

ANNUAL REPORT 2020



ACTIVITIES AND IMPACTS OVER THE YEAR 2020

Introduction

The year 2020 shook the entire world in unprecedented ways. The coronavirus pandemic once again proved that emergencies disproportionately affect those living in already marginalized conditions. The onslaught of the pandemic in India and related lockdowns to control its spread adversely impacted people living in poverty, especially daily-wage workers, including people living in homelessness and inadequate housing – the constituencies that HLRN works most closely with. The pandemic also emphasized, like never before, what HLRN has been advocating for 20 years – that housing is a key determinant of health and of life. The year was thus spent on addressing the immediate humanitarian crisis created by the pandemic through various relief and advocacy measures as well as on intensifying efforts to bring about the realization of the human right to adequate housing for all, in order to ensure the protection of health and life, without discrimination for all.

We have consistently worked on mainstreaming the human rights approach to housing and land issues across India and at international levels. Our work has spanned a wide spectrum from local communities to the United Nations. This report presents an overview of the main activities and impacts of our work over the year 2020.

I. Building Stronger Grassroots Housing Rights Leadership in India

Housing Rights Fellowship Programme

In 2016, HLRN initiated a housing rights fellowship programme with the objective of developing the capacity of residents of low-income settlements and persons living in homelessness, in order to strengthen their communities and work for the realization of housing and related human rights. Over the years, the programme has expanded and the work of the fellows has become integral to the struggles for housing rights in their areas. Presently, HLRN is supporting six fellows in five states: Delhi, Karnataka, Manipur, Odisha, and Tamil Nadu. Each fellow is working with an HLRN partner organization.

Highlights of the Work of the Housing Rights Fellows

Bengaluru: Community mobilization for housing and land rights in the settlements of Kacharakanahalli, Neelagirithopu, Laggere, and Jakkasandra. Work is ongoing for titles over land and housing in these settlements. Relief was provided during the lockdown to over 400 families. Human rights education material was prepared in Kannada and disseminated to communities.



Workshop for community activists, Bengaluru



Bengaluru: COVID-19 relief

Delhi: A group of 30 homeless women living in Nizamuddin, Sarai Kale Khan, Urdu Park, and Kalkaji was created to enable them to effectively raise their demands. The women were also provided with awareness on their rights and relevant government schemes. Human rights education was provided in settlements threatened with eviction, and advocacy efforts and timely actions resulted in evictions prevented in five settlements. Relief, including cooked meals, milk, and dry ration, was provided to marginalized communities during the lockdown and after home demolitions.



Delhi: Organizing homeless women



Delhi: Community survey with affected small farmers living along the banks of the Yamuna River



Meetings with government officials

Tamil Nadu: As a result of regular meetings with government officials and strategic advocacy, housing was provided to 280 families of sanitation workers and titles to land obtained for 20 homeless people in Madurai. Relief was also provided to 480 families affected by the COVID-19 lockdown.



COVID-19 relief work in Madurai

Manipur: As a result of sustained advocacy, evictions were prevented in two communities, and an order prohibiting mining in the Maring area was passed. Several community meetings were organized in villages where people are faced with threat of displacement. Relief was provided to remote and marginalized communities during the lockdown.



Manipur: Consultation with affected communities



Manipur: International Rivers Day consultation to protect indigenous rights

Odisha: Consultations with communities affected by forced evictions and joint advocacy efforts resulted in several actions being taken for justice. Human rights education events were organized in various communities in cities and villages, including forest-dwellers, resulted in improved awareness on laws, schemes, and human rights. Over 25 petitions were filed with national and state human rights commission on issues related to violations of housing and land rights.



Odisha: Community human rights education workshop



Odisha: Impact of COVID-19 lockdown on low-income communities: Survey in Sikharchandi, Bhubaneswar



Assessing impact of contaminated water due to chromite mining in Sukinda Valley, Odisha

Human Rights Education and Publication

During the first two months of the grant period, HLRN worked on promoting human rights education through workshops for various constituencies. This was done through meetings in settlements and with homeless communities, and in more formal settings at seminars and conferences, including the India Land and Development Conference and the Northeast Land and Development Conference (details provided later in this report). As a result of the pandemic, the human rights education and dissemination work took place through electronic means, online meetings, and over the phone. Our team has provided much information, guidance, and counselling over the phone to affected communities and also spoken at webinars and online conferences since March 2020.

II. Addressing Discrimination and Promoting Land Rights

Housing and Land Rights of ‘Farm Widows’

For the last three years, HLRN has been working with women affected by farm suicides in west India. In collaboration with Prakriti, we have facilitated research and advocacy related to promoting the rights of women farmers from farm suicide-affected families. Among women in India, one of the most marginalized constituencies is that of widows. After the death of their husbands, a large percentage of women in both urban and rural areas are denied their rights to their marital homes, land, and other property. They face extreme ostracism and stigmatization as well. These impacts are also suffered by their children.

In 2020, we launched a collaborative study with Prakriti on the impacts of a Maharashtra state government regulation calling for land of widows whose husbands commit suicide to be transferred to them.

As a member of MAKAAAM (Mahila Kisan Adhikar Manch or Women Farmers’ Rights Forum), HLRN supported a ‘National Consultation on Women Farmers from Farmer Suicide-affected Families’ in New Delhi in January 2020.



National Consultation on Status of Women Farmers from Farm Suicide-affected Families

We also continued our collaboration with Ekta Parishad – India’s largest social movement working for land rights, in particular with their women’s wing—Ekta Mahila Manch—to support struggles of landless women for their equal rights.

On the occasion of the second anniversary of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas, the HLRN Executive Director wrote an article on the importance of its implementation, including for gender equality.

The article, published by the Thomson Reuters Foundation, is available at: <https://news.trust.org/item/20201216184216-ogcjh>

Northeast Land Conference

Housing and Land Rights Network played an instrumental role in organizing and facilitating the first Northeast Land Conference held in January 2020 in Shillong.

In addition to assisting with the design and agenda of the conference, we also facilitated and supported the participation of key organizations and land and housing rights advocates from the region. At the conference, HLRN organized two panels on ‘Land Rights of Indigenous Women’ and ‘Development, Investment, and Displacement in Northeast India.’ Both panels were very significant, as they emphasized the importance of a human rights-based approach and also highlighted key issues related to displacement, development, and gender inequality.

The conference provided an important platform for HLRN to share its work, including our tools to monitor human rights violations and the Eviction Impact Assessment Tool, and to build stronger partnerships and collaboration in the region.



India Land and Development Conference

The India Land and Development Conference (ILDC) is an inter-disciplinary platform that aims to promote discussions, debates and multi-sectoral conversations on multiple facets of land, including law, policy, governance, and rights. Since 2018, HLRN has been a co-organizer of the conference, providing integral inputs into its structure, agenda, design, and participation. We have also brought in important community voices, social movements, political actors, and academics to encourage debate and coordinated work on these important issues. In addition, HLRN has contributed by organizing and hosting multiple panel discussions at ILDC covering a wide range of topics, all aimed at upholding the human rights to adequate housing and land, especially for the most marginalized.

