



HABITAT

Building an Abode of Happiness



VicenteFerrer

Rural Development Trust

At a Glance



Rural Development Trust



Demographic Reach

67,189

rural poor are provided with permanent shelter

110

institutions supported through construction of additional classrooms, laboratories, toilet blocks and libraries



Swachh Bharat Mission

6,116

Individual Household Latrines (IHHLs) built as a part of Swachh Bharat Mission

Father Ferrer's Philosophy

A perpetual guiding light for all at RDT, Father Vicente Ferrer was loved and admired across the world not only by those who had to the privilege to meet him, but also those who got to know about his noble causes.

Following his principles of 'Work beyond duty' and 'Concern for others', RDT functions on the philosophy of action, and works closely with the needy. He believed that development institutions (NGOs) need to become permanent social organisations that work with poor and needy people at a grassroots level, and cater to their changing needs at all times. He supported long term strategic planning, aimed towards the

Geographic Reach

2,737 villages covered

under the RDT Habitat Sector



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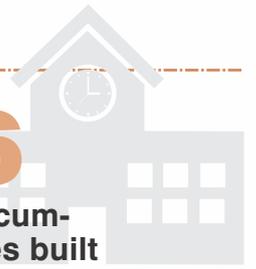


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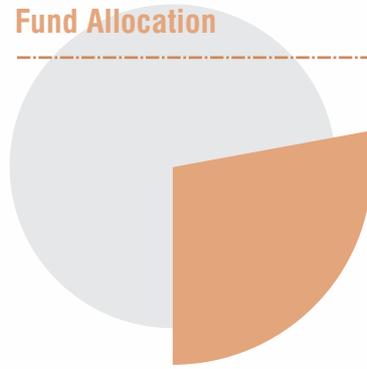
water schemes,
including **27** water
purification systems
functioning

1,506

school buildings-cum-
community centres built



Fund Allocation



30.4%

towards the Community
Habitat sector

complete eradication of issues like drought, poverty, discrimination, etc. He considered people as the main actors in their development process, and always aspired to reach out to the poorest of the poor.

His work was dedicated to ensuring that the poor could live with dignity and self-respect and was a strong advocate of equal opportunities for men and women, the able-bodied and Persons with Disabilities, while encouraging all sections of society to live in peace and harmony.

“If we join hands,
we will transform
this world.”

Vicente Ferrer
Founder - RDT



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Building
Habitats for
a Better
Future

ABOUT

Rural Development Trust

The Rural Development Trust (RDT), also known as Fundación Vicente Ferrer (FVF) in Spain, has worked in the Indian states of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana for nearly half a century.

Since its inception in 1969, RDT has endeavoured to improve the quality of life among the rural poor, especially among marginalised and underprivileged communities, small & marginal farmers, children, women, Persons with Disabilities,



those affected by HIV/AIDs and orphans. The organisation's programmes today cover various focus sectors in 3,589 villages spread across 111 Revenue Mandals across 6 districts of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, including 224 villages inhabited by the Chenchus in the Nallamala forest area of Srisailam district.

RDT has worked for all-round sustainable social transformations, assisted by the government and various agencies in working to ensure that the rural poor receive the same attention and benefits enjoyed by their better-off brethren. **Organizationally, RDT works in ten sectors, each involving the efforts of many individuals, from committed villagers, subject-matter experts, field staff, specialised development workers, trainers to RDT's senior managing team.** These sectors, viz. Education, Women, Community Health (including care for HIV/AIDS patients),

Hospitals, Habitat, Community-based Rehabilitation (CBR), Ecology, Chenchu Tribal Development, Sports, and Culture, look at addressing specific social issues. **The purpose of the RDT's integral development approach is to touch the rural lives through many sectors, simultaneously.** For instance, while programmes run by the Community-

3,589 villages spread across 111 Revenue Mandals in 6 districts of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

Vision

A caring, just and environment-friendly society promoting social harmony and peaceful coexistence and balancing the needs of people and nature.

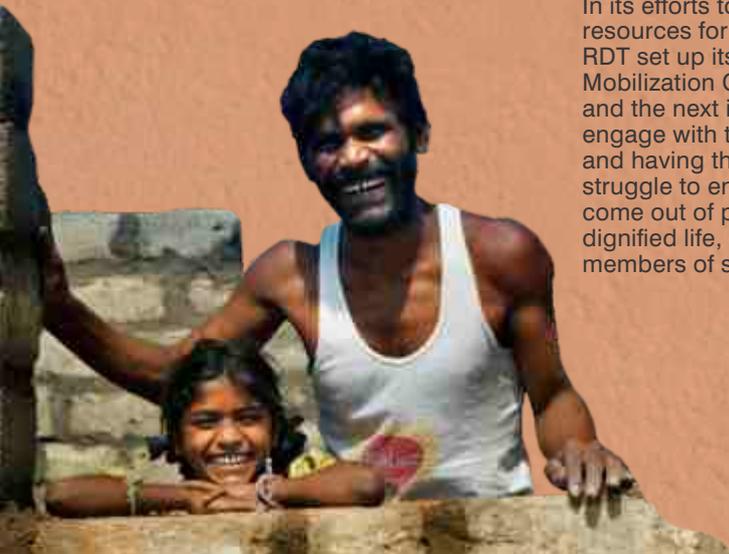
Mission



based Rehabilitation sector work to ensure that PWDs have improved opportunities to Education, Health and Livelihood, the Sports and Culture sectors' works are essential for the growth, self-esteem and self-confidence.

RDT has stressed upon empowering community-based organisations (CBOs), whose members, irrespective of their social background, can participate in the process of bringing about socio-economic change. Over the years, CBO members have come to play a vital role in planning, execution, monitoring and follow up of programme interventions either carried out by Government or RDT.

Today, RDT comprises 1,920 senior and mid-level managerial staff, professional and technical staff, grassroots and support-level staff



who are highly experienced and suitably trained in their respective fields of work. In addition, there are 3,037 volunteers including Community Health Workers (CHWs) and Community-Based Teachers (CBTs) at the village level who are trained by the organization.

Among the trustees of RDT are members of the Rayalaseema Development Trust (RYDT) and the Women Development Trust (WDT). The former runs a family planning centre and professional school at Ananthapuram along with programmes related to culture and sports, while the latter runs a referral hospital at Kanekal as well as community health programmes. FVF extends support to these sister concerns of RDT to carry out these specific sectoral works.

In its efforts towards mobilizing resources for the cause of the poor, RDT set up its first Resource Mobilization Centre in Mumbai in 2012, and the next in Vijayawada in 2015, to engage with the committed individuals and having them participate in the struggle to ensure that the rural poor come out of poverty and lead a dignified life, on par with other members of society.

