



# Annual Report 2016-17

## Youth for Unity and Voluntary Action (YUVA)



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# Contents



1. President’s Address .....	3
2. History of YUVA .....	4
3. Mission, Vision, Core Values and Core Purpose .....	6
4. Eleven Levels of Intervention .....	7
5. Our Approach .....	8
6. Inclusive City .....	9
7. YUVA’s Units.....	10
• YUVA Urban .....	10
• YUVA Rural .....	10
• YUVA Central .....	10
8. YUVA Urban.....	11
• Empowerment of and Advocacy for the Urban Poor .....	11
I. Right to Habitat .....	11
• Empowerment of and Advocacy with Informal Sector Workers .....	17
I. Right to Adequate Work .....	17
• Women’s Empowerment .....	20
• Children and Youth .....	21
I. Children .....	21
II. Youth .....	25
9. YUVA Rural .....	28
10. YUVA Central .....	29
11. Campaigns and Networks .....	31
12. Engagement in Habitat III .....	34
13. List of Attributions for Icons Used .....	35

# President's Address



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The road we have taken is challenging, but the prospect of a better future keeps the momentum going!

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I am very pleased to present to you our Annual Report for the year 2016-17.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) represent our aspirations for a better life itself. The timeline to achieve the Millennium Development Goals ended in 2015 and we were in many ways away from attaining them. YUVA has always pushed for more inclusive and widespread development for all the citizens of this country. This is why the New Development Agenda 2030, which was adopted in 2015, is crucial to provide a framework and spur action by countries around the world to achieve them in the following year as well.

Over the last year, YUVA has worked with stakeholders at different levels. We have helped individuals and communities exercise their rights and gain access to resources. We have worked with multiple government agencies to ensure smooth functioning of policies and schemes. Our work on various movements, particularly, 'Right to the City' and '*Hamara Shehar Mumbai*' has been based on mobilisation of various organisations and communities. We have had a plethora of opportunities to discuss our learning and views at national and international forums. Interaction at so many levels is humbling. It often makes us realise that the road we have taken is challenging but the prospect of a better future, keeps the momentum going.

YUVA has made significant strides in its engagement in many novel programmes. We provided vocational training with a 'Diploma in Youth Development and Social Change' in 2016-17 along with the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, to enable people interested in working with the youth build perspective and get a hands-on experience. Our work on informal workers' rights to livelihood and habitat are ongoing in Mumbai, Navi Mumbai and other cities. Our advocacy and capacity building work with regard to informal sector workers has been quite effective as well.

Our work is indeed challenging but the promise of a better future continues to drive YUVA. We look forward to all that the year has to offer and present to you our Annual Report 2016-17.

In solidarity,  
Amitabh Behar

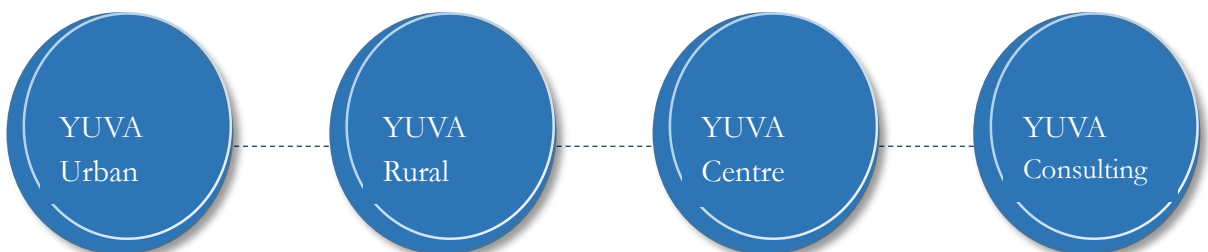
# History of YUVA



**Youth for Unity and Voluntary Action**, known as YUVA, formally came into existence in the year 1984. Its roots can be traced to a youth placement project that began in 1978 at Bombay's College of Social Work at Nirmala Niketan. It started as a voluntary development organisation with the purpose of supporting and empowering the oppressed and marginalised.

YUVA began its work with youth and youth groups from the slums of Jogeshwari in Mumbai. The organisation had clearly decided that its response would be to issues concerning the most marginalised sections of society and that it would not restrict its activities to specific programmes and services, but develop a structure that would accommodate multilevel action.

Till 1991, YUVA mainly concentrated only on rights. It was post 1991 and the introduction of the New Economic Policy that YUVA felt the need to start focusing on rights as well as assets. YUVA realised that it had to protect existing rights, expand existing rights and create new rights. Similarly, it had to protect existing assets, enhance existing assets, and add value to existing assets so that they become more valuable. YUVA started expanding its operations to look at various constituency groups including the marginalised and oppressed men, women, youth and children in the urban as well as the rural areas; and the seeds of the various units of YUVA were sown. In 2001, four formal entities came into being.





YUVA is continuing to work with the human rights paradigm forming the underlying philosophy of the organization, focusing on three different areas.



Poverty is seen as a violation of human rights and is multidimensional caused by a number of interlinked factors and hence must be addressed in a holistic and integrated manner.



The concept of environment includes both the natural environment and human/social environment. This theme focuses on issues of quality, equity and sustainability in relation to the development and management of natural resources and the quality of human life.



Work on governance centres around facilitation of the democratisation of power and decentralised access to and management of public resources.

### Status of the Organisation

Registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 (836 GBBSD 1984/26 December 1984)

Registered under the Bombay Public Trust Act, 1950 (F10304/20 April 1985)

Registered under section 12A of the Income Tax Act (INS/24339/7 May 1985)

Registered under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA) (No. 83850025)

YUVA is recognised under section 80G of the Income Tax Act

YUVA is accredited as an NGO with general consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council

# Mission, Vision, Core Values and Core Purpose

## MISSION

YUVA will empower the oppressed and the marginalised by facilitating their organisations and institutions towards building equal partnerships in the development process, ensuring the fulfilment of the human right to live in security, dignity and peace.

YUVA will also engage in critical partnership with the government and forge alliances with other actors of civil society such as people's movements, trade unions, women's groups, academic institutions and the private sector to enable and strengthen the people's empowerment processes.

## VISION

We believe that development is a continuous struggle to create a humane society, which sustains all human beings, as well as nature, where women, men and children enjoy universal human rights.

**A humane society based on the values of equality, distributive justice and secularism is liberated from oppression on the basis of caste, class, creed, gender, age, ethnicity, language; is free from all forms of exploitation and violence; and demonstrates integrity and respect for democratic polity and processes.**

## CORE VALUES

YUVA has a set of five core values that it considers to be non-negotiable and it is through these core values that YUVA adheres to its commitment towards the fundamental principles of development. All of YUVA's involvement is based on these values.



