

# ANNUAL REPORT 2021-22



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## I. Introduction

Housing and Land Rights Network (HLRN)—based in New Delhi India—works for the recognition, defence, promotion and realization of the human rights to adequate housing and land, which involves gaining a safe and secure place for all individuals and communities, especially the most marginalized, to live in peace and dignity. Over the last two decades, HLRN with its partners across the country, have consistently worked to mainstream a human rights approach to housing and land issues affecting poor and marginalized communities.

During the year<sup>1</sup> covered in this report—April 2021 to March 2022—the COVID-19 pandemic continued to ravage and disrupt the lives of people living in poverty in India, people who were barely reeling from its severe impacts during the previous year. Around April 2021, the country experienced a more potent second wave that was accompanied by the re-imposition of curfews and lockdowns, breakdown of healthcare infrastructure and services, a severe hunger crisis, and long-term impacts on the livelihood of people, among others. The pandemic proved that emergencies disproportionately affect those living in already marginalized conditions; it particularly impacted people living without shelter or adequate housing, the constituencies that HLRN works most closely with. During this year, HLRN focused on addressing the immediate humanitarian crisis created by the second wave of the pandemic through various relief and advocacy measures, while highlighting the significance of housing as a key determinant of health and of life, and intensifying efforts towards realization of HLRN’s vision of adequate housing for all, without discrimination.



Meeting conducted with residents of Anna Nagar, Delhi in October 2021

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<sup>1</sup> Since HLRN is shifting its annual reporting year from January-December, this particular report includes references to work done during January to March 2021 in addition to FY21-22.

## II. Strengthening Knowledge and Leadership on Housing Rights

### Housing Rights Fellowship Programme

In 2016, HLRN initiated a housing rights fellowship programme with the objective of strengthening the efforts of local people - residents of low-income settlements and persons living in homelessness - for the realization of housing and related human rights. As of March 2022, HLRN is supporting six fellows in five states: Delhi, Karnataka, Manipur, Odisha, and Tamil Nadu.

The six housing rights fellows continued to work closely with their host organizations and in collaboration with HLRN to promote human rights education, prevent and respond to forced evictions, assist with documentation of the impacts of Covid-19 on the most marginalized, facilitate relief for excluded and impoverished communities, and improve access to housing for specific groups.

Some of the major activities and achievements of the Fellowship programme from April 2021 to March 2022 are mentioned below:

**Bengaluru:** Communities were informed in informal settlements across Bengaluru to prevent forced evictions. Legal interventions including petitions were filed in the High Court of Karnataka, follow up was done with relevant departments for title deeds/beneficiary identity certificates, and timely relief provided to residents of informal settlements, migrant workers, and workers in the unorganized sector who had lost their livelihoods.



Visit to Mathikere settlement, Bengaluru

- In Kacharkanahally, the Fellow helped 145 households receive their beneficiary identity certificate from Slum Development Board.
- Prevented the eviction of, and shifted a homeless family living in Bhuvaneshwari Nagar to permanent housing.

- As a follow-up to the petition filed in the High Court of Karnataka to allot housing for the residents of the settlement in Neelagirithopu, the HLRN Fellow engaged with various state authorities, including the Karnataka Slum Board, to ensure legal allocation of dwelling units. The allotment process has resultantly been initiated, for alternative housing to families in Thiyagi Nagar, Laggere. The HLRN Fellow assisted 59 of these families with the administrative process.
- Interventions by the Fellow led to a survey planned by officials from the Karnataka Slum Board in Thimmayappa Garden settlement, as a step to providing land titles to the residents.
- Streamlined access to relief measures announced by Labour Department for residents of informal settlements, including workers in the unorganized sector, in collaboration with other organizations and individuals.
- Worked with residents of multiple informal settlements across Bangalore to prevent forced evictions, through legal interventions, engagement/advocacy with state authorities, and community mobilization.
- Documented and monitored living conditions, including access to housing and land for various marginalized groups, including families belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, nomadic communities, and snake charmers among others living in precarious conditions, in informal settlements, under flyovers, and other areas across Bengaluru.
- In Shambhavi Nagar, the HLRN Fellow facilitated the formation of a local women association and assisted them to apply for legal recognition of their settlement to the District Collector's office.
- In February 2022, the HLRN Fellow organized a workshop for leaders from all five land rented settlements on laws and policies governing settlements.

**Madurai:** In Madurai, the HLRN fellow worked to build knowledge and capacities of various marginalized groups including women, transgender persons, tribals and traditional artists, to facilitate their access to housing rights. With consistent efforts, the Fellow accomplished the following:



Community visits in Madurai

- During the reporting period, the Fellow facilitated the submission of petitions for land titles and housing by 96 marginalized families (384 individuals) that perform traditional art forms, and 35 tribal families (140 individuals).
- Meetings were conducted with the participation of over 200 conservancy/sanitation workers to facilitate their access to housing rights. Several petitions were submitted and meetings held with government officials demanding priority in allocation of constructed houses for them.
- Information was shared with transwomen leaders regarding application for houses under the central government housing scheme, the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban (PMAY-U).
- Community visits were undertaken, with officials, to ensure that no ‘eligible’ families were left out of existing housing programmes; 40 families (320 individuals) who were left out were identified and action taken to include them in the programme.
- In situ housing was mobilized for 1,120 individuals (280 families) in the settlement of Subramaniyapuram. After sustained engagement by the Fellow, land was transferred from the Corporation of Madurai to the Tamil Nadu Urban Habitat Development Board to ensure in situ housing. The HLRN Fellow also engaged with the government to include the names of 40 families who were excluded from the allotment.
- The Fellow was also instrumental in the formation of Residents Welfare Associations in multiple settlements, including Simmakal and Karumbalay – benefiting over 3,200 families, with the aim of facilitating in situ upgradation of settlements.
- Visited the Kalmedu LKB Nagar settlement, where prospective residents identified and raised issues related to quality of houses being constructed for 80 individuals (20 families) under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - Urban (PMAY-U) Housing for All Mission.
- Covid relief was provided to 800 individuals (200 families) while flood relief was provided to 480 individuals (120 families).
- Facilitated formation of Residents Welfare Association in Melavasal settlement and linked them to the Tamil Nadu Urban Habitat Development Board (TNUHDB) under the “Our Housing, Our Responsibility” scheme.
- HLRN fellow from Madurai was selected as a non-official member of the Tamil Nadu Welfare Board for Cleanliness Workers.

**Manipur:** The Fellow undertook documentation, research, and information sharing on issues of forced evictions and displacement of indigenous communities in various locations across the state. An awareness and human rights education programme was organized in April 2021 at Taodaijang Village, Tamenglong District. Regular monitoring of evictions and displacement threats, and engagement with the state government was carried out.

Following are some activities carried out by the Fellow during the reporting period:

- Organization of an event on International River’s Day (March 2021) in Langbram (Nheng) Village, on the Barak River.
- Organization of an awareness and human rights education programme on 22 April 2021 at Taodaijang Village, Tamenglong District.



International Rivers' Day event

- Speaker at a Consultation on Environmental Protection by the Ril-Ram Area Maring Organization with residents of Saibol village, Tengnoupal district, around concerns due to mineral mining and proposed dam projects, 27 April 2021.
- Regular monitoring of eviction and displacement threats, and engagement with the state government.
- Meetings with communities, documentation and research conducted in six areas across the state, covering a population of 9,961 indigenous persons, to prevent forced evictions and displacement of communities due to various development projects.
- Publication of articles on displacement, dams, and mining in newspapers in Manipur.
- Media coverage to highlight the challenges faced by persons affected due to hydroelectric projects in Nungleiband and Taoshang Khunou villages.
- Meetings with communities to generate awareness on the principle of Free, Prior and Informed consent in the context of the 70MW dam at Nungleiband village.

**Odisha:** The Fellow worked with communities across Orissa – building awareness around pro-people laws on land and housing, monitoring and collecting data on evictions, displacement and human rights violations, facilitating access to legal recourse where required and access to government welfare schemes. Timely Covid relief was provided to residents of informal settlements and to migrant workers across the state. The Fellow undertook the following actions:

- Regular monitoring of forced evictions and displacement in Odisha and submission of inputs to HLRN's National Eviction and Displacement Observatory.



Community legal awareness workshop

- Fact-finding visits to several villages including Nayak Sahi, Benegadia, Dewanipatana, and Dinkia Panchayat in Jagatsinghpur district, among others, to document incidents of evictions, displacement, threat of evictions and human rights violations.
- Awareness-building workshops organized in three districts of Odisha—Keonjhar (5 villages), Sundergarh (3 villages) and Jajpur (3 villages)—on pro-people laws such as the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act 2013 and The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act 2006.
- A workshop on rural housing schemes, as a result of which 12 people successfully submitted applications for housing.

