

4th ACCA Program Committee Meeting

- April 7 - 8, 2010
- Held in Lang Son, Vietnam
- Hosted by ACVN / Lang Son Community CDF Network

This is a report which summarizes the discussions, the activity reports, the decisions taken, the new project proposals presented and budget approvals made during the fourth ACCA / ACHR committee meeting that was held in Lang Son, Vietnam, April 7-8, 2010. The meeting was attended by about 65 people from 11 countries (participant list at end of this report). Several new ACCA projects were proposed during the meeting, and after reviewing and discussing them, a total budget of US\$252,600 was approved to support these new projects in 5 cities in 4 Asian countries (which include 20 small upgrading projects and 4 big housing projects). The two-day meeting came after a 4-day assessment trip to visit ACCA-supported projects in four cities in Vietnam: Vinh, Hai Duong, Viet Tri and Lang Son. A detailed report on this assessment trip will follow this report (see separate report, "Assessing ACCA in Vietnam").

- **PART 1 :** "Executive Summary" of the main points and agreements during the meeting
- **PART 2 :** Summary of ACCA-related activities and finance since the program began
- **PART 3 :** Brief review of the ACCA process so far in various countries
- **PART 4 :** Summary of key decisions made in the meeting
- **PART 5 :** Chart summary of new ACCA budget approved on April 8, 2010
- **PART 6 :** Chart summary of all approved ACCA budget, as of April 8, 2010
- **PART 7 :** Brief summaries of the new ACCA proposals
- **PART 8 :** Who attended?



PART 1 :

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. This meeting in Vietnam : This meeting was held right after the 4-day assessment trip to ACCA projects in Vietnam (4 cities). This was the second ACCA assessment trip - the first was in the Philippines in January 2010.

2. Special round of urgent ACCA project approvals in 5 disaster-related projects (Approved February 24 2010)

Country	City / District	Total budget proposed	Big projects	Small projects	City process	Underst anding cities	Other city and national process	Disaster	Com-munity savings and fund
CAMBODIA	Phnom Penh, Roessei Keo District Riverside slum fire (452 households)	55,000	40,000	10,000 (5)				5,000	
PHILIPPINES	Manila, Baseco Community Fire (240 households)	40,000	30,000					10,000	
BURMA	Khawmu Township, continuing cyclone affected rebuilding (3,917 households)	47,000		15,000 (5)				32,000	
INDONESIA	Balangendong Village, Tasikmalaya District, Earthquake affected (225 households)	10,000		10,000 (1)					
VIETNAM	Quinhon City, Nhon Binh Commune, typhoon Mirinae (72 households)	24,800	15,000					9,800	
TOTAL		176,800	85,000 (3 projects)	35,000 (11 projects)				56,800	

3. New ACCA approvals made during this meeting (April 8, 2010) :

Country	City / District	Total budget approved	Big projects	Small projects	City process	Underst anding cities	Other city and national process	Disaster	Com-munity savings and fund
SRI LANKA	Batticaloa	58,000	40,000	15,000 (5)	3,000				
CHINA	Lhasa, Tibet	58,000	40,000	15,000 (5)	3,000				
BURMA	Gangaw Township	10,000	--	--	--			10,000	
NEPAL	Kohalpur	58,000	40,000	15,000 (5)	3,000				
	Ratnanagar	58,000	40,000	15,000 (5)	3,000				
MONGOLIA	Uvorkhangai (CHRD)	40,647	25,647	15,000 (5)					
	UB Khan-Uul District (CHRD)	9,300	--	9,300 (3)					
	Darkhan	20,000	20,000						
	National capacity building (UDRC)	9,500					9,500		
TOTAL	5 new cities	321,447	205,647 (6 projects)	84,300 (28 projects)	12,000		9,500	10,000	

4. Additional ACCA Budget of US\$ 4 million : We have received an additional budget of US\$ 4 million from IIED and the Gates Foundation which will enable us to add the following activities to the ACCA Program :

• Grants for 50 more big projects (max. US\$ 40,000 per project)	US\$ 2,000,000
• Grants for 250 more small projects (about \$3,000 per project)	US\$ 1,000,000
• Disaster related work	US\$ 200,000
• Capacity building (national, regional support)	US\$ 700,000
• Administration	US\$ 100,000
• TOTAL	US\$ 4 million

Agreement on how to use this additional US\$ 4 million budget for ACCA :

- **Max. 15 cities per country** (including the big and small projects together. (This 15-city quota doesn't include disaster projects, which can be proposed above the 15-city quota - we'll try this for the time being, and review later.)
- **Max. 8 big projects per country**, with same ceiling of \$40,000 per project (*some cities will have no big project, so countries have to be strategic*)
- **Same ceiling of \$15,000 per city for small projects** (to cover 5 - 15 projects), but additional amount of max \$10,000 per city, and \$30,000 per country, can be proposed, to strengthen, broaden, more creative to new possible change, more deepen the process of some existing cities and the budget per project can be more flexible (with good reasons)
- **Budget of max. \$10,000 per country for national exchanges** (groups still need to propose plan and budget)
- **Budget of max. \$10,000 per country for national workshop** bringing communities and city development actors from all projects to meet and assess and plan related activities for 2010 - 2011 together, plan to strengthen and support community savings and fund, etc.
- **Budget of \$1,000 per city for city coordination and development** in already-approved cities, to be added to existing cities' budget and transferred directly to the network or city committee (But still max. \$3,000 for new cities)
- **Budget of \$12,000 per country, per year, for national coordination** (up from \$10,000)
- **Additional budget to support the city or national savings and city fund process.** To strengthen, broaden, build capacity for city or national development funds, community savings activities. (amount of support depends on proposal)
- **A NEW regional revolving fund of \$400,000 to start right away** (to be taken from the new \$2 million BIG project budget), as seed capital, to test this new thing, to be added to later with other donor funds), to be set up to provide additional loan support to some existing needy cases, cities, or existing city CDFs. The fund will be very flexible and can be used in different ways: to help speed up implementing housing projects or to broaden possibilities to include more projects (to achieve city-wide objectives), or to use to leverage other funds or use as a guarantee fund. Loan ceiling of \$50,000 per project, given at 4% interest to the countries, repayable within 5 years, with currency exchange rates set according to the local currency (*to respect the local currency!*), so groups repay in their local currency. The fund will be located at the ACHR secretariat, for the time being, and country groups can propose to borrow from the fund in ACCA committee meetings, as part of their usual round of proposals. We will start this new fund, see how it works, and adjust the terms and process according to how things really go.

5. Support from the Rockefeller Foundation has been used to support ACCA-related community architect, public media and video film making activities in 10 countries : Lao PDR, Cambodia, Nepal, Vietnam, Philippines, Fiji, Indonesia, Thailand, Mongolia, Korea and Pakistan.

6. ACCA Program summary of activities so far (as of March 2010) :

- Activities approved in 67 towns and cities in 14 countries
- 34 big housing projects and 310 small upgrading projects
- Community development funds in some form in 32 cities
- Community-driven disaster rehabilitation projects in 4 countries
- National surveys in 6 countries
- A total budget of US\$ 2,724,191 has been approved for these activities

7. Agreements reached during the meeting :

- **National meetings :** All countries will organize their own national meetings to assess their internal ACCA process and projects.
- **Upcoming assessment trips :** A tentative schedule of upcoming regional assessment trips was agreed upon as follows: Mongolia (June 2010), Cambodia (August 2010), Nepal (November 2010), Sri Lanka (January 2011)
- **Support for Indochina network :** A budget of \$30,000 (for 1 year) was agreed upon to support the exchanges and collaboration that is happening increasingly between the five countries in the Indochina sub-regional network (Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam, Lao PDR and Burma).
- **Regional Meeting on Disasters :** Agreed to hold this meeting in the Philippines, hosted by the HPFP, in July, August or September 2010.
- **Community Mapping Workshop :** Agreed to hold this workshop in Sri Lanka, hosted by WB and Sevanatha, in January 2011, together with the Sri Lanka assessment trip.
- **Regional Community Architects Meeting :** Agreed that this meeting will be held in Thailand, in Chiang Mai, in June 2010.
- **ACHR Regional Meeting :** Had to be postponed because of the political troubles in Thailand, so it was agreed to re-schedule the meeting in another country, some time in 2010.

PART 2 :

Summary of ACCA-related news and activities in recent months

(Somsook and Maurice report)

The ACCA / ACHR Committee meeting in Lang Son was opened by Mr. Nguyen Lan (the General Secretary of ACVN), who welcomed everyone and gave a brief presentation on urban poverty in Viet Nam, community development, ACVN and the ACCA process in Viet Nam. Then, Ms. Nong Bich Thuan (the Vice Chairwoman of the Lang Son People's Committee) made a few remarks about Lang Son and offered her welcome to the city and blessings for a fruitful meeting.

Somsook : This is a very important day, that we have had a chance to come to Lang Son - a chance we would not have had without ACCA. Thanks to the city of Lang Son, which organized the assessment trip yesterday. We will never forget that muddy mountain we had to climb to see the water supply system the people have made at Quang Trung Village! And today many of us still have mud in our shoes - a great experience for city people like us - and we'll take this mud back home with us tomorrow!

This meeting comes after a 4-day assessment trip to visit ACCA projects in 4 cities : We start this meeting at the end of a four-day assessment visit to Viet Nam, in which we visited four cities: Vinh, Hai Duong, Viet Tri and Lang Son. In the assessment team, we had participants from Sri Lanka, Lao PDR, Cambodia, Mongolia, Nepal, Philippines and Thailand. These people from different countries have come on this joint assessment to see how the process in Viet Nam is working, but these joint assessments are also an opportunity to reflect on how all of us are working in our own countries. This is a new kind of assessment process - a two-way assessment, in which we assess others and assess ourselves at the same time. And we have learned a lot and now have a much better understanding of the process in Viet Nam. So thanks very much to the communities and cities - and the ACVN - who have made all the arrangements and shown us all the things you have been doing in the Vietnamese way of implementing ACCA.

The ACCA Program is not just projects. It shows many things about the system and the way of society. We got approval for the ACCA program in November 2008, but we actually started the work in January 2009. This is not another simple program like most of the development agencies are doing every day. This is a very special program because it is built on the rich experience and wisdom of Asian communities and Asian organizations over the past twenty or thirty years. This is a program of the new world, the new society, and it opens up a big space for people on the ground, to get together, to initiate development activities - from one community to all the communities in the city - and with the city. This is the new design of the ACCA Program.