Social Justice



Gender Justice



Environmental  
Sustainability



Honesty  
& Integrity



Secularism  
& Democracy

## CORE PURPOSE

Democratisation of society, polity and economy for all women, men, youth and children.

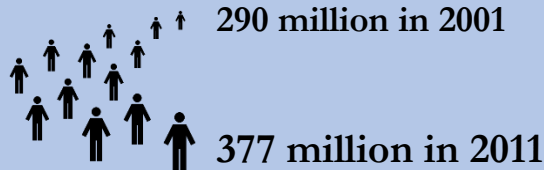
# Eleven Levels of Intervention



# Our Approach

Cities tend to expand over time. Urban centres in Asia are expanding by an astonishing one million people a week – and rising. **As per census estimates, India’s urban population has grown from 290 million in 2001 to 377 million in 2011; accounting for over 30 percent of the country’s population.**

## URBAN POPULATION GROWTH



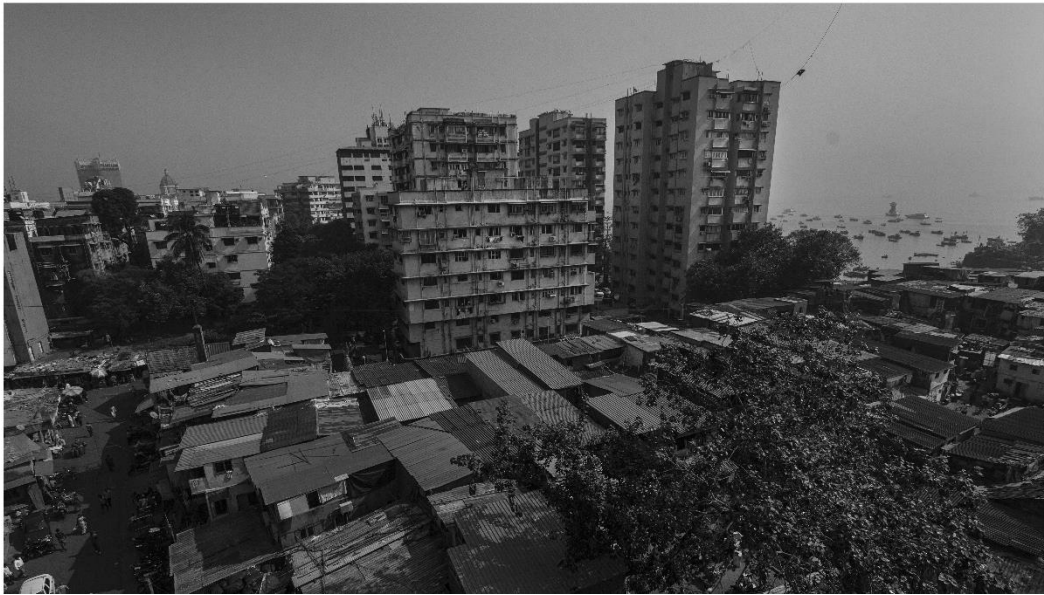
This is driven by increase in population of existing urban centres, emergence of new urban centres across the country and migration from rural to urban areas. The influx of people who wish to migrate from rural areas is well documented; they seek economic and social progress in their lives. It is also well known that forced migration is a direct consequence of displacement and the lack of resources and opportunities in rural regions.

To tackle issues holistically it is essential that interventions in cities are not independent of interventions in rural areas. YUVA understands the urban-rural linkage, whether it is in terms of distress migration or food security, and therefore engages with both geographies. By supporting livelihood opportunities in rural areas alongside natural resource management, YUVA contributes to help people stay on their land. YUVA also endeavours to create conditions by which those who have left their rural homes and live difficult lives in cities can hope to return to the comfort of what is familiar to them. **Formalization and regularization of settlements not only poses a great challenge to development of the urban poor but also contributes to increasing urban poverty.** Quality of life in our cities is poor as majority of the citizens find it difficult to fulfil their rights and avail of sustainable livelihood opportunities and basic services. This also results in issues like children living on the street and succumbing to harmful and difficult means to survive. Migration perpetuates child labour and begging.

Despite the vast potential of cities to improve living standards for everyone, the benefits are not equally shared. All too often, cities are divided into the haves and have-nots; the established and the marginalised; men and women. The poorest are forced to occupy land illegally and to live in appalling conditions which put their health and safety at risk. They are excluded from safe drinking water, sewage and garbage disposal, and affordable healthcare. They suffer disproportionately from rising crime rates and pollution. They lack formal education, skills training, and information on markets and job opportunities. Making a living means competing in cut-throat markets for low paid jobs, or running small-scale, low return businesses.



# Inclusive City



Traditional approaches to reducing urban poverty have focused on providing welfare services. Whilst these programmes may benefit some, few have managed to integrate them into the urban mainstream. The urban poor are treated as passive recipients of “development” rather than active partners, and are marginalised from decisions that determine the quality of urban life. Yet, they are affected more than anyone else. The urban poor have been most affected with decisions of ‘development’ that are made for cities. The highly polarized urban development trajectory has made it extremely difficult for the urban poor to stake a claim over the city and its resources resulting in continued struggles for housing and basic services, employment, entitlements etc. **Mumbai with over 45 percent of its population living in informal settlements or slums is an ideal example of this polarization with a large number of urban poor like the pavement dwellers, street populations etc. unaccounted.**

Inclusive city comes from the **Right to the City framework** which relies on internationally recognised human rights. It seeks to involve everyone – including the marginalised - workers, migrants, women, children, and youth in the decision making, development, resource utilisation and upkeep of the city. YUVA works with the local government to promote local policies. The vulnerable and disadvantaged groups must have agency to live an adequate level of life and YUVA seeks to empower them to assert their rights.

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YUVA strongly believes in the rights-based approach and in the past the strategies of intervention have been aimed towards developing community-based people’s organisations, building and strengthening the urban poor leadership to secure their right to the city.

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YUVA has been strategising its work through orienting, facilitating and educating urban poor about their entitlement rights, accessing various identity documents and government schemes as well as reviewing the implementation of schemes through small studies. These two broad strategies adopted by YUVA are aimed towards gradually building identity and citizenship for the urban poor. This ensures a sustained struggle towards staking a claim over the city as its rightful citizens. YUVA strongly believes that it is not through limited schemes riddled with conditional criteria of inclusion but through increased participation of the urban poor in decision making that the Right to the City can be achieved.

