The poor communities in Karachi are facing renewed phase of forced evictions. During this reporting period over 2,500 houses were demolished in the city. The government did not fulfill its obligations of awarding appropriate resettlements or compensation for the displaced poor families.
## Contents

**Highlights** 02

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## Appendix

- List of URC’s publications and documents
1.0 Highlights

The poor communities in Karachi are facing another round of forced evictions. During this reporting period over 2,500 houses were demolished, the poor families did not receive any compensation or resettlement.

The government is planning to demolish more houses. Under a proposed plan over 10,000 housing units of the poor families along railway tracks in Karachi will be demolished. So far no resettlement or compensation plans were announced by the government.

URC support the networks of poor families to lobby against forced evictions and advocate for the protection of their housing rights.

During current reporting period URC held forums on the following subject:

• Development by People – A case study of Philippines
• Public Health and Safety at work places
• Karachi Sewerage Improvement Plan – S III, a review of progress for the implementation.
• Gujjar Nullah Forced Evictions
• Green Line - Bus Rapid Transit System in Karachi

During the current reporting period 7 new students from Development Studies Department of NED University joined internship program of URC.

URC continues to play role of a watch group on urban issues to understand their impact on poor communities as well as on environment.

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

Evictions in Karachi;

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

During the current reporting period over 2,500 housing units were demolished along the Gujar nullah (drain). This was first phase of drain widening program. According to the proposed project over 30,000 families will be displace along the Gujar nullah. In recent demolition operation the communities were given a week time to vacate their houses. This was not enough time for the families to arrange alternative shelters and this has increased their sufferings. Many children lost their schooling, beside number of men and women losing their jobs. No compensation or alternative land was awarded to the communities against their losses. These evictions were taken place against government policy to provide adequate compensation or a proper resettlement. URC along with communities continued their efforts to stop further demolition. URC obtained the details of the government proposed project and this information was also shared with communities. A number of meetings were also held with concerned officials and politicians to stop these evictions. After completion of first phase further evictions were stopped.

The displaced communities of the Gujar nullah with the support of URC have filed a petition at National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR) on the violation of human rights and housing rights. The case is pending before the NCHR for the hearing.

Proposed evictions along Karachi Circular Railway (KCR) Track: 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 estimate figures over 10,000 families are facing eviction threat due to this 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 Chief Minister of Sindh Government also issued instructions for the demolition of the houses. The government did not announce any resettlement plan or compensations for the families, which have been living along the railway and will be displaced under this project.

URC held a number of meetings with community network of KCR to mobilize the communities to lobby against the forced evictions. URC is supporting the
communities to protect their housing rights and negotiate with government for a proper compensation or resettlement. The community network is actively informing and contacting the concerns of authorities as well as political leaders through meetings and letter writings.

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

3.0 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:

**URC forum on ‘Development by People – A case study of Philippines’**

This forum was held on 7th December 2016 at URC office. Fr. Jorge Anzorena will share the experiences of community development in Manila and Cebu cities. Fr. Jorge has vast working experience with communities across Asia, Africa and Latin America. Fr Jorge gave an overview on community strategies and struggles to achieve housing facilities.

The participants also actively participated in question and answers session.

**URC Forum on ‘Public Health and Safety at work places’**

This forum was held on 21st December 2016 ar URC office. Mr. Naeem Sadiq, an expert on public health, Safety and environment shared his work and experiences on the subject. According to him there is no legal frame work exist for the safety of workers at worker places.

The participants also shared their perspectives on this important subject.

**URC Forum on ‘Karachi Sewerage Improvement Plan – S III, a review of progress for the implementation’**

This forum was held on 9th November 2016 at URC office. Mr. Muhammad Arshad, project consultant and Mr. Muhammad Hanif, project director explained the details of the implementation process of the project. This is a vital project for the city as currently most of sewerage water is being disposed to the sea without treatment. The completion of the project will improve the sewerage treatment in the city. But due to lack of funds the project is being delayed. The delays are not damaging the
marine environment but the cost of the project is also increasing. The realizing the importance of project participants demanded early completion of the project.

**URC Forum on ‘Gujjar Nullah Forced Evictions’**

The forum was held on 3rd August 2016 at URC office. In an effort to stop the forced evictions along Gujjar Nullah. The forum was attended by affected communities, member of National Human Rights Commission, representative of NGOs and journalists from media groups. Mr. Salim Alimuddin, director Orangi Pilot Project presented an alternative plan for the drain. According to Mr. Salim the implementation of the alternative proposal can avoid large scale displacement of poor communities.

The participants expressed their concerns over unjust and brutal way of forced displacement of poor communities. The form demanded immediate halt of forced evictions in the city. They extend their support for the affected communities and pressed for the adoption of alternative plans to avoid large scale of displacements.

