



UCL

MSc Building and Urban Design
in Development
Student Report

Sustaining Livelihoods
Through Collective Action

In partnership with WFW, ACHR, CAN, YTU
and AMA





Figure 1: Tailor in Ward 67. (Source: Authors)

AJI **BIMA** AMRIZA AMALSYAH
CARLOS BORNAND ARRIAGADA
DANA ALSHAMALI
HAN CONG
KRISSELLE AFONSO
NADA JAMAL
NATALIE O. FRIAZA

BU3 - Urban Design in Practice - Group 03
MSc BUDD | DPU | University College London



Figure 2: The origins of our researchers. (Source: Authors)

KRISELLE AFONSO
from INDIA



HAN CONG
from CHINA



from MYANMAR



AJI BIMA A. AMALSYAH
from INDONESIA

Aye Sandar Win



John Tharaphe Khine



Thin Ei Ei Zin

Hsu Lai Yee



Thiri Khin Zaw



Figure 3: Tailor (left) and farmer (right) in Taw Win Community (Source: Authors)

Executive Summary

This report is the outcome of four months of research conducted by BUDD students from UCL, in collaboration with YU students, which included a two-week field study in Yangon, Myanmar. The research process and fielding were conducted as part of a working partnership between UCL, WFW, CAN and ACHR. The exercise aimed to understand the complexities of poor settlements' urban development in Yangon, as well as to promote a critical reflection on the role of space, design, and the team as practitioners in this process. The team investigated a broad spectrum of economic and political subjects in place and examines design strategies and interventions, within current processes and governance structures, at the community, township and citywide scale, to support the future work of WFW and their partners.

Our research focussed on livelihoods as an entry point to explore collaborative and people-centred processes that can build resilience in times of social, political and economic transition in Yangon. Within a context of complex city-making processes, the report portrays a critical analysis of secondary data and primary findings, acquired through several methods of engagement performed with the community of Ward 67, the settlement focus of our study. The 4100, largely self-help households of the ward, are threatened by eviction due to the urban development practices happening across Yangon, mirroring the current reality of many citizens of the city. Government and social-housing policies have failed to offer inclusive solutions, further marginalising the poorest and denying organic social diversity by homogenising housing project schemes. The overarching aim of our research is to identify possible strategies to target spaces of opportunity towards a just, inclusive and resilient development. In doing so, these strategies seek to optimize the process of equitable socio-spatial city-making, through the enhancement of livelihood generation processes which can ultimately be leveraged to have marginalized communities recognized institu-

tionally, valued socially, and secured economically. Firstly, the report presents an introduction and contextualisation of the current conditions of Yangon, including our understanding of transitions and transformation in place in Yangon and Ward 67. This leads to our research question: How can community practices be strengthened to promote livelihoods and inclusive development? Livelihood generation is given priority in the scope of our research, as we recognised it as engagement which has room for manoeuvre to better foster sustained and equitable urban development.

Secondly, the theoretical framework is presented showing how we appropriate Lefebvrian concepts of space production to understand how the transformation in Yangon has led to the present misrecognition faced by informal communities, again looking at the concept of livelihoods, and how they can be framed as a means towards recognition and secured housing. The analytical framework gives an account of how the findings gathered are analysed through four lenses grounding them in livelihood generation, and how the success of the latter requires collective action within a community. Lastly, the methods of engagement which have been used to gather findings are understood through the same lenses.

Thirdly, the findings of our research are presented, and a subsequent analysis paves the path for the fourth section, which presents our vision: inclusive urban development and livelihood generation through collective action, emphasizing the need for strengthened collectively and use of local knowledge to catalyse change. We formulate principles and guidelines to steer and outline our potential strategies of intervention. The strategies are elaborated upon, and their implementation is illustrated with reference to our results and utilised frameworks. The report is concluded with a summary of our findings.

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Acronyms

- ACHR** Asian Coalition for Housing Rights
ADB Asian Development Bank
AMA Association of Myanmar Architects
ASEAN Association of Southeast Asian Nations
BUDD Msc Building and Urban Design in Development
CAN Community Architect Network
CBM Central Bank of Myanmar
CBP Community Bithukar Platform
DUHD Department of Urban and Housing Development
JICA Japan International Cooperation Agency
NLD National League for Democracy
PGS Principles, Guidelines & Strategies
POA Plan of Action
SLORC State Law and Order Restoration Council
SPDC State Peace and Development Council
UCL University College London
UED Urban Economic Development
UNDP The United Nations Development Programme
UN HABITAT The United Nations Human Settlements Programme
WFW Women for the World
W67 Ward 67
YCDC Yangon City Development Committee
YHT Yangon Heritage Trust
YTU Yangon Technological University

Part 1

Contextualising Yangon and Ward 67

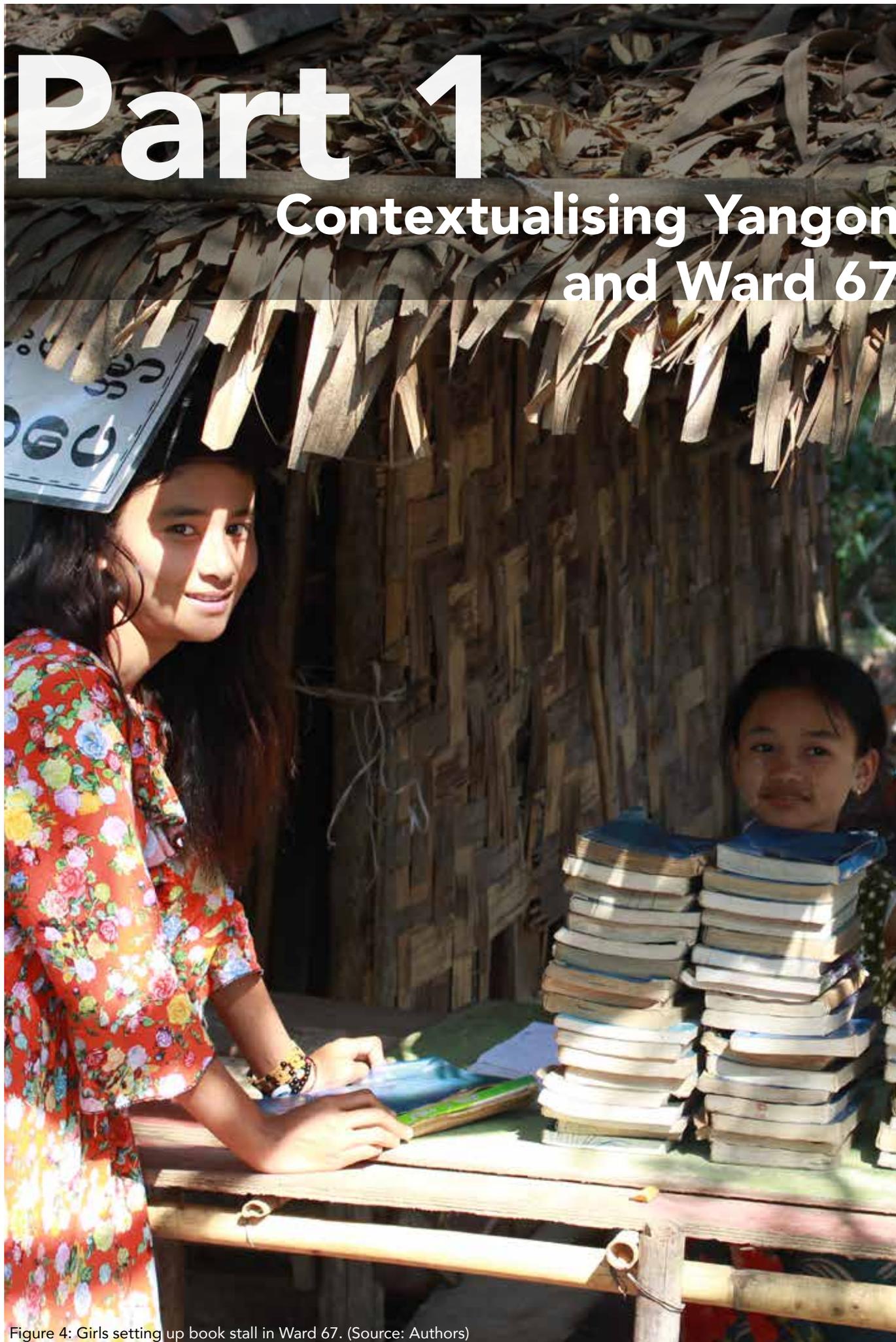


Figure 4: Girls setting up book stall in Ward 67. (Source: Authors)

1.1 Introduction: From Misrecognition to the Potential for Livelihoods

In 1966, Myanmar's military regime implemented a strategy of socialist isolationism, led by General Ne-Win, which eventually led to a regime of nationalist cronyism, under Senior General Than Shwe, "[learning] the county a 'pariah' reputation" (Kinley and Wilson, 2007). After decades of paramilitary uprising and internal conflict, 2011 marked a historical shift in Myanmar, as it was the day the constitutional government was founded. It is amongst the plethora of socio-economic and social changes which have been implemented across the country. This report looks at the capital, and biggest city of Myanmar, Yangon, as undergoing "Transformation in times of Transition".

The idea of the 'feral city', coined by AbdulMaliq Simone (2016), encapsulates how the political ecology of city development - shaped by power, interest and identity - takes form in space. Manifested in the uses of land, buildings and materials, such political ecology defines the trajectories of wealth agglomeration, or the statuses, of land parcelling, reinvestment, and accommodation. As these lose or gain status, city development has an impact on the people that draw upon, and further shape it. The decline in these statuses, or incremental improvement, or their unchanging nature, subsist side by side. Therein exist mixed urban realities, or transformations, which shape the ways in which residents witness and engage with one another and their built environments.

Yangon's transformation is characterized by this juxtaposition, whereby the strength or weakness given to particular social or political institutions has lent to a further subordination of already marginalized populations. Their misrecognition results from

a lack of understanding on the ways of life - shaped by profound repertoires of local knowledge and creatively adaptive livelihoods - which continue to operate in response to, irrespective of, and due to, the rampant city developments occurring around them.

With the intention to leverage, as Simone puts it, the "rhythms and techniques that emanate from the densities of heterogeneous activities" (ibid.), this report uses the case of Ward 67 of Yangon, Myanmar, to dissect the potential for palpable livelihood generation for those whose misrecognition has become more stark in the transformation of Yangon.

1.2 Transformation & Transition: Overlapping Landscapes of Authoritarian Governance

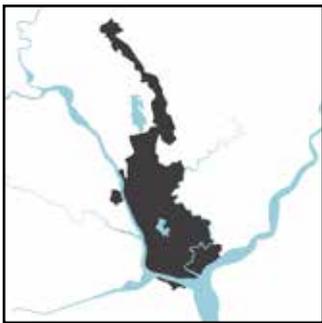
As Myanmar undergoes several transitions, the liminal space within which it finds itself is construed of various historical periods which have lent to the country's current-day neoliberal development trajectory. From monarchy to colony, and then socialist, nationalist, and ultimately, constitutional government, a number of rapid transformations within the span of a centenary have been built atop each other.

Transformation also implies changes over time and thus an appreciation of the importance of the history of a particular city's development. The present urban fabric results from successive generations of settlers leaving their mark in both the physical structure and in the political, economic and social institutions. (Thorns, 2002).

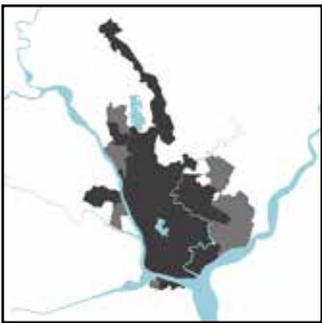
Change over time in Myanmar has not only affected top-down governance and policy formation but entire socially-implicated institutions, culture, and the ways in which people perceive, conceive, and shape the spaces in which they live. When markets, consumption practices, infrastructures, and cultural discourses are in transition alongside policies and governing institutions which enable or hinder them from fully consolidating, dynamic interactions surface in a 'coevolutionary process' (Kemp, 1994; Geels and Schot, 2007). These short but definitive and interim transitions, when cumulatively elongated and eventually consolidated into society, can be said to induce transformation in the long-term. Key economic and political events (see Figure 11 & p.93) have catalysed waves of informal settlement formation, either because they have loosened regulation on black market trade of land, or have pushed lower income groups to find more

affordable housing. These include the SLORC's urban squatter resettlement program (1989), to the Farmland Law enactment (2012), Aung San Suu Kyi coming to power (2012), the passing of the National Land use Policy (2014), and most recently, policies premised in neoliberal economics affecting the accessibility of housing.

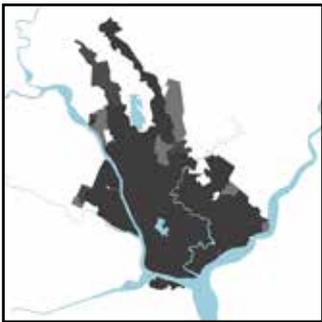
The social fabric of Myanmar is therefore characterized by a transformation resulting from compounded transitions. It is a palimpsest of what Peleggi (2005) calls 'colonial nostalgia', exemplified through the monumentalization of historical relics, attempts at restricting cultural diversity through extended military control and subsequent backlashes, regime change with quasi-directed economic reform, influx of foreign capital and influence, migration and the subsequent effects to common modes of production. Yangon is where this altered urban socio-economic landscape most visibly manifests. Thus, throughout this report, we are prompted to question the following: can the feral city's political ecology, defined by indefinite transformation, be navigated in order to strengthen the urban livelihoods of Yangon?



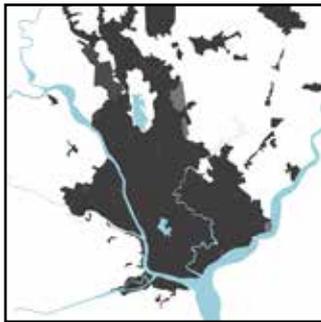
1985



1995



2005



2017

Figure 5: Urban growth in Yangon. (Source: Authors)



Figure 6: Construction site near Ward 67. (Source: Authors)



Figure 7: Housing development near to Ward 67. (Source: DPU)



Figure 8: Aerial image Ward 67. (Source: DPU)



Figure 9: Smart district development 3D model nearby Ward 67. (Source: Ministry of Construction/ Myanmar)

1.3 The Inconsistent Development of Yangon and Ward 67

As is the case for populations undergoing urban transition and transformation, a major reason for migration is the perception that city developments are larger and therefore centric to wealth accumulation and opportunity (Lerch, 2014). This is accurate of Yangon, where rapid migration - from what was, within the last few decades, considered rural - towards the urban center has lent to the densification and promulgation of informal settlements and economic activity. The effect of this upon Dagon Seikan and Ward 67, specifically, is most visible with regards to housing policy, whereby the promulgation of free markets and formal housing has been unable to encompass the needs of lower-income populations.

The large majority of Myanmar's population - estimated at 55 million - live in rural areas, with livelihoods mainly depending on agriculture. It is one of the poorest countries in Asia and according to the United Nations, is one of the least developed nations (UNDP, 2006). There exist limited opportunities to engage in other forms of work (Babson, 2001). Government control and the incremental introduction of free markets have focused mainly on penetrating other commodities and institutions, including law, public finance and banking, but inadequate investment given to infrastructure has limited its consolidation in the economy. State domination over protected enterprises dictates who benefits from the country's rich natural resource base, and by privileging actor access to certain economic circuits, government contracts, university education and high-paying jobs, an opening of the economy has further entrenched the limited opportunity for mass participation in the formal economy (ibid, p.84).

This has, and continues to occur in tandem with the

failure of state-offered housing and formal routes of employment to absorb an increasingly growing population. Partially commissioned to the Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC), state ambitions of development planning have led the central and municipal governments to increasingly partner with the international private sector. Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), tasked with master planning Yangon and its peripheral areas, including Ward 67, appear to be a major development actor which was referenced at multiple stages of our research. In conjunction with a consortium of private companies, they are also in charge of expanding Yangon's 'affordable housing' scheme. In response to JICA's objective of targeting the middle to lower-income population of the city, and with the confirmation of Ward 67 residents, there is a clear gap between what is perceived as affordable in housing by top-down, private real estate providers, and that which is defined by inhabitants of a low-income settlement. As indicated in the following diagram, the livelihood capabilities held by the latter population are, in no capacity, at a level which is required to enter the formal housing market.

Therein lies a fundamental disjuncture between the perceived and conceived reality of top-down service and housing providers, and the lived, financial reality of lower-income populations, who constitute the vast majority of Yangon. Such has prompted questioning not whether development has inherent value, but rather, for whom is development and how can it be made collectively beneficial. An attempt to foster a community-led housing approach, in response to this disjuncture, has been put forth by WFW, and it is this scheme which has inspired the strategies indicated later in this report. The Reform Law (2014), within which exists the Farmland Law (see Figure 11) was passed in 2012, and allows for individualized land rights to be transferred more directly between users; it is such policy openings which lend to the success of WFW's approach and one which would like to build upon in our strategies.

ACTORS DIAGRAM

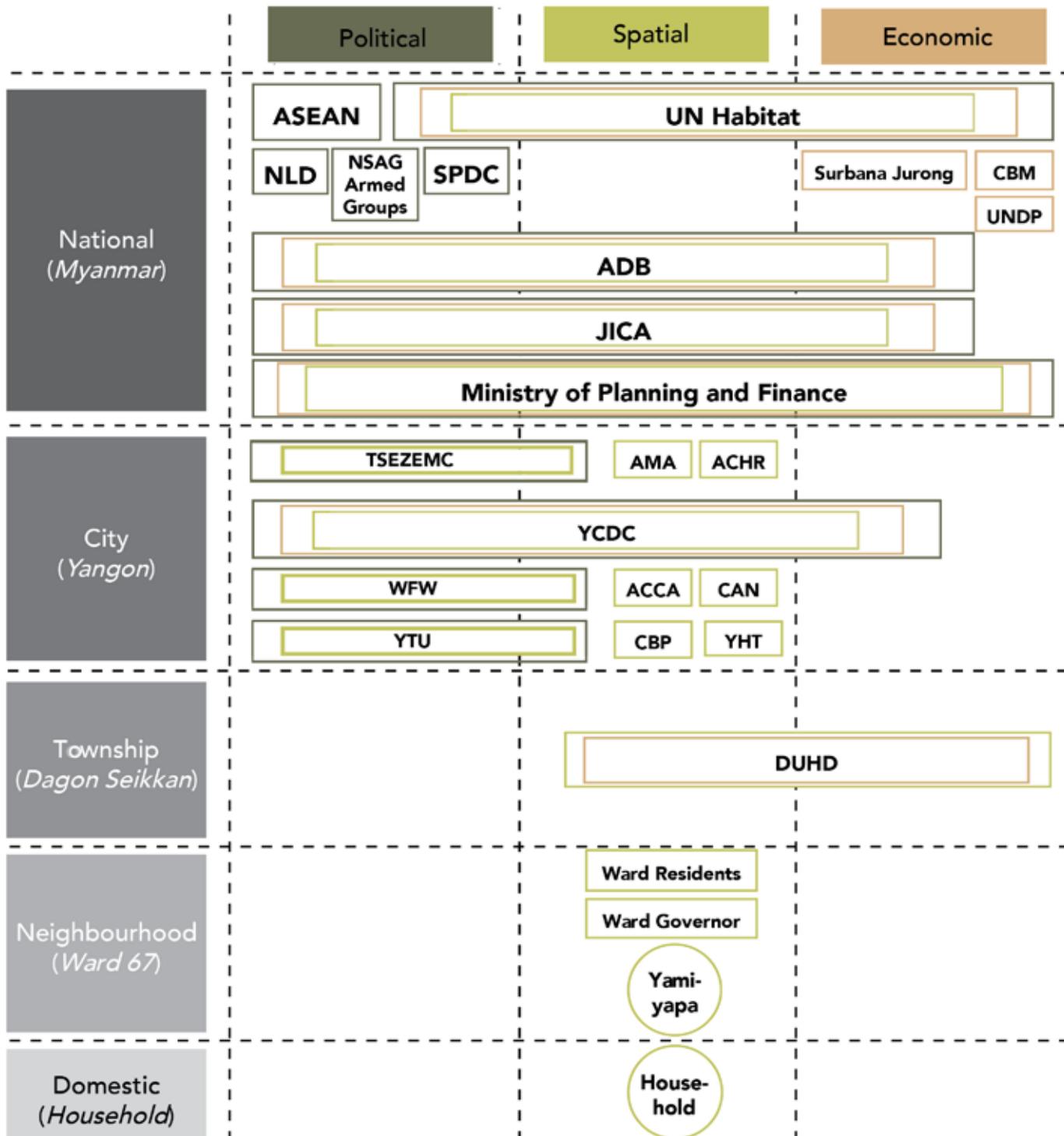


Figure 10: Actors diagram. (Source: Authors)

HOUSING POLICY TIMELINE

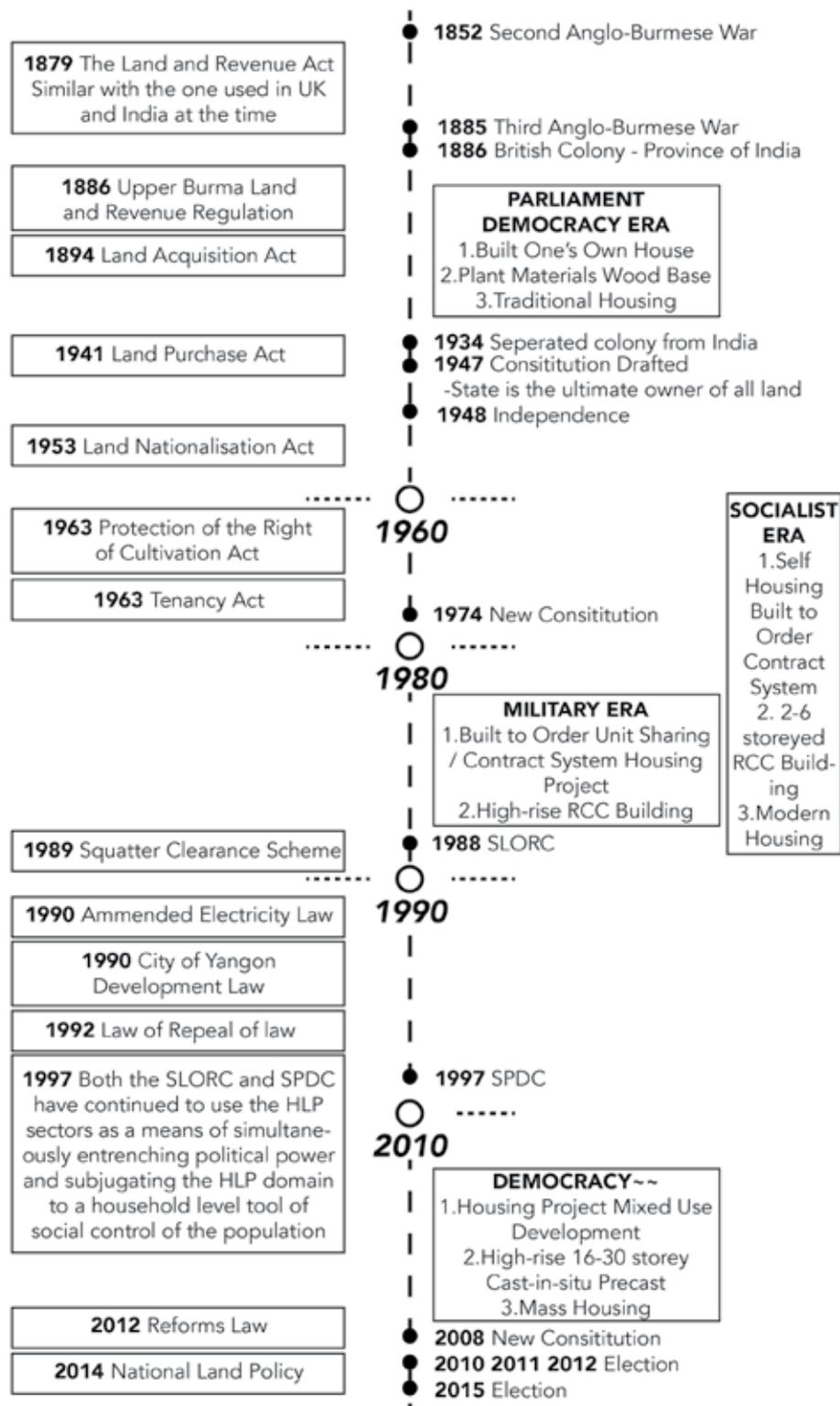


Figure 11: Timeline of land policy in Myanmar. (Source: Authors)

Part 2

Triggering Livelihood Generation for Just Urban Development

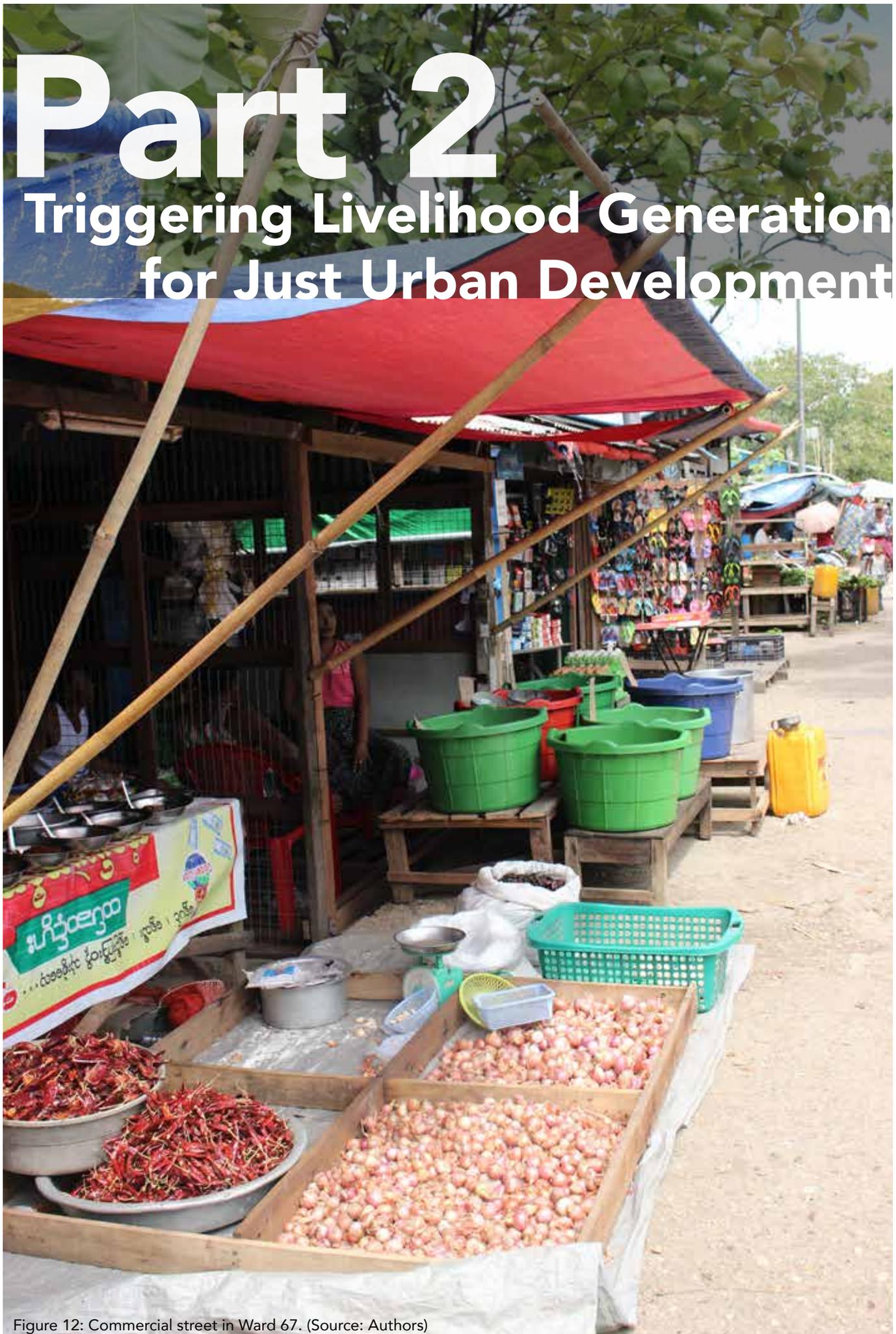


Figure 12: Commercial street in Ward 67. (Source: Authors)

2.1 Understanding Livelihood Generation to Overcome Misrecognition and Subordination

Premised in Lefebvre's theories of space production, our research views the transformational phase which Yangon is undergoing as an overriding influence which has shaped the relationship between conceived, perceived and lived spaces (1991). The manner in which these factors continuously interact creates a particular social dynamic for those who collectively potentialize these spaces - one which is not necessarily in sync with the representations, or conceptualization, of these same spaces made by professionals and technocrats: "This representation of space produced by these agents and actors is objectified. It is conceived through the power and knowledge that is embedded in this representation." (Merrifield and Lefebvre, 2000).

As such, our research aimed to unpack how recognition - or a lack therefore - has affected the space between top-down governance, through actions of government and private sector, and the bottom-up experience of Ward 67, through community members' livelihood generating activity and knowledge exchange. It is within the latter that the interaction, negotiation, and resulting co-production of initiatives and space emerge in spite of continuous misrecognition from the former.