The money ACCA offers for each city isn't big, but it's enough to allow people to start something new and become active. We use very little money to do this. The whole project for Asia has a budget of US\$ 11 million now, but we've designed the process in such a way that this money can spread out to as many people, as many cities as possible. So each place may not have a lot of money, but the money is enough to allow them the space to start new things, a new development process. We believe that in this new society, people are already waking up, even though they may be in the most remote, most far-away and poorest communities. They want to make change, and they want to be a part of this changing world. And if it is possible, we open up the space so everybody can be active - this program is designed for all the communities to become active actors, and to be part of the change process - not only passive recipients, waiting for others to do things for them! Any group that uses the ACCA Program with this understanding, will find that the program provides a variety of powerful new tools to make real change, in the context of these new, changing societies they are part of. And after only a year, we're finding that this happens in many places.

ACCA provides space for all of us to learn and grow together : In some places, the funds are not being used this way, but are only being used to fund a project here and a project there, in the old way. This is not how the program was designed to work, but we can't expect that this new way of working to happen over night. And we need the transformation, we all need a new space so we can grow together, beginning wherever we all are now (in the conventional system or whatever) into the new possibilities and learn new things. ACCA provides this space, and that is one of the reasons why we are organizing these assessment trips, in which many cities can come and learn together.

ACCA Project Update : Since the beginning of the ACCA Program in January 2010 to now, we have approved projects in 67 cities, in 14 countries all over Asia. These projects include 34 big housing projects and about 310 small upgrading projects. With support from ACCA, we have been able to initiate or strengthen the existing savings groups and city development funds. Up to now we have city development funds in at least 30 cities in Asia, through the ACCA Program.

All these activities - the big and small projects, the savings, the city funds, the networking and the joint committees - are leading into a new direction of city-wide upgrading, where all the urban poor communities take part in the new change process, not just a select few.

ACCA in Viet Nam : Here in Viet Nam, we have approved ACCA projects in nine cities so far. I think that here in Viet Nam, we have implemented ACCA in a particular way that is a little different than other countries. Here we link with the ACVN, which is a kind of secretariat of cities in the country. This link opens up new space for so many cities to join in the process, to learn and to initiate ACCA projects in their cities. We have to see how the communities on the ground will collaborate with the cities in this process, and be very active - this will be one of our important tasks in the next two years. But for the time being, ACVN has had a very big and very special task in supporting this work in a big way, and getting so many cities involved.

Linking with Cities Alliance to help scale up ACCA in Viet Nam : We have also joined forces with the Cities Alliance, and negotiated for their support to expand the program in the next three years to 100 cities. We'll have to see whether we can really achieve this targeted scale or not. But the important aspect of this idea of 100 cities is thinking big, thinking at the *real scale of the problems*. It might end up being 60 or 70 or 110 cities - the important thing is not the number of cities, but the approach which takes into consideration the real scale of problems and the real scale of change, and works at that scale from the very start.

The little island or the big sea? This is the key issue of the ACCA Program: that we shouldn't just keep doing projects here and there, pouring all our energy and resources and creativity into nurturing these few, isolated projects, as though they were our babies. We could keep taking care of these "babies" forever! In fact these little projects are only small islands in a big sea of change. So the thing we have to do is to look realistically at the actual scale of problems, the actual scale of the changing world, and see how whatever we plan and whatever we do can influence that big scale of change, one way or another.

Developing our work according to the real context of change - and with people : This relates very much to the world we live in today, which is a globalized and highly dynamic world, in which things change so quickly. We may adjust ourselves to accommodate some new reality today, but three months later that reality will have changed completely and we will have a whole new set of conditions to adjust to. That's the speed of change. So we have to find a way to develop our process according to this real change context. And of course we have to do it with people. If we can do things in a big way, with people who are waking up and even leading us, this is, I think, the most desirable kind of development for Asia.

This meeting is an important chance to review, reflect and adjust our program for the coming years : So we would like to take the opportunity this meeting offers us to look at the ACCA Program's performance during its first year, to review, to look back, and to see what we should do in the next two years. So this meeting in Lang Son is quite important. Even a relatively dynamic program like ACCA has to keep adapting itself to the real situations, the real needs and the real demands of the different countries as well.

ADD SUMMARY HERE

AN ACCA UPDATE

AS OF MARCH 30 2010 :

- Activities approved in 67 towns and cities in 14 countries
- 34 big housing projects and 310 small upgrading projects
- Community development funds in some form in 32 cities
- Community-driven disaster rehabilitation projects in 4 countries
- National surveys in 6 countries

ACCA Reports :

MEETING REPORTS

Reports have been prepared on all three of the ACCA committee meetings and the other ACCA Program-related gatherings held so far. These reports summarize the key points, discussions and agreements from the meetings and present detailed information about the projects already underway and the new projects being proposed.

- **First ACCA Committee meeting in Nepal, February 2009**
- **Regional Community Forum in the Philippines, March 2009**
- **Second ACCA Committee meeting in Thailand, April 2009**
- **Third ACCA Committee meeting in Indonesia, October 2009**
- **Community Architects Meeting in Bali, October 2009**

FIELD VISIT REPORTS

Three reports have also been prepared which provide detailed accounts of the exposure visits to community-driven, city-wide upgrading projects that are in process in the cities and countries where ACCA meetings have been held.

- **City-wide upgrading in Bharatpur, Nepal, Feb. 2009**
- **City-wide upgrading in Iloilo, Philippines, March 2009**
- **City-Wide upgrading in Chantaburi, Thailand, April 2009**
- **Korea after 20 years, June 2009**

OTHER ACCA REPORTS

- **ACCA 6-Monthly Progress Report, May 2009**
- **ACCA 1-year Progress Report, December 2009 (in process)**
- **Information brochure about the ACCA Program, with profiles of 6 cities where ACCA projects are underway, June 2009**
- **ACCA Philippines Assessment trip Report, January 2010**

All these reports can be downloaded from the ACHR website.

SMALL ACCA PROJECTS :

- Total number of small projects approved : **310 projects (in 55 cities, in 13 countries)**
- Number of households directly benefitting : **47,919 households**
- Total small project budget approved : **US\$ 735,500**

STATUS of the projects :

- Number of projects completed : **99 projects**
- Number of projects in process : **118 projects**
- Number of projects not started yet : **93 projects**

TYPES of the small projects : These small projects are all being planned and proposed by communities, through a city-wide process of prioritizing and agreement, and are being implemented by community people themselves, with an enormous number of both direct and indirect beneficiaries. These projects involve paved roads and walkways (73 projects), drainage (29 projects), bridges (8 projects), water supply systems (64 projects), electricity and street lighting (10 projects), private and communal toilets (44 projects), community centers (21 projects), rice banks (3 projects), children's library (1 project), community fire-protection systems (2 projects), tree-planting (7 projects), solid waste and composting (18 projects).

BIG ACCA PROJECTS :

- Total number of big projects approved in the first year : **34 projects**
- Total big project budget approved : **US\$ 1,280,120**
- Number of households directly benefit from these projects : **3,892 households**

STATUS of the projects :

- **Fully completed (5 projects)** Khawmu and Khunchankone (Burma), Manila Drainage and Mandaue (Philippines), Tunkhel (Mongolia).
- **More than 50% done (11 projects)** Serey Sophoan and Peam Ro District (Cambodia), Surabaya (Indonesia), Bharatpur (Nepal), Quezon City Dist. 1, Typhoon Ketsana project and Iligan (Philippines), Nuwara Eliya (Sri Lanka), Bayanchandmani (Mongolia), Chum Phae and Bang Khen District (Thailand).
- **Less than 50% done (11 projects)** Samrong, Preah Sihanouk and Phnom Penh (Cambodia), Viet Tri, Vinh and Quinhon (Vietnam), Erdenet (Mongolia), Leh (India), Vientiane (Lao PDR), Kalutara and Matale (Sri Lanka), Manila Fire in Basco (Philippines).
- **Not started yet (7 projects)** : Bavet (Cambodia), Makassar (Indonesia), Biratnagar and Birgunj (Nepal), Seoul (Korea), Navotas (Philippines), Bhuj (India).

TYPES of the big projects :

- Infrastructure improvement projects : 2 projects / 411 households
- Renovate, rebuild, repair existing houses : 9 projects / 1,349 households
- On-site upgrading or reconstruction : 18 projects / 1,932 households
- Relocation of scattered squatters to new land : 3 projects / 119 households
- Relocation of whole communities to new land : 2 projects / 81 households
- Projects not selected or started yet : 2 projects

Who provided the LAND in these big projects?

- People purchased land or already owned it : 6 projects / 1,149 households
- Land provided free by the government : 22 projects / 2,305 households
- Presidential proclamation land : 2 projects / 293 households
- Occupied without formal tenure : 2 projects / 145 households

LAND TENURE in the big projects :

- Collective ownership : 11 projects / 810 households
- Individual ownership : 17 projects / 2,604 households
- Insecure tenure : 2 projects / 145 households

OTHER ACTIVITIES :

- **Community development funds in some form in 32 cities**
- **Community-driven disaster rehabilitation projects in 4 countries** : Cambodia (1 project), Burma (3 projects), Philippines (6 projects), Vietnam (1 project)
- **National surveys in 6 countries** : National surveys have been carried out - or are in process - in six countries, with support from ACCA program :
 - **Cambodia** : A survey of communities with insecure land in 27 cities by community leaders and UPDF
 - **Nepal** : A survey of slums in 20 cities by the two community federations with support from Lumanti
 - **Philippines** : A national survey and mapping of urban poor communities in 33 cities in high-risk and disaster-prone areas by the Homeless People's Federation.
 - **Lao PDR** : A survey of urban poor communities in 6 new cities
 - **Vietnam** : A survey of urban poor communities in 6 new cities
 - **Indonesia** : A survey of urban poor communities in 8 cities.

Comments on the ACCA presentation and video :

Kirtee : Just three quick points: What is important is that all this work seems to be happening very fast - the number of projects and number of cities becoming active through the program is growing very fast. We can also see that the process is scaling up very . I think there is so much to learn. We talk about scaling up all the time, but I think we can see some real scaling up happening already with the people-driven development model ACCA is promoting. And finally, when we look at people's body language in the video, it's clear that people are excited by this process, excited to be the ones to do things.

Report on ACCA activities, since the last committee meeting in Surabaya, in October 2009

1. Reports on the ACCA Program's first year that have been prepared and distributed :

- A report on the Surabaya meeting was prepared and sent to IIED, donors and to all the key regional contacts
- A summary report on the ACCA Program's progress, in the form of a New Year's calendar, was prepared and distributed in December 2009.
- A 16-page brochure on the ACCA Program was developed, to distribute to organizations and at meetings.
- A 16-page report on the ACHR visit to Seoul Korea, in June 2009, and the situation of the urban poor there.
- A detailed report on the ACCA Program's first year is being prepared now and will be published in May 2010.

