

# Cambodia

## [Zero] 14





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# 【EXECUTIVE SUMMARY】

This report has been the result of an intensive investigation into the urban condition of Cambodia. Specifically, the research was carried out in the districts of Phnom Penh and Battambang and it is the first contact of the MSc Building and Urban Design in Development (2013/14), with the Cambodian reality.

## Objectives

1. The in-depth understanding of the urban condition in Cambodia and a clear insight into the actors that shape the city. In addition, an evaluation of the challenges and opportunities of the collaboration between these groups.
2. An understanding of the human conditions and the socio-cultural implications that arise from the rapid transition that the country is experiencing. To gain knowledge of the ethno-political impact from the last decades on Cambodian people as well as an insight on the current challenges.
3. To visualize the role and significance of transformation as a process shaping the urban in a time of rapid transition through coherent strategies and proposals.

## Key Findings

The on-site investigations and citywide research have revealed a number of key findings. These become the fundamental proponents for the establishment of a response strategy and are the analytical core of the report.

1. The dominant vision of Cambodia is led by the state and private actors and has transformed the urban in a rapid and dramatic way; it has excluded the urban poor from the process of shaping the urban.
  2. The lack of trust among individuals is the fundamental issue and threshold for any collective action, which is due to the recent cruel history and unstable political phenomenon.
- There are many NGOs working on the field in Cambodia, but the lack of cooperation between them NGOs - and also between communities- become the limitation for the communities to propose a bigger transformation. The lack of trust

became the fundamental issue and threshold for any collective action.

3. CDF as a key actor provides a great potential in the development of National Housing Policy that is attentive to community driven processes; on the other hand, CDF has often been seen as a governmental body and therefore has not had an easy task in creating alliances with potentially interesting actors.

### **Recommendations**

The proposed strategies will focus on facilitating transformation in unlocking the social potential to shape the urban, which has until now been locked by the forces of rapid transition. According to the nature of these essential transformation, any intervention on the urban has to be incremental yet radical in effect. Participating in the production of knowledge and space and negotiating the future of the city initiate the potential of transformation. With this realization in mind the following strategies have been devised and are analysed extensively throughout the report:

1. Activities for collective mobilization strategy: The purpose of encouraging collective activity in these communities is to build strong social connections within the settlements; this is a capital that can allow them to work together in producing more tangible activities such as community organisation and savings groups.

2. Knowledge sharing and the co production of knowledge strategy: The aim of this strategy is to strengthen community members through training in technical skills and knowledge for action

3. CDF network and partnership building strategy: This strategy aims at building a network between CDF and other actors in order to achieve catalytic changes in a more efficient timeframe, through the enforcements of partnerships.

4. Circular 03 content elaboration and visualisation strategy: Circular 03 is a recent government policy which offers great potential for communities to better their future through collective action and organization, the further elaboration and clarification of the document would be an opportunity for urban poor to access decision making and to build common language with government and other actors.



# [ACRONYMS]

<b>ACHR</b>	Asian Coalition for Housing Rights
<b>ACCA</b>	Asia Coalition for community action
<b>ADB</b>	Asian Development Bank
<b>ASEAN</b>	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
<b>BUDD</b>	Building Urban Design in Development
<b>CAN</b>	Community Architects Network
<b>CBN</b>	Community Builders Network
<b>CDF</b>	Cambodian Development Fund
<b>CEDT</b>	Community Empowerment and Development Team
<b>CMDP</b>	Community Management Development Partners
<b>CPP</b>	Cambodian People's Party
<b>CNRP</b>	Cambodian National Rescue Party
<b>CSNC</b>	Community Saving Network Cambodia
<b>CVS</b>	Community and Voluntary Service
<b>DPU</b>	Development Planning Unit
<b>FUNCINPEC</b>	Front Uni National pour un Cambodge Indépendant, Neutre, Pacifique, et Coopératif (National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia)
<b>MoSY</b>	Ministry of Sports and Youth
<b>MoU</b>	Memorandum of Understanding
<b>MPP</b>	Municipality of Phnom Penh
<b>HFH</b>	Habitat for Humanity
<b>IMF</b>	International Monetary Fund
<b>LICADHO</b>	Cambodian League for the Promotion and Defense of Human Rights
<b>NPC</b>	National Police of Cambodia
<b>PCL</b>	People for Care and Learning
<b>PIN</b>	People in Need
<b>UN</b>	United Nations
<b>UNTAC</b>	United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia
<b>UPDF</b>	Urban Poor Development Fund
<b>USG</b>	Urban Sector Group
<b>RACHA</b>	Reproductive and Child Health Alliance
<b>SUPF</b>	Solidarity for the Urban Poor Federation
<b>STT</b>	Sahmakum Teang Tnaut
<b>WB</b>	World Bank

# 【DEFINITIONS】

**Collective land title:** (hard title) Land recognition and ownership granted as a group

**Community Leader:** Elected or appointed leaders of group of dwellers

**Land Certificate:** (Soft title) Recognition given by the district level authority of occupation of land

**Land Tenure:** Land tenure is the relationship, whether legally or customarily defined, among people, as individuals or groups, with respect to land (FAO)

**Land Title:** (Hard title) Recognition and ownership given by Provincial level authority of occupation of land.

**Municipality:** the ruling authority at the level of the province/city

**NGO (Non-governmental organisation):** Within the context Cambodia, these could be organisations that function generally externally from the government plans, but have a 'charitable' and 'non-profit' ethos, therefore work directly with many communities across Cambodia, offering support in various sectors and services.

**Principles:** These can be equated to guiding values that govern the proposed strategies and practice for development.

**Settlements:** A place where people establish a 'community', a group of people living in close proximity to each other with some commonality, often without secure land tenure or housing rights in this context.

**Strategic interventions:** These are practical visualisations and manifestations with in the realities of the context, showing the implementation of the intended strategy.

**Strategy:** A plan and method to the aim of obtaining a specific goal or goals.

**Urban poor:** Those living with the daily challenges of limited access to employment and income, inadequate or insecure housing and services, no social protection mechanisms and limited access to healthcare services. (World Bank)









chapter **1**  
**[INTRODUCTION]**



# 1.1

## 【FIELDTRIP CONTEXT】

Every year students of Development Planning Unit at UCL undertake a fieldtrip to a country in a crucial moment of development, in order to synthesize theoretical and critical thoughts and lessons taught in the BUDD Modules, with hands-on experience in the practical context of urban design for development. Having visited Thailand over the past three academic years, this year was the first time the of the fieldtrip was based in the reality of Cambodian urban context.

The objective of the project was to examine collaborative people-centred partnerships for informal settlement upgrading in Cambodia, which could contribute to the work of DPU's partners in the field (ACHR, CAN, CDF).

The aim is to gain knowledge of this reality through exploring city-wide upgrading and development processes of urban realities in South East Asia, on a regional and national scale. Eventually design strategies and interventions were proposed to enhance and challenge existing governance structures.

Over the past five months the group of students have been working on the case and framing the acquired knowledge, through different modes of analysis and representation.

This workshop allowed for further understanding of the reality through working on six different sites and communities each with its own unique story and overlapping issues, especially issues regarding land tenure.

In addition to the research objectives, four entry points were defined at the initial stages of the workshop, these were: The quest for LAND; The issue of SCALE; DESIGN THE URBAN and COLLECTIVE SAVINGS as a catalyst for community action. These framed the cases of all sites and Cambodia as a whole, and aimed at creating opportunities for change and discourses on transformation through wider operation of the workshop and the final outcome of this report.



## 1.2

# [ABOUT THE REPORT]

This report seeks to show the approximation obtained by the group into the transformation processes that are happening in Cambodia presently. Political, economic, social, cultural and urban changes shape the daily lives of people and open new spaces for rethinking development strategies.

Exploring the possibility to overstep the initial surface layer of Cambodian reality and connect with more complex dynamics and processes will be dependent on the flexibility, fairness, depth of perspective and actions taken by the group, particularly in the field experience.

The group is composed of students with a variety of disciplinary and cultural backgrounds, therefore this workshop and report is an opportunity to test the knowledge gained throughout the course, but also to state a position and productively critic processes in order to both challenge personal prejudgments and collectively produce suggestive strategic proposals.

The report consists of three sequential and incremental stages: the pre fieldwork; the fieldwork and the post fieldwork:

The first stage was to develop a general notion about the situation in Cambodia, where a theoretical framework is constructed to be put into question in the field. This stage consists of lectures, research through readings, group work and discussions.

A second stage is the insertion into the reality of Cambodia, with the possibility to interact with key actors involved in the challenges of overcoming urban poverty. This is explored through gaining a general dynamic understanding of Cambodia through various entry points and viewpoints communicated in lectures and talk, and then moving into six different cases that cover a range of urban and rural issues to expand further this insight into the context.

And finally, a third stage of analysis and conclusions, where everything learned is collated to be reformulated in order to make propositions, based on the real criteria. These are general and specific strategies that contribute to the collective effort of suggesting a route to a process of sustainable and equitable development in Cambodia.

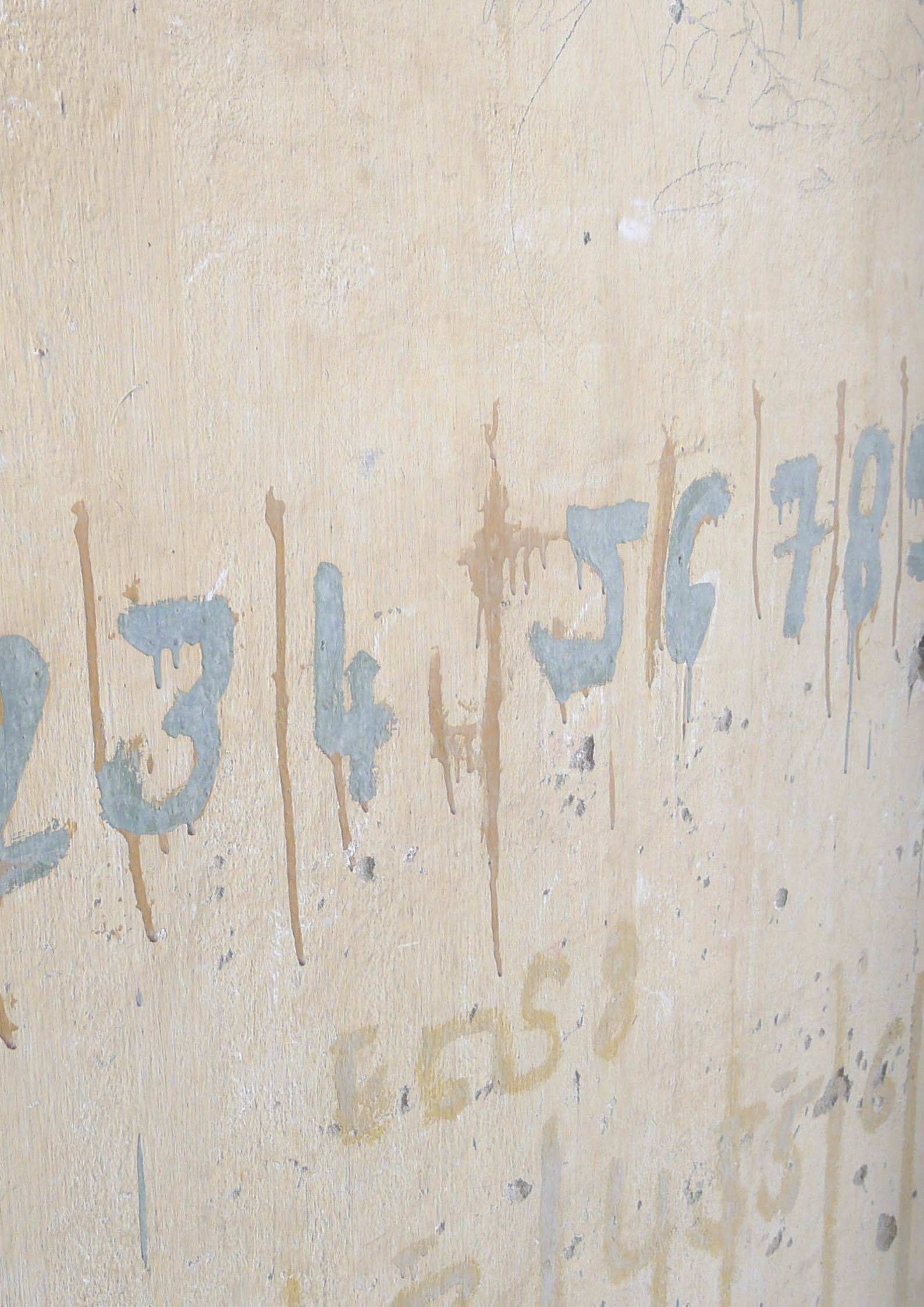


chapter 2

# [SETTING THE SCENE]









## 2.1.1

# BUILDING AN UNDERSTANDING OF CAMBODIA [HISTORY AND POLITICS]

The history and present of Cambodia are closely related. An understanding of its recent history will bring a clearer comprehension of what is happening today.

There is probably no more crucial century in the history of a country, than the twentieth century in Cambodia, entailing: The end of the French colonial era, American bombing to ensure non-proliferation of Vietnamese communism, genocide by the Pol Pot regime, the Vietnamese invasion in the '80's, after that a transition time guided by the international community (UNTAC) , protest, coups and political instability hegemonized by CPP and Hun Sen and a radical transformation of the economy.

This sequence of external interventions with bloody internal disruptions have tainted the development of the Cambodian people and the nation, however it is interesting to analyse the current state of Cambodian society and state based on these past events, allowing sizing and balance judgments.

The political and economic systems, individual liberties and religious ideas certainly are conceived in different ways depending on where on the planet one is. Regarding Cambodia each of these variables need to be understood from a process of re-composition after a brutal genocide experienced by the country, with the clear objective of installing a new political, social and cultural project. The year zero, as it was called, achieved the aim of large scale disruption. The physical expression of this phenomenon was in the emptying of Phnom Penh, Cambodian's representational heart, in 1975.

After this process of effacement, it is not easy to start to build again. What appears to be the clearest mobilizing force since the early 80's is the economy that has radically turned towards the free market, being between 1998-2007 the sixth fastest in the world (Guimbert 2010; Paling 2012, p.3), however still Cambodia is one of the poorest countries in the world (LDC) , (Paling, 2012, p.3).

Hun Sen and CPP have been in charge of the policy from the UNTAC, despite the coup in 1998, they continue to maintain international support, reaffirming that greater interest may be in the economic stability than the achievement of a good level of democracy in the country.

With a clearly centralized system, Un and So described the state (2011) "as a combination of modern bureaucracy and traditional patrimonial system".

In terms of what is seen on the ground, there has been an opposition growth after the elections of 2013 (CNRP) , there are constant protests in the streets towards a demand for change, allowing optimism to the best possible levels for governance in the future.

figure 2.1.1\_ the power of political control is present in everyday life, through the scene of armed soldier around the demonstration, and through the propaganda of CPP's board permeating every corner of the country.







figure 2.1.2



figure 2.1.3

figure from 2.1.2 to 2.1.4\_ CNRP has been able to mobilise a multitude of people – coming mostly from the younger and poorer strata of the population – and the resentment toward the CPP's apparatus of power has significantly increased.





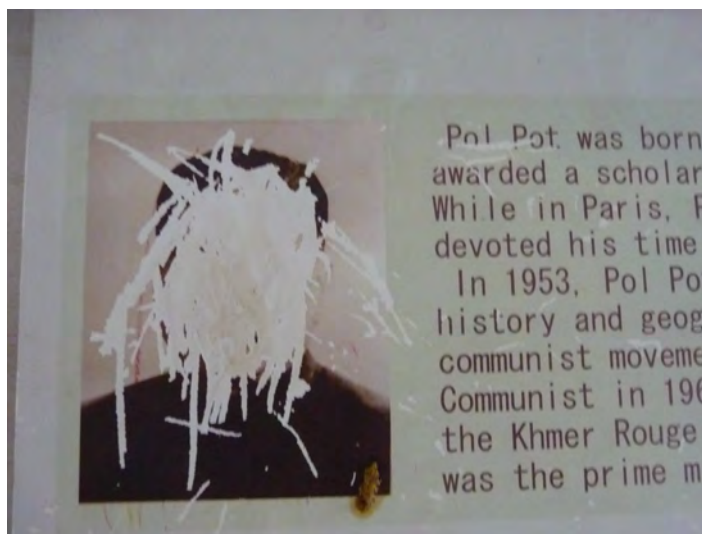


figure 2.1.5



figure 2.1.6



figure 2.1.5 and 2.1.6\_ S21 museum.

In year 1976, Khmer Rouge established 'Security Office 21' (S-21) in a former high school to interrogate and exterminate those opposed to them. Now it has been converted to a museum. While the attempt behind year zero is to eradicate the culture and tradition, the S21 museum offers chance for Cambodian to acknowledge their history.

figure 2.1.7\_in the killing filed, re-signify the tragedy place of the cruelty history.



## 2.1.2

### BUILDING AN UNDERSTANDING OF CAMBODIA

# [LAND, ECONOMY AND INFRASTRUCTURE]

Cambodia's economic infrastructure was devastated during the civil war since 1970s, its diplomatic isolation also stifled growth in the first half of the 1980s. Economic growth accelerated in the late 1980s with the government's gradual move towards free market economic policies. Nowadays, built environment in Cambodia is being shaped by political and economic pressure.

Phnom Penh, which is the only "global city" of Cambodia, is the engine of economic development. Garments industry, tourism and construction as 3 main drivers of economic growth in last decades in Phnom Penh.

Along with the development trend, Phnom Penh has recently revitalized itself as 'The Charming City' and is growing in chic, old French colonial buildings transformed into fashion houses, restaurants, or boutique hotels; edgy bistros line the riverfront that now has a growing night market; galleries owned by established and budding artists; a vibrant nightlife; and better infrastructure.

However, the vision "transform to global city", pursued by the authorities is imposing the dispossession of the urban poor, which is composed of refugees from civil war and the migrants moving from rural area to squat in urban cities in search of more adequate lives and living conditions. This has created large amounts of informal settlements, mainly squatting along the river, railway, or joining existing settlements.

The vision "transform to global city", pursued by the authorities is translated into powerful flows of capital and concentration of third sector function. The urban form is altered by the imposing urban development policy. Foreign and domestic investment concentrate in the erection of massive housing in gated satellite city, hotels and tourism consumption. Infrastructural redevelopment for the city, known as the Beautification Plan, envisages clean, wide boulevards, restored colonial mansions, parks, fresh air, and exercise.

Under the major gaps and discrepancies between the vision and purpose of the city, urban poor eviction became a major issue, especially the violent and inhumane way that they are carried out.

Moreover, the insufficient relocate policy leads the evictees often face multiple socio-economic traumas and vulnerabilities following displacement, including job loss, loss of social safety nets, and reduced access to basic services.

These processes of displacement continue and are causing conflicts on land, landless, land tenure insecurity, lack of law enforcement, power abuses, and encroachment on livelihoods.

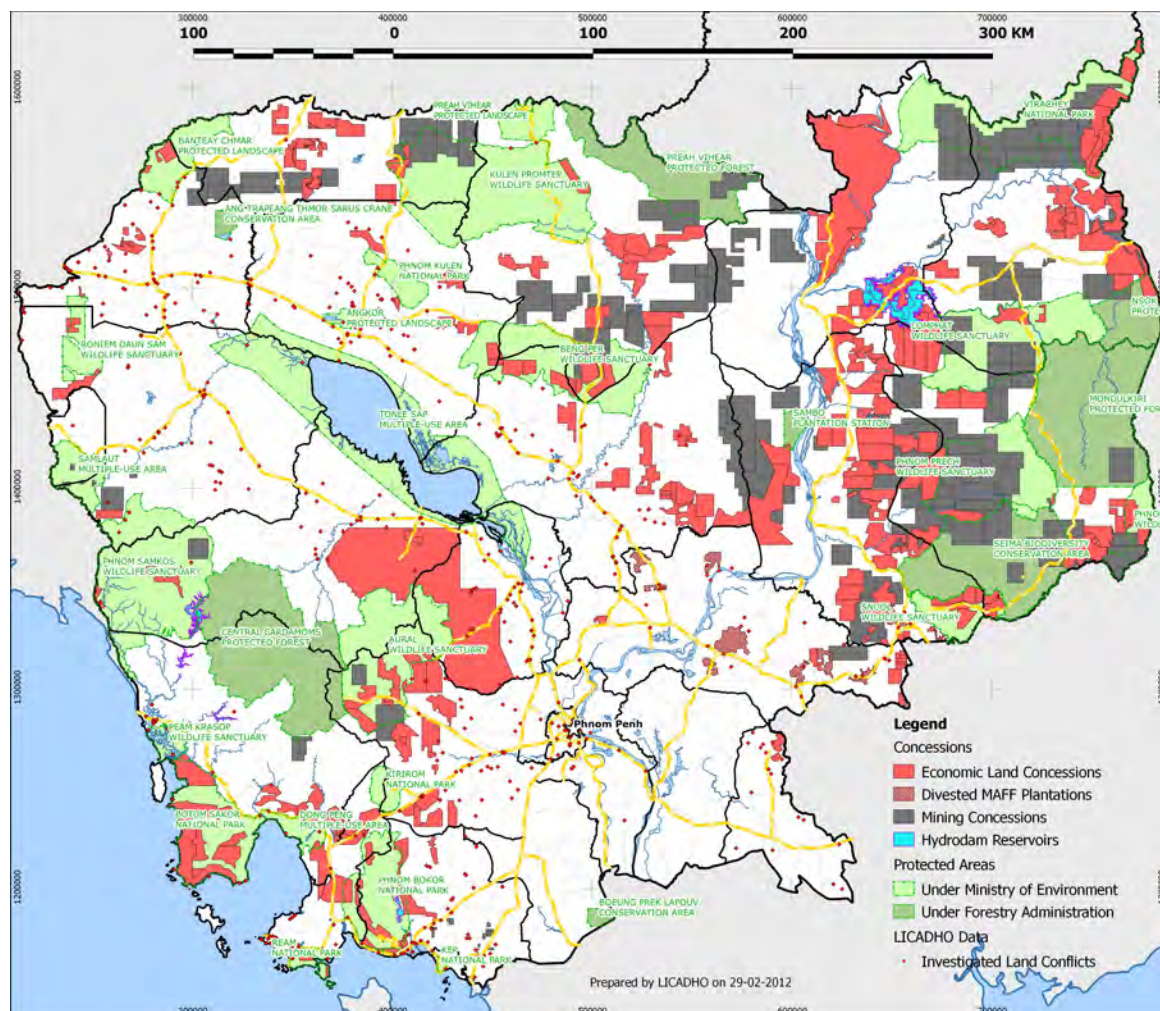


figure 2.1.8\_ Since 1990, the Royal Government Cambodia have used ELC to concede large tracts of land to private companies for investment. As a result of the increasing number of concessions allocated regarding indigenous land and the dweller, leads many 'landless' people would migrate to the city.





figure 2.1.9\_Several eviction cases involving severe human rights violations issues

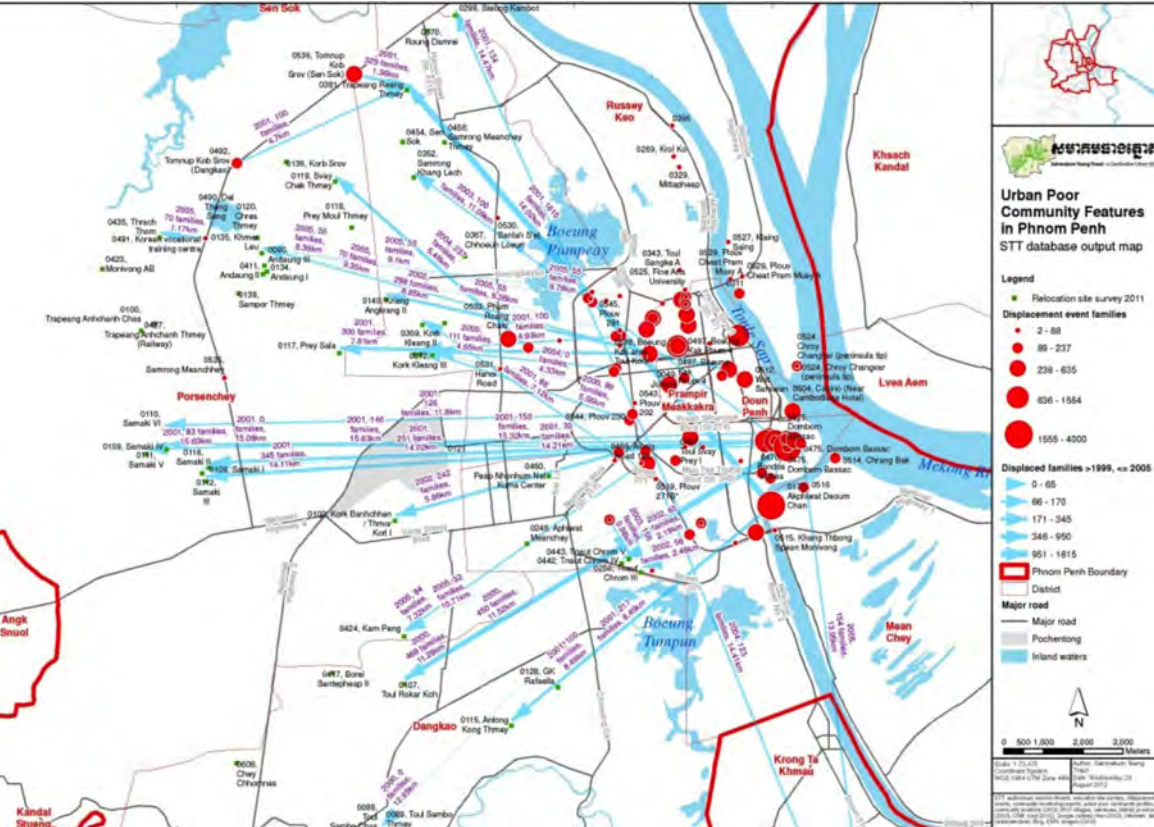


figure 2.1.10\_Since 2001, 45 relocation sites have been established for several thousands of evicted families. Over time, a disturbing trend of relocation sites being located further and further away from the city can be identified, with distance from central Phnom Penh a key indicator of access to utilities.



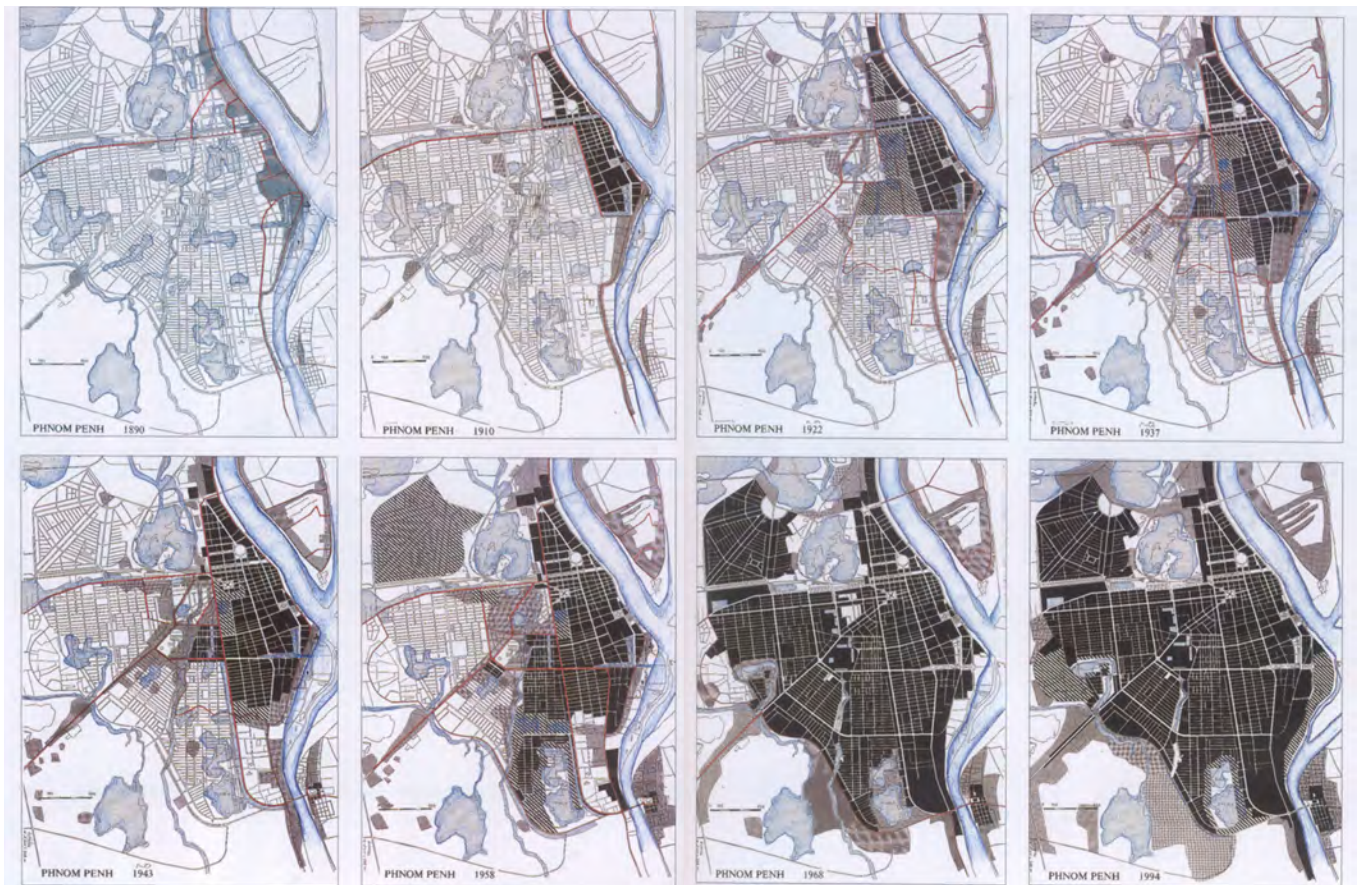


figure 2.1.11\_ The urbanization expansion of Phnom Penh from 1890 to 1994.



figure 2.1.12\_ New huge development project along the river.



figure 2.1.13\_ The dancing activities at the public park along the Tonle Sap River.



## 2.1.3

### BUILDING AN UNDERSTANDING OF CAMBODIA

# [GENERAL ACTOR DIAGRAM]

To understand the dynamics of Cambodia, the relations amongst actors involved in urban transformation need to be analysed. Applying Ali Madanipour's viewpoints, the actors could be categorise into producers, regulators and users based on their function and roles in built enviroment; also in terms of different spheres they could influence and operate at different scales in local, municipal, national and international scale. The seperations of three perspectives does not mean the seperation of mechanism, their role and function would to some extent overlape together or influence in muti-scale.

The regulator: Formulates policies and composes plans for development. leading the future direction and the vision of the city.

The producer: Including the implementer and actual action in shaping the built enviroment. co-ordinate and drive the development process.

The users: it carries out the actual performance of living in place and enhances its symbolic values, even though such values are always contested.

#### Financial relation

The financial relation in Cambodia is heavily focused on the National Government, which absorbs funding from different international entities and distributes the budget to local authorities. It is important to note the financial contribution of private investors towards the national government as an indication of the ambiguity in political transparency in Cambodia.

#### Collaborative relations

Reflecting on the financial relations, the cooperative relations are somehow correlated. The relations of collaboration in the royal government focuses on the international producers in composing and formulating the policy in terms of urban development. The collaborative relation around informal settlements are linked with NGOs internationally and locally, and it is worth being mentioned that the linkage with authorities will go through CDF.

figure 2.1.13a\_financial relations diagram

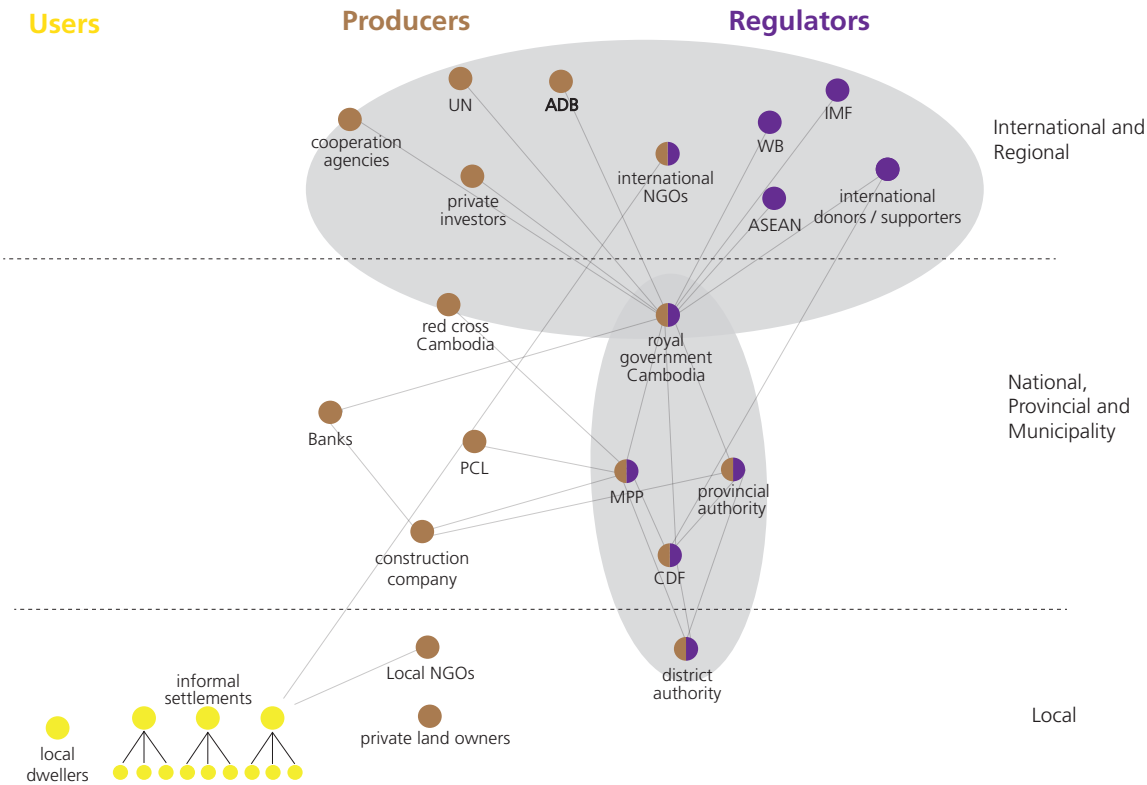
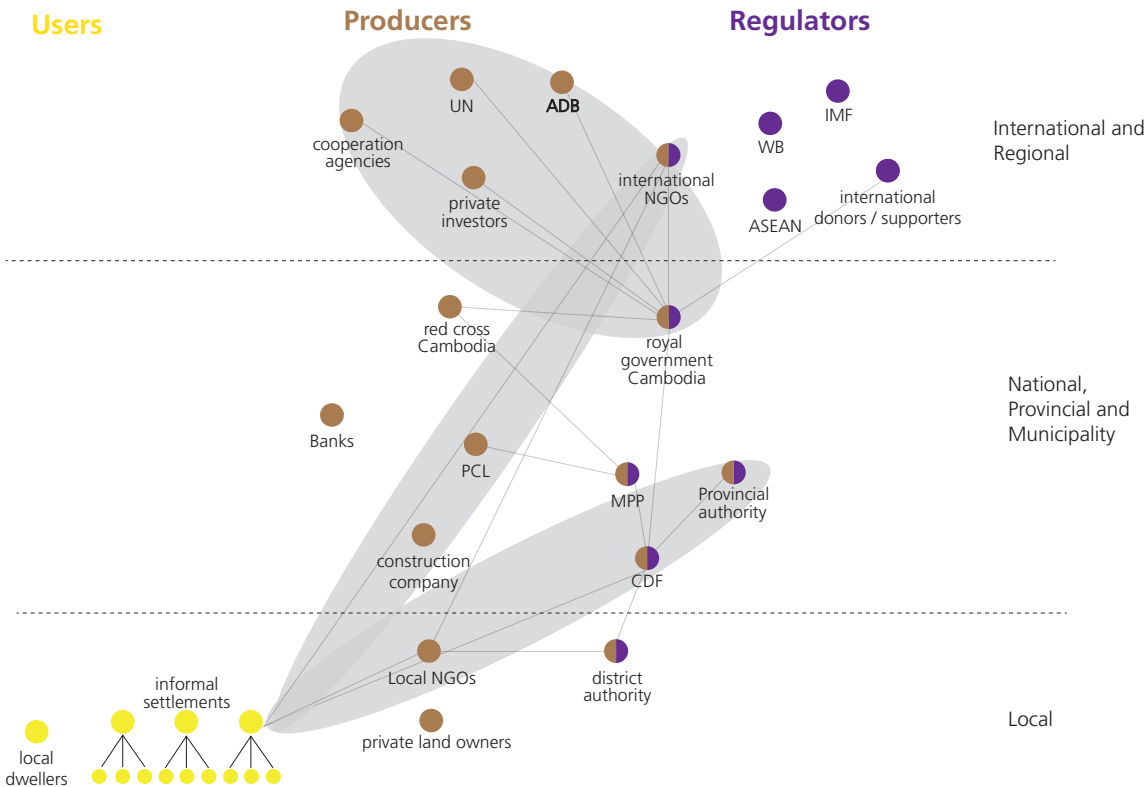


figure 2.1.13b\_collaborative relations diagram





## 2.1.4

# BUILDING AN UNDERSTANDING OF CAMBODIA [CDF INSIGHT]

In 1998, UPDF was funded under a MoU between the MPP, the ACHR, and the community savings network of Phnom Penh. It provides loans and grants to poor communities to support their various developments' needs and plans. In 2011, it was registered to work in the context of the whole country of Cambodia and renamed CDF, covering 24 provincial cities with about 56 cities/ districts.

CDF board is composed of 13 people from national government, local authorities, local communities, ACHR, NGOs and other supporters. The funds mainly come from National government, local authority and ACHR, also from the community saving through the functioning of Community Savings Network Cambodia (CSCN) and other donors.

Through the network and various programmes, CDF's work with the support of local authorities, NGOs and academic bodies work to find various secured housing solutions for urban poor communities. However, CDF only work closely with poor communities that start saving groups.

CDF and ACHR have fostered cooperation with the local, municipal and national authorities in order to pursue the objective of city-wide upgrading, and the outcomes have been twofold: from one side, the various upgrading processes have been fair straightforward, and CDF have been considered a potential powerful body in the development of a National Housing Policy which is attentive to community driven processes (the Policy unfortunately is still subject to discussion and the current political climate has contributed to slowing down the process of finalisation); on the other side, CDF has often been seen as a governmental body and therefore has not had an easy task in creating alliances with potentially interesting actors.

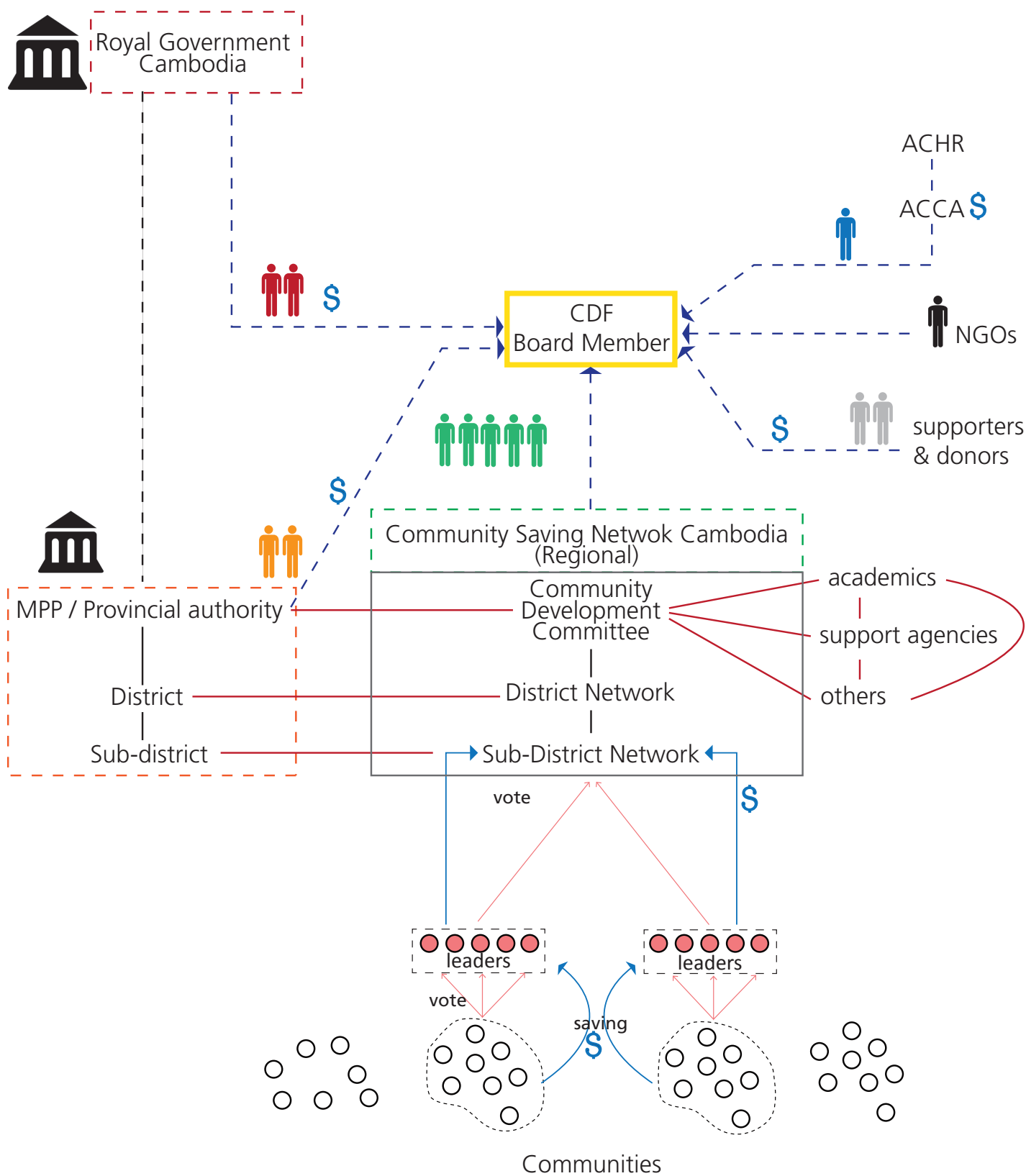


figure 2.1.13c\_Community Savings Network Cambodia introducing during the workshop.





figure 2.1.14\_ A poor settlement located in the city center.



figure 2.1.15\_ CAMCO CITY is a settellite city development project located at about 3 km north of the centre of Phnom Penh, is under construction by World City Co., Ltd.,



figure 2.1.16 \_ The beautification around the Independence Monument situated in the heart of capital.  
source: <http://zamantravel.com/gallery-2/>

## 2.2

[CONTEXTUALISING  
TRANSFORMATION]

In order to begin conceiving a notion and definition of 'Transformation in a time of transition' in Cambodia it is important to take the understanding of the past, present and the possibilities for the future and begin to appreciate the trends and paradigm shifts which have occurred and which exist in the Cambodian context.

