



VicenteFerrer

Empowering rural communities

VFF USA

# ANNUAL REPORT

April 2022  
March 2023

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## A NOTE FROM MONCHO FERRER

As we look back at another year, we reflect on our progress as an organization and how we made strides in extending support to the people and communities we work with. My father, a steadfast believer in the power of unity, always said, "If we join hands, together we can change the world." It's been an honor to witness this change firsthand, to see the solidarity and care for others.

RDT has always been willing to adapt and take on new challenges in addressing the needs of the communities. We continue to embrace this approach, developing our work to ensure that communities can drive their own change.

In 2022-23, we embarked on new education projects with the launch of the new Multifunctional Education Centre for Children with Intellectual Disabilities at Dornala, Srisailem and Wholistic project aimed at the holistic development of children in RDT Supplementary Schools. Going beyond traditional classrooms, we integrated sports and digital learning by establishing a digital education facility at the Dharmavaram Sports Centre.

This year, we have seen our income generation programs enabling thousands of rural women to lead lives with independence and nurture their entrepreneurial talents. We continue our steadfast commitment towards environmental sustainability through the Mana Bhoomi project, our efforts are bearing fruits in promoting sustainable habits that build a better future for all.

Over the decades, RDT has always been active in extending support to those affected by natural disasters. In the 2022-23 Anantapur and Telangana floods, RDT played a proactive role in providing relief and rehabilitation. Under the Housing Program for Flood Rehabilitation, we worked with local governments and extended our support to flood-affected families in Anantapur and Telangana.

Behind the impact we create, there are people who have been dedicated to the work we do and the programs we initiate; they are the ones who make things possible. Every project that we deliver, every community that we work with, every family we support reminds us that if we join our hands together, we can change the world.

We thank everyone who came together with us, believing in the possibility of making the world a better place for all. This has been possible with your unwavering support, dedication, and compassion.

With affection,



**MONCHO FERRER,**  
**PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD,**  
**VICENTE FERRER FOUNDATION USA**



## MISSION

Our mission is to empower rural communities to improve their living conditions. We work to empower the most marginalized members of society by removing barriers and breaking the cycle of poverty.



## VISION

A fair and caring society, based on equal opportunities. We Support the most vulnerable populations: women, children, and people with disabilities. We Guarantee sustainability through participatory and community-led programs. We Promote culturally sensitive and community-designed programs.



## VALUES

The capacity of everyone to help themselves and their community. Efficient and accountable programs. Long-term solutions that strengthen communities.

The Vicente Ferrer Foundation USA has no political or religious affiliation.





# MEASURING OUR IMPACT: VFF USA KEY PROGRAM AREAS

Education for Transformation | Community  
Health | Women's Empowerment | Housing |  
Clean Water | People with Disabilities

## 2022 AT A GLANCE

Throughout the year, thanks to our generous donors, sponsors, and volunteers, VFF USA supported 18 key projects, benefiting over 3,178 people in rural India. Some of the larger projects included water purification systems, housing for vulnerable families, educational support for rural children (bicycles and scholarships), nutritional support, professional training programs for rural women, and support for schools for people with disabilities. The number of sponsored children has increased, and we continued to provide vital support to rural women through our women's empowerment initiative.

### CONTRIBUTIONS BY PROGRAM AREA:

7%

Women's  
empowerment

44%

People with  
disabilities

6%

Housing

31%

Education

6%

Community  
health

6%

Clean water



# SNAPSHOTS OF PROJECTS FUNDED BY YOU

Support for Education: Bicycles  
and STEM Scholarships

**538** children

Education



Economic Empowerment  
of Single Mothers

**40** women

Women's Empowerment



Tailoring Training  
for Rural Women

**27** women

Women's  
Empowerment



Water Purification Unit

**1093** people

Clean Water



Support for Children  
with Cerebral Palsy

**200** students

People with Disabilities



Nutrition Support

**769** people

Community Health



Support for Inclusive  
Education

**126** students

People with Disabilities





# GENDER EQUALITY

VFF USA works to achieve a society free from gender discrimination and violence where women are guaranteed equal rights and can access equal opportunities and take their own decisions. Through financial assistance and awareness, VFF USA aims to challenge patriarchal values and break gender stereotypes.



