

CHARTER OF DEMANDS
BY
RESIDENTS OF GUJJAR & ORANGI NULLAH RESIDENTS
(Affected persons on World Bank's funded SWEEP 9177-PK project)

Presented on: 19th April, 2021

Venue: Karachi, Pakistan

In the week of April 19 2021, the World Bank (WB) is meeting with various stakeholders and organisations regarding the anti-encroachment drive along the Gujjar and Orangi Nullahs currently underway in anticipation of the World Bank's Project Solid Waste Emergency and Efficiency Project (SWEEP). This is a list of demands that all stakeholders can bring up in their individual meetings with the World Bank in order to put up a unified position against these illegal evictions.

1. We demand that the World Bank (WB) place an immediate moratorium on Project SWEEP and pause further loan fund disbursements to the Government of Sindh (GoS) until and unless a proper plan for rehabilitation accepted by all stakeholders including residents living along the Gujjar and Orangi Nullahs is devised and implemented and all international and national laws protecting displaced people and their right to adequate housing and livelihood are fulfilled. This should take place after meaningful and informed consultation with all the affectees. The World Bank should urge the GoS to halt demolitions and forced eviction operations in the month of Ramzan and at a time when communities are socially and economically vulnerable due to the lockdown associated with Covid-19.
2. We demand that the World Bank reject Borrower prepared Stakeholder Engagement Plan (required under ESS10) of July 2020 and Resettlement Framework (draft) of November 2020 because of failure of due diligence. The World Bank's Environmental and Social Framework (ESF) requires it to carry out due diligence that is proportionate to the nature and potential significance of the environmental and social risks and impacts related to the project. The WB must ensure that the Borrower carries out early and continuing engagement and meaningful consultation with stakeholders, in particular affected communities. This due diligence includes review of information provided by Borrower as well as gaps in this information. The Borrower in the July 2020 Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) has evaded the due diligence process using the Covid-19 pandemic as an excuse. The Bank should have been alerted to their failure when they

identified severely inadequate and grossly negligent consultations with only 22 men and 16 women including six people only from Gujjar Nullah (Bhatta Town North Nazimabad). In their Appraisal Environmental and Social Review Summary (July 2020), the World Bank acknowledged that SWEEP implementers, Karachi Municipal Corporation (KMC) and the Sindh Solid Waste Management Board (SSWMB), do not have environmental and social specialists or experience with the Bank or its ESF. Since the World Bank was aware that Borrower (KMC and SSWMB) are incapable of meeting their social and environmental responsibilities in a 'high risk' project, the Bank should reject this SEP for failure of due diligence. Borrower did not even bother to engage in meaningful consultations with these six Gujjar Nullah residents and focused their conversation on the problem of garbage disposal in the nullahs as opposed to possible demolitions that the community would face in the first three months of 2021.

3. We demand that the World Bank reject the 'Environmental and Social Commitment Plan' (the ESCP) with the GoS regarding Project SWEEP that forms part of the legal agreement between the two parties. In consideration of the Borrower's and the Bank's failure of due diligence and substantial violations of its own ESF, any such agreement is void.
4. We demand that the World Bank note that the Borrower identified grievance redressal system in the SEP lists non-working emails of KMC and SSWMB officials. This should be viewed as a material misrepresentation on part of Borrower and another reason to reject the SEP and other reports. Borrower has denied affected persons even the minimal due process protection to report a claim or grievance.
5. We demand that the World Bank pressure the Government of Sindh and the Government of Pakistan to immediately halt all anti-encroachment operations targeted at low-income and working-class housing settlements on an urgent basis in light of the numerous violations of its own Environmental and Social Framework (ESF). Under ESS5 (Land Acquisition, Restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement), the Bank must avoid involuntary resettlement and not resort to forced eviction, mitigate unavoidable social and economic impact by providing timely compensation and by assisting displaced persons in their efforts to improve or restore livelihoods and living standards. The World Bank must improve the living conditions of poor or vulnerable persons who are physically displaced through provision of adequate housing, access to services and facilities, and security of tenure. According to ESS5, resettlement activities must be planned and implemented with meaningful disclosure and consultation and

