A stakeholder consultation forum on proposed Red Line Bus Rapid Transit System (BRTS) was held at URC. In this forum representatives from low income communities along the Red Line Project shared their point of view and concerns on proposed project.
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Appendix

- List of URC’s publications and documents
Highlights

The Karachi Circular Railway (KCR) resettlement issue: The government so far could not announce any proper resettlement plan for its proposed plan to displace families around railway tracks of KCR Project.

The National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR) continues its hearing on proposed displacement by Karachi Circular Railway (KCR) project. The community and URC are following up the hearing at the NCHR. The (NCHR) ordered the government to prepare a resettlement plan before displacing the communities.

During current reporting period URC held forums on the following subject:
- Recycling of waste as an income generation
- Climate changes and its impact
- Proposed Red Line Bus Rapid Transit System (BRTS)

A major modification was made in the design of Green Line Bus Rapid Transit project. Under this modification the elevated portion on MA Jinnah Road was made partially underground and at grade. This change in the design has a significant impact on historic district of the city. This change has been proposed by the URC.

URC with collaboration of OPP has initiated the Community Architect Program. The two batches of 32 youth have completed their training. Now training for third batch will start from July 2018.

A number of news articles and stories published in various newspapers related to URC work.
1.0 Eviction Watch and Housing Rights Program

Evictions in Karachi;

The government under its policy has regularized (notified for awarding land titles) most of the settlements in the city. Through an extensive lobbying by the network of communities along with URC and OPP, the government has extended the cut of date for land titling from 23\textsuperscript{rd} March 1985 to June 1997. Despite growing resistance, the forced evictions are still open facts against the poor communities. Once again the government is not fulfilling its responsibilities and obligations of awarding acceptable compensations or appropriate resettlements. Also poor are not given written notices and adequate time before their displacement.

Current Proposed evictions along Karachi Circular Railway (KCR) Tracks:
The government is working on a proposal to revitalize the local train of KCR and extend other rail facilities in Karachi. These proposals are also involved large scale of displacement of the poor communities. According to estimated figures over 4,600 families would be facing eviction threat due to KCR project. Recently this project was given under the list of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects. This shows the government’s urgency to implement this project.

The URC was engaged with communities to motivate them for advocacy and negotiate with the government to ensure their basic housing rights.

The motivated communities were extensively involved in lobbying, advocacy and negotiations with concerned government departments. Through prolong follow up by the communities and URC the government agreed to postpone proposed evictions along railways tracks of the KCR project.

Current status of the evictions:

- The government postponed evictions along KCR project, on NCHR’s invention as request by the community.
- The government agreed to develop a proper resettlement plan before displacement of the poor communities
- A case filed by the communities is pending before National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR) to review a resettlement plan.

Since general elections are being held in the country, therefore it is time for the communities to intensify their lobbying and advocacy efforts and present their case of forced evictions to leadership of various political parties contesting in the elections.

The community activists are meeting and inviting different political parties including PPP, MQM, PML-N, PTI, PML-F, JI, JUP and others. Almost all political parties shared sympathy with the communities and promised for raising their concerns for a viable resettlement.
Some recent engagement:
On 1st January Mayor announced demolition of settlements along railway tracks. The community activists held an emergency meeting and issued a press statement, informing mayor that the communities negotiating with the government for a resettlement and mayor cannot evict them without a proper resettlement. On receiving this information mayor office had to stop further action for the forced evictions.

On 14th February the National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR) held its hearing in Karachi. After listing the communities’ arguments, it ordered Sindh Mass Transit Department (SMTD) to hold meeting with community representatives on KCR project displacement.

On 7th March 2018 a consultation meeting was held at URC office. Mr. Karamat Ali, head of Pakistan Labour Education and Research (PILER) discussed various options with community activists to strengthen community advocacy and lobbying for resettlement of KCR project.

On 13th March 2018 the community activists organized an All Parties Conference (APC) to present their case to the political leaders. The representative of various political parties attended the conference and promised for a suitable resettlement in case of displacement was required for the KCR project.

On 20th March 2018 the Sindh Mass Transit Department held meeting with the community representatives. In this meeting the community presented their concerns over their forced displacement.

On 6th April 2018 another follow up meeting of the community activists was held at Sindh Mass Transit Department office to review the developments of the KCR project.

On 8th April 2018 a public meeting was held in Kashmir Mujahid Colny. The community activists presented their concerns to the politicians of Pakistan People’s Party (PPP). The PPP leaders promised to raise their concerns with the chief Minister (CM) of Sindh.