2. Additional budget of US\$ 4 million for ACCA from IIED and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation : We were invited to participate in a meeting organized by the Gates Foundation, in Durban South Africa (16-18 November 2009), which brought together the foundation's "urban poverty" partners around the world. During that meeting, we were able to present the work we are doing with the ACCA Program, and took that opportunity to discuss the possibility of some additional funding support to expand the ACCA Program, since the program is going faster than we'd expected. Once we got a green light from the donor, we worked closely with Diana at IIED to propose the additional budget, and in February 2010, the US\$ 4 million was granted. The additional budget, which is added to the original US\$7 million, brings our total budget for ACCA to US\$11 million. This extra funding support will allow us to implement the ACCA Program in at least 50 more cities, and to implement 50 more big projects, bringing the total to about 100 big projects. Of these 100 big projects, only 34 have so far been approved, so we have funding for another 66 projects. This supplementary budget will also allow us to implement more small upgrading projects, and to have additional budget for community-driven disaster response and capacity building.

3. Regional Community Architects meeting postponed to May 2010 : Originally, the plan was to hold the regional community architects meeting at the end of February 2010, in Bangkok, just before the ACHR regional meeting. Everything was set, but then the political upheavals in Thailand got worse rather than better. So the community architects meeting has now been postponed to May 1-3, 2010, and will be held in Chiang Mai, Thailand.

- **Preparatory meeting in Bali, in October :** In preparation for this workshop, we had a small workshop in Bali, Indonesia, in October 2009, just before the ACCA committee meeting in Surabaya. From that meeting, a coordinating group of young professionals was set up, to link together and coordinate their own activities. Several community planning workshops which had been organized in several countries (Philippines, Lao PDR, Thailand, Vietnam, Nepal) were reported on, and a report was prepared on this meeting.
- **The Community Architects Meeting in May will be a very important event in Asia,** because if we want a city-wide upgrading and a physical transformation of urban poor communities, we need architects and professionals to work with the people to deliver these changes in a proper form. Social change cannot go by itself. This is why we give a lot of space to bring more people, more thinking, more sharing, more knowledge into this growing circle of young professionals and community architects in Asia. And we will keep on doing that in the next two years, and are also going to link with SDI on this also.

4. Progress on finalizing the city information systems and ACCA performance indicators :

- **Why the need for information and indicators?** We are not just doing projects, but we are looking at the change of the whole city. But in order to assess what changes occur - for both the ACCA program and for the city process as a whole - we need to have some indicators, something to tell us that this is better, that this city has changed. So what are these indicators? These indicators will not only be used for the ACCA Program, but we think it is important to link these city indicators into a regional Asia-wide information process and report. We have the reports from UN-Habitat and other organizations. Every year they produce these big reports on the state of the urban poor in cities, but we don't know who do these reports or where their figures come from! The UN's last report said that the number of slums in Asian cities has been reduced so much! So if we don't want some big PhD from another world to come and tell us how our cities are changing, then we have to do it ourselves - the same as the assessment process. So every city knows how many slums there are, what is the level of poverty, what are the breakthroughs, etc. We can assess the situation ourselves, city by city and country by country.
- **There are now 64 cities implementing ACCA projects, so we have to build capacity in all these cities into a mechanism by which we can assess change process professionally,** and then link this information and these assessments together into an Asian report that is credible and which people can refer to. And the difference will be that our report is correct, because it is done by urban poor and the city together, both of whom really know their city.
- **Small workshop in January 2010 at ACHR office in Bangkok :** This is the reason we organized a small 2-day workshop in Bangkok in mid January, which was attended by UN-ESCAP, Diana Mitlin, Dieu Anh, Fr. Norberto and all ACHR secretariat to discuss how to make city and ACCA indicators. We produced a draft set of indicators and

information during this meeting, and now we need to finalize this and test in some cities. By the end of this year, we will bring this process into implementation.

5. Linking the ACCA Program with other international agencies and programs

- **Linking with Cities Alliance in Vietnam :** Linking the ACCA program in Vietnam with support from the Cities Alliance's LSC Project (Land, Security of Tenure and Citizenship). Here in Asia, they chose Vietnam. We have reached an agreement to link this LSC Project with ACCA, and to use their US\$ 1.3 million budget for Vietnam to directly support the ACVN to expand the ACCA process to cover 100 cities in 3 years, in a process in which the city and the communities are the key actors to do upgrading together. The ACVN will probably sign the contract with Cities Alliance some time in 2010.
- **Linking ACCA with UN-Habitat in Asia :** We have been discussing for some time with the UN-Habitat in Fukuoka to work together to expand the ACCA Program's community-driven and city-wide approach to more cities and more countries in Asia, in a region-wide program. We jointly drafted a proposal for "300 Cities in Asia", and this proposal is still in the works. In the mean time, they are developing a new project in South Pacific countries (Fiji, Papua New Guinea and Samoa), and they would like ACHR to collaborate. But because the project mostly involved the central governments and not too much with poor communities, we initially disagreed with the proposal. But a more realistic possibility has come up in Fiji, which may start some links with UN-Habitat :
- **Linking with the Community Network and the Ministry of Housing in Fiji :** We have been trying to support the process in Fiji for some time now, and a team from ACHR went to Fiji in (March 9-13, 2010) to work with the community network, the city government and the Ministry. We are trying to find a way in which the community people themselves start the city-wide upgrading process, with the city and the government. We have agreed to make an MOU between ACHR, the Ministry, the People's Community Network in Fiji, to work together in 5 cities, with a view to expanding it to 20 cities in three years. Then hopefully Fiji will become a model which can be expanded to other Pacific Island countries. We can also begin making a regional network of communities and cities in these Pacific countries. One possibility is to bring UN-Habitat into this process, as an alternative to their other project, and probably Cities Alliance may support it. But even without the UN-Habitat, we are going ahead with the MOU.
- **Linking with the ADB's CDIA Program,** which supports city governments to improve their urban infrastructure. We have agreed to work together in 4 or 5 cities where ACCA is already active (maybe Ulaanbaatar, Bharatpur), to make the community-driven aspects of their urban infrastructure program more active and more effective, with collaboration between communities and the city.
- **Linking with the Selavip Foundation :** For a few years now, we have been helping to recommend groups to Selavip and to sometimes help groups prepare proposals for Selavip support. Some of these Selavip-supported projects (max \$60,000 per project) are now linking with ACCA projects.
- **Linking with the Rockefeller Foundation :** to discuss the new phase of support, now that the one-year project to support community architects, media and Lao PDR is finished.

6. Supporting country-wide activities and finding ways to help institutionalize existing programs : This work includes coordinating activities in Cambodia (institutionalizing and nationalizing the UPDF), Lao PDR (the Women's Union and the network of savings groups), Vietnam and Fiji.

7. Supporting the Indochina sub-regional network of community groups : The five countries of Indochina (Thailand, Lao PDR, Cambodia, Vietnam and Burma) can easily and cheaply travel by van or bus to visit each other and to support each other's processes in different ways. A workshop among these five countries was organized in Siem Reap in March 2010 to establish joint coordination process among these countries, to enable a more free-flowing exchange of learning and support among communities in the countries. This has already been happening over the past five years, but we will be strengthening this sub-regional support process.

8. Coordinating a special round of ACCA project approvals - by e-mail - in February 2010 : A special round of ACCA project consideration was sent to the committee members through the e-mail at the end of February, for those groups with especially needy projects - especially groups proposing disaster-related projects. A total of five disaster-related projects were proposed in that round: house reconstruction after a fire in Baseco (Manila, Philippines), house rebuilding after a fire in Russei Keo District (Phnom Penh, Cambodia), rehabilitation after a cyclone (Quinhon, Vietnam), continued rehabilitation after Cyclone Nargis (Khawmu Township, Burma), and reconstruction of a community mosque after an earthquake (Tasikmalaya District, Indonesia). A budget of US\$ 176,800 (5 cities, 5 countries) was approved.

9. Organizing two ACCA country assessment trips, to test our new way of getting several community groups to assess together :

- **First assessment trip to the Philippines (January 24-29, 2010).** This trip included community groups and their supporters from three countries (Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam) and community representatives from all the ACCA-supported projects in the Philippines, and visited 12 projects in 6 cities. We really learned on this trip! We learned about the country, about the political culture, about the implementing groups, about the relationship between the cities and the poor and about the community ways of doing things - all by going right to the ground and trying to understand how they do these ACCA-supported upgrading activities.
- **Second assessment trip to Vietnam (April 3-6, 2010).** This visit was held right before this ACCA meeting, and it included community groups and their supporters from Cambodia, Lao PDR, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Mongolia, as well as community representatives and Women's Union workers from the four Vietnamese cities we visited. The visit covered four cities and about ten projects.

Report on activities supported by the Rockefeller Foundation grant (Maurice reports)

The one-year grant from the Rockefeller Foundation was conceived from the beginning as a supplement to the ACCA Program, to provide technical support to the program in two ways: support for the involvement of community architects in the community-driven upgrading process, and support for the development of video films and media linkages to disseminate these community-driven upgrading experiences.

1. Community architects : An important task during the ACCA's first year has been opening up as big a space as possible in Asia for interested design professionals, students and academics to work with communities to plan their housing and upgrading projects in participatory ways, and to link their experiences into a network. This work, which is being partly supported by the Rockefeller budget includes :

- **Supporting the involvement of local community architects** (a few from the Asia region, but mostly from that same country) in the upgrading projects in Lao PDR, Cambodia, Nepal, Vietnam, Philippines and Fiji.
- **Participatory community design workshops organized** in Nepal (Bharatpur and Biratnagar), the Philippines (Digos), Lao PDR (Vientiane), Thailand (Chantaburi), Vietnam (Viet Tri and Vinh), Cambodia (Phnom Penh, Serey Sophoan) and Indonesia (bamboo construction in Bali and Tasikmalaya).
- **Small regional community architects workshop (to prepare for the big one in June)**, in Bali (October 2009).
- **Big regional community architects workshop planned** to take place in Chiang Mai Thailand (June 12-16, 2010).
- **Special 96-page publication on community architects in Asia** produced by Tee and Nad and published in April 2010.

