



**sopar
bala vikasa**

HELPING COMMUNITIES HELP THEMSELVES

ANNUAL REPORT 2024-2025





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SOPAR-BALA VIKASA - GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE OF OUR WORK



Our Reach in India: 7 states, 7,500 villages & 7 Million beneficiaries
Globally : 88 countries through our Knowledge Sharing program

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 profit organization because of its concrete results helping entire communities come out of poverty.

In addition to our community-driven development programs, we actively work to build the capacities of development professionals by sharing the best practices of sustainable development drawn from 48 years of field experience. SOPAR-Bala Vikasa partners with local organizations to enhance impact. We also support entrepreneurs and the corporate sectors in developing 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 impoverished 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 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.

WE GET THEM INVOLVED

- 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 own 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.

WE STAY COMMITTED

- 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 communities while gradually phasing out our role as they acquire the needed skills and drive to take charge



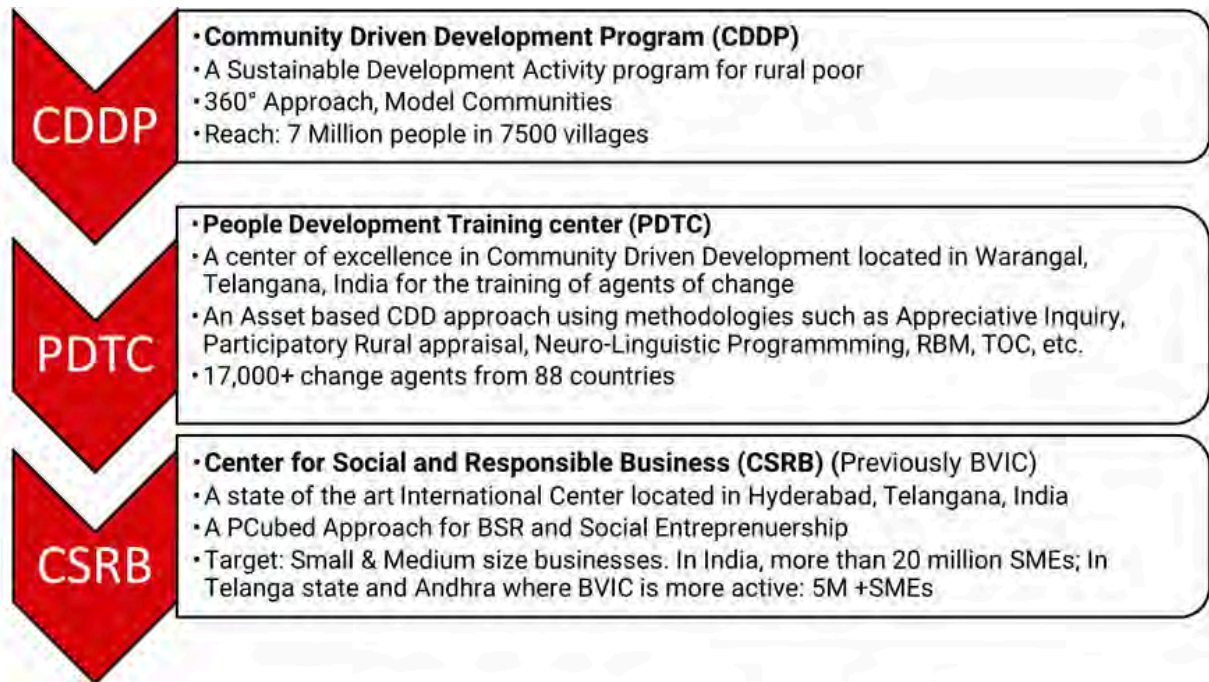
OUR 10 RULES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Development is People	Development is Women First	Development is Change Of Attitude	Development is Solidarity	Development is Iterative
Development is Participatory	Development is Intra-Cultural	Development is Long Term	Development is Not Free	Builds On Results & Credibility

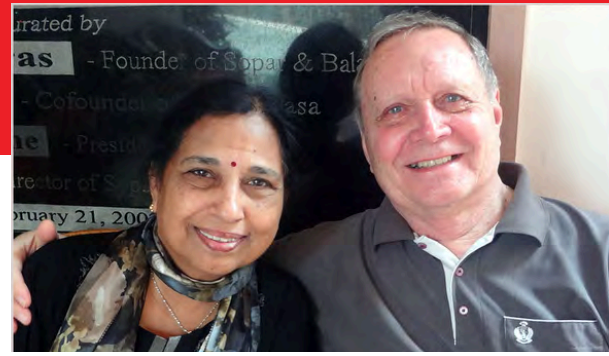
SOPAR-Bala Vikasa’s rules are the result of experience gained over 48 years and are at the heart of its development approach. These rules are embedded in SOPAR-Bala Vikasa’s motto.

“Helping Communities Help Themselves”

INTERCONNECTEDNESS OF OUR PROGRAMS



FOUNDERS' MESSAGE



48 years of existence! Eyes forward:

With the launch of the Nepal project, SOPAR is reaching a new milestone.

For more than thirty-five years, SOPAR has built an exceptional partnership with Bala Vikasa. Together, with empathy and compassion, they strive to build a better world for the roughly 200 million people still living in India below the threshold of endemic poverty.

Today, SOPAR-Bala Vikasa believes it is time to extend its community development expertise to other countries where populations are among the most disadvantaged. A first pilot project is underway in Nepal.

Congratulations and thanks to the board of directors, as well as to Louis Verret, head of the Nepal Committee. At our annual assembly, Louis will present this promising initiative.

For us, the founders, this project fully aligns with the original vision, mission, and strategy of the organization. It embodies its spirit, based on a true partnership between SOPAR (Canada) and Bala Vikasa (India) – two sides of the same coin, each with an essential role to play.

