Learning Workshop on Women, Land and Housing Rights: Assessing the impacts of dispossession
30 September–2 October 2020
Lusaka, Zambia
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Housing and Land Rights Network - Habitat International Coalition (HIC-HLRN) Cairo, Egypt
Learning Workshop on Women, Land and Housing Rights:
Assessing the impacts of dispossession
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HIC struggles for social justice, gender equality and environmental sustainability, and works in defense, promotion and realization of human rights related to housing and land in both, rural and urban areas.

Explore this section to check how HIC is currently working so that everybody has a safe place to live in peace with dignity.

HIC consolidates and facilitates the delivery of knowledge, tools and techniques of accumulated expertise in Habitat Fields, making this accessible to everyone. This aims at strengthening and training HIC members, organizations and individuals, as well as to consolidate the Coalition's capacities as a whole.

Explore this section to improve your skills, knowledge and practice in habitat fields.
Wisdom Keepers

Diana Lee-Smith  
Mazingira Institute  
Kenya

Davinder Lamba  
Mazingira Institute  
Kenya

Tabitha Siwale  
Women’s Advancement Trust  
Tanzania
HICompetences

- Gender Equality
- Production (Social Production of Habitat)
- Safe, Healthy & Sustainable Environment
- Human Rights (to Adequate Housing and Land)
Taking Action

- Ivory Coast: 700,000 undergoing forced eviction
- China: Release Tibetan Land Defenders!
- Zimbabwe: Rural Forced Evictions
- Argentina: Rampant Forced Evictions in BA
- Nigeria: 30K forcibly evicted, 300K at Risk
- TNC Land Grab in Sierra Leone
- Turkey: Mass Dispossession in Diyarbakır
- Cameroon: Hundreds of families risk eviction
- Cameroon: > 2,000 people facing eviction
- Cameroon: Demolition Threatens 3K Families

Occupied Kashmir: “India learned from Israel”

Housing and Land Rights Violation Database
Mapping Eviction, Dispossession, Destruction and Privatization-related Cases
Defending the Human Right to Adequate Housing

Housing and Land Rights Network – Habitat International Coalition (HIC-HLRN)
Cairo, Egypt

- Research and publication
- Monitoring tools & techniques
- Training & capacity development
- Advocacy
Housing and Land Rights: Remedial & Preventive Tools
Gender Justice

The Alexandria Consultation
Women’s Right to Adequate Housing and Land
Middle East/North Africa

Habitat International Coalition
Housing and Land Rights Network
United Nations
Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
A year after the Habitat International Coalition (HIC) was reorganized in 1987, "Women and Shelter" was set up as an independent network within the coalition. Yvonne Mabille spoke about the founding and the tasks of the network with the General Secretary of Women and Shelter Network Clara Angel from Fedevivienda in Bogota, Columbia and with Grace Mushinge from ZWOSAG in Lusaka, Zambia.
Grace Mushinge, you are working in Zambia with women who have been evicted from their houses.

Grace Mushinge: In my country I am working with women who are, for example, producing building materials like crushing stones for concrete. This is a very hard work in order to provide themselves with an income. They can be 20, 15 or 10 groups each breaking together. When the customer comes to buy, they sell individual heaps. Each one sells her heap and then they help each other to load them onto the truck. And when they are paid the money, they share it and use the money to buy cement for their blocks, which they use when constructing their houses. That's the way they help themselves to raise funds.

In the meantime, some of the groups have been evicted from their shelter. They had started building houses illegally on a vacant plot. So the government moved in and demolished their houses and allocated their land to somebody else, an investor, to build an industrial plot. That happened in Lusaka, but it goes on in any other town in Zambia.