On 16th April 2018 another hearing of National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR) was held in Karachi. The Commission asked the government to present development on KCR resettlement project. But government representative informed the NCHR that the government did not develop any resettlement plan so far.

URC is supporting the communities through information and networking and engaging them in lobbying and advocacy.

URC will continue its support to the communities to protect their housing rights.
### 2.0 URC Forums

To encourage interaction between different development sectors of the city, regular forums are held at URC, where various groups come in contact with each other. This promotes collective thinking, decision making and actions on major urban issues. URC documents and prints the proceedings of these forums regularly.

During the current reporting period, the following forums were held:

**Forum “Recycling of waste as an income generation”**
This forum was held on 11\(^{th}\) May 2018 at URC office. Mr Hameed Ullah from Dr. Akhtar Hameed Khan Memorial Trust (AHKMT) shared his experiences through a detailed presentation. According to him the waste can be turned into a useful resource if managed properly. The participants from different NGOs, CBOs and the students also shared their views on the occasion.

**Forum on “Climate changes and its impact”**
This forum was held on 24\(^{th}\) April 2018 at URC office. Architect and urban planner Mr. Fzal Noorm chairman Department of Architecture at Sir Syed University of Engineering and Technology gave a detailed lecture on this subject. According him the environmental damages could be reversed through proper measures.

**Forum on proposed Red Line Bus Rapid Transit System (BRTS)**
This forum was held on 20\(^{th}\) February 2018 jointly organized by the URC and BRTS consultants at URC office. It was a forum cum focus group consultation meeting. The forum discussed problems currently experienced by women and disadvantaged and minority groups, using public transport in Karachi. The forum recorded views of communities from low income settlements to in cooperate to improve the proposed design of the Red Line BRTS for Karachi.

### 3.0 Act as a watch group on major urban issues

URC plays the role of a ‘watchdog’ group in the city’s planning and development scene. In this respect, it has worked on a number of issues, currently it is involved with the following:

**Bus Rapid Transit System (BRTS) in Karachi**
The government has planned to construct Bus Rapid Transit System (BRTS) in Karachi. The construction work on one of the BRTS corridor (Green Line) is already underway. The second corridor of the BRTS (Red Line) is at planning stage.

**The BRTS Green Line Corridor**
The construction work on “Green Line” corridor of BRTS has been going on. The Green Line to run on a 17 Km stretch between Surjani Town and Guru-Mandir. According to the government this project will be completed at a revised cost of Rs.26 billion.
The URC is closing watching the development of this project. Now the government is planning to extend the Green Line corridor from Guru-Mandir to Municipal Park M. A. Jinnah Road and further up to Merewether Tower. URC continuously raises its concerns regarding various issues of this project on the relevant forums.

On suggestion submitted by URC’s board members a major modification was made in the design of Green Line project. Under this modification the elevated portion at M.A. Jinnah Road was made partially underground and at grade. This change in the design has a significant impact on historic district of the city.

A number of meetings were held with concerns government department and consultants to discuss overall transport problems of the city.

URC will monitor the development of proposed BRTS plan and its impacts on the city. The extension of the Green Line corridor should not be elevated as it will over shadow most of historic heritage buildings on M. A. Jinnah Road. The elevated structure will not only increase the cost but will also create environmental problems.

The BRTS Red Line Corridor
The second corridor named Red Line BRTS is being proposed on University Road from Safora Goth to Guru-Mandir. URC has been following the development of the project. The design consultants are preparing initial plans of the project.

A focus group forum cum consultation was held at URC office on 20th February 2018. The aim of the meeting was to record views of disadvantage groups to improve the design of Red Line BRTS. The community activists from settlements along the Red Line corridor attended the meeting. The Red Line consultants presented the initial design and recorded participants’ point of views.

On 21st February Ms. Gaynor Dawson and her team (consultants of Red Line BRTS) visited URC and held a meeting with URC representatives to discuss and finalize gender action plan for Red Line BRTS. In this meeting various aspects the Gender Action Plan for the Redline BRTS were presented to the consultants.

URC will monitor further development of the project.

Heat waves consultation meeting at URC
A group of citizens got together to explore ways to work on response to heat wave in Karachi on 31st may 2018 at URC. Dr. Noman Ahmad and Arif Hasan led the discussion on this subject. The participants discussed various causes of heat waves in Karachi. Various remedies were proposed to reduce the effect of heat in the city.