Our Dharma



Concern for the poor and needy



Work beyond duty



Reaching as many poor as possible



Pursuit of excellence in work

- To eradicate extreme poverty and human suffering.
- To work towards implementing eco-efficient agriculture that ensures the sustainability of livelihoods and encourages harmony between human beings and natural resources.
- To ensure that educated youth from poor families have diversified job opportunities fetching a decent salary and affording an improved status in society.
- To ensure that Persons with Disabilities have access to equal opportunities and are the main actors in their struggle to lead a life of quality and dignity.
- To work towards the empowerment of women by helping improve their socioeconomic status and sensitising both men and women to deal with issues such as gender discrimination and violence.
- To be a value-based professional organization being dynamic and creative in nature, untiring in hard work and motivation, humanistic in approach, strong in its commitment to share the aspirations and struggles of the poor and permanent in time but flexible to adapt to the changing needs of people.

MESSAGE FROM THE

Executive Director



A home of one's own is one of the major milestones in a person's life. The aspirations of the rural poor are no different from their urban peers- to own a home, and be a respectable, contributing member of society.

A good home is much more than just a brick and mortar structure to a rural family. It means that they have a solid asset to their name, command a certain status in society and can secure a good suitor for their daughter if and when the time comes. RDT believes that people should live in structurally-sound and pleasant permanent shelters, that not only provides them safety but also an improved quality of life. The poor and needy, especially women – who are traditionally not the inheritors of property, should have access to a permanent home and common collective infrastructure. The community centre cum school building constructed by RDT are a shared infrastructure that address basic education, community health, social gatherings and heighten a community's standing. Access to higher institutions like colleges, and hospitals cater to their developmental needs.

Therefore, we work towards improving the access of rural poor to self-owned homes and well-constructed and maintained public institutions. The Habitat Sector is committed to building the infrastructure like classrooms, schools, hospitals, laboratories and public toilets that improve people's quality of life.

Access to toilets for young girls during school hours is of particular concern. If a girl does not have access to clean toilets for a large part of the day, and has to wait till she is home to relieve herself, she curtails her water intake all day. This puts her at direct risk of contracting urinary tract infections and developing gynaecological problems later on. **Thus RDT assists in providing unfettered access to clean water, hygienic toilets and good nutrition, to curb its continued spread.**

I am delighted that 75% of the structural work undertaken by the Habitat team gets completed within 12 months of commencement. We also ensure that the RDT staff members, who are involved in the building process, have the necessary skills and knowledge to ensure quality construction and planning. The construction and maintenance of infrastructure is actively and well supported by grass root level workers, outside experts, our own engineers and volunteers. More importantly, we insist on public participation throughout the process to instil a sense of pride in ownership right from the start, which will help ensure responsible and transparent use and upkeep of the facilities.

In the coming months, RDT will continue to collaborate with the government in Housing Programmes, both in rural and urban areas, including in areas affected by natural calamities or disasters. We are especially enthusiastic about our collaboration with the government, for its Swachh Bharat Programme wherein we are constructing over 40,000 bathroom cum toilets. This will help people from a wide variety of backgrounds. **We hope that with continuous support of our donors, we will be able to provide shelters to the poor and needy from all walks of society.**

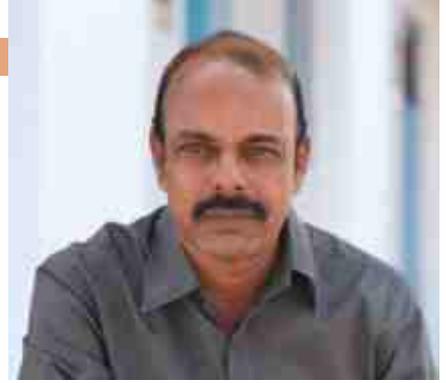
Anne Ferrer

We work towards improving the access of rural poor to self-owned homes and well-constructed and maintained public institutions. The Habitat Sector is committed to building the infrastructure like classrooms, schools, hospitals, laboratories and public toilets that improve people's quality of life.



MESSAGE FROM THE

Habitat Director



RDT's infrastructure development work serves people from all social backgrounds, with special focus on women and PWDs. We are dedicated to helping them own and maintain property so as to enhance their status both in family and society by empowering them economically and psychologically.

Food, clothing and shelter are considered to be the most basic requirements of a human being. Many of the rural poor we work with are unable to fulfil those basic needs, and RDT's 360 degree sectoral approach has made good strides in improving their quality of life. But the 'dream' of a home, dear to their hearts, is especially difficult to realise and involves forms and formalities that are difficult to manage without guidance.

On an average, RDT constructs over 4000 houses per year for the poor and needy out of which, most are for women and Persons with Disabilities. The government has well thought-out housing schemes for the abject poor, women and PWDs however; the information and execution about these schemes is either not equitably distributed, or fraught with varied obstacles. This is where RDT's field workers and Sanghams operate to make information widely available, and then to help eligible citizens obtain the allotments that are due to them.

Another area we work in, is public infrastructure. Buildings for supplementary schools, lighting, toilets and even bridges when urgently needed. School buildings presently double-up as community centres and supplementary schools. **A goal for the near-future is that at least 65% of project villages should have their own school building cum community centre, which will be utilised through most of the year for various activities.** Increasingly, more and more of these structures are being maintained by Community Based Organisations (CBOs) – 50% and growing.

Today, improved educational infrastructure and access to them, have increased the enrolment and retention rate of marginalised students in schools. **Villages and communities suffering from water crises are also being provided with access to water schemes in the form of drinking water bores, cisterns, ground-level or overhead tanks and water-purification plants.** RDT also receives considerable government support as 95% of the sites intended for construction of either houses or schools cum community centres are being mobilised by the government.

We also carefully monitor and administer the ability of our staff members to resolve issues and evaluate the construction, as well as identify the requirements and feasibility of new infrastructure, and the maintenance of the present ones with respect to their location, nature and state of repair. We aspire, that soon students in rural poor communities will have access to quality public educational institutions with improved classrooms, laboratories and other facilities as and when required. **The quality of life amongst marginalised communities has significantly improved due to housing programmes and we thank all our supporters, and the governments of Andhra Pradesh and India in turning so many people's dreams into a reality.**

K. Sagara Murthy

On an average, RDT constructs over 4000 houses per year for the poor and needy out of which, most are for women and Persons with Disabilities.



THE EARLY YEARS

Habitat

The lack of a proper habitat impacts all other aspects of development namely health, education, gender equality, ecology and social integration. When provided with basic human requirements of shelter, water, electricity and drainage, communities are able to break the cycle of poverty.

The rural poor in India are mostly comprised of marginalised communities such as Dalits, Scheduled Tribes, Backward Communities and Persons with Disabilities. Social and cultural taboos have alienated them from the wave of development that the country is riding. As a result, these communities have either been uprooted from their traditional habitat, or been relegated to areas where they cannot find sustenance. Most poor settlements in the early 1970s comprised of mud huts with thatched roofs, had poor sanitation, lack of a readily-accessible water source and therefore generally poor hygiene conditions and sanitation. More so, villagers frequently had incursions of scorpions and snakes into their dwellings.