The 2020 Conference, held from 2 to 4 March in New Delhi, saw the participation of about 350 actors from government, academia, civil society, and business who came together for interdisciplinary conversations. At the 2020 Conference, HLRN organized three panels: ‘Caste,

Land and Social Justice’; ‘One City, Many Faces: Lal Dora Lands in Delhi’; and, ‘Climate Change and Land Rights.’ All three sessions saw the participation of experts, activists, and in one panel, government officials, and were very well received. Through these panel discussions, HLRN was able to promote human rights education and awareness on these issues. The panels also helped us reiterate the need to address issues related to access, equity, distribution and access to land and housing using a human rights-based approach. The panel on *Lal Dora* lands in Delhi also saw the active participation of affected community members and served as a good platform for them to engage with present government functionaries, including the Delhi Development Authority.



III. Addressing Forced Evictions and Displacement

National Eviction and Displacement Observatory

In the absence of any official or non-government data on evictions in India, HLRN set up the National Eviction and Displacement Observatory in 2016 to document, highlight, monitor, and address the serious issue of forced evictions and displacement across India. The HLRN Observatory is the only source of data on forced evictions and displacement in 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 have become the 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 civil society organizations and also by the United Nations.

The 2019 HLRN report titled, *Forced Evictions in India in 2019: An Unrelenting National Crisis* was launched in August 2020, by eminent experts and human rights activists at an online event. The panel discussion, organized in the form of a webinar, saw the participation of experts such as Mr Miloon Kothari (Former UN Special Rapporteur on Adequate Housing), Dr Usha Ramanathan (Researcher on the Jurisprudence of Law, Poverty and Rights), Professor Amita Bhide (Dean, School of Habitat Studies, Tata Institute of Social Sciences), and Ms Shivani Chaudhry (Executive Director, Housing and Land Rights Network).

The report presents data, analysis, and trends related to forced evictions in India in the year 2019 as well as consolidated data across India from 2017 to 2019. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, forced evictions of the urban and rural poor by state authorities continued in India. Thus, the report also highlights incidents of forced eviction during the pandemic and emphasizes the importance of adequate housing and the urgent need for a national moratorium on forced evictions. The report reveals that between 2017 and 2019, over 568,000 people were forcibly evicted from their homes in India, while nearly 15 million people currently live 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.

A recording of the launch event and panel discussion is available at HLRN's YouTube channel: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IWZ_i0VkdaM



Experts launching HLRN's report on Forced Evictions in India in 2019

Preventing Forced Evictions

As a result of timely and effective intervention by HLRN and facilitation of close coordination with lawyers and communities, we were able to prevent the demolition of over 3,600 houses in Delhi. During the grant period, HLRN undertook several measures to prevent forced evictions, including through advocacy with the government and working with partner organizations and lawyers to seek legal remedies. We also collected data and information on the number of houses demolished and where eviction threats were reported. This information was used to assist with court cases to prevent evictions.

Some positive impacts of HLRN's strategic and collaborative interventions are described below.

- 1) In early 2020, evictions were prevented in Yamuna Khadar (1,500 houses), Y-Block Nangloi, and Shakur Basti (200 houses).
- 2) In Rajiv Camp, where a single woman's shop and house were demolished, a meeting was conducted with officials of the Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board (DUSIB) and consequently the woman was allowed to rebuild her dwelling at the same site.
- 3) On 31 August 2020, the Supreme Court of India passed a ruling in a case related to waste management and environmental pollution calling for the removal of over 48,000 households along railway tracks in Delhi. The order could potentially violate the human right to adequate housing of over 250,000 people from lower-income communities by rendering them homeless and increasing the risk to their health and lives. During the grant period, HLRN was actively involved in preventing the evictions, through advocacy with the government and mobilization of affected communities. Based on the prayer that affected communities were not made party to the case and hence were not represented, HLRN also filed a petition in the Supreme Court challenging the order. In collaboration with other organizations and collectives, HLRN worked with affected communities, at multiple levels, to address and allay their fears and concerns related to the Court order.

We also led a process with the Delhi Housing Rights Task Force (DHRTF) to prepare a comprehensive alternative plan for the affected communities, upholding national and international standards and safeguards. This plan was submitted to the Delhi government, the Indian Railways, and the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.

As a result of various collective and coordinated actions, the Supreme Court of India issued a stay order on the demolitions until further notice. Moreover, officials from the central and state governments agreed to rehabilitate all affected persons before demolishing any settlements. We are continuing to monitor the legal developments and other interventions in this case.

- 4) In October 2020, HLRN received information regarding multiple forced evictions of an urban poor community in Bhovapur, Ghaziabad, in the state of Uttar Pradesh. The affected community consists of families engaged in garbage collection and segregation. About 250 houses in the settlement were demolished three times within a period of 20 days, without any prior notice. All affected persons, including 15 lactating and pregnant women, were forced to live in the open, without access to alternative housing, water, food, and healthcare facilities. In addition to mobilizing the community and conducting meetings, HLRN staff members were also instrumental in communicating with state authorities such as the police, and played an important role in the process of filing a case on behalf of the residents. On 22 October, in a positive order, the Allahabad High Court directed the Ghaziabad Development Authority to provide alternative housing, essential services and compensation to affected families. Since then, HLRN has been actively involved in the process of following up with relevant authorities to ensure the implementation of the court order. In addition to approaching the court, HLRN also sent letters to the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) and the National Commission for Women (NCW), requesting them to take *suo moto* cognizance of the issue and direct the state government to provide immediate relief and rehabilitation to affected families. On 14 December 2020, HLRN received a response from NHRC transferring the case to the Uttar Pradesh State Human Rights Commission.

During 2020, HLRN also conducted awareness campaigns for the youth living in settlements and trained them to conduct surveys before, during, and after evictions/demolitions, and to seek legal remedies against evictions.

Emergency Response for Victims of Forced Eviction

As part of our human rights approach to housing, HLRN also assists communities in the aftermath of forced evictions and loss of housing from fire/arson, as people face multiple human rights violations, lose all their belongings, and are generally rendered homeless without any basic shelter or food or clothing.

During the COVID-19 lockdown, a fire in a settlement in Kirti Nagar, Delhi caused extensive damage to housing and personal property. We assisted affected families in seeking relief and support from the government. As a result, tents were set up for affected persons and food grains distributed.

About 200 dwellings in Yamuna Khadar, along the river bank, were destroyed due to heavy rain and a storm during the lockdown. We assisted affected families in rebuilding their houses and arranging emergency shelter, with help from other organizations.

