

VOICES

from



Efforts in collaboration: A roundup of the past months

FROM OUR LEADERSHIP TEAM: REFLECTIONS FROM OUR ENFORCER



Chandni Joshi
*Enforcer,
Homenet South Asia*

While progress has been made in visibility and inclusion, true empowerment requires institutionalising their rights in law and policy. The focus must now be on translating recognition into enforceable protections.

[Read More](#)

The Local Costs of Global Conflicts: Hidden Struggles of Home-based Workers

With geopolitical tensions disrupting West Asia's energy supply, the economic effects spread silently, bypassing headlines and policy rooms. In South Asia, the consequences also fall on the laps of women stitching garments, rolling incense sticks, and weaving carpets in their homes.

Accounts from
South Asian countries **5**

67+ million HBWs in
South Asia



The Ripple Effect

From the conflict to the kitchens

West Asia Conflict

Disrupted critical oil transit routes (Strait of Hormuz) and production hubs. Caused immediate uncertainty in the world's most vital energy-producing region.



The Global Effect

Crude oil prices surged on global markets, triggering a massive energy supply shock. Shipping and freight costs rose.



The Regional Effect

Steep hikes in domestic fuel and local resource prices led to widespread inflation across transport, food, and utilities.



The Local HBW Effect

Production costs continue to rise, while wages stay flat, leaving home-based workers vulnerable and without a safety net.



Regional Deep Dive

From Dhaka to Colombo, home-based workers across South Asia are tied by the same string: rising costs, frozen wages, and no safety net.

Bangladesh - Ashulia, Dhaka (BLF)

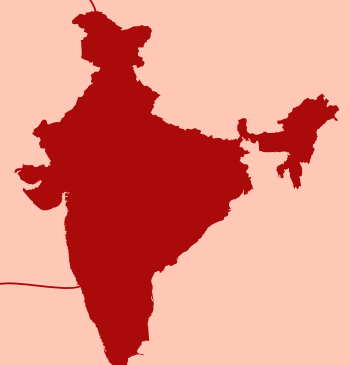
When the factory goes dark, 40 homes go quiet

Power cuts and then production stops. Frequent electricity outages and high fuel costs halt factory production, reducing work for HBWs. Many face sudden income loss as deadlines are missed and orders decline.

India - Tiruppur, Tamil Nadu (SAVE)

LPG shortage: a livelihood crisis in the home

LPG shortages force women to travel long distances and wait many days for cylinders. This adds hours to daily chores, reducing time for paid work and lowering productivity.



Nepal — SABAH Nepal

Fuel without access, work under pressure

"Even with money, gas is hard to find." HBWs from Sabah Nepal report long waiting periods for LPG, disrupting household routines and work hours. While work continues for now, rising raw material costs and falling customer demand are already cutting into incomes.

Pakistan – AWAM

Irregular work and falling wages

Fuel hikes and power disruptions reduce orders and delay payments. Many HBWs report lower earnings, late wages, and increased household pressure as work becomes unpredictable.

Sri Lanka — INDECOS

Queues, costs, and losts during peak season

Fuel shortages and rising costs limit production during peak festive season of Sinhala New Year. HBWs cannot raise prices, leading to income loss, while long fuel queues consume valuable working time.

By the numbers (in INR)

Price of survival, quantified

Field data from focus groups discussions in Tiruppur, India show a consistent pattern: input costs have more than doubled, while piece-rate wages have remained unchanged. The burden of a global crisis silently falls on the most precarious, unrecognised workers.

LPG CYLINDER

↑
150%

price increase

₹400 → ₹1,000

LPG – PRIVATE MARKET

↑ **125%**

price increase

₹1,600 → ₹3,600

LPG – MIGRANT HOUSEHOLDS

₹6,000

per cylinder, black market

The prices for migrant workers who have no ration card access are 6x higher.

TIME POVERTY

+2 hrs

lost per day to fuel alternatives

Normal routine → Delayed work start

Cooking with firewood / electric stove adds 2 hrs daily which directly reduces paid work hours for HBWs

LPG ALTERNATIVES - ELECTRIC STOVE PRICES

↑ **100%**

price increase

₹2,000 → ₹4,000

Alternatives were not always cost effective. Many HBWs living in rented houses are not allowed to use firewood stoves, forcing them to rely on electric stoves with inflated prices

Source: Social Awareness and Voluntary Education (SAVE)

Home-based workers contribute silently and significantly to the national GDP through their labour. However, they still remain **invisible** in national accounts, **unprotected** by policy, and **uncounted** in crisis relief frameworks.



