3 CITYWIDE SURVEYS & MAPPING

1 **CITYWIDE INFORMATION IN 183 CITIES :** It is important for the citywide upgrading process to begin with some kind of comprehensive, citywide view and citywide understanding of the scale of problems, so in almost all of the 183 cities in the ACCA Program, some kind of citywide survey or preliminary information gathering has been carried out. Some of these surveys are comprehensive and include socio-economic enumerations of all the individual settlements in the city, while others cover only certain districts or wards where ACCA projects are being implemented, or focus only on communities with serious land problems. In many cities, the surveyed slums have all been mapped - both within the settlements and on the city map. In many cities, groups have also mapped and gathered ownership information about possible vacant land for housing and about formal development plans which may affect communities.

2 **COUNTRY-WIDE INFORMATION IN 10 COUNTRIES :** National surveys have also been carried out in ten countries, with support from ACCA, including: two national surveys of communities with insecure land in 29 cities in Cambodia by teams of national community leaders and CDF staff; a 20-city survey of slum communities in Nepal by the two community federations with support from Lumanti; a national survey and mapping of urban poor communities in 33 cities in high-risk areas by the Homeless People's Federation in the Philippines; urban poor community surveys and community mapping in 6 new cities each in Lao PDR and Vietnam, and in 11 cities in Indonesia.

Community and citywide mapping :

Using mapping to catalyze communities, bring people together, make them visible in their cities and provide a base for planning solutions . . .

▲ *Citywide mapping of informal settlements in Manday's slum-rich Tuntone Ward, with WFW and architects in March, 2014.*

▲ *Mapping the traditional goth settlements on the periphery of Karachi in 2012, with OPP and TTRC, to use to get land titles.*

▲ *Barangay-wide slum mapping in Valenzuela's Barangay Mapulang Lupa, as a first step in barangay-wide planning.*

Some groups have been using the tools of citywide and settlement-level mapping as part of their planning and advocacy for quite a while, but in the last couple of years of the ACCA program, mapping has really taken off. Community networks in Bangladesh, Thailand, Philippines, Indonesia, Nepal, Myanmar, Vietnam and Pakistan are now working with community architects and community-based technical helpers to map their settlements, and they are using the information they gather in those maps to plan and to negotiate for land, secure tenure, resources and support from their cities. Here are some thoughts on the mapping process from Malee Orn, a community leader in the railway settlements in the Northeastern Thai city of Khon Kaen:

In my city, the community people first draw maps of their settlements the old-fashioned way, by hand, to understand who lives where and how their houses relate to the railway tracks, what are the problem areas, and other infrastructure. Then, we use simple GPS applications on our mobile phones to plot the houses and then superimpose these digital survey maps on the satellite images of the settlements. It sounds very sophisticated, but these new technologies have made it possible for all of us to do what used to require trained surveyors. On the computer, each house can be clicked, and that brings up a full page of detailed survey information about that family (names of family members, savings, history of tenure). Each household has a ten-digit identification number, which is posted on the house, and that number corresponds to the survey map and survey information in the computer.

The survey is important because now everybody is on the map! Most of these houses don't have house registration and are invisible on the city's database. But with these maps, they are no longer invisible - they are part of the information. We can now negotiate with the government with very precise data - it's all there in the computer, better than any data the municipal government has. When we link this survey information and digital mapping with the official aerial photos of the town, nobody can lie and say these houses are not there. This makes for a very powerful credibility in our negotiation process. And we are doing this not only in Khon Kaen. We have surveyed all the houses on railway land, from Khon Kaen to Korat, about 150 kms away.

CITYWIDE COMMUNITY NETWORKS

THE GLUE THAT HOLDS TOGETHER ASIA'S COMMUNITY MOVEMENT

The city is the basic working unit in the ACCA program: not only one project, not only one community and not only one sector. And in each city, the program's first and most crucial intervention is to help to build a city-wide urban poor movement. The idea is then to use the strength of that people's movement to change the way the city's problems of housing and poverty are addressed and to change the power relationship between the poor and the city. So before the community projects start, a city-wide process of preparation takes place, and in most of 215 cities in the program, this has happened quite intensely.