# YUVA's Units



YUVA's work has been organised mainly under three units based on the intervention areas – both thematic and geographical, and constituency groups. All of these units have different functions, programmes and interventions, staff, management and governance bodies.

## YUVA Urban

YUVA Urban works in the cities with various population groups to promote the rights of the urban poor related to housing, basic services, education, livelihood, social security, and public participation. The three main thematic areas of YUVA Urban are:

- Human Settlements
- Social Security and Livelihood
- Governance, Gender and Social Inclusion (cross-cutting theme)

As of now, YUVA Urban has direct operations in the cities of Mumbai and Nagpur in Maharashtra and in Delhi.

## YUVA Rural

YUVA Rural emerged to address the issues of the poor and marginalised in the rural areas, which has a direct link to the poverty issues in urban areas. YUVA Rural's focus is on the development of self-sustainable rural societies and therefore it undertakes interventions that work towards holistic development of the rural areas. At present, YUVA Rural is intervening in the thematic area of Natural Resource Management and Livelihoods. As of now, the work of YUVA Rural is concentrated in the rural areas of Akola and Wardha districts in the Vidarbha region of Maharashtra.

## YUVA Central

YUVA Central was envisaged as a human rights centre that would facilitate collective learning both within and outside the organisation and enable capacity building and empowerment of the various stakeholders. YUVA Central has its office and training centre at Kharghar, Navi Mumbai. The mandate of this unit is:

- Ideology and value building within YUVA
- Vision building
- Strategising for YUVA as a whole
- Synergy building across YUVA units by setting up of common financial, human resources, organisational development and programme systems across all units

# YUVA Urban

## Empowerment of and Advocacy for the Urban Poor

The urban poor find it more difficult to access resources such as housing, water, electricity, health care and education compared to their rural counterparts. They often pay much more to access resources due to corruption, lack of identification documents, and higher cost of living. Accessing resources in a roundabout way also eats into their time. Their daily struggle is one between earning money to have a decent standard of living and juggling their time, money and limited possessions to access resources and exercise their rights. YUVA creates a space for engagement with the urban poor so that they can participate in decision making for themselves and have a 'Right to the City'.

## RIGHT TO HABITAT

### HIGHLIGHTS

Our work on Habitat is positioned along the housing continuum. It has expanded to four cities in 2016-17 – Indore, Bhubaneswar, Guwahati and Navi Mumbai.

### Basic Service Facilitation Centres (BSFC):

Through the 7 BSFCs located in Mumbai, Indore, Bhubaneswar, Guwahati and Navi Mumbai, YUVA addresses the needs of the urban poor in an organised manner to ensure that the urban poor are able to secure citizenship. The BSFC acts as an anchor for organising communities, educating them about their fundamental rights, laws, policies and schemes and allows the households and communities to access entitlements and basic services. **In the year 2016-17, through the 7 BSFC we have provided entitlements to a total of 5240 beneficiaries across cities in the country.**

### Negotiating Access to Ration Cards

In Bandra, we filled 28 ration card forms and submitted it to the Rationing Office. There was no response for 8 months from the Rationing Inspector (RI) or the Rationing Officer (RO). Our regular follow ups, and meetings with officers too couldn't add pressure on them. Finally, we filed an RTI application to enquire about the status of the submitted rationing forms. Then an officer for the Public Distribution System (PDS) phoned the Bandra RO and asked the status and also sent a letter to inquire why these ration cards are still pending. The Bandra RO called us and started the process of providing ration cards.

The learning through this is that officials are not always willing to provide facilities without pressure and advocacy.

### Outreach

5,240  
beneficiaries  
received  
entitlements  
across 7 Indian  
cities

# YUVA Urban

## Homeless in Mumbai

**We were able to directly reach out to 800 homeless and pavement dwelling communities in Mumbai.** These individuals have participated in monthly meetings, public meetings and in workshops held during the year. A day long discussion on the Sustainable Development Goals and the ‘leave no one behind campaign’ was organized with homeless communities.

In Mumbai, YUVA in collaboration with Homeless Collective strengthened the efforts for demanding ‘right to shelter’ for the homeless through advocacy with the Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai (MCGM) for shelters and for reservation of land for them in the Mumbai Development Plan (DP). We were represented in meetings with the Revision Committee of Development Plan for demanding homeless shelters in Mumbai. **YUVA had been actively advocating for the reservation of land for homeless shelters – in the revised development plan 78 homeless shelters have been provisioned.** A press conference was conducted on the revised Development Control Regulations (DCRs) in April 2016 prior to the release of the revised DP. Through media advocacy, the homeless and pavement dwellers have given their suggestions to the MCGM their rehabilitation.

### Impact

**78**  
homeless  
shelters reserved  
in the Mumbai  
Development  
Plan

The monsoon season saw multiple brutal evictions of homeless communities we work with. This had serious impact on women and children. Children’s education was disrupted and there was an increased fear among women and young girls living in these communities. We approached the Maharashtra State Human Rights Commission regarding these brutal evictions along with the School of Law, Rights and Constitutional Governance, TISS towards seeking some remedies.



# YUVA Urban



## People's Manifesto in Mumbai

MCGM elections were held in February 2017. In order to build community awareness and ensure greater accountability from elected representatives, a month long campaign was conducted in various communities. It began with Capacity Building for Community Organizers and BSFC Facilitators prior to the MCGM elections, followed by large meetings with communities on drafting a public manifesto with demands for their potential Corporators. Public manifestos were prepared in Malvani, Bandra, Mankhurd and by the homeless

CBO members invited 6 corporator candidates for the MCGM. They discussed that when the candidates win they have to work on several issues for the community that have not been addressed so far. For instance, there are no public toilet facilities from the last 30 years, no legal water connections for Garib Nagar and Indira Nagar, non-implementation of a government circular that says free urinals for women in pay and use toilets, etc. In keeping with enabling people's participation in the MCGM elections, a people's manifesto was developed through meetings and interactions with residents of 4 large areas in Mumbai. A people's manifesto of the homeless communities towards the municipal elections was also drafted as part of the advocacy efforts towards rehabilitation of the homeless.

## A PEOPLE'S MANIFESTO, COURTESY NGO

Mumbai Mirror | Updated: Feb 15, 2017, 04.17 AM IST



A-

A+



Members of Hamara Shehar Mumbai Abhiyan at a press meet

*Hamara Shehar Mumbai Abhiyan says parties have failed to feel popular pulse, makes own wish list.*

Every public place and housing society be made disabled-friendly, dedicated bus routes on the sea link, coastal road and development of housings, schools and open spaces instead of commercial complexes in no-development zones.

# YUVA Urban

## Work across Cities



**Indore:** We reached 40 communities in Indore, forming mohalla samitis/sabhas and conducting awareness on Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) to eventually help fill PMAY forms to access housing. YUVA also offered a platform for leaders to represent issues of the communities. Negotiation and networking with various urban local bodies at the city-level or state for housing provision continued. The Right to Information was extensively used to receive information about the process of basic services and entitlement rights of urban poor living in informal settlements.

**Bhubaneswar:** ‘Grievance Redressal Day’ was organised in 24 slums to address multiple issues on basic services and entitlements. This was well received and the BSFC was able to identify a number of issues pertaining to access to basic services and entitlements. A city-level committee named ‘Bhubaneswar Basti Unayan Parisad’ (BBUP) has been formed to demand land for informal settlements and negotiate with local governments. A campaign in 50 slums towards provision of land pattas for slum-dwellers was also carried out this year.

### Ensuring Housing Rights in Odisha



This consultation was organized with likeminded organizations and civil society groups on 28 October 2016. It was attended by civil society groups, NGOs, lawyers, urban planners and community leaders from 40 slums of Bhubaneswar and Cuttack who actively participated and shared their views and suggestions with respect to land and housing rights of slum-dwellers and urban poor in Odisha.

# YUVA Urban

**Guwahati:** Our work has focused on securing basic services and entitlements in 7 inadequate settlements. Negotiations with the Water Supply Department have led to temporary water connections to 3 project locations. We have established a rapport with various government departments and civil society organisations to secure people's right to habitat.



## Consultation on Social Security

This consultation was organized on 25th November 2016 to discuss issues and challenges of land rights in the city, food security and to develop new strategies for issues being faced by people living in slums. Community leaders, members of like-minded organizations, advocates and students participated in the day long consultation.

**Nagpur:** YUVA, SVM (Sehar Vikas Manch, Nagpur) and other organisations have been following up on the struggle and demand for housing lease rights since 2001. Two new GRs (Government Resolutions) on housing and lease rights with particular preference to Nagpur were released on 16 July 2016 and 24 August 2016. On 24th August 2016, a GR for slums on NIT (Nagpur Improvement Trust) land was issued by the Urban Development Department of Maharashtra Government which states that the slums which are on the NIT lands will be provided housing lease rights (*patta* rights). There has been collaboration with the Indian Housing Federation to understanding housing finance needs.

A training cum workshop on 'Smart city, PMAY and patta rights in Nagpur' was organized in July 2016 – this was attended by over 50 community leaders to update them on developments with regard to housing for the urban poor in Nagpur.

## Efforts in Nagpur

Our community based work in Nagpur has been through mohalla sabhas where mass outreach has been made on the GR on *patta* rights. An individual application campaign for *patta* rights (housing lease rights) was started to demand implementation of this GR. 11 mohalla sabhas have been conducted to create awareness among slum dwellers on this GR and *patta* rights (housing lease rights). Through this campaign more than 3000 application have been sent to the Zonal Commissioner NIT.



## Visit of the UN Special Rapporteur on Adequate Housing

The UN Special Rapporteur on Adequate Housing visited India in April 2016. YUVA was part of the western and central India consultation held in Mumbai. We organised field visits and made submissions to her for her recommendation.

# YUVA Urban



## Anti-Eviction Helpline

An anti-eviction measure initiated by YUVA is the Anti-Eviction Helpline that can be utilised by communities to reach out to YUVA and its partners in various cities before, at the time of, and after evictions. This year responses to 13 calls were recorded, more have been received.

The helpline has been able to extend its support to network partners in building capacity to handle situations of forced evictions. We have offered strategic guidance and conducted training for communities and organisations on how to handle forced evictions. YUVA also intervening in many cases through the judiciary. We have supported communities in Mumbai, Indore, Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Delhi, Puri, Patna, Ahmedabad and Ranchi. **In 2016-17, there has been an increase in eviction in Navi Mumbai. YUVA along with Ghar Hakk Sangrash Samiti has negotiated with the NMMC and CIDCO to prevent these evictions.**

### Anti-Eviction Efforts

At Garib Nagar, interface meetings and interactions were conducted with the Corporator on the eviction issue. After the public meeting with the people, she took the delegation to the assistant commissioner of MCGM H-east ward. Dwellers living on the water pipe line submitted their documents to MCGM as per the requirement. After a couple of days, MCGM came with vehicles and bulldozers to demolish houses built more than 14 feet from the ground. To revolt against this injustice, people of Garib Nagar came together and collectively raised their voices. The whole community was united and finally MCGM stopped it.



# YUVA Urban



## Empowerment of and Advocacy with Informal Sector Workers

### RIGHT TO ADEQUATE WORK

#### HIGHLIGHTS

Our work on the Right to Adequate Work has been with Street Vendors, Construction Workers, Domestic Workers and Truckers in Navi Mumbai, Delhi, Indore, Ranchi, Kolkata, Bhubaneswar

YUVA works with informal sector works, empowering them to claim their rights.

**a. Migration Resource Centre (MRC):** We work with seasonal and semi-permanent migrants in Navi Mumbai through the Migration Resource Centre (MRC). Different kinds of services are provided to construction workers, domestic workers and street vendors. In one year, through awareness sessions in nakas and communities, the MRC has offered different kind of services. Direct outreach has been observed on more than 1,000 individual labourers, while the footfall has been an average of 125 labourers/month. About 55 cases were registered for non-payment of wages at the MRC with recovery of non-paid wages being Rs. 6,11,578. Several identity proof cards like Aadhar, Ration, PAN, and voter ID cards were also facilitated.

#### Outreach

1,000  
labourers  
Rs 6,11,578  
wages  
recovered

An overall focus has been to empower migrant communities through capacity building of *Shramik Mitras* (friends of workers) who are local informal workers. This year, four meetings were held. 96 *shramik mitras* were part of the group. Women from communities are also being supported to play leadership roles.

# YUVA Urban

YUVA has continued its support to the National Hawkers Federation and continues work on issues of street vendors in the cities of Ranchi, Bhubaneswar, Delhi and Navi Mumbai and at the national level. In Delhi, Navi Mumbai and Bhubaneswar our work with securing rights of domestic workers has continued with organising them and securing welfare provisions from the state.

## Truckers De-addiction

Truck drivers face various health and behavioural issues due to their long and exhaustive travels in extreme conditions. During nights shift, they consume tobacco to stay alert. Nearly 80% truck drivers are prey to addiction. YUVA conducts awareness and personal transformation sessions, health camps and health awareness to help in the improvement of their lives. Street plays were performed to build awareness on de-addiction.

YUVA organized a cricket match on 27th November 2016, and 26th March 2017, involving many truckers and making them aware about the importance of physical health. We reached around 1,000 drivers in the Uran port through this project.

## Outreach

1,000  
truckers  
engaged  
through  
sessions

**b. Advocacy, Implementation and Monitoring of Right to Food:** National Food Security Act (NFSA) and YUVA work to bridge the gap between Food Security and Urban India. A study has been conducted in Raipur (Chhattisgarh) and Surat (Gujarat) to study the functioning and limitation of the Public Distribution System in urban areas. Our approach to data collection has included traditional instruments and methods, and public hearings data. At one such hearing on the implementation of NFSA in Delhi, 200+ representatives from informal settlements offered critical insights. Prominent Right to Food activists in the country also supported the evidence from the ground and shared their perspective. The research is ongoing and will be completed this year.

## Restoration of Food Security and Opening Beneficiary Vacancies under NFSA, 2013

Ration cards in Guwahati had been suspended since December 2015 owing to flaws in determining beneficiaries. By July 2016, 8,047 ration cards issued under NFSA, 2013 had been surrendered by ineligible beneficiaries. Due to vacancies created owing to the surrender of ration cards by the ineligible beneficiaries, similar number of new eligible beneficiary were to be selected from different wards as per procedure. Due to continuous monitoring of the BSFC Guwahati, a circular was issued and the process of applying for ration cards in order to help the eligible beneficiaries to avail food security has begun. The Director of Food Supply, Civil and Consumer Affairs Department agreed to include the list of beneficiaries that were submitted by the BSFC.



## c. Habitat-Livelihood Linkages

A study on **livelihood security in the slums of Bandra** was conducted. Recommendations from the study included:

- i) Railways should come out with Rehabilitation and Resettlement (R&R) policy for slums on its land. The land-owning authority must try for 'in situ' (within same vicinity) rehabilitation to keep in mind livelihoods of slum dwellers.
  - ii) Multistorey structures are providing much required space for residential and occupational needs.
  - iii) Special rehabilitation plan should be created taking consideration of needs of the people.
  - iv) Businesses in the slums have no licenses and permissions; they don't have access to formal credit/banking system or government schemes. Government agencies should implement banking and insurance schemes to support these businesses
  - v) Entitlement papers like survey receipt ration cards and other documents procurement should be made easy.
- No family should lose their home and livelihood.

## d. Towards implementing National Urban Livelihood Mission (NULM)

### NULM Project

We did a combined program study dissemination of Livelihood Security in the slum of Bandra and DAY-NULM awareness and monitoring. More than 350 people from all over Mumbai participated in this program. The DAY-NULM officer presented highlights of the origins and 6 key components of DAY-NULM. The Mission aimed at generating employment for 5 crore youth through skill development and capacity building as well as providing employment opportunities for the BPL population.

We filed 25 RTIs during the year to know and get information regarding NULM implementation status in Mumbai. The information requested was about education scholarship schemes for children of *safai karmacharis* and rag pickers, why ration cards are not issued yet, land ownership of the Railway, MMRDA, MCGM; special planning of Behram Pada, names of people on the voter's list prior to 2000, existing toilet in H-east and H-west, land ownership of Garib Nagar, Indira Nagar, Behram pada and Shastri Nagar.

Replies of some RTIs were received from railways, MCGM and collectors.

Follow up of some replies is expected in the coming year.

# YUVA Urban

## Women's Empowerment

### HIGHLIGHTS

We formed 6 new women's groups and engaged YUVA's established women's groups from Dharavi and Nagpur in their development with peer exchange and knowledge sharing

Groups in informal settlements of Ambujwadi have been initiated in various housing societies. In meetings, issues related to health, hygiene and nutrition have been discussed. The women have been sensitized on the objectives, services, beneficiaries, roles and responsibilities of ICDS centres.

#### Women's Groups: Bandra

In Bandra, we have facilitated six women groups to be engaged with MCGM for the SHG registration process and classes have been conducted for livelihood improvement. We have built a strategy to organize such groups. Community Based Organizations (CBOs) have been meeting regularly. The participation of women has been through capacity building and we have sensitized them about gender equality. Women have been a part of exposure visits to Dharavi, to help them understand women's groups functioning and management in other communities as well.

#### Women's Monitoring Groups



About 12 women groups, consisting of 170 members, are part of the Community Monitoring Process. 35 core committee members are active. New 'Umag' Group of Monitoring committee has been formed as per the Central Government GR on Anganwadi level monitoring committees. This consist of 11 Women, 4 Youths and 2 children from the community. This committee will work towards improving health, education situation of youth, women and children and also raise voice against Child Rights and women rights violations in the communities.

# YUVA Urban

## Children and Youth

### HIGHLIGHTS

Children submitted their suggestions to the revised Mumbai Development Plan.  
Specific needs of children in the context of R&R were highlighted.

## CHILDREN

### 0-6 YEARS

Pre-school education and nutrition in Mumbai:

- Children less than 5 years receive healthcare as well as pedagogical early childhood development through ICDS program in Balwadi facilitated by YUVA.
- We run 6 crèches in Ambujwadi, for children from 2.5-6 years. During 2015-16, 244 children attended in total. Of these, 124 girls and 120 boys attend Balwadis regularly.
- We started in situ crèches and children's resource centres in six different migrant communities in Navi Mumbai. Through 6 Balwadis in the communities, we have reached up to 180 children between 1 to 6 years of age. The Balwadi involves all the children in community; motivate them for playing, drawing, singing action songs and other extra curricula activities.
- Children have been able to overcome their social anxiety, interact better and make friends. They have shown marked improvement in public speaking, and poetry recitation.
- Teachers' efforts to observe the situation in the child's home and engage with parents has proved fruitful. Parents and carers are often thankful to teachers and remark that their children have become more intelligent, engaged and well-adjusted. In fact, parents have brought their other children to the Balwadi as well which is very encouraging.
- There has been an improvement in the keenness to pursue education with school enrolment of all children aged 6 who attend the Balwadi. About 57 children are enrolled in primary school, out of which 52 children are in Government Schools.
- Preventive healthcare and awareness on malnourishment and early childhood healthcare among parents has increased
- Anganwadi teachers have been monitored by the nutritional expert and the coordinator on a weekly basis to check that children are receiving nutritious food. Trainings on child development, immunisation and nutrition and practical knowledge about cooking nutritious food is offered in Balwadis
- Till 2017, 129 Children are immunised as per the record generated from the parents of the children coming to the Anganwadi centers. One health camp in collaboration with L&T was conducted with 69 children attending.

### Outreach

414  
Children in  
12 Balwadis

# YUVA Urban

## 6-18 YEARS

### Bal Adhikar Sangharsh Sanghatna (BASS)

This year during summer, BASS conducted summer camps and organised a sports event, poster making, puppet making and film screenings in the communities. **About 750 children participated from the communities of Lallubhai Compound and Sathe Nagar.**



# YUVA Urban



**This year, 6 groups were formed and 3 other groups are in the process of formation in Lallubhai Compound, Mankhurd.** There is regular communication among children. 12 meetings are conducted in 8 buildings of the community. The profiling of 245 children has been completed. From Nov-Dec 2016, YUVA conducted a life skill education session with BASS leaders in CRC and the topics for the sessions were rights, confidence, trust building, equality, gender & sex, my body my right, goal setting, good leader skills, constitution, study techniques and substance abuse and its ill effects.

## Child Right's Week Celebration

YUVA celebrated Child Rights Week 2016 from 14-20 Nov at the Child Resource Centre (CRC) in Lallubhai Compound, Mankhurd around the theme 'We are with Children for Creating Violence Free and Safe Communities'. The theme resonates with our work on advocating for safe communities in Mumbai for children. We believe that safe cities start from safe communities, which in turn start from safe homes for children. The programmes were led by children and directed towards other children, parents, communities and the city as a whole. They formed a small group of children representatives who will take up the issues of safe environment for children at the city level. We organised poster making, film screening, puppet show, signature campaigns on local child protection issues. On 20th November a formal celebration of Child Rights day took place, with children from different parts of Mumbai coming together to discuss about the safety issues communities face.

### Focus of the Child Right's Week

- Signature campaigning in Lallubhai compound on "हिंसा मुक्त लल्लूभाई हम बच्चो के साथ है" for celebration of constitution day on 26th November. Our goal was to spread awareness on child safety and child right through a signature campaign.
- Facilitating engagement with government systems meant to protect and promote the well-being of the child. Programmes were initiated to ensure interaction with government systems such as the police (to ensure safety and freedom from fear in communities) and the health administration (especially the government ICDS program) to discuss the importance of their role in creating child friendly communities and cities.

# YUVA Urban



## Child Resource Centres

The YUVA Child Resource Centre (CRC) is a place for children to study, play and engage in activities intended to help them expand their world view. YUVA has made it a point to build awareness in children about their rights and responsibilities. This is done by screening suitable movies, and conducting sessions and activities. This year, we were able to reach 2,287+ children through various activities in 3 CRCs in Mumbai. We built a very good rapport with children, their parents and the youth. By involving police officials, MMRDA, MCGM, CWC and different NGOs we have created a sensitive group of stakeholders.

### Outreach

2287+  
children  
via 3 CRCs

## Advocacy with Children

Community Child Protection Committee (CCPC) interacts with members of communities on the issue of child protection. Through the CRC in Lallubhai Compound, Mankhurd, a meeting with society members in 6 buildings on Child Protection issues was conducted. A discussion with people who will be ready to join the CCPC was conducted, followed by identifying people and enlisting names of community members. CCPC meetings have been continued within buildings. Also, a meeting with the Asst. Commissioner of M Ward regarding developing a CCPC Committee, and a meeting with police and society members about setting up a Police Booth Chowki was also conducted. A letter was given to MMRDA about the Police Beat, and a meeting with Sr. Police Inspector for follow-up on setting up the Police Beat was organized. A session on child rights and child protection was conducted, discussions with UNCRC and CWC are ongoing, and laws like POSCO are taken up at the advocacy level.



# YUVA Urban

## YOUTH

### HIGHLIGHTS

Our work with youth is focused on both empowerment and livelihood creation. There are 20 YUVA affiliated youth groups with about 900 members  
252 youth have received training in 6 skill trades

There are 20 YUVA affiliated youth groups and youth clubs exist in the city with about 900 members. About 473 youths (270 boys and 203 girls) are part of these youth clubs, influencing youth and children to participate in different process and activities conducted for improving health and education in the community. Twice a month sessions are conducted with each youth group on values and issues in the community. Networking with stakeholders and officials like MCGM, police, SMC, etc is also undertaken by the youth. They conduct sessions on themes of social importance – such as child protection law, domestic violence, etc. Awareness campaigns and training programmes are held through the year, led and conducted by the youth on rights, responsibilities, gender and sexuality. Through the theatre workshop, the youth have prepared a new play called *Ek Lavaris Lash* (One unclaimed Corpse). The youth group have also written three scripts and performed 27 street plays during on gender equality and child protection measures. This year, Career Guidance Camp was conducted where 47 youth participated. The youth also presented suggestions about DP, plantation, water quality survey. At the state level, 4 youth participated in an ecological rights workshop.



# YUVA Urban

## Adolescent Girls

There are 2 groups of adolescent girls called 'Saheli'. YUVA organised sports events for girls and also held film screenings. Representation of girls from youth groups in good food campaign, Maharashtra Youth Policy workshop, Child Sexual Abuse workshop can be perceived as a change in the communities where adolescents girls are claiming public spaces. The Nakshatra Yuvati Gat offers an independent space for girls who don't join common groups due to family pressure.

## Anubhav Shiksha Kendra (ASK)

The programme has been implemented since 1993 and is presently operating in the states of Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh covering 28 districts. In the past year we reached out to 8757 youth belonging to a varied social milieu: students, drop-outs, employed youth, unemployed youth, from different castes and classes. The level of self-confidence, self-awareness, social awareness among youth is very low due to a lack of opportunities and space. ASK provides them with a platform to tap their potential and attempts to inculcate the ASK core values among youth. These values are related to gender equality, social justice, democracy and more.

ASK has 8 centres. The centres work with both urban and rural youth. ASK develops understanding of youth on core values by creating awareness, providing specific training and exposure inputs. The trained youth are involved in the village level governance, politics and self-employment processes. The objective of this activity is to orient youth to ASK. We provide a platform where youth can express their views without any hesitation. For the orientation programs games, social awareness songs and film screening were used as learning tools.

## Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar Livelihood Training Centre, Ambujwadi

In 2016-17, at least 50% of the young people are active as peer educators in the slum communities and promote the rights of girls and women, the ecological child rights and the right to education and training. At least 90% young people (48% girls), who have got a specific vocational training according to their abilities, have shown improvement in are self-confidence and possess improved professional qualifications. Participation of girls has increased in the communities, especially for vocational training and skill trainings like Beautician, Computer and Tailoring with 30 girls taking this up. Asma, a peer educator, has taken a lead and conducted sessions on gender and sexuality with the children.

**Outreach**

**50%**  
youth are  
peer  
educators

About 252 youth have enrolled in skill training courses. Of these 150 have been provided training through the YUVA Livelihood Training Centre.

# Making Mumbai – Co-creating Inclusive Cities



In January 2017, YUVA (Youth for Unity and Voluntary Action) conducted a 10 day course for 19 youth from marginalised settlements in Mumbai, India. The course ‘Youth and Inclusive Cities’ brought together youth who have engaged with issues in their communities to bring about change at the local level. This course had aspects of understanding urban movements, and ways of engaging and participating in urban governance, while also providing the youth with skills to work more effectively on such issues. It fostered in them the need to draw from the rich experience of social movements, and come together as young people in the city to bring change.

‘Making Mumbai’ was the beginning of a journey where these 19 youth discussed pressing issues with other youth keen to make the city more inclusive. Over 400 youth from across the city gathered to be part of this event held on 26 March 2017 at Dharavi in Mumbai. These included youth living on streets, in slums, urban villages and resettlement colonies

## The Event

At the event youth groups made presentations on conflicts over land; issues of legality and tenure of slums; right to water, sanitation, housing; and basic services within resettlement and rehabilitation settlements, among others. There was also a panel discussion where four youth leaders spoke on their ideas and vision for an inclusive city. The discussion was on contemporary problems and solutions, as well as the way forward to bring change in cities through changing attitude of the youth. The discussion brought out that creating inclusive cities is complex. It involves engaging in multiple layers - on issues of housing, basic services, infrastructure, along with changing attitudes on gender, caste and religion.

This campaign will be taken forward by the youth through the course of the year while building solidarity and greater awareness on collective ideas of inclusivity. It is after all, youth who will witness and participate in urbanisation over the next 20 years.

# YUVA Rural

## HIGHLIGHTS

We have extended our work on water and sanitation to 30 schools in Nashik and Akola.

YUVA Rural is intervening in areas of Natural Resource Management and Livelihoods. As of now, the work is concentrated in the rural areas of Akola and Wardha in the Vidarbha region of Maharashtra.

### **Convergence of Agriculture Interventions in Maharashtra – Akola and Wardha**

The Government of Maharashtra has undertaken an agriculture reform project “Convergence of Agriculture Interventions in Maharashtra” (CAIM), jointly with IFAD & SRTT. The project spans across six districts of Vidharbha, affected by agricultural distress and farmers’ suicides. The primary objective of the project is to build resilience among the distressed farmers by:

- Increasing household income level of the most affected communities
- Empowering these communities to mitigate climate and market risks

CAIM appointed YUVA as the implementing agency of the project for 32 selected villages at Deoli cluster of Wardha District and Barishtakli cluster of Akola District. This is a four year project that began in 2012-13. Major interventions are in the field of agriculture for making this system more resilient.

#### **Formation of Collectives**

Collectives were created as a forum for people to discuss the issues that matter to their development, voice their concerns and find appropriate solutions for self-growth. People in the village came together for development and made decisions for organisation of the village development committee (VDC). They created a forum for making joint decisions for various activities. Representatives of VDC are elected persons from the villages and all categories and genders are represented.

### **WASH in Nashik and Akola District**

In 2016 we have extended our work on Water and Sanitation to 30 schools in Nashik and Akola. The work focusses on upgrading water and sanitation facilities along with behavior change. We are leveraging our strength with youth and farmers in this area to ensure sustainable WASH system.

# YUVA Central

YUVA Central was developed as an ‘outward’ looking entity to serve the world outside YUVA, while supporting the YUVA family. YUVA Central has three programmatic aspects— YUVA Training Centre, Information Resource Centre and Project Facilitation.

## Training Expertise

As one of the eleven levels of intervention listed, YUVA has always undertaken conscientisation through training. **In its first three years of inception (2001-2004), YUVA central branch hosted and conducted 35 training programs for more than 445 people from different parts of India, Asia and the world.** YUVA has majorly focused on training on human rights, behavioural aspects, organisation management and development for NGOs and Community Based Organisations (CBOs).

YUVA has also initiated many youth training programs, like Youth Urban Animator Training Program (YATP) which trained the youth for leadership roles in society. Since 1992, we have spread the youth training format to different regions of the country through the Anubhav Shiksha Program (ASK) in Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh.

### Diploma in Youth Development and Social Change (DYDSC)

Given our experience and considering the demand for a more structured format of training, YUVA collaborated with Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) to launch a course called Diploma in Youth Development and Social Change (DYDSC).

This course has helped students gain competencies in the core practice skills required for working with youth. These include: communication; relationship building; building resilience; working with individuals, groups, communities; skills for working in and with organisations; mobilisation and social action skills; skills related to collection and interpretation of data; art based interventions.

The course included subjects like, ‘Youth and Identity’, ‘Youth and Sexuality’ and ‘Programmes, Policies, Schemes and Services for Youth’.

The course also highlighted themes like crime and citizenship and participation. The structure of the course was majorly participatory and practical learning methods were used. Every subject included a field visit and interaction with youth or people working with youth at the ground level; the students visited organizations like Pratham, SNEHA, NYK & NSS to understand myriad aspects and built perspective on youth issues.

Field placement is an integral part of the course. All students took up field placement for a month.

# YUVA Central

## Feedback on the Course



The students of the course were from different backgrounds - ranging from corporates to community organizers from different NGO's, people who wanted a window to the arena of social change, etc.

- ✓ A homemaker shared how her prejudices and biases transformed after the knowledge and practical exposure she received from the course.
- ✓ Another student shared how she has been able to bring small changes in her family. She says that because of the course she could reduce gender discrimination at her own house.
- ✓ Others mentioned how this course has been useful to carve out new paths and helped lay a foundation for new careers and their dreams ahead in the social work sector.
- ✓ A student mentioned how she now sees her role as a citizen more strongly than ever. This she believes has been brought about by the self-transformation that happened through the journey of the course.

## South Asia Network on Dams, Rivers, and People (SANDRP)

The core activities of the SANDRP project of YUVA consist of monitoring the water sector in India with focus on big projects like dams, hydropower projects, irrigation projects, and work towards achieving greater democracy, greater attention to environmental issues and for sustainable, equitable and participatory development and sustained existence of ecosystems like rivers. As part of this work, SANDRP, along with four other groups, organises India Rivers Week on alternate years and India Rivers Day on the other alternate years.

We have successfully organized another India Rivers Week in 2016. Our persistent advocacy work has meant that one of the key water infrastructure projects that the government wanted to take up on priority has not been taken up so far. The minutes of the official Forest Advisory Committee held on March 30, 2017 acknowledge SANDRP submissions. Similarly, there has been major slowdown in taking up large hydro projects, which are largely destructive. The government of Bihar invited SANDRP to participate and speak at the international conference on Ganga in Patna in 2017 and there we were told by the **Bihar government officials how they are using our writings to illustrate their case.** This was a major positive feedback from a state government, and also confirmed by another set of Bihar officials during a meeting in Delhi. The Madhya Pradesh government also invited the SANDRP coordinator to speak on World Wetlands Day.

# Campaigns and Networks



## Wada Na Todo Abhiyan (WNTA)

Wada Na Todo Abhiyan (WNTA) is a national campaign of more than 4,000 civil society organisations (CSOs) spread across the country. YUVA supports the Secretariat of the Campaign that is housed in Delhi.

YUVA and WNTA organised a 1 day Consultation on ‘Anchoring the Sustainable Development Goal 11 in the Indian context’ in New Delhi in December 2016. Through this, we brought together individuals and organisations with the aim to:

- i) map existing national urban development policies and strategies to commitments under the SDGs;
- ii) assess how we can achieve these goals, especially Goal 11 (Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable), and unpack its linkages to the New Urban Agenda;
- iii) deliberate if the eradication of poverty and the “leave no one behind” agenda is rooted in India’s current urban policies - question what more needs to be done and what needs to be done differently to realise these goals;
- iv) develop an urban perspective on all other goals within the ideas of ‘right to the city’; and,
- v) discuss the role of civil society in supporting the achievement of Goal 11 and the New Urban Agenda.

50 people from over 35 national and international organisations attended the consultation. The consultation had four panels and concluded with a session to plan the way forward. Through this Consultation, we aimed to begin a process of anchoring the SDGs and the New Urban Agenda (NUA) in domestic missions, policies and schemes and spread awareness on the binding nature of these goals. We also sought to begin developing and contextualising indicators and create an accountability mechanism for Goal 11.

# Campaigns and Networks

## Hamara Shehar Mumbai Abhiyaan



Hamara Shehar Mumbai Abhiyaan (Our City Mumbai Campaign) has active membership from multiple organizations and YUVA is the campaign secretariat. A core group with representation from various organisations oversee key activities and advocacy initiatives. In the Development Plan campaign, awareness on the Revised Draft Development Plan, submission of suggestions & objections, preparing for hearings, people's manifesto for elections was created this year.

### Hamara Shehar Mumbai, 2016-17



In 2016-17, HSM has been a successful campaign to sensitize Mumbaikars about the reality of the Master Plan of Mumbai. More than 6,000 suggestions and objections have been raised by the campaign around Mumbai and submitted to MCGM offices.



# Campaigns and Networks



The Mumbai DP Campaign was invited for an individual hearing by the MCGM where the 'People's Response to the Revised Draft Development Plan' drafted in the earlier quarter was presented before the 3-member panel appointed by the State Government. Residents from communities were also organized to represent their concerns in front of the hearing committee at their respective hearings. A series of 7 thematic consultations were organized to inform public understanding on specific issues in the DP and also helped in developing a people's response to the RDDP.

## Our Suggestions for Bandra Slums

In our 200 suggestions, we requested MCGM to declare planning of Bandra communities which are coming in Special Planning Authority (SPA) under MMRDA. When we asked MMRDA to show the planning they refused. Maps highlight this area red notifying it as no planning zone especially Behram Pada, Garib Nagar, Indra Nagar, Shastri Nagar and other areas from BKC to Bandra reclamation. The master plan is yet to come out, after finalization from the State Government and MCGM. Then we will be able to rethink it and plan for the future strategies.

## Pani Pilao Abhiyan



On 28 November 2016, Pani Haq Samiti (PHS) organised a mass campaign 'Pani Pilao Abhiyan' at the MCGM head office. More than 1,000 people participated, with the homeless residents of Ambujwadi, Bandra and Mankhurd participating in large numbers. On the same day, the standing committee agreed that no cut-off date GR is valid for provision of water in slums. Water should be given to every citizen whether residing in slums, or on the pavements. It was a great relief for people who are fighting and struggling for water. From the communities of Mumbai we have filed applications for new legal water connections and simultaneously dialogues with hydraulic engineers are ongoing for permission for all the applications and for taking action on offering connections..

# Engagement in Habitat III



## Engagement in Habitat III - United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development

A National Consultation was held with participation of CSOs, academicians, international organizations, Community Based Organizations to discuss how to engage in the Habitat III process. A core group was formed to draft a People's Report for the Habitat III. The Report "Overview of Urban Development in 19 years: An Account of Civil Society Organizations" was launched in Delhi in May 2016. YUVA participated in the Asia Pacific Forum meeting in Jakarta in relation to Habitat III and made inputs on informal workers into the outcome document in partnership with other organisation. Thereafter, YUVA participated in PrepCom 1,2 & 3 in the lead- up to the Habitat III Conference in Quito.

The Habitat III Conference focuses on setting a global commitment on sustainable urbanisation by bringing forth a "New Urban Agenda." It is an important opportunity to discuss urban challenges and think of solutions to plan, manage and run sustainable villages, towns and cities for years to come. YUVA has been engaged in discussions at Habitat III to influence policy at the national level. YUVA organised awareness workshops for Indian civil society members and engaged with the ministerial bodies responsible for India's participation in Habitat III. We organized a session on Right to the City at the Children & Youth Assembly of the United Nations Conference on Housing and Urban Development.

# List of Attributions for Icons Used

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## About YUVA

Youth for Unity and Voluntary Action (YUVA) is a non-profit development organisation committed to enabling vulnerable groups to access their rights. YUVA encourages the formation of people's collectives that engage in the discourse on development, thereby ensuring self-determined and sustained collective action in communities. This work is complemented with advocacy and policy recommendations. Founded in Mumbai in 1984, currently YUVA operates in the states of Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Assam and New Delhi.

At the community-level, through an integrated 360-degree approach, YUVA delivers solutions on issues of housing, livelihood, environment and governance. Through research, YUVA creates knowledge that enhances capacity building. Through partnerships in campaigns, YUVA provides solidarity and builds strong alliances to drive change.

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