**URC Forum on ‘Green Line - Bus Rapid Transit System in Karachi’**

This forum was organized with collaboration of department of Architecture and Planning NED University and Urban Resource Centre. The forum was held at NED City Campus on 11th August 2016.

The speakers included:
- Dr. Prof. Noman Ahmad, chairman, department of Architecture and Planning NED University
- Mr. Sualeh Farooqi, chief executive officer of Karachi Infrastructure Development Company
- Mr. Arif Hasan, Chairman, Urban Resource Centre

Dr. Noman presented the major questions that need to be answered to respond to the complex transport scenario of Karachi. He highlighted the issues and problems the public transport sector has been facing in Karachi.

Mr. Farooqi and his team members made a detail presentation on Green Line Bus Rapid Transit corridor.

The presentation was followed by an open discussion on various aspect of public transport situation in Karachi. The participants raised questions on monitoring and regulatory sides of the project. Finally Mr. Hasan expressed his views in the concluding remarks.
4.0 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:

Proposed Karachi Bus Rapid Transit System (BRTS)

The construction work on one of the corridors “Green Line” of BRTS has started. Green Line to run on a 17 Km stretch between Surjani Town and Guru Mandir. According to the government this project will be operational by September 2016 at a revised cost of Rs.26 billion.

A stakeholder consultation meeting was held on 8th September 2016 at NED University to discuss the impacts of the project on various communities and their livelihoods. The meeting was jointly organized by URC and Department of Architecture and planning to understand the perspective of traders, shopkeepers, commercial centres and residential units along the BRTS green line route. The stakeholders raised a number of concerns over design and route of the proposed Green Line Bus project. The meeting was followed by a number of follow up meetings with stakeholders to discuss further details of their concerns. Later on the stakeholder concerns were shared with BRTS officials.

URC will monitor the development of proposed BRTS plan and its impacts on the city.

Police reforms

Police force plays an important role to control security situation and violence. It also has been a long-term demand for the people to make reforms in the police force. Therefore URC along with other individuals and organizations had filed a public interest petition in Sindh High Court (SHC) for reforms in police force. The petition that requested the SHC to pass its judgment for police force reforms and to redefine the duties and responsibilities upon it to function according to the constitution, law and democratic aspiration of the people. The petition also pleaded the police must be professional, service oriented and accountable to the people. It further implored It must act efficiently for prevention and detection of crimes and maintenance of public order. The organizations supporting this petition include OPP-RTI, PILER, URC along with some other notable individuals.

The SHC has accepted the petition for the hearing. URC will closely follow the hearing of the petition.
Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

URC representatives regularly attend Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) hearings organized by the Sindh Environmental Protection Agency.

During the current reporting period the following Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) were attended by the URC representatives:

- 132 KV Interconnection Scheme at Dhabeji Gharo Circuit, 23rd August 2016
- Power Cement Limited, 8th November 2016.
- Construction and Operation of Residential & Commercial Building - Dil Kusha Heights Project 23rd November 2016

The EIA reports are now being posted at URC web site for wide circulation.

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.

Physical infrastructure of government schools

The most of children from poor communities enroll in government schools. But government schools lack basic facilities such as drinking water, sanitation, furniture and other essential facilities. URC has conducted a study to document school building infrastructure belonging to Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC). URC selected 6 zones for survey, which include North Nazimabad, North Karachi, Orangi Town, SITE, Baldia and Jamshed Town.

The survey of 22 schools has been completed.

During the current reporting period URC team members held a meeting with minister of Human Rights of Sindh. The details of the survey were shared with the minister. The minister showed her concerns over neglect situation of the government schools in Karachi and promised to take appropriate steps to improve the physical infrastructure of the schools.

URC will further share this information with other concerns departments of the government. It is also looking ways and means to initiate an advocacy program to improve the condition of these schools.
5.0 Awaran Earthquake rehabilitation Program

URC collaboration of partnership with OPP-RTI, Misereor, ACHR and SELAVIP supported construction of shelters for the victims of earthquake in Awaran district. Up to date the construction of 1,175 shelter houses has been completed in 27 different villages.

During current reporting period 150 new shelter houses were constructed in 22 different villages of the Awaran region. The construction of these shelter houses were supported by the ACHR and SELAVIP.

URC also supported digging of wells and installing of hand pumps in earthquake affected areas of Awaran. URC has supported a total number of 33 drinking water supply schemes in various villages of the earthquake area.

Still a large number of poor families are unable to construct their houses in the remote areas of Awaran region. URC would like to continue its support for the homeless families of the earthquake victims.