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)
URC representatives regularly attend Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) hearings organized by the Sindh Environmental Protection Agency.
The EIA reports are now being posted at URC web site for wide circulation. URC attended the following EIA project hearings held on 8th February 2018:

- LNG Terminal at Port Qasim
- Construction of Flyover at Tipu Sultan Road Intersection
- Construction of Underpass and Flyover at Submarine Chowrangi

URC will analyze the EIA reports and will inform the communities if any of these mega projects involve any kind of dislocation or other impacts on poor communities.

**Women Health Education Survey**

To understand health education problems of women URC with collaboration of OPP has initiated a survey in low income settlements in Karachi. The aim of this survey is to understand basic health problems and their response to resolve these problems. Initially URC selected Umer Colony for collection of information. The survey information is being compiled in a data base for further analysis.

**Documentation of Hawkers and shopkeepers at Empress Market**

During the current reporting period URC also completed a survey of Empress Market area. The objectives of survey were to document the present nature of activities and business of hawkers and shopkeepers. It further aims to disseminate information about government proposed plans of eviction. The government is proposing some new neighborhood improvement plan, which involves displacement of shopkeepers and hawkers of Empress Market area. The hawkers and shopkeepers were informed about government’s new plan during this survey. A presentation on Empress Market is available on request.

**4.0 Networking and Exchange**

During the current reporting period URC has been engaged in the following networking actions:

**Community Development Network (CDN)**

The Community Development Network (CDN) is a national network of partner organizations. The CDN is an important platform for information and experience sharing. The partners exchange their working experiences and learn from each other work. The CDN meetings provide an opportunity to members to understand each other’s work and to observe partners work on site, as the venue of the meeting is rotated among partners. Members discuss various development issues and trends.

On 20th January 2018 a CDN meeting was held at OPP Karachi office. Partners from various organizations presented new developments in their work, expansion of work, link up with government programs.
Local Governance Initiative Network (LOGIN)
URC also became member of the Local Governance Initiative Network (LOGIN). The LOGIN is a ‘not for profit’ multi-stakeholder network that strives to advance decentralization and local governance reforms in East and South Asian countries. The aim of LOGIN is to enable peer-exchange and learning to contribute to decentralization and local governance reform efforts across East and South Asia.

Login network is being restructured to make it more effective for information sharing and experience exchanges.

Joint Action Committee (JAC)
URC is also a part of an NGO Network called Joint Action Committee (JAC). This is a coalition of NGOs in Karachi. The JAC is working on gender and human rights issues. This network holds regular meetings, seminars, workshops, public demos and interactions on gender and human rights issues.

The JAC provides a larger platform to raise some more important issues of the common interest for the policy dialogue.

Network of communities against forced evictions
URC has been working with the following community networks:

- Network of communities living along railway tracks of Karachi.

During the current reporting period URC has been engaged with network of communities living along railway tracks in Karachi to stop forced evictions in these settlements.

The network held a number of meetings at URC office to draw the strategies against forced evictions. The negotiations are being held with politicians and government for an acceptable resettlement plan for the poor families.

URC is in touch with these communities and in case of any further development on these projects. URC will forward the information to these communities.

5.0 Youth Training Program

The students from various universities join URC on short term basis to work in low income communities to understand causes and nature of urban problems. Currently The main objective of the program is to develop the orientation of youth on urban issues.

The students from different universities join this training as part of their internship. A number of interactions of students with the various communities through field visits were also arranged in which the students collected primary and secondary data from various communities.
URC also arranges orientation programs for young grates, during current reporting period the students from the following Universities visited URC for orientation:

- A group of students from Department of Social Sciences of Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto Institute of Science and Technology (SZABIST) visited URC on 19th March 2018 to understand role and work of Urban Resource Centre.

- A group of students from Department of Development Studies of NED University of Engineering and Technology visit URC on 9th May 2018 to understand drinking water supply system in Karachi.

**Community Youth Training Program**
URC in collaboration with OPP-RTI support community based organizations in their work for poor settlements. URC and OPP are initiating a training program for community youth as community architect training program. So that these youths would become community architects, future community leaders and involve themselves in community related work.

The two batches of community architects comprising 32 youth has completed their training. Now training for third batch youth will start from July this year.

The training basically focuses on the following disciplines:

- Community/settlement mapping
- Leveling survey
- Small houses designing
- House improvements techniques

These training sessions are being held at URC office, which will enhance interaction and networking of youth. This process will also develop orientation of youth towards low income communities issues and problems.

### 6.0 Publications

URC continues its research and documentation activities on urban issues.

