

# Housing and Land Rights Network

## Annual Report (March 2023 – April 2024)



## HLRN Annual Report 2023-24

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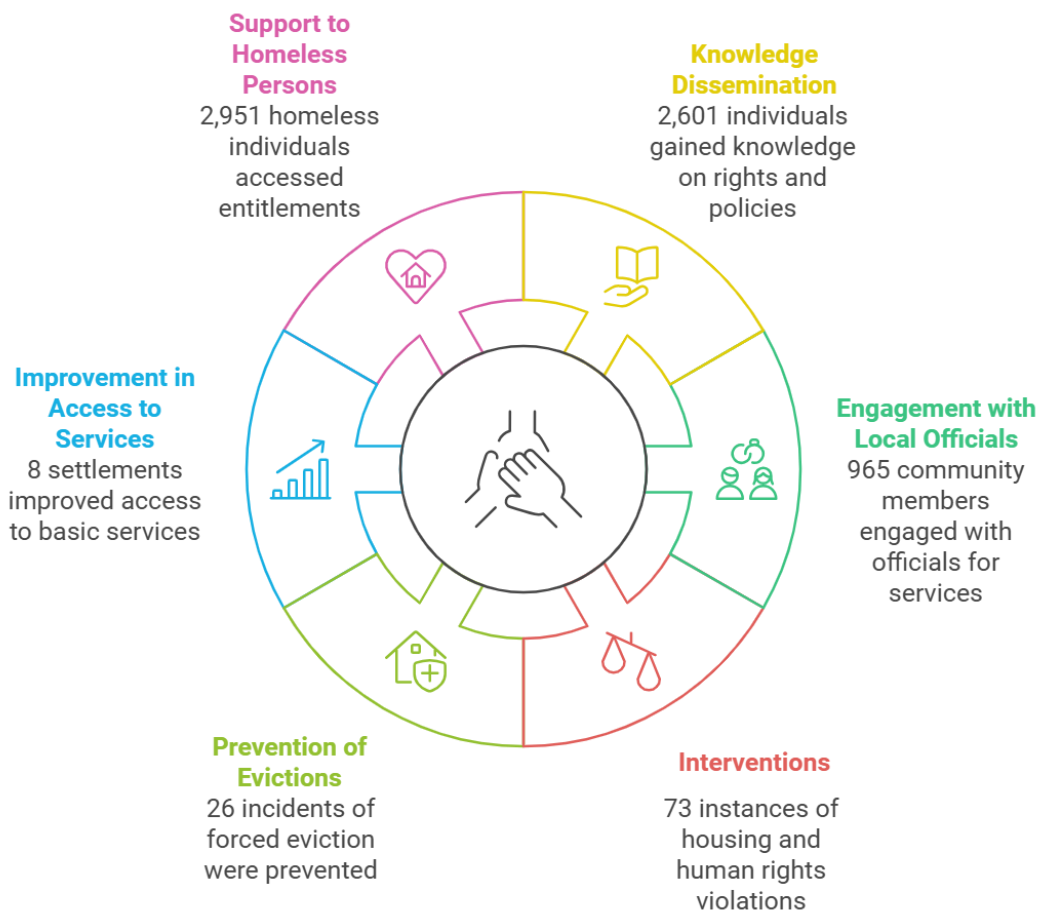
## Introduction

**The year 2024** marks 25 years of Housing and Land Rights Network (HLRN). In these two and a half decades, HLRN has worked with persons living in inadequate housing, including those living in informal settlements and persons living in homelessness, provided assistance through legal support against forced evictions, and facilitated access to basic services and entitlements. While HLRN continues to be in touch with communities in over 200 locations, supporting them whenever called upon to do so, it also has undertaken intensive intervention with the community in ten select locations across Delhi through capacity-building, awareness building and training.

## State-level interventions on Housing and Land

### Fellowships

HLRN fellows located in seven cities across India worked closely, during the year, with local communities to facilitate their access to housing, land, services, and entitlements, conduct workshops and trainings for community members, and strengthen grassroots leadership.



Online meetings of the Fellows were conducted on 27 April 2023 and 3 October 2023 to share about their work and build common perspectives. Two monitoring and learning visits were conducted with the Fellows based in Ahmedabad and Prayagraj. On 8 June 2023, the Executive Director of HLRN conducted a field visit in Ahmedabad to understand the work of HLRN Fellow, Zohrabibi Chippa and the issues related to in-situ rehabilitation projects. On 10 July 2023, the HLRN team visited various informal settlements in Prayagraj along with the HLRN Fellow, Anuradha, to observe the issues faced by marginalized communities in the city and the interventions carried out by her.

Some key outcomes from the Fellows' work during the year are as follows:

In **Madurai (Tamil Nadu)**, the Fellow facilitated the allotment of houses to 37 conservancy workers (including one trans person), and approval of housing to 50 others. He enrolled over 150 conservancy workers – women and men - into the Conservancy Workers Labour Welfare Board, making them eligible for benefits like housing, pension, insurance, education support, skill development and alternative livelihood. He assisted 17 families, who had been allotted houses under the Tamil Nadu Urban Habitat Development Board (TNUHDB), in availing 90% subsidies for the housing from the Tamil Nadu Adi Dravidar Housing and Development Corporation Limited (TAHDCO) and bank loans for housing and related services. Continuous follow up was undertaken to accelerate the land alienation process for 11 settlements, which will enable over 1000 families to apply for sale deeds and land titles.

In **Bengaluru (Karnataka)**, the Fellow worked to increase awareness on the right to adequate housing among various constituents, including migrant families from 12 land rent settlements across the city. She facilitated the submission of applications for regularization of five land rent settlements (Kasturi Nagar, Shambhavi Nagar, Rajgopal Nagar, Krishnananda Nagar, Ramabai Slum). During the year, with the Fellow's intervention, 10 more families received land title deeds in Thimmarayappa Garden, North Bengaluru, in addition to 53 families that had been awarded the same during the previous year.

In **Prayagraj/Allahabad (Uttar Pradesh)**, the Fellow was successful in preventing the eviction of 100 families in Puragaderia Shivkuti colony through engagement with concerned authorities and the public representative. She worked to build greater awareness on the right to rehabilitation among the residents of about 1,300 houses in 14 settlements in the Sangam area that are under the threat of eviction. She coordinated the organisation of a workshop with NGOs and lawyers on housing and land rights from across the state. (Read more about this in the section on Legal Awareness).

In **Ahmedabad (Gujarat)**, the Fellow facilitated collectives in seven locations to prevent the eviction of 507 families and 10 shops, during the year. She worked to build the capacities of community leaders (29 women and 22 men) from 26 locations facing the threat of eviction, on appropriate documentation and the rehabilitation process.

In **Delhi**, the Fellow continued to work on preventing evictions in Shakur Basti, Moti Bagh, and Nanakpura, among other locations, as well as improving the access to electricity, water, and other essential services in settlements. She also worked to address the issues in resettlement sites of Dwarka, Baprola, and Kalkaji, among others.

In **Bhubaneswar (Odisha)**, the newly selected Fellow focused her efforts on documenting the issues of land and housing rights, evictions, and homelessness caused by disasters. She worked to raise awareness on the right to adequate housing among communities and NGOs and assisted affected families in approaching authorities and accessing justice. She also helped to organize a workshop on housing and land rights in partnership with NLUO and CSNR (the organization that the Fellow is attached to. (Read more about this in the section on Legal Awareness).

