



# UCL

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in Development  
Student Report

## Yangon in Transition: Health as a (Citizens') Right

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



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# Executive Summary

This report is an investigation of the transition Myanmar is undergoing, focusing on Yangon's development, and examining the impact of this development on one of its neighbourhoods, Ward 67. Myanmar has been witnessing a transition process, framed as a move towards a more democratic nation; in this process different aspects of the country are being transformed, including institutional, socio-economic, and spatial transformations; those aspects manifest in how Yangon is reconfigured as an "attractive international port and logistics hub" through the creation of a new masterplan for the city.

The purpose of this report is to shed more light into how this context affects two aspects: citizenship and health in relation to Yangon's transforming city development. As such, the report maps the relationship between health, citizenship, and space, in which the creation of healthy environments is closely tied to the built and ecological conditions, and the socio-economic positions of Yangon's residents that underpin their experience of citizenship and ability to negotiate it.

To map this relationship between health, citizenship, and space, the research design followed three dimensions: firstly, understanding what is framed as a healthy environment at both community and institutional level; secondly, the elements relating to people's built and ecological conditions and their socio-economic position that can be modified through collective action; and finally, using the gathered information to understand how this collective action to achieve healthy environments can change the experience of citizenship, and subsequently allow for negotiating its legal structure. In this process, a number of methods were used, including participatory research with residents of Ward 67, qualitative methods including interviews, and quantitative methods to analyse housing supply in Yangon. Followed by using the social determinants of health in relation to citizenship as a framework for analysis.

The main findings from this process are firstly, the practices deployed by the residents of different communities in Yangon to achieve healthier environments, their ability to organise, save, and collectively construct and meet their housing needs, in a manner that shows they practice citizenship regardless of the status given to them by the state. Secondly, the dominant city development narratives justify evicting different communities due to living in poor health conditions, while at the same time

disregarding them as citizens within the relocation process, leading them to move to even riskier and unhealthier environment; this contradiction within dominant narratives also includes the assumptions around land scarcity and housing shortage, while residents demonstrated multiple times their ability to meet their housing needs and achieve healthy environments, which then becomes one of the main obstacles faced by Yangon transition currently. Finally, while contradictions and obstacles are present, still a number of opportunities emerge out of the transition context, including different possibilities for coproduction between the diverse stakeholders in Yangon.

As such, this report recommends a number of strategies to tackle the different obstacles and utilise the existing opportunities. On a ward level: physical upgrading opposed to the current eviction approach is a successful tool to maintain healthy environments and assert claims over citizenship; improving livelihoods through upgrading activities by creating new income generating activities; and improving social cohesion and partnerships within the ward and the township to achieve more possibilities for change. And on a city level: amplifying efforts by different stakeholders to change perceptions of informality and health; leveraging knowledge gaps that the state has through community mapping and enumerations to increase communities negotiation power; and collaborative capacity building between the multiple stakeholders in coproducing plans and census and employing those skills in different aspects of city Making.

Finally, this report is the result of four months of work between February and May of 2018 by multiple local and international contributors, without whom this would not have been possible, and we hope can aid in supporting their efforts to shape the trajectory of Yangon's transformation.



# Acknowledgements

This report is the result of the efforts of many contributors, organisers, participants, facilitators, community members and a number of others behind the scenes, without whom the learning process and experiences needed for the production of this report would not had been possible.

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Special thanks go to Chaw Khwar Nyo, Ei Mon Thaw, Kyaw Soe Han, Wut Hmone San, Hnin Su Mon Win, the amazing students from Yangon Technological University (YTU), whose participation and constant engagement helped us to better understand the context, and whose company we really enjoyed at a more personal level.

Additionally, we thank all the partners who helped make this possible: the Association of Myanmar Architects (AMA) for the open doors and space to work; the Community Bithukar Platform (CBP) who contributed greatly during and after the community engagement; the Community Architects Network (CAN) and Asian Coalition for Housing Rights (ACHR), especially, Witee Wisuthumporn for the inspiration to always try to make a change; and finally, the Department of Urban and Housing Development (DUHD) and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) for their presentations and valuable information.

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# Acronyms

ACCA: Asian Coalition for Community Action  
ACHR: Asian Coalition for Housing Rights  
AMA: Association of Myanmar Architects  
ASEAN: Association of South East Asian Nations  
AW: Asia World  
CAN: Community Architect Network  
CHDB: Construction and Housing Development Bank  
DAO: Development Affairs Organization  
DRRWG: Disaster Risk Reduction Working Groups  
DUHD: Department of Urban and Housing  
Development  
EU: European Union  
GAD: General Administration Development  
MCEA: Myanmar Construction Entrepreneurs  
Association  
MDF: Metta Development Foundation  
MoC: Ministry of Construction  
MoH: Ministry of Health  
MoPF: Ministry of Finance and Planning  
NDPCC: National Disaster Preparedness Central  
Committee  
NLD: National League for Democracy  
SEM: Spirit for Education Movement  
SURA: Singapore's Urban Redevelopment Authority  
TMAC: Township Municipal Affairs Committee  
USDP: Union Solidarity and Development Party  
WFW: Women for the World  
UN: United Nation  
URDI: Urban Research and Development Institute  
YCDC: Yangon City Development Committee  
YCZC: Yangon City Zoning Committee  
YHT: Yangon Heritage Trust  
YTU :Yangon Technological University

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# Part 1 | Yangon in Transition: Transforming Health and Citizenship

# Introduction

While Myanmar is undergoing a transition period framed as a shift towards democracy, this transition is faced with a number of questions that can be the catalyst determining its trajectory. This report aims to address some of these questions, including the meaning of citizenship, the role of collective action and community participation in city making, the construction of healthy living environments and the relationship between citizenship and health.

In a city where current developments are guided by attracting investment, and in a settlement where residents are constantly threatened by eviction due to this development, our research is structured around the following question:

**“How can collective action towards a healthy environment aid in redefining substantive and experienced citizenship?”**

This report argues that mainstream development practices in Yangon are creating even more unhealthy environments for the city’s residents. People who cannot access the schemes deployed by the state because of their socio-economic position are becoming de facto non-citizens, invisible, or even homeless and the practices that constitute their mode of citizenship are under threat of being erased by dominant narratives.

Our objective is to introduce alternative trajectories that encourage people-centred development processes, within which the experiences, practices and knowledge of the different stakeholders in the city can work collaboratively to achieve a more just future for Yangon and the residents of ward 67.



# Transition(s) and Transformations

Myanmar is being declared a transitioning state embracing democracy, and how such transition is understood and contextualised is having an impact on the country's trajectory. This manifests in a number of institutional, political, socio-economic and spatial transformations that lead to new possibilities to redefine this transition.

Transition can imply a general departure from one state to the other, one that embraces different ideas, norms, belief systems, practices and institutions, with an assumed shift in the legitimacy of the previous dynamics within institutional, social, and spatial structures, impacting the lives of individuals and social groups differently (Sýkora & Bouzarovski, 2012). This transition also correlates with a shift in power relations between differently situated social groups, in which even the most marginalised of groups hold and exert power that manifests in different ways (Porter, 2015).

As such, it can be argued that transition is never singular but rather a relational process that depends on the position of different subjects. This implies that while transition might be framed in certain ways in dominant discourses, it is differentially experienced and lived. For some social groups it is an increase in legal representation for instance, while others' experience can be seen in the shifting economic models that affect their livelihoods. This differential experience of transition(s) alludes to another critical aspect: that transition is always contested.

Transition as contestation is not about an antagonistic essential character of the process. Rather, the contested and conflictual aspect of transition can expand the realm of possibility, whereby transition has multiple starting points, trajectories, meanings, and lived experiences. Transition in Myanmar then should not be framed solely as a democratic shift, nor should it be seen purely as the maintenance or institutionalisation of a military regime (Jones, 2014), but as an ensemble of social and political conditions that underpin the transition, without which the transition would not be a possibility.

This indefinite aspect of transition manifest in different dimensions that can be referred to as transformations. These are understood as the multiple acts that create the general framework for transition (Poutiatine, 2009). As such, three intersecting dimensions of transformation can be observed: institutional transformations in the political context, socio-economic transformations and spatial transformations

in the built and ecological environments (Sýkora & Bouzarovski, 2012).

This idea of transition being differentially experienced, underpinned by multiple transformations and possibilities, is shaping our entry point into understanding the studied context and subsequently formulating our strategies.

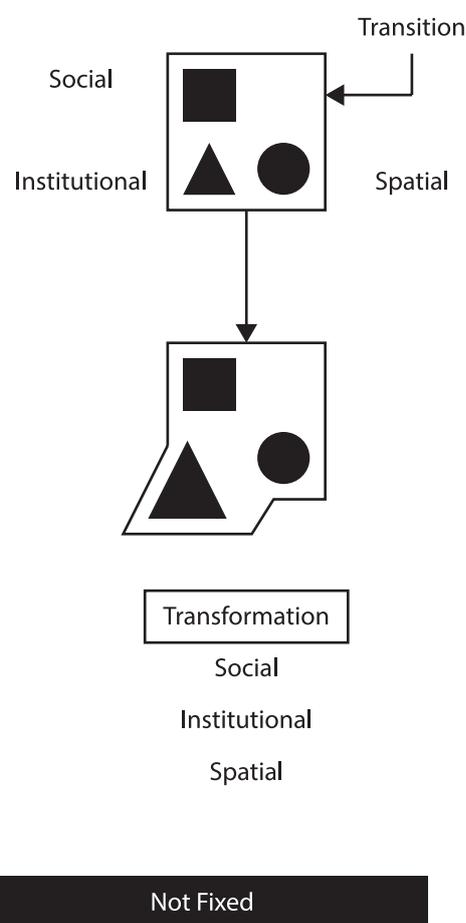
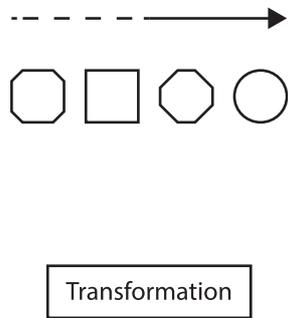
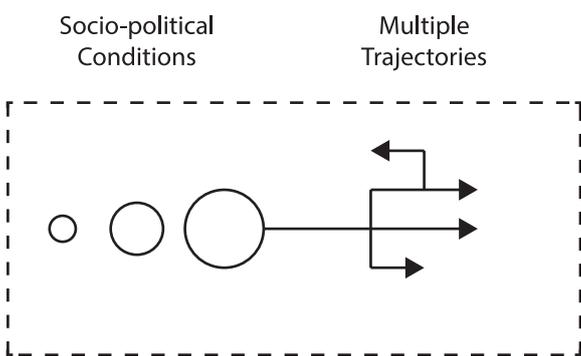


Figure 1. Transition as non fixed process.



No Specific Starting Point

Figure 2. Transition having multiple starting points.



Not Singular

Figure 3. Transition as non singular and differentially experienced.

# Yangon in Transition

The spatial, socio-economic and political transformations underpinning Myanmar's transition towards democracy can be seen in the example of Yangon's urban development process. The Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC), created in 1989 as the administrative entity in charge of the development of the city, is by now an independent body raising its own revenue through public taxation and enterprises (banking services, hotels, condominiums, golf clubs, property development, manufacturing of construction materials etc) (YCDC, 2014). Interestingly, the chairperson of YCDC is at the same time the mayor of Yangon, appointed by central government. Not only does this point to the centralisation of power and the dependency of city development on the

national agenda, but also to the conflict of interests between the public and private sector. In short, such an arrangement implies that the body in charge of regulations over land and eviction is the same entity that profits from the development of the city.

The concern of public institutions over revenue and their compromise with citizens not to increase taxes has led to a race to attract international investments and the deployment of public private partnerships (PPPs) for development. However, investments will only start after a plan that secures efficient and profitable return on investments is agreed upon. Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has been working on that plan since 2013, envisioning

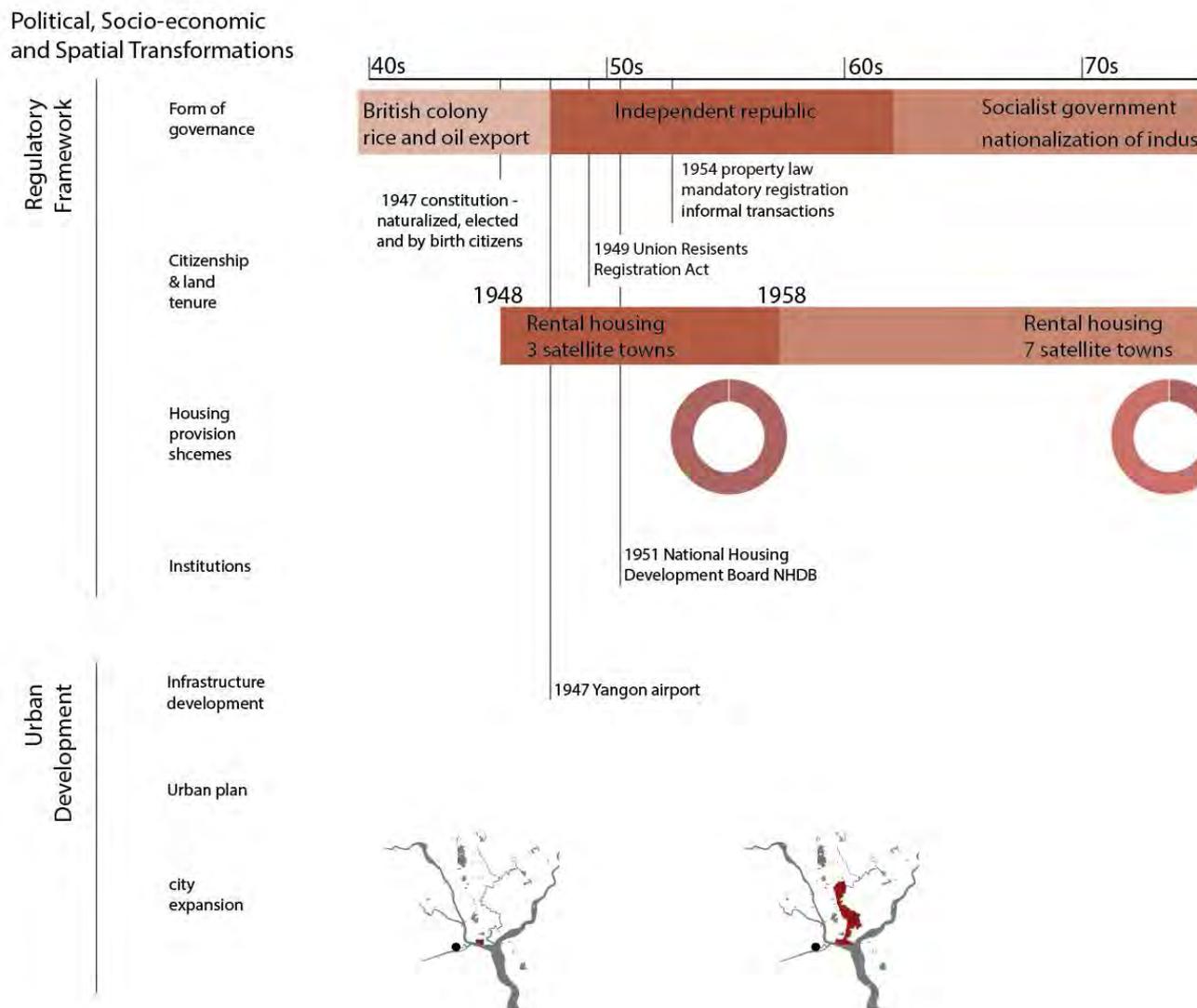
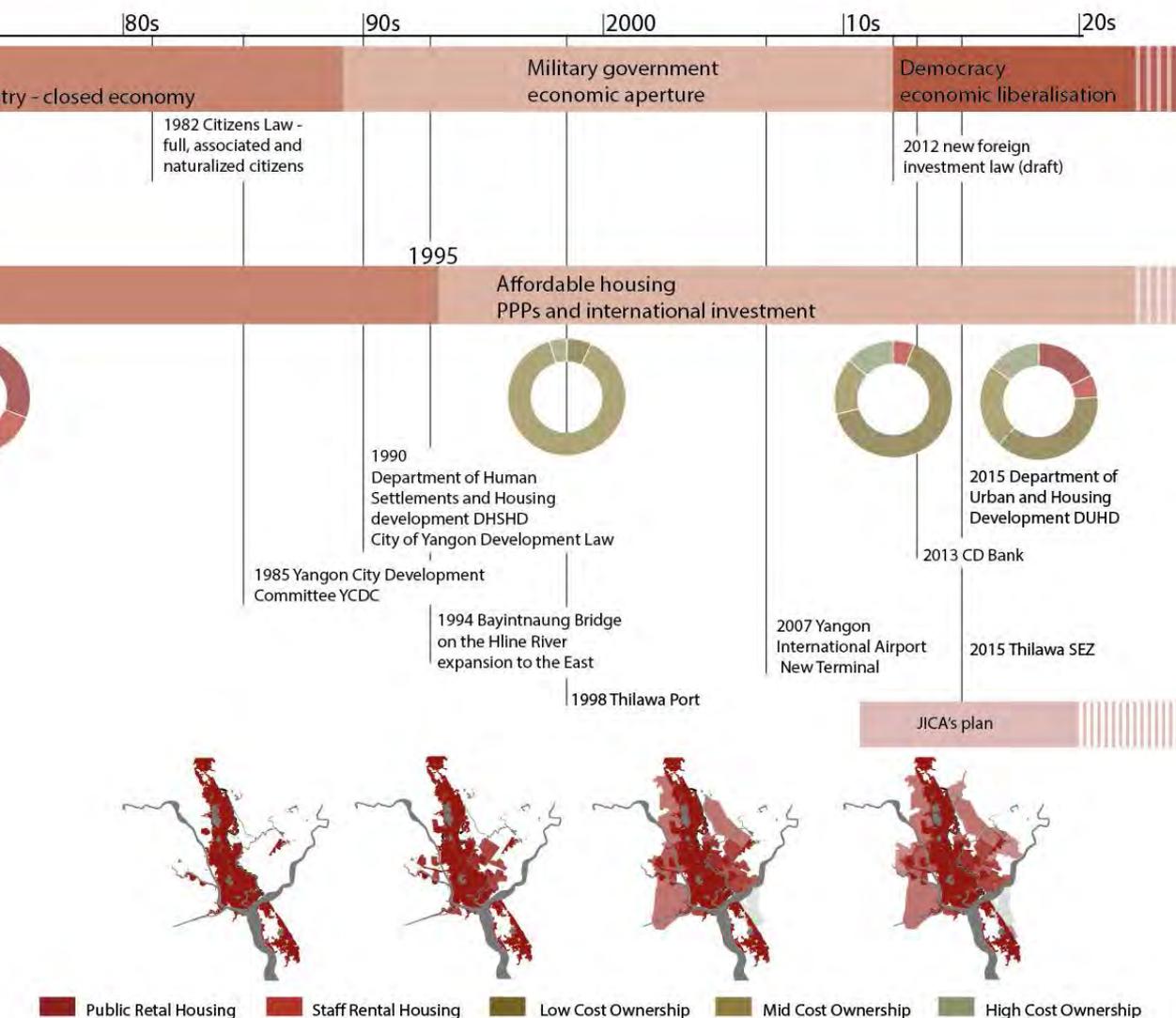


Figure 4. Timeline of Yangon transition

the transformation of Yangon into an “attractive international port & logistics HUB” (JICA & YCDC, 2014)- a socio-economic transformation with clear spatial and institutional manifestations. More specifically, JICA’s vision is focused on industrial and transit-oriented growth, conflicting with the aspirations of different groups during this transition period.

in alternative experiences of transformation that many communities are undergoing and in the alternative practices they develop towards the improvement of their environments. Collective upgrading becomes then for such communities a means of leveraging the right to stay, and by extension being recognized as citizens.

It is not uncommon that industrialisation and infrastructure development prioritise economic growth over the environment of the city and the health of its residents, yet there is room to contest the perception of what constitutes a healthy environment as well as the processes to reach such healthy environments. In this spirit, we see a great opportunity



## Yangon in Transition: Industrialisation and Transit

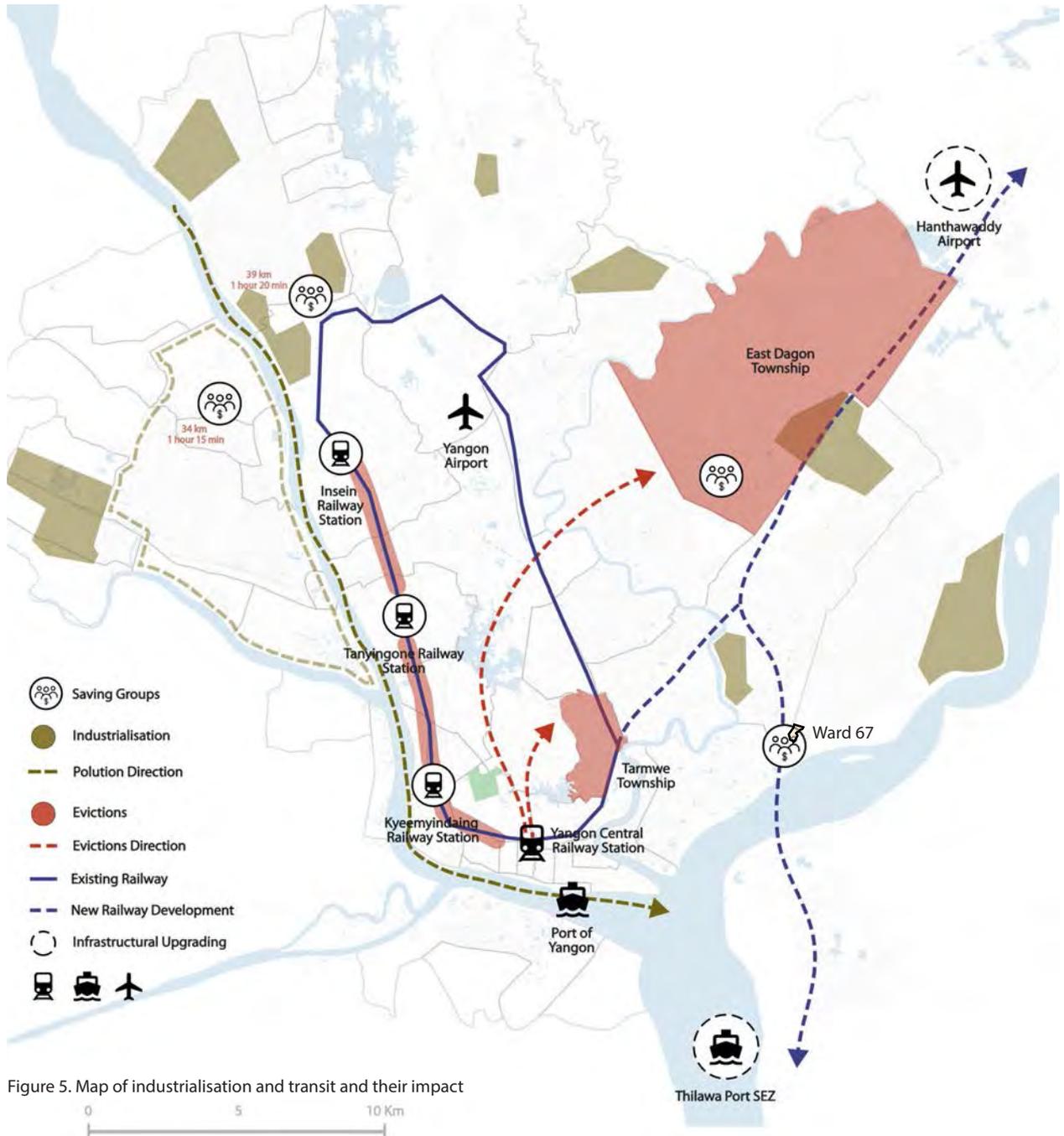


Figure 5. Map of industrialisation and transit and their impact

JICA has developed 6 plans for the city of Yangon: Strategic Urban Development Plan for Greater Yangon, Improvement of Water Supply Sewerage and Drainage System, Urban Transport Sector Planning, Solid Waste Management, Power Supply Development and Thilawa Special Economic Zone Development. They show the current focus of the urban transformation processes on infrastructure development and industrial growth.

On the map we can see how ward 67 is located in the planned east-west corridor (JICA, 2017, p.5) that will connect the Thilawa port and SEZ with the projected Hanthawaddy Airport. This connection would be

done through the improvement of the current railway infrastructure. A process that has already started with the up-grading of the west side of the circular railway (Xinhuanet.com, 2018) and the selection of the international consortium responsible for the development of the new central station and the surrounding areas (Kean, 2018) (Soe, 2018).

Additionally, a development based on the creation of new industrial areas, as is the case for Dagon Seikkan (Ward 67's Township), is raising concerns regarding pollution, especially of the Hlaing River, since industrial waste water is returned to the river without treatment (JICA, 2015, p.50).

# Yangon in Transition: Services



Figure 6. Map of the services projects in yangon



72% Solid Waste Collection

The main projects that YCDC is currently undertaken connected with identified needed physical improvements for W67 are the following (YCDC, 2014):

The YCDC pollution control & cleansing department is running a "waste to energy" pilot project at the Htein Bin Final Disposal Site in Hlain Thar Yar Township (YCDC, 2014, p.26).



40% Water Supply

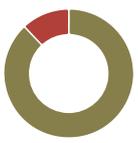
The YCDC water and sanitation engineering department is currently looking for international fund to develop the infrastructure to provide 90 MGD of potable water to the city residents (YCDC, 2014, p.28). Flooding is a main concern in Yangon during the monsoon season due to heavy rain caused by climate change, blocked drains, and an out-dated drainage system. Some wards even lack a drainage infrastructure.



44% Sewage

Sewage drains, pipes and supporting systems in downtown Yangon are from the time of British Burma. They are currently under severe stress and YCDC is working on the up-grading of the system. (Aung Khat, 2018)

The YCDC engineering department (water and sanitation) is the one in charge of this process.



88% Flush Toilet

The YCDC department of roads and bridges has a project to improve the drainage system of North Dagon, South Dagon, Sagon Seikkan and East Dagon Townships. This project include activities such as: construction of box culverts and concrete bridges, digging channels, dredging ditches ... (YCDC, 2014, p.32)

\*Data from a household survey from 2012 covering 10,000 households (equivalent to 1% of the total households in Greater Yangon). However, this data was not included or corroborated on the 2014 census.

# Yangon in Transition: Housing



Figure 7. The different housing developments in Yangon

Housing development in Yangon during this transition period has shifted from its previous diverse approaches of provision that included site and services, upgrading, rental housing, and affordable housing; towards a focus on public private partnerships that aim to provide affordable housing along with more high-end housing. However, those new partnerships define affordable housing according to standards that the majority of the residents of informal areas cannot

afford. This approach ignores the potential of self-provision of housing that the urban poor in Yangon are already employing, assuming a housing crisis and overestimating housing needs, while simultaneously initiating new housing projects targeted only to the middle class. This coupled with the eviction of the residents of informal areas leads to them relocating to riskier and areas that further their exposure to unhealthy environments.

## Yangon in Transition: Ward 67



Figure 8. Developments around Ward 67

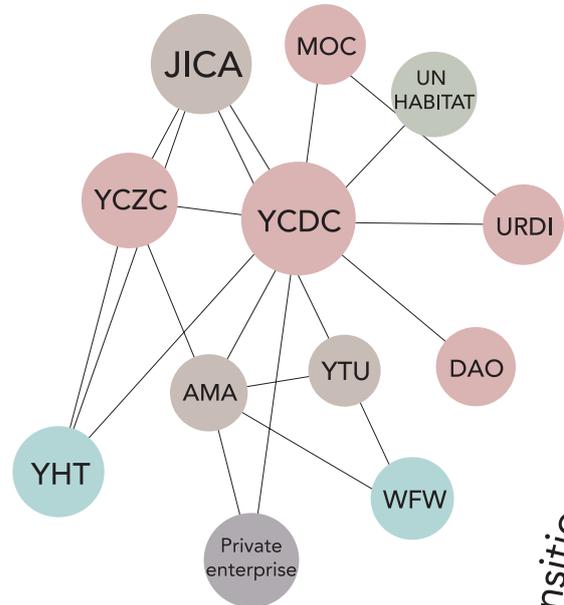
Traditionally, the approach to informal areas has taken the form of clearance and relocation to rented apartments, but progressively the country saw a decrease in the offer of rental housing and an increase in housing for ownership. Yet the lack of affordability of such schemes has left many residents outside these housing programs. Considering that 20% of the Yangonites according to YCDC or 45% according to Women for the World (WFW) are classified as squatters, it is unsettling that state-led housing programs have not been providing sufficient support to those most in need. On top of that, the Department of Urban and Housing Development (DUHD), being the national body responsible for housing provision, is only able to cover for 6% of the total housing demand by 2040.

Ward 67 is an interesting case for the problematisation of such processes in the city. Namely, the aforementioned JICA plan foresees a new railway (East-West corridor) parts of which would be located right next to the ward. This development along with the informal status of the settlement increase importantly the threat of eviction, yet it is the “unhealthy conditions of the environment” that are being used as a justification to such a possibility.

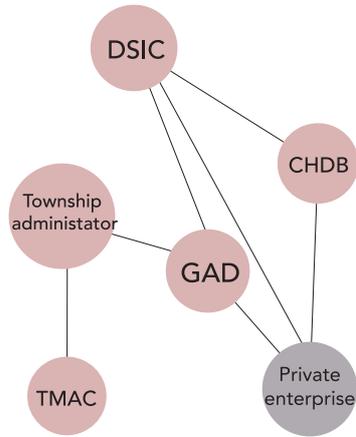
However, the assumption that the living conditions in a new housing scheme would be healthier is constrained: the disruption of the social pattern and the lack of integration of socio-economic aspects has been widely criticized in the relocation discourse. This continuous uncertainty over future transformations impacts the residents' access to the necessary means and their willingness to invest in the maintenance of a healthy living environment. In this context, upgrading can be seen as a more suitable alternative that allows for people to achieve better living conditions, healthier environments, and improve their experience as citizens.