In light of Myanmar's institutional frameworks surrounding citizenship and housing tenure - which are tightly interlinked and often resulting from facets of an inflexible social hierarchy, including ethnicity and historical, unofficial claims to land - misrecognition appears to be both a precursor and successor to institutional subordination. Within the scope of our research on livelihood generation, we attempt to find and bolster possibilities to adapt to, circumvent, and ultimately overcome such subordination.

In doing so, creative tactics are extrapolated from the lived experience of Ward 67 residents, strengthened, and used to penetrate and overcome the misrecognition found in the conceived and perceived spaces of top-down planning. Thus, to understand the link between Ward 67's existing issues, institutional subordination and misrecognition, emancipatory capability stems from what Fraser (2000) calls a 'social model', as opposed to an 'identity model'. What needs recognition is not "group-specific identity but the status of individ-

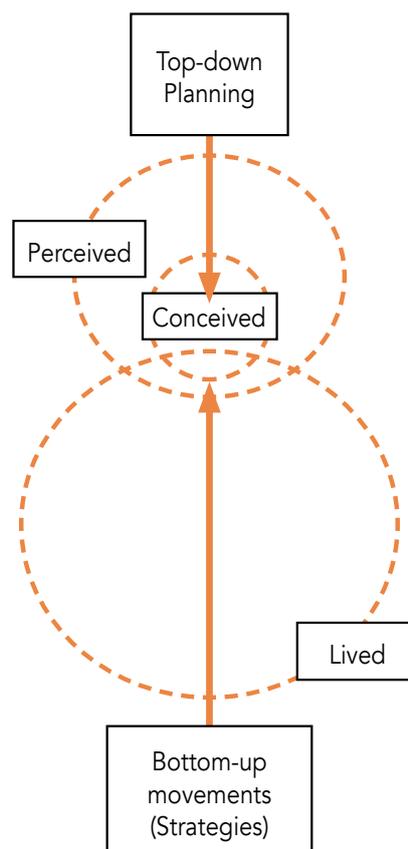


Figure 13: Current planning model. (Source: Authors)

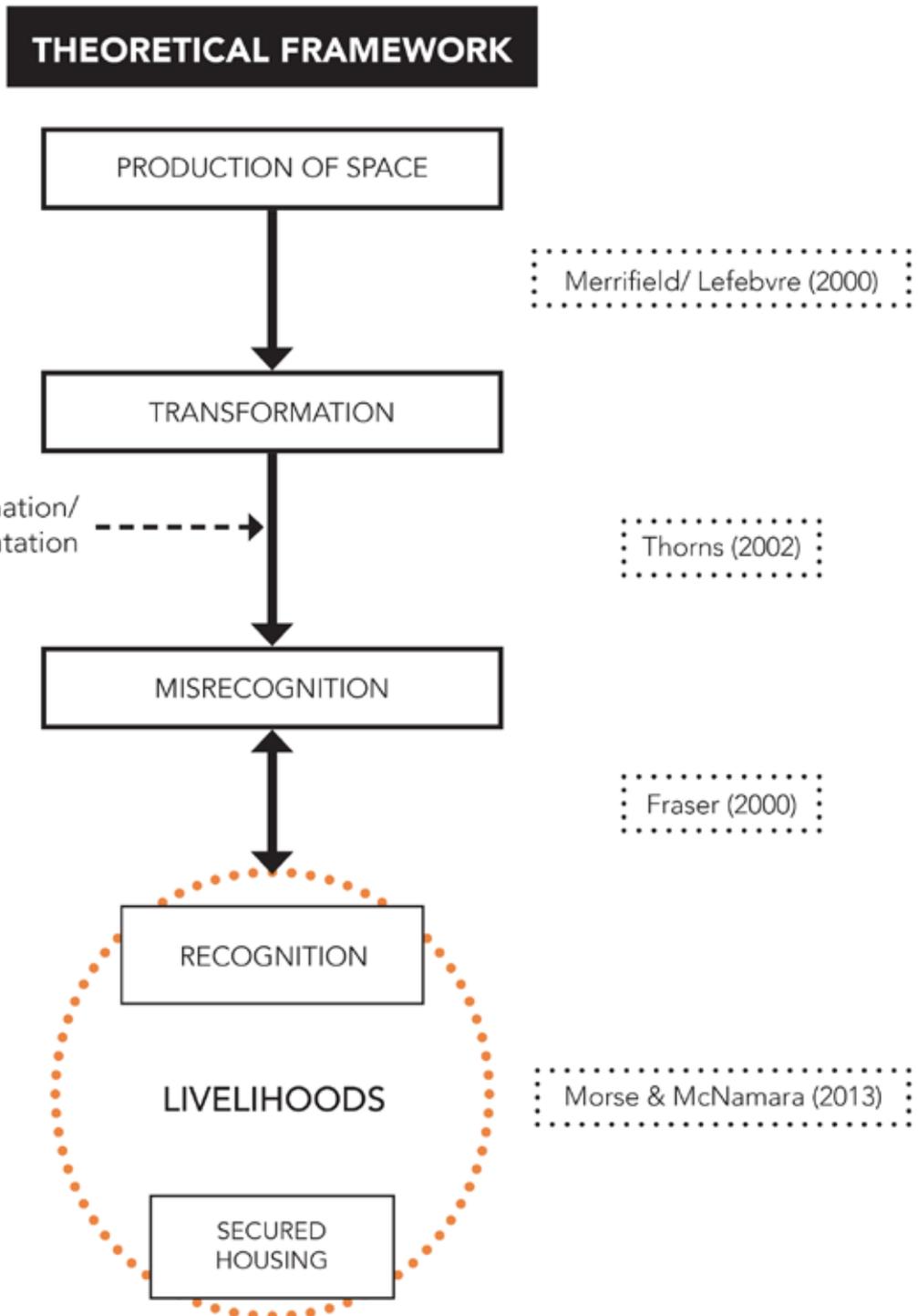


Figure 14: Theoretical Framework diagram. (Source: Authors)

ual group members as full partners in social interaction" (ibid., p.113). In other words, in order for society's most marginalized to no longer be perceived as peripheral, the lived needs to penetrate the conceived, having a cyclical, lobbying, effect which paves the path for redistribution of wealth and power. (Figure 13)

As mentioned in Contextualizing, the failure to recognize informal settlers under a social model - where their value as full, participating members of society, is undermined by their perceived status - has lent to the continued operation of subordinating institutions. Emanating therein is a disjuncture between the purchasing power of Ward 67 inhabitants, and what has been made available and expected of them, such as social housing with a cost which continuously remains unaffordable. For this reason, livelihood generation acts as a multifaceted asset in overcoming subordination; the bolstering of livelihoods capitalizes upon existing movements within the community, through the co-production of knowledge and space, and through the sustaining of income to enhance the capability of families and communities when creating avenues for their wellbeing. The term 'livelihood' in this report attempts to encapsulate the tools needed to cultivate a mode of being which is resilient to external influences and sustained at a desired level: it is "a means of underpinning quality of life and wellbeing... livelihood is not just about a means to survive but also about providing resources with which people can enhance and enjoy their lives." (Morse and McNamara, 2013, p.6). Therefore, there is a link drawn between unaffordability and misrecognition, which forms the basis of our analytical approach and later, our strategies.

The assimilation of theories which lay at the foundation of our research, are presented in the Figure 14.

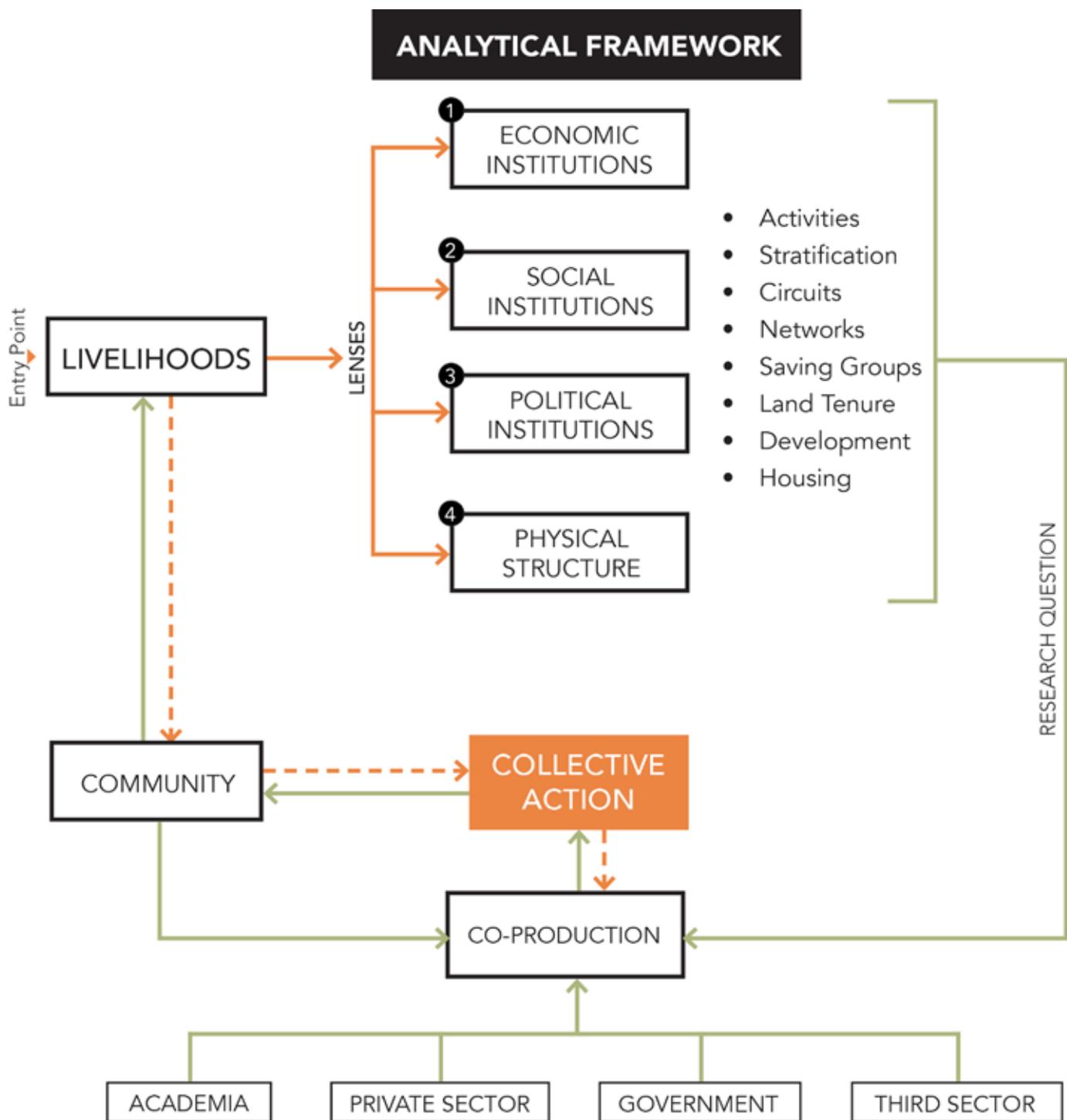


Figura 15: Analytical Framework diagram. (Source: Authors)

2.2 From Livelihood Generation to Collective Co-production of Knowledge and Space

While the theoretical framework is intended to shape our research approach, the analytical framework guides our assessment of the research data. In weaving how transformative practices emerge within and surrounding the processes of livelihood generation, a certain physical structure, social institution, economical institution, and political institution comes to fruition. 'Institution', in the scope of this report, is defined along the lines of Thorns (2002) theorization of transformation, whereby "stable patterns of behaviour [...] define, govern, and constrain action." (Rojas, 2013) As such, what is emphasized is the ability for an individual and their community to connect across scales, to their wider environment and society at large. This is in contrast to the more state-centric understanding, which views the institution as an organization, or formal body that is limited in its scope and governs a particular field of action.

Associated with this concept is livelihood and the various institutions which are crucial in shaping its strength, scope and sustainability. From our research, livelihood generation appeared to be intrinsically linked to collectivity, with economic resilience largely lying in constructs such as social networks, reciprocity and mutual trust. Collective action is described as involving "interdependency among individuals in which the contributions or efforts of one individual influence the actions of other individuals, thus implying a strategic interaction." (Sandler, 2004). To bolster collective action, understanding and mobilizing the motives underlying it are crucial to effectively support livelihoods. One perspective argues that collective action is premised in shared enemies (Evrigenis, 2007). If we use this as a proxy and recognise 'enemies' as 'common threats', that makes the government - or state-

based regulators - and the private sector, threatening forces. Both fail to recognise citizens like those in Ward 67 as contributors and deserving benefactors of the system; their presence, or lack thereof, can catalyse collective action amidst threats of eviction and failure to offer alternative routes to housing and employment. Other perspectives recognise the potential of combining several factors to motivate individuals to coordinate their activities (Sandler, 2004). It is this potentiality which we try to uncover through our research, premised in our theoretical understanding that misrecognition - as a precursor to inaccessibility to sustained livelihoods and housing - must involve the social inclusion and reciprocity central to Fraser's (1998) social model.

While collective action is deemed a crucial determinant of strategies which can effectively uphold livelihood generating activity, treating it as an implementable activity which can be catalysed, and at that, by an outside actor, is not only challenging but inherently faulty. Self-organization around a widely acknowledged issue and the tactics which are recognised as vital in overcoming such - collective action - must stem organically from marked transformations, mutual reliance, and shifting perceptions within the community itself.

Actors may not perceive their own and others' contributions as making a difference (Marwell & Oliver, 1993), may have conflicting goals (Simcoe, 2012), may be unfamiliar with or untrusting of one another (J.P. Davis, 2016), and/or may strategically withhold making contributions because they realise that others may provide those instead (Olson, 1965).

To lay the groundwork for populations to collectively recognise how their community's development can be sustained and equitable, we have incorporated co-production of knowledge and space as a tool in need of utilisation. Building upon the notion of collectivity, inclusive decision-making and knowledge sharing, co-production entails the invitation of multiple stakeholders to participate in a development project in order to increase prospects of longevity and strength institutionally. Our strategies attempt to uphold principles of co-production such that projects related to livelihood generation are consolidated into social, economic, and political systems, and supported by appropriate infrastructure.

strengthened to promote livelihoods and inclusive development? The research methodology applied is elaborated upon in the next section.

Figure 15 outlines the framework we use to understand interconnections between actors involved in, or needed for, the operationalization of collective action and co-production. Particular activities, stratification, circuits, networks, savings groups, land tenure, development and housing, are factors contributing to the institutions that are framed in our analytical diagram. These are a series of variables which will be explained in the methodology. Community is positioned as the main actor, whereby the other four - academia, the private sector, government and civil society - are related back to the community as potentially co-producing development actors. Each line represents currently existing practices and possible interventions. Lenses that emerged from the theoretical framework are also noted, as they all connect to the existing or required practices. Cumulatively, this guides our research and shapes the collection of findings and triangulation of data required to answer our research question: How can community practices be



Figure 16: Collective mapping in Ward 67. (Source: Authors)

METHODOLOGY

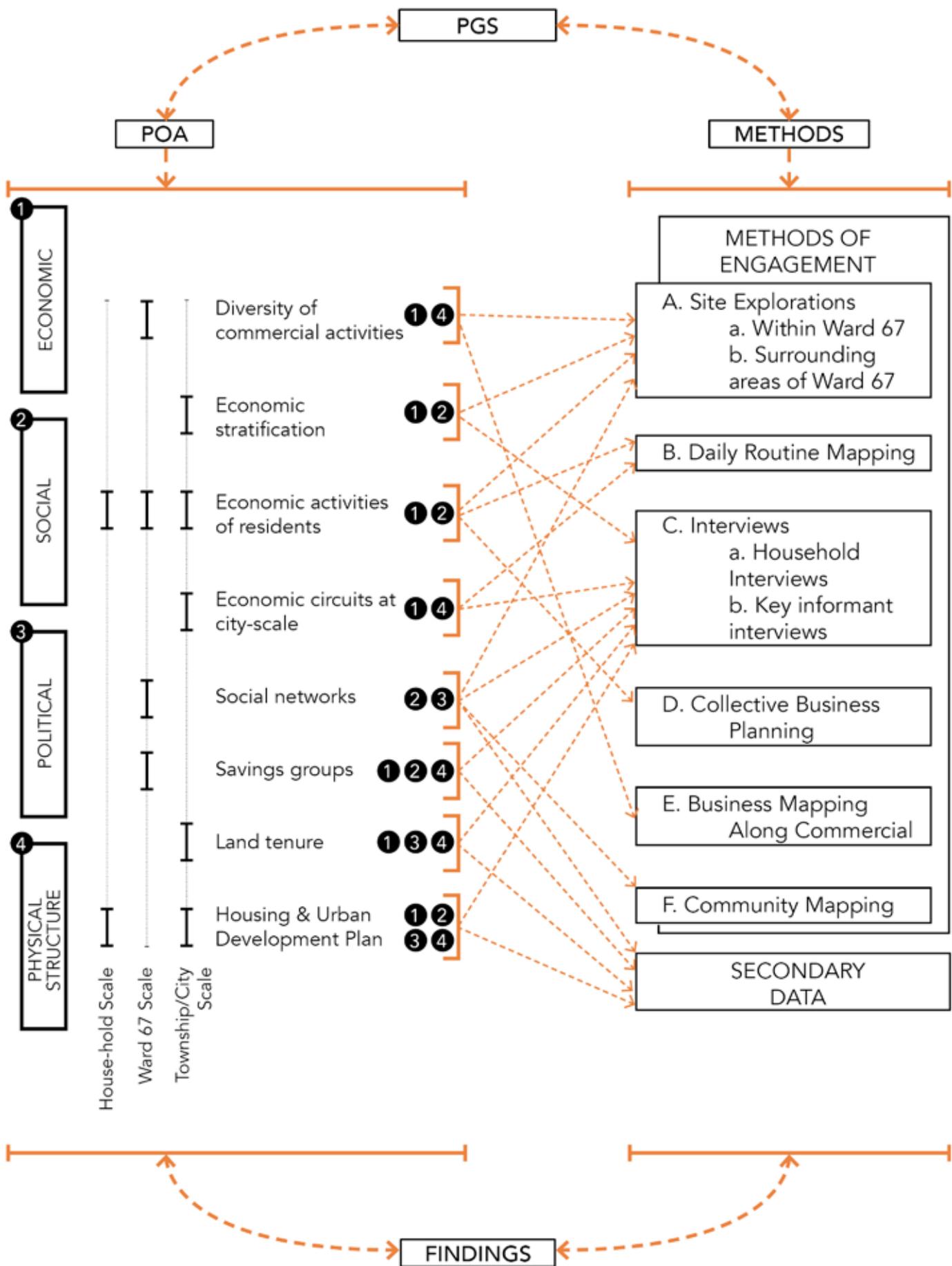


Figura 17: Methodology diagram. (Source: Authors)

2.3 Leveraging Local Knowledge for Inclusive Urban Development

The methodology used in our research tackles the research question through the analysis of primary data gathered during fieldwork, and a cumulation of secondary data which mostly pertains to the wider context of transformation and transition, and the political-economy of Yangon, Myanmar. The overarching objective was to build an iterative process where theory, through guiding questions and hypotheses, was reinforced, dismissed or altered in relation to findings obtained from the fieldwork. This approach was premised in the understanding that local knowledge has been disregarded in Yangon's urban development; our hypothesis stated that the leveraging of such knowledge can be used to overcome current implications of misrecognition in the context of city-making.

Our foremost phase of research was a literature review. Yangon's transformation and socio-economic reality was assessed using secondary data, our partner's terms of reference, documentation, and footage of their work in similar contexts. Livelihood assets present in Ward 67 were then assessed as potentials to capitalise upon in the upgradation of the community. This process outlined our research framework in relation to livelihoods and currently existing spatial conditions.

With a preliminary set of principles, guidelines and strategies, we devised a plan of action to gather data related to the four lenses of livelihoods - economic, social, political and physical structure- that could be potentialized by acting in collectivity, to ensure their sustainability and validation in counteracting institutional subordination. Through these four lenses we further explored specific content that could guide our research in the three

different scales: the household, the ward and the wider township or city-wide. Data for each of these lenses was gathered through different methods of engagement (See figure 17).

Using this process, we gathered a rich collection of data related to the issues and potentials most dominantly found in the community's livelihood upkeep, to triangulate information - primary and secondary - and to build new understandings to envision strategic possibilities at both the local and city-level.

Cumulatively, our findings led us to confirm and build upon our hypothesis: integrating local livelihood knowledge and collective processes to overcome the limited opportunities the city's development offers for already marginalized communities, is essential in fostering a more sustainable and just urban development in Yangon.



RESEARCH PROCESS

CITYWIDE LEVEL
SECONDARY DATA ANALYSIS

CONTEXTUALISING:
MYANMAR IN TRANSITION

- LAND
- HERITAGE
- FINANCE
- CITIZENSHIP

- LITERATURE REVIEW
- LECTURES
- MAPPING
- TIMELINE
- ACTORS DIAGRAM

CONTEXTUALISING:
MYANMAR IN SEARCH OF
RECOGNITION

- FRASER'S
RECOGNITION &
REDISTRIBUTION
- LEFEBVRE'S TRIAD

- LITERATURE REVIEW
- LECTURES
- MAPPING
- PARTNERS BRIEF REVIEW
- POTENTIAL-WEAKNESS
DIAGRAM

MOBILIZING COLLECTIVE
ACTION TO ATTAIN
SPATIAL RECOGNITION

- LIVELIHOOD
GENERATION

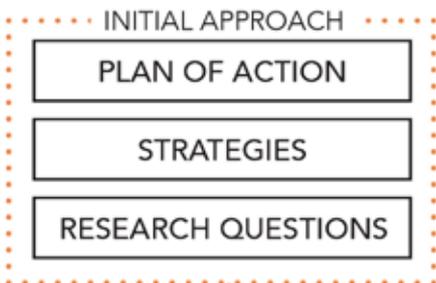
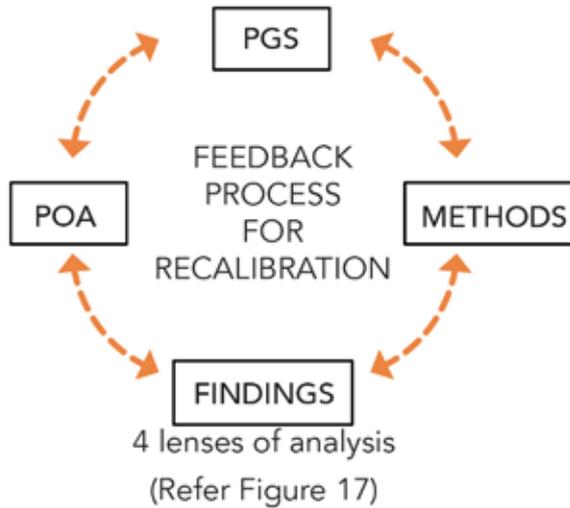


Figure 18: Research process diagram. (Source: Authors)

ITERATIVE RESEARCH PROCESS WITH THE COMMUNITY



LOCAL LEVEL
PRIMARY DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS



WHAT TYPES OF ACTIONS RELATED TO LIVELIHOODS ARE PRESENT IN W67?
WHAT TYPES OF COLLECTIVE ACTIONS COULD BE PUSHED IN RELATION TO LIVELIHOODS?

- SITE EXPLORATIONS IN AND AROUND W67
- DAILY ROUTINE MAPPING
- COLLECTIVE BUSINESS PLANNING
- INTERVIEWS
- BUSINESS MAPPING ALONG COMMERCIAL STREETS

- RICH DIVERSITY IN COMERCIAL ACTIVITIES
- COLLECTIVE ACTION PRECEDENTS
- HOUSE UNIT AS KEY TOOL FOR LIVELIHOOD GENERATION
- ECONOMIC CIRCUITS WITH THE REST OF THE CITY
- COMMUNITY PRIORITIES
- FAMILY-BASED BUSINESSES

EXPLORING POSSIBILITIES FOR SCALING-UP



- LECTURES
- WORKSHOP
- PRIMARY + SECONDARY DATA ANALYSIS

STRATEGIES



LOCAL LEVEL + NATIONAL LEVEL
RECALIBRATING - FEEDBACK

TRIANGULATING ANALYSING



FINAL REPORT



Figure 19: Children activity at the Community Centre in Ward 67. (Source: Authors)

2.4 Identifying Collective Livelihood Generation Potentials through Participatory Processes

The participatory research methods used to engage with community members involved qualitative data collection and mapping exercises, as outlined below [Also refer Appendix 3]. With the intention to foster collective action which could be promulgated as the premise of our livelihood-generation strategies, our chosen research methods were effective tools to understand overarching issues, their underlying roots, and general perceptions of the community with regards to their assets and potentials.

As students coming from different backgrounds and contexts, we tried to be sensitive in approaching people, always careful to introduce ourselves, considering they were sharing personal details of their lives, while constantly observing, documenting and interacting with them. All methods employed were limited by time constraints, language barriers, and unrepresentative sample sizes of participants.

A. Site Explorations

a. Within Ward 67

Carried out on Day 1 of fieldwork, this was conducted alongside community members, WFW representatives and local students, along the main commercial streets of Ward 67 to gauge the types of activities and goods that were being traded. We were also shown the primary gathering spots of community members, including the monastery and several tea shops. Certain houses along these streets which had been appropriated to accommodate home businesses were also noted. This helped in identifying key commercial nodes, distribution, access to resources and understand the diversity of economic activity in the ward.

b. Surrounding areas of Ward 67

Conducted in the surrounding areas along the main road that led to downtown Yangon and then around Thit Sate market, this exploration shed light upon regions frequented by Ward 67 dwellers for their daily purchasing and selling activity. Thit Sate was reportedly more popular than the commercial streets within the ward because of the lower pricing of goods. Some of the vendors were residents of Ward 67 and confirmed that their businesses here did far better than around the commercial streets within the ward. The proximity of a primary school by the market also meant that the latter had become a daily stop for women dropping off their children. This phase, in conjunction with our walk within the ward, allowed us to identify the commercial nodes, preferences and overall commercial patterns existing within and around the ward.



Figure 20: Transect walk to the nearby Thit Sate market (Source: Authors)

B. Daily Routine Mapping

This method was conducted with five adult community participants, all of whom sketched out their primary expenses and income-generating activities. The purpose was to investigate the connection of these activities with wider economic and social circuits, focusing on those beyond the ward. Divergent priorities between men and women in household units were brought to the forefront, allowing us to understand what needs to be maintained or altered in the realm of livelihood generation.



Figure 21: Daily routine mapping. (Source: Authors)

C. Interviews

a. Household Interviews

Interviews were conducted mainly in the homes of participants who operated businesses, either selling directly from their homes or connecting their products to a market or company. Alterations made to the physical structure of their houses to accommodate production were visible from the incremental extensions made to the original infrastructure. Learning from the daily routine mapping, the data from this method reinforced and spatialized the details of activity within the household. It also helped to clarify how livelihood infrastructure has been physically integrated into the home.



Figure 22: Household interview with Aunty Saw. (Source: Authors)

b. Key informant interviews (KII)

This phase involved the interviewing of trusted figures within the community who held a recognised level of authority and knowledge regarding the social and economic management of Ward 67. Crucial to our research was interviewing a Yami-Yapa or community leader, from who we gained insight regarding illicit economic activity in the ward and informal methods at sustaining livelihoods and securing housing. From these interviews, we accrued knowledge regarding loaning and insecurities associated with livelihood generation. What also came to be understood from this phase was the vitality of social networks and weak social and economic trust in the formal Ward Governance structure and neighbors when it came to financial transactions.



Figure 23: Interview with a *Yami-Yapa* in his tea shop. (Source: Authors)

D. Collective Business Planning

This method of research was both intended to better our understanding of the prospects and blockades in collective business planning, as well as observe an activity premised in the co-production of knowledge and space. The group of women we conducted the business planning with chose to start a restaurant and began by allocating roles and responsibilities amongst one another. They formulated a daily action plan and speculated priorities to boost their business, including how to secure shop space, invest in technological inputs and start a savings bank account. The positive outcome of this phase, enthusiasm on behalf of its participants and barriers and gaps presented, directly inspired one of our strategies.



Figure 24: Collective business planning activity. (Source: Authors)

E. Business Mapping Along Commercial Streets

This stage involved the mapping of individual businesses along the two main commercial streets. Building upon methods [A.a] and [B], we developed a deeper understanding of the diversity of businesses within the ward and how they triggered the movement and circulation of food production and consumption. Focus was given to restaurants, snack shops, fruit and vegetable sellers and raw ingredients. Tea shops were another common frequently occurring business that were related to communal or social gathering activities. Other stores mapped out included those which sold general goods, betel nut, construction materials and bike repair shops.



Figure 25: Commercial street in Ward 67. (Source: Authors)

F. Community Mapping

The mapping conducted in this phase spatialized the houses of the community participants, as well as social and economic landmarks that were not visited during the site explorations. These included a tree whereby women met to socialise and share meals, and a particular street that youth gathered in for recreational activities such as skateboarding. This phase was key in recognizing the relation between space and social connectivity, vital in the building of trust deemed necessary after what was learned from [C.b]



Figure 26: Community mapping exercise. (Source: Authors)

G. The Race

This was carried out to determine the priorities of households when spending their incomes and accruing their savings. The community members chose their priorities as their home and land maintenance, electricity, water, business upkeep, health and education. The foremost priority for many was home upgrading and establishing new businesses to supplement existing income. These took precedence in that they were deemed the most pressing and reinforced the acquisition of other resources. This phase of research helped determine the foremost concerns around household expenses and triggered a discussion on how to best address them.