During the current reporting period URC has been involved in the following studies

i. Public transport issues in Karachi
ii. Solid Waste Management in Karachi
iii. Women Health education issues
iv. Water supply

URC will continue to its research activities and will conduct more investigation to get better understanding of the city.
Some of selected news articles published in various Newspapers related to URC work:

- **Fruits farms can minimize heat-wave effects**, Arif Hasan News Pakistan 31st May 2018.
- **Green cover can protect Karachi from heatwave** Faiza Ilyas, Daily Dawn 1st June 2018.
- **No elevated truck on MA Jinnah Road, according to newly proposed design**, Daily Express Tribune, 16 June 2018.

7.0 Documentation

**News Clippings**

URC has a news clippings library. It regularly collects news clippings and articles on important development issues of the city. These news clippings are compiled in subject wise files and are available at URC library. Students research, journalists, communities activists use these news clippings as reference in their research studies.

**URC Library**

URC has been maintaining a library on development. The library has a collection of government reports, books, research papers, magazines and newsletters on urban issues in general and on Karachi in particular. The researchers, students, journalists, community activists and training groups widely use URC library facilities.

**Website**

URC web is extending the outreach of its information dissemination. The web address is www.urckarachi.org. The website is being updated on a regular basis.

**URC on face book**

URC circulates current information and news clippings on city development through face book page on regular basis.

**URC block on Tumblr blog**

URC is posting all news articles and updates related to its work on tumblr page. The link is http://urckhi.tumblr.com/
A team of Asian Development Bank (ADB) consultants visited URC office to discuss gender aspects of proposed Red Line BRTS. The project is being financed by the ADB.
Act as Watch Group

URC and partner organizations are discussing Solid Waste Management issues in the city and some future directions.
A team of URC representatives visited Mauripur Truck Stand and held meeting with Goods Carrier Association to discuss issues of heavy vehicle movement in the city.
Act as Watch Group

A team of World Bank (WB) consultants visited URC office to discuss WB’s newly funded projects for Karachi.
Act as Watch Group

A consultation meeting on Heat Waves and Climate Change held at URC office
URC has been documenting the developments around Empress Market Saddar Karachi
Act as Watch Group

Bus Rapid Transit System (BRTS) for Karachi is under construction. On URC’s suggestions an elevated portion of the project is converted into underground and party at grade to protect historic heritage of the city.
Act as Watch Group

URC is monitoring the development of Bus Rapid Transit System (BRTS) project in Karachi
Eviction and Housing Rights

The communities along Karachi Circular Railway (KCR) tracks organized an All Parties Conference to present their concerns on resettlement to the political parties.
Eviction and Housing Rights

The community activists are holding a meeting at URC office to discuss the recent developments of KCR project.
Eviction and Housing Rights

The settlements along Karachi Circular Railway (KCR) tracks received eviction threats and the committees are united to protect their housing rights.
Youth Training Program

A group of students from Department of Development Studies of NED University visited URC to discuss their final year assignments.
Youth Training Program

A group of students from Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto Institute of Science and Technology (SZABIST) are having an orientation meeting at URC.
A group of students from Department of Development Studies of NED University are discussing water supply issues of Karachi at URC office.
Youth Training Program

The certificates are being distributed to the students who successfully completed their internships at URC.

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Community Architects Training Program

The certificates are being distributed among successful candidates of the Community Architects Training Program.
Community Architects Training Program

The youth from the community are learning field survey methods.
Community Architects Training Program

The youth from community are learning mapping process at URC office.
Community Architects Training Program

The students of Community Architects Training Program are demonstrating tree plantation process.
Mr. Fazal Noor, Chairman Department of Architecture and Planning of Sir Syed University of Engineering and Technology is delivering a lecture on Impacts of Climate Change
A forum on proposed Red Line Bus Rapid Transit System (BRTS) was held at URC office to discuss the concerns of the stakeholders.
Networking and Exchange

The Community Development Network (CDN) meeting held at Orangi Pilot Project (OPP) office.
Documentation and Research

URC documentation shows the informal waste recycling is expending its scope of work.
Solid Waste Management: URC's documentation shows the city is unable to manage the waste collection and disposal.
A meeting is being held to review the activities of URC.
A review meeting of URC’s activities held at URC office.
Appendix - List of publications and documentation available at Urban Resource Centre:

Some Recent Publications:

- Responding to the transport crisis in Karachi, by URC with Arif Hasan and Mansoor Razaworking paper published International Institute for Environmental Development (IIED), July 2015
- The Pedestrian Bridges of Karachi, by Mansoor Raza working paper published by Urban Resource Centre (URC), October 2015

The proceedings of the Forums printed:

1. Karachi Sewerage Plan – An Overview of the implementation
2. Occupational Health and Safety
3. Role of Karachi in 1946 Naval Mutiny, Aslam Khwaja
4. Public Transport Issues and proposed Bus Rapid Transit System in Karachi
8. Control and contestation of space and emerging safety and security issues in Karachi by Dr Noman Ahmad
9. An over view on shrinking transport facilities in the city, by Mr. S Irshad Hussain Bukharai,
10. Weaponization and its impact on violence by Mr. Naeem Sadiq
11. Karachi Mass Transit – An overview by Mr Rashid Mughal
12. The drainage system of Karachi – Major issues and a way head Rs. 50/-
13. Karachi: Demographic trends - social and political Implications Rs. 50/-
14. Sindh Local Government Act 2013 - An Overview Rs. 50/-
15. A Research Study on Road Accidents in Karachi – Causes and Impacts Rs. 50/-
16. The Goths of Karachi and their regularization process. Rs. 50/-
17. Flood and after: an Overview of the Flood Situation in Sindh by Arif Hasan Rs. 50/-
18. The Post Flood Relief Program of Sindh Government by Taj Haider Rs. 50/-
19. Report of the Task Force on Urban Development by Arif Hasan & Dr. Noman Ahmed Rs. 50/-
20. Problems of Street Children by Mr. Rana Asif Habib Rs.50/-
21. Karachi Transport Management - current situation and a way forward by Dr. Waheed Uddin Rs.50/-
22. Karachi Sewerage Improvement Plan S-III Rs.50/-
23. Role of water Tankers in Karachi Rs.50/-
24. Water Supply in Karachi: Situation/Issues, Priority issues and Solutions. Rs.50/-
25. Active Organized People – Sustainable Development Rs.50/-
26. Gutter Baghicha by Nisar Baloch, Rs.50/-
27. Electricity Crisis in Karachi by Prof. Mohammad Noman Rs.50/-

The case studies of the Community Based Organizations (CBOs) are available as separate publications:

Case studies of 50 Community Based Organizations are available at URC office library with the price tag of Rs. 50/- for each copy.

Case studies of the following community organizations (CBOs) were printed:

i. Al Rakhshi Welfare Services
iii. Anjuman Imdad Bahimi Kohi Goth
iv. Social Welfare Association Junejo Town
v. Welfare Association Talent Citizen Human Rights (WATCH) for special persons
vi. Insaf Welfare Trust
vii. Al-Barka Welfare Trust
The case studies of the settlements are available in Urdu as separate publications:

1. Case Study of Gharibabad Colony Rs. 50/-
2. Case Study of Allah Wall Colony Rs. 50/-
3. Case Study of Madhu Goth Rs. 50/-
4. Case Study of Kashmir Mujahid Colony Rs. 50/-
5. Case Study of Old Sleeper Quarters Rs. 50/-
6. Case Study of Pahr Gunj Rs. 50/-
7. Case study of Umer Colony No. 2 Rs.50/-
8. Case study of Umer Farooq Town Rs.50/-
9. Case study of Wahid Colony Rs.50/-
10. Case study of Awami Colony Rs.50/
11. Case study of Kausar Niaz Colony Rs.50/-
12. Case study of Umer Colony No. 1 Rs.50/-
13. Case study of Hasan Aulia Village Rs.50/-
14. Case study of Chaman Iqbal Colony Rs.50/-
15. Case study of Bilawal Jokhio Goth Rs.50/-
16. Case study of Moria Khan Goth Rs.50/-
17. Case study of NTR Colony Rs.50/-
18. List of Goths (villages) in Karachi Rs. 50/-

Facts & Figures (monthly facts sheet)

URC has been publishing this newsheet in Urdu and English since January 1993.

Appendix:
News clippings and articles year wise files are now available from Jan 1992 up to Dec 2015.

1. Traffic & Transport Management
2. Housing & Land Management
3. Health
4. Education
5. Environment
6. Economics
7. Law & Order
8. Lyari Expressway
9. Eviction and Encroachment
10. Beaches, Parks and plantations
11. Water Supply
12. Sewerage
13. Solid Waste Management,
14. Electricity
15. CDGK & Local Body System
16. Urban Services
17. Floo

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Some Documentaries

- Housing Option for Karachi
- Lyari Expressway Highway of Tears
- Karachi Circular Railway a trip around Railway Land
- Karachi Rising - The unplanned Densification of low income housing
- Lyari Expressway Evictions
- Informal Waste Recycling in Karachi
- Karachi Beaches
- URBAN PUBLIC TRANSPORT
- URBAN RESOURCE CENTRE –Case Study.
- ARM Child and Youth Welfare – Case Study
- The People VS Lyari Expressway.