# Yangon in Transition

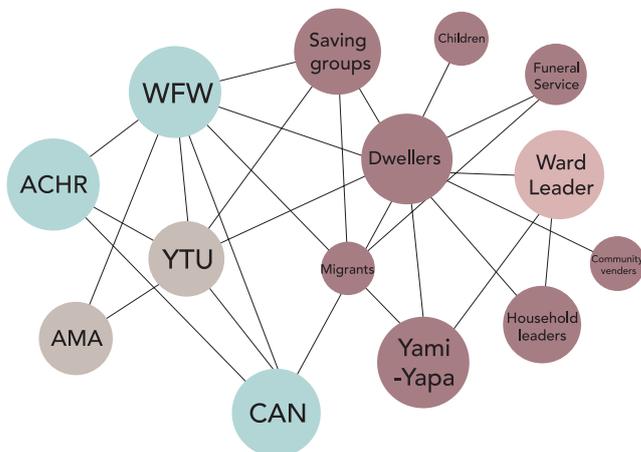
# Transformation Stakeholders



Yangon Actors

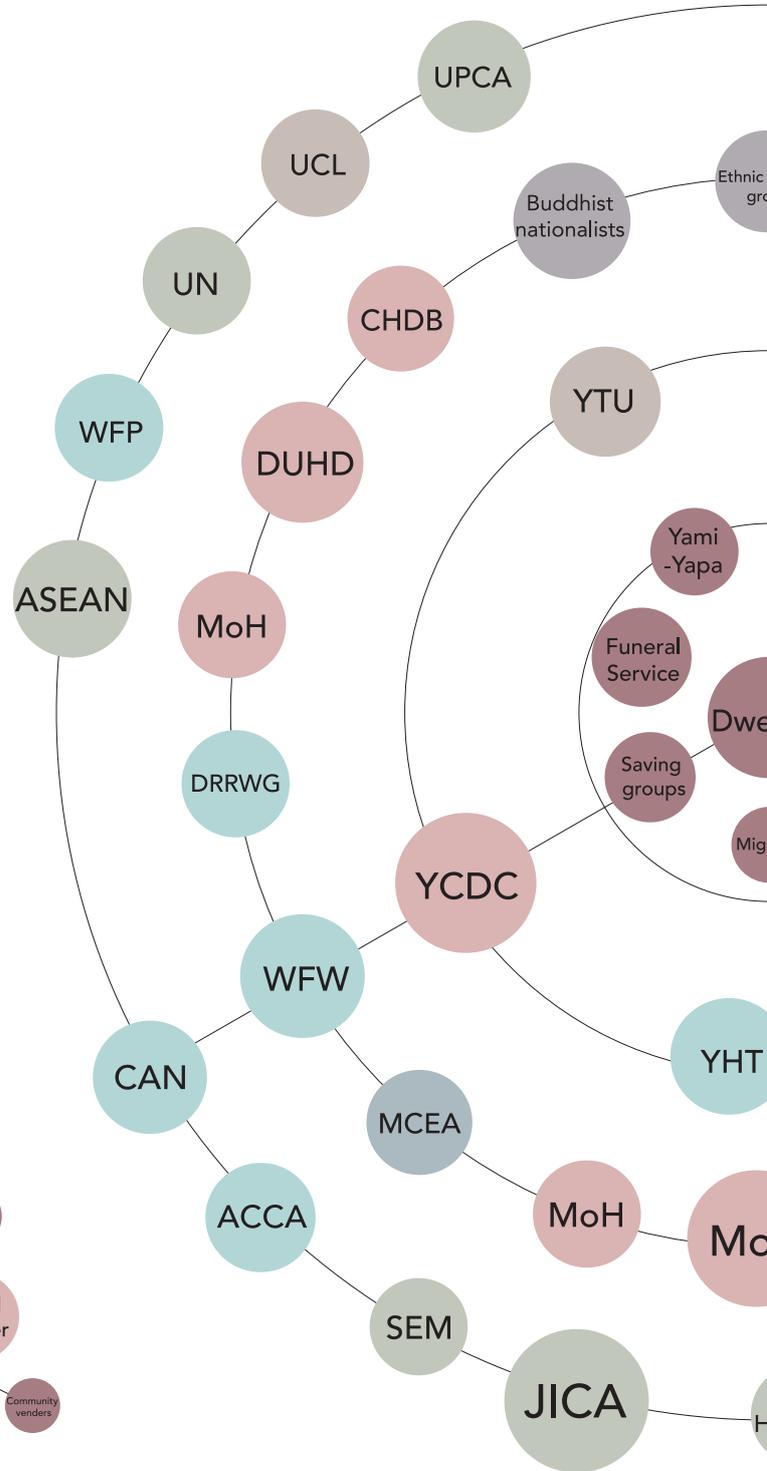


Dagon Seikkan Actors

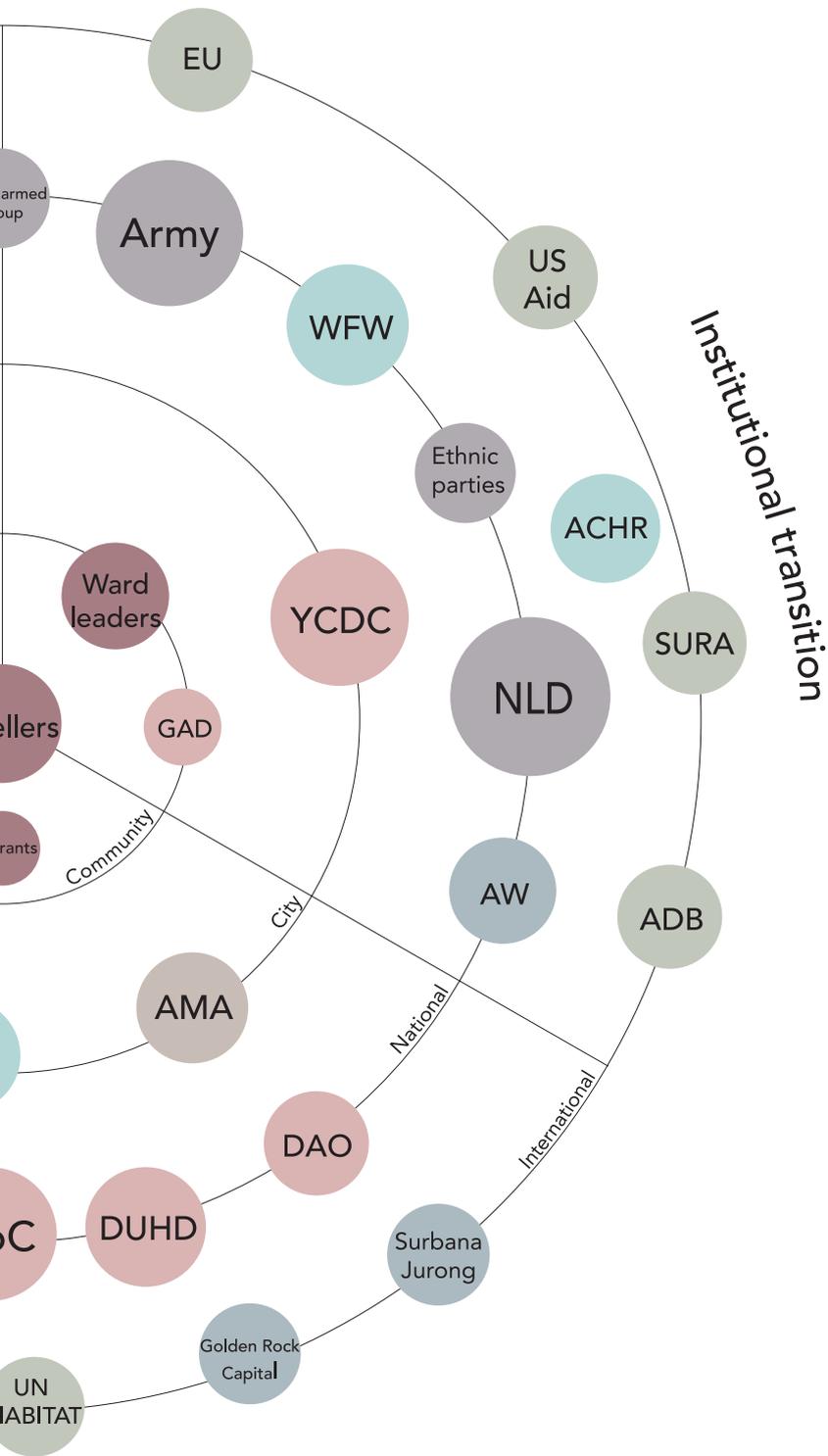


Ward 67 Actors

Social transition



Spatial tr



- Governmental bodies
- Community
- International organisations
- NGOs
- Political parties
- Civil society
- Private sector

Figure 9. Transformation Stakeholders

# Theoretical Framework: Citizenship, Space, and Health

While citizenship can be argued to be a contested concept, dominant definitions of it emphasise the role of state, status, rights and obligations (Volpp, 2017). This can be seen in Marshall's (1950, p. 28) definition of citizenship as "a status bestowed on those who are full members of a community. All who possess the status are equal with respect to the rights and duties with which the status is endowed". However, the critique of this dominant discourse introduces the issues of difference, universality and experience, arguing that the status of membership to a given community, and rights and obligations are non-fixed concepts that are constantly negotiated, differentially experienced and intersect with the socio-economic positions of different individuals and social groups (Young, 1989) (Walby, 1994) (Lister, 1997) (Jones & Gaventa, 2002) (Isin, 2012) (Hammett, 2017).

Citizenship as we see it follows the argument of differential experience that is highlighted even more in a context of transition and transformation. Additionally, we consider health as part of this experience and as part of the legal construction of citizen rights. Citizenship should not be understood only as a status, but as holding two dimensions: experienced and substantive. The experience(s) of citizenship are underpinned by the physical and ecological conditions of the environment and the socio-economic positions of individuals and can be seen in the practices, interactions, habitus, dispositions and feelings of different groups (Hammett, 2017). The substantive dimension on the other hand is created through the socio-economic political context that shapes the legal construction of citizenship, regulating access to citizenship claims, its classifications and the construction of the rights and obligations of Myanmar citizens.

The two dimensions are not in opposition; the experience of citizenship is what performs its substantive legal construction (Hammett, 2017) and through redefining either dimension an impact on the other occurs. For instance, new forms of social organisation or improvements in the environment can change the ability to access some of the rights or perform some of the responsibilities of citizenship. Thus, the effects of physical and ecological conditions and socio-economic positions go beyond the experience of citizenship and include the ability to make claims over the substantive legal dimension of citizenship itself.

If we consider physical and ecological conditions as underpinning the experience of citizenship, then a relationship can be mapped between health, space, and citizenship. Coates and Garmany (2017) argue that the physical and ecological conditions of the environment can either strengthen the ability to make claims over citizenship, or lead to the construction of vulnerabilities and unhealthy conditions that affect its experience. Similarly, Subadevan and Naqvi (2017) highlight the role of different interventions on the built and ecological environment in creating second class or non-citizens that can no longer access the necessary urban resources to claim their citizenship.

This relationship between citizenship and space brings forward the issue of healthy environments, which is one of the determinants of health, and can be understood as the physical and ecological conditions necessary to sustain individual health (WHO, 2010). The creation of healthy or unhealthy environments is directly tied to the physical and ecological conditions that characterize experiences of citizenship and to the socio-economic positions of groups and individuals that determine their access to the resources needed to intervene on those conditions.

The urban poor, whose citizenship is affected by the substantive construction and their lack of identification, use an ensemble of methods to resist and negotiate this legal framework, including episodic mobilisation, withdrawal of consent, upholding citizenship obligations and different modes of (dis) engagement. Additionally, their experiences of citizenship transcend this legal construction through their skills and knowledge of their environments and the efforts they apply to achieve healthier living conditions. Through daily practices of upgradation and consolidation, they redefine their experience of being citizens, challenge city transformations that undermine their positions and increase their ability to negotiate citizenship's legal construction.

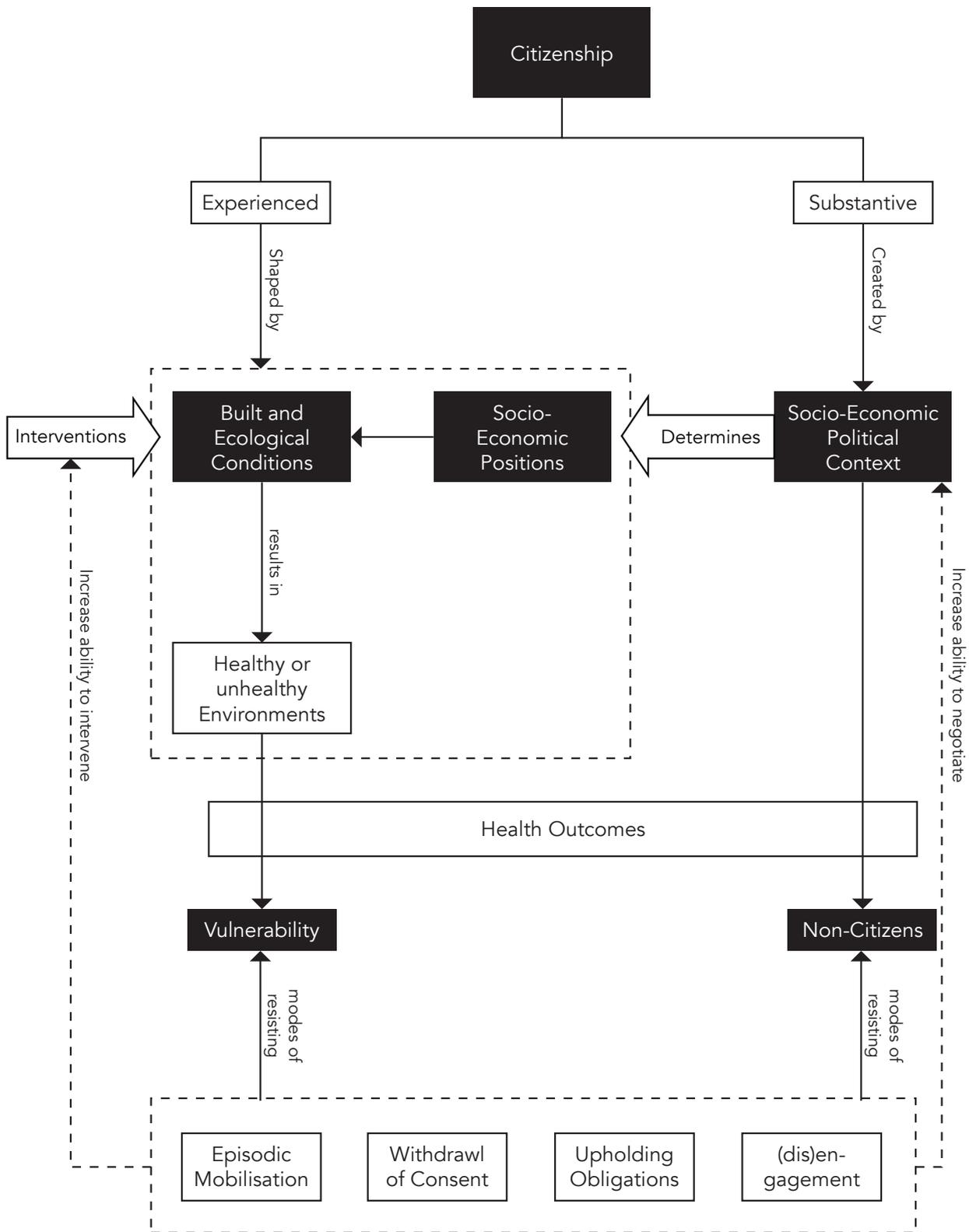


Figure 10. Theoretical Framework

# Analytical Framework: Determinants of Health

As established above, the experience of citizenship is underpinned by physical and ecological conditions and socio-economic positions that create and maintain healthy and unhealthy environments. Understanding the complexity and multiplicity of elements that determine health, and where healthy environments fit within those determinants, is crucial to undertake actions for the improvement of any context.

Three dimensions relating to citizenship can help us understand what a healthy environment is: firstly, it can be understood as the existence and maintenance of the necessary physical and ecological conditions to achieve individual health outcomes (Coates & Garmany, 2017); secondly, socio-economic positions can be seen as determining the ability of different individuals and groups to intervene and alter those conditions; finally, the socio-economic political context that creates the legal substantive construction of citizenship can constitute those different positions that affect one's ability to create a healthy environment and determines where health fits within the construction of citizenship rights (Hammett, 2017).

To examine those different aspects in greater depth, the Social Determinants of Health (CSDH) can be of value. These include two dimensions: structural and intermediary. The structural determinants correlate with the socio-economic political context that creates the legal substantive construction of citizenship, and the socio-economic positions of individuals. The intermediary factors include, among others, material circumstances of individuals, which correlate with the physical and ecological conditions that we understand as underpinning the experience of citizenship. Additionally, those structural determinants lead to the unequal exposure and vulnerability to health-compromising conditions determined by intermediate factors. The level of this exposure is then determining the health and well-being of individuals, reflecting the structural inequities in place. (WHO, 2010).

While asymmetrical exposure can lead to unequal health outcomes and abilities to maintain healthy environments, there are still possibilities to modify the structural and intermediate factors that determine individual health statuses. One of those possibilities is through participation and collective action, especially within the most vulnerable groups. In order to understand the potential for change through citizens' participation and collective action, the parameters of social cohesion and social capital need to be

considered. (WHO, 2010).

As such, our analysis incorporates the social determinants of health as a way of understanding the health outcomes of Yangon citizens, the conditions leading to the creation of healthy or unhealthy environments, the different interventions by residents in order to create healthier living conditions, and the role participation and social cohesion can play in the process. Finally, we decided to focus on the factors relating to urban development, being the ones more connected with our role in Yangon and the ones over which we might have more capacity to influence; those include material circumstances, livelihoods, networks and civil engagement, which are elaborated on in the following diagram.

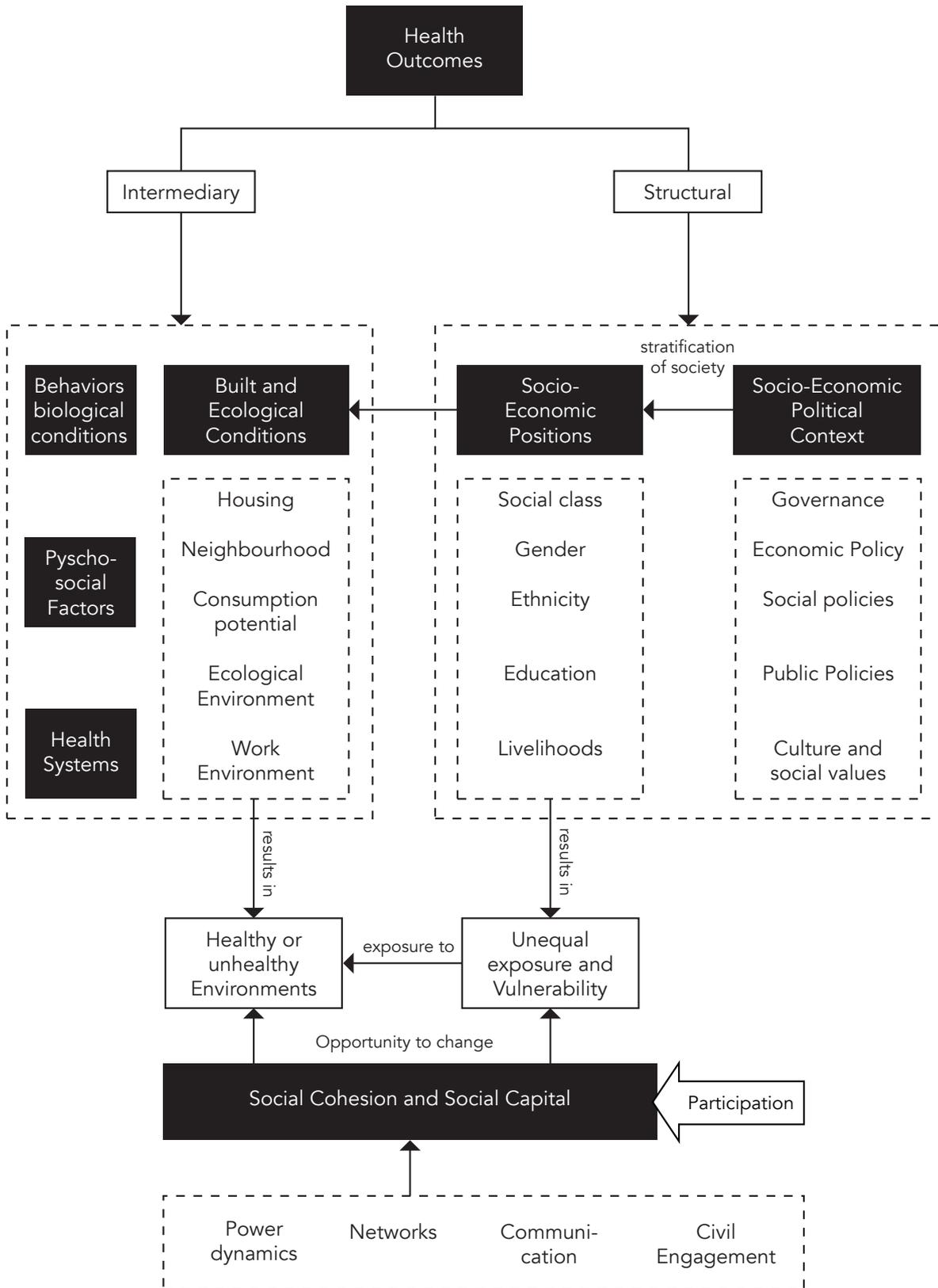


Figure 11. Analytical Framework





## **Part 2**

# **Methodology and Findings**

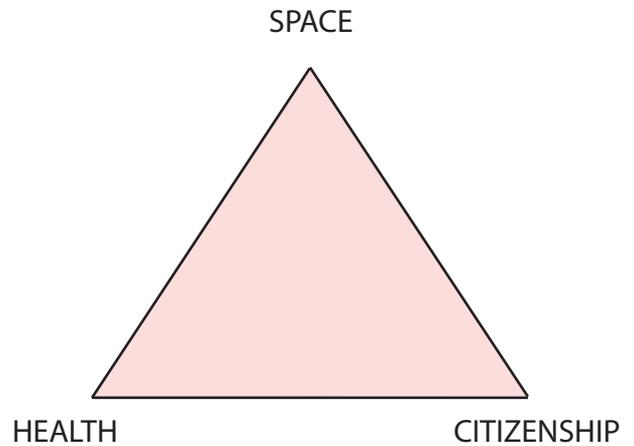
# Methodology

This report investigates the question “How can collective action towards a healthy environment aid in redefining substantive and experienced citizenship?”. Framed in the context of a transitioning Myanmar that is redefining the meaning of citizen, and located in an area of fieldwork that is constructed by dominant narratives as unhealthy and threatened with eviction, the research design follows three main points of investigation. Firstly, it seeks to understand what is framed as a healthy environment at both community and institutional level; to identify the elements relating to people’s built and ecological conditions and their socio-economic position that can be modified through collective action; and finally, to understand how this collective action to achieve healthy environments can change the experience of citizenship, and subsequently allow for negotiating its legal structure.

The trajectory of this project included secondary research and analysis while still in London, followed by a two-week period of field work that included site visits, engagement with civil society, academics, local students, developing agencies, and state officials and culminated in post-fieldwork analysis and the production of strategies at site- and city scale. Participatory methods for action-oriented research have been employed to investigate the above questions at the level of the ward 67; whereas for the city level we looked at the transformation and planning narratives and discourses around health and citizenship, using quantitative data from the different state institutions, development agencies, and civil society.

Through the participatory research, we investigated what is understood as a healthy environment and what is determined as “unhealthy” by the residents of W67. Existing practices and collective action to improve the built and ecological environments were explored to understand the capacities, skills and knowledge in place, and identify the limitations and challenges that people are faced with. Equally important was the understanding of the socio-economic positions, including social networks, governance structures and the capacities of different actors, in order to identify gaps and potentials for new partnerships and communication channels. Finally, understanding the operation of the savings groups was an important foundation for our strategic interventions.

Looking at the city level, our understanding was gained through the analysis of current development practices, discourses, and policies and their impact



on creating healthy or unhealthy environments and citizenship experiences. Recent urban and housing developments were documented and contrasted with the urban development plans produced by the Department of Urban and Housing Development (DUHD) and developing agencies such as JICA. The current trends of international investment, the construction of the narrative that legitimises eviction, and the conflicts that emerge over land were explored through secondary literature and lectures.

Finally, through synthesizing the gathered data around what constitutes a healthy environment, the possibilities for collective action, and the impact of the transition context on the environment and citizenship, our objective was to create a framework for strategies that address citizenship, inclusivity, and eviction issues through healthier environments. employing the lenses of analysis previously stated in the analytical framework.

We acknowledge that the short duration of the field work and the frequent reframing of our analytical lens have contributed to some limitations in this report. Additionally, the small sample of W67 residents was by no means representative of the experiences and narratives of the different groups of dwellers. Despite that we see great richness in the material we gathered, and through the triangulation of information in our analysis we hope to have overcome this limitation to some extent.



## Participatory methods of action-oriented research



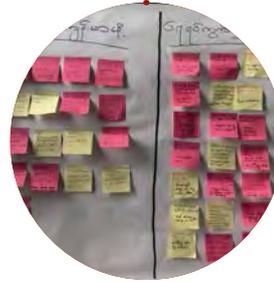
Field visit to community  
Pan Thazin, North  
Okkalapa

The visit to the community Pan Thazin gave us important insights into the potentials and achievements of savings groups. Through exercises about gender, transportation and livelihoods we got acquainted with the operation of the savings groups, we observed the systems in place and interviewed people on their advice to other communities.



Walking

The walk through the ward accompanied by members of the community was a means to get acquainted with the area, notice what places people view as important for the community and observe the present conditions and various practices that were further investigated through the exercises that followed.



What is a healthy  
home?/ What is a  
healthy W67?

This exercise aimed at understanding what aspects of daily life people associate with living in a healthy environment, i.e. a healthy house and a healthy community. Participants organized several topics they associate with a "healthy" and an "unhealthy environment" on a poster.



Interviews

Interviews were conducted with different actors (savings groups members, yami yama, recycling spots, people that work in the market etc) in order to obtain more detailed information about the existing practices, the operation of the savings groups, the more pressing needs and priorities of residents as well as what they would be able and willing to contribute for the proposed improvements to come into effect.



Trajectory of waste in Ward 67

Tracing the trajectory of waste inside the ward was an exercise that allowed us to understand the rationales behind the disposal habits of different people, the different economic circles that are attached to the management of waste and to identify the gaps in organization and the existing capacities for a more effective disposal system.



Documenting the expenses for waste

Documenting the cost of different modi of waste disposal (e.g. plastic bags, bamboo bins, plastic bins) and the time it takes for these to fill up in an average household allowed us to project the economic benefits of a collective waste management system.



Workshop with children

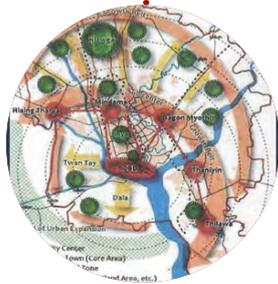
This workshop attempted to challenge -even marginally- the perception of waste through a game with children. The idea of creating toys out of waste (like plastic bottles and straws) was introduced, in order to better understand the .... and start a conversation with the participants about recycling/re-purposing and the potentials of it, even in income generating activities.



Co-designing a waste management system

This activity aimed at understanding deeper the changes that people aspire to implement with relevance to a new waste management system, how they assess the potentials of the very new pilot project, who they identify as important actors for this project to happen and what would be the spatial organization and distribution of the necessary infrastructure.

## Research methods at city level



### Processing secondary information

This part involved the evaluation and processing of information on the development and planning discourses issued by the Burmese government, local and international NGO's, the JICA Development Plan, and press releases in order to understand the dominant practices and identify the knowledge gaps we should fill in during the field trip.



### Mapping

Processing information into maps before the trip to Yangon gave us a basic understanding of the recent and current urban trends, the distribution of informal settlements in the city, the patterns of eviction and their relation to the new developments in infrastructure and housing according to the urban development plans.



### Lectures

Several lectures that took place both in London and Yangon helped us form a deeper understanding on different aspects of the urban transformation in Myanmar and inform our action plan with a focus on ethical engagement. The London series include: M. Lall, J. Walker, C. Levy, E. Rhoads, N. Perera and C. Marx and the Yangon one: J. Roberts, Daw Mie Mie Tin (MoC), Ayumi Kiko (JICA), U Myint Swe, U Than Moe (YTU), Van Lizar Aung (WfW), Witee Wisuthumporn (CAN) among others.



### Processing available data from WFW

The data collected by WFW from W67 helped us establish a good understanding of the community's priorities and focus our action plan and research questions long before the actual field trip.

# Synthesis of findings

The data gathered through the activities and workshops described previously have revealed 6 different aspects relating to what we ultimately framed as determinants of a healthy environment: waste, water, sanitation, electricity, house upgrading and disaster risk. Other aspects that determine the health of an individual, like gender or biological conditions are not being addressed here, since our analysis seeks to bring forward aspects that have potential to be improved through physical upgradation and collective action.

The synthesis of our findings follows the logic already elaborated in the analytical framework, in which we distinguish in material conditions and socio-economic position relating to healthy environments. The first category includes housing, the condition of services (waste, water, sanitation and health) and the environmental risk, while the latter is about the social capital, social cohesion, livelihoods and education.



