



**CiRIC**  
Citizens' Rights Collective

# **WHO WE ARE**



CiRiC is a policy -advocacy hub set up by ActionAid India, focusing on urban issues from the viewpoint of the common citizens whose voices and interests should take priority in policies governing the city. Our main constituency comprises the poor and marginalised communities. We also work with researchers, academicians, lawyers, journalists, trade unions and Civil Society Organisations (CSO) on issues of common interest, in order to realise our goals.

We aim to address information and knowledge gaps and also the lack of systems for citizens to engage in policy and planning. CiRiC aims to create 'knowledge' and 'activist' forums on critical issues of urbanisation and urban development by bringing together civil society groups, activists, academics, social movements and research institutions.

# **OUR VISION**

To work towards an equitable and sustainable city, strongly founded on the principles of social justice and democratic participation.





## WHAT WE DO

- » Understand and analyze the main issues confronting the people living in cities
- » Interrogating the current model of urbanization and urban development
- » Concretely realize the *Right to City* as an approach for envisioning the contours of a sustainable and equitable city
- » Build citizens participation in the planning process
- » Provide access to information and conduct research on issues
- » relating to urban planning and policy
- » Restore the focus, on renewing /establishing the rights to *Urban Commons* through policy dialogue and advocacy with government, academia and civil society
- » Build and sustain policy dialogue with government officials, legislators and government agencies
- » Identify solutions to the present urban crisis – both long and short term, within a people-centred framework
- » Link and network with global movements and international collectives on urban issues

“ LOST RIGHTS ARE NEVER REGAINED BY APPEALS TO THE CONSCIENCE OF THE USURPERS, BUT BY RELENTLESS STRUGGLE. ”  
~ Dr. B. R. Ambedkar

# CURRENT INITIATIVES

## People's Vision of the City

This entails the building of a vision of the city, based on a wide ranging dialogue with the diverse citizens' aspirations and expectations, as also interest groups and urban planners. It is a methodology that is strongly hinged on people's participation in envisioning of the city plan and ensuring democratic accountability of urban local bodies in the process of urban planning and development.

## Homelessness and Decent Habitat

Our objective is to enhance the articulation of CiRiC works to ensure adequate and affordable habitat for all, especially the homeless and urban poor. Our objective is to enhance the articulation of housing policy and legislation on social and public housing across different cities. Our focus is on comprehensive housing policy and solutions at city, state and central level, which includes adequate space, basic infrastructure and civic services, accessible location with regard to work and basic facilities, suitable environmental quality which are essential for a decent habitat.

## Securing Rights of People Dependent on the Informal Economy

CiRiC works on the need for social protection for all those whose livelihoods are dependent on the informal economy. CiRiC also facilitates an ongoing process with trade unions, CSOs, academicians and labour lawyers towards building a common agenda for people dependent on the informal economy. This includes a significant component on building solidarity

among professionals towards issues affecting labour.

## Skill Building

CiRiC and ActionAid, has a skill building program which works with government bodies and public-private agencies like NSDC (National Skill Development Corporation) to ensure better employment and entrepreneurship opportunities for people dependent on the informal economy eg. street vendors, construction workers, domestic workers and others.

## Sheharnama- a city/film festival

CiRiC hosts Sheharnama, which is a travelling film festival on the city in collaboration with Films Division of India. The collection includes significant films dealing with urbanisation and urban life, from all over the world. Our aim is to creatively address the issues of the city and to promote cinema and art as important modes of awareness and expression in the urban milieu.

## Urban Action School

UAS is a training program of CiRiC on urban development and planning for a wider audience of social activists, including those in social movements, NGOs, urban local bodies, representative bodies, and also students and researchers. The school is meant to be a platform for bridging the gap between policy and practice through theoretical education and mutual sharing of grassroots' experiences.

