

YUVA

Urban Initiatives

ANNUAL REPORT 2022-23



YUVA
URBAN
INITIATIVES

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Suggested Citation:

YUVA Urban Initiatives.

December 2023. Annual Report 2022-23.

Mumbai: India.

Published by:

YUVA Urban Initiatives

YUVA Centre, Plot 23, Sector 7, Kharghar,

Navi Mumbai – 410210 (India)

2023

Designed by:

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Chairperson's Address

The past year was a critical one for us, as we finally moved ahead from the pandemic years. It is undeniable what a terrible blow these past years have dealt to the most marginalised people. From the shocks and losses they suffered with regard to their livelihoods, health needs, access to social protection, children's rights, violations faced and the need for justice ... our work has often meant being responsive on all these fronts.

I am heartened and grateful that our teams could rise up to all these challenges. Especially their commitment to children's needs remains noteworthy and the teams continued to form and strengthen critical partnerships to participate in and lead change.

Our work on child rescue and rehabilitation remained strong in the past year. We worked well with systems authorities and the larger civil society network. Additionally, as a member of the Thane District Taskforce, we were able to bring up critical child rights, protection and violation oriented issues, for action.

Our community-oriented initiatives, while being limited in scope this year, also ensured that marginalised people's access to rights, entitlements and social welfare is prioritised.

I am thankful for all the support we received from our partners, donors and well-wishers, which recommitted us to social transformation and motivated us to continue tirelessly. I invite you to read this annual report, which presents the highlights from the past year of work at YUVA Urban Initiatives.

In solidarity

Helen Joseph

Director, Chairperson

About Us

YUVA Urban Initiatives

Set up in 2007 in Mumbai, India, YUVA Urban Initiatives aims to address the growing challenges and inequalities arising out of rapid urbanisation. Given the rise in informal settlements (*bastis*) in cities, coupled with inadequate living conditions, lack of livelihood opportunities, limited awareness of and access to healthcare, YUVA Urban Initiatives adopts an integrated approach to drive change in every aspect.

YUVA Urban Initiatives is a Section 8 Company. It draws inspiration from and is nurtured by the non-profit Youth for Unity and Voluntary Action (YUVA).

Mission and Objectives

YUVA Urban Initiatives has two key missions:

To create cities that are just, equitable and sustainable; and

To make them a better place for the poor by enabling access to human rights

In particular, YUVA Urban Initiatives aims to uphold the rights of the most vulnerable groups in large cities. Rooted in our belief in empowerment, we seek to build the capacities of urban poor communities to address issues related to the quality of their living conditions and livelihoods. With access to healthcare services still highly inequitable, we endeavour to enable access to aid and medical facilities for the urban poor.

Focus Areas

At YUVA Urban Initiatives, our programmes focus on:

Tackling Vulnerabilities

The urban poor endure harsh and unjust living conditions in cities where they migrate for work and a better life. Yet, their needs are often unheard and they remain misrepresented on many mainstream forums. Our work focuses on developing people's agency by empowering them and encouraging their active participation in decision making. We help develop people's rights awareness and encourage the formation of local collectives, which can help people take forward their demands in their own voices.

By helping address issues of insecurity and vulnerability stemming from inadequate and insecure housing (experienced by about 40 per cent of the city's population) and informality of livelihoods (experienced by nearly 90 per cent of the city's working population), we aim to support the urban poor to claim their rightful place in the city. We also focus on children and youth empowerment, as their conscientisation and development is critical to drive change in society.

YUVA Urban Initiatives is committed to the realisation of Sustainable Development Goals, especially SDG 11—Sustainable Cities and Communities. The organisation aims to empower people and develop their engagement in city-building efforts with ownership.

Strategic Support

With our decades long experience of working on urban issues, we frequently take up consulting assignments, offering strategic support to other organisations in the sector.

In the past, we have supported Child Rights and You (CRY), a non-profit based in Mumbai, to develop their urban child rights programming strategy. Along with a team of consultants, we have also conducted strategy review and development on a UNICEF project for children in urban Bhopal.

Interventions

Child Protection and Rights

Impact in Numbers



Ensuring Child Rescue and Rehabilitation via Childline

YUVA Urban Initiatives has been an implementation partner of Childline India Foundation since 2008–09, responding to emergency calls for children in distress via the 24*7 toll-free helpline. Through three contact centres (City Childline, Dadar Railway Childline and Navi Mumbai Childline), our teams respond to emergency calls requiring both direct

and indirect intervention like requests for protection from abuse, shelter and medical help, acting on missing persons complaints, addressing children’s need for emotional support and guidance, counselling, and so on.

Supporting Children’s Growth and Development by Intervening in Communities

While child rescue and rehabilitation remains the core focus of the work, the teams are invested in the holistic development of children—frequently organising sessions for children’s right to study, play, and enjoy a safe and violence-free environment.