2. Community video and media :

- **Regional meeting on video production and linking with public media, held in Bangkok** (Aug 26-29, 2009), for video film-makers and NGO partners from eight organizations from 8 Asian countries. At that meeting, we set plans to produce 8 or 9 ten-minute videos describing the ACCA projects, which could be used in community meetings, for training, for sharing with other countries and for airing on public TV.
- **Supporting groups in nine countries to prepare video films on community-driven housing and upgrading (most finished now, and they will all be distributed as a set soon).** The groups include: **Pakistan** ("Why upgrading?" film by URC), **India** ("Upgrading in Pune" by SPARC), **Korea** (a 10-minute film about ACCA projects in vinyl house communities by Asian Bridge NGO), **Mongolia** (a set of four films about *ger area* upgrading, which were aired on national TV and You-Tube and even a "reality TV show" about urban poor!), **Cambodia** (films about two ACCA cities, and have good links with the national TV Channel 3, where regular films about the UPDF and community upgrading process are regularly broadcast), **Philippines** (three films scripted and produced entirely by community people in three cities - Iloilo, Mandaue and Digos), **Thailand** (films by Nad about his involvement in post-tsunami rebuilding projects and a hill-tribe community sustainable forest protection), **Nepal** (their film is still in process), **Vietnam** (films on the ACCA upgrading process in several cities, which have been shown on national public TV).
- **Somsook : These videos are your tools.** These videos are not meant to be kept on a shelf somewhere! These videos contain a lot of knowledge, a lot of different ways of doing things. These videos have been planned to be used as your tools. When you are trying to develop the process in some cities, it might be good to let your communities in that city to see what their peers in Cambodia, or Mongolia or Thailand are doing, and get a good idea of different ways to do things. These are not videos made to be kept on a shelf!
- **Supporting groups in several countries to link with public media** in Mongolia, Cambodia and Nepal.

3. Support community saving activities in Lao PDR : Another part of the Rockefeller grant was not related to video or media, but was used to support the ongoing community savings process in Lao PDR.

Report on ACCA Finances, up to 31 March, 2010

Country	No of cities	Total approved ACCA Budget	Big Projects	Small Projects	City Process Support	National Process support	Understa nding Cities	Communi ty savings / funds	Other city / national processes	Disaster	Strengtheni ng regional processes	Total amount disbursed	Balance yet to be disbursed
CAMBODIA	11	465,000	240,000 (6 projects)	160,000 (93)	30,000	20,000			10,000	5,000		197,000	268,000
FIJI	1	28,000	--	15,000 (5)	3,000	10,000						20,000	8,000
INDIA	2	121,000	80,000 (2 project)	30,000 (12)	6,000		5,000					20,000	101,000
INDONESIA	4	155,497	80,000 (2 projects)	40,000 (11)	9,000	10,000			16,497			52,997	102,500
KOREA	1	68,000	40,000 (1 project)	15,000 (5)	3,000	10,000						17,000	51,000
LAOS	2	84,000	40,000 (1 project)	30,000 (10)	4,000	10,000						27,000	57,000
MONGOLIA	12	253,320	105,120 (3 projects)	65,700 (22)	36,000	20,000	15,000	9,000	2,500			225,640	27,680
MYANMAR	3	251,510	80,000 (2 projects)	42,000 (10)	6,000	10,000		5,000		92,800	15,710	193,856	57,654
NEPAL	3	205,100	120,000 (3 projects)	45,000 (16)	9,000	10,000			21,100			101,000	104,100
PAKISTAN	1	5,000	--	--					5,000			2,360	2,640
PHILIPPINES	13	505,000	220,000 (7 projects)	129,000 (46)	36,000	10,000	17,500	6,000	6,500	80,000		362,100	142,900
SRI LANKA	3	191,500	120,000 (3 projects)	45,000 (15)	9,000	17,500						143,500	48,000
THAILAND	2	86,000	60,000 (2 projects)	10,000 (4)	6,000	10,000						56,000	30,000
VIETNAM	10	305,264	95,000 (3 projects)	120,000 (41)	27,000	10,000	15,000	6,000	22,464	9,800		218,764	86,500
TOTAL	68	2,724,191	1,280,120 (35 projects)	746,700 (290 projects)	184,000	147,500	52,500	26,000	84,061	187,600	15,710	1,637,217	1,086,974

Comments on ACCA finances :

- **Diana : Finance that goes directly to poor people.** IIED has no role in controlling the ACCA process and we have absolute trust to the people to manage the process and the finances. What we share with ACHR and with all the implementing groups is a common objective: to create more space for people. Putting finance into people's hands is one of the most critical aspects of this ACCA program, and one of the most important aspects to push for pro-poor change and pro-poor cities, with professionals and governments.
- **Kirtee : There is so much suspicion of community processes!** It may be useful to do some social and financial analysis or audit of the ACCA process. For example, if 98% of the program's finances went directly to people on the ground, can we audit that extraordinary performance, chronicle it and communicate it? To show that it is successful and effective when the money goes directly to poor communities?
- **Somsook : We work within a culture of trust.** Yes, we can do that easily. Out of the total \$ 4 million additional budget for ACCA, only \$100,000 goes to administration - less than 2%! But how do we manage this budget that goes to poor communities? We manage the projects by trust, and we work within a culture of trust. The Gates Foundation trusts IIED, IIED trusts ACHR, ACHR trusts all the different groups in all the different cities and countries who are actually doing things on the ground, and the groups trust the communities. And there are so many communities, with so much energy. They can take care of money better than we ever could: if they receive ten dollars, they will produce \$100 worth of improvements. So it's a culture of trust we are talking about - a culture that is very different from the prevailing culture, which is the culture of *distrust*. Most national and international development projects come already pre-designed and predetermined, with all the steps worked out before people on the ground ever come near them. They don't allow much space for people on the ground to think for themselves. But here with ACCA, we make the financial system easy, simple and accessible, and we let the people think and do - do what they like - together. It's a small amount of money, but it comes with trust. There is so much energy that comes out of this simple opening, and so many possibilities. And we trust that it's working. So the ACCA Program follows a new kind of new design, in which the upper layer does less, and the people on the ground do more. The ones who think and strategize and do the actual work to make change are the community people and the cities! This is what we are trying to do.

Report on two ACCA Assessment visits so far : Philippines and Vietnam

The Philippines assessment trip (January 24-29, 2010) : During the Philippines visit, which covered 6 cities and over a dozen projects, we could see clearly the difference in the strength of the projects, in cases where the communities were the main actors, and in cases where they were not. A few points came out in both the discussions among the participants and in the assessment forms that they filled out afterwards:

- **projects "owned" by communities :** that the strongest projects were those where communities felt the projects belonged to them, where they played the main role, where they managed everything and did everything themselves.
- **projects where communities have savings :** that the strongest projects were those where communities have savings activities, and where the savings process has taught people how to manage finance collectively, and to be confident to determine what they need and develop that together. So when the ACCA Program came along with its opportunities and finance, it flowed easily into these groups and their already-strong finance systems. The quality of the financial management was much stronger and much clearer in the projects in communities which already had savings. So the assessment visit confirmed for everyone the importance of savings - either before the ACCA projects starts, or during the projects.
- **projects with good collaboration with cities :** that the projects which have been implemented with good collaboration between the community and the city got better concrete results (such as land) and had more possibilities of expanding into other projects, opening up room for policy changes, or getting other more structural issues in the city to be addressed.
- **projects where there is still no clear housing solution :** that in some projects, the participants were uncomfortable with the projects where the support NGO had proposed big project support to ACCA, even when there was no clear housing solution in sight, so even after a year, the situation was still unclear, no progress and much frustration. From this, we concluded that in future, it would be good if big housing projects are proposed to ACCA only if there is a clear way to go, and it is known what to do.
- **that there is a great need for communities to be a bigger actor there :** We found a great deal of complexity between the government system and the people, lots of layers, lots of steps, lots of rules and agencies - and so there are a lot of development agencies who are trying to bridge that complexity to try to make something happen. But the Philippines is a country full of slums and squatter settlements, and the stagnation in the situation is huge, compared to the ability of all these intermediary organizations to solve the problems. So we all felt that an important direction in the country is to find a way that communities themselves can become a more key actor in dispelling this stagnation. But how to do this in the intermediate layer, to make the complex government system more easy and accessible and workable for the poor?

Somsok shows powerpoint which presents photos of all the projects we visited during the Philippines exposure visit. For more information on this assessment trip, please see the report, "Assessing ACCA in the Philippines", which can be downloaded from the ACHR website: www.achr.net

PART 3 :

Brief review of the ACCA process so far in various countries

1. CAMBODIA (Somsak from UPDF reports)

ACCA projects are now being implemented in 11 cities, but we already have city-wide development processes going in about 34 towns and cities around Cambodia, in which poor communities start savings groups, form networks, link with the local authority and begin developing housing, land and upgrading projects, to make their cities beautiful for everyone, in collaboration with the UPDF. All these 34 cities are now closely linked in a national community savings and CDF network. The CDFs which have been established in many of these cities, and the cities learn from each other through a constant program of exchanges.

- **111 small projects** are being implemented in these 11 cities, with ACCA support. To spread around the opportunity of this ACCA budget, most of these small projects are being built for much less than the ACCA ceiling of \$3,000 per project. Walkways, drains, water supply, etc. All labor contributed free by people.
- **Big housing projects** being undertaken in 5 cities.
- **Good Support from local authorities :** In at least 80% of these small and big projects, there has been good support from the local authorities, in the form of cash contributions, building materials, logistical and technical support, equipment loans, and even land.
- **In all 5 of the big housing projects, the government has provided free land!**
- **National survey of communities with serious land problems** has been carried out in 27 cities.