## Training Vulnerable Women to Take Charge of Their Livelihood

Millions of rural women in India have not completed high school education. These women often struggle to find jobs and lack a voice in their families and society, facing economic and independence challenges. VFF USA works to narrow the gender gap by creating access to training opportunities, economic resources, and income-generation activities.

VFF USA supports women's professional and technical skills training, such as tailoring, embroidery, and cattle rearing, and provides them with tools, and necessary marketing skills to start their income-generation activities and support their families. Thanks to a generous donor, 18 rural women in the Badanapalli area have completed tailoring training, allowing them to improve their living conditions and those of their communities.



## Single Mothers' Social and Economic Integration

In rural India, widows often face societal rejection due to superstitions, leading to gender-based discrimination and economic challenges. VFF USA supports vulnerable single mothers by providing essential resources like nutrition, healthcare, and educational opportunities. During the 2022-23 fiscal year, VFF USA assisted forty single mothers and eighty-seven children. This support included access to adequate nutrition, healthcare, counseling, awareness programs, capacity building, and educational opportunities for their children. Thanks to Aparna Madaka, whose generous donation significantly supported these single mothers and their children.



# LAKSHMI'S JOURNEY FROM ADVERSITY TO EMPOWERMENT

Lakshmi, a 25-year-old woman from Karnataka, migrated to Bangalore in 2018 due to financial hardships. Working in the garment industry, she earned Rs. 8000 monthly. However, the COVID-19 pandemic in 2019 caused her and her husband to lose their livelihoods, prompting Lakshmi to return to her mother's home.

Lakshmi's life changed when she learned about the RDT tailoring training center in her village. She secured a spot in the program and excelled, quickly mastering new skills thanks to her garment industry experience. She became a role model and motivator for her fellow trainees. Now, as a skilled tailor, Lakshmi is earning a good income and has gained a reputable name in her community. She appreciates RDT for the quality training and the sewing machine provided.

Lakshmi advocates for continued support for women in her community, emphasizing the need for education and skill development to combat early marriages and cultural practices that restrict women's freedom. Her story highlights the transformative power of community support and the potential for women to drive change in their communities.





# HEALTH & WELL-BEING



To make accessible, affordable, and quality healthcare and awareness a reality for all, VFF USA aims to ensure quality and affordable healthcare by addressing the accessibility gap in medical services. Through a network of three rural hospitals, rural clinics, community health centers, and mobile clinics, VFF USA's implementing partner, RDT, promotes access to quality healthcare and services. In 2022-23, 786,547 people availed treatment at the RDT Hospital Network.

## Improving Health and Wellbeing through Nutrition and Awareness

Bastion Life Foundation has made a significant impact in the Lingala area of Telangana by addressing the nutritional needs of the Chenchus aboriginal tribe. This program has reached 769 people, providing not only food support but also crucial health awareness workshops and iron supplements to reduce anemia among mothers.

The awareness sessions have been particularly life-changing for many beneficiaries. For example, Bhavani, a 23-year-old pregnant woman, was unaware she had a high-risk condition called placenta previa. Through the project, Bhavani received regular checkups, nutritious food, and close monitoring of her pregnancy. The dedicated health staff ensured she received the necessary treatment, leading to the safe birth of her healthy baby girl at the Achampeta government hospital. Bhavani expressed her gratitude, saying the village-level health camps were vital in helping her and ensuring her baby's safe delivery.

Similarly, Nimmala Sivamma, who was four months pregnant, benefited greatly from the project. Initially hesitant about vaccination due to misinformation, she learned about the importance of immunization during an awareness session. Following the health staff's advice, she received the tetanus vaccine and attended regular checkups. Nimmala now understands the value of vaccines and the importance of eating nutritious foods like fruits and green leafy vegetables for her health and immunity. She expressed her thanks for the knowledge and support provided by the project.

These beneficiary narratives highlight the essential role of village-level awareness sessions in improving the health and wellbeing of pregnant women in the Chenchus community. The nutrition project not only provides vital information about pregnancy, immunization, nutrition, and childbirth but also supports the nutritional needs of mothers. By offering a platform for seeking assistance and guidance, the project ensures healthier pregnancies and safer deliveries, contributing to the overall wellbeing of the community.





# SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT

To promote mechanisms that enable individuals and communities to live in harmony with nature and to initiate sustainable, innovative projects that protect our Earth VFF USA uses a holistic approach to promote communities to live in harmony with nature by encouraging people to incorporate sustainable daily habits and contribute to their community to build a healthier world. We achieve this through raising awareness at the individual level and in the communities and with initiatives to protect the planet through afforestation, water conservation projects, organic farming and waste management.

## Dreams That Get Wider

Shilpamma's life changed when she started organic farming. Together with her husband, she raises two cows to sell milk for a living and grows her own vegetables to provide for her family. They run a dairy, selling 15 liters of milk every day. Shilpamma is actively involved in committee meetings and support groups for farmers, and she leads her village's sangham and the dairy cooperative, which benefits 90 families.

Thanks to the implementation of a sprinkler irrigation system and the construction of a reservoir as part of RDT's ecology projects, Shilpamma was able to save water and use her resources more sustainably. "We no longer depend on the rain or fear drought as much. The contained water allows all the land in the area to benefit," says Shilpamma. Now, with bigger ambitions for a better future, she wants to expand her fields, increase production, and sell food crops. This will help her family increase their income and secure a sustainable future.

"We no longer depend on the rain or fear drought as much: the contained water allows all the land in the area to benefit," says Shilpamma, farmer, Nizavalli.



# CHILD PROTECTION & EDUCATION

To ensure that children and adolescents fulfil their potential with access to education, a safe environment and equal opportunities, paving the path to their holistic development VFF USA aims to bring out the full potential of every child by providing them equitable access to resources. Beyond imparting knowledge, VFFUSA focuses on equipping communities to drive positive change and have access to quality education through supplementary schools and scholarships, along with enabling children to exercise their right to play, which accompanies them in paving paths to brighter careers.

## Child Sponsorship Transforms Children's Lives and Local Communities

VFF USA's child sponsorship program is an impactful drive to provide holistic support to children from vulnerable rural communities in India so that children get access to quality education and can pursue their career goals. By sponsoring a child, one can be part of the child's life journey and can experience how their little contribution is helping a child to grow and thrive.



- The sponsorship program gives girls and boys access to education and health care.
- Children with disabilities receive additional benefits like prostheses and physiotherapy.
- The contribution goes to a direct fund that benefits the child, their family, and the community.
- Most importantly, the sponsorship provides the seed of change for the most disadvantaged rural communities because your support ensures their development and hope for a better future.

In 2022-23, 112 children were sponsored through VFF USA's Sponsor a Child program.



## Inclusive Education

To ensure that children and adolescents fulfil their potential with access to education, a safe environment and equal opportunities, paving the path to their holistic development VFF USA aims to bring out the full potential of every child by providing them equitable access to resources. Beyond imparting knowledge, VFFUSA focuses on equipping communities to drive positive change and have access to quality education through supplementary schools and scholarships, along with enabling children to exercise their right to play, which accompanies them in paving paths to brighter careers.



## STEM Scholarship for Rural Youth

During 2022-23, VFF USA facilitated STEM scholarships for 47 deserving students hailing from underprivileged rural communities in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. This initiative provided comprehensive support covering tuition, accommodation, meals, study materials, healthcare, and more, empowering these young minds to pursue technical education and secure brighter career prospects.



## Bicycles for Continuing Education

The lack of proper public transportation poses a big challenge for rural students, especially girls in remote villages, to attend school regularly. In the fiscal year 2022-23, VFF USA supported 108 students from the Yemmiganur area in the Adoni Region and 64 students in the Settur area. Many of these students live 3 to 5 miles away from their school. One student highlighted the impact of the project, stating, “Our parents, who are agricultural laborers, have difficulties affording our transport cost, which ranges from Rs 250 to Rs 300 a month (\$3.5 to \$4.20), depending on the distance from the village to the high school. Riding a bicycle relieves their financial burden and is beneficial for our health.”



## The Impact of Inclusive Education: Mahalakshmi's Experience

Mahalakshmi lost her vision at three years old due to an epileptic seizure. Her mother, Nageswari, recounts how a hospital in Anantapur informed them of the partial vision loss and referred them to a specialized hospital in Hyderabad. Despite starting a three-year treatment plan, financial constraints soon made it impossible for them to continue.