The Oxford dictionary defines 'Transformation' as:  
"A marked change in form, nature, or appearance"

This suggests a context of 'change' which may not always be positive, but is always distinctive.

These shifts are very evident in the story of Cambodia, told through political rule, economy systems, the social climate, international relationships and more. Some of these shifts are shown through:

**Political systems and governmental** (Authoritarianism, co-option and tensions for democracy)

**Evictions** (Relocation)

**Development** (Urban form)

**Migration & Transience** (Rural to urban)

**Relationship with international bodies and aid**

**Economic growth** (urban development as private development)

**Civil rights and freedom of expression** (People gaining a political identity)

**Shifting borders** (changing city borders and national borders)

**Reconciliation** (Justice and impunity)





Evident in the past and present processes on transformation is the **instability of transitions** from phase to phase. Having experienced one tragedy to another, Cambodian history hasn't consisted of stability.

External actors such as France, the United States of America, Vietnam and China have been central to pivotal moments of instability; and the internal actors accentuated this instability, such as the Khmer Rouge.

Till this present moment there is no clear sign of long term stability in Cambodia, the political leadership and expression of power is the root cause. This raises questions about the future of Cambodia and whether long term sustainability is attainable. But stability not just in the sense of peace and coherence, but stability as an expression of social processes that are just and sustainable in the development of the nation.

figure 2.2.1\_ Context for Transformation

The possibility to conceive this future would begin with the considerations of transformation and how it should be realized. This essentially is manifested through the people's **state of mind**. To consider transformation in transition would be to recognise a rising opposing force to injustice; recent activity suggests the possibility that maybe within citizens there is a hidden yearning for autonomy. Motives like this begin to define the notion of transformation in transition, transformation as a state of mind that translates to revolutionary actions towards something new; something new in urban, social, economic and political spheres of the nation.



figure 2.2.2\_ State of mind initiated with the Pol Pot regime.

There have been several Cambodian flags over time, representing different eras of rule. Flags have been used as symbolism of a new Cambodia. The search for a new flag is towards long-term change/transformation that the Cambodian people are hoping for. The move towards this new flag will be realized through the accumulation of **small scale acts of change**, resilience and transformation, which will be catalytic to the realization of a new Cambodia, one that does not completely erase the past but builds on it for a better future.



figure 2.2.3\_ The several flags of Cambodia



## 2.3

# [THEORETICAL REVIEW]

Transition, is a steady process of change from one condition to another. The mechanisms of this differentiation suggest that this subsequent condition or stage is foreseeable and thus anticipated. The differentiation observed between the two changes is rigid in progression, with gradual and highly predictable points in time.

In the urban context, transition has been associated with economical and geopolitical theories of production and consumption. It has been practically observed when cities shifted from being an underutilized resource, to a practice of efficient utilization of their capitals and vice-versa. Consequently, processes such as industrialization, de-industrialization, urban sprawl, consolidation and decay are all defined as transitional. Transition does not necessarily originate from it, as the regimented nature and predictability of this process, is rarely applicable to the dynamic complexity of such reality. Thus when geopolitical and economic fluctuations initiate urban transition, as in the case of globalization, the socio-cultural realm of the city can often be locked in the effects of this imposition.

Due to the predictable nature of transition, the anticipation of the condition to come becomes an economic/political opportunity to control its structured progression. During transition, the mechanisms of the production of knowledge and space are therefore susceptible to the group who can better comprehend the specificity of this foreseeable change. Consequently, the appropriation of the production of knowledge and space is no longer universally accessible and consequently, the social realm of the urban is marginalised from the negotiation of power.

In order to endure the impact of transition, this social realm needs to employ another process, one that originates from the nature of its social condition and then superimpose it on transition. This process is one of transformation. In contrast to transition, transformation is neither rigid nor steady. Without being necessarily different in the length of its progression. Transformation implies a series of turning points generated by radical alterations on the condition of the urban especially where

transition has had the biggest effect. Unlike transition, transformation has no specific foreseeable future and is thus malleable, resulting in infinite possibilities in due course.

To engage in transformation, unlocking the production of space and knowledge becomes crucial. Achieving this, results from encouraging the infiltration of socio-political agency, thus stimulating a move towards a more universal participation in the production of the urban.

In effect this is achieved through spectrums of the social, the mental and the embodied. In participating in the agency for the production of knowledge, a personal – mental transformation is initiated. For Freire (1997: ix), this results in people breaking “their attitudes of silence, accommodation and passivity”, and finding the strength to “alter unjust conditions and structures” such as the ones established during transition.

In the agency for the production of space, a collective, embodied transformation commences. Manzini and Rizo (2011: 215) advocate that being truly transformative in the scale of the city entails that you need to “make things happen” in order to “sustain the social conversation on possible futures”. This interrelation of conversation and future is what constitutes the making of space. Actively making space means making the city but at the same time with the possibility to be shaped by such conversations that transformation has already been put in motion.



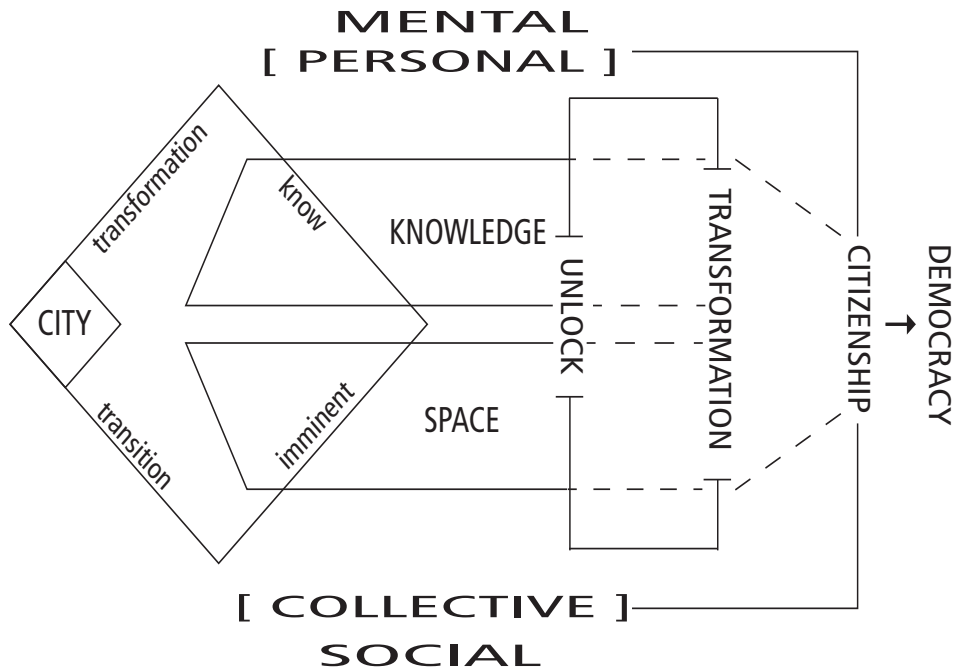


figure 2.3.1\_ diagram about transformation

It is in the engagement with this agency that Lefebvre (1970), visualises the «right to the city» and once this is reclaimed, power can be renegotiated. Going beyond this understanding of dependence between space and power, Bourdieu (1993: 126), recognizes the danger of corrupting power through space as «violence» which often, «goes unperceived» as such.

Eventually, once transformation is in effect in both the mental and the embodied, the personal and the collective, a move towards the appropriation of the notion of citizenship can materialise. With all its qualities, this conception of citizenship is also a genuine manifestation of solidarity. According to Boano and Frediani (2012: 216), in this sense, solidarity is no longer “based on common identity or even the common history of oppression, but on the transformative hope for what is yet to come”. In due course, this quest will be manifested into the pursuit of democracy.

## 2.4

# 【ANALYTICAL FRAMEWORK】

**Cambodia: “Transformation in a time of transition”** is the title under which the fieldtrip project was unpacked. The examination of this title is an ongoing process throughout the analysis of the case of Cambodia.

By **[building the understanding of Cambodia]** through investigating themes of: history, politics, land, economy, infrastructure, general actor diagram and a CDF insight; transformation was contextualized within the setting of Cambodia.

This **[contextualization]** was supported by a theoretical review about concepts of transformation and transition. To form an intermediate evaluation of the findings, preliminary guiding principles were generated based on the research collected, which would offer some concepts to test within the field.

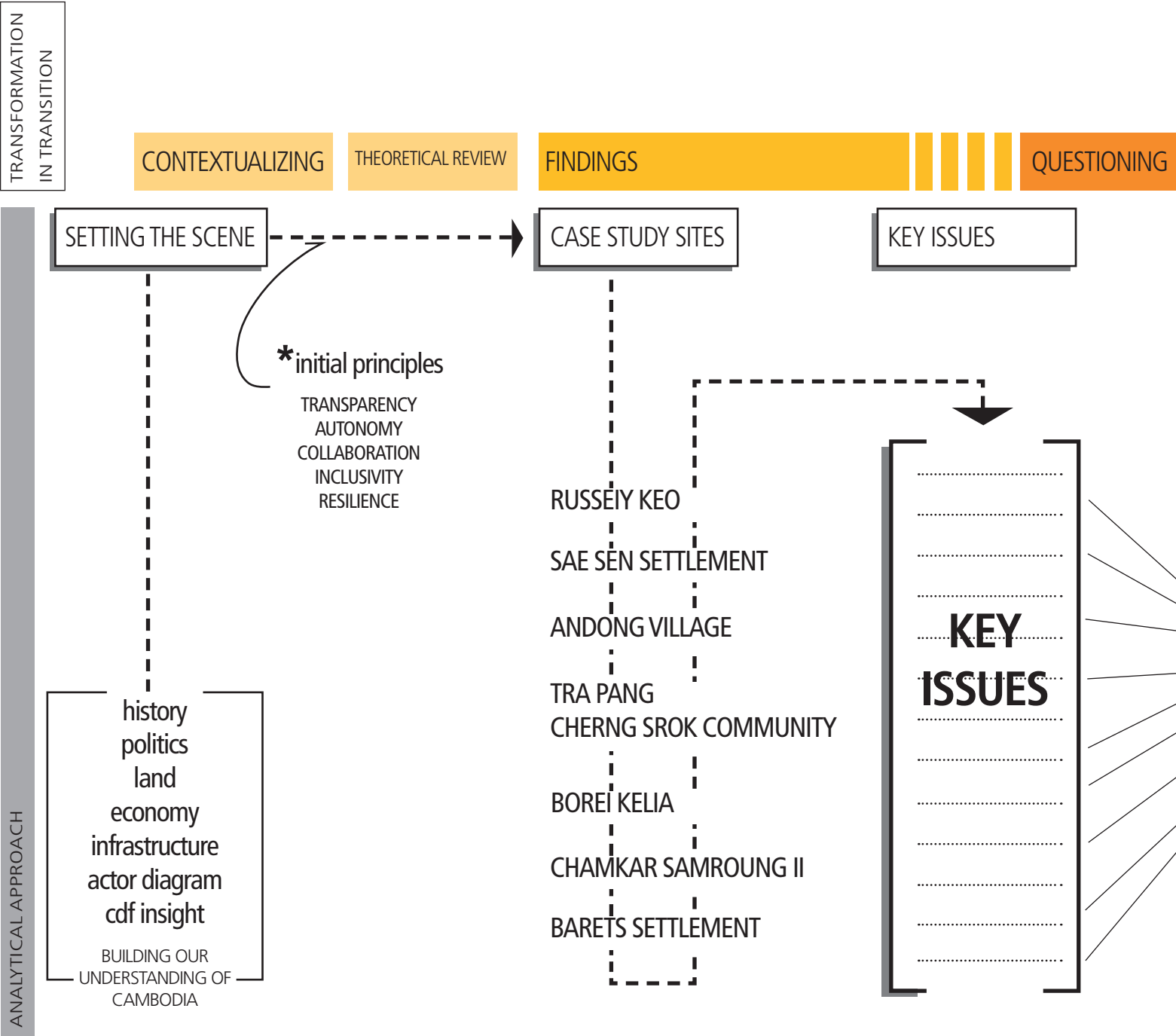
The field work allowed for a move into a **[critical diagnosis]** of the case studies in Cambodia; elaborating key issues out of each case that are later on grouped under the main cross cutting issues through all case studies. This process goes in parallel with an elaboration of findings about transformation that are being constantly questioned.

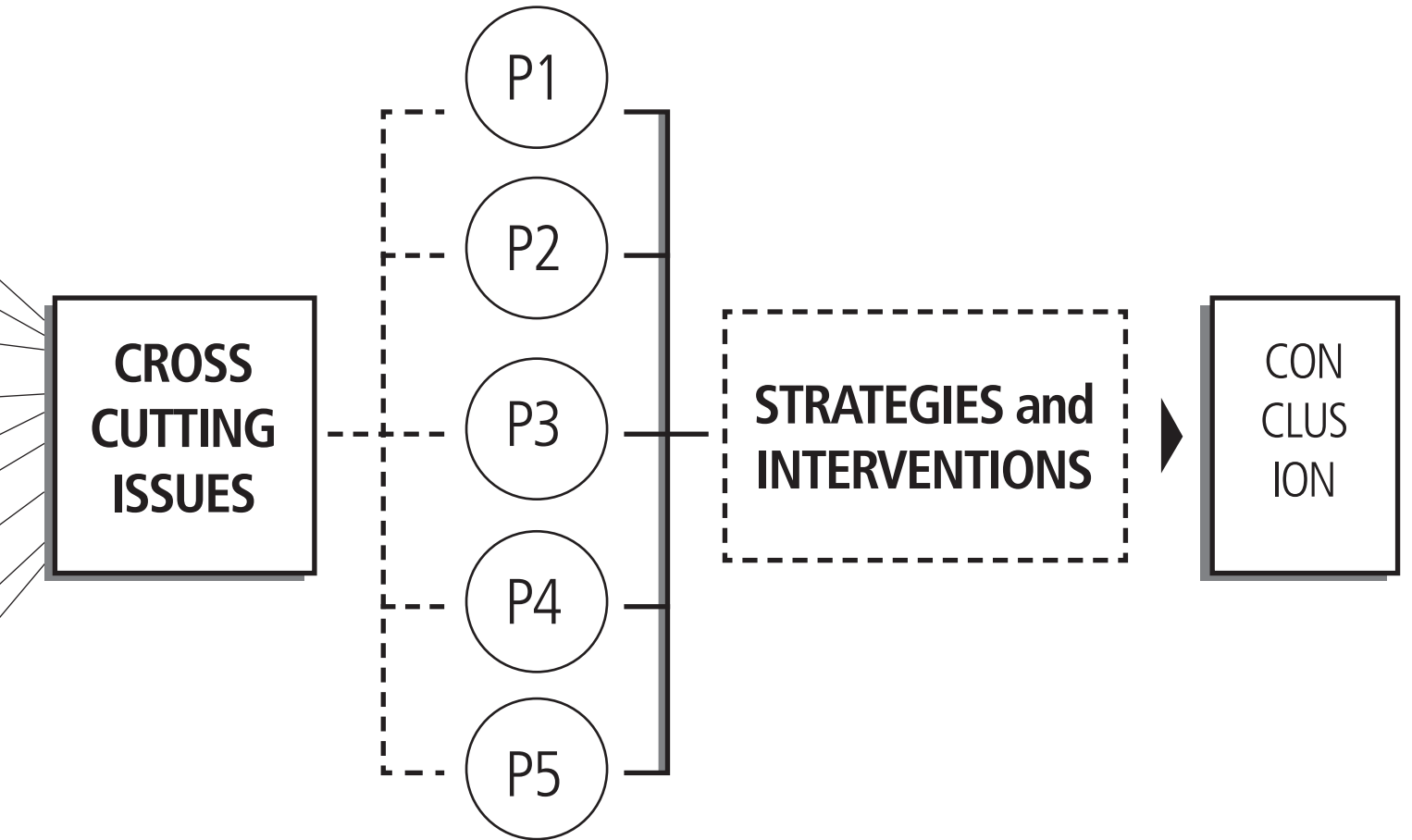
The **[cross cutting issues]** formulated are used to communicate a vision linked to transformation and following underlying principles (P1, P2, P3, P4, P5).

Strategies and **[strategic interventions]** are then presented to address the problems and opportunities identified in order to achieve the vision. The strategic interventions also demonstrate reflections about transformation and how it will be manifested in the future, involving specific actors functioning in a defined time frame.

The **[conclusion]** serves as a platform to re-question the definition of transformation in a time of transition within the Cambodian context, along with personal reflections that work as an insider’s point of view.















chapter **3**

# [ CASE STUDIES DIAGNOSIS ]

# 3.1

## CLOSE PROXIMITY RIVER SETTLEMENTS IN PHNOM PENH [RUSSEIY KEO COMMUNITIES]

**location** / Phnom Penh city, Russey Keo District

**set up from** / different year

**structure** / 11 communes / 43 villages / 56 communities / 38,343household

**actors involved** / MPP, CDF, District Governor, Community Leaders

**totla saving** / 56 communities and 274,359,500 reil

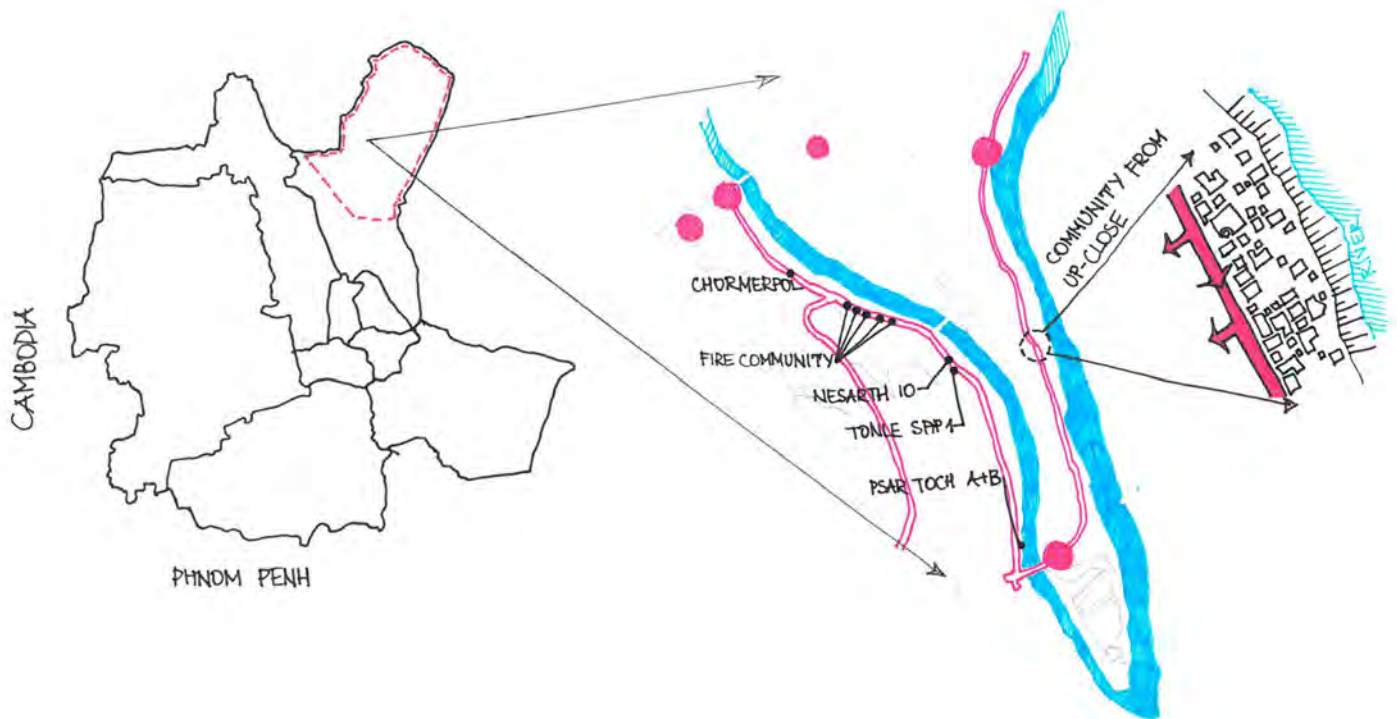


figure3.1.1\_map of localization of Russey Keo District



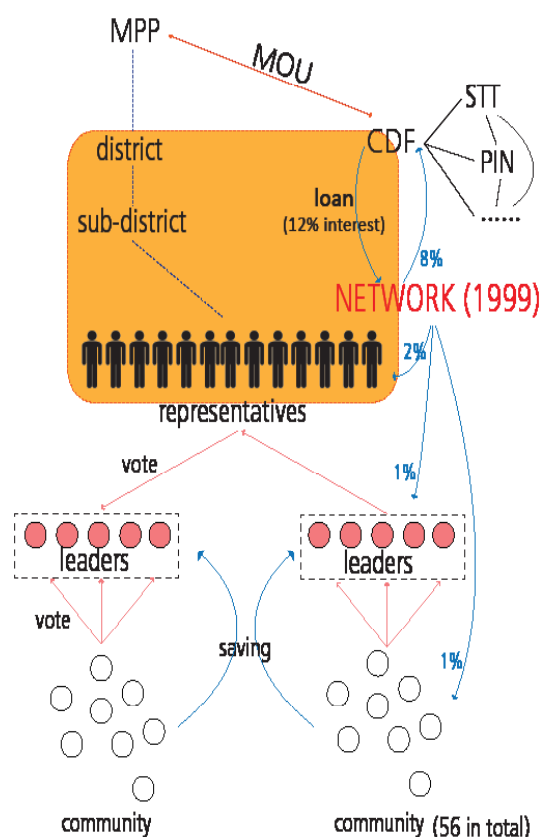


figure3.1.2\_view of community from the river side  
figure3.1.3\_community map of Russey Keo District

Russey Keo District is located to the north and northwest of Phnom Penh city centre and includes the part of the Tonle Sap River, where meets the Mekong River. It consists of the northern and northwestern outskirts of the main city of Phnom Penh.

Russey Keo District CDF network is composed of 56 communities, it is set up based on an annual basis a very active women's community savings network in the the District in 1999, and have developed and expanded large scale joint loans from the CDF on behalf of the riverside communities. They use the loan to buy buckets of tiny silver "riel" fish from fishermen to preserve in salt to make prahok, a popular Khmer-style fermented fish. The network is managed by 13 community representatives (voted by 56 communities) together with district governor.

The collaborate relationship between district, sub-district authorities and the 13 community representatives is very good. Most of the communities used their own funds as well as grants from CDF and ACCA to upgrade their settlements, improve drainage, pave walkways and beautify their settlements, together with other NGOs which signed the Mou with MPP such as STD and PIN.



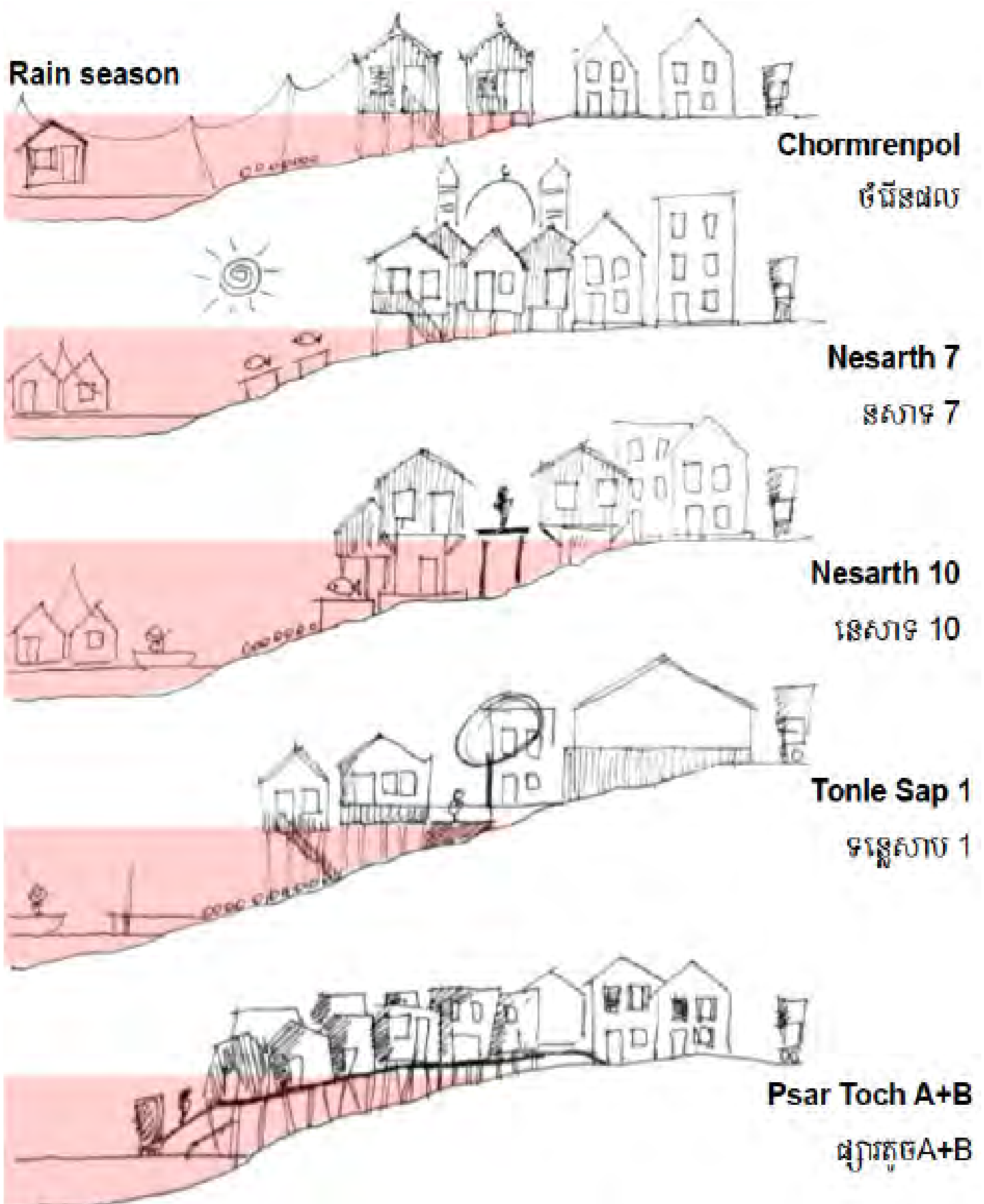


figure3.1.4\_graphic study of flood risk issue in the 5 communities analysed

figure3.1.5/15\_pictures from the communities





## Chormrenpol

The pressure of land in Chormrenpol community is the most lowest one since it is the most remote to the city center. The community paved way is wider (1m) and there are some houses in a better condition than others. The wide space between settlement and river is used for public activities such as sports.



## Nesarth\_7 community

Nesarth 7 is one of the fire community rebuilt after the fire in 2009, with other 4 communities nearby - Nesart 3, Nesart 4, Nesart 6 and Nesart 8, all together called fire community. Prahok-making activities are important for the women in this community; they use the land along the river for drying fish.



## Nesarth\_10 community

Among all communities, Nesarth 10 is the only community which has a strategy during flooding season; they will build another wooden pathway above the water level. The wide space between settlement and river is used for agriculture. The product is sold outside of the community.



## Tonle Sap\_1 community

The most well organized community with a sign at the entrance, nearby a mango tree which is used as public space; they advocate the awareness about clean environment by themselves to manage their environment. Most of the houses are in better condition compared to other communities; the "community bank" allows the member give each other "credit" and able to use this saving record to apply loans from other micro finance organization apart from CDF.



## Psar Toch\_A+B community

The pressure of land is evidently highest in Psar Toch A+B since it is located the closest to city center, therefore they are facing the most exigent threat of eviction because MPP's plan to develop a garden along the river bank. They used to collect the garbage together but stopped after they received the eviction notice from MPP.





figure3.1.16\_Tonle Sap\_1 community map



figure3.1.17\_community leader of Psar Toch A+B

## Key Issue:

**LAND and Secure Land Tenure:** All the communities are located on the land that belongs to national government, they are exposed to the thread of eviction, because of the pressure from the proximity to city center, and the policy of beautification along the river. It is clear that the closer to the city center, the higher quest for land. Currently, just parts of the community dweller have land certificate. Among different communities, the pressure for land is reflected in the typology and the building material. Similarly, the more established communities in areas with a lower pressure for land, such as Nesarth 10 and Tonle Sap 1, has more house with better quality structure even with decent decoration, while all houses in Psar Toch A+B were built in vunerable timber structures with tin cladding.

**ENVIROMENT:** Solid waste manage is an evident issue in most of the communities, because of they don't have the sense of belong on the land, therefore there is lack of motivation to commitment.

**INFRASTRUCTURE:** Since the MPP only set up the basic infrastruture along natioal road 5, the water and eletricity in all community is provided by private sector with higher utility fee. Which became a constrain for them in saving.

**EXCLUSION:** Some community members - especially Muslim - are not participating in saving groups because of their religion; also, some households living in the boats on the water are not considered part of the communities.

**NETWORKING:** The Prahok loans and 13 representatives are the only and essential linkage among 56 communities. While the network is well established and the collaborate relationship between district, sub-district authorities and the 13 community representatives is very good, the coverage is questionable. The 13 representatives are not geographically representative of the 56 communities, and there has been no re-elections since the initial elections in 1998. Reflecting that the representation is the key to create the sence of collectivism.

**LIVELIHOOD:** Although the prohak loans has established and reinforced a strong network of women along the river and allowed communities to upgrade their housing conditions and expand their earning potential, it is fact that prahok is not an essential part of their occupation. Also, Most of the dweller are lack of vocational skill to matain their livelihood if they were relocated.





figure3.1.18\_prahok making in fire community



figure3.1.19\_garbage in Nesarth 10 community

figure3.1.20\_Nesarth 10 community



## 3.2

# EVICION OF THE RAILWAY SETTLEMENTS IN SEREI SOPHON [RAILWAY SETTLEMENTS]

**location** / Banteay Mancheay Province/ Serei Sophon city

**set up from** / since 1980

**structure** / 217 households / 272 families

**actors involved** / CDF, RACHA, Communities, Municipality

**total saving** / no saving

The case analysed is located within the Khum (commune) of Ou Ambel and contains four Phum (villages) situated along the railway tracks which are facing the threat of eviction because of the plans for the development of a train project that will connect the capital with northern parts of the country, this in the context of the economic corridor that connects the three countries: Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam.

These villages are named Rong Masen, Sae Sen, Korotham, and Village 4. In total these 4 settlements have 217 households and 272 families in similar situations of poverty and vulnerability. Each village is located on both public and private land. Those families who are on the public land and are within the area established by the national government of 30-15 metres to each side of the track axis, are under risk. This action affects each village in a different manner of ways.

There is a perceived lack of organization within the communities and there is no presence of strong leaderships, specifically in Rong Masen the need to become organised as a community is heightened by the creation of a new savings groups that was formed at the end of the workshop.

Currently there are not any strong savings initiatives within the communities; they have some initial contacts and relationships made with CDF and the NGO RACHA, who is working in one of the village promoting savings. And so, the communities are not working together to solve the conflict and division that has stemmed from the creation of alliances with the two different organisations.



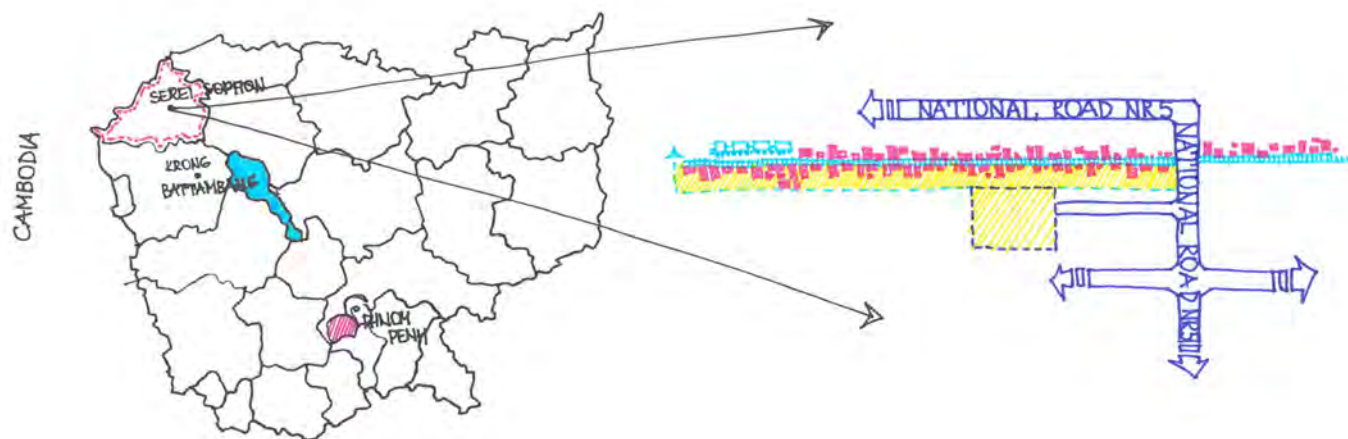


figure3.2.1\_map of localization of the Railway settlements



figure3.2.2\_Rong Masen: Rice factories



figure3.2.3\_Korothan: Rail tracks



figure3.2.4\_Sae Sen old train station



figure3.2.5\_Sae Sen: house over the water

the villagers to be prepared and also show that the communities are in the agenda of the municipality and also of the CDF organization.

The proposed new site does not present similar conditions to the current site, in term of infrastructure and services, and so the workshop would work as a project that can produce tools of negotiation for the communities. Therefore, one of the aims of the workshop within this site became to create a concrete project proposal in line with the needs of the communities to give them as tools of negotiation and maybe to open up for discussions for onsite upgrading as an option.

Additionally, the workshop brought to light the lack of organization, leadership and community actions such as saving groups. This occurs because not all the community are facing the same problems. This situation makes it difficult for the communities to define their own future.

As in the majority of areas in Cambodia there are some external actors working in this area. CDF does not have strong presence, but are now trying to materialize a relationship. Here the lack of networking is clear because there is also another NGO called RACHA working in one of the villages, also promoting savings but there is no coordination between the two organisations, instead it seems there presence has caused frictions.

A crucial element of this case is the bamboo train that is used as a system of transportation of goods, and also is used as a touristic attraction. These activities are at small scale and are not managed by the community as a whole.

Today it may be difficult to visualize a good future in the relocation project of these villages, but this can be altered by the networking of the communities, within the communities themselves and with the actors that have become crucial. These communities need to strength collective capacities, and the first step should be to recognize the structure of each villages (small family clusters), the skills present in the territory, reinforcement of the possibility of different ideas: relocation or upgrading and continue to work on those project, work with the community leaders and start saving groups in the different villages.

Amongst all the difficulties there is some resistance and capacity to overcome the bad conditions of living through different kinds of spatial responses such as water collector, public spaces, recycle initiatives and such.

## Analysis

Presently, these villages have relatively bad living conditions such as, lack of public spaces, lack of sewage system, water supply problems, flooding in raining seasons, little to no garbage management, unpaved roads and so on. However the inhabitants perceive this location positively because of the close proximity to the centre of the city of Serei Sophon (to work, supplies, etc.), and also having good infrastructure and services close by (pagoda, school, market).

The authorities are already exploring options to relocate the families that are within the allocated area for the train project. There is a lack of transparency in the communication of information about the current stage of the project and the implications for the families that have to leave. There is no ongoing process of negotiation, and evidently the inhabitants have no trust in the authorities.

In the workshop performed with UCL, CDF and Cambodian Universities, there was information shared to verify the existence of a possibly site for the relocation.

This could be view as positive, in the sense that it forces the authorities to recognize publicly the plan, to allow





figure3.2.6\_picture of the rail track in Sae Sen village showing the distance of the houses

V4: Village 4  
 SS: Sae Sen Village  
 K: Korothan Village  
 RM: Rong Masen Village

CDF: Community Development Fund  
 RACHA: Reproductive and Child Health Alliance

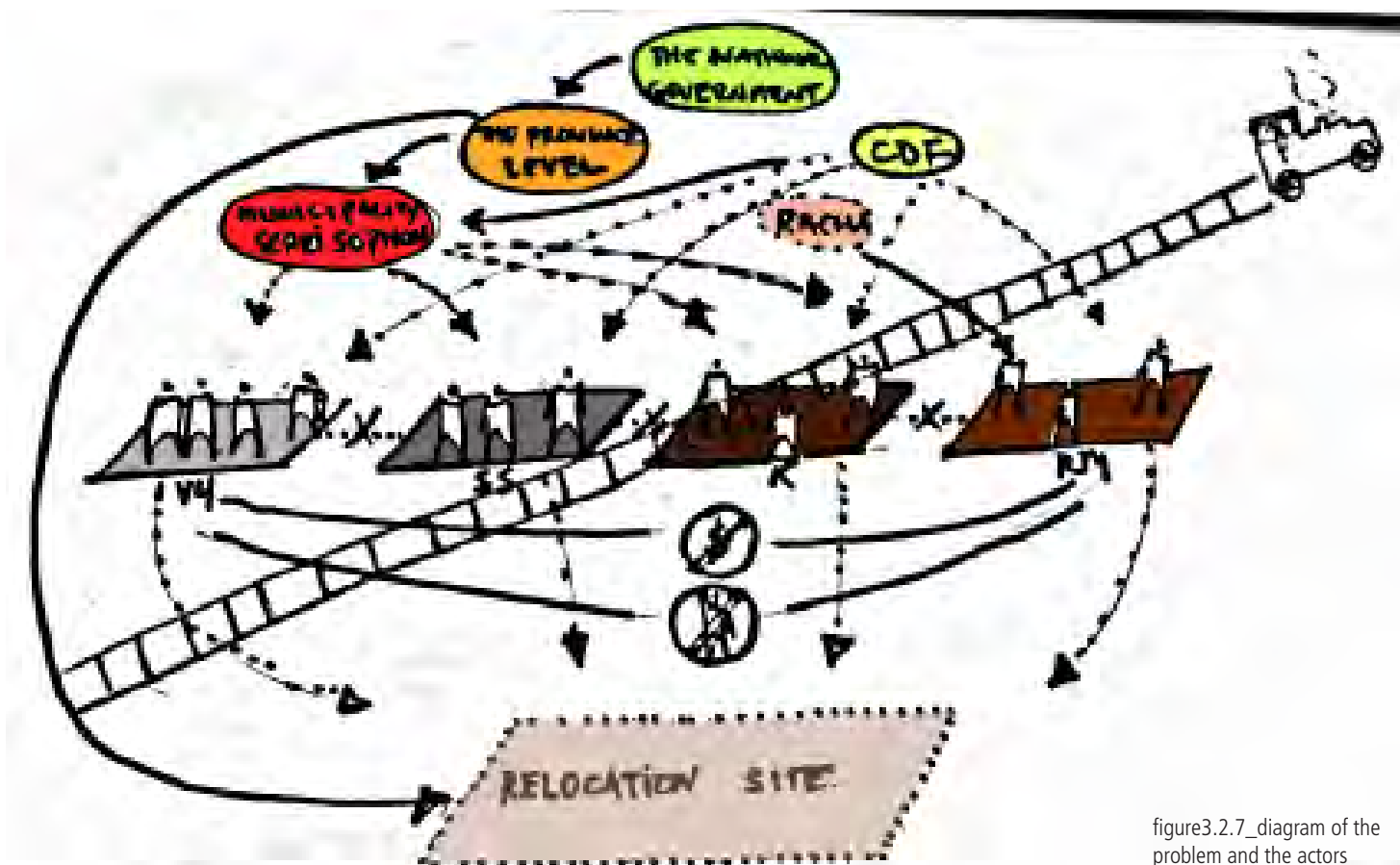


figure3.2.7\_diagram of the problem and the actors



## Proximity



figure3.2.8\_in general good perception of the proximity of the infrastructure

\* put pressure on the relocation site



figure3.2.9\_visit to the relocation site with the governor of Bantey Mancheay





## creative actions / good practices

figure from 3.2.10 to 3.2.18\_pictures taken in different sites in the settlements



small public spaces



water collection system



anti flooding system



bugs collecting system



shop houses



animal space



using the trees



garbage collection to sell



## 3.3

# CONCENTRATION OF PERIPHERAL RELOCATED FAMILIES [ANDONG VILLAGE]

**location** / Phnom Penh, Por Sen Chey district, Kork Roka subdistrict

**set up from** / 2006

**structure** / Andong 1, Andong 2, Andong 3, Andong 4, Andong 4, Andong 5 and Andong 6

**actors involved** / MPP, CDF, CSNC, RUFA, CMU, Norton Uni, PUC, UCL, ACHR, HFH, Korean Church Relief team, PCL, Pastor Abraham, YFP

**totla saving** / no saving

In the year 2006, 8000 people were evicted from Tonle Basaac settlement in central Phnom Penh. With no compensation provided, all the people were relocated in to a piece of land purchased by the MPP, known as Phum Andong or Andong village. The MPP divided Andong into 6 areas and assigned a community leader for each area. The areas were thought of as communities: Andong 1, Andong 2, Andong 3, Andong 4, Andong 5 and Andong 6.