In **Imphal (Manipur)**, due to the widespread ethnic violence from May 2023 onwards, the work of Fellow has been affected and the scope of interventions restricted. Despite this, the Fellow continued to monitor settlements under the threat of eviction due to various reasons, including conservation of reserved forests and lakes and various development projects, and engage with village authorities to raise awareness on housing rights to prevent evictions.

## **Legal Awareness**

### **Sensitization among the Legal Fraternity**

As part of the effort to strengthen focus on sensitization on the right to housing and the issues of people living in settlements and in homelessness, particularly among the legal fraternity, a judicial colloquium was organized by HLRN with 15 participants, including two Judges from the Supreme Court of India and the High Court of Delhi in August 2023 at the Judicial Academy, New Delhi. At the colloquium, experts on the right to housing, urban planning, and lawyers highlighted the issues faced by the residents of informal settlements.

Workshops for lawyers were also conducted with 35 participants in Prayagraj and 46 participants in Bhubaneswar. Each of these workshops was carefully developed in collaboration with partner organizations – Vigyan Foundation in Uttar Pradesh, and National Law University – Odisha along with the Centre for the Sustainable Use of Natural and Social Resources (CSNR) in Odisha to address the specific capacity-building needs/requirements in each area. Participants included lawyers, activists, and community leaders. Networks have been created in Odisha and Prayagraj, which are being coordinated in collaboration with our Fellows.

### **Academic Institutions**

Based on initial conversations, and the impetus provided by the symposium at Delhi, a single credit course on the ‘Adjudication of the Right to Housing’ was conceptualized and conducted by HLRN at the National Law University, Odisha in February and March 2023. This marks HLRN’s entry into academic collaborations with universities and academic institutions, thereby working to mainstream housing rights education as part of academic disciplines.

Housing rights experts, including HLRN’s Founder, Mr Miloon Kothari (who was also the First UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Adequate Housing) and Dr Usha Ramanathan (Researcher on the jurisprudence of law and poverty) were invited to deliver guest lectures. The course provided an overview on the right to housing in international and domestic law and elaborated on housing and land rights violations.

## Interventions on Housing Rights in Delhi

Recent reports published by HLRN reveal that in Delhi, at least 2.7 lakh persons were forcefully evicted in the year 2023, the highest in the last seven recorded years. The absence of interventions/initiatives from relevant agencies to ensure dignified living conditions in informal settlements has been a significant challenge. The lack of coordination between central and state agencies has also resulted in non-implementation of policies and schemes and this has affected the access to housing and basic services for communities across the city. With HLRN support, communities are sending letters to DUSIB and land-owning agencies urging them to follow due process including survey and notification; and to provide basic amenities that are essential for their lives.

Facilitating access to justice through courts has also been difficult. Through the organization of legal awareness sessions with lawyers in different communities, the HLRN team has ensured that community members are aware of ongoing litigations and future strategies; this has served to alleviate their fears to some extent.

Another challenge has been a sense of disenchantment amongst community members with governance and administrative processes. As their basic needs of housing, water, electricity, food security, livelihood remain, it becomes challenging for them to participate in community meetings, training sessions, awareness events. However, the involvement and initiative of the parasocial workers (*Awasthi Adhikhaar Sathis*) from within the community itself has played an important role in somewhat reaffirming their faith in these processes.

### Community Interventions

In continuation from the previous year, baseline surveys were conducted in 5 more locations, bringing the total to 10 locations and covering 844 households with 3,488 persons, to assess current gaps in their access to entitlements, basic services, and government schemes and the support required to ensure the same. The data thus collected could also be used as evidence of a community's existence on a particular site, thus strengthening their claim of eligibility for resettlement in case of a forced eviction. Findings from the survey were shared and Minimum Action Plans (MAPs) were drawn in consultation with the communities, to enable further actions with respect to water, sanitation, electricity, entitlements, healthcare, and education, among other facilities.

Through this action, HLRN was able to convey to the communities the significance of their data, its evidentiary value, and the critical need to be informed and aware of the same. This was a significant achievement for the team. The need for community-driven, evidence-based advocacy is paramount, and the availability of such data further strengthens the community's position, be it a question of adequate housing, basic services or entitlements.

Multiple legal awareness sessions were held with community members, including in Chirag Delhi (20 January 2024), Wazirpur (7 February 2024), and Dhakka, Mukherjee Nagar (14 February 2024), which saw the participation of over 200 community members in total.

Three training sessions were also organized with the community in two locations in Shakur Basti D Block, (170 persons) and in Govindpuri (26 persons). The trainings were conducted to explore the community's perception of "illegality" and build on their understanding of their right to housing and right to the city.

## Para-social workers - Awas Adhikhaar Sathis (AAS)

As part of the strategy of enabling communities to act pre-emptively in face of threats of eviction and other violations, 20 para social workers between the ages of 20 and 50 years and residing in 10 locations across Delhi, were selected; their training and mentoring is ongoing. They call themselves, '*Awas Adhikar Saathi*' (Supporters of the Right to Housing). The acronym 'AAS' (in Hindi) translates to 'hope' (in English) for their communities.

During the reporting period, two training sessions were conducted for the AAS team. A session on 'Governance in Delhi' was conducted in May 2023, and a session on restablishing the aims, vision, and ideas of the AAS programme in January 2024. In turn, they have taken proactive steps to understand and apply their knowledge to benefit their communities. These include using legal processes and court orders to prevent the demolition of houses in their settlement, and providing emergency relief to communities when required.

In the feedback forms distributed to the AAS team after the last workshop, Shalu, our parasocial worker from Shakur Basti, has expressed her happiness and expectations from the programme, and stated that she seeks to use all the information, awareness, and knowledge received here to do her best for the improvement of her community, as well as to fulfil her lifelong dream of having a permanent, secure, and safe home for her family.

HLRN's role with the AAS team shifts according to the level and kind of support they seek - in a few instances, our efforts are more anchoring, while in a few others, we play the role of facilitator between the team and government agencies. Over the year, the AAS team has been involved in the preparation of Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials including one handbook on social security schemes and three compendiums of training materials.

The ongoing engagement of the team and the faith placed in them as representatives of the community have led to an increase in their levels of confidence, communication, commitment and solidarity.

### The AAS (Aawaas Adhikar Saathis) team: Beacons of Hope

Our AAS member Priya, from the Motia Khan Shelter visited DUSIB along with the HLRN team for a meeting with the Chief Engineer regarding the conditions of the shelter, where she was able to very lucidly and strongly present/highlight the challenges faced by her fellow residents.

Dharampal, from Chirag Delhi, was able to prevent the demolition of homes in his settlement after a verbal threat was issued by officials of the Public Works Department – by showing and explaining an order by the High Court of Delhi that had directed for a stay on the demolition of the settlement.

In the aftermath of a fire in Shakur Basti where 35 jhuggis were completely destroyed, our parasocial workers – Shalu, Heena, Asif, and Babban, with our community volunteers, coordinated HLRN relief measures along with the team very effectively. They also accompanied our team members to the Sub-Divisional Manager's office to file a case for compensation for affected families.

## **Support for Communities under Threat of Eviction**

The threat of demolition on informal settlements increased significantly in the run-up to the G-20 summit in Delhi in September 2023, with limited relief or remedy available from courts for the affected communities. HLRN was able to prevent the demolition of 234 homes of marginalized communities in the Delhi-NCR region, such as in Badli, Gokalpur, Malviya Nagar, Pitampura, and Shyam Lal College, mostly through engagement with government officials and local representatives. In many of these locations, communities faced repeated instances of demolitions. For instance, the settlement in Shyam Lal College was demolished thrice during the reporting period, and authorities dug up holes to prevent evicted families from staying at the site.