Figure 27: Mapping priorities of Ward 67 residents. (Source: Authors)

H. Dream House Drawing with Children

In an effort to understand the visions of the youngest voices, children were asked to draw what they imagined of their ideal home and its surroundings. Most of the participants drew two-storey homes with electricity, a television and a bed, representing some of the comforts most often absent in their current houses. Some drew sturdy roofs and rain, stressing the importance of shelter to protect them from natural elements, perhaps alluding to the annual floods. The surroundings included landscaping and flower gardens. Older children drew modern high-rise buildings, indicative of what they viewed as secure. This exercise helped in understanding which concerns in the community cut across gender and age.



Figure 28: Children of Ward 67 presenting their drawings. (Source: Authors)

Part 3

The Economic and Spatial Practices of Ward 67 and Yangon

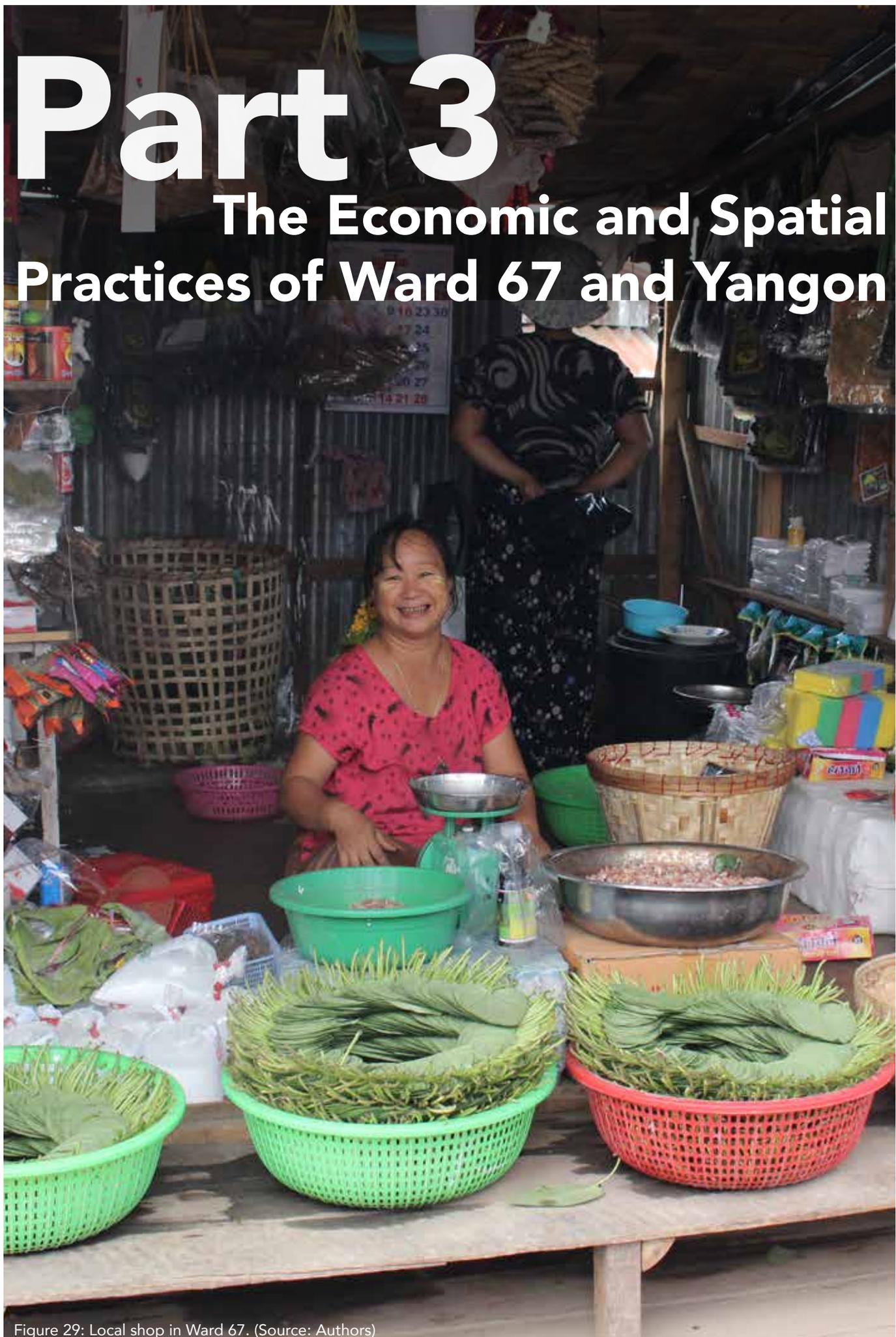


Figure 29: Local shop in Ward 67. (Source: Authors)

3.1 Ward 67's Spatial Economy and the Paradoxical Public Housing Provision Discourse

As a result of our research, both during the field trip and in London, we collected and analysed the information below, categorized in economic, social, political, and physical structure that informed our strategies in the following chapter.

The harshness of the financial conditions in W67 makes livelihoods essential for improving the situation of the residents and justifies the necessity to expand existing livelihood generation.

Expenses tend to be higher than the income and generates a day-by-day economy. This portrays how the system traps people in high interest loans which makes them be constantly in debt with little or no room for improvements.

Governmental response to this issue, although it claims to be a social solution that targets the poor, it is seen through evidence that needs are not being reached.

Diversity of Commercial Activities ① ④

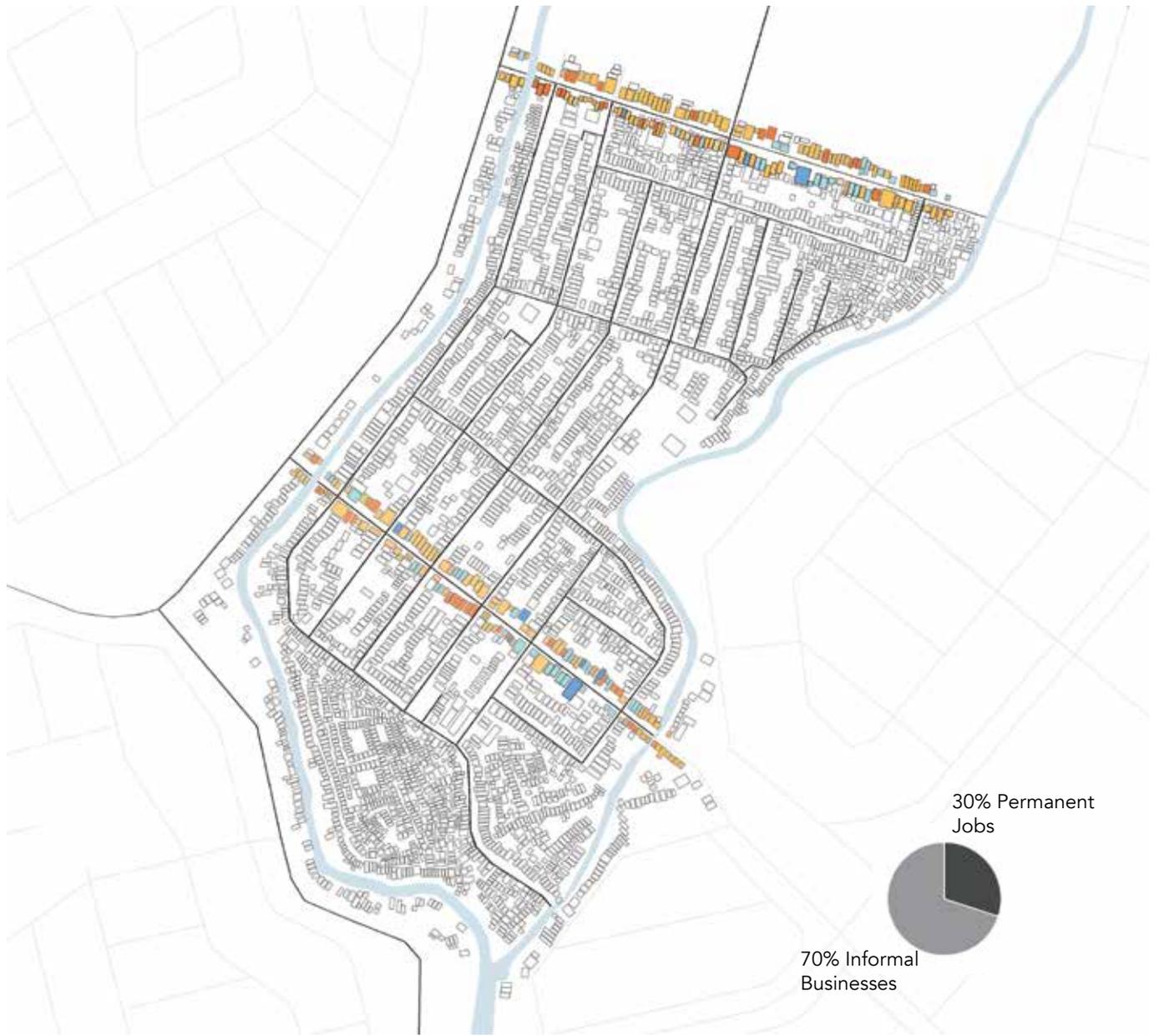
Although Ward 67 is in the peripheries of formal markets and economic opportunities, the rich diversity present in these streets shows that they not only find ways to overcome this marginalisation but also managed to be self-sufficient in relation to livelihood generation, and access to and provision of goods.

This diversity is currently ignored in governmental housing schemes. Probably being a key entry to overcome the lack of livelihood opportunities and to recognise them formally within the city, as they contribute to the productivity of the formal markets.

The mapping worked as a tool to identify common businesses that could potentially partner with each other or as a means of performing a gap analysis for new businesses.



Figure 30: Diversity of Livelihoods in Ward 67 collage. (Source: Authors)



- Food & Beverage
- Service
- Medical
- Non-Food Commerce
- Energy
- Unused Land
- Transportation
- Industry
- Religious/Political/
Recreational

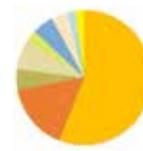


Figure 31: Map showing diversity of Livelihoods in Ward 67. (Source: Authors)



Economic Stratification

1 2

By understanding the strata classification within the ward, a clear relation between the spatial and financial condition of residents is revealed. On one hand, the poorest area of the ward lives in a flooded area which probably gets the worse of the rainy season, and on the other, the wealthiest sector is clearly connected to wider and more socioeconomically active streets with good connection to the rest of the city.

The need to make ends meet requires members of the households to be working all day and sometimes at more than one job. The saving capacity of the poorest is limited to a span from day to day. Building economic resilience amongst this strata of people is essential to increase the ability to access other resources.



Figure 32: Map locating financial categories of Ward 67. (Source: Authors)

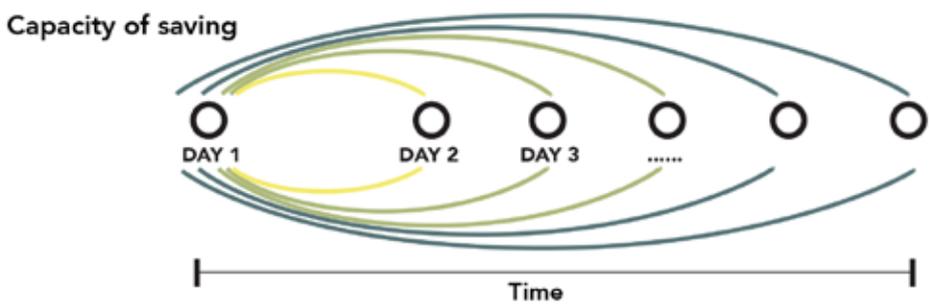
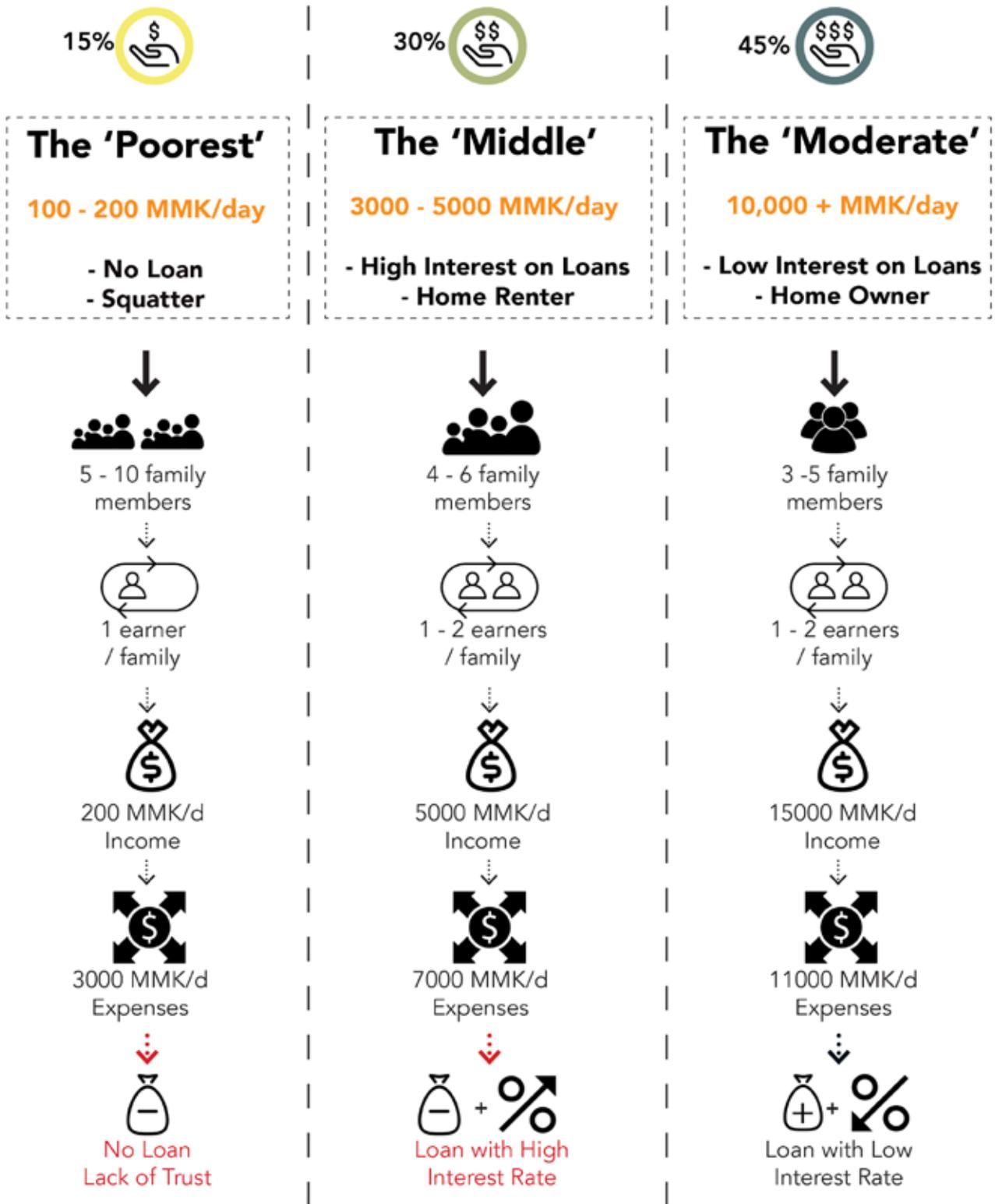


Figure 33: Financial categories diagram. (Source: Authors)

Economic Activities of Residents ① ②

As seen in figure 34, we identified a variety of skills that exist within households in W67. Although some of the skills are common among the ward members there is a lack of networking between them. These various skills have the potential to be enhanced and shared with non-skilled people within and beyond the ward.

The socio-economic-spatial configuration of W67 allows people to build their livelihood circuits and generation. These get wiped out in homogeneous housing schemes, and the possible livelihood generation that allows some resilience is lost.

The daily routine and income and expenses of the ward members verifies the need for economic diversity within households and is a proof of their capability to manage businesses in order to meet their day to day expenses.

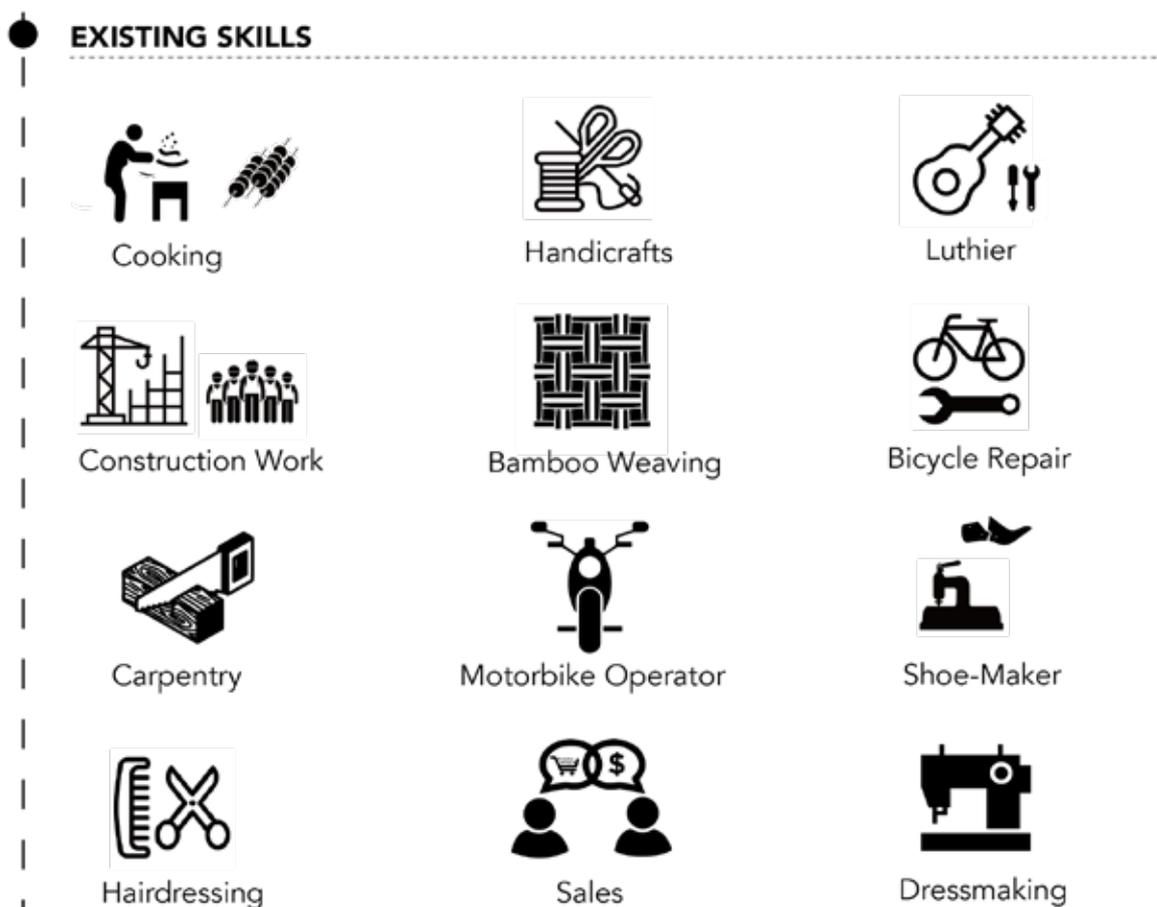


Figure 34: Existing skills diagram. (Source: Authors)

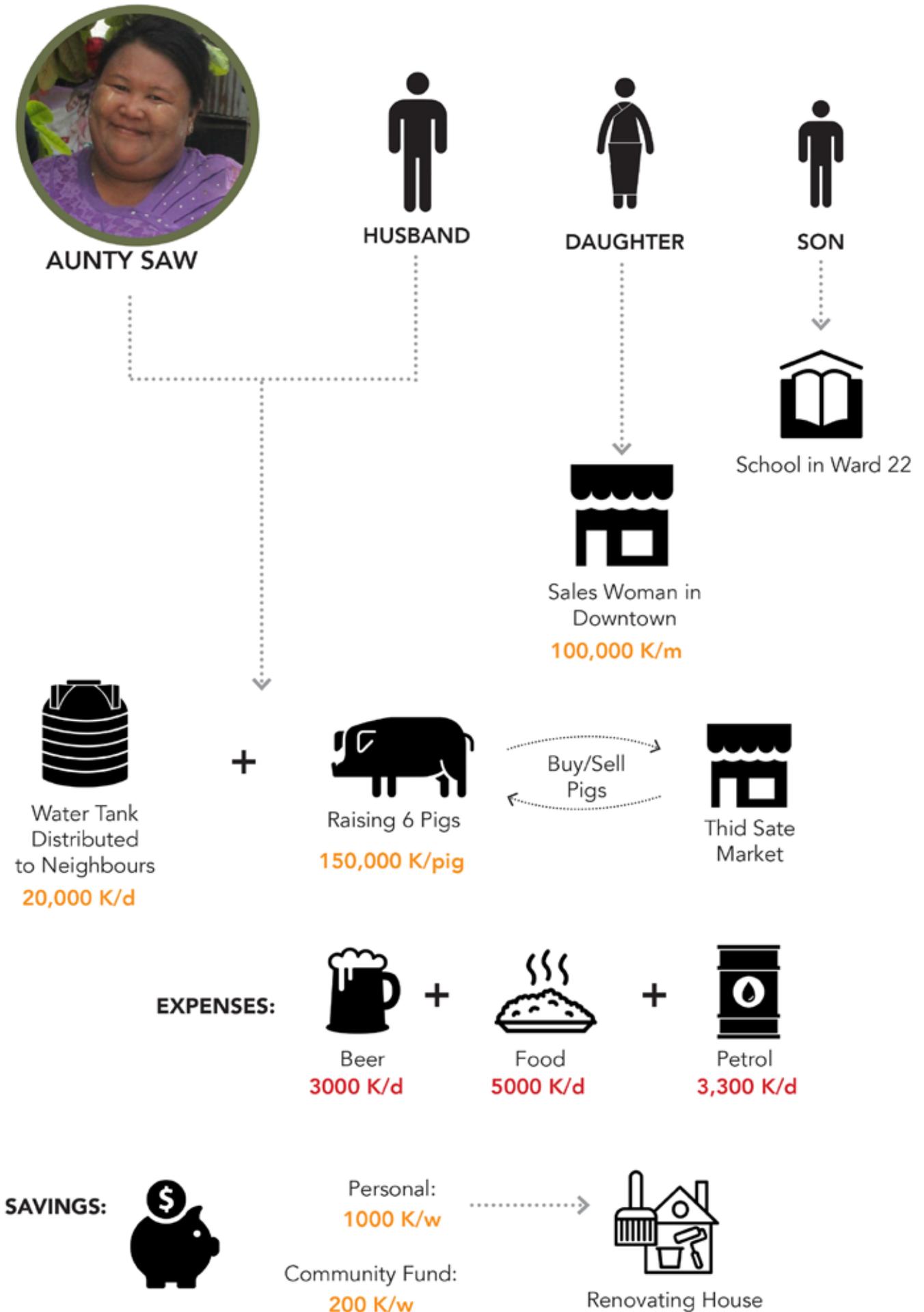


Figure 35: Auntie Saw economic activity diagram. (Source: Authors)

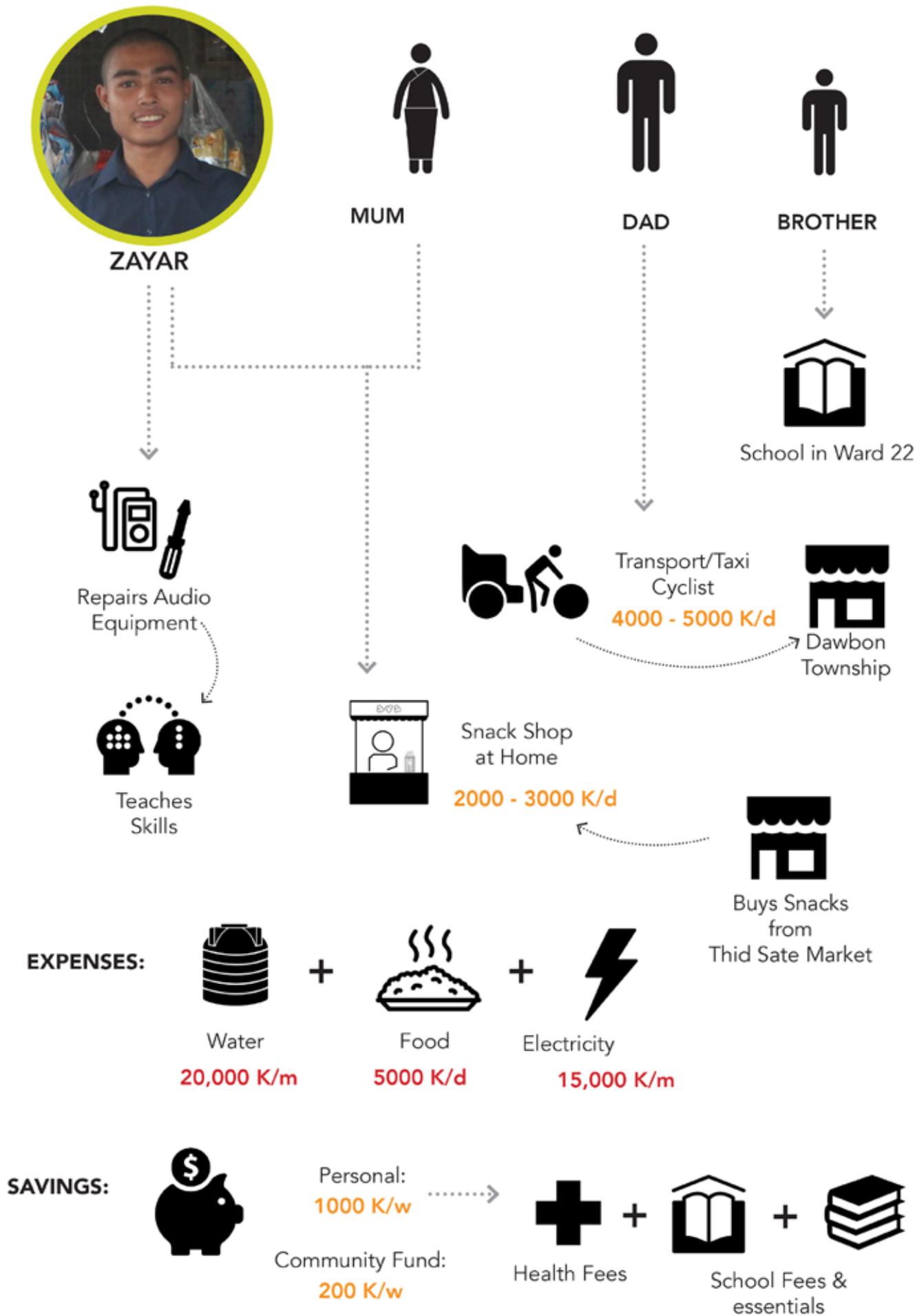


Figure 36: Aunty Cho Mar economic activity diagram. (Source: Authors)

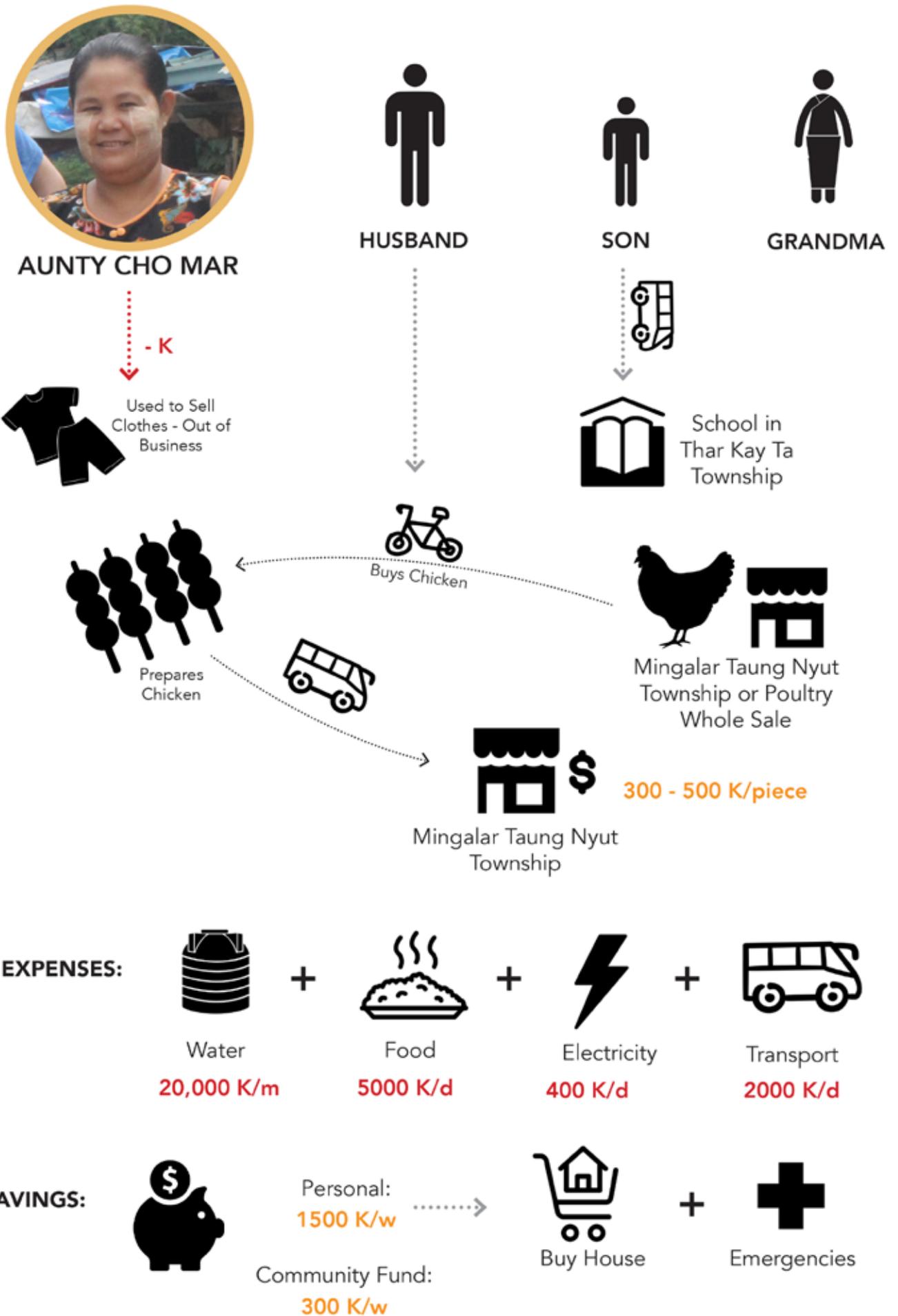


Figure 37: Auntie Cho Mar economic activity diagram. (Source: Authors)

Economic Circuits at City-Scale

1 4

There is a prominent economic relation of the ward with the rest of the city, as seen in Aunty Saw, Zayar and Aunty Cho Mar's families' movement.