This relocation site was a flood prone site, without toilets, nor paved roads, piped water supply; and the evicted families were at the beginning only donated some plastic sheets for shelter. As a large relocation site with bad living conditions, many NGOs got involved to support the families. The patchwork involvement of NGOs is very obvious across the site.

This is demonstrated through a sign hanged on the frontal façade of the house designate who upgraded the house: The Red Cross, Korean church relief team, Habitat for humanity, PCL (People for Care and Learning), Abraham and many others. CDF/UPDF initiated saving groups to develop income generation and upgrading plans. Some families acquired housing improvement loans of \$500 from UPDF and others a \$1,000 house loan to buy houses developed by UPDF along with the

support of the Cambodian Red Cross.

Andong 1,2,3 and 5 have better housing conditions. Andong 4 and Andong 6 show less actions of upgrading happening. Therefore, more investigation about these two communities was carried out.

In 2012, PCL launched the “build a city project” for Andong village, in collaboration with the government, as part of a solution for Andong 4 and Andong 6. The MPP provides the land and infrastructure; PCL gets the main funding from the USA and other funding through collaboration with Habitat for Humanity.

The new land is close to the existing settlement, the MPP provided the land but until now there is no Infrastructure as stated by the project coordinator of “build a city project”.



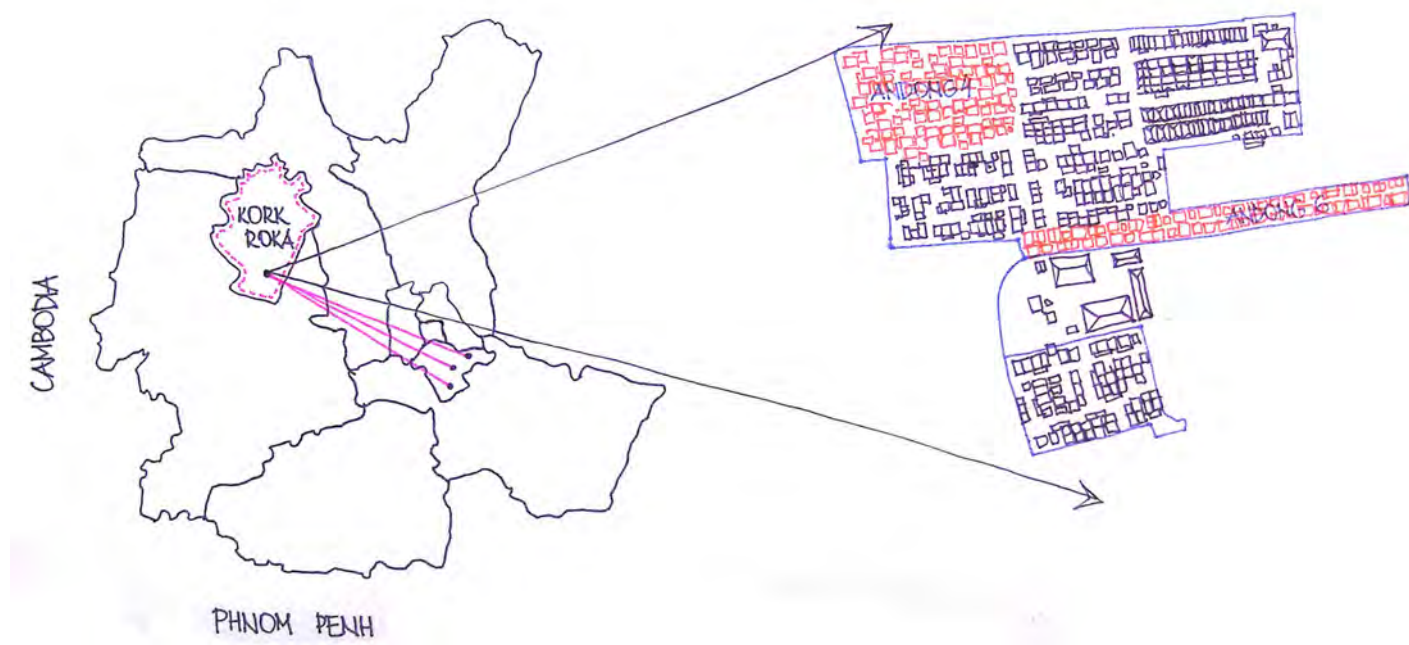


figure3.3.1\_map of localization of Andong village.

Once the land and infrastructure is ready, PCL collaborating with a Philippine construction company will start building the PCL housing prototype and families of Andong 4 and 6 will be relocated there.

Each family will have a house certificate without a land title (as it is owned by the MPP), with the policy that restricts any alteration of the house design for 5 years. PCL' staffs carry out interviews with the community members in order to make sure their income does not surpass 30\$ per month because it is a fixed criteria in order to be allocated a house. By 2014, the interviews have been done and PCL is waiting for the MPP to provide the land in order to start building. The future of these communities does not mention onsite upgrading as a solution. It is a second relocation that is imposed upon them.



To Phnom Penh center

Tonle Basaac was one of the first and largest squatter settlements in Phnom Penh. Attempts have been made to upgrade the area also land-sharing plans have been proposed. The prime location of these settlements has lead to the evictions of the families for the construction of a casino and other government projects.



figure3.3.2\_localization of Andong village.

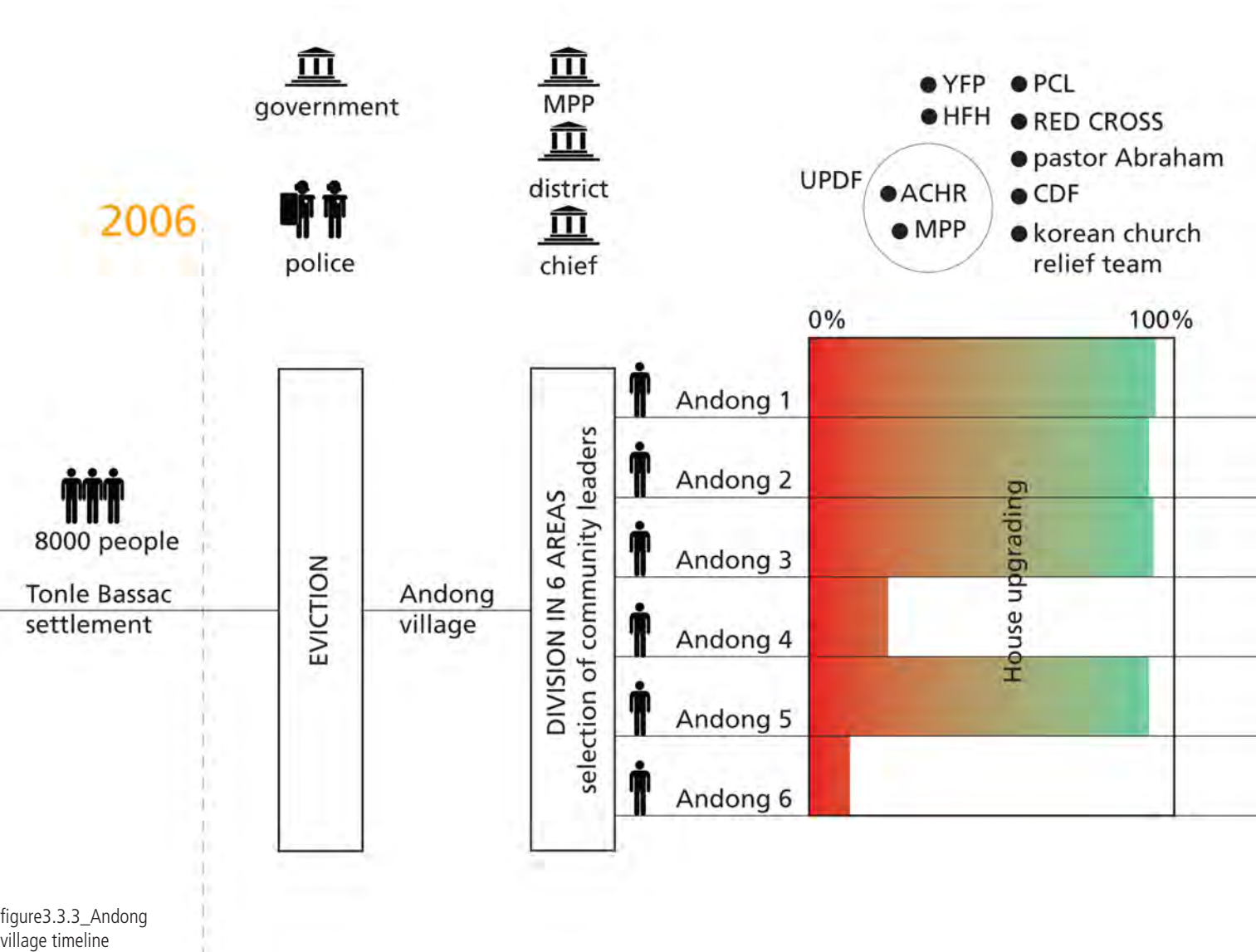


figure3.3.3\_Andong village timeline



figure3.3.4\_Andong 6



figure3.3.5\_Andong 6



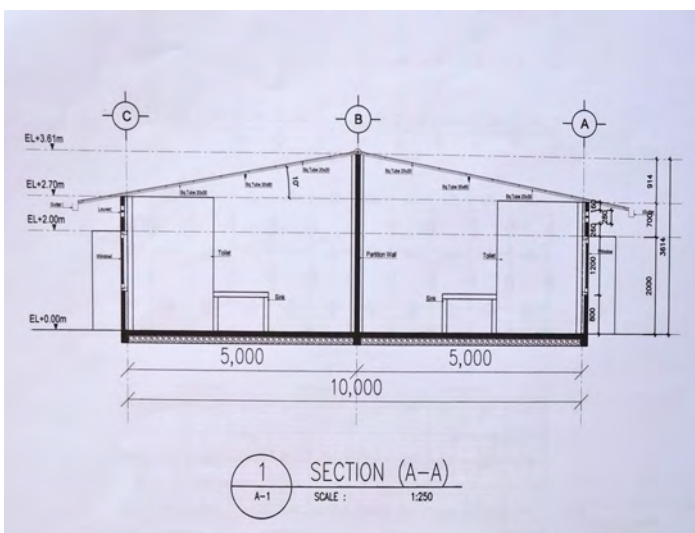
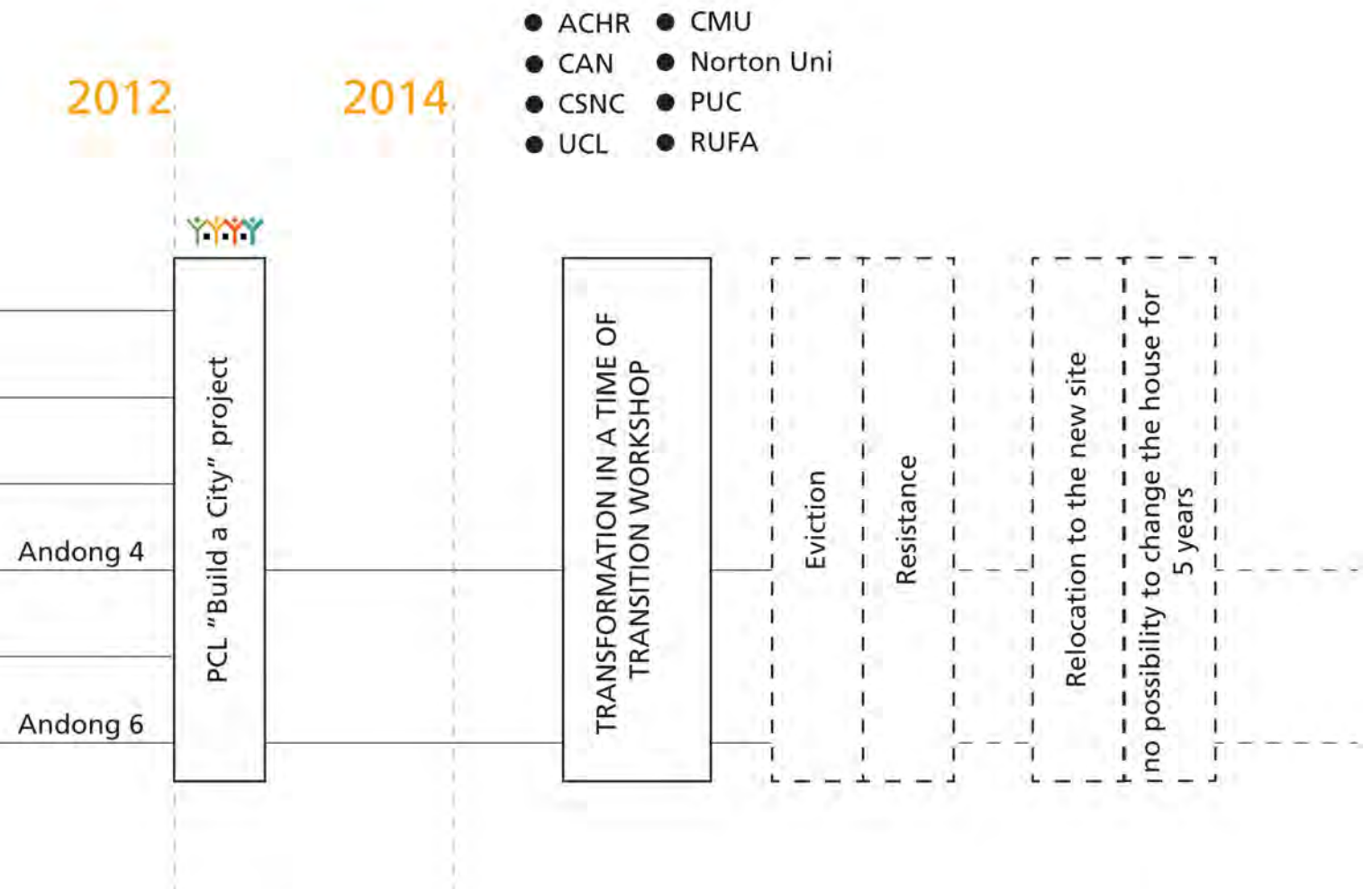


figure3.3.6\_PCL houses section

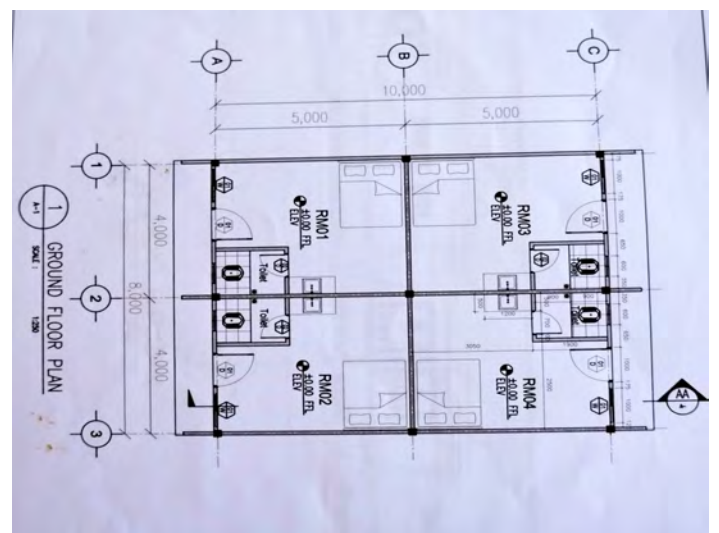


figure3.3.7\_PCL houses plan

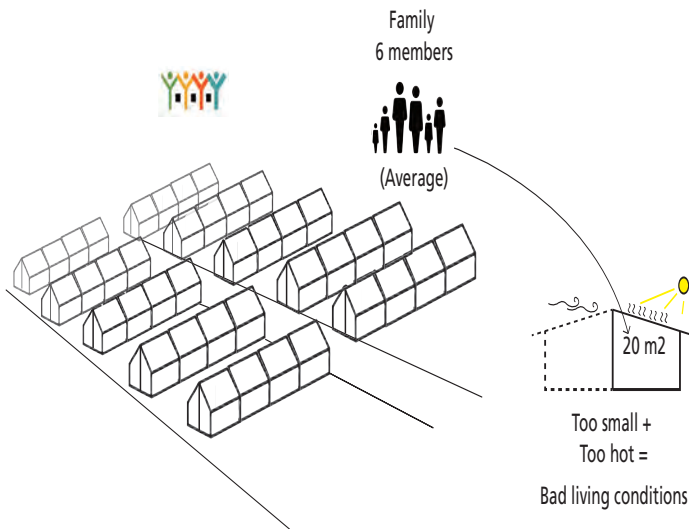


figure3.3.8\_relocation to PCL hosues



figure3.3.9\_Andong 6

The challenges that Andong 4 and 6 communities face can be summarized as follows:

**1. The communities are not organized:** The community leaders are selected by the MPP and not by the community members, which is a major reason for mistrust and disturbance of decision-making. There is no collective savings or awareness of the importance of savings. To resist the relocation to the new PCL houses it is necessary for the communities to be organized and have a sense of collective will to do onsite upgrading, if not they will be relocated again to a new house that is described by the community members as “a house that does not fit the family members, the ceiling is low and it is really hot”.

**2. The problematic external support:** The history shows that there is no transparency in the work of these multiple NGOs in Andong village. The communities are threatened a second eviction to the PCL houses. The people are not engaged with the housing design and they cannot alter the design for 5 years, this shows the “build a city project” does not have as a focus the people. Some families in Andong 4 expressed their will to resist the relocation to the PCL houses, one of the interviews carried out in Andong 4 with a woman showed the urge to resist the relocation to the PCL houses.

To end with, the number of external associations involved is great yet without an existing network between them to solve the bigger picture of the Andong village settlements so the future they visualise for these communities is vague without a unified vision.

The community leader of Andong 6 showed more will to organizing the community, he participated in all meetings and exercises carried out during the workshop. On the other hand, the community leader of Andong 4 participated in one official meeting held in the office of Por Sen Chey district.





figure3.3.10\_PCL houses section



figure3.3.11\_PCL houses plan

figure3.3.12\_questioning the vision



## 3.4

### ORGANIZED COMMUNITY IN QUEST OF SUPPORT

# TRA PANG CHERNG SROK COMMUNITY

**location** / Phnom Penh, Por Sen Chey district, Kork Roka subdistrict

**set up from** / 2001

**structure** / 163 families

**actors involved** / MPP, CDF, CSNC, RUFA, CMU, Norton Uni, PUC, UCL, ACHR, HFH, CDTC, CAN-CAM, Builders' Network, Community committee, Community members

**totla saving** / 115 families

In the year 2000 an estimated number of 210 families were fiercely evicted from central areas in Phnom Penh: Toek Loak 3, Russei Keo, Toul Kork and Boeung Salang to 2 major sites: Kork Kleang 1 and Kork Kleang 2 and they were given the name of Kork Kleang community. By the year 2001, 163 families started to organize themselves and formed Tra Pang Cherng Srok community from which 115 families participate in collective savings with the aim of purchasing a new land.

A community committee formed by 4 members:

Sok Khim: Community leader and credit officer

Phan Phary: Facilitator

Sim Sothea: Technical supporter

Meas Savuth: Procurement officer

These community savings prove the presence of community organization and acts as a means to achieve the community's needs. The community savings groups allowed them to get a land loan from CDF and they purchased the land title in 2008. It took a period of 8 years to gain the land title.

After purchasing the land, they started to fill the land to stabilize the soil and prevent flooding. They managed the plot allocation for the 163 families through lottery and with the presence of the previous mayor of Phnom Penh: H.E. Kep Chuktema.

By 2013, only 22 families had paid back the land loan so they applied for the Big ACCA housing loan through CDF, it was approved in 2014.

Until the present day no one has moved onto the land yet.



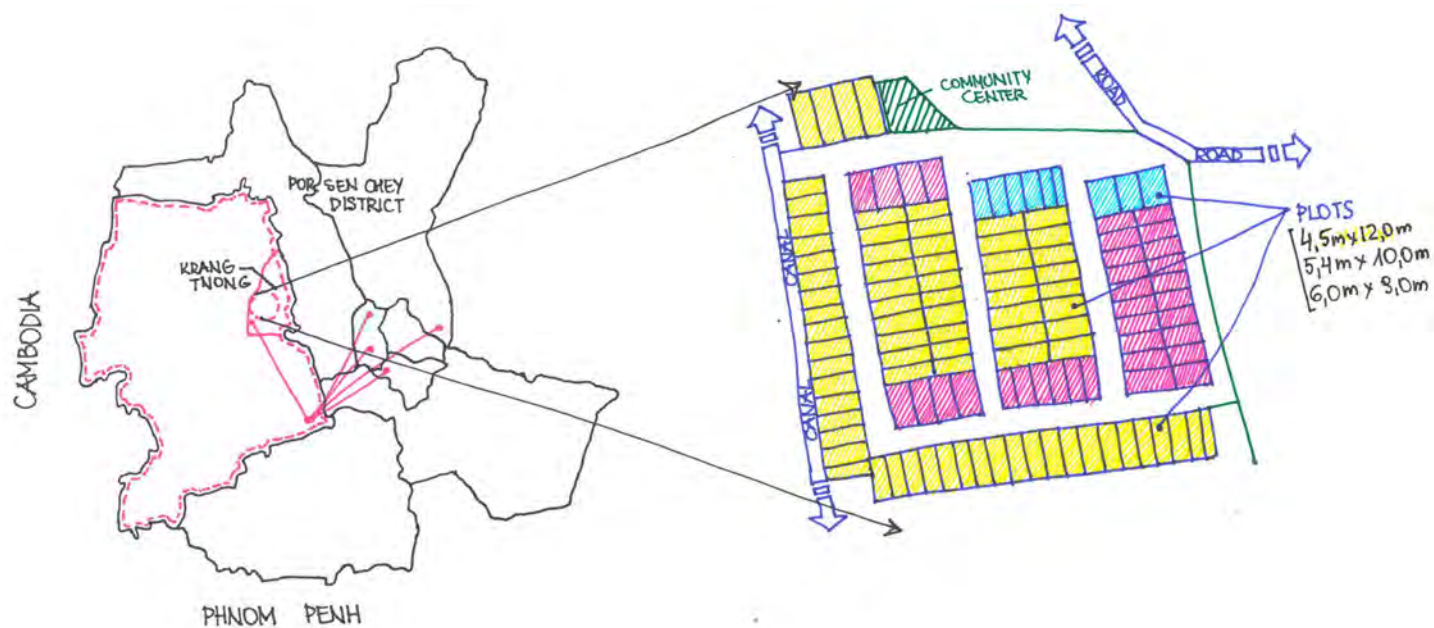


figure3.4.1\_map of localization of Tra Pang Cherng Srok community

figure3.4.2\_Tra Pang Cherng Srok location

Community members livelihoods in Tra Pang Cherng Srok are through: motorbike driver, small grocery businesses, Police/ cop, garment workers, etc.

To Andong village



To Phnom Penh center



to Phnom Penh center

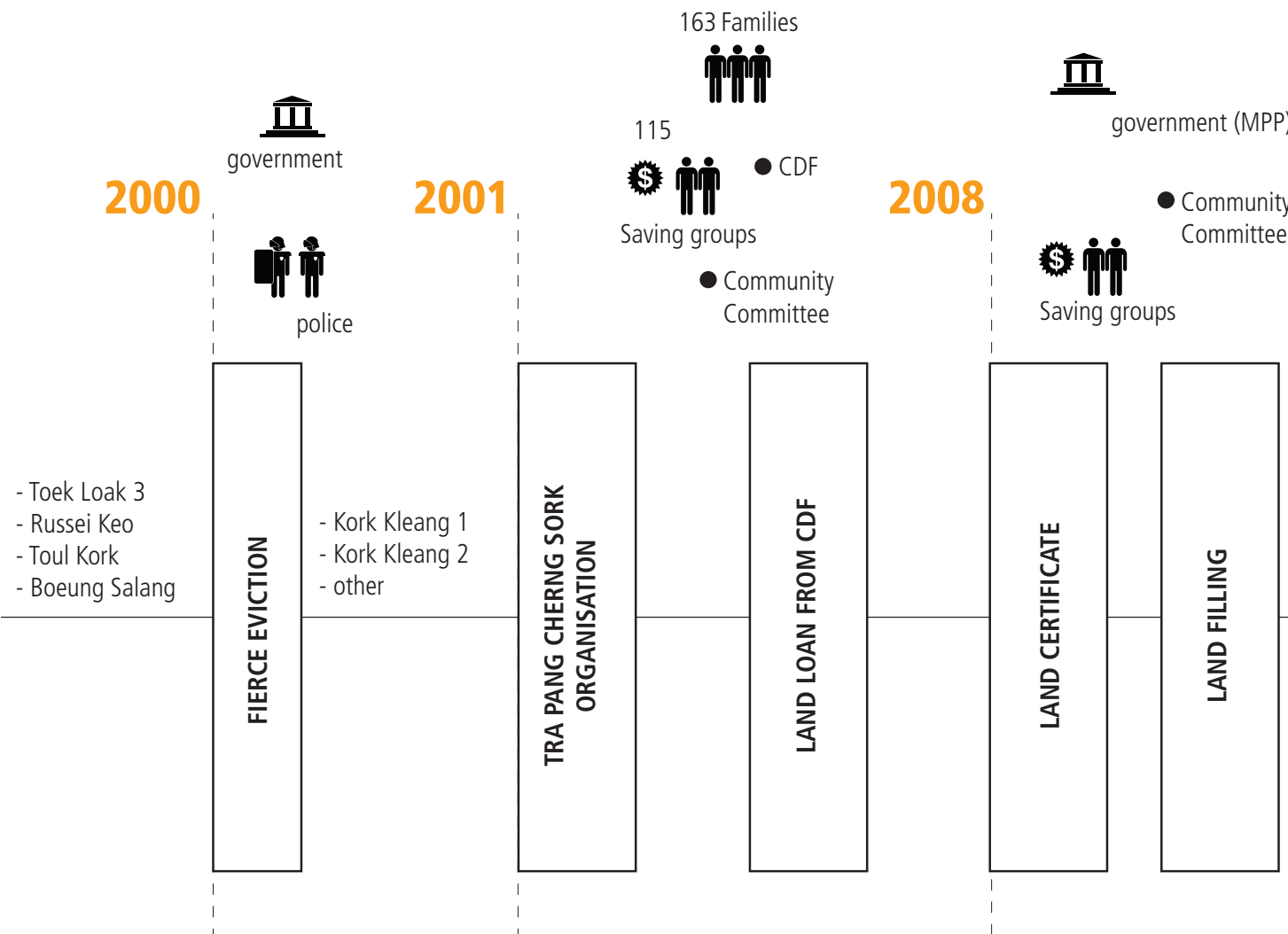


figure3.4.3\_Tra Pang Cherg Srok community timeline

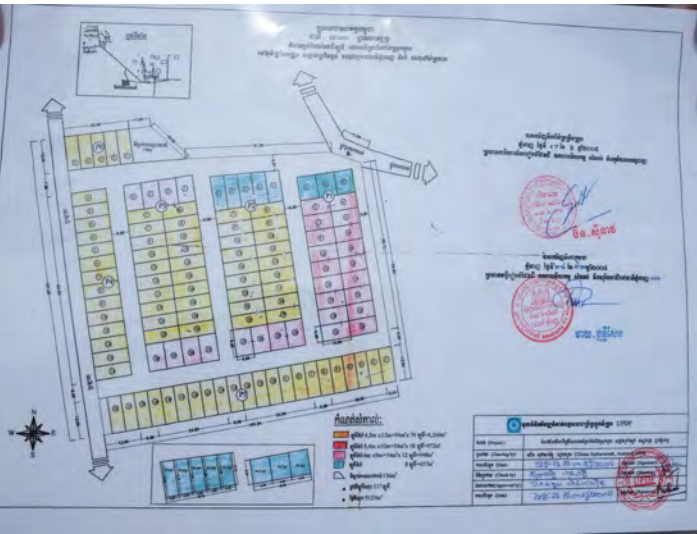


figure3.4.4\_land title



figure3.4.5\_stabilizing the soil



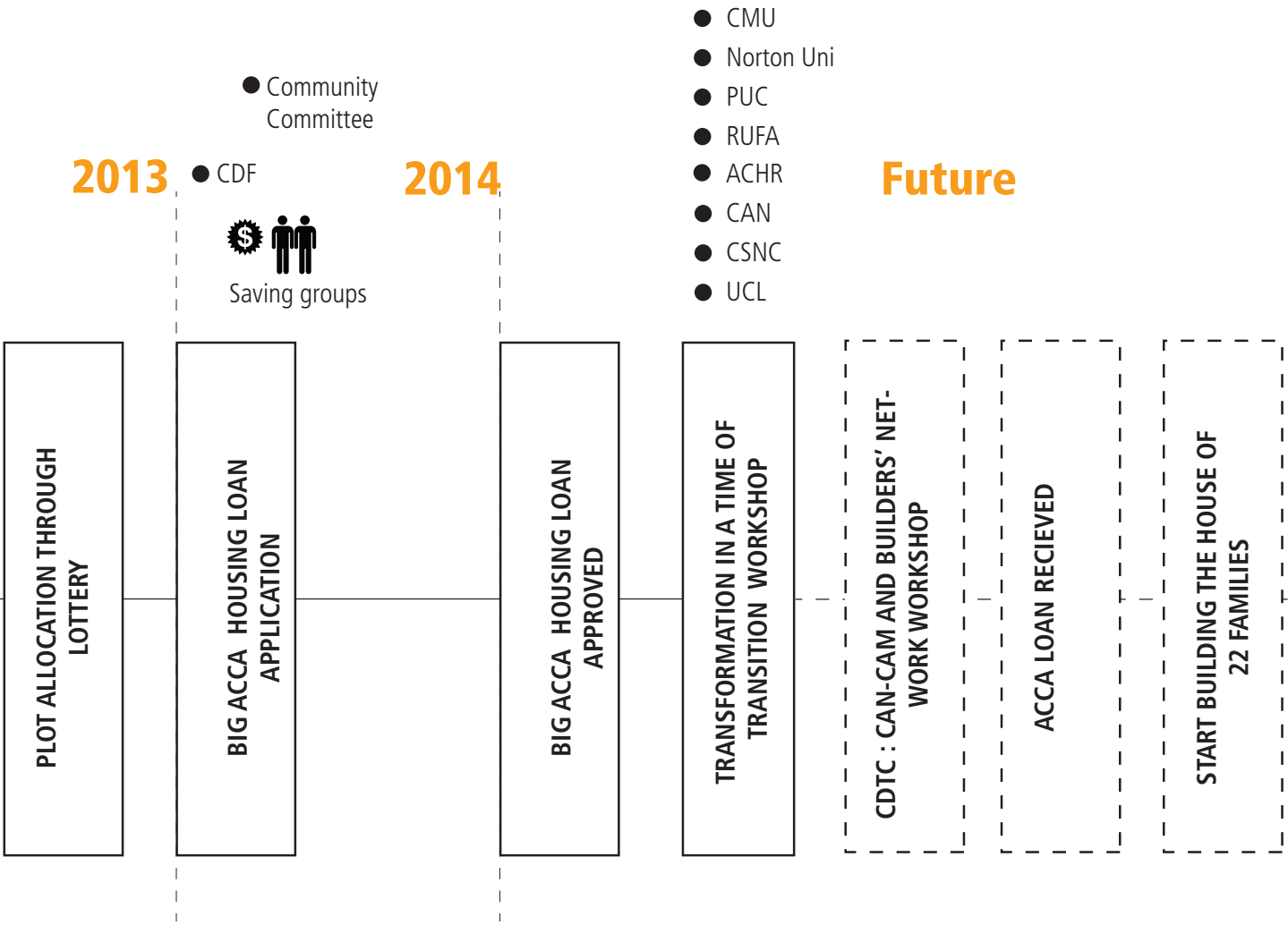


figure3.4.6\_plot allocation



figure3.4.7\_empty land still

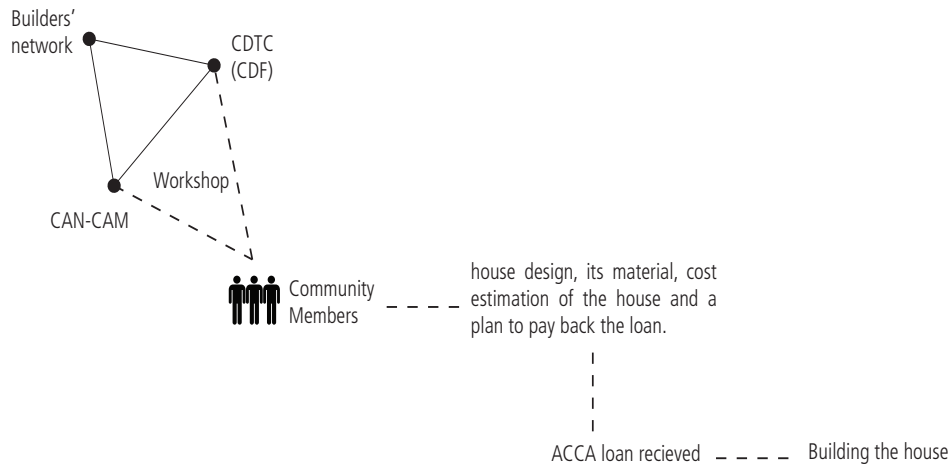


figure3.4.8\_steps to receive ACCA loan

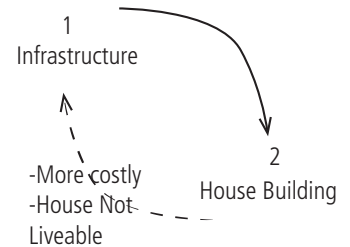


figure3.4.9\_prioritizing issues

The challenges the community of Tra Pang Cherng Srok community faces and that is affecting its members from moving to the land can be described as follows:

**1. An issue of time management:** the community is seeking CDF for assistance and no other actor involved, after the Big ACCA loan was approved CDF is planning to manage a workshop with the community in the CDTC (Community Development Training Center) in collaboration with CAN-CAM and builders' network in order to give these 22 families the knowledge and technical knowhow to produce a house design, choose its material, cost estimation of the house and a plan to pay back the loan. Once this is produced they will receive the ACCA loan and then they can start building the house. All of these steps are dependent on CDF and in Phnom Penh CDF work with many communities so the workshop provision is pending until there is a vacant spot.

**2. An issue of prioritization of needs:** The community's quest for land took 8 years to get which is indeed a priority. The community has now been working towards building the houses, but when they eventually attain the support to build their houses they will end up with houses absent of basic infrastructure on site and to the site. Therefore the house is not livable and providing infrastructure after the house being built would be costly. A prioritization of the infrastructure seems to be absent in this case, therefore the awareness of prioritization of needs is necessary.

Sok Khim, the community leader of Tra Pand Cherng Srok is very active, present in all meetings even in the ones held for Andong village. She was always ready with maps, pictures and other documents to explain to us the actions done and the future plans for the community. (Figure 10)





figure3.4.10\_knowledge of house design

figure3.4.11\_ Sok Khim, community Leader



# 3.5

## INNER CITY SETTLEMENTS OF PHNOM PENH

# [BOREI KEILA SETTLEMENT]

**location** / Borei Keila area, 7 Makara District, Phnom Penh

**set up on** / 1979

**structure / households:** 8 building blocks, 1 unfinished (1392 units), app. 121 families living behind in shacks, 35 families living in the old buildings.

**actors involved** / MoS&Y, CDF, 7 Makara District, MPP, USG, SUPF, UPDF, National Police, Phan Imex Co., LICADHO, CINTRI

**totla saving** / no saving

Borei Keila area in central Phnom Penh was originally a vast dormitory estate that belonged to the Ministry of Sport and Youth. With the introduction of UNTAC in Cambodia in 1993, people migrated into the centre of Phnom Penh, driven by promising change in the political landscape. Borei Keila's population grew significantly and the area was considerably crowded by 1996. At the same time, the authorities had been both reluctant and unable to make provisions for the large population. By then, the threat of eviction had pushed many inhabitants to unite and seek assistance to secure their presence in the contested area. Local organisations such as USG and SUPF were involved, helping the communities that made up Borei Keila to organise.

By 2000, ideas for re-blocking had been put forward. With initiative of UPDF, the idea of land sharing was proposed. The total land was given to an investor, responsible for providing housing for the people on a small part of site. The final design proposed 10, 6-floor high buildings at the edge of the site. The company responsible for completing the project was Phan Imex Co. By spring of 2001, surveys had started on site together with the communities, guided by UPDF and other organizations. But by the time construction began, UPDF had decided to withdraw and took a background role.



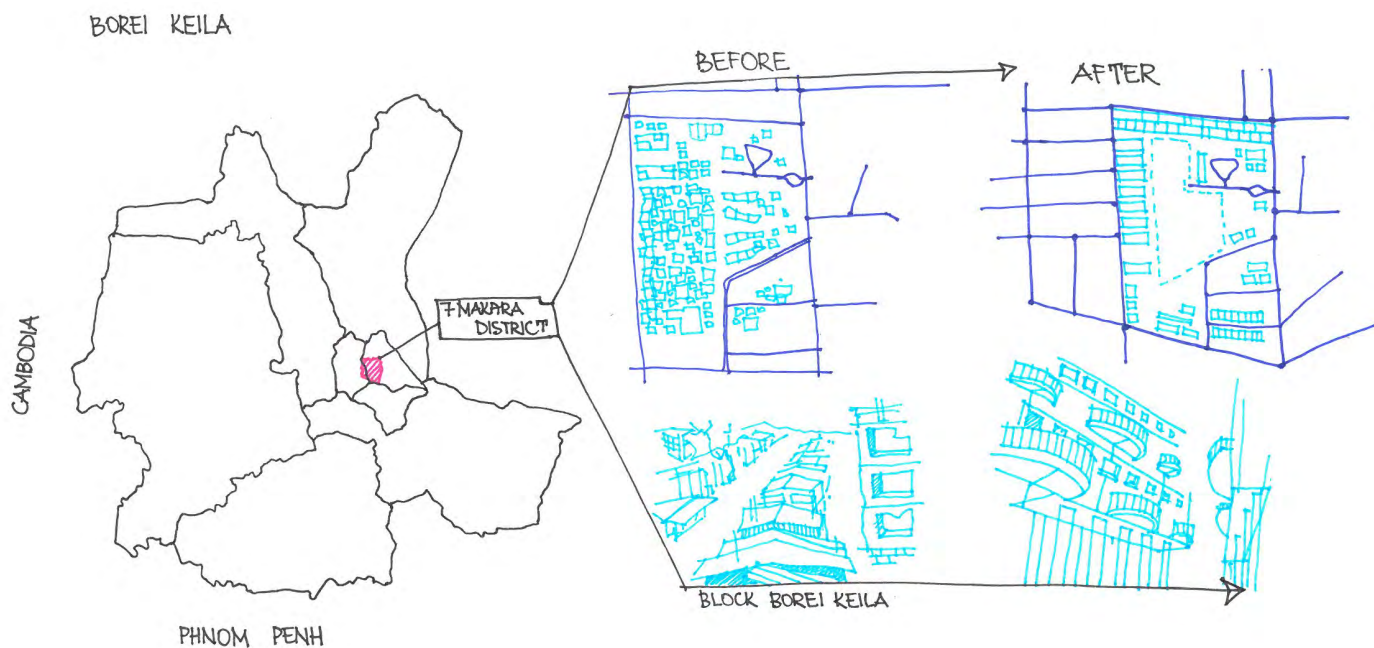


figure3.5.1\_map of localization of Borei Keila

After the completion of the first 3 buildings, the list of beneficiaries had been changed and many names had appeared on it in the place of others. Furthermore, many more people had migrated into Borei Keila hoping to benefit from the promising project. Adding to the issues of transparency regarding the legal beneficiaries, Phan Imex announced financial problems and suspended the construction of the last 2 buildings. This left more than 350 families hanging in the balance. In 2012, hundreds of families were evicted and many were relocated to Udong province where they were faced with deprivation of basic infrastructure and job opportunities. At the moment, 156 families are still demanding their place in the buildings and are squatting on the backside of the new development.