Figure 12. Walking path

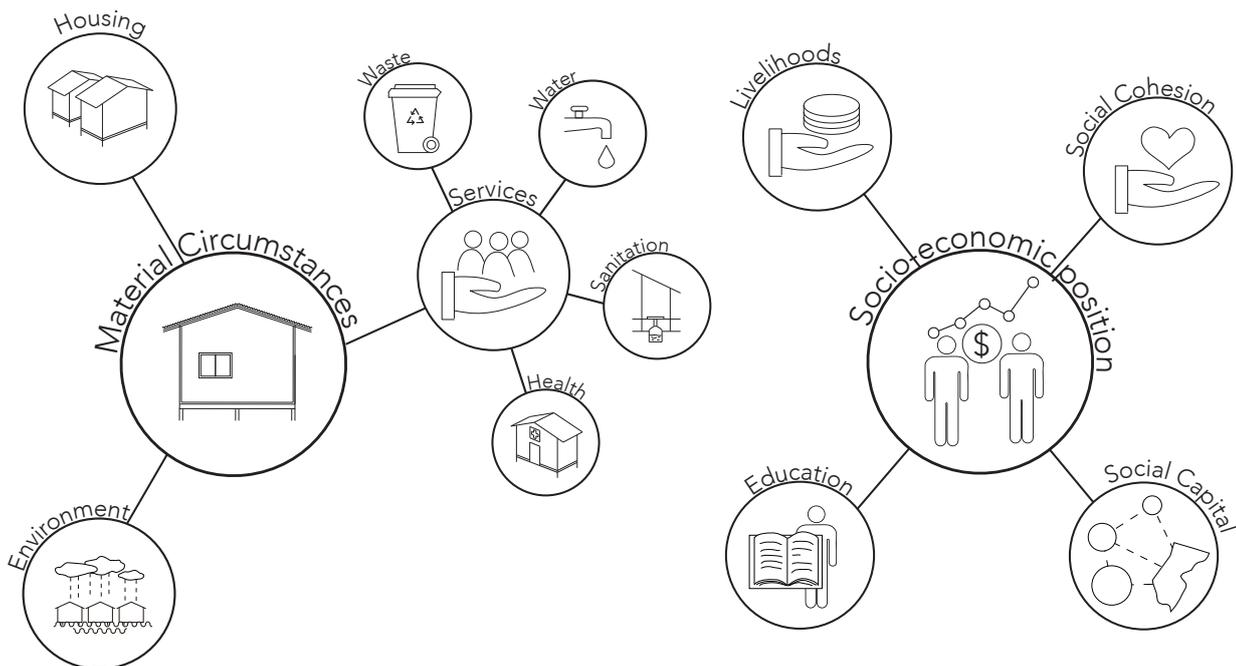
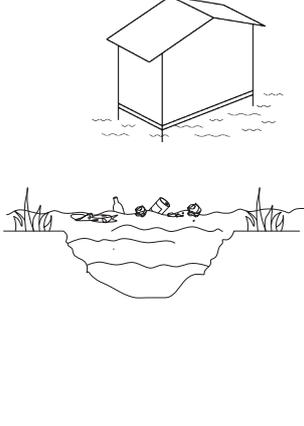
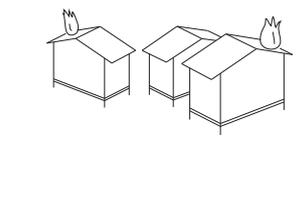
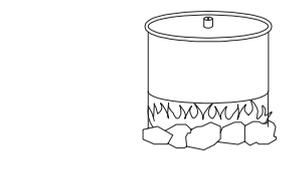


Figure 13. Organisation of findings

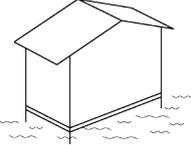
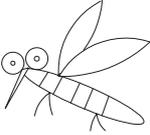
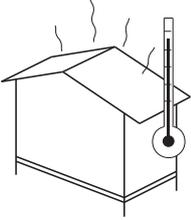
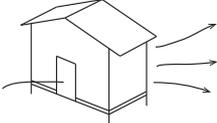
# a. Built & Ecological Conditions (Material circumstances)

## 1. Environment

	Description	Consequences	Opportunities & Possible solutions
	<p>flooding happens because of two reasons:                      -areas in the southern part of the ward are high-risk areas for flooding during rainy season                      -rain also causes overflow of the stream and along with that waste from the creek ends up back into the ward</p>	<p>flood-related accidents have included drowning</p> <p>water and waste attract mosquitoes that are a threat to people's health</p>	<p>pavement of roads, incremental upgrading of housing and effective waste management would reduce fire risk</p>
	<p>high density of houses, poor accessibility and materiality of constructions (wood, bamboo etc)</p>	<p>conditions increase risk of fire and the spreading of it through the ward</p>	<p>filtration, gutters and/or pumps; houses above flood levels; introduction of wetlands and trees; introduction of water storage areas; improve soil conditions; cleaning up the stream for better water flow; temporary barriers</p>
	<p>lack of electricity leads to activities being practices in modes that increase the risk of fire (e.g. cooking with coal, lighting with candles)</p>	<p>conditions increase risk of fire and the spreading of it through the ward</p>	<p>connecting the ward to the electricity grid would overall reduce the risk of fire</p>

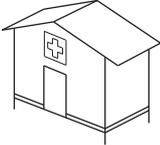
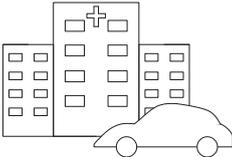
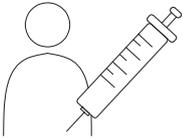
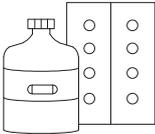


## 2. Housing

	Description	Consequences	Opportunities & Possible solutions
	houses raised on stilts but distance to the ground is often too short	during the rainy season water can rise up to floor level	incremental upgrading and raising the level of the houses
	waste and water accumulate under the houses (even long after the rainy season)	mosquitos are attracted by this environment, posing a threat to people's health	improving the waste management and water circulation
	materiality of the houses is conducive to overheating (e.g. corrugated sheets)	risk of heat strokes; elderly people and children are particularly vulnerable	incremental upgrading and using more appropriate materials; planting trees for shade around the house
	cooking takes place indoors, exacerbating the overheating	risk of heat strokes and increased risk of fire	
	most houses do not have sufficient windows	poor ventilation inside the house	

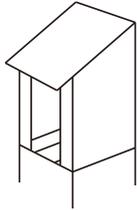


### 3a. Services: Health

	Description	Consequences	Opportunities & Possible solutions
	three clinics located in the ward providing mostly for minor issues		
	for emergencies/serious conditions people are transferred to the township hospital on the funeral service car	the availability of the car and the proximity of the township hospital can be very critical to people's wellbeing	
	children can get vaccinated, but information about that is often poorly circulated so that many miss the opportunity	otherwise preventable diseases can affect vulnerable children	information about prevention and vaccination periods
	people go to the pharmacy, self-medicate and/or use traditional medicine rather than going to the clinic when they get sick	the practice of self-medication can be dangerous to people's health (dosis, diagnosis etc)	capitalize on savings groups for channeling information information about prevention



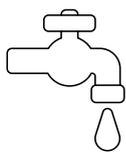
### 3b. Services: Sanitation



Description	Consequences	Opportunities & Possible solutions
no sewage system available in the ward; most houses have external toilets that connect to the creek or the ground	waste water mixes with groundwater and stream, leading to their contamination; yet that is in part the water that is being used for several household purposes	introduction of a improved sanitation system to avoid the contamination of rainwater with waste-water/ creation of separated channels



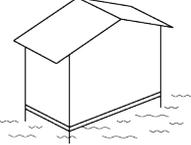
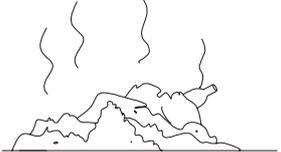
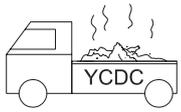
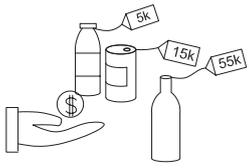
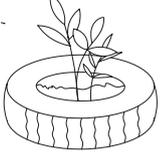
### 2c. Services: Water



Description	Consequences	Opportunities & Possible solutions
there is no drinkable water available in the ward; water is being bought for 400K per 20L  the expenditure on non-potable water is 200 MMK/day	buying water is less affordable in this way, leading to people not having enough to drink and/or to clean food properly	ward could be connected to city grid and water can be distributed throughout; water purification could be used to reuse greywater in a safe and hygienic way



### 3d. Services: Waste

	Discription	Consequences	Opportunities & Possible solutions
	no organized waste management system in place	accumulation of waste, contamination of environment	leftover amount of initial budget for waste management pilot project by WFW can be used for further development;
	waste is usually disposed into the creek and in empty plots troughout the ward; proximity seems to determine the mode people opt for	creek water is contaminated; waste exacerbates effects of flooding in rainy season; waste on empty plots increases the risk of fire	shifting from individual practices to collective ones would increase the effectiveness of the waste management in the ward;
	a main waste disposal area was allocated by the community along the main road	significant accumulation of waste on site increases contamination; bacteria; smell	knowledge sharing with other savings groups; cleaning up stream would improve health and reduce impact of floods; concentrating waste in containers would minimize soil pollution and fire risk;
	no support by YCDC to collect the waste from the ward; organizing a truck is too expensive	waste accumulates within the ward	collaboration with YCDC would reduce health risks and allow stream to clean up (main disposal area is on the main road, which would make collection from YCDC easier)
	pilot waste management project started recently, but is still unknown to most residents and relatively underused		scale up the project project and circulating information would have a significant impact on the improvement of health; practices could be scaled up and transformed to income-generating activities and increase sensitivity about waste
	recycling takes place on individual level, reducing the amount of total waste while generating some income for those involved		
	innovative micropractices or recycling/repurposing of used objects on household level		



### 3d. Services: Waste - trajectory

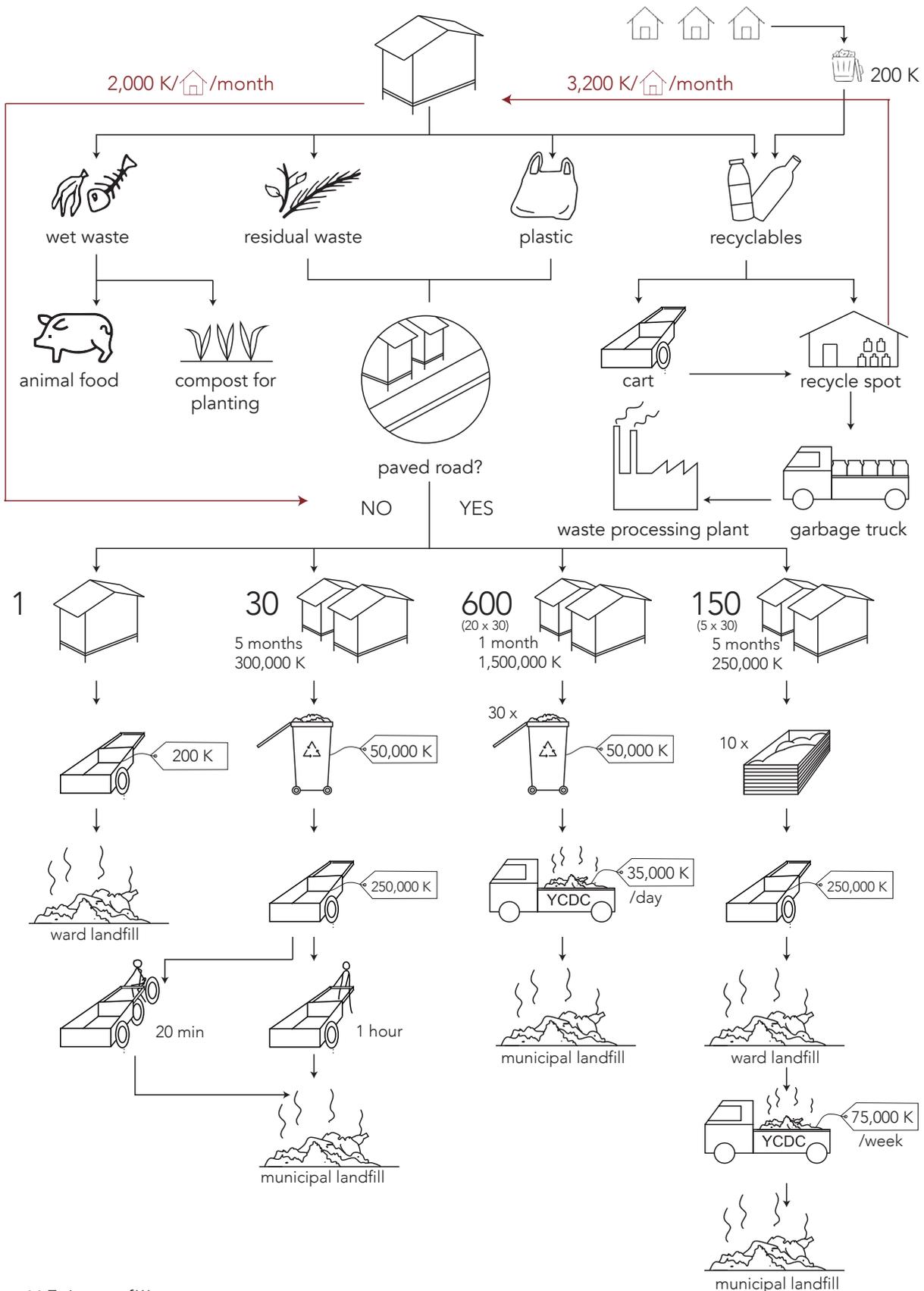


Figure 14. Trajectory of Waste

## b. Socio-Economic Positions

### 1. Livelihoods

	Description	Consequences	Opportunities & Possible solutions
 	<p>70% of the community unemployed; income is often unstable</p> <p>main expenditure on health, education, housing and small businesses</p>	<p>day by day survival makes it difficult to save money</p>	<p>introducing new income generating activities related to the upgrading of the ward (e.g. wate management, drainage, ...)</p>
  			

### 2. Education

	Description	Consequences	Opportunities & Possible solutions
 	<p>since there are not schools within the Ward most kids stay the whole day at home or outdoors</p> <p>great engagement of children during the workshop on waste</p>	<p>health issues due to excessive exposure to the sun or contact with waste and waste-water</p>	<p>trainings on healthy habits through activities and workshops</p>

### 3. Social Cohesion

#### Description

#### Opportunities & Possible solutions

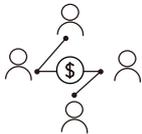


trust on the formal governance system of the Ward (10 and 100 households leaders) is low; however informal governance actors (Funeral Services or Yumi Yapa) are greatly trusted

increasing the interest to join savings group; the influence of the Yumi Yapa could contribute to it



Yumi Yapa are key actors on the implementation of new projects



trust among neighbors increased when they are part of a saving group; however, there is only one groups in the Ward



### 4. Social Capital

#### Description

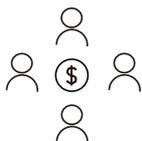
#### Opportunities & Possible solutions



most of the information is spread through the Yumi Yapa's communication channels

strengthen existing channels of information; establish new ways of circulating information;

the Yumi Yapa have connections to township's government



savings groups contribute to strengthen the network within the community; however, currently there is only one such group in the ward

connection of the community with the township's government through the Yumi Yapa

create partnerships through WFW with other savings groups for knowledge sharing

## Relation between Findings and Health According to Residents

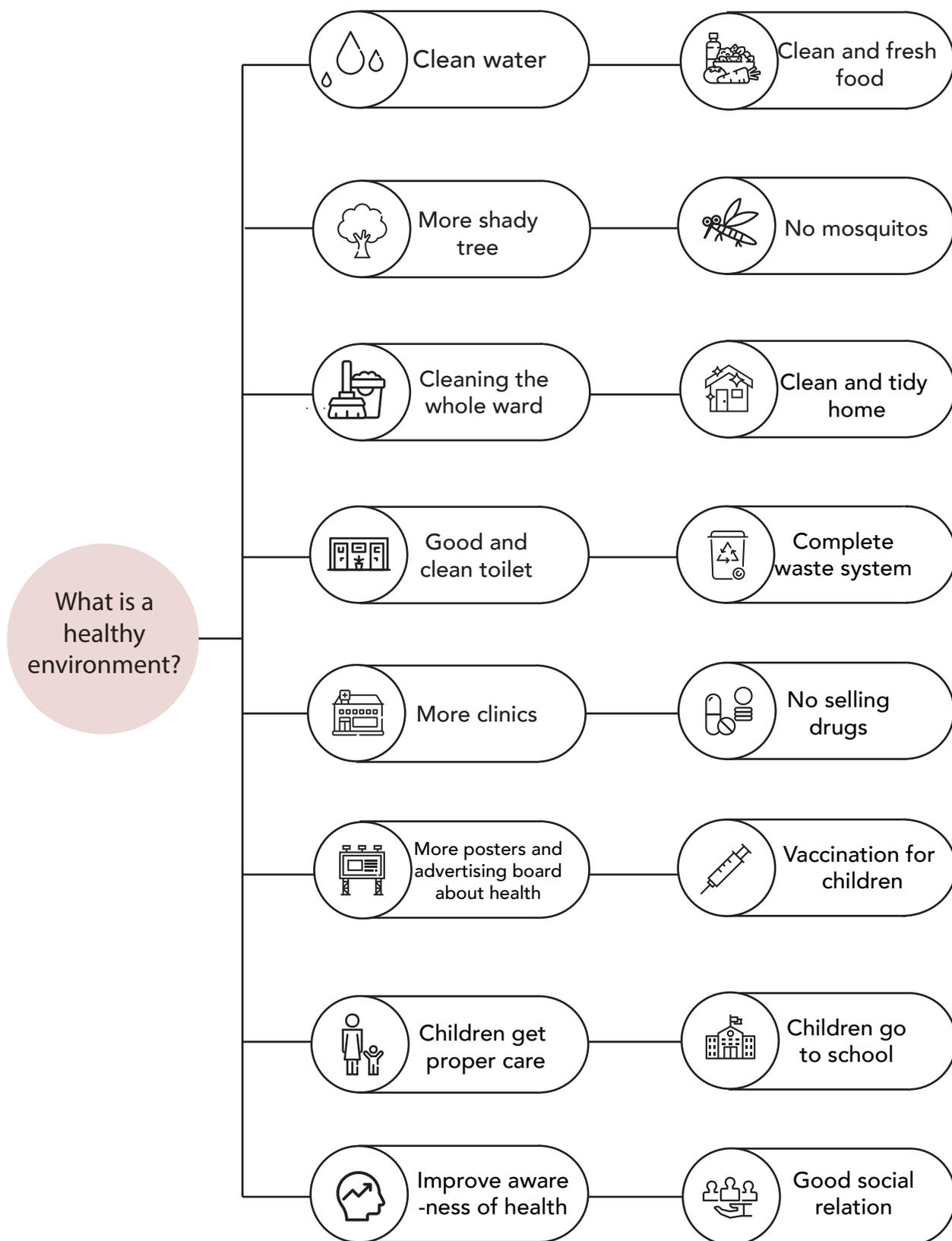


Figure 16. What is A Healthy Environment according to residents of ward 67

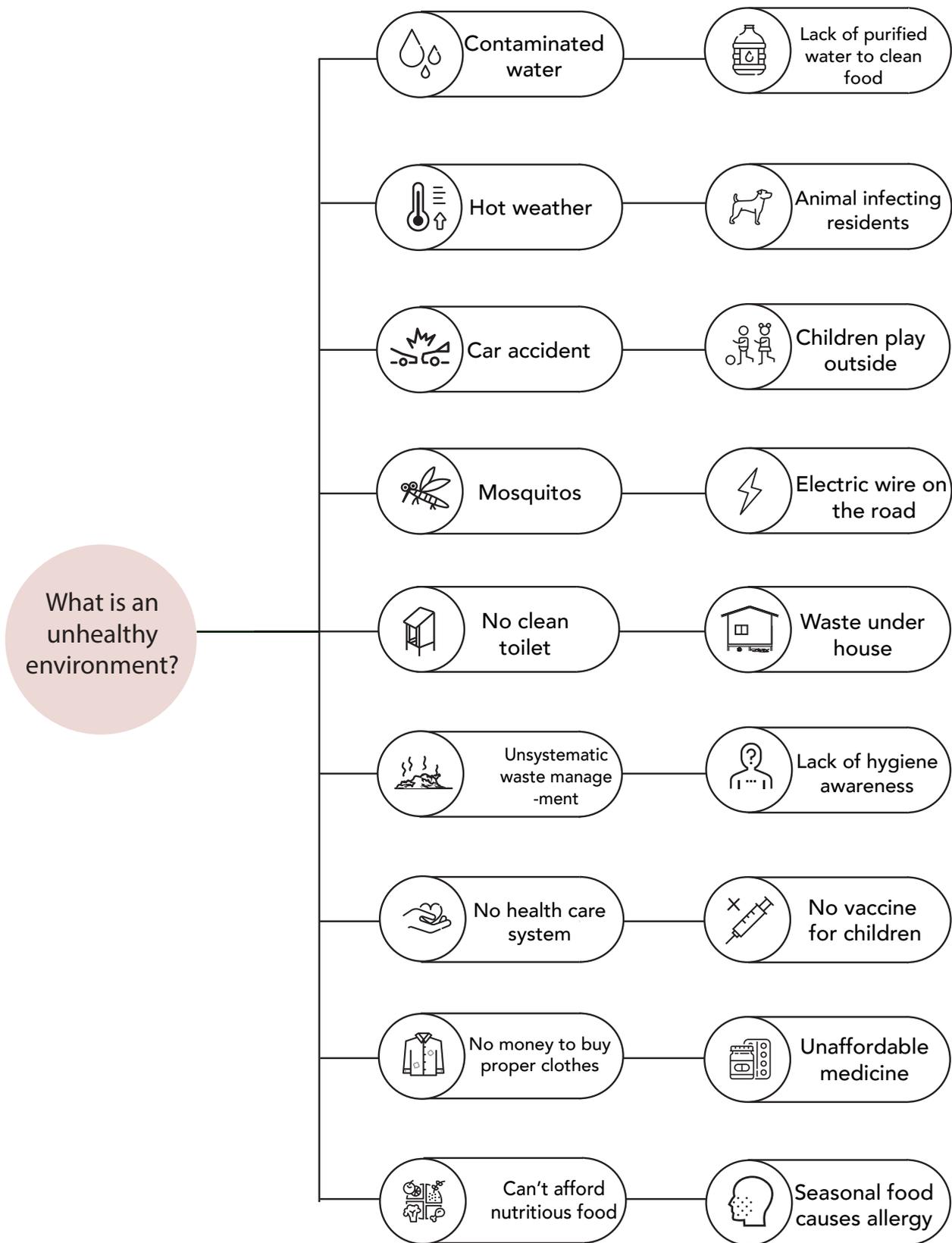


Figure 17. What is An Unhealthy Environment according to residents of ward 67

# Spatialization of Findings

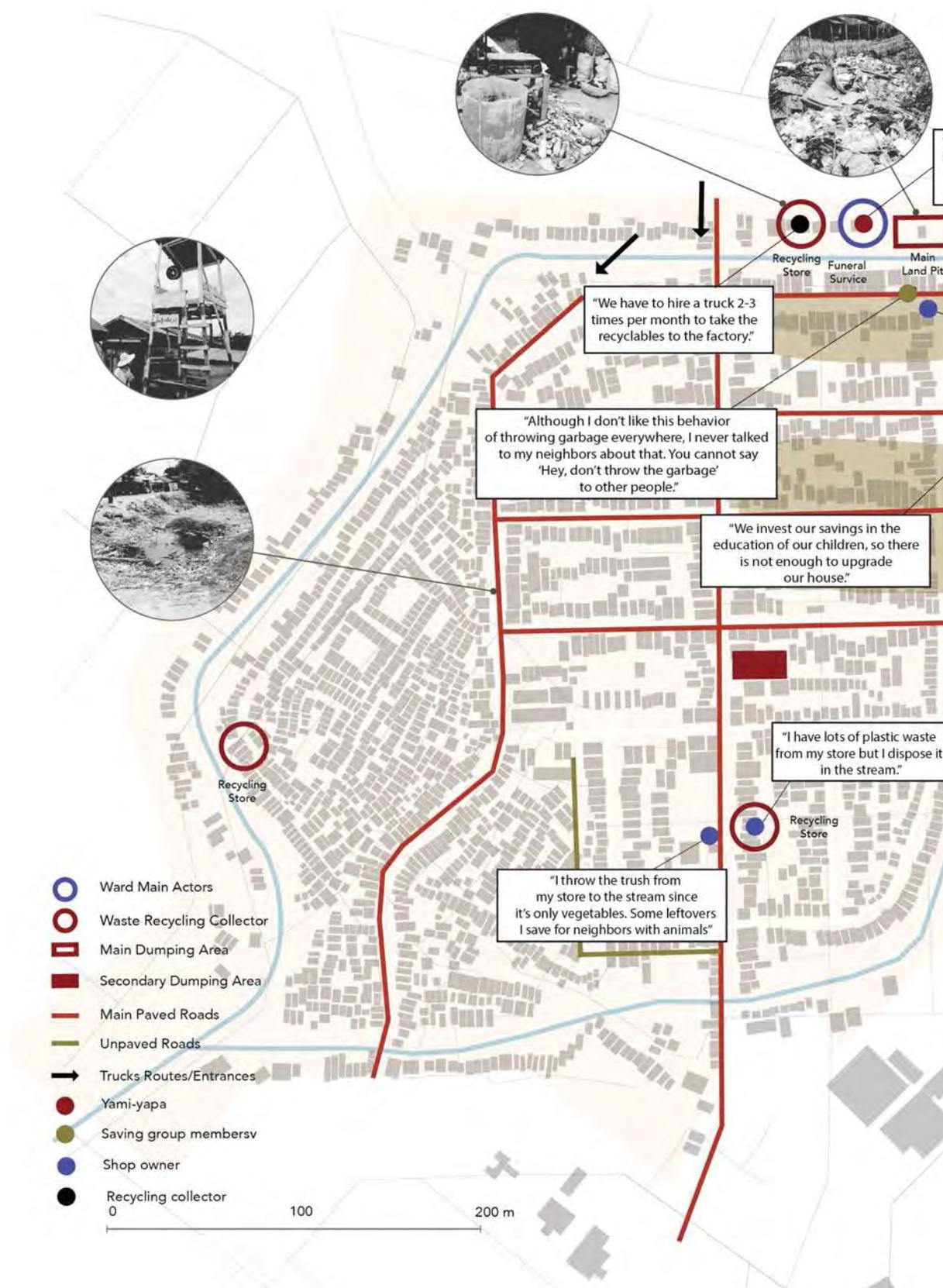
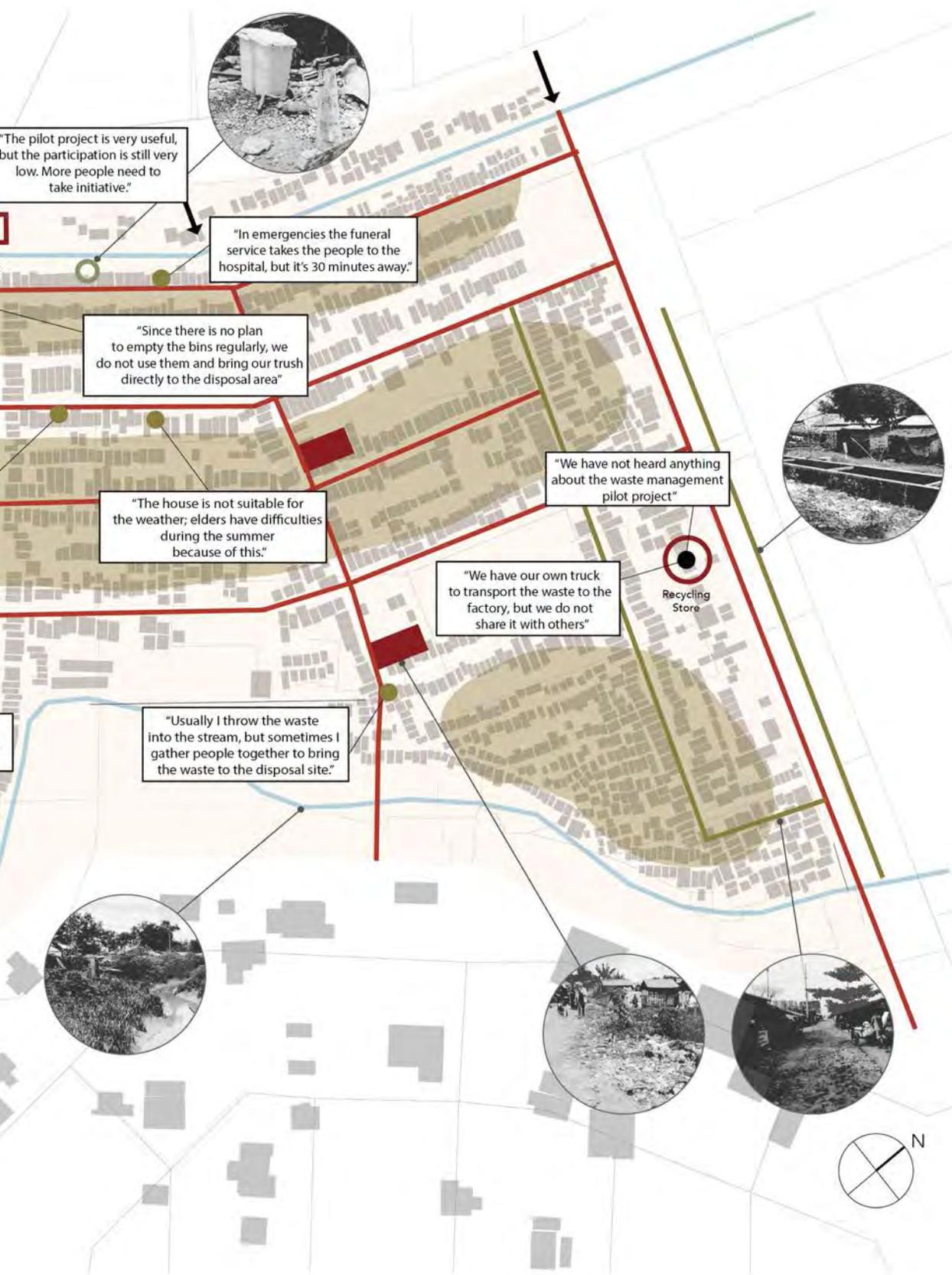


Figure 18. Spatialisation of Findings







# Vision

A future of Yangon where the multiplicity of experiences and practices that define citizenship are recognised; allowing for the active engagement of Ward 67 and other communities in the transformation of the city towards a healthier environment. Through this engagement, the path towards local healthier built and ecological environments, as well as improved socio-economic positions of residents, can serve as a catalyst for changing the perception of informality, vulnerability, and narratives of evictions. Leading to a city making process based on active and collective participation; a process that includes the skills and knowledge of local communities; and through which new possibilities can emerge to negotiate and redefine Myanmar transition and the experience of its citizens.



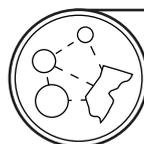
# Principles



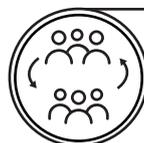
Recognition of the different experiences and practices of citizenship.



Collective practices as a catalyst for change and healthier environments.



Horizontal and vertical networks of trust and knowledge sharing.



Increased negotiation power through becoming collective.

# Guidelines

# Strategies



Initiating community-led physical upgrading based on local practices.

**Site level**

**City level**



Improving socio-economic positions.




Developing new forms of organisation and learning.

Physical Upgrading Strategies

Amplifying Efforts



Establishing citywide networks and partnerships.



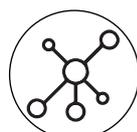

Changing the perception of healthy environments.