The government has been admirable in trying to house and provide social security to its most marginalised citizens. But information about the schemes and the eligibility criteria to avail them has been patchy and



often does not reach the poorest of settlements where their need is most dire. There are government provisions under the Andhra Pradesh Housing Corporation Ltd. that now provide 872 sq. ft. (2 cents) land patta (title) to each person Below Poverty Line (BPL).

However, the houses are meant to be constructed by the people, while the government periodically reimburses them through the course of the construction. The execution of this system however is not uniformly

successful. Most of these people are extremely poor, ill-educated and/or inadequately employed, and for them to arrange a capital to build the house is nearly impossible – thereby creating a sizeable gap between the assistance available and the extent to which it is availed of. Most resort to debts from richer landlords in hopes of getting the money spent reimbursed, but red-tapism or policy changes across departments mean that reimbursements are almost always delayed. Indebted and now unable to repay the loan they've taken, the entire family comes under severe economic and psychological distress.

The reimbursement slab set for construction of each of these houses was, until recently, approximately 50% of the cost incurred. Even if in some cases a person does manage to get the funds, they are never enough to take care of the total amount spent. In addition, government interventions are often delayed and fall short of the actual

Timeline

The journey from dreams to reality

1970

Houses built for 'Food for Work' programme in Rani Nagar and Drivers' Colony, Ananthapuram



1995

The first colony built at M.M.Halli in Uravakonda area



1997

Emergence of dedicated Habitat Sector



requirement. And finally, there is no technical information or support provided regarding the subject of construction methods, dos and don'ts.

So a primary role of RDT is to act as a bridge between government bodies and the rural poor and help them understand the schemes and allotments available to them. This applies not only to individual projects but also for community-based projects, bridges, roads etc. We started by constructing houses with proper ventilation, drainage facilities, and easy access to water. The seemingly simple act of moving into a new, owned house allayed the

villagers' fears, improved their health and increased their productivity. The resulting economic stability helped children attend school and in due course of time the community's socio-economic status improved. Moreover, in the year 1995-96, RDT empowered women by registering each house built in their name - a practice that even the government, under Mr. Chandrababu

Objectives

- **Poor and needy women and Persons with Disabilities will live in decent and permanent shelters that not only provide them safety and security but also enhance their status both in family and society for an improved quality of life.**
- **CBOs/Target Communities will independently manage and regularly make use of permanent school buildings cum community centres, to run supplementary schools (Tuition Centres) and for their common socio-economic, health & developmental needs.**
- **Selected villages or target colonies suffering from severe water crisis with either absence or malfunctioning of existing public water distribution systems will have access to drinking water supply schemes through government, RDT and other organisations' support.**
- **Students in rural communities will have access to quality Public Educational Institutions with improved classrooms, laboratories, toilets and compound walls wherever needed.**
- **RDT will have good infrastructure in the form of Referral Hospitals, Rural Clinics, CBR Institutions, Training Halls, Offices, Sports Complexes, Staff quarters/guest rooms etc., in strategic locations so as to render qualitative and efficient services to people.**
- **CBOs will take timely initiatives and associate themselves effectively in the process of construction as well as maintenance of structures apart from mobilising resources from the government for further betterment of their housing colonies.**
- **RDT's staff members will have the required knowledge and skills to ensure quality construction and involvement of CBOs / Beneficiary families / Construction Committees in project planning, execution, monitoring and follow up.**
- **Staff members, both at technical and managerial level have the improved skills and capability to carry out regular monitoring, technical assessments and evaluations to assess the impact of interventions, so as to help adapt strategies to changing needs and make timely decisions to accomplish targets with quality.**
- **RDT will collaborate with the Government in Housing Programmes both in rural and selected urban areas, including areas affected by natural calamities or disasters, wherever feasible as per the agreed terms and conditions.**

2005

Started collaborating with govt. on housing projects



2010

Started building the houses for "CHENCHUS" in Srisaillam Area



2013

Crossed the milestone of 50,000 constructed houses



2015

Collaborated with AP Govt. for Swachh Bharat Mission





Ensuring
security, dignity
and health by
building
permanent
abodes

PROGRAMME ONE

Housing Programme

Access to permanent shelter is necessary to stabilise the lives of the rural poor. By building functional dwellings for them, and ensuring that title is in the name of the woman of the house, or a PWD in the family, RDT not only tackles poverty at the grassroots, it also creates an asset base for the disadvantaged.

Often without any land or funds, marginalised communities depend upon the government to provide them with a suitable abode. But distances, increase in input costs, and poor transportation infrastructure meant that neither information, nor funds or materials were readily and/or effectively available. These gaps left villagers open to being manipulated by profiteers or under-served by government schemes that they were eligible for. RDT has proved to be an effective intermediary in such cases by bringing all stakeholders - including the government authorities and the beneficiaries - on board, driving progress and tracking accountability.

In his earliest years in Ananthapuram, Father Ferrer tried to build homes for the poor seeing the destitution of some of the settlements. Starting with 1000 houses at Raninagar, a large settlement of daily-wage workers and their families, which was ravaged by fire; RDT's housing programme has built over 3000 houses since 1972 under the 'Food for Work programme' in Ananthapuram district, Tarimela, and areas of B.K. Samudram, Somuladoddi, Rappthadu, Nadimidoddi, Narpala and Dharmavaram. The first full-fledged colony of 2500 homes was built at MM Halli in Uravakonda in 1994. RDT has also been tackling housing and sanitation at the grassroots-level. The

absence of basic necessities such as water, electricity and proper drainage adversely affects the overall development of community members in terms of education, healthcare and social prestige.

RDT builds houses, intended for poor Dalits, tribals, weaker sections and PWDs, with an aim of improving the quality of their lives. All these houses, and the land they stand upon, are entitled in the name of the women of the family or the PWD, as the case maybe. Now the new constructed houses will also have the provision of bathroom cum toilet.

Community Participation

Community involvement is ensured by founding construction committees comprised of both men and women. Involving women at the implementation stage of projects allows them to be equal partners in the development processes and allows further betterment of the community. Right from the beginning of the construction of houses, the beneficiaries are encouraged to participate. They are involved in general body meetings, selection and procurement of materials and masons, follow up and supervision, contributing towards labour work like excavating the foundations, water curing and helping the labour groups etc. Since they participate in every stage of the work, the resulting pride and ownership ensure they remain

Highlights

- A total of 67,189 houses built up-to 31 March, 2016.
- 2,743 houses built for Persons with Disabilities.
- Houses built for villagers, of which 48 were for PWDs in 2014-15.
- 63 community halls cum supplementary schools, and 16 buildings constructed to function as government schools in 2015-16.
- Government of Andhra Pradesh presented an award to RDT on World Habitat Day held on 1 October 2012 at Hyderabad, for its outstanding achievement in the field of housing for the poor.

Evolution

1972

RDT started constructing houses for the poor in and around Ananthapuram.