1. SOPAR acts as the guardian of the mission: ensuring that our commitment to the most disadvantaged remains at the heart of our actions, while mobilizing necessary financial resources.
2. Bala Vikasa, with its rich field experience, shares its know-how: cutting-edge training programs, practical methods, and proven support for changemakers in underprivileged communities.

A genuine partnership – free from the lingering echoes of colonialism still present in some Western thinking. Too often, financial contributors impose their priorities and methods, disregarding local realities.

The future? Building together, as equals. And ultimately, creating an international network of community development training centers – in Nepal, Bangladesh, Haiti, Ethiopia, and beyond.

And what about our values?

With the clear decline of the American empire, a fundamental value in our humanitarian work is eroding EMPATHY ^[1].

The rise of authoritarianism, cuts in international aid, the ultraconservative vision of the Trump administration, its immigration policies, mass deportations, and lack of empathy affect us all.

"One of the most troubling aspects of President Donald Trump's philosophy: his lack of empathy, especially for the most vulnerable." ^[2]

Among his most controversial decisions, the Trump administration slashed over 80% of USAID's budget (around \$63 billion annually), cutting access in the world's poorest countries to clean water, food, education, medicine, health care, agriculture, and human rights. Washington, once the world's leading humanitarian donor (40% according to the UN), disengaged.

According to Oxfam, these cuts will prevent 23 million children from going to school and deny 95 million people basic healthcare, potentially leading to three million deaths. Without basic health services, diseases like malaria, AIDS, polio, and Ebola will spread further.

And that's not all.

In an interview with Joe Rogan, one of the world's most popular podcasters, Elon Musk, the world's richest man who has close connections with the USA president, said: "We are facing suicidal empathy for civilization." According to him, empathy threatens the survival of society. This idea, which is gaining ground among the American right, is being amplified. ^[3]

Musk draws on the views of Gad Saad, a Canadian marketing professor, who claims that Western societies are self-destructing by welcoming immigrants from poorer, browner, and more Muslim countries.

This rejection of empathy is even spreading among evangelical Christians and some Catholics. American Vice-President JD Vance, for instance, justified Trump's immigration policies using the medieval Catholic concept of "ordo amoris," which prioritizes one's nation. Few days before his death pope Francis reprimanded Vance for this justification.

Recently the new Pope Leo XIV during a homely clearly stated that empathy is not exclusive to religion but a universal virtue inherent to all humanity.

This retreat into American egoism has global repercussions. Several European countries – France, the UK, Switzerland, Germany, and the Netherlands – have also significantly reduced development aid. Economic uncertainty and rising geopolitical tensions drive this inward shift.

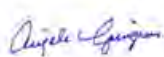
Canada is not immune. During the last federal campaign, the Conservative Party proposed abolishing public development aid, which amounted to \$15.7 billion in 2022-2023.

Conclusion:

As suggested in one of prominent Canadian newspaper, "it is up to us, civil society advocates, to be strong promoters of empathy, both around us and throughout the world."

Together, at SOPAR-Bala Vikasa, in our own ways, we firmly believe that by remaining open to all and to human suffering, we can become builders of hope and peace, beyond divisions of race, religion, or political allegiance.

Thank you for walking this path with us.



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

André Gingras, M.S.C.

June 12, 2025

[1] Empathy is the ability to relate to and resonate with others to connect with their emotions and needs. It consists of sustained presence, attention, and listening. In helping relationships, this total consideration is achieved by shifting focus away from one's own emotions and needs (by putting oneself in the other person's shoes with one's heart and mind). In reciprocal relationships, this consideration is mutual.

[2] Vincent Brousseau-Pouliot, Four Ways to Stand Up to Trump, La Presse, May 26, 2025

[3] Julia Carrie Wong, Loathe Thy Neighbor: Elon Musk and the Christian Right Are Waging War on Empathy, The Guardian, April 8, 2025.



WATER PROGRAM

Lack of water isn't just an inconvenience - it's a barrier to equity and progress.

WHY WATER ACCESS MATTERS

Access to clean water is a basic human right vital for health, dignity, education, and opportunity. Yet in rural India, an estimated 63 million people still rely on unsafe water sources, facing daily hardships and serious health risks. Women and girls are more affected, often walking hours to collect water. In some areas, there is also a prevalence of fluoride and other contaminants causing health problems including skeletal and dental fluorosis.

At SOPAR, we believe that access to clean water is an entry point to lasting change. Water access remains a core focus of our mission - empowering communities, improving health and restoring equity where it's needed most.

ACTION: CLEAN, AFFORDABLE WATER FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES

For over 45 years, SOPAR has addressed the urgent issue of water through a program that brings clean water directly to rural communities, using locally appropriate and sustainable solutions.

Borewells with manually operated hand pumps:

This year again we built borewells providing communities with reliable source to safe, drinkable water close to their homes. Each borewell serve an average of 35 families.

Community Water Purification Plants in Fluoride affected areas:

We also installed Community Water Purification Plants, offering 24/7 access to purified drinking water through state-of-the-art, card-operated, dispensing systems to an entire village. At a cost of just 5 to 8 cents per 20 liters, these installations ensure that even the most vulnerable families can access clean water without financial strain. This system also ensures transparency and accountability in water distribution.

Empowering communities through engagement and capacity building:

SOPAR's approach is rooted in community participation. Local leaders are trained to manage and maintain water systems, reinforcing long-term sustainability and instilling a deep sense of ownership. These efforts turn water access into a platform for self-reliance, empowerment, and dignity.

RESULTS 2024-2025

67 Wells constructed in rural communities
(cumulative 6,826)

25 Water Purification Systems installed across
the region (cumulative 1,590)

51,000 More people now have access to pure and
safe drinking water (cumulative: 3+ million
people have access to drinking water)

OUTCOMES

Empowering Communities for a Better Future

- Thousands of women and children now enjoy better health and improved living conditions with access to clean water.
- Stable Livelihoods: More women can contribute to family income.
- Education Opportunities: Children have more time to attend school, gaining the education needed to build a brighter future.
- Community Engagement: Community members actively participate in planning, installing, and managing water systems, creating a strong sense of ownership.
- Empowered Change-Makers: This involvement sparks pride and confidence, making them powerful agents of change within their own communities.