Improving Livelihoods by upgrading

Leveraging Knowledge Gaps



Challenging the connection of unhealthiness with informality.




Fostering possibilities for coproduction with communities.

Improving social cohesion and partnerships.

Collaborative Capacity Building

# Site Level Strategies



"Why upgrade?" was one of the questions that guided the conception of the proposed strategies. We view the incremental upgrading of the settlement as a means to consolidate valuable practices, improve people's living conditions and reduce vulnerabilities. As elaborated earlier in the report, a "healthy environment" can be understood as the necessary built and ecological conditions to achieve positive health outcomes; conditions that are largely determined by people's socio-economic position, shaping in turn their material conditions.

Certain circumstances within the ward may be posing obstacles to this process, like the fear of eviction, the disparity of interests between owners and renters, the financial capacity of many of the residents. However, we suggest that upgrading W67 through physical improvements and establishing stronger networks and partnerships would both address immediate needs and increase the residents' leverage capacity to claim their right to stay.

Having identified several aspects relating to healthy environments within the ward, our strategies focus specifically on the ones that can be implemented through collective action and are not overlapping with the foci of our colleagues (for energy see the work of group 1, for water see group 3). Therefore,

the domains that our strategies are structured around are: household upgrading, sanitation, waste management and flood mitigation. We believe that the improvement of the material conditions can in the first place have a positive impact on the immediate needs and issues faced by the community, and in the long run can put the people in the position to push further for the transformation of their socio-economic situation.

Specifically, we see great potential in the support of communication channels within and beyond the ward, as a means to circulate information effectively and support the spreading of the concept of the savings groups to many more households. New forms of organisation, building trust and sharing knowledge will have a significant positive impact in this process of consolidation.

Importantly, the strategies are based around the aspirations and the existing capacities of people from the ward, taking into account the available skills, knowledge, spending and saving capacity and the various creative practices established so far. From small acts of collectivity and solidarity, we envision the different operations to gain visibility throughout the ward and attract more people with an interest to join the saving and upgrading efforts.

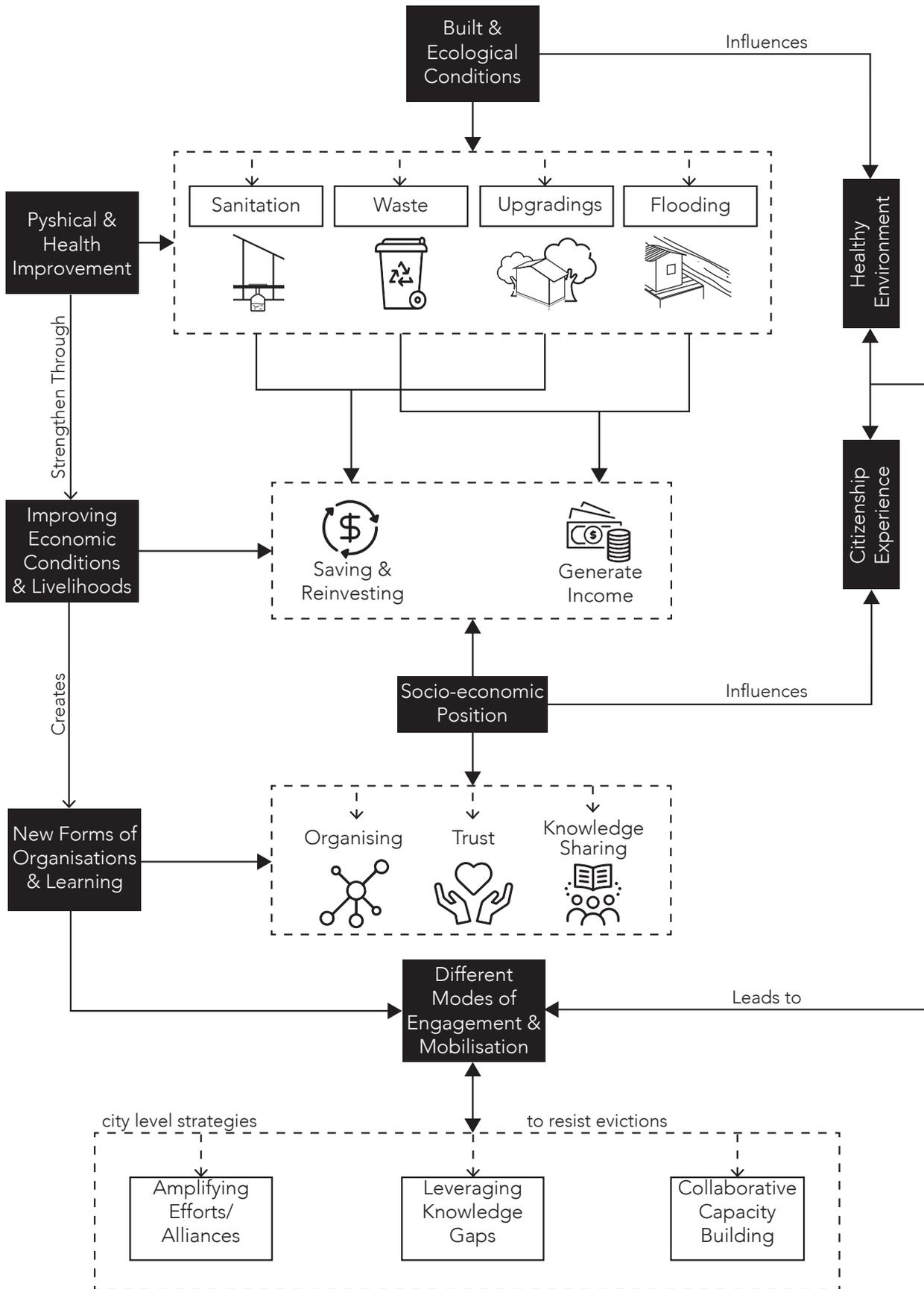


Figure 19. Diagram of the strategies for Ward 67

## Strategy i: Improving Social Cohesion and Partnerships.

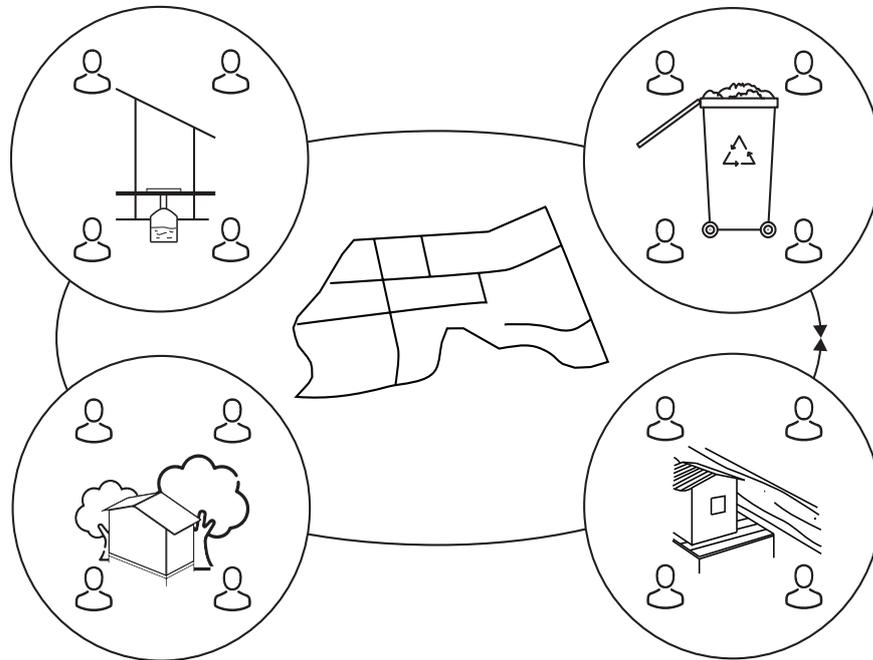


Figure 20. Strategy i: Improving Social Cohesion and Partnerships

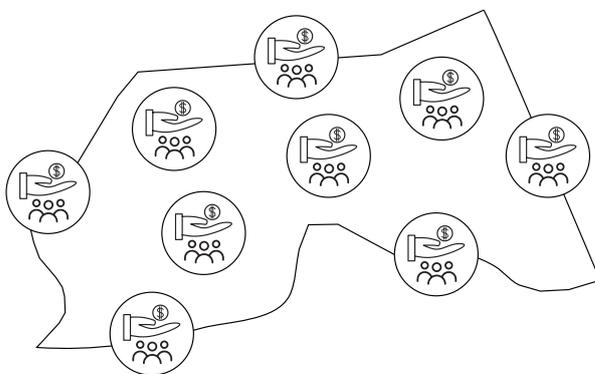


Figure 21. Spreading Saving Group

Community organization, trust development and knowledge sharing are three aspects we consider as necessary to increase the social cohesion within the Ward and subsequently the leverage capacity of this community to present upgrading to the authorities as an effective process for the creation of healthier environments.

We see the savings groups supported by WFW as having great potential to become key actors in a socially cohesive W67. On the one side, more savings groups can be created to improve the material circumstances of the Ward in the pursue of a healthier environment. On the other, through such collective activities, new relationships of trust can be built among residents and between the community and the township government.

It is therefore important to understand how existing practices aiming at improving the material and socio-economic conditions can spread and from individual activities become collective ones. The role of local formal and informal governance structures can contribute to the scaling up of such practices, linking the Ward and the township government for the provision of the necessary and deserved support.

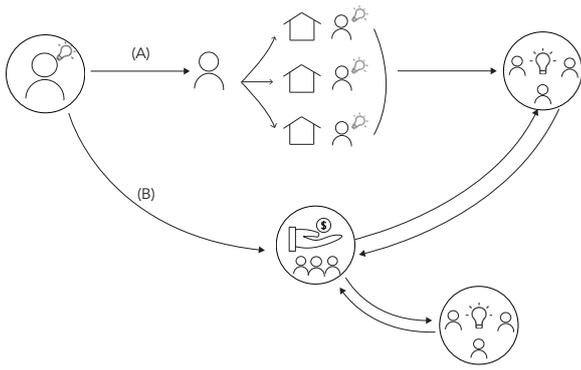


Figure 22. From the Individual to the Community

### From the individual to the community

Any resident from W67 affected by a particular issue (water, sanitation, flooding...) and with an idea about how to solve it or reduce the negative consequences, would get in contact with other people faced with the same problem, and start a focus group to discuss possible solutions and their implementation. This process can be seen as a step towards the creation of new saving groups. In the case that this individual is already part of a saving group, the concern can be directly shared with the group, and a small sub-group can be initiated to tackle that particular issue.

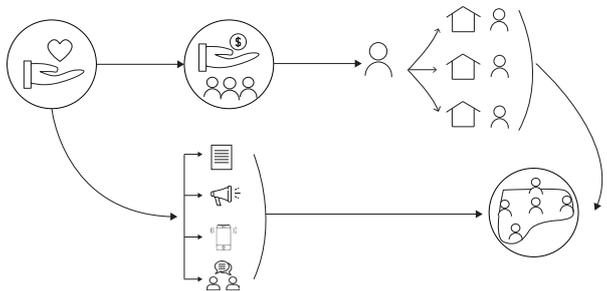


Figure 23. From the Community to the Individual

### From the community to the individual

The Funeral Service can contribute to the diffusion of a project through their four main channels of communication: pamphlets, oral mass communication, individual calls and individual conversations. In this process, saving groups, because of their perception as active and positive members of the community by other residents, can be employed as middle agents to spread the word.

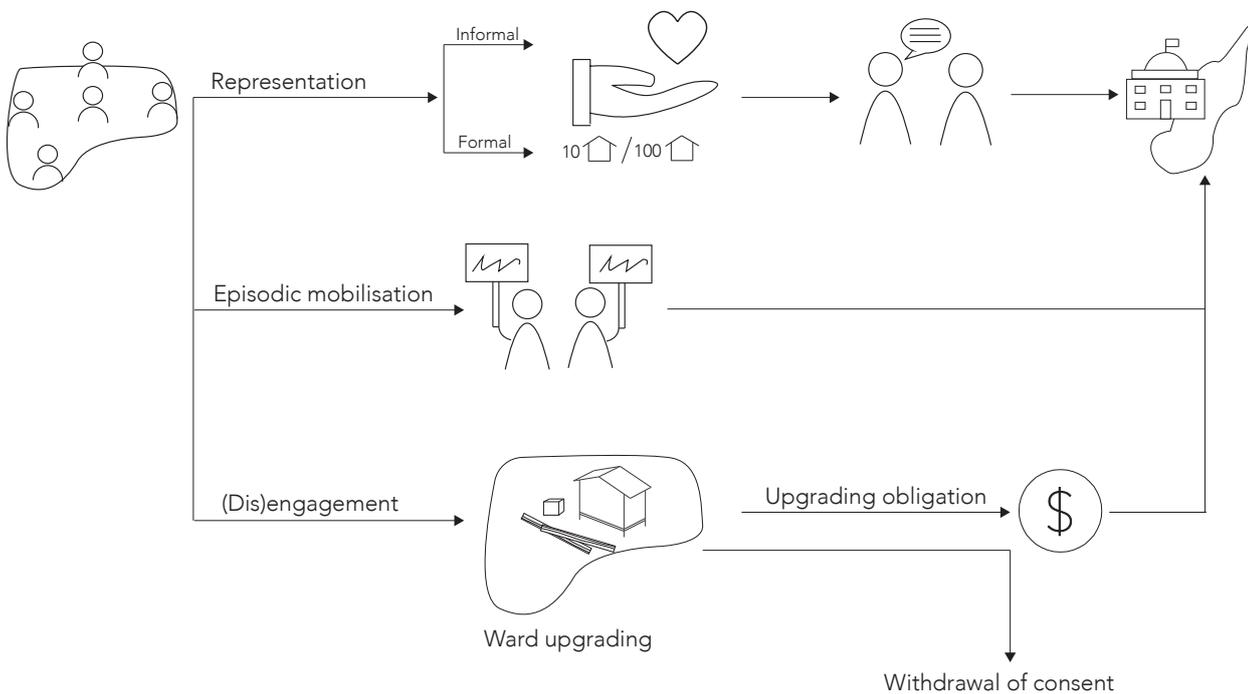


Figure 24. From the Community to the City Level

In order to scale-up some of the projects and turn them into a service controlled by the local authorities there is a need for recognition from the township government. This process can be done through the formal (10 households / 100 households cluster) or informal (Funeral Service) government structures of the wards, since they are the ones with connections in

the bigger sphere. A second option would be to engage outside the aforementioned representation channels. This would be done through episodic mobilization or through manipulation of the state bureaucracy (economic contributions from the community to the township government for the provision of services).

## Strategy ii-a: Household Upgradation



Having identified multiple creative ways of upgradation within the ward, this strategy envisions the spreading of such practices and -where possible and desirable- the shift from merely individual upgrading to a collective one. The strategy relies on the circulation of information about different house upgrading practices, like the use of certain materials for better insulation of the house or the implementation of more windows for improved ventilation. Planting trees can provide shading for a better environment inside the house, improve the condition of the soil while certain plants can be used to repel mosquitoes. In order to reduce the risk of contamination from the groundwater and the household expenses, rainwater harvesting can be introduced. The rainwater can be stored in clay containers for longer maintenance without evaporation. Finally, transferring the cooking outdoors and introducing the idea of shared kitchens that can be used by multiple households, can both reduce the risk of fire and foster the relationships among neighbors.

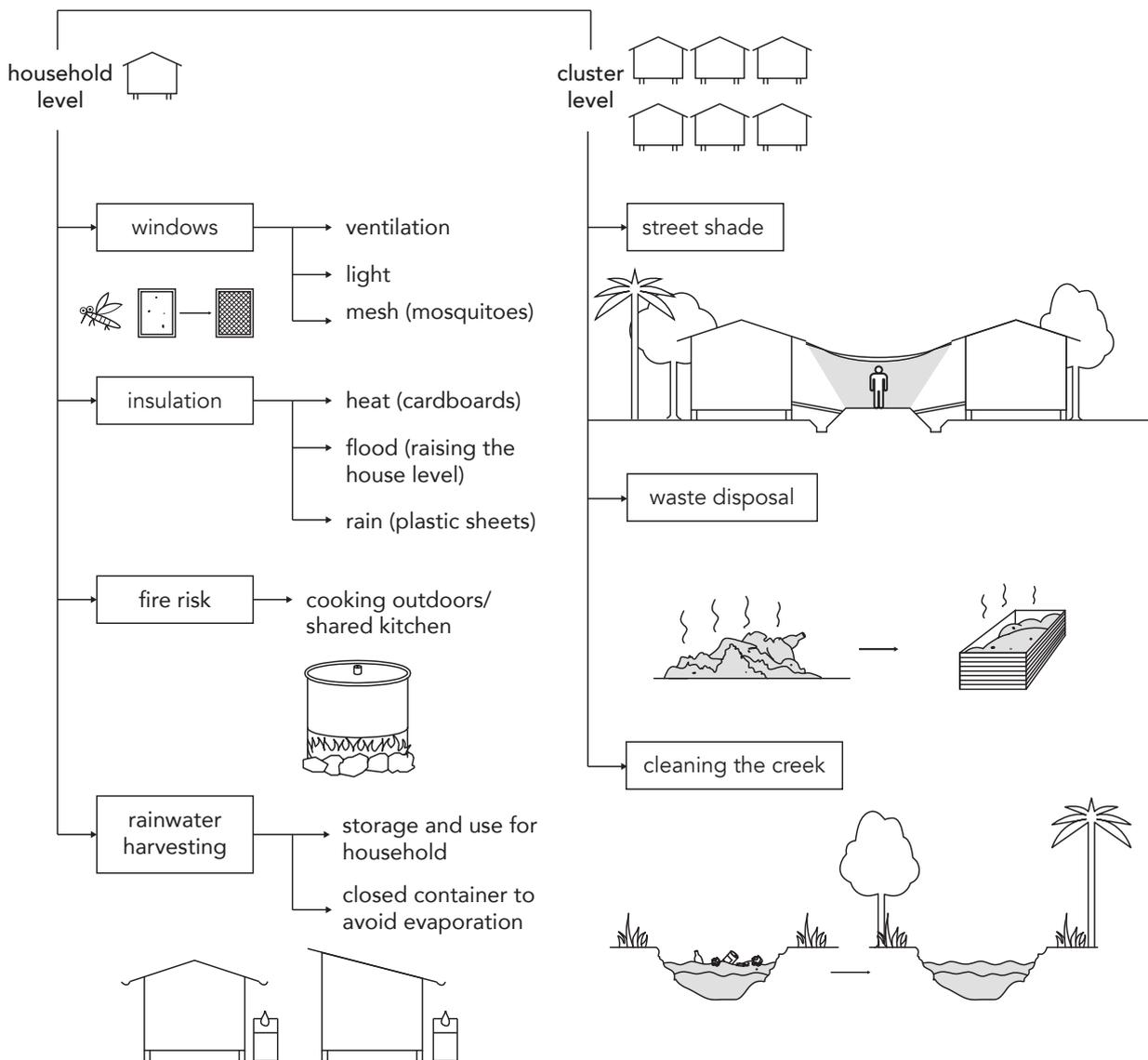
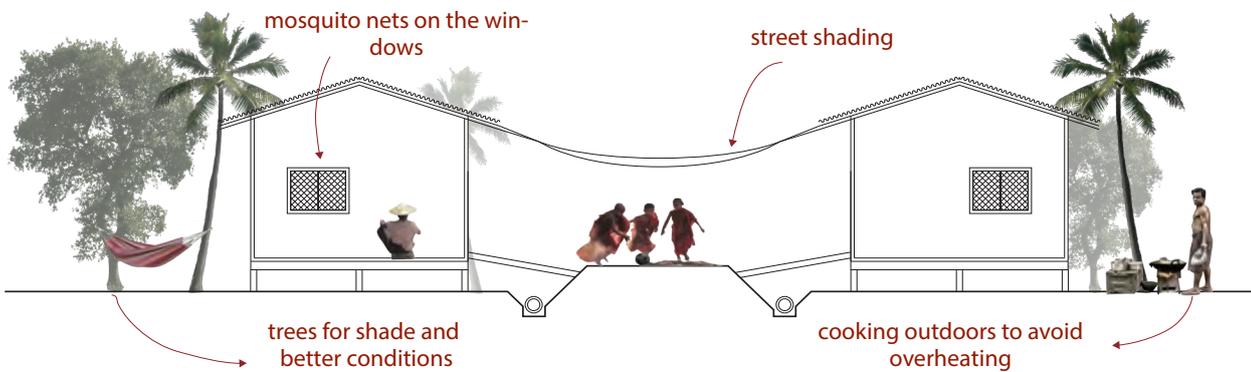
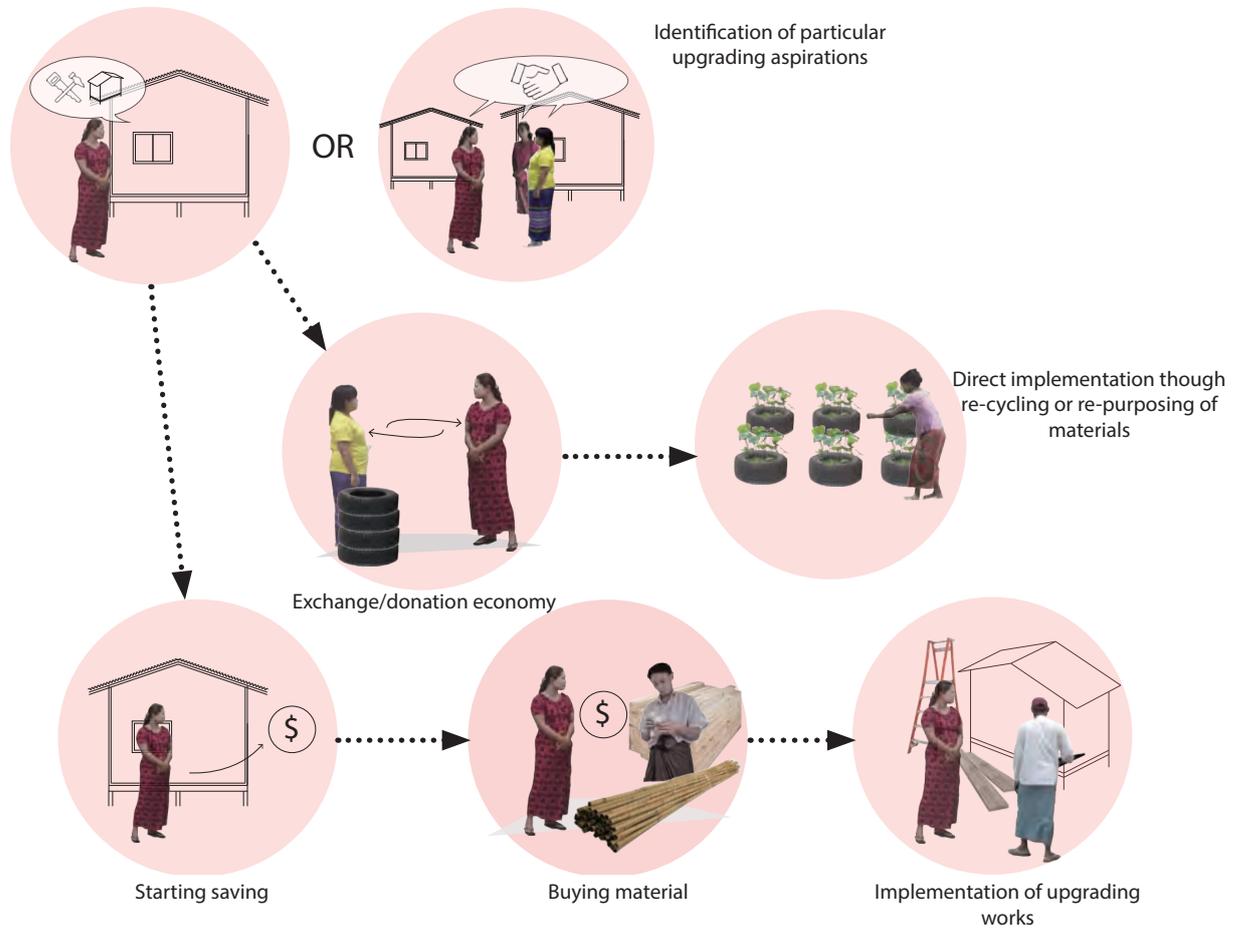


Figure 25. House Upgrading

# Process





## Strategy ii-b: Improved Sanitation



Considering that current sanitation modi may be conducive to the contamination of the groundwater and the soil, this strategy suggests the introduction of new toilet units with concrete pits. These can be constructed as individual units for one household, or as individual toilets with a shared pit. Our calculations suggest that a group of 6 households would need to save for one year to purchase the necessary materials for executing the project. The clustering of households and the implementation rely on the physical proximity of houses and the collaboration of neighbors. Our expectation is that gradually, and with the visibility of the first improved toilets, more people will get involved and can eventually coordinate with YCDC for the periodical collection of the waste. Of importance is the pit typology, that enables the separation of feces from urin and allows for the composting of the first and the use of the latter as fertilizer if diluted with water. In this way, expenses for planting (see strategy iv) can be kept low, while the groundwater and soil are not further contaminated and can eventually recover from the current practices.

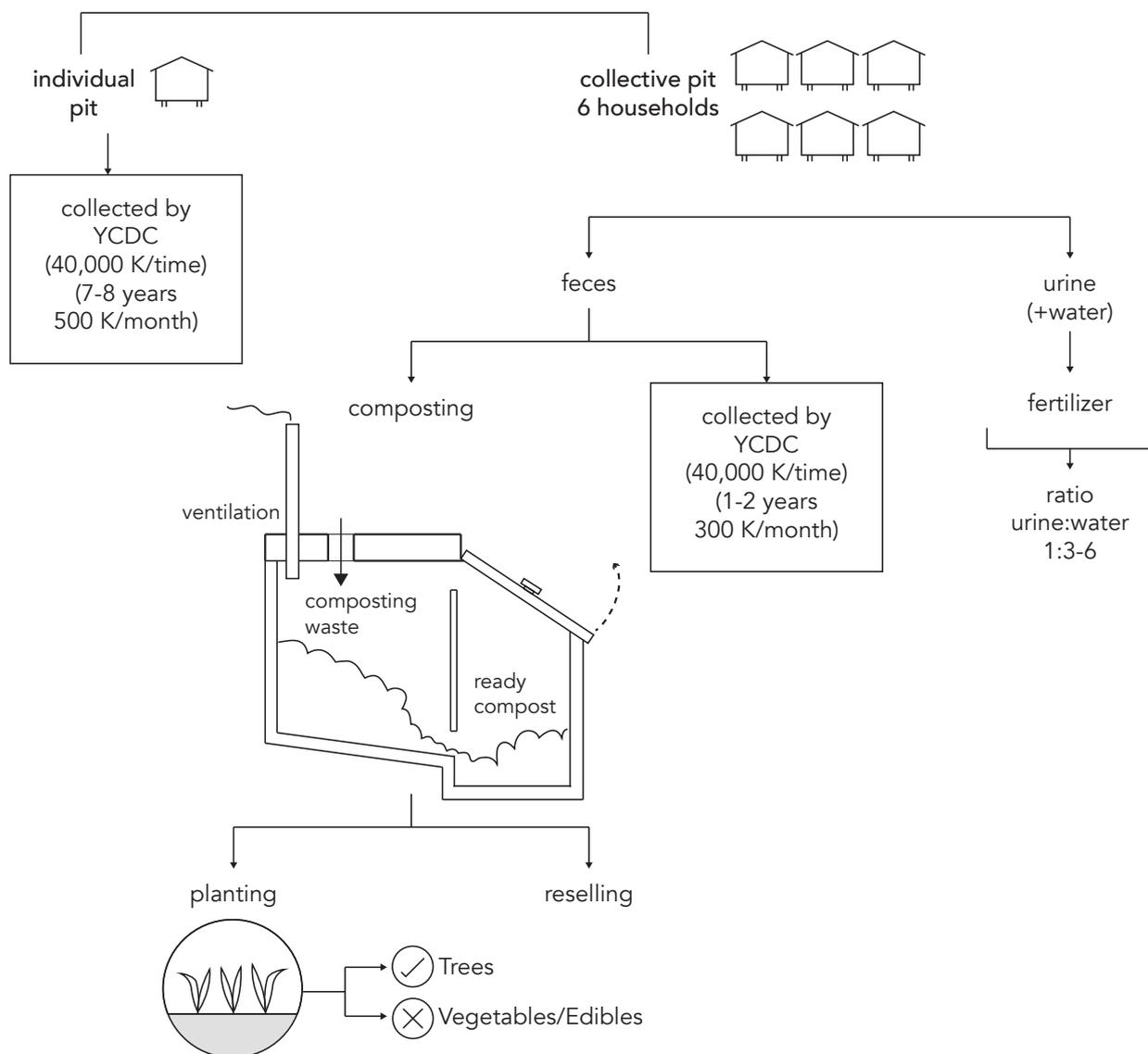
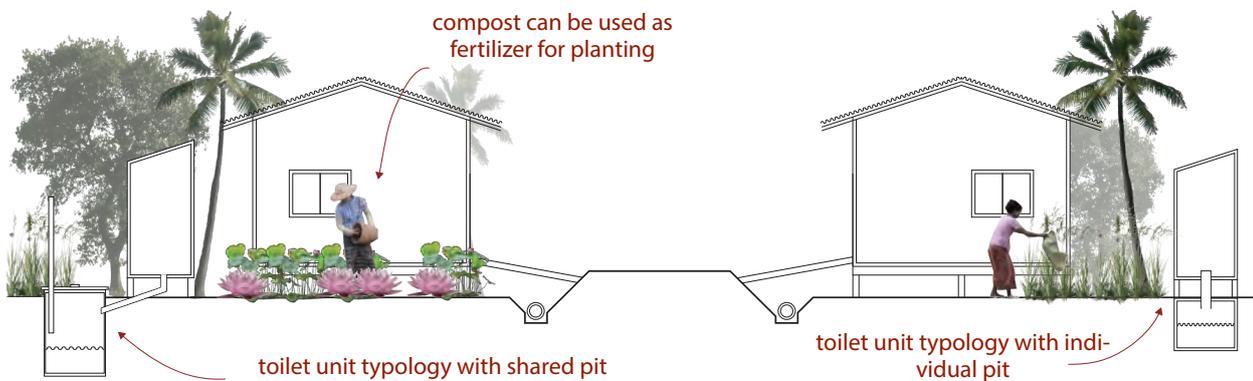


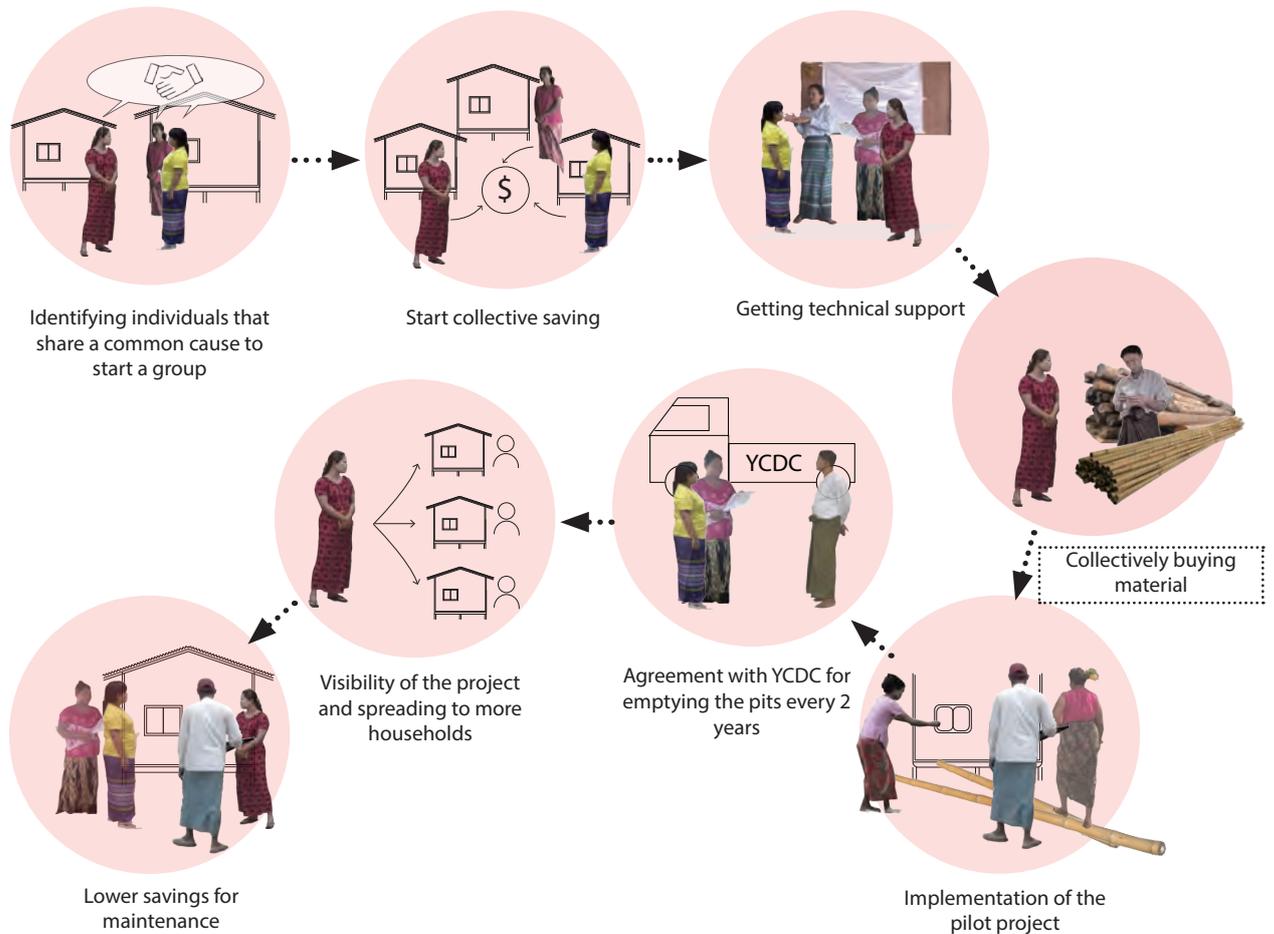
Figure 27. Sanitation strategy

## Formation of clusters

The size of the cluster is determined by the number of households that can share a toilet pit.