In Shahabad Dairy (Daulatpur), HLRN distributed dry ration kits, school bags, books, and pens to 85 fire-affected families. This was done with help received from Buddhist monks. We assisted

affected families in effectively raising their demand for relief and rehabilitation with the local area legislator. As a result of HLRN's efforts, on 7 August 2020, each affected family received a cheque of Rs 25,000 as compensation.

In July 2020, 12 families living in Anna Nagar lost their homes to heavy rain, and were rendered homeless. As a result of continued engagement, efforts, and advocacy by HLRN, 10 of the 12 families received compensation from the government of Rs 25,000 each. We are continuing to advocate for alternative housing for the affected families. We arranged immediate relief, including blankets and food for families evicted in Bhovapur, Uttar Pradesh.



Relief for families affected by evictions in Bhovapur

'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.

Through its research, publications, human-rights training sessions with communities, and advocacy with central and state government authorities, HLRN has reiterated the need to collect and use gender-disaggregated and gender-centric data, and assess the disproportionate effects of forced evictions, displacement, and urbanization on women.

Over the last year, HLRN has been working on an EvIA study in the Gadia Lohar settlement in Mansarovar Park, Delhi, to document the gender-based impacts of their forced eviction in 2017. This study aims to highlight the impacts of the loss of housing and basic services on women and girls of the community, two-and-a-half years after they experienced forced eviction. During the last grant period, the questionnaire was prepared and administered. During this grant period, data collected through primary research last year was analysed and a draft report summarizing and emphasizing the disproportionate impacts of multiple evictions of the community on women was prepared. In addition to documenting an increase in the number of cases of reportage of instances of gender-based violence, the study has also documented an increase in the drop-out rate of girls in the community, with most of them being forced to leave school to perform domestic duties and take care of younger siblings. Patterns of shifts away from traditional iron work-based occupations and an overall reduction in the levels of income of families reveals the multiple challenges faced by the community since the eviction.

III. Improving Living Conditions in ‘Informal’ Settlements and Resettlement Sites

Housing and Land Rights Network, through its interventions, focuses on improving living conditions in low-income/‘informal’ settlements, including sites where evictions and demolitions of homes have occurred. In 2020, we worked closely with residents of various settlements in Delhi to improve their access to essential services, including water and electricity. These sites included Shakur Basti, Yamuna Khadar, Pul Mithai, Bela Gaon, Kanchanpuri, Gyaspur, Lajpat Nagar, Y-Block Nangloi, Bhim Nagar, Shahabad Dairy, Mullani Colony, Safdarjung Basti, and Malha Colony. For example, in Shakur Basti—a site that has witnessed multiple demolitions by the Indian Railways—with HLRN’s intervention, a long-term issue pertaining to the lack of adequate water was resolved. With help from the area legislator, HLRN got the seven non-functional hand pumps repaired and got four additional hand pumps installed. Now, eight water tankers are also providing water in the settlement.



Meeting with residents of Shakur Basti

Strategic interventions and collaborative efforts with residents of resettlement sites of Baprola and Dwarka in Delhi, and Perumbakkam in Chennai helped residents access improved services, including roads and sanitation systems, during the pandemic. For instance, with advocacy efforts of HLRN, a tender was passed and work related to plumbing, water, and sanitation was completed in the resettlement site of Dwarka, Delhi.



Meeting with the Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board to improve living conditions in resettlement sites

Working with the Gadia Lohar Community in Delhi

Given the persistent marginalization faced by the Gadia Lohar community—a formerly nomadic community from Rajasthan—HLRN has been working closely with its members who live in 67 settlements across Delhi. In particular, HLRN has been advocating to prevent forced evictions in their settlements, demanding adequate rehabilitation, and working to improve their access to adequate housing and basic services. Members of the community living in seven settlements in Delhi faced eviction threats in 2020. Through strategic advocacy and interventions, including in

the High Court of Delhi, HLRN helped the settlements from being demolished. As a result of acute livelihood loss and increased impoverishment faced by the community during the pandemic, HLRN helped facilitate access to ration to some members.

Study on Migrant Workers' Access to Land and Housing

The pandemic-induced lockdown in India resulted in a massive and historic exodus of migrant workers from cities to their villages due to the scarcity of food, loss of livelihood, and lack of access to adequate housing in urban areas. Migrant workers experienced several human rights violations during this crisis and risked their lives to reach home. Given reports of the distress experienced by migrant workers, especially the sudden homelessness experienced by them on declaration of the lockdown, HLRN conducted a primary research study with 248 migrant workers (between August and September 2020) to understand their housing and living conditions, and the challenges faced by them during the pandemic. The findings of the study were published in a report titled 'In Search of Home: A Study on Migrant Workers' Access to Housing and Land' in December 2020. The report revealed that migrant workers lack access to adequate housing and land, which results in their inadequate living conditions, violates their human rights, and also contributed to their exodus from cities during the national lockdown. The report will be used to advocate for the provision of housing and land rights for migrant workers, and implementation of a strong human-rights based COVID-19 recovery process, with the rights to housing and land at its core.

The report was widely disseminated to the media, public officials, and other members of the civil society, and has been featured in several media stories and articles. We plan to conduct a follow-up to this study in 2021.

III. Reducing the Degree and Extent of Homelessness across India, and Strengthening the National Movement Working on Homelessness

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 live are homeless. Homelessness constitutes a gross violation of multiple human rights, including the right to adequate housing and the right to live with dignity. This issue has thus been a core focus area for HLRN since its inception. Over 2020, we intensified our efforts to work for the rights of people living in homelessness, who were disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Campaign on 'Adequate Housing for Persons Living in Homelessness'

State interventions and responses to homelessness are largely inadequate across India and are mostly limited to the provision of shelters that accommodate only a fraction of the affected population. Housing and Land Rights Network 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.

On 2 October 2019, Mahatma Gandhi's 150th birth anniversary, building on its long-term engagement with the homeless community in Delhi, HLRN launched a campaign on 'Adequate Housing for Persons Living in Homelessness' to consolidate their demands for permanent and adequate housing. The main aim of the campaign is to take forward the ongoing struggle for adequate housing for the homeless, which has led to the establishment of more than 200 shelters in the city, to the next stage – the provision of permanent, adequate housing for all. By employing multiple strategies, including conducting public gatherings and meetings, postcard and signature

campaigns, the long-standing demands of homeless persons for better realization of their human rights have been consolidated and communicated effectively to government authorities through the HLRN Campaign.

The Campaign's demand for adequate housing became even more important during the COVID-19 pandemic, as homeless people and those without adequate housing have been disproportionately affected and face higher risk of contracting the virus. Through 2020, HLRN worked on disseminating information through various means and organizing consultations, including online, and one-on-one meetings with affected people across the city to create awareness on the human right to adequate housing, document needs and demands of homeless persons, and facilitate government action through sustained advocacy. As a result of the Campaign, homeless persons in Delhi are becoming increasingly aware about their right to housing and pushing for a 'Housing First' approach. One of the major achievements of the Campaign is that it has led to the creation of a people-centric platform. The Campaign has also succeeded in drawing attention of the government to issues related to homelessness and the need for providing adequate housing, beyond shelters.