CITY-TO-CITY
exchange visits help weaker cities catch up with stronger ones

Exchange visits between cities play a big role in building this national common direction. Groups in countries like Vietnam, Cambodia, Thailand and Philippines organize almost constant exchanges - some with and some without ACCA support, many involving mixed teams of community people, local government officials and NGO supporters. In Mongolia, they've set up a national ACCA committee, but some of the most potent learning happens during the exchange visits between the cities where ACCA projects are underway. The mayors often join the community people on these trips, so the two groups learn together. The friendly competition and copying that this exchange inspires can be a healthy inducement to get weaker cities to catch up with stronger ones.

BUILDING CITYWIDE COMMUNITY NETWORKS : The first step in building this city-wide movement is for the poor to start making themselves *visible*. This means coming out of their isolation and into an active process by linking together, using city-wide surveys and mapping to make all the scattered settlements and all the invisible people who are never counted visible. Then, bringing these groups together in forums, meetings and workshops, to talk to each other, to learn what the others are doing and to break the isolation of their individual experience of poverty. The next step is bringing these scattered communities together and forming networks - as well as alliances of existing community federations and associations - to begin building a platform for sharing, supporting each other and setting a common citywide development agenda for the poor.

BUILDING A NATIONAL CHANGE PROCESS BY LINKING CITIES : In each country, ACCA-supported projects are being implemented in three to twenty cities. The project budget isn't enough to make an impact on all the poor communities or all the cities in a country, so an important part of the ACCA process is linking these active cities with other cities and other development processes in the country into a larger, country-wide learning process, to demonstrate the power of *development by people* and to expand it. Through these national links, the citywide processes are also helping nudge these scattered development initiatives in closer sync with this new people-driven development model.

BUILDING AN ACTIVE REGIONAL LEARNING PLATFORM : Through exchange visits, meetings and assessment trips, the ACCA Program is providing an active new platform for learning and mutual assistance among active community groups in Asia - groups that come from a variety of working cultures and political contexts. The learning in this new "university" is not academic or theoretical - it is rooted in action and in a shared belief in community-driven processes for structural change. All the ACCA meetings are organized in different countries and cities, and one or two days during each meeting is set aside for "on the ground" exposure to the local politics and processes, community and project visits and discussions with local stakeholders.

Why networks?

As a platform for large scale development which involves a synergy of learning, experience-sharing, morale-boosting and mutual inspiration, community networks have given Asia's poor people's movement enormous confidence and created a development mechanism which belongs entirely to them. Community networks have emerged and grown strong at many levels and in many forms around Asia now. And networks have been the main community-driven development mechanism of the ACCA Program.

1 **Networks build collective capacities** at scale in poor communities, and enable them to deal with many of the big structural issues they can't deal with as individual people or as individual communities.

2 **Networks are learning platforms to deal with any issue**. By allowing peopole to learn from each other and to, transforming the experience of a few communities into learning for hundreds.

3 **Networks open-up community processes** by creating more space for more people from more places, with different kinds of skills, to get involved in more kinds of activities as part of their movement.

4 **Networks are internal support systems** for people's processes, so nobody has to struggle alone, and ideas and help are available. Networks also beef up individual communities' negotiating power.

5 **Networks work as bridges with the formal system** by strengthening the poor's numbers, their negotiating status and their pool of skills, to help them join forces with their cities and other stakeholders.

6 **Networks work as internal checks and balance systems** within a people's movement, to resolve problems and sustain a balanced, equitable and effective community-driven change process.

CITYWIDE PARTNERSHIPS

Instead of being the victims of development or waiting passively for someone else to do something for them, ACCA provides poor communities tools which allow them to take concrete action, to become visible, to become doers. This is important because in the process, cities are also finding it difficult to ignore them. When people start doing, moving and determining things, they are shedding that passivity and changing the way things work in their cities. The savings, surveying, network-building and project implementing are all negotiations in which power to determine change for the poor can shift. And because all this activity is taking place not in just one community but in many, at the same time, there is a new vibration. As a result, governments are coming into a new and more positive perception about the poor communities in their cities, as being creative and capable of solving serious problems. And in the ACCA program, we are seeing local governments and other urban stakeholders increasingly finding ways to become partners in this newly active community-driven and city-wide process.

Sometimes the most effective and most immediate way to build partnerships and change policies is to bring communities and their city governments together to collaborate on real housing and infra-structure projects on the ground - like this on-site reconstruction of a run-down collective housing area for 94 families in Ben Thuy Ward, on land the city agreed to sell to the people at a nominal rate.