The network of markets outside W67 is crucial to households for their economic as well as personal needs. These markets are the source of provision for the ward vendors. Thit Sate is an important market for the community, as it provides a wider variety of products, and is also cheaper than goods sold in the Ward.

Construction sites are another important source of employment to residents of W67, many of whom are construction workers, however their main concern was that it is an unstable source of income.



Figure 38: Visit to Thid Sate Market. (Source: Authors)



Figure 39: Visit to 10 Market. (Source: Authors)

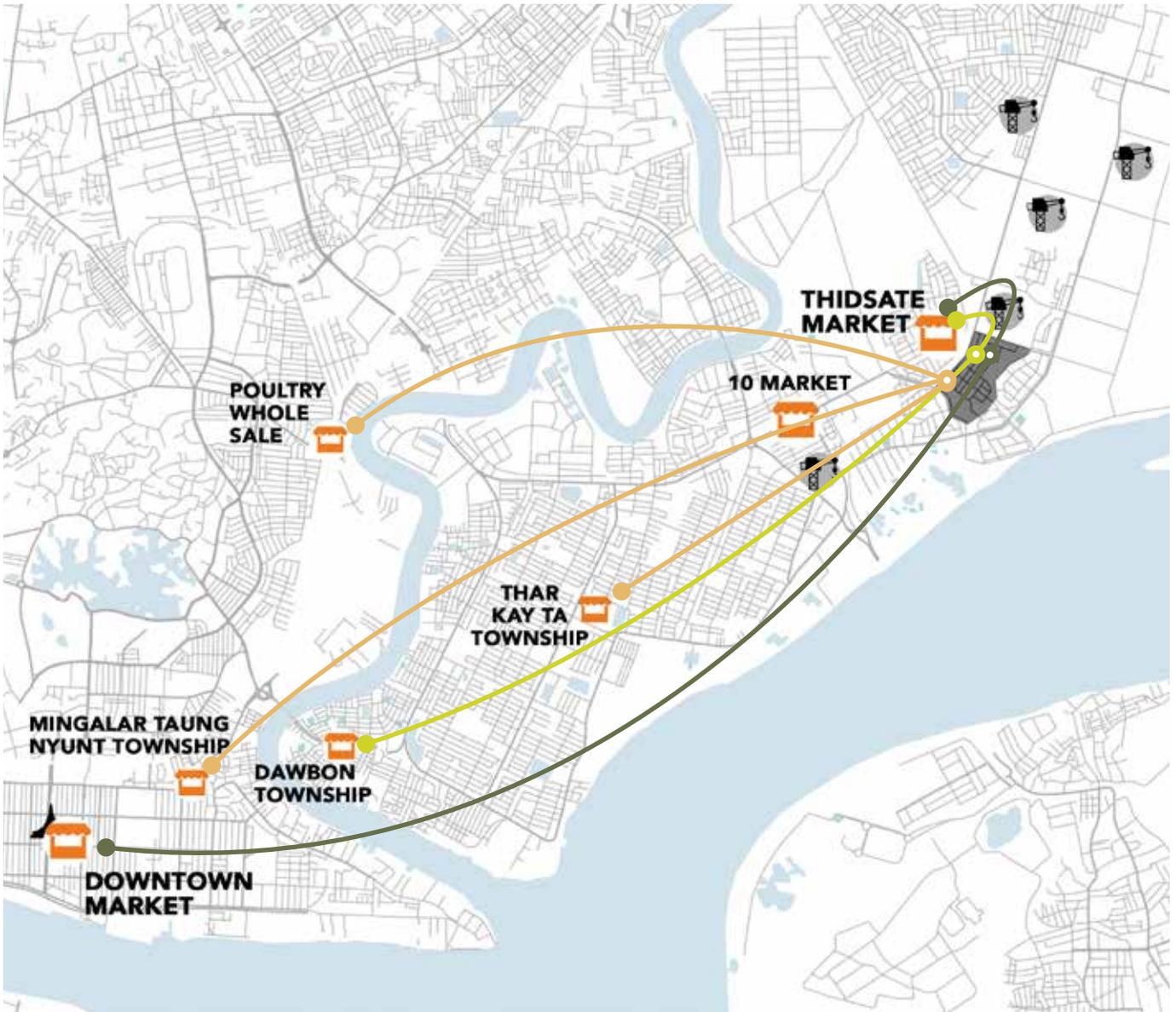


Figure 40: City Scale economic activity map. (Source: Authors)

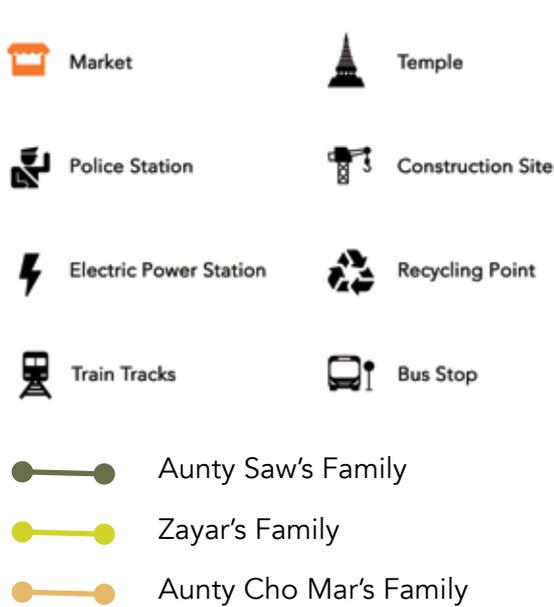


Figure 41: Nearby facilities of Ward 67 map. (Source: Authors)

Social Networks

2 3

Although businesses work at a family scale and we did not come across any that functioned collectively with people out of their family circle, there is evidence of shared activities present in the ward which grounds the feasibility of collective action.

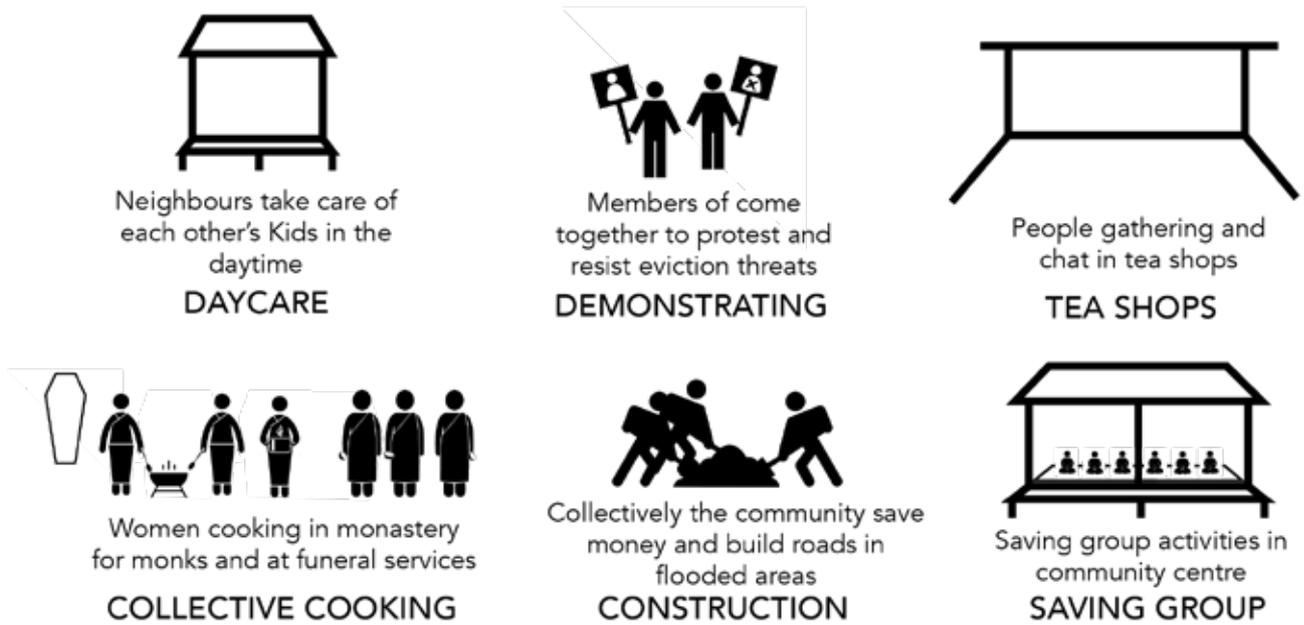
Through our interviews, although there's a feeling of lack of trust among the residents there is a presence of some trusted leaders. The official administrative leaders of the ward sometimes solve conflicts between neighbours, however they are not trusted as much as other figures such as the Yami Yapas. These key figures have the potential to trigger transformation within the ward.

The common places of gathering in the ward, as seen in figure 42, are distributed evenly in the non-flooded areas. These spaces have the potential for collective activities to be held, as they are symbolically and culturally significant as gathering spots.



Figure 42: Map locating social networks of Ward 67. (Source: Authors)

EXISTING COLLECTIVE ACTIVITIES



SOCIAL NETWORK

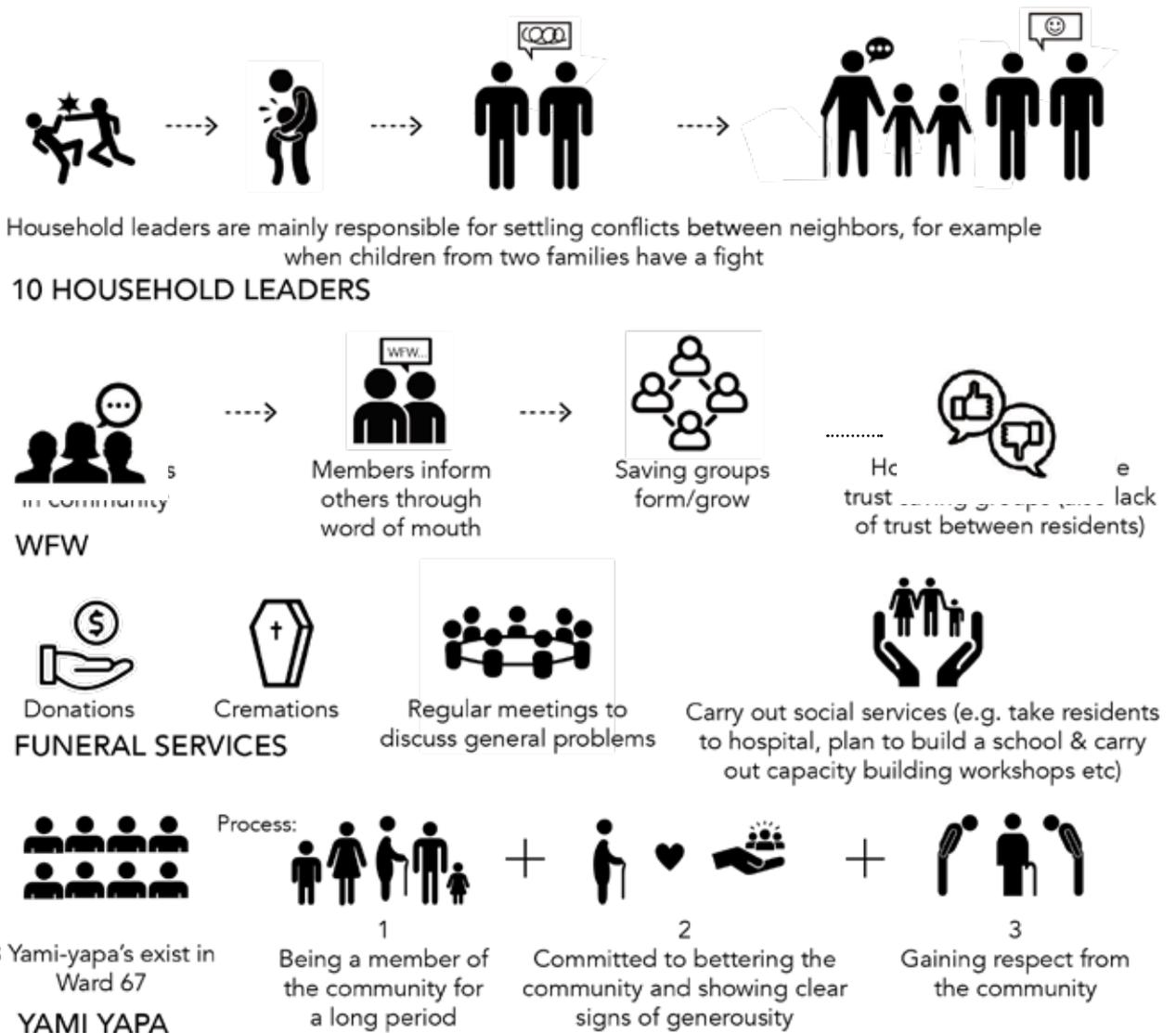


Figure 43: Social Networks diagram. (Source: Authors)

Saving Groups

1 2 4

This settlement portrays an effective example of an alternative way of housing provision. It is a showcase of how economic circuits can be maintained and enhanced through the savings groups (they provide loans for businesses with lower interest rates).

It also serves as a tangible example to the community of W67 of saving groups portrayal of overcoming risk of eviction and to build trust with WFW. After securing the house, promoting better livelihoods was a priority of the Taw-Win community to secure their future.



Figure 44: Taw Win community. (Source: Authors)



Figure 45: Taw Win community meeting. (Source: Authors)

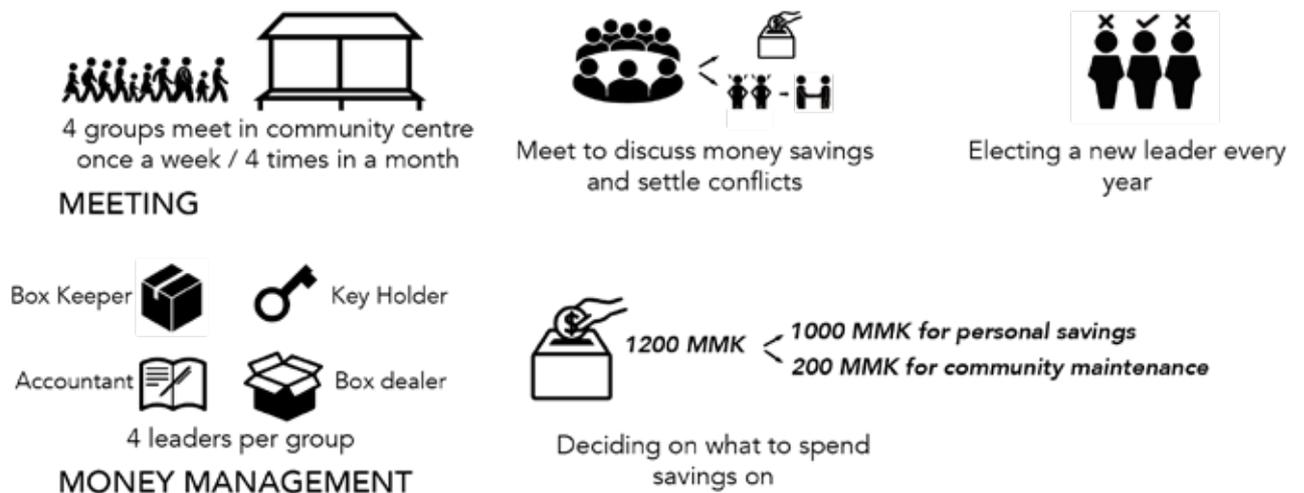
PROCESS OF BUILDING THE TAW WIN COMMUNITY



COLLECTIVE ACTION



COMMUNITY SCHEME



FUTURE PLAN

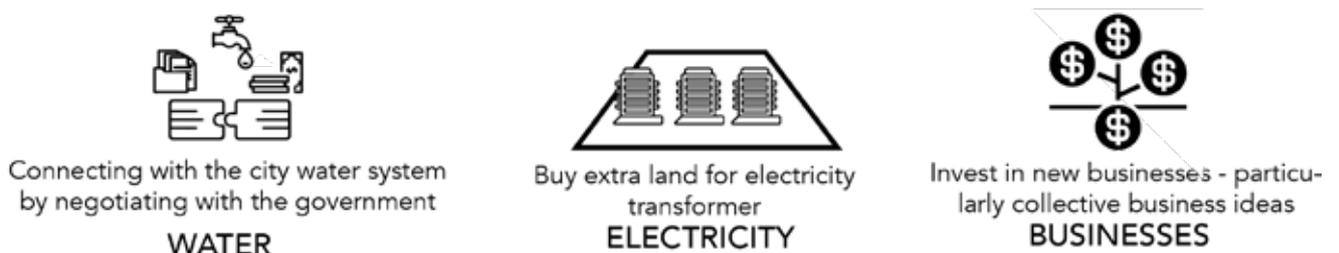


Figure 46: Taw Win saving group diagram. (Source: Authors)

Land Tenure

1 3 4

After the release of the Farmland Bill in 2011 which repeals the Land Nationalization Act of 1953 which states all land in Myanmar is government property, a person with 'land use right' is allowed to transfer, exchange, or lease their land. Currently this bill are being discussed because many people worried about the rights of the people who lack proper documentation for their occupied land. This is also one of the cause of how the informal market related to land tenure still exist in ward 67.

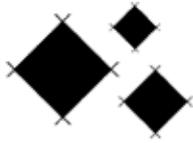


Figure 47: Aerial view of Ward 67. (Source: DPU)



Figure 48: Vacant houses of Ward 67. (Source: Authors)

LAND HIERARCHY



Based on land size



Accessibility to Infrastructure
ie. Power supply, proximity to well



Location of houses ie.
More expensive along the main roads



Risk of flooding

DEGREES OF SETTLEMENT



400,000 MMK is given to ward governor so the land becomes their possession

HOLDINGS



Land and houses are bought from the holdings by paying 400,000 to 2,000,000 MMK

HOUSE - OWNER



Between 10,000 to 30,000 MMK is paid with no formal agreement between the renter and the owner

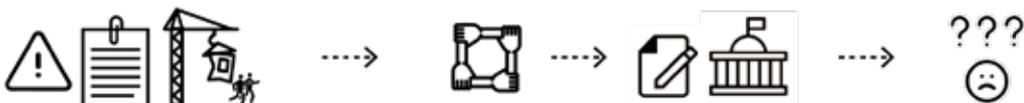
HOUSE - RENTER

DEALING WITH HOUSE AND LAND



Dealings related to buying/selling/renting of houses in the ward is made through a broker. These dealings are made with the elder of the community and the ward governor as a witness. For rental, brokerage amounts to the cost of one month's rental fees or 15,000MMK. For dealings involving buying/selling of a house, the brokerage is between 100,000 to 200,000 MMK. In such dealings, the broker notifies the ward governor. They cancel the word "land" from land sales contract to make a house dealing contract, on the basis of which money is exchanged.

EVICTIONS



Government has served eviction notices to the community twice in the past. The community has submitted a request letter to the parliament to not be evicted. They also staged a demonstration about their poor living conditions. However, no department has responded to their requests, particularly related to housing issues.

The democratised Union Government officially follows a strategy of no eviction. However, cases of eviction still happen in reality. The community of Ward 67 still do not know who they need to approach to discuss about their present condition.

Figure 49: Land Tenure diagram. (Source: Authors)

Housing & Development Plan

1 2 3 4

The government's discourse on housing development is disconnected from their practices, exemplified by comparing their current housing schemes to the reality of Yangon's population. As seen in figure 50, affordable housing is not affordable to low-income families.

Development visions and 3d images are understanding the city with no "informal" dwellers, there are images of homogeneous, clean, glassy cities - where the character fostered is has more to do with neoliberal trends and marketing like "smart", "industrial", "resort city" or "eco-green". There's no relation to heritage, local culture or tradition.

Low-income housing scheme

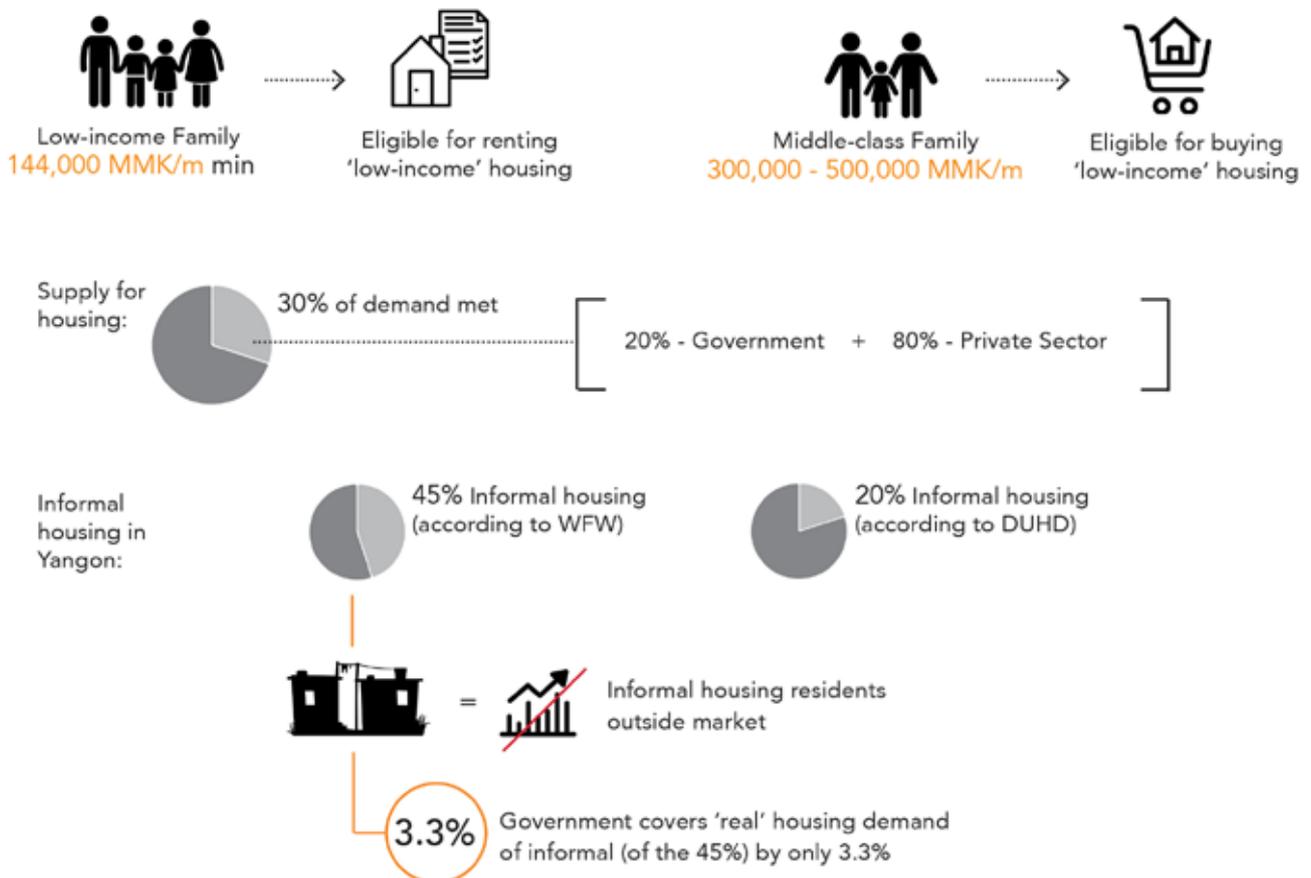


Figure 50: Low-income housing scheme diagram. (Source: Authors)

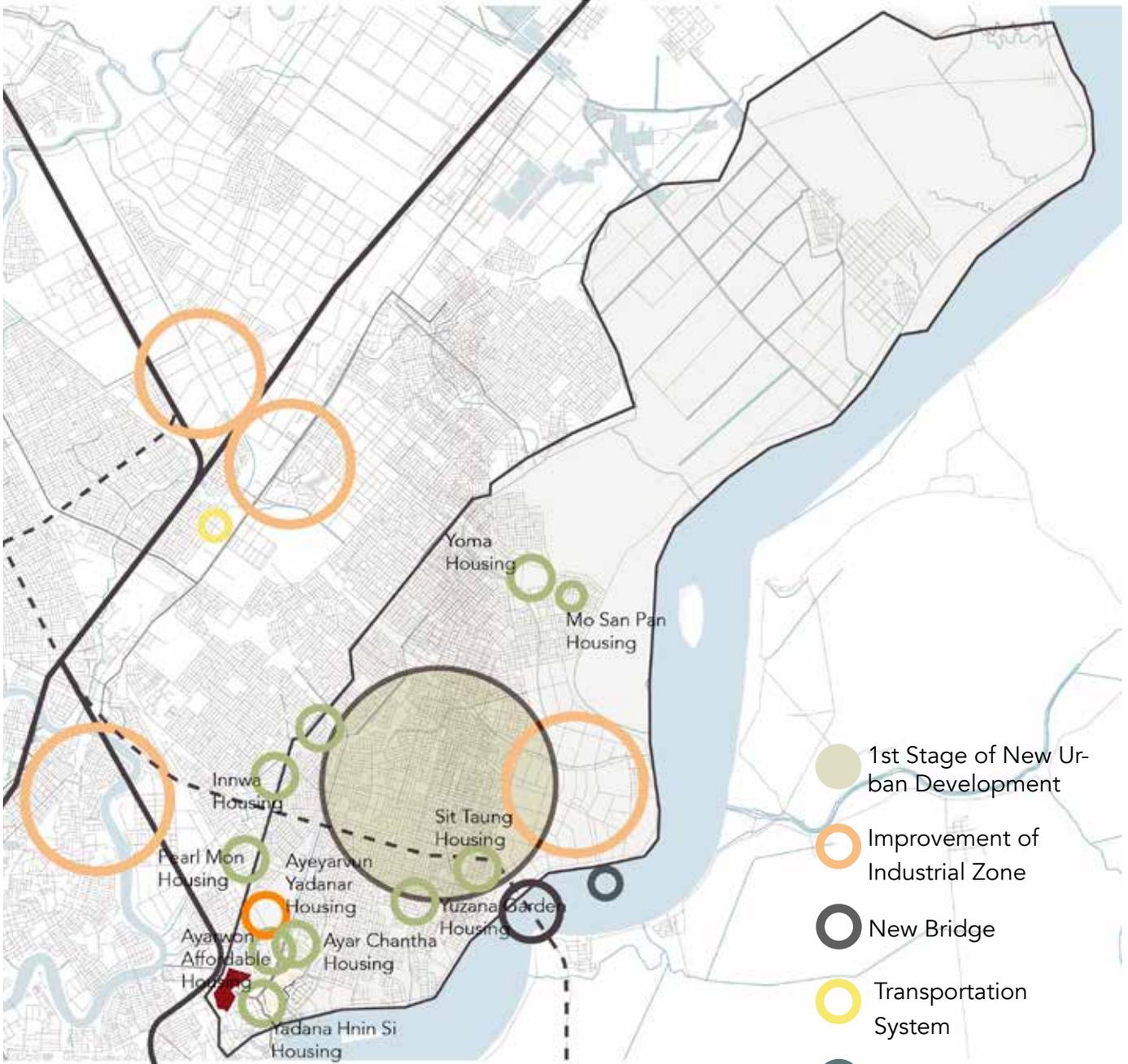


Figure 51: JICA development proposal plan. (Source: Authors)

- 1st Stage of New Urban Development
- Improvement of Industrial Zone
- New Bridge
- Transportation System
- Inland Port
- Low-Middle Housing
- High-End Housing
- Existing Railway Lines
- New Railway Lines



Figure 52: JICA development visual proposal. (Source: Ministry of Construction/ Myanmar)

HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS



Well arranged for livelihoods

HOUSING IN TAW WIN



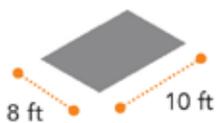
Livelihoods will diminish and unaffordable for the poor

DUHD SOCIAL HOUSING

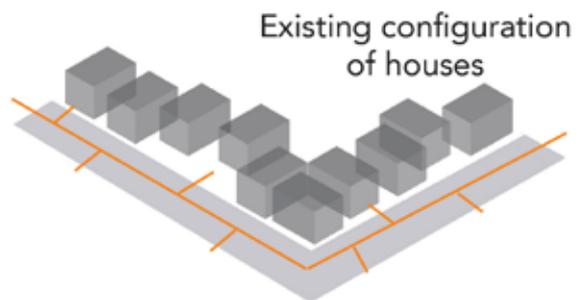
Figure 53: Housing developments diagram. (Source: Authors)

Ward 67 Housing

House size



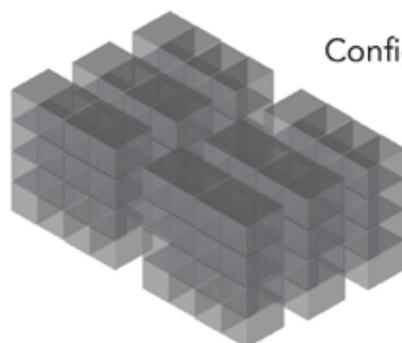
Single-story



- Livelihoods incorporated in houses
- Lively/social street life
- Accessible

DUHD Low-income Housing Scheme

Multi-story



Configuration of low-income housing scheme

- Livelihoods could be diminished
- Street life destroyed
- Less accessible

Figure 54: Configuration of housing of Ward 67 & DUHD housing schemes. (Source: Authors)



Figure 55: Housing development near Ward 67. (Source: DPU)



Figure 57: Aerial view of Ward 67. (Source: DPU)

The complexity and diversity of livelihood processes can be appreciated not only in the city or neighbourhood scale but also at the household level.

The house units in W67 are flexible, generally serving as a place for livelihood generation. As seen in figure 58, the sections show how the physical structure is altered to accommodate home businesses such as the store at the front of Zayar's house or the pig husbandry at the back and a water supply business at the front of Aunty Saw's house. Also seen in Aunty Saw's house is the incremental additions made to the original structure.

Section of Typical DUHD Social House

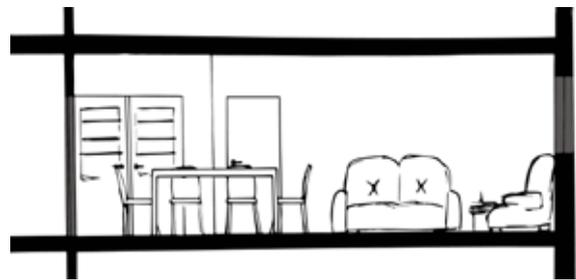


Figure 58: Section of typical DUHD social housing. (Source: Authors)

However, in the DUHD model of social housing, livelihoods are disregarded and there is no possibility for incremental housing. The unit of the house is fixed with little or no room for adaptation.

Zayar's House



Aunty Saw's House



Figure 56: Sections of Aunty Saw & Zayar's House. (Source: Authors)

Part 4

Expanding Local Assets to Upscale and Mobilize Collective Actions of Livelihood Generation



Figure 59: Locals of Taw Win community. (Source: Authors)

4.1 Vision

Stemming from the entrypoint of livelihoods, the assessment of three pillars shapes our analytical framework: community, collective action, and co-production. Our vision, inclusive urban development and livelihood generation through collective action, emphasizes the strengthening of collective action and uses local knowledge as an asset to achieve this. Figure 13, in the above section, demonstrates how the current planning model is based on perceived, as opposed to lived, realities and affects how space is conceived accordingly; this most negatively impacts those communities who are already misrecognized.

The inclusive nature of such a vision is vital to strive for if the reality of lived experiences are to penetrate misconstrued, top-down planning schemes which are detached from the contexts which they attempt to shape. Indeed, it is in the realm of lived space - beyond the two poles of conceived space, being too often purely idealistic and reductive of reality, and perceived space, being prefaced in the pure materialism of a related context - that a balance is struck and both elements are embodied without being defined by one or the other (Zhang, 2006).

4.2 Principles, Guidelines

Our principles stem from this aspiration for recognition of the lived space, and are used to guide the methodological approach of our research. They are:

1. To capitalise upon local knowledge, maximizing the applicability of an infinitely shared resource and using such to expand the capability of the community to generate livelihood opportunities.
2. To foster collective mobilisation, by using skills inherent to the first principle to increase capacity, remain united in tackling widely acknowledged issues, and shape the trajectory of livelihood generation and use in the community.
3. To strengthen economic resilience, through establishing multi-scalar learning platforms and identifying and promoting local assets, including innovative initiatives and labour, which can contribute to shared savings.

In adhering to these principles, guidelines are put in place to promote the creation of strategies which not only pertain to contexts such as Ward 67, but other marginalized communities which similarly have been misrecognized institutionally. This information has been summarized in figures 60 and 61.

4.2 Principles, Guidelines

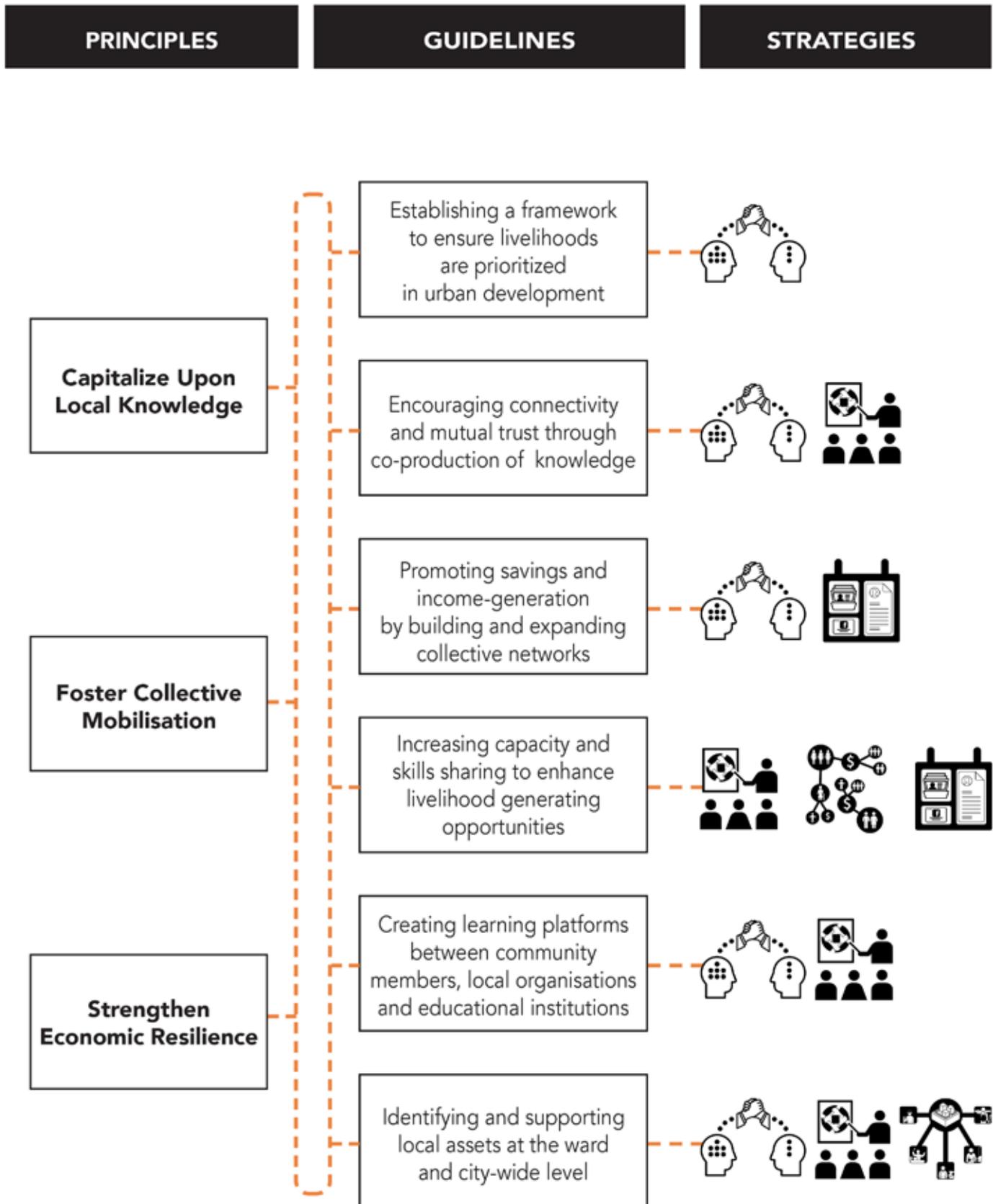


Figure 60: Principles and guidelines diagram. (Source: Authors)

4.3 Outlining Strategies

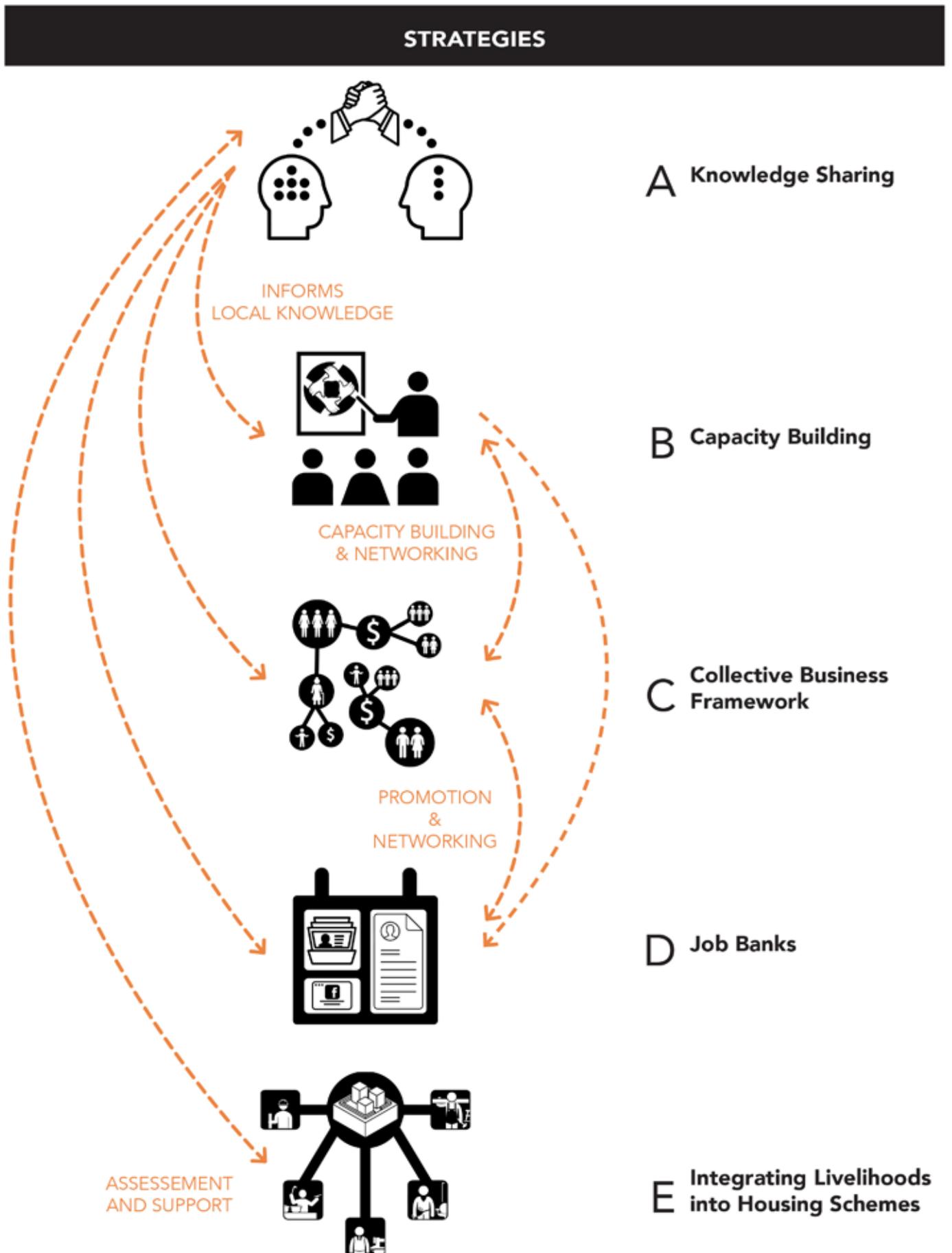


Figure 61: Strategies diagram. (Source: Authors)

Strategy A

Knowledge Sharing

Building Trust and exchange of knowledge to foster collective action and build resilience within the community.

PHASE 1 - Building trust within the community

- Organising monthly collective activities such as collective cooking and food sharing activities
- Introducing discussion forums at the end of collective activities to share issues and experiences between the community members
- Identifying common priorities by coming together as a group and collectively envisioning possible action

Possible actors involved

Facilitators: Funeral Services, Yamiyapas

Participants: Ward 67 residents

PHASE 2 - Knowledge Sharing

- Identifying and associating with organisations and other communities to exchange ideas on how to tackle common priorities
- Exchange of knowledge between savings groups through workshops held in completed WFW projects

Possible actors involved

Facilitators: WFW, Other CBOs

Participants: Ward 67 residents and other communities outside of Ward 67

PHASE 3 - Planning and Implementation of action plan

- Based on the knowledge gained in Phase 2, the community will develop a plan for implementation

Possible actors involved

Facilitators: Funeral Services, Yamiyapas and WFW

Participants: Ward 67 residents, Other CBOs, YTU-Architecture Department, Pandita Development Institute

This strategy is the first step to foster collective action within the ward to drive transformation to build resilience and empower community members.

The first phase attempts to overcome the lack of trust between community members by building upon and expanding existing collective activities held in the ward.



Figure 62: Existing Collective Activities in Ward 67. (Source: Authors)

The possible facilitators for the phase would be the existing trusted social leaders



Figure 63: Social Networks in Ward 67 (Source: Authors)

The second phase intends to promote knowledge sharing not only to reinforce trust, but also to explore alternative ways to overcome common issues.



Figure 64: The process of knowledge exchange and envisioning priorities for the community during the fieldtrip.

The possible facilitators for the phase would be the existing WFW savings groups within the ward as well as other CBOs



Figure 65: WFW savings groups (Source: Authors)

Phase 2 could be exemplified by expanding WFW initiatives, in which the exchange of experiences could happen through workshops held in upgraded communities such as Taw Win [Refer Appendix 2], instead of only within the ward which makes some residents skeptical.

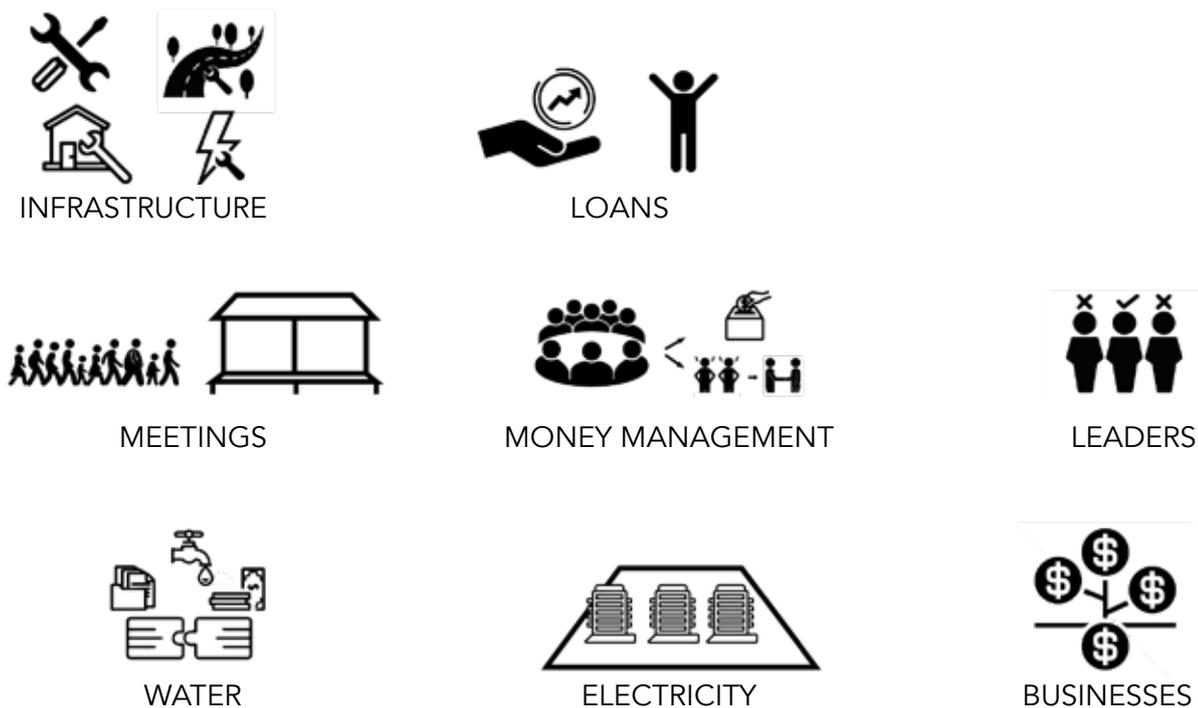


Figure 66: WFW initiatives within the Taw Win Community. (Source: Authors)

The last phase would be the implementation of the plan resulted from the priorities identified in the workshops, together with a wider network of key actors within and outside the Ward.



Figure 67: Interview with Yami Yapas. They stated that they were willing to work for the community's good. (Source: Authors)

Strategy B

Capacity Building

Establishing a platform for capacity building to identify and potentialise the skills within the community and improve learning processes.

PHASE 1 - Capacity building for existing skills

- Identifying existing skills within Ward 67
- Grouping skills for capacity building
- Enhancing skills through exchanging experiences
- Networking
- Support business planning and financial advice

Possible actors involved

Coordinator: WFW

Facilitators: Hla Day, YTU Textile Engineering, Ward 67 residents

PHASE 2 - Capacity training for new skills

- Financial Management training, Legal training, microeconomy and Start-up / Business workshops
- Skills training from participants in Phase 1

Possible actors involved

Coordinator: WFW

Facilitators: Hla Day, YTU Textile Engineering, IDLO (legal), Yangon Bakehouse, Shwe Sa Bwe, Pomelo for Myanmar, LinkAge, FXB Myanmar, Ayinsa Gardens, Ward 67 residents

PHASE 3 - Long-Term training

- Optional long-term training for experience and to attain certification of skills

Strategy B aims to draw on the multiplicity of existing skills in the ward to promote capacity building as well as expand learning processes and employment opportunities for community members.



Figure 68: Existing Skills in Ward 67. (Source: Authors)

This strategy attempts to tackle the job instability in the ward, as 70% of community members are in the informal sector and the raining season affects certain sectors, by enhancing existing skills and transferring knowledge to unskilled people, and guarantee alternatives to sustain and expand the households income.

The capacity building program could provide alternative career options for members that restrict themselves in a certain sector due to lack of opportunities and training, for example- Zayar, one of the community member participant, that owns a grocery shop in Ward 67, but would like to also open a clothing store.



Figure 69: Zayar in front of his shop in Ward 67. (Source: Authors)



Figure 70: Zayar economic activities. (Source: Authors)

Strategy C

Collective Business Framework

Creating a framework to guide collective business projects to increase business opportunities and networks and improve financial sustainability.

PHASE 1 - Building Partnerships

- Partnering between potential members for collective business through the knowledge sharing initiative and capacity building workshops

PHASE 2 - Collective Business Framework

- Gap analysis of existing businesses to foresee their impacts of a new business on potential commercial areas.
- Establishing a management structure and defining the roles and responsibilities of each partner
- Identifying a site and seeking necessary permissions
- Drafting a financial and growth plan
 - Breakdown of member contributions
 - Establishing and adjusting individual/collective savings
 - Identifying funding streams to support operation (ie. microfinance, savings groups, NGO/state sponsorship for entrepreneurs)
 - Investments, expenses and profit distribution
- Formation of a contingency plan

Possible actors involved

Facilitators: WFW, in partnership with British Council and UCL (BUDD & UED)

Participants: Ward 67 residents and other communities outside of Ward 67

PHASE 3 - Implementation

- Pitching proposal to potential funders to acquire inputs/funding
- Securing site (initial costs) - Deposit, Hard/soft fixtures
- Management - Start-up costs, Installing hard/soft fixtures
 - Raw inputs and ongoing costs (rent, water, electricity)

Possible actors involved

Facilitators: Funeral Services, Yamiyapas and WFW

Participants: Ward 67 residents, Other CBOs, YTU-Architecture Department

Funding: British Council, Australian Embassy



Figure 71: Activity for envisioning collective business model. (Source: Authors)

Strategy C builds upon the variety of economic activities and group sectors that can be identified and connected. Ideas of collective business exist but there is no real manifestation or trust, besides within family members.

The collective business provides a clear framework to guarantee transparency and reinforce trust between members. In addition, the framework can make existing businesses expand and be more attractive to consumers outside the ward, as well as build resilience to the income instability for members.

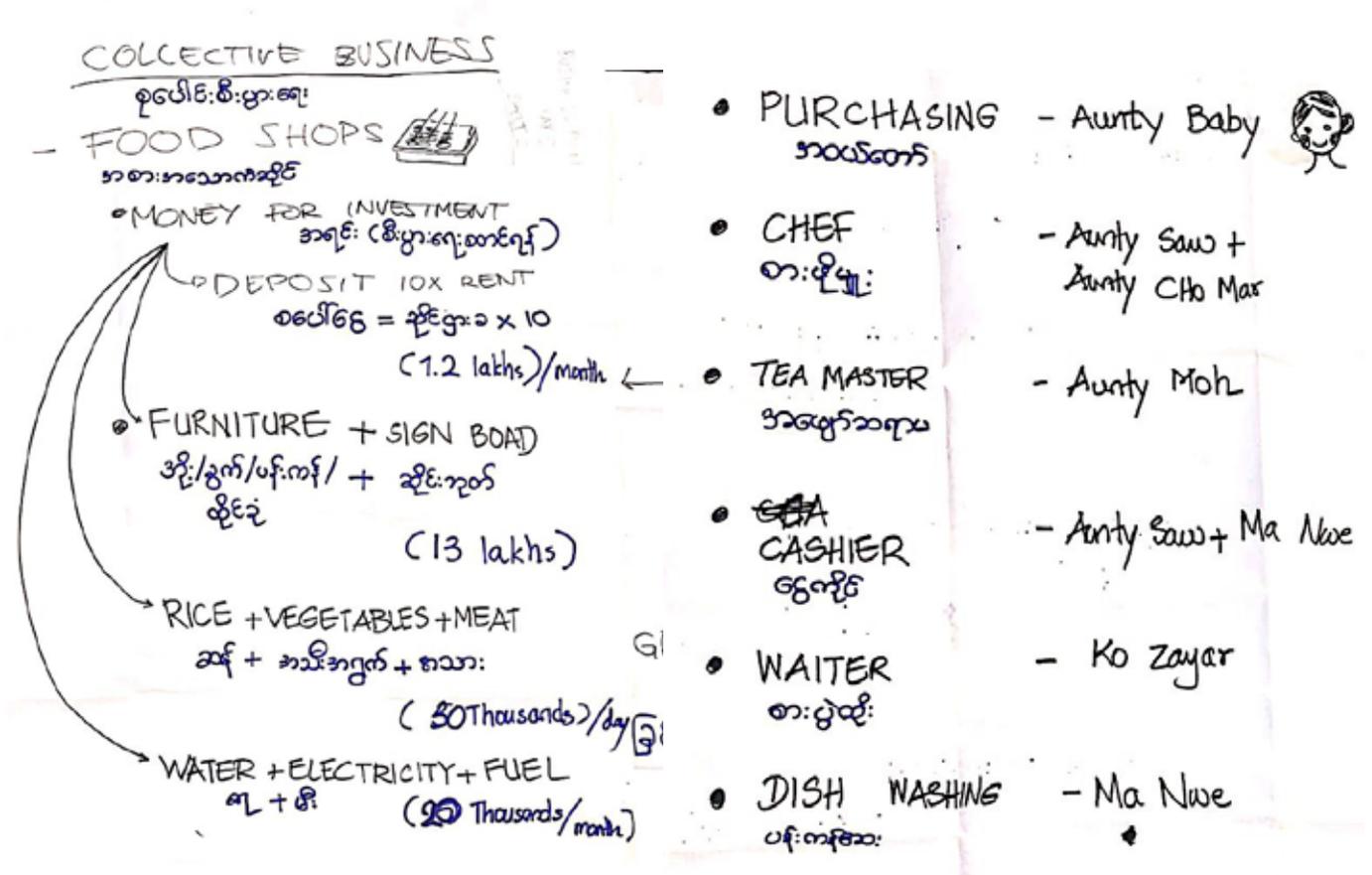


Figure 72: This strategy is grounded in the collective business planning activity [Refer Appendix 3. D]. (Source: Authors)

Strategy D

Job Banks

Launching job banks as a networking platform to generate employment opportunities by connecting prospective employers/clients with skilled workmen.

PHASE 1 - Registration process

- Pre-condition of having attended capacity building workshops
- Information required would include name, skills, experience, availability, email, facebook, and contact number
- Registration to be updated every 3 months

Possible actors involved

Facilitators: WFW, Funeral Services & Yamiyapas

Participants: Ward 67 residents

PHASE 2 - Establishment and Management

- Developing an information board and social media page (Facebook)
 - Identifying locations with high visibility for the board (ie. tea shops, markets, bus stops & monastery)
- Management of the information board and social media page (Facebook)
 - Supply closed to ward scale
 - Demand open to wider employers/clients

PHASE 3 - Networking

- Partnerships and information-sharing established between skilled workmen through networking



Figure 73: Diagram produced with the community showing individuals registering in job banks published into the physical and virtual platforms. (Source: Authors)

Strategy D aims to expand strategy B and C by connecting potential employees within the ward to a wider scale.

Economic circuits at the city scale exists and could be potentialized by bridging currently unknown skills to the demand at both scales.

This strategy takes advantage of hot spots of gathering and the current use of facebook as one of the most effective means of communication in Yangon. The job bank working as a platform of networking potential employees with same skills can also lead to collective businesses and other partnerships.

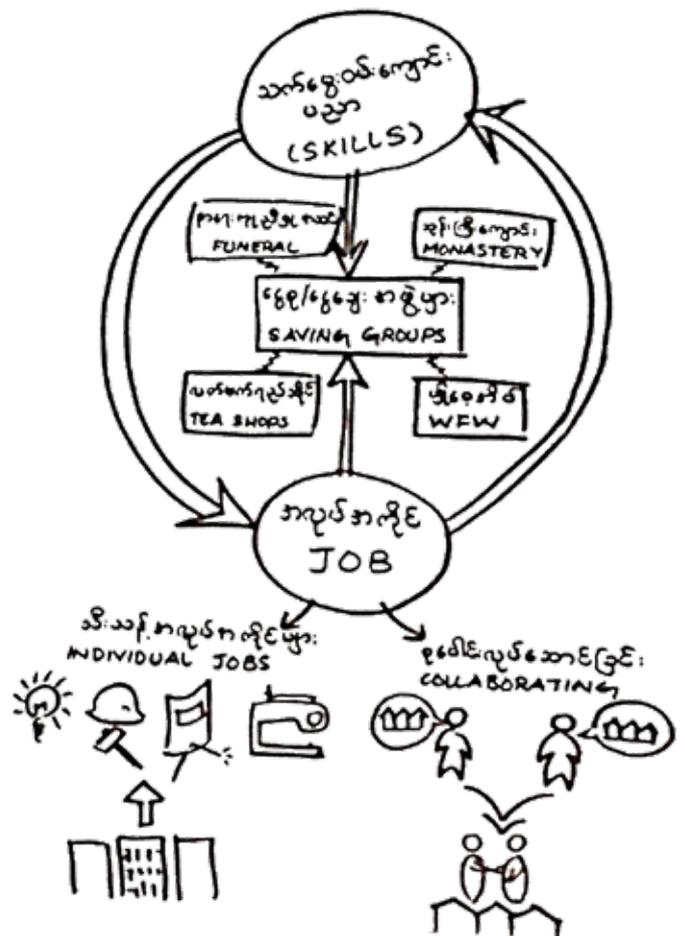


Figure 74: The diagram shows our proposal expanding to a network within the community. (Source: Authors)

Strategy E

Integrating Livelihoods into Housing Schemes

Establishing a framework to ensure livelihoods are considered and prioritized when planning housing development schemes

PHASE 1 - Inducting Ward 67 Studies into Educational Institutions

- Incorporation of Ward 67 studies into YTU programs and publications
- Organising seminars to highlight local knowledge related to construction and livelihoods to bring Ward 67 issues to the forefront
- Organising workshops to train students and Ward 67 residents in mapping existing livelihood
 - Existing economic circuits, local industries and businesses/sectors, skills, demand & supply, household finances

Possible actors involved

Facilitators: WFW, AMA, CBP, UCL

Participants: Ward 67 residents, YTU-Architecture Department, DUHD, JICA, YCDC

PHASE 2 - Expanding Studies to Inform Development Planning

- Expanding Phase 1 to other educational institutions
- Determine the impacts and gaps of existing housing development schemes on livelihoods
- Site visits to completed WFW projects such as the Taw Win Housing Project to analyse alternatives for housing provision and livelihood generation.
- Exploring possibilities for integrating livelihoods through alternative development schemes and into existing public housing projects.

Possible actors involved

Facilitators: YTU-Architecture Department, WFW

Participants: Other educational institutions- Mote Oo Education-ASEAN, Inya Institute, Thanlyin Technological University & Ward 67 residents

PHASE 3 - Creating Guidelines for Integrating Livelihoods

- Creation and publication of a set of guidelines that ensure the centrality of livelihood sustainability in development schemes
- Understanding the existing habitats of potential residents of proposed housing schemes and their livelihood generation processes

Possible actors involved

Facilitators: YTU-Architecture Department, UCL, WFW, AMA, CBP, Ward 67 residents

Strategy E building on the richness of local knowledge and the diversity of livelihood generation found on site, the aim of this strategy is to leverage these local potentials in order to include them in governmental schemes which currently disregards them.

The unbalanced schemes are evident when comparing formal and informal models of housing provision: complexity of economic circuits, versus isolated location of high-rise complexes, the multi-dimensionality of housing adaptation for sustained livelihoods versus the monofunctional fixed (non progressive) single typology, and finally understanding the community as homogeneous versus the rich diversity of different ways of living present in informal settlements.

The goal is to include alternative schemes of housing upgradation that incorporate local knowledge instead of promoting relocation processes and their subsequent loss of economic and social networks that tend to be harmful rather than beneficial to the economic capacity of people to overcome adversity.

In relying on academic organisations, the strategy aims to reach political and international recognition to livelihoods in informal settlements. YTU is a key actor as it has shown in its work with informal settlements and organisations such as WFW, while also having the potential to gain leverage to inform government initiatives by partnering with other larger international organisations such as UCL or ACHR.



Figure 75: The diversity in activities in the section of Aunty Saw's House. (Source: Authors)

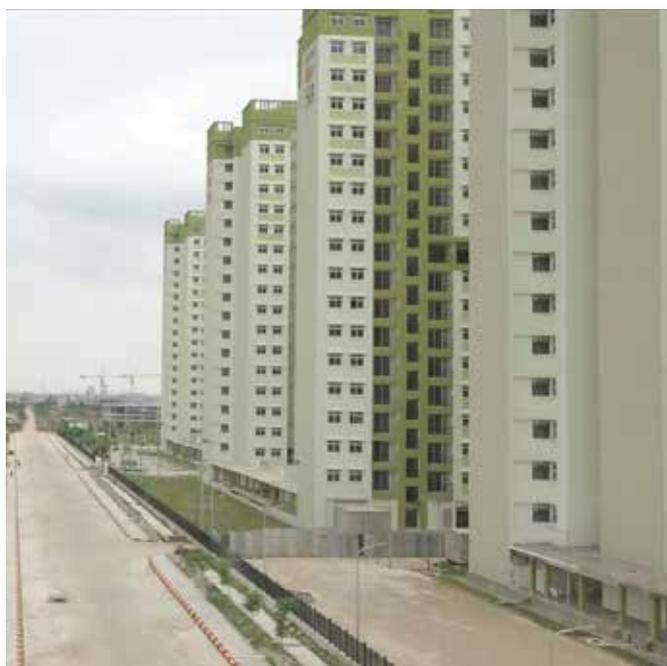


Figure 76: Example of current provision housing scheme and aerial image of street in Ward 67. (Source: DPU)

4.4 Implementation of Strategies

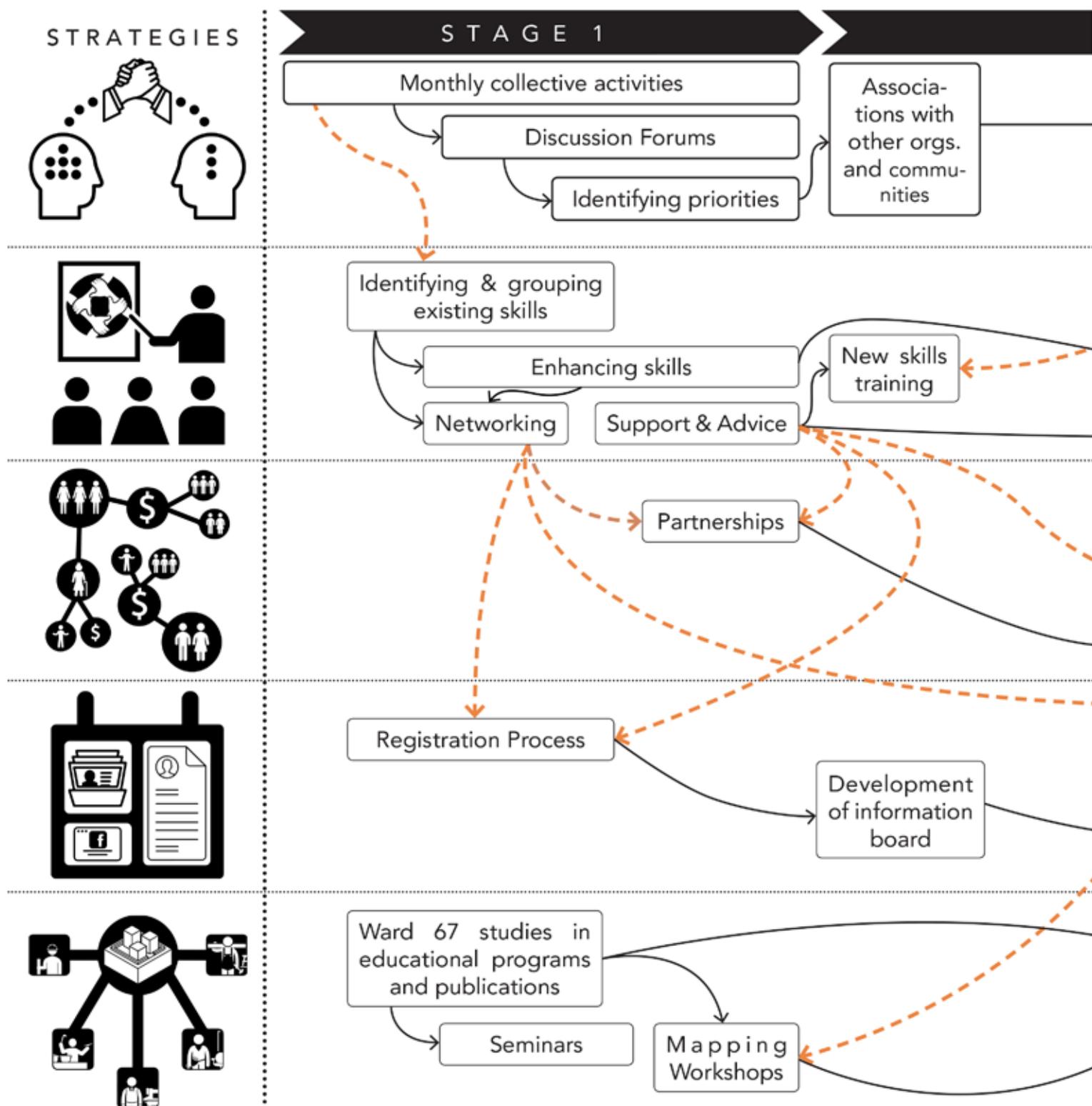
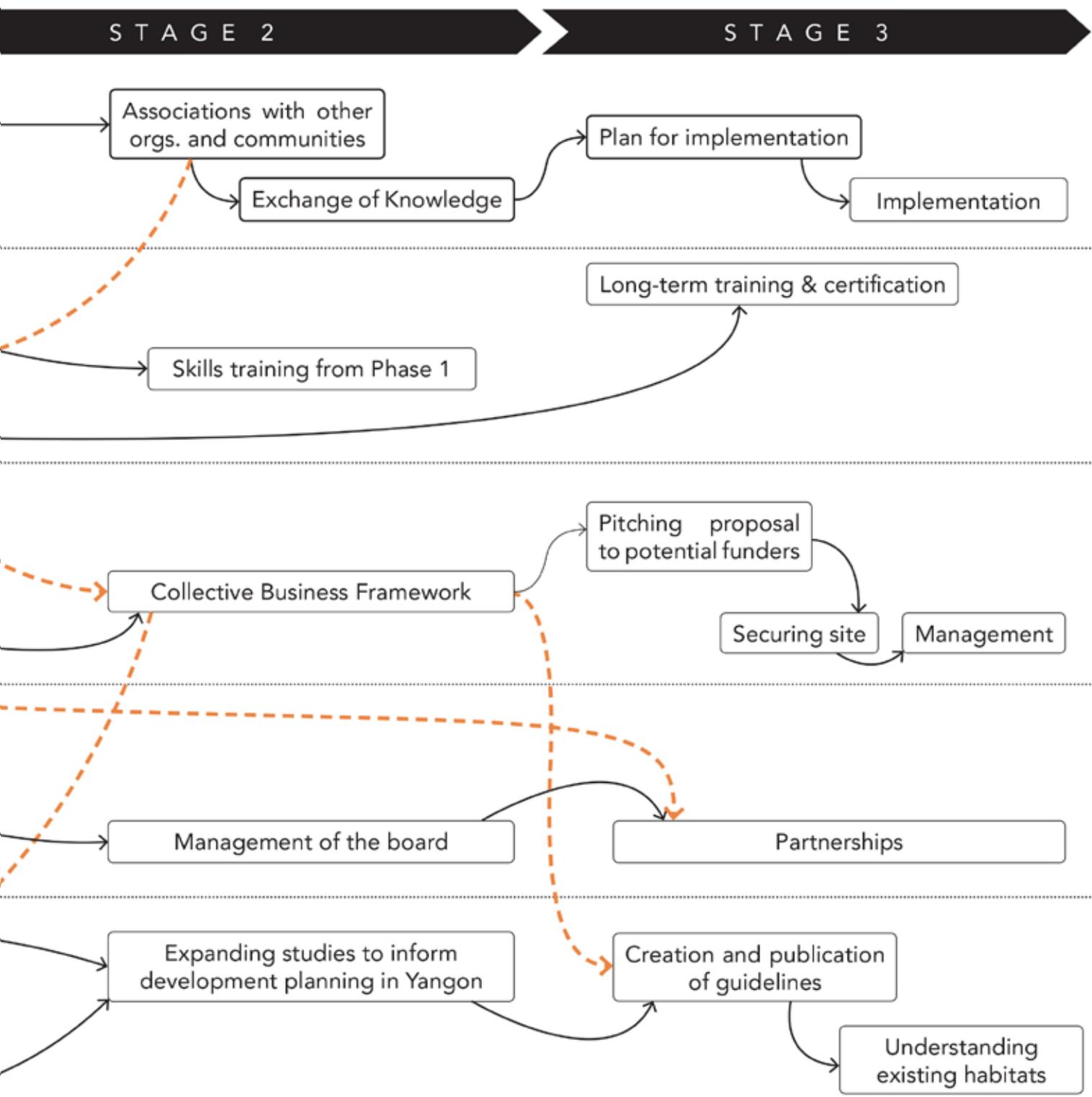


Figure 77: Implementation of strategies diagram. (Source: Authors)



4.4 Implementation of Strategies

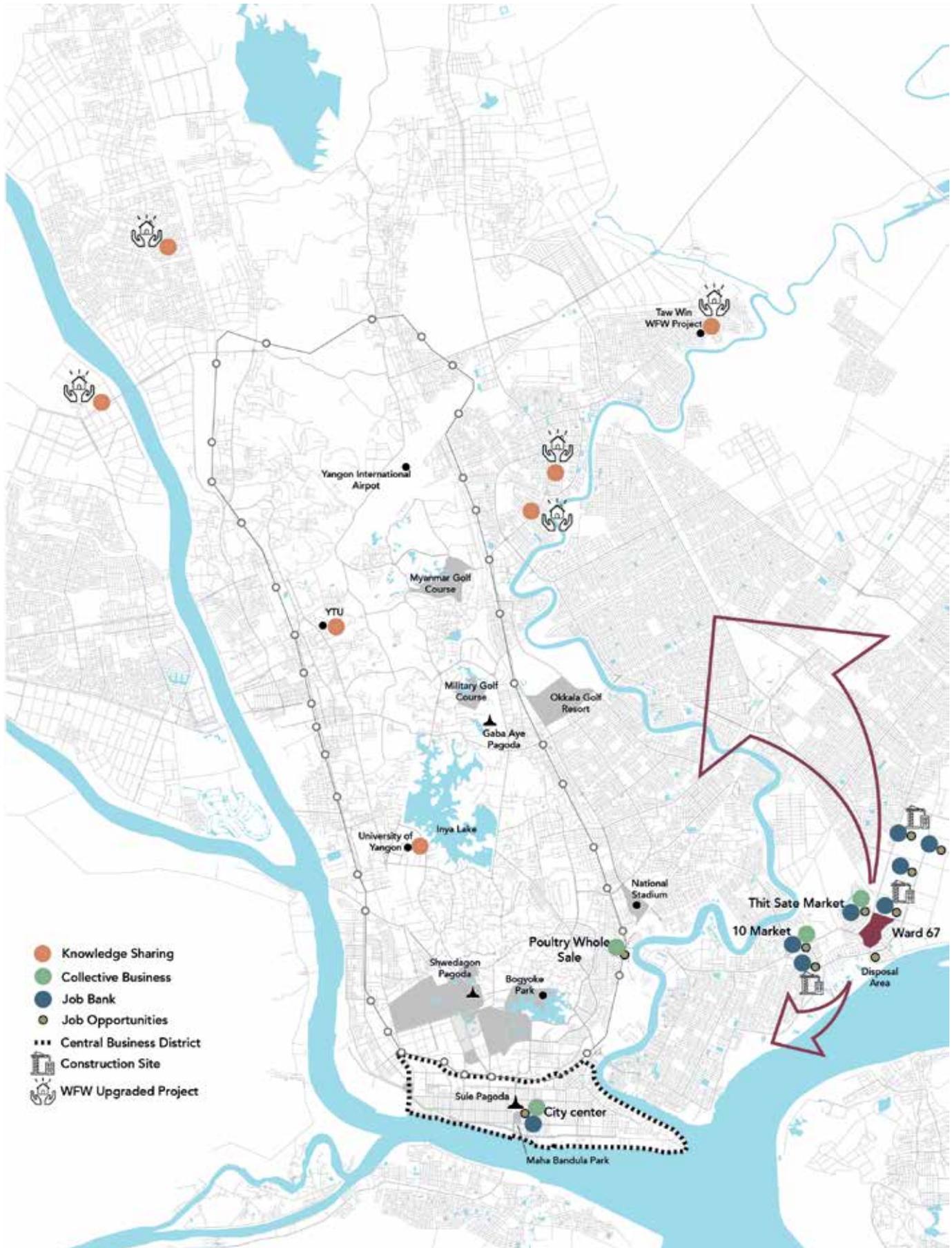


Figure 78: Implementation of strategies at city-wide scale. (Source: Authors)

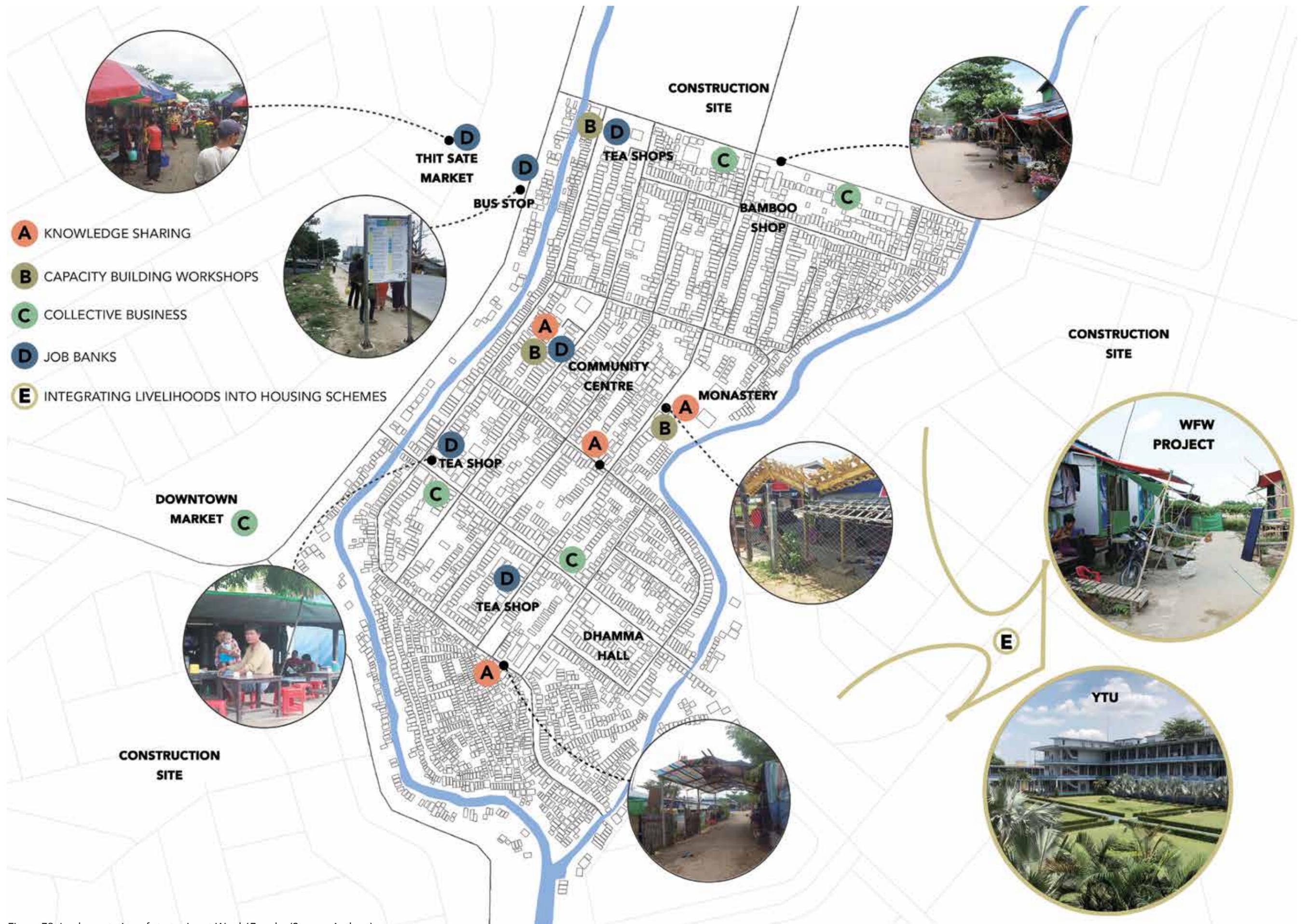


Figure 79: Implementation of strategies at Ward 67 scale. (Source: Authors)

Conclusion



Figure 80: Luthier in Taw Win. (Source: Authors)

Industrialization has been a fixation in Myanmar's vision of economic development, as espoused by the ruling elites, since the country gained independence from the British colonizers in 1948. It has been factored into successive policies and plans that [have been] implemented in order to modernize Myanmar and bring about prosperity with equity to its citizens. (Than, p.3, 2007)

Myanmar, and at its heart, Yangon, is characterised by a palimpsest of industrial waves, democratic, socialist and military regime shifts, ethnic homogenization and autonomization, mass infrastructural developments and a liberalization of the country's political-economy. These transitions have presented congruent and conflicting ideals in their assumed ability to maximize benefits to all members of society. The transformations incurred, even if initially appearing to manifest most plainly at the state-level, have deeply altered the city's social fabric, affecting the conceived, perceived and lived experiences of communities around Yangon.

Transitions in Myanmar have, in many respects, led to the disclusion and misrecognition of communities which have been unable to assert their claim and benefit from such developments and transformation. Yet, in such transformations lay opportunity for greater equality. As stated by Farrelly and Win (2007): "Myanmar has the potential, now that dictatorship is being replaced by something else, to continue astounding us, and to present a feasible model for post-authoritarian transformation."

Premised at the community-level, it is the desire to penetrate, extract, implement, expand, and strengthen the benefits stemming from this trans-

formational structure, which lies at the foundation of this report. Focusing on five potential strategies related to livelihoods - a result of research on existing policies, potentialities, strengths and predicaments facing an informal community in Yangon - Ward 67 presents insight into how individuals and communities manoeuvre the everyday challenges of institutional subordination. As such, the strategies presented build upon the potentiality of the most dominant local assets, with the intention to mobilize collective action, upscale community initiatives, and support the co-production of knowledge, to cumulatively foster sustained and equitable trajectories of local development and generate livelihood opportunities.

The first strategy is based on supporting knowledge-sharing, being a process which already exists but is limited in its current scope to enact change. The second, third and fourth strategies - capacity building, use of a collective business framework, and launching and promoting a job bank - are interlinked, with each strategy made more implementable with the success of the others. The fifth, and last strategy, involves integrating livelihoods into housing schemes, through the establishment of an operative framework to prioritize homes in wider-scale development planning.



Figure 81: Workshop participants at Ward 67 Community Centre (Source: Authors)



Acknowledgments

This report would not be able to take form without those who helped in its construction, from the conceptualization, to enthusiastically contributing to the research, between both London and Yangon.

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To Camillo Boano, Giovanna Astolfo, Catalina Ortiz, Ricardo Marten, Giorgio Talocci and Azadeh Masayekhi, who, as always, give us abundant guidance and facilitate all that happens behind the scene to ensure we gain the most from our experience.

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Appendix

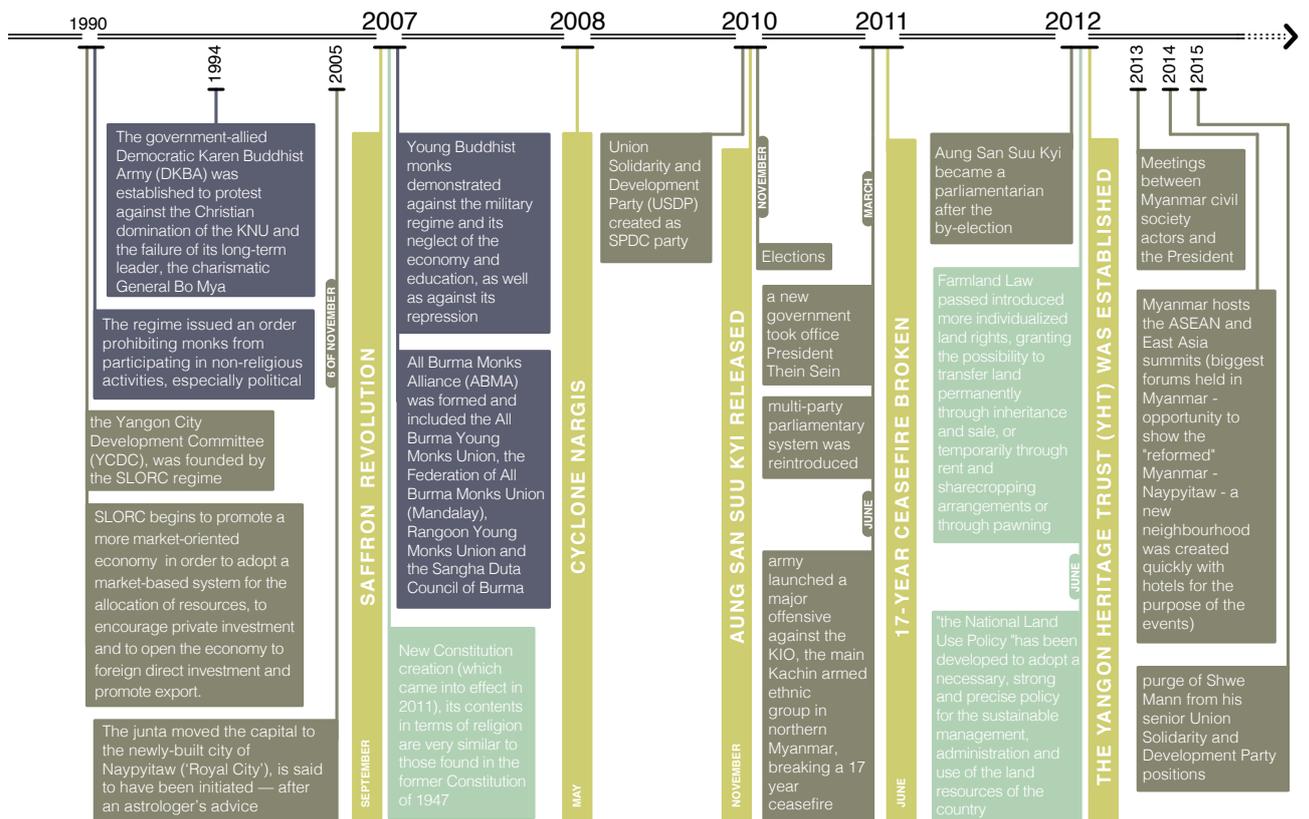
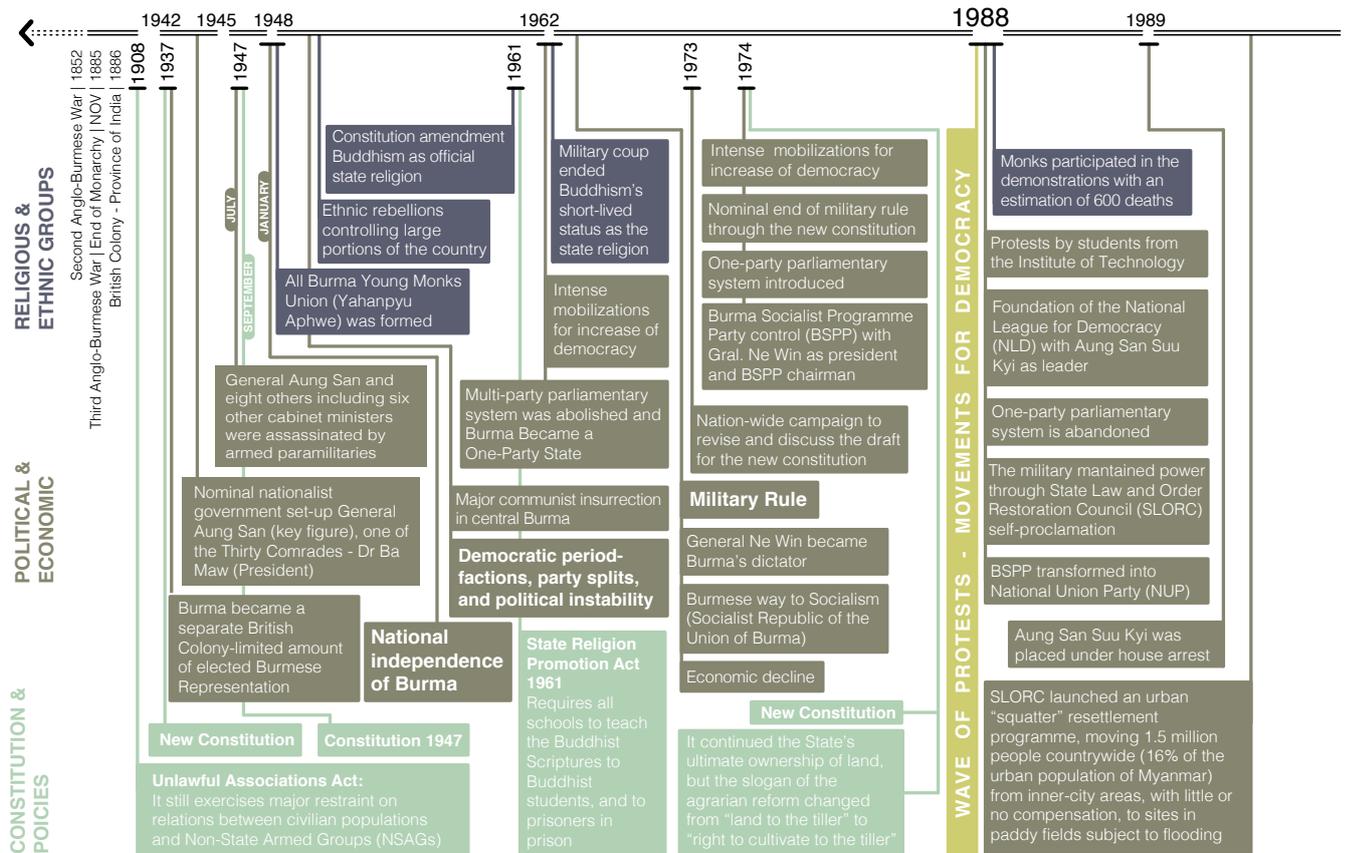




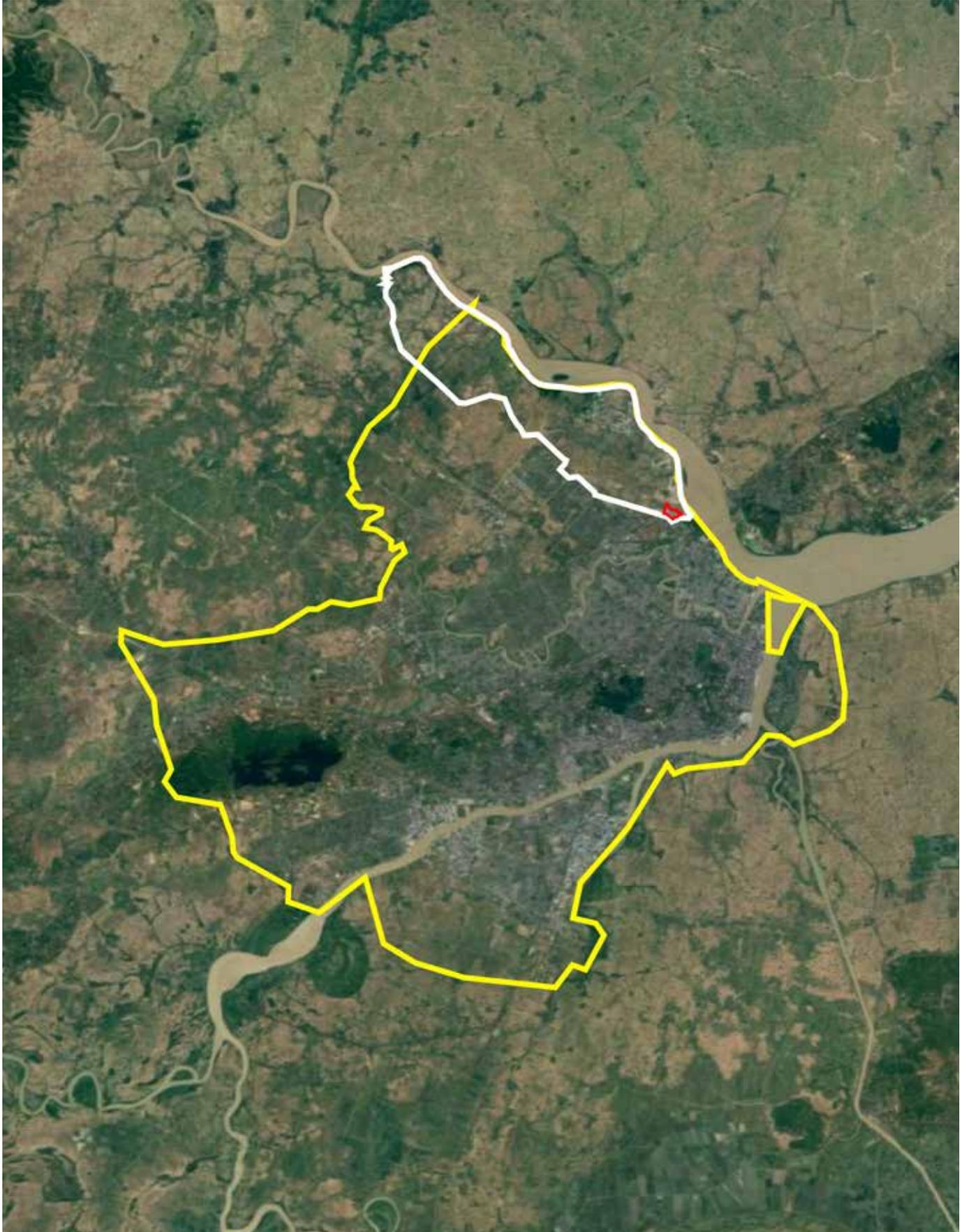
Appendix 1

Research before field-trip

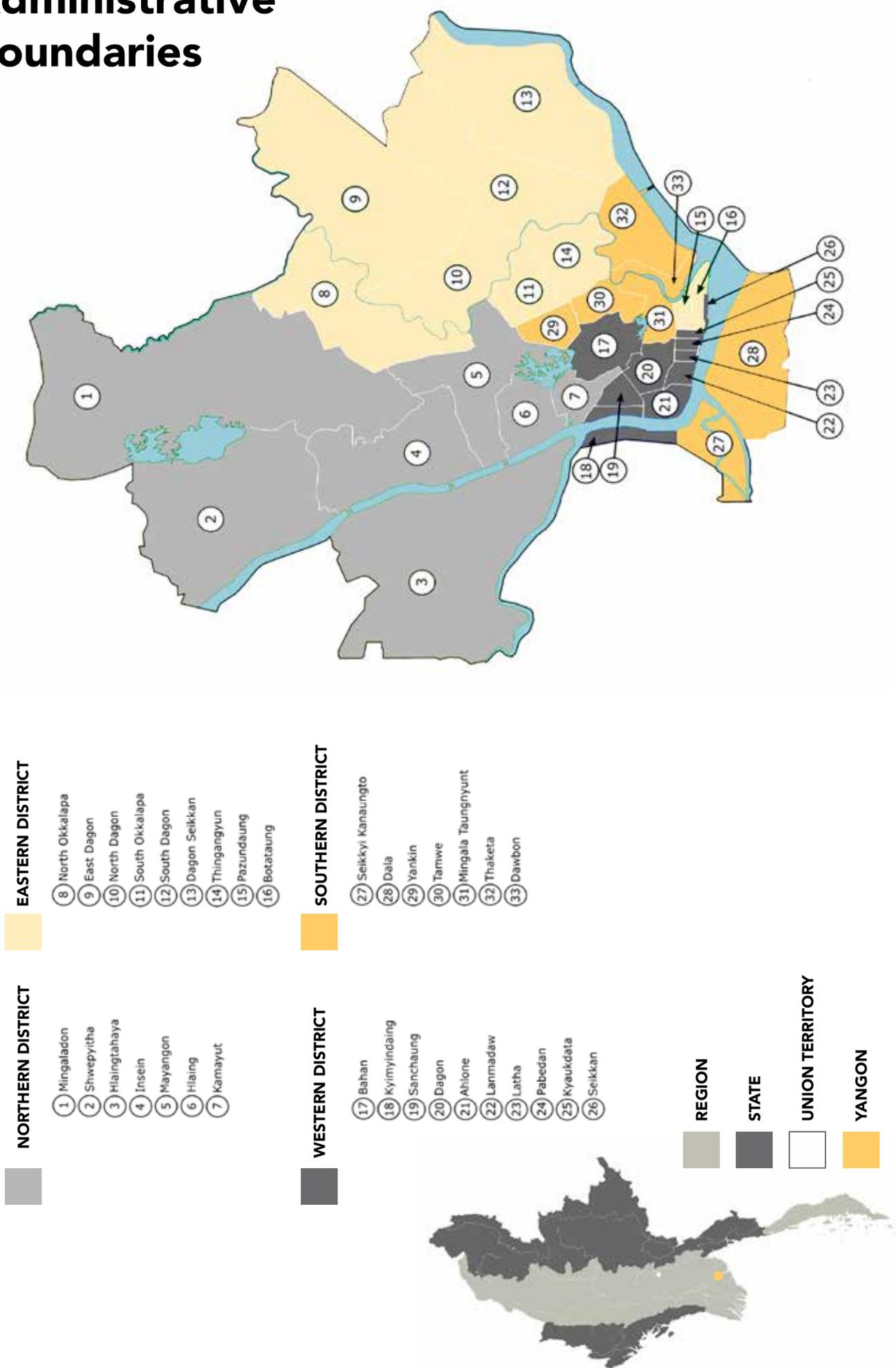
Myanmar Timeline



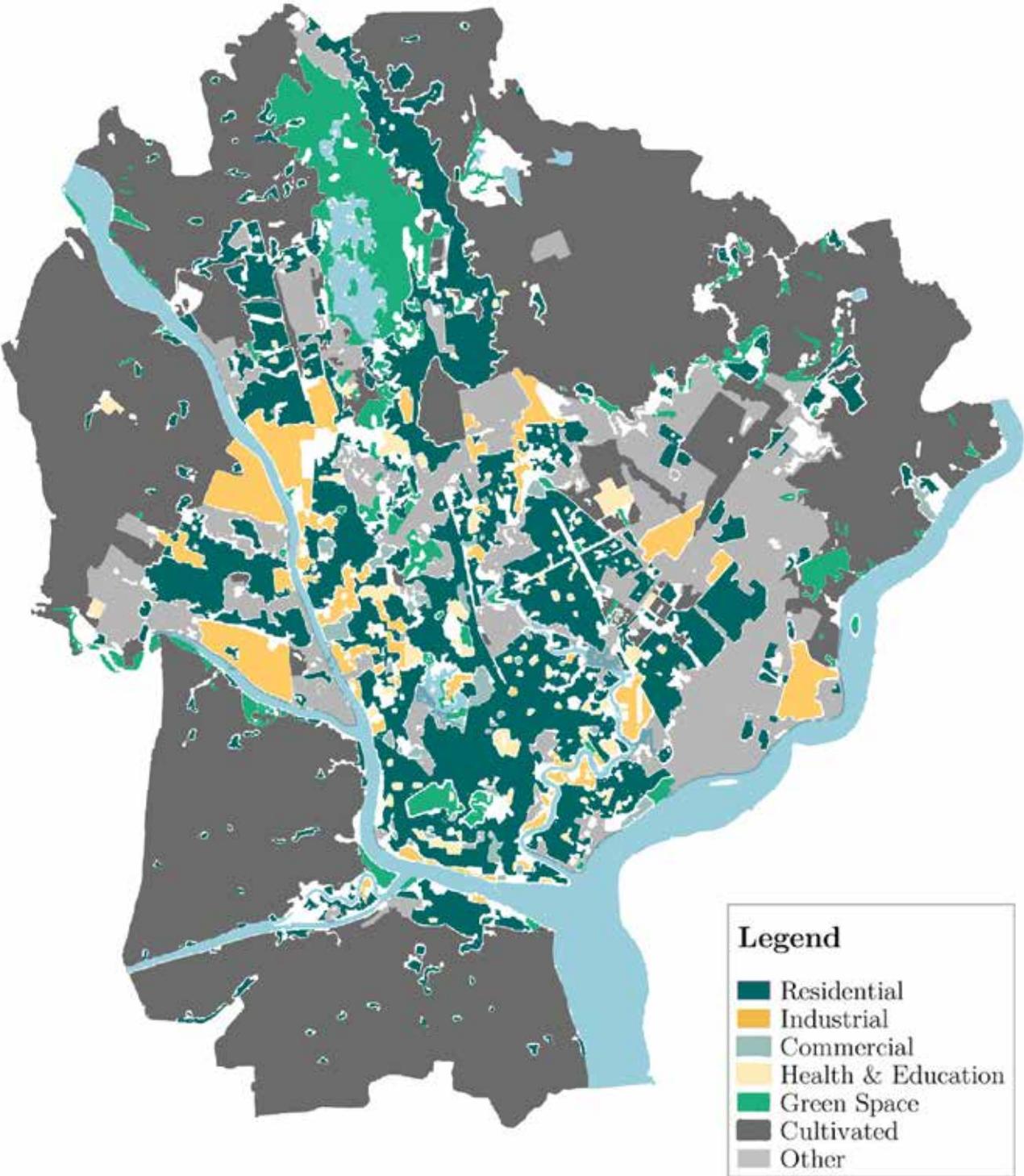
Yangon City & Dagon Seikkan Boundary



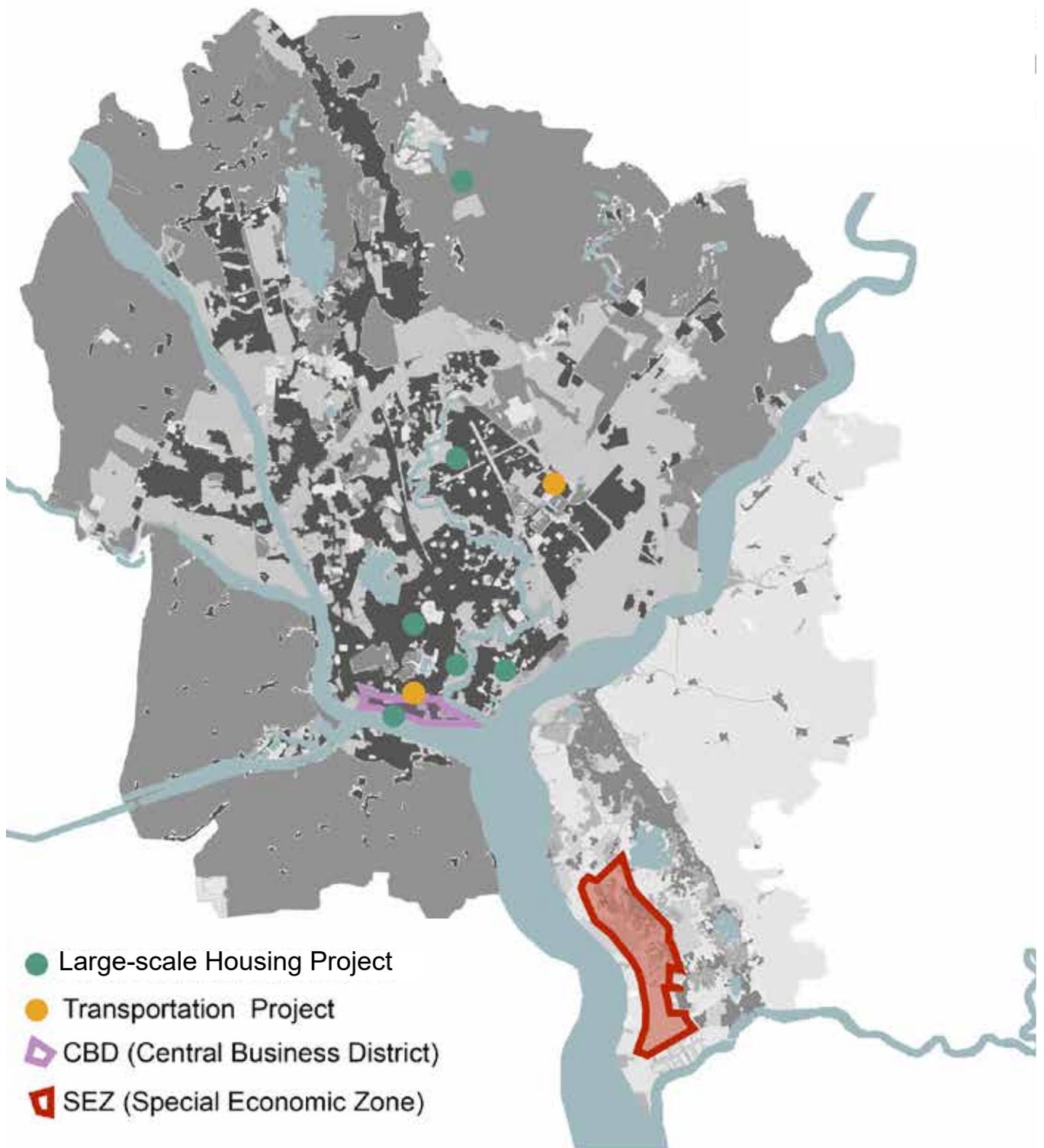
Administrative Boundaries



Land Use



Development Projects



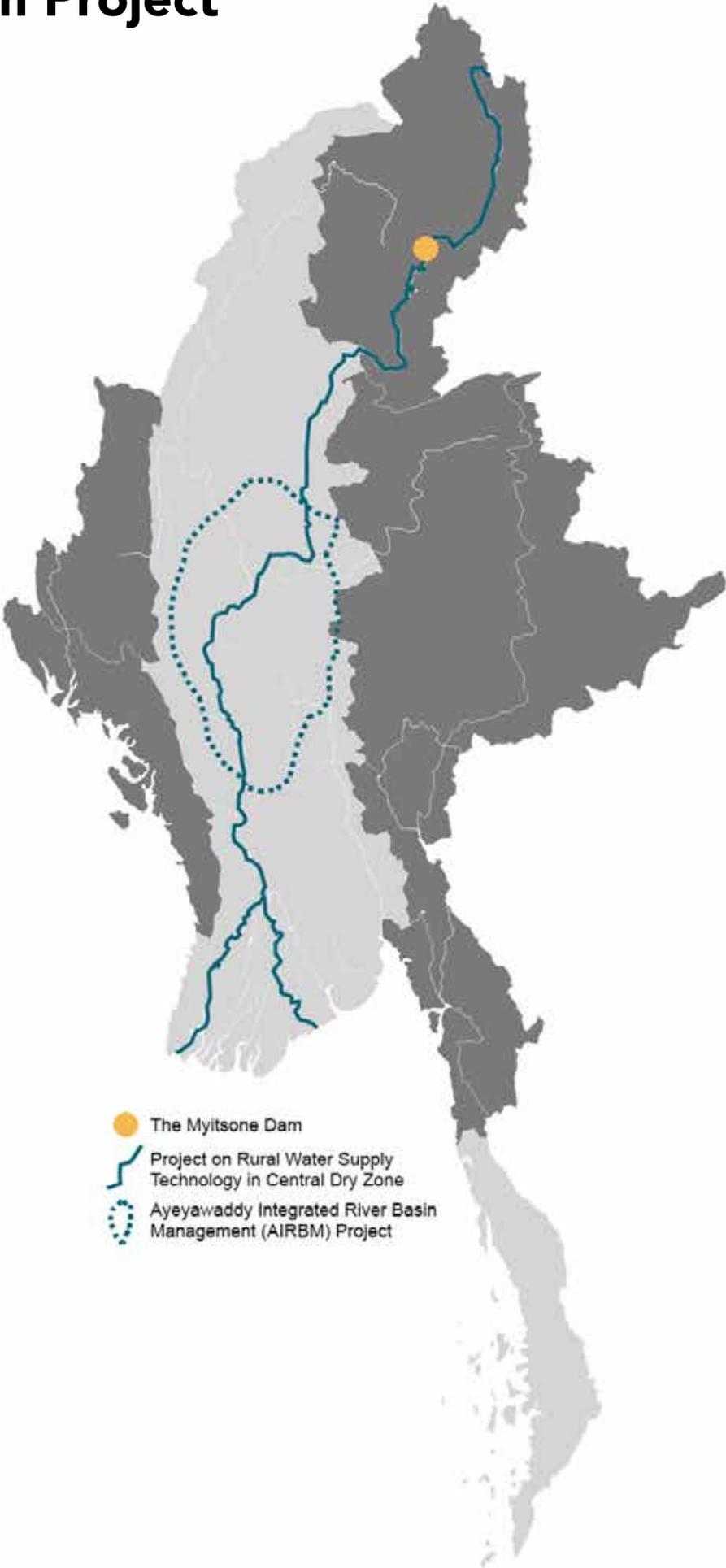
Heritage & Mobility Map

LEGEND

- Central Business District
- Conservation Area
- Port & Logistics Facilities
- Circle Line
- Railway Network
- Green Spaces
- Government land (parkland & buildings)
- Historical City



Water System Project



Ward 67 Boundary



Ward 67 Initial Overview



Appendix 2

Taw Win Housing Project

Engagement with Taw Win Community



Housing Condition in Taw Win



Livelihoods in Taw Win



Appendix 3

Methods of Engagement

A. Site Explorations

a. With Ward 67



Housing Condition in Ward 67



Various Businesses in Ward 67

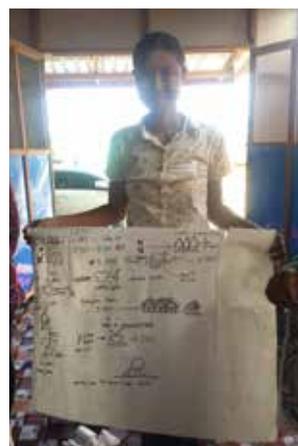
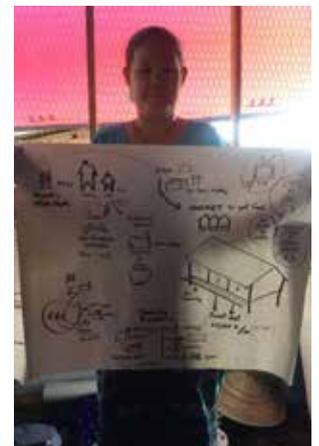
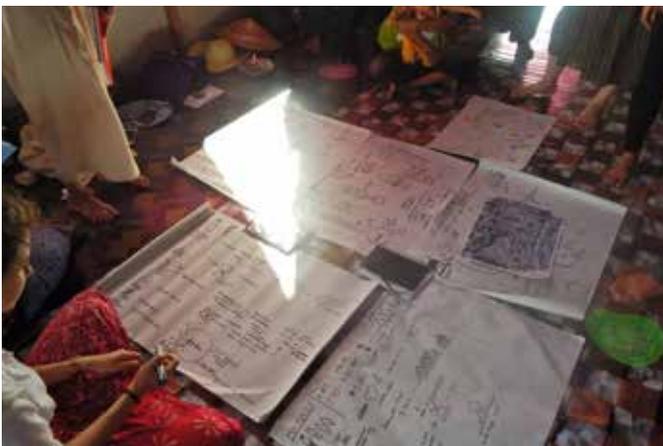