Campaign meeting at the Motia Khan shelter for homeless families in January 2020



Homeless persons at Yamuna Pushta expressing their demand for adequate housing by signing a petition



Small group Campaign meetings and dissemination of educational material by HLRN during the pandemic

Advocacy to Promote the Human Rights of People Living in Homelessness

The year 2020 was extremely challenging for homeless people because of the COVID-19 pandemic and the related lockdown. In addition to challenges resulting from extreme weather, especially the bitterly cold conditions, homeless people were afraid of contracting the virus. During the pandemic and resulting lockdown, HLRN worked relentlessly for the protection of the human rights of the city's homeless people. With HLRN's advocacy, the Delhi government agreed to provide free meals in all shelter homes during the pandemic (from March 2020).

Housing and Land Rights Network, through its long-standing relationship with the homeless community and advocacy with the Delhi government has constantly reiterated the need for timely, season-specific action plans to address the vulnerabilities of persons living in homelessness. With the intention of ensuring adequate physical distancing norms in shelters and preventing an outbreak of the coronavirus in shelters and among the homeless population, in the beginning of October, HLRN prepared a winter plan for the Delhi government with specific recommendations aimed at protecting their health and lives. This was developed in consultation with homeless communities and incorporated their suggestions. As a result of our regular advocacy, DUSIB included most of our suggestions in its winter plan for the year. This winter, for the first time, the Delhi government has set up over 250 temporary shelters with improved facilities, including separate beds, for homeless persons. It also created 15 special isolation/quarantine centres for homeless people, as recommended by HLRN.

We also prepared contextualized Winter Plans for Homelessness for different states of India and submitted them to the governments of Haryana, Punjab, Chandigarh, Uttarakhand, and, Uttar Pradesh to address the season-specific vulnerabilities of the homeless population in their states.

Through the year, HLRN conducted regular night visits to monitor the situation of homeless people living in shelter homes and on the streets. The team worked to ensure that anyone found ill was taken to hospital. It also worked to inform those living on the streets about the coronavirus pandemic and about the nearest available shelter. When required, the team assisted people to reach shelters, provided first-aid to those in need, and distributed blankets and warm clothes to people sleeping out on the streets.



Distribution of sweaters and blankets by HLRN to persons experiencing homelessness in Delhi

During the year, HLRN also worked to ensure that the following facilities were available in all homeless shelters:

- Sufficient free food;
- Adequate arrangement for the protection against the spread of the coronavirus;
- Access to clean drinking water;
- Clean and functional toilet facilities;
- Weekly visits by mobile medical health vans;
- Adequate arrangements for protection from mosquitoes; and,
- Access to entertainment sources like television.



Distribution of clothes to homeless children by HLRN

Election Cards for Homeless People in Delhi

As part of its campaign to ensure voter cards and the right to political participation for homeless persons, HLRN in collaboration with other organizations, organized intensive drives in the month of January 2020 to register homeless persons to vote in the Delhi assembly elections. As a result of coordinated efforts, more than 600 voter registration forms of homeless persons were filled. The HLRN team is currently engaged in the process of follow-up with the Election Commission. Through the campaign, the importance of identification documents for homeless persons to reduce their political, social, and economic invisibility has also been conveyed to affected persons and authorities, in an attempt to also build social accountability.



Homeless persons voting in the Delhi elections

For the eighth consecutive year, HLRN also continued to host and act as the Secretariat for *Shahri Adhikar Manch: Begharon Ke Saath* (SAM:BKS or Urban Rights Forum: With the Homeless) – a collective of over 20 organizations working on homelessness in Delhi, which HLRN was instrumental in creating in 2008.

VI. Using the Human Rights Approach to Influence and Monitor Law and Policy Development at the National and International Level

Monitoring the Implementation and Status of National Laws and Policies

Housing and Land Rights Network has been engaged in sustained mechanisms of advocacy with the government at multiple levels, with the aim of effectively informing the implementation of current laws and policies and influencing future laws and policies that seek to improve housing and living conditions of the rural and urban poor.

As part of our focus on law and policy development, over the grant period HLRN continued to closely monitor the implementation of state and national housing and land-related policies.

Given the Delhi Assembly Elections 2020, we prepared recommendations on issues related to land and housing to be included in political parties' manifestos. After the formation of the new Delhi government, we submitted policy suggestions and key focus areas for the new cabinet of ministers. We also regularly submit questions on important housing and land issues to Parliamentarians to raise during the Parliament sessions.

Working with United Nations Mechanisms to Promote Human Rights in India

In response to a call of the new UN Special Rapporteur on Adequate Housing, HLRN prepared a detailed submission titled 'COVID-19 and the Human Right to Adequate Housing in India' to highlight the various challenges related to housing during the coronavirus pandemic. Our submission is available on the UN website at:

<https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Housing/Pages/callCovid19.aspx>

We also prepared a submission for the UN Special Rapporteur on Indigenous Peoples to highlight the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on Indigenous/tribal peoples in India, particularly on their rights to land and housing. Our submission is available online at:

We are also in touch with the new Special Rapporteurs on poverty and human rights and on adequate housing.

VII. HLRN Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic and Lockdown

The COVID-19 pandemic and India's harsh lockdown have created an unprecedented emergency across the country. In particular, this has disproportionately affected the most marginalized and vulnerable communities, groups, and persons, including homeless persons, residents of informal settlements, daily-wage workers, children in street situations, and, migrant workers, among others. The largely unplanned and ill-timed coronavirus-induced lockdown has significantly affected all constituencies of the urban and rural poor. Millions of people across the country were rendered homeless, hungry, and jobless overnight without adequate government measures in place to address their vulnerabilities. Since the easing of lockdown restrictions, people are still struggling to find work, and in the absence of income, are faced with a hunger and health crisis.

During this difficult emergency, HLRN has responded at multiple levels, including through direct outreach, relief measures, advocacy with the central and Delhi governments, close monitoring of state relief measures and needs of local communities, and documentation, publication, and dissemination of important information.

1) Advocacy

The pandemic emphasized what HLRN and other experts have been saying for a long time – the right to housing is integrally linked to health and life. Housing has never been more a question of life or death as it is during the pandemic. Since March 2020, we have engaged in consistent advocacy with the state and central government on various dimensions related to the human rights of the most marginalized.

From the early onset of COVID-19 in India, HLRN has been highlighting the grave risk which the pandemic poses to persons who are inadequately housed or living in homelessness. Given the importance of secure housing to health and life, HLRN, on 13 March 2020, issued a press release calling on the central and state governments to implement special measures to protect and improve living conditions of those who are homeless and inadequately housed and to issue a national moratorium on forced evictions.