## Process



## Actors



Individuals can organize in groups of 6 households and save for the construction of a common pit.



Information can spread by word of mouth, the Funeral Service's channels or other savings groups.



Support from a civil engineer from YTU, specialised NGO or private company. WFW can support with the establishments of these connections.

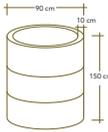


Connection with township government through Funeral Services or ward leaders; episodic mobilization and manipulation of state bureaucracy through community economic contribution.

# Financial aspects

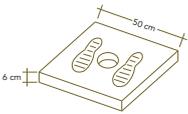
## Expenses

### Initial investment Concrete-lined pit



Sand - free  
Concrete -  
0,85 m<sup>3</sup> x 144.000 MMK/m<sup>3</sup>  
Bamboo pipe - free

### Concrete slab



Concrete -  
0,015 m<sup>3</sup> x 144.000 MMK/m<sup>3</sup>  
PVC pipe Ø4 cm -  
1,5 m x 2.600 MMK/m

### Maintenance cost



40,000MMK / 2 years for emptying  
the pit  
OR 300 MMK/ /month/

## Savings

- Compost  
- Fertilizer

### Total

130.000 MMK/pit/6  
OR 21,700 MMK/  
saving 1.600 MMK/ /month  
14 months

# Vision for Sanitation



Figure 28. Vision for sanitation strategy

## Strategy ii-c: Waste Management



This strategy suggests a new waste management system, based on existing efforts of one savings group and WFW and on identified practices with potential. Since the information about the fairly new pilot project has not circulated enough, further trainings and workshops shall introduce to the community the new system, the benefits of recycling and creative ways to reduce their waste output. Collective saving in clusters of 30 households can be used in the first place to purchase bins that will be placed on every crossroads. After that, the saving continues to cover the costs of the YCDC garbage truck on a weekly or even daily basis depending on the participants' capacities. At the same time, the separation of waste and intensification of recycling will overall reduce the amount of residual waste while generating some income that can be directly invested in the maintenance of the waste system.

New jobs can be created relating to the waste management in the ward, similar to the existing waste collectors that take people's trash to the main disposal area.

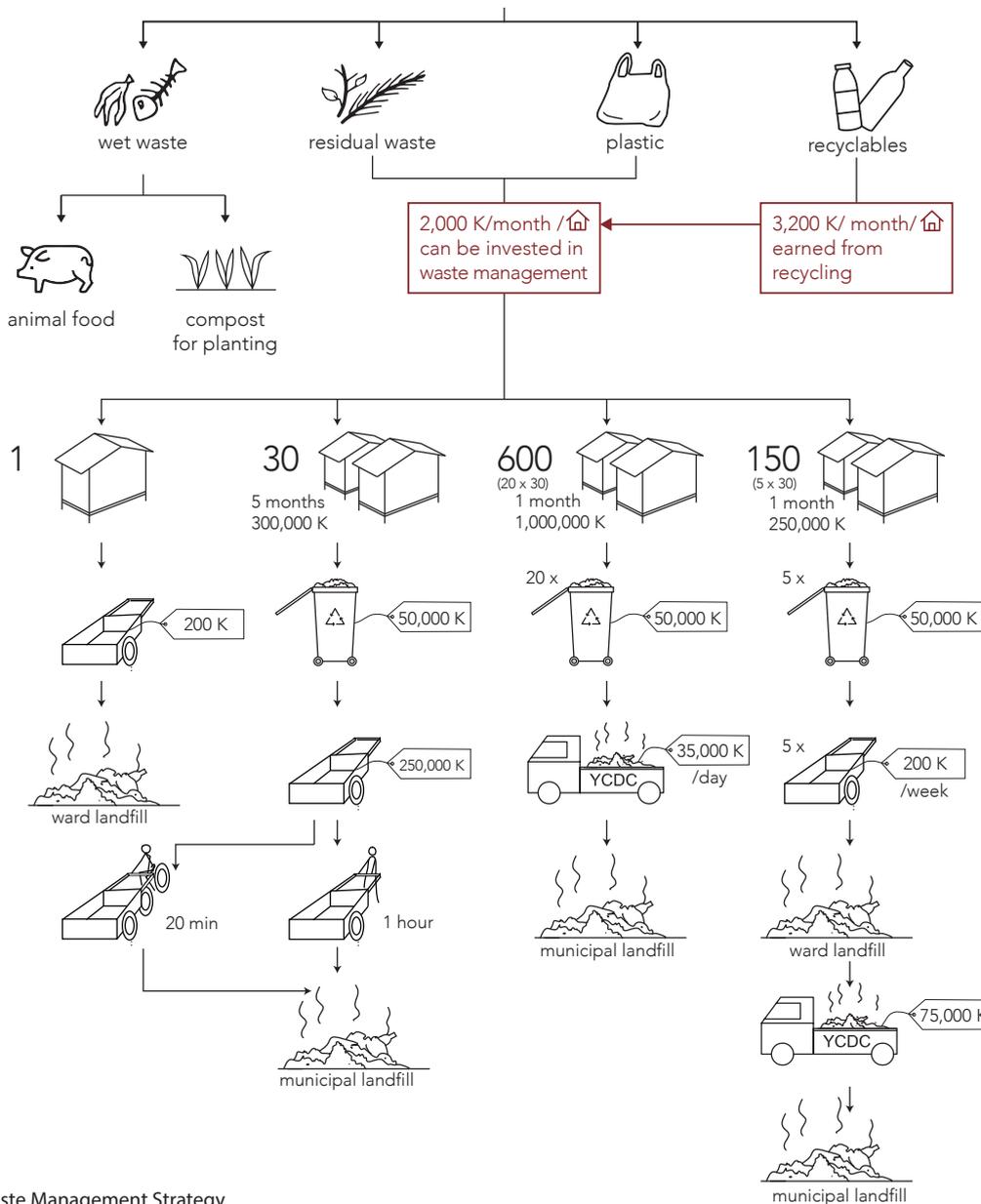
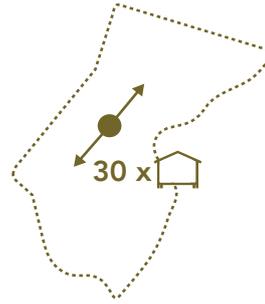


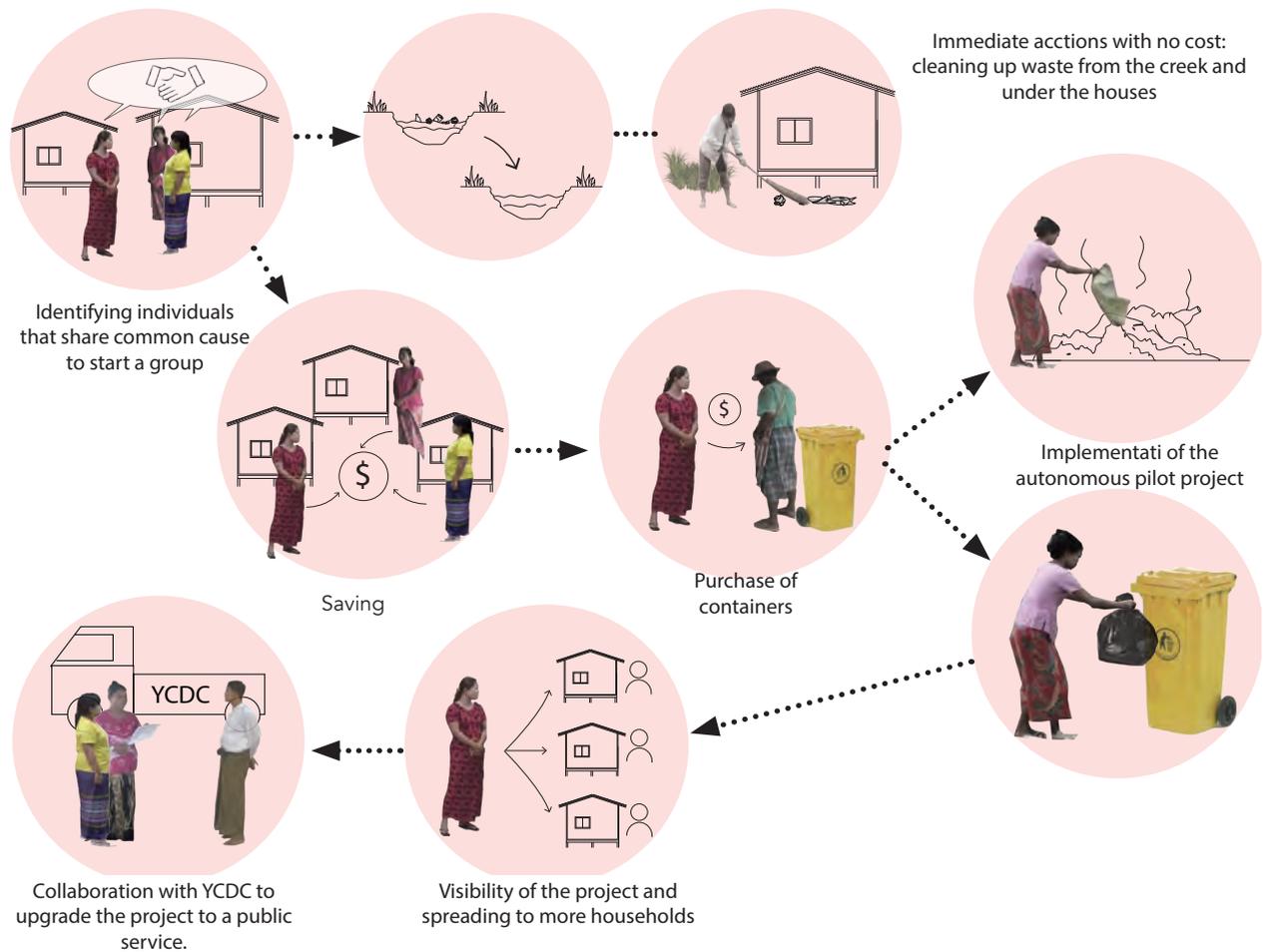
Figure 29. Waste Management Strategy

## Formation of clusters

The cluster is determined by the amount of money each family is willing to invest monthly.



## Process



## Actors



Individuals can organize in groups of 30 households. Each week 5 households will be in charge of transporting the waste.



Connection with Township government through meetings organized by the Funeral Services or ward leaders; episodic mobilization and manipulation of state bureaucracy through community economic contribution.



Information can spread by word of mouth, the Funeral Service's channels or other savings groups.

# Financial aspects

## Expenses

2.000 MMK/month/🏠 (fixed condition)  
 - Independent process from the YCDG (30 🏠)

Initial Investment | -50.000 MMK/bin  
 | -250.000 MMK/cart

-Service by YCDC

## Income Generating Activities

- Recycling 3.200 MMK/month/ 🏠

300.000 MMK/30  
 2.000 MMK/month/ 🏠  
 5 months

### A) Daily pick-up from individual bins

35.000 MMK/day x 30 days/month = 1.050.000 MMK/month

2.000 MMK/month/ 🏠

~600 🏠 (20 clusters of 30)



### B) Weekly pick-up from the main pit

75.000 MMK/week x 4 weeks/month = 300.000 MMK/month

2.000 MMK/month/ 🏠

~150 🏠 (5 clusters of 30)



# Vision for waste management



Figure 30. Vision for Waste Management Strategy

## Strategy ii-d: Mitigation of Flood Risk



In order to address one of the recurring challenges the residents of W67 face, this strategy suggests different solutions that aim at reducing the impact of floods. The implementation of a drainage system along the main road and the deviation of water towards the creek will prevent the water from being trapped and accumulating under and around the houses. Next to that, the flooding caused by the overflow of the creek can be tackled by using physical barriers (e.g. sandbags) to prevent the water from entering the settlement; by intensifying the vegetation along the stream to increase the absorption of water; and by deviating water where there is enough space to create basins for its storage. An important condition for the success of the flooding mitigation project is the removal of waste from the creek and from inside the settlement, since the waste accumulation exacerbates the impact of the flood. Similar to the previous strategies, we encourage the formation of savings groups with common objectives.

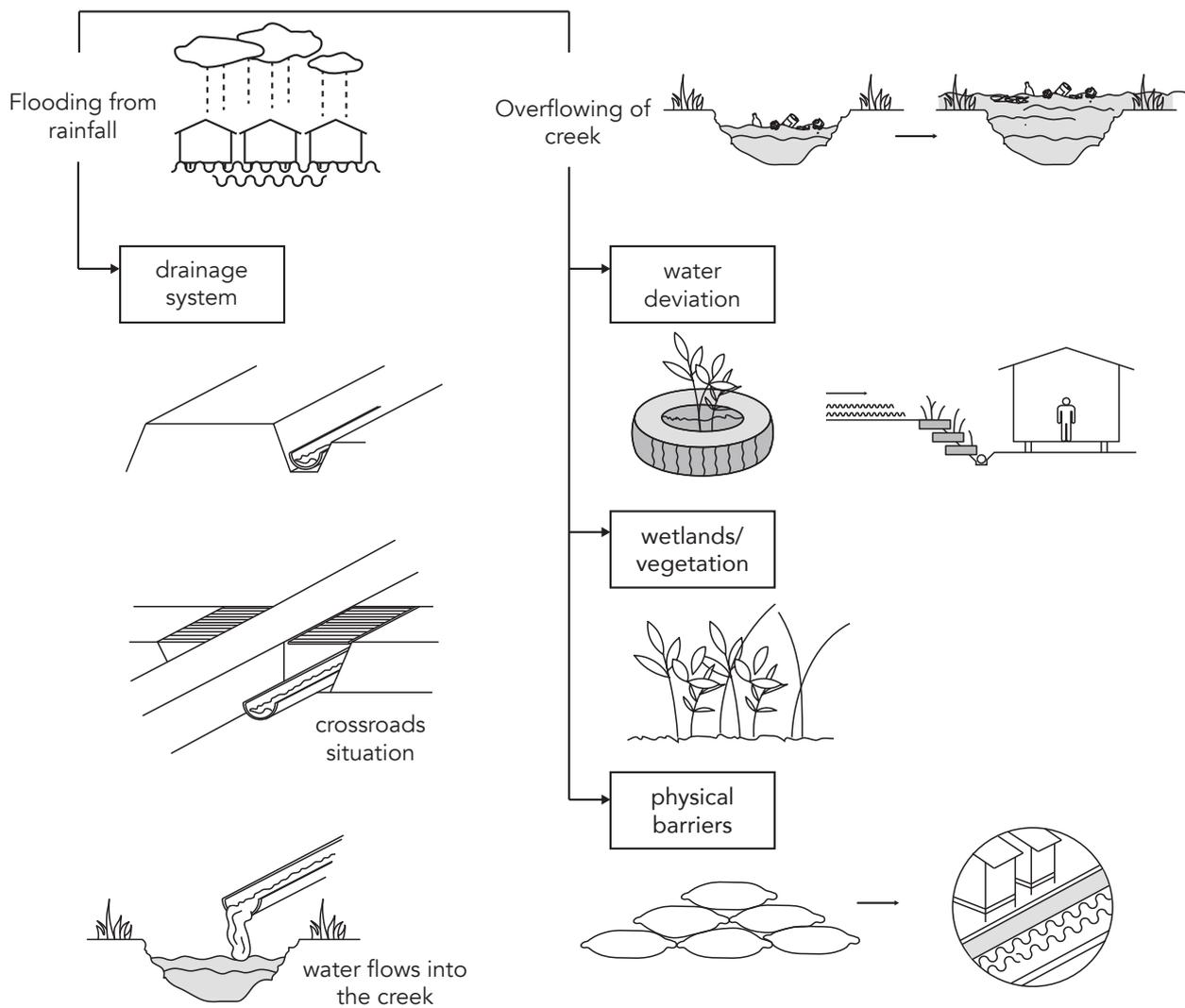
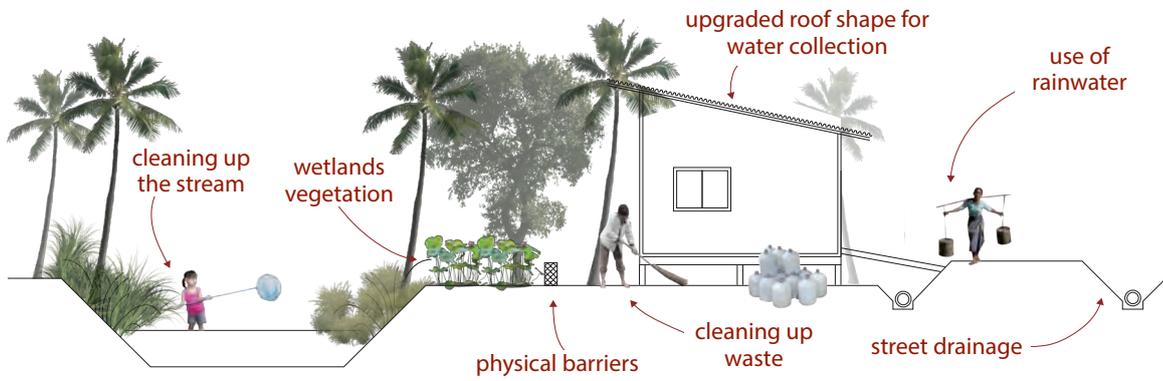


Figure 31. Flood management strategy

## Formation of clusters

The cluster is determined by the number of households located on the affected areas.

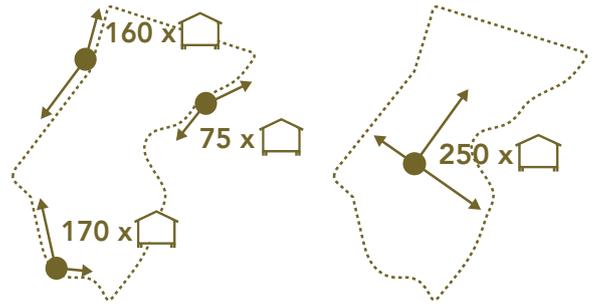
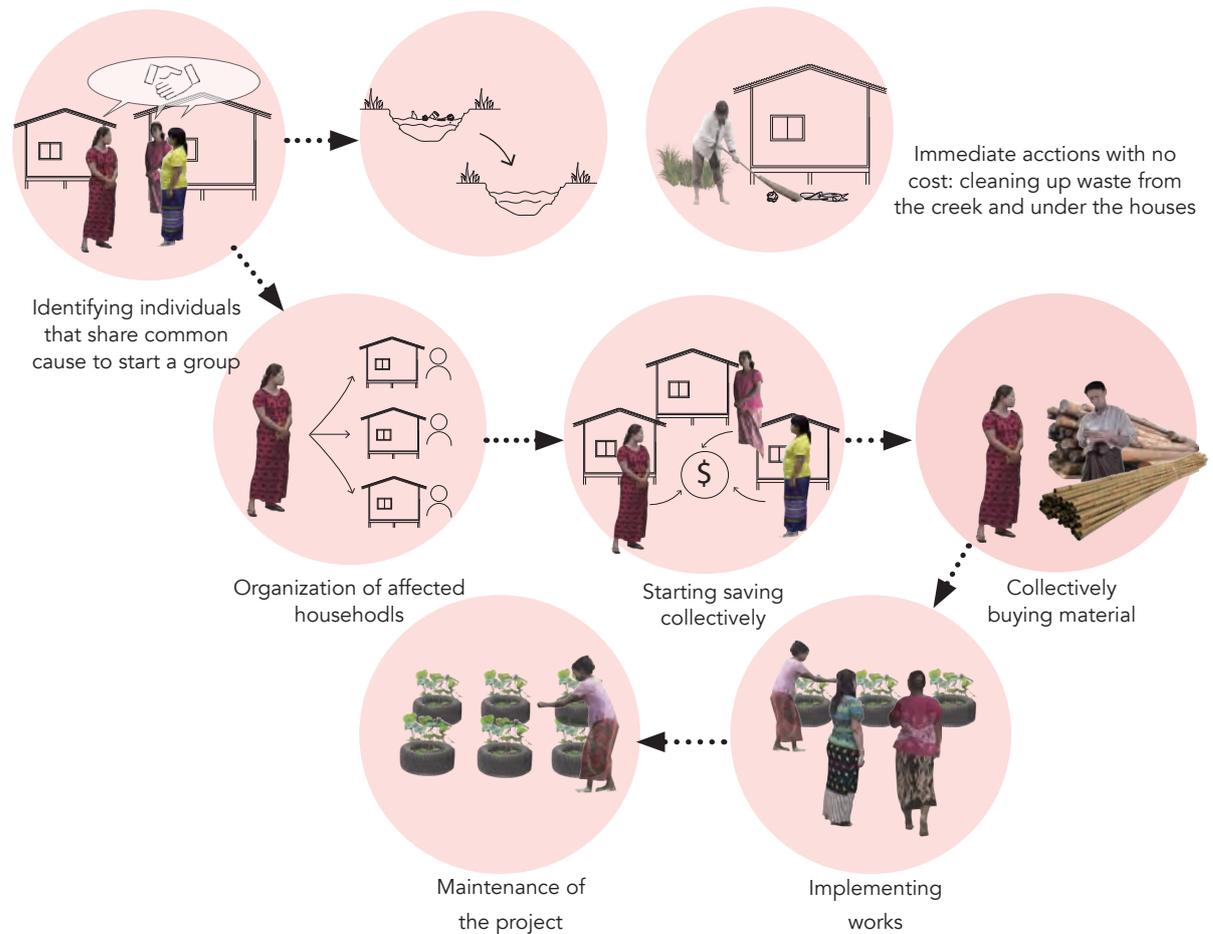


Fig. xx Clusters of houses affected by overflow of the creek and clusters affected by flooding from rainfall

## Process



## Actors



Individuals affected by flooding can organize in groups in order to develop a project that then can be used to convince the rest of the households located on those areas to participate and contribute to its implementations.



Information can spread by word of mouth, the Funeral Service's channels or other savings groups.

# Financial aspects

## Expenses

- PVC pipe 16 m/street x 2.600 MMK/m  
 30 🏠/street  
 10.500 MMK/  
  
 saving 1.600 MMK/ 🏠 /month  
 7 months

## Savings

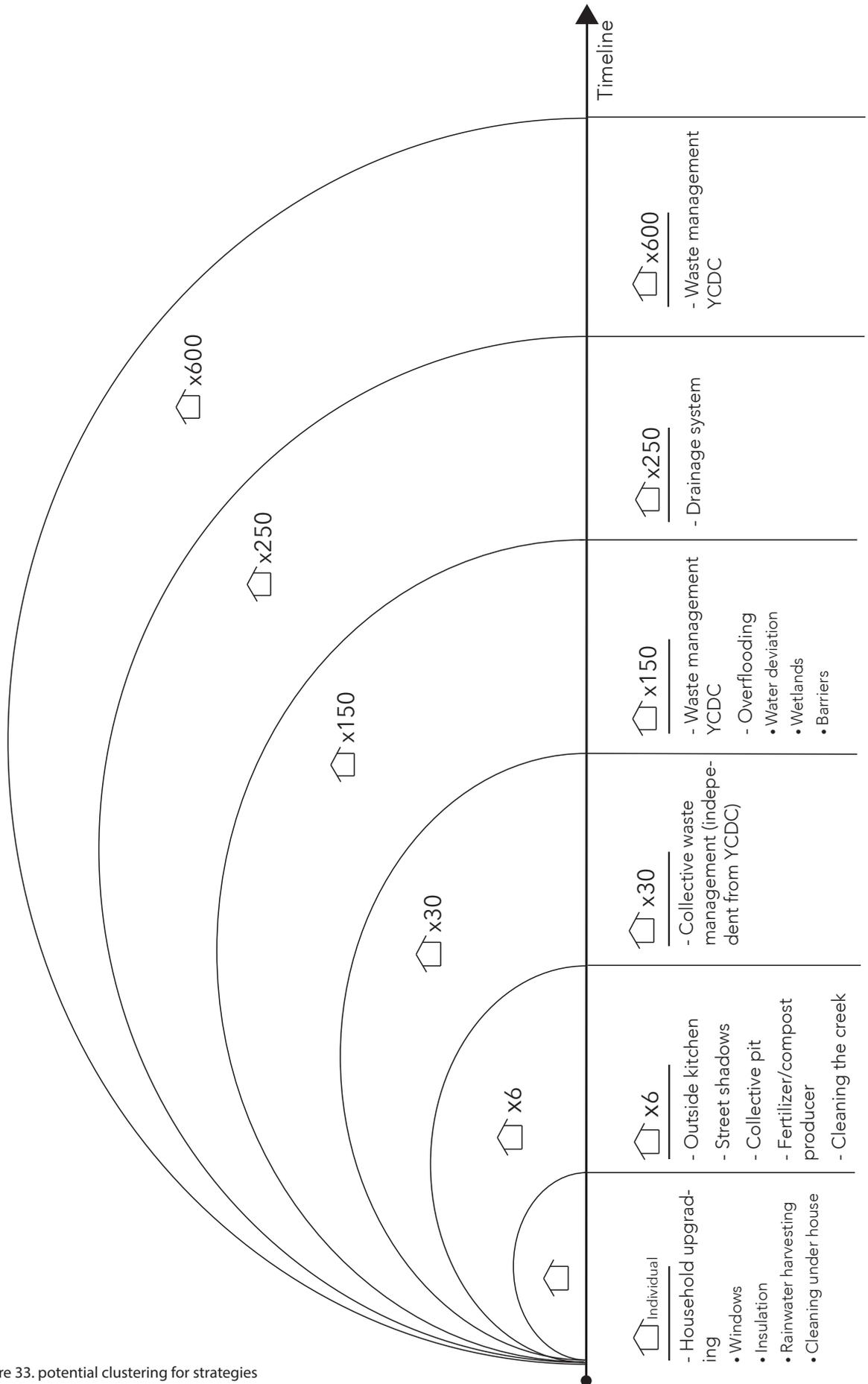
- Recovery costs from flooding  
  
 - Re-purposing  
 Tires  
 Sandbags  
 ...

# Vision for flood mitigation



Figure 32. Vision flood management strategy

Figure 33. potential clustering for strategies





# City Wide Strategies



City development in Yangon is currently focusing on industrial and transit-oriented growth, this trajectory can be seen in the new industrial zones, ports, and airports that the state, along with JICA, proposed. Additionally, the focus on transit within the proposed plans is leading to the upgrading of the circular railway and the introduction of a new railway project that cut across Dagon Seikkan township; those two projects are bound to lead to the eviction of multiple community groups that are inhabiting the surrounding areas in different ways, and with their inability to access state housing, that can lead to them having to live in more vulnerable and unhealthy environments. As such, those plans have a direct impact on the physical and ecological conditions, as well as the socio-economic aspects of the everyday lives of city dwellers, especially the urban poor, who are already living in precarious conditions, increasing their vulnerability, creating unhealthy environments and conditions of living, and impacting negatively their experience of being citizens.