Nageswari was disheartened but had to adjust to their new circumstances. However, a call from the village school director introduced a new possibility. The Rural Development Trust (RDT) had set up an inclusive primary school in Bukkaraya, designed to support children with different abilities. Though initially apprehensive about sending her daughter away, a visit from teacher Radha provided reassurance. Radha brought Braille books and explained how Mahalakshmi could learn to read and study using these materials.

Within a year, Mahalakshmi not only mastered Braille but also grew in confidence. Her mother proudly shares that Mahalakshmi now aspires to become a teacher to help other children like herself. Every visit to the school reveals Mahalakshmi teaching the alphabet to other girls, showcasing her newfound skills and leadership.

Mahalakshmi's experience underscores the importance of inclusive education. It demonstrates how providing tailored support and resources can empower children with disabilities, offering them opportunities for growth and a brighter future.

# SOCIAL & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

To empower individuals and communities with the tools to enhance their social and economic well-being, VFF USA aims to support rural communities in accessing basic infrastructure and achieving collective asset ownership through awareness campaigns and mobilization of public resources. Our goal is to assist them in forging a path toward self-sufficiency and fostering confidence to lead dignified lives.

Through collaborative efforts with local communities and government agencies, we place particular emphasis on empowering women, persons with disabilities, and tribal communities. This approach encourages active participation in driving their own positive transformation.

Eeramma, a woman with an intellectual disability, lives with her parents in a village where they work as agricultural laborers. Their old mud house, which had been in poor condition for years, leaked heavily during the rainy season, causing significant damage to their household items.

Their lives changed dramatically when VFF USA provided them with a new house, complete with a bathroom and toilet. This development significantly enhanced their self-respect and security, especially for Eeramma, who struggled with the distance to the previous outdoor toilet.

The new house feels like a palace to them, with a kitchen, living room, and bedroom. The well-arranged kitchen, with a platform for the gas stove and shelves for utensils, has made daily life much easier. A spacious verandah allows them to sit and enjoy the fresh air in the evenings. Additionally, a special ramp makes the house accessible for Eeramma.

The family's happiness and comfort have soared since moving into their new home. They expressed immense gratitude to the VFF USA donor, emphasizing that such a transformation seemed like a distant dream before. Eeramma's father, Hanumanthu, highlighted the social respect his daughter has gained with a house in her name, showcasing the profound impact of secure housing for women and disabled individuals.

Eeramma's experience underscores the critical need for safe, accessible housing, demonstrating how it can uplift lives, restore dignity, and foster social respect.





# OUR COMMITMENT TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015 to end poverty, reduce inequality and build more peaceful, prosperous societies by 2030.

Catalyzing positive community impact towards an equitable and prosperous future for people and the planet has been at the heart of VFF USA's work. Through our local partner in India, RDT, we have constantly been working to transform rural communities in India so that no one is left behind. Programs supported by VFF USA are aligned with global goals, and our program monitoring framework measures our commitment and progress toward SDGs.





# DONORS' CORNER



In the 2022-23 fiscal year, one of VFF USA's generous donors supported 68 students from Anantapur Inclusive High School and 100 students from the Bathalapalli Cerebral Palsy Center. The VFF/RDT inclusive education program aims to provide equal access to education for both abled and differently-abled children. We are truly grateful for this continued and much-needed support, which has been crucial in digitizing inclusive education schools and fostering independence for visually challenged students.



Thanks to the support from the **Vcare Charitable Foundation**, 108 students in the Yemmiganur area received bicycles, significantly improving their access to education. Additionally, the foundation supported the installation of a Water Purification Unit at Bachehalli, which will positively impact 1,093 people by providing access to clean and safe drinking water.



With the support of the **Bastion Foundation**, VFF USA has provided supplementary nutrition and healthcare checkups to 769 people from Lingala, including young children, prenatal and postnatal mothers, chronically ill individuals, and the elderly. This initiative has significantly improved the health and well-being of a socioeconomically marginalized community, providing them with essential food and healthcare access.





We are truly grateful for Prem Gangalakunta's generous donation, which will significantly support educational initiatives in Dharmavaram. This contribution will benefit 120 students, providing much-needed educational resources and support. Thank you, Prem Gangalakunta, for this impactful contribution, which will greatly enhance the learning opportunities for students in Dharmavaram.