The HLRN team continued to monitor ongoing cases related to evictions and assisted community members through legal processes, including in Bela Estate, Gokalpur, Palam, Madipur, Mahatma Gandhi Camp, Malviya Nagar, Kalyanpuri, Lal Kuan, Sagarpur, Samaypur Badli, Seva Nagar, and Usmanpur, among others.

## **Emergency Support to Families**

During the reporting period, HLRN continued to assist families who lost their homes due to demolitions or incidents of fires through the provision of emergency relief such as food, tarpaulins, clothes, and blankets at multiple locations, including in Rajiv Camp, Shahbad Dairy, Nanakpura, Shakur Basti, Shyam Lal College, and Sunder Nursery, among others.

After the demolition of 150 homes in Shakur Basti in November 2023, HLRN facilitated the provision of food for the evicted families. In February 2024, around 115 houses at Shahabad Dairy were destroyed in a fire. The HLRN team facilitated the provision of food, water, tarpaulins, clothes, and toilets, for the residents.

In April-May 2023, a massive demolition drive was carried out in Tughlaqabad, Delhi which resulted in the destruction of over 1,000 houses and eviction of around 250,000 lakh people. Prior to the eviction, the HLRN team was involved in assessing the threat of eviction in the area, with the support of ABHAS (Action Beyond Help and Support'), an organization working in the area. On 4 April 2023, HLRN conducted a training session for adolescent children living in the locality, who were part of ABHAS's children and youth group, on the right to adequate housing and methods to map the area under the threat of demolition. During the demolition drive and in its aftermath, HLRN visited the settlement numerous times and followed up on relief measures. To document the devastating impact of the demolition drive, HLRN along with ABHAS prepared a fact-finding report titled, 'Demolition Induced Disaster: Forced Eviction in Tughlakabad' which was released in March 2024.

The report is available at: [https://hlrn.org.in/documents/Fact\\_Finding\\_Tughlakabad.pdf](https://hlrn.org.in/documents/Fact_Finding_Tughlakabad.pdf)

## **Monitoring the Living conditions of Residents of Informal Settlements**

During the year, HLRN continued to work towards incrementally improving the living conditions of people living in informal settlements by facilitating access to services and facilities, entitlements, and social protection for the residents. Through a multi-pronged approach, HLRN was able to facilitate the setting up of new electricity connections for 84 families at Shakur Basti - D Block (July 2023), and provision of clean toilets for the residents of Shakur Basti (June 2023). Similar efforts were undertaken in other settlements as well, to ensure access to water, sanitation, electricity, and other basic necessities.

The HLRN team conducted regular visits and community meetings in resettlement sites in Delhi to monitor the living conditions of the residents and actions thereof:

- At the resettlement site in Kalkaji Extension, the HLRN team assisted an elderly woman who had been allotted a flat on the 10th floor of a building without any elevators by ensuring that her allotment be shifted to the ground floor. HLRN did this by highlighting the issue with concerned officials and regular follow-ups with the concerned authorities.
- In Dwarka Sector 16-B with around 980 resettlement flats, residents faced severe difficulty in accessing clean water due to damage of water pipelines and clogging of sewers. The HLRN team worked with the authorities to ensure repair and maintenance of pipelines and provision of clean water.
- In August 2023, due to the poor construction of buildings in Dwarka, the ceiling in one of the dwelling units collapsed causing injury to a child. This was the second such incident that occurred despite warnings from HLRN and the residents. The HLRN team continued to follow-up with the authorities to ensure the overall repair work in the buildings.

### **Documenting In-situ Rehabilitation Projects in Delhi**

In situ rehabilitation is happening across the country, wherein slum or informal settlement dwellers are re-housed in high rise buildings and their shanties are demolished. In November 2023, HLRN conducted a series of fact-finding visits to Bawana, Narela, and Kalkaji, to document and assess and compare the adequacy of in-situ rehabilitation projects in Delhi in two locations, Kathputli Colony and Kalkaji. These projects have been undertaken by separate agencies. Additionally, in Kalkaji, the people continued to live in their homes while alternative housing was constructed in a nearby location, but in the case of Kathputli colony, residents were shifted to temporary housing in different locations even as a new housing was built on the same site.

Focus-group discussions and interviews were conducted with residents whose settlements were demolished by government agencies with the promise of being provided dwelling units in the in-situ housing projects at Kathputli Colony and Kalkaji Extension. The preliminary findings have been collated and will be published in a forthcoming report to highlight the challenges within in-situ rehabilitation projects in Delhi, along with recommendations for rights-based rehabilitation.

### **Concerns of Persons living in Homelessness**

In order to provide support and assistance to homeless persons, HLRN regularly monitored the living conditions in over 200 shelters in Delhi as well as those living on the streets. Based on the regular visits, the requirements of people living in homelessness were conveyed to the government authorities. This led to improvement of services for homeless persons in several shelters, including in Akshardham, Dangal Himmatgarh Chowk, Mori Gate, Motia Khan, Rohini, and Shastri Park, among others.

## Winter and Summer Action Plans

Noting that the impact of extreme weather events on people living without adequate housing was not limited to winter alone, HLRN undertook to monitor the conditions during the summer, winter, and rains. Revised summer and winter action plans were submitted to the concerned authorities.

In July 2023, Delhi experienced heavy rains which resulted in many parts of the city being flooded. HLRN engaged with the Government of Delhi to ensure the protection of people living in homelessness and in settlements. Based on HLRN's recommendations, DUSIB directed its officers to take appropriate action and flood relief measures.

Through night vigils conducted during the winter, HLRN reached out to over 500 people living in homelessness on the streets and in shelters and provided relief, wherever required and possible. It also distributed blankets and warm clothes to 614 homeless persons.

## Access to Rights and Entitlements

The lack of proof of identity has been a challenge for the homeless, denying them access to basic facilities. 2024 was the year of the general elections, and many did not have voter identity cards. In April 2023, the HLRN team and representatives from Delhi's homeless community met Dr Ranbir Singh, Chief Electoral Officer, Delhi to highlight the challenges that homeless persons face in accessing voter cards and discuss measures to remedy the same. At the meeting, HLRN reiterated the need for special voter camps for homeless persons and submitted a list of sites where they could be organized. The team also emphasized that voter cards issued to homeless persons should not explicitly mention their 'homeless' status to prevent further stigma and discrimination. Consequently, the Chief Electoral Officer directed the setting up of voter camps at the areas identified by HLRN. These camps were conducted throughout the year and led to the submission of electoral enrolment forms for 982 homeless persons.

## Campaign Events

Awareness events were held during World Homeless Day, Human Rights Day, and International Women's Day at different locations in Delhi to raise awareness about the Human Right to Adequate Housing, inform about HLRN's work, and strengthen connections with the communities. In locations where HLRN's parasocial workers are present, these events served to highlight their role in facilitating people's access to knowledge and tools for secure housing and other rights and entitlements.

On 10 October 2023 (World Homeless Day 2023), HLRN launched the second phase of the 'Campaign on Adequate Housing for the Homeless' to strengthen the demands of homeless persons for safe, secure, and dignified housing beyond shelters. Press Release:

[https://www.hlrn.org.in/documents/Press\\_Release\\_10\\_October\\_2023.pdf](https://www.hlrn.org.in/documents/Press_Release_10_October_2023.pdf)

The inaugural event, held at the shelter for homeless person at Bangla Saheb, was attended by civil society members and community members. Subsequently, several events were organized across the city including at Dwarka Sector 3 and Tilak Nagar to spread awareness on the right to housing and discuss the current issues faced by homeless persons in the city.