6.0 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.

During the current reporting period two meetings were held, these meetings were hosted by the following partner organizations;

i. Hosted by Akhtar Hamid Khan Memorial Trust (AHKMT) 8th and 9th October 2016 in Rawalpindi.

ii. Hosted by Orangi Pilot Project (OPP), on 21st and 22nd January 2017 in Karachi.

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.

The Karachi Cluster meeting of LOGIIN was held at URC office on 11th November 2016. The members discussed the issues and problems related to local bodies in Sindh. The other cluster meetings were held in Islamabad and Lahore respectively.

The 4th LOGIN General Assembly was held on 13-15 December 2016 in Colombo, Sri Lanka. 92 participants from 14 countries took part in the meeting and enriched it with their contributions.

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.

Some recent focus issues of the Joint Action Committee (JAC) were:

- The death of workers in fire incidents in Gaddani Shipbreaking Yard.
- The Police reforms in Sindh.
- Issue of missing activists.
- Elections Reform Bill 2017

In these meetings it was decided to move collective legal action to ensure safety of poor workers at work places and to work together for an efficient and accountable police force.

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 to two community networks, which were facing eviction threats

i. Network of communities living along railway tracks of Karachi.
ii. Network of Communities along Gujjar Nullah (Drain)

During the current reporting period URC has been engaged with both communities network to stop forced evictions in these settlements.
URC has supported the community network of Gujjar Nullah to stop forced evictions along the drains. In this process a number of meetings were held with communities and concerns government officials.

The communities along the railway track of the Karachi Circular Railway (KCR) also intensified their efforts to stop proposed forced evictions of the poor families without awarding proper resettlement. 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.

7.0 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 URC is in process to reorganize and reshape its youth internship program. The main objective of the program is to develop the orientation of youth on urban issues.

During the current reporting period the following students were involved with URC:

- Seven students from Development Studies Program of NED Engineering University Karachi.

Previously 10 students were engaged with URC out that 6 students have completed their research studies at URC and 4 remaining students from development studies of previous batch continued their work with URC.

URC engages the young students in various research and documentation activities of URC.

URC also arranges orientation lectures for the interns. These orientation sessions were instrumental to develop their understanding on vital urban issues and motivate them to dedicate their time for social development.

A number of interactions of students with the various communities through field visits were also arranged in which the students collected primary data from various communities.
8.0 Research

URC continues its research and documentation activities on urban issues.

During the current reporting period URC has been involved in the following studies
   i. Conditions of public parks and play grounds of the city
   ii. Solid Waste Management in Karachi

URC will continue to its research activities and will conduct more investigation to get better understanding of the city.

9.0 Publications

Proceedings of the Forums
During the current reporting period the following publication were printed

   1. Role of Karachi in 1946 Naval Mutiny, Aslam Khwaja
   2. An overview of transport issues of Karachi and proposed Bus Rapid System

Some of selected news articles published in various Newspapers related to URC work:

   • Ugly Karachi, Arif Hasan Daily Dawn on 6th November 2016
   • Karachi ranks 14 among 20 most polluted cities in the world, Sheharyar Ali Daily Express Tribune 9th November 2016
   • A look at Karachi’s mass transit problems, Daily Express Tribune 11th December 2016
   • Karachi diagnostic, Arif Hasan daily Dawn, 8th January 2018
   • Issue of missing activists can’t be dealt with in isolation: civil society, Zoya Anwer January 17, 2017

Facts & Figures (monthly facts sheet)

URC compiles a monthly newsletter “Facts & Figures” (both Urdu & English). The Newsletter contains selected news clippings and articles on urban issues. During current reporting period six more issues of this newsletter were compiled and circulated.
10.0  Documentation

News Clippings

URC has a news clipping 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/
### BUDGET & EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR (2016 -2017)

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### URC RECEIPTS
**(JULY 16 - DECEMBER 16)**

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Over 2500 houses of poor families were demolished along Gujjar Nullah. The government demolished these houses without paying any compensation or resettlement plan.
Evictions and Housing Rights

Over 2500 houses of poor families along Gujjar Nullah were demolished by the government leaving many families homeless.
Evictions and Housing Rights

The community activists from the Network of the Communities along Gujjar Nullah are holding a meeting at URC to discuss forced eviction issue.
Evictions and Housing Rights

The community activists are holding a meeting at URC to discuss the issue of forced eviction and displacement of poor families in the city.
URC activists are sharing information on forced evictions and housing rights with the evicted families. A large number of families were displaced along the Gujjar Nullah.
Evictions and Housing Rights