EMERGING ISSUES: LIVED REALITIES OF THE ENERGY CRISIS

BANGLADESH

Bangladesh Labour Foundation (BLF)

Fuel shortage and its impact on Bangladesh home-based workers

Fuel shortage and power disruptions can be devastating for home-based workers. Bangladesh Labour Foundation explored the recent impact of these to understand the extent of these issues. See their findings.

[Read the case study](#)



INDIA

SAVE

LPG crisis and home-based workers in India: The mounting challenge

With LPG prices rising from Rs. 400 to Rs. 1,000, HBWs in Tiruppur are turning to costly alternatives that are straining daily routines, incomes, and household stability. Through focus group discussions, ground reality shows how the energy crisis is forcing tough trade-offs between work, health, and daily survival.

[Read the article](#)

NEPAL

SABAH

The impact of fuel prices on home-based workers

The ongoing fuel scarcity is impacting people across South Asia. But often, the biggest brunt is borne by the most vulnerable in society. SABAH Nepal examined how it has impacted home-based workers. Know more.

[Read the article](#)



EMERGING ISSUES: LIVED REALITIES OF THE ENERGY CRISIS

PAKISTAN

AWAM

Fuel crisis: How home-based workers of Pakistan are impacted

The fuel and electricity crisis is impacting informal sector workers everywhere. Home-based workers in Pakistan are no different. AWAM explored the new challenges that are surfacing and highlighted the institutional gap that is more noticeable than ever before.

[Read the full article](#)



SRI LANKA

INDECOS

HBWs under pressure: Fuel crisis hits HBWs during peak season

In Sri Lanka, the fuel and electricity crisis has hit home-based workers at a time when their earnings should have been at a peak. Coming right ahead of the Sinhala New Year, it has had a grave impact on their sales and income. Know more through INDECOS' observations.

[Read the article](#)

ON-GROUND ACTION: PROGRAM UPDATES FROM SOUTH ASIA

BANGLADESH

Labor at Informal Economy (LIE)

Celebrating the rights and contributions of informal sector workers

Women's Day is not just a 1-day celebration, and these informal workers in Bangladesh ensured it won't be so. Powered by LIE, they learned all about gender-based violence and their rights. See how they empowered themselves.

[Read the full article](#)



NEPAL

WHR

Towards a life free of violence for women Home-Based Workers (HBWs) in South Asia

When faced with violence, most home-based workers feel helpless because they are isolated. WHR, our affiliate in Nepal, sought to change this through collective action. See how.

[Read the full article](#)

PAKISTAN

Sungi Foundation

Translating home-based worker legislation for practical support

How does an official act become a practical empowerment tool for home-based workers? How can one ensure that legal provisions are actually put to practice on ground? Sungi Foundation's recent initiative addressed this. See how.

[Read the full article](#)



EVENTS & NETWORKING



Networking

Dasra Philanthropy Week

Regional Coordinator, Ms. Janvi Kanakia, attended the Grassroots Giving session in the Dasra Philanthropy Week, engaging with leaders and philanthropists to explore strategies for supporting community-led initiatives. The session focused on effective giving, empowering local organisations, and building sustainable impact at the grassroots level.

[Know more](#)

Ford Foundation partners' meeting

Senior Programme Coordinator, Ms. Richa Macsuedon attended the Ford Foundation India Partners' Meet, held on 29 and 30 January, 2026, in New Delhi. The event brought together 124 sector leaders to explore new directions for civil society through labs and sparked discussions on partnerships, government collaboration, and AI. Sessions also focused on shared learning and collective action to strengthen social impact across India.



Event Updates

Program monitoring & networking meetings: (April - May, 2026)

We have had planning meetings in Delhi and Kathmandu chaired by the board and advisors in April to discuss present and future activities of HNSA.

Advisory Board meetings (June 29 - 30th, 2026)

Annual meeting with member organisations from 7 countries in South Asia that includes a culmination of showcase from our HBWs, their entrepreneurial work, program activities and fundraising for the future.

Virtual Congress (tentatively scheduled on International Home-Based Workers Day)

Online meeting to discuss and celebrate 25 years of Homenet South Asia in October.



Contact Us

HomeNet South Asia

HomeNet South Asia Trust

HomeNet_SouthAsia

@HomeNet_SAsia

@homenetsouthasiatrust