HLRN commemorated Human Rights Day with the residents of Shakur Basti D Block, including women, children, and older persons. Using the poster on the Right to Housing and the elements of Adequate Housing, the community was introduced to human rights, with a specific focus on the rights of women and children. The event saw the active participation of the community in a discussion around their articulation and assertions on the rights to the city.

To highlight the importance of adequate housing for women, an informational poster on 'Women and the Right to Housing' was prepared in English and Hindi, and released on 8 March 2024 - International Women's Day. Copies of the poster were shared with community members, to strengthen their understanding on the housing rights of women. Available at: [https://hlrn.org.in/documents/Poster\\_Women\\_Right\\_to\\_Housing.pdf](https://hlrn.org.in/documents/Poster_Women_Right_to_Housing.pdf). Over 200 community members from the ten selected locations and across the city participated in awareness-raising events.

## Interventions in Chennai

From April 2023 to March 2024, 589 women, 897 men, 125 girls, 136 boys, 3 transgender persons have been provided with information about the right to housing.

Efforts of the Chennai team have enabled nearly 36,086 families, 1,603 children and 61 individuals in various resettlement sites to gain access to water, drainage, and functional e-service centre.

Communities averted forced eviction in at least 25 settlements in Chennai.

As a result of regular engagement with communities, several infrastructure issues in the resettlement sites have been resolved and families, individuals, women, children and transpersons now have increased access to social entitlements and infrastructure facilities. At least 633 women and 16 girls accessed government schemes, including the Rs 1,000 per month scheme for women (*'Magalir Urimai Thogai'* – Basic Income Scheme for Women) and Rs 1,000 for girls pursuing college education (*'Pudhumai Pengal Thittam'* – Assistance for College Education Scheme) and enrolled in schools.

As a result of the safety and infrastructure audits conducted by the team, two schools were made functional in the settlements during the year. One government hospital is under construction, owing to the efforts of community leaders and team members, who convened 62 meetings with various government officers over the 12 months.

Out of the 29 settlements resisting evictions last year, four were demolished in 2024. Residents from two of these settlements were able to avail housing within five kilometres. Negotiations are in process for proximate resettlement of families residing near the waterways and currently facing eviction threats.

The Resettlement and Rehabilitation policy, pending since March 2023, has now been finalized as the R&R Framework. The team is now working towards further strengthening this framework.

The team has identified over 400 settlements in Chennai and other parts of the state – which are eligible for land titles through schemes such as the Madras Urban Development Project and the Tamil Nadu Urban Development Project - and undertook several data-driven interventions to engage with the Government on the issue. In February 2024, a high-level committee was formed – led by the Minister for Youth Welfare and Sports Development – for issuing sale deed and land titles for settlements that are eligible under these schemes.

## The National Eviction and Displacement Observatory

Through the National Eviction and Displacement Observatory, HLRN continued to document instances of forced evictions across the country, highlight grave instances of evictions to seek redressal and remedy, and facilitate access to justice for affected communities, where possible.

In March 2024, HLRN released its sixth annual report on evictions, titled ‘Forced Evictions in India: 2022 & 2023’, with the combined data for two years. The report reveals that in the two years, state authorities, at the local, state and central levels, demolished over 153,820 homes, thereby forcefully evicting over 738,438 people from their homes, across rural and urban India. In 2023, over 107,449 homes were demolished, resulting in the forced eviction of at least 515,752 people across the country, the highest recorded figure in the last seven years. Available at: [https://www.hlrn.org.in/documents/Forced\\_Evictions\\_2022\\_2023.pdf](https://www.hlrn.org.in/documents/Forced_Evictions_2022_2023.pdf)

This report was widely shared with government, NGOs, individuals and the media. It has received considerable coverage in the media and has been cited by people in their own work. (See Annexure on Media Reports Citing HLRN page **Error! Bookmark not defined.**)

## Work with Marginalized Groups

### The Motia Khan Shelter for Homeless Families

The building of the Motia Khan shelter is in a rapidly deteriorating condition. The walls and roof in the building need to be urgently repaired and for a population of over 300 people, there are only two water taps. This severe water shortage results in non-functional toilets. The residents are also deprived of basic facilities such as beds, fans, storage space, privacy, and proper sanitation. To address these issues, the HLRN team has accompanied the residents on multiple visits to meet with the DUSIB officials and explain the dire situation. The team, along with shelter residents, has sent approximately 150 letters to the local Member of Legislative Assembly.

In August 2023, HLRN published a report assessing the conditions of the shelter for homeless families at Motia Khan, Delhi. The report highlights the deplorable living conditions of over 80 families at the shelter, who have been staying there without access to adequate facilities, including water, electricity, sanitation, and entitlements such as voter cards, Aadhar cards, ration cards, among others. The report includes recommendations to the government agencies to address the issues of the residents. The report has been distributed to almost all stakeholders to draw attention to the significant challenges faced by the residents. Available at: [https://hlrn.org.in/documents/Motia\\_Khan\\_Final\\_Report.pdf](https://hlrn.org.in/documents/Motia_Khan_Final_Report.pdf)

## **Gadia Lohar Community**

Building on its work with the historically marginalized Gadia Lohar community in Delhi, HLRN continued to undertake multiple interventions to assist the community. The preparations for the G20 Summit increased the risk of demolition and the precarity of the Gadia Lohar settlements, mostly situated along roadsides. Consequently, HLRN's interventions were focused majorly on prevention of evictions including at Badli, Gokalpur, Kalyanpuri, Lal Kuan, Madipur, Malviya Nagar, Palam, Pitampura, Sagarpur, Samaypur Badli, Shyam Lal College, Seva Nagar, and Usmanpur, among others.

In August 2023, the HLRN team met with Vishesh Ravi, Member of Legislative Assembly, Delhi with recommendations for the Government of Delhi to conduct a survey of all Gadia Lohar settlements in the National Capital Territory of Delhi and prevent any further demolitions.

HLRN aided the Gadia Lohar community with access to justice interventions – monitoring ongoing cases, engaging with lawyers along with them, helping prevent forced evictions as in Chirag Delhi, and advocacy for basic services including access to water in Wazirpur; repair of toilets in Govindpuri by the Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board (DUSIB), and the convening of a meeting of DUSIB officials and Wazirpur settlement to address access to sanitation.

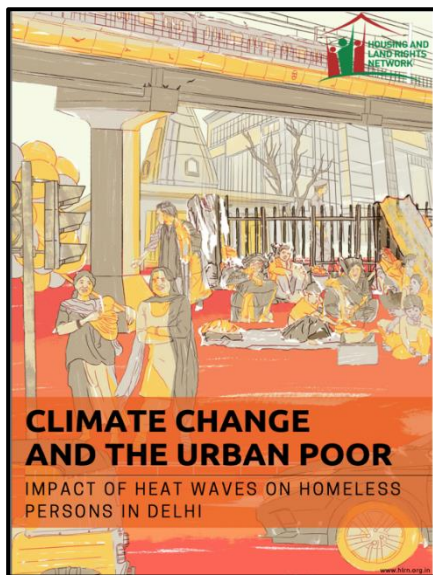
In order to correctly enumerate the number of Gadia Lohar settlements and households in Delhi, HLRN conducted a gender disaggregated survey of all Gadia Lohar locations in Delhi. The survey was conducted in multiple rounds between August 2023 and February 2024, with the help of volunteers from the Gadia Lohar community who were trained on the survey process. The findings of the survey will be useful to urge the government for adequate rehabilitation measures for the community.

