis, the pandemic that lingered in their communities threatened them with one of its most ominous and scariest repercussion: the possibility of starvation through lack of access to food.

Many elders find themselves on their own, without the support from a family, and suffer from chronic isolation and extreme poverty. During all this year of recurrent crises due to the emerging variants of COVID19, thanks to the solidarity and compassion between members of rural communities and the generous response that our Canadian donors were so prompt to demonstrate, SOPAR was able to facilitate the crucial support and care these aged and destitute elders required, especially those with heavy care-dependent needs

Our aged villagers, received the care and attention that helped them make it through this dangerous period. Our women program members showed their empathy and solidarity. Women participating in SOPAR's humanitarian program also showed their empathy and

solidarity, contributing their time and attention despite their own setbacks. Each volunteer women takes responsibility for one elder in need, offering help for daily chores, providing meals and sometime inviting the elder under her care in her home to share a meal.

The Humanitarian program offered attention and care in the form of groceries, clothes, bedsheets, medications, walking sticks, as well as ordinary items meant to provide comfort, wellbeing and reflecting the affection of both donors and members of the community. When safe and possible, it included home visits, to break the painful loneliness of these fragile elders.

1359 beneficiaries Abandoned elderly were given provisions such as food and clothing in order to keep them warm, fed and alleviate a little bit of the hardship they endure daily. This year walking sticks were provided to them.

FOOD SECURITY



Ensuring the food security for Communities through Water Conservation and Organic Agriculture

Moved by the desperate plight of farmers, Bala Vikasa has implemented several environment-friendly initiatives and supported them in making the shift. We have presented the concepts behind these projects to small and medium scale farmers and regrouped them in committees.

The trainings and conventions we organized have provided opportunity for knowledge sharing between farmers and organic farming experts .

By encouraging farmers and offering them training in water conservation and organic agricultural practices, they have been able to considerably reduce their expenses while increasing their crop production.

The restoration of water tanks and farm ponds help conserve rainwater, replenish the ground water providing farmers with an access to the water in sufficient quantity for irrigation.

The use of organic fertilizers, the recuperation and spreading of silt that enriches their cultivated farmland, has resulted in their products being in high demand and sold at a higher price than those grown using pesticides.

Additional income from fisheries in farm ponds, enabling farmers to increase their net incomes and improve their standard of living.

Bala Vikasa has also motivated communities to plant over 1 Million trees, significantly contributing to the region's green cover.

The success of our community-driven water conservation model has inspired the Telangana government to replicate it on a large scale through its Mission Kakatiya project.

Cumulative:

- **764** Tanks Desilted
- **1,15,644** Acres Applied with Silt
- **62,156** Farmers Benefited
- **1,375** Organic Farmers Enrolled
- **1,494** Acres under Organic Farming
- **552** Farm Ponds

CAPACITY BUILDING - PDTC



Investing in people

People Development Training Center (PDTC) as a valuable knowledge hub celebrates another milestone, with a successful journey of 20 years amplifying social change by strengthening the global development practice through training programs and advisory for global non-profits, civil society organizations, academia, and CSR foundations.

With over 400 training-cum-exposure programs, PDTC have strengthened the capacities of **15,500+** development professionals and students from **84** countries in a variety of sectorial subjects and trends.

Capacity building becomes crucial for change agents to constantly upgrade their skills to suit to the changing development world. Bala Vikasa being innovative in 360° Community-Driven Development (CDD) approach, shares its best practices to build sustainable, community driven and result driven programs.

Trainings offered at PDTC change the perspective of the development professionals in program implementation process by replicating the learnings in

their local communities to make a change. PDTC establishes networks and partnerships with national and international non-government organizations (NGOs) and institutions in reaching wider audience across the globe.

COVID-19 pandemic brought a major shift in the operating mode of the training programs at PDTC from offline to online.