Community Water Purification Plants Provide Affordable Access to Safe Water

"Bala Vikasa water plant has brought significant change in our village. Everyone is living a healthy life and are saving from their monthly income which is also improving the standard of life of the community. The children are also regularly going to school as they are not falling sick and protected from diseases. Now, we are accessing water in our village at 80% less cost and it is available any time of the day. We are very happy with it."

– K. Gopal, Theegarajupally





WOMEN INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

We empower poor women in rural areas to make their voices heard and pave the way for real change in mindsets and attitudes.

DEVELOPMENT IS WOMEN FIRST

SOPAR places women at the heart of its development efforts. They are the key to the advancement of their families and communities, and are drivers of their own development and emancipation. Our integrated program's initiatives, projects and activities are designed to empower women by developing their capacity to face and overcome the multiple challenges that affect their lives.

OUR ACTIONS: INVESTING IN THE POWER OF WOMEN

SOPAR considers the development and empowerment of rural women in India as a multifaceted process. We act on our belief in their intrinsic capacity to empower themselves and become resilient, respected women and able to bring positive change in their social environment.

Our actions focus on their emancipation from the socioeconomic and cultural constraints they face in their communities. The activities and projects included in our integrated program offer women multiple opportunities to achieve this objective.

Key program activities:

- **Monthly group meetings:** We facilitated members' exploration and sharing of topics relevant to their lives, as women, as wives, mothers and members of their community
- **Education and capacity building sessions:** We conducted courses on literacy and numeracy as well as workshops on community development, human rights and social justice, gender equality, discrimination and traditional power.
- **Economic development initiatives:** We offered professional trainings and sessions on small business management and microcredit projects.
- **Targeted initiatives and projects:** We delivered projects focused on physical and psychological health and well-being, nutrition and children's education.
- **Women solidarity initiatives:** We mobilized women who, united to provide support for orphans, offer care for the elderly and assisted in other initiatives (donation of water).

RESULTS 2024-2025

51,850 Women participated in our Women Integrated Development Program

5,331 Women launched their micro-enterprise thanks to our Microcredit Program

10 Women joined a professional training program (skills training in Tailoring)

7042 Fruit trees distributed and planted

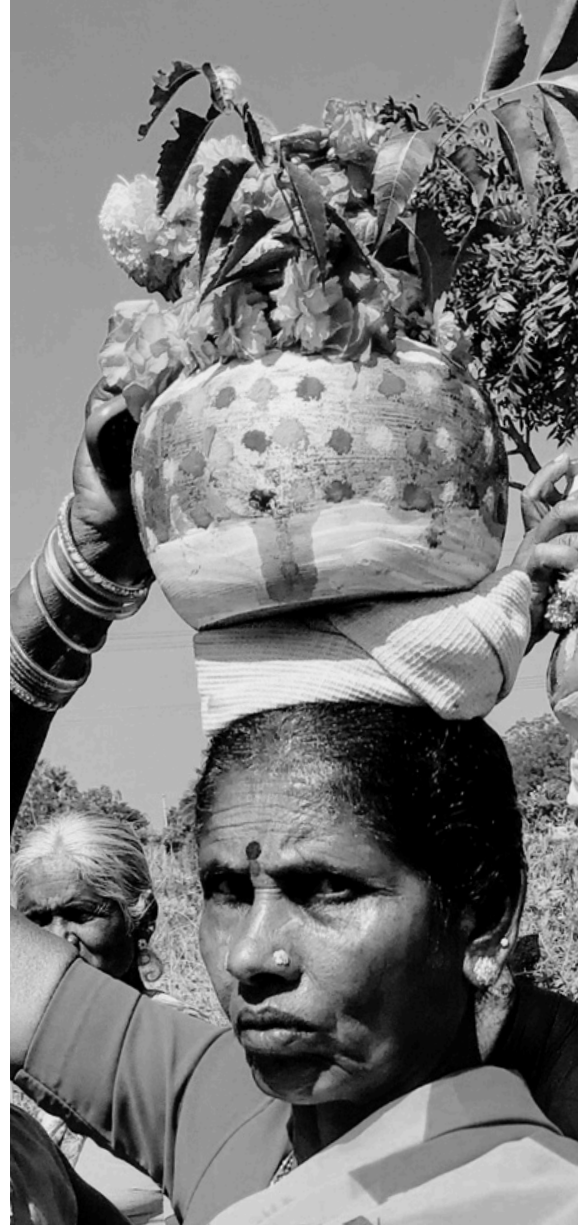
151 Villages benefited from Health Camps

101 Villages received water donations

IMPACTS

A greater number of rural women:

- Gained more knowledge on the management of common issues affecting their and their family's lives.
- Left behind their self-undermining mindset and discovered their "built-in" intelligence, talents, resilience and power.
- Understood the impact of education on their children's future and encouraged them to pursue their schooling.
- Found the courage to express their opinions and asserted their rights with self-confidence, pride and dignity.
- Actively participated in the development of their villages.
- Assumed decision-making and leadership roles within their family, communities and even beyond.
- Used their newly acquired professional skills to open small businesses, earn a stable livelihood and improve their family living conditions.
- Passed on their emancipated lifestyle to their daughters and sons, accelerating the generational evolution of attitudes towards women.
- Take the lead in supporting and strengthening and enlarging the scope of the culture of solidarity by assisting the most vulnerable members of their community, initiated by SOPAR.





TESTIMONIALS

TREE PLANTATION PROJECT

This community-driven initiative has multifaceted benefits and underscores the transformative impact and significance of grassroots efforts in driving sustainable change. It empowers women to take active roles in the development of their communities and the global improvement of their livelihoods. It also contributes to environmental conservation and fosters a sense of community and well-being. The fruits and vegetables promote physical health through enriched nutrition. The cost saved from this program reduces the stress of poverty and improves mental health.