The Fellow worked closely with around 5,000 community members in different settlements and understood their needs and concerns, collected documents, and shared information about relevant laws and policies, including the Forest Rights Act.

To facilitate access to government welfare schemes, he organized dialogues on the registration of homestead land in Keonjhar and Koraput district, and carried out rights-based training workshops.

The fellow also worked with community members to approach courts and human rights institutions. As of January 2022, more than 15 petitions were filed with the National Human Rights Commission on various issues related to housing and land rights, directly impacting around 2,000 persons.

He provided timely COVID-19 support and relief to 3,500 residents of informal settlements across the state of Odisha. Relief was also provided to migrant workers and other needy families in Bhubaneswar during the Covid-19 lockdown. In addition, the vaccination of 32 people was facilitated.



**Delhi:** In Delhi, two housing rights Fellows were active until November 2021. From December 2021, the work continued with one Fellow. They monitored and responded to situations of homelessness, forced evictions, threats of eviction and inadequate living conditions in informal settlements. Meetings were conducted with affected communities to provide information on their rights and available options for relief and redress after evictions. Fellows undertook to collect data and document the conditions and challenges of the homeless, especially during the pandemic. They assisted in the provision of emergency relief to persons - disproportionately affected by the Covid-19 lockdown during the pandemic - in resettlement sites, informal settlements, and homeless clusters across the city. Relief was also provided to persons affected by fire and floods and to persons living on the streets, especially during the winter months.



Relief provided to families affected by the demolition of homes, Delhi

Throughout the year, sessions on human rights education were conducted in several settlements across Delhi, including in Shakur Basti, Yamuna Khadar, Y-Block Nangloi, and Akshardham Temple. These were well-attended by residents of the settlements. All Covid safety protocols of physical distancing, masking, and other precautions were taken.



Meeting with Homeless Women, Delhi

### III. Addressing Forced Evictions and Threat of Evictions

During the year, the HLRN team and the housing rights fellows engaged in efforts to prevent forced evictions and home demolitions in multiple settlements across Delhi. In addition to employing legal strategies where required, HLRN also engaged with concerned officials from relevant departments, including the Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board, Delhi Development Authority, Public Works Department, and the Delhi Police. Through sustained efforts with the communities and other organizations, they succeeded in preventing the demolition of over 330 homes in informal settlements including Chirag Dilli, Gokulpur, Govindpuri, Khyala, Mansarovar Park, Rajapuri, Shakur Basti, Sultanpuri, Dwarka, Bheem Nagar, Urdu Park, Y-Block Nangoli, Pant Nagar, and Yamuna Khadar, among others.

For instance, in January 2022, the Delhi Development Authority announced its intent to demolish 33 homes of the Gadia Lohar community in Palam. Through HLRN's timely intervention, the community members were able to approach the concerned departments and prevent demolition. Efforts are ongoing as the settlements continue to live under threat.



Meeting with the Mayor, North Delhi



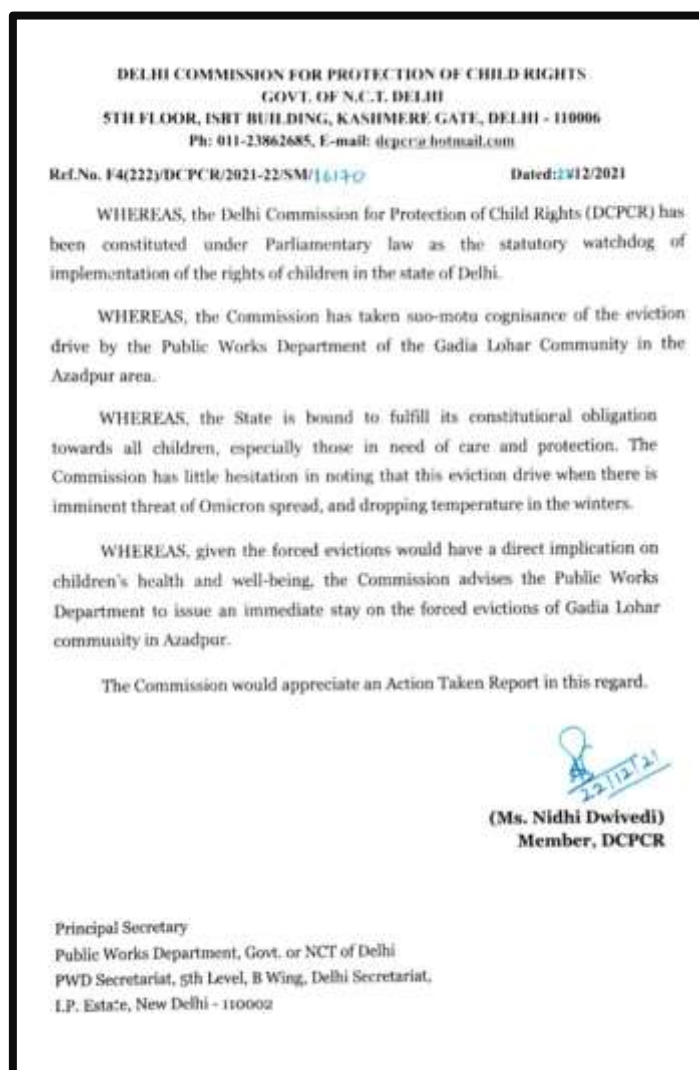
Meeting on Adequate Housing Campaign for the Homeless, Delhi

## IV. Facilitating Access to Justice

To ensure access to justice for families affected by forced evictions, HLRN assisted in the filing of four cases in the High Court of Delhi. These cases concerned the settlements in Sultanpuri (July 2021), Azadpur (December 2021), Manglapuri (January 2022) and Kali Bari (March 2022). Information and data were collected and submitted in support of legal petitions, and assistance provided in the preparation of the petitions.

In December 2021, the Public Works Department (PWD) announced the imminent demolition of 33 homes of Gadia Lohar families living in Azadpur, Delhi. The HLRN team collected documentation from the community and assisted lawyers in filing a case in the High Court of Delhi to prevent the forced eviction. Subsequently, the High Court issued a stay on evictions for four weeks, resulting in immediate relief to the families.

Due to social media advocacy by HLRN on the threat of eviction in Azadpur, the Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights (DCPCR) took suo moto cognizance of the issue. Officials from the DCPCR issued a notice to the Principal Secretary of the Public Works Department, highlighting the “direct implication on children’s health and well-being” and sought an “Action Taken Report” from the Department.



Notice issued by the DCPCR

In Kali Bari, where the Municipal Corporation of Delhi demolished 45 houses without notice in March 2022, the Fellow assisted the community through emergency relief, facilitating the access to legal aid for affected families by approaching the High Court of Delhi, and negotiating with authorities to not destroy their goods and belongings and allowing them to stay in the same place till the matter is decided. Multiple meetings were conducted with affected communities to provide information on their rights and available options for relief and redress after evictions.

The Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board (DUSIB), in February 2019, issued notices to ten families to vacate their dwelling units in Dwarka 16-B. Since then, HLRN had been working closely with the families, including through legal interventions and sustained advocacy with DUISB officials. Despite the ongoing case in the High Court of Delhi, the families received another notice to vacate their houses in 2021, amidst the pandemic. In addition to following up with the case in the Court, members from the HLRN team also conducted meetings with DUSIB officials to provide respite to the families.

The construction of the Central Vista project in Delhi resulted in construction waste, debris, and sand being dumped close to an informal settlement on the banks of the Yamuna River. Families living in 70 houses in the settlement were adversely affected by this incessant dumping, which also resulted in excessive flooding in their homes during heavy rain. A petition was filed in the High Court of Delhi in March 2021 reflecting their demand for immediate rehabilitation, as families have been rendered homeless multiple times due to the destruction of their homes. HLRN also worked to provide immediate relief to affected persons, including through the provision of tents and plastic sheets. With HLRN's support, at least 25 families were able to reconstruct temporary dwelling units in the same area.



Distribution of land title certificates, Madurai

## V. Providing Emergency Assistance to Persons Affected by Forced Evictions

As part of its human rights approach to housing, HLRN assists communities in the aftermath of forced evictions, as well as disasters like heavy rain, floods, fire and arson, as they are followed by imminent homelessness, multiple human rights violations, loss of all belongings and lack of access to basic facilities like food and clothing. Below are some of the ways in which affected families were supported during the reporting period:

- In October 2021, through timely intervention, helped secure compensation of Rs.50,000 for two families in Mahatma Gandhi Camp Punjabi Bagh, whose houses were demolished by the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) without due process.
- In July 2021, helped secure legal aid for the residents of around 200 houses in the settlement at Sultanpuri, whose demolition rendered them homeless and forced them to live in the open without basic necessities. The High Court of Delhi instituted a stay order on further evictions. HLRN also facilitated the provision of immediate relief, including cooked meals for 150 affected families daily for a few days.
- In April 2021, Khori Gaon, Haryana, with the help of other organizations, helped to secure tents and food for over 3,000 persons whose houses were demolished.