However, the transformation of the city also makes visible the possibilities for a different trajectory for change, in which state officials are acknowledging the need for change and the negative ramifications of the current approaches, combined with a vacuum in policy or approved final plans can alter the trajectory of this transformation and its subsequent impact on

the physical and ecological environments, and the experienced citizenship of different city dwellers.

The possibilities that emerges out of the transition context can then be the driving force for different strategies that signify the role of community engagement and the creation of new partnerships as a way to challenge being invisible or non-citizens, as well as evictions and the possibilities of living in more vulnerable and unhealthy environments. To achieve this, three strategies can be introduced: the first focusing on amplifying the effects of the existing efforts by community-based initiatives, linking them with other actors around the city that might not be living in informal settlement, but are interested in the environmental or economic impacts of the proposed development; secondly leveraging the knowledge gap in state, private sector, and civil society organisation, where insufficient data is a hindrance to formulating future plans, but also can be an entry point for communities to engage with the state, becoming valuable partners in development; finally, through alliances and knowledge a process of collaborative capacity building, that can politicise the experience of the invisible citizens of Yangon, incorporate their skills in city making, and hopefully, culminate in having their vision on equal footing with other diverse actors aiming for transforming the city.

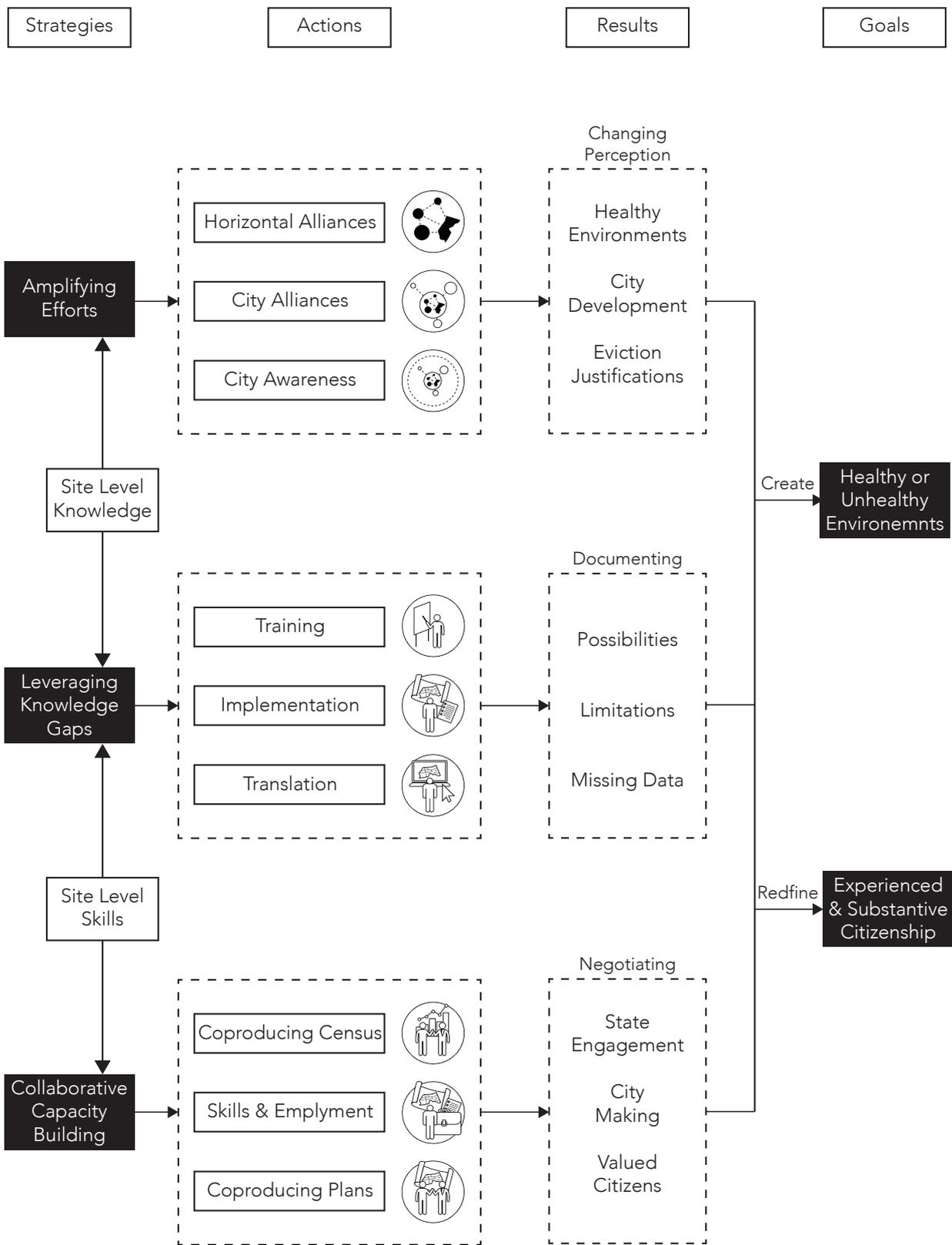


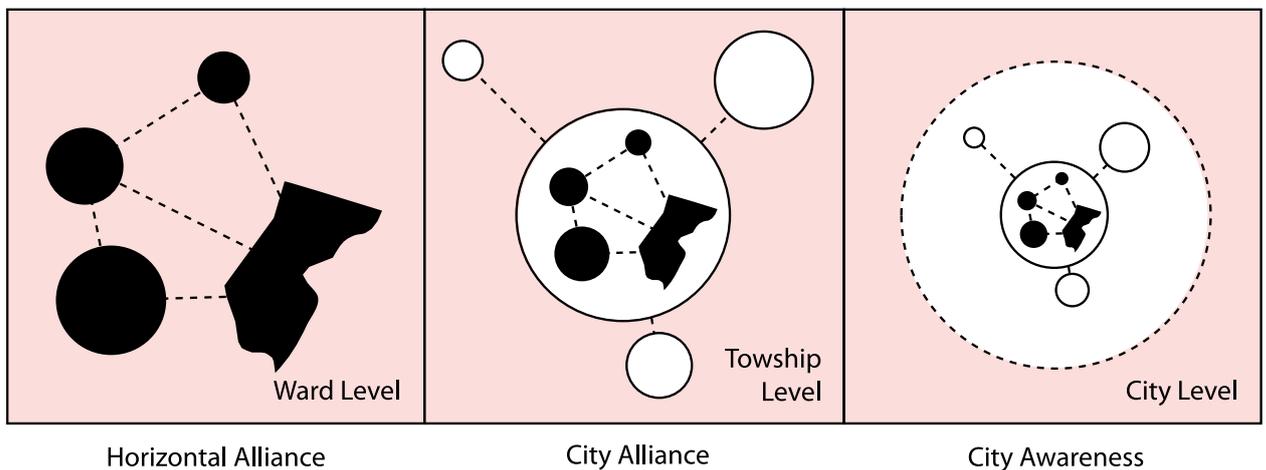
Figure 34. City Wide Strategy Framework

# Strategy One – Amplifying Efforts



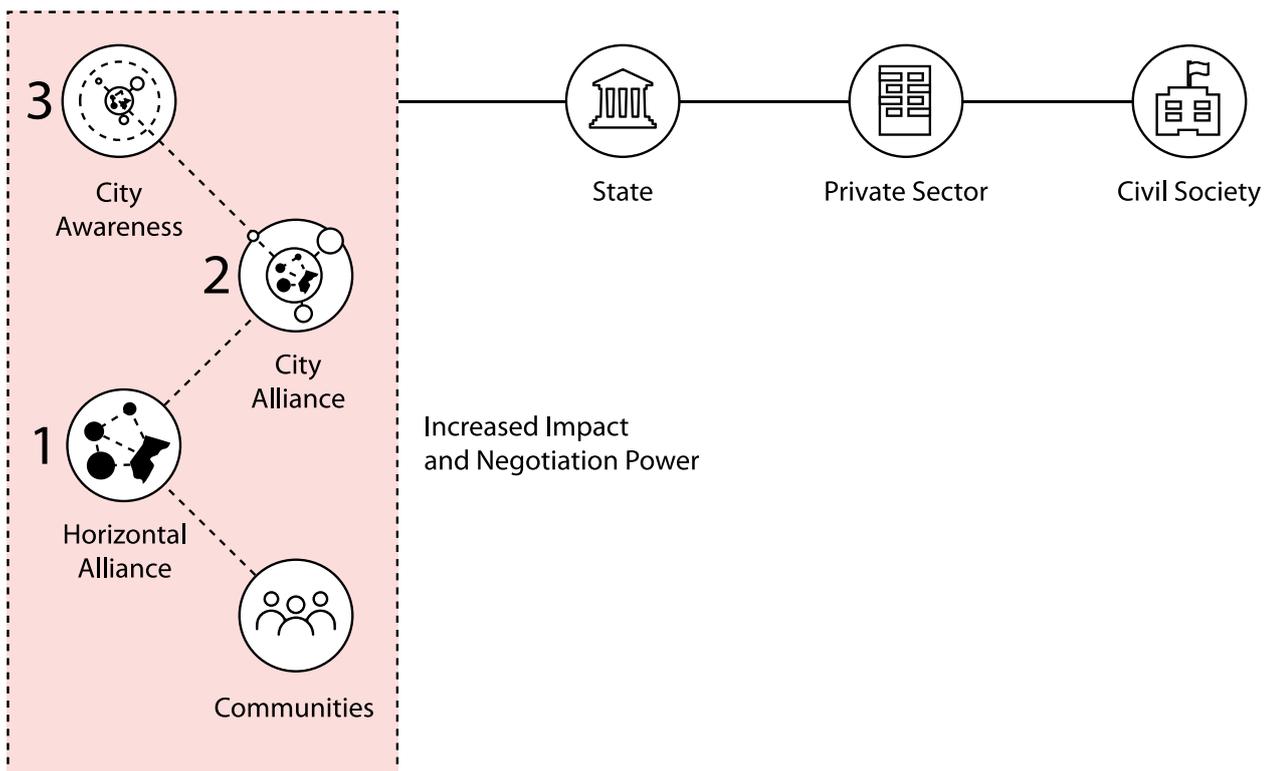
## Introduction

The strategy operates on three different levels: firstly, horizontally connecting the different communities dealing with the same urban conditions, or the diverse skilled groups together that can work towards better solutions or improvements for those conditions, documenting those possibilities and using them as a tool for changing the perception of vulnerability, unhealthy living conditions, and the construction of who is a valid and valuable citizen in the city making process; secondly, moving beyond the horizontal networks of informal settlement dwellers, to include different stakeholders interested in urban issues, including planners, academics, activists, and civil society in order to establish a city wide alliance that together can have more negotiating power; and finally, increasing the awareness of city dwellers as a whole, laying down the necessary foundation to push for city wide change by a complex set of actors with diverse drivers, but shared interest in a more just city making.

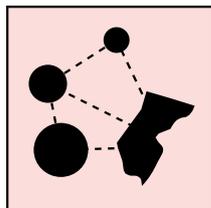


## Rationale

While the site level strategies focus on intervening in the built environment to improve living conditions, introduce new forms of organisation and economic activities, achieve a healthier environment, and subsequently redefine the experience of citizenship of the ward's inhabitants; without being amplified into other communities, actors, and spaces, they risk having only a localised impact. As such, the aim of this strategy is to move beyond localised impacts, share experience and knowledge between multiple stakeholders, introduce different possibilities of achieving healthier environment that do not adhere to the traditional city planning assumptions in Yangon, as well as limit the possibilities of eviction to more vulnerable and unhealthy living condition for citizens who are not accounted for in the state housing provision schemes.



## Operation



Horizontal Alliance



Saving Groups

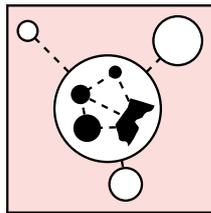
WFW

Meetings

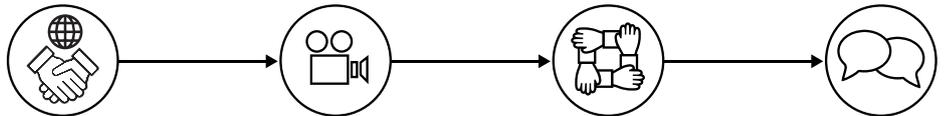
Focus Groups

Knowledge Exchange

Through WFW, saving groups in communities affected by the same issues can be connected; creating networks based on shared issue, or shared skill; those focus groups are to utilise their collective experience to formulate more focused solutions; documenting those methods to be used as a tool for changing perceptions and knowledge exchange.



City Alliance



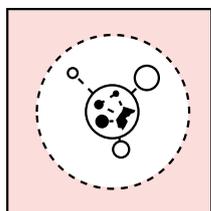
International Partners

Documentation

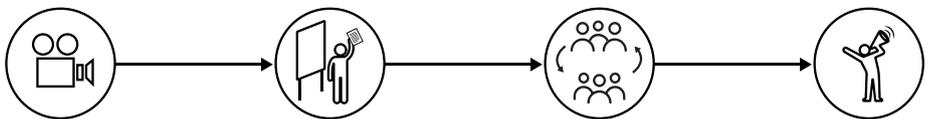
Alliance

Urban Forums

The networks established previously can then be used as a way to leverage city alliances, starting with interested partners, including academics in YTU, planners, and CBP, followed by using the documentation as a way of connecting to stakeholders interested in urban issues; finally aiming to create an urban forum that can introduce the different stakeholders' visions.



City Awareness



Documentation

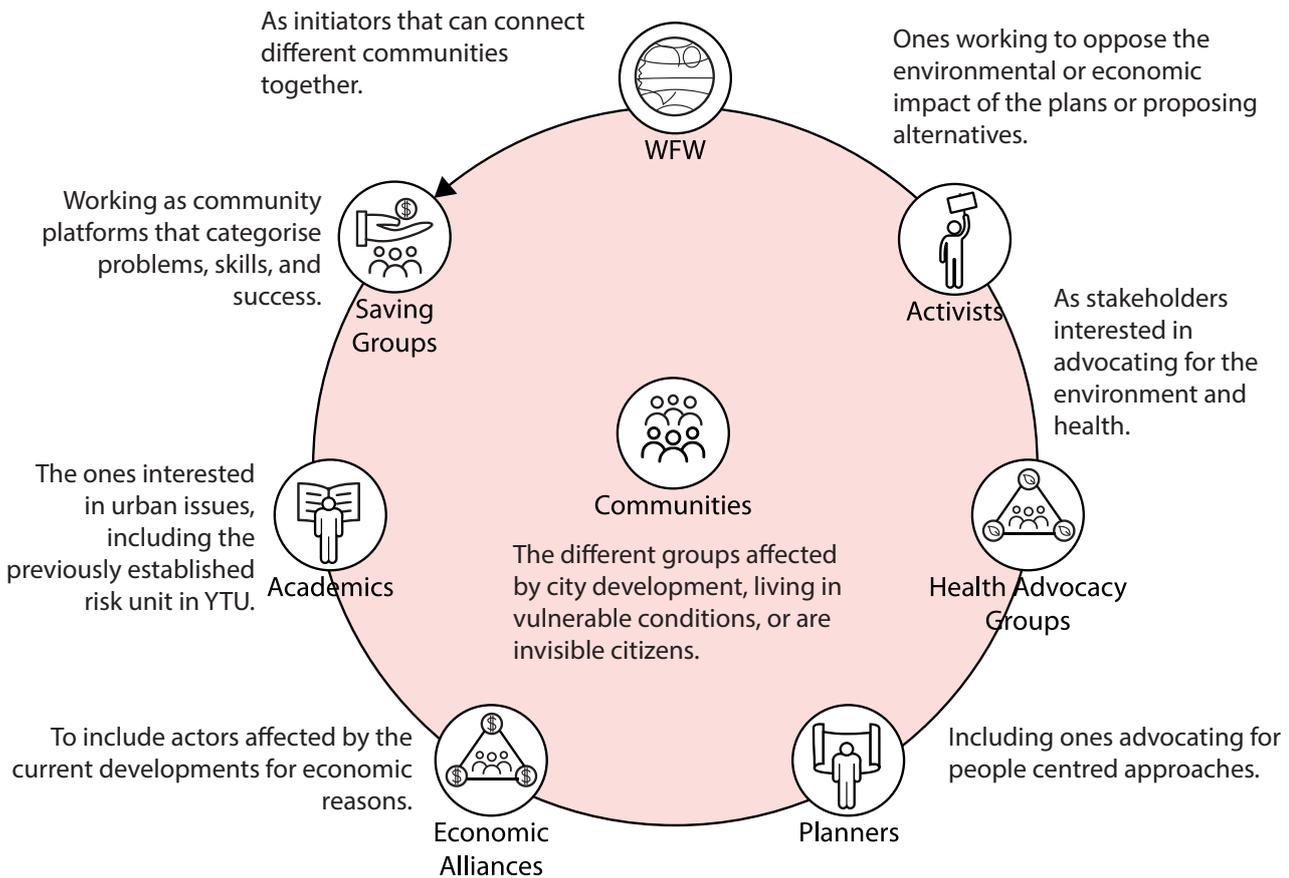
Exhibition

Visits

Campaigns

Finally, through the first two stages of networks, alliances, and documentation, a process of raising city awareness on the impact of the proposed plans, as well as the possibilities of alternatives. This can be done through establishing workshops, open exhibitions, protests, and other forms of awareness campaigns.

# Actors



# Timeline

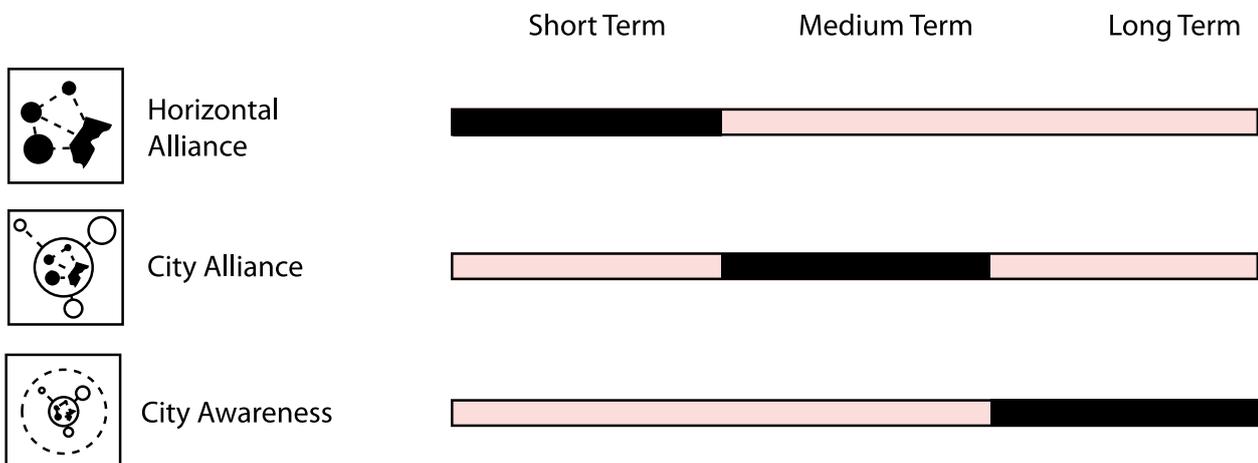




Figure 35. Connection between different communities affected by the plans.

A map of the different communities affected by the plans or sharing the same conditions that can be connected, the successful cases the can be visited, and possible locations for protest and exhibitions.

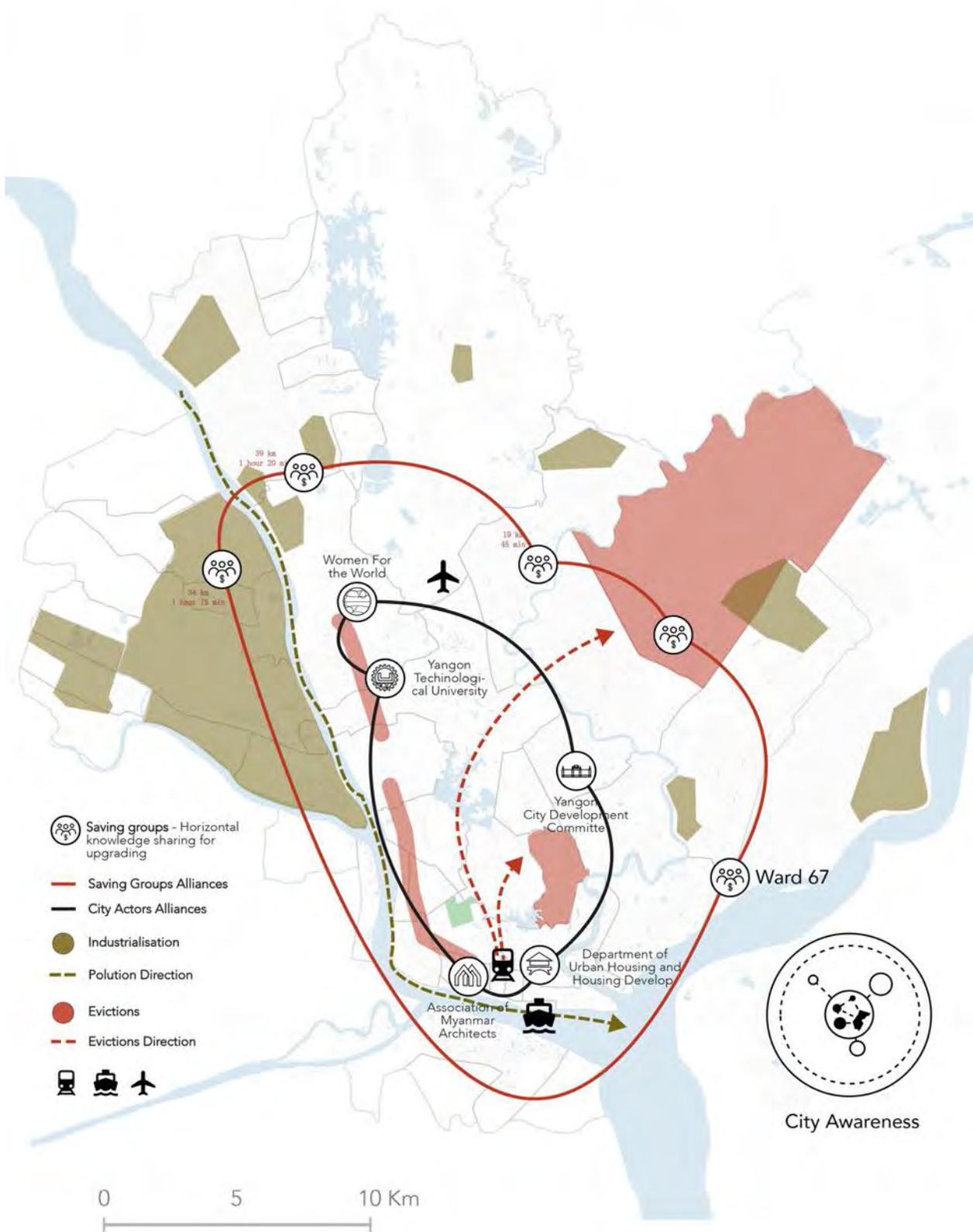


Figure 36. Connection between the affected communities and city actors.

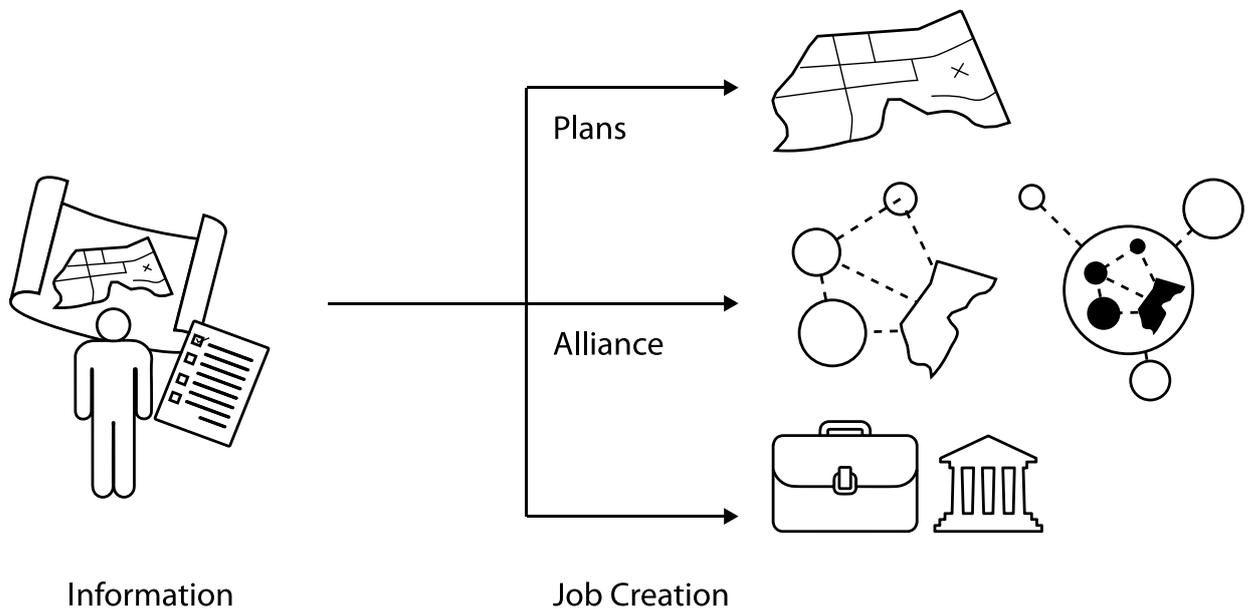
A map of the the multiple actors that can be part of the city alliance; the affected communities, and the networks and awareness that can be built around them.

# Strategy Two – Leveraging Knowledge Gaps



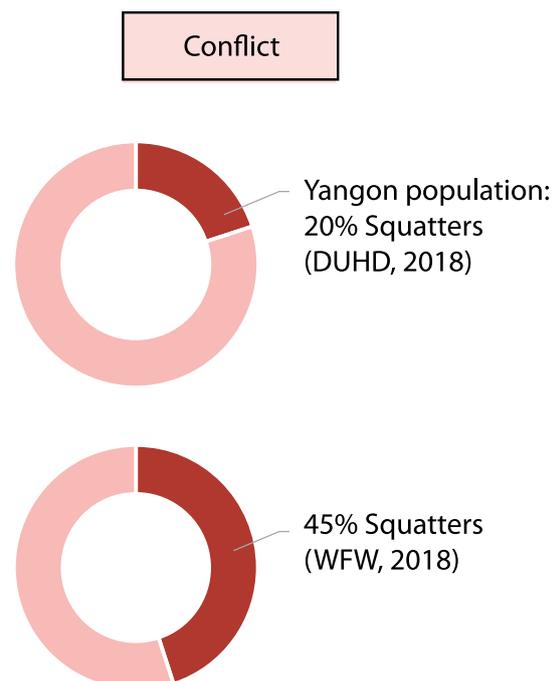
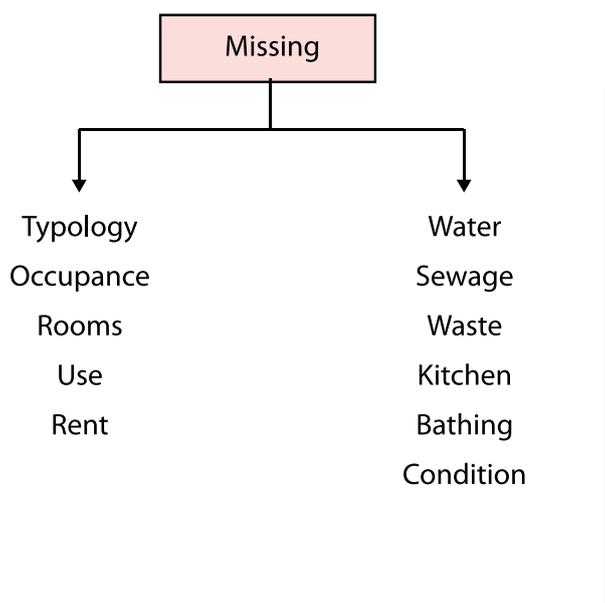
## Introduction

The strategy utilises the existing knowledge gap as a way for communities to be included within city development. While the state is introducing new plans along with the private sectors, there is a need for more inclusive and accurate data, which communities can be more capable of gathering, making them partners in development. This process can operate on different levels: starting with lobbying for government support through the established alliances; learning and exchange with other groups more experienced in mapping operations; mapping and documenting on a city scale by community members as a way of making their knowledge and their experience of being citizens visible, and building their capacity in the process; and finally translate the outcomes into state and developers valued languages. In this process the urban poor are making their living conditions, environment, skills, and their role as citizens more pronounced, and increasing their possibilities of collaborating with multiple stakeholders in an engagement process that goes beyond their constitution as vulnerable, to being fully citizens.

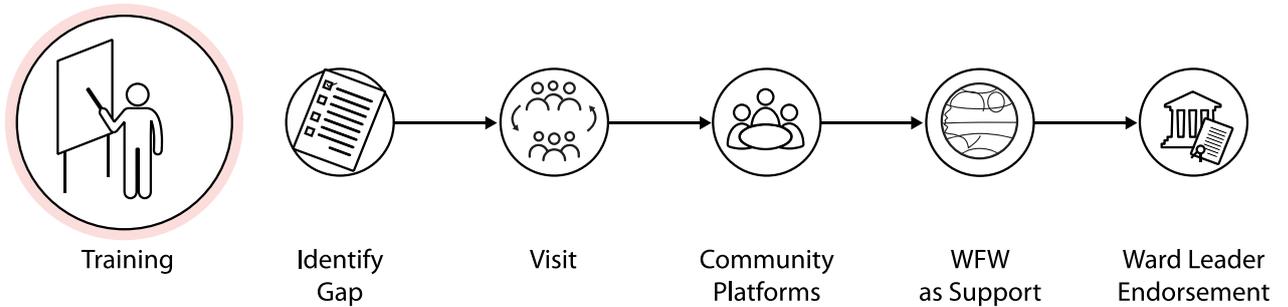


## Rationale

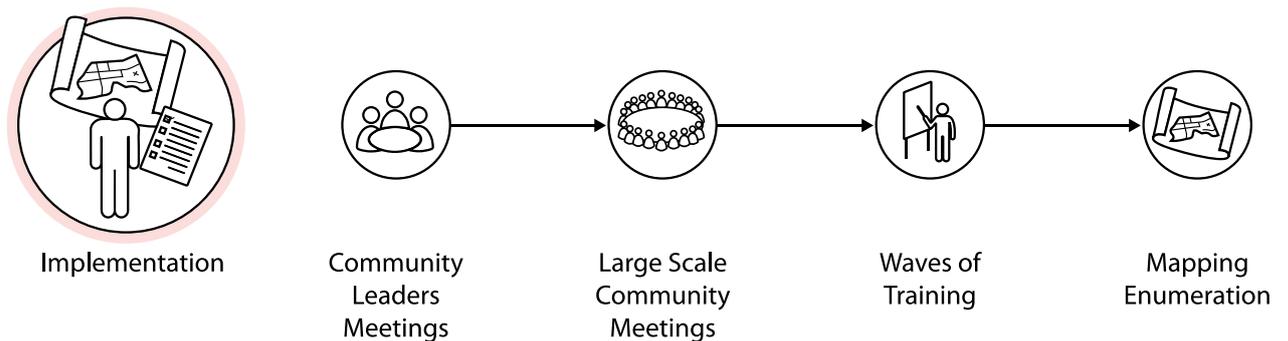
As the state in Yangon introduces a number of spatial transformations, in partnership with the private sector, the use of population projection became a prevalent method of determining the growth trajectory; however, with more than 160 informal settlements in Yangon, the conflicting data, and the fact that the 2014 census did not document a number of aspects of urban life that relates to health, those projections are rendering a majority of city dwellers as non-citizens, ones that are invisible from the state plans, and subject to constant evictions. As such, the strategy is trying to leverage this knowledge gap, considering the knowledge possessed by the urban poor that makes them the experts on the spaces and the ways by which they can produce healthy environments.