"The young mango tree SOPAR gave me now provides shade, comfort, and delicious mangoes. I eat them fresh, make pickles, and feel healthier and more energized."

– Venkatalaxmi, Mallakpalli



KITCHEN GARDEN

After receiving a kitchen kit and training, Padma from Jammikunta turned her yard into a thriving vegetable garden. By growing her own food with organic methods, her family eats healthier, saves money, and even earns a little income from selling the surplus.

"Thanks to my garden, we have fresh vegetables every day and life is no longer a daily struggle."

– Padma, Jammikunta

ADVANCED SKILL TRAINING

"The advanced training improved my sewing skills and gave me confidence. I started a small business, earned \$200 a month, and was able to support my family. Later, I also trained as a midwife assistant. These opportunities changed my life."

– Sunitha, Sirsapalli (Huzurabad Mandal)





A MOTHER'S LOVE IS SO PRECIOUS

"When I heard how the women in the community celebrated the orphans' birthdays, I wanted to attend. What I saw and experienced deeply touched and inspired me so much that I decided to financially support this event every year. I now participate in the program. A mother's love is so precious that it cannot be bought in the market. That is why we must show love to these children and bring happiness into their lives.

I give a small gift to all the children on my own birthday and am truly happy to be part of this wonderful celebration."

— Bhavani, Datla, Danthalapally



YEARLY ORPHANS' BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

"Every year, I look forward to the orphans' birthday celebration. The mothers always show up, even if they can't attend their own families' birthdays. Their love means so much to us. Thank you for always being there."

— Rachana





WIDOWS' EMANCIPATION PROGRAM

Women must not be belittled, taken for granted or ignored

THE NEEDS OF WIDOWS IN RURAL INDIA

In many rural communities, superstitions and cultural beliefs impose much heavier restrictions on widows than on other women. SOPAR Integrated Women's Development Program welcomes widows and offer activities focused on their empowerment.

Our extensive experience in rural villages has taught us that the multiple discriminations widows face requires tailored approaches and content; the initiatives and activities we offer them are therefore designed to meet their specific needs.

OUR ACTION: A GRADUAL AND RESPECTFUL EMANCIPATION PROCESS

- We address the psychological and mental traumas widows endure. Through counseling sessions and sharing meetings with other widows, they begin their healing process. Receiving the sincere and respectful support and comfort they need, they are ready to move toward a brighter future.
- We empower their capacity to move forward. Overcoming their grief and depression is a significant and empowering step for widows. Finding that SOPAR recognizes that they have the same capacity as other women to improve their lives, they feel empowered to continue their journey of emancipation.
- We create opportunities so they can meet their own needs and those of their children. They can, like the other participants in the program, benefit from projects that improve their education, health, income, and influence within their community.



RESULTS 2024-2025

20,000 Widows are members in our program

345 Young widows received adapted trainings

79 Widows are being sponsored to provide the help they need to improve their living conditions

789 Widows's children have been supported in their education

OUTCOMES

The chance to start a new life

- Widows conquer the traumas and periods of suicidal depression caused by their social exclusion, stigmatization, and exploitation with courage and determination.
- They learn to reject superstitious attitudes and behaviors, to assert their rights and engage in the spirit of community solidarity.
- They gain the knowledge and experience that enable them to build more stable living conditions and forge a more promising future for themselves and their children.
- Treated as equals by other women participating in the program, they launch themselves into their emancipation journey with optimism.

SPONSORSHIP OF YOUNG WIDOWS

Our sponsorship program is designed to free young widows and their children from chronic misery. Canadian sponsors champion and share in SOPAR's solidarity efforts to provide young widows and their children the human and financial support they urgently need. Their contributions offer these vulnerable young mothers a fresh start in life, ensuring they and their children enjoy the wellbeing, protection and dignity they deserve.



"When I lost my husband, my son was just 8 months old. I was heartbroken and alone, facing judgment and shame. I wanted to end both our lives. But with the help of a sponsor, I found strength again. We received food, school supplies, and emotional support. My son no longer sleeps hungry, and I've found dignity and hope. I'll be forever grateful."

- Sujatha, from Ponakal village – Gangadevipalli area



CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Vikasa children's wellbeing is always in our minds and our hearts

THE FAR-REACHING IMPACT OF CHILD POVERTY

Thousands of orphans and poor children still have no access to education. Extreme poverty condemns them to work at a young age, becoming victims of exploitation and gross abuse. We call the orphans who are under our care Vikasa children. All our actions are based on our belief that each one of them has the right to love, security and dignity and that all of them have a role to play in the development of their community and of society.

OUR ACTION: OPENING THE DOOR TO A PROMISING FUTURE

- **Education is the key:** Thanks to the generous support of our donors, disadvantaged children have the opportunity to escape the cycle of poverty that their parents endured. We cover their tuition fees and provide school supplies enabling them to continue their studies as far as they are able, and to achieve their dreams.
- **Children need more than money to flourish:** We support their academic success through regular counselling and preparatory sessions. We strengthen their self-esteem and confidence in life, so they grow into responsible and well-balanced adults.
- **Women are the backbones of our program:** Women build lasting relationships with orphans in their community, offering them comfort and motherly love. They contribute part of their hard-won savings to cover orphans' essential needs.



RESULTS 2024-2025

1,500+ Orphaned children benefitted in the villages of our program (cumulative)

1,412 Orphans and semi-orphaned children from poor families received assistance for their education

116 Young people and children with disabilities from poor families received school supplies

700 Young people from several states participated in the convention dedicated to them

OUTCOMES

On the path to becoming well-balanced and responsible adults

For Vikasa children, love, care and support change everything:

- They feel they are an integrated part of their community
- They feel proud and motivated to work hard at school
- They have the confidence to seize the opportunities offered to them to forge a brighter future
- They study hard to pursue higher education programs and achieve their dream of stable employment
- They find ways to participate in the active culture of solidarity in their community
- A growing number of Vikasa children decide as adults to give back and support SOPAR

"When we lost both our parents, my brother, sister, and I were devastated. We still don't know how they died. Our grandmother is raising us with love and sacrifice. Thanks to SOPAR's education program, my brother stayed in school, found a part-time job, and helps our grandmother. I look up to him. Now, I too have the chance to study. I want to work hard, get a good job, and make my grandmother and my mother proud."