## Engagement in the global discourse on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Actionaid is part of the Global Platform on the Right

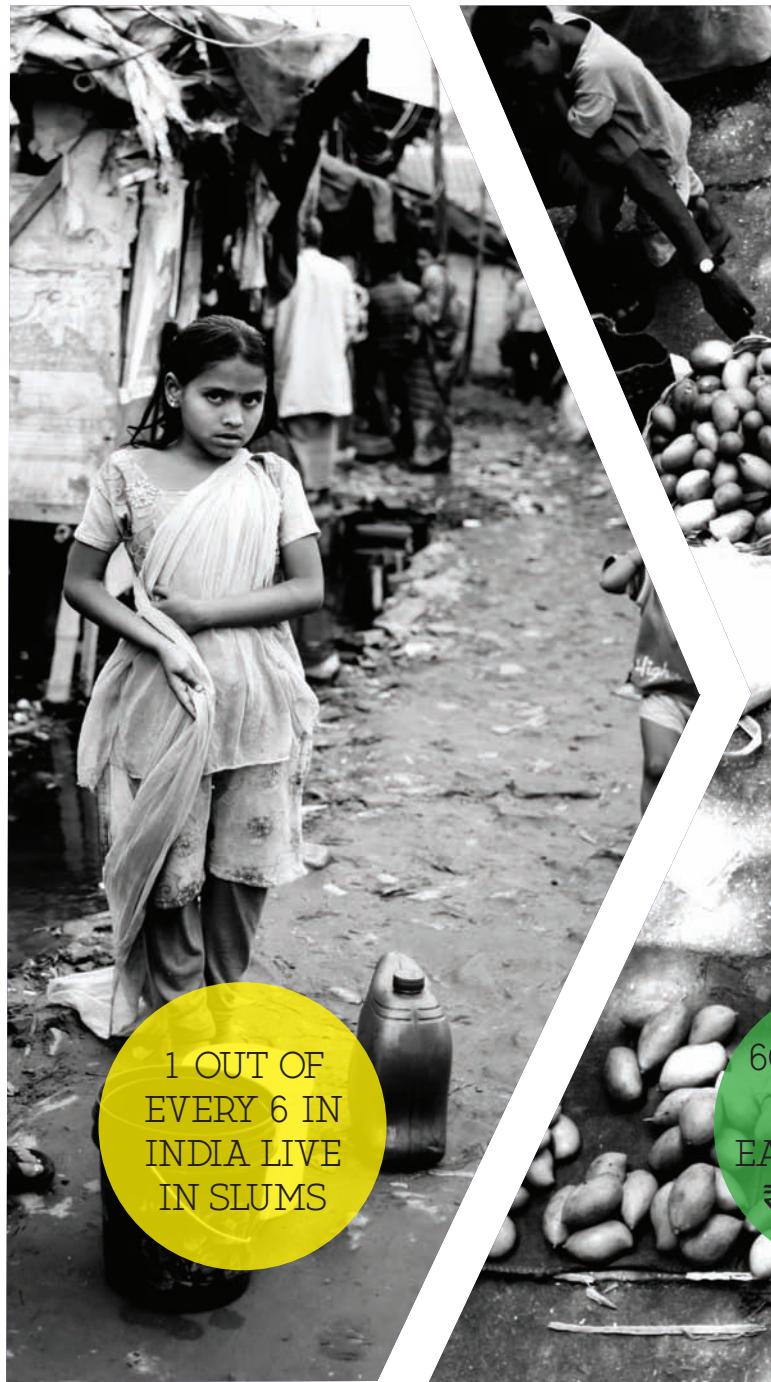
to the City composed of international civil society networks to engage in the global discourse of sustainable cities in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals, and its envisioning in the UN Habitat process. As part of this discourse CiRiC/ActionAid focuses on the rights of housing and livelihood, and undertakes research, outreach, debate, on what constitutes sustainable urban development based on the needs of all, with includes the most marginalised, and is rooted in the principles of ecological justice.

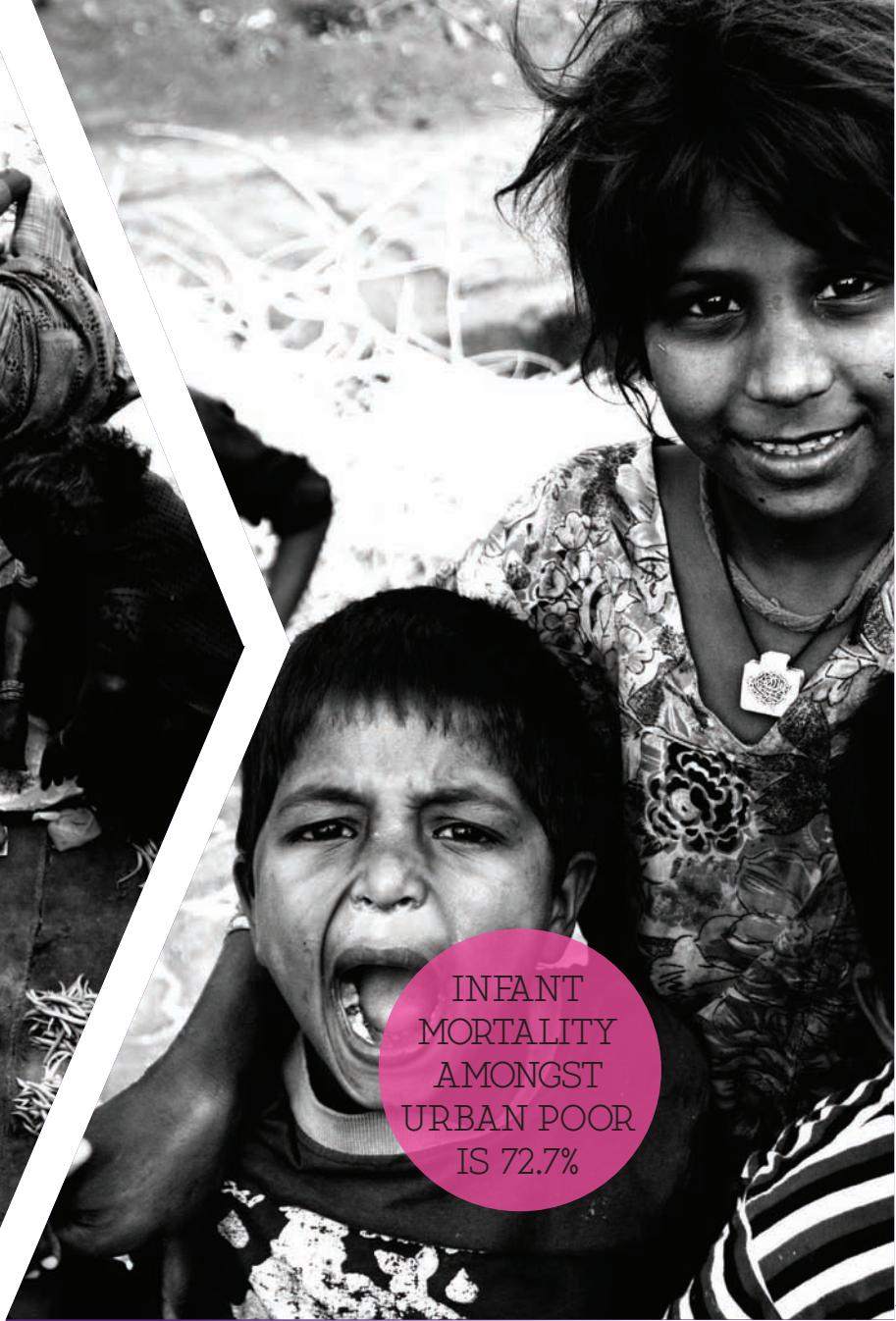
## Advisory Panel

The advisory panel consists of experts (academicians, activists etc) who bring in unique knowledge and critical perspectives to complement the ongoing programme of CiRiC.

“ THE RIGHT TO THE CITY IS, THEREFORE, FAR MORE THAN A RIGHT OF INDIVIDUAL ACCESS TO THE RESOURCES THAT THE CITY EMBODIES: IT IS A RIGHT TO CHANGE OURSELVES BY CHANGING THE CITY MORE AFTER OUR HEART'S DESIRE. ”

~ David Harvey







## ADVISORY PANEL

**Amita Bhide,**  
Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai

**Amitabh Kundu,**  
Jawaharlal Nehru University,

**Arundhati Dhuru,**  
Advisor to Supreme Court Commissioners

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Activist

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CIRIC is a knowledge initiative of ActionAid India

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