Today, the case has shifted gradually from district to municipal and level where it is "investigated" and handled, but at the time being the future of Borei Keila is characterized by stalemate. The nature of this inactivity, however, is more complex than it appears to be. The recent administrative elections have been highly important for Cambodia's well-established political regime. The significance of Borei Keila has been revived momentarily, as it formed an important priority in the governor's plan for Phnom Penh, creating expectations for a fair closure of the issue. Simultaneously, the area has been experiencing a rapid increase in land values. The plots behind the land-sharing buildings are highly desirable and are considered a promising investment opportunity.



figure3.5.2\_Borei Keila before the land sharing project



figure3.5.3\_Borei Keila after the implementation of the land sharing project

In this setting, the recent absence of NGO's poses a number of disturbing questions regarding not only the future of this case, but also that of Phnom Penh's as a whole. It is not so much an attitude of apathy that results in the absence of NGO's and district authorities. It is rather a universally agreed "hands off" modus operandi that insinuates an understanding beyond the complexity and obscurity of the case. It is an apprehension of all these ambiguous interests, and an insight into the political risks and financial opportunities that arise from any significant alteration in Borei Keila's status quo. In the light of such realization an initiation of agency is rendered very difficult

On another dimension, both complexity and magnitude of legal tenure issues in Borei Keila have overshadowed the day-to-day reality of people living behind, below and around the new buildings. Behind the land-sharing buildings, more than 150 families live. A few families live in the older, decaying buildings, but most of them live in poorly constructed tents, which provide only minimal protection from the elements. Underneath their shelters, families are squeezed on raised timber platforms. There, family life unfolds as they cook, eat and make their living, store their possessions and sleep. No provision for sanitation or clean water is available and the settlement is flooded in a vast expanse of garbage. The residents of the buildings recklessly throw garbage, on the settlement below.





figure3.5.4\_The dark and wide corridors of the buildings of Borei Keila



figure3.5.5\_ Some families live in the older dormitory buildings found deep into the back of the site

Nearby, the ground floors of the new buildings hide another disturbing reality. Originally intended for communal use, they are now part of a questionable rent agreement between the buildings' managing committee and Phan Imex, which has appropriated them for commercial use and parking. Units on the ground floor are sub-rented by the company, often at high rates. But the reality is that many families have moved into the shops they rent, or even converted the units completely into living spaces. As a consequence, families are often crowded in extremely tight spaces as whole units are split into four separate ones measuring nothing more than 2m x 2m.



figure3.5.6\_ Garbage thrown from the top floors above are piling up on the informal settlement below

figure3.5.7\_ Many people in the informal settlements face serious health issues and the environment in which they live in is detrimental for their health





figure3.5.8\_A boy looks over at the high rise buildings from the older buildings of Borei Keila.



figure3.5.9\_On the ground floor of each building, many families rent and live inside the shops, often squeezing their lives in no more than a few squared metres





figure3.5.10\_The narrow space between two buildings in Borei Keila. The ground floor has been reserved for commercial activity and vehicle parking



## 3.6

# ADDRESSING THE URBAN POOR AT THE CITY SCALE [CHAMKAR SAMROUNG II]

**location** / Battambang city, Chamkar Somraung commune, Chamkar Somraung II village

**set up on** / August 2005

**structure** / households: 79 families, 55 houses

**actors involved** / CDF, HFH, CEDT, CVS, CMDP, CBN, Community leader, Municipality

**total saving** / 53 families and 7,766,300 riel (until 2012)

Chamkar Samroung II is a small community located along a road in an area in the city centre of Battambang. Initially, people started spontaneously to live in the area of Chamkar Samroung village from around 1984, a few years after the end of Khmer Rouge period. Some of them arrived around 1993 from Siem Riep, right after the UN take over, and they self-built their houses.

The community was formally recognised in 2004 by the municipality with the name of Veasna Amatak and it consisted mostly of the families that were living at the back of the Orphan Organization and the back of the hospital in Chamkar Somraung Village. In 2007 the community split in smaller realities from which has been formed Chamkar Samroung II Community. The municipality has been unaware of this fragmentation until a very short time ago. Indeed, during the survey on 2009, the municipality still localized Veasna Amatak in the map as one single informal settlement in Battambang.

The municipality of Battambang is committed to developing a pro-poor policy, avoiding evictions/relocations and implementing Circular 03 in the poor urban settlements. Due to unclear occurrences, in 2013 the communities of Chamkar Samroung II village submitted as 'Veasna Amatak community' for on-site upgrading under Circular 03 and the municipality started to take into consideration their participation for the next steps but still overlooking the fact that the original community split in two different groups.



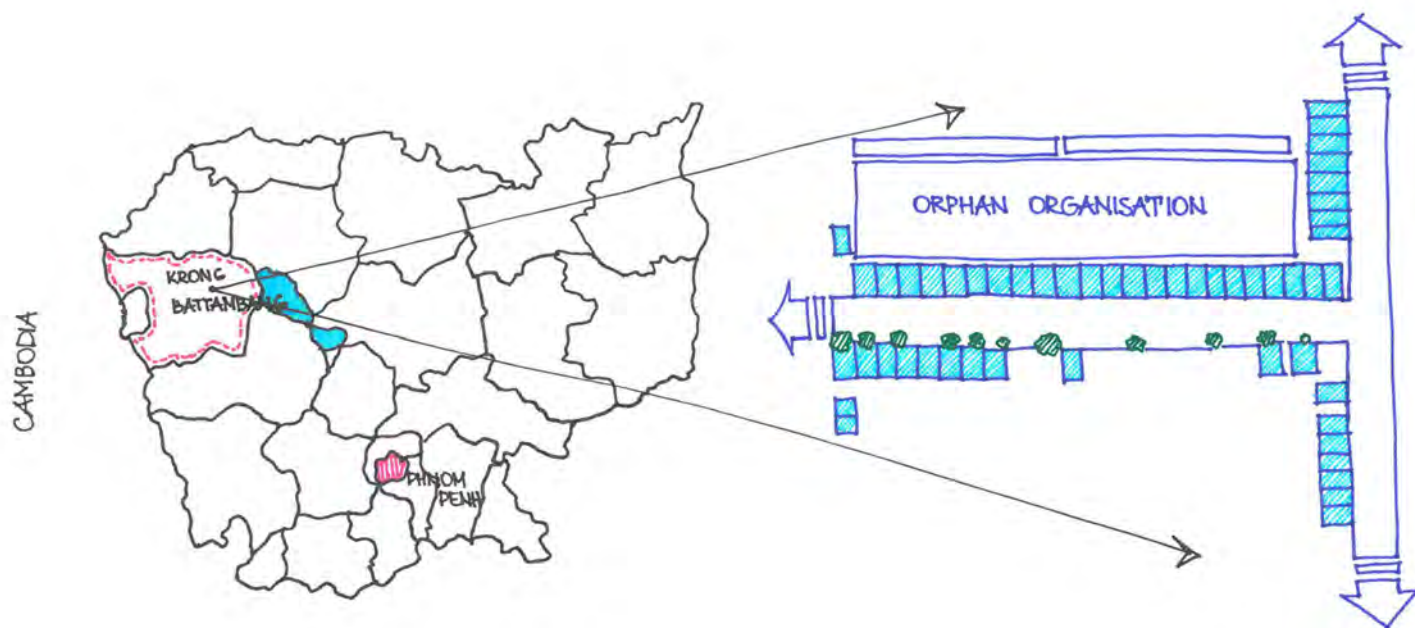
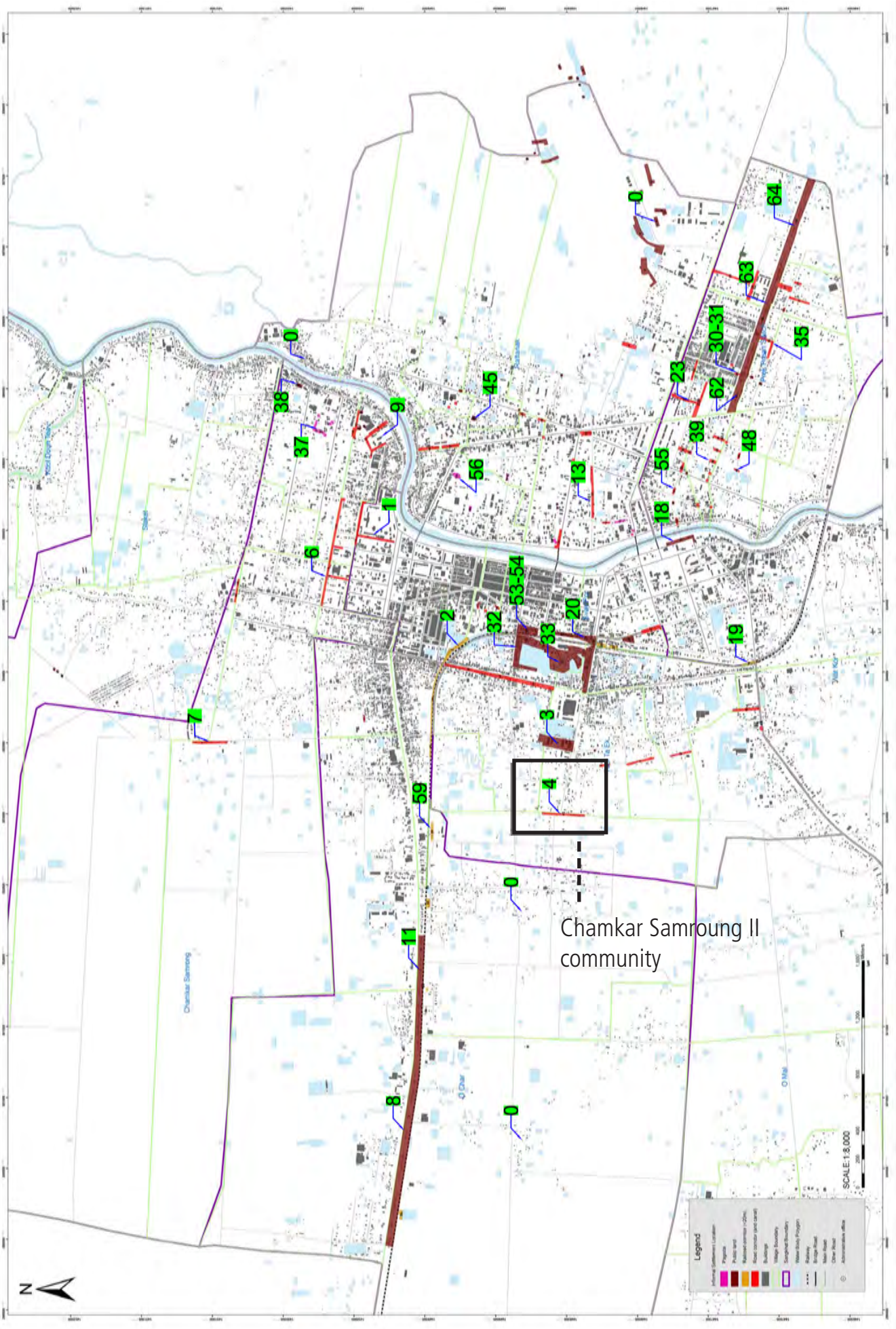


figure3.6.1\_map of localization of Chamkar Samroung II

figure3.6.2\_Chamkar Samroung II community









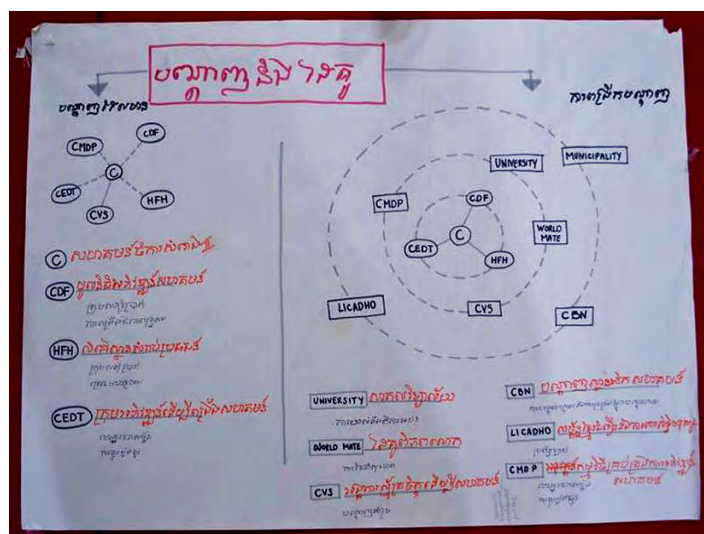


figure3.6.3\_understanding of the actors involved in Chamkar Samroung II community

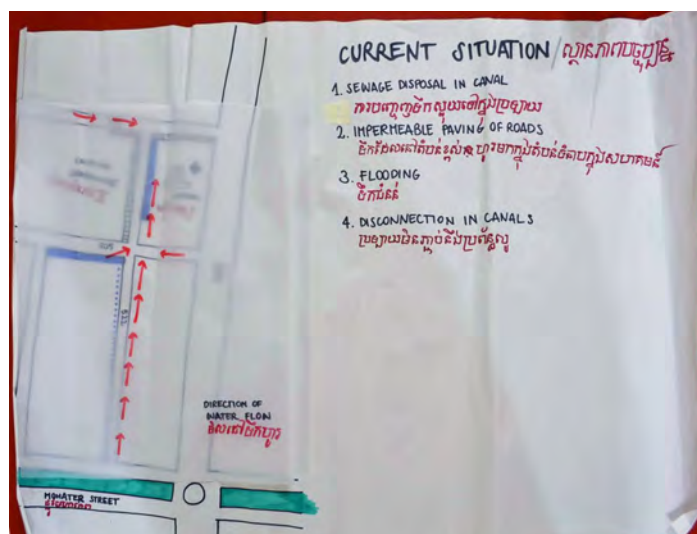


figure3.6.4\_sketch of the map of Chamkar Samroung II community

Therefore, at the moment Chamkar Samroung II is not one of the site that have been included in the first step of the programme for the city upgrading. At the same time the community doesn't have an effective role in the decision making process and it is not supported from any training programme in order to be able to negotiate its position and possibilities.

In addition to that, the community have no land tenure, in order to obtain it they need to consolidate their position with regard to re-starting savings and upgrading. In order to be included in any municipal programme, Chamkar Samroung II community need to upgrade in terms of infrastructure and beautification of the area. The demand of infrastructural upgrading and the will from the community to ensure their land tenure is creating conflictual positions and misunderstanding at the level of the community creating problems of collaboration between people.

Moreover, from our understanding gained on the site, when the community has be recognized by CDF network the group members did not respond at a really need of a common project rather than at the pressure from the municipality and CDF regularisation programme.

Indeed the community participated to the savings group programme only for a few years, between 2007 to 2012. At the moment it seems that the programme is not totally supported at the level of the community that interrupted the saving and is still evaluating the possibilities for the next steps. In addition to CDF, the municipality of Battambang is supporting another group in the same area which is also working in relation to saving process. This programme was supported initially by UN-HABITAT and UN-ESCAP (perhaps in the way of funding or as part of a programme). But in today's reality, the UN does not have a role in the saving groups in the city.



figure3.6.6\_ Image of house on site in Chamkar Samroung II community



figure3.6.7\_ Chamkar Samroung II community

Anyway, the unclear positioning of the saving network from the external is not helping the community to find an agreement and it is complicating their possibilities of evaluation and collaboration.

Chamkar Samroung II community is feeling the pressure of the quest of upgrading from both the municipality and the support network and would be part of a process that could provide to people secure land and better living conditions. Unfortunately, there is a situation of fragmentation between the communities that apparently did not yet find a collective motivation of co-operation for the upgrading of the area.

The challenges that could be summarized for Chamkar Samroung II community are, as follow:

- strengthen sense of collectivity within the community;
- clarify the role of CDF between the community and the municipality;
- reinforce the co-ordination of the external supporting network;
- promoting a training program for the community members at the long-term;
- re-start saving as a collective project for the upgrading of the community;
- acquire land certificate/title through upgrading projects;
- exploit the opportunity of the site upgrading as pilot project for the city.





figure3.6.8\_Chamkar Samroung II community, house detail

figure3.6.9\_Chamkar Samroung II community leader



## 3.7

### RELOCATION AND THE BARETS IN AN EMERGENCY CITY

# [SANGKAT KOMPONG SAVAY]

**location** / Banteay Meanchey Province, Serei Sophon City, Sangkat Kompong Savay Settlement

**set up from** / since 1979

**structure** / 3 settlements, 123 families

**actors involved** / Municipality, CDF, Community leader and village chiefs

**total saving** / no saving

This case is focused on 3 settlements known as the 'Barets' (Sangkat Kompong Savay), situated along a public road, which is perpendicular to National Road 5. These are named Baret Phum Pi, Baret Kompong Savay, and Baret Sophy settlement. In total these 3 settlements have 123 families currently, information that was attained from a survey carried out in March by CAN-CAM.

A large amount of these families are located on public land, but some are also located on privately owned land, the families on the private land are not currently at risk of eviction. However those on the public land fall under plans by the municipalities to relocate these families to a new site within elsewhere in the city, and there is also an opportunity for those on private land to move also if they choose so.

The new site will become home to these settlements dwellers but also other families who will be relocated across the city, in total approximately 800 families.

The occupation of the land by the families was an incremental process, whereby people moved in at different points building homes further along the road as each moved in, starting in 1979.

This could be related with the quality of the houses, as the quality is to a higher standard at the beginning of the road and lessens at different intervals along the road. Therefore the settlement furthest in along the road could be said to be the 'poorest' of all 3 Barets and is also the settlement that has never had any organisation in terms of a leader or collective savings.

Currently there is an absence of strong savings initiatives within the communities, though 2 of the settlements (Baret Kompong Savay and Baret Sophy) once worked with the CDF for savings but now these relationships do not exist.

The settlement at the beginning of the road claim to have a savings group functioning at the moment led by the community leader, but following interviews (see appendix) with community members it seems the majority of the



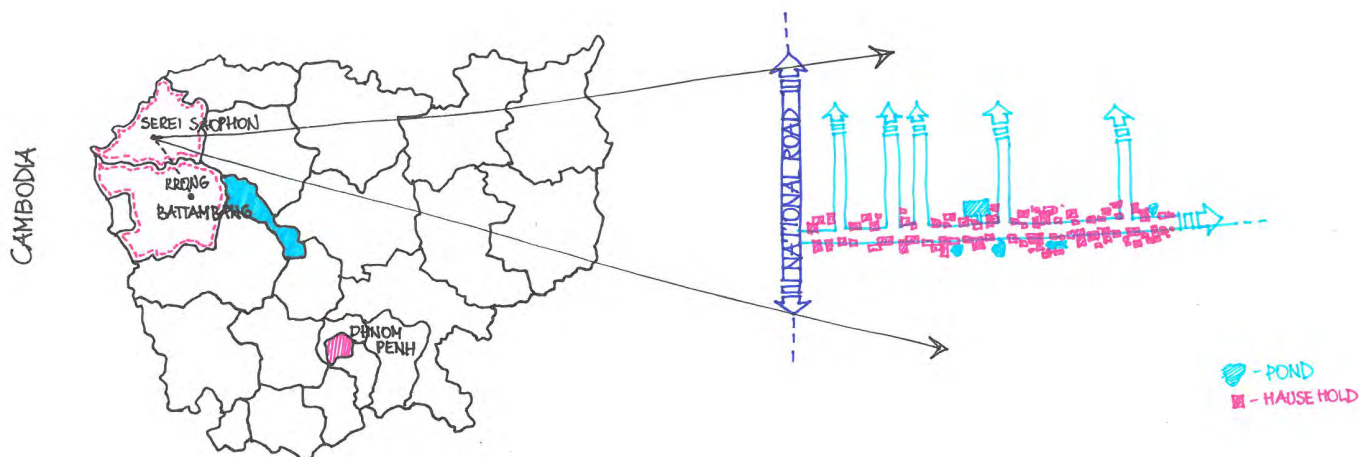


figure3.7.1\_map of localization of Barets

What became evident also is the lack of strong relations between the community members and possible distrust.

Additionally, the settlements continuously face devastation and upheaval when floods affect the area; this means most families have to move temporarily to a site near the mountains (Diagram) as the majority of the homes are not stable or resilient enough in design or construction to protect the families against the conditions resulting from the floods. The road itself also become full of water and affects the accessibility of these houses in the rainy season.

Decisions on the future of the settlements are very much dependent on approval and decisions granted by authorities at a national scale. This shows the nature of relations between different levels of government and also indicates the limitations of municipal authorities to make final decisions, particularly in relation to land and land allocation. For this case and the communities involved, it means there is a deficiency in clarity in the communication of relocation proposals from the municipality to the people.

When considering the diagnosis and analysis of this case, it became interesting to consider reflections of the case through some of the ideas born prior to entering and experiencing Cambodia, as a test of the initial diagnosis:

**Transparency:** within various levels there was a perceived lack of transparency, more obviously from the municipality level to the community. There seems to be a lack of communication or clarity in the information shared with the communities about the authorities' plans for the villages' future, this links strongly to the principle of Inclusivity and how it seems the community is not considered in the inception and development of plans. Similarly, the transparency in the leadership of the settlements themselves can be questioned based on past events, this means there is a weariness of families and individuals to trust another leader or person with matters to do with finance or savings.

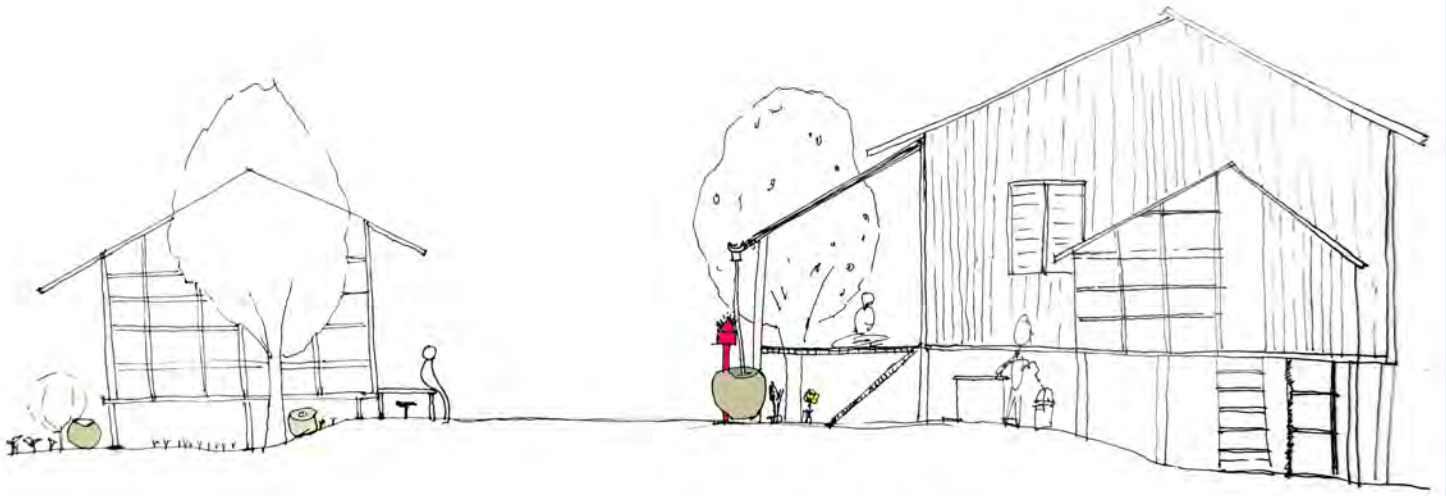


figure3.7.2\_Section through site

**Collaboration:** The possibilities for collaboration within this context seem quite limited, but the communities have the possibility to work with the CDF which indirectly could give access to working with the municipality. This highlights questions as to why these relationships do not currently exist or why they were stopped in the past.

As a global phenomenon, land has become a tool of the classifications of wealth but also security, related to housing and shelter. So in the Barets, the contestation and need for land is what currently defines the relationship between the community and the municipality. It is the lack of secure land tenure that results in the people not making long term investments into their homes, for fear of eviction and so wasted investments. And so directly affects their living conditions.

The threat of relocation allow for possibly visualisations of a new settlement, so it brings to the forefront of discussions how spaces of marginality or urban poverty can become part of the urban landscape of the city. This allows for considerations of the designs of a new relocation sites, not as isolated communities but key parts of the urban city through connectivity and inclusive design. This means there must be major considerations for the living systems of the communities and how these can be thought out in a new location.

### The key issue:

- Garbage and rubbish disposal
- Health and wellbeing
- Secure land tenure
- Flood risks and resilient housing
- The risk of eviction and relocation
- Lack of community organisation
- Lack of strong social relationships or social cohesion
- Lack of adequate infrastructure provision





figure3.7.3\_ Image of house on site



figure3.7.4\_ Image of family from settlement

Figure 3.7.5\_ Identification of challenges/key issues



The process to attaining this information and analysis was full of various activities, please see the Appendix for full details of the activities and journey within this specific case.





## chapter 4

# [CROSS CUTTING ISSUES]

The critical diagnosis of each case study enabled the formulation of a list of key issues for each case. Collecting all of the key issues, it is interesting to discover similarities and nuances between the several cases. This leads to grouping these key issues under 9 cross cutting issues: Quest of land; Quest for physical infrastructure; Livelihood opportunities; Community organization and the uncertain definition of “community”; Technical knowhow and knowledge sharing; Networking between actors at different scales in Cambodia; Vulnerability to natural disasters; Health and basic living condition; and the transparency in the process of designing the urban. These cross cutting issues give a general yet elaborate picture about the Cambodian condition and guide the formulation of strategic interventions.





## RUSSEIY KEO

1. Lack of secure land tenure.
2. Risk of eviction
3. Periodicity of flood risks and the need of appropriate house design
4. The effectiveness of the CDF network
5. Exclusion: some households are not participating in saving groups;

- and others, living on boats, are not considered part of the communities.
6. Need of long-term vocational skills training
  7. Lack of waste management and sanitation

## SAE SEN SETTLEMENT

1. Risk of eviction and Relocation
2. Public land for development projects
3. Flood risk
4. Lack of networking between NGOs, the municipality and communities
5. Lack of community organization
6. Need for knowledge about recycling and garbage management
7. Need for technical knowhow of community organization

8. Lack of information in relation to the relocation project
9. Confusion and lack of transparency in relation to land tenure
10. Lack of waste management and sanitation
11. Lack of drainage system, public spaces, toilets, paved roads
12. Absence of garbage management

## ANDONG VILLAGE

1. Absence of onsite upgrading alternative
2. A forced second relocation with an imposed housing design/typology
3. Lack of secure land tenure.
4. External support by multiple NGOs and absence of networking between them
5. Community leader selected by MPP

6. No sense of collectivity
7. Absence of saving groups
8. Absence of transparency and trust
9. Need for technical knowhow of community organization
10. Lack of garbage management

## TRA PANG CHERNG SROK COMMUNITY

1. Flood risks
2. Need for collaboration with new actors
3. Need of technical knowhow and skills

- for house building and design
4. Need for knowledge on quest for infrastructure

## BOREI KELIA

1. Confusion and lack of transparency in relation to land tenure
2. Absence of actors from the case. Only LICADHO but it is working solely on the broader field of human rights.
3. Fragmentation of communities and stakeholder groups.

4. No transparency. Handled on a national/municipal level. Little involvement of district and local level
5. High solid waste pollution. Intensified because of poor water drainage. On site solid waste burning

## CHAMKAR SAMROUNG II

1. Lack of secure land tenure
2. Flood risks
3. Lack of long-term training programs and NGO's collaboration
4. Fragmented community, lack of collectivity
5. Need to restart the group savings/

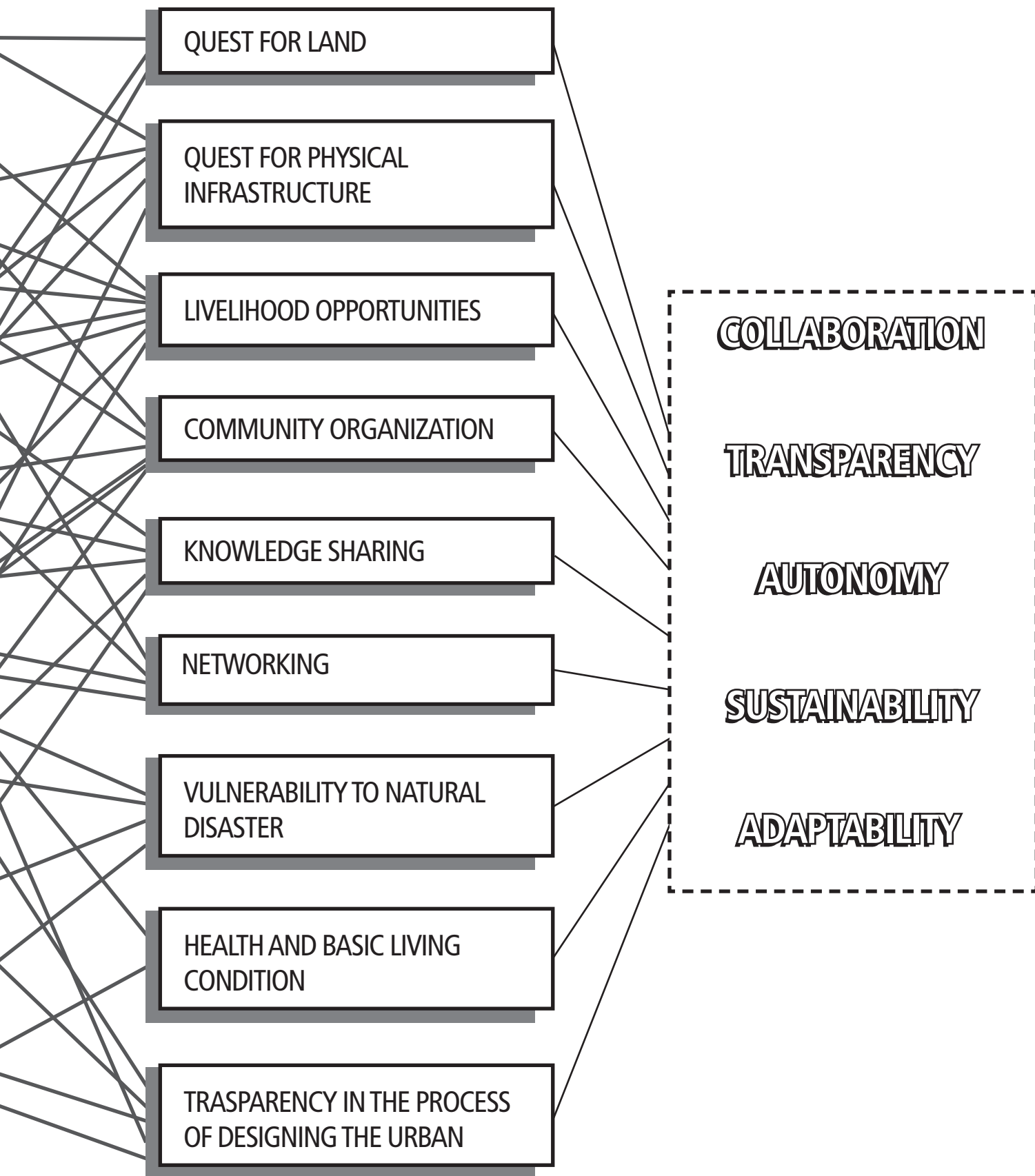
- saving group blocked between U4H and CDF
6. Scarcity of communication between communities and municipality
  7. Lack of clarity in taking responsibility for actions
  8. Need for infrastructure upgrading

## BARETS SETTLEMENT

1. Lack of secure land tenure
2. Vulnerability to eviction and relocation
3. Flood risks and water damage to houses
4. No collaboration or networks with external actors
5. Lack of community organization
6. Need for greater awareness on health

- and wellbeing issues
7. Lack of information on the plans being made by municipality
  8. No garbage and waste management
  9. No access to clean water or drainage systems
  10. Lack of strong social relationships or social cohesion





## 4.1

# QUEST FOR LAND

The urban poor perceive “Land” as an extremely valuable asset, without legal land tenure families are threatened of evictions. Russeiy Keo communities, Serei Sophon railway settlements, Andong 4/6 communities, Borei Keila, Chamkar Samroug II and Barets settlements are all vulnerable to eviction and relocation because of the lack of secure land tenure. On the other hand Tra Pang Cherng Srok community was able to buy its own land with the support of CDF as mentioned in the previous chapter. The reason this community was able to gain secure land tenure was mainly due its successful organization and collective savings. Being able to have secure land tenure would allow communities to upgrade their house/living conditions.

## CASE STUDY

### Key issues expressed according to the case

RUSSEIY KEO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Lack of secure land tenure</li> <li>■ Risk of eviction</li> </ul>
RAILWAY SETTLEMENTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Risk of eviction and Relocation</li> <li>■ Public land for development projects</li> </ul>
ANDONG VILLAGE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Absence of onsite Upgrading alternative</li> <li>■ A forced second relocation with an imposed housing design/typology</li> <li>■ Lack of secure land tenure.</li> </ul>
BOREI KEILA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Confusion and lack of transparency in relation of land tenure</li> </ul>
CHAMKAR SAMROUNG II	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Lack of secure land tenure</li> </ul>
BARETS SETTLEMENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Lack of secure land tenure</li> <li>■ Vulnerability to eviction and relocation</li> </ul>





figure 4.1.1\_BOREI KEILA



figure 4.1.2 \_ANDONG VILLAGE

figure 4.1.3\_RAILWAY SETTLEMENTS



figure 4.1.4\_RUSSEIY KEO



## 4.2

# QUEST FOR PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

A piece of land without infrastructure is a non-livable land. Road infrastructure is given high importance from the Royal government of Cambodia, linking it to economic routes within the vision of the country.

“The Royal government has invested heavily on infrastructure in order to promote national integration” (Land Management and Urban planning presentation, May 2014). Nevertheless on the community scale, the provision of infrastructure seems to be problematic.

Russei keo communities were able to upgrade the roads with the support from CDF and the water/sewage supply is provided by a private sector hence its expensive price. Having physical infrastructure to the site, which should be provided by the government, represents an enduring process. Serei Sophon railway settlements, Barets settlements, Tra Pang Cherng Srok community and Chamkar Samroug II are all in need of physical infrastructure.

### CASE STUDY

#### Key issues expressed according to the case

RUSSEIY KEO	■ Higher utility fees
RAILWAY SETTLEMENTS	■ Lack of drainage system, Public Spaces, toilets, paved streets
TRA PANG CHERNG SROK	■ Need for knowledge on quest for infrastructure
CHAMKAR SAMROUNG II	■ Need for infrastructure upgrading
BARETS SETTLEMENT	■ No access to clean water or drainage systems





figure 4.2.1\_RAILWAY SETTLEMENTS



figure 4.2.2\_ANDONG VILLAGE

figure 4.2.3\_TRA PANG CHERNG SROK



figure 4.2.4\_RUSSEIY KEO



## 4.3

# LIVELIHOOD OPPORTUNITIES

One of the major concerns of the evicted families is the loss of their source of income. Most livelihoods are enabled by the location of living and therefore the process of relocation is negatively affecting the family income and survival. Also for the settlements in flood prone zones there is a high risk of damaging livelihoods like in the case of Russei Keo communities, Serei Sophon railway settlements, Tra Pang Cherng Srok community, Chamkar Samroug II and Barets settlements. Another aspect affecting livelihoods is the cohesion and social ties within a community because a sense of collectivity would work as a supportive system for each family.

figure 4.3.1\_RUSSEIY KEO



figure 4.3.2\_BOREI KEILA







figure 4.3.3\_ANDONG 6



figure 4.3.4\_ANDONG VILLAGE

## CASE STUDY

### Key issues expressed according to the case

#### RUSSEY KEO

- Risk of eviction
- Need of long-term vocational skills training
- Flood risk

#### RAILWAY SETTLEMENTS

- Absence of Garbage management
- Flood risk
- Risk of eviction and relocation

#### ANDONG VILLAGE

- Absence of onsite upgrading alternative
- A forced second relocation with an imposed housing design/typology

#### TRA PANG CHERNG SROK

- Need for knowledge on quest for infrastructure
- Need of technical knowhow and skills for house building and design

#### CHAMKAR SAMROUNG II

- Lack of secure land tenure
- Flood risk
- Need for infrastructure upgrading
- Need to restart the group saving/saving group blocked between U4H and CDF
- Lack of long-term training programmes and NGO's collaboration

#### BARETS SETTLEMENT

- Vulnerability to eviction and relocation
- Flood risks and water damage to houses
- Lack of strong social relationships or social cohesion

## 4.4

# COMMUNITY ORGANISATION

## AND THE UNCERTAIN DEFINITION OF "COMMUNITY"

Within the context of Cambodia, the definition of community is a crucial question. Somsook mentioned this definition: "There is no community, simple group of houses staying together" (May, 2014). It is applicable for the case of Andong village, where the communities are formed according to the date of relocation to the site. The MPP conceived the names of Andong 1 community, Andong 2, Andong 3, Andong 4, Andong 5 and Andong 6 as areas within the village and assigned a community leader for each. Does this form a community?

To analyze this issue an investigation into each case happened considering: the trust between the community members and community leader; collective savings as a way to enhance community organization and issues of exclusion of members. This issue is present in most case studies with the example of Tra Pang Cherng Srok that shows an example of an organized community.

figure 4.4.1\_TRA PANG CHERNG SROK



figure 4.4.2\_BOREI KEILA







figure 4.4.3\_ANDONG VILLAGE



figure 4.4.4\_RAILWAY SETTLEMENTS

## CASE STUDY

### Key issues expressed according to the case

#### RUSSEY KEO

- Exclusion: some households are not participating in saving groups; and others, living on boats, are not considered part of the communities.

#### RAILWAY SETTLEMENTS

- Lack of community organization

#### ANDONG VILLAGE

- Community leader selected by MPP
- No sense of collectivity
- Absence of saving groups

#### BOREI KEILA

- Fragmentation of communities and stakeholder groups.

#### CHAMKAR SAMROUNG II

- Fragmented community, lack of collectivity
- Need to restart the group saving/saving group blocked between U4H and CDF

#### BARETS SETTLEMENT

- Lack of community organization
- Lack of strong social relationships or social cohesion

## 4.5

### TECHNICAL KNOWHOW AND KNOWLEDGE SHARING

Knowledge production conceived as a horizontal process for and within the communities. ACHR and CAN are operating in many countries of South East Asia, applying and learning from each case. The foundation of Community Architect Network of Cambodia (CAN-CAM) program involve architects, engineers and urban practitioners who work with communities in order to co-produce knowledge. The context based knowledge aims at elaborating a meditative process rather than a final product. The Community Development Training Center (CDTC) by CDF aims at providing technical skills and knowhow to communities in collaboration with CAN-CAM and builders' network. For Tra Pang Cherng Srok community, to receive the ACCA loan the community will get the support to produce a house design, decide on the house material, a cost estimation and produce a plan to pay back the loan. Many NGOs in Cambodia are also working with the community to co produce the knowledge. Sharing the knowledge between the communities would allow a beneficial exchange in order to overcome unified challenges. The knowledge given to people becomes a tool of power to affect the decision-making and aiming at deepening democracy.

#### CASE STUDY

##### Key issues expressed according to the case

RUSSEY KEO	■ Need of long-term vocational skills training
RAILWAY SETTLEMENTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Need for knowledge about recycling and garbage management</li> <li>■ Need for technical knowhow of community organization</li> </ul>
ANDONG VILLAGE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Absence of onsite upgrading alternative</li> <li>■ Need for technical knowhow of community organization</li> </ul>
TRA PANG CHERNG SROK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Need for knowledge on quest for infrastructure</li> <li>■ Need of technical knowhow and skills for house building and design</li> </ul>
CHAMKAR SAMROUNG II	■ Lack of long-term training programs and NGO's collaboration
BARETS SETTLEMENT	■ Need for greater awareness on health and wellbeing issues



“Designers can be facilitators or mediators, but also triggers. They can operate as members of a co-design team, collaborating with a well-defined group of final users, or as design activists, launching socially meaningful design initiatives. In any case, designers play a specific role in conceiving and realising a variety of design devices. In brief, the best they can do to promote citizens’ participation in large-scale transformations is to use their creativity and their design knowledge and skills ‘to make things happen’ and, in this way, to promote and sustain the social conversation on possible futures” (Manzini and Rizo, 2011: 213-214)



figure 4.5.1\_TRA PANG CHERNG SROK



figure 4.5.2\_RAILWAY SETTLEMENTS

figure 4.5.3\_ANDONG VILLAGE



figure 4.5.4\_CHAMKAR SAMROUND II



## 4.6

# NETWORKING

## BETWEEN ACTORS AT DIFFERENT SCALES IN CAMBODIA

Many NGOs are working in Cambodia for the benefit of the urban poor, yet it seems that the “critical mass” effect is absent. It is very clear in the case of Andong village where many organizations are involved like PCL, Red Cross of Cambodia, HFH, CDF, Korean church relief team, Abraham, etc.. yet the future of this relocation site seems to be vague, there is no networking between the several actors in order to formulate a clear vision for the communities of Andong village. For the railway settlements there is a lack of networking on the several scales between the communities and NGOs; between the communities and the municipality; between the NGOs and the municipality. Also in the Barets settlements there is no collaboration or networks with external actors. This issue of networking is very central in order to move from the home scale, to community, to national and international scale for the changes to have an impact. Networking is linked to both economy and knowledge.

