



## Two-day Consultative Workshop Towards a Sustainable and Inclusive Development Policy for Informal Settlement (Slums) in Bihar'

### Summary

A two-day consultative workshop 'Towards a Sustainable and Inclusive Development Policy for Informal Settlement (Slums) in Bihar' was organised on June 15-16, 2022 at Hotel Chanakya in collaboration with UNFPA, Patna municipal corporation, Indo-Global social service society and Diksha Foundation towards evolving a sustainable and inclusive policy development for the Informal settlement in Bihar. More than 75 participants from different CSOs/INGOs/Retired IAS officers and social activist participated and gave their valuable inputs on different issues, challenges faced and way forward.

The objectives of the workshop were:

- To understand the existing conditions, and challenges of the slums in Bihar/ Patna
- To learn from other states and better practices of slum improvement and development
- To deliberate and develop a framework for the revised slum policy for Bihar
- To develop a way forward / action plan for the preparation of the slum policy in Bihar

The workshop brought together committed and sensitive civil society organizations, institutions, and experts from the different fields of urban land rights, law, gender, health, informal labour, urban governance, and climate crisis to brainstorm and collectively churn out issues that were a priority, sensitive and affecting the lives of common people of Patna.

The Chief Guest for the event, Shri Sunil Kumar Singh, IAS (Retd.), Member (Administrative/Technical) Real Estate Appellate Tribunal, Bihar was the mentor and guidance which paved way for this draft. The contents of the Policy incorporations area based on the inputs from the participants from across seven states, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Telangana, Karnataka , Maharashtra , Madhya Pradesh, one Union Territory of India took active participation Mr. Tikender Singh Panwar, Former Deputy Mayor of Shimla, Mr. Sriram Haridass, Deputy Representative UNFPA , Ms. Swati Singh Sambyal, UN-habitat, Mr Sanjay Kumar , UNFPA, Ms Sheema Fatima, UCL TISS ( Tata Institute of Social service),Ms. Dharmistha Chauhan, Gender and social inclusion expert, Mr. Vinay Baidur, Urban governance expert, Ms. Anuradha Singh, housing expert and lawyer. Apart from this, various CSO and activists, community members from Bihar were also present in this workshop and also share views on policy framework Ms. Keerti, UNFPA, MX. Reshma Prasad of Dostana Safar, Ms. Monalis from Mithinga, Dr. Shakeel Ur Rahman, Mr. Rajan Singh of Nidan, Dr. Zeba Nahid from Patna Municipal corporation and Mr. Prabhakar Sinha from UNICEF were valuable contributors

### Principles

1. Decentralisation as a fundamental basis for slum policy. All decisions need to be brought down to the level of the community. This is in the same principle as 74 constitutional amendment.

2. community voices were clearly for institution upgradation as opposed to any relocation and resettlement. The demand was for improvement of services and infrastructure provision and inclusion of slums in the city, and not their removal.
3. all the policy process should be participatory. This is on the lines of "nothing for us, without us". community participation should be the cornerstone for the policy development as well as implementation process.
4. building on the existing knowledge and practices - there are many lessons - big and small - on the implementation of better policy practices across different states like Odisha, Punjab and Madhya Pradesh, where slums have got property rights. Also discussed was 2011 draft Bihar policy and 2017 policy, wherein positive provisions were suggested to be included in the proposed policy for slums
5. We should recognize that slums have a context and history, that most slums have a majority population of marginal groups and historical development of Patna shows that. Going forward historical mistakes are not to be repeated. State role and responsibility should be increased for housing provision.
6. nothing is neutral in policy. Gender mainstreaming and strong inclusion of LGBTIQIA+ in the slum policy through different measures
7. strong system of community monitoring, data, mapping and innovative use of technology will form the basis of any policy development. All data will be captured electronically and will lead to round the clock monitoring, analysis and implementation.

### **Recommendations to be included in the revision of the slum policy draft**

#### **1. Slums, Housing, and eviction**

1. Urgent need to identify and notify new settlements as slums, the process must be stipulated in the policy with a clear survey process and period between each such identifications.
2. Land under the existing slums should be reserved for slum housing in master plans. And new land for social housing should be reserved in the upcoming / presently ongoing master plans. Land titling process should be incorporated as a primary mode for slum development, other supplementary modes may be added to support the primary mode.
3. Need for a change in the definition of slums; and to make it more inclusive.
4. Incorporation of zero-eviction approach in slum policy to make it participatory and SOP to be developed for slums that need to be displaced as per national, international and court guidelines.
5. There is a need for a law/ statute rather than a policy. Policy even if very good will not be implemented, better to have an Act with a backing of resources and commitment.
6. A process for reclassification of slums to developed areas is required as development comes in and a more inclusive approach at classifying tenable and untenable land should be followed.
7. A study of the better acts across other states in India should be conducted and progressive policy measures should be included in the Bihar slum policy.
8. A historical mapping and social impact analysis of the past housing and eviction cases will be helpful for rectifying way forward actions.
9. Training and capacity building of staff, and housing department on slums should be ensured to sensitize and initiate confidence building measures.

10. Slum development issues need to be governed by another specific slum development board under the urban development or the housing development ministry. With a broad set of stakeholder groups from other departments.
11. There is a need for a revision of spatial mapping of slums in Bihar. And slum profile of communities needs to be created.
12. Master plans needs to be inclusive of slum needs, and linkages of policy and master plan to be articulated clearly for standards, norms and measures of development to facilitate development.