RDT, with the generosity of Dr. Narayanareddy, has constructed five homes for women with disabilities and their families in Sivampalli village. These new homes offer safety, security, and dignity, addressing the multiple layers of discrimination faced by women with disabilities. We are grateful to Dr. Narayanareddy for his support in making this possible.



**Sandeep Gangarapu** generously supported students in pursuing a STEM career. We are deeply thankful for his generosity, which has enabled many students to embark on a path that could lead to high-paying job opportunities. This support is crucial as it empowers students from underserved communities to gain the skills and knowledge needed for successful careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Thank you, Sandeep Gangarapu, for making a significant impact on the lives of these students and helping to create a brighter future for them.

# THANKING OUR DONORS:

Alcala, Victor  
Aluru, Neel  
Aradhya, Kerry  
Aung, Mai Ni Ni  
Balireddy, Narayanareddy  
Bancalari, Pilar  
Bandari, Pratika  
Beck, Nancy Ed  
Beck-Coon, Kathleen  
Birabwa- Nsubuga,  
Christine  
Bommana, Geetha  
Bondalapati, Nithya  
Borrego, Maria Gabriela  
Cambero, Jose Carlos  
Campabadal, Cristina  
Casado, Jose Carlos  
Cheng, Solera  
Chennakrishnaiah, Shilpa  
Chiniga, Yogi  
Cobo, Luis Carlos  
Colin Betancourt, Maria  
Alejandra  
Confortini, Catia Cecilia  
Contreras Petri, Manuel  
Corbalan Bosch, Noel &  
Angela  
Dasari, Anand  
Del Moral, Maria Teresa  
del Pozo Garcia, Natalia  
Demarey, Nicole

Durham, Robert  
Erukala, Swetha  
Escalante, Jose  
Esser, Victoria  
Fernandez Linares Garcia,  
Alejandro  
Fernandez Pinto, Ana  
Fletzberger, Petra  
Gaduputi, Venkatesh  
Gamarra, Evelin  
Gambhiraopet, Anuradha  
Gandhi, Nishant  
Gangalakunta, Prem  
Gangarapu, Sandeep  
Gidasov, Andrey  
Giraldo, Marina  
Gollapalli, Aruna  
Gomez-Valades  
Maturano, Braulio  
Gondi Family  
Gudisi, Vannur  
Heiss-Kienberger,  
Katharina  
Herreros, Maria del Pilar  
Hurtado Lopez, Maria  
Montana  
Isasa, Marta  
Jaklitsch, Ingrid  
Jaklitsch, Vanessa  
Jarillo-Herrero, Pablo D  
Jayaraman, Ganesh

Jimenez-Kenoyer, Estibaliz  
Kalakada, Amar  
Kaluvai, Venkata  
Kanyako, Vandy  
Karnati, Nikhita  
Kasireddy, Chandra  
Katterapalli, Chaitanya  
Kenoyer, Margi  
Khan K, Ayub Ali  
Kienberger, Christian  
Kienberger, Jonas  
Kienberger, Markus  
Kodali, Nageswararao  
Kohn, Kristin  
Kottala, Naveenkanth  
Kumar Challa, Pavan  
Kumar, Andrea  
Lambaday, Udaykiran  
Lieberman, Maury And  
Leslie  
Lopez, George  
Los Angeles Rayalaseema  
Madaka, Aparna  
Madala, Sriharsha  
Maddineni, Srinivasa  
Mallu, Madhu  
Manne, Satyanarayana  
Marquez Garcia, Carlos  
Martin Arranz, Cristina  
Martinez, Carmen  
Massey, Sujata

Merchan, Merchan  
Metikala, Sanjeeva  
Mingorance, Jose  
Mitlyng, Susan  
Mohan Raju, Chandra  
Morales, Carlos  
Morck, Felix  
Nagarimadugu, Suresh  
Paidi, Sreeni  
Palle, Mahat  
Palle, Srilekha  
Palop, Maria  
Panajkar, Anvita  
Parel, Miriam  
Patil, Hema  
Patil, Sudhakar  
Pemmaka, Manoranjan  
Perillan, Lucia  
Pillalamarri, Rajitha  
Pipkin, Josh  
Przybyla, Katarzyna A  
Rayavaram, Vijaya  
Rebollo, Alicia  
Reddy Dadem, Bayapa  
Reddy Patil,  
Satyanarayana  
Reddy, Kavitha  
Reparaz, Natalia  
Rubio Vinaras, Carolina  
Sahel, Sachin  
Sala, Anna