the informed participation of those affected. (ESS5 Objectives). In the last two months, over 2000 homes have been demolished in Gujjar and Orangi Nullahs and there have been no disclosure, consultation, and participation of impacted communities; they have been abandoned to fend for themselves and coerced into accepting checks for a mere USD 584 (PKR 90,000) supposedly for rent. Not a single evicted family has received even close to what WB states in its ESS5 which includes compensation at replacement cost and other assistance to help improve or at least restore their standards of living or livelihoods (para 12). Moreover, as per ESS5, compensation standards have not been disclosed and applied consistently or documented transparently (para 13). ESF rules also require that Borrower take possession of acquired land and assets only *after* ESS5 compliant compensation is made available and people resettled and moving allowances and compensation paid (para 15). KMC made these meagre payments to affectees after commencing its forced eviction operation.

6. We demand that the World Bank disclose all relevant documents with affected persons and carry out meaningful consultations with them regarding these documents including but not limited to screening, census of affected persons, and any third-party monitoring of Component 1.
7. We demand that the World Bank take serious notice of the several human rights violations associated with Project SWEEP which have been documented in earlier complaints. These include forced eviction without rehabilitation, Sindh police and Pakistan Rangers high handedness and violence against people who peacefully resisted or even asked questions about their homes, and false criminalization. The Bank should take particular notice of how the very communities it identifies as 'vulnerable' have faced state violence and been made homeless and destitute. The World Bank defines vulnerable people as those 'individuals or groups who, by virtue of, for example, their age, gender, race, ethnicity, religion, physical, mental or other disability, social, civic or health status, sexual orientation, gender identity, economic disadvantages or indigenous status, and/or dependence on unique natural resources, may be more likely to be adversely affected by the project impacts and/or more limited than others in their ability to take advantage of a project's benefits.' Children have suffered trauma witnessing the loss of their homes, an estimated 5000 children will end up out of school, women and girls have been made more susceptible to sexual violence, the transgender community has been disproportionately impacted, the elderly and the disabled have experienced anxiety and despair, and minority churches have been demolished.

8. We demand that the World Bank launch an immediate investigation into any and all use of its loan for the anti-encroachment operations in Karachi. The SEP purports to separate Component 1 (cleaning of drains only and not widening to be accessed from points with no encroachment issues) from GoS initiated demolitions of leased homes. However, given the egregious nature and significant scale of the violence directed against low-income families in these forced evictions, the Bank should avoid technical and non-meaningful distinctions from Project SWEEP's Component 1. They should focus instead on how interconnected and entwined SWEEP is with the anti-encroachment operation as it is happening in the same physical location, is being carried out by Project SWEEP's Implementer, the KMC, and will directly benefit project activities in Component 2 (Development of SWM Backbone Infrastructure) and Component 3 (Project Management and Implementation Support of SWEEP).
9. We demand that the World Bank, following the results of their investigation, allocate resources towards the rehabilitation of affectees whose houses have been demolished and provide emergency shelter or pressure the GoS to do the same while working toward guaranteeing evicted families compensation at replacement cost and other assistance including restoring/improving their standard of living to help them improve or at least restore their standards of living or livelihoods.

Signatories,

1. **Karachi Bachao Tehreek, Erum, Abid Asghar, Israr, Sunila, Maria, Sonia Robin, Abira Ashfaq, Khuram Ali, Fizza Qureshi, Fatima Zaidi, Khwaja Altaf**
2. **Residents of Gujjar Nullah**
3. **Climate Action Pakistan**
4. **Karachi Urban Lab, Nausheen Anwar, Mohammad Toheed**
5. **Urban Resource Center, Arif Hasan, Mohammad Younas**
6. **Tehrik-i-Niswan, Sheema Kirmani**
7. **Imkaan Welfare Organization, Tahera Hasan**
8. **Caritas, Mansha Noor**
9. **Legal Aid Society, Palvasha Shahab**