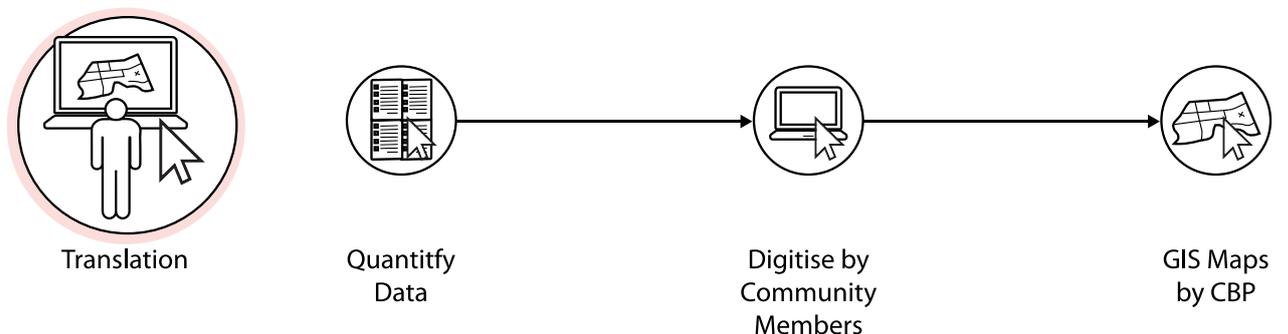
## Operation



Starting by identifying the needed data, followed by visits from other experienced organisations in mapping, which can include CAN/SPARC/SDI/Alliance; through those visits to saving groups, they transform into learning and exchange platforms, which can be supported by a civil society organisation (WFW) for political lobbying to gain support from the lowest level of government.

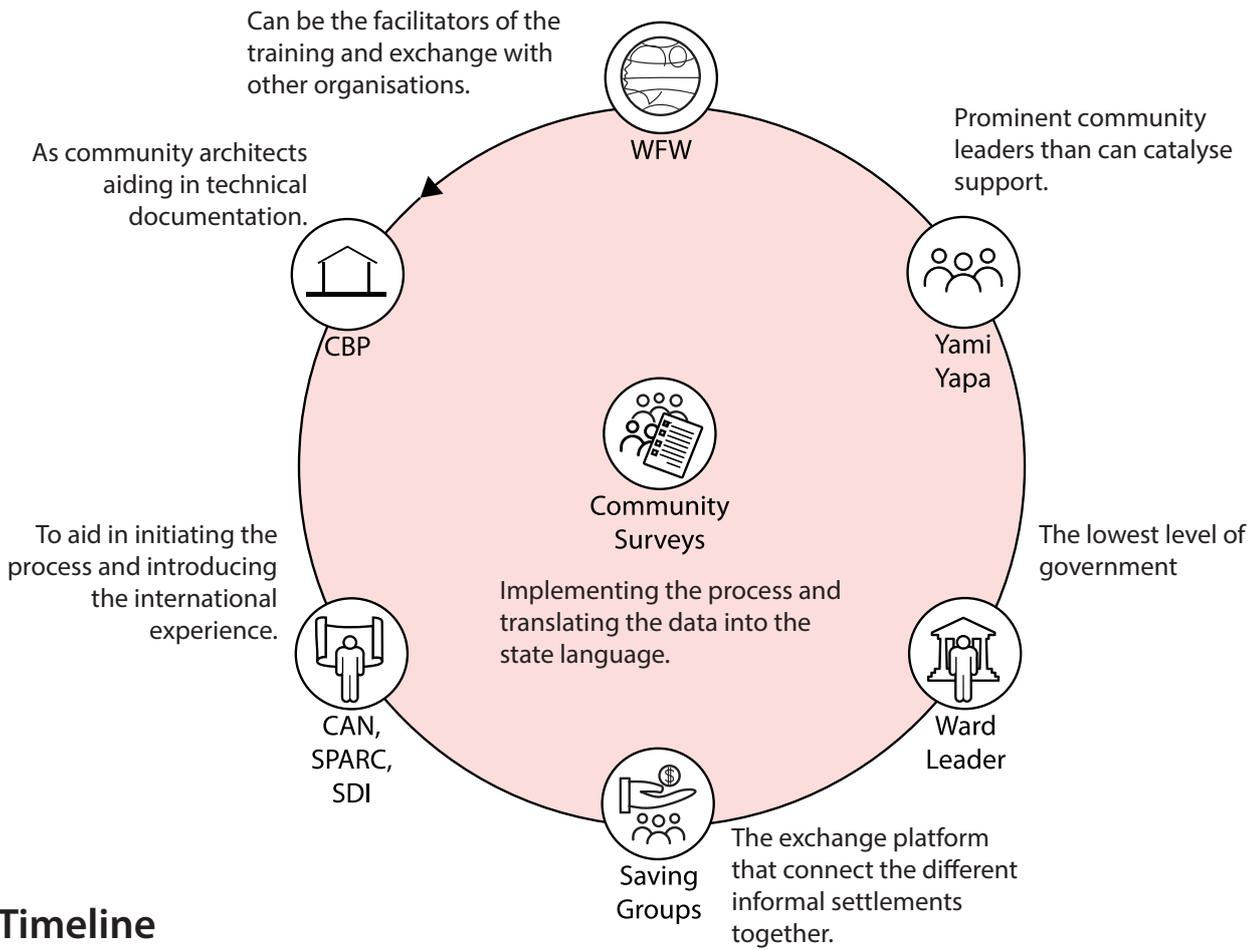


After securing a form of government support, meetings with prominent communities' leaders can begin, followed by city scale meetings with community members to ensure their questions is being answered, as well as training them to be the owners of the process; finally, the mapping process starts and can be conducted by community surveyors.



The final process includes the translation of the data into languages understood and valued by the state and developers. In this process community members who are more computer literate can be the one digitising the data, while more technical oriented methods, such as GIS, can be documented by community architects (CBP).

# Actors



# Timeline

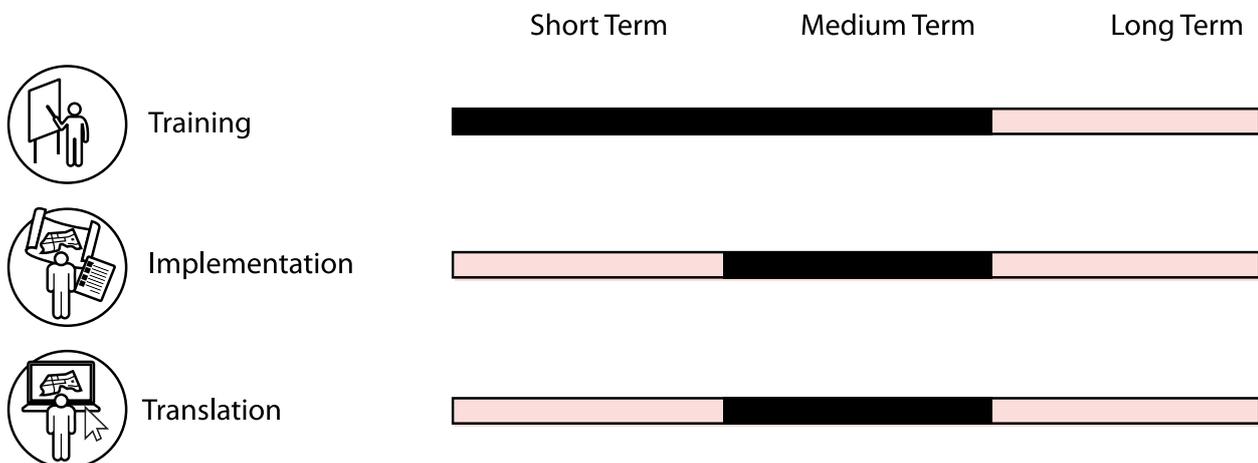




Figure 37. The location of different informal settlements and saving group in Yangon

A map of the different informal settlements in Yangon, the location of the different saving groups, and the possible areas that can be mapped by communities as part of the strategy of leveraging community knowledge.



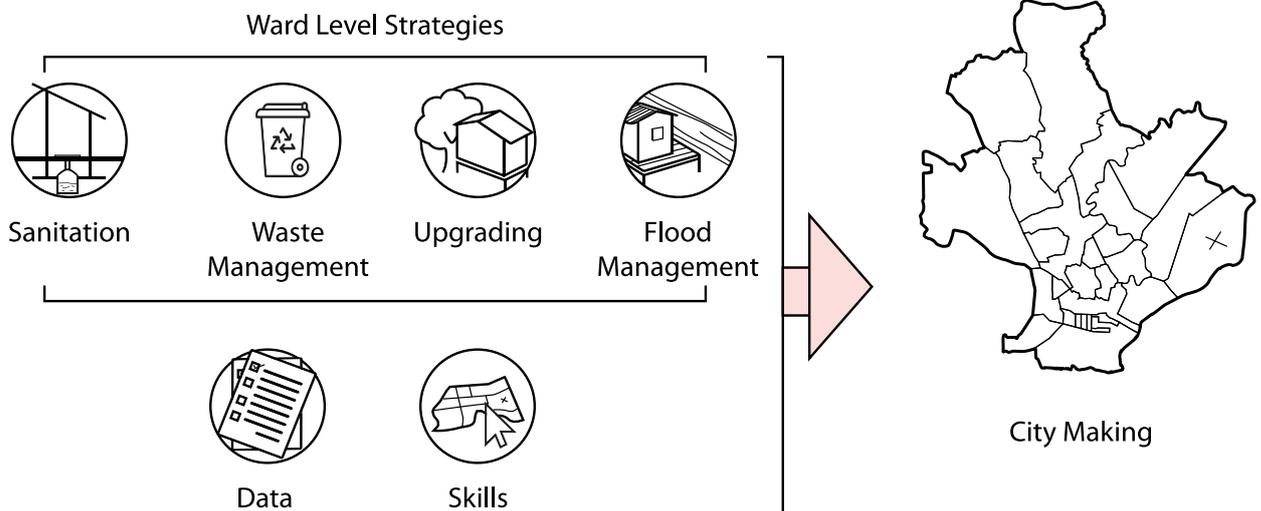
Figure 38. New projects by the states that can be improved through local skills and knowledge

# Strategy Three – Collaborative Capacity Building



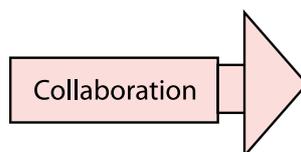
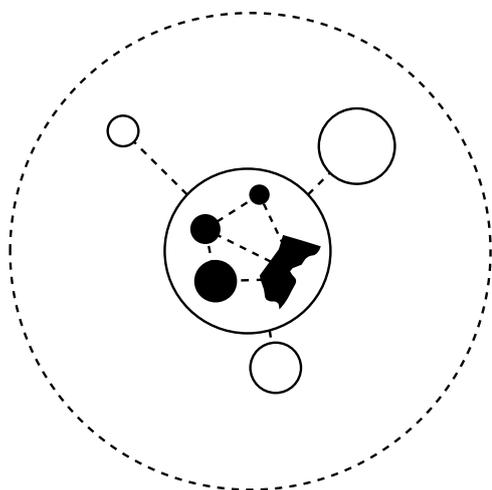
## Introduction

The strategy builds on the networks created and data gathered from the previous strategies to inform policies and development plans towards building city wide alliances and capacity in relation to planning, skills and livelihoods, coproduction and participation. The process aims to coproduce the next census through partnerships between communities, the state, private sector, and civil society, building on the “mapping Yangon – the untapped communities” project, through which community knowledge of their environment and their status as citizens are central to the process. Additionally, a second dimension of the strategy is to establish the skills of those surveyors, as well as the different skill-based community groups from the first strategy as valuable experience that can build the capacity of different stakeholders, as well as incorporate them in different livelihood schemes. Finally, through the presence of community groups, networks, and alliance within the process along the state, new possibilities can emerge for coproduction of alternative plans the centre the experience of different groups of citizens.



## Rationale

The previous strategies emphasised the role of community alliances with other stakeholders and the production of knowledge by communities as necessary to reinstate their claims over their spaces, living conditions, and their ability to achieve healthier environment through diverse skills and knowledge(s), by moving towards coproduction with/despite the state and other stakeholders creates new possibilities for inclusive city development, whereby once invisible citizens become visible city makers, without whom knowledge and plans cannot be produced. Knowledge of the physical and ecological environments here become the catalyst for a people centred approach, not as an instrument in development, but partners.



City Making

## Operation



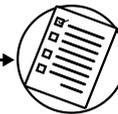
Coproducing  
Census



Party Alliance  
(NLD)



Symbolic  
Mimicing of the  
State + Civil  
Society



Incorporate  
Data



Training for  
2019 Census

To leverage the knowledge gathered from the second strategy, two processes can start: firstly, extending the alliances within the first strategy to include political parties, some of those connections existing already; and secondly through mimicking the formality of the state and civil society in language and structure to elicit more formal recognition. Through this a process of preparation for the coproduction of the census can start.



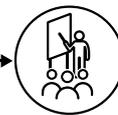
Skills and  
Employment



Document  
Capacity



Train State  
Members

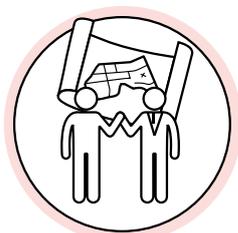


Get State  
Training



Job  
Opportunities

Through the documentation of capacities in the first two strategies, both in maintaining a healthy environment and in surveying, using different modes of state engagement, a process of capacity building between the state, academics, and communities can be held, through which new livelihood opportunities can emerge.



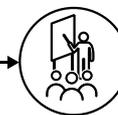
Coproducing  
Alternative  
Plans



City Alliance to  
work with MOC,  
YCDC and MOFP



Use Results from  
Census and  
Urban Forum



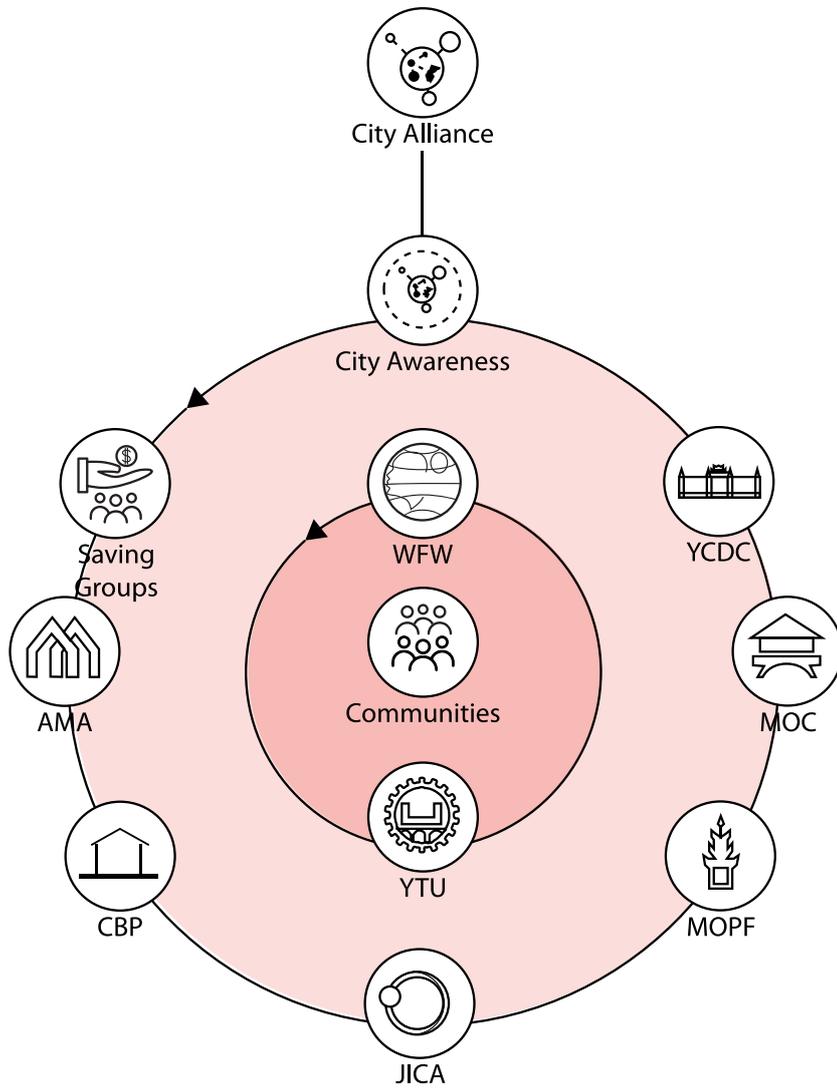
Workshops for  
Participatory  
Planning



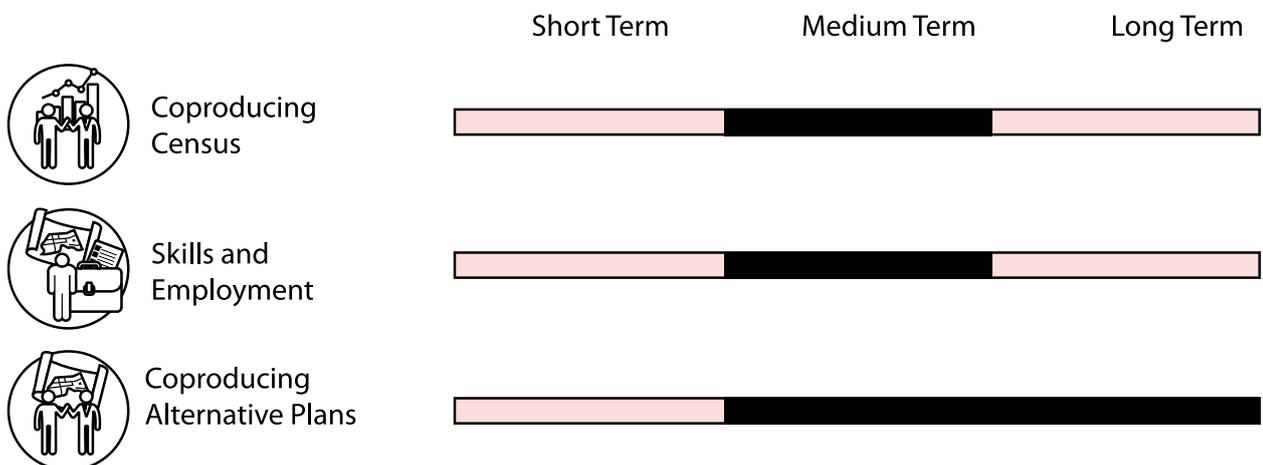
Create  
Community  
Plans

The final dimension aims to coproduce alternative plans for Yangon, where the city stakeholders' alliance can use the interest of YCDC, MoC, and MoFP sustainable development plan initiative to establish joint workshops that use the new census as a guideline in a participatory planning process that attempts to incorporate the diverse modes of improving the physical and ecological environment that are being employed by the urban poor.

## Actors



## Timeline







**Part 4**  
**Conclusion**

# Conclusion and Reflections

With this report we tried to understand one of the multiple experiences of Yangon's urban transformation, framed under Myanmar's transition to democracy; that of the residents of Ward 67.

Our research attempts, acknowledging the multiple limitations, to demonstrate that by allowing and supporting alternative practices of citizenship in the upgrading of living environments (physical and ecological conditions as well as socio-economic positions), contributions can be made to the development of a healthier Yangon.

We started by analysing the contradictions in the narratives of the government around the construction of healthy environments; contradictions that are founded on the perception of informal areas as unhealthy while promoting an economic model for the development of the city based on industrialisation and infrastructure development; a model that usually increases the pressure on natural resources. In order to contest the employment of such narratives as a justification for eviction, we focused on understanding how current practices from Ward 67 can be turned through collective action into city-wide processes that work towards the reconciliation of these contradictions in favour of communities and inclusive city making.

Through this analysis, we identified specific practices and contradictions that we treated as opportunities for the inclusion of new actors in the creation of a more just city; a version of Yangon in which citizenship is understood as a term open to constant redefinition based on the disparity of experiences and practices taking place simultaneously in the transformation of the city.

Finally, we do not want to conclude without mentioning the limitations we encountered during our experience in Yangon; ones connected to a degree of lack of understanding of some aspects of the context due to our position as outsiders, as well as some communication difficulties we encountered while working with some stakeholders. We acknowledge that such limitations may cause possible shortcomings in our approach; however, we still hope to have contributed to the construction of some alternative scenarios for the future development of Ward 67. Most importantly, we want to emphasise the need for the continuous involvement of the residents of informal areas in the development process, whose role is key in the construction of a more just, healthier, and inclusive Yangon.



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**Part 5**  
**Appendices**



# Savings group Pan Thazin

The visit to Pan Thazin provided us with an inspiring insight into the potential and the achievements of a small community of 30 households. Being the first savings group collaborating with WFW, the community started saving in 2009, purchased a small plot in the area of North Okkalapa and progressively built 30 houses, implemented basic infrastructure and

continues its development in both material and socio-economic terms. Workshops about the operation of the savings group, the participants' livelihoods, transportation and connection to the city and gender roles formed a better understanding of the level of consolidation that was achieved through collective action.



The house models that were developed by the community in collaboration with community architects are displayed in front of the community center.

Initially the community implemented one water pump and storage tank. By now each one of the three house roads has its own pump and water tank, from which the distribution to the houses is supported with pipes.



Each house is equipped with an indoors toilet and shower. The toilet waste is stored in individual concrete pits on the back side of the houses and YCDC empties the pits when they fill up.

The paths between the houses are paved and leave space for planting and gardening to the sides.



Weekly meetings of the savings group ensure the continuous development of the scheme. After the cycle of housing upgradation is completed, the investments focus more in social development and the advancement of people's livelihoods.

"Don't work for power, work for accountability" -poster in the community center.



The community center at the entrance of the settlement is where the meetings of the savings group take place

# Savings group Pan Thazin



## Exercise on gender relations

### Women:

4:00 waking up  
 4:00-4:30 get ready  
 4:30-6:00 prayer and cooking  
 6:00-7:30 breakfast  
 7:30-10:00 cleaning and take children to school  
 10:00-12:00 working as tailors  
 12:00-13:00 lunch  
 13:00-15:00 work  
 15:00-17:00 buying groceries, get children back from school, cook dinner  
 17:00-18:00 shower and have food  
 18:00-20:00 work  
 20:00-21:00 dinner with husband  
 21:00-22:00 watch TV  
 22:00 pray and sleep

### Men:

6:00 waking up  
 6:00-7:30 breakfast and getting ready  
 7:30 go to work (driver, carpenter, masonry work, welding...etc)  
 20:00 back to home  
 20:00-21:00 shower and dinner  
 21:00-22:00 watch TV  
 22:00 pray and sleep

Men sleep two hours more.

Women have more control over income spending.

Men plant during holiday.

Rent is 60-80k a month

Average income 4-10 k daily

„When the men come back from work, they first give the money (the daily income) to their wives. If they don't bring enough, they are asked to stay outside”

If husband and children are listening to them, they are satisfied.

-how do they feel about this division of work?

They are happy, because they are doing it for their families.

-would they wish to have more time for their own business?

They would want to work more for higher income, but then who would take care of the household? They have to finish all the household work before starting the business.

YCDC car collects waste from toilets (empties the septic tanks)

waste collection as well supported by YCDC

Each row of houses shares a plastic bin

Monthly meetings with other women from other savings groups

Weekly meetings withing their own savings group

After housing cycle is completed, investment goes more into social development



# Interviews



## 1<sup>st</sup> house

Live here for 6 years

One plot with two houses

She cooks for the second house sometimes for 5k per day

Husband is a driver for a doctor, 10k per day, but income is unstable

They go to a clinic outside the ward, and sometimes for child clinic

The house is not suitable for the weather

Elders have to go live somewhere else during summer cause of this

There is no suitable ventilation

Flooding issues happen, and water can get to floor level

The children get vaccinated in the school for free

When the water rises mosquitos start to be a big issue, and people have to sleep in nets

There is no health insurance, but cause the husband works for a doctor they sometimes get access to the hospital

The food is bought fresh day by day

No septic take, the toilets are connecting to the creek

Water is for 400 kyats per 20L

They sometimes use traditional medicine cause it's cheaper

Waste is being disposed in the creek

Good relations with close by neighbours, neighbours can take care of their children sometimes

Improvements:

- Improving the road for easier access in emergencies
- Managing flooding or raising the house
- Making the house two floors



## 2<sup>nd</sup> house

7 people, 3 adults, 4 children

Lived there for 6 years

Waste and sanitation through the creek

They sell watermelon for 4000-5000 a day

Most of the money goes to education not house upgrading

Children go to the school using a previous ID

Self medicate, don't visit clinic

If there is an emergency only they visit the clinic outside the ward

Electric lines are right above the house, considered a health issue

Vaccinations through school and ward leader

They call for a cart to refill drinking water

They don't have contaminated water

They don't have health insurance

They cannot afford better material for the house

Improvements:

- Higher house (house is below street level)
- The improved road was a good first step, but they want to improve the house as well



### 3<sup>rd</sup> house

2 adults, 2 sons

Lived there for 3 years

Moved for cheaper living and spending the rest on education

Used to be a teacher, and member in a health NGO, and graduated from university

Husband is a public bus driver 300k per month, 10k daily

The house has a storage in the second floor

Across the main road from the ward there is a clinic and a school they use

Waste through the creek

Vaccination in the next township thakayta

They have an ID from the previous residence

Used to be a member of a tp organisation, funded by japan, but there is no more funding

She gather people to get trash to the dumping area sometimes

Use manual pump for water, but only salty water, drinking water for 200 kyats per container

Toilets connected to a hole in the ground

Improvements:

- Purifying water
- Having more shady trees
- Electricity will solve a lot of issues
- A proper waste management system
- Closed permeant area for waste that is not to far away, with regular collection times
- Road improvements made people closer to one another



### 4<sup>th</sup> house

Use plastic bags as trash bin in front of house

Give food leftover to their neighbours for feeding the dogs and cats

Collect cans and bottles at the back of house; Call the collector (200K per time) every 3 or 4 months

One of the neighbours throw the waste everywhere

Some of their neighbours sell their food leftover to other food collector

Poor waste collecting awareness between neighbours

Using second-hand solar battery (2,000,000/3,000,000 K)

Only 3 houses on that street have solar battery.

Using the black plastic bag to collect the general waste and throw it to the dumping area (5 mins walk) every 3 or 4 days

No paper waste;

Know the Waste Management Project through his wife who is the member of WfW.

Won't use the yellow bins as the dumping area is nearby

They are willing to collect the waste surrounding or under their house but not the waste in the stream

Improvements

- Collect recyclable waste
- Hope to have a person that makes regulations on waste management
- Hope to have a waste collecting group
- Be willing to pay maximum 2000K per month for the waste collector if there was somebody could do the cleaning work

# Interviews



## 5<sup>th</sup> house

- Use food leftover collected from neighbours to feed puppies
- Throw the waste to directly to the dumping area.
- Don't open the window due to the smelling from the dirty water
- Cook inside the house



## 6<sup>th</sup> house

- Use big plastic bags and bamboo bins to collect waste
- Collect recyclable waste like cans and bottles
- Throw general waste under their house
- Carry the yellow bins to the dumping area voluntarily



## Member from Funeral Service

Followed specific plan to choose the plots for disposal

All bins concentrated on 2 streets

now project is self-managed: since funeral service and WFW are only participants, no one has taken any initiative since emergence

1,000,000 K starting budget (by WFW) – now about 200,000 left- what to do with that?