On 26 September 2023, the HLRN team set up a camp to fill voter registration forms of residents of the Govindpuri Gadia Lohar basti. During the camp, 25 forms were filled online, in the follow-up of which, 23 forms were rejected due to an incorrect error of 'address not mentioned'. To address the same, members from the team conducted a series of meetings with the Kalkaji Assistant Electoral Registration Officer (AERO) in December 2023 and January 2024, to address their misconceptions about the nature of the informal settlement and their right to participate in electoral processes.

## **Access to Housing of Transgender Persons**

As part of HLRN's efforts to address the housing rights of excluded groups, a study was conducted with transgender persons in Delhi between June 2023 and February 2024 to document the specific vulnerabilities that they face in accessing housing. The preliminary findings of this study were incorporated in a research paper - prepared jointly with Nazariya Queer Feminist Research Group and LCN (Lam-Lynti Chittara Neralu, a National Network on Shelters for Women Survivors of Violence) - presented at the 17th National Conference of the Indian Association of Women's Studies (IAWS) at Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala (9 September 2023) by the HLRN team, led by the Executive Director. The forthcoming report by HLRN includes an analysis of the laws and policies governing the housing rights of transgender persons and highlights the challenges they face in securing adequate housing.

## Climate Change Impact on Homeless Persons



To understand and document the impact of climate change induced heatwaves on people living in homelessness, HLRN conducted a survey with Delhi's homeless community between May and June 2023. The study, titled 'Climate Change and the Urban Poor: Impact of Heatwaves on Homeless Persons in Delhi' documents the impact of increasing heat on people living without adequate housing, their awareness about climate change, and the methods employed to adapt to extreme weather events. The findings of the study were released online during the 2023 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 28) in November 2023 and also circulated at the side events and meetings at COP 28 attended by our Programmes Lead. Available at: [https://hln.org.in/documents/Climate\\_Change\\_and\\_the\\_Urban\\_Poor.pdf](https://hln.org.in/documents/Climate_Change_and_the_Urban_Poor.pdf)

HLRN's work on the effects of extreme heat on homeless persons was also featured in a global documentary series.

Following the completion of the report on homelessness and heatwaves between January and March 2024, HLRN conducted a study with 110 persons living in homelessness to assess the impact of extreme cold and volatile weather. The findings of the study will be useful for preparing winter action plans and will broaden the understanding of the effects of climate change on homeless persons.

### Forums for Cross-Learning

With the support of Misereor, HLRN's Programmes Lead, Aishwarya Ayushmaan, attended the 2023 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 28 Summit) organized in Dubai in November 2023. At the Conference, the Programmes Lead attended and participated in several side events organized on themes related to climate change and the urban poor and followed up on ongoing climate negotiations at the Summit. HLRN also disseminated its report on 'Climate Change and the Urban Poor' among the participants to highlight the perspectives of marginalized communities living without adequate housing in the climate change discourse.

The participation of HLRN at COP 28 was very crucial to broaden its own understanding of the mechanisms that govern climate change goals and standards while identifying avenues to amplify the perspectives of vulnerable communities in climate change related discussions and underscore the linkages between the right to housing and climate justice. Following the event, the entire HLRN team was briefed on the proceedings at the Summit, particularly those relevant to the work of HLRN. The learning from the visit will assist HLRN in strengthening its work on climate change and plan interventions with the aim of amplifying the voices of the most marginalized in global climate change discussions.

In its role as the founding member, HLRN continued to facilitate and work with the Delhi Housing Rights Task Force (DHRTF) and SAM: BKS (Urban Rights Forum: With the Homeless). Both the networks met regularly, including at the HLRN office, to discuss important issues related to urban settlements, forced evictions, and homelessness and plan interventions together.

In March 2023, HLRN was invited to attend a workshop on ‘Ethical Sharing of Resources: Protocols for Gender-Neutral Shelters’ in Hyderabad by the Queer-Trans Wellness and Support Center (QT Center), a community-led initiative that offers temporary shelter and other essential resources for LGBTQIA+ people. The HLRN team provided inputs based on the organization’s experience of working with homeless persons. The workshop was useful for documenting different perspectives on issue of housing for transgender persons and for exploring opportunities for joint action.

In July 2023, HLRN participated at the Workshop on Land Governance and Development in Bengaluru. At the workshop, HLRN Fellow, Bamma shared perspectives on land rights for residents of urban settlements.

During the reporting period, HLRN continued to participate in Platform Meetings on Urban Transformation, and meetings of the Follow-up Group on COP28, facilitated by Misereor. The meetings were helpful for information sharing between organizations and collaborating efforts and developing strategies towards issues affecting urban areas, particularly climate change.

### **Material Production and Dissemination**

A handbook on social security schemes is being finalised, based on requirements of the community and feedback received from them. It focuses on the challenges of people living without housing and provides factual information, in simple language, that will enable them to access their entitlements.

Three training modules for lawyers, legal practitioners, and activists seeking to catalyse their communities’ efforts towards secure housing, basic services and government schemes were developed during this period.

A poster on Women’s Right to Adequate Housing was also designed during this period.

The materials were distributed amongst relevant audiences within and across the communities and government departments, NGOs, journalists and the general public.

### **Team Capacity Building**

Continuing the efforts to deepen the understanding of the HLRN team on gender and other intersectionalities, learning sessions were conducted by external experts on ‘Women and the City’ (on 23 June 2023 facilitated by Shruti Batra), and ‘Masculinities’ (on 25 July 2024). On 10 May 2023, a session on HLRN strategy was facilitated by Rita Sarin (formerly Global Vice President and India Country Director, The Hunger Project) and on 16 December 2023 a session on Emotional competencies for leadership and teamwork was facilitated by Dr. Anjana Sen (emotional intelligence consultant).

## **Management Information System (MIS)**

A web-based Management Information System (MIS) and a mobile application was developed to systematize the information on informal settlements, homeless shelters and clusters, and resettlement sites in Delhi and the multiple community interventions undertaken by HLRN. Several trainings were conducted for the HLRN team to familiarize them with the mobile application and its usage.

The MIS includes a dashboard that provides vital information on the progress of the project such as numbers of people reached out to, legal support and aid provided, among other data points. The App, which is available in both, Hindi and English, is being used by the HLRN team on a daily basis to document their work and related processes. The MIS has been helpful in tracking the implementation of the project and developing future strategies and interventions.

## **Conclusion**

With the increasing challenges faced by people living with inadequate housing, HLRN sees value in fine-tuning its approach and interventions in the long-term to achieve the overall vision of adequate housing for all. While the work of HLRN is even more relevant now for the target communities, interventions focusing on strengthening capacities, connecting with networks, raising awareness and documentation, need to be strengthened in the future. We are encouraged to have seen some of our efforts come to fruition, and approach the coming year with renewed optimism and commitment.