In partnership with Railway Children India, we worked to strengthen community based child protection systems for children growing up in 3 informal settlements around Dadar Railway Station. Via community activity centres, we enabled children’s access to non-formal and supplementary education, organising fun activities, life skills sessions and informal classes. Although the team did not have access to a fixed place to conduct these sessions, they planned and organised them nonetheless. Team members also counselled children and parents on the importance of



education, and 53 children started attending school regularly. The children’s situation remains dire as their community keeps getting forcibly evicted, affecting their ability to study and often destroying their school materials in the process too. 5 children’s groups were formed with 10 children each and sessions on children’s rights were held with them.

Ensuring More Support to Children in Need Via Work in Partnerships

In 2022–23, the teams continued their work for child protection, in partnership with systems authorities and civil society organisations. Stronger collaboration and better training of all stakeholders helped coordinate better onfield and reduce emerging challenges. Some of the highlights on this front included:

- The active role of the Child Help Group of Dadar Railway Station, a station-level coordination group, to monitor child care and protection, and through their work build support and outreach.
- Regular discussion with the District Women and Child Development Commission, Childline officials and other organisations on children’s needs and rights.
- Increased work via partnerships and case referrals through the year, ensuring larger coverage of child protection and welfare cases.



Learning and Training

The team built their capacities through training on laws and issues related to children, such as on child labour, anti-trafficking, begging, sexual abuse, and children in need of care and protection.

We also conducted a range of workshops for different stakeholders (such as systems authorities, community based organisations, children and

others), including those on understanding the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 and its provisions, child sexual abuse and Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012, on child rights and violations, child protection concerns, and the work of allied systems for the rehabilitation of children in need.

Building Awareness on Childline

Childline teams organised open house programmes, which travelled to new areas. This helped reach more children in vulnerable communities, including street children. In addition to sharing information on Childline, the programmes built awareness on children's rights and needs.

Childline team members also continued to campaign for child rights awareness and protection on important days of the year (such as during Child Rights Week, World Day Against Child Labour and on National Girl Child Day). They raised awareness on child rights, child labour, anti human trafficking, and more with diverse stakeholders. Sessions were held with *anganwadi sevikas*, at civil society

organisations, with local child protection units, and in schools and colleges to spread awareness on child rights, and how people can approach Childline for child rescue and welfare.

The Childline se Dosti campaign was observed across centres and in different parts of the city in creative ways. A signature campaign was held in different spaces, inviting pledges and messages from station stakeholders, children and passengers on child protection. Children enacted plays on the work of Childline 1098, engaged via games and creative mediums, tied bands on each other's wrists and on stakeholders.



Surveying Children in Street Situations

The Dadar Railway Childline team participated in a survey by the Department of Women and Children Development, identifying over 12 children living on the station platform and nearby station premises. The team engaged with the children and their families for the care and protection of children. The children were shifted to suitable shelters, given the risks they were encountering at their earlier place of stay.

YUI and Childline India Foundation also partnered on an integrated programme for the care and protection of children in street situations. YUI conducted 10 focused group discussions with children living in street situations in Mumbai City. The team first identified the pockets where children stay. They spoke to the children about whether their living area is safe and child friendly or not. The team did a deep study about the demographic condition, everyday living conditions, general health and sanitation state, safety challenges, on disasters, emergencies, and so on.

Advocacy and Participation in Governance

Navi Mumbai Childline is a Member of the Thane District Taskforce set up in the context of COVID-19 and children's increasing vulnerabilities. In the past year, we brought up issues of begging, children's rehabilitation, the growing incidence of child labour in context of the pandemic, and children's linkages to Bal Sangopan Yojana and other government

schemes. We also advocated for the setup of *anganwadis* in Tatanagar and Turbhe Quarry, Navi Mumbai, given the growing vulnerabilities of children. Since there is limited provision for the setup of *anganwadis*, children from these areas are being connected to nearby existing *anganwadis* to access food.



In November 2022, Navi Mumbai Childline and the children's collective facilitated by the team, Bal Adhikar Sangharsh Sangathan, organised a city level Bal Sabha at Tata Nagar, Belapur. Children participated and presented their demands

(especially on the need for child protection) before the police, anganwadi, community based organisations, mediapersons and other stakeholders. We are working with the children to help them further take ahead demands for action.



Furthering Children's Access to Education Through Scholarship Support

We offered educational scholarships to 25 children whose parents had been unable to pay their fees since the pandemic, due to which they were being denied entry in schools. With the school

fee support, the children were able to resume their education. This support was offered across 7 areas where we work within the Mumbai Metropolitan Region.

Children require a safe shelter, to live with dignity and in safety. The following two cases attest how we worked on cases for children's access to safe shelters and surroundings.

Case Study 1

Working for children's safety and striving for safe shelters

A concerned caller dialed Childline, reporting potential child abuse at a Panvel shelter home. The Childline team initiated the investigation. Upon arrival, they sensed something amiss, as shelter staff seemed unwelcoming. The team contacted the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) and secured authorisation for a

rescue operation.

With the help of the District Child Protection Unit (DCPU) and the Police, the Childline team successfully rescued three children from the facility. The children shared harrowing accounts of starvation, abuse, and forced labour at the shelter.

Acting on the children's statements, the team filed a First Information Report (FIR) against the shelter's in-charge and caretaker. The rescued children received protective care from the Child Welfare Committee (CWC).

In another case, the Thane District Child Protection Officer and CWC reached out to Childline for help to rescue children from a problematic shelter home in Nerul, violating Juvenile Justice Act rules. Our team visited the shelter home several times, posing as potential admissions and talked to the resident children.

Following our visits, we successfully rescued 45 children and placed them in a Government Children's Home. Some were reunited with their parents under CWC's supervision. During counseling, six girls disclosed harrowing sexual harassment by the church pastor, involving bad touch. The team filed an FIR against the pastor under the POCSO Act. However, after the gynaecological test confirmed his guilt, the pastor pressured a child's family, leading to delays and legal complications. The mother declined to provide a statement, and both the pastor and some parents filed cases against CWC and Childline. We tried to engage with the family but couldn't locate them at their address. The case is currently ongoing.

Childline frequently works on cases to rescue runaway children. The following two cases illustrate how this work has proceeded.

Naren*, a young child, was found alone at Matunga Railway Station, unable to communicate effectively due to his age. He was placed in a home for children for the time being, for his safety. Despite efforts to locate his home, the team had not been successful.

Case Study 2

Rehabilitating runaway children

As the team worked on this case further, they received a lead and Naren was finally reunited with his family. Then the team learnt that Naren's family too had recently reported him missing, but due to mismatch of details between both searching parties it had not been possible to connect them. Due to challenging family circumstances, with his father suffering from tuberculosis and his mother facing mental health and drug issues, authorities requested the Child Welfare Committee not to return him to his parents. Naren currently stays at a children's home.

In another case in April 2022, a boy named Nagesh* and a girl named Pooja*, both 16, were found alone at Dadar Railway Station. Claiming to be siblings waiting for their uncle, they had left their village after completing the 10th grade. However, their story unravelled as they couldn't provide contact details or addresses. A mobile phone led to the discovery that they weren't siblings but had run away from the same village.

The Child Help Desk (CHD) sought Railway Protection Force (RPF) assistance and handed them to the Government Railway Police (GRP). Nagesh was finally reunited with his parents. As Pooja disclosed abuse by her brother, she has been placed at a children's home.

Case Study 3

Rescuing children and working for their bright futures

In 2022, the Childline team received a call, reporting a dire situation. The caller informed them that a woman had passed away, her husband was struggling

with alcohol addiction, and there was uncertainty about the future of their two daughters. The Childline team promptly visited the location.

Upon arrival, they found the two girls in distress. Both were homeless, and were quite unwell, being drenched in rain too. The team brought the children to the police station, and following formalities

they sought medical attention for them. Seeing the severity of the older girl's health condition, the doctor was hesitant to admit her but eventually did. The Childline Foundation took up the responsibility for her medical expenses during the eight-day hospitalisation, and her health improved significantly.

The Child Welfare Committee intervened, recognizing the girls' need for care and protection, and placed them in an institution. Ongoing follow-up showed positive results as the girls regained their health. Their father had not been in contact with them since their mother's death. Efforts to locate him proved fruitless. The Child Welfare Committee subsequently ordered the preparation of a report for the adoption of both girls, ensuring their future is in capable hands. Efforts are underway to find loving parents, providing hope for a brighter future for these girls.

In March 2023, the Childline team received a distress call regarding a 12-year-old boy working long hours in a Mumbai tailoring shop. He had been brought from Uttar Pradesh by his family and wasn't attending school. The team visited the location with the police and found two boys, one aged 12 and the other 15, at the shop.

Upon investigation, it was discovered that the 12-year-old boy was assisting his family in the trade. After counselling, his family agreed to prioritise his education, and the boy returned to his village. The 15-year-old boy was attending school and didn't require intervention. This case underscores Childline's commitment to children's well-being and education.

Case Study 4

Monitoring and preventing child labour

Community Empowerment

We took ahead our participation in phase 2 of a UNICEF-led community-based monitoring study, focusing on social mobilisation. Volunteers reached out to 12,000 households in total, to facilitate basic schemes and services. The schemes largely focused on enabling access to India's food subsidy

programme (by facilitating access to ration cards), and schemes and services for pregnant women, for post natal care, old age pension schemes, and so on. Camps were also held for COVID-19 vaccination awareness. This work took place in 2 districts each of Assam, Mizoram and Manipur.



Organisational Details

Our Governing Board

Director, Chairperson

Helen Anthappa Joseph

Director

Nisreen Zafar Ebrahim

Director

Lata Narayan

Director

Nalini Sekhar

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.

The 2022–23 board meeting was held on 20 September 2022.

Safeguarding the Workplace

Internal Committee

YUVA Urban Initiative'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.

Annual Report of the IC 2022–23:

0 complaints during 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 IC and the management

Child Protection Committee

YUVA Urban Initiatives 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 CPC 2022–23:

0 complaints during over the year

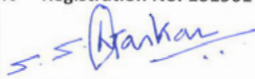

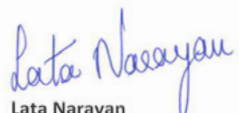

0 complaints disposed off during the year



0 cases pending for more than 90 days

1 workshop/awareness programme conducted for employees

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

Financial Information

YUVA URBAN INITIATIVES CIN: U85310MH2007NPL296526 BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST MARCH, 2023			
Particulars	Note No	As at 31st March 2023	As at 31st March 2022
I. EQUITY AND LIABILITIES			
(1) Shareholder's Funds			
(a) Share Capital	3	1,00,000	1,00,000
(b) Reserves and Surplus	4	27,95,449	11,33,444
(2) Non-Current Liabilities			
(b) Other Long term liabilities	5	-	4,50,000
(3) Current Liabilities			
(a) Other current liabilities	6	1,24,653	2,68,014
(b) Earmarked Funds	7	-	4,46,373
Total		30,20,102	23,97,831
II. Assets			
(1) Non-current assets			
(a) Property, Plant & Equipments			
(i) Tangible assets	8	114	114
(2) Current assets			
(a) Cash and Bank balances	9	12,62,206	2,63,841
(b) Short-term loans and advances	10	1,78,496	1,67,899
(c) Other Current Assets	11	1,22,700	3,27,200
(d) Earmarked Funds	7	14,56,584	16,38,775
Total		30,20,102	23,97,831
Significant accounting policies		2	
The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.			
AS PER OUR REPORT OF EVEN DATE FOR C N K & Associates LLP Chartered Accountants IC Registration No. 101961 W/W-100036		FOR AND ON THE BEHALF OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF YUVA URBAN INITIATIVES	
 Suresh Agaskar Partner Membership No: 110321		 Lata Narayan Director DIN: 01037356	 Helen Joseph Director DIN: 00394309
Place : Mumbai Date: 27/09/2023		Place : Mumbai Date: 27/09/2023	Place : Mumbai Date: 27/09/2023

YUVA URBAN INITIATIVES CIN: U85310MH2007NPL296526 STATEMENT OF INCOME & EXPENDITURE FOR THE PERIOD ENDED MARCH 31, 2023			
Particulars	Note No	For the year ended March 31, 2023	For the year ended March 31, 2022
Income:			
Donations & Community Contributions	12	32,19,315	9,73,751
Other Income	13	21,205	63,223
		32,40,520	10,36,974
Expenses:			
Other expenses	14	15,78,515	8,20,152
		15,78,515	8,20,152
Surplus/(Deficit) before tax		16,62,005	2,16,822
Tax expense:			
Current tax			
Surplus/(Deficit) for the period		16,62,005	2,16,822
<p>Significant accounting policies 2</p> <p>The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.</p>			
<p>AS PER OUR REPORT OF EVEN DATE FOR C N K & Associates LLP Chartered Accountants ICAI Registration No. 101961 W/W-100036</p> <p><i>S. S. Atankar</i></p> <p>Suresh Agaskar Partner Membership No: 110321</p> <p>Place : Mumbai Date: 27/09/2023</p> 		<p>FOR AND ON THE BEHALF OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF YUVA URBAN INITIATIVES</p> <p><i>Lata Narayan</i></p> <p>Lata Narayan Director DIN: 01037356</p> <p>Place : Mumbai Date: 27/09/2023</p>	
		<p><i>Helen Joseph</i></p> <p>Helen Joseph Director DIN: 00394309</p> <p>Place : Mumbai Date: 27/09/2023</p> 	

Looking Ahead ---

As 2022–23, came to a close, we reflected on the changemaking initiatives we had led and participated in over the year. There were also indications that the Childline project will be transitioning directly to the government systems, and we held internal discussions to plan for this change and its impact on our teams, and our continued role to highlight children's needs on the ground.

Our commitment to children's well-being and protection and to community empowerment ensured that we were able to take ahead interventions with strength. The networks and relationships we formed with children and community members also helped us constantly expand our outreach.

As we enter the next year, we are hopeful but cautiously optimistic about what lies ahead. Our commitment to people's empowerment and access to rights remains undeterred.

YUVA Urban Initiatives

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

2023