Distribution of Ration in Bengaluru

## VI. Improving Living Conditions in 'Informal' Settlements and Resettlement Sites

During the year, HLRN continued to guide and assist in efforts to improve living conditions, access to basic facilities, entitlements, and social protection for residents of informal settlements, including sites where forced evictions and demolitions had taken place. Timely intervention with the public representatives and concerned officials resulted in positive results, some of which are listed below:

- Installation of electricity meters in about 100 homes and daily supply of water through four tankers of the Delhi Jal Board; repair of a dilapidated public toilet and water pipeline in Bhim Nagar settlement.
- Installation of electricity meters and functional hand pumps in Shakur Basti, A Block.
- Laying of pipes, improvement of road access, provision of water tankers and electricity connections for residents of the informal settlement in Shahabad Dairy.
- Resolution of problems caused by an overflowing drain in Keshavpuram, Lawrence Road.
- Improvement of conditions in anganwadis/crèches in Anna Nagar, Baprola, Bheem Nagar, Shahabad Dairy, Shakur Basti, Punjabi Bagh, Lawrence Road, and Sultanpuri.
- Allotment of alternative accommodation to two families (of 18 families) living in Kalibari that had been omitted by the government on grounds of incomplete documentation.
- Repair of sewage lines in Mahatma Gandhi Camp, Punjabi Bagh which had resulted in flooding of the settlement.
- Provision of ration card to residents, maintenance of toilets and sewage lines at Kali Bari.
- Sustained efforts with affected communities and service providers leading to improvements in the resettlement sites of Baprola, Dwarka, and Savda Ghevra in Delhi. For instance, regular cleaning and garbage collection is being done at the resettlement site in Dwarka.

During this period, HLRN worked to organize persons living in several settlements including Shahabad Dairy, Shakur Basti, Keshavpuram, and Dwarka to form Resident Welfare Associations. These associations have proven to be an effective form of community-centric advocacy and collective bargaining.



Meeting with women residents of Savda Ghevra

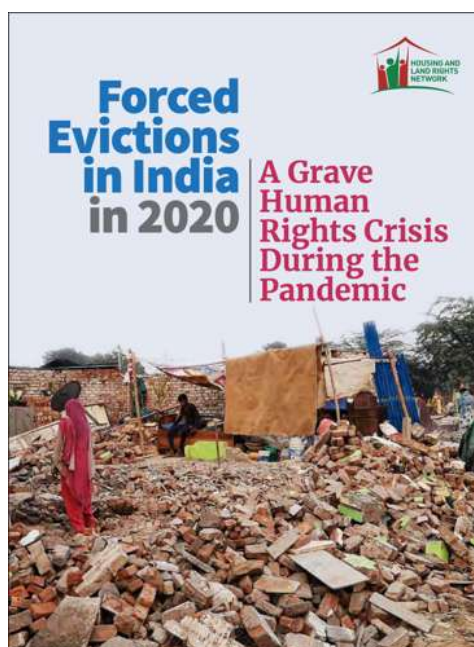
## VII. Documentation and Research

### Report on Forced Evictions in India: 2020

HLRN set up the National Eviction and Displacement Observatory in 2015 to document, highlight, monitor, and address the serious issue of forced evictions and displacement across India. Through the Observatory, HLRN has been collecting data on the largely underreported crisis of forced evictions in the country. Since 2017, HLRN has been publishing an annual report on forced evictions in India. These reports are acknowledged as an authoritative source of data on forced evictions in India and have been very well received, widely cited in leading newspapers and online media portals, and used for advocacy by various stakeholders.

The report for the year 2020, titled, *Forced Evictions in India in 2020: A Grave Human Rights Crisis During the Pandemic*, was launched in September 2021. The report presents comprehensive data and an analysis of forced evictions and demolitions of homes of the urban and rural poor across the country in 2020. It also presents an overview of incidents of eviction carried out by the state between 1 January and 31 July 2021, while proposing detailed recommendations to end this serious and rapidly-worsening crisis.

The report reveals that during the COVID-19 pandemic (March 2020 to July 2021), over 43,600 homes were demolished and over 257,700 people were forcibly evicted, including vulnerable sections like children, women, persons with disabilities, and older persons - without adequate rehabilitation and in violation of international and national norms and standards invoked during the health emergency, while nearly 16 million people lived under the threat of eviction and displacement. The findings of the report have been used to advocate for a national moratorium on forced evictions and have been cited extensively by the media and civil society.



HLRN report on Forced Evictions in India in 2020

HLRN is now in the process of verifying data for its next edition of the annual report. As per usual practice, for the forthcoming report, HLRN will also follow up of cases of eviction in 2020, including status of rehabilitation of affected families.

## ‘Eviction Impact Assessment Tool’

The Eviction Impact Assessment tool (EvIA) developed by HLRN aims to assess and document the real costs and losses resulting from forced evictions and displacement. The Tool is based on the premise that any attempt to calculate the impact of forced evictions on affected communities would have to include the loss of both, material and non-material belongings. The Tool is the only existing human rights-based mechanism to assess the impacts of forced evictions globally.

During the reporting period, HLRN worked on finalizing its report on a Gender-based Eviction Impact Assessment study conducted with the Gadia Lohar settlement in Mansarovar Park. The team conducted Focus Group Discussions in February 2021 with the women to document the challenges they continue to face even four years after the demolition of their homes, which have been exacerbated during the pandemic.



Discussion with residents of the Gadia Lohar community in Mansarovar Park

The report was uploaded as a working paper on the HLRN website in January 2022, to reflect the long-term impacts of forced evictions on a marginalized community, with a particular focus on impacts on women.

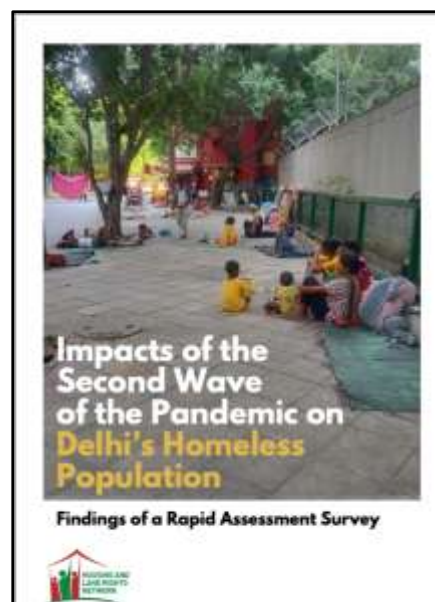
The report can be accessed at the following link:

[https://www.hlrn.org.in/documents/Mansarovar\\_Park\\_Working\\_Paper.pdf](https://www.hlrn.org.in/documents/Mansarovar_Park_Working_Paper.pdf)

## Rapid Assessment on Impact of the Second Wave of Covid Pandemic

In August 2021, HLRN released the findings of the rapid assessment survey conducted with 115 persons living in homelessness in Delhi which was carried out telephonically from 23 June to 1 July 2021. The main aim of the survey was to assess the impact of India’s second wave on homeless persons, particularly their access to food, livelihood, and healthcare. The findings of the study revealed that homeless persons in the city experienced severe violations of their human rights during the second wave of the pandemic (April and May 2021). Due to lack of adequate state support, they continued to suffer from loss of livelihoods, severe food insecurity, adverse health impacts, and multiple forms of deprivation and destitution.

In collaboration with Information and Resource Centre for the Deprived Urban Communities, HLRN published a report of a rapid assessment survey to assess the impacts of the pandemic on livelihoods of persons living in the resettlement site of Perumbakkam in Chennai. The study revealed that 48 per cent of people relocated to the site over the last three years had lost their livelihoods.



HLRN report on the impact of the pandemic on homeless persons



## VIII. Reducing Homelessness across India

Homelessness constitutes a gross violation of multiple human rights, including the right to adequate housing and the right to live with dignity. The issue of homelessness continues to affect over 4 million people across India. Just in Delhi, HLRN estimates that about 150,000–200,000 persons are homeless. HLRN has always addressed the issue of homelessness with a strong human rights lens believing that all those living in homelessness must be prioritized in order to enable to realize their right to adequate housing.

This year has been extremely challenging for homeless people because of the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting strict lockdown. While facing challenges resulting from extreme weather, especially the extreme heat of May and June, and the bitterly cold conditions in January and February, homeless people were at increased risk of contracting the virus. Building on the sustained monitoring of the living conditions of homeless persons in Delhi, HLRN intensified its efforts during the reporting period, to work for the rights of people, living in homelessness, who were disproportionately impacted by the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic.