## ANNEXURES

### 1. Photographs of Activities Conducted from April 2023 to March 2024

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#### 1. Housing Rights Fellowship



HLRN Fellow, Zohrabibi, assisting community members from Ganeshnagar, Ahmedabad in accessing entitlements



Community meeting in a settlement in Kacharkanahalli, Bengaluru conducted by HLRN Fellow, Bamma



HLRN Fellow, Shanta, meeting residents of Shakur Basti in Delhi



HLRN Fellow, V Ramachandran, with conservancy workers in Madurai who received land titles



HLRN Fellow, Anuradha, meeting community members at Ashok Nagar, Prayagraj



HLRN Fellow, Sasmita, on a field visit in Puri, Odisha to assess the housing and land issues of Dalit families



HLRN Fellow, Jajo, meeting with village authorities in Kangchup Chiru Village, Manipur

## 2. Monitoring and Learning Visits



Enakshi Ganguly, Executive Director, HLRN in Ahmedabad, Gujarat with HLRN Fellow, Zohrabibi Chippa and Beena Jadav from Rahethan Adhikar Manch



HLRN team during a monitoring and learning visit with HLRN Fellow, Anuradha, in Prayagraj

### 3. Workshops and Meetings



Workshop on housing rights with children in Tughlaqabad

### 4. Strengthening Capacities and Supporting Homeless Citizens



Launch of the Second Phase of the 'Campaign on Adequate Housing for the Homeless,' Delhi



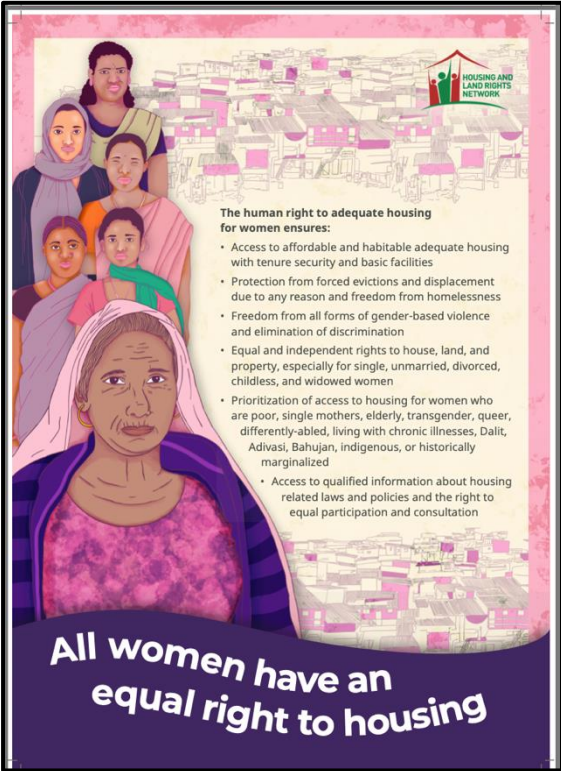
Awareness event at the Shelter for Homeless Persons, Tilak Nagar as part of the Campaign on Adequate Housing for the Homeless

## 5. Mainstreaming of Gender Across the Organization and the Community



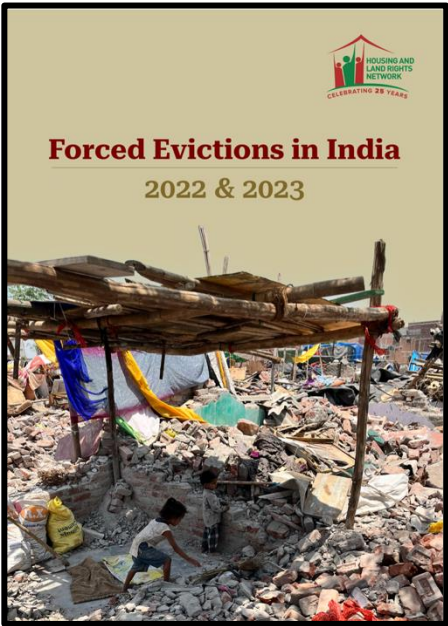
Training on 'Gender and the City' for the HLRN team

6. Preparation of Resources and Training Materials



Informational poster on Women's Right to Adequate Housing

7. National Eviction and Displacement Observatory



HLRN report on Forced Evictions in India in 2022 and 2023

## 8. Improving Living Conditions in Informal Settlements



Dilapidated condition of toilets in Shakur Basti which were later cleaned and made functional due to the efforts of HLRN

## 9. Monitoring Living Conditions in Resettlement Sites



Damaged Condition of Houses at the Resettlement Site in Dwarka, Delhi



Fact-finding visit to assess the adequacy of in-situ rehabilitation in Delhi for a forthcoming report

## 10. Emergency Response for Victims of Forced Evictions/Fire

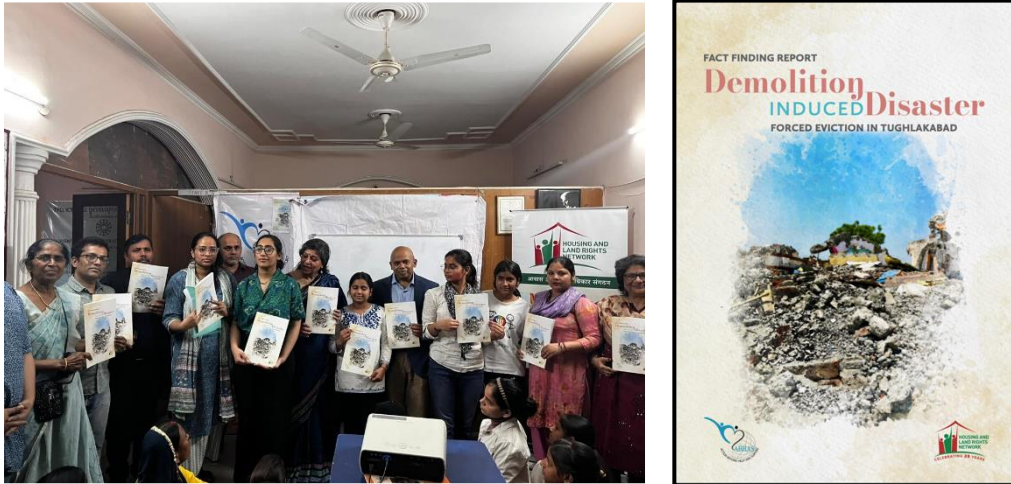


Distribution of blankets to people whose homes were destroyed in a fire in Shakur Basti, Delhi during winter



Distribution of tarpaulins to people whose homes were demolished near Shyam Lal College, Delhi

## 11. Fact-finding Missions related to Housing and Land Rights Violations



Launch of fact-finding report on the Forced Evictions in Tughlaqabad, Delhi

## 12. Assistance and Outreach to Homeless Persons



Night vigil conducted by HLRN team to assist homeless persons during winter

### 13. Working with the Gadia Lohar Community



Training of volunteers for the Gadia Lohar survey at HLRN office



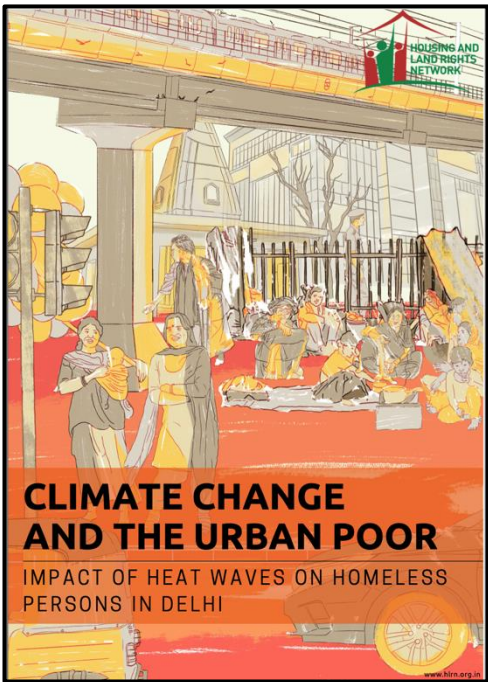
Gender disaggregated survey of Gadia Lohar settlements and households in Delhi

### 14. Housing Rights for Vulnerable and Marginalized Groups



Joint presentation on the right to housing for transgender persons at the 17<sup>th</sup> National Conference of Indian Association for Women's Studies (IAWS)

15. Climate Change and the Urban Poor



HLRN study on the Impact of Heatwaves on Homeless Persons



Aishwarya Ayushmaan, Programmes Lead, HLRN at COP28 in Dubai

## 16. Monitoring State Policy and Working with the Government to Ensure Adequate Housing



Meeting with Vishesh Ravi, Member of Legislative Assembly, Delhi with members of the Gadia Lohar community