On 18 March 2020, even before the national lockdown, we wrote a letter to the Minister of Housing urging the development of adequate plans for housing the poor and homeless, and calling for a national moratorium on evictions. On 29 April 2020, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs took heed of HLRN's letter and forwarded it to all state governments across India, asking them to frame specific policies to protect those without adequate housing. This has been a very important contribution of HLRN and encouraging for our work.

Through the pandemic period, HLRN has continuously engaged with government officials, including the Chief Minister of Delhi, the Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board (DUSIB), the Chief Secretary of Delhi, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Chief Ministers of various states, and other government officials and national human rights institutions to address vulnerabilities of the most marginalized. Letters with specific recommendations to protect the rights of the most marginalized during the pandemic, including access to food, shelter, and basic

health facilities, including masks and sanitizers, are regularly being sent to government authorities. To draw attention to the largely invisible group of homeless children or ‘children in street situations’ and their challenges in accessing food, water, and shelter that have been further exacerbated during the pandemic, HLRN wrote to the National Commission of Protection of Child Rights and the Delhi Commission of Protection of Child Rights.

In addition, HLRN has also written letters to state Chief Ministers condemning forced evictions and threats of eviction/displacement of marginalized communities, including of Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Telangana.

During the lockdown, the HLRN team spoke to over 3,000 homeless persons and migrant workers to understand their difficulties and challenges, which we then conveyed to government authorities.

We also regularly monitored the situation of people living in homelessness and in settlements and raised their issues and demands with the Government of Delhi.

As a result of our advocacy efforts the following results were obtained:

- Improved delivery of free food grains by the government in settlements;
- Increase in the pension provided to beneficiaries;
- Cash assistance of Rs 5,000 provided to rickshaw-pullers;
- Delivery of food grains to non-ration-card holders;
- Simplified process of applying for free ration to benefit those who are not literate and do not have certain government documents;
- Extension of the provision of free meals in homeless shelters from June to November 2020;
- Improved distribution of masks, sanitizers to those in need;
- Improved facilities in shelters;
- Timely payment of caretaker salaries during the lockdown.

2) Press Releases

On 13 March, even before the lockdown was announced, HLRN issued a press release on the need to take special measures to improve living conditions and to prevent the spread of COVID-19 among homeless and other inadequately-housed persons. On 17 June 2020, we issued a press release with information on forced evictions carried out during the pandemic across the country. Evicting people from their homes during this public health crisis further heightens the risk of vulnerable populations. It is also a contravention of international law and all health policy directives to “stay at home” during the pandemic.

3) Relief and Humanitarian Assistance

As a result of the loss of livelihoods due to the lockdown, economically weaker sections suffered from an acute shortage of food and essential items. Through sustained advocacy with the Delhi government, in collaboration with local organizations and through direct relief initiatives, including with support from MISEREOR, HLRN has been able to provide cooked food, dry ration, and essential supplies to a large number of people across Delhi. In partnership with our housing rights fellows, relief was also provided to homeless and needy families in Manipur and Odisha.

In summary, HLRN's relief efforts included:

- Providing dry ration to about 4,000 families.
- Providing 37,022 cooked meals to homeless persons through a community kitchen set up in Mori Gate on 8 May 2020, which cooked breakfast, lunch, dinner, and tea for over 250 homeless people daily.
- Setting up a community kitchen in Chilla Khadar from 28 April to 28 May, which provided 6,000 meals to homeless persons.
- Providing milk to 1,300 children. Facilitating the provision of milk for homeless children residing in homeless shelters at Sant Nagar, Kalkaji, and Motia Khan. And for 10 days to 100 children and 50 women living in homelessness.
- Providing nutrition packets to 1,200 migrant workers.
- Ensuring provision of soaps, sanitizers, and masks to homeless persons living in shelters and on the streets. Over 1,800 masks and 30 litres of sanitizer distributed.
- Facilitating provision of masks, sanitizers, and food grains to the residents of settlements at Shakur Basti, Sultan Puri P-1 Basti, Shaheed Sukhdev College, Lajpat Nagar Railway, Dwarka 16B flats, Shaheed Bhagat Singh Camp, Janpath, Baprola resettlement colony, and Bhim Nagar (Nangloi), among others.
- Assisting 200 families to procure e-coupons for the delivery of state-sponsored food grains.
- Providing food grains and ration kits to 3,000 families during the lockdown.
- Supplying two meals a day for 45 days through the Apni Kitchen community kitchens to about 1,500 families were provided two meals a day.
- Assisting 3,500 homeless migrant workers in reaching their villages/hometowns.
- Arranging relief material, including dry food items, slippers, water, milk, and other necessities for 500 migrant workers walking back to their villages/towns in the absence of transport during the lockdown.
- Pressuring the Delhi government to continue the provision of free meals in homeless shelters after the lockdown. As a direct result of HLRN's sustained advocacy, the government has extended the provision of free lunch and dinner in all homeless shelters to November 2020. This is a significant achievement of our work.

4) Research and Publication of Reports

Since the pandemic, HLRN has prepared a series of reports to draw attention to the plight, suffering, and challenging situation faced by the most marginalized. Extensive research was undertaken by the team to prepare these documents.

On 30 March 2020, HLRN released a compilation of all relief measures announced by central and state governments in the country to address issues related to the loss of livelihoods, income, and access to food and shelter for low-income groups. The document was then updated and released again on 7 April 2020.

On 5 May 2020, we published a comprehensive human rights assessment of the lockdown along with the status of implementation of state relief measures. We analysed the impacts of the pandemic and the harsh lockdown on the most marginalized groups, with a focus on homeless and landless persons and those living without adequate housing. The report provides a comprehensive overview of all state relief measures and their status. It also highlights gaps in social protection and provides recommendations, based on the human-rights framework. The human rights assessment report was widely disseminated and also cited in the media.

5) Monitoring

Housing and Land Rights Network has been regularly monitoring 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.

VIII. Special Event Organized by HLRN in 2020

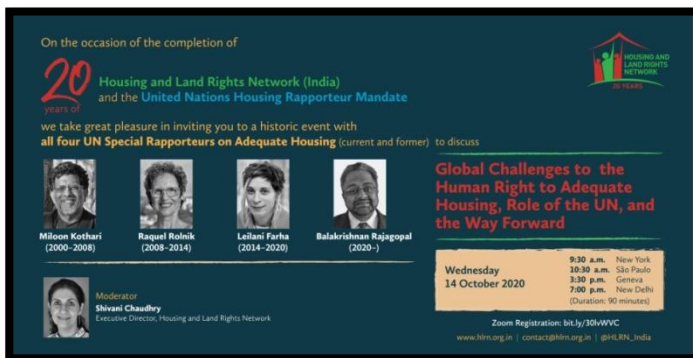
Commemorating Twenty Years of HLRN: Panel Discussion with UN Special Rapporteurs on Adequate Housing

On the occasion of the completion of twenty years of Housing and Land Rights Network, India and the mandate of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Adequate Housing, HLRN organized a historic event on 14 October 2020 with all Special Rapporteurs on the Right to Housing (current and former). The Rapporteurs participated in an online panel discussion titled ‘Global Challenges to the Human Right to Adequate Housing, Role of the UN, and the Way Forward.’ The event was moderated by the Executive Director of HLRN. The panelists discussed the contribution of the Special Rapporteur mandate, global challenges to realizing the human right to adequate housing, and recommendations for the way forward. The event was attended by over 300 people from 72 countries and received overwhelming response and praise, also because it was the first time that all four UN housing mandate-holders shared the same platform.