Staff Speak

“RDT’s Housing programme has not only transformed the lives of the rural poor, but broken the age old system of discrimination and social ostracism. Simply by moving into a proper home, people have been able to break the invisible barrier to their continued prosperity. Lives change, people change, their future changes. Most of all, the children are now getting the opportunity to live in and shape a more just and fair society.”

Mrs. Sreedevi, Area Engineer, Habitat Sector.

invested in the upkeep of their houses through painting, providing electrification, constructing small kitchens, bathrooms and compound walls etc., with their own resources. Women participants are encouraged to involve themselves in Sanghams (collectives), while individuals with disabilities are encouraged to participate in Vikalangula Sanghams (PWD collectives).

Sector staff members are charged with ensuring that the community or individual:



- Participates in construction to understand the value of the house/hall/infrastructure being built.
- Participates in the developmental discussions prior to the project in order to understand that it is not a standalone giveaway, but a part of the larger change that RDT/the government is trying to bring about in the area.
- Participates in other development projects of RDT that link the community to overall development plan of the village.

Construction Principles

RDT’s technical team comprises of 40 area engineers, 7 regional engineers and 2 Technical Directors at the central level.

- RDT’s core principles regarding construction are functionality, structural safety and liveability. All houses are electrified and ventilated. For water, residents rely on wells, which if not present or functional, are constructed by RDT.

The houses for the PWD’s have an attached bathroom given the resident’s frequent mobility limitations.

- Each house is comprised of two rooms (one main & one additional for storage/kitchen) and a porch. The concept of an additional second room evolved after constructing the first colony in 1995 and from the technical team’s discussions with people about their requirements from the structures.
- The house is elevated 45 cm above the ground to protect against flash floods and moisture from torrential monsoon. This elevation also serves to protect the inhabitants from snakes, scorpions and rats etc.

RDT’s Housing initiative has succeeded in improving the quality of life for marginalised communities. At an emotional level, the new dwellings provide for a sense of belonging and confidence through ownership. At the physical level, the inhabitants report

“Unfortunately, women from marginalised communities are given least importance. Creating assets for them is one of the most effective ways to transform the society inside out.”

Mr. Bangarappa,
Teacher, Government Primary School,
Raphadu.



improved health, safety and comfort. Easy access to water, providing additional borewells if needed, frees up precious time to pursue commercial activities and electrification improves productivity by increasing the number of working. **In effect, these houses are not only a matter of pride for the target community but they also render them more voice in community decision-making.**

While RDT builds the structures, the government carries out the integration with other civic amenities such as water, electricity and roads. These structural changes have significantly contributed in bringing about a change in the mind-sets of the target community regarding hygiene. Because of it, they feel an increased societal inclusion as now higher caste farmers, who in the bygone days would reach out to them from afar for work (considering them to be untouchable), now come into their areas and sit with them.

RDT also undertakes projects when an entire colony is being displaced on account of dam or road construction. In such cases, RDT builds the houses, usually in collaboration with the government, with all necessities i.e. pipelines, drainage. It even takes care of the power and water supply by involving the respective boards and making necessary payments. So far, 6 to 7 such projects have been undertaken, the first one being at Vemulagondi, Talupulla in the year 2008.

A lot of emphasis is laid on providing houses to PWDs as they are the most vulnerable amongst all communities. The houses for PWDs are designed as a barrier-free dwelling to provide maximum convenience and ease of mobility to them. In order for a community or settlement qualify for PWD housing, there should be a Vikalangula Sangham in the village. The Sangham nominates candidates for the scheme, vetted by the Area Team Leader and CBR Sector Team Leader. Habitat sector builds houses with attached toilets and leach pits to ensure the recipient has a sanitary lavatory and toilet in their home.

Finally, the programme also combines comprehensive development projects with long term humanitarian assistance in cases of natural or man-made disasters through reconstruction of houses.

RDT has built houses for those affected by disasters in Kutch (Gujarat), Nagapattinam district (Tamil Nadu), Karaikal district (Puducherry), Kurnool (Andhra Pradesh) and Mehboob Nagar district (Andhra Pradesh). From 2011, RDT also started building permanent shelters for Chenchus in Kurnool, Mehboob Nagar (Telangana) and Prakasham districts.

Paradigm Shift

People would reach out to what was closest at hand in earlier times to build their hutments – dried leaves for thatch, clayey-soil, etc. Now, they are enabled with information about, and access to, better building materials, financial assistance, government allotments and expert technical guidance about modern housing.



A total of

67,189

houses were built by RDT

2,743

houses built for PWDs

2,845

houses built for people affected by natural calamities

Success Story

Jogulu is a backward community in Rayalseema, Ananthapuram. They were an itinerant community of entertainers, menial workers and petty traders, lived shabbily, and were generally known to have poor hygiene. As a result, they wandered throughout the Rayalseema region throughout the year, performing and begging in order to sustain themselves. **Children missed out on schooling and the entire community was illiterate and looked down upon as beggars.** Traditionally, they would dress up in colourful clothes, regale villagers with tales from the Mahabharatha in the form of folk songs, and beg for alms. Even though the community lived in the Enumula Doddi village, they did not possess any land.

In 2000, the government recognised

their plight and assigned them the land they were living on, at the outskirts of Kambadur village. **RDT spearheaded their development by building houses with water supply for 35 homeless families which was completed in May, 2014. RDT also constructed a school building cum community hall, and the colony was named Sree Rama Jogula Colony.** Permanent homes have helped the community transition to a better living. Children have started attending school, people have realised the pride in owning and maintaining their homes, they have started keeping up their personal hygiene and of that of their surroundings, and the community has become aware of the growth possibilities for the future. **Their inclusion in mainstream social activities has brought dignity and self-respect to them.**

“We needed to change with changing times but without proper infrastructure, this seemed impossible. However, with RDT's help, we can now dream of a better future.”

M. Doddappa,
Villager, Sree Rama Jogula Colony



Building
infrastructure for
community self-
sufficiency and
respect

PROGRAMME TWO

School-cum-Community Centres

RDT has been encouraging inclusiveness in education and community participation by constructing new public buildings. These buildings also serve as a meeting point for Community Based Organisations (CBOs) which lend the community prestige and recognition.

The right to education is a fundamental human right, but logistical and geographic-penetration inequities have rendered certain sections of the society, far behind their counterparts in terms of progress. The only way to bring them up to speed was to develop more educational institutions within easy reach of every poor villager.

Simultaneously, rural areas often lack organised spaces for inhabitants to convene and discuss matters that impact community growth. Decisions that impact the entire village are often taken in the confines of the homes of few influential families or public spaces in the centre the main village. Thereby fringe communities such as Dalits and Scheduled Tribes could not have access to them. RDT believes that genuine development in a region can happen only when all sections of the society collaborate and have a say in their future.

Its Community Based Organisations (CBOs) also needed proper infrastructure in order to operate effectively. In this context, **RDT started constructing community buildings in villages to serve as supplementary schools, a forum for community meetings, outreach medical consultations, and as nutrition centres from which to distribute food packets.** These are constructed



exclusively in colonies (SC/ST/BC) and are meant all the various collective needs of the community.