2. LAP PDR *(Kanthone from Vientiane reports)*

(showing powerpoint in Lao language) Mr. Kanthone directs a project in Vientiane called the *Women and Community Empowering Project*, which acts as a local support organization for the savings and credit process in Lao PDR. He gives some background on the national women's community savings and credit process in Lao PDR, which began in 2000, as a collaboration between the Lao Women's Union, CODI, ACHR. The savings process is now active in about 300 villages in 12 districts, in 5 provinces of Lao PDR, with total collective savings of several million US dollars, and about 30,000 members. But most of these savings groups have been in rural villages, where there are not many problems of land and housing, more focus on income generation and welfare. Now savings groups have begun in a few cities in Lao - Vientiane, Luang Prabang, Champasak. The ACCA process has begun in two cities in Lao so far: Vientiane and Muang Kong District (Champasak Province) :

- **Land breakthrough in Vientiane** : In Vientiane, the big project at Nong Duang Thung community (on-site upgrading on land given by the government), the construction of new houses is about to begin.
- **Focus on clean water supply in Muang Kong District** : In this rural district, the small projects to produce wells are also beginning, where the greatest need was clean drinking water.
- **First demonstration in Lao of secure government land for an urban squatter settlement** : The big project in Vientiane, at Nong Duang Thung, is an important breakthrough project for Lao, and is the first case of the government providing free land to an urban slum community, on-site, in a city which is beginning to experience some serious eviction problems - especially as Vientiane is about to celebrate its 450 year anniversary, and lots of city "Beautification" projects are underway, and lots of evictions are happening. So the ACCA project in Nong Duang Thung was used as a negotiating point to talk to the local authority to secure land, and to show that poor people don't need to be evicted - their settlements could be upgraded and "beautified" also. And if could demonstrate this, it will send an impact on other cases.
- **Participatory community design workshop in September 2009** : The design of this upgrading and reblocking project is being done by the community members themselves, with good assistance from the local architecture university. A big seminar on participatory community planning was organized in Vientiane in September 2009, with support from ACHR. 90 students and professionals were involved.
- **Survey of the poor in Vientiane District** : As part of the community planning workshop, the students were all sent out and surveyed all the areas in Vientiane where poor people were living - some already evicted and relocated, others still in their old communities and facing eviction. The survey will help link these other communities with insecure status, to the pilot housing project at Nong Duang Thung.

3. MONGOLIA *(Enhe from UDRC reports)*

Impacts of the upgrading projects : We did an assessment and monitoring survey with the community leaders in December 2009, to look at the people-driven, city-wide upgrading process in Mongolia so far. The survey showed that the ACCA projects have made many impacts : the living environment and housing conditions of people living in informal ger areas had improved, they had learned to work together and cooperate with their neighbors. The savings groups had also become stronger and closer, through the upgrading projects, with more members joining, more trust and confidence, and more neighboring settlements seeing and joining the process. The strong cooperation of the local government was a key to the success of many of these upgrading initiatives.

- **The problem of the short building season** : In most of Asia, people can build and upgrade all year round. But in Mongolia, we cannot build during the harsh, snowy winter, so the period we can do upgrading and housing projects is very short, only 5 months (May to October). All the physical development stops during the winter. But during those winter months, we can prepare, so savings, surveys, exchange trips, newsletters.
- **Using media to send the news to areas we cannot go** : One big lesson from this past year was that since we cannot reach all the ger areas in cities around the country, we can use the media (tv, video documentary, newsletters) to let others around the country know about the community-driven upgrading process in ger areas.
- **Showing a people-driven and demand-driven alternative to the old project-approach** : A lot of the development projects in Mongolia being implemented by NGOs and development agencies and government departments are still following the old project-oriented approach, which spoils people, who wait for hand-outs. We are trying to be more process oriented and to be more community driven, in which people achieve by themselves, according to their own needs. This is all very new in Mongolia! To show this difference to people in Mongolia is one of our big tasks with ACCA: showing communities, showing ADB, showing World Bank, showing the government.
- **Mayor's club now** : Now many of the mayors who are working with communities and supporting ACCA projects in their cities are now linking together, visiting each others cities and they have formed a mayor's club! There are now ten mayors who can talk about all these community driven processes like we are talking here! And these mayors are now becoming volunteers to go around to explain about this ACCA process, and encourage their peers in other cities to support similar community-driven upgrading initiatives in the ger areas.

4. NEPAL *(Sama from Lumanti reports)*

ACCA projects are now underway in three municipalities in Nepal, with 3 big projects and 15 small infrastructure improvement projects. Each city has a joint committee to manage the ACCA process, which includes community leaders, the municipality, representatives from the women's co-op network and the squatters federation, Lumanti and other local stakeholders. All the financial management is done totally by the women's savings cooperative!

- **First ACCA project in Bharatpur** : Nepal's first ACCA project in Bharatpur started just eight months ago, but there have already been some big changes in that city, which come directly from the new energy and tools the ACCA

program brought to the process there. The community network is stronger, and there is a maximum involvement of community members - especially women - in the savings and all the upgrading projects. There is greater collaboration between communities and between communities and various local government and national government agencies, more confidence, more solidarity. The Forestry Department, which used to evict squatters on their land, is now providing free land for the housing project, for community markets. The communities have also been able to negotiate with the Forestry Department to provide cheap timber to communities for their housing and toilet building projects, at 6 times below the market rate.

- **Community-led housing concept spreading to other cities:** good media coverage, tv and video documentaries on the process in Bharatpur, lots of visitors, and other municipalities are asking Lumanti to do ACCA programs in their cities. The Land Reform Commission came to see the community-led housing development process in Bharatpur.
- **The national squatter federation has been conducting a city survey in 20 cities** - another ACCA supported activity in Nepal. The idea of the national survey came from an exchange visit to Cambodia. This is not just a survey for information's sake, but a means to strengthen the federation, expand the network, expand the savings groups and build "critical mass" for the housing rights of Nepal's urban poor. The new constitution is being written in Nepal now, and the federation has achieved a big success in having been able to ensure that the right to decent secure housing is codified in the new constitution.

5. PHILIPPINES *(Ana from FDUP and Norberto from PACSII report)*

Ana Oliveros : The two most satisfying things for me about the ACCA projects in the Philippines so far are :

- That the ACCA project in Quezon City District 2 supports the coming together of several big people's federations in the Philippines. This is the first, even at the city level, that several big federations (the anti-eviction groups, the CMP groups, the savings groups) work together to push for a project, and also to push for certain policy reforms.
- At the national level, there are some funds from ACCA that are supporting a country-wide process of sharing and mutual learning in the Philippines. The groups implementing ACCA projects so far have agreed to meet quarterly, to share their experiences in their cities. This is a process that is slowly evolving. This also is a milestone for our country, because all these groups, who usually don't usually meet or hear each other, have agreed to come together, to listen to each other, to understand the different city contexts, and to try to respect each other's approach.

Father Norberto : *Slum dwelling is very boring!* You wait for water and the water never comes. You wait for electricity and it never comes. You wait for health and it never comes. It's very boring when everything you're waiting for never comes. Now with just a very small amount of money from ACCA, people can fix a road or build a toilet - and it happens now! Everybody goes there - the children, the husband, the wife - and everybody joins in the process of fixing that road or building that toilet. No waiting! Everybody joins, so it's no longer boring at all. So that small amount of money breaks that boring waiting, unites people and makes things better.

6. SRI LANKA *(Jaya from Sevanatha and Rupa from Women's Bank report)*

The ACCA process in Sri Lanka is only about ten months old. We are working in three towns so far, and are proposing for more now. From these three towns, we can see several important changes already :

- **In all three towns, we have established a process** (especially in Nuwara Eliya), which starts with briefing the mayor and the councilors about the whole ACCA process, then establishing a committee at that level, then organizing a survey and mapping of poor settlements by the community members themselves, then prepare a settlement profile with "scores" for each settlement. With this profile, we prioritize the most needy settlements and start the savings program, with Women's Bank. Once we identify all these settlements in the survey, something starts happening in all the settlements - starting with savings and credit. After that, we organize community action planning workshops and then start the small and big projects.
- **Some communities don't have land ownership**, so we negotiate with the local authorities to get this land. In two cities, people in two settlements have been living on land for more than 20 years, and in these two communities now they have got the land, and are savings, and are getting loans from ACCA to rebuild their houses.
- **Collaboration is working:** If something is happening and the local authority sees that, they are almost always then willing to contribute. In most of the new ACCA projects, the local authority is willing to provide the infrastructure, and we provide some matching grants.
- **We have established structures:** At the community level, we have the community savings group, and several savings group make up a "branch" in the Women's Bank system. Then these branches get together all the various stakeholders and make a city development committee, which is chaired by the mayor, with the municipal commissioner also on the committee. That committee is a monthly forum to discuss, and all the community representatives are coming into that structure. This wasn't happening before. In Nuwara Eliya, the mayor is giving his council room for this meeting. This is the first time the women's bank groups are going to the council hall to have their meetings!
- **At the city level, the city development fund is working.** This was started after the tsunami, and the ACCA program is strengthening this process. And we have moved out of just the tsunami-affected towns and opened up the process to the whole country now.
- **We have an established methodology now for mapping, enumeration and participatory community planning :** We have planned to carry out this mapping and enumeration in all the towns, so we will have a very

good data base in all the towns, even the big ones. And we have a very good methodology now to do this. We also have a very good methodology for the community planning process, with the community action planning workshops.

- **We have developed all procedures:** For community members who wish to get support from ACCA, we have developed all the procedures - application forms have been developed, which people submit to the branch office of the Women's Bank, then the Women's Bank sends it to the Clap-Net steering committee, then we provide the funds to the Women's Bank, then it goes to the community. And the recovery of the loans takes place. These procedural things have all been established.
- **Capacity has been built :** Over the past 10 months, some capacities have been built - even within Sevanatha and Women's Bank. We have about six young professionals (planners, architects and GIS specialists) are now working to support the process. So it's easy to move to other towns and carry out the same process quickly.
- **Starting in new towns without savings :** When we go into a new town where savings has not yet started, it takes some time - at least six months. Because in order to issue loans, the savings groups have to come to a certain maturity level. It takes at least six - nine months before savings members can initiate housing loans, according to WB loan criteria.
- Starting in smaller towns, where the problems are not so acute: So far, we have started in smaller towns, but now we want to move into bigger towns where the problems are much more serious - like Moratuwa, Colombo or the eastern provinces.

