



Suggestions: Winter Plan for Persons Living in Homelessness in Delhi

November 2024 to March 2025

Introduction

As global climate change intensifies, its effects on local communities have become more evident, with cities like Delhi facing some of the most severe consequences. The interaction between rapid urbanization, climate risks, and the natural environment has woven a complex web of challenges for the city's residents, particularly for vulnerable groups, including persons living in homelessness. In the absence of secure housing, homeless individuals face significant challenges, which are heightened during winter. Cold waves, freezing temperatures, and biting winds disproportionately affect vulnerable groups such as older persons, persons with disabilities, children, and women. Without adequate shelter, these individuals are at greater risk of hypothermia, respiratory infections, and even death. The lack of warm clothing and blankets, combined with poor access to healthcare, further exacerbates their challenges during harsh winter months, making survival extremely difficult for the homeless community.

Despite having more than 190 shelters, Delhi faces a significant shortfall in housing for its vast homeless population. A detailed headcount conducted from August 27 to 31 2024, found that over 300,000 individuals—comprising families, women, children, and the elderly—are still living outdoors, even during the monsoon season. This enumeration was carried out by Shahri Adhikar Manch: Begharon Ke Saath (SAM:BKS), a forum founded in 2008 to advocate for and support homeless individuals in Delhi.¹

Delhi endures harsh winters that severely impact its homeless population. January 2023 was the coldest January in a decade, with average temperatures around 6.6°C and lows reaching 1.9°C. The city faced eight cold wave days, worsened by strong north-westerly winds. These cold waves, caused by disturbances over the Himalayas, led to temperatures dropping at least 4.5°C below normal. Such extreme conditions pose significant survival challenges for the homeless, heightening their vulnerability.²

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued a severe weather alert for the upcoming winter, forecasting unusually cold conditions due to the La Niña phenomenon. Delhi, though not as cold as the northern hill states, is expected to experience a significant drop in temperatures and increased rainfall, posing challenges for the city, particularly for the homeless

¹ Forthcoming report to be made available at www.hlrn.org.in

² 'Chilliest since 2013: Delhi records coldest January in a decade', Snehadri Sarkar, February 2023, Available at: <https://www.newsbytesapp.com/news/delhi/this-year-delhi-recored-coldest-january-since-2013/story>

population.³ According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), the winter of 2024 is expected to be particularly severe, with predictions indicating:

- **Temperatures:** Minimum temperatures may drop to around 3-4°C in December and January, which can pose serious health risks to homeless individuals.
- **Increased Cold Waves:** The possibility of cold wave conditions is high, with warnings for extreme weather events that may lead to sudden temperature drops.
- **Rainfall:** There is a forecast of above-average rainfall during the winter months, which can exacerbate the living conditions for those without adequate shelter.

Every year, during the harsh winter months, the Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board (DUSIB) conducts a ‘Special Drive’ to provide temporary relief by setting up additional tents for homeless persons. While this effort offers some respite, it remains insufficient in addressing the vast needs and challenges faced by the large homeless population in Delhi.

Moreover, a worrying trend has emerged over recent seasons, with a steady decline in the number of tents and essential services provided. This reduction exacerbates the vulnerabilities of those forced to live without adequate shelter, especially during extreme weather conditions. The decrease in resources highlights the growing gap between the city's homeless population and the support extended by the authorities, leaving many without a safe place to stay. **Between November 2023 and March 2024, at least 1,180 homeless individuals in Delhi died due to a lack of adequate housing, reflecting a sharp increase compared to the previous year’s data.**⁴

Based on our work with the homeless community in Delhi, Housing and Land Rights Network (HLRN) has consistently emphasized the need for season-specific protection plans for homeless individuals during extreme weather events. In line with this, HLRN conducted a survey between January and March 2024, engaging with over hundred individuals living in shelters and on the streets across various locations, including Ansari Road, Batla House, Chawri Bazar, Chilla Khadar, Chirag Delhi, Durga Puri, Fatehpuri Shelter, Inter-State Bus Terminal, Jama Masjid Shelter, Kamla Market, Kashmere Gate Bus Stand, Khayala Chawk, Okhla Mandi, Safdarjung Flyover, Sarai Kale Khan, Seelampur, and Yamuna Pushta, among others. The survey aimed to understand their immediate needs and demands, particularly during the harsh winter months. A recurring theme throughout the discussions was the urgent need for access to livelihood opportunities, social security benefits, and permanent, safe, and dignified housing. These were highlighted as essential components for ensuring their long-term protection and well-being.