The recording of the event can be viewed at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XPw0EGqbUgg>

The report of the event is available at:

https://www.hlrn.org.in/documents/HLRN_SRAH_20_Year_Event_Report.pdf



ANNEXURE

HLRN Publications, Press Releases, and Press Citations in 2020

A. HLRN Publications

- 1) In Search of Home: A Study on Migrants Workers' Access to Housing and Land (December 2020)
- 2) Forced Evictions in India in 2019: An Unrelenting National Crisis (August 2020)
- 3) India's COVID-19 Lockdown: Human Rights Assessment and Compilation of State Relief Measures (May 2020)
https://hlrn.org.in/documents/HLRN_COVID19_State_Response_India.pdf
- 4) The Coronavirus Pandemic and State Response in India: Update (April 2020)
https://www.hlrn.org.in/documents/HLRN_COVID19_State_Response_India_7_April_2020.pdf
- 6) The Coronavirus Pandemic and State Response in India (March 2020)
https://www.hlrn.org.in/documents/HLRN_COVID19_State_Response_India_30_March.pdf

B. Press Releases Issued by HLRN in 2020

1. Need for Special Measures to Check Spread of COVID-19 among Homeless and Other Inadequately-housed Persons (13 March 2020)
https://www.hlrn.org.in/documents/Press_Release_COVID19.pdf
2. Over 13,500 People Evicted in India During the COVID-19 Pandemic | Need for a National Moratorium on Evictions (18 June 2020)
https://www.hlrn.org.in/documents/Press_Release_Evictions_COVID19_June_2020.pdf
3. 18 August 2020: Over 568,000 People Forcibly Evicted in India from 2017 to 2019 | At Least 20,000 People Evicted During the COVID-19 Pandemic
https://www.hlrn.org.in/documents/Press_Release_Forced_Evictions_2019.pdf
4. 18 August 2020: HLRN Hindi Press Release: वर्ष 2017 से 2019 के बीच भारत में 568,000 से ज़्यादा लोग अपने घरों से बेदखल किये गए | कोरोना महामारी के दौरान 20,000 से ज़्यादा लोग विस्थापित
https://www.hlrn.org.in/documents/Press_Release_Hindi_Forced_Evictions_2019.pdf
5. 9 October 2020: On World Homeless Day 2020, Housing and Land Rights Network Reiterates its Call for Adequate Housing for Homeless Persons
https://www.hlrn.org.in/documents/Press_Release_World_Homeless_Day_2020.pdf

6. 23 October 2020: On United Nations Day and the Seventy-fifth Anniversary of the United Nations, Call on India to Reaffirm its Historic Commitments to Promoting Multilateralism and Upholding Human Rights
https://www.hlrn.org.in/documents/Press_Release_UN_Day_2020.pdf
7. 19 November 2020: Over 54,000 People in India Forcibly Evicted During the COVID-19 Pandemic (15 March to 31 October 2020) Urgent Call for a National Moratorium on Evictions
https://www.hlrn.org.in/documents/Press_Release_Evictions_COVID19_November_2020.pdf
8. 10 December 2020: On Human Rights Day, Housing and Land Rights Network Calls for a Strong Human Rights Approach to the COVID-19 Recovery Process, with Housing at its Core
https://www.hlrn.org.in/documents/Statement_Human_Rights_Day_2020.pdf
9. 17 December 2020: Lack of Housing and Land Security Contribute to India's Migrant Workers' Crisis, Finds New Report | Urgent Need for Affordable Housing Options and Secure Access to Land
https://www.hlrn.org.in/documents/Press_Release_Migrant_Workers_Report_December_2020.pdf

C. Citations of HLRN in the Media: 2020

Winter shelters for the homeless: Don't cut corners

30 December 2020 – Hindustan Times

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/editorials/winter-shelters-for-the-homeless-don-t-cut-corners/story-xMQAg36Lx9ock5HgbtBttO.html>

No country for the poor: Inhumane evictions in Chennai

25 December 2020 – NewsClick

<https://www.newsclick.in/no-country-poor-inhumane-evictions-chennai>

Too few for too many, but night shelters still beacon of warmth for homeless and jobless

23 December 2020 – Financial Express

<https://www.financialexpress.com/india-news/too-few-for-too-many-but-night-shelters-still-beacon-of-warmth-for-homeless-and-jobless/2155945/>

Loss of housing played key role behind Delhi's migrant exodus: Report

18 December 2020 – NewsClick

<https://www.newsclick.in/loss-housing-played-key-role-behind-delhi-migrant-exodus-report>

Harassed for rent in lockdown, yet migrant workers willing to return to cities

18 December 2020 – The New Indian Express

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/cities/delhi/2020/dec/18/harassed-for-rent-in-lockdown-yet-migrant-workers-willing-to-return-to-cities-2237828.html>

OPINION: The promise and reality of the Declaration on the Rights of Peasants

17 December 2020 – Thomson Reuters Foundation

<https://news.trust.org/item/20201216184216-ogcjh>

Human Rights Day: Delhi's homeless await night shelters in winter

10 December 2020 – NewsClick

<https://www.newsclick.in/Human-Rights-Day-Delhi%27s-Homeless-Await-Night-Shelters-in-Winter>

Need more homeless shelters in Delhi on priority, say civil society organization

6 December 2020 – The New Indian Express

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/thesundaystandard/2020/dec/06/need-more-homelessshelters-in-delhi-on-priority-saycivil-society-organisation-2232304.html>

Why the Smart Cities Mission needs an overhaul

28 November 2020 – The Citizen

<https://www.thecitizen.in/index.php/en/NewsDetail/index/9/19670/Why-the-Smart-Cities-Mission-Needs-an-Overhaul->

COVID-19: Over 54,000 People affected by forced evictions since pandemic struck

27 November 2020 – NewsClick

<https://www.newsclick.in/COVID-19-54000-people-affected-forced-evictions-pandemic-struck>

NGO claims evictions during lockdown left 435 families vulnerable in Chennai

21 November 2020 – The Times of India

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/chennai/ngo-claims-evictions-during-lockdown-left-435-families-in-chennai-vulnerable/articleshow/79334161.cms>

Déjà vu: In one of Delhi's oldest jhuggi cluster Lal Bagh, Dalit and denotified tribe families face eviction, yet again

17 November 2020 – Gaon Connection

<https://en.gaonconnection.com/deja-vu-in-one-of-delhis-oldest-jhuggi-cluster-lal-bagh-dalit-and-denotified-tribe-families-face-eviction-yet-again/>