– Karthik





HUMANITARIAN PROGRAM

We cannot abandon the elderly
who have no one to take care of them

ALL IT TAKES IS...

Donors and rural women who support our humanitarian program share a spirit of compassion and solidarity acting as a loving and supportive family to destitute elders. They ensure that no elder in their community are left bereft of the care they need.

OUR ACTION: TREATING DESTITUTE ELDERS AS FAMILY

- **No longer left out or ignored:** The women identify the vulnerable and destitute elders in their community who have no one to care for them. They treat them with the same respect and affection they show their own parents. They ensure that the elders they have taken under their wing are comfortable, healthy and enjoy the little bit of happiness sparked by a simple loving word or a simple gift.
- **No longer hungry, cold or sick:** Thanks to the generosity of our Canadian donors, women members of the program in India and our field coordinators provide provisions to ensure their good nutrition, give them clothing and other items that keeps them warm and comfortable, as well as medicines to keep them healthy. Walking sticks are offered to elders with mobility issues.
- **Always cared for and loved:** Beyond the concrete provision of the basic but crucial items they need, the heartfelt empathy and care they feel from Canadian donors and the genuine affection they receive from the women are major contributors to their emotional wellbeing. It is the members of the community that transform these vulnerable elders lives.



RESULTS 2024-2025

510 elderly people received humanitarian aid (food, medication, clothes, bedding, etc.)

1,909 elderly people benefitted from a medical check-up

14 people received a wheelchair

IMPACTS

We create families

- Bonds of love, support, and commitment
- Donors and rural women alike who share a spirit of compassion and solidarity act as a loving and supportive family to destitute elders.
- Elders' quality of life is enhanced by the emotional, physical, social and financial support as well as the comprehensive care they receive from the members of the new family created by SOPAR.



"I am now very old and my family no longer wants to take care of me. Without money, I had to constantly beg for food and life was very difficult for me. Without the assistance of SOPAR, I would not have survived. Now that I have been enrolled in the program, I receive everything I need. Like many other elderly people, I receive new clothes, bed linens, and other essentials every year. Provisions are brought to me when I need them. I feel safe and surrounded by affection. I am very grateful for everything I receive."

-Abbulu, an elderly resident of Mallakpalli



FOOD SECURITY PROGRAM

We enable farmers to increase their productivity in an environmentally sustainable way

MAKING THE SHIFT TO ORGANIC AGRICULTURE

SOPAR is convinced that the use of pesticides and chemical fertilizers is an irresponsible agricultural practice, detrimental to health and the environment. Our food safety program's objectives are to help small scale farmers in transitioning to organic farming methods and helping them produce healthy food for their families and surrounding communities.

OUR ACTION: CHAMPIONING ALTERNATIVE FARMING PRACTICES

It makes all around sense:

- The elimination of chemical products is the hallmark of organic farming practice. It not only improves soil health, but also boosts crop yields, and improve farmers overall living conditions.
- Organic farming includes essential practices such as water resource management, such as water collection and irrigation, which significantly improve their ability to withstand droughts.
- We help farmers to adopt organic farming practices by offering training, advice from experts, opportunities to attend conventions and assistance in marketing and selling their products.
- Farmers participating in our program are encouraged and supported to obtain official certification in organic agriculture, fostering a deep sense of pride as they become experts in training others.

Access to healthy food

- Rural organic farmers facilitate villagers' access to healthy and nutritious, food at an affordable cost. It directly influence the health and wellbeing of the families in the surrounding communities.
- Through our program, these farmers have created an Organic Farmers' Cooperative providing consumers direct access to their products.

RESULTS 2024-2025

40 farm ponds for water conservation were dug in 181 villages (2,516 cumulative)

212 villages practice organic farming

OUTCOMES

Rural Farmers

- Increased their revenues, reduced debts and improved their families' wellbeing.
- Significantly enhanced resiliency against the devastating impact of droughts on their harvests.
- Obtained their official certification in organic agriculture.
- Successfully established an organic farmers' cooperative.

Rural Villagers

- Gained direct access to healthy, nutritious and affordable food, resulting in improved health and well being for disadvantaged families.



BALA VIKASA PEOPLE DEVELOPMENT TRAINING CENTER (PDTC)

As part of its mission to promote effective community development, Bala Vikasa People Development Training Center (PDTC) continues to share its proven methodologies and best practices accumulated over more than four decades. To date, PDTC has trained and empowered over 17,700 development professionals from 88 countries, significantly contributing to impactful program implementation and sustainable social transformation.

PDTC remains committed to strengthening the capacities of NGOs at the individual, community, and organizational levels. It continuously adapts to emerging needs in the development sector by introducing relevant topics based on real-world challenges faced by NGOs. Expanding its scope, PDTC now offers hands-on support to NGOs, guiding them through the implementation of newly acquired knowledge and skills.

During the reporting year, PDTC trained 22 LEPRA partner organizations in Strategic Planning and gave hands-on support to four NGOs in developing their strategic plans. In Andhra Pradesh, 10 villages under the Rayalaseema Development Trust (RDT) began developing as Model Communities following exposure to the Bala Vikasa Model. These villages have established 10 distinct committees, reflecting the practical application of PDTC's training.

PDTC conducted 20 hybrid training programs, reaching 451 participants from 193 NGOs across 20 Indian states and 17 countries. Through virtual training programs, PDTC continues to expand its global footprint—this year, adding Somalia to its international network.