### Submissions to the Delhi government

With pandemic induced recessions and economic crisis disproportionately affecting homeless persons, the team played a more active role focusing their engagement and communications, with the Delhi government, on issues related to healthcare and access to sustained livelihood opportunities.

In January 2021, the Delhi government announced a scheme to provide housing for all in the city, under its Mukhyamantri Awas Yojana (Chief Minister's Housing Scheme). To support this announcement and reiterate the need to prioritize adequate housing for homeless persons, HLRN prepared a series of key recommendations and non-negotiables for the Delhi government. The document, reflecting HLRN's relationship and intensive work with the homeless community and persons living in 'informal' settlements, sought to initiate and inform a robust engagement with the government to implement housing policies based on a strong human rights approach.

Even before the onset of the pandemic, HLRN was actively involved in monitoring living conditions of homeless persons in Delhi. With the public health emergency and pandemic-induced recession, HLRN has played a more proactive role, continuously assessing the situation of those living in homelessness in shelters and on the streets of Delhi and highlighted their issues with the Government of Delhi and other state authorities. In particular, HLRN monitored the living conditions of homeless persons in over 200 shelters in Delhi as well as in more than 100 tents set up during the winter months. Through regular updates and visits, HLRN evaluated the provision of food, access to essential amenities, and adherence to Covid protocols.

As a part of ongoing effort, in November and December 2021, HLRN team members closely monitored and followed-up the implementation of the Winter Plan submitted to the Delhi government, to ensure that the specific challenges faced by homeless persons living on the streets were addressed. The team also identified multiple locations where temporary tents could be set up, and informed officials from DUSIB about the same.

As a result of consistent efforts, HLRN's recommendations were included in interventions and plans prepared by various government agencies, including the Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board (DUSIB). Suggestions presented in HLRN's 'Winter Plan' to the Delhi government resulted in an increase in the number of winter tents to 250, in order to accommodate additional people while ensuring adequate physical distancing and adherence to Covid protocols. Efforts and sustained engagement with the government were also responsible for improved facilities in shelters. For instance, mattresses were replaced with beds in all shelters and curtained cubicles were introduced in family shelters to provide some privacy.

As a result of HLRN's sustained follow up action, the Delhi government indefinitely extended its provision of two daily free meals in shelters that would benefit over 6,000 people.

The mandatory requirement of identity cards and lack of sufficient information on vaccines led to low levels of COVID-19 vaccination among Delhi's homeless community. HLRN, therefore, urged the Delhi government to remove these barriers to ensure that people living in homelessness had equal and unhindered access to the vaccine. Consequently, the government announced that special vaccination camps would be conducted for homeless people without the requirement of identity documents. HLRN monitored the camps and offered suggestions on where they could be held.

During the third wave of the pandemic in January and February 2022, HLRN continued to engage with the Delhi government and communicated the challenges of homeless persons, particularly their lack of access to food and livelihood, as well as policy recommendations to address the same.

### **Recommendations to the Delhi Government for 'Summer Plan'**

While the Government of Delhi sets up tents and distributes blankets during winter, no such preventative measures were being implemented to protect people from the extreme heat. Due to the lack of access to adequate potable water, food, and healthcare, homeless persons are unable to protect themselves from high temperatures.

To highlight the need for adequate relief measures during summer months and to address this lacuna in state policy, HLRN prepared a comprehensive 'summer plan' for the Government of Delhi. The plan consists of detailed recommendations based on the demands of homeless persons and best practices regarding the protection of homeless people from high temperatures. This summer plan was submitted to officials from the Government of Delhi and the Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board. It was also released on HLRN's website and sent to prominent journalists. HLRN's summer plan was cited in news articles to highlight the need for protection of homeless persons from the intense heat amidst the pandemic.

### **Recommendations to Other State Governments**

As a national organization working on issues related to land and housing rights, and in order to highlight challenges of people living in homelessness across the country, contextualized *Action Plans to Address Homelessness* were prepared for several state Chief Ministers and Housing and Urban Development Ministers. The network of HLRN partners and Fellows, working on homelessness around the country, provided suggestions that were included in the Action Plans.

## Outreach and Assistance for Persons Living in Homelessness in Delhi

Extreme climatic conditions such as severe cold, heat waves and heavy rain exacerbate the challenges of people living without a home. In the absence of adequate housing, income, clothes, food, and other amenities, homeless persons suffer miserably from the bitter cold during Delhi's harsh winter.

Between November 2021 and January 2022, HLRN conducted regular night vigils and distributed over 300 blankets and warm clothes to persons living in homelessness while monitoring their living conditions and providing immediate relief and first-aid, where required. Burning issues and challenges faced by homeless persons were documented during these night vigils and conveyed to DUSIB and officials of the Delhi government. This work was undertaken with the support of network partners and donations in kind collected.



Winter night vigil on Delhi streets



Distribution of blankets and clothes to persons living on the streets



Relief provided during regular night vigils to persons in need

### **Special Protection Measures for Homeless Children/‘Children in Street Situations’**

On April 12, 2021 - International Day for Street Children - HLRN sent letters to the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) and the Delhi Commission on Protection of Child Rights (DCPCR) with recommendations related to the protection of the rights of homeless children, especially amidst this grave pandemic.

### **Specific Measures for Homeless Women**

Throughout year, HLRN continued to focus on the specific marginalization and human rights violations experienced by women and children living in homelessness. Women especially fear for their safety and privacy on the streets. HLRN had catalysed the formation of a self-help group for women living in homelessness, to help raise their issues and strengthen their demand for permanent housing. As a result of the second wave of the pandemic, training of the group could not be carried out as planned. However, HLRN continued to engage with and support the group members even during the lockdown, to advocate for resolution of challenges related to the lack of access to food, toilets, privacy, safety, and security. HLRN’s Eviction Impact Assessment Tool was employed to obtain a deeper understanding of the gendered impact of eviction on homeless women in Mansarovar Park.

## Working with the Gadia Lohars, an Excluded Community in Delhi

The Gadia Lohars are a historically nomadic community from Chittorgarh, Rajasthan, that has settled in 67 settlements across Delhi for several decades. HLRN has been working since 2017, highlighting challenges faced by this community that has been historically invisible and hence suffering persistent neglect and exclusion from state schemes and policies.

A rapid survey of 40 Gadia Lohar settlements across Delhi conducted during January and February 2021, revealed that pandemic-induced lockdown had severely affected the community's traditional livelihood and income, their ability to purchase adequate food, healthcare, and education of children. The survey also highlighted that despite being settled in Delhi for decades, residents of the Gadia Lohar settlements continue to live in constant fear of eviction. These findings and demands of the community were disseminated widely through a press release and also communicated to the Government of Delhi. As a result of the survey, several prominent national dailies and media portals published stories citing HLRN's findings and highlighting the plight of the Gadia Lohar community during the pandemic.

During the year, HLRN has been monitoring the living conditions of the community, and facilitating their access to basic services, identity documents, and other entitlements. Recognising that the pandemic had adversely impacted the community, leading to increased impoverishment and marginalization, ration kits were distributed to 346 Gadia Lohar families across 10 settlements in Delhi, benefitting over 1,775 people, including women, children, and older persons.

In October 2021, members from the HLRN team and the Gadia Lohar community visited the Mayor of North Delhi to raise issues related to the issuance of caste certificates, access to basic facilities, forced evictions, and the livelihood-centric rehabilitation of the community.

Through timely intervention HLRN, with others, was able to prevent the demolition of settlements in Azadpur, Manglapuri and Palam housing around 90 families. The effort is ongoing.



Meeting with residents of the Gadia Lohar community to assess impacts of the pandemic

## Campaign on Adequate Housing for Persons Living in Homelessness

On 2 October 2019 (the 150<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi)—building on our long-term engagement with the homeless community—HLRN launched a Campaign on Adequate Housing for Persons Living in Homelessness. The main aim of the Campaign has been to consolidate their demands for permanent housing and to strengthen their struggle to live with dignity. The Campaign aims for a shift in state policy from shelters to adequate housing for all homeless persons.

Through this Campaign, HLRN has reached out to inform homeless people about their human rights and sought their suggestions towards developing durable policy solutions to end homelessness. With this two-way communication, HLRN has advanced its advocacy work for priority housing for people living in homelessness, emphasizing the need for a ‘Housing First’ approach in India. During the reporting period, HLRN continued to organize small public meetings and public gatherings, maintaining all COVID safety precautions of physical distancing and masking.