7. THAILAND *(Somsook reports)*

ACCA in the Thai context being used to start city level funds : In Thailand, we have CODI, which channels government finance for housing and upgrading projects to community groups. And the community groups feel good with these loans from CODI. But we don't have city funds or city CDFs in Thailand. These groups all link to CODI, and although they have their city-wide and district-wide networks. So the ACCA support is being used as an intervention to help communities to start building city-level funds. We pass the \$40,000 from ACCA to these two cases, so that all the small community groups are linking together and have their city fund. Then this new city fund will take care of some others squatters or communities that are still not upgraded yet. The objective is that ultimately, as much of the slum upgrading in the city will be taken care of by the city itself - and their own city-based development fund - as possible. They won't always need to go to CODI for finance. For Thailand, this is quite an important strategy, because we shouldn't let the whole community upgrading process depend on the national fund forever. With the ACCA funds so far, we have been able to start city funds in two places :

- **Bang Khen District :** This is a district in Bangkok where a network of settlements along the canal have a very strong network and have begun upgrading in some of the canal-side settlements, with support from Baan Mankong. The big project support from ACCA is being used to link up all the poor communities in the district and to establish a district-level community development fund, which will be managed by the community network. So they can stand on their own feet, and with more togetherness, as a district-wide process. The ACCA budget has now been disbursed to this district-wide community network, and they have already started their new fund - which includes capital from ACCA and capital from the communities and local government. This district fund has already given loans to some of the canal community upgrading projects - for housing loans.
- **Chum Phae :** Chum Phae has been able to use the new city fund to help finance the most recent housing project by the community network there. In this project, they have surveyed all the poor people in the city - including room renters and isolated squatters outside of established slum communities - and they gathered these people together to make one new housing project, using the money from the new city fund. The initial lending capital in this fund includes funds from ACCA, and contributions from community members themselves.
- **Many other cities are now taking the city fund as a strategy :** From these two initial ACCA interventions, community networks in many other cities are now taking the city fund as a strategy. They had a big regional meeting to see how more cities can establish their own city funds. This way, the collaboration between community networks in different cities isn't something that only happens around a meeting table, but also building something together. This city fund is also a way for these community networks to collaborate with the local authorities more concretely - the city puts in some funds, the people put in some funds, the national organizations put in some funds. And then these different stakeholders take care of the urban poor housing problems together, as a collaborative and city-wide process. After the assessment of these first two ACCA projects, over the next few months, we will organize a big meeting, and will probably come up with a few more cities to propose to ACCA, to lead to this change.

PART 4 :

Summary of key decisions made during the meeting

AGREEMENT 1 : Future directions for the ACCA Program

Somsook : How to move forward with ACCA in a more strategic manner, in the second and third year? So far, we have designed the ACCA Program to very clearly support small projects, big projects, city funds, network building, surveys, partnership, etc. We can now see most of these elements of the program happening in most of the cities, more or less. Some countries have been implementing ACCA on a big scale, from the first year (like Cambodia, Vietnam, Mongolia, Philippines), and these countries have now reached the ceiling of 10 cities per country, which we agreed to in the first year. If we strictly follow that agreement, it means these countries can propose no new cities, unless we extend the ceiling a little more. The idea of ten cities per country was just to encourage people to think and work at a national scale. After the first year, we may look into this agreement and look forward: do we want the ACCA Program to expand from ten to 20 cities? Or do we want to deepen those ten cities into something more? And do we want to see how this city process would be able to lead into a larger change? or more funds? or a national policy change? How can we move use ACCA in a more strategic manner in the second and third year? And how can we design the tools from ACCA to support that strategy? So that the program is better, stronger, broader?

Ana (Philippines) : Suggests doing an internal assessment of ACCA projects inside the Philippines (at city and national levels), after the May 2010 elections, so we can assess the process within the new governance context.

Rupa (Sri Lanka) : More focus on disaster-affected areas for Women's Bank's housing and upgrading work with ACCA next year. Build capacities through more "training of trainers" (to do documentation, planning, CDF) because right now, the skills are with a very few people. We need more small project money in the already-in-process cities, more than \$15,000. We are now working in 4 towns, want to reach ten towns by next year.

Dr. Lan (ACVN) : Suggests increasing the number of small projects per city, but with same ceiling of \$3,000 per project, and to increase the number of cities, so that as many cities can be involved as possible, and so that more local resources can be mobilized and more local partnerships can be activated.

Ms. Pham Thi Thuy Hang (community leader from Hai Duong) : The ACCA program was already built up a lot of confidence and ownership among community people. In the next two years, it would be good to disseminate the program's progress inside the country, and within the Indochina region, more exchanges so more people will know what is possible, and more volunteers from project communities to go visit and help other communities.

Sama (Nepal) : Suggests getting the ACCA approach into the city-level plans, so that cities really own it, and it's not just a short-term outside intervention that disappears after three years. Also, we really need more funds to support the city and national processes and the ground work - especially in new cities.

Enhe (Mongolia) : We have a plan to organize a national forum at the end of this year, with all the mayors, to discuss how we can scale up and sustain this process. Suggest more funds for exchanges within and between cities, which is the chief method of dissemination and spreading out the process, so the process will grow - *just like mushrooms growing after the rain*.

Kirtee (India) : Suggests looking into 8 areas in the next phase of ACCA :

- How are additional funds being leveraged?
- Scaling up : communities, persons and cities
- What are the improvements to the quality of life, health, income, solidarity, etc.
- How much is the municipality adapting from this process?
- What changes at policy level are happening?
- What is the political awareness?
- Civil society absorption: media, larger public
- What methodological innovations, work innovations, impact innovations, idea innovations?

Somsook : It may not be possible to come up with a clear vision for how to move forward with the ACCA Program in this short time. But it's important that we've started the process of thinking how to build on what we have accomplished in the first year, and how to steer the ACCA process in a direction which leads to more meaningful change. This process of analysis and adjustment and contribution will continue right through to the end of the program, I'm sure. And today we have started, and we at the secretariat will now try to translate your suggestions into the support mechanism, into budget support and into action.

- ***This is not only looking forward for the ACCA Program***, but looking forward for the larger change process in your cities and countries. The ACCA Program is your tool, to change the situation and change the system in your context. So this way forward has a deep meaning that goes well beyond ACCA.
- ***We're going to change things in our life time!*** We're not going to leave it to our next generation.

AGREEMENT 2 : How to use the US\$ 4 million additional support from the Gates Foundation

The question now is shall we continue to do things exactly the same way as during the first year, or should we keep some money to make a revolving fund to add resources to already-in-process projects, as needed?

Additional ACCA budget approved from the Gates Foundation :

• Grants for 50 more big projects (max. US\$ 40,000 per project)	US\$ 2,000,000
• Grants for 250 more small projects (about \$3,000 per project)	US\$ 1,000,000
• Disaster related work	US\$ 200,000
• Capacity building (national, regional support)	US\$ 700,000
• Administration	US\$ 100,000 (of which \$50,000 to IIED)
• TOTAL	US\$ 4 million

Current ACCA budget system (as agreed in the first year implementation)

- Max. 5 big projects per country
- Max. US\$ 40,000 per big project, \$15,000 per city for small projects, \$3,000 for city development
- Max. 10 cities per country (about)
- \$10,000 for national coordination

AGREED UPON new budget system for ACCA (with the additional \$4 million budget) :

- **Max. 15 cities per country** (including the big and small projects together. (This 15-city quota doesn't include disaster projects, which can be proposed above the 15-city quota - we'll try this for the time being, and review later.)
- **Max. 8 big projects per country**, with same ceiling of \$40,000 per project (*some cities will have no big project, so countries have to be strategic*)
- **Same ceiling of \$15,000 per city for small projects** (to cover 5 - 15 projects), but additional amount of max \$10,000 per city, and \$30,000 per country, can be proposed, to strengthen, broaden, more creative to new possible change, more deepen the process of some existing cities and the budget per project can be more flexible (with good reasons)
- **Budget of max. \$10,000 per country for national exchanges** (groups still need to propose plan and budget)
- **Budget of max. \$10,000 per country for national workshop** bringing communities and city development actors from all projects to meet and assess and plan related activities for 2010 - 2011 together, plan to strengthen and support community savings and fund, etc.
- **Budget of \$1,000 per city for city coordination and development** in already-approved cities, to be added to existing cities' budget and transferred directly to the network or city committee (But still max. \$3,000 for new cities)
- **Budget of \$12,000 per country, per year, for national coordination** (up from \$10,000)
- **Additional budget to support the city or national savings and city fund process.** To strengthen, broaden, build capacity for city or national development funds, community savings activities. (amount of support depends on proposal)
- **A NEW regional revolving fund of \$400,000 to start right away** (to be taken from the new \$2 million BIG project budget), as seed capital, to test this new thing, to be added to later with other donor funds), to be set up to provide additional loan support to some existing needy cases, cities, or existing city CDFs. The fund will be very flexible and can be used in different ways: to help speed up implementing housing projects or to broaden possibilities to include more projects (to achieve city-wide objectives), or to use to leverage other funds or use as a guarantee fund. Loan ceiling of \$50,000 per project, given at 4% interest to the countries, repayable within 5 years, with currency exchange rates set according to the local currency (*to respect the local currency!*), so groups repay in their local currency. The fund will be located at the ACHR secretariat, for the time being, and country groups can propose to borrow from the fund in ACCA committee meetings, as part of their usual round of proposals. We will start this new fund, see how it works, and adjust the terms and process according to how things really go.

AGREEMENT 3 : \$30,000 budget to support the Indochina sub-regional network activities

A budget of \$30,000 (for 1 year) was agreed upon to support the exchanges and collaboration that is happening increasingly between the five countries in the Indochina sub-regional network (Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam, Lao PDR and Burma). This is an initiative that has arisen spontaneously from the sub-region, between these countries which are geographically close to each other. They can visit each other cheaply and quickly by van or bus, and assist each other in more and more ways, in a growing, lively horizontal support system within the sub-region. This budget will be managed by a committee comprising key people from the five countries.

AGREEMENT 4 : Organizing ACCA assessment visits in the near future

A tentative schedule of assessment trips was agreed upon as follows. It was also agreed that each trip will include participating teams from a maximum of three countries (with teams of about 3 or 4 people from each country), plus participants from the local ACCA cities.

- **June 2010 :** Assessment trip to **MONGOLIA**
- **August 2010 :** Assessment trip to **CAMBODIA**
- **November 2010 :** Assessment trip to **NEPAL**
- **January 2011 :** Assessment trip to **SRI LANKA**

AGREEMENT 5 : Upcoming meetings and workshops

- **Regional Meeting on Disasters :** Agreed to hold this meeting in the Philippines, hosted by the HPFP, in July, August or September 2010.
- **Community Mapping Workshop :** Agreed to hold this workshop in Sri Lanka, hosted by WB and Sevanatha, in January 2011, together with the Sri Lanka assessment trip.
- **Regional Community Architects Meeting :** Agreed that this meeting will be held in Thailand, in Chiang Mai, in June 2010.
- **ACHR Regional Meeting :** Had to be postponed because of the political troubles in Thailand, so it was agreed to re-schedule the meeting in another country, some time in 2010.