Responding to requests from Nepalese NGOs, PDTC conducted a week-long overseas training program in Community Driven Sustainable Development (CDD) in partnership with Bench Mark Research and Training Associations Pvt. Ltd. and Join Hand Pvt. Ltd., Nepal. The program benefited 25 NGOs from across Nepal.

To address the urgent need for water conservation and efficient resource management, PDTC organized a specialized workshop titled "*Systematic Approach for Rainwater Harvesting and Assessment of Water Credits.*" A senior hydro geologist from GRIT-Management Solutions facilitated the workshop, which was also attended by Bala Vikasa's water program team, enriching their knowledge and technical expertise.

Through training, innovation, and direct support, PDTC remains a catalyst for meaningful change in the development sector, ensuring that knowledge translates into tangible community impact.



BALA VIKASA CENTER FOR SOCIAL AND RESPONSIBLE BUSINESS

Key achievements of 2024–25 financial year

The Bala Vikasa Center for Social and Responsible Business (CSR) remains steadfast in its mission to nurture social entrepreneurship and champion responsible business practices. During the 2024–25 financial year, BV-CSR launched a range of impactful initiatives, strategic programs, and meaningful collaborations aimed at strengthening the social entrepreneurship ecosystem. Through these efforts, CSR has continued to solidify its position as a leading catalyst for social innovation in Telangana and is steadily gaining recognition at the national level.

Incubation Program: BV-CSR continued to extend post-incubation support to its PrISE 1.0 cohort by facilitating meaningful connections with impact investors and key ecosystem stakeholders, ensuring sustained growth and visibility for the graduating enterprises. Building on this foundation, CSR launched preparations for the PrISE 2.0 cohort with a focus on identifying and onboarding high-potential social enterprises poised to create large-scale social impact. As a result, 19 promising enterprises were selected for the PrISE 2.0 incubation program. Furthermore, BV-CSR strengthened its dynamic mentor network, comprising experienced professionals who largely contribute on a voluntary basis, offering strategic guidance and enabling strong, collaborative linkages between mentors and incubatees.

Capacity Building: As part of the Capacity Building Program, we conducted three Social Entrepreneurship (SE) Talks, eight webinars, and one virtual panel discussion on Women's Day, covering various dimensions of social entrepreneurship and highlighting the journeys of social entrepreneurs to inspire and engage stakeholders. We also organized eight external knowledge-sharing sessions across prominent institutions such as IMT, SIBM, Vardhaman College, YEB - BITS, and the Vagdevi Group. These sessions focused on key themes including the foundations of social entrepreneurship, Business Model Canvas, and the lean startup approach. Additionally, we represented BV-CSR as knowledge experts, jury members, speakers, and panelists at 14 different events. Through our SE consultation initiative, we provided mentorship to around 20+ individual social entrepreneurs and innovators.

The 4th edition of IMPULSE, our flagship annual social entrepreneurship summit, is poised to scale new heights by expanding its outreach across India and opening its doors to international participants. We have already onboarded three key partners through formal MoUs: TGIC, KGR-CET, and Impact Hub Hyderabad. To build early momentum and deepen engagement, a Pre-IMPULSE engagement plan has been curated, with a strong emphasis on scouting student changemakers and grassroots innovators from diverse regions.

We have actively collaborated as ecosystem and outreach partners (without formal MoUs) for various impactful programs, including SIA – Impact Hub, KGR-CET – SAHYOG, Vardhaman – FDP & Student Orientation, KGR – RISE Launch, IIT Kanpur – UpStart'24, Innokart – Magic, and MANAGE – CIA, among others.

Responsible Business (RB): BV-CSR conducted and completed 3 successful Impact assessments, reinforcing its commitment to responsible business practices.

Independent Impact assessment through Social Return on Investment (SROI) for Indo-Global Social Service Society (IGSSS) and Veer Ratna Foundation

Monitoring and assessment for Philips Morris International

In addition to the previous work, we narrowly lost few proposals on impact assessment study. We are continuing to consult and implement Bharat Financial Inclusion Limited (BFIL)'s CSR program which is spread across several states in India. Our scope of work includes providing timely consulting services to BFIL team on project management, impact measurement, need assessment and compliance with CSR laws in India.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES IN CANADA

SOPAR YOUTH CHANGING THE WORLD PROGRAM

ACTION: TEACHERS AND STUDENTS TRANSFORMING LIVES

Each school year, under the leadership of their teachers, thousands of Canadian school children participate in life transforming solidarity projects as supporters of SOPAR's Youth Changing the World program. They raise funds to construct borewells in India's rural communities with no access to clean drinkable water or to provide their young Indian peers with school supply or with basic class furniture.

St. Victoire Photo captions: The members of the EVB (École Verte Brundtland). + Web link <https://www.soreltracy.com/a-lecole-sainte-victoire-les-jeunes-changent-le-monde/>

Sainte-Victoire school's young students are changing the world!

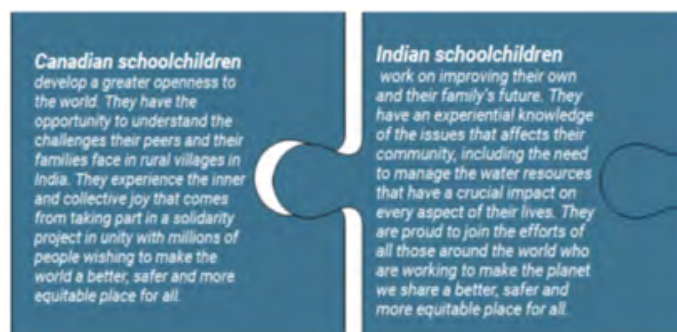
For several years, Sainte-Victoire School has been part of the ACTES Movement, formerly known as Brundtland Green School. As part of its annual project, the school's students and staff raised \$1,200 through various ecological and educational activities. With the approval of the school's EVB student committee, this money was raised to equip a classroom with furniture in India.

France Auger and Stéphanie Lavallée For the Sainte-Victoire School Green Committee



FOSTERING A SPIRIT OF FELLOWSHIP

We encourage Canadian school children to develop and practice a spirit of solidarity through our YCW program. We also encourage Indian schoolchildren, through the culture of solidarity that is now actively practiced in rural the communities where we work. Indian children who benefitted from SOPAR's education program or those whose mothers are active members of their communities' solidarity activities, have learned the importance of helping others and improving their community.



PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT IN CANADA

SOPAR YOUTH CHANGING THE WORLD PROGRAM (YCW)

ACTION: TEACHERS AND STUDENTS TRANSFORMING LIVES

Each school year, under the leadership of their teachers, thousands of Canadian school children participate in life transforming solidarity projects as supporters of SOPAR's Youth Changing the World program. They raise funds to construct borewells in India's rural communities with no access to clean drinkable water or to provide their young Indian peers with school supply or with basic class furniture.

Here are some of this year's results:

- Six schools participated in the YCW program;
- 14 wells were built by participating schools;
- Fernwood Elementary School achieved Silver Champion status for the construction of its 50th well;
- Saint-Georges High School achieved Bronze Champion status for the construction of its 25th well.

SAINTE-VICTOIRE SCHOOL'S YOUNG STUDENTS ARE CHANGING THE WORLD!

For several years, Sainte-Victoire School has been part of the ACTES Movement, formerly known as Brundtland Green School. As part of its annual project, the school's students and staff raised \$1,200 through various ecological and educational activities. With the approval of the school's EVB student committee, this money was raised to equip a classroom with furniture in India.

-France Auger and Stéphanie Lavallée For the Sainte-Victoire School Green Committee



Members of the EVB (École Verte Brundtland)

<https://www.soreltracy.com/a-lecole-sainte-victoire-les-jeunes-changent-le-monde/>



SOLIDARITY AT MASSÉ SCHOOL

Théodore Rochefort has mobilized his fifth-grade class to fund a bore well in India.

ENCOURAGING THE SPIRIT OF SOLIDARITY

We encourage Canadian school children to develop and practice a spirit of solidarity through our YCW program. We also encourage Indian schoolchildren, through the culture of solidarity that is now actively practiced in rural the communities where we work. Indian children who benefitted from SOPAR's education program or those whose mothers are active members of their communities' solidarity activities, have learned the importance of helping others and improving their community.

Denys Parent: Keeping the flame of solidarity burning bright

I learned about SOPAR's Youth Changing the World at the College Notre Dame de Belleville who hired me as a Spiritual Life and Community Engagement Facilitator (AVSEC) in 1995. I retired after a long and active professional career, but I continue modeling the values of social justice and human solidarity I believe in, guiding and mentoring new generations of students in the Quebec and Montreal regions. These young people lack neither creativity nor energy, but I manage to help them plan, organize and implement the fundraising campaigns they concoct, leveraging my always-growing network of sponsors. The accumulated funds the students gathered over the years have led to the construction of many borewells in villages deprived of this basic right.

ROCHEBELLE SOPAR COMMITTEE 2025

2026 SCHOOL TRIP TO INDIA

Denys and the SOPAR Committee of Rochebelle have begun planning a school trip in India for 2026. A preliminary meeting took place with the parents and the school management.

This trip will allow the students to visit the villages where they have helped build borewells as well as visit to other SOPAR field projects. The experience will promote their acquisition of skills, their personal growth and openness to the world. They will experience the culture, traditions and realities of the rural communities they will visit.



Gabrielle Bélanger, Jasmine Ammad, Marianne Chapados, students' members of the SOPAR Committee, who presented at the Champigny Collège conference, to grade 1 and 2 students. The Conference was organized in collaboration with Principal Luc Baillargeon, and Mireille Lachance, pastoral facilitator.

A STUDENT TESTIMONY

Being part of the SOPAR committee for four years allowed me to expand my network of contacts and create strong new friendships based on shared values of mutual support. During volunteer activities ranging from packing sessions at MAXI supermarket to meetings with representatives of religious congregations, I managed to develop essential skills. My ability to work in a team, manage stress, communicate effectively, and demonstrate empathy were all nurtured and fostered through this profoundly impactful experience .

---Jasmine Ahmad



TESTIMONIALS

Honoring a lifetime dedicated to unity in diversity

Janis was a long-time, loyal SOPAR supporter, greatly admiring their approach to collaborative development with communities in India. Throughout her life she exemplified her belief that “the earth is but one country and mankind its citizens”. The principles of the oneness of mankind and of religions were at the heart of everything she did. Her home was always filled with friends from many countries and continents. She loved bringing them people together, creating spaces where they could appreciate their differences and build relationships on what united them.



Janis was a gifted pianist and loved dancing. We were often the lucky beneficiaries of her outstanding culinary talents. Delicious surprises always filled our plates. Her sense of humour never failed and laughter was always on the menu. She left a huge void, and we wanted to do something special that would keep her alive in our heart.

That is why we decided to give her a place among the people she loved and helped. but never had the chance to meet.

Her story was read to the villagers and the ceremony was videoed, giving us all a beautiful way to remember her for years to come. She is in a little village of Peesari komuraiah Nagar where a borewell with her name on its plaque gives clean water in abundance.



--Giselle Robelin

SOPAR a Canadian NGO focused on people's strengths

My name is Louise, and I have been supporting various SOPAR's programs for almost 40 years. I share its values and approaches in helping vulnerable people, focusing on their strengths and resources to improve their living conditions. My first donation, dedicated to the education program, enabled a disadvantaged young girl to continue her schooling. She succeeded, and one day, thanks to SOPAR's involvement, she sent me a photo of herself on her wedding day.