On 8th March 2021, HLRN released a first-of-its-kind newsletter for and by people living in homelessness in Delhi titled, ‘Avaas Adhikaar: Humaari Awaaz’ (The Right to Housing: Our Voices). The newsletter evolved through HLRN’s Campaign and aimed to provide a platform for people to raise their issues and concerns in their own voices. Launched on International Women’s Day, it focused on homeless women and the importance of adequate housing for them. A list of important helplines was also included. The newsletter was distributed in shelters and on streets and was very well received by homeless persons who were eager to read the experiences of others living in homelessness. It served as an important tool to mobilize the community and raise awareness about the human right to adequate housing.



Distribution of the newsletter



The inaugural issue of the newsletter ‘The Right to Housing: Our Voices’

## Observance of World Homeless Day (10 October 2021)

As a part of the ongoing 'Campaign on Adequate Housing for Persons living in Homelessness', and to commemorate World Homeless Day, HLRN organized a public meeting and consultation with homeless persons in Dandi Park, Delhi. Homeless persons who attended the meeting and consultation asserted their demands for adequate housing options beyond shelters, and reiterated their demands for access to essential entitlements and services.



World Homeless Day event 2021 at the Dandi Park Shelter

In November 2021, HLRN organized a public gathering with homeless women in Delhi at the Sarai Kale Khan shelter for homeless families and families. Women actively participated in the session and raised concerns related to their safety, security, livelihoods, healthcare, amongst other issues.



Gathering with homeless women and children at the Sarai Kale Khan shelter, New Delhi

## Delhi Housing Rights Task Force

As the founding member of Delhi Housing Rights Task Force, HLRN continued to attend meetings and work with other members in monitoring and upholding the housing rights of marginalized communities.

## IX. Responding to the COVID-19 Pandemic and Lockdown

During the second wave, including throughout the lockdown, HLRN closely monitored the health conditions of people living in homelessness as well as their access to food and emergency aid. Based on inputs collected by our team from people living in shelters and on the streets, we sent regular letters to the Government of Delhi and its agencies highlighting the grave humanitarian crisis and need for urgent and targeted intervention. These included specific recommendations proposed by homeless persons.

### Relief and Humanitarian Assistance

In response to the large-scale crisis caused by the shortage of beds and oxygen in Delhi during the second wave of the pandemic, HLRN worked to link persons living in ‘informal settlements’ with hospitals. The team closely monitored people’s requirements and made calls to verify availability of beds in hospitals and provide timely information to people in need.

During the lockdown, HLRN received multiple calls from its constituencies for food assistance. In response, the team worked to coordinate the provision, supply, and delivery of emergency food grains, cooked meals, and essential items to families that had lost their livelihoods and were in dire need of support.

In collaboration with other relief and voluntary organizations, HLRN succeeded in providing assistance, including dry ration and supplies, to nearly 3,000 marginalized families in Delhi. 600 blankets, 500 sweaters, 2,500 masks, 250 sanitizers were distributed among homeless families in Moti Bagh, Sant Nagar, Nehru Place, Nizamuddin, Sarai Kale Khan, Urdu Park, and Meena Bazar. 300 T-shirts were distributed in Bangla Sahib, Nizamuddin, Urdu Park, Meena Bazar, Sarai Kale Khan, Sant Nagar.

For families that did not have requisite documents to access ration from the state, HLRN made arrangements to provide them with dry ration kits<sup>2</sup> and food grains. Several Gadia Lohar families situated in Azadpur, Chirag Dilli, Dhakka, Govindpuri, Kishanganj, Mansarovar Park, Rama Park, Sarai Rohilla and Wazirpur; homeless families living in shelters and on the streets in Meena Bazar, Motia Khan, Sant Nagar, Sarai Kale Khan and Urdu Park, and those in informal settlements in Ambedkar Camp, Bheem Nagar, Burari, Nehru Place, Shakur Basti and Sultanpuri benefited from the intervention. Specific interventions were made to address the vulnerabilities of women, including in five households in Bheem Nagar consisting of single and older women.

To address the urgent need for food, in collaboration with philanthropic organizations, HLRN ran a community kitchen in Mori Gate, Delhi from June to August 2021 – through which three meals a day were provided to homeless persons. Over this period, 19,621 people benefitted from the meals provided through the community kitchen.

To assess the effectiveness of government interventions, including the provision of free ration and food grains to the most marginalized, audits of local ration shops were conducted in collaboration with others. As persons without ration cards were not eligible to benefit from this intervention, a case was filed in the High Court of Delhi, for which HLRN provided information and assistance.

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<sup>2</sup> Ration kits consisted of 10 kilogrammes (kg) of wheat and 10 kgs of rice, 3 kgs dal, 1 kg each of rajma and chickpeas, 2 kgs sugar, 250 grams tea, 100 grams each of masalas (spices), 3 litres cooking oil and a packet of salt, with 1 kg detergent, 2 bars of bathing soap, 1 packet of sanitary pads, 1 bottle of sanitizer, and 2 masks.





Emergency food aid provided by HLRN to families in need

HLRN worked to spread awareness and promote access to relief measures announced by the central and Delhi governments for families living in informal settlements. Additionally, work was done to monitor the timely disbursement of existing social security payments, including widow pensions and disability pensions. Information dissemination by HLRN resulted in e-rickshaw pullers, auto drivers and registered construction workers accessing a financial assistance of Rs. 5,000 for 3 months, announced by the Delhi government. Families living in Y- Block Nangloi and Shakur Basti were provided with information about the scheme; they also received the aid.

HLRN also worked to facilitate access to COVID-19 vaccines by spreading awareness, reducing vaccine hesitancy, and streamlining access to vaccination centres/camps – benefitting 7,143 homeless persons across Delhi.

### **Research and Publication of Reports**

To assess the impact of India's second wave on homeless persons, particularly their access to food, livelihood, and healthcare, HLRN conducted a rapid assessment survey of 115 homeless persons in Delhi. The survey was conducted telephonically from 23 June to 1 July 2021. The findings of the study revealed that homeless persons in the city experienced severe violations of their human rights during the second wave of the pandemic.

### **Monitoring**

During the second wave, including throughout the lockdown, HLRN closely monitored the health conditions of people living in homelessness as well as their access to food and emergency aid. Based on inputs collected by our team from people living in shelters and on the streets, we sent regular letters to the Government of Delhi and its agencies highlighting the grave humanitarian crisis and need for urgent and targeted intervention. These included specific recommendations proposed by homeless persons.

Additionally, HLRN also regularly monitored the human rights of affected people as well as the facilities and services being provided by the government for low-income and marginalized groups and communities during the pandemic-induced lockdown. We also documented challenges related to forced relocation of homeless persons from streets to temporary shelters created in schools and community centres as well as deaths of homeless persons during the lockdown.



Survey of homeless women living on the streets in Delhi



Meeting with homeless families, Shakur Basti

## X. Promoting a Human Rights Approach to Housing and Land

Over the last nine months, HLRN supported partner organizations across the country, including Information and Resource Centre for Deprived Urban Communities (IRCDUC), Chennai to access United Nations mechanisms.

The Universal Periodic Review (UPR) process involves a review of progress on human rights of every United Nations member state by other member states every four years. India's next UPR will be conducted in November 2022. For its summary report on India, the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) seeks inputs from key stakeholders involved in the process, including civil society. In preparation for India's fourth Universal Periodic Review (UPR IV), as part of the Working Group on Human Rights (WGHR), HLRN also made presentations on the status of housing and land and related issues at the online West Regional Stakeholder Consultation on 21st December 2022, a National Consultation on 4th March 2022, and a consultation organized by the National Human Rights Commission of India (NHRC) on 11 March 2022.

The HLRN team prepared and submitted the housing and land rights chapter for WGHR's joint submission to the United Nations for UPR IV. The chapter provides an overview of issues related to housing and land rights in India, assesses the implementation of UPR III recommendations, and suggests recommendations for UPR IV. The submission is available at: <https://wghr.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/WGHR-UPR-IV-Joint-Stakeholders-Report.pdf>

Regular engagement with the media, including through press releases and dissemination of information on important issues, resulted in coverage of critical issues related to the living conditions of the most marginalized communities across the country. Throughout the grant period, HLRN also continued to be cited in news articles, in both the print and electronic media [Please see Annexure for details].



Night Vigil by HLRN team, Delhi

## **XI. Organizational matters**

The Covid-19 pandemic in 2021 was much more potent and widespread, and it impacted the lives of the HLRN staff as well as the communities that they worked with. Several of the team members contracted Covid, including HLRN's Executive Director. Its long term effects forced her to step down from her post in August 2021. A new Executive Director was appointed by the HLRN Board in September 2021. HLRN witnessed other staff changes during the period, including appointment of a consultant who will work to strengthen the gender perspective and the deeper incorporation of an inclusion and diversity lens in the work on human and housing rights.

Despite the challenging circumstances, the team worked with determination, upgrading their own skills and capacities on the job, as they rallied around their constituencies, collaborating with local organizations and volunteers in various settlements, in shelters and on the streets, providing requisite emergency support even as they focused on upholding the right to secure and safe housing.

### **Evaluation of HLRN's Work**

HLRN undertook an evaluation of its work over the last three years, from 2019 to 2022. Jashodhara Dasgupta, an independent researcher and community action expert with over 35 years of experience working on rights-based issues, was selected as the independent evaluator for this purpose. The evaluator visited the HLRN office from 28 February to 3 March 2022 to understand the work of HLRN and interact with the programme team, field staff, trustees, and network partners. She also undertook field visits to understand the association of HLRN with the community and assess the impact of HLRN's work. At the end of the evaluation, a report on the evaluation was submitted with findings and recommendations to aid the work of HLRN.



Evaluation visit at Mansarovar Park, Delhi

## Staff Capacity Building

One of the important findings of the evaluation was that the staff was in a state of trauma having had to deal with the impacts of COVID in their own lives as well as in the lives of the communities they work with and the sudden departure of the Executive Director due to the impact of Covid. The evaluator recommended that the organization invest in healing and team building. With this in view a 2-day Neuro Linguistic Programme (NLP)<sup>3</sup> workshop was organized for the entire team, with Dr Sindhuja Varma<sup>4</sup> who is trained in psychology, organizational development and NLP. This proved very helpful in building the confidence of every member of the team.



NLP WORKSHOP

## XII. Conclusion

Housing and Land Rights Network hopes to continue its work for the most marginalized communities, particularly the homeless, and to promote the human rights to adequate housing and land in India, in the forthcoming year.

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<sup>33</sup> <https://www.nlp.com/what-is-nlp>

<sup>4</sup>For more information: [https://www.linkedin.com/in/dr-sindhuja-r-varma-38b46351/?original\\_referer=https%3A%2F%2Fwww%2Egoogle%2Ecom%2F&originalSubdom](https://www.linkedin.com/in/dr-sindhuja-r-varma-38b46351/?original_referer=https%3A%2F%2Fwww%2Egoogle%2Ecom%2F&originalSubdom)

## XIII. ANNEXURES

### HLRN Publications, Press Releases, and Press Citations in 2021

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#### A. HLRN Publications

1. *Assessing the Impact of Resettlement on Livelihoods of Families in Perumbakkam, Chennai [in collaboration with Information and Resource Centre for Deprived Urban Communities] (February 2021)* [https://www.hlrn.org.in/documents/Perumbakkam\\_Livelihood\\_Impact\\_Assessment.pdf](https://www.hlrn.org.in/documents/Perumbakkam_Livelihood_Impact_Assessment.pdf)
2. *Aavas Adhikaar: Humari Avaaz [Right to Housing: Our Voice] Newsletter in Hindi by and for Women Living in Homelessness in Delhi (March 2021)* [https://www.hlrn.org.in/documents/Newsletter\\_Homelessness\\_Delhi\\_March\\_2021.pdf](https://www.hlrn.org.in/documents/Newsletter_Homelessness_Delhi_March_2021.pdf)
3. *Impacts of the Second Wave of the Pandemic on Delhi's Homeless Population [Findings of a Rapid Assessment Survey] (August 2021)* [https://www.hlrn.org.in/documents/Homelessness\\_Delhi\\_Pandemic\\_Second\\_Wave.pdf](https://www.hlrn.org.in/documents/Homelessness_Delhi_Pandemic_Second_Wave.pdf)
4. *Forced Evictions in India in 2020: A Grave Human Rights Crisis During the Pandemic (September 2021)* [https://www.hlrn.org.in/documents/Forced\\_Evictions\\_2020.pdf](https://www.hlrn.org.in/documents/Forced_Evictions_2020.pdf)

#### B. Press Releases Issued by HLRN in 2021-22

1. *Despite Experiencing Acute Distress During the Pandemic, Delhi's Gadia Lohar Community Continues to Face Exclusion [February 2021]* [https://www.hlrn.org.in/documents/Press\\_Release\\_Gadia\\_Lohar\\_Delhi\\_February\\_2021.pdf](https://www.hlrn.org.in/documents/Press_Release_Gadia_Lohar_Delhi_February_2021.pdf)
2. *Summer Plan for Persons Living in Homelessness in Delhi [April 2021]:* [https://www.hlrn.org.in/documents/Summer\\_Plan\\_Homelessness\\_Delhi\\_April\\_2021.pdf](https://www.hlrn.org.in/documents/Summer_Plan_Homelessness_Delhi_April_2021.pdf)
3. *Letter to the Chairperson of the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights [April 2021]:* [https://www.hlrn.org.in/documents/HLRN\\_Letter\\_NCPCR\\_April\\_2021.pdf](https://www.hlrn.org.in/documents/HLRN_Letter_NCPCR_April_2021.pdf)
4. *Homeless Persons Experienced Severe Hunger, Destitution, and State Apathy During India's Second Wave of the Pandemic: Survey [August 2021]* [https://www.hlrn.org.in/documents/Press\\_Release\\_Homelessness\\_Delhi\\_Survey\\_August\\_2021.pdf](https://www.hlrn.org.in/documents/Press_Release_Homelessness_Delhi_Survey_August_2021.pdf)
5. *Over a Quarter Million People (2.57 Lakh) Evicted in India During the Pandemic; 21 People Evicted from their Homes Every Hour [September 2021]* [https://www.hlrn.org.in/documents/Press\\_Release\\_Forced\\_Evictions\\_2020\\_21.pdf](https://www.hlrn.org.in/documents/Press_Release_Forced_Evictions_2020_21.pdf)

## C. Citations of HLRN in the Media in 2021-22

Homelessness has worsened the on-going Covid-19 crisis, is there something to worry?

31 January 2022 – **The Indian Wire**

<https://www.theindianwire.com/people/homelessness-has-worsened-the-on-going-covid-19-crisis-is-there-something-to-worry-326821/>

2021: The year of evictions

28 December 2021 – **Sabrang India**

<https://sabrangindia.in/article/2021-year-evictions>

Delhi: Not just cold, 33 families on GT Road also battle eviction scare

23 December 2021 – **The Times of India**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/delhi/not-just-cold-33-families-on-gt-road-also-battle-eviction-scare/articleshow/88441318.cms>

DCPCR advises stay on forced eviction in Azadpur

23 December 2021 – **The Hindu**

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Delhi/dcpcr-advises-stay-on-forced-eviction-in-azadpur/article38016302.ece>

Why Homeless People in Delhi Opt to Sleep Rough Over Shelter Homes Despite Cold Weather?

9 December 2021 – **Sputnik News**

<https://sputniknews.com/20211209/as-temperature-drops-homeless-people-in-delhi-demand-govt-improves-conditions-in-shelter-homes-1091374176.html>

Behind the “Green” Rationale of Evictions

12 October 2021 – **The Bastion**

<https://thebastion.co.in/politics-and/behind-the-green-rationale-of-evictions/>

21 People Evicted in India Every Hour During COVID Pandemic: Report

24 September 2021 – **The Quint**

<https://www.thequint.com/news/india/21-people-evicted-in-india-every-hour-during-covid-pandemic-report>

CRAM, HLRN seek probe into forced evictions

15 September 2021 – **E-Pao**

<http://e-pao.net/GP.asp?src=43..160921.sep21>

महामारी में ऐसी बेरहमी!

17 September 2021 – **Nayi India**

<https://www.nayaindia.com/editors-column/editorial/corona-crisis-india-at-least-20000-people-evicted-during-the-covid-19-pandemic-lockdown-187425.html>

43,600 houses demolished, 2.57 lakh people forcibly evicted during Covid-19: Report

13 September 2021 – **Deccan Herald**

<https://www.deccanherald.com/national/43600-houses-demolished-257-lakh-people-forcibly-evicted-during-covid-19-report-1029822.html>

Over 60,000 families displaced, forcibly evicted from homes amid COVID-19 Pandemic: Report

11 September 2021 – **The Logical Indian**

<https://thelogicalindian.com/trending/over-60000-families-displaced-forcibly-evicted-from-homes-in-covid-19-pandemic-report-30650>

Every hour, 21 people evicted from their homes in India amid pandemic: Report

10 September 2021 – **Down to Earth**

<https://www.downtoearth.org.in/news/governance/every-hour-21-people-evicted-from-their-homes-in-india-amid-pandemic-report-78937>

Covid: Over 250,000 people evicted across India during pandemic

10 September 2021 – **The Telegraph**

<https://www.telegraphindia.com/india/over-250000-people-evicted-under-covid-cover-21-every-hour/cid/1830101>

Over 60,000 families evicted from homes during pandemic: Report

10 September 2021 – **The Indian Express**

<https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/delhi/over-60000-families-evicted-from-homes-during-pandemic-report-7499737/>

2,045 families evicted in three TN cities during pandemic: Report

10 September 2021 – **The New Indian Express**

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/tamil-nadu/2021/sep/10/2045-families-evicted-in-three-tn-cities-during-pandemic-report-2356744.html>

HLRN Report: Over 2.57 Lakh Evicted in India During the Pandemic

10 September 2021 – **News Click**

<https://www.newsclick.in/HLRN-Report-Over-2.57-Lakh-Evicted-India-During-Pandemic>

6,600 people living in city 'forcefully evicted' since March 2020, says report

10 September 2021 – **Hindustan Times**

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/cities/delhi-news/6600-people-living-in-city-forcefully-evicted-since-march-2020-says-report-101631227591294.html>

Over 2.57 lakh people evicted from their homes by Union and state governments during pandemic

9 September 2021 – **National Herald**

<https://www.nationalheraldindia.com/india/over-257-lakh-people-evicted-from-their-homes-by-union-and-state-governments-during-pandemic>

India evicted 21 people every hour during COVID: Advocacy group

9 September 2021 – **Al Jazeera**

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/9/9/india-evictions-21-people-every-hour-covid-housing-demolition-homeless-poverty>

India evictions during COVID-19 a 'human rights crisis'

9 September 2021 – **Reuters**

<https://www.reuters.com/article/india-landrights-eviction-idUKL8N2QA2HO>

257,000 people evicted during pandemic, shows report by housing rights body

9 September 2021 – **Hindustan Times**

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/cities/delhi-news/257000-people-evicted-during-pandemic-shows-report-by-housing-rights-body-101631189394277.html>

Building homes like card stacks

5 September 2021 – **The Hindu**

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/tamil-nadu/building-homes-like-card-stacks/article36298215.ece>



Raging Pandemic and Unreliable Monsoon: The Unending Sorrow of the Homeless

14 August 2021 – **News Click**

<https://www.newsclick.in/raging-pandemic-and-unreliable-monsoon-unending-sorrow-homeless>

Amid pandemic, rains, residents of Ramesh Park rendered homeless

6 August 2021 – **Two Circles**

<https://twocircles.net/2021aug06/443274.html>

Homeless experienced hunger, loss of livelihood, study reveals

4 August 2021 – **The Times of India**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/delhi/homeless-experienced-hunger-loss-of-livelihood-study-reveals/articleshow/85019425.cms>

Demolition near Delhi feared leaving 100,000 Indian villagers homeless

14 July 2021 – **Reuters**

<https://www.reuters.com/article/india-landrights-housing/demolition-near-delhi-feared-leaving-100000-indian-villagers-homeless-idUSL5N2OJ2O6>

Delhi: Demolition drive on Yamuna floodplain leaves many homeless, they claim no notice given

6 July 2021 – **The Times of India**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/delhi/demolition-drive-on-floodplain-leaves-many-homeless-they-claim-no-notice-given/articleshow/84155112.cms>

No Shelter in Homes

3 July 2021 – **The Citizen**

<https://www.thecitizen.in/index.php/en/NewsDetail/index/15/20571/No-Shelter-in-Homes>

Clean air in Delhi, 24/7 water in Chennai: What happened to India's Smart Cities Mission?

30 June 2021 – **Scroll**

<https://scroll.in/article/998463/clean-air-in-delhi-24-7-water-in-chennai-what-happened-to-indias-smart-cities-mission>

Government wants to abolish poor instead of poverty, say residents of Khori village

25 June 2021 – **Media India Group**

<https://mediaindia.eu/politics/government-wants-to-abolish-poor-instead-of-poverty-say-residents-of-khori-village/>

Smart City Deadline Looms But Targets Remain Distant

24 June 2021 – **IndiaSpend**

<https://www.indiaspend.com/governance/smart-city-deadline-looms-but-targets-remain-distant-757360>

Supreme Court 'shouldn't be adamant', reconsider eviction order of Haryana villagers

20 June 2021 – **Counterview**

<https://www.counterview.net/2021/06/appeal-to-apex-court-to-reconsider.html>

Beware the Pitfalls of Eco-restoration

12 June 2021 – **The Wire Science**

<https://science.thewire.in/environment/beware-pitfalls-ecosystem-restoration-tokenism-expertise-bourgeois-environmentalism/>

Delhi's poor still wait for Kejriwal's promised free ration, 2 months into 2nd Covid wave

2 June 2021 – **The Print**

<https://theprint.in/india/delhis-poor-still-wait-for-kejriwals-promised-free-ration-2-months-into-2nd-covid-wave/669562/>

In India's COVID-19 crisis, the internet is both a lifeline and a barrier

2 June 2021 – **The New Humanitarian**

<https://www.thenewhumanitarian.org/news/2021/5/25/india-COVID-19-digital-divide-hampers-vaccine-and-healthcare-access>

Homeless people in Delhi struggle to get ration amid COVID lockdown

30 May 2021 – **The New Indian Express**

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/cities/delhi/2021/may/30/homeless-people-in-delhi-struggle-to-get-ration-amid-covid-lockdown-2309275.html>

Families homeless after rain floods over 25 hutments

22 May 2021 – **Hindustan Times**

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/cities/delhi-news/families-homeless-after-rain-floods-over-25-hutments-101621634584973.html>

Pandemic forces Delhi's poor to truncate meals

15 May 2021 – **The Times of India**

[https://m.timesofindia.com/city/delhi/pandemic-forces-citys-poor-to-truncate-meals/amp\\_articleshow/82643069.cms](https://m.timesofindia.com/city/delhi/pandemic-forces-citys-poor-to-truncate-meals/amp_articleshow/82643069.cms)

India is Making it Nearly Impossible for Homeless People to Get Vaccinated

14 May 2021 – **Vice**

<https://www.vice.com/en/article/pkbbpz/india-covid-vaccination-drive-homeless>

In Delhi's slums, barriers to vaccination: Few smartphones, complex process

12 May 2021 – **The Indian Express**

<https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/delhi/in-delhis-slums-barriers-to-vaccination-few-smartphones-complex-process-7312554/>

Forced Evictions in Delhi: Slum residents face 'Triple whammy'

11 May 2021 – **NewsClick**

<https://www.newsclick.in/Forced-Evictions-Delhi-Slum-Residents-Face-Triple-Whammy>

Homeless children at greater risk in coronavirus pandemic, says rights body

15 April 2021 – **The New Indian Express**

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/nation/2021/apr/14/homeless-children-at-greater-risk-in-coronaviruspandemic-says-rights-body-2289997.html>

Street kids recall how they were left to fend for selves

13 April 2021 – **The Times of India**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/delhi/street-kids-recall-how-they-were-left-to-fend-for-selves/articleshow/82038664.cms>

The missing basti project: Indian website records slum lives, evictions to tackle housing crisis

26 April 2021 – **Gadgets Now**

<https://www.gadgetsnow.com/tech-news/the-missing-basti-project-indian-website-records-slum-lives-evictions-to-tackle-housing-crisis/articleshow/82212546.cms>

TNSCB residents want maintenance fee waived

27 March 2021 – **The Times of India**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/chennai/tnsqb-residents-want-maintenance-fee-waived/articleshow/81719225.cms>

Women pushed to the fringes of homelessness due to COVID-19 induced lockdown

22 March 2021 – **The New Indian Express**

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/nation/2021/mar/22/women-pushed-to-the-fringes-of-homelessness-due-to-covid-19-induced-lockdown-2279683.html>

One in two Perumbakkam families can't use ration card in their area: Study

17 March 2021 – **The New Indian Express**

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/cities/chennai/2021/mar/17/1-in-2-perumbakkam-families-cant-use-ration-card-in-their-area-study-2277598.html>

Not far from Ghazipur protest site, Gadia Lohar community struggle for housing rights

10 March 2021 – **Twocircles.net**

<http://twocircles.net/2021mar10/441317.html>

Activists flag concerns over debris dumping on Yamuna floodplains

9 March 2021 – **Hindustan Times**

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/activists-flag-concerns-over-debris-dumping-on-yamuna-floodplains-101615229636311.html>

Central Vista: Debris dumped near Yamuna, say activists

9 March 2021 – **The Times of India**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/delhi/central-vista-debris-dumped-near-yamuna-say-activists/articleshow/81400547.cms>

Construction mud puts settlements on the edge of eviction in Yamuna Khadar

8 March 2021 – **The Bastion**

<https://thebastion.co.in/politics-and/construction-mud-puts-settlements-on-the-edge-of-eviction-in-yamuna-khadar/>

Delhi's Gadia Lohar community ravaged by lockdown, finds study

27 February 2021 – **The New Indian Express**

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/cities/delhi/2021/feb/27/delhis-gadia-lohar-community-ravaged-by-lockdown-finds-study-2269668.html>

DIY-style school helps educate Indian migrants facing eviction

19 February 2021 – **Reuters**

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-india-landrights-migrants-trfn-idUSKBN2AJ0VQ>

Resettlement areas to get free Wi-Fi among other facilities

8 February 2021 – **DT NEXT**

<https://www.dtnext.in/News/City/2021/02/08050123/1275110/Resettlement-areas-to-get-free-WiFi-among-other-facilities.vpf>

Person with disabilities want help with livelihoods post pandemic

5 February 2021 – **The Hindu**

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/chennai/persons-with-disabilities-want-help-with-livelihoods-post-pandemic/article33759469.ece>

Nearly half of relocated people lost jobs in Perumbakkam, women affected the most: Survey

4 February 2021 – **The New Indian Express**

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/cities/chennai/2021/feb/04/nearly-half-of-relocated-people-lost-jobs-in-perumbakkam-women-affected-the-most-survey-2259272.html>

Study: 48 pc of relocatees to Perumbakkam lost livelihood

4 February 2021 – **DT NEXT**

<https://www.dtnext.in/News/City/2021/02/04040125/1274426/Study-48-pc-of-relocatees-to-Perumbakkam-lost-livelihood.vpf>

Varanasi: Close to 500 rendered homeless for food plaza, helipad

13 January 2021 – **NewsClick**

<https://www.newsclick.in/Varanasi%3A-Close-500-Rendered-Homeless-Food-Plaza-Helipad>

Property rights linked to better health of young Girls

11 January 2021 – **Outlook**

<https://poshan.outlookindia.com/story/opinion-property-rights-linked-to-better-health-of-young-girls/370162>

Delhi's Shelter Homes – 'The only place where we feel safe', Homeless women say

10 January 2021 – **Sputnik News**

<https://sputniknews.com/india/202101101081712676-delhis-shelter-homes--the-only-place-where-we-feel-safe-homeless-women-say/>

## D. Balance Sheet as on 31st March 2022

**HOUSING AND LAND RIGHTS NETWORK (HLRN) - NEW DELHI**  
BALANCE SHEET AS ON 31st MARCH 2022

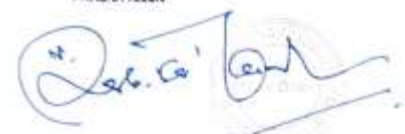
LIABILITIES		Rs. (₹)	ASSETS		Rs. (₹)
<b>Fixed Assets Fund</b>			<b>Fixed Assets</b>		
As per last year	3,82,633.00		As per last year	3,82,633.00	
Add: Additions	-		Add: Additions	-	
	<b>3,82,633.00</b>			<b>3,82,633.00</b>	
Less: Depreciation	77,715.00	3,04,918.00	Less: Depreciation	77,715.00	3,04,918.00
<b>Settler Fund</b>			<b>Closing Balances-FC</b>		
As per last year		2,100.00	Cash / Imprest	4,303.00	
<b>General Fund</b>			AXIS Bank Ltd A/c No 912010004866203	6,189.46	
As per last year	12,27,442.46		AXIS Bank Ltd A/c No 917010065718117	18,099.60	
Add: Excess of Income over Expenditure	7,65,579.00	19,93,021.46	AXIS Bank Ltd A/c No 920010071242790	939.95	
			AXIS Bank Ltd A/c No 921010057801875	4,680.00	
<b>Unspent Project Balances</b>			State Bank of India-NDMS-40047167388	26,195.50	
Opening Balance	34,79,156.13		FDR's	2,05,645.00	
Less: Excess of Expenditure over Income	31,08,739.62	3,70,416.51	TDS Payable / Rent Security	1,04,364.00	3,70,416.51
			<b>Closing Balances-NFC</b>		
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>26,70,455.97</b>	Cash	641.00	
			OBC-SB-00132151009363	18,575.86	
			Kanur Vysya Bank-4104172000001180	10,95,913.56	
			Axis Bank Ltd -909010032872157	5,79,991.04	19,95,121.46
			<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>26,70,455.97</b>

For Housing and Land Rights Network

For Mehotra & Associates  
Chartered Accountants  
FRNo 011338N

Place: New Delhi  
Date: 31/03/2022

  
  
 Enakshi Ganguly Thakral  
Executive Director

  
 (Ashok Kumar Malhotra)  
 Prop.  
 M.No. 089905  
 UDIN - 22087905AQQULZ4259

## E. Income and Expenditure for the year ending 31st March 2022

**HOUSING AND LAND RIGHTS NETWORK (HLRN) - NEW DELHI**  
INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st MARCH 2022

EXPENDITURE		Rs. (P)	INCOME		Rs. (P)
<b>NFC Account</b>			<b>NFC Account</b>		
Azmi Premji Foundation-Covid Relief	9,56,000.00		<b>Trust Accounts</b>		
HLRN General Program	1,27,000.00	10,83,000.00	Grants	15,56,000.00	
			Donations	2,00,000.00	
			IT Refund	21,288.00	
			Interest on IT Refund	1,692.00	
			Interest on FDR	27,932.00	
Excess of Income over Expenditure transferred to General Fund		7,65,579.00	Interest on SB A/c	41,667.00	18,48,579.00
<b>Sub Total</b>		<b>18,48,579.00</b>	<b>Sub Total</b>		<b>18,48,579.00</b>
<b>FC Account</b>			<b>FC Account</b>		
<b>MISEREOR-321-900-1700 ZG</b>			MISEREOR-321-900-1700 ZG (19-21)	48,05,195.00	
Promoting the Human Rights to Adequate Housing for the Most Marginalised and Discriminated among the Poor in India		1,03,16,020.54	MISEREOR-321-015-1161 ZG	15,56,315.00	
			MISEREOR-321-900-1867	25,49,324.00	89,10,834.00
<b>MISEREOR-321-015-1161 ZD</b>			<b>Interest Income</b>		
Information hubs for enhancing capacities and building resilient communities in resettlement sites in and around Chennai		17,12,404.00	Bank Interest on Designated Bank A/c	11,813.00	
			Bank Interest on Utilization A/c	51,848.00	
<b>HLRN General Program</b>			Interest on FDR's	9,203.00	72,864.00
General Programs		64,012.98	Excess of Expenditure over Income Transferred to Unspent Project Balance		31,08,739.62
<b>Sub Total</b>		<b>1,20,92,437.62</b>	<b>Sub Total</b>		<b>1,20,92,437.62</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>		<b>1,39,41,016.62</b>	<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>		<b>1,39,41,016.62</b>

For Housing and Land Rights Network

  
  
 Eshwari Ganguly Thakral  
 Executive Director

Place: New Delhi  
Date: 31-05-2022

For Malhotra & Associates  
Chartered Accountants  
FRNo.011336N

  
 (Ashok Kumar Malhotra)  
 Prop.  
 M.No. 089905  
 UDIN - 22087905AQ LULR4259

## **F. Acknowledgement**

### **HLRN Trustees**

Miloon Kothari, Paul Divakar Namala, Jaya Shrivastava

### **HLRN Team**

Executive Director: Enakshi Ganguly (from September 2021); Shivani Chaudhry (up to August 2021)

Programme Team: Aishwarya Ayushmaan, Anagha Jaipal, Ashok Pandey, Deepak Kumar, Dev Pal (up to November 2021), Mansoor Khan, Shanta Devi, Suman Kumari

Finance and Administration Team: Rohit Verma, Israr Khan

Consultants: R.K.Sharda (Finance and Statutory matters); Geetha Nambisan (Diversity and Governance, from November 2021)

HLRN Fellows: Bamma K (Bengaluru), Ranjit Suttar (Bhubaneswar), Shanta Devi (Delhi), Themson Jajo (Manipur) V.Ramachandran (Madurai)

### **Some Key HLRN Partners in India**

Affected Citizens of Teesta, Sikkim ; Centre for Research and Advocacy Manipur; Centre for the Sustainable Use of Natural and Social Resources, Bhubaneswar; Ekta Parishad Information and Resource Centre for Deprived Urban Communities; Kalpavriksh Pune; Land Conflict Watch; National Campaign on Dalit Human Rights; National Resource Management Centre for Land Governance Odisha; Rahethan Adhikar Manch (Housing Rights and Human Rights Group) Ahmedabad; Shahri Gareeb Sangarsh Morcha Prayag Raj; Slum Jagatthu Bengaluru; Video Volunteers

The HLRN team thanks its Trustees for motivation and staunch support throughout the year; acknowledges partner organizations and individuals for consistent cooperation; and salutes the courage, resilience, openness and generosity of the myriad communities it has worked with – we learned a lot as we journeyed towards a common goal. We are grateful and hopeful as we move towards another year.