Trainings on virtual mode were appreciated by development professionals bringing easy access with cost-effective learnings at their desk in the prevailing NGO economic catastrophe.

2021-2022: PDTC trained 1384 development professionals from 673 NGOs across 26 states of India and 28 countries in the reporting fiscal year.

CAPACITY BUILDING – CSRB



Nurturing social innovation and promoting business responsibility

BVIC has been rechristened as 'Centre for Social and Responsible Business or BV-CSR' to reflect more accurately the kind of activities and programs that we continue to do in areas of Social Entrepreneurship and Responsible Business.

Year 2021-22 was particularly interesting and challenging as we expanded our reach exponentially and trained large number of social entrepreneurs and business professionals (CSR).

We conducted 14 training programs for existing and aspiring social entrepreneurs covering wide range of relevant topics and approximately 1,000 people attended these programs. On an average, each session was attended by 70 people.

We also conducted 9 capacity building and knowledge sharing sessions for business professionals on responsible business and corporate social responsibility and a total of 500 participants attended these sessions.

We also conducted a unique and one of its kind Social Entrepreneurship Summit called Impulse 2022 at CSRB campus.

This summit included exhibition and display by 90 social Startup, interactions and pitching to 15 impact investors, 10 knowledge building sessions in the form of panel discussions and workshops by eminent experts, researchers, and practitioners of Social Entrepreneurship.

The overall participation number stood at 1,200 and comprised of students, NGOs, academia, government, CSRs, mentors, incubators and aspiring social entrepreneurs.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT IN CANADA



Whoever we are, wherever we live, whatever our circumstances, we can all be agents of change for a better, more sustainable future

The culture of solidarity that SOPAR has promoted and inspired in all its program activities has created real bonds between our Canadian family of donors and the women, men and children who live in the poorest regions of rural India.

SOPAR Youth Changing the World Program (YCW) our flag-ship educational program on social and international issues, is designed to mobilise young generations of Canadians and to awaken in them a strong desire to make a difference in the world,.

Again this year our YCW program has proven that to take the lead in being the change we all want to see in the world has no start-up age. School children as young as 5 have demonstrated their will and capacity to act as agents of change, in their own community and in the poorest communities in India.

The program has consolidated their belief in the urgent necessity to share with others in a spirit of genuine solidarity at this crucial time in the history of humanity. They have used their creativity and enthusiasm to organize innovative fundraising activities to honor their commitment to build borewells providing entire villages with the life-giving access to water they themselves enjoy.

As they progress through secondary school and beyond, some of them have organized committees, have inspired others by sharing their experience through testimonies and social media posts, or they have chosen to become SOPAR ambassadors, bringing the message of solidarity to others in their new environment and volunteering their time to assist us.

We have encouraged and maintained our relationships with educators who are at the core of the YCW program and the motivating and inspiring force behind the actions taken by their students. We took advantage of some International days on issues pertinent to their ducational mandate to honor their important work with youth. We have been invited for interaction sessions on SOPAR initiatives with enthusiastic students via Zoom and to present the work of SOPAR in person to several classes in a local international school.

6 schools participated in our Youth Changing the World Program
24 borewells built by Schools participating in YCW program

TESTIMONIALS



«I had the opportunity to collaborate with SOPAR Bala-Vikasa first through my secondary school who supported the program youth changing the world.

This was definitely one of the most rewarding experience in my life. It opened my eyes on the world and on the diversity of its people. It made me conscious of the beneficial impact our attitude and actions can have on people on the other side of the globe and vice versa.

Education is a value that is close to my heart and SOPAR not only actively promotes it in India, but also here, via this great program that allows young people to grow and flourish in a context of international development.