For several years, my husband and I contributed to the construction of several wells in rural villages as part of SOPAR's water program. What I loved and what motivated me to do it was knowing that a well in a village, not only provided drinking water, but also became a meeting point, creating a community space where women and children could exchange and share. When I lost my husband, I dedicated my donations to widows, allowing them to take part in the various activities SOPAR offered.

I attend SOPAR's AGMs and receive the annual report. I really appreciate being informed about the needs to be addressed as well as the results achieved by each program. It's always interesting.

--Louise Sauriol

LEGACY GIVING

Why do we want to help others?

The desire to give meaning to our lives is a powerful aspiration. Our donors share SOPAR's values of compassion and mutual support. By backing our work through their contributions, they express their commitment to building a better world and demonstrate a desire to give, with love, the very best of themselves to those who need it most.

Our own need to be loved, inherent to human nature, reflects our longing for connection: we want to be remembered, and we hope that our life story matters and makes a difference to others. It is precisely the acts that touch the hearts of others that keep us alive in theirs.



SUSTAINABLE LEGACY GIVING

Charitable bequests provide meaningful ways to sustain this connection. There are various ways to make a lasting impact through your donations to SOPAR. Here are a few examples:

Wills: You can easily include a simple clause in your will, and it can be modified at any time to align with your wishes. Your gift can be for any specific amount, percentage or residue of your estate. It also has major benefits significantly like reducing the estate taxes, and it doesn't affect your current income.

Securities: This includes donating stocks, mutual funds, or other marketable securities.

Life insurance: You have the option to donate an existing policy or designate SOPAR as a beneficiary in a joint policy with your spouse. Alternatively, you can also purchase a new policy to benefit SOPAR.

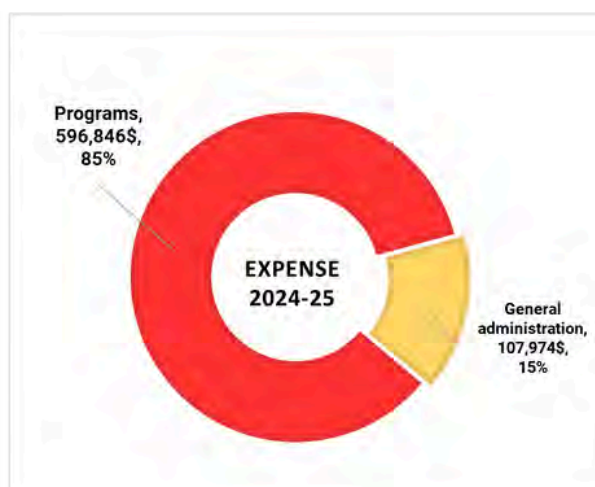
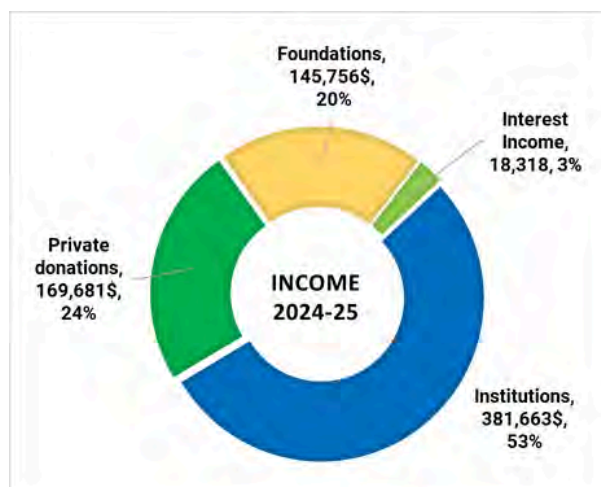
Endowment funds: You can create an endowment fund for perpetuity by donating cash or assets. Endowment funds may be pooled, and individual endowments may require a minimum contribution. Only the revenues from interest are paid each year to the beneficiary.

We invite you to explore our new section on planned giving by visiting our website. If you have any questions, we would be delighted to address them. We strongly encourage you to consult qualified and professional advisors, such as a notary, lawyer, accountant, financial advisor or insurance advisors.

FINANCIALS: SOPAR-BALA VIKASA

RESULTS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2025

	2025	2024
Revenues		
Donations from institutions	381,663	446,000
Donations from individuals	169,681	208,025
Donations from foundations	145,756	182,289
Donations from corporations	0	4,000
Interest income	18,318	18,520
Global Affairs Canada - Canada Fund for Local initiatives program - Delhi	0	14,124
	715,418	872,958
Expenses		
Community Development Programs in India	596,846	718,189
General administration in Canada	107,974	142,776
Humanitarian and educational programs in India	50,000	55,000
Global Affairs Canada - Canada Fund for Local initiatives program - Delhi	0	14,124
	704,820	860,965
Excédent des produits par rapport aux charges	10,598	11,993



WE TRANSFORM LIVES BECAUSE WE WORK TOGETHER

For 48 years we worked together to transform the lives of the most disadvantaged women, men and children in rural villages in India. United in our vision and mission of justice and equity, we continue to foster positive social changes that empower communities to take charge of their own growth and development.

Our shared efforts to "help people help themselves" as they face challenges at multiple levels, allows them to combine their individual talents, resilience and strength, to achieve their goal of a happier and more prosperous life.

We are committed and ready to pursue our common mission, proud and thankful for the efforts you always invest into making this possible.

WITH HEARTFELT THANKS! VANDANAM!

To all our donors who have generously given their time and money to sustain our programs

To the Congregations and Foundations for their trust in us and their loyal support.

To our partners who collaborate with us and invest in reducing injustices around the world.

To the Bala Vikasa and Jana Vikasa staff and volunteers working in the field in India

To our program beneficiaries who are the agents of change in their communities





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Stéphane Courtemanche, Director

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Angel (Bala Theresa) Gingras and André Gingras

EMPLOYEES

Shobha Singareddy, Executive Director
Giselle Robelin, Program Officer (part time)
Philibert Lafrance, Accountant (part time)
Denys Parent, Public Engagement program - Consultant

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