We commend the Delhi government for preparing and updating the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) for the National Capital Region⁵ to tackle concerns related to severe air pollution

³ Indian States in for ‘Severe Winter’ Conditions Due to La Niña Onset: IMD, TWC India, September, 2024, Available at: <https://weather.com/en-IN/india/news/news/2024-09-11-indian-states-in-for-severe-winter-due-to-la-nina-onset-says-imd>

⁴ Independent experts estimate that at least 65 per cent of Unidentified Dead Bodies are of homeless persons. Zonal Integrated Police Network (ZIPNET) is an online portal containing data and information on crime from seven states, including Delhi, Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan, Chandigarh, Uttar Pradesh, and Uttarakhand ‘in real-time.’ Available at: <https://zipnet.delhipolice.gov.in/>

⁵ An emergency response plan for Delhi and NCR to manage air quality when it deteriorates. Read more at: ‘Compelling necessity for ensuring strict and efficient implementation of GRAP-II presently invoked for abatement of air pollution in NCR: CAQM’, Press Release, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Press Information Bureau. Available at: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetailm.aspx?PRID=2068972®=3&lang=1>

that worsens during the winter months. The plan, however, does not address the disproportionate and severe impact of air pollution on persons living in homelessness. We also commend the Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board for its continuing intervention to provide free food to the residents of shelters across the city, as it has helped alleviate concerns and challenges related to food security to an extent. However, as recommended previously, homeless persons living on the streets need to be included within the ambit of this provision immediately.

This Winter Plan, which has been prepared in consultation with Delhi's homeless community presents important recommendations to address their specific challenges. Specific suggestions from homeless women, older persons, persons with disabilities, single men, and families have also been included in this Winter Plan.

A. Need for Additional Shelters before the Onset of Winter

- Carry out a survey/assessment of people living on the streets who need and want to move to temporary shelters for the winter months.
- Based on the needs assessment and mapping, vacant government buildings, including community halls and other vacant spaces, near areas of concentration of homeless persons, should be converted into shelters with adequate facilities.
- In case vacant permanent buildings/rooms/halls are not available close to areas with large concentrations of homeless persons, portable (porta) cabins could be set up on vacant public land, including in parks.
- Consultations with land-owning agencies should be held to ascertain the availability of vacant land and buildings/spaces/structures for establishing homeless shelters. Short-term lease arrangements could be considered with land-owning agencies prior to the onset of winter.
- Tents, such as the fire-resistant tents used in Delhi every winter, should be set up in the vicinity of existing DUSIB shelters, in order to accommodate all persons who need and want to move to temporary shelters for the winter months.
- Where possible, set up clean and usable tents – one per family – in homeless clusters and areas where homeless persons live on the streets.
- There are several locations, such as areas beneath flyovers including Khajuri, Lajpat Nagar, Lajwanti Garden, Mayapuri, Moti Bagh, Nauroji Nagar, Punjabi Bagh, Pira Garhi, Raja Garden, Sarai Kale Khan among other areas that could serve as viable spots for setting up tents or other temporary structures. However, these spaces often remain unused under the pretense of beautification, even though no actual beautification efforts are implemented. To ensure that homeless persons living in these areas are provided with temporary shelters during the winter seasons, utilize these spaces to set up tents.
- There are several underutilized spaces beneath metro flyovers that can be effectively repurposed for setting up tents during the winter season. We recommend collaborating with the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) to facilitate the use of these areas for emergency relief during the winter.