The centres are constructed in an area of 1300 sq feet, and are 60cm elevated from the ground with the verandah in front. The size of each classroom is 30 x 20 feet and that of another room is 10 x 20 feet. It is a collective asset and is considered a status symbol for the poorer communities in rural Ananthapuram. **Never before would there have been a similar solid, multi-purpose structure in their colony.**

Till 1994, RDT had tie-ups with donor agencies like ADD, CCF, Action Aid and ICCO to raise funds for constructing these centres. Community centres enable people to interact and utilise the space for community related discussions and socio-economic, health and development initiatives.

Each project must fulfil the following criteria for being considered eligible

Highlights

- 26 school buildings cum community halls built prior to 1996 in Kambadur, Kalyandurg, Kuderu and Uravakonda
- The establishment of FVF in Spain in 1996 fueled this endeavor further
- 63 schools cum community halls constructed in 2015-16
- 25 schools cum community halls built in disaster affected areas



Evolution

1979

Habitat sector constructed the first school cum community hall at Marrimakula Palli



Staff Speak

“At RDT, our efforts towards transforming the future will bear fruit only if children can exercise their right to education. Therefore, improving and developing educational infrastructure is critical to our Habitat initiative and also to create a more equitable society. In addition, by making schools, the centres of community interaction, we have been able to link two major requirements of development – education and cohesive communities.”

Mrs. P. Jyothi Kumari,
Regional Engineer



“The new buildings help focus the spotlight on ignored communities. Children can study, grown-ups can confer and the authorities have a venue for dispensing benefits.”

Mr. Ram Narayana, Sarpanch,
Dampetla village, Bathalapalli area

for RDT intervention:

- The absence of alternate places suitable for running community schools and for conducting meetings and workshops.
- Presence of people's organisations such as women and PWD groups.
- An enthusiastic community that is actively involved in RDT's initiatives.
- A legally clear site, either given by the government, or purchased from others with proper documents for the purpose of construction.

The creation of such spaces encourages the participation of marginalised communities in decision making, helps in disbursement of government benefits and encourages participation in local governance (elections, pulse polio camps or government body meetings). **It even supports RDT's activities in other sectors as well such as Health, Women, Education, CBR and Culture.**



Paradigm Shift

Earlier, villagers would get to know of elections, voter card application drives or government health camps too late for most of them to change their routine and head to the town centre. Having a school cum community hall means, that government and health officials can convene meetings within their settlement. Nearly every villager now has an Aadhar card, voter's I.D. etc.

A total of

1,506

schools cum community
halls constructed
up to 2015-16



Success Story

RDT successfully transformed a dilapidated Zilla Parishad High school in Chinnekotta Palli in 2012.

Before RDT took charge, insufficient rooms forced teachers to take classes out in the open or in the verandah. However, frequent incursions by monkeys disrupted classes and were a general menace. In addition, the school premises did not have any fencing and a large ditch at the entrance posed serious risk to children. Because of these issues, enrolment in the school gradually reduced. While in 2006 total enrolment of the school was above 1000, later reports pegged it around 630.

RDT estimated that the cost of expansion and repairs would be around INR 70 lakhs, of which the school management contributed INR 3

lakhs. After filling up the ditch at the entrance, the construction began in April, 2012 and took 9 months to complete.

Large, airy and fully electrified, the new building has plenty of rooms to easily accommodate all students, a 1000-litre capacity water tank, drinking water facility and separate toilet facility for girls and the staff. Inaugurated on 21st December 2012, the building was christened as 'Fr. Vicente Ferrer block'.

Since all students now have access to pucca classrooms, neither the weather nor the monkeys distract them anymore from their studies.

The Headmaster feels that the improved infrastructure has resulted in better performance of all the students. Having heard the success story of C.K. Palli Zilla Panchayat School, school

managements from neighbouring villages are also contemplating construction of infrastructure facilities in their schools via RDT's Habitat team.

"I feel secured and was able to score 85% marks in my exams. Thanks to RDT, the new building changed my educational growth path."

Ashok, 10th Std.,
C.K. Palli Zilla Panchayat School



WDT
CAUSE WAY- HAVALIGI FVF
 Urayakonda Area
 INAUGURATED BY
Sri MONCHO FERRER GARU
 Associate Program Director- RDT
 On 13-6-2008
 CHIEF GUEST
Anantha Venkata Ram Reddy Garu, M.P.
 With the Blessings of
 Hon. Father VINCENT FERRER - Executive Director
 Hon. Smt. ANNE FERRER - Program Director
 HAVALIGI VILLAGE FARMERS & RDT STAFF

Supplying linking infrastructure for a holistic community life

PROGRAMME THREE

Enhancing Rural and Government Infrastructure

A settlement is more than just a collection of houses, they are an interlinked whole, bound by education and health infrastructures, power supply, water supply, roads, causeways, lanes, bridges and so on. RDT committed to creating functional communities, with all necessary amenities in place.

All the buildings constructed by the Habitat sector are governed by the principles of quality, durability and economy. RDT studies the needs of the communities, identifies areas where infrastructure can catalyse development, and draws up a plan which is executed with the community's participation. RDT embarks upon each project only when all approvals are in place. Adherence to timelines is vital, and so is keeping the budget under control. With all this, an engaged community team is essential, since maintaining the infrastructure is their continuing responsibility after the Habitat team has completed the project.

Educational Infrastructure

The lack of proper education has far-reaching consequences on the present and future of any society. Strengthening education infrastructure improves the overall quality of the school experience, and thereby contributes to the betterment of children's lives. Students from rural areas are largely dependent upon government-run institutions for their education. But most of such schools lack basic infrastructure such as sufficient classrooms, laboratories, and toilet blocks etc., which negatively impact the quality of education for them.

Most rural schools lack separate bathrooms for girls, and the absence

of this basic necessity, especially in adolescence, interrupts the schooling of many girls. Therefore, RDT supports government schools by expanding facilities - these include constructing additional classrooms, libraries - for which books, reading tables, chairs, shelves and cupboards are provided - laboratories and toilet blocks, providing drinking water and laying out the school ground for sports.

Before embarking on any such project, RDT initiates construction activity after signing an MOU with the school authorities. The programme has been going on from 1999 onwards with new structures being built and government structures being ramped up in over 94 villages. Additionally, RDT extensively built supplementary schools cum community centres.