A. Site Explorations

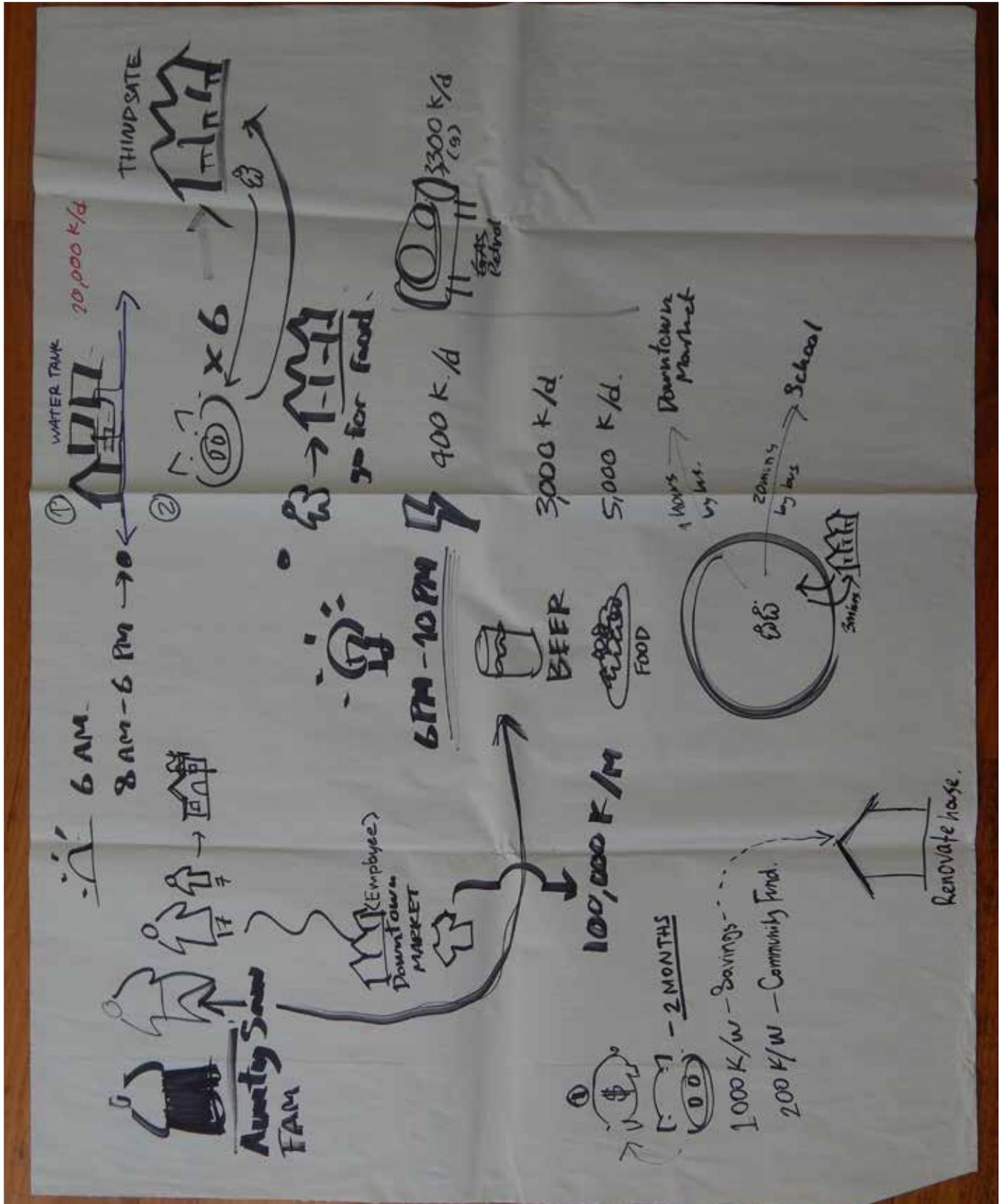
b. Surrounding Areas of Ward 67



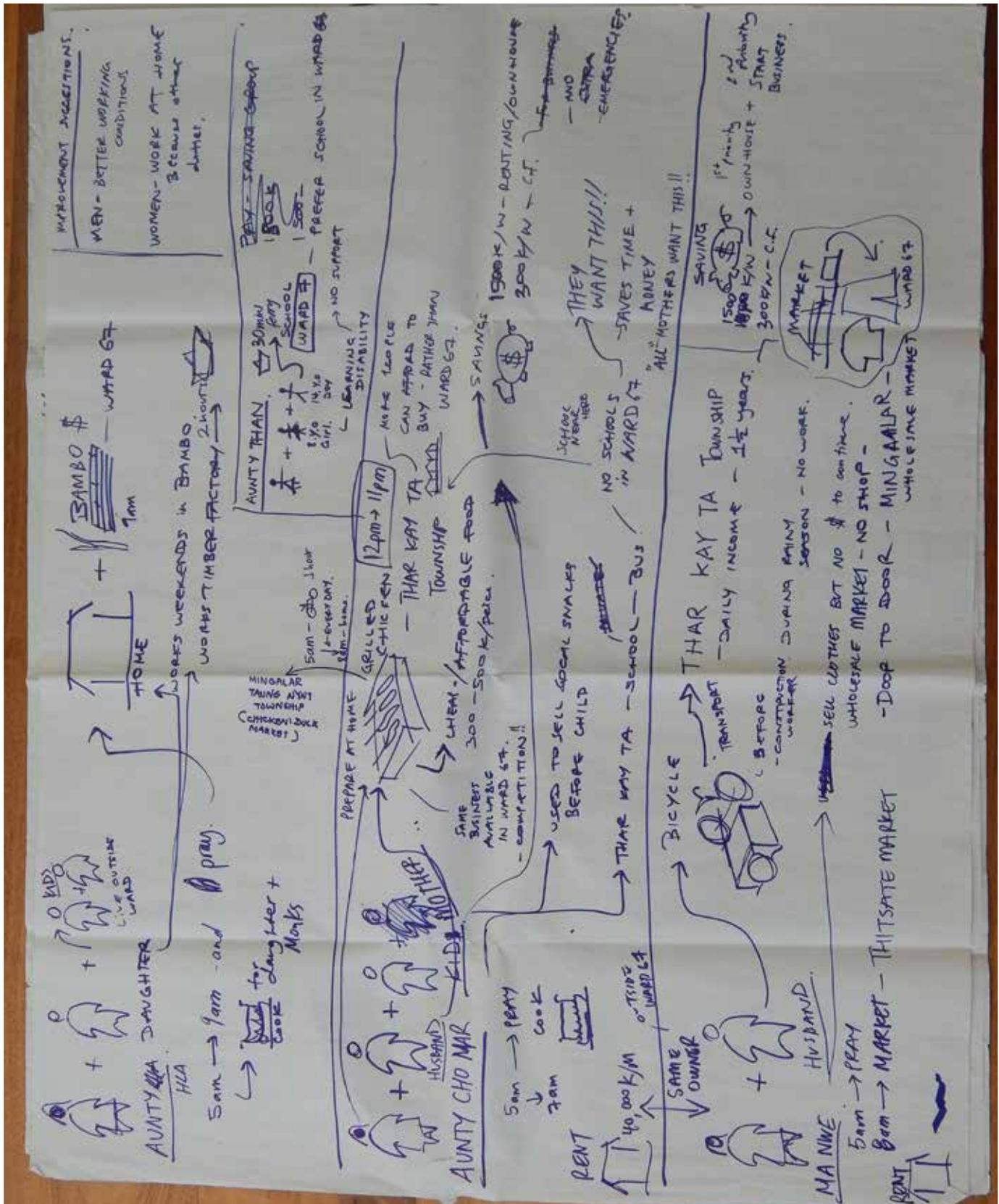
B. Daily Routine Mapping



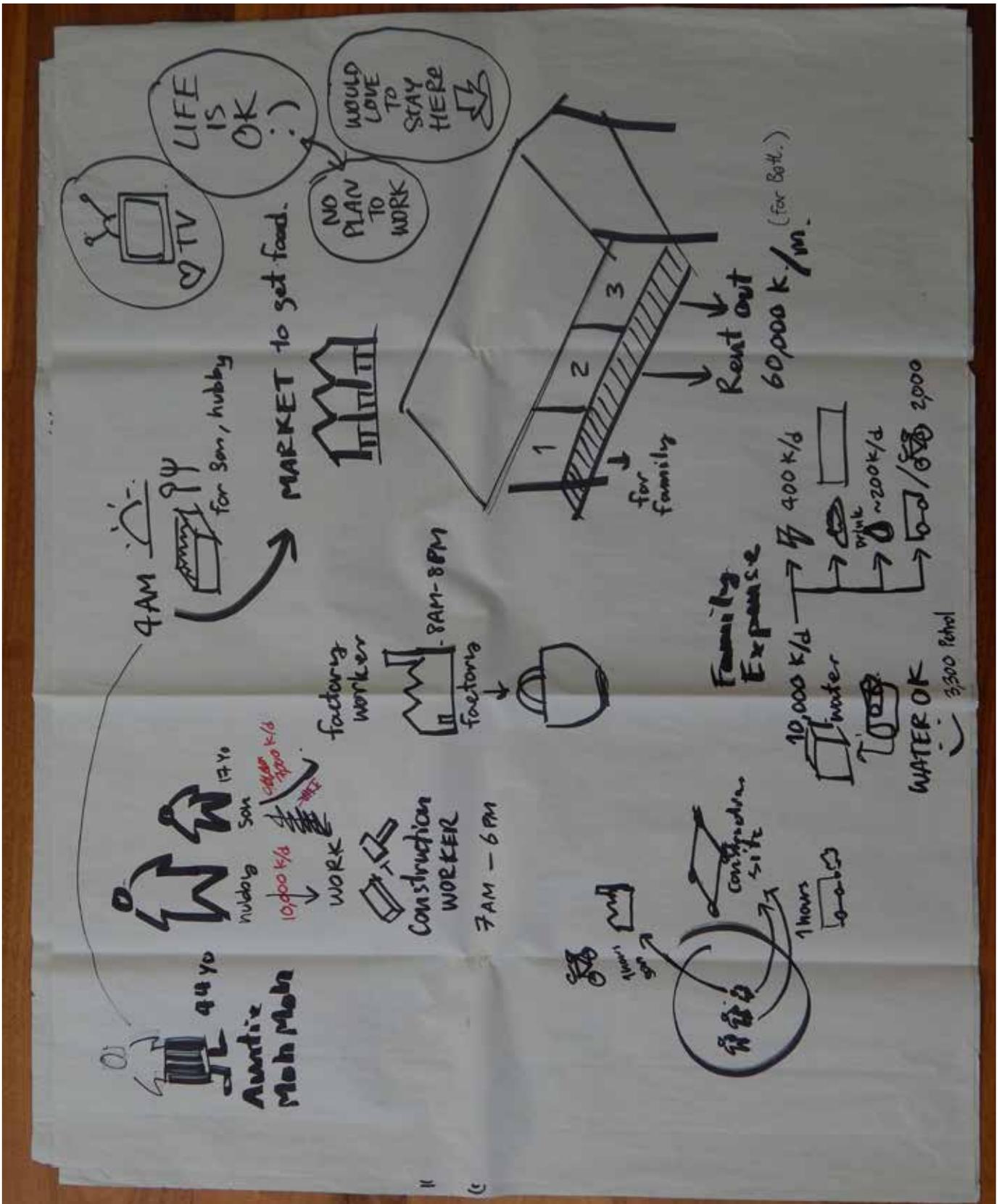
Daily Activities of Aunty Saw's Family



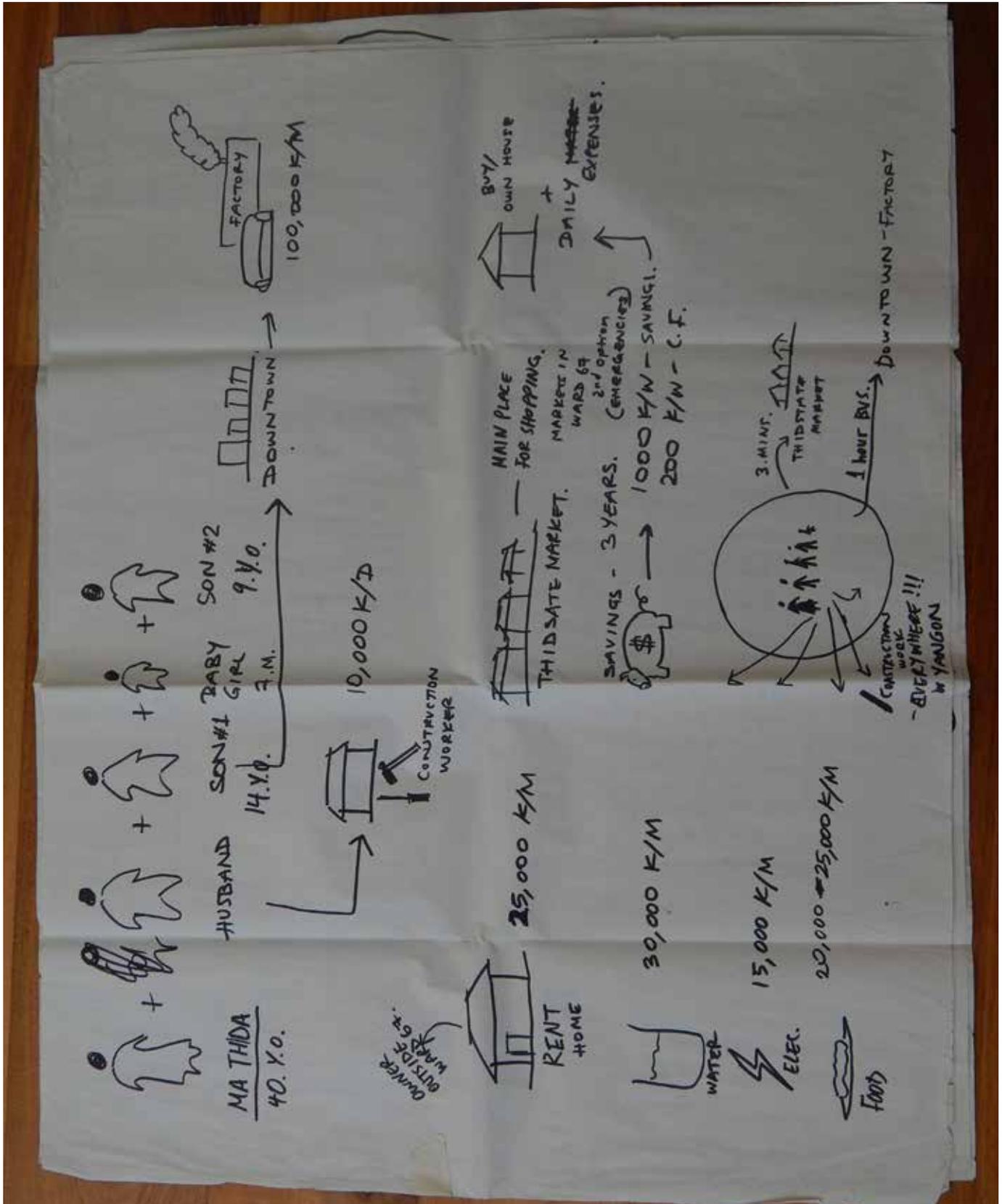
Daily Activities of Aunty Hla's, Aunty Cho Mar's & Ma Nwe's Family



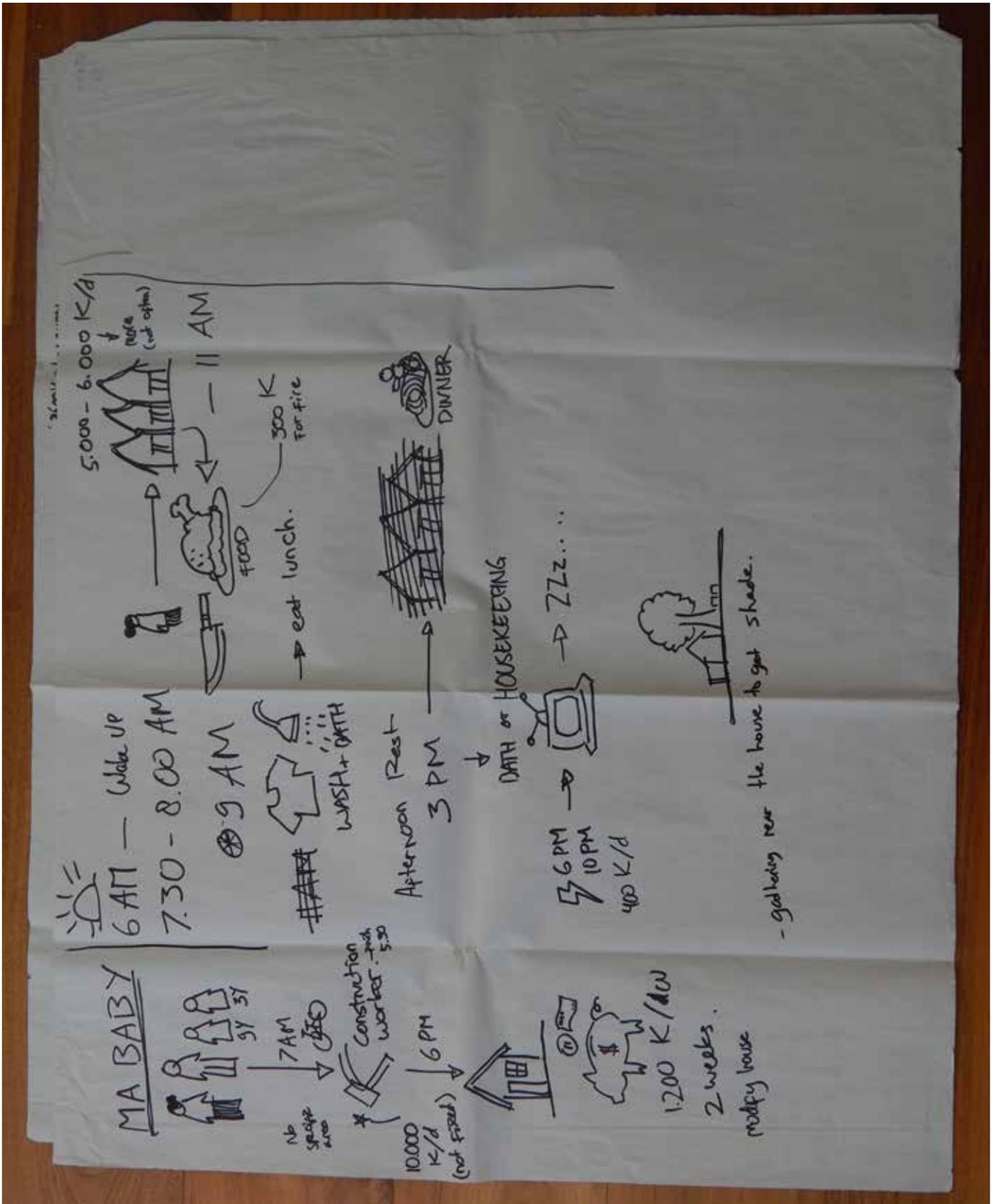
Daily Activities of Aunty Moh Moh's Family



Daily Activities of Ma Thida's Family



Daily Activities of Ma Baby's Family



C. Interviews



D. Collective Business Planning



STEPS	
5 AM	GO TO MARKET (10 MARKET)
6 AM	START RUN TEA SHOP
7 AM	START COOKING
10 AM	START SELLING
9:30 AM	CLOSED
10:30 AM	GO BACK HOME

- Own Shop
- BUY TV + DVD PLAYER
- START SAVING AT BANK (KREZ)
- ↓ TAKE 5 YEARS
- BUY OWN HOUSE @ OUTSIDE 67 WARD
- BUY CAR



E. Business Mapping Along Commercial Streets



F. Community Mapping



H. Dream House Drawing with Children







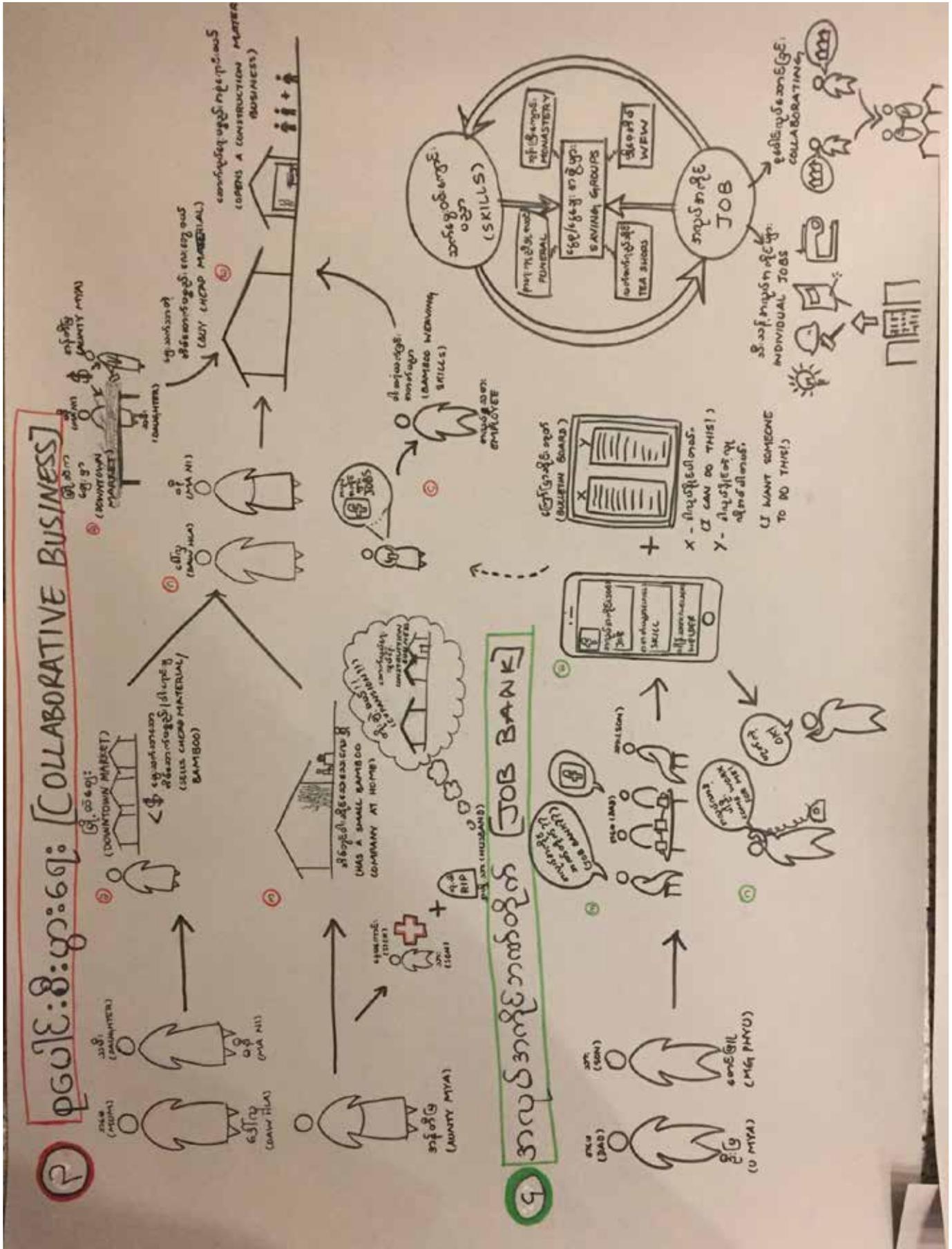
Engagement with Ward 67 Community

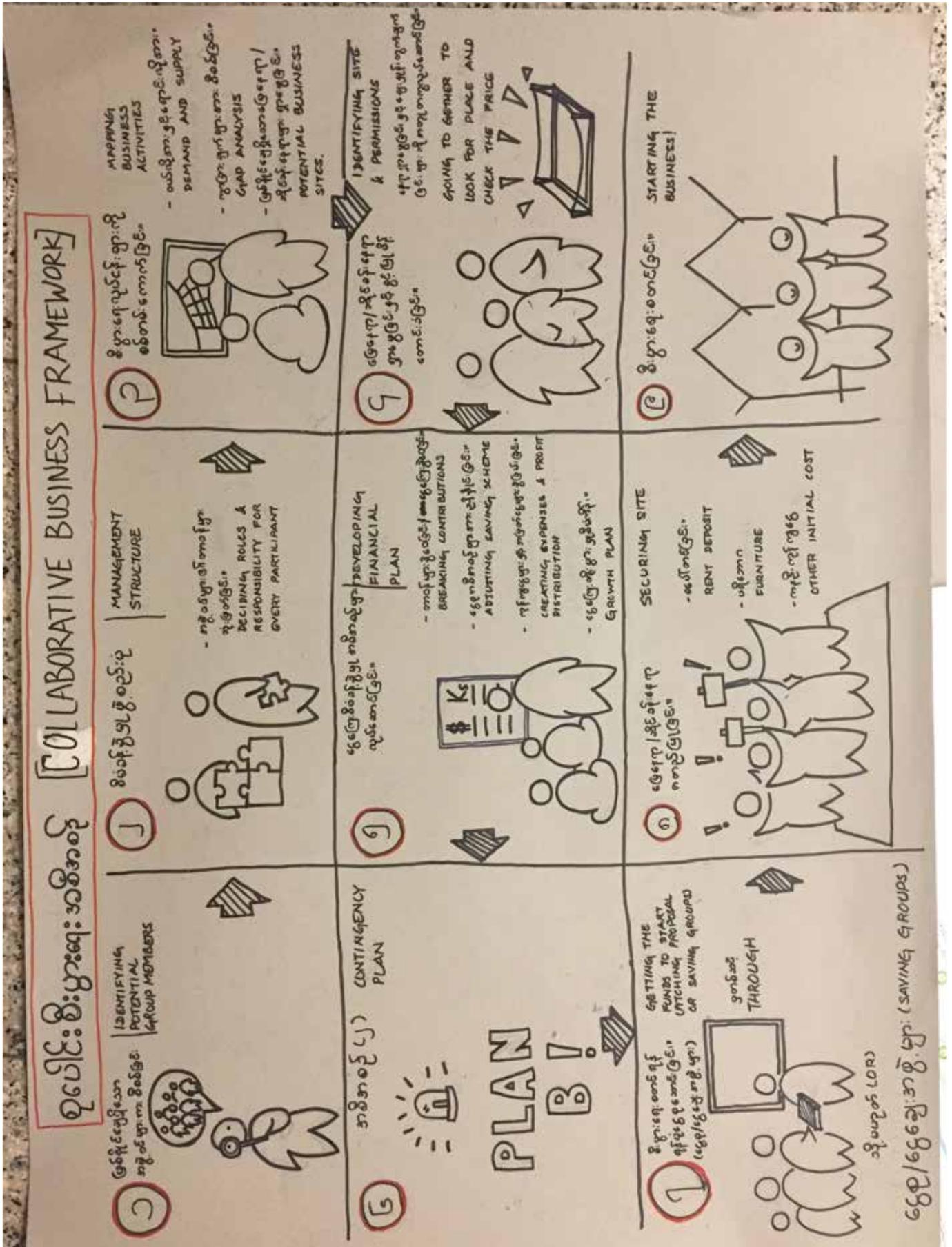


Appendix 4

Community Presentation







Appendix 5

YTU Presentation



Ward Level

SCALAR UPGRADING အသေးစားအဆင့်ဆင့်မြှင့်တင်မှု

Livelihoods From Individual skills to Job Platform



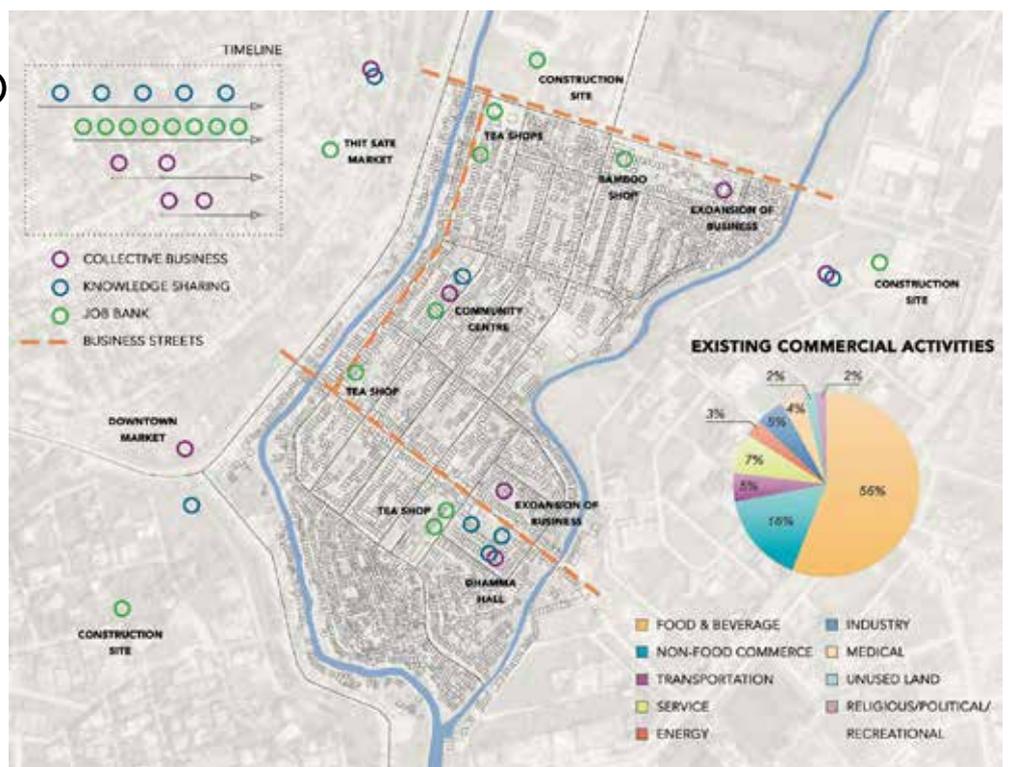


LIVELIHOOD CITYWIDE CONNECTION



LIVELIHOOD Master Plan

လူမှုစီးပွားရေးစီမံချက်



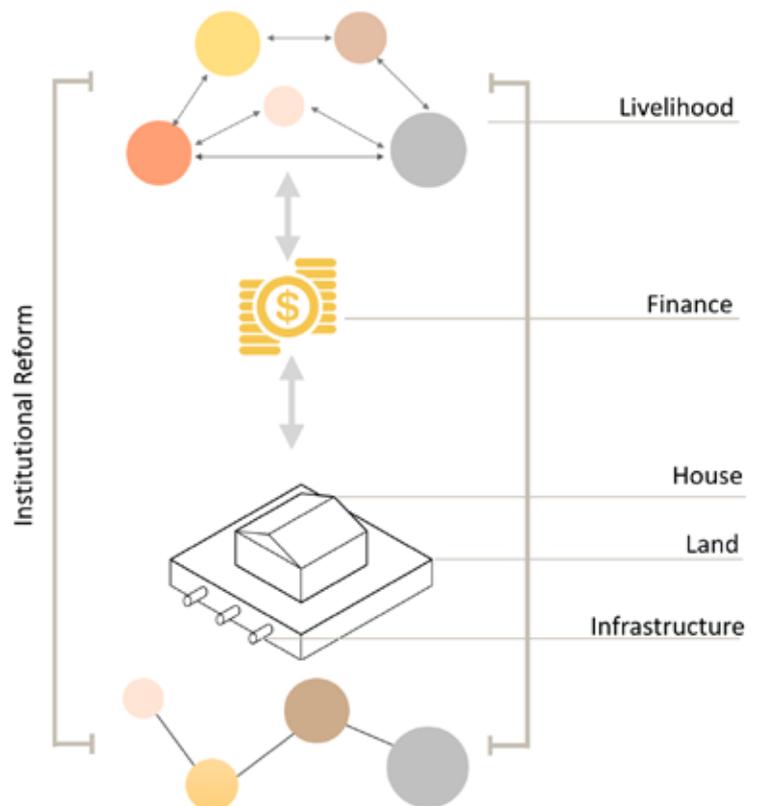
Township Level

Strategy diagram

နည်းဗျူဟာပြ ကားချပ်ပုံ

Working collaboratively within diverse development processes that recognise the importance of multiple situated planning practices and actors.

As such, development processes should be embedded within socially and economically conscious and sustainable models, aiming for inclusive, mutually beneficial, and a reciprocal future.

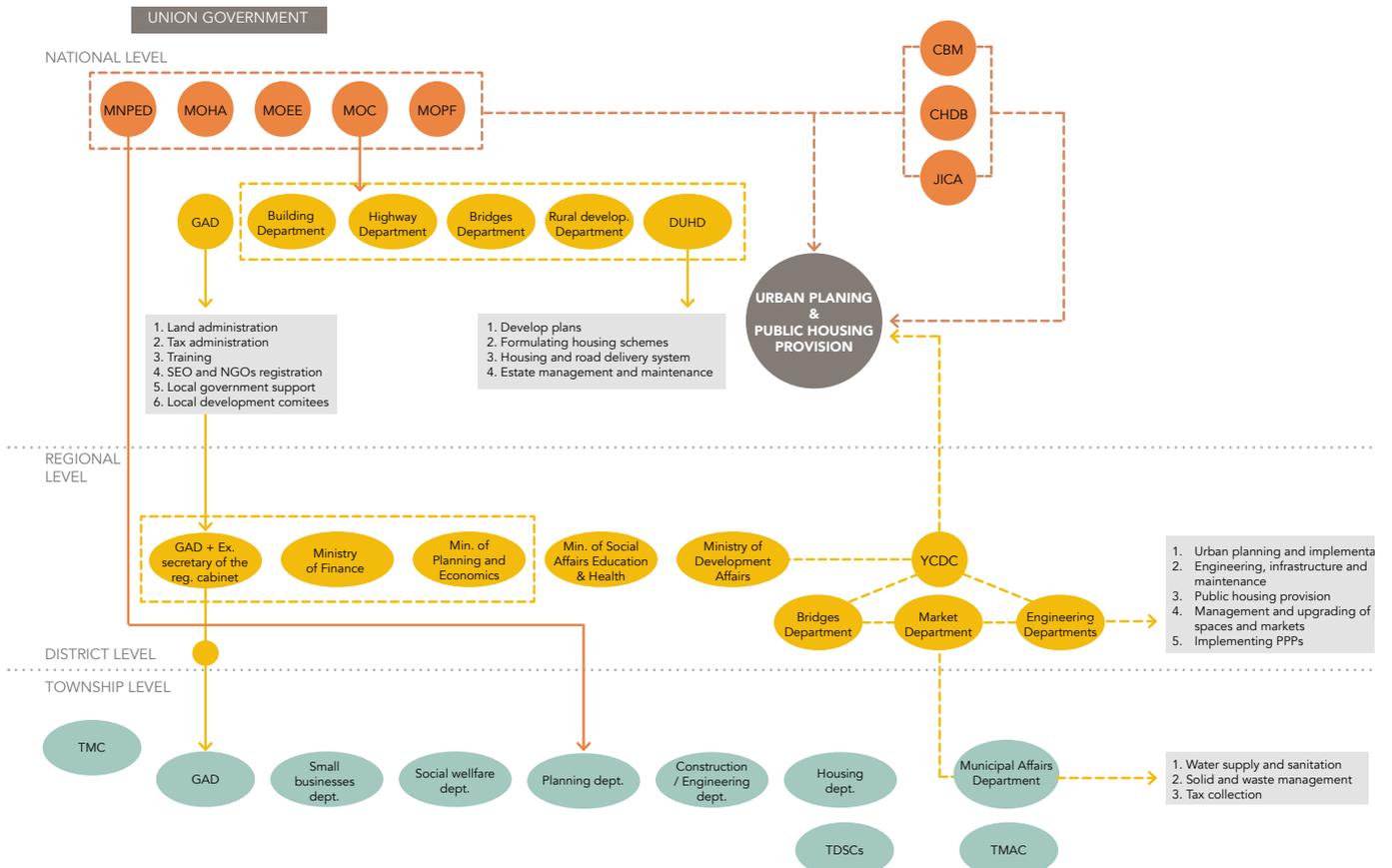
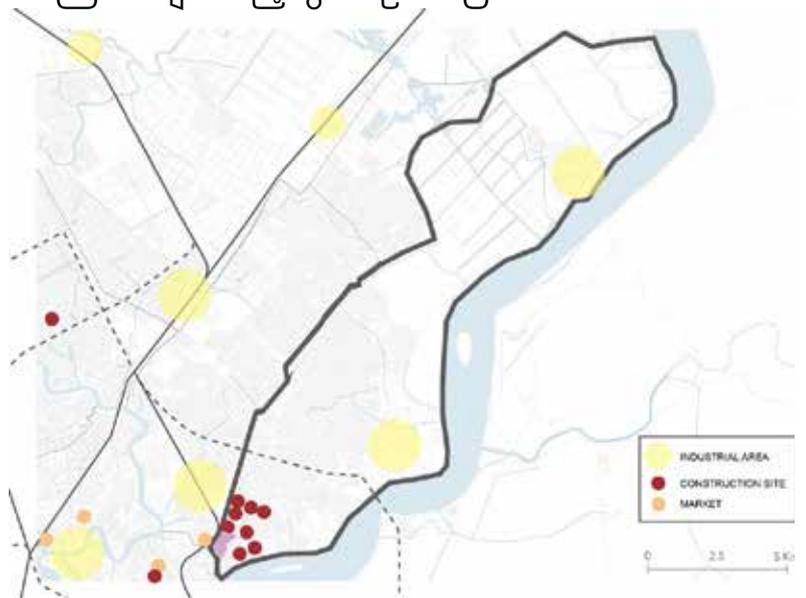


STRATEGY – C နည်းဗျူဟာ - ၃

Integrating livelihoods in development schemes

တိုးတက်မှုစီမံချက်တွင် အသက်မွေးဝမ်းကြောင်း များထည့်သွင်းစဉ်းစားခြင်း

- a) Initiating participatory processes for mapping existing livelihoods assets
- b) Understanding the impacts and gaps of development schemes on existing and potential assets of livelihoods
- c) Creating a plan that ensures integration of livelihoods and enhances community's capacity



Appendix 6

Aerial Images of Ward 67



Communal Tent for Morning Donations





Commercial Street in Ward 67



Commercial Street



Ward 67 Surrounding Areas