### CASE STUDY

#### Key issues expressed according to the case

- |                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| <u>RUSSEY KEO</u>           | ■ The effectiveness of the CDF network   |
| <u>RAILWAY SETTLEMENTS</u>  | ■ Lack of networking between NGOs, the municipality and communities  |
| <u>ANDONG VILLAGE</u>       | ■ External support by multiple NGOs and absence of networking between them                                     |
| <u>TRA PANG CHERNG SROK</u> | ■ Need for collaboration with new actors   |
| <u>BOREI KEILA</u>          | ■ Absence of actors from the case. Only LICADHO but it is working solely on the broader field of human rights. |
| <u>CHAMKAR SAMROUNG II</u>  | ■ Lack of long-term training programs and NGO's collaboration  |
| <u>BARETS SETTLEMENT</u>    | ■ No collaboration or networks with external actors  |





figure 4.6.1\_RAILWAY SETTLEMENTS



figure 4.6.2\_ANDONG VILLAGE

figure 4.6.3\_TRA PANG CHERNG SROK



figure 4.6.4\_RUSSEIY KEO



4.7

VULNERABILITY TO  
NATURAL DISASTERS

Most communities live in flood prone areas of Cambodia. The vulnerability to natural disasters is directly related to matters of livelihoods, food security and health. As mentioned previously in most case studies flood is present as a threat to the communities of Russeiy Keo, Serei Sophon railway settlements, Tra Pang Cherng Srok community, Chamkar Samroug II and the Barets Settlements. Risk management would start with an awareness, a specific house design and a set of action responses in case of disaster occurring.

CASE STUDY

Key issues expressed according to the case

- RUSSEIY KEO ■ Periodicity of flood risks and the need of appropriate house design
- RAILWAY SETTLEMENTS ■ Flood risk
- TRA PANG CHERNG SROK ■ Flood risk
- CHAMKAR SAMROUNG II ■ Flood risk
- BARETS SETTLEMENT ■ Flood risks and water damage to houses





figure 4.7.1\_RAILWAY SETTLEMENTS



figure 4.7.2\_ANDONG VILLAGE

figure 4.7.3\_RUSSEIY KEO



figure 4.7.4\_TRA PANG CHERNG SROK



4.8

HEALTH AND BASIC  
LIVING CONDITION

Lack of waste management and sanitation was present in Russei Keo, Serei Sophon railway settlements, Andong village, Borei Keila, Chamkar Samroug II and the Barets Settlements. When there is no sense of belonging to the site, people do not feel the responsibility to maintain their place of living. This is also a cultural influence and providing awareness about health and wellbeing issues is necessary. Sewage line connections are another concern that is directly associated with the government, the provision of sewage network is fundamental for a healthy living.

CASE STUDY

Key issues expressed according to the case

RUSSEIY KEO	■ Lack of waste management and sanitation
RAILWAY SETTLEMENTS	■ Lack of waste management and sanitation ■ Lack of drainage system, public spaces, toilets, paved roads
ANDONG VILLAGE	■ Lack of garbage management
BOREI KEILA	■ High solid waste pollution. Intensified because of poor water drainage. On site solid waste burning
CHAMKAR SAMROUNG II	■ Need for infrastructure upgrading
BARETS SETTLEMENT	■ No garbage and waste management ■ Need for greater awareness on health and wellbeing issues





figure 4.8.1\_RUSSEIY KEO



figure 4.8.2\_ANDONG VILLAGE



figure 4.8.3\_BOREI KEILA



figure 4.8.4\_ANDONG6

figure 4.8.5\_RAILWAY SETTLEMENTS



figure 4.8.6\_CHAMKAR SAMROUND II

## 4.9

### TRANSPARENCY IN THE PROCESS OF DESIGNING THE URBAN

A contested production of space happening in Cambodia, expressing the several power relations unfolded in the case studies. Transparency appeared to be a recurrent element while discussing the formation of space.

Andong village and Tra Pang Cherng Srok community are both located in Por Sen Chey district, one of the future plans is to divide this district and form a new one that is formed of Kork Roka, Krang Tnong and Ponsang sub-districts. It is striking that these sub-districts have a large amount of relocation sites, which makes us reflect upon the plans the government has for these areas.

Borei Keila shows another unique example of how there is no transparency in relation to the future of these settlements within the context of Phnom Penh urbanization pattern.

#### CASE STUDY

##### Key issues expressed according to the case

##### RAILWAY SETTLEMENTS

- Lack of information in relation to the relocation project
- Confusion and lack of transparency in relation to land tenure

##### ANDONG VILLAGE

- Absence of transparency and trust

##### BOREI KEILA

- No transparency. Handled on a national/municipal level. Little involvement of district and local level

##### CHAMKAR SAMROUNG II

- Scarcity of communication between communities and municipality
- Lack of clarity in taking responsibility for actions

##### BARETS SETTLEMENT

- Lack of information on the plans being made by municipality



“A whole history remains to be written of spaces – which would at the same time be the history of powers (both these terms in the plural) – from the great strategies of geo-politics to the little tactics of the habitat, institutional architecture from the classroom to the design of hospitals, passing via economic and political installations” (Foucault, 1981, p. 149, original emphasis)



figure 4.9.1\_ANDONG VILLAGE



figure 4.9.2\_ANDONG VILLAGE







chapter 5

# STRATEGIES FOR TRANSFORMATION





## 5.1

# REFLECTIONS ON TRANSFORMATION

The diagnosis established through the experiences and evaluation of the different cases of the cross cutting issues enables the formulation of strategic responses to the identified issues. These responses would point towards a form of transformation that differs to the current processes in this transitioning country.

The reality of the cases brings to view the tensions that exist between processes initiated by the state and the practices that result from the needs of the citizens. And when these two processes do not work in coordination the result is unjust processes of urban development, fragmentation in social relations and collaboration between partners and dissatisfaction in services provided.

To envision a future for transformation in this context, it must be shaped by a nature of dialogue and exchange between actors, government, organizations, communities and individuals. These dialogues create spaces for discourses reaching both dissensus and consensus, all to enable possibilities of transformation.



As such the strategy is visualized through a series of interventions that are incrementally constructed through the passage of time. Yet, this incrementality does not overshadow the urgency of the “making”, since being transformative in nature, these interventions call for the establishment of catalytic turning points in the progression of time that is shaping Cambodia.

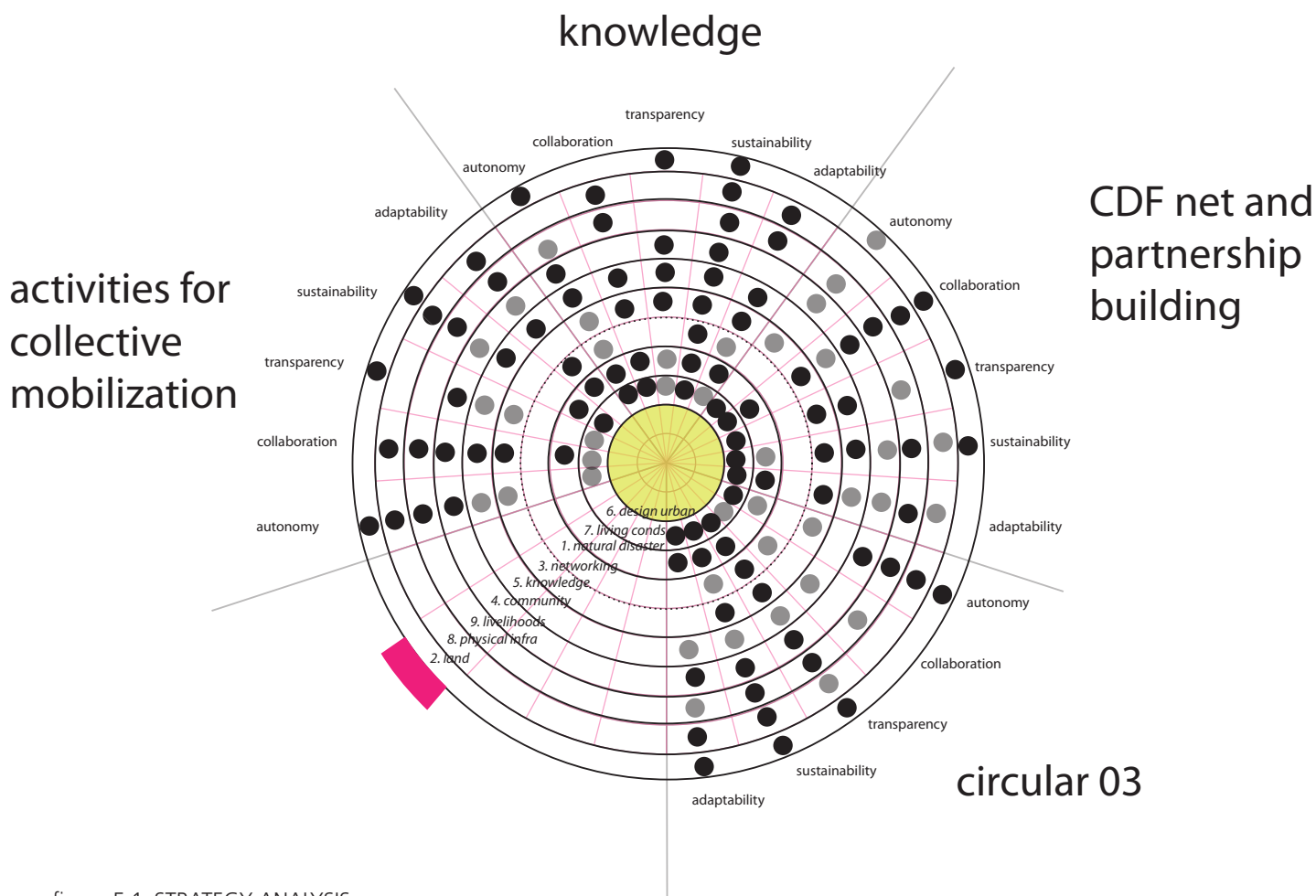


figure 5.1\_STRATEGY ANALYSIS

## 5.2

# UNDERLYING PRINCIPLES

*The principles guiding the strategic interventions were not chosen randomly. Initial principles were formulated before the site visits and fieldwork: transparency, autonomy, collaboration, inclusivity and resilience. From a distant understanding of Cambodia these principles seem to be applicable. After the analysis of different case studies, the principles were altered: inclusivity and resilience did not disappear but were imbedded within the underlying principles presented. Autonomy, collaboration, transparency, sustainability and adaptability were the formulated principles that came out of the cross cutting analysis of issues. In the following each principle is explained more thoroughly.*



In recent history, Cambodian people have been subjects to different forms of oppressive rule, and so has opposed and denied individual autonomy. Under these circumstances the principle of **autonomy** becomes a high priority for the people of Cambodia. Redefining development and transformation in Cambodia should be based on the **empowerment** of citizens. Autonomy as a principle encourages citizen to claim their rights and exercise their power but also their ability not to be solely dependent on outer actors and help.



Cambodia's current social and development climate suggests growing fragmentations between actors and organisations at various scales, from government to NGO's to local communities. Therefore in order to suggest strategies which are sustainable and inclusive in their values, they must be governed by a notion of collaboration. This value stands for the promotion of opportunities for partnerships that result in the implementation of strategic proposals and possibly the identification of tensions, gaps and opportunities for transformative change.





After deep analysis of the case of Cambodia, sustainability is crucial as a guiding principle which is defined with a focus on the home and community scale in order to reach a long-term sustainability. This is to the aim of the creation of self-sufficient communities, who are able to manage their livelihoods, finances and everyday life issues effectively.



Transparency is an important underlying principle in the case of Cambodia and it works on several scales. As a general definition transparency tackles the issue of accountability of bodies of leadership and their responsibility in actions towards other actors. This is seen through the following: Financial transparency, the integrity of messages and commitments, clarity of methodology and fund research.



Adaptability is as an overarching principle of practice in the evolution of Cambodia highlights the importance of systems, organisations, communities and individuals that are able to adapt to various changes, while still preserving values, identities, livelihoods and lifestyle choice. The ability of communities to build processes and housing typologies which are resilient against risks of natural disaster (flooding) and also the governments need to adapt policy and processes in favour of the needs of people and social coherence are ways in which this principle can guide practices.

## 5.3.1

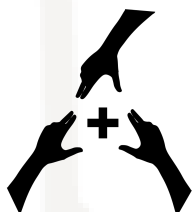
### FORMULATION OF STRATEGIES & STRATEGIC INTERVENTIONS

# ACTIVITIES FOR COLLECTIVE MOBILIZATION STRATEGY

The purpose of encouraging collective activity in these communities is to build strong social connections within the settlements; this is a capital that can allow them to work together in producing more tangible activities such as community organisation and savings groups. This starts with actions to improve the current living situations of the community that can help better the environment, skills, relationships and organisation of the settlements. For action, the idea is to build on existing smaller groups of relationships between neighbors or friends, then using this as the base to strengthen the community as a whole to allow for mobilization within in the plans of the city. Having more organized community systems will give them a greater level of potential political impact through increased negotiation powers to work towards collective aims and in response to identified issues.



AUTONOMY



COLLABORATION



TRANSPARENCY



SUSTAINABILITY



ADAPTIBILITY



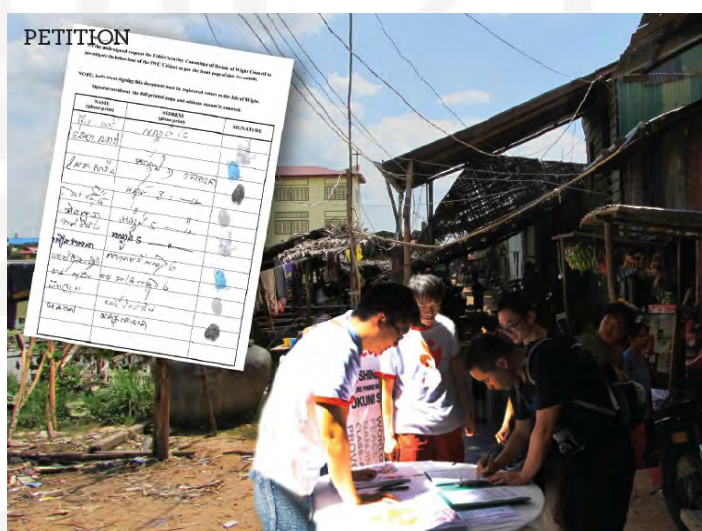


figure 5.3.1\_Petition activity



figure 5.3.2\_Voting Activity

## Strategic Intervention #1

### Election, Petition and Group formation

#### Andong village Scenario

Building trust between community members and the community leader is an essential step for community organization. To achieve that several steps should be carried out.

Discussing within the context of Andong village. The lack of community organization is a major challenge.

Actors involved:

- MPP
- CDF
- CDTC
- KKKHRDA
- Local universities: CMU, Norton Uni, PUC, RUFA
- Local NGOs
- International NGOs
- Community leaders
- Community members

## HOW?

- Actors like KKKHRDA; universities: CMU, Norton Uni, PUC start to facilitate the process of organising the community. This was required by different community members due to the widespread mistrust among the community members.
- Election of a second community leader who will work in collaboration with the community leader selected by the MPP. Every community member is encouraged to vote.
- Division of the communities in subgroups coordinated by one person elected by the subgroup members. Each subgroup would focus on a specific issue of the community: Finance, technical,etc...
- Forming saving groups with the support from group coordinators (external actors).
- The community being organized, have a sense of collective belonging and existence. They form a force to engage in external decisions. Through a petition they can create a legal form of collective signatures to oppose the policy of PCL housing.
- To back up their petition they formulate house design alternatives.
- In the longer term, the organisation of the community will be able to influence decision making.

figure 5.3.3\_Timeline diagram showing the future according to the strategy

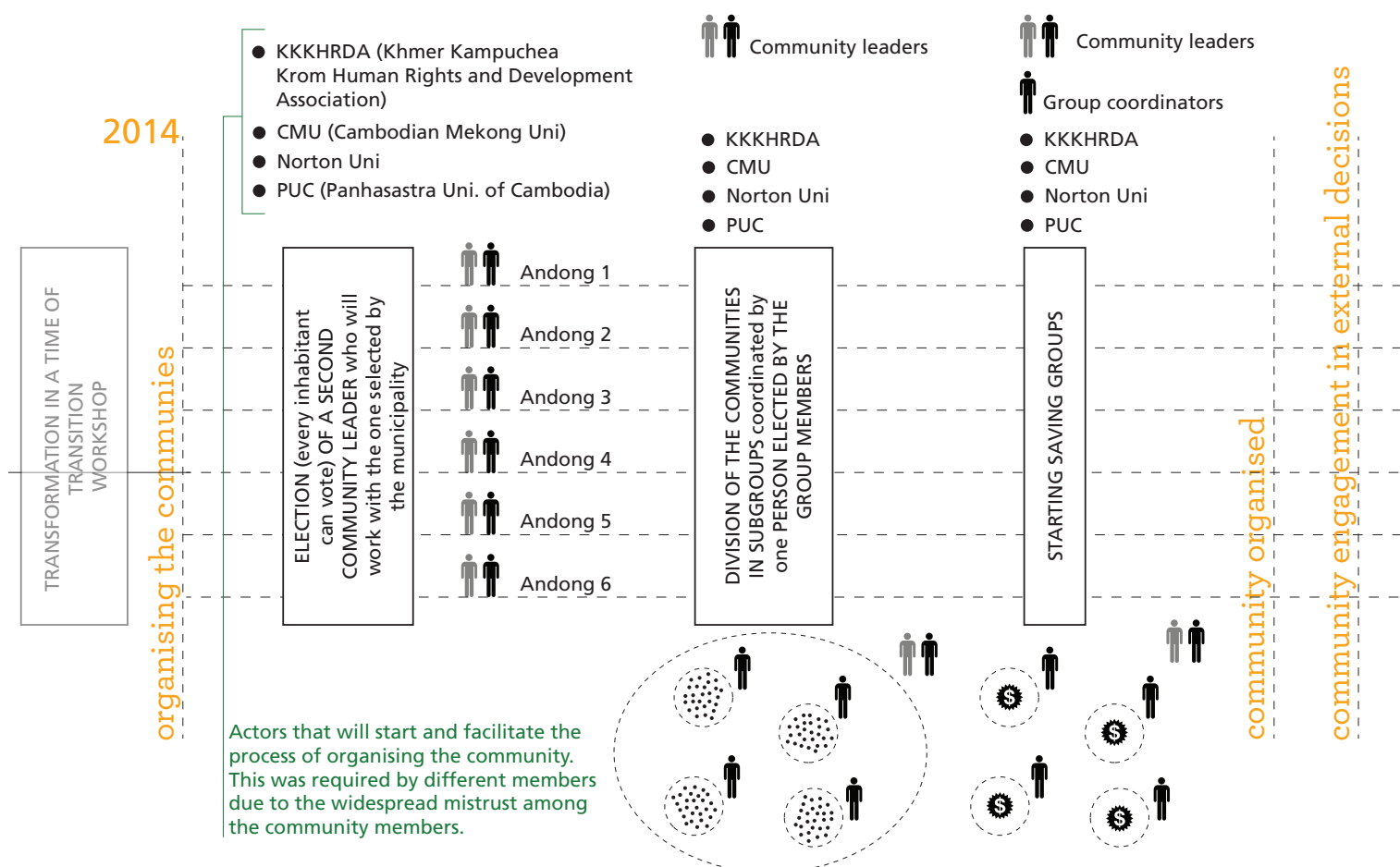


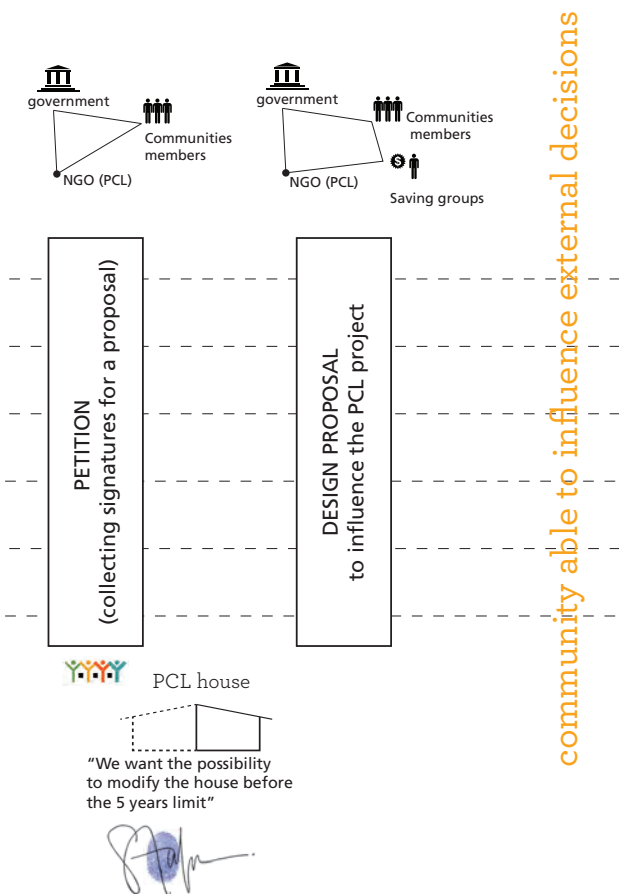




figure 5.3.4\_PCL housing policy modified



figure 5.3.5\_Community upgrading alternative



## Strategic Intervention #2

### Mobilization through waste management

#### Borei Keila Scenario

The diagnosis in the case of Borei Keila, is the lack of democratic processes and the fragmentation of communities. In addition, the political evasiveness means that any proposal will be difficult to scale up. Also, the problem of solid waste disposal is fundamental (fig. 1-2).

In response, the strategy will consider all these issues and unfold from the local to the urban dimension of the issue.

Actors involved:

- MPP
- LICADHO
- CINTRI
- ACHR
- CAN-CAM
- Environment committee

### How?

Using the big problem of garbage disposal in Borei Keila as an entry point, the creation of an environmental committee will be proposed (fig. 7). Using the overloaded agenda of the building representatives and the urgency of the problem as a pretence, its formation will be advocated with the help of LICADHO to guarantee its legal standing. In an effort to distribute universal responsibility for the matter, the committee be democratically elected. Participatory processes will be exercised to tackle the issue of garbage together with the technical support of CINTRI.

In time, the succesful engagement of this committee and ineffect, the people themselves will upgrade their negotiating potential.

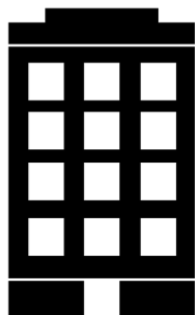
Consequently the, issue of housing will be re-introduced by the new, stronger representation of Borei Keila.

With the help of CAN-CAM and ACHR, the proposal for housing the people in the underused ground floors will be advocated using extensive surveying data provided by this partners (fig. 2, 3).

The committee will be able to justify the people's demands in their enhanced attitude as citizens when resolving the environmental issues.

The same partners, in collaboration with the committee, will work with the municipality to convince authorities of the benefits on the city, that arise from providing housing on site and thus unlocking the development potential of the area. At this stage, the potential of a resolved Borei Keila will be advocated through master planning and the proposition of investment opportunities and public interest developments (fig. 4). The committee who by now, will established its position beyond the unelected building representatives, will make sure, that people are completely included in this future.





8 people

Chosen by the people every 6 months  
(9 months at the beginning). SOLELY  
RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS ISSUE,  
**NOT THE COMMUNITY LEADERS**  
who can focus on more important  
issues



8 people

16 people  
committee  
**ONLY WORKING  
ON ISSUES OF  
GARBAGE & environment**

figure 5.3.6



figure 5.3.7\_Borei Keila



figure 5.3.8\_Borei Keila

figure 5.3.9\_Borei Keila



figure 5.3.10\_Borei Keila



### Strategic Intervention #3

#### Public space upgrading as a driving force

#### Railway settlements Scenario

In context of vulnerability, public space plays a leading role in being a space for meeting, support and relaxation for the inhabitants. But usually these spaces are as equally damaged as the homes, therefore losing the opportunity of this zone.

This strategic intervention has the aim to collaborate in the collective empowerment through participatory improvement of the public spaces of the villages. These are small, affordable and creative interventions that can be performed by the residents themselves and that gradually transform the landscape, also improving the sense of belonging.

The idea is that the collective building of quality common areas; will reinforce a general process of community organization and mobilization in a relatively short period.

#### Actors involved:

- Serei Sophon Municipality
- CDF
- CAN-CAM
- Local universities: University of Serei Sophon
- International universities: UCL
- Community members
- Local NGOs
- International NGOs
- Private sector

figure 5.3.11\_Collective mapping showing areas for public space upgrading

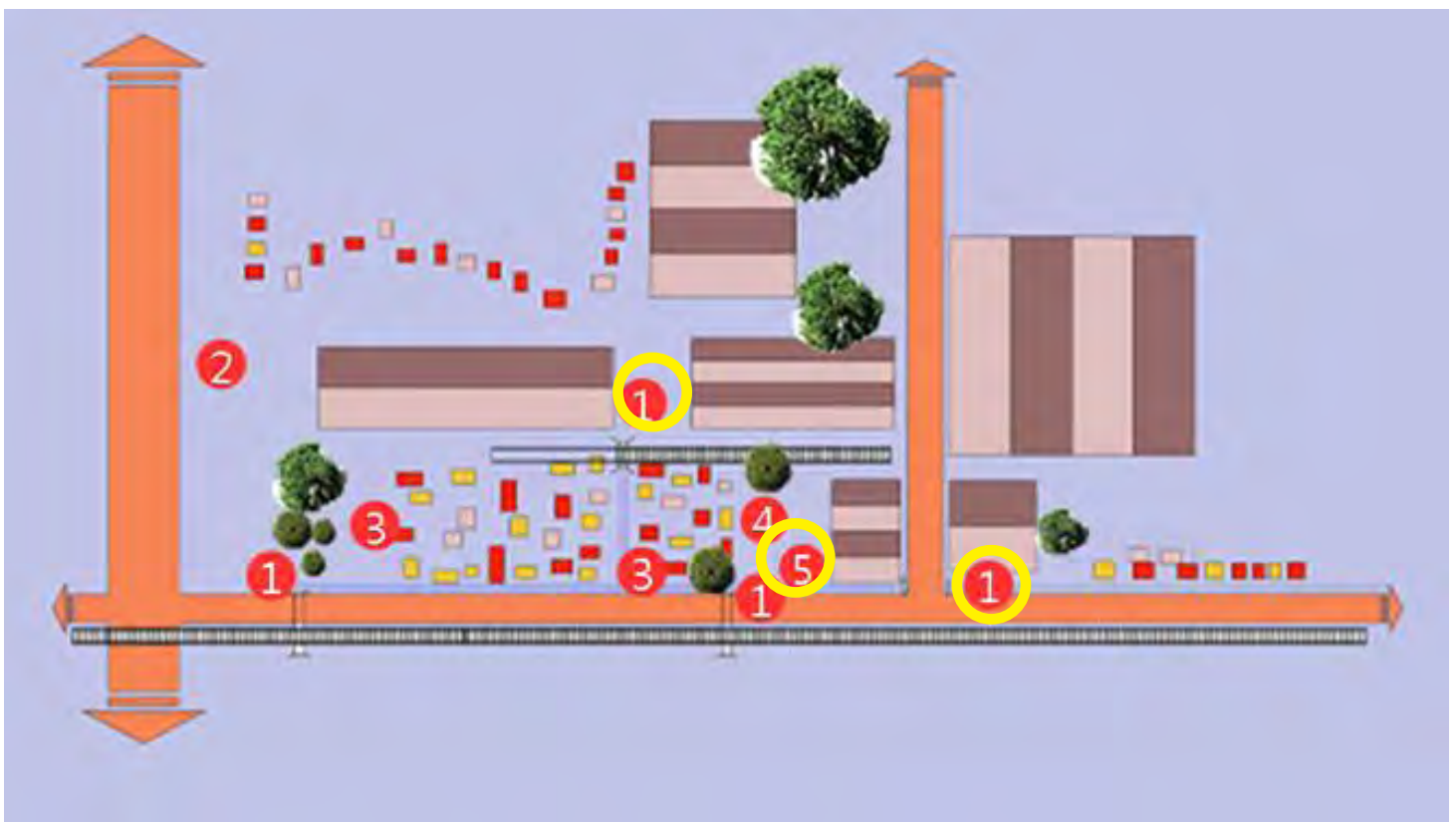






figure 5.3.12\_Public space visualization



figure 5.3.13\_Introducing new materials

## How?

During the “transformation in a time of transition” workshop, activities were carried out with the residents of the railway settlements in Serei Sophon. As an outcome a number of potential areas within these settlements were formulated as spaces for opportunity of a happening public space. Incorporating different actors such as CDF, the municipality and other small businesses; on the one hand to provide resources or materials for the project and on the other hand to coordinate participatory approaches to design processes that allows the community to get more involved.

It also seems interesting to explore the area of recyclable materials and different construction techniques. In a context where waste management is a serious problem, the development of activities that address the reuse of plastic seems relevant, for example. In this sense, the development of eco bricks to build different types of elements as a contribution to the environment, is a key to engage the community and especially the children.

Training workshops implemented by local universities, CDF and CAN-CAM, specifically focusing on the innovative use of materials and issues of environmental care are necessary. This also gives course to other activities as care and cleaning of the environment, and improves cohesion. In relation to building the idea is to generate joint projects that can be implemented incrementally. So it is not necessary to have all the resources to get started. You can start building some space inaugurating benches and tables to be or informational panel, or swing or Volley Ball field. Such initiatives tend to quickly engage the community members and help continue to build on the collective level.

## Strategic Intervention #4

### Strengthen a youth network through volley ball courts

#### Russey Keo Scenario

Volleyball practice is a popular sports activity in Russey Keo District along the riverside for all age groups inspite of the constraints the weather might present. This interventions aimed to build a stronger solidarity within communities in this district through collective activities.

Actors involved:

- District governor
- CDF network
- Local universities
- Local schools
- Community members

## How?

Based on the existing connections between young people in different communities, a volley ball competition could be a starting point to initiate collective activities and further enhance relationships, not only between the people with the same community, but also building a interactions from community to community when competitive vollyball games are organised.

The first step to arranging the competition could be started by the collaboration of existing CDF network and the local schools in the district, by orgainzing the teams it will strengthen the sence of solidarity and collaboration to create one new entity and further forming the youth network or young professionals network, and help with homework and promote the awareness about enviroment and health to benefit across the communities.



figure 5.3.14



## 5.3.2

### FORMULATION OF STRATEGIES & STRATEGIC INTERVENTIONS

# KNOWLEDGE SHARING AND COPRODUCTION OF KNOWLEDGE STRATEGY

The aim of this strategy is to strengthen community members through training in technical skills and knowledge for action. This conceives ways by which practical knowledge can be shared but also how different people, groups or organisations can enter discourses to harvest new concepts and types of knowledge.

Many NGO's are working in Cambodia with several aims but not all the communities (and community leaders) are aware of these NGO's and how they work. So aiming at giving the communities the knowledge of who to seek support from and where to go to get support (like: livelihoods, health issues, external support). There are many projects supporting the urban poor currently in Cambodia, learning from previous experiences is an approach for future.



AUTONOMY



COLLABORATION



TRANSPARENCY



SUSTAINABILITY



ADAPTIBILITY

Knowledge can also be shared at the scale of the community, looking at how the experiences of strengthened communities can help to guide the decisions of other communities who may in the future experience a similar event.

The coproduction of knowledge symbolises joint efforts working from the individual scale to the community scale in order to manage and reinforce their common interests.

Through the creation of channels and training mediums there is the possibility to multiply human potentiality through sharing and exchange of information.

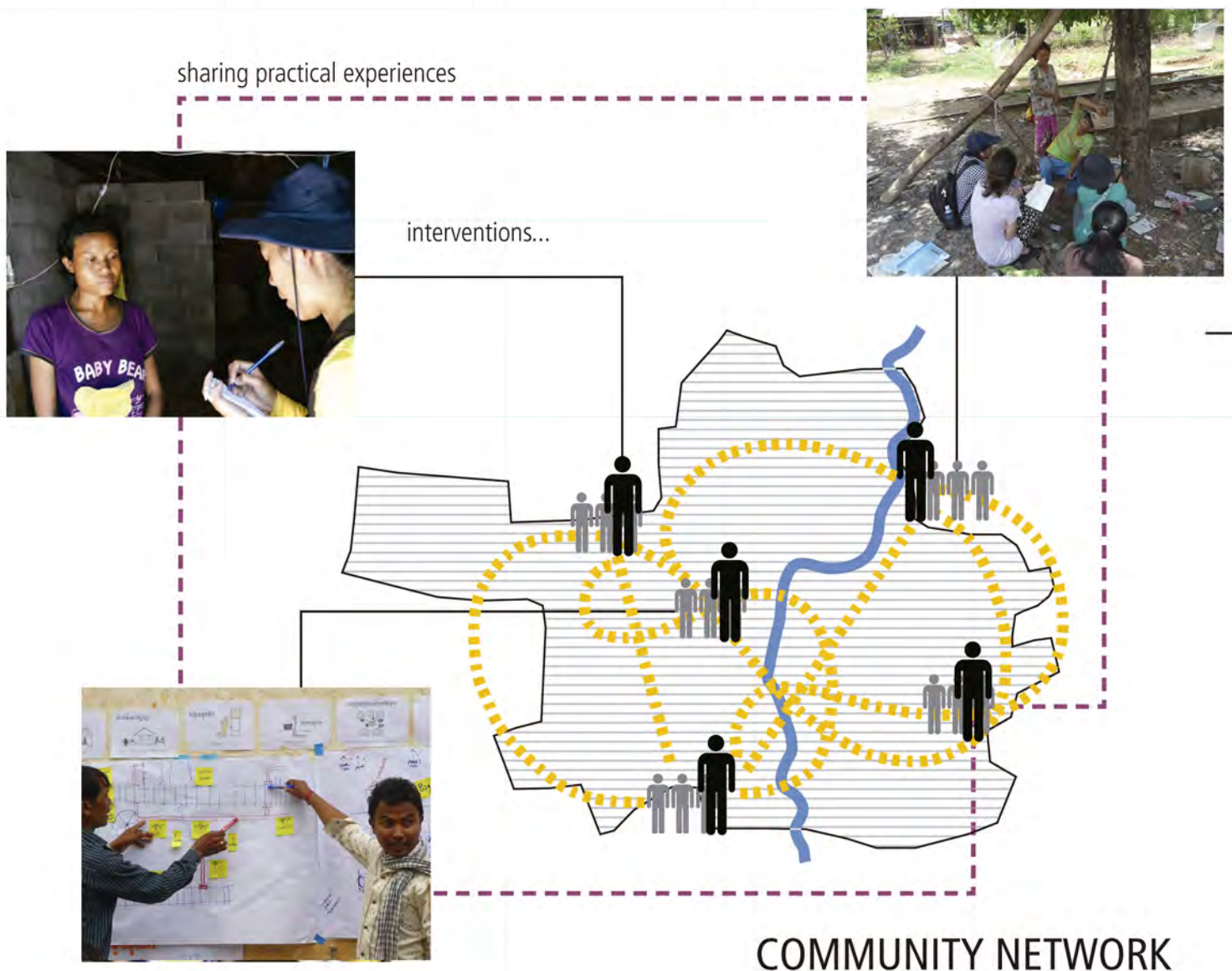






figure 5.3.15\_housing workshop

## TECHNICAL SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE FOR ACTION

The aim of this strategy is to **strengthen community members** through training in technical skills and knowledge for action. Many NGO's are working in Cambodia with several aims but not all the communities (and community leaders) are aware of these NGO's and how they work.

So aiming at giving the communities the knowledge of who to seek support from and where to go to get support (like: **livelihoods, health issues, external support**).

There are many projects supporting the urban poor currently in Cambodia, learning from previous experiences is an approach for future. Knowledge can also be shared at the scale of the community, looking at how the experiences of strengthened communities can help to guide the decisions of other communities who may in the future experience a similar event. The **coproduction of knowledge** symbolises joint efforts working from the individual scale to the community scale in order to manage and reinforce their common interests.





## Strategic Intervention #1

### CDF offering business/finance management and start up training

#### Barets: Serei Sophon

In addition to the relevance of the CDF as a body offering loans, this strategy proposes an additional function of CDF, or any other organisation who could possibly offer expert information or expertise, that would apportion valuable new abilities to community members, this will also become a means of empowerment.

#### Actors involved:

- CDF
- CSNC
- Community Leader
- Community members

## How?

This can be practically applied to the case of the Barets in Serei Sophon, where there is an emerging reinstatement of the relationships between the communities and the CDF. The details of this intervention would enlist the experience of the CDF to train willing community participants to have a better knowledge of ways and methods to initialise and grow business and innovative economic activities; as well as giving guidance of financial management. These activities will supplement the possibility CDF offers to borrow for business purposes.

As an immediate/short term plan within the site (which can be possibly adapted and implemented within other sites) the CDF should engage with the different settlements to promote and comprehend the public interest in such training. From this planning and logistics for these training sessions can take place and be implemented.

Inadvertently, this training should improve the economic potential within the site and could contribute to the success of CDF in terms of borrowings and repayments, while also



figure 5.3.17



figure 5.3.18



figure 5.3.19

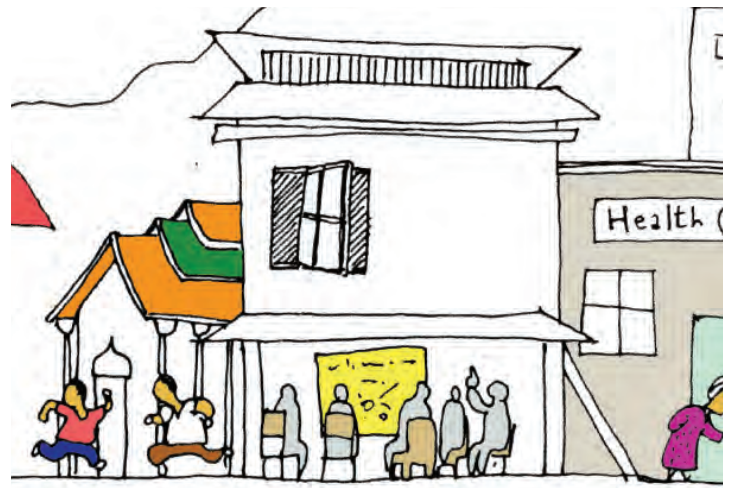


figure 5.3.20

expanding its field of practice, into education and mentoring as a sustainable financial solution. This proposal can be championed and supported further through networks such as the CSNC to help reach a greater amount of communities and groups.

The success of this intervention can be measured through the measure of the economic achievements of initiatives that were started or improved as a result of the training. This could also assist to identify areas of weakness where more training can be offered.

This can be realised through financial assessments of economic activities of individuals, which could also become a means of formalising these activities.



## 5.3.3

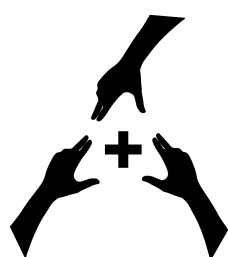
### FORMULATION OF STRATEGIES & STRATEGIC INTERVENTIONS

# CDF NETWORK AND PARTNERSHIP BUILDING STRATEGY

The CDF is the most present actor that is involved with the urban poor in Phnom Penh and recently in some regional areas of Cambodia in this sector. CDF is in direct relationship with the government and there is no collaboration with other actors working in Cambodia. This lack of collaboration both means that CDF manages a lot logistically but also often makes the processes slow in achieving goals or standards. This strategy aims at building a network between CDF and other actors in order to achieve catalytic changes in a more efficient timeframe, through the enforcements of partnerships.



AUTONOMY



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TRANSPARENCY



SUSTAINABILITY



ADAPTIBILITY

## Strategic Intervention #1

### Collaborative relationship quest for knowledge

#### Tra Pang Cherng Srok community Scenario

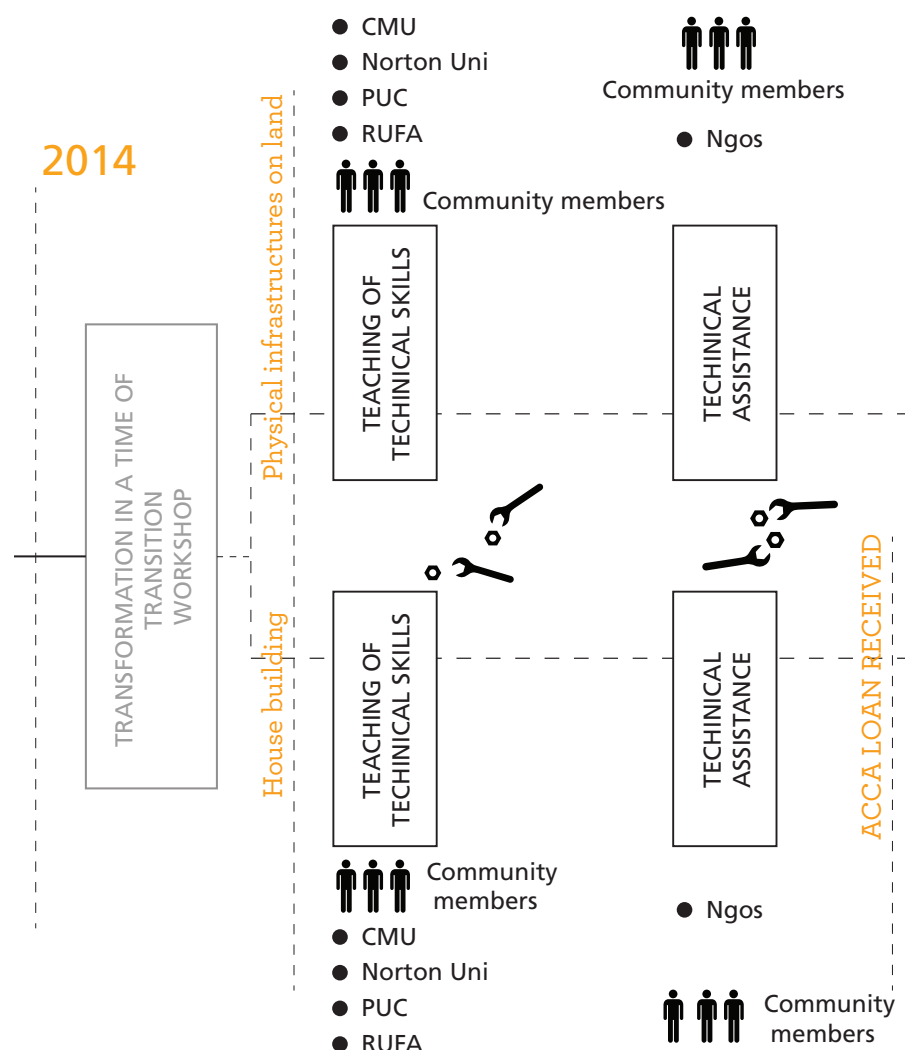
Tra Pang Cherng Srok community members haven't moved to the land yet. As explained in the previous chapters, 22 families were approved the ACCA loan. In the process of receiving it they will be provided a workshop at the CDTC in collaboration with CAN-CAM and Builders' network.