Water Schemes

Access to Potable Water

Accessibility to drinking water is a critical component of people's wellbeing. A majority of households depend on distant and unhygienic sources of water, and the daily onus of fetching it falls to women. RDT undertakes water supply schemes in such villages, and sets up water purification plants in association with the villagers and with consent from the Gram Panchayat. Under the N.T.R Sujala Shavanti scheme, the government partners and RDT have been installing R.O systems in villages

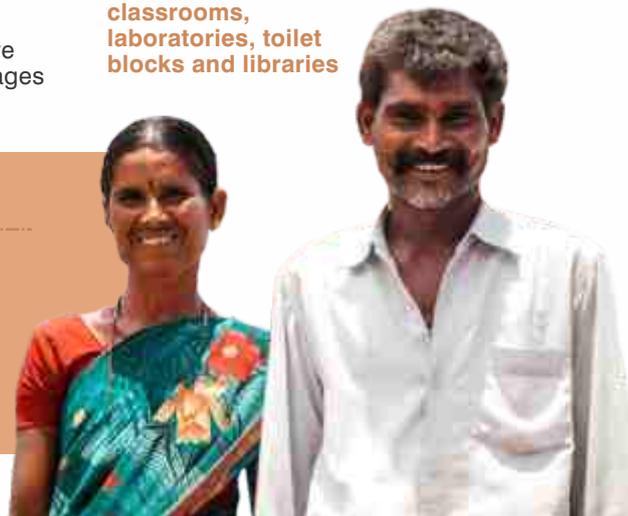
Highlights

- Completed 47 water supply schemes through pipelines and storage tanks as of March 2016
- Set up 29 water purification plants and 47 water storage tanks as of March 2016
- Constructed 7 causeways-cum-roads, and ensured electrification in 46 villages
- Drilled 57 drinking water bores in 57 villages inhabited by Chenchu Tribes
- Arranged for electrification for 85 families from 5 Chenchu villages
- Provided individual solar lights to 389 families in 24 habitations of Chenchus, while 27-solar street lights are provided in 14 habitations
- Rural health clinic constructed at Mannanur, Srisailam Region for Chenchu forest dwellers
- Bore-well dug at Kanekal and linked via a 7 km. pipeline to the hospital, field office, orphanage & special school at Kanekal Cross
- 110 institutions supported through construction of additional classrooms, laboratories, toilet blocks and libraries

Evolution

1993

The Habitat Sector constructed its first water supply tank at Aravakuru





Staff Speak

"Water is a basic necessity. Yet, marginalised communities continue to struggle for it day after day at the cost of their development and their precious lives. We, at RDT, want to put a complete stop to this hardship, and with people inputs have been identifying areas of dire need and intervening to solve their water-related issues in a systematic and sustainable manner."

Mr. P. Narayana Reddy,
Regional Director (STL-Habitat), Madakasira Region

since 2012 and so far, around 29 such systems have been installed (16 by RDT alone and remaining 13 with governmental support). Now several families are able to access water within their immediate neighbourhood and the proximity to clean water has transformed their lives in many ways. Inhabitants are healthier and women can manage their productivity better.

General Water Supply

RDT found that many villages were poorly connected to existing water storage reservoirs. The Habitat team worked out pipeline schemes and storage tank installations that would help villagers make the most of the available water resources and conserve rainfall better. Since 2005, nearly 45 villages have been upgraded with regular water supply – a borewell is drilled, supply lines laid, about 6-10 ground-level service reservoirs of 3000 cubic litres installed at different locations in the village with taps to enable villagers collect water in pots for their daily work. This infrastructure is maintained by the Rural water-supply department and the Gram Panchayat is also trained to use the system optimally.

Electricity supply to villages

The area covered by Ananthapuram district is large, and supplying utilities to its every corner is a massive undertaking. Electrification of every settlement takes time, manpower and materials. Funds sometimes do not stretch to cover infrastructure in remote areas of the state, or new colonies and settlements. RDT is doing electrification in new settlements covered under integrated development projects covering housing, sanitation, internal roads, water supply, school building etc.,

There are some villages in RDT's project areas where RDT has carried out the electrification. The process starts with RDT teams' receiving a request from a village's residents where electrification has not yet reached. After due diligence by its teams, and after obtaining the

permission from concerned government authorities, proposals and a job estimate are made to the State Electricity Board, which, if approved, is executed by RDT. Upon completion, the rights of ownership get transferred to state board on installation. Under this scheme, as of March 2016, 46 villages & relocated colonies have been electrified with Kadiri being the first area to be electrified by RDT in 2007.

Solar Energy - Chenchu Tribes

Since these tribal groups live in remote areas where regular supply of electricity is difficult, RDT has consciously set up solar panels for them. In areas where installation of solar panels is not possible, RDT gives out individual portable solar lamps for each house. After the setup, the CDC members take care of its maintenance and training is also provided to the villagers to responsibly use the facilities.

"If a project is being executed by RDT, we know that it will be completed on time, within the budgeted estimate and up to quality specifications."

State Electricity Board
Ananthapuram Dist.



Roads & Bridges/causeways

This is one area where RDT only intervenes in case of dire inaccessibility, like if the village gets cut off due to the change in flow of a local stream, and only if the community in question has made unsuccessful efforts to get government infrastructure in place. RDT panel of central level technical directors conduct a geographical survey of the area which is sometimes also done with the help of external experts. They study the catchment area, volume of water etc. and make a plan & design. As with other RDT activities, the people are involved in the process by way of doing construction related tasks like digging etc., so that they don't think it is a handout and stay accountable. It is a one-time activity and the maintenance is handed over to the state's Roads & Buildings department. RDT has been carrying out projects in this domain since 2001 and so far, 8 such projects (4 roads & 4 bridges/causeways) have been completed. The first such project was done in Verepallipeta.



Village Republics or Gram Swaraj Nidhi

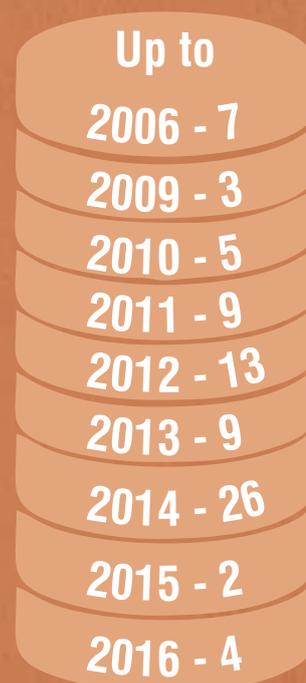
This scheme was introduced in 2005, and about 130 crores of funds have been sanctioned to 995 villages by RDT. It has now been discontinued in accordance with the prevailing regulations. A sizeable amount per family was put in a common village account and while the principle amount cannot be withdrawn ever, the interest accumulated can be used by the village with common consent for community use. The only exception to this rule where the funds can be used for individual purposes is the building of toilets. Mostly, the community members refrain from commencing projects until the interest reaches a sizeable amount. RDT and some community members manage the resulting amount. The candidate villages are shortlisted based on the enthusiasm and involvement of people in RDT programmes, the performance of the village Sanghams and the size of the village (bigger villages were given preference).

Paradigm Shift

Having access to water, electricity and connectivity completes a community and integrates it with the rest of the district and State. This integration enables overall economic and sociological development.