## **2. Urban homeless**

1. Urban homeless needs to be addressed through a separate policy for ease of implementation and clarity.
2. Urban homeless survey needs to be carried out and a more holistic adoption of homelessness needs to be taken in perspective.
3. Homeless policy should fundamentally be based on the principles of NULM-SUH and furthering the housing needs of the homeless through housing policy linkages and allocations.
4. Number of shelters to be established based on the population standards and Special shelters to be setup like recovery shelter (male and female), Drug de-addiction shelter, labour hostels for male and female, children homes need to be incorporated into the homeless policy.
5. City level monitoring taskforce may be established to execute the policy and ensure its monitoring. Inter department coordination with health department, social welfare, urban development, education, food, and supply department is also important.
6. Rescue efforts and reaching out to support the homeless on the street also needs to be focused on the policy.
7. Rehabilitation of the urban homeless, livelihood training and access to all government schemes needs to be incorporated into the policy.
8. Other positive measures in NULM SUH needs to be carried forward in the policy. There can also assessment of national and international best practices that need to be studied for a policy formulation.

## **3. Informal workers and livelihoods**

1. Livelihood practices – especially home-based work - carried out in slums to be accorded recognition in the policy.
2. Spatial provision and standards for livelihood centres at the community level, supported by creches will be very good for women groups to earn livelihoods.
3. Spatial designs of individual houses to be done according to the livelihood needs of the community and slums.
4. Trainings, capacity building and other measures of supporting slums to initiate livelihoods at the community level should be encouraged in slum policy.

## **4. Social security, basic services, and wash**

1. All basic services - like water, toilets, electricity and so on - standards from important missions and schemes to be incorporated into the slum policy.
2. Up gradation and maintenance of community toilets, Individual toilets especially for Women, Transgender, children, and disabled persons in the communities. The maintenance of the infrastructure should be led by women's groups and collectives.
3. Planned waste management, drainage, and sanitation services to be ensured through local improvements in services and participatory designs.

4. Grievance redressal mechanism to be constituted in the policy and implementation
5. Soft skills and capacities for availing wash services need to be made part of the policy through training and capacity building component in the policy. Creating WASH teams led by the communities to ensure wash practices is critical.

#### **5. Youth and gender**

- a. Youth resource centre/ community library in slum is to be incorporated in the policy.
- b. Land title, housing rights and house registration in the name of women and transgender.
- c. Special inclusion provisions for transgender groups be made in the policy – in the existing slums as well as housing of the future.
- d. Specified toilets for trans people in every slum must be a policy mandate.
- e. Formation of Slum level Gender Group/Gender monitoring committee. This can be supported through training and capacity building of the community.

#### **6. Health**

1. Health should be brought under the category of mandatory basic service in slum policy.
2. Adequate availability of health sub centers (one sub center between every 3000-5000 Population) or even smaller standards may be provided the policy as a mandatory provision. Scheduling and annual calendarization of service camp, training may be planned in these centres.
3. Forming local committee, institution (decentralization) of health services through training and capacity building. This may be accompanied with counselling sessions on SRH & family planning, and consistent follow ups, meeting and dialogue and discussion.

#### **7. Education and children**

1. Numerous children are being left out of education even now in slums as access remains a major issue; there is a need for standards of education form *Anganwadis* to Primary schools that need to be incorporated into the standards for slum development, so that schooling infrastructure is included as part of housing standards.
2. Learning centres need to be developed in slums that will facilitate skill development-based learning and function as an activity centre for children.
3. Libraries and creches may be provided in slums
4. Play spaces for children should be made part of slum development and slum policy.

#### **8. Urban governance and participation**

1. Mohalla Sabha, and its functioning needs to be incorporated in the slum policy. They will act as the last layer of urban governance and will play a pivotal role in the implementation of the slum development. A slum development committee may be formed on similar lines.
2. All the implementation of slum policy should be in a public, participatory, and transparent manner. The decision on the services, designs and development should be led by the slum development committee.
3. Micro plans/ Local Plans for all slums may be prepared at the local level that are inclusive of all important stakeholders and diverse needs.

4. Resource allocation and priority to slum development to be given, and a standard percentage budget allocated for slums in urban areas. Participatory budgeting practices need to be encouraged in the local slum level.
5. Social audit needs to be incorporated into the policy and the process be led by the communities and CSOs/NGOs working on social audits.

#### **9. Climate change, and disaster resilience**

1. Climate resilient housing and slum development which can prevent against different climate change impacts - like heatwave, Cold wave, natural disasters, flood, water logging, Pandemic, air pollution – needs to be promoted.
2. Climate friendly practices and innovative approaches like waste management, composting, rainwater harvesting, urban farming should be made part of the policy.
3. Climate resilient local area plan should be prepared, submitted, and incorporated in the annual city development plan
4. Concept of task force teams needs to be incorporated in slum policy to face situations of disasters. They will be comprised of trained youth and supported by the other members of the community to secure community from any disasters resulting in damage and are the first responders. Early warning systems should also be set up.

#### **10. Social marginalities**

1. The policy to recognize the social marginalities in slums and clearly identifies the specific communities and groups who are be accorded special protections/ priorities in slum development. Here caste, gender, single women-based priorities may be included.
2. Special allocations in housing provision to be reserved to marginal groups.
3. *Musahar bastis* are the most underdevelopment slum communities. This needs special attention and resources in the slum policy.