Now these women are looking for plots where they can build their permanent houses. And I have taken them to the local government housing authority to talk on their behalf, so that the minister and the administrator will allow them to get a plot; and they did. About 16 of them are to get plots. Since 1992 when the last eviction took place I have been negotiating with the local government and the ministry, and they have also postponed the evictions till now.
Success Story: Zambia

In 1993, the HLRC successfully advocated the passage of a resolution through the UN Human Rights Commission that declared that forced evictions are a gross violation of human rights. Upon receiving the resolution, a member organization in Lusaka, Zambia Women and Shelter Action Group (ZWOSAG), used it in its ongoing campaigns against evictions by widely publicizing its contents. That publicity and mobilization campaign resulted in the Zambian Minister of Planning’s televised announcement to suspend evictions and provide security of tenure to all who were currently threatened with evictions. Since that time, evictions are rare in Lusaka. Under the constant pressure of the NGOs, the Zambian government has enacted antieviction legislation and policies. – 2001
“Zambia. Some 17,000 families (at least 85,000 people) were spared planned eviction in 1991 due to the efforts of a local women’s rights organization, the Zambia Women and Shelter Action Group (ZWOSAG). Basing claims on international human rights standards on eviction in negotiations with government officials, ZWOSAG was able to obtain a suspension order from the minister for local government and housing, who went on national television and radio to announce the suspension, and who urged local authorities throughout Zambia to refrain from carrying out forced evictions.” (2007, p. 151)
Housing and Land Rights Violation Database

Statistics

Total victims: 229,036,192

No. of countries: 150
Violation Database:

- Forced eviction
- Dispossession
- Destruction
- Privatization
Urgent Action

Ivory Coast: 700,000 undergoing forced eviction
China: Release Tibetan Land Defenders!
Zimbabwe: Rural Forced Evictions
Argentina: Rampant Forced Evictions in BA
Nigeria: 30K Forcibly Evicted, 300K at Risk
Sierra Leone: TNC Land Grab
Turkey: Mass Dispossession in Diyarbakır
Cameroon: Hundreds of families risk eviction
Cameroon: > 2K people facing eviction
Cameroon: Demolition Threatens 3K Families
Cameroon: Yaounde, >250 Families Homeless
Cameroon: 397 Douala Families in Distress
Palestine: 10 Years after the Wall Opinion - Time for Concrete Action
India: Bangalore Demolition, 5K Homeless
Nigeria: More Forced Evictions in Port Harcourt
Angola: Demolitions, Forced Eviction in Lubango City
Cambodia: Rights Defenders Jailed, Boeung Kak Lake
“Assessing Impacts of Women’s Dispossession from Land and Home”
Counting real costs

A project of
Habitat International Coalition - Housing and Land Rights Network
India – Kenya – Uganda – Zambia – Zimbabwe

**Outcome 1:** More specialized local civil society organizations and constituent communities empowered to apply HLRN quantification tools in cases of women’s potential and actual deprivation of land.

**Outcome 2:** HLRN monitoring and quantification methods in each country involving a violation of women’s land rights, including at least one via inequitable inheritance practices.

**Outcome 3:** UN Human Rights monitoring bodies better able to assess the performance of states’ human rights obligations vis-à-vis women.

**Outcome 4:** Analytical project data considered in the review of states’ performance of commitments under the Paris Agreement, 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and the New Urban Agenda.
Implementing Partners:

**India:** Housing and Land Rights Network-India

**Uganda:** Shelter and Settlements Alternatives / Uganda Human Settlements Network (SSA:UHSNET)

**Kenya:** Mazingira Institute and Pamoja Trust

**Zambia:** Civic Forum on Housing and Habitat

**Zimbabwe:** Zimbabwe People’s Land Rights Movement
Terms:

- Monitoring
- Follow-up
- Review
- Norms (law and practice)
- Commitment
- Obligation
- Assessment (before, during and after)
- Quantification (values)
- Evaluation
Human Rights Habitat Observatory

Housing and Land Rights Network – Habitat International Coalition
FIRST NAIROBI CIVIC ASSEMBLY
Organized by
CLAN, MAZINGIRA INSTITUTE, OPERATION FIRIMBI, KHRC
RPP, NYM, YAA, NCEC, CLARION, MUUNGANO WA WANAVIJJI, 4Cs
DECLARING NAIROBI A HUMAN RIGHTS HABITAT
19th January 2002
Commitments or Obligations?
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