My involvement with SOPAR has influencend several members of my family who now also suppprt it. My grandfather provides assistance to a family in India, contributing to the education of the children. This has thus become a cause for the entire family, thanks to SOPAR's positive impact on my own life »

Anne Siobhan Rousseau ,
SOPAR Junior Ambassador



For the last 3 years I have been an active participant in the SOPAR Committee at the De Rochebelle secondary school. The cause we work for has been very close to my heart: I find it unacceptable that, in the twenty first century, some people still live without access to water, when it is essential to life itself. This year, I had the honor of being elected as co-president of the committee and was able to witness the direct impact of borewells constructed in the poorest regions of South India in the context of the Youth changing the world program.

SOPAR has encouraged my autonomy, made me aware of my own strength, and taught me to use this strength to meaningfully confront injustices perpetrated around the world. If a few, committed young people can transform the future of hundreds of people living on the other side of the world, imagine what we can do if we work together. To be a young SOPAR supporter is to become aware of the need for human solidarity, and to be marked for life by the experience of its impact on people.

I am myself the proof of this: I am just an ordinary young girl, sixteen years and I am actively involved in ensuring that vulnerable villagers in India have access to drinking water, as I do.



"The vision and mission of SOPAR is dear to our heart. For many years, we each have supported impoverished rural communities in India by contributing to several programs. This year, once again, we have combined our donation and added it to the local contributions to install a water purification plant in Kandipadu, a village that had been patiently waiting for one. It gives us such joy at the thought that these unified villagers now enjoy so many benefits. Not only those that come from access to clean, pure water at low cost, but also from the opportunity members of their elected water committee are offered to learn the management and maintenance of the system. We are happy our contribution is helping an entire village to help themselves to a better future".

- Dorothy & Sandra (SOPAR Donors)