Cities reboot: Urban life in the age of COVID-19

27 October 2020 – Thomson Reuters Foundation

<https://longreads.trust.org/item/Cities-adapting-coronavirus-pandemic-world>

'Resettling has to be a smooth transition': Delhi slum dwellers worry about outcome of Supreme Court order

25 October 2020 – The New Indian Express

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/thesundaystandard/2020/oct/25/resettling-has-to-be-a-smooth-transition-delhi-slum-dwellers-worry-about-outcome-of-sc-order-2214716.html>

Housing rights expert group submits report, recommends in-situ rehabilitation of railway slum residents

22 October 2020 – Hindustan Times

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/delhi-news/housing-rights-expert-group-submits-report-recommends-in-situ-rehabilitation-of-railway-slum-residents/story-D5I5i1fxRHd7TgTa3ntrkM.html>

Rapid assessment survey for homeless needed in Delhi: Housing and Land Rights Network

10 October 2020 – The New Indian Express

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/cities/delhi/2020/oct/10/rapid-assessment-survey-for-homeless-needed-in-delhi-housing-and-land-rights-network-2208381.html>

RTI Act: The torchlight in a democracy

4 October 2020 – Deccan Herald

<https://www.deccanherald.com/specials/insight/rti-act-the-torchlight-in-a-democracy-896919.html>

Miedo en los barrios chabolistas de Nueva Delhi por una orden de desalojo (Spanish)

23 September 2020 – Agencia EFE

<https://www.efe.com/efe/espana/destacada/miedo-en-los-barrios-chabolistas-de-nueva-delhi-por-una-orden-desalojo/10011-4349786>

Forced evictions: Driving India's homelessness crisis

23 September 2020 – Health Issues India

<https://www.healthissuesindia.com/2020/09/23/forced-evictions-driving-indias-homelessness-crisis/>

India's 2 million homeless: Unseen victims of Covid-19

22 September 2020 – Media India Group

<https://mediaindia.eu/society/india-2-million-homeless-unseen-victims-of-covid-19/>

22 people lose homes every hour: Has humanity gone missing?

18 September 2020 – Youth Ki Awaaz

<https://www.youthkiawaaz.com/2020/09/of-forced-evictions-destruction-of-homes-and-a-culture-of-dispossession/>

SC orders eviction of lakhs of Delhi's slum dwellers during the pandemic

13 September 2020 – Asiaville News

<https://www.asiavillenews.com/article/delhi-slums-on-railway-tracks-supreme-court-eviction-order-58171>

Smothering the housing rights of the urban poor

12 September 2020 – The Hindu

<https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/smothering-the-housing-rights-of-the-urban-poor/article32584491.ece>

Civil society groups urge Supreme Court to reconsider its slum eviction order

11 September 2020 – Hindustan Times

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/cities/civil-society-groups-urge-sc-to-reconsider-its-slum-eviction-order/story-HiQY6LyE9bPqzsgcL9OXI.html>

Delhi: Double blow

7 September 2020 – Frontline

<https://frontline.thehindu.com/the-nation/double-blow/article32525689.ece>

Court order to clear Delhi's railway slums will cause 'great distress', activists warn

5 September 2020 – Reuters

<https://in.reuters.com/article/india-court-landrights/court-order-to-clear-delhis-railway-slums-will-cause-great-distress-activists-warn-idINL8N2G12SL>

Life a struggle, can't SC rethink decision, ask residents of Delhi slums along railway lines

4 September 2020 – Hindustan Times

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/life-a-struggle-can-t-sc-rethink-decision-ask-residents-of-delhi-slums-along-railway-lines/story-jwjLXw97m9XmpzIJVCU7LM.html>

SC orders removal of slums around Delhi rail tracks, stops courts from staying eviction

3 September 2020 – Hindustan Times

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/sc-orders-removal-of-slums-around-delhi-rail-tracks-stops-courts-from-staying-eviction/story-rG2XRhGFXAs4M4IYH2XPMM.html>

5.68 lakh evicted from home in 3 years, 20k amid pandemic: Study

1 September 2020 – The Times of India

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/nagpur/5-68-lakh-evicted-from-home-in-3-years-20k-amid-pandemic-study/articleshow/77859906.cms>

After losing their livelihoods, craftsmen in Delhi's Badarpur mourn demolished houses

29 August 2020 – NewsClick

<https://www.newsclick.in/Aafter-losing-livelihoods-craftsmen-delhi-badarpur-mourn-demolished-houses>

Gurugram: Slum razed to build park, hundreds of daily-wage workers left homeless

27 August 2020 – The Wire

<https://thewire.in/urban/gurugram-shyam-chandra-jha-colony-razed-slum>

Homeless to get all-weather tents

26 August 2020 – The Times of India

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/ahmedabad/homeless-to-get-all-weather-tents/articleshow/77750760.cms>

COVID-19: Close to 20,000 people forcefully evicted from their homes during the Lockdown

19 August 2020 – NewsClick

<https://www.newsclick.in/COVID-19-close-22000-people-forcefully-evicted-homes%20During-lockdown>

OPINION: Forced evictions are unjust. Here's why they should concern us even more now.

19 August 2020 – The Wire

<https://thewire.in/rights/forced-evictions-are-unjust-heres-why-they-should-concern-us-even-more-now>

Houses being demolished, people continue to be evicted across India: Report

19 August 2020 – The New Indian Express

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/nation/2020/aug/19/houses-being-demolished-people-continue-to-be-evicted-across-india-report-2185448.html>

Almost 6 lakh people forcefully evicted in last 4 Years; 20,000 in COVID-19 Lockdown: Report

18 August 2020 – The Wire

<https://thewire.in/rights/eviction-covid-19-lockdown-hlrn-report>

6 lakh people evicted from homes since 2017, at least 20,000 during Covid-19 pandemic: Report

19 August 2020 – Deccan Herald

<https://www.deccanherald.com/national/6-lakh-people-evicted-from-homes-since-2017-at-least-20000-during-covid-19-pandemic-report-875215.html>

20,000 People forcefully evicted from their homes between March and July during Lockdown: Report

19 August 2020 – News 18 India

<https://www.news18.com/news/india/20000-people-forcefully-evicted-from-their-homes-between-march-and-july-during-lockdown-report-2798965.html>

Millions in India face eviction amid corona virus recovery push

18 August 2020 – The Reuters

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-india-landrights-eviction/millions-in-india-face-eviction-amid-coronavirus-recovery-push-idUSKCN25E1QY>

Sixty thousand evictions in the name of environmentalism

2 August 2020 – The Atlantic

<https://www.theatlantic.com/health/archive/2020/08/casualties-chennais-environmentalism/614851/>