Supported by WFW (financial support and training about separation of waste, disposal etc)

disappointed that not many people participate in waste management projects, otherwise thinks that the project is a good idea



## 1<sup>st</sup> Recycling spot

Waste collectors sell recyclables there daily

Waste is collected by truck and brought to recycling factories (different for glass, plastic etc)

They either hire a truck themselves (20,000-30,000K) or call the factory to send its own truck (same price)

They need the truck 2-3 times a month, depending on how much waste there is

They are aware of the waste management system

They work with 1-2 families+ kids as well. They provide the “partners” with carts, while children collect individually. Mutual support with partners, financial help when not enough recycling material

Not easy to say what materials are more profitable, cause it all goes into the truck

They mostly resell water bottles, that go into big corporation in industrial zone

# Interviews



## 2<sup>nd</sup> Recycling spot

Waste collectors sell there daily

They own a truck. No collaboration with other recycling spots and apparently no interest to do so

They take trash to designated spot by YCDC (outside township)

Mention of 2 factories: plastic recycling, where bottles are being melt and remolded, and another for glas where bottles are purified and reused

They are not aware of the waste management system

However they think it is a good idea, since more recycling would mean more work/income for them

## 1<sup>st</sup> Shop-owner

Does not resell groceries leftovers to people with animals, but collects other leftovers (rice etc) in a bin and gives them away to people with pigs

No plastic waste, only vegetables that go bad

No shared bin, individual collection

Throws any waste into the stream

Not aware of the waste management system



## 2<sup>nd</sup> Shop-owner

- No shared bin, individual disposal
- Not selling recycled things
- Disposal of waste into the stream
- Not aware of the waste management system



## 3<sup>rd</sup> Shop-owner

- Bins have been there for just over a month
- They dispose waste on main disposal area (bridge)
- Bins are completely empty/unused (since it is unclear who/when/ etc would empty the bins, they want to avoid filling up the bins and then having the bad smell around)
- They would prefer a governmental system, otherwise uncertainty of what happens with the waste
- Need for people with authority to take initiative/lead ("it would be great"...)
  - Express concern that waste needs to go outside of the ward
  - They collect leftovers for animals (pigs)
  - Cold drinks shop: 6 empty bottles of syrup for a new one (exchange)
  - Sell reused bottles filled with water (unsealed) for 100K
- "We can do it with the participation of everyone. But everyone struggles with their income, it's not everyone's priority"

# Exercises



## Exercise on Health

One of the participants is a 40 years old woman, three houses, 1st her and 10 years old daughter, 2nd her pregnant daughter and husband, 3rd her son, wife, and son

Her husband is dead

Income is 4000 per day, used to do masonry work, now selling street food and tailoring, but income is unstable, sometimes only 500 per day

Has no ID, kid goes to monastery

Issues of flooding in rainy season

Vaccines are available, but parents are too busy. (car through the street, from school, or ward leader)

If she is sick she goes to the pharmacy not the clinic

She complained that the pigs being raised behind her house can cause health issues

The township hospital is 30 minutes away if there is an emergency

The funeral services can take people to the hospital sometimes

Her son in law is a taxi driver

There is a child clinic in the next ward, 20 minutes walking

## Exercise on Pregnancy

Giving birth at home with lathe (traditional) is 20-30 k.

Cheaper than hospital and also due to personal trust

60% (estimation) give birth at home

Giving birth at the hospital is 80-100 k

Cheap clinic is also available for 35k but expenses pile up due to transportation fees and medicine fees.

Estimation is 400 children at the ward

Estimation 1 out of 10 women might consider abortion

Usage of birth control varies per household



## Workshop with kids

Kids were asked if they wanted to play multiple times

The objective was to challenge the perception of what waste is, and in attempting that the game was explained to the children as such: "we will try to make some toys out of materials that lay on the street, like bottles and straws and plastic cups"

Some children misunderstood the concept and brought news packs of straws they had at home, but we clarified we would only use already "used" materials"

The children started collecting plastic bottles already on the way from the community center to the monastery.

By the time we arrived at the monastery, roughly 30 kids had gathered, so we were missing still lots of material for the toys.

The oldest children went off to find another 20 bottles etc, while the youngest stayed back with us.

In order to keep them busy, the kids were handed pieces of paper and some crayons and asked to draw the toy that they would like to craft later on. Again, very few did that, and instead many drew their house, themselves, princesses or animals.

When the rest of the children came back, an example of turning a bottle into a doll was demonstrated and then the children started crafting their toys.

Some of them replicated the prototype doll, and some made different designs, like cars and airplanes.

During the exercise the children were reminded that the aim is to use up all the things they had gathered, so that we don't throw back anything to the street.

After most kids had finished their crafts, there were still leftover garbage, so we started going around with a plastic bag and collecting it.

Many kids helped disposing the leftovers, and interestingly, 2-3 kids attempted to throw in the bag the toys that they had just made (!).

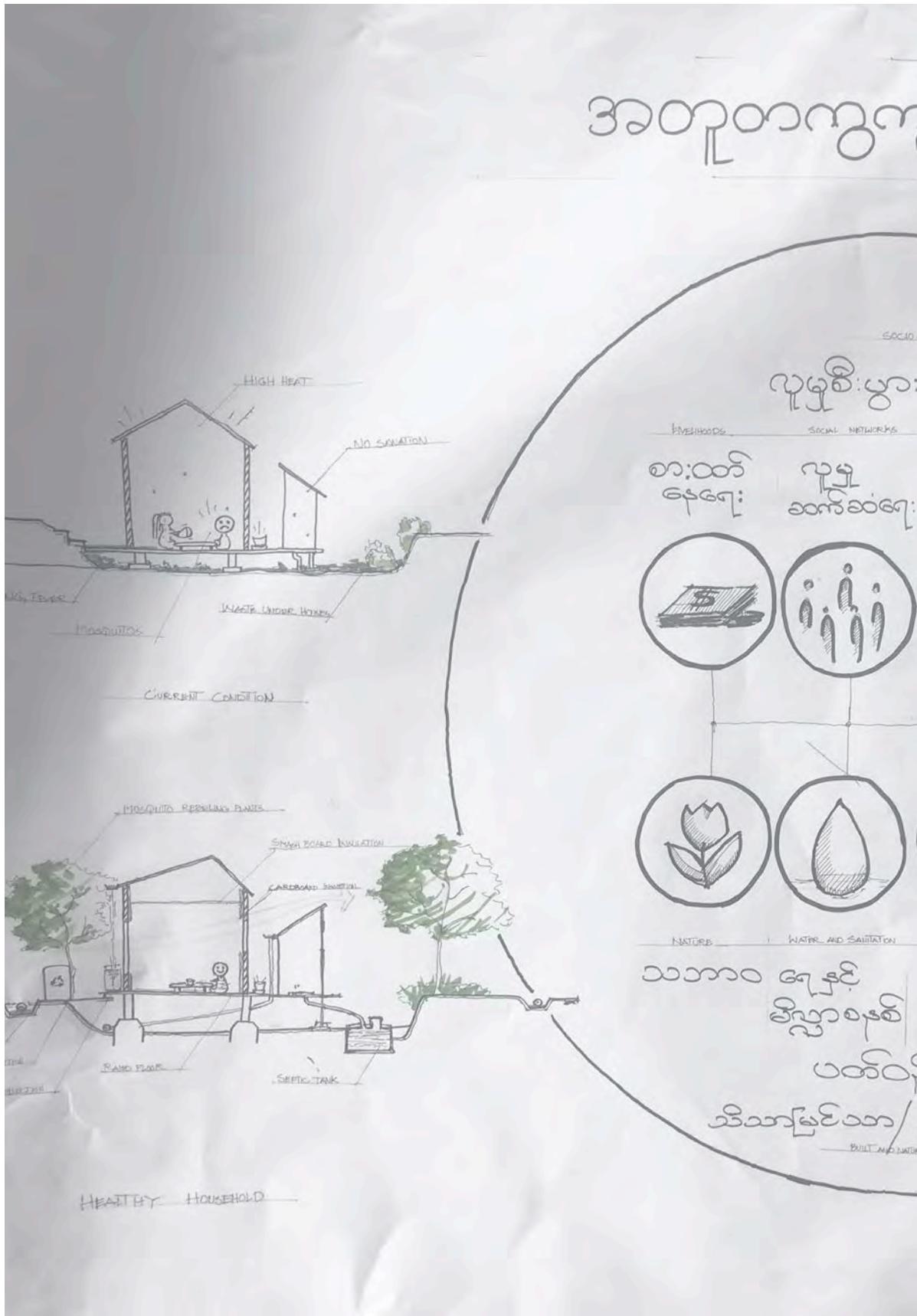
After cleaning up, we gathered around a table, and exhibited all the different toys they had made.



A short conversation about what they did, what they liked, and what they learned took place, however most kids were shy to respond something individually.

The kids were encouraged to take their toys with them when they left.

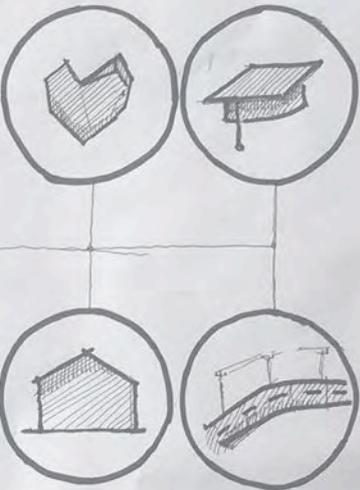
# Presentation on site



# ကျွန်းမာလာဖို့

ECONOMICS  
 ရှေးအခြေအနေ

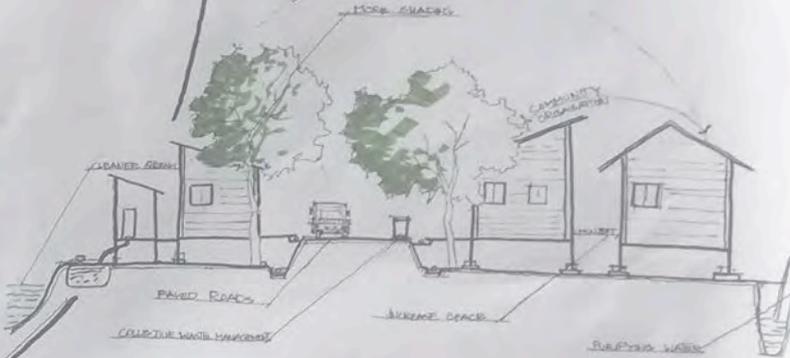
HEALTH CARE      EDUCATION  
 ကျန်းမာရေး      ပညာရေး



HEALTHY CONDITIONS      INFRASTRUCTURE  
 ဒေါ်မိကျာ      အရေခဲခဲ  
 အရေခဲအရေ      အရေခဲ

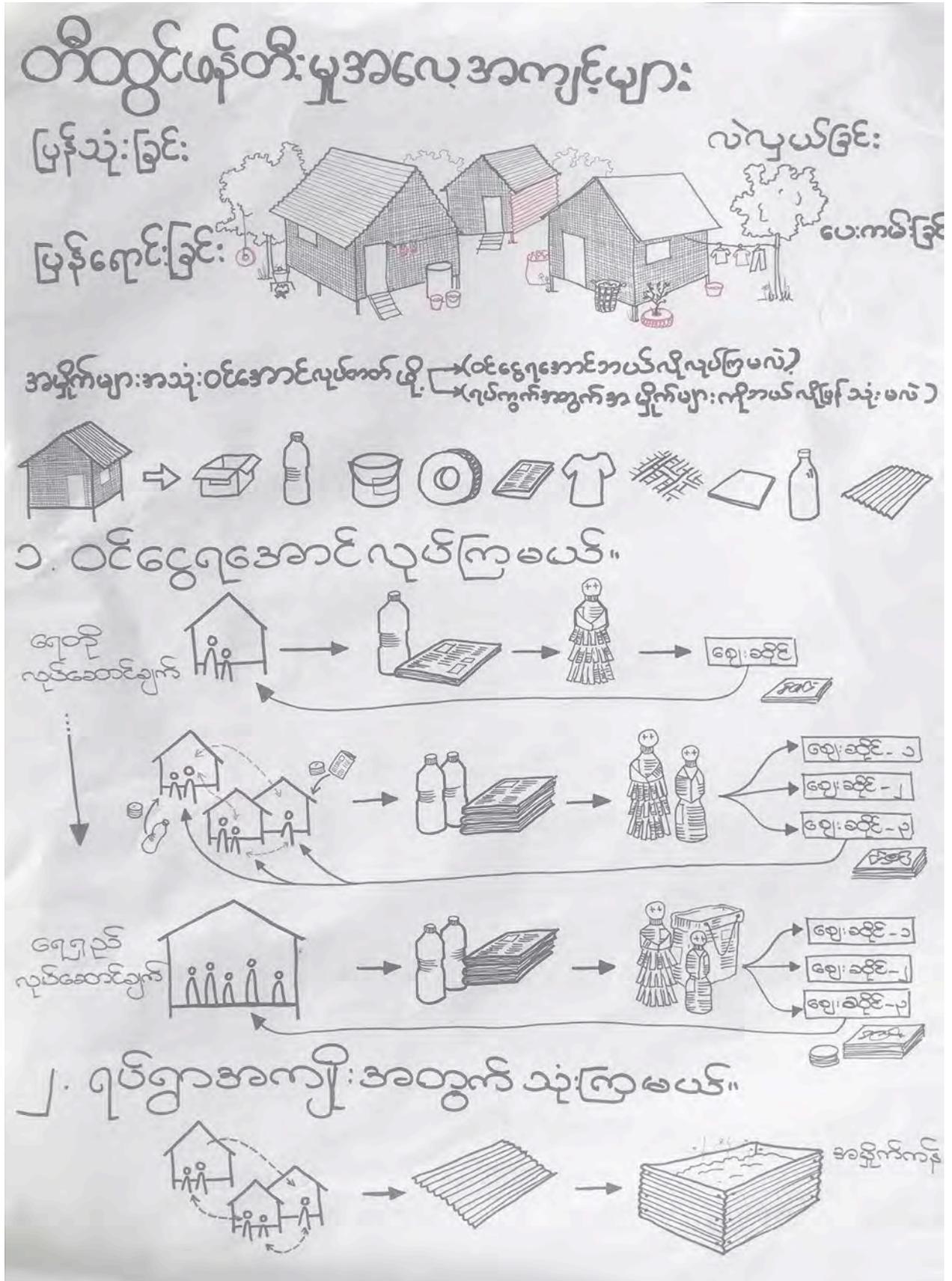
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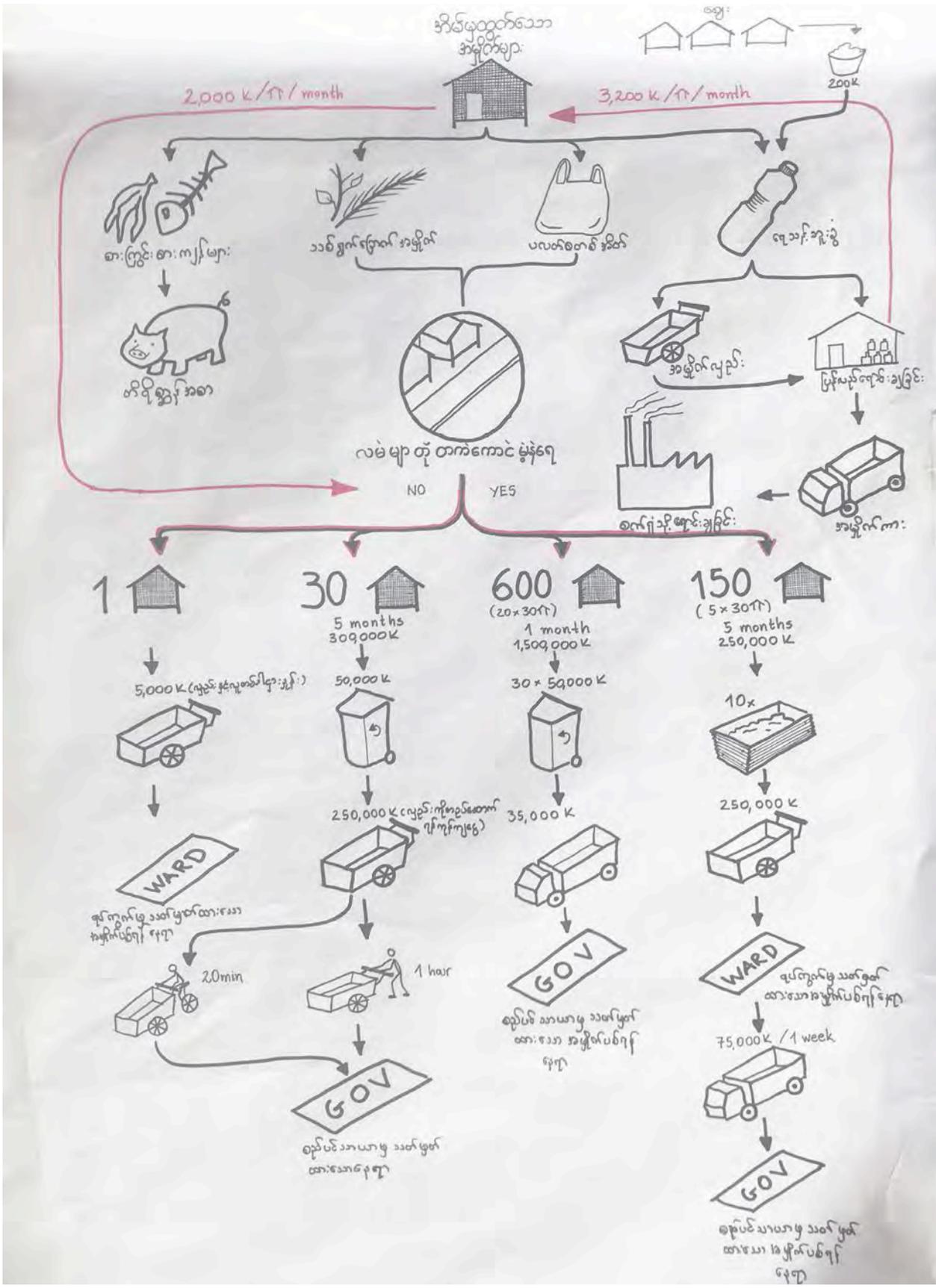
ENVIRONMENT



HEALTHY WARD 67

# Presentation on site



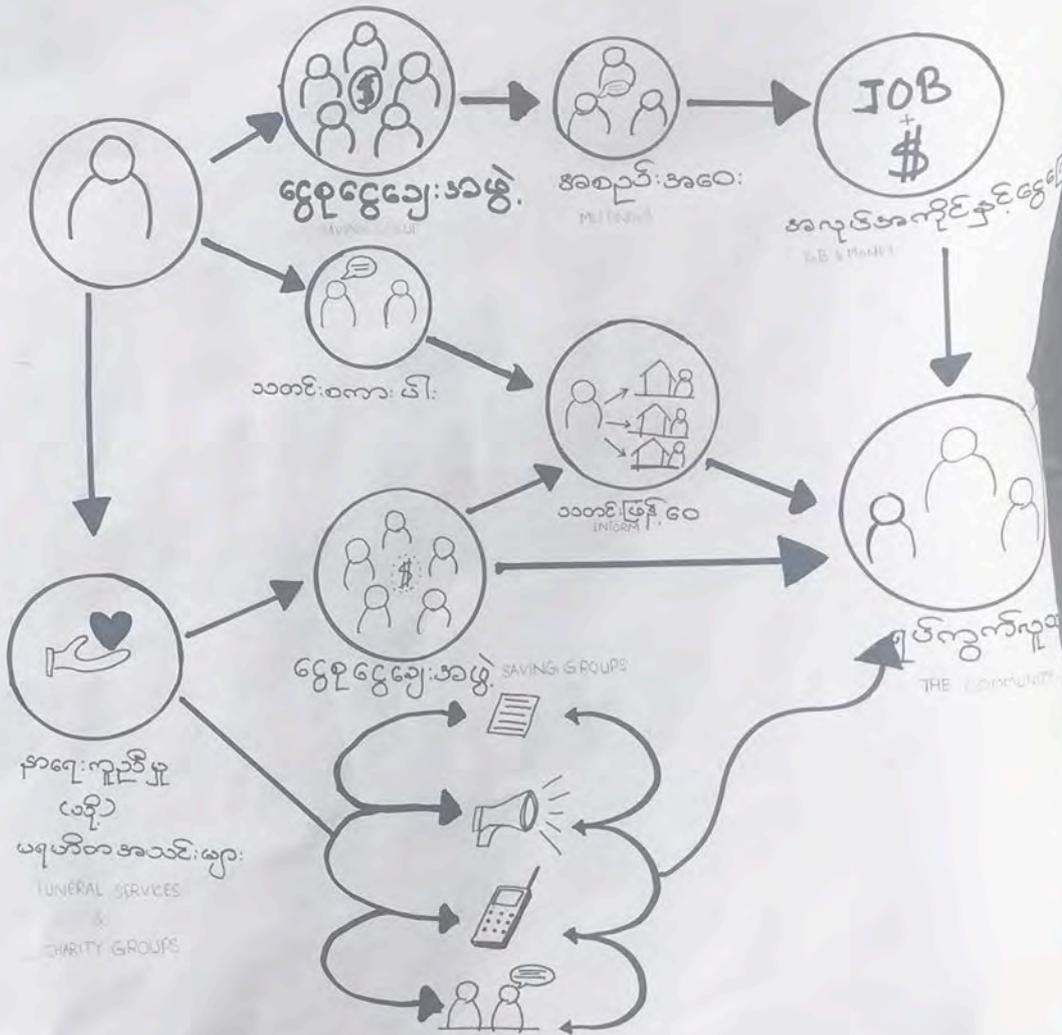


# Presentation on site

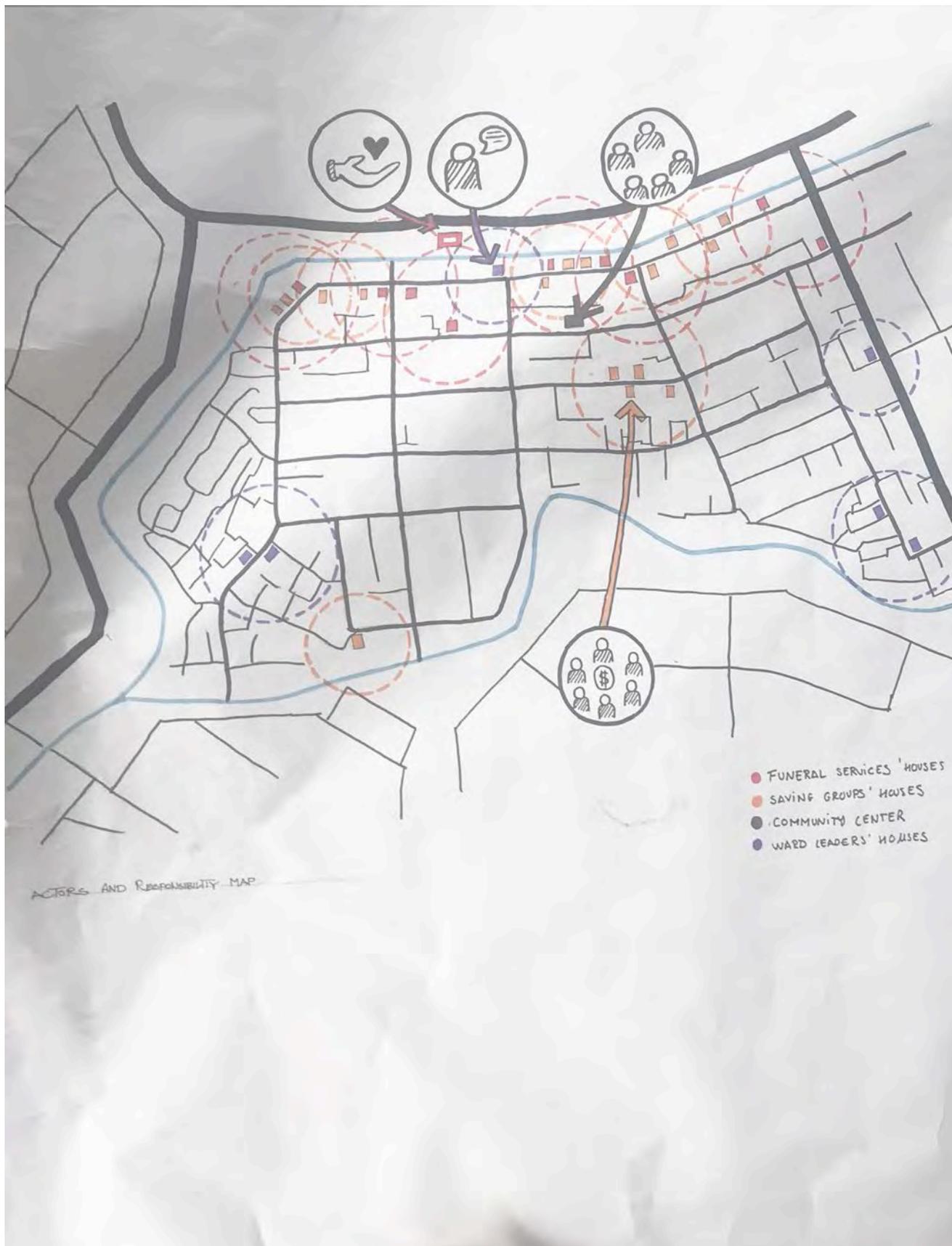


# သတင်းနှင့် ဗဟုသုတဖြန့်ဝေမှု

Information and Knowledge



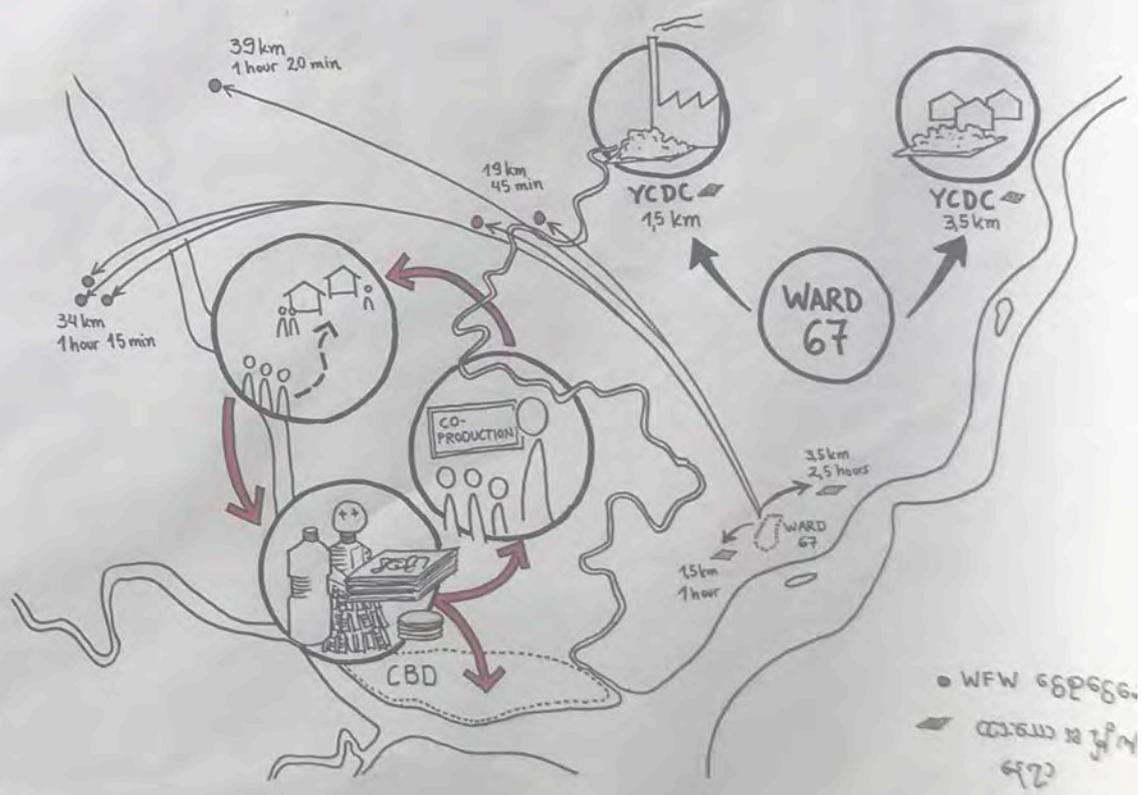
# Presentation on site



# ၁. အခြားဂျပံဏ္ဍာအဖွဲ့အစည်းများနှင့်ဆက်ဆံရေး



# ၂. မြို့တော်စည်ပင်နှင့် အဆက်အသွယ်



# Thematic analysis pre-fieldtrip

## land

Land in Yangon has transformed over years of change, with the constitution stating that land ownership and decision making is ultimately by the state.

Under military rule, new satellite cities were introduced.

The creation of Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC) in the 90s was an effort to guide future developments within the city.

The country's move towards economic liberalisation changed the development dynamics in Yangon:

Private international investment.

Internal migration in search of job opportunities.

Migration created tensions between residents and new migrants that were called "invaders".

Evictions of squatters and residents of what is deemed informal area to the peripheries of the city.

The introduction of new special economic zones and industrial areas.

The transition of the country led to an increase in tourism that affected land prices, developments, and evictions of Yangon residents.

## heritage

Since the change of governance in Myanmar, tourism gradually became an integral part of the economy, affecting multiple facets of the city, including evictions from the colonial city centre as means of beautification.

Framing material heritage as a commodity that can be used to re-envision Yangon as "the forgotten city of the east", "tradition of modernity", among others.

Monumental Buddhism as an expression of culture and heritage.

In different parts of Myanmar, armed conflict challenges what heritage means.

While there is a focus on preserving physical heritage in the colonial centre on Yangon, little is done in terms on intangible heritage, identity, and culture.

Due to the increased focus on heritage and tourism, issues of land speculations and developments targeted at tourist became more visible.

The Yangon Heritage Trust (YHT) was established by one of the president previous advisors, working through heritage to tackle other issues of the city.

## citizenship

Citizenship is traditionally seen as a contract and a status based on a notion of a community (defined differently), the implies rights and obligations for members of that community.

Citizenship can be understood from different lenses:

Political (right to vote, participation in political life...etc).

Social (welfare, within the public/private sphere dynamics).

Civil (in terms of civil rights, free speech, religion, ownership...etc).

The notion of community needs to be questioned, as well as the assumptions of sameness and equality in rights and obligations in relationship to power structures and disadvantaged groups. (liberal view of citizenship/national view of citizenship).

In Myanmar those issues emerge as:

Ethnic minorities.

The number of undocumented residents.

The need for HRRC.

Gated communities.

Political participation.

Evictions.

## finance

Finance in Myanmar is influenced by the new liberalisation of the country's economy.

New ties were established with Asian and International organisations, including the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and the World Bank.

Trials to implement short term housing loans were implemented to deal with the increasing housing needs in Yangon, but the application mechanisms failed to sustain long term improvements in the housing market.

Alternatively, saving groups, mostly created by women in the same model that the Asian Coalition for Housing Rights (ACHR) established through the Asian Coalition for Community Action (ACCA). As well as through Women for the World (WFW).

	<b>eviction / invasions</b>	<b>new colonialism</b>	<b>identity</b>	<b>participation, politics and decision making</b>
<b>land</b>	laws and regulations	land speculation (eviction)/ development policies and regulations (concept of modernity and international development agencies)	HRRC	urban transformation, development: who has a say in it? who does not? how is it framed? (new colonialism)
<b>citizenship</b>	HRRC / ethnicity	identity / tourism /HRRC (concept of modernity, disregarding people who do not have a house, their voices are not being considered)	ethnicity	who can participate in the public/ political sphere? who has the resources to do so? ID issues, ethnic minorities, politics, armed conflicts
<b>heritage</b>	liberalization / competition over land / tourism / livelihoods	city image / identity	westernization/ city image	modernity (urban transformation)
<b>finance</b>	livelihoods	who owns the capital? who benefits from tourism?	access and control over resources	connection between control/access to resources and participation