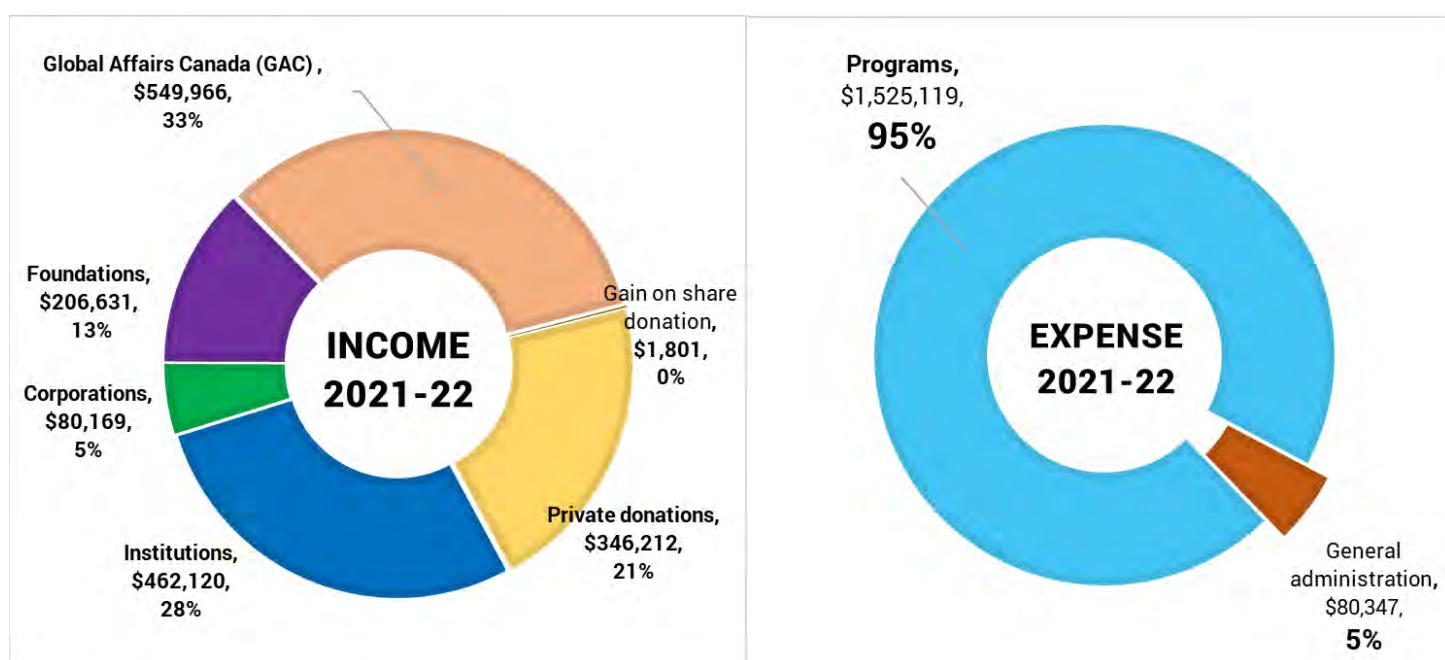


FINANCIALS: SOPAR-BALA VIKASA

FINANCIAL - Year ended March 31, 2022

	2022	2021
INCOME	\$	\$
Contributions		
Private donations	346,212	291,482
Institutions	462,120	225,450
Corporations	80,169	123,593
Foundations	206,631	115,529
Global Affairs Canada (GAC)	549,966	0
Gain on share donation	1,801	0
	1,646,899	756,054
EXPENSE		
Programs	1,525,119	671,853
General administration	80,347	99,611
	1,605,466	771,464
Excess (Deficiency) of revenues over expenses before other income	41,433	-15,410
Other income	19,751	67,664
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenses	61,184	52,254

The accompanying notes and schedules are an integral part of the financial statements.



LEGACY GIVING

Our big supportive family of donors never fails to demonstrate its commitment to make this world more just, more united, more equalitarian and above all more human. The outcome of this strong will to help other is evident in all our reports and statistics to this day. At the push of a button we can find all these acts of generosity and their impact on those to whom they were intended.

We recently experienced the departure of two of our loyal supporters, who for many years never lost sight of their initial commitment to the vision and mission they shared with SOPAR.

What touched us the most, is that their departure, so sad for us, has not been the end of their remarkable fidelity. Through planned giving, they had decided to continue to be with us and with the poorest rural people in India they had given a place in their heart.

Planned giving is a topic that is not that well known generally. We have mentioned it in our various communications tools as an opportunity to leave a legacy that will continue to help the most impoverished people helping themselves, thus encouraging SOPAR to continue its resolute efforts.

If giving is part of your lifestyle and you already have thought to plan your giving, or if you are just curious to better know this option we are ready to offer you the information about the different ways to leave this special legacy.



THANK YOU! VANDANAM!

All the achievements we are reporting to you for 2021-22 would never have been possible without your genuine belief in our mission and vision, your concrete support and moral encouragement.

We are immensely proud and deeply grateful to have around us this vibrant family of true pioneers and visionaries, from the 5 years old who lead fundraising campaigns in their community, to 100 years old donors who continue their partnership through their bequests.

Thank you to every person, family, school, foundation and congregation, all of you who have committed to sharing and giving of themselves, at a time when the clouds of discord and prejudices cloud the future of our human family. Thank you for your trust and loyalty.

Thank you

to Angel and André Gingras- our founders for their inspiration and their unwavering passion and tireless efforts to SOPAR's mission, and to all the members of the Bala Vikasa family for their devoted work in the field

Thank you

To Global Affairs Canada and to all of you who acted on their fundraising ideas in Canada and volunteered their time to our cause and to all the women, men and children who with courage, patience and determination are helping themselves and transforming their life with your donations



Board of Directors

Marc Gingras, President

André Bourassa, Vice-president

Éric Gingras, Secretary and Treasurer

Stéphane Courtemanche, Director

Founders

Angel (Bala Theresa) Gingras and André Gingras

Employees

Shobha Singareddy, Director

Giselle Robelin, Program Officer

Philibert Lafrance, Accountant (part time)

Denys Parent, Consultant—Public Engagement

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