PART 5 : New ACCA Project budgets approved April 8, 2010 (all figures in US\$)

Country	City / District	Total budget approved	Big projects	Small projects	City process	Understanding cities	Other city and national process	Disaster	Community savings and fund
SRI LANKA	Batticaloa	58,000	40,000	15,000 (5)	3,000				
CHINA	Lhasa, Tibet	58,000	40,000	15,000 (5)	3,000				
BURMA	Gangaw Township	10,000	--	--	--			10,000	
NEPAL	Kohalpur	58,000	40,000	15,000 (5)	3,000				
	Ratnanagar	58,000	40,000	15,000 (5)	3,000				
MONGOLIA	Uvorkhangai (CHRD)	40,647	25,647	15,000 (5)					
	UB Khan-Uul District (CHRD)	9,300	--	9,300 (3)					
	Darkhan	20,000	20,000						
	National capacity building (UDRC)	9,500					9,500		
TOTAL	5 new cities	321,447	205,647 (6 projects)	84,300 (28 projects)	12,000		9,500	10,000	

PART 6 : Total ACCA project budgets approved, as of April 8, 2010 (in US\$)

Country	City / District	Total budget approved	Big projects	Small projects	City process	Underst anding cities	Other city and national pro-cesses	Disaster	Com-munity savings and fund
1. Cambodia - 11 cities - 6 big projects - 97 small projects	Serey Sophoan	58,000	40,000	15,000 (12)	3,000				
	Samrong	58,000	40,000	15,000 (11)	3,000				
	Preah Sihanouk	58,000	40,000	15,000 (8)	3,000				
	Peam Ro, Prey Veng	58,000	40,000	15,000 (8)	3,000				
	Bavet City	58,000	40,000	15,000 (13)	3,000				
	Khemara Phoumin	18,000	--	15,000 (11)	3,000				
	Kampong Cham	18,000	--	15,000 (6)	3,000				
	Pailin	18,000	--	15,000 (6)	3,000				
	Sen Monorom	18,000	--	15,000 (9)	3,000				
	Siem Reap	18,000	--	15,000 (8)	3,000				
	Phnom Penh	55,000	40,000	10,000 (1)				5,000	
	Country slum survey	10,000					10,000		
	National process support	10,000					10,000		
2. Indonesia - 4 cities - 2 big proj - 10 sm proj	Surabaya	58,000	40,000	15,000 (5)	3,000				
	Makassar	43,000	40,000	--	3,000				
	Jakarta	18,000	--	15,000 (5)	3,000				
	Tasikmalaya District	10,000	--	10,000 (1)					
	National survey and map	10,000					10,000		
	National process support	10,000					10,000		
3. Nepal - 5 cities - 5 big proj - 26 sm proj	Bharatpur	58,000	40,000	15,000 (5)	3,000				
	Biratnagar	58,000	40,000	15,000 (6)	3,000				
	Birgunj	58,000	40,000	15,000 (5)	3,000				
	Ratnanagar	58,000	40,000	15,000 (5)	3,000				
	Kohalpur	58,000	40,000	15,000 (5)	3,000				
	Country survey	16,100					16,100		
	Federation building	5,000					5,000		
	National process support	10,000					10,000		
4. Burma - 4 cities - 2 big proj - 9 sm proj	Khawmu (SEM)	130,800	40,000	30,000 (10)	3,000			54,800	3,000
	Kungyangon (WW)	65,000	40,000	12,000 (4)	3,000			8,000	2,000
	Dadeye Township	30,000	--	--	--			30,000	
	Gangaw Township	10,000	--	--	--			10,000	
	National process support	10,000							
5. Korea - 1 city - 1 big proj - 5 sm proj	Seoul	58,000	40,000	15,000 (5)	3,000				
	National process support	10,000					10,000		
6. Philippines - 12 cities - 6 big proj - 46 sm proj	Quezon City Dist 2 (FDUP)	63,000	40,000	15,000 (5)	3,000	5,000			
	Manila (UPA)	65,500	40,000	6,000 (3)	3,000		6,500	10,000	
	Navotas (TAO)	65,500	40,000	15,000 (5)	3,000	7,500			
	Iligan (SMMI)	46,000	40,000	3,000 (1)	3,000				
	Quezon City Dist 1+2 (HPFP)	18,000	--	15,000 (5)	3,000				
	Typhone Ketsana (HPFP)	50,000	20,000	--	--			30,000	
	Mandaue (HPFP)	43,000	40,000	--	3,000				
	Davao	18,300	--	10,000 (4)	3,000	1,700		1,700	2,000
	Digos	18,300	--	10,000 (4)	3,000	1,700		1,700	2,000
	Kidapawan	18,400	--	10,000 (4)	3,000	1,600		1,600	2,000
	Albay, Bicol Region	18,000	--	15,000 (5)	3,000				
	Talisay (HPFP)	18,000	--	15,000 (5)	3,000				
	Muntinlupa (HPFP)	18,000	--	15,000 (5)	3,000				
	National Disaster survey + mapping + workshop (HPFP)	35,000						35,000	
	National process support	10,000					10,000		
7. Viet Nam - 9 cities - 3 big proj - 41 sm proj	Viet Tri	60,000	40,000	15,000 (5)	3,000				2,000
	Vinh	60,000	40,000	15,000 (5)	3,000				2,000
	Lang Son	20,000	--	15,000 (5)	3,000				2,000
	National processes	37,464	--	--		15,000	22,464		
	Ben Tre	18,000	--	15,000 (6)	3,000				
	Hung Yen	18,000	--	15,000 (5)	3,000				

	Thai Nguyen	18,000	--	15,000 (5)	3,000				
	Hai Duong	18,000	--	15,000 (5)	3,000				
	Ha Tinh	18,000	--	15,000 (5)	3,000				
	Ca Mau	3,000	--	not yet	3,000				
	Quinhon	24,800	15,000	not yet				9,800	
	National process support	10,000					10,000		
8. Sri Lanka - 4 cities - 4 big proj - 20 sm proj	Nuwara Eliya	58,000	40,000	15,000 (5)	3,000				
	Kalutara	58,000	40,000	15,000 (5)	3,000				
	Matale	58,000	40,000	15,000 (5)	3,000				
	Batticaloa	58,000	40,000	15,000 (5)	3,000				
	National process support	17,500					17,500		
9. Mongolia - 12 cities - 3 big proj - 22 sm proj	Erdenet City (UDRC)	58,000	40,000	15,000 (5)	3,000				
	Tunkhel village (UDRC)	58,000	40,000	15,000 (5)	3,000				
	Bayanchandmani Dist (UDRC)	43,120	25,120	15,000 (5)	3,000				
	Ulaanbaatar 5th Horoo (CHRD)	10,700	--	5,700 (2)	3,000				2,000
	Darkhan (CHRD + UDRC proposals combined)	20,000	--	15,000 (5)	3,000				2,000
	Uvorkhangai (CHRD)	3,000	--	--	3,000				
	Ulaanbaatar Baganuur District (UDRC)	3,000	--	--	3,000				
	Bulgan Dist (UDRC)	3,000	--	--	3,000				
	Sukhbaatar Prov (UDRC)	3,000	--	--	3,000				
	Tsenkher Mandal Dist (UDRC)	3,000	--	--	3,000				
	Bayandalai Gobi (UDRC)	3,000	--	--	3,000				
	Pollution study (UDRC)	15,000	--	--		15,000			
	National process support	20,000	--	--			20,000		
	National process activities (UDRC)	10,600					10,600		
	National S&C process support to all groups	5,000							5,000
10. Fiji - 1 city - no big proj - 5 sm proj	Suva	18,000	--	15,000 (5)	3,000				
	National process support	10,000							
11. Thailand - 2 cities - 2 big proj - 4 sm proj	Chumpae City	33,000	30,000	--	3,000				
	Bang Ken Dist. (Bangkok)	43,000	30,000	10,000 (4)	3,000				
	National process support	10,000					10,000		
12. India - 2 cities - 2 big proj - 12 sm proj	Bhuj	58,000	40,000	15,000 (7)	3,000				
	Leh City (Ladakh)	63,000	40,000	15,000 (5)	3,000	5,000 (historic cities)			
13. Lao PDR - 2 cities - 1 big proj - 10 sm proj	Vientiane	58,000	40,000	15,000 (5)	3,000				
	Muang Kong, Champasak	18,000	--	15,000 (5)	1,000				
	National slum survey	10,000					10,000		
14. Pakistan - 1 city - no sm proj - no big proj	Rawalpindi (OPP)	5,000	--	--			5,000		
15. China - 1 city - 5 sm proj - 1 big proj	Lhasa	58,000	40,000	15,000 (5)	3,000				
TOTAL (15 countries)	68 Cities / Districts	X,XXX,XX XX	XXXXXX (39 big projects)	XXX,XXX (310 small projects)	XXX,XXX	XXX (8 projects)	XXX	XXX (11 projects)	XXX

SORRY! TOTALS WILL BE CALCULATED LATER!!!!

PART 7 :

Country-by-country presentation of new ACCA proposals

Because our ACCA Program emphasizes on real action by communities, in collaboration with their cities, we are already beginning to see many possibilities in these presentations. So in the presentations, we'd like all the groups to briefly describe their ways of linking and managing their local process, explain how the ACCA support so far have been made use of helped strengthen that process, and then present any proposed new projects. In this way, the whole set of on-going project reports and new project proposals within a country will go together.

1. CAMBODIA

• ADDING A BIG PROJECT TO ALREADY-APPROVED CITY of SIEM REAP (Proposal from UPDF)

Budget already approved by ACCA:

- Small projects (8) : US\$ 15,000
- City process support : US\$ 3,000
- TOTAL: US\$ 18,000

Proposed NEW activities in Siem Reap :

- Big Project : US\$ 40,000

Committee's decision on APPROVAL :

- The project was put on hold for the time being, and the questions raised here were sent back to the Siem Reap community network to discuss and review.

For tourists and visitors, the town of Siem Reap is a pleasant stop on their way to see the fabulous 12th Century Angkor Wat complex. But behind the cafes and hotels and souvenir shops, there are some of Cambodia's poorest communities, many located along roadsides, on the banks of the Tonle Sap River, on the temple sites and in the nooks and crannies between big buildings. This is where the motorcycle taxi and tuk-tuk drivers, the construction workers, the market and street vendors, the restaurant workers, the souvenir sellers, the tourist guides, the waiters and the massage therapists. Besides serious problems of flooding, these settlements face the threat of eviction from their increasingly valuable land, as competition between the needs of the city's own citizens, and it's visiting tourists heats up.

Savings and upgrading : With support from UPDF, the community process began in 2005 with savings groups in two communities, quickly spread to 7 communities and continues to be very strong. Many of these communities have already undertaken some pilot community toilet-building and settlement-upgrading projects, with support from UPDF and the Selavip-supported provincial cities project. An informal community development fund has already been operating and helping communities in the larger Siem Reap Province to link their savings together, but efforts to formalize this CDF into a collaborative mechanism with the municipal government have been difficult, even though the provincial governor has become an active people's process supporter.