The table below provides an estimate, derived by HLRN, of homeless persons in areas where shelters are required but despite ongoing advocacy with the Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board (DUSIB), tent shelters have not been set up Given the significant homeless population

in these areas, we recommend setting up shelters urgently at the specified locations to address their immediate needs:

I. Table One

S No	Name of the Area	Approximate Number of Persons	Characteristics of the Constituency
I. East Delhi			
1.	Khajoori	40–45	Single Men
2.	Bhanjanpura	30–35	Single Men
3.	Gokalpuri	40–50	Single Men
4.	Loni	30–35	Single Men
5.	Durgapuri Chowk	40–45	Single Men
6.	Seelampuri	30–40	Single Men
7.	Maujpur Jaffrabad	20–25	Single Men
8.	Shyam Lal College	30–35	Single Men
9.	Shahdara	60–65	Single Men
10.	Shastri Park	70–80	Single Men
11.	Usmanpur	60–65	Single Men
12.	Gandhi Nagar	70–80	Single Men
13.	Jheel	40–45	Single Men
14.	Geeta Colony	60–70	Single Men
15.	Khureji	Over 30	Single Men
16.	Nirman Vihar	20–25	Single Men
17.	Near S.D.M Office	60-65	Single Men
18.	Kalyanpuri	30–35	Single Men
19.	Ghazipur Paper Market	130	Families
20.	Apsara Border	Over 500	Single Men
21.	Jhimil	60–65	Single Men
22.	Karkardooma	20–21	Families
23.	Jagatpuri	70–75	Families
24.	Soran Cinema	60–65	Single Men
25.	Mayur Vihar Extension	35–40	Single Men
26.	Gagan Cinema	60–65	Single Men
27.	Seemapuri	50–55	Single Men
28.	New Seemapuri	30–35	Single Men
II. South Delhi			
29.	Jamia Nagar Metro	15–16	Families
30.	Taimoor Nagar	5–6	Families
31.	Maharani Bagh	30–35	Single Men
32.	Lajpat Nagar	40–45	Single Men
33.	Garhi	20–25	Single Men
34.	Sarita Vihar	40–45	Families
35.	Chirag Delhi	5–6	Families
36.	Near Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)	7–8	Families
37.	Ber Sarai	6–7	Families
38.	Katwaria Sarai	7–8	Families
39.	Malviya Nagar	30–35	Single Men
40.	Saket	60–65	Single Men
41.	Munirka	40–45	Single Men
42.	Moti Bagh	7–8	Families
43.	Sarojini Nagar	30–35	Single Men
44.	Safdarjung	20–25	Single Men

45.	I.N.A	60–65	Single Men
46.	Moolchand	40–45	Single Men
47.	Barapullah	65–70	Single Men
48.	Bhogal	30–35	Single Men
49.	Kilkori	20–25	Single Men
50.	Masoodpur	60–70	Single Men
51.	Rangpuri Pahadi	40–50	Single Men
52.	Kapsheda Flyover	40–50	Single Men
53.	Khanpur Red Light Tigri	50	Families
III. Southwest Delhi			
54.	Mayapuri	25–30	Single Men
55.	Beriwala Bagh Market	100–110	Single Men
56.	Near Deendayal Upadhyay Hospital	60–65	Single Men
57.	Khajan Basti	70–80	Single Men
58.	Hari Nagar, Ghanta Ghar	30–35	Single Men
59.	Jail Road	115–120	Single Men
60.	Lajwanti Garden	23	Families
61.	Pankha Road, Kali Mandir	105–110	Families
62.	Dabri Mod	30–35	Single
63.	Loha Mandi	30–35	Single Men
64.	Inderpuri	25–30	Single Men
65.	Todapur – Near ITO	100–110	Single Men
66.	New Deen Dayal Hospital	40–50	Families
67.	Janak Cinema	40–50	Single Men
68.	Manglapuri Terminal	40–50	Single Men
69.	Madhu Vihar	40	Families
70.	Naseerpur Mandi	60–70	Single Men
IV. West Delhi			
71.	Shubash Nagar Mor	17	Families
72.	Uttam Nagar	60–65	Single Men
73.	Raghubir Nagar	130	Families
74.	Tilak Nagar	60–70	Single Men
75.	Ramesh Nagar	16–20	Single Men
76.	Moti Nagar	20–25	Single Men
77.	Kriti Nagar	60–70	Single Men
78.	Tagore Garden Metro	50–60	Families
79.	Dwarka Mor	40–50	Single Men
80.	Nagli Dairy	30–40	Single Men
81.	Vikaspuri Fish Market	40–50	Single Men
82.	Nawada Metro	35–40	Single Men
V. Northwest Delhi			
83.	Nangloi	30–35	Single Men
84.	Patthar Market	60–65	Single Men
85.	Madhubhan Chowk	30–35	Single Men
86.	Rohini Sector 18	40–45	Single Men
87.	Haiderpur	35–40	Single Men
88.	Kela Godam	60–70	Single Men
89.	Wazirpur	35–40	Single Men
90.	T.V. Tower	80–85	Single Men
91.	Rani Bagh	35–40	Single Men
92.	Punjabi Bagh	20–25	Single Men
93.	Madipur	60–65	Single Men
94.	Karampura	35–40	Single Men
95.	Paschim Vihar	20–25	Single Men