In India's Chennai, river restoration lands hardest on the poor

29 July 2020 – Undark

<https://undark.org/2020/07/29/chennai-river-restoration-impacts-poor/>

Over 13,500 forcibly evicted during pandemic – ‘We didn’t have our homes when we returned from a funeral’

17 July 2020 – The Citizen

<https://www.thecitizen.in/index.php/en/NewsDetail/index/13/19061/Over-13500-Forcibly-Evicted-During-Pandemic---We-Didnt-Have-Our-Homes-When-We-Returned-From-a-Funeral>

Delhi: EDMC demolishes encroachments in East Laxmi Market, residents question timing of move

9 July 2020 – Hindustan Times

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/cities/delhi-edmc-demolishes-encroachments-in-east-laxmi-market-residents-question-timing-of-move/story-0U8m60PmMfrTMkcckEcctM.html>

Homeless left to fend for themselves as free meals during lockdown period discontinued

8 July 2020 – Hindustan Times

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/cities/homeless-left-to-fend-for-themselves-as-free-meals-during-lockdown-period-discontinued/story-qBbtOXZGo7UMljZL0ndgUO.html>

Evictions, demolitions continue across India even amid surge in COVID-19 cases

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<https://www.newindianexpress.com/nation/2020/jun/18/evictions-demolitions-continue-across-india-even-amid-surge-in-covid-19-cases-2158140.amp>

Delhi: Behind gutted settlements, a ‘scant regard’ for rights of poor

11 June 2020 – News Click

<https://www.newsclick.in/delhi-behind-gutted-settlements-scant-regard-rights-poor>

Under cover of Covid, India’s poor lose their homes

10 June 2020 – Article 14

<https://www.article-14.com/post/under-cover-of-covid-india-s-poor-lose-their-homes>

Health workers, slum dwellers face housing bias as lockdowns lift

3 June 2020 – Thomson Reuters Foundation News

<https://news.trust.org/item/20200603080350-sfybd/>

Lal Dora: The invisible red thread limiting the lives of Delhi’s ‘urban villagers’

23 May 2020 – Citizen Matters

<https://citizenmatters.in/lives-in-lal-dora-lands-delhi-urban-villages-18455>

Migrants stranded at Delhi night shelter face terrible conditions

18 May 2020 – Go News India

<https://youtu.be/QeGu7dyQK58>

Pandemic shows that housing problems in India are bigger than imagined

12 May 2020 – Brasil de Fato

<https://www.brasildefato.com.br/2020/05/12/pandemia-mostra-que-problemas-de-habitacao-na-india-sao-maiores-do-que-se-imaginava>

COVID 19 Lockdown has exposed major gaps in social protection systems, says report

6 May 2020 – NewsClick

<https://www.newsclick.in/India-Lockdown-COVID-19-Migrant-Workers-Housing-Land-Rights>

Inadequate centre-state coordination caused poor implementation of COVID-19 relief measures:
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6 May 2020 – The New Indian Express

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/nation/2020/may/06/inadequate-centre-state-coordination-caused-poor-implementation-of-covid-19-relief-measures-report-2139822.html>

Shelter homes should get breakfast too: Housing and Land Rights Network recommends Delhi government

2 May 2020 – The New Indian Express

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/cities/delhi/2020/may/02/shelter-homes-should-get-breakfast-too-housing-and-land-rights-network-recommends-delhi-government-2138183.html>

Homeless people 'treated as criminals' amid coronavirus lockdowns

23 April 2020 – Reuters

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-homelessness-featu-idUSKCN225271>

COVID lesson for India: Migrant workers must get social housing

16 April 2020 – The Quint

<https://www.thequint.com/voices/opinion/coronavirus-aftermath-social-housing-urban-planning-govt-migrant-labourers-urban-poor>

Domain experts explain the challenges of social distancing and feasibility

14 April 2020 – The New Indian Express

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/nation/2020/apr/14/challenges-of-social-distancing-2129828.html>

Covid-19 Lockdown: Pakistan Hindu refugees feel abandoned, struggle to arrange food

11 April 2020 – NewsClick

<https://www.newsclick.in/covid-19-lockdown-pakistani-hindu-refugees-feel-abandoned-struggle-arrange-food>

'Neither alive nor dead': Residents of Delhi's informal settlements have their own lockdown woes

3 April 2020 – The New Indian Express

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/cities/delhi/2020/apr/03/neither-alive-nor-dead-residents-of-delhis-informal-settlements-have-their-own-lockdown-woes-2125131.html>

Many homeless people have been displaced, since the lockdown of thousands of migrant workers in India even had to walk for miles to get to the house

2 April 2020 – Intisari Online

<https://intisari.grid.id/read/032087653/banyak-tunawisma-terlunta-luntCa-sejak-lockdown-ribuan-pekerja-migran-di-india-bahkan-harus-jalan-kaki-bermil-mil-untuk-menuju-rumah-beberapa-dari-kita-akan-mati?page=all>

'Some of us are going to die', the homeless in India are trapped

2 April 2020 – Astro Awani

<http://www.astroawani.com/berita-dunia/ada-antara-kami-akan-mati-gelandangan-di-india-makin-tersepit-236466>

'Some of us will die': India's homeless stranded by coronavirus lockdown

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<https://in.reuters.com/article/health-coronavirus-india-homeless/some-of-us-will-die-indias-homeless-stranded-by-coronavirus-lockdown-idINKBN21J557>

‘Some of us will die’: India's homeless stranded by coronavirus lockdown

1 April 2020 – The New York Times

<https://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2020/04/01/world/asia/01reuters-health-coronavirus-india-homeless.html>

Them and us: rich vs. poor during the COVID-19 pandemic

30 March 2020 – In Defence of Marxism

<https://www.marxist.com/them-and-us-rich-vs-poor-during-the-pandemic.htm>

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26 March 2020 – India Times

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24 March 2020 – The New Indian Express

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/cities/delhi/2020/mar/24/shelter-homeless-in-vacant-delhi-government-buildings-during-coronavirus-lockdown-2120648.html>

A call to nomadic tribes

24 March 2020 – The Wire

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Over 1.7 million homeless residents across India struggle to fight coronavirus

23 March 2020 – The Indian Express

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‘Delhi govt. needs to take steps to protect homeless from virus’

21 March 2020 – Sunday Guardian

<https://www.sundayguardianlive.com/news/delhi-govt-needs-take-steps-protect-homeless-virus>

Coronavirus has exposed food, housing and social protection systems across the world: Experts

21 March 2020 – The New Indian Express

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Mumbai washes its hands of lakhs, do's and don'ts don't matter here

19 March 2020 – The Indian Express

<https://indianexpress.com/article/coronavirus/mumbai-slums-coronavirus-6321068/>

Money can buy some protection from Coronavirus, but what about the homeless?

18 March 2020 – India Times

<https://www.indiatimes.com/trending/social-relevance/pictures-money-protection-coronavirus-homeless-508704.html#5>

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17 March 2020 – Thomson Reuters Foundation

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17 March 2020 – Gulf News

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