Water supply lines, storage tanks and water purification plants are provided to

76 villages



Success Story

Mamillapalli is a village about 29 Kms away from Ananthapuram where RDT has been working since 1998 and has a field office. There are 423 families belonging to different communities with a population of 2114 comprised of 1129 men and 985 women.

There is a bore-well based public water distribution system which is maintained by the village Panchayath. Ground water is the main principal source for drinking water and other activities in Andhra Pradesh, and Ananthapuram's water is not uniformly potable. It is characterised by hardness, and in many areas, bears high concentrations of Fluoride and/or Nitrates. So also with Mamillapalli, the quality of water from the bore-wells was not fit to drink.

In dire need of a solution, the Sarpanch and villagers approached RDT to install a water purification plant (R.O. plant). RDT agreed, and due diligence was carried out to explore the feasibility of the project. The installation was carried out and after completion, the plant was dedicated to the village and handed over to the Sarpanch who manages its maintenance.

The sarpanch collects 20 paise per litre of water (i.e. Rs. 4.00 per can of 20 litres) from the villagers to meet maintenance expenses, like wages to the plant caretaker, electricity and small repairs if any. **This ensures that the villagers are invested in the smooth running of the plant and its maintenance.**

“Water is a basic need for good health. We are grateful to RDT for the R.O. plant which has solved this issue for us.”

Building and
maintaining RDT
owned
infrastructure for
continued
community
service



PROGRAMME FOUR

RDT Infrastructure

RDT's growth for over 46 years, both in terms of geographic reach and staff numbers, has been accompanied by infrastructure needs. The Habitat sector is charged with keeping track of RDT owned-infrastructure and pacing itself with the growth of the organisation.

RDT's Habitat sector builds and improves infrastructure for other RDT sectors such as hospitals, area development, rural clinics, residential schools, orphanages, sports centres, offices, training & meeting halls and staff quarters. In addition, it also provides drinking water to these premises.

Offices

RDT is headquartered at the Bangalore Road campus which was established around 1970-71. All the sector director offices as well as all the staff training facilities, canteen halls, staff housing and guest housing are stationed here. There is another campus which was built in the 1970's and started off as a grain storage unit for Food For Work programme. But when the programme was phased out, it was replaced by a family planning unit along with a community hall and the Professional Language School were built here. The first RDT field office was built in Kalyandurg during late 70's (1978-80) and till now, RDT has built around 22 such offices to effectively run its programmes.

Health & Hospitals

Since 2005, RDT has been building clinics for its Health sector teams to function efficiently and reach far-flung communities effectively. So far, 17 such health clinics have been built. The clinics are laid out over 3000 sq. ft. area and have a doctor's room, a store room, a porch and about 5 in-



patient beds. RDT has three hospitals each in Bathalapalli, Kalyandurg and Kanekal and a specialised HIV/AIDS care facility in Bathalapalli. RDT is among the few NGOs that have chosen to house and care for HIV/AIDS infected orphan children from marginalised communities. Since 2011, RDT has constructed two such orphanages, one each in Bathalapalli & Kanekal which form a part of their respective hospital campuses and can house about 50 children each at a time.

CBR

The Habitat team has constructed 19 residential schools in the rural areas of Ananthapuram for Children with Disabilities. These are built in consultation with the CBR sector with all the facilities being disabled-friendly and optimised for easy mobility and access. The premises also house staff and guest living quarters. Each school

Highlights

- Built the Field Office Complex at Ralla Ananthapuram, Madakasira Area
- Built as many as 16 residential schools for children with disabilities
- Constructed Rural Health Clinics and Orthopedic Workshops



Evolution

1971

Built the main Bangalore Road campus which is the nerve-centre of all RDT operations till today.



Staff Speak

“When we join RDT, we are trained not just in our own sector, but are also made to understand the ways in which our work is interconnected with that of other sectors. I was surprised to notice that the actions of one sector are crucial in benefitting the other and was also proud to realise how we holistically benefit the community by working together. Working with RDT has given me a new perspective towards social development.”

Mr. Bhavanarayana, Technical Director



Bathalapalli, are day centres for education & sports facilities. ASV is a fully fledged sports facility spread across 80 acres of land with 3 cricket grounds, 1 ground each for football & hockey, 1 tennis academy with 6 courts, archery range and indoor facilities for judo & boxing. In addition to these facilities, there are also arrangements for dormitories & guest accommodation. The Atmakur & Bathalapalli facilities are spread across 9 acres & 3 acres of area respectively. The Bathalapalli unit is a part of the hospital while Atmakur's is a separate unit. Both of these have a cricket ground, Kho-kho ground, Kabaddi ground and a volleyball court. In addition to the sports facilities, they also have departments for computers & English.

“Over the years, we have partnered and been partnered by RDT in so many different projects. They are committed to the development and growth of Ananthapuram”

**Dr. Kondaiah,
Ananthapuram**

has classrooms, labs, administration rooms, toilets/bathrooms, dormitories, sports facility, space for cultural activities and a physiotherapy room. In addition to these, there is also an audiology room for children with speech & hearing impairment. Also, there are Braille boards and labelling for children with visual impairment.

Since 2000, RDT has built 4 orthopaedics centres each in Kuderu, Bathalapalli, Kadiri and Kalyandurg, within its hospital campuses. Since these workshops are involved in making crutches and aids in the treatment given to People with Disabilities, they are constructed differently. The workshop structures are developed in consultation with orthopaedics and laid over a 5000 sq. ft. area having special railings, pedestals and special electrical input points for machines that require higher voltage & load bearing.

Sports

RDT endorses overall development of children that is why, sports is a sector that is dealt with due diligence. Sports-related facilities are available at three of RDT's sports camps. One is a standalone sports village i.e. Ananthapuram Sports Village (ASV) built in the year 2002, while the other two, one each at Atmakur &

Women

Since its establishment, RDT has worked for the economic empowerment of women. An important development in this area is the construction of 5 vocational



centres for training and production which includes 2 for Book-binding and one each for Kalamkari, papier mâché, jute weaving.

A shelter home has been built at Bathalapalli campus to extend rehabilitative support – the shelter can house up to a 100 women at a time and serve as a safe halfway house for women in distress. It is a part of the hospital campus. Stretched at an area of 4000 sq.ft. /1 acre, it has two dormitories with attached bathrooms, one dining area, a caretaker's house and an office building. The dormitories have in-built sleeping platforms and do not require cots.

Campus infrastructure

All RDT campuses have staff housing facilities for ATL's, STL's, directors, doctors, administrative and caretaking staff. In total there are 456 staff quarters, and about 164 guest houses built by RDT. After the structures are built, they are handed over to the maintenance department that

looks after the cleaning, repairs, water supply, power supply, gen-set maintenance, vegetation, housekeeping and security. A garage is also built for the transport department. There are 7 auditoriums & 4 amphitheatres built across sectors for trainings and performances and each auditorium can hold 300-400 people.. To feed its extensive staff, RDT has built 28 kitchens and storage & dining halls with a capacity of 50-200 persons each.