Urban poor housing is an **investment**, not a social expense

Governments tend to think that any support it gives to poor people's hous-ing as a social welfare program and complain that their budgets are just too small to share with the poor, who are anyway just trying to get some-thing for free! But more and more governments are realizing that de-cent, secure housing for the poor is both a social and an economic in-vestment in their societies - an in-vestment that pays back handsome returns many times over.

Thailand makes a very good ex-ample of this, where the government's subsidy for urban poor housing de-velopment (through CODI's "Baan Mankong" Slum Upgrading Pro-gram) is about US$2,000 per house-hold. That subsidy then gets topped-up by another $4,500 average in-vestment from each household for the land and housing loan and an-other $1,000 in contributions from the community and other local stakehold-ers, bringing the total investment to an average of $7,500 per family.

But once that house is finished, that $7,500 investment generates em-ployment and taxes and yields an economic asset which is worth three or four times that amount - an eco-nomic asset which belongs to that newly-secure poor family and fac-tors in to the larger economic base of the country. And that's to say noth-ing of the added value of other non-monetary assets like legitimacy, se-curity, social cohesion and improved health and welfare of that family.

HOW CITIES ARE CONTRIBUTING IN DIFFERENT WAYS :

When people begin showing their local governments that community-led change is something that is possible and that it works (in a friendly way!) then little by little, they begin to unlock resources which are lying hidden and unused in their cities and bring those resources into an active process. This is the people-led politics of change, and this change doesn't come from talk but from doing actual projects together. In 107 of the 146 big projects, there is some form of partnership between communities and the government. What form does this partnership take and how are cities contributing to the projects people are doing?

1 **COLLABORATIVE COMMITTEES :** The joint city development committees that have been set up in 173 cities so far, as part of the ACCA intervention, are becoming important new structural platforms which allow poor communities to work as equals with their local governments and other urban partners.

2 **LAND :** In 70 out of the 127 cities with big ACCA projects, the government has provided the land for housing (either free, on long-term nominal lease or on a rent-to-own basis), and 49,356 poor squatter households have gotten secure land tenure as a result. Several small upgrading project communities also got land.

3 **INFRASTRUCTURE :** In many cities, the local governments have provided infrastructure (such as paved access roads, drains, sewers, electric and water connections) in the big ACCA projects, and many have also provided technical help, building materials and the loan of heavy construction equipment.

4 **MONEY FOR CITY FUNDS :** 136 city-based development funds have been set up, and local governments have contributed to 41 of these funds, in 10 countries. The $2.13 million government investment works out to only 10% of the total $21.7 million capital in those funds, but it represents an important step forward for these city governments, who are committing themselves to supporting an ongo-ing funding mechanism for the development of the poor citizens in their cities.

5 **BRIDGING WITH OTHER PROJECTS :** In many cities, the successful implementeation of the ACCA projects (even unfinished ones!) has led local governments to initiate or agree to partner with the community networks and their support NGOs to implement subsequent housing and development projects.

6 **PERMISSIONS AND POLICY CHANGES :** Another way governments are contributing is by adjusting existing planning standards to make them more realistic, cheaper and easier for the poor to make housing which matches their needs.

7 **MONEY FOR PROJECTS :** The most direct way governments are contribut-ing is by adding funds to the projects communities undertake, which is happening with increasing frequency and scale (*see table below*).

CONTRIBUTIONS TO SMALL & BIG ACCA PROJECTS : *(Fifth year figures, as of November 2014)*

	Number of projects actually implemented	Number of households directly benefitting	BUDGET CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE PROJECTS *(all figures US$)*				
			From ACCA	From community	From government	From others	Total Budget
SMALL Projects	2,139 projects (in 207 cities, in 18 countries)	342,399	2,773,582 (**24%** of the total budget)	1,882,678 (**17%** of the total budget)	6,023,115 (**53%** of the total budget)	695,795 (**6%** of the total budget)	11,375,170 (**100%** of total budet)
BIG Projects	146 projects (in 127 cities, in 15 countries)	49,356 *(got secure land tenure)*	4,971,756 (**5%** of the total budget)	12,541,949 (**12%** of the total budget)	84,182,677 (**80%** of the total budget)	3,061,554 (**3%** of the total budget)	104,757,936 (**100%** of total budget)
TOTAL	2,285 projects	391,755 households	$7,745,338 (**7%** of the total budget)	$14,424,627 (**12%** of the total budget)	$90,205,792 (**78%** of the total budget)	$3,757,349 (**3%** of the total budget)	$116,133,106 (**100%** of total budget)