Sangu, Jayasri  
Saraf, Priyam  
Sesmero, Marta  
Sierra, Alejandra  
Singh, Amarjita  
Sola, Juan  
Somagattu, Ramesh  
Somara, Madhuri  
Soza, Iveth  
Sridhar Sidda  
Syal, Ravinder  
Tantex  
Thippareddypalli,  
Rakeshchakravarthy  
Trueman, Anastasia  
Ugarte, Maria Amparo  
Urimindi, Reddy  
Vaddi, Sudheer  
Valagonda, Venkatesulu  
Vangala, Sivaramkumar  
Vazquez, Herctor  
Vcare Charitable  
Foundation  
Vega, Augusto  
Vidal, Ivis  
Zipare, Nitin





# FINANCIALS

Fiscal year 2022: April 1, 2022 – March 31, 2023

## Revenues Amount

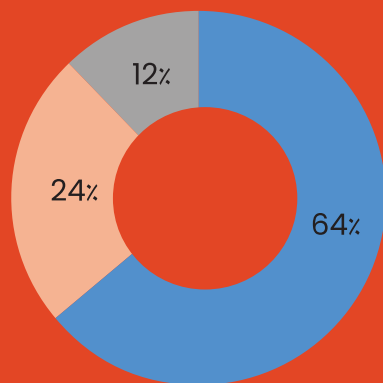
Contributions and Grants	\$559,325.00
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<b>Total Revenue</b>	\$559,325.00
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## Expenses Amount

Programs	\$298,950.00
Administration	\$112,350.00
Fundraising	\$54,495.00

<b>Total Expenses</b>	465,795.00
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■ Programs ■ Administration ■ Fundraising

Check our audited financial statements and 990 form at <https://www.vffusa.org/transparency/>

# VICENTE FERRER FOUNDATION WORLDWIDE



People and their power of action are the basis of the comprehensive development program of the Vicente Ferrer Foundation. The communities of more than 3,800 villages are involved in the projects that the organization promotes and that guarantee them a decent life and future opportunities. We highlighted key data reflecting our work during the year. They are the results of a joint commitment and effective collaboration between the communities, the people, partnering institutions and companies, the volunteers, and the foundation's team.



## Gender Equality

**8,023**

Women Sangham (Self-Help Groups)

**89,175**

women members of Sangham

**162,937**

women with access to financial resources

**15,204**

institutional deliveries in the Hospital Network

**248,551**

Women treated in G&O departments in RDT Hospital Network

**3,087**

girls encouraged/thriving through sports



## Health and Wellbeing

**2,576**

babies admitted to NICU

**7,943**

HIV patients registered for ART therapy

**4,241**

aids and assistive devices distributed to PWD

**5,451**

surgeries performed at Bathalapalli Hospital

**786,547**

people availed treatment at the RDT Hospital Network

**6,748**

persons received nutritional support to improve nutrition in rural villages.



## Sustainable Environment

**22,883**

farmers adapted micro-irrigation practices

**1,347**

check dams built

**35,479**

families in horticulture programmes

**2,897**

new members are involved in the Ecology Development Committees

**285,071**

fruit trees distributed to families,

**1077,379**

plants dibbled



## Child Protection and Education

**74%**

of students from the PSFL found a job

**1,377**

tuition schools supported

**40,981**

bicycles were distributed to support/ facilitate the access to education

**4,191**

children with disabilities provided with education and rehabilitation

**75,003**

students equipped with access to education

**7,120**

girls and boys accessing sports in the grassroots sports programme.



## Social and Economic Development

**84,791**

houses built

**55,904**

toilets built

**92%**

of new house owners are women

**5,319**

PWD started income-generation activities

**11,916**

PWD obtained MGNREGS job cards

**16,459**

people attended workshops on leadership and business management

**26,182**

participants in the Community Development Committees







**VicenteFerrer**

*Empowering rural communities*

# HELP US ERADICATE POVERTY IN RURAL INDIA

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