## 17. Activities Conducted by the Chennai Team



Clearing of stagnant water in Perumbakkam due to the interventions of the Community Fellows



A 70-year-old person receives his sale deed for his land after 40 years because of the intervention of the Chennai Team



Community fellows from Perumbakkam resettlement site submit the women-led safety audit report to the president of the panchayat during the Gram Sabha meeting



Roads to the school laid after the complaints raised by the Fellows in Chennai

## 2. Publications, Press Releases, and Media Citations

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### A. HLRN Publications

1. *Demolition Induced Disaster. Forced Eviction in Tughlakabad*  
(March 2024)  
[https://hlrn.org.in/documents/Fact\\_Finding\\_Tughlakabad.pdf](https://hlrn.org.in/documents/Fact_Finding_Tughlakabad.pdf)
2. *Poster on Right to Housing for Women*  
(March 2024)  
[https://hlrn.org.in/documents/Poster\\_Women\\_Right\\_to\\_Housing.pdf](https://hlrn.org.in/documents/Poster_Women_Right_to_Housing.pdf)
3. *Forced Evictions in India: 2022 & 2023*  
(March 2024)  
[https://hlrn.org.in/documents/Forced\\_Evictions\\_2022\\_2023.pdf](https://hlrn.org.in/documents/Forced_Evictions_2022_2023.pdf)
4. *Climate Change and the Urban Poor*  
(November 2023)  
[https://hlrn.org.in/documents/Climate\\_Change\\_and\\_the\\_Urban\\_Poor.pdf](https://hlrn.org.in/documents/Climate_Change_and_the_Urban_Poor.pdf)
5. *An Assessment of the Motia Khan Shelter*  
(August 2023)  
[https://hlrn.org.in/documents/Motia\\_Khan\\_Final\\_Report.pdf](https://hlrn.org.in/documents/Motia_Khan_Final_Report.pdf)

### B. Press Releases

1. More Than Half a Million People (5 Lakh) Evicted in India in 2023, The Highest in the Last Seven Recorded Years; Finds New Report on Evictions in India During 2022 and 2023  
[March 2024]  
[https://www.hlrn.org.in/documents/Press\\_Release\\_Forced\\_Evictions\\_2022\\_2023.pdf](https://www.hlrn.org.in/documents/Press_Release_Forced_Evictions_2022_2023.pdf)
2. Suggestions: Winter Plan for Persons Living in Homelessness in Delhi  
[October 2023]  
[https://www.hlrn.org.in/documents/HLRN\\_Winter\\_Plan\\_October\\_2023.pdf](https://www.hlrn.org.in/documents/HLRN_Winter_Plan_October_2023.pdf)
3. Campaign on 'Adequate Housing for the Homeless' (Phase II) Launched  
Calls for Permanent Housing Solutions for the Homeless, Beyond Shelters  
[October 2023]  
[https://www.hlrn.org.in/documents/Press\\_Release\\_10\\_October\\_2023.pdf](https://www.hlrn.org.in/documents/Press_Release_10_October_2023.pdf)

4. Suggestions: Summer Plan for Persons Living in Homelessness in Delhi

[April 2023]

[https://www.hlrn.org.in/documents/HLRN\\_Summer\\_Plan\\_Homelessness\\_Delhi\\_April\\_2023.pdf](https://www.hlrn.org.in/documents/HLRN_Summer_Plan_Homelessness_Delhi_April_2023.pdf)

**C. Media Reports Citing HLRN**

1. In Varanasi, A Community Exists in The Shadow of A Dead, Colonial Law, Unable To Live Even In Slums  
11 March 2024 – **Article 14**  
<https://article-14.com/post/in-varanasi-a-community-exists-in-the-shadow-of-a-dead-colonial-law-unable-to-live-even-in-slums-65ee6da382bfa>
2. '7.4 Lakh People Evicted, 1.53 Lakh Homes Demolished by Govt in the Last Two Years': Report  
7 March 2024 – **The Wire**  
<https://thewire.in/rights/7-4-lakh-people-evicted-1-53-lakh-homes-demolished-by-govt-in-the-last-two-years-report>
3. Report: 294 houses demolished on a daily basis in 2023 in India  
6 March 2024 – **Sabrang India**  
<https://sabrangindia.in/report-294-houses-demolished-on-a-daily-basis-in-2023-in-india/>
4. Whose homes are destroyed? How 'bulldozer raj' affects marginalised people  
6 March 2024 – **India Today**  
<https://www.indiatoday.in/diu/story/whose-homes-are-destroyed-how-bulldozer-raj-affects-marginalised-people-2511511-2024-03-06>
5. 2.78 lakh people evicted in past 2 years in Delhi, the most in India: Report  
5 March 2024 – **The Indian Express**  
<https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/delhi/people-evicted-past-2-years-delhi-india-9196310/>
6. Sleepless nights, health risks: How Delhi's homeless people struggle during hot summers  
5 March 2024 – **NewsLaundry**  
<https://www.newsLaundry.com/2024/03/05/sleepless-nights-health-risks-how-delhis-homeless-people-struggle-during-hot-summers>
7. More Than Half a Million People (5 Lakh) Evicted in India in 2023: Report  
5 March 2024 – **NewsClick**  
<https://www.newsClick.in/more-half-million-people-5-lakh-evicted-india-2023-report>
8. Over 7 lakh people rendered homeless in last two years: Report  
5 March 2024 – **Maktoob Media**  
<https://maktoobmedia.com/india/over-7-lakh-people-rendered-homeless-in-last-two-years-report/>

9. 7.4 lakh evicted in past 2 yrs, highest in 2023, shows report by housing rights body  
4 March 2024 –**The Print**  
<https://theprint.in/india/7-4-lakh-evicted-in-past-2-yrs-highest-in-2023-shows-report-by-housing-rights-body/1987648/>
10. 'Wait for Early Morning to Catch Some Sleep': How Delhi's Homeless People Struggle During Summers  
4 March 2024 –**The Wire**  
<https://thewire.in/rights/wait-for-early-morning-to-catch-some-sleep-how-delhis-homeless-people-struggle-during-summer>
11. How Delhi's Homeless People Struggle During Hot Summers  
27 February 2024 – **India Spend**  
<https://www.indiaspend.com/earthcheckindia/how-delhis-homeless-people-struggle-during-hot-summer-896771>
12. 'Nudge to adapt to new living conditions' — DDA may get NGO to 'teach' EWS residents civic awareness  
2 October 2023-**The Print**  
<https://theprint.in/india/nudge-to-adapt-to-new-living-conditions-dda-may-get-ngo-to-teach-ews-residents-civic-awareness/1785389/>
13. The housing crisis for the poor in India's capital  
30 August 2023-**Al Jazeera**  
<https://www.aljazeera.com/gallery/2023/8/30/photos-the-housing-crisis-for-the-poor-in-indias-capital>
14. Delhi's Homeless Fear Displacement as DUSIB Proposes to Raze Six More Shelter Homes  
25 August 2023-**Outlook**  
<https://www.outlookindia.com/national/delhi-s-homeless-fear-displacement-as-dusib-proposes-to-raze-six-more-shelter-homes-news-313435>
15. The Intertwined Relationship of Eviction, Caste and Religion  
17 July 2023-**Outlook**  
<https://www.outlookindia.com/national/the-intertwined-relationship-of-eviction-caste-and-religion-news-303380>
16. Eviction fears haunt farmers on Yamuna floodplains after DDA demolitions  
22 May 2023-**Business Standard**  
[https://www.business-standard.com/india-news/the-despair-of-delhi-s-yamuna-farmers-as-the-bulldozers-arrive-in-droves-123052200624\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/india-news/the-despair-of-delhi-s-yamuna-farmers-as-the-bulldozers-arrive-in-droves-123052200624_1.html)