8 SMALL PROJECTS already underway : As in the other Cambodian cities with ACCA projects, the community network in Siem Reap will spread out the modest \$15,000 small project funds from ACCA to support as many community projects as possible. The ACCA support is seen as a chance to add more ammunition to the community upgrading projects that have already been completed by poor communities in the city, over the past few years, with support from UPDF. The eight projects to build roads, toilets, drains and water supply systems were prioritized, agreed upon and planned together, based on the detailed list of who needs what small infrastructure improvements, that was part of the community network's most recent survey in Siem Reap.

PROPOSED NEW BIG PROJECT BUDGET (\$40,000) Komroo

Community (14 households) The proposed \$40,000 ACCA funds will be used to provide land loans to a small roadside squatter community that has been evicted. The local government provided each family \$500 each in compensation, and offered them free plots in a government resettlement colony 30 kms from the city. But the land was too far away, the people felt they couldn't survive out there (most depend on tourism businesses in the city center for their living), and they decided instead to find and purchase their own land elsewhere. The trouble is, there is very little public land left in Siem Reap - most of it has been given on lucrative 99-year leases, and if the government wanted to use this land for social housing purposes, it would have to buy the land back at market rates. So the free government land option is difficult in this hot real-estate city. So the Komroo people have found a piece of private land which suits their needs, and have negotiated to buy it themselves. But the land cost is too expensive to buy outright with their savings and with the government compensation (they have about \$10,000 in



collective saving + \$7,000 in compensation). So they are requesting the \$40,000 ACCA budget as a land loan, which will go through the Siem Reap CDF.

Background on the Komroo Community : Komroo was a tiny roadside squatter community of only 14 families, most are market vendors or have low-level jobs within the tourism sector. A lot of the children earn a little extra for their families by collecting recyclable waste. Komroo was one of the last informal communities remaining in Siem Reap's city center - most of the others were pushed out long ago. It was a small, roadside settlement occupying a narrow strip of government land along a small inside lane, in a high-rent area of temples, posh restaurants and hotels, all of whom lobbied to get this little eyesore evicted. But the people held on, and in 2005 and 2006 was the first community in Siem Reap to undertake upgrading pilot projects, with support from UPDF: common toilets, drainage improvements, road improvement, tree-planting, pulling some houses back that were encroaching on the lane, and building a lovely dark-green-painted bamboo fence along all the newly-straightened house fronts - all for only \$1,600 total – for everything! The people at Komroo had to work on these upgrading projects at night, because the local government didn't agree to their plans to improve the settlement.



Discussion about the BIG project in Siem Reap :

Norberto : I suggest following the pattern in other Cambodian cites so far, where the networks have been able to negotiate free land from the government.

Kirtee : If we start putting ACCA project funds into buying land, it opens up a Pandora's box. Should ACCA funds go into buying land like this - especially a rather expensive piece of land for such a small number of families?

Sama : Purchasing land would set a precedent. If people have to buy the land, pay for their houses and do everything, where is the partnership?

Dr. Lan : Many other communities are in urgent, difficult situations like this small community in Siem Reap, and they have to struggle to find a solution to those difficulties. But if we help this community by using ACCA funds to buy that expensive private land, it will create a habit of asking money from ACCA for land.

Somsook : This case has some weaknesses and we are not too comfortable with it. First, the land price is very high - too high even to buy with their saving and the compensation. Secondly, this case might make the ACCA intention go in the wrong direction. Thirdly, in this case, the government offered land far away, and instead of negotiating to get land that is nearer, they have bought their own land. I appreciate the people's decision to stay in the city and buy their own land, but it may persuade many other urban poor communities to follow the land-purchasing option, instead of negotiating. With cases like this, the government can then say, "If you don't like the land we are offering outside the city, why don't you buy your own land?" I understand that this money will become a revolving fund in the city and many other communities will be able to use it, but at least this first project should be able to answer our own objective that this one project should lead to a good example for the urban poor process in this city, and should show other people how things can happen by people, and make a good impact to other communities. Each project cannot work in isolation! With ACCA money, we would like to see the relationship between the first project, the second and the third and the forth in the city: how that project makes a change for that city, for that process. We have to be a little more strategic.

2. SRI LANKA

- **NEW CITY : BATTICALOA** *(Proposal from Sevanatha / Women's Bank)*

Proposed budget to ACCA:

- **Big project:** US\$ 40,000
- **Small projects (5) :** US\$ 15,000
- **City process support :** US\$ 3,000 (to support mapping, surveying, organizing, committees, etc.)
- **TOTAL:** US\$ 58,000

Committee's decision on approval : APPROVED!

Batticaloa is a small city of 86,618 people on the eastern coast of Sri Lanka, which has been on the front line of the country's just-ended civil war. Most the people living in the city's poor communities are Tamils, and they have suffered from decades of ethnic violence and civil conflict. The city was also badly affected by the 2004 tsunami. Because most donor and government funded development projects are implemented in and around Colombo, very little assistance has reached Batticaloa. Sevanatha has been working there under UN-Habitat supported projects. A January 2009 survey

by the Eastern University of Sri Lanka found that there are about 1,729 households (7,600 people) living in the 25 poor settlements in the city - about half on government land and half on land the people own themselves. In most of these settlements, people have no house registration, and face serious problems of water supply, drainage, toilets and access.



Savings : Community-managed finance and savings are relatively new in Batticaloa (since the tsunami), but the Women's Bank has already set up savings groups in 18 of the 25 communities, with 1,443 active savings members already.

City wide ACCA Plans : The work will start with the preparation of land ownership map and land database for the Batticaloa urban area, to determine which communities can stay and upgrade on site, and which will have to relocate. With this data, negotiations will begin with various land owning institutions through the City Development Committee, to identify the owners who willing to offer their land for communities - either on-site or for relocation. Women's Bank and Sevanatha will organize capacity-building workshops around issues of

savings, finance management, livelihood and community upgrading. The city's mayor (a woman!) is very supportive.

The project will be managed by a joint city development committee, which is already set up, and includes representatives from the Rural Development Societies (RDS), Women's Bank, the Batticaloa Municipality, local community groups and Sevanatha. This committee will be the main mechanism to gather the key stakeholders to discuss their priority problems, collaborate in a process of problem solving by contributing different types of resources. This Committee is chaired by the Mayor and decisions taken at the committee will be discussed in the Municipal Council for further assistance. The idea is that this joint committee will become a platform to promote active community participation in the municipal decision-making process. Who will do what in the ACCA project in Batticaloa?

- **Women's CO-OP** will organize the communities, start and strengthen their savings groups and implement the project.
- **The Batticaloa Municipal Council** will assist in legal and land tenure matters
- **The City Development Committee** will coordinate and monitor the ACCA program
- **The Rural Development Societies (RDSs)** will organize communities and support the project implementation.
- **Sevanatha** will provide technical support to the projects and monitor progress

City-level revolving loan fund : All the ACCA funds in Batticaloa will be channeled through the Clap-net Fund, and all decisions about the funds will be made by the joint City Development Committee. A new city-level revolving loan fund will be established, under the Clap-net Fund, with the \$40,000 ACCA big project funds. All the community savings groups will be mobilized to contribute to this fund. Communities can then borrow collectively from this fund for land, housing and livelihood.

SMALL PROJECTS : (5 x \$3,000 = \$15,000) Five small projects have already been identified, using the existing data on low income settlements in Batticaloa to prioritize the most needy settlements. After these five communities were selected, a city consultation meeting was organized to assess the selected community's needs and determine their support for the projects. The selection of small project communities might change, however, after the community mapping and survey, which has been planned under the city process. Other city stakeholders will be encouraged to join and support the infrastructure improvement in these poor settlements. Communities will be expected to contribute 10% of the project budgets through their labor, cash and materials.



Community	Type of project	Number of households	Budget from ACCA (\$)	Budget from community	Total project
Seththukudha	water supply	49	3,000	300	3,300
Thiraimudu	toilets	104	3,000	300	3,300
Thimilaithivu	community center	22	3,000	300	3,300
Punnacholai	toilets	18	3,000	300	3,300
Sinna Urani	water supply	188	3,000	300	3,300

BIG PROJECT : Thiraimudu Community (520 households) On-site upgrading of a community on free land from the Municipality. This is a big municipal relocation colony for tsunami-affected families. The big project was decided upon in a meeting in the Batticaloa Municipality, with the mayor, the municipal commissioner, Sevanatha, Women's Bank and community representatives. Like the ACCA project in Nuwara Eliya, the big project community here was selected because it already had fairly secure land tenure, and this was seen as being a condition for implementing

the project right away, without having to deal with the complications and delays of securing land first. The 520 families in Thiraimudu have land-use permits from the Municipal Council, which owns the land. The ACCA funds will be used to provide \$1,000 house building loans to a first batch of 40 families (WB savings members) in the community, to build new, 40m2 single-story detached houses (built incrementally). The total cost of the new houses will be \$2,500, and the \$1,500 balance will be paid for by the families. Sevanatha will provide technical and house design support.

- **Infrastructure** : One of the 5 small ACCA projects will be implemented in this same community, to support the construction of toilets in the new houses, and this will be the only investment in infrastructure in the project.
- **How the Housing loans will work** : The housing loans will be given in bulk from the national Clap-net fund to the Batticaloa City-level Development Fund (managed by Women's Bank), at 8% interest (repayment monthly), for a term of 2-5 years. The Batticaloa CDF will on-lend the money in bulk to the Women's Bank Branch at 12% (repayment monthly), which will then give the loans to members at 12.5% (repayment weekly). Only savings members are eligible for loans.

Discussion about the project in Batticaloa :

Somsook : The loan interest rates. I know the Women's Bank has reduced their 18% interest rate for housing loans to 12.5%, but I still feel it is too high. I keep on asking this, because I would like them to think about it. But whatever they decide, it's their choice, and I know they have good reasons to design the system their way, because they have been giving housing loans for a long time, and the Women's Bank network is all over the country. And I know that the money from that high interest goes back to the people, in the form of welfare and health care. But still we have the suggestion that housing loans shouldn't be too high - because housing is an essential investment, it's not a consumer loan. Normally, housing finance market gives housing loans cheaper than consumer loans. And the poor will have trouble getting a house if they pay such a high interest.

Kirtee : The difference between 12% and 7% is huge! It means people's payments are half! And that means more people come into the "affordