



YUVA *Annual* *Report*

2022-23



Youth for Unity and Voluntary Action (YUVA) is a non-profit development organisation committed to enabling vulnerable groups to access their rights and address human rights violations. YUVA supports 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 on issues.

Suggested Citation: _____

Youth for Unity and Voluntary Action.
December 2023. Annual Report 2022-23.
Mumbai: India.

Published by: _____

Youth for Unity and Voluntary Action (YUVA)
YUVA Centre, Plot 23, Sector 7, Kharghar,
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2020

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President's Address _____

*Focusing on
People's
Empowerment
and Leadership*

Post the lockdowns of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the ensuing vulnerabilities, as YUVA took ahead its work we remained mindful of the lessons learnt. Alongside the pandemic, increasing climate hazards had reinforced the need for better risk preparedness. Be it disasters, maladaptations, natural or human-driven adversities, we focused on designing responsive and agile systems to sustain the impact of what we do.

As we continued our work in the past year, we remained committed to people's needs and kept our eyes and ears on the ground, to understand their changed priorities to respond appropriately. Our people-first approach in all interventions ensured that our work remained relevant and supported the needs of the most marginalised.

In communities where we work, we continued facilitating access to legal entitlements and social protection, along with registrations of workers. We stepped up advocacy efforts with the government to expand people's access to identity and welfare in cities. We built knowledge and capacities on local governance, to increase people's participation in decision making. Our work spanned from mobilising and strengthening community groups to city level networks, to building collective strategies and addressing larger issues of housing, evictions, labour rights, youth and children's rights, and environmental justice issues. As forced evictions across cities continued, we offered paralegal support to communities facing eviction threats and built capacities of local leaders to respond. Youth collectives facilitated by us strengthened their participation in governance as they developed leadership capacities. Our interventions with a range of women workers deepened (from those who engage in domestic work and construction work, to home-based workers) to help them develop the voice and agency to stand up for their rights. We also integrated all our work with questions of climate justice, to build the resilience to extreme climate hazards and mitigate its impact on the urban poor

As I present to you our Annual Report for 2022–23, I thank you for your unstinting support. Hope you enjoy reading the highlights of the past year, and I look forward to remaining in touch.

In solidarity
Rajendra Joshi
President, YUVA



Message from the
**Executive
Director**

*Investing in
Learning and
Collective Action
for Change*

YUVA has always committed to facilitating rights for most marginalised groups. As I look back over the past year, I am heartened by how collectives and people’s organisations we facilitated are complementing each other’s work, deepening the call for justice and rights. Our efforts to set-up and strengthen people’s organisations, while adopting a facilitatory role and shifting power to the people, is a long-term commitment to sustainable, scalable change. It highlights why the investment in people’s agency and capacity building is crucial, so that they can demand governance accountability and ensure democratic participation for a more inclusive future.

In the past year, for instance, we facilitated access to legal entitlements, social protection schemes and services for a denotified tribal community in Bhopal denied these provisions earlier. We also worked to institutionalise a model for universal access to social protection across Maharashtra. Through our work with a homeless people’s organisation in Mumbai, we enabled their capacities to strengthen the demand for family shelters, housing and protection from evictions. Although targeted evictions continued, despite our onground work and advocacy, we helped people develop diverse strategies to resist and seek justice. The ‘Stories of Transformation’ section in this annual report outlines specific changemaking instances from our work.

YUVA has always underlined the importance of learning and sustainability of processes. This year too, we strengthened people’s leadership in collectives to ensure that interventions can sustain. Through a strategic clarity exercise, YUVA’s leadership team sharpened the framing and articulation of what we do. Our teams remained committed to supporting people’s needs and adapted to changed contexts as needed. Over the recent years, we have kept trying to improve and be more intentional about how we measure our work and impact, and these capabilities evolved this year too.

I am happy to share that we could facilitate deeper conversations and interactions between people of different social classes through our urban festival, ComplexCity. Children and youth leaders meaningfully engaged on questions of housing and identity, and our curated walks received many media mentions. Other festival initiatives, such as the youth conventions and competitions, also helped bring diverse young people together. The festival continues to help us reimagine how we can engage better and more creatively on urban issues with one another.

As we enter our thirty-ninth year of driving change, I remain hopeful that with our bold vision, and people’s support, we will be able to imagine and work towards a better tomorrow. My heartfelt thanks to all our donors and well-wishers for their constant support, motivating us to do further

In solidarity

Roshni Nuggehalli

Executive Director, YUVA

1.

About Us

YUVA

Youth for Unity and Voluntary Action (YUVA) is a non-profit development organisation committed to facilitating access to rights for vulnerable groups. Since our founding in 1984, we have focused on empowering the most marginalised people, working on human rights issues related to urbanisation, migration and natural resource management.

To secure people's identity in the city and encourage their participation in decision making, we run Habitat Facilitation Centres, Labour Facilitation Centres, a Migration Resource Centre and Child Resource Centres in communities. Currently, our work is spread across locations in the

states of Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Assam and New Delhi. Broadly, our work focuses on three different areas:



Poverty

We aim to address multi-dimensional aspects of poverty in a holistic and integrated manner.



Environment Sustainability

Our work encompasses both the natural and human/social environment. We look at issues of quality, equity and sustainability in the development and management of natural resources and in the quality of human life.



Urban Governance and Planning

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

Mission

We will empower the oppressed and the marginalised, to help them access their human right to live in security, dignity and peace.

We will facilitate people's organisations and institutions towards equitable participation in the development process. We will engage in constructive dialogue and critical partnerships with the government alongside civil society, including movements, trade unions, women's groups, academic institutions and the private sector, to enable and strengthen 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 all people 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, race, 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

Our non-negotiable core values which commit us to the fundamental principles of development are:

Social Justice

Gender Justice

Environmental Sustainability

Honesty and Integrity

Secularism and Democracy

Core Purpose

We aim to democratise society, polity and economy for all.



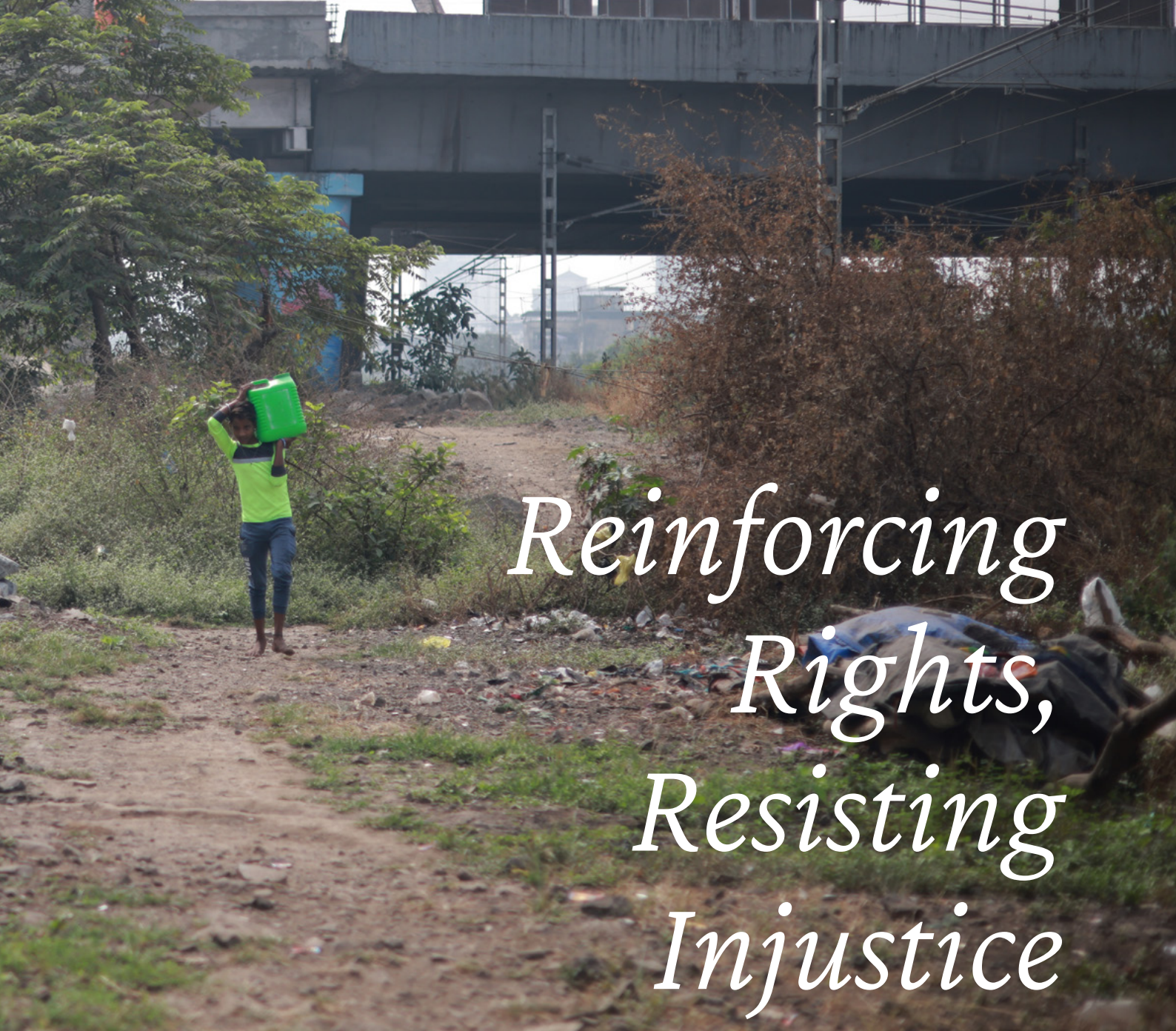
Our Approach

India's marginalised populations face multiple deprivations. Migratory patterns bringing people to urban centres of India, often to escape injustice, oppression and livelihood-related constraints at home, are reinforced in new ways in city homes.

Informal employment at lower wage rates forces marginalised people to inhabit informal settlements, some of which are not even recognised by the government and subjected to threats of forced eviction. With frequent loss of homes and livelihoods, the urban poor are never secure. In addition, with growing climate threats in marginalised habitats (including increased flooding and landslides), risk to life and livelihoods has increased.

The cycle of informal labour and housing and the lack of access to basic services forces people to live in abject conditions, deprived of their basic human rights.

Our work has always focused on how we can facilitate human rights for disadvantaged individuals and groups. In urban areas, we are guided by the Right to the City framework, which aims to involve every individual in the decision making and development of cities. We strengthen the identity building and citizenship of the urban poor, so they can stake a claim over the city as rightful citizens.



Reinforcing Rights, Resisting Injustice

As questions of housing, livelihoods, basic services and rights of every individual are deeply interrelated in the lives of marginalised persons who often face challenges from all quarters and at the same time, our work spans across all these thematics. It is rooted in seeking approaches to overcome systemic barriers and injustice, so that we can co-create a more inclusive and equitable future with people's support.

We apply a holistic 360-degree approach to address issues of poverty, environmental sustainability, participatory urban governance and planning, keeping rural-urban linkages in view to help set up just and inclusive spaces. We support natural resource management and the growth of new

livelihoods while focusing on people's training, to help them upskill and demand adequate conditions of work and pay and claim their rights. Intervention strategies in rural and urban areas focus on developing community-based people's organisations, building and strengthening people's leadership and developing their voices for integrated community development.

In the following sections, we share our work over the past year, and how we have facilitated access to rights for marginalised individuals and groups.

2.

Our Work

Poverty

Poverty is multi-dimensional and impacts every aspect of life. The urban poor struggle to access housing, work and basic services (such as water, electricity), often more than their rural counterparts. They may end up paying much more to access services due to corruption and their lack of identity documents in the city.

We engage with the urban poor to support their access to rights, so that they can participate in decision-making and realise their 'Right to the City'. As quality of life is determined by the kind of habitat and work available, YUVA works in an

integrated manner on both thematics, so that people's right to habitat and work can be upheld. Given the multifaceted vulnerabilities at play, YUVA also implements programmes to uphold child rights and youth rights to strengthen these populations.

We have always worked to make visible the invisible needs and demands of marginalised populations of the city. In the past year too, we continued to build people's leadership and facilitate their access to rights.

Secure Habitats for All

Our work on Right to Habitat focuses on how we can support the development of sustainable habitats, with access to land and housing as a right. We work with people living in insecure housing conditions, facilitating their access to basic services and building community resilience to handle forced

evictions. Interventions focus on capacity building, research and advocacy, and participation in campaigns and networks. Our work is spread across nine cities—Mumbai, Navi Mumbai, Panvel, Vasai-Virar, Akola, Nagpur, Delhi, Bhopal and Guwahati.

In Numbers

11

habitat facilitation centres

3

social protection facilitation centres

11,628

legal entitlements and welfare schemes facilitated

600+

households access eviction support

150+

community groups formed

90+

basic service applications facilitated



Major Interventions

- **Driving recognition of marginalised populations in cities by facilitating access to identity documents, access to entitlements and basic services** through Habitat Facilitation Centres. We organised trainings for communities to collectively access legal entitlements, schemes and services, to ensure sustainability of the processes being initiated. In Bhopal we were able to facilitate legal entitlements, social protection schemes and services (such as school admissions, road construction, installation of drainage pipelines, and clean water) for a denotified tribal community that was not able to access any of this earlier.
- **Facilitating last mile delivery of social protection schemes via model social protection facilitation centres** in three diverse contexts (urban, rural and tribal districts) in Maharashtra, reaching 247 villages, 151 gram panchayats and 1 urban local body. In Kagal (Amravati district) this work is in partnership with Dr. Ambedkar Sheti Vikas Va Sanshodhan Sanstha. With our efforts, 5,487 applications were sanctioned and cash entitlements amounting to over INR 1.6 crore were received by people in dire need of support. Largely, the schemes enabled social protection for women, children and other vulnerable groups; right to food; social security for informal workers. We facilitated eligibility determination, assistance in obtaining supporting documentation, stacking of schemes based on eligibility, filing of applications and sanctioning assistance through regular engagement with block, tehsil and district level officials.
- **Strengthening collective leadership and advocacy campaigns to amplify demands via** community-based organisations (CBOs) and people's organisations. In Navi Mumbai, the Ghar Hakk Sangharsh Samiti strengthened capacities in leadership via detailed training programmes. In Nagpur and Akola, the Shehar Vikas Manch and the Akola Vikas Sangharsh Manch continued advocacy for access to land titles (malki pattas). In Mumbai, the Beghar Mazdoor Ekta Sangathana, people's organisation of the homeless, demanded family shelters, housing and protection from evictions.
- **Supporting homeless communities** by facilitating identity documents and social protection schemes. Given their extreme marginalisation, this work is often contentious and involves lengthy negotiations with authorities. In Mumbai, the vulnerable homeless were supported during adversities such as evictions, sudden deaths in the community, and in ensuring their access to basic services like water.
- **Resisting forced evictions** before, during and after they occur with people's training, network building and preventive strategies driven by the Anti-Eviction Support Cell. YUVA intervened in several cases of forced evictions across cities of Mumbai and Navi Mumbai and districts of Assam, offering advocacy and para legal support to the communities through different collectives and networks.
- **Intervening for inclusive urban planning.** We mapped and profiled 76 informal settlements in Navi Mumbai that were not a part of the Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation list of recognised settlements, to advocate for their reservation as public housing lands in the ongoing development plan process. We launched a campaign 'Abhi Nahi to Kabhi Nahi' to get maximum residents of informal settlements to provide their suggestions to the Navi Mumbai Development Plan. YUVA played an important role in ensuring city level demands were placed before the Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation in partnership with the Navi Mumbai Collective. We also published a detailed essay on how slums have been invisibilised in the Navi Mumbai Development Plan 2018–2038 on our blog, and called for their

inclusion. In Akola city too, we engaged with residents and planning authorities to work towards a more inclusive development plan revision process.

- **Enabling constructive dialogue between the state and marginalised communities.** Through our work, we aim to further collaborative dialogue and action, such as via the public meeting on the Slum Rehabilitation Scheme, which helped the residents of Navi Mumbai's informal settlements directly engage with Slum Rehabilitation Authority officials and comprehensively understand the scheme's rules, regulations and procedures. Thereafter, planned housing societies were formed in all slums where we work in Navi Mumbai. We also developed good rapport with block level and district level officials, while facilitating the last mile access and delivery of social protection schemes.

- **Evidence-based documentation and research** driven by insights from on-ground realities, presenting people's needs and demands in their own voices. We released a booklet on easy access to schemes for social protection in Marathi. We also published six policy briefs, analysing the on-ground implementation of six social protection schemes in Maharashtra. We published a policy brief on the social protection score, developed in partnership with Fields of View¹, and shock responsive social protection for easy dissemination among policymakers. We launched the report Informal Settlements and Urban Planning: A Study of Guwahati City and a capacity building workshop for community leaders to better understand the city's planning dimensions and advocate stronger for their rights. We also conducted an audit of vacant resettlement and rehabilitation housing in Mumbai through information gathered via RTI applications.



1. <https://fieldsofview.in/>

Dignified Work for Everyone

We partner with a range of informal workers (daily-wage workers, construction workers, street vendors, domestic workers) to help them access their Right to Work, Wages and Welfare. We facilitate entitlements and registrations for access to welfare, conduct research and advocacy, participate in and lead campaigns and networks to take forward the

struggle for dignified and adequate conditions of work for informal workers and the realisation of their rights through their empowerment. The work is spread across 11 cities—Mumbai, Navi Mumbai, Panvel, Vasai-Virar, Akola, Nagpur, Delhi, Guwahati, Jorhat, Bhopal and Ranchi.

In Numbers

₹10.9

lakh construction worker wages recovered

14,517

legal entitlements and worker social protection schemes facilitated

2,000+

members enrolled in workers' collectives

100+

self-help groups formed/strengthened; 70+ receive National Urban Livelihoods Mission revolving fund



Major Interventions

- **Facilitating access to legal entitlements and social protection** for construction workers, street vendors and domestic workers, and furthering advocacy to demand this, where challenges and bottlenecks arise. In Vashi Naka, Mumbai, for instance, many street vendors were unable to access the PM SVANidhi scheme, as the municipal corporation was not providing Letters of Recommendation (LoRs). With sustained advocacy by vendors' collectives, LoRs started being provided and the 90-days certificate for construction workers' access to social protection was also furthered. In Guwahati, domestic workers were registered for e-Shram via camps in collaboration with the State Labour Department.
- **Enhancing rights awareness** of street vendors, construction and *naka* (daily wage) workers, domestic workers and home based workers. In addition to the sessions and workshops at the city and state level on the Acts for workers' welfare, we helped workers take ahead advocacy for their access to rights. Unorganised workers also were capacitated to understand the new Labour Codes and Rules.
- **Supporting access to wages, welfare and just working conditions** for construction and *naka* workers via a range of initiatives and outreach programmes. The Labour Helpline, operating across 6 cities, helped recover over INR 10.9 lakh worth unpaid wages via cases registered through it in 2022–23.
- **Encouraging informal workers to form collectives** to better negotiate for their rights at the local, state and national level. Our efforts focused on organising people at identified *nakas*, markets and communities and connecting them with larger worker networks for change. We also worked to enable their access to needed skill and capacity building sessions to further collective bargaining and rights-based demands in collectives.
- **Supporting street vendors to better handle forced evictions.** In Guwahati, Mumbai, Navi Mumbai, Panvel and Ranchi, street vendors collectivised stronger to advocate for identity cards, designated vending zones and state-level implementation of Street Vendors' Act, 2014. They articulated their demands against forced evictions and raids, and their need for social security. In Vashi Naka, Mumbai, a women's vendor committee formed to advocate against violence to women vendors, and built good rapport with the police and municipality.
- **Encouraging the formation and strengthening of self-help groups (SHGs)** and connecting them with government schemes for financial support. We also facilitated access to training, to help self-help groups strengthen their income-generating opportunities and develop their independent identities, and connected them to market opportunities. In Vasai, women unable to form SHGs due to lack of documents formed women's groups. They attended monthly capacity building programmes and worked on basic service issues with ward officers and related government agencies, building their confidence and leadership.
- **Supporting health needs of informal workers,** with health awareness sessions and camps in communities. 17 health awareness camps were organised across the Mumbai Metropolitan Region and in Guwahati and Jorhat, reaching 1,000+ workers. Apart from raising awareness on various healthy and sanitary practices to prevent the spread of Covid-19 and communicable diseases, the sessions focused on women's health needs, the importance of a nutritious diet, screened for cancer and provided referrals to affordable treatment facilities.
- **Networking and advocacy** in partnership with civil society organisations and networks such as with Maharashtra State Domestic Workers



Samanvaya Samiti, Maharashtra Hawkers Federation, and domestic workers' collective Grihokarmi Adhikar Suraksha Samiti in Assam. Advocacy efforts were furthered at the city, state and national level on issues related to informal workers. We advocated for a state legislation for domestic workers in Assam, and for the active functioning of the Domestic Workers' Welfare Board in Maharashtra, to help workers access benefits. In collaboration with the Working People's Coalition (WPC), we have advocated for rental housing for workers and ESIC benefits to be extended to all groups of informal workers.

- **Documentation and research** strengthened by first-hand knowledge of on-ground realities, presenting people's needs and demands in their own voices. We published *Women at Work: How a Domestic Workers' Collective in Assam is Pioneering Efforts for Rights and Recognition*. We also prepared a training module for street vendors, on the status of the street vendors scheme in various states. Our blog continued to document the ongoing interventions related to informal workers rights and collective bargaining.

Child Rights Friendly Communities and Cities

We facilitate child-friendly communities and cities, with the participation of children as equal stakeholders. We enable platforms for children to express their opinions, organise themselves into collectives, and advocate for their rights. With

children in marginalised communities experiencing multiple vulnerabilities, our interventions aim to facilitate their holistic development. Our work spans across Mumbai, Navi Mumbai and Vasai-Virar.

In Numbers

650+

children access 6 child resource centres and 3 *balwadis*

30+

children's collectives

35+

disability cards facilitated for children and youth with disability

3

bal melas organised with 450 participating children

2 & 5

CPCs CCPCs

engage on child protection



Major Interventions

- **Creating a safe space for learning and interaction** by enabling Child Resource Centres and *balwadis* in communities. These centres support non-formal education, life skills training, value based and creative learning opportunities and were guided by Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) evaluation tools.
- **Promoting safe communities** with the setup and active functioning of Child Protection Committees (CPCs) and Community Child Protection Committees (CCPCs). Across the year, the CCPCs handled 14 cases of catcalling, of children dropping out of school, facilitation of school enrollments, and medical help referrals. They also monitored the situation of the *aanganwadis*. A refresher training was conducted for CCPC members, helping them develop capacities and stronger strategies to work on cases of child protection.



▪ **Encouraging children's collective building** so that they can take forward their demands and present it to relevant authorities and demand action. 30+ children's collectives (Bal Adhikar Sangharsh Sangathans) (BASS) have formed across the city and are strengthening their collectivisation with regular activities and sessions. The BASS collective observed their 20th founding year, and children drew inspiration from the collective's history and celebrated their ongoing achievements.

▪ **Child-led campaigns and advocacy initiatives** towards children's demand for adequate urban childhoods. Over 350 children participated in the *Shoshan se Aazadi* campaign for freedom from all forms of abuse against children, the *44 Days Campaign Against Child Labour*, *Samman ke Saath Suraksha* campaign for safe communities and no victim blaming, *Daya Nahi Samman Chahiye* campaign for inclusive community spaces, and others. 300 children participated in a Maharashtra State level event organised around International Day Against Child Labour, engaging via panel discussions, street plays and other formats.



Youth Empowerment for Active Citizenship

We encourage young people's self determination and empower them to claim their social, economic, political and cultural rights. We curate platforms for youth to express their opinions, organise themselves into collectives and advocate for their rights.

Our youth work focuses on facilitating collective agency and supporting their participation in governance as active citizens. This work has taken place in Mumbai and various districts of Maharashtra.

In Numbers

10,000+

youth outreach

2,500+

youth participate in National Youth Policy consultations across

1,600+

youth attend life skills training

700+

youth trained via leadership and governance programmes

19

districts of Maharashtra, in partnership with

22

organisations

100+

youth collectives



Major Interventions

- **Empowering youth with rights awareness, Constitutional values, life skills** through programmes and creative sessions to help in their holistic development. Our different programmes such as Anubhav Shiksha Kendra (which focuses on experiential learning) and City Caravan (co-creating inclusive cities with youth), aim to help the youth develop capacities for personal and social transformation.
- **Encouraging formation and strengthening of youth collectives** to help young people jointly claim and defend rights, and take forward demands and present them to relevant authorities for action.
- **Strengthening youth leadership and participation in governance**, with a stronger alignment to Constitutional values and ideals. We organised a Constitution Mahotsav across 21 districts of Maharashtra, with youth leaders anchoring 70+ awareness programmes, and 500+ youth participating, learning from and enhancing their knowledge and understanding of the Constitutional values and tenets to better advocate for rights.
- **Youth-led networking and advocacy initiatives** on a range of local issues. Additionally, 2,500+ youth participated in National Youth Policy consultations, across 19 district districts of Maharashtra, in partnership with 22 youth organisations. Youth proposed recommendations to the draft policy and engaged in discussions across diverse geographies and identities.
- **Facilitating access to education and improved livelihood opportunities** for youth. 70+ youth accessed scholarship support. In addition to skill training sessions organised for youth, they also attended mental health support sessions, sessions on values and peacebuilding. Youth also attended career guidance sessions and conferences.
- **Helping youth develop market linkages and engage in sustainable businesses.** In Guwahati, we strengthened a community based collective of youth by promoting a sustainable, eco-friendly model with locally available resources, bridging the gap between the producers (farmers) and consumers (in the city). This led to the creation of a vegetable market initiative called Haat Baat which has ensured the economic empowerment of unemployed, educated youth.



Environment

We are committed to climate-just habitats and cities. Our advocacy focuses on aligning the development praxis within social and ecological justice frameworks. We focus on how the requirements of most vulnerable regions and marginalised citizens can be represented in climate

planning and decision-making processes. This is especially in context of the Mumbai Climate Action Plan (MCAP) recently launched by the Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai (MCGM), a first of its kind policy action document.

Major Interventions

- **Initiating climate justice in an urban coastal settlement.** Taking forward YUVA's comprehensive climate hazard mapping of the Mumbai Metropolitan Region we identified climate vulnerable hotspots across the region through ground level rapid assessments. Ambojwadi, an urban poor community located along Mumbai's western coast was rendered amongst highly vulnerable bastis. To assess Ambojwadi's climate and social vulnerabilities we conducted a comprehensive Vulnerability Assessment which further led to the development of a Community Climate Action Plan. In 2022, we also worked with IIT-Bombay to prepare a near-real-time flood map for Mumbai.
- **Initiating nature-based placemaking for select vulnerable communities in Mumbai** to facilitate community design through placemaking and greening of an open space. We identified and initiated community driven urban greening in urban poor areas that are highly vulnerable to heat stress at in Mumbai. The nature-based placemaking interventions went beyond increasing green cover. It spearheaded foregrounding community participation and ownership to design accessible open spaces through scientific greening methods.
- **Engaging youth in climate justice through perspective building workshops** conducted for youth in agrarian areas, youth in urban areas, and youth in forested areas. Basis the learnings from these workshops, youth gained understanding on climate change and critical perspectives on climate justice principles which were further linked to their local level issues.
- **Collaborating with a climate justice coalition at the MMR level,** within which we collaborated with a coalition in Vasai-Virar region in order to understand environmental impacts of infrastructure projects. We are working to bring together diverse stakeholders, for more holistic and focused action-oriented response to climate change. We aim to mainstream a justice lens to both social and climate movements existing in the city.
- **Contributing to the changing climate narrative in the city,** to present perspectives of the urban poor at several multi-stakeholder meetings. Our essay, 'Mainstreaming Climate Change in Navi Mumbai's Development Plan' was published by Question of Cities. We also contributed to the ReFrame 2022 edition submission by the Mariwala Health Initiative, with our submission 'Environmental Health and Care Requires Environmental Justice'
- **Engaging in the water sector** by supporting the efforts of the South Asia Network on Dams, Rivers and People (SANDRP). In 2022–23, the network continued the work of monitoring, researching, analysing, disseminating and networking on these issues. In addition the network tracked riverbed mining and violation issues, and analysed flooding, cloud bursts, dam induced and dams related disasters. The network's evidence-based documentation continued and it strengthened collaborations with civil society groups.

Governance

Parliamentary and State Assembly Advocacy

We continued advocacy efforts on issues of evictions, survey of informal settlements, the rights of marginalised groups, informal workers, youth and children. In the Maharashtra and Assam State Assembly, our demands on labour rights, worker benefits and the welfare board were raised by House Members.

We also analysed questions posed to the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) and Ministry of Labour and Employment (MoLE). We published our findings in the form of the *Parliamentary Watch Report 2022*, which was then used to develop questions to be raised with elected representatives on the progress of these schemes.

Governance Accountability Initiatives

We are a part of the Wada Na Todo Abhiyan (WNTA), a national platform of civil society organisations focusing on governance accountability to eliminate

poverty, discrimination, and social exclusion. YUVA is the Co-convenor of the National Steering Committee.

Formation and Strengthening of Mohalla Sabhas and Samitis

We have been facilitating the formation and strengthening of *Mohalla Sabhas* and *Mohalla Samitis* across cities, promoting this under the 74th Constitutional Amendment Act process of decentralisation and decision-making at the *basti*-level, mandated under the Area Sabhas. *Mohalla Sabhas* help further capacity building in the community and engage with people on issues concerning them.

20+ *Mohalla Samitis* were formed across Bandra and Ambujwadi in Mumbai. The *samitis* were made richer with the participation of men, women, transgender persons, disabled persons, among others, who used the forum to discuss their local issues and advocacy

strategies. Children and youth collectives and community child protection committees also joined the *samitis* in monitoring SDG 11 by conducting social audits, creating charters of demands and meeting municipal leaders to demand for their rights to be met. 5 trainings were conducted to build the capacities of *mohalla samitis* on local governance structure, housing rights and land laws, constitutional rights, schemes and policies. 70+ applications were submitted by them, of which 45 have been resolved, concerning water connections, drainage issues, waste collection, toilet cleaning, access to ration and welfare schemes, light installation, among others.

3.

Stories of Transformation

1. Nurturing people's organisations for city-level change

YUVA's focus on facilitating holistic people-driven change in cities is an intentional strategy to ensure sustainability of designed processes and interventions. For instance, in the past year, two

people's organisations facilitated by us—the All Guwahati Slum Coordination Committee (AGSCC) and the Navi Mumbai based Ghar Hakk Sangharsh Samiti—continued to lead advocacy for people's housing security, against forced evictions, and to front people's demands and rights in urban spaces. At the same time, workers' collectives and networks in these cities—the domestic workers'

Griho Karmi Adhikar Suraksha Samiti (GASS) in Guwahati and Jorhat, the Maharashtra Rajya Gharelu Kamgar Samanvay Samiti (MRGKSS), and the Kamgar Ekta workers' collective continued to spread awareness on workers' rights, advocated for effective state-legislation and functioning of welfare boards, and enrolled workers in membership based collectives, to ensure that they could self-

determine and lead their own changemaking.

The efforts by YUVA to setup and strengthen people's organisations, while occupying a facilitatory role



and shifting power to the people, is a long-term commitment to sustainable change. It highlights the importance of building people's agency and capacity, so that they can demand governance accountability, while working in participatory ways.

Through the Anti-Eviction Support Cell, YUVA intervened in different instances of forced evictions occurring across cities, to offer support to the people. In one case in Navi Mumbai, where the inhabitants had been residing in the community for over 25 years and had documents from before the cut-off date (making them eligible for rehabilitation), we helped the community leaders strengthen the demand for alternative land. We provided immediate relief, including food and support, and assisted them in paralegal support. Eventually, some relief was granted, and today, they reside in the same place. But they always live with the fear of eviction.

In Guwahati, the team engaged in fact-finding in cases, and offered paralegal support to evicted communities. While public announcements were made regarding the rehabilitation of households, the situation on-ground often showed that people were living in makeshifts and no provisions were made to rehabilitate them. In one case of eviction in a railway colony, where 100 households were threatened and five demolished by the Railway Police, we helped the community access support. Fortunately, the Railway Police settled the matter locally and further evictions stopped.

2.

Building people's capacities to resist forced evictions

3.

Working towards universal access to social protection via model centres

The unprecedented shocks dealt by the Covid-19 pandemic and the lockdowns, highlighted the critical need for universal access to social protection. To enable this, we instituted model

Social Protection Facilitation Centres (SPFCs) across three diverse locations in Maharashtra: Panvel, Raigad district (urban, peri-urban); Kagal, Kolhapur district (rural) and Chikhaldara, Amravati district (tribal). Over 15 months, the three SPFCs reached 212 villages and 1 urban local body, facilitating filing of 6,497 social protection scheme applications of which 5,487 applications were sanctioned, at a sanctioning rate of over 80%. As a result of the advocacy process,

cash entitlements amounting to INR 1,06,65,531 were received by people in dire need of support.

SPFC staff from Panvel were also selected to be Members of the Block Level Mission Vatsalya Committee working a special mission for marginalised women who lost their husbands due to the COVID-19 infection, and the Block Level Birth and Death Registration and Life Relevant Statistics Related Committee. Regular outreach with officials and partnerships with departments ensured that a Nodal Officer was appointed in Chikhaldara for followup and delivery on access to social protection.

To embed the process of social protection facilitation within



community institutions and structures, and to ensure sustainability of the process, members of local youth groups, community based organisations and self-help groups were trained as social protection champions or 'Yojana

Dhoots', to take up facilitation activities at the community level, both on their own as well as in association with the SPFCs. 86 Yojana Dhoots have been trained to help sustain this process.

Many residents of North Nagpur were getting contaminated water, and the water pressure was low too. The people's organisation, Nagraj Nagar Vikas Samiti, engaged in advocacy with the government to act on the irregular supply and expand its water supply network within the city.

Nagraj Nagar is a non-notified settlement in North Nagpur comprising 250+ houses with a population of around 1,000. The settlement has an informal water connection and gets water everyday for 1-2 hours with low force.

The Samiti reached out to the Municipal Commissioner, who informed that the municipal corporation is planning to expand to a non-networked area. Under the AMRUT scheme, not-notified settlements are supposed to receive water supply; however, nothing had been done in this regard. A Jal Jan Sanvaad meeting and public meeting was called by Nagraj Nagar Vikas Samiti to discuss the water related concerns in Nagraj Nagar and areas adjacent to the settlement. Due to sustained advocacy, a water pipeline leakage issue was resolved and the agency in charge resolved to conduct a camp in the settlement for the water tap connection. This will not only solve the water related problem of Nagraj Nagar but benefit entire North Nagpur's residents, including those who are living in non-notified settlements with illegal connections, which will be regularised. The community also engaged in publishing their efforts to highlight their needs to the government.

4.

Ensuring access to water for all in Nagraj Nagar, Nagpur

Through the pandemic, many small businesses had suffered a loss of income or closed down completely. Many were pushed to seek self-empowerment as they lost their jobs.

5.

Building capacity on livelihoods and enabling micro-business support

We supported nearly 50 micro-businesses, majority led by women, providing tailoring machines, food making equipment, flour milling machines for home-based enterprises to push carts for street vendors. Over 40% were home-based enterprises, while the remaining were street-based enterprises. When we monitored these businesses later, we found some had taken-off well and started generating substantial

income, others were at initial stages of development. Although nearly 50% reported an increase of 1,000 rupees or more in their monthly income, nearly 40% were not able to save anything as over 57% applicants were repaying loans taken during the pandemic

Salma Ansari from Nalasopara (East), shared how even this small support had made a big difference. She used to run a tiffin business along with her family members, providing meals to



workers of the nearby industrial area. During the pandemic, several units in the industrial area shut down, and her sales dipped from 50 tiffins a day to 8-9 daily. With the help of cooking vessels provided under the project, she expanded her business to include not only tiffin delivery, but catering

orders as well. She shifted her house closer to Nalasopara station, rented a small shop, printed posters and business cards to attract catering orders, and with assistance of her husband and children, took the tiffin and catering business to a level higher than the one before Covid-19. Because of the expansion of the business, she now

plans to hire extra workers to assist in the work. And all this was achieved within 2 months of receiving the support!

In Guwahati, we strengthened a community based collective of youth by promoting a sustainable, eco-friendly model with locally available resources, and bridged the gap between the producers (farmers) and consumers (in the city). Launched in May 2022, this livelihood initiative titled Haat Baat, today operates across six localities of Guwahati. It is facilitated by a collective of six youth with graduate degrees, responsible for managing the initiative, two advisors from IIT Guwahati and three additional members from YUVA. Haat Baat has ensured the economic empowerment of unemployed, educated youth. It has been profiled in detail in our blog too, 'Haat-Baat: Alternative livelihoods that ensure fair prices for farmers'.

YUVA's youth work focuses on empowerment and leadership building for self-determined action and systemic change. YUVA's facilitatory role enables access to networks, builds capacity and strategic focus.

Since the early 1990s, YUVA has been implementing the Anubhav Shiksha Kendra (ASK) programme, a voluntary youth movement, sustained by young people themselves. Spanning 21 districts of Maharashtra at present, ASK represents the value of investing in youth leadership for change. It demonstrates how a structured yet flexible programme, with room for young people to co-design outcomes, can offer transformative and sustainable outcomes. ASK builds youth ownership, while expanding their knowledge, skills and perspectives.

ASK's outreach among most marginalised youth, and creative interventions also make this programme unique. Be it discussion forums, treks, youth exposure visits, youth participation is sought in diverse ways. Often youth share how the diversity in engagement builds curiosity and engagement, offers them valuable exposure, and builds their confidence and leadership skills.

YUVA's youth work in Guwahati, has also been developed on similar broad principles, and seeks to engage young people in determining an inclusive urban future in Guwahati. The Kite Runner youth

6. Building youth leadership and citizenship to lead changemaking



collective, which has developed in recent years, is a striking example of how young people are investing in themselves, building their awareness and capacities, and developing leadership for change.

In the past year, Youth Conclaves were organised in both MMR and in Guwahati, where the city's young people presented their issues and approaches to urban development.



7.

Children engage in local governance via social audits

The social audit has become a prominent tool among children's groups we facilitate, to bridge the gap between the aspirations of policy and services, and the realities on-ground. Children

have been able to hold duty-bearers to account by producing real-time data and evidence through surveys, interviews and photographs. YUVA's work in this regard has also been documented in a short film, 'When children lead a social audit of community needs in Mumbai'.

8 social audits on different issues led by children, in the past year, resulted in positive impact and change, such as the

installation of 20-30 street lights in dark areas of the community, which then ensured safety of girls and women; clean up drives by the municipality through regular follow-ups; free community toilet facilities for children, which reduced open defecation among children and assured safety; formation of child protection communities that has ensured safe communities; claiming of public grounds for recreation and sports particularly for girls.

40 children and youth were involved in collecting and updating

the baseline data and progress on these issues through their interventions.

A refresher social audit workshop was conducted to revisit all that was done for 3 years (2019-2021), update progress and take stock of upcoming goals. Child leaders selected the topics and met after the workshop to plan and

collect the data. They generated reports and photographs and presented it to area samiti members as well as at the Bal Sabha and roundtable meetings.



In Mumbai, we worked with the community, local government and ecology experts, taking up two locations for greening and place-making activities.

We profiled soil types, extent of percolation and local ecology features, to take a decision on the plantation.

We ensured that plants suitable to the chosen areas were used to regreen the space. Detailed plans were also made for plant hydration, manure and care over the long-term.

As an impact, green cover has increased as well as micro co-benefits of cooling, shade and fresh air. Further the removal of concretisation in favour of soil and greening has helped in better absorptive capacity, thus improving the resilience of the local area to heavy rains and the prevention of local water stagnation.

As a parallel intervention, waste dumping was also reduced in some open spaces, with the community planning how they can develop these as usable spaces in the future.

The initiative's most prominent social benefits are increased accessibility of green cover and a safe space for interaction, especially for women and children who are the primary users of these spaces. From being spaces that community members avoided due to their disuse, or the violence or substance abuse associated with it, they have transformed into thriving play and recreation spaces which the people actively own themselves. With the children and youth deeply invested in the planning and care of the tree plantation, wall painting and use of the space, they are at the core of this nature based solution. Women and other community leaders have also lent their support to the greening initiatives, and the upkeep of the plantations.

Community design of this space has also helped people overcome the disconnection they felt from these surroundings due to their resettlement here, and given them a space to interact and develop new community ties and social cohesion. It has brought people back to open spaces, much needed in densely populated settlements, and helped make the space speak to their needs.

8.

Designing a nature-based placemaking initiative with community participation



4.

YUVA Centre

YUVA Centre offers an open, reflective space that is ideal for meetings, workshops, conferences and other learning and training initiatives. The Centre contains residential facilities too. It aims to provide the best environment for training.



In 2022–23, some needed repair and refurbishment of the centre was possible, thanks to an institutional support grant. The centre's training and residential facilities were used by 100+ non-profits, and other organisations and individuals. 200+ training sessions took place at the Centre.

5.

Shaping Narratives

ComplexCity: Urban Festival

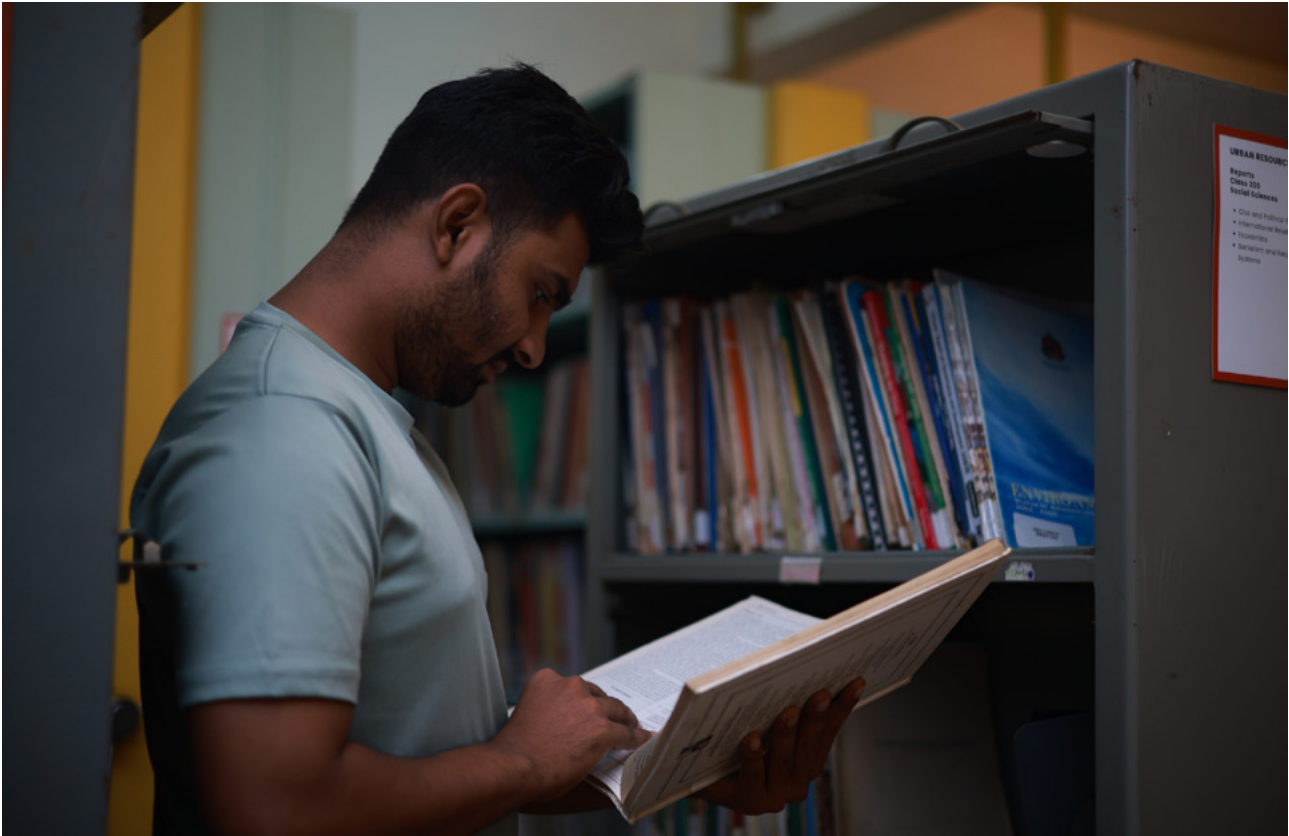


YUVA's annual urban festival, ComplexCity, has been our effort to seed narrative shifts towards equitable and just cities, in response to growing polarisation and divide.

The festival's fourth edition was organised in early 2022. With the learnings from the prior re-visioning, and on festival management, the festival was designed more intentionally and a process-led approach was used to guide its planning and implementation.

We succeeded better in designing experiences for diverse city audiences, bridging meaningful interactions between community members, the middle and upper middle class residents, to shift biases about the urban poor and further inclusivity in cities.

YUVA also launched the festival website, <https://complexcity.in/> which will henceforth be used, to update on its further editions and engagement.



Urban Resource Centre

YUVA's Urban Resource Centre is a dynamic space (both online and offline) to generate and share knowledge, drawing from YUVA's rich engagement with urban areas. The Centre covers a wide range of themes, from housing to migration, informal livelihoods, urban childhoods, etc.

In the past year, work continued to revitalise the physical library space, and we explored building an

online repository for our resources. We also started libraries within a few communities across the Mumbai Metropolitan Region.

The Centre's archival content continued to be constantly updated by narratives generated from our present work, especially the narratives of migrant workers and on larger inequality and injustice thematics.

Strategic Communications

Our communications efforts focus on not just sharing programmatic interventions, but building public support to act for human rights. While our multi-lingual blog <https://medium.com/@yuvaonline> was a powerful medium to take ahead people's narratives in their own voices, we also used our social media channels (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn and Youtube) extensively to engage with diverse audiences, sharing updates and insights from the work in progress.

In late 2022, we relaunched YUVA's website, presenting our work across thematics and in a way to build people's support and engagement. We also integrated a payment solution to make it easier for people to donate and support what we do.

6.

Working at YUVA



Our strength lies in diversity. We prioritise maintaining an accepting and inclusive working environment to help develop people's capacities as they work. Transparent reporting and accounting systems built trust in the process and helped employees contribute better. Everyone is a leader here, charting their concrete path of growth with the support of their team members and others.

With feminist leadership development guiding sessions, teams focused on cultivating compassionate communications, respecting diversity, claiming their power as leaders in personal and professional spaces, with mindfulness, knowing that self work is often most important. The deep investments in organisational development processes made us reflective, playful and deliberate. We also participated in an annual review process, sharing programmatic updates and gaining inspiration from each other's change efforts.

YUVA's work is guided by both full-time staff and consultants. Across the year, volunteers and fieldwork students also supported our work.

7.

Organisational Governance

Our Governing Board _____

President

Rajendra Joshi

Treasurer

Archana Shrivastava

Secretary

Mani Mistry Elavia

Members

Kavitha Krishnamoorthy

Nisreen Ebrahim

Mohan Surve

Nalini Shekar

There is separation of YUVA's Management and Governance. The Executive Director attends Board Meetings in an ex-officio capacity. The current Board Members will serve for the 2022–24 term.

No remuneration was paid to any Board Member during 2022–23. No Board Member has any blood relation with another Board Member or with any of the staff members.

8.

Safeguarding the Workplace

Internal Committee

YUVA's Prevention of Sexual Harassment (POSH) Committee, while drawing from The Sexual Harassment of Women in the Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act 2013, applies this policy to women, other genders and men who are employees, volunteers, interns, and consultants of the organisation.