96.	Keshavpur	60–70	Single Men
97.	Vikaspuri Macchi Market	50–60	Single Men
98.	Rampura	35–40	Single Men
99.	Inderlok Cooler Market	60-70	Single Men
100.	Shashtri Nagar	30–35	Single Men
101.	Inderlok	20–25	Single Men
102.	Jakhira	40–50	Single Men
103.	Bawana JJ Colony	100–110	Single Men
104.	Alipur	40–50	Single Men
105.	Narela Sabzi Mandi	100–110	Single Men
106.	Narela Anaaj Mandi	100–110	Single Men
107.	Narela	60–70	Single Men
108.	Badli	40–50	Families
VI. North Delhi			
109.	Yamuna Bazaar	200–210	Single Men
110.	Yamuna Pushta	400–450	Single Men
111.	Qudisa Ghat	100–110	Single Men
112.	Monastery Market	140–150	Single Men
113.	Geeta Ghat	30–35	Single Men
114.	Kashmere Gate	100–110	Single Men
115.	Chota Bazaar	60–70	Single Men
116.	Bada Bazaar	60–65	Single Men
117.	Hamilton Road	30–35	Single Men
118.	Nicholson Road	40–45	Single Men
119.	Rajendra Market	80–85	Single Men
120.	Khanna Market	100–110	Single Men
121.	Pul Mithai	150–155	Single Men
122.	Sarai Phoos, Kali Mandir	25–30	Single Men
123.	Azad Market	60–70	Single Men
124.	Barf Khana	30–35	Single Men
125.	Roshanara	60-65	Single Men
126.	Sabzi Mandi Ghanta Ghar	40–45	Single Men
127.	Kamla Nagar	30–35	Single Men
128.	Nagia Park	35–40	Single Men
129.	Pratap Bagh Gur Mandi	30–35	Single Men
130.	Sawan Park	20–25	Single Men
131.	Azadpur	80–85	Single Men
132.	Azadpur Mandi	Over 800	Single Men
133.	Model Town	60–65	Families
134.	Camp	30–35	Single Men
135.	Khyber Pass	30–35	Single Men
136.	Majnu Ka Tila	40–45	Single Men
137.	Timarpur	25–30	Single Men
138.	Lucknow Road	15–29	Single Men
VII. Central Road			
139.	Pusa Golchakkar (Roundabout)	20–30	Single men
140.	New Rajendra Nagar	60–70	Families and Single Men
141.	Rajendra Nagar	60–70	Single Men
142.	Near Sir Ganga Ram Hospital	50–55	Single Men
143.	Pusa Road	30–40	Single Men
144.	Padam Singh Golchakkar (Roundabout)	53	Families
145.	Karol Bagh, Hanuman Mandir	30–40	Single Men
146.	Gaffar Market	60–70	Single Men