17. Evictions In Courtroom: How Has Judiciary Ruled On Cases Of Evictions In Indian Cities?

7 April 2023-**Outlook**

<https://www.outlookindia.com/national/evictions-in-courtroom-how-has-judiciary-ruled-on-cases-of-evictions-in-indian-cities-news-276562>

18. G20 As a Curtain-Raiser: Life in Urban India

6 April 2023-**Outlook**

<https://www.outlookindia.com/national/g20-as-a-curtain-raiser-life-in-urban-india-news-276395>

19. 'Where Do We Go Now?': G20 Beautification Drive Renders Hundreds of Migrants in Delhi Homeless

6 April 2023-**Outlook**

<https://www.outlookindia.com/national/-where-do-we-go-now-g20-beautification-drive-renders-hundreds-of-migrants-in-delhi-homeless-news-276535>

### 3. Balance Sheet as on 31 March 2024

HOUSING AND LAND RIGHTS NETWORK (HLRN) : NEW DELHI					
BALANCE SHEET AS ON 31st MARCH 2024					
LIABILITIES		Rs. (P)		ASSETS	
<b>Fixed Assets Fund</b>				<b>Fixed Assets</b>	
As per last year	318,026.00			As per last year	318,026.00
Add: Additions	13,500.00			Add: Additions	13,500.00
	<b>331,526.00</b>				<b>331,526.00</b>
Less: Depreciation	64,421.00	267,105.00		Less: Depreciation	64,421.00
					267,105.00
<b>Settler Fund</b>				<b>Closing Balances-FC</b>	
As per last year		2,100.00		Cash / Imprest	3,530.34
<b>General Fund</b>				AXIS Bank Ltd A/c No.....6203	40,545.46
As per last year	1,623,910.14			AXIS Bank Ltd A/c No.....8117	141,048.85
Add: Excess of Income over Expenditure	78,898.82	1,702,808.96		AXIS Bank Ltd A/c No.....2790	26,437.95
				AXIS Bank Ltd A/c No.....1875	13,284.00
				State Bank of India-NDMB.....7388	43,011.02
				FDR's	215,977.00
					485,432.62
<b>Unspent Project Balances</b>				<b>Closing Balances-NFC</b>	
<b>FC Account</b>				Cash-NFC	4,818.00
Small Projects/General Program	297,401.58			Cash-APF	723.00
Misereor Project No- 321-900-1843-ZG	188,031.04	485,432.62		PNB-SB.....9363	18,664.86
				Karur Vyaya Bank.....1190	1,178,624.56
<b>NFC Account</b>				Axis Bank Ltd.....2157	386,801.54
Azim Premji Foundation-G-2202-16597		3,034,169.00		Axis Bank Ltd.....3262	3,033,446.00
				Advances / Rent Security	116,000.00
					4,739,077.96
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>6,491,615.58</b>		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6,491,615.58</b>

For Housing and Land Rights Network

For Malhotra & Associates  
Chartered Accountants  
FRNo.011338N

Place: New Delhi  
Date: 12.09.2024

Epreshi Ganguly Thukral  
Executive Director

(Ashok Kumar Malhotra)  
Prop.  
M.No. 089905  
UDIN - 24089905BKELZX1557

## 4. Income and Expenditure for the year ending 31 March 2024

**HOUSING AND LAND RIGHTS NETWORK (HLRN) - NEW DELHI**  
**INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st MARCH 2024**

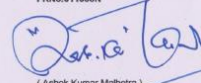
EXPENDITURE	Rs. (₹)	INCOME	Rs. (₹)
<b>NFC Account</b>		<b>NFC Account</b>	
<b>Trust Account</b>		<b>Trust Account</b>	
HLRN General Program	46,229.18	Donations	53,750.00
		Interest on FDR	22,849.00
		Interest on SB A/c	48,729.00
<b>Excess of Income over Expenditure transferred to General Fund</b>	<b>78,898.82</b>		<b>125,128.00</b>
<b>Azim Premji Foundation-G-2202-16597</b>		<b>Azim Premji Foundation-G-2202-16597</b>	
Facilitating Access to Justice for People Living Without Adequate Housing	3,204,973.00	Grant	3,839,000.00
		Bank Interest	61,649.00
<b>Excess of Income over Expenditure transferred to APF Project</b>	<b>695,676.00</b>		<b>3,900,649.00</b>
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>4,025,777.00</b>	<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>4,025,777.00</b>
<b>FC Account</b>		<b>FC Account</b>	
<b>MISEREOR-321-800-1843 ZG</b>		<b>MISEREOR-400-600-2981</b>	
Promoting the Human Rights to Adequate Housing for the Most Marginalised and Discriminated among the Poor in India	13,788,415.01		263,262.00
		MISEREOR-321-800-1843 ZG	12,508,038.00
<b>MISEREOR-600-600-2981</b>		<b>Interest Income</b>	
COP-Conference	263,262.00	Bank Interest on Designated Bank A/c	6,066.00
		Bank Interest on Utilization A/c	69,780.00
<b>Small Projects/General Programs</b>	<b>63,683.48</b>		<b>75,846.00</b>
		<b>Excess of Expenditure over Income Transferred to Unspent Project Balance</b>	<b>1,248,214.49</b>
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>14,095,360.49</b>	<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>14,095,360.49</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>18,121,137.49</b>	<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>18,121,137.49</b>

For Housing and Land Rights Network

  
 Enakshi Singhal Thakral  
 Executive Director



For Malhotra & Associates  
 Chartered Accountants  
 FRNo.011336N

  
 (Ashok Kumar Malhotra)  
 Prop.  
 M.No. 089909  
 UDIN - 240899058KELZX1557



Place: New Delhi  
 Date: 12.09.2024

## 5. Acknowledgements

### HLRN Trustees

Miloon Kothari, Paul Divakar, and Shweta Tripathi

### HLRN Team

Executive Director: Enakshi Ganguly

### Programmes Team

Aditi Singh, Anagha Jaipal, Aishwarya Ayushmaan, Ashok Pandey, Israr Khan, Mansoor Khan, Shanta Devi, Suman Kumari, Anuj Behal (from June 2023), Shravani Bolage (from August 2023), Nivea Jain (from March 2024)

### Finance and Administration Team

Rohit Verma, Rajeev (from April 2023 to March 2024), Gopal Ram

**Consultants:** Geetha Nambisan (Diversity and Governance), Lara Shankar (Partnerships and Fund Raising (up to September 2023), R.K Sharda (Finance and Statutory Matters), Urmi Chudgar Vohra (Academics and Outreach)

**HLRN Fellows:** Anuradha Gupta – Prayagraj (Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh), Balamma K (Bengaluru, Karnataka), Sasmita Jena (Bhubaneswar, Odisha), Shanta Devi (Delhi), Themson Jajo (Imphal, Manipur), V Ramachandran (Madurai, Tamil Nadu), Zohrabibi Chhipa (Ahmedabad, Gujarat)

**Resource Persons:** Dr. Anjana Sen, Rita Sarin, Satish Kumar Singh, and Shruti Batra

The HLRN team thanks its Trustees and its leadership for steadfast support and mentoring throughout the year. We acknowledge all the organizations and individuals, in Delhi and beyond, who have walked this journey with us. We salute the resilience of various communities that we have worked with during this year.