National Urban Livelihoods Mission (NULM), the largest livelihood programme of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Government of India is being implemented in Kerala through Kudumbashree Mission. NULM aims at eradicating poverty by ensuring social development and by focusing on livelihood programmes. It thereby aims to bring development to the lives of common people in the 93 Urban Local Bodies in Kerala.

There is a special component of NULM aimed at setting up shelter homes for the street dwellers in the urban areas. This component envisages construction/maintenance of shelter homes for those homeless people who sleep in the streets of municipalities and corporations in Kerala. The project provides support for renovating existing shelter homes and also funds for supply of Human resources to manage shelters.
When we got this project, we conducted a ‘night survey’ to get the statistics of the street dwellers of corporations and municipalities. And as per the survey conducted during July 2017 (under the leadership of Urban Local Bodies), it was noted that 3195 people sleep in the streets out of which, 564 are women and 6 belong to the transgender community. In the next phase, we collected the proposals for constructing shelter homes for them from the Urban Local Bodies and gave approval for the construction/ maintenance.

Till date, Rs.54.81 crores has been sanctioned under NULM for renovating 17 shelter homes. Also, approval has been given for starting 20 new shelters in Urban Local Bodies in Kerala. Out of those 17 shelter homes, renovation of 14 had already been completed. Also the construction of three new shelter homes had already been completed and the construction of other shelter homes are progressing. When these would be completed by 2020, we hope that atleast 2528 people dwelling the streets would get a shelter.