147.	Nai Walan	30–35	Single Men
148.	Rehghar Pura	60–70	Single Men
149.	Tank Road Market	40–45	Single Men
150.	Liberty Cinema	100	Families
151.	Near Ajmal Khan Park and Road	30–35	Single Men
152.	Gaushala Road	30–35	Single Men
153.	Karol Bagh Terminal	15	Families
154.	Mukherjee Market	60–70	Single Men
155.	Near Telephone Exchange	40–45	Single Men
156.	Jhandewalan Metro	30–35	Single Men
157.	Panchkuian Road	60–70	Single Men
158.	Paharganj 6 Tooti Chowk	30–35	Single Men
159.	Aaram Bagh	20–25	Single Men
160.	Kamla Market	200–205	Single Men
161.	Ajmeri Gate	60–70	Single Men
162.	G.B. Road	100-110	Single Men
163.	Sharadhanand Market	60–64	Single Men
164.	Khari Baoli	100–110	Single Men
165.	Naya Bazar	60–70	Single Men
166.	Bagh Deewar	30–35	Single Men
167.	Kacha Bagh	100–120	Single Men
168.	Vankhandi Mandir	60–70	Single Men
169.	Fawara Chowk	100–105	Single Men
170.	Bhagirath Palace	200–210	Single Men
171.	Cycle Market	100–105	Single Men
172.	Parade Ground	60–70	Single Men
173.	Gali Guliyan	60–70	Single Men
174.	Chawri Bazaar	100–110	Single Men
175.	Sitaram Bazaar	30–35	Single Men
176.	Himmatgarh Chowk	40–45	Single Men
177.	Takiya Kale Khan	100–110	Single Men
178.	Kasturba Hospital	50–60	Single Men
179.	Pataudi House	60–70	Single Men
180.	Darya Ganj	30–35	Single Men
181.	Ansari Road	60–70	Single Men
182.	Delhi Gate	40–45	Single Men
183.	Sunheri Masjid	20–23	Single Men
VIII. New Delhi			
184.	Press Club	15–20	Single Men
185.	Janpath Road	30–40	Single Men
186.	Janpath Road Mandir	30–35	Single Men
187.	Connaught Place Hanuman Mandir	40–50	Single Men
188.	Near Rakab Ganj Gurudwara	30–35	Single Men
189.	Near Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital	70–80	Single Men
190.	Gol Dak Khana	30–35	Single Men
191.	Kali Mandir	12–13	Families
192.	Gole Market	80–90	Single Men
193.	Kali Bari	35-40	Single Men
194.	Basant Lane	100–110	Single Men

II. Table Two

The table below provides an estimated plan for shelter locations being set up for the winter season. We hope that the number of shelters at these sites will be increased in the future, along with enhancements to the facilities within each shelter:

S No	Name of the Area	Approximate Number of Persons	Characteristics of the Constituency
I. East Delhi			
1.	Welcome	15–20	Single Men
2.	Geeta Colony, Near Shamshan Ghat	30–35	Single Men
3.	Laxmi Nagar	30–35	Single Men
4.	Akshardham	70–80	Single Men
5.	Mayur Vihar Phase 1	35–40	Single Men
6.	Trilokpuri	40–45	Single Men
7.	Khichidipur	35–40	Single Men
8.	Anand Vihar	Over 500	Single Men
9.	Ganesh Nagar	15–20	Single Men
10.	Near GTB Hospital	Over 100	Single Men
II. South Delhi			
11.	Okhla Mandi	60–70	Single Men
12.	Badarpur	60–70	Families
13.	Modi Mill	20–25	Families
14.	Nehru Place	40–45	Families
15.	Kalkaji	60–65	Single Men
16.	R.K Puram	30–35	Families
17.	Near All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS)	Over 500	Families and Single Men
18.	Nizamuddin	Over 120	Families and Single Men
19.	Sarai Kale Khan	33	Families
20.	Sai Mandir, Lodhi Road	16	Single Men
21.	Vasant Vihar Flyover	50–60	Families
22.	Chattarpur Metro Station	40–50	Single Men
III. Southwest Delhi			
23.	Beri Wala Bagh Market	100–110	Single Men
24.	Nepali Park	40–45	Single Men
25.	Janakpuri, C1 Near Sitapuri	40–40	Single Men
26.	Palam Flyover	Over 500	Families
IV. West Delhi			
27.	District Centre	40–45	Single Men
28.	Raja Garden	13	Families
29.	Sai Mandir Najafgarh	50–60	Families and Single Men
30.	Najafgarh Anaj Mandi	100–110	Single Men
31.	Dhauri Pyau	70–80	Single Men
V. Northwest Delhi			
32.	Peeragrahi	35–40	Single Men
33.	Mangolpuri	35–40	Single Men
34.	Sultanpuri	35–40	Single Men
35.	Avantika Chowk	70–80	Single Men
36.	Kali Mandir	50–60	Single Men
37.	Rohini East Metro	30–35	Single Men
38.	Rohini West Metro	40–45	Single Men
39.	Rithala	60–65	Single Men

40.	Britannia Chowk	19	Families
41.	Madipur Sajjan Lal Park	60–65	Single Men
42.	Pratap Nagar	20–25	Single Men
43.	Mori Gate Golchakkar (Roundabout)	60–70	Single Men
44.	Mori Gate Terminal	60–70	Single Men
45.	Asaf Ali Road	150–155	Single Men
46.	Lok Nayak Hospital	Over 200	Single Men
47.	Meena Bazaar	190–200	Single Men
48.	Subash Park	35–40	Single Men
VI.	New Delhi		
49.	Near Bangla Sahib Gurudwara	30–35	Single Men

Source of data: Rapid assessment by Housing and Land Rights Network (October 2024)

B. Need for Improved Facilities and Services in Existing and New Shelters and for Persons Living on the Streets

Adequate Space, Hygiene, and Services in Shelters

- Take steps to ensure and maintain high standards of hygiene and cleanliness of additional tents being set up as a part of the special drive conducted by DUSIB. Undertake timely and regular inspections of all tent shelters and ensure that mattresses, bed sheets, quilts, and pillows being distributed are sanitized and disinfected at multiple intervals.
- Provide sufficient and clean blankets, mattresses, bed sheets, quilts, and pillows in all permanent and temporary shelters. Currently, blankets are not reserved for users but are shared by different people. This promotes the spread of infection and disease. In order to reserve the use of sheets and blankets for one user, one way could be to provide beds in shelters and allocate a specific bed/mattress per person – that will be used regularly by that person.
- The current blankets and sheets provided at the shelter have been in use for over 10 years and are now worn out and no longer adequate, especially given the extreme weather conditions. It is essential to replace these items with new, weather-appropriate blankets and sheets.
- Ensure regular disinfection and cleaning of all shelters (temporary and permanent), toilets, bathrooms, bedding, common areas, and utilities.
- Ensure adequate water supply for drinking, bathing, and washing clothes and other personal items. During the winter months, provide facilities for warm water in each shelter.
- Provide adequate heating facilities through electric and gas heaters in each shelter and Tent shelter.
- Ensure adequate ventilation in all shelters.
- Establish sufficient and functional toilets with adequate water and sanitation facilities and regular and sufficient cleaning. In case sanitation facilities cannot be set up near temporary tents, facilitate access of homeless persons to public toilets and sanitation facilities in other shelters.
- To address the specific concerns of homeless persons with disabilities, ensure that there is adequate space in the tent shelters for wheelchairs, cycles, and other related equipment.

- Rickshaw pullers and other workers need designated parking areas near shelters, where they can safely store their rickshaws and belongings.
- Take steps to ensure the safety and security of all persons and their belongings in all temporary and permanent shelters.
- Provide information on shelters, including the location and capacity, to the homeless community through advertisements, oral announcements, and other modes, in local languages.