The Internal Committee (IC) is a gender-neutral investigative committee with an external member who is a lawyer. Over the year, training sessions are held to ensure the setup of an enabling environment, and prevent instances of sexual harassment.

Presenting the IC 2022–23 report:

0 complaints of sexual harassment received over the year

0 complaints disposed off during the year

0 cases pending for more than 90 days

1 workshop/awareness programme conducted for IC members and employees each

No action needed to be taken by the IC and the management

Child Protection Committee

YUVA is committed to the safety and development of children, and all employees, volunteers, interns, and consultants of the organisation are bound to comply with the organisation's Child Protection Policy. The Child Protection Committee aims to ensure regular training of the staff, to ensure safe and enabling spaces for children, and to see that this policy is upheld.

Annual report of the Child Protection Committee:

0 complaints of sexual harassment received over the year

0 complaints disposed off during the year

0 cases pending for more than 90 days

1 workshop/awareness programme conducted for employees

No action needed to be taken by the ICC and the management

9.

Financial Information

The Maharashtra Public Trusts Act, 1950

Youth For Unity And Voluntary Action (YUVA)

Registration No. : F-10304 (Bom)

Balance Sheet as on : 31st March 2023

2021-2022	Funds & Liabilities	2022-2023	2022-2023	2021-2022	Property and Assets	2022-2023	2022-2023
	Trust Funds or Corpus :-				Immovable Properties :- (At WDV)		
	Balance as per last Balance Sheet			72,19,482	(As per Annexure "B")		69,18,578
3,38,57,771	Corpus Fund	3,39,18,136					
60,289	Add: Received for corpus fund	20,000		10,99,512	Movable Properties :- (At WDV)		9,54,067
-	Fixed Assets Corpus	-			(As per Annexure "C")		
76	Add : Fixed Assets from Earmarked Grant	16	3,39,38,152		Other Earmarked Funds :-		
3,39,18,136					(As per Annexure "A")		1,18,51,669
	Other Earmarked Funds :-				Investment		
	(Created under the provisions of the trust deed or scheme or out of the Income)			4,34,74,527	Fixed Deposit with Banks		3,47,10,042
1,24,83,233	(As per Annexure "A")		95,48,525		(As per Annexure "E")		
	Liabilities :- (As per Annexure "F")				Advance :- (As per Annexure "D")		
	For Expenses	26,38,482		5,83,100	Deposits	6,56,820	
10,44,312	For Amount received in Advance	1,400		11,50,851	Advance against salary	1,86,169	
1,800	For Deposits	-		-	Other Advances	3,43,285	
2,50,000			26,39,882	8,86,631	TDS	10,40,408	
12,96,112				6,87,660	Receivables	2,63,447	
	Income and Expenditure Account :-			31,182	Prepaid Expenses	14,494	25,04,623
	Balance as per last Balance Sheet	1,06,24,620		33,39,424	Cash and Bank Balances :- (As per Annexure "E")		
51,93,875	Add: Surplus carried over from Income & Expenditure Account	50,70,118			Cash in hand	55,745	
54,30,745			1,56,94,738	31,43,728	Balance with bank	48,26,582	
1,06,24,620				31,89,158			48,82,327
5,83,22,103	Total Rs.		6,18,21,305	5,83,22,103	Total Rs.		6,18,21,305

Significant Accounting Policies as per Schedule

The above Balance Sheet to the best of our belief as per our Audit Report contains a true account of the Funds and Liabilities and of the Property and Assets of the Trust

As per our report of even date
For C N K & ASSOCIATES LLP
Chartered Accountants
ICAI Firm Regn No. 101961 W/W-100036

Suresh Agaskar
Partner
Reg. No. 110321
Place : Mumbai

Date :

10 OCT 2023



For Youth For Unity and Voluntary Action (YUVA)

Rajendra Joshi
President

Mani Mistry Elavia
Secretary

Archana Shrivastava
Treasurer



Registration No. : F-10304(Bom)

Youth For Unity And Voluntary Action (YUVA)
Income & Expenditure Account for the Year Ending 31st March 2023

2021-2022	EXPENDITURE	2022-2023	2022-2023	2021-2022	INCOME	2022-2023	2022-2023
14,71,909	To Expenses For Training Centre (As per Annexure "G")	53,15,309		8,34,164	By Interest		
	To Administrative Cost	1,42,067	54,57,376	8,34,164	On Saving Bank Accounts	4,87,776	
5,02,925	To Depreciation		4,46,367	12,23,636	On Fixed Deposits	16,74,022	
				-	On MSEC Security Deposit	11,795	
				20,57,800	Less :- Interest Credited to Projects	21,73,593	18,87,547
				1,48,987		2,86,046	
				19,08,813			
	To Expenditure on Objects of the Trust			76,33,585	By General Donation		42,38,574
46,200	(a) Religious	4,80,586		5,33,44,301	By Donations Towards Earmarked Activities	5,84,05,255	
	(b) Educational			5,33,44,301	Less :- Transfer to Earmarked fund	5,84,05,255	
	(c) Medical Relief			-			
	(d) Relief of Poverty			5,539	By Income from other sources		
4,69,230	(e) Other Charitable Object	20,03,900		3,800	a)Community Contribution	25,780	
54,65,649	(f) Relief Expenses-Post Covid-19	3,30,200	28,14,686	38,06,163	b)Membership Fees	3,800	
59,34,879				28,758	c) Income From Training Centre	75,32,368	
				-	d) Income from Vehicle	40,628	
6,87,05,619	To Expenses on the Earmarked Activities	7,31,91,632		-	e) Misc. Income	59,850	
6,87,05,619	Less :- Transfer to Earmarked fund	7,31,91,632		38,44,260	f) By other Income	-	76,62,426
54,30,745	To Surplus carried over to Balance sheet		50,70,118				
1,33,86,658	Total Rs.		1,37,88,547	1,33,86,658	Total Rs.	-	1,37,88,547

Significant Accounting Policies as per Schedule A

As per our report of even date
For **C N K & ASSOCIATES LLP**
Chartered Accountants
ICAI Firm Regn No. 101961 W/W-100036
S. Nankar
Suresh Agaskar
Partner
Reg. No. 110321
Place : Mumbai



Date : 10 OCT 2023

For Youth for Unity & Voluntary Action (YUVA)

Rajendra Joshi
Rajendra Joshi
President

Mani Mistry Elavia
Mani Mistry Elavia
Secretary

Archana Shrivastava
Archana Shrivastava
Treasurer



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)
- Recognised under section 80G of the Income Tax Act
- Registered on NGO DARPAN (Niti Aayog). Unique ID: MH/2017/0117127

Youth for Unity and Voluntary Action (YUVA) is a non-profit development organisation committed to enabling vulnerable groups to access their rights and address human rights violations. YUVA supports 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 on issues.

Youth for Unity and Voluntary Action (YUVA)

YUVA Centre, Plot 23, Sector 7, Kharghar,
Navi Mumbai – 410210 (India)

2023