One of the challenges is that the CDTC (CDF) is dealing with many communities so there is long time to wait before acquiring the knowledge and skills to get approved the ACCA loan with the support of CDF.

This intervention seeks at accelerating the process through creating a network between CDF and other actors.

#### Actors involved:

- CDF
- CDTC
- CAN-CAM
- Builders' Network
- Local universities: CMU, Norton Uni, PUC, RUFA
- International universities: UCL
- Community members
- Local NGOs
- International NGOs
- ACHR
- UNCHS
- MPP





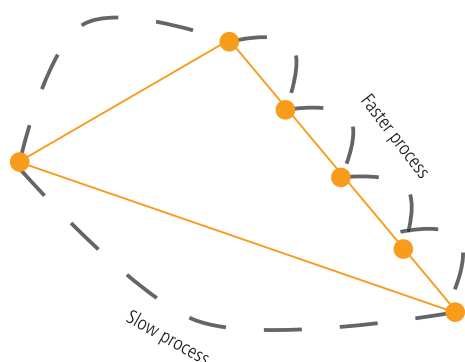


figure 5.3.21\_ A faster process

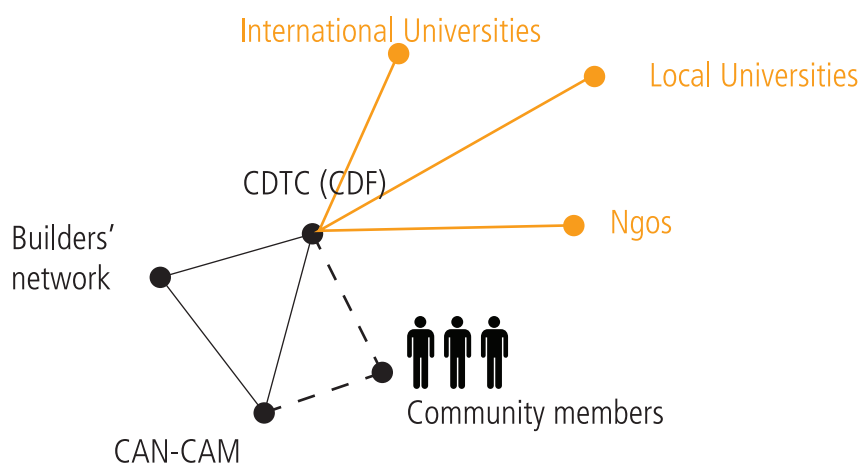
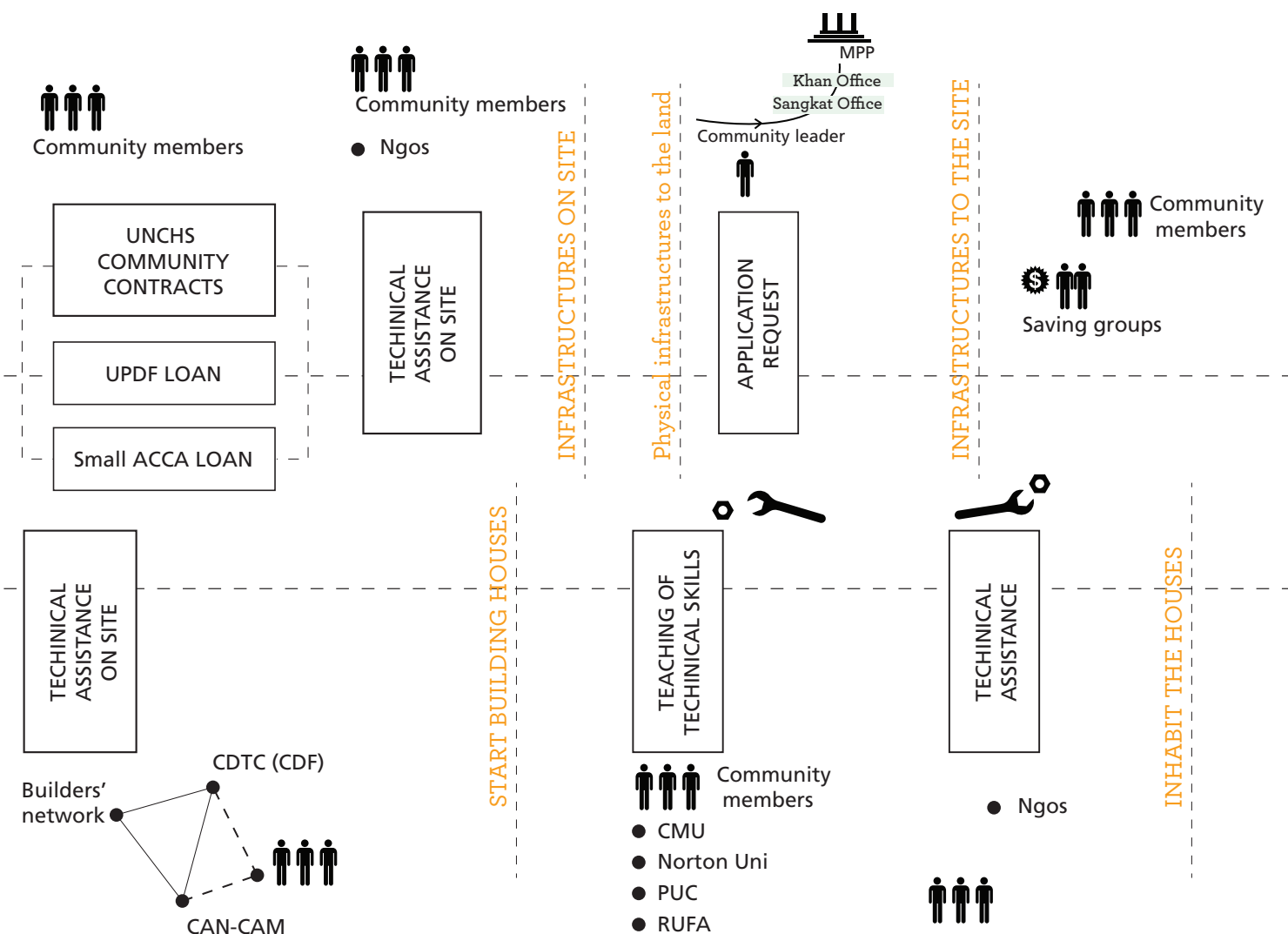


figure 5.3.22\_ Expanding an existing network

figure 5.3.23\_ Timeline diagram showing the future according to the strategy



## HOW?

- Through the existing CDTC, workshops could be carried out between local / international universities and community members.
- Formalising a list (database) of NGOs who work on the provision of technical knowledge to communities in the specific fields. Then making this list available at the CTDC.
- Building a network between CDF and other NGOs mentioned on the list. In order to accelerate the process for the communities.
- Instead of waiting on allocation for a workshop spot, the Tra Pang Cherng Srok community members, will be able to acquire the technical knowhow through other actors.
- In the longer term, building a network between CDF and other practicing NGOs would ensure the transparency of the processes.

## Strategic Intervention #2 CDF financial re-structuring

The association of money with trust, and further collaboration, plays a subtle role among actors in Cambodia.

- CDF's fund mainly comes from National government, local authority and ACHR, also from the community saving through the functioning of Community Savings Network Cambodia (CSCN) and other donors.
- CDF works closely with urban poor community creating savings groups.
- The community members perceive themselves as one community when they start saving money together. Also develop trust and solidarity through collective savings.

Actors involved:

- Royal Government Cambodia
- MPP
- UN- Habitat
- International NGOs
- Private Sector
- Cooperative agencies
- International donor
- Local NGOs
- CDF
- ACHR
- CSNC
- Community leaders
- Community members



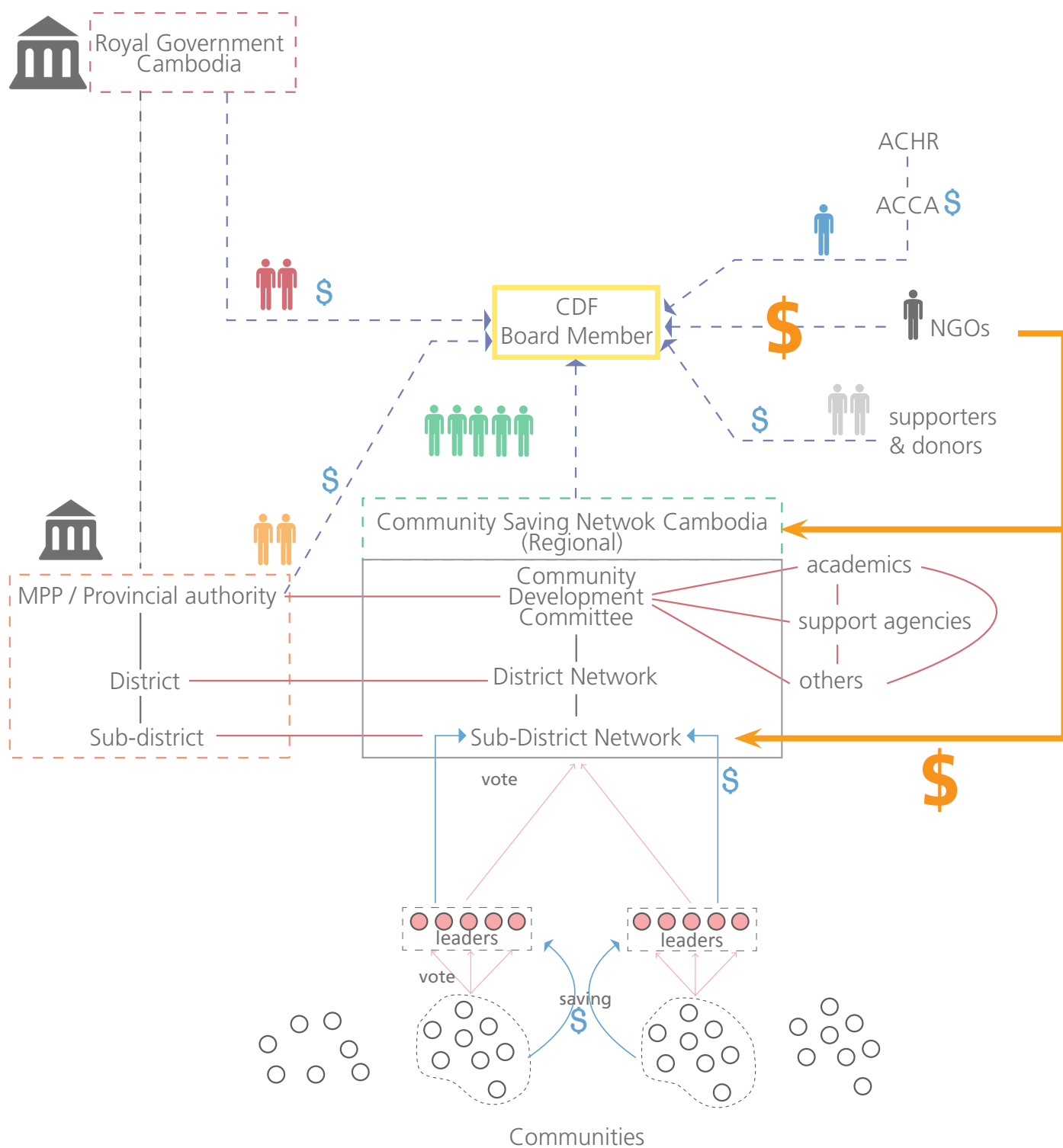


figure 5.3.24\_ CDF structure altered

In many cases, the notion of “community” is built on the action of saving together, apparently, “money” is the fundamental element that makes individual commit to each other to live and build a community together in the future. However, because of the history, “lack of trust” seems one evident phenomenon in several “communities”, for this reason, it is hard to start any collective action.

On the other hand, the “monetary relationship” towards CDF is different, among all the NGOs, the collaboration between CDF and government seems the most successful one. It is clear that CDF play a key role between government and urban poor communities at various scale, but it is also obvious that the lack of further collaboration (NGOs <-> CDF <-> Government) is still a key issue in many communities. The existing financial/ collaborative relationship between CDF and the Cambodian government open more crucial opportunities for other actors, therefore building “new financial relationships” forms a key step as a commitment to working together.

## HOW?

- In order to ensure an efficient network between CDF and other NGOs, a financial relationship would be built between them. This means that CDF who are working closely with communities would collaborate with other NGOs practising in Cambodia, to ensure a sufficient fund for the support of the community projects.
- The financial involvement happens on several scales. (As shown in the diagram)
- On the other hand the financial responsibility ensures the fulfilment of collaboration, and stresses on the importance of trust and transparency within the processes.

## 5.3.4

### FORMULATION OF STRATEGIES & STRATEGIC INTERVENTIONS

# CIRCULAR 03 CONTENT ELABORATIONS AND VISUALIZATION STRATEGY

Circular 03 is a recent government policy which offers great potential for communities to better their future through collective action and organisation. However, when it comes to the practical implementation of these steps there are some areas of vagueness.

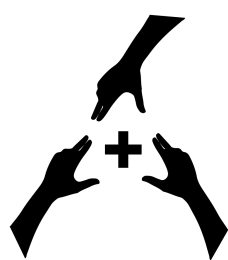
This strategy seeks for a greater level of clarity for some aspects of the document, while also pursuing more visibility of the policy to a larger amount of communities (can be actualised through existing networks such as the CDF and CSNC).

It is necessary that the government -at all levels- elaborate their role and responsibilities in response to communities' fulfilment of the detailed steps.

This would possibly visualise how the government see their provision of services and infrastructure to sites, i.e. minimum service requirements for relocation sites. Similarly, some elaboration should be made on some of the details of requirements of the communities and clarity of some of the terminology used.



AUTONOMY



COLLABORATION



TRANSPARENCY



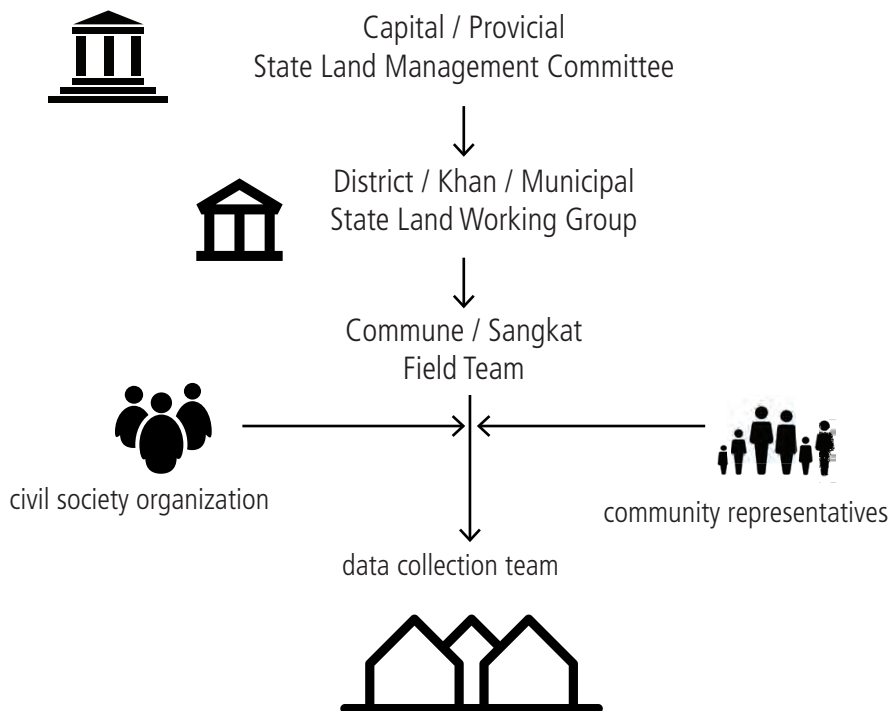
SUSTAINABILITY



ADAPTIBILITY



- 1.Data collection of temporary settlement
- 2.Identification, mapping and classification of the site
- 3.Householdes and population census

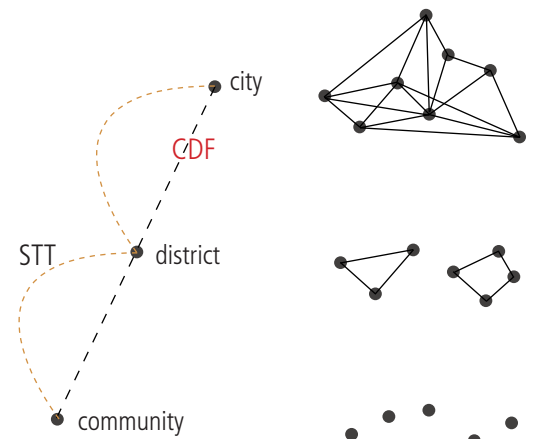


## Participatory mapping and survey

Through participatory mapping and surveying, communities gain the tools to negotiate their involvement in the production of space. As collective capabilities are reinforced, the people's position in the coproduction of the city is strengthened. Spatial production, influences the power relations that dictate the development of the city and therefore, through this renegotiation, communities initiate a process of collective transformation, which transcends the dominant forces of transitional urban production.



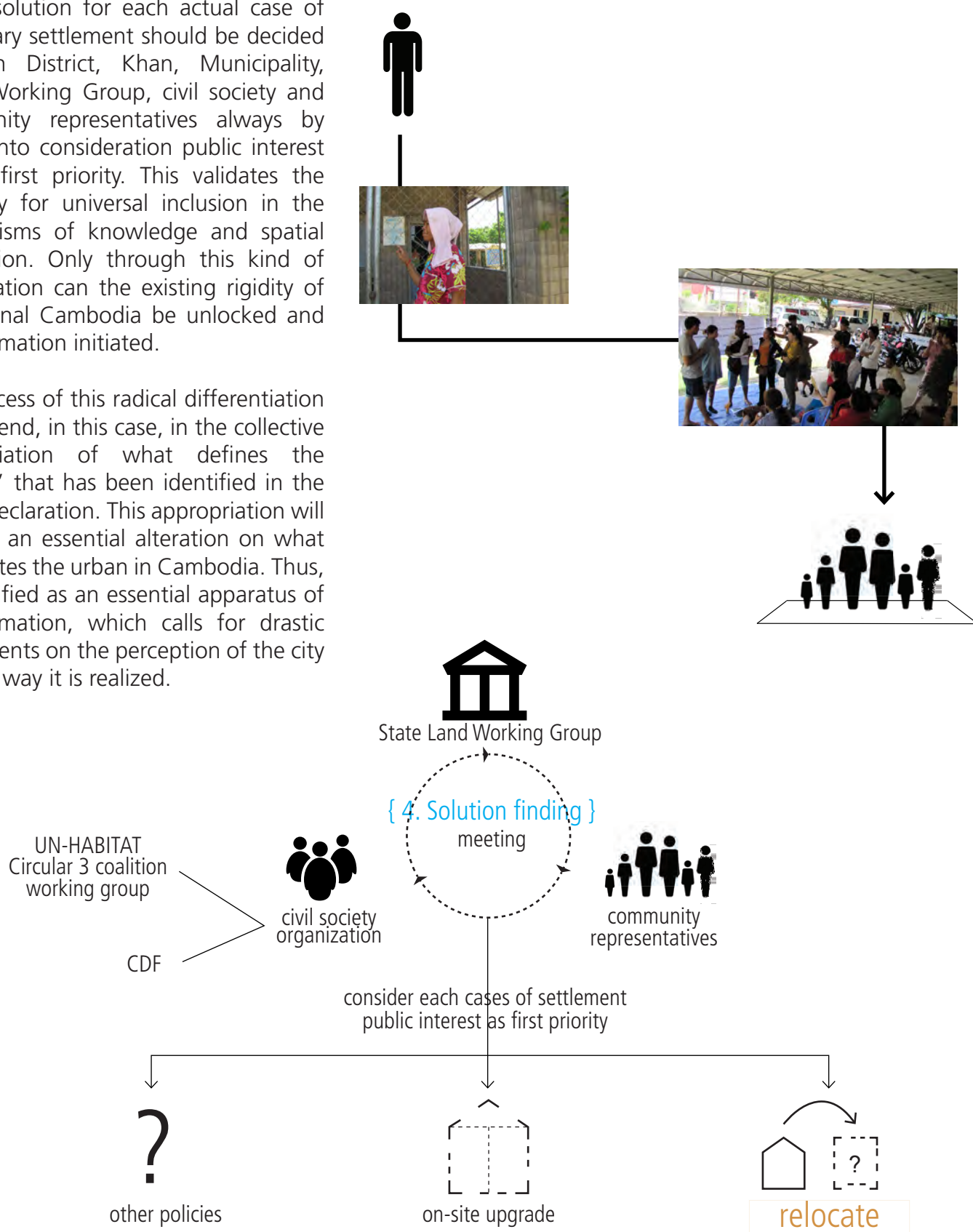
Except the working groups that circular 3 have indicated, based on the mapping experience of Psar Toch A+B community in Russey Keo, STT could be a key actor that CDF could consider to build a collaborative relationship with, on its existing citywide-scale mapping program to facilitate the process.



## Building the notion of public and represent the public

In this section, according to circular 3, the solution for each actual case of temporary settlement should be decided between District, Khan, Municipality, State, Working Group, civil society and community representatives always by taking into consideration public interest as the first priority. This validates the necessity for universal inclusion in the mechanisms of knowledge and spatial production. Only through this kind of participation can the existing rigidity of transitional Cambodia be unlocked and transformation initiated.

The success of this radical differentiation will depend, in this case, in the collective appropriation of what defines the "public" that has been identified in the above declaration. This appropriation will become an essential alteration on what constitutes the urban in Cambodia. Thus, it is justified as an essential apparatus of transformation, which calls for drastic adjustments on the perception of the city and the way it is realized.



- 5.coordinate discussion in order to identify solution policies
- 6.Basic infrastructures and services to support livelihood
- 7.Participation of stakeholders in development

According to circular 3, relevant stakeholder and actual site development plans should be identified and elaborated before every implementation.

To build a common language, understanding and vision among all the actors, there should be a visualisation of how the government and relevant stakeholders see their provision of services and infrastructure to sites, this would be an opportunity to initiate collaborative processes of collectivity.

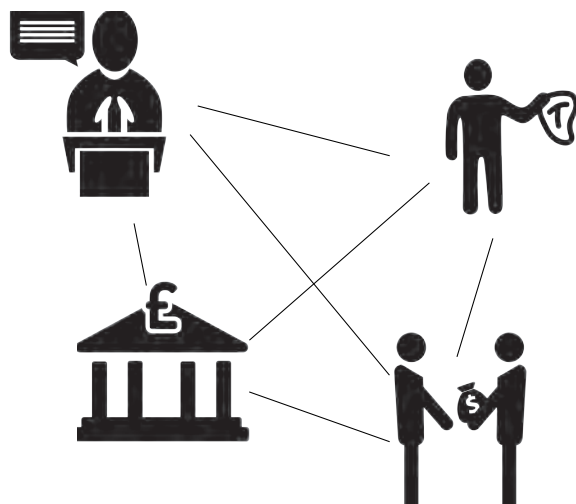


figure 5.3.25\_ public meeting in the community



figure 5.3.26\_minimum basic service visualize





# 6

## [CONCLUSION]

The potential that transformation can have on urban Cambodia has been explored through our investigation in the possible strategies in response to a wide range of issues. The necessity to take a transformative path towards reimagining the future of the country has been advocated, however, the constraints and challenges that arise need to be closely examined.

The regimented political situation allows little room for maneuver when strategies need to be scaled up to the municipal and national scale. Tackling political unwillingness can be besides difficult, extremely disheartening. In this situation, there needs to be an understanding of these obstacles but at the same time the effort must be sustained and actors need to endure. Consistency and determination can lead to big rewards, as political structures tend to fail in different situations. At this point, this consistency will be confronted with an opportunity and then a turning point will be set. After this, transformation will take its course.

But beyond facilitators, everything is initiated by the potential of communities, by the collective strengthening of their capabilities. This potential needs not only to be cultivated, but above all, it needs to be mobilized. Cambodia's biggest asset in its transformation is, at the moment, the capitalization of this mobilization.

What remains true is the complexity and multiplicity attached to the history and present day Cambodia, this will forever ensue questions about the reality of implementing strategies. Cambodia is not short of previous or current efforts to implement some of the values and principles detailed within the report. But past failures in the implementation point to greater underlying inconsistencies preventing progress.

An element of the human is also always present in the functionality of the institution, and this raises at greater scale the need for questioning the effectiveness of institutions and organizations that work in this context, from the structure and practice of the CDF to the role and limitations of municipal governments within the scale of Cambodia.

Aspirations for transformation will always be limited by institutional and human willingness, a willingness that has the power to catalyse social mobility, political engagement and transparency, and more. But without a universal willingness or a willingness advocated by a few but with force and dedication, the likelihood of catalytic sustainable change reaching a scale that would define a new and just Cambodia seems a distant dream.

Equally relevant is the ability to transform this willingness into tangible actions, so this remains an obvious limitation for many of the communities and this explains the dependency relationship Cambodia has with NGOs. This relationship must be re-envisioned in the long term, it seems that the majority of actors may not be able to visualize a Cambodia that is independent of large scale NGO input, and this raises great limitations on the possible future of the country.

Across the nation of Cambodia, at different scales and in different case studies, there is a uniqueness to each individual story, however it has been possible to identify themes through the cross cutting issues. And these issues are framed well through the consideration of the four entry points rationalized earlier in this report, in relation to land, finance, scale and design, all which have a very evident social element. How these issues and entry points are addressed must always be reflected upon, the lack of transparency, clarity and accountability in these areas have left Cambodian people as an afterthought and not necessarily the priority.

With the suggestion of strategies and ways of implementation, it remains essential to continually question and re-question the nature of these forces of change, the actors, their effects and the sustainability of proposed change. Where transformation in transition becomes not a defined end to a perfect image of Cambodia, but rather an incremental process that continues to re-problematize itself and evolve. Therefore “Cambodia [zero]<sup>14</sup>” report reflects the year zero which is the major force behind transformation in a time of transition and the year 2014 which is when the analytical studies were formulated. Every year from now, new studies will be carried out re-problematizing the definition of transformation in transition and shaping the image of Cambodia that will always have year [zero] as a reference point.



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១. សហគមន៍នាងអង្គិច គឺជាសហគមន៍ដែលបានរៀបចំផ្ទះសំបែង  
 ពីបណ្តោយគល់ស្ពានគីហ្សូណា, តាមរបងមន្ទីរពេទ្យ និងបណ្តាញទឹកស្អាត, និងប្រព័ន្ធអគ្គិសនី) ដោយក្នុង១គ្រឿង  
 បានទំហំដី ៤ម x ១០ម ស្ថិតនៅក្នុងភូមិតាណោង, សង្កាត់សំបួរមេស, ខណ្ឌបឹងកេងកង, រាជធានីភ្នំពេញ  
 ក្រុងកំពង់ចាម ខេត្តកំពង់ចាម

1. Neang Kong Hing Community is a housing upgrading project. The community  
 river bank near the Kizona Bridge and health center, and got by the  
 land concession including infrastructure (electricity, water supply and road) and a plot of around 4m x 10m  
 per family in Ta Neang Meas, Sangkat Sombuo Meas,

appendixes 1+2  
 [SEMINARS]



Before



After

ព្រះរាជាណាចក្រកម្ពុជា  
 ជាតិ សាសនា ព្រះមហាក្សត្រ



យ័ង ស៊ុនស៊ុនដា  
 អគ្គិប្រារម្ភវេទនាប្រាជ្ញាបណ្ឌិត

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 51 51 18

Email: sodasrc@ya  
 សហគមន៍នាងអង្គិច



សាលាក្រុងបាត់ដំបង  
 Municipality of Battambang

សៀង ឈុន  
 Sieng Em Wou  
 Governor

Road No.3, Kampong Krabey Village  
 Svay Por Commune, Battambang Province  
 Kingdom of Cambodia

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loan for around 36 families

completed in 2012.

Carmen KUGELE (Ms.)  
 Development Advisor for  
 Urban Management  
 Land Rights Programme



oo.com  
ប្រជាជនកម្ពុជា



ខេត្តបាត់ដំបង  
Battambang Cambodia  
វ៉ុនស៊ី  
Wounzy (Architect)  
Municipal  
H/P : (855) 77 30 88 66  
Tel : (855) 53 73 17 17  
E-mail: wounzy2011@gmail.com

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für Internationale  
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from CDF. Construction

កម្ពុជាជាមួយនឹងការវិវឌ្ឍន៍ប្រច្រួល  
TRANSFORMATION IN A TIME OF TRANSITION  
International Workshop  
Date: 02-16 May 2014  
Name : JOANA DABAJ  
From : LERANON-(DPU)  
60 YEARS 1954-2014 dpu  
Asian Coalition for Housing Rights  
UNEP  
Build CSNC  
CAMBODIA

Kingdom of Cambodia  
Banteay Meanchey Provincial Hall  
អ៊ុំ រាត្រី  
OUM REATREY  
អភិបាលរងខេត្ត  
Deputy Governor  
Mobile Phone : (855) 12 88 20 02 / 097 74 21 777  
E-mail : narychey@yahoo.com Fax : 054 711 069

Cyrus  
Build a City  
Project Coordinator  
cyrus\_ruba@yahoo.com  
097 652 99 75  
pocl  
Peopleforcare.org  
Buildacity.org



# APPENDIX 1

## Seminars pre-fieldtrip

LAURIE PARSONS:

Labour migration in contemporary Cambodia

### CONTENT

- Cambodian government workers in the news;
- The reality: working conditions;
- The reality: living conditions;
- The process and the crackdown;
- The fallacy;
- Remittances;
- What determines the future of workers;
- Twenty years of natural disasters;
- Migration as a strategy;
- Migrant communities;
- Feedback to the village: social change;



figure A.1.1

PHILIPPA MCMAHON:

Cambodia's Urban Poor Resettlement, Livelihoods and Coping Mechanisms

### CONTENT

- Archival research;
- Different case studies with locations;
- Who are the urban poor;
- Resettlement site data;
- Job types;
- The 'informal sector';
- Coping mechanisms;
- The assumption that all urban poor people living together are a 'community' is false;



figure A.1.2

## APPENDIX 2

### Seminars during fieldtrip

CDTC (Community Development Training Centre): Transformation in a time of transition – Land management and urban planning

#### CONTENT

- Cambodia's economic situation;
- Khmer Rouge regime - urbanisation;
- Sustainable development vectors: social, economic, environmental, national integrity (defend);
- How population was filled;
- Infrastructure and human development;
- What they call 'expropriation law';



figure A.2.1

ROYAL UNIVERSITY OF FINE ARTS  
SESSION 1: MR VANN MOLYVANN:  
Modern Khmer City

#### CONTENT

- Vann Molyvann is Cambodian architect who contributed to the unique style of architecture of his era. This type of architecture was called New Khmer Architecture;
- Presentation of his Ph.D. thesis 'CITES DU SUD-EST ASIATIQUE';
- Discussion;



figure A.2.1

## ROYAL UNIVERSITY OF FINE ARTS

### SESSION 2:

DR.MAK KATHY/MR. CHEA SARIN:

Planning and policy for managing the future (urban) transformation and development in Cambodia

### CONTENT

- Cambodia's urbanisation study;
- Proposed future development of the country;
- Urban development in an era of political TRANSITION;
- Import/export in the country;



figure A.2.3

## ROYAL UNIVERSITY OF FINE ARTS

### SESSION 4:

MR. MAURICE LEONHARDT (ACHR):

ACHR and Cambodia: the early day



figure A.2.4



# ROYAL UNIVERSITY OF FINE ARTS

## SESSION 3:

MR. SOKVISAL:

The history, mission and activities of UPDF in Cambodia (UCDF in relation to CDF and the ACCA program)



figure A.2.5

# ROYAL UNIVERSITY OF FINE ARTS

## SESSION 5:

MS. SOMSOOK BOONYABANCHA

## CONTENT

- Cambodia provinces' network;
- Ability to get sizeable finance for upgrading;
- New social finance system by the people;
- Linking people together;
- Solution oriented change;
- Surveying informal settlements;
- Poor people are the scale;



figure A.2.6

# ROYAL UNIVERSITY OF FINE ARTS

## SESSION 6:

Community Architect Network (CAN) in Asia. The activities of Young Professional (YP) and Community Architect Network of Cambodia



figure A.2.7

16-05-2014



S-21

6

12-05-2014



ANDONG



BUD



UCI





appendix **3**

**[FIELDWORK METHODOLOGY]**



## \* RUSSEIY KEO



first meeting with Russeyi Keo District CDF network representative.





Interview on site.



Meeting with Russey Keo District governor.





Meeting the community leader of Tonle Sap 1.



Meeting the community leader of Chormerpol.



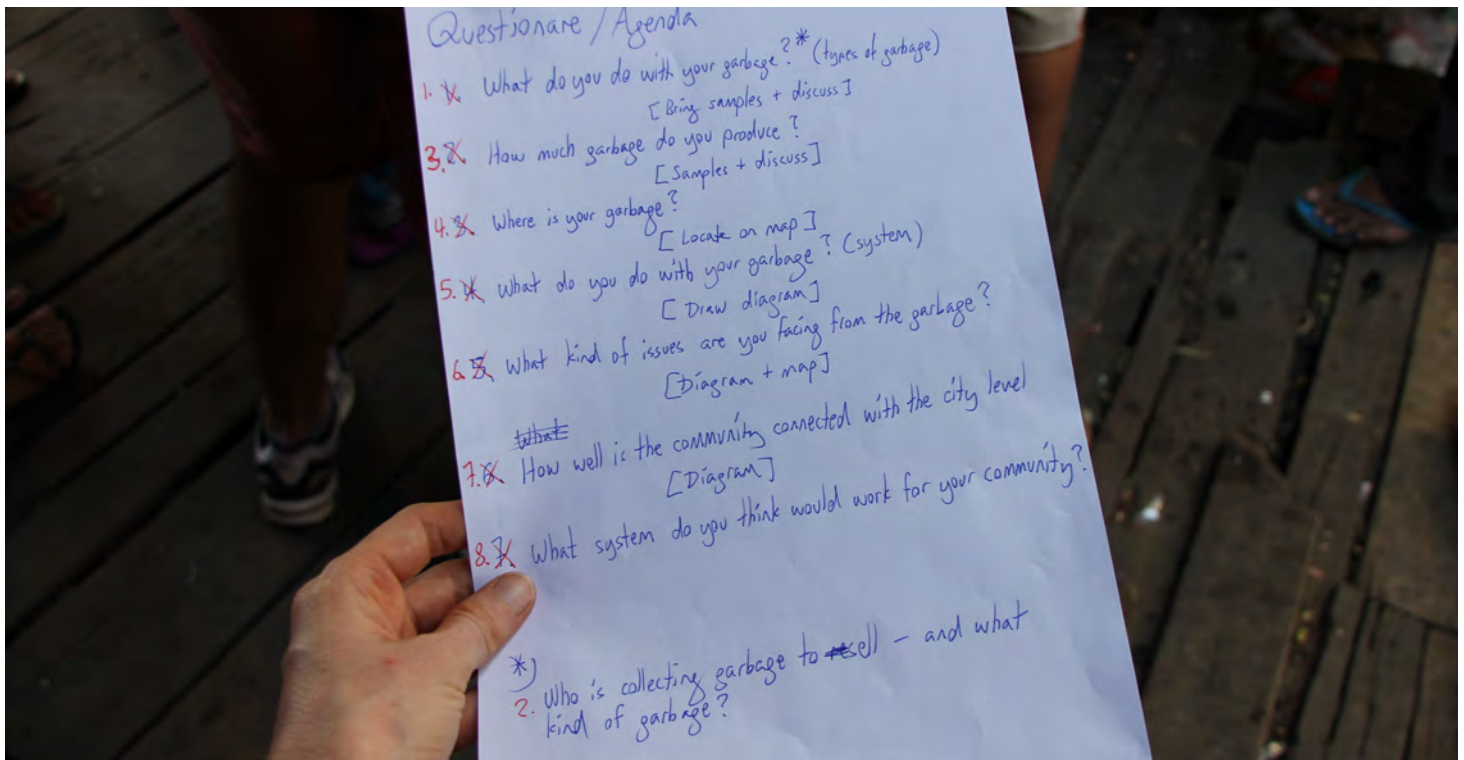


Meeting the community leader of Psar Toch A+B.



Meeting the community leader of Nesarth 10.





Questions for community members exercise



On site activities - where do you put your garbage?



Sharing of information through drawing



# \* RAILWAY SETTLEMENTS in SEREI SOPHON

The methodology used to address the case of settlements along the railway began to take shape before leaving for Cambodia, however the work developed prior to fieldwork was not really used in practicality. On the first visit we met two of the four villages studied, the data gathered after this visit were:

- Sizing the complex conditions of lives of residents.
- There is a huge lack of information on the relocation project and its impacts.
- The municipality does not have great power when it comes to making decisions. The provincial government is key to decisions that are made.
- There is a field defined for re location. The provincial authority showed the area in question, which seems to be a step forward in terms of transparency.
- The communities had low levels of organization without relevant leaders
- Current no savings groups.

With this information, a methodology of work was carried out with the communities that aimed to find out information about living conditions and desires, and secondly to generate specific and accurate possible proposals within the limited agenda.

The actors with which we worked were CDF / CAN, specifically Nylen (CAN) and

manager of Bantey Mancheay province, along with a group of students from the University of Phnom Penh and Serei Sophon. They had a preconceived idea of what would take place, so this process allowed for a challenge of preconceptions.

The villages were divided into two sections, assuming that three of them were very close to each other. There was a chance to visit each site twice and then present the results of the findings and research to the municipality.

## Steps:

For Sae Sen Village, Village 4 Korothan and we met at the former train station and there was a high call,

however the interest of the majority was to have information on relocation and the details of this. We could not carry out the scheduled exercise, so we split into two groups, one that did part of the first exercise and the other did a walk around the neighbourhood.

The result of the first day was to re-evaluate the strategy used in the second site.

Expanding the possibilities for negotiating with authorities allowed for creation



Walks



Interviews



Participatory design



The dream House





of a focus on an improvement project, showcasing determination in response to the proposed relocation project.

In step 2, the team split into two in order to spend more time at each site.

At site 1 with some difficulty, an exercise of imagining the future villas and also a general notion of the idea of upgrading was performed. Further interviews and home visits to find out in more detail the specific conditions of life were also performed. The participation had been low this time, however working with the children on site turned out very interesting.

In site 2 (door to door work) aided by the Cambodian students, who were key to understand a lot beyond even the language barrier, helped conduct various conversations. Here we sought to understand how the house was built and what the spatial shortcomings were, in order to propose some improvements.