C. Healthcare and Medical Services for Homeless Persons Living on the Streets and in Shelters

- Ensure that Mobile Medical Health vans visit all shelters (permanent and temporary), and homeless clusters on a bi-weekly basis, at least.
- Ensure comprehensive first-aid kits in every shelter.
- Provide adequate vector control devices/facilities in each shelter.
- Ensure adequate and sufficient supply of soaps, sanitizers, and disinfectants.
- Prioritize medical treatment of older persons, children, pregnant/lactating women, infants, and persons with chronic illnesses. Provide mental-health services and psychosocial counselling to all homeless persons, including those living in shelters.
- Provide mental-health services and psychosocial counselling to all homeless persons, including those living in shelters

D. Provision of Food and Measures to Uphold the Human Right to Food

- Continue the provision of free food for homeless persons living in shelters.
- Expand the ambit of the provision of free food to homeless persons living on the streets. This could be done in collaboration with civil society organizations (CSOs) by setting up community kitchens in areas with a high concentration of homeless persons. This would ensure the distribution of free or subsidized nutritious food to homeless persons who do not live in shelters and help build their immunity, preventing them from falling ill and losing their lives.
- Provide free milk to homeless children and pregnant women to ensure their adequate nutrition.
- Ensure the provision of ration cards to homeless persons, including those living on the streets, to enable them to access subsidized essential food grains and supplies.

E. Social Protection Measures

- Undertake measures to provide social security and pensions to homeless persons. Special care must be taken of older persons living on their own.
- Provide all residents of DUSIB shelters with ‘Shelter User Identity Cards.’ These should be recognized as a valid form of official identification. Any directives given to create and maintain databases of homeless persons, including those in shelters and temporary buildings, should not result in the violation of the right to privacy.
- Conduct skill-training workshops for homeless persons in shelters and take measures to link them with job portals and other livelihood opportunities.
- As recommended earlier by HLRN, the Delhi government could consider initiating a pilot project to provide a Universal Basic Income to all homeless persons. This would

greatly help in preventing hunger, ill health, and destitution. It would also set a positive precedent for the rest of the country.

F. Monitoring and Information

- Ensure comprehensive protocols for emergencies, including health emergencies, are prepared in each shelter, in consultation with caretakers and Shelter Management Agencies (SMAs). Organize a training workshop in consultation with all SMAs for shelter caretakers on the protocols.
- Ensure that all ‘rescue’ efforts undertaken by DUISB are carried out with the consent and participation of all persons.
- Create a Monitoring Committee to supervise the functioning of shelters and the quality of services provided. As stated previously by DUSIB, this Committee could include the DUSIB Chief Executive Officer, Executive Members, representatives from Shelter Management Agencies, non-government organizations, officials from the Delhi Jal Board, Health Department, Municipal Corporations, and the Delhi Police. The Committee should undertake frequent inspections of shelters and meet regularly to discuss issues of concern and publish recommendations made to the Delhi government on the DUSIB website.

Conclusion

Housing and Land Rights Network presents this winter preparedness plan, with targeted recommendations to address the housing, livelihood, food, safety, and security needs of the homeless community in Delhi. We urge the Delhi government to develop a comprehensive, long-term strategy to end homelessness in the city. This can be achieved by making significant investments in housing for homeless individuals and adopting the 'Housing First' approach that has proven successful in many countries. Such an approach is essential to uphold the dignity of Delhi's working poor, ensuring they can live safely and securely while protecting their fundamental right to life. To work towards adequate housing through a ‘continuum of housing options,’ we suggest that rental vouchers be provided for those who cannot be accommodated in existing shelters, helping to bridge gaps in shelter capacity and support pathways to stable housing.

Housing and Land Rights Network is committed to working for the human rights of all those living in homelessness and also to working with the Delhi government in this endeavour. We thank the Delhi government for its consideration, efforts, and support.⁶

⁶ For more information, please contact us at: contact@hlrn.org.in