How communities can fight to protect their housing rights, the URC activists are meeting and explaining the forced eviction victims along Gujjar Nullah.
Fr. Jorge Anzorena is talking on Development by People – A case study of Philippines at URC forum held on 7 December 2016.
Forum on Public Safety at Work Places was held on 21st December 2016 at URC office.
URC Forums

URC forum on Karachi Sewerage Improvement Plan S-III held on 9 November 2016 at URC office.
URC Forums

The forum on Affordable Housing Technology for the Low Income Groups held at Department of Architecture and Planning (DAP) NED University. The forum was jointly organized by DAP and URC.
Act as Watch Group

The stakeholders meeting of Bus Rapid Transit System (BRTS) held at Department of Architecture and Planning (DAP) of NED University. The meeting was jointly organized by URC and DAP.
URC representatives are meeting with minister of human rights Sindh to share findings of survey on physical infrastructure of the KMC schools in Karachi
Networking & Exchange

The Community Development Network (CDN) meeting was held at OPP on 21 and 22 January 2017. The partners are sharing their experiences and new developments in their work.
Networking & Exchange

A view of Community Development Network (CDN) meeting. The meeting was held in Rawalpindi on 8 and 9 October 2016.
Youth Training Program

The students working with URC are taking part in an orientation discussion on public transport issues in Karachi
Youth Training Program

URC organizes orientation lectures for the youth interns at URC. The students from different universities work with URC as part of their internship.
Youth Training Program

The students from Development Studies of the NED University are learning research tools and methods at URC office.
150 more shelter houses were constructed for the homeless poor families of the earthquake victims in 22 villages of Awaran region in Balochistan province.
The URC Board Meeting is discussing and reviewing organization's activities
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. Role of Karachi in 1946 Naval Mutiny, Aslam Khwaja
2. Public Transport Issues and proposed Bus Rapid Transit System in Karachi
6. Control and contestation of space and emerging safety and security issues in Karachi by Dr Noman Ahmad
7. An over view on shrinking transport facilities in the city, by Mr. S Irshad Hussain Bukharai,
8. Weaponization and its impact on violence by Mr. Naeem Sadiq
9. Karachi Mass Transit – An overview by Mr Rashid Mughal
10. The drainage system of Karachi – Major issues and a way head Rs. 50/-
11. Karachi: Demographic trends - social and political Implications Rs. 50/-
12. Sindh Local Government Act 2013 - An Overview Rs. 50/-
13. A Research Study on Road Accidents in Karachi – Causes and Impacts Rs. 50/-
14. The Goths of Karachi and their regularization process. Rs. 50/-
15. Flood and after: an Overview of the Flood Situation in Sindh by Arif Hasan Rs. 50/-
16. The Post Flood Relief Program of Sindh Government by Taj Haider Rs. 50/-
17. Report of the Task Force on Urban Development by Arif Hasan & Dr. Noman Ahmed Rs. 50/-
18. Problems of Street Children by Mr. Rana Asif Habib Rs.50/-
19. Karachi Transport Management - current situation and a way forward by Dr. Waheed Uddin Rs.50/-
20. Karachi Sewerage Improvement Plan S-III Rs.50/-
21. Role of water Tankers in Karachi Rs.50/-
22. Water Supply in Karachi: Situation/Issues, Priority issues and Solutions. Rs.50/-
23. Active Organized People – Sustainable Development Rs.50/-
24. Gutter Baghicha by Nisar Baloch, Rs.50/-
25. 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
ii. Anjuman-e-Itehad Sajidi Balochan Welfare Association
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
viii. Anjuman-e- Itehad Sajidi Balochan Welfare Association
ix. Kashmir Mujahid Colony Residential Welfare Society
The case studies of the settlements are available in Urdu as separate publications:

i. Case Study of Gharibabad Colony Rs. 50/-
ii. Case Study of Allah Wali Colony Rs. 50/-
iii. Case Study of Madhu Goth Rs. 50/-
iv. Case Study of Kashmir Mujahid Colony Rs. 50/-
v. Case Study of Old Sleeper Quarters Rs. 50/-
vi. Case Study of Pahr Gunj Rs. 50/-

i. Case study of Umer Coloy No. 2 Rs.50/-
i. Case study of Umer Farooq Town Rs.50/-
ix. Case study of Wahid Colony Rs.50/-

x. Case study of Awami Colony Rs.50/-
xi. Case study of Kausar Niazi Colony Rs.50/-

xii. Case study of Umer Colony No. 1 Rs.50/-

xiii. Case study of Hasan Aulia Village Rs.50/-

xiv. Case study of Chaman Iqbal Colony Rs.50/-

xv. Case study of Bilawal Jokhio Goth Rs.50/-

xvi. Case study of Moria Khan Goth Rs.50/-

xvii. 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