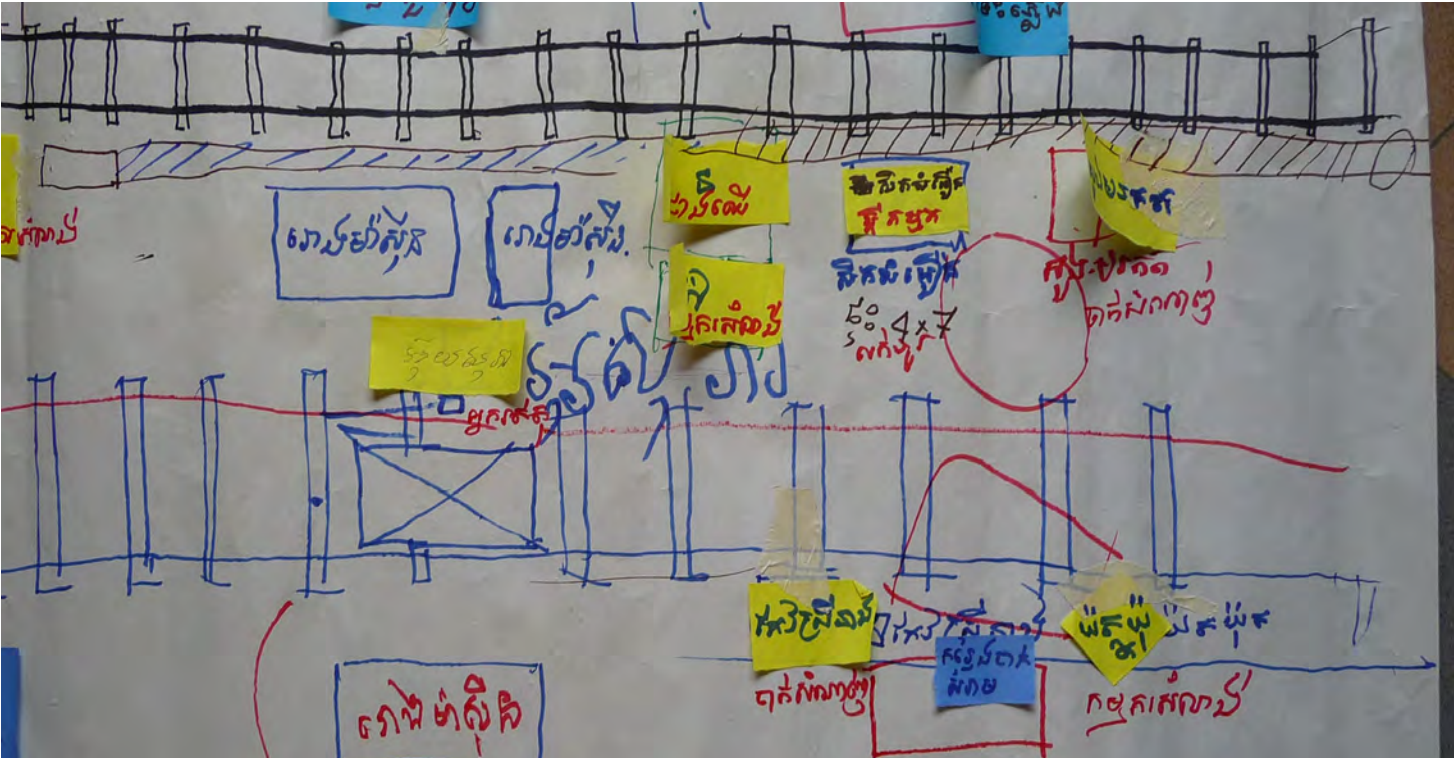




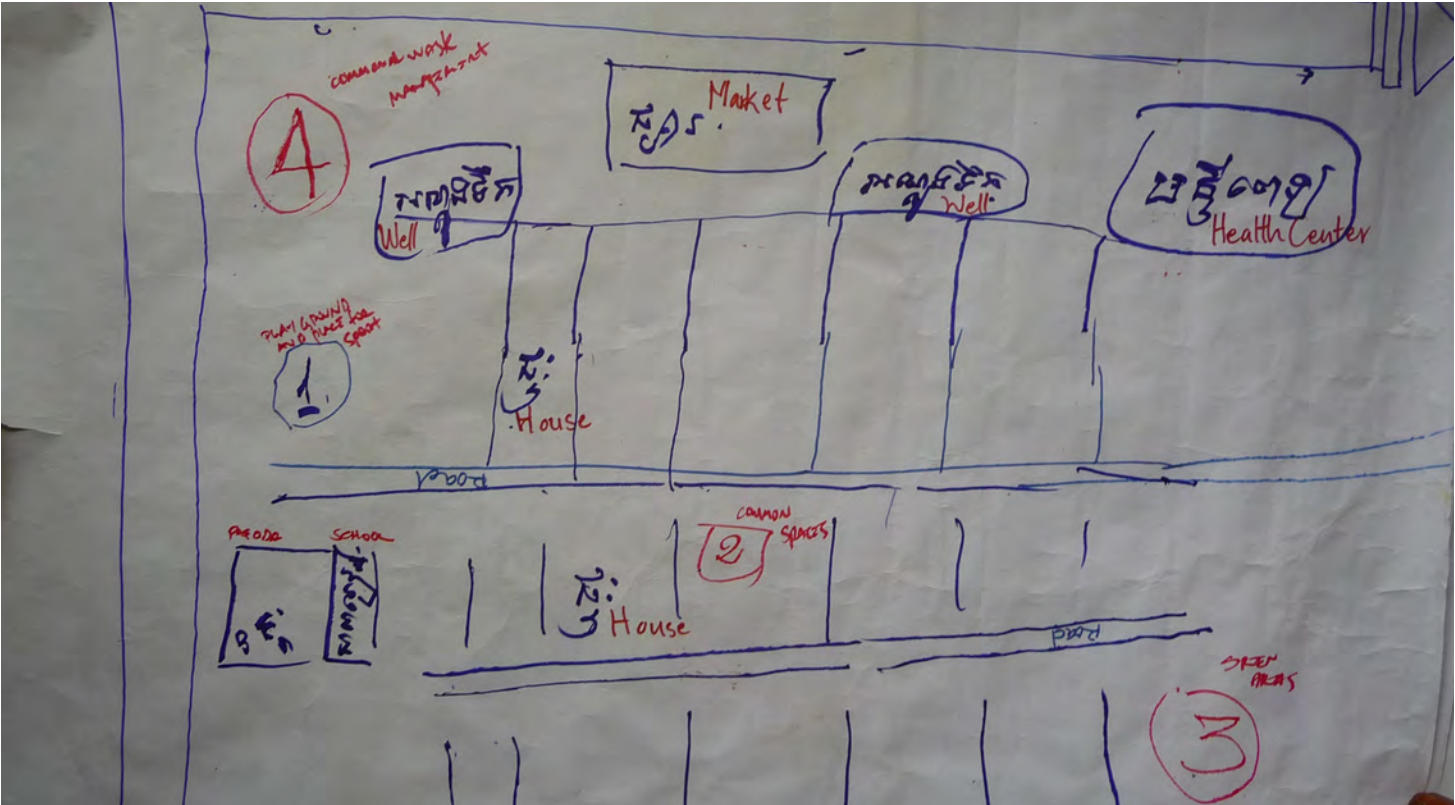


Sharing the information



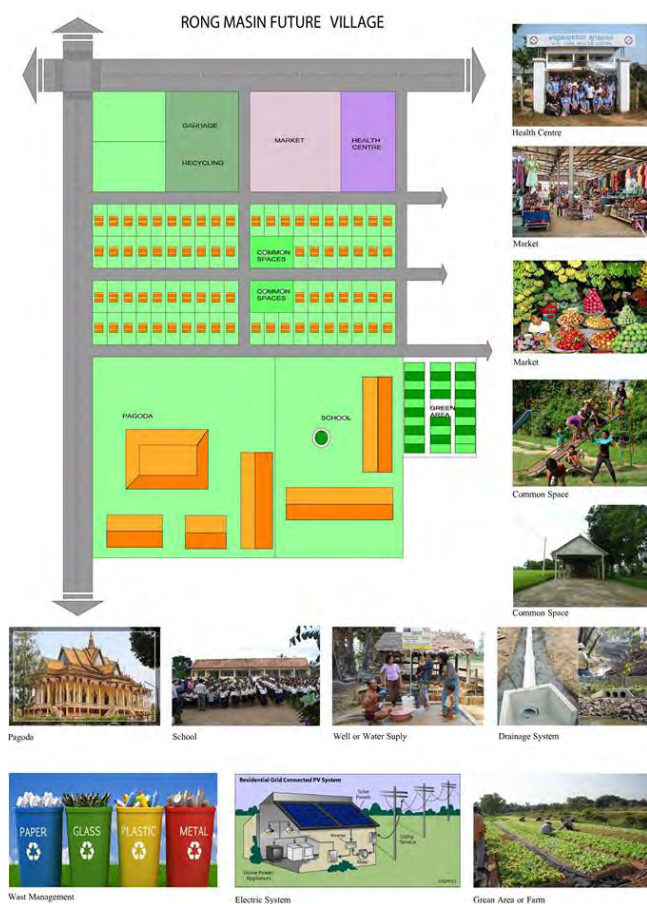


Collective upgrading exercise

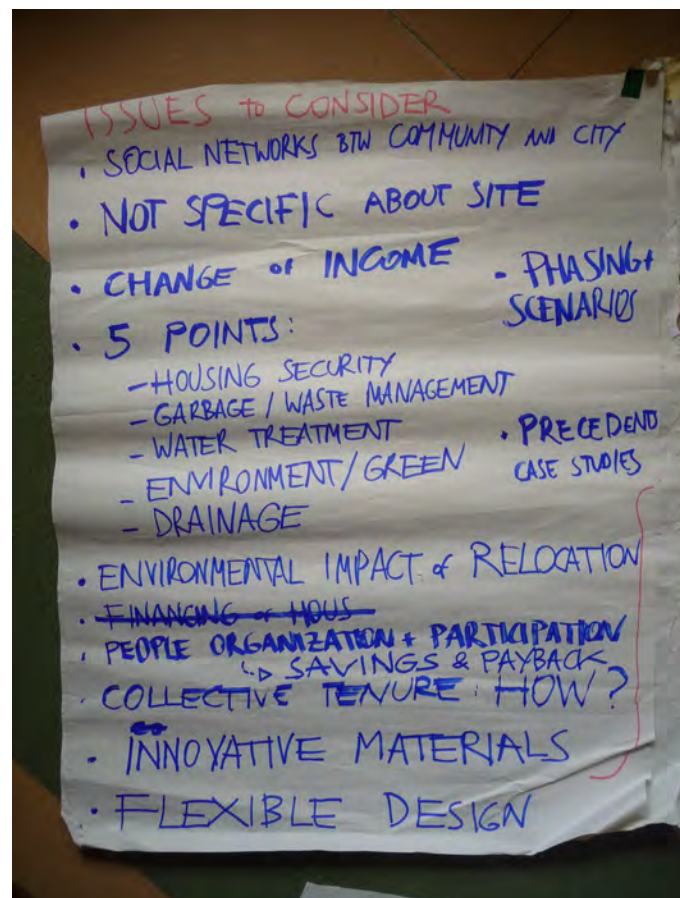


Collective relocation exercise





Final outcome of the relocation project



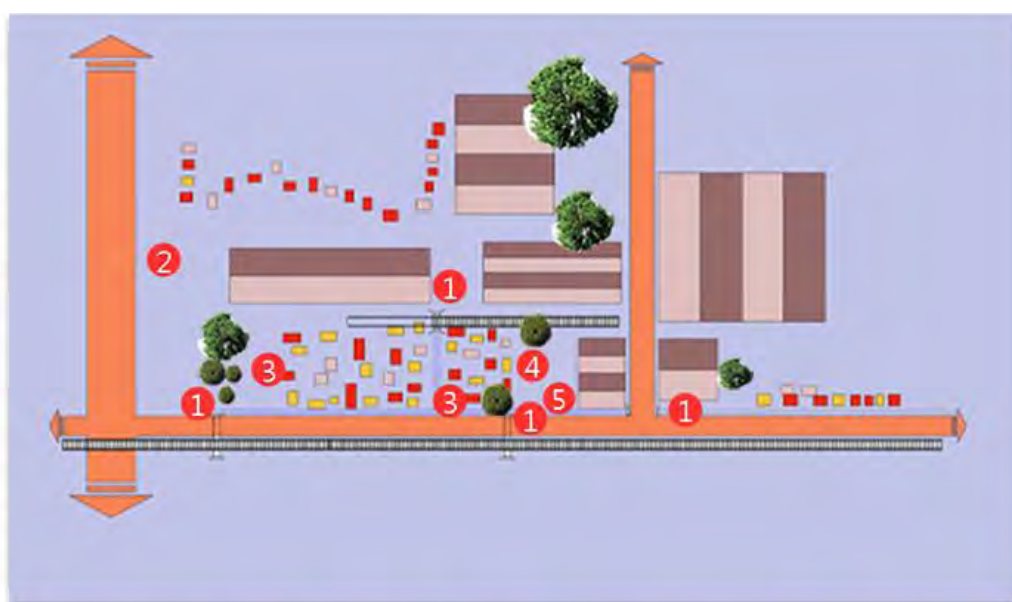
Process brainstorming



ប្លង់ទីតាំង



ប្រព័ន្ធលូ



Final outcome of the upgrading exercise made by Cambodian student



## Conclusions:

As the conditions of 4 villas are quite similar, it can be possible to replicate the results of the most successful in the other 3 villages. We obtained enough material to produce a first draft project of relocation and upgrading, always with the understanding that this has to be more developed by other actors.

In this process, the initial information to develop intervention strategies was lacking, which added to the time restriction, this made the methodologies less pertinent. The coordination of groups between London and Cambodia was not entirely positive. There was little collaboration to create a common understanding of the work. This lack of coordination was noticed in the field and affected the outcome.

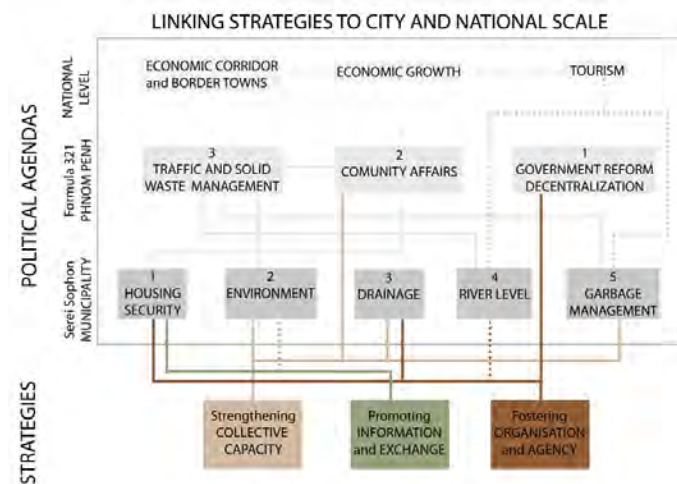
The levels of organization of the villas were very low, so there were no active partners, but the exercises were carried out nonetheless, especially in Rong Masen. After the workshop a savings group was established, which speaks that the people wants to get organized and move forward.

One key lesson learnt is not to lose touch, so the actors who are in the field must maintain the link and relationships, promote savings groups, and foster collective action. There are two possible strategies for moving forward: upgrading or relocation, the community today does not have capabilities to define and demand a path, the interim period between now and the official decision to relocate is key to strengthening the community and allow them to be an voice in the negotiations.

There are several strategies for different scales and involving different actors can contribute to this effort.



Visualization of the eco brick strategic intervention



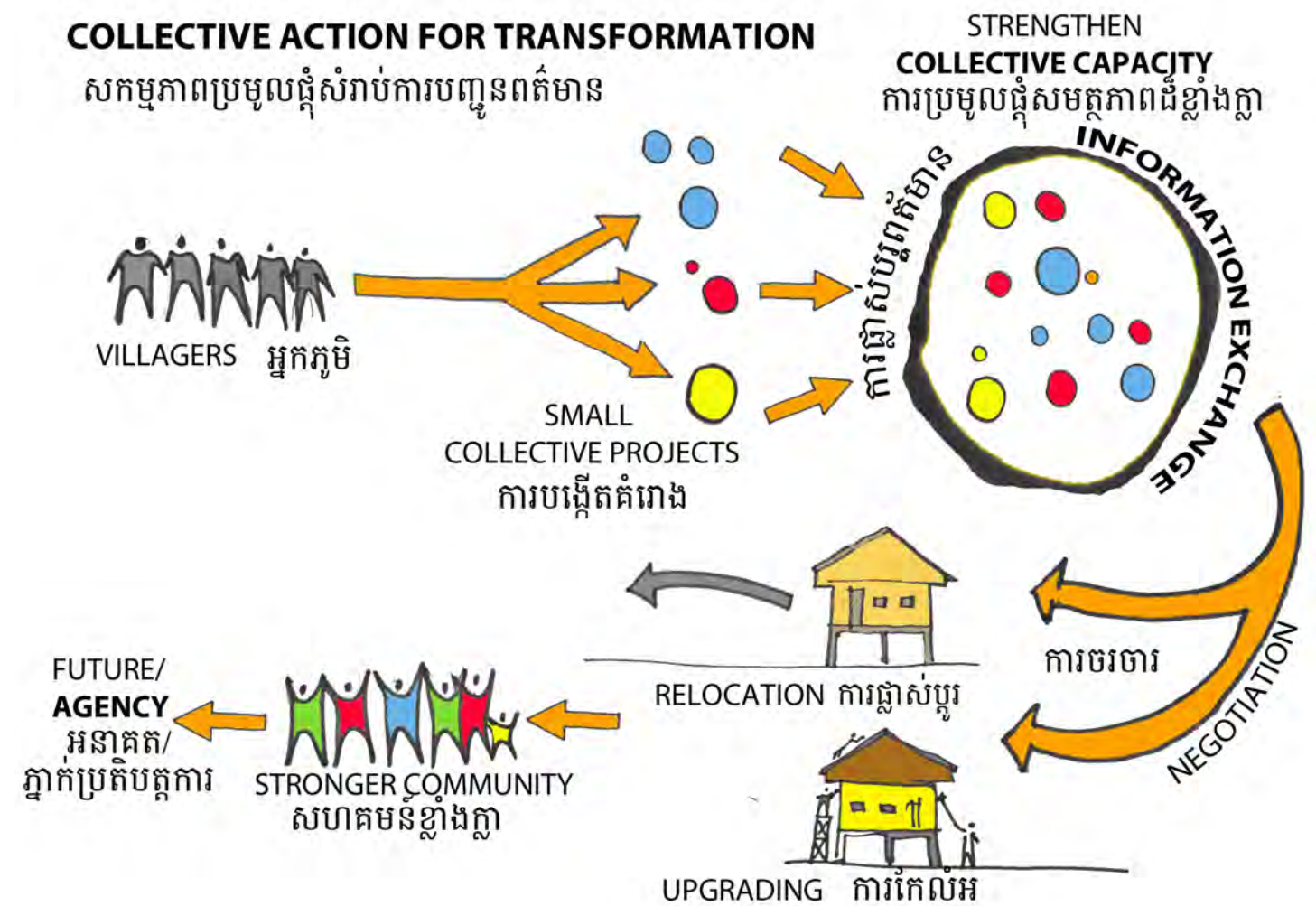
How the 3 strategies are linked with the political agendas



Visualization of the public space strategic intervention



Visualization of the railway path strategic intervention



Collective strategy elaborated for the site group in Cambodia











## Participative community exercise

### Exercise 1: The race

1. After interviewing some people in Andong 4 and Andong 6; 14 issues were summarized as most essential to the communities:

- 1-housing and living condition,
- 2-relationship to neighbor,
- 3-Relocation to PCL houses,
- 4-relationship to community leader,
- 5-relationship with authority,
- 6-garbage,
- 7-relationship with NGO,
- 8-safety,
- 9-training skills,
- 10-saving money,
- 11-access to loans,
- 12-community meeting space,
- 13-access to house,
- 14-children's play space

2. These issues were presented each on a row.

3. The people were invited to move forward the issue that they prioritize.

4. It is not allowed to move a paper forward by 2 columns, also not allowed to move a paper backwards.

5. The race is to discover which issue is moved to the extreme right, therefore the issue that the community prioritizes.

6. At the end of the exercise, the "relocation to PCL houses" was the most important issue.







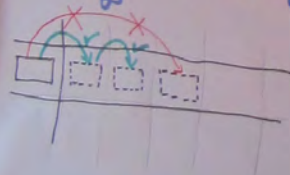


# ការប្រកួតប្រជែង

1. បន្ទាប់ពីការសំភាសដោយស្រួលស្រាបៀរ រួចមក ពួកយើង សំភាសយើង តើបញ្ហាមួយ ចំណុចណាមានសារៈសំខាន់ សំរាប់ពួកគាត់?
2. នៅលើក្តារ ស្រាបៀរយើង តើបញ្ហា ទាំងនោះ
3. ការផ្លាស់ប្តូរ របស់ ស្រាបៀរ ទាំងនេះ គឺមានសារៈ សំខាន់ក្នុងការនោះស្រាបៀរបញ្ហា នាពេល

<input type="checkbox"/>		→
<input type="checkbox"/>		→
<input type="checkbox"/>		→
<input type="checkbox"/>		→

4. មិត្តស្រាបៀរ ទាំងនោះ តើការផ្លាស់ប្តូរ ប្រធាន បង្គោល ហើយ វា តើ ចម្បង ឬ ទេ?





## Exercise 2: Let's talk

1. People were invited to discuss in couples the issue of relocation to PCL houses
2. Then each couple shared with a bigger group their most important finding
3. After the finding of each group was shared with all of the community members that are present
4. These findings were noted down in front of everyone on a paper, and there was a vote about the most important problem about the relocation to the PCL houses that is: the need of a bigger house space.





### Exercise 3: Game of money

1.The PCL gives houses to the poorest, defined as having 30\$ income per month.

2.Each member was given notes that represent 30\$ per month (15 sticky notes, each has the value of 2\$)

3.Each student held a board representing the fields the people spend their money on:

- 1-Clothes,
- 2-School and education,
- 3-Household supply and maintenance,
- 4-Transport,
- 5-Business,
- 6-Health,
- 7-Food,
- 8-Health
- 9-A bigger house space

4. The people started to put money on each board, it was interesting to find out that a small amount of money is being spent on clothes; a lot of money was spent on food and a medium amount of money spent on their shared problem "A bigger house space"

5. That way the people were aware how they are spending their money and they realized the importance of organizing themselves and have collective savings to be able to reach a bigger housing space.











*"We have pride of our land ownership and what we have done so far"*



*"we want the (district) officials to work closer with people"*





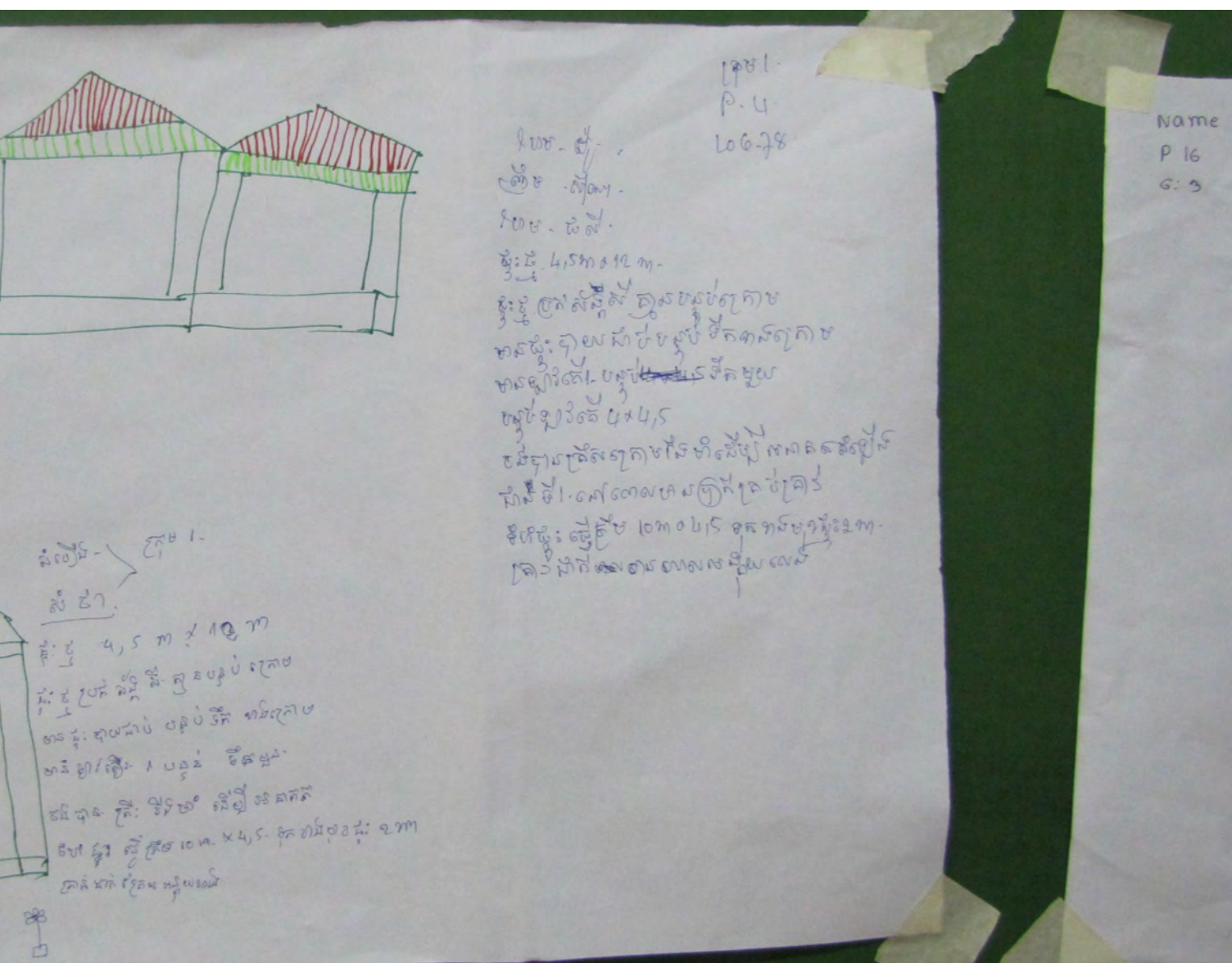


## Participative community exercises

### Exercise 1: Dream house

1. We asked the people to draw their dream house
2. They divided into smaller groups
3. On a piece of paper they drew their dream future house
4. The papers were hanged on the board and each person presented his house to us and the rest of the community members
5. A discussion was carried out between the several stakeholders present in the meeting: CDF members, Community leader, community members, DPU students, Cambodian university students.
6. The community showed pride in their land ownership
7. The community showed engagement to be in charge of their own future house, they want to build it the way they like.
8. One major problem that showed up is related to the house loan, the building budget and infrastructure.







### Exercise 2: Other alternatives

1. Boards with Architectural drawing of a house model was given to the people

2. Also alternative construction materials were introduced: Compressed earth block, recycled material: cans and bottles,...

3. People were divided into smaller groups and discussed those new material alternatives with the students and other community members

4. The boards were hanged in front of everyone

5. A discussion was carried out between the several stakeholders present in the meeting: CDF members, Community leader, community members and DPU students, Cambodian university students.

6. The community showed that they are flexible in using other construction materials to reduce the house cost

7. The technical knowhow (skills) is something they want to have which suggest the coordination with new actors to provide that; like: CAN-CAM (Community Architect Network), CDTC (Community Development Training Center), Community builders network.

8. The community members showed engagement and they really want to start building their houses.



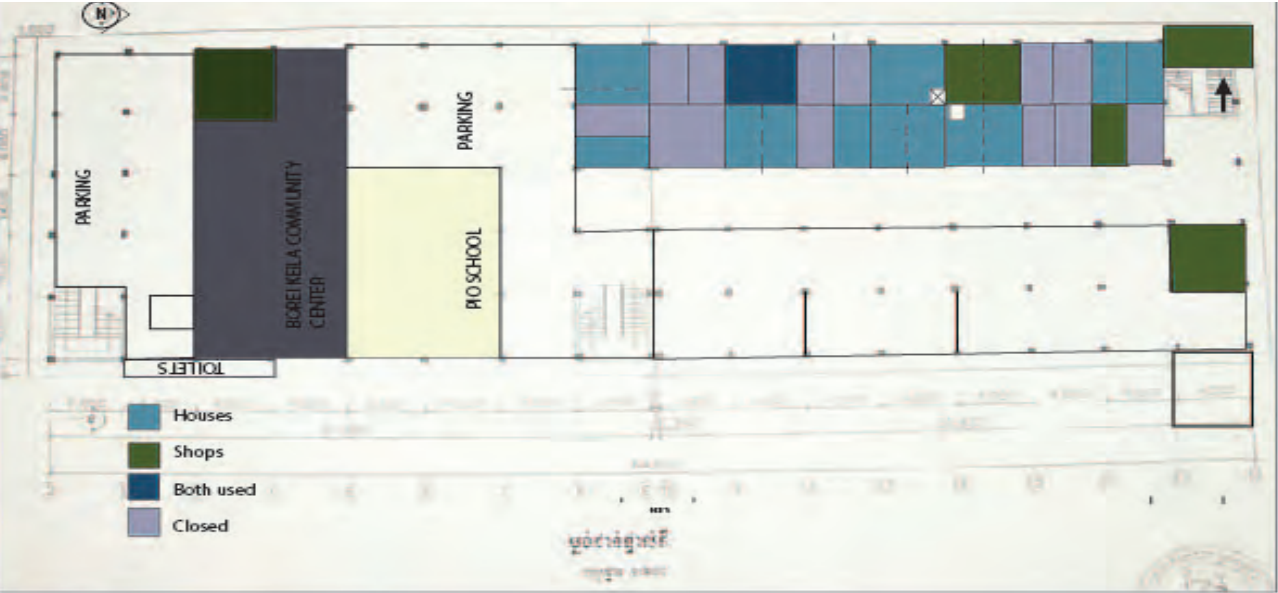




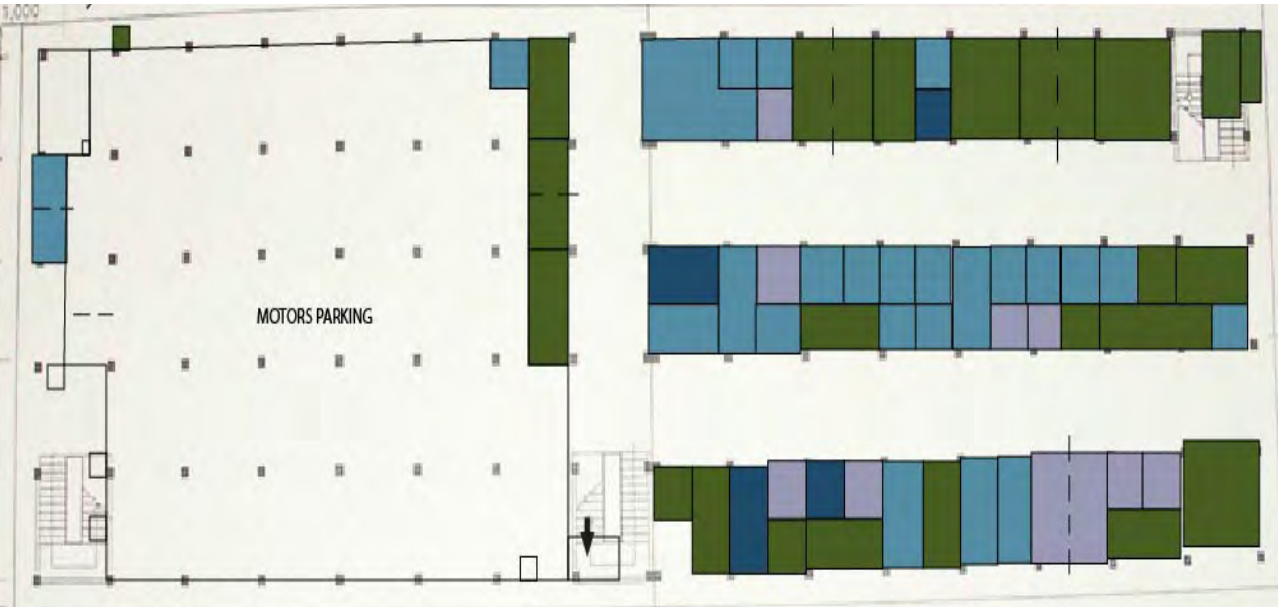


# \* BOREI KEILA SETTLEMENT

## Mapping ground floors (Borei Keila)

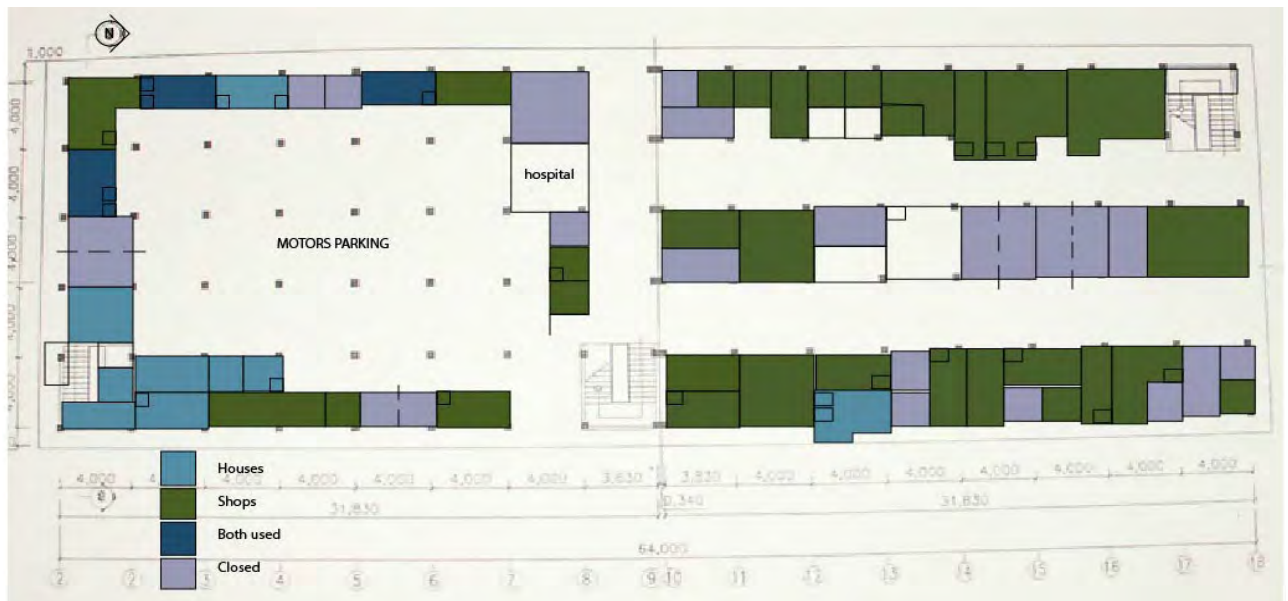


Ground floor A



Ground floor B

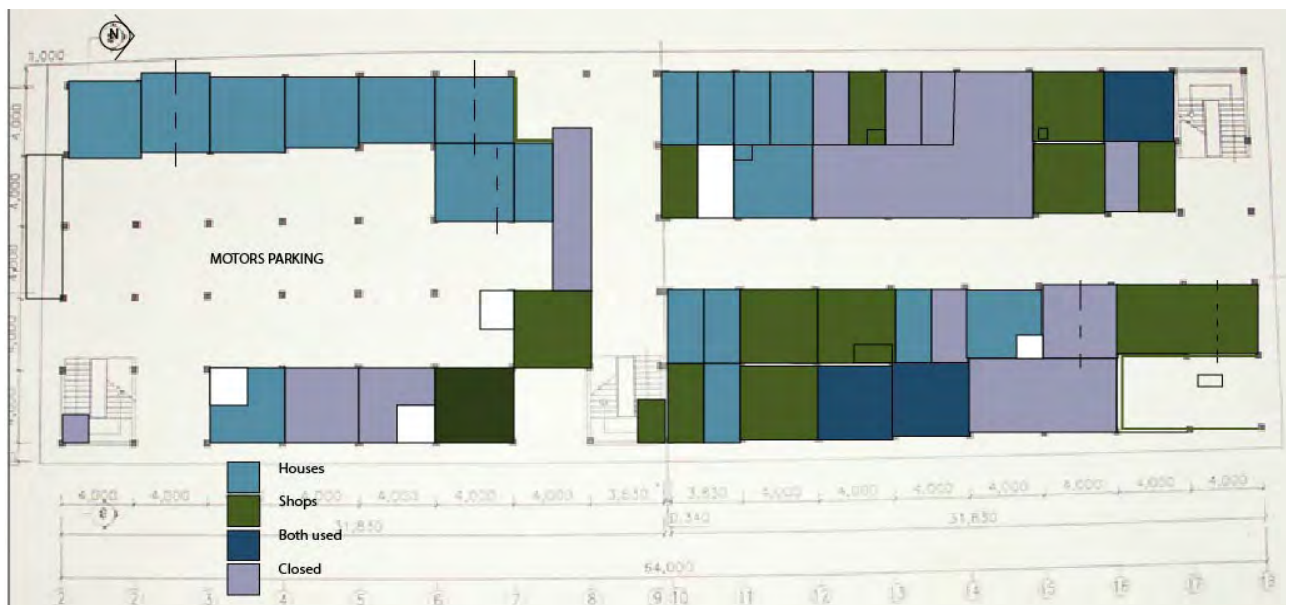
Ground floor C



Ground floor D



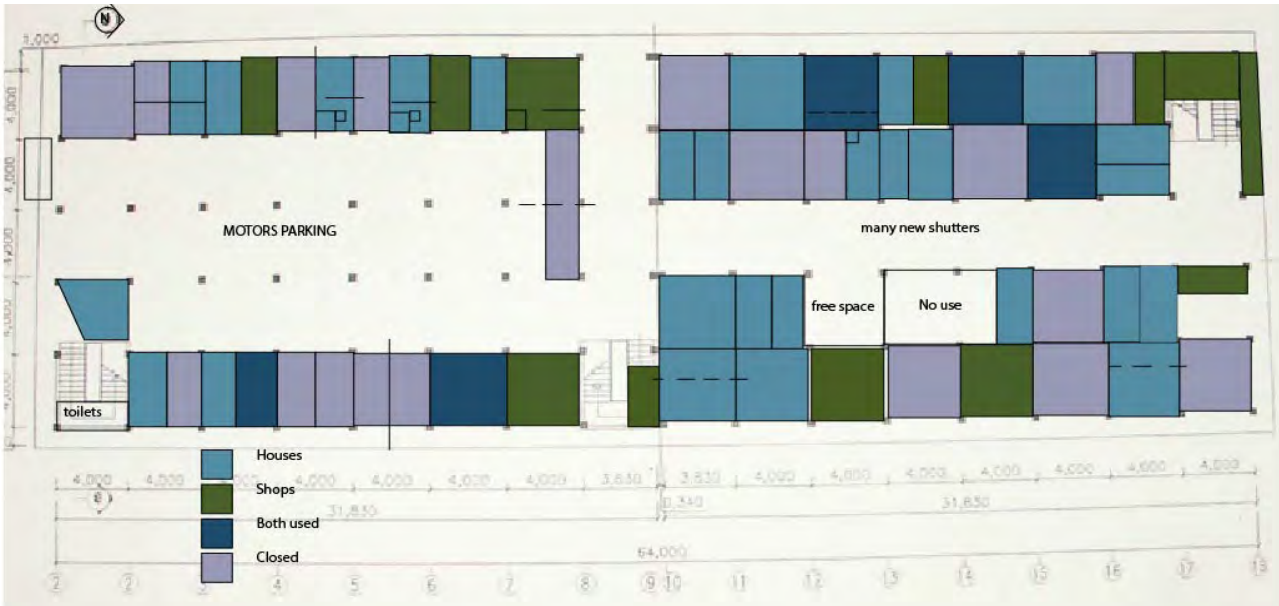
Ground floor E





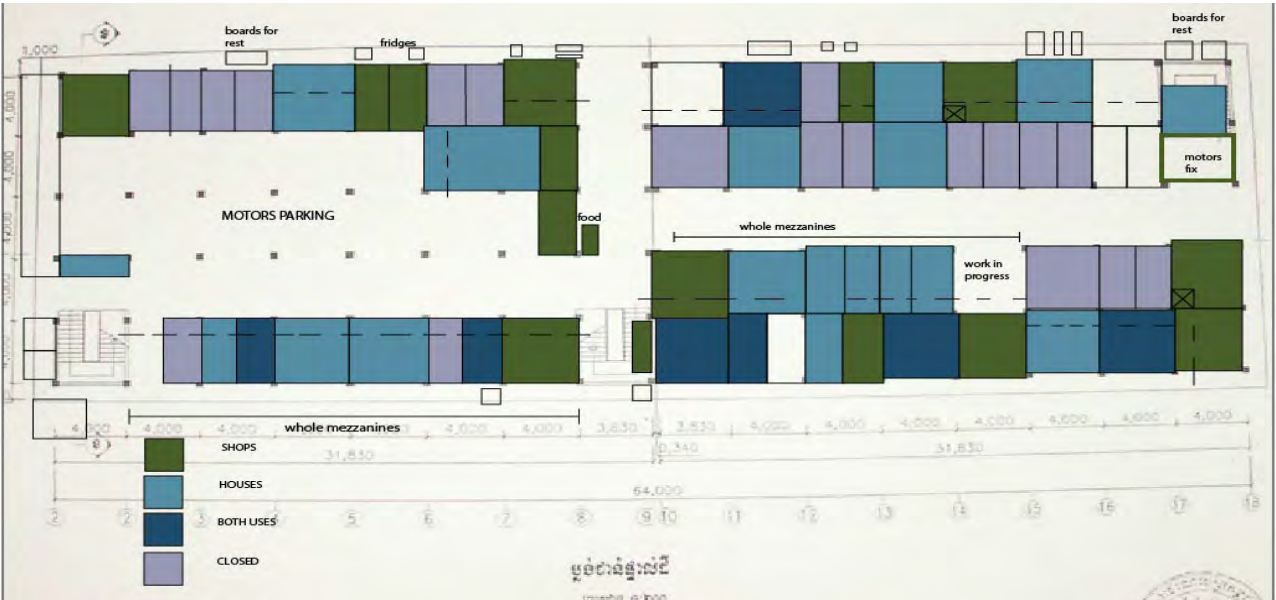
We used to work 5 days in Borei Keila area; started from collaboration with municipality, community leaders and local people starting from photographing, sketching leading to interviews and finished with mapping. There are 2 parts of our group work introduced in this appendices which called "Mapping ground floors" and "Sketching ground floors and apartments".

The first part "Mapping ground floors" blocks illustrates usage of the units in four different colours such as "houses", "shops", "both used" and "closed". The second part "Sketching ground floors and apartments" represents varies usage units of ground floors; and design of units and arrangement of the things in the apartments.