Paradigm Shift

The infrastructure growth has brought national level recognition to the district. Now, Ananthapuram is no more identified as a dry and underdeveloped region of Andhra Pradesh but as an example of social and economic strength and transformation.



Success Story

The Paediatric Department at RDT Hospital, Kalyandurg was started in the year 2008 with 20 beds. The hospital is located in a semi-urban area to provide quality care at minimum charges to the children of rural areas. No paediatric services are available within approximately a 70 km radius of this hospital.

Therefore, it becomes the sole facility which people in that area can utilise for paediatric consultation and treatment - serving around 350 outpatients and 250 inpatients every day. As only 20 beds were available in the earlier facility, the occupancy rate was very high and doctors would have to refer the cases to other hospitals due to shortage of beds.

Keeping this problem in view, it was proposed to construct a new paediatric ward in the hospital. For efficient planning and effective long term

utilisation of the new ward, the architects and engineers also considered the opinions of Paediatricians while designing it. The construction of the ward started in October 2013 and was completed in June 2015.

Now, total 29 beds are available in this ward including High Dependency, Isolation and Paediatric casualty. Because of the new ward, paediatricians are able to provide inpatient services to more children, and the number of referred cases due to shortage of beds has greatly reduced. **The hospital staff members also feel more content as they can now serve more people and don't have to send back anyone in need.**

“Now we are able to provide good healthcare to more children. I am so thankful to RDT for constructing this child-friendly building.”

Dr. Ashok, Director
RDT Hospital Kalyandurg,
Head - Paediatric Department

WAY FORWARD

Building Habitats for a Better Future

RDT has resolved that the rural poor will improve their quality of life through access to permanent shelters, good sanitation and to basic community infrastructure to cater for their socio-economic, educational and developmental needs.

In order to meet this goal, RDT has planned to take some major steps in this direction of habitat and infrastructure development. **RDT will strive to build 4000 houses per year with active community engagement, and whenever feasible, in collaboration with the government. Every house will be in the name of a woman, or that of a PWD, increasing their assets and socio-economic prospects, eventually empowering them both in the family and society.**

At the community level, RDT will ensure the construction of a permanent building in each village that can act as a school, a supplementary school and as a community centre for communal activities and interactions. In addition to these initiatives, RDT will undertake the expansion or improvement of existing government schools' infrastructure to help create a conducive environment for quality education. It will also continue collaborating with the government, not

only in housing, but also in other need-based construction that contributes to strengthening the infrastructure base of government.

RDT will also ensure the accessibility of safe drinking water in every village to reduce the number of water borne diseases with which many villagers suffer. **RDT will continue building referral hospitals, rural clinics, CBR Institutions, training halls, offices, sports complexes and staff quarters in strategic locations so as to drive development and progress.** Government collaboration will continue for redevelopment projects in areas affected by natural disasters.

Lastly, RDT will perpetually engage Community-Based Organisations (CBOs) in all work involving improvement of their habitat. This would help them understand their rights, demand what is rightfully theirs, and empower them to become independent in the long run. The Habitat sector will continue to coordinate with community health workers in creating widespread awareness about sanitation. **CBOs will take timely initiatives and associate themselves effectively in the process of construction and maintenance of structures, especially bathrooms and toilets, apart from mobilizing resources from the government for further betterment of their housing colonies.**



INDIA
for
india



“Let your hearts respond and hands help”

India for India Initiative aims to encourage Indians, both people and institutions, to strengthen the hands of the Rural Development Trust in its mission against rural poverty and neglect in India.

India for India is an innovative concept initiated by RDT. It is based on the insight that an individual or community does not have to be affluent to hold concern for the underprivileged. In fact, empathy for the deprived is more likely among those who have known poverty first-hand. RDT also believes that this example by deed from within the marginalised communities will be acknowledged and receive whole-hearted support from donors across the country. Here we'd like to tell you about generosity of the poor, for it is among them that RDT launched its Hundis.

It all began in Ananthapuram district, where RDT has had its base since the 1970s, and among the populace it has worked with for over four decades. It follows the common

Over 1.4 lakh Hundis maintained every year



custom of depositing small amounts on a regular basis to a Hundi, a collection box, usually for offerings to God. RDT adapted the practice to pool together small donations from project areas to support the common cause. RDT has established the tradition of collating all the proceeds from these Hundis on April 9, Father Ferrer's birth anniversary. In 2014, there were over 85,000 of these Hundis. By the next year, this number had increased to 1,41,200. Likewise, from Rs 1.86 crores in 2014, the collected amount also grew to Rs.4.08 crores in 2016. This beginning evolved into the 'India for India' initiative, as many more villages lent momentum and the initiative spread across the boundaries of its project area.

The unique bottom-up approach of the initiative has inspired all sections of society especially students/youth and the poor people. It is they who are motivating their friends, colleagues, relatives, and neighbours to maintain Hundis.

Several of its slogans have caught on, and its message is carried forward simply and effectively. As for the sum collected, in accordance with people's wishes, it is being utilized to fund the education of more than 700 orphan children in and near Ananthapuram district. Also, about 5,550 were provided with nutrition supplement. The vitality of the 'India for India' movement comes from the fact that thousands of poor families and various sections of people, including educational institutions and private business enterprises, within and outside project area have reached out with their support by maintaining such Hundis. In addition, RDT receives support for various projects and programs from banking, insurance and other corporate institutions in India.

If you feel, you must help too.

Small change brings significant change.

To contribute, setup a SEVA HUNDI and register details with the Foundation. Add amounts daily, if possible, and deposit annual savings into the designated account, on the birth anniversary of Father Ferrer, 9th April.



Other means to help

You can write a cheque in the name of "Rural Development Trust" and send it to our Registered Office or Resource Mobilisation Center. You can also donate online or via wire transfer to the following account details:
Bank Name: IDBI
Account Name: Rural Development Trust
Account Number: 0208104000122993
IFS Code: IBKL0000208
Branch Name: Ananthapuram, Andhra Pradesh.

All donations to RDT are eligible for tax exemption under section 80G of the Income Tax Act, 1961.





VicenteFerrer

Rural Development Trust

Communication Department

Ananthapuram
Rural Development Trust
Bangalore Highway
Ananthapuram
Andhra Pradesh 515 001
Mobile: +91 9849692133
+91 8554271377
Email: communications@rdt.co.in

Resource Mobilisation Offices

Mumbai
Om Sai Ganga, B2
Flat No.101/102
Opp Jeevan Vikas Hospital
Off Sahar Road, Andheri (E)
Mumbai 400069
Mobile: +91 9022954832
Email: isupport@rdt.co.in

Vijayawada
V. R. Apartment, E Block
Near Kanaka Drug Varadhi
1st Floor, Plot No 106
Tadepalli, Vijayawada
Andhra Pradesh 522501
Mobile: +91 9985397402
Email: krishnareddy.rdt@gmail.com