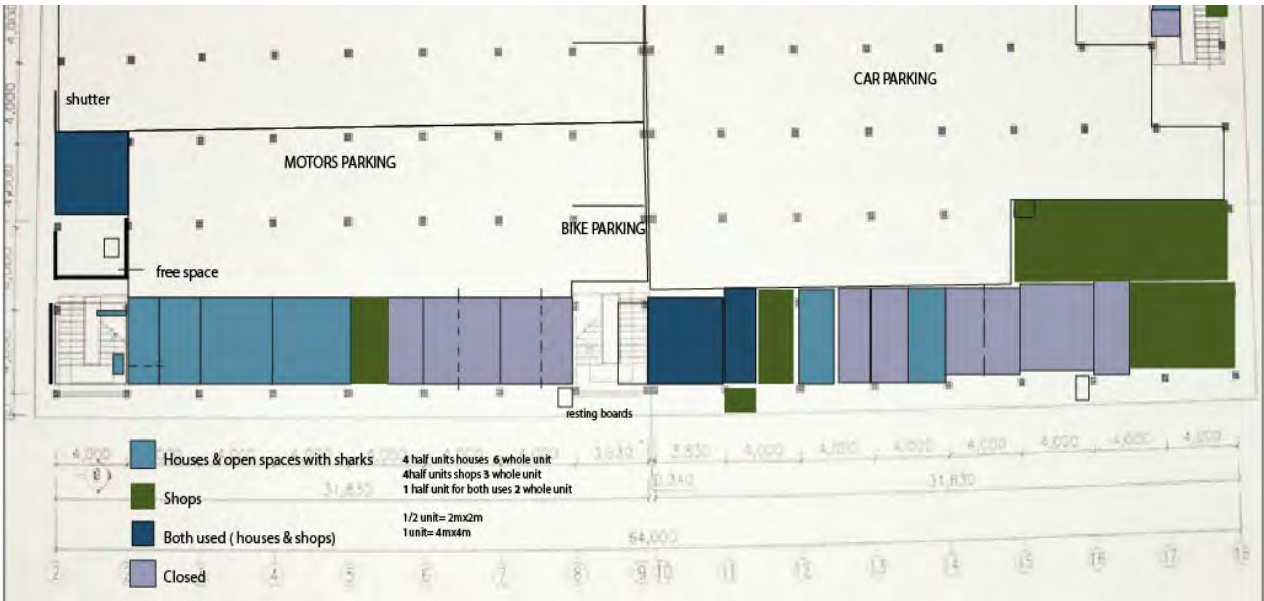


Ground floor F

Ground floor G

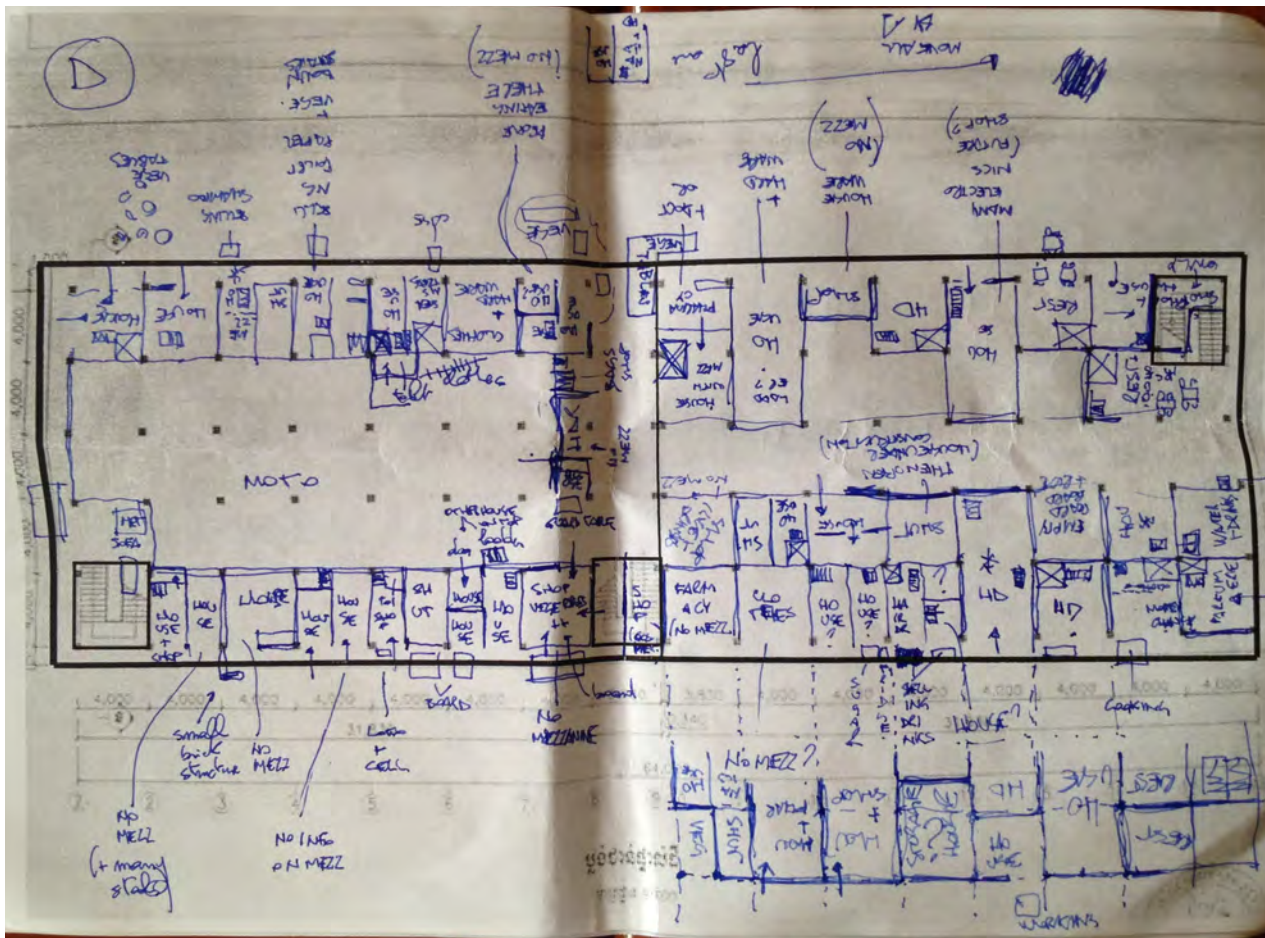


Ground floor H

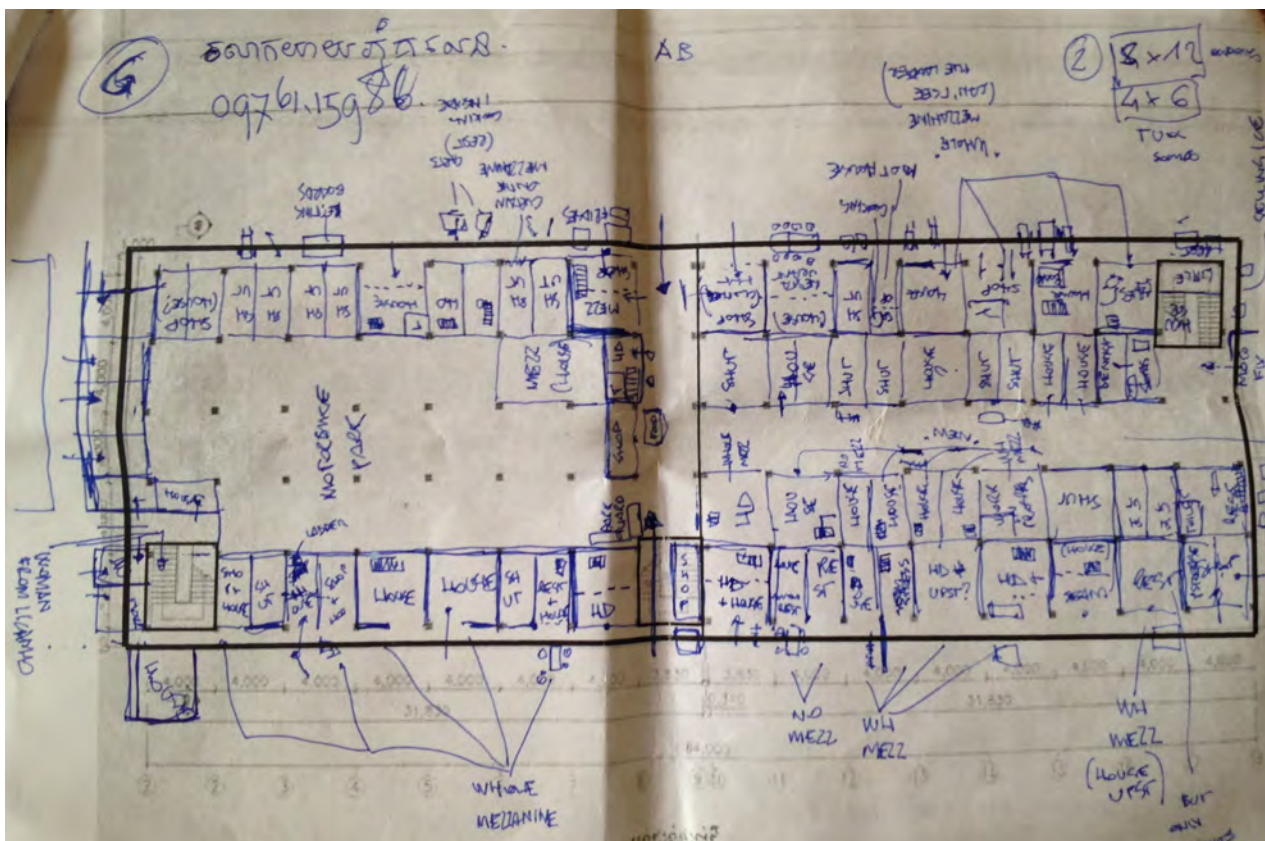




## Sketching ground floors (Borei Keila)



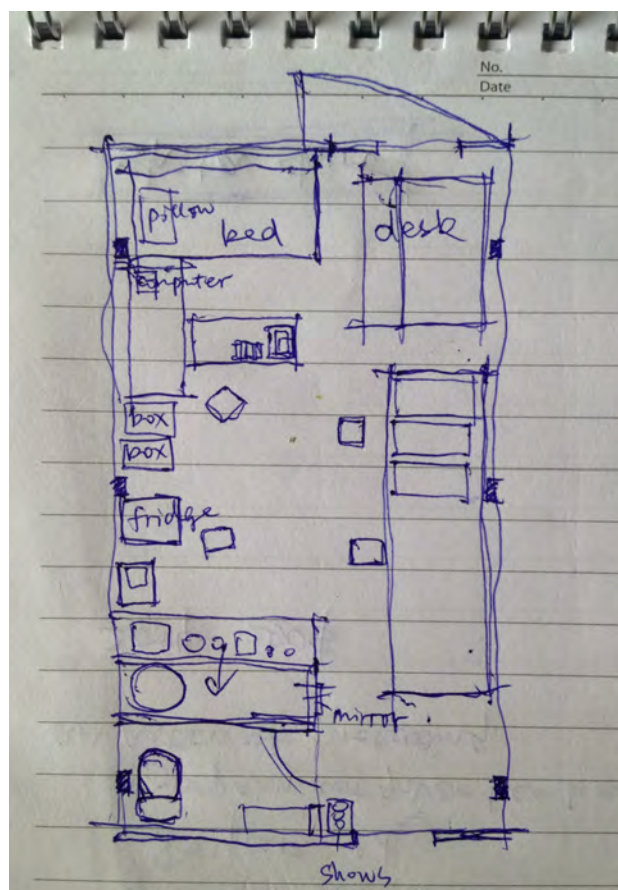
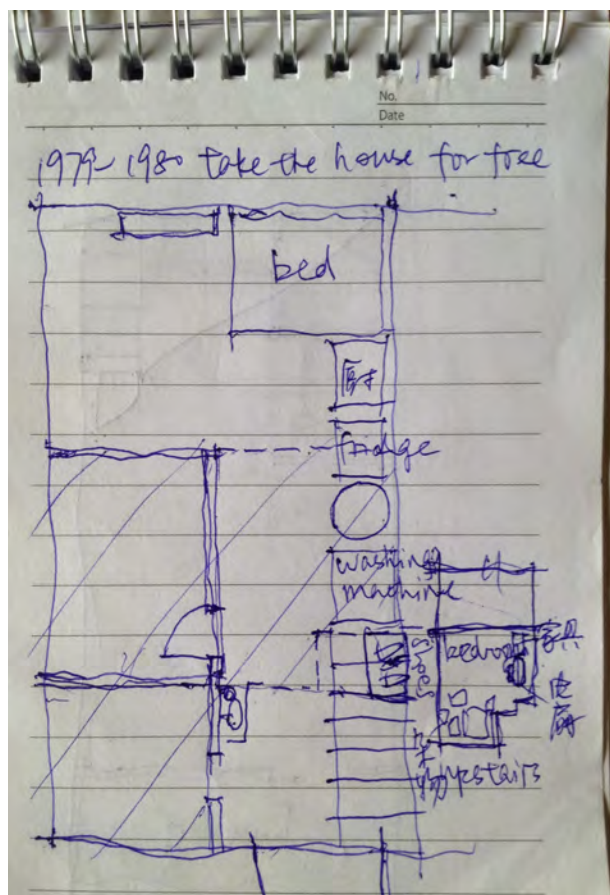
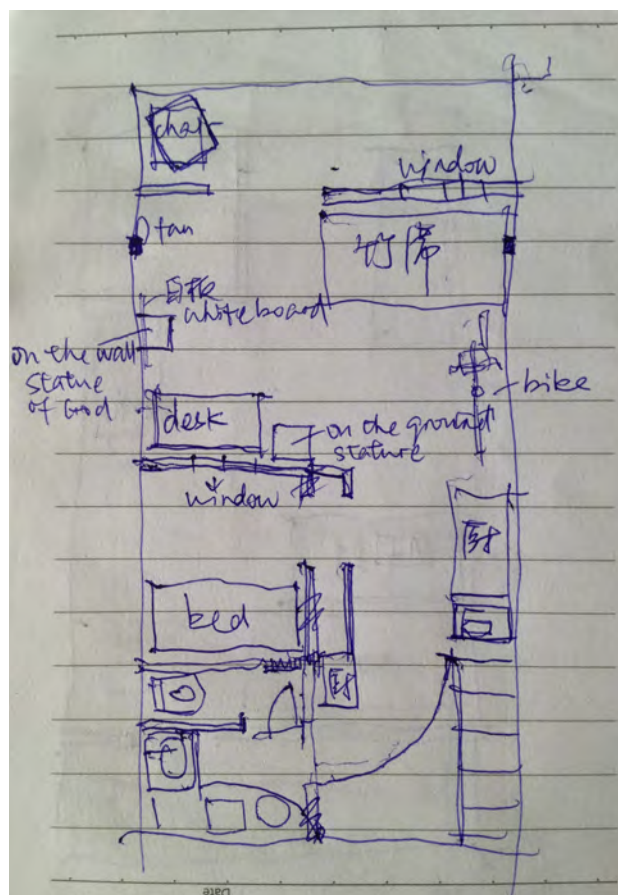
Ground floor,  
Building D



Ground floor,  
Building G



## Sketching apartments in Borei Keila

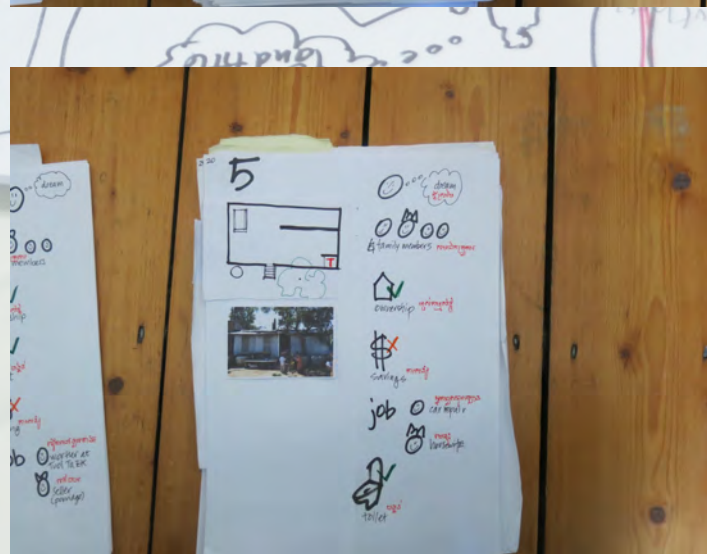
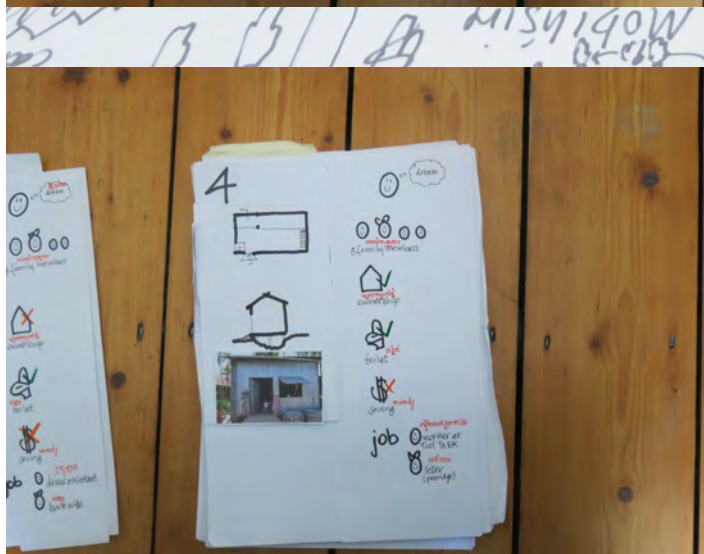
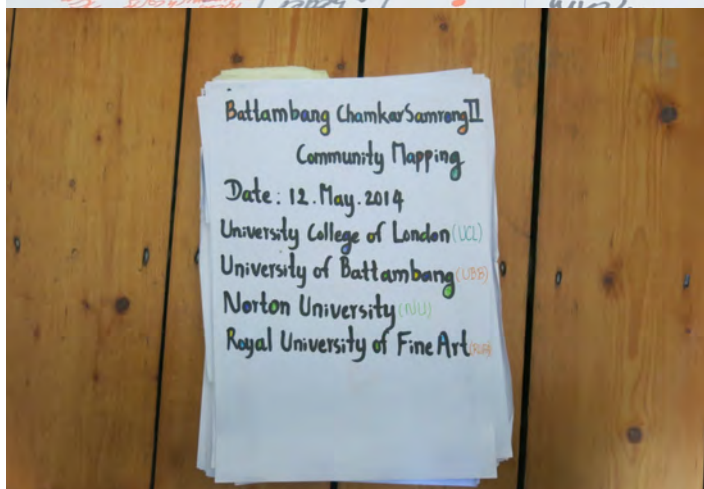
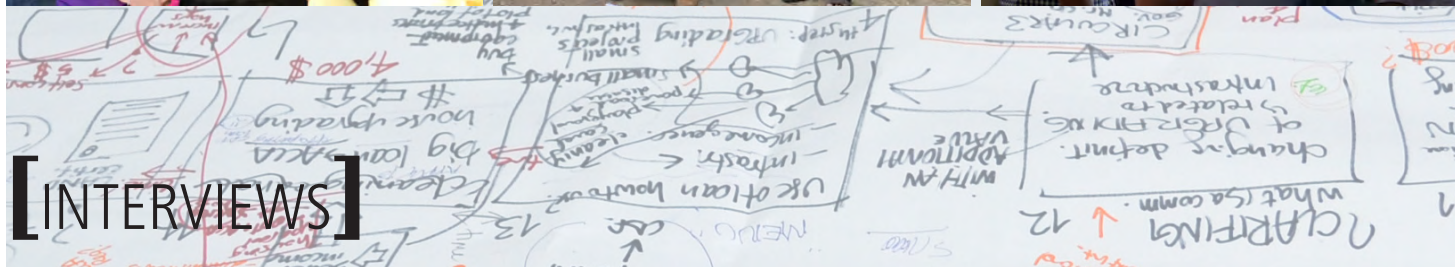
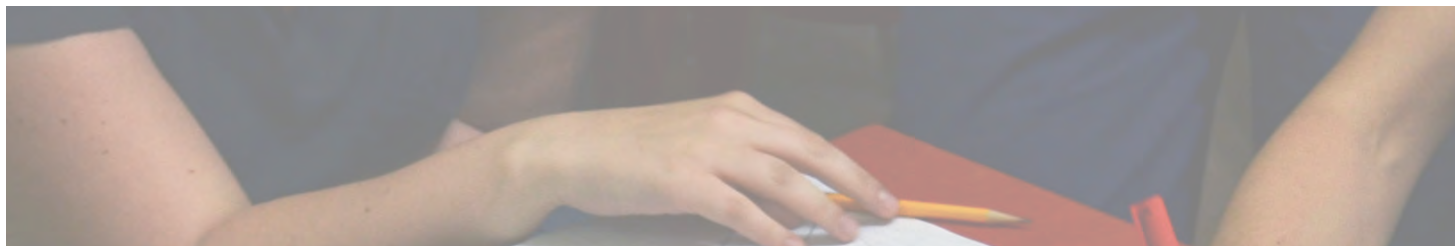




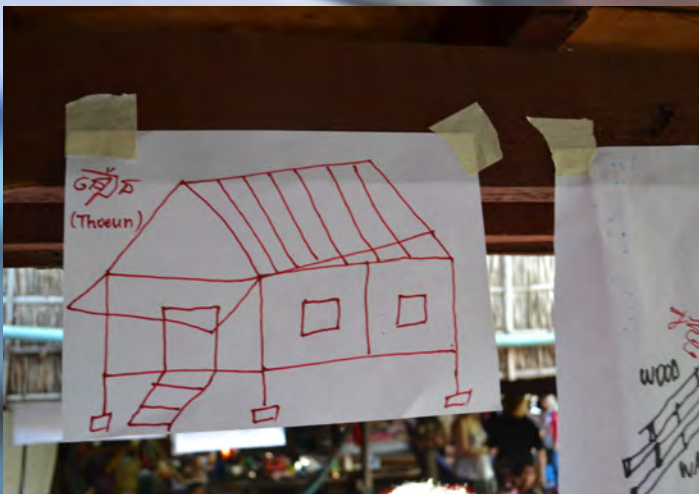
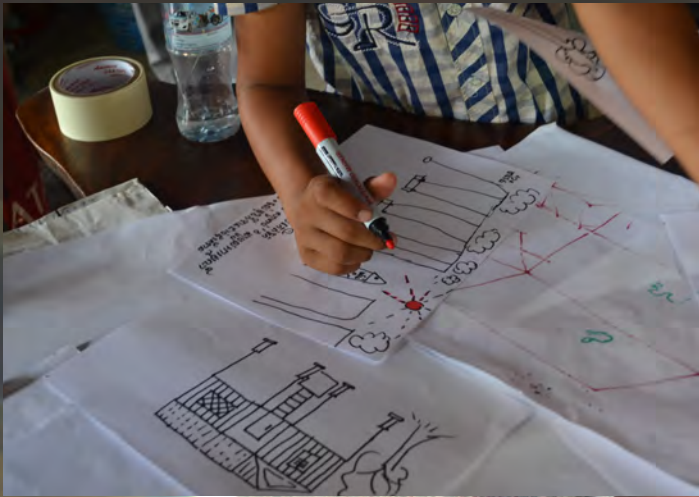
# \* CHAMKAR SAMROUNG II COMMUNITY













## 【PARTICIPATORY MAPPING】

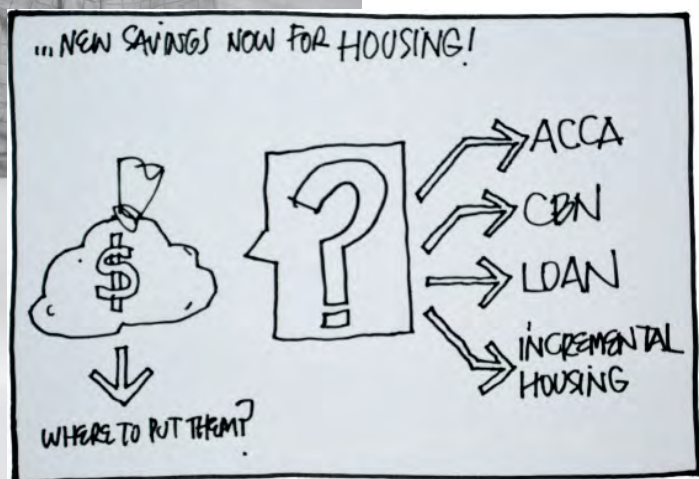
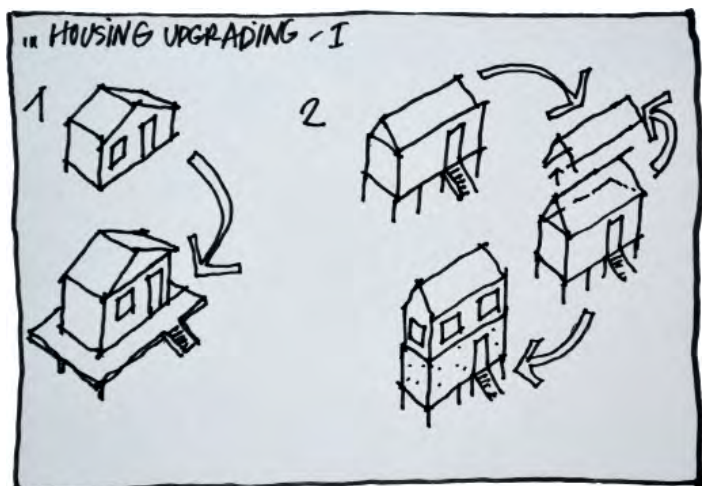
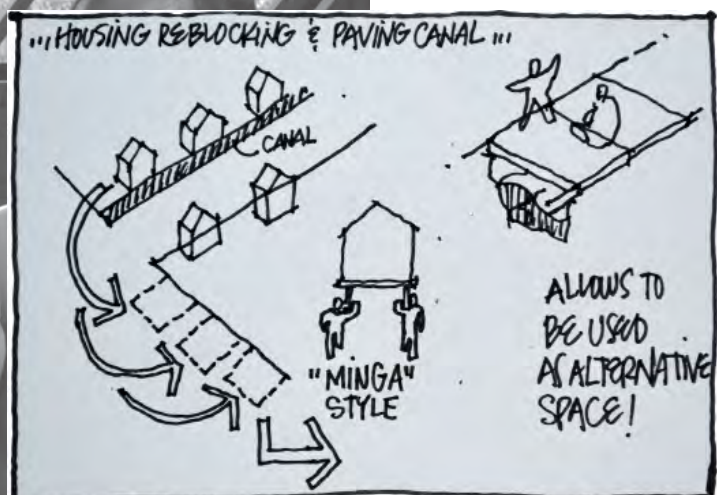
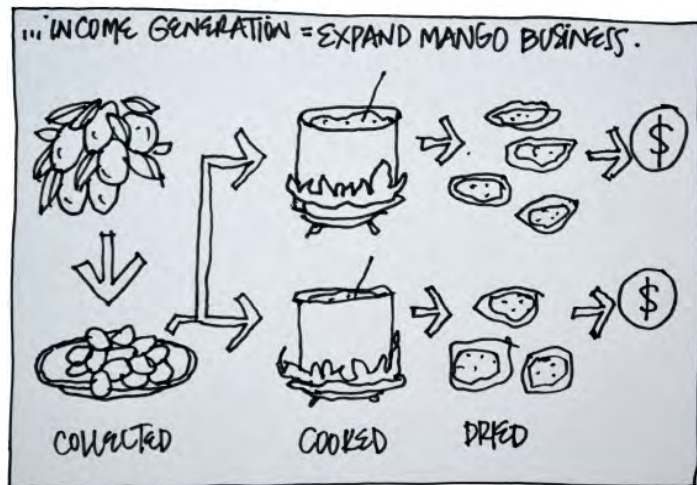




[IMAGING SCENARIOS]









# \* BARETS: SANGKAT KOMPONG SAVAY

In order to conduct the research during the field trip, students used the inductive method to narrow down more specific phenomena which can be tested during the research. The particular study of Cambodia's transformation in the time of transition involves both deductive and inductive reasoning at some point. The case of Cambodia gave an opportunity to observe patterns which led students to develop new theories and approaches to solutions as well as some suggestions how to reach the objectives of the Field Trip challenges.

## OBSERVATION

Students were observing 3 settlements in Sangkat Kompong Savay: Baret Phum Pi, Baret Kompong Savay, and Baret Sophy settlement. People there are living on the road and are going to be relocated in the nearest future because of the city's development plan. All together there are 123 families (more from other areas as well) will be relocated to the one plot of land provided by the government. What is known that there is no relocation plan at the moment yet.



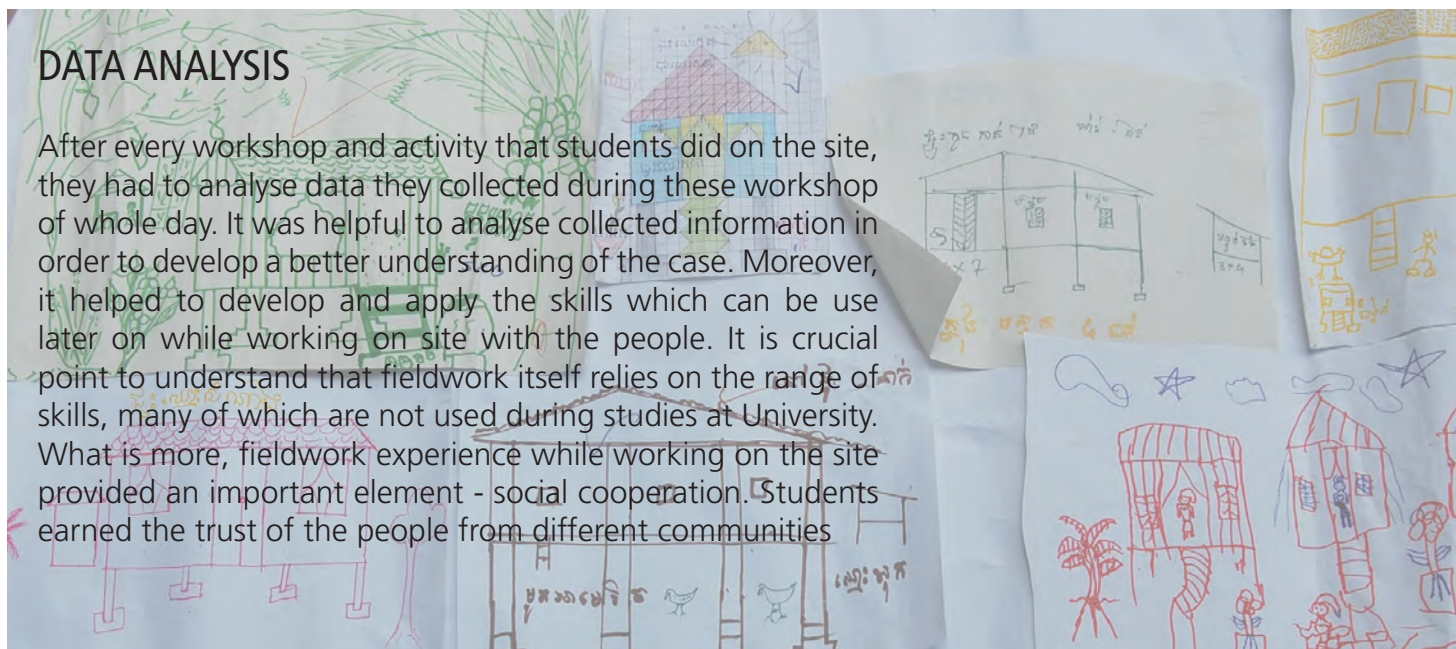
## DATA COLLECTION

During the five days' workshop with different communities in the 3 Sangkat Kompong Saway settlements, students did a lot of different activities in order to collect data and information regarding everyday life and activities of the families living there. These included: interviews with the households and individuals from three settlements in Sangkat Kompong Saway; on site workshop (drawing their dream house) with community, including discussion and opinion exchange; creating layouts in case of relocation with the people; presenting our suggestions for people; organizing meetings with municipal bodies together with representatives from community.

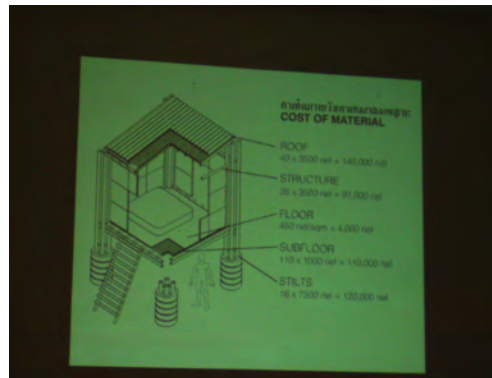
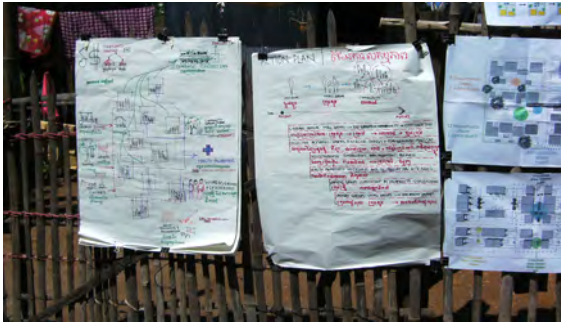


## DATA ANALYSIS

After every workshop and activity that students did on the site, they had to analyse data they collected during these workshop of whole day. It was helpful to analyse collected information in order to develop a better understanding of the case. Moreover, it helped to develop and apply the skills which can be use later on while working on site with the people. It is crucial point to understand that fieldwork itself relies on the range of skills, many of which are not used during studies at University. What is more, fieldwork experience while working on the site provided an important element - social cooperation. Students earned the trust of the people from different communities

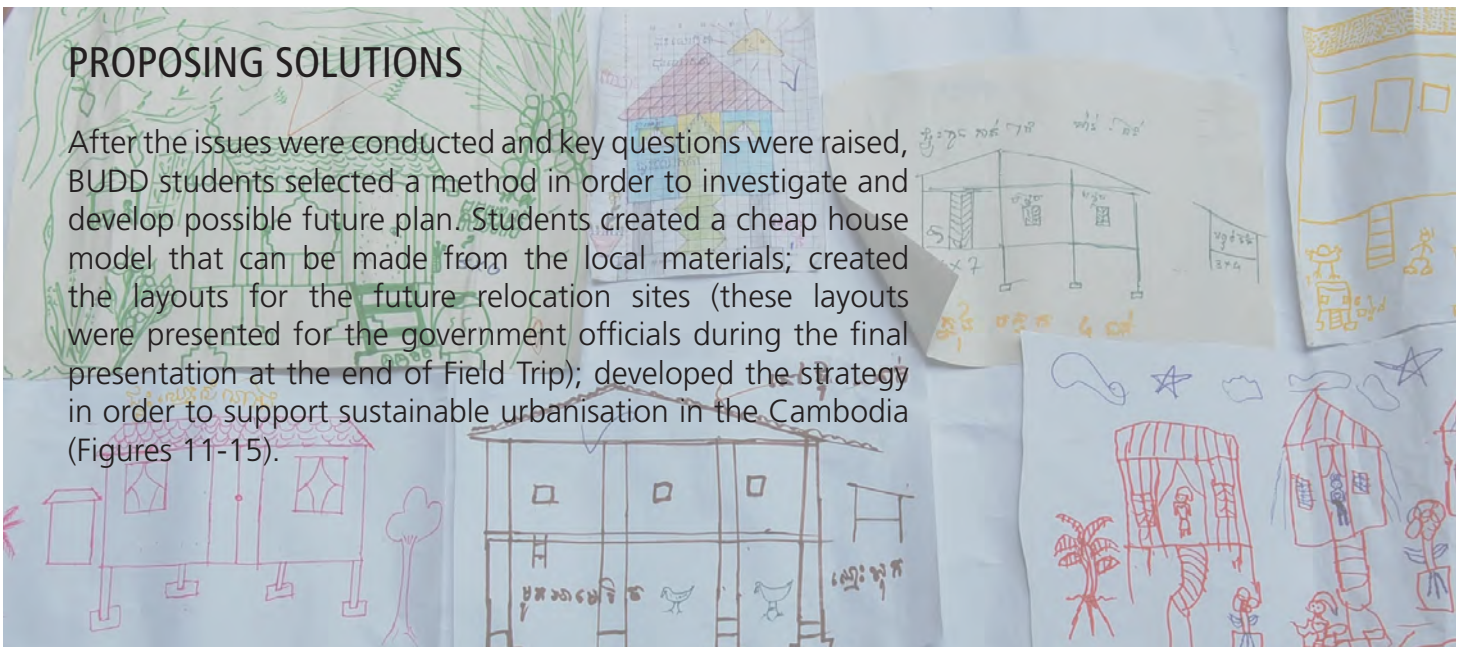






## PROPOSING SOLUTIONS

After the issues were conducted and key questions were raised, BUDD students selected a method in order to investigate and develop possible future plan. Students created a cheap house model that can be made from the local materials; created the layouts for the future relocation sites (these layouts were presented for the government officials during the final presentation at the end of Field Trip); developed the strategy in order to support sustainable urbanisation in the Cambodia (Figures 11-15).





appendix 4

# [ MUNICIPALITY OFFICIAL MEETINGS ]





## APPENDIX 4

### Municipality official meetings

PHNOM PENH MUNICIPAL COUNCIL MEETING: studying the challenge how the city of Phnom Penh is growing // 7th of May 2014

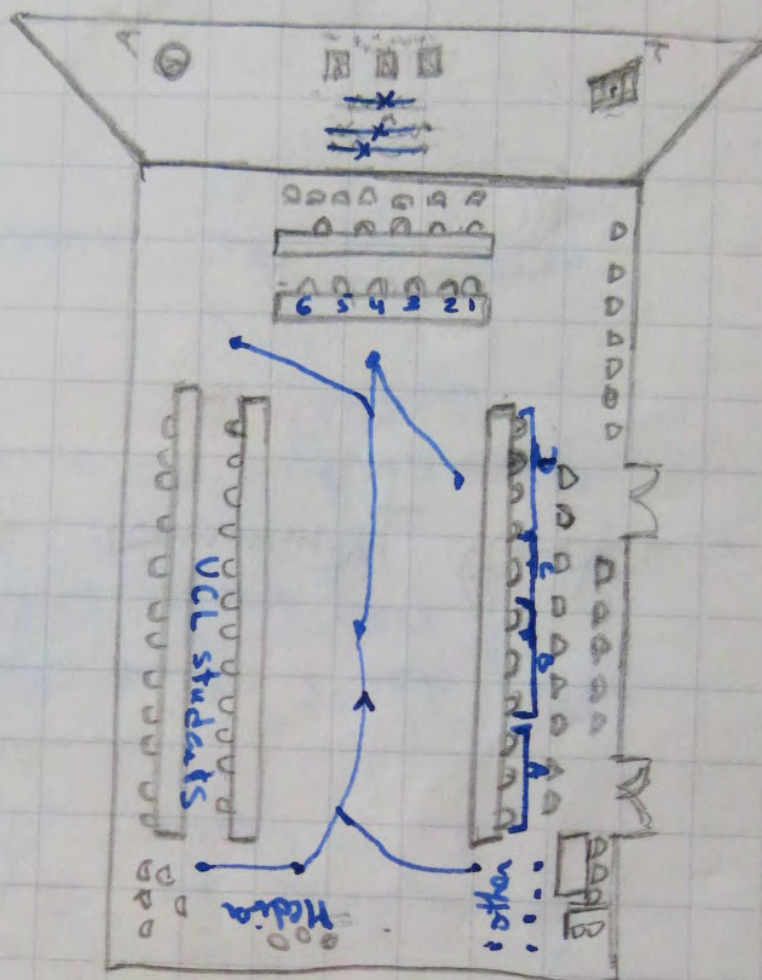
#### CONTENT

- Officials presented a development formula '3-2-1' which refers to the deep reform of government: TRAFIC, ENVIRONMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE;
- The goal is to implement decentralization in the governmental mechanism;
- Local democratic development;
- Traffic issues – traffic law;
- Housing policy and right;
- Private sector supports housing delivery for urban-poor;
- Sister cities are ready to help;





# Meeting with the governor of Phnom Penh.



"good example"

- |                     |                      |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Emilio - DPU head | A UPRF/other         |
| 2 Vice Governor     | B DPU staff          |
| 3 Vice Governor     | C ACHR member        |
| 4 Governor          | D Translator / other |
| 5 Sonsook           |                      |
| 6 Vice Gov.         |                      |

other: people working here



SEREI SOPHON:  
MEETING WITH MUNICIPALITY AND  
LAND MINISTER

CONTENT

- Communities are aware of future development and are going to collaborate with municipality;
- Main goal for future development in sites/communities: 1) housing security for people living on the public land; 2) green environment; 3) drainage systems; 4) clean water; 5) garbage in the city;



POR SEN CHEY DISTRICT OFFICIAL  
MEETING

CONTENT:

- Future plans for the district
- Division of the district into two
- Infrastructure issues
- Livelihood for the relocation of urban poor















CAMBODIA 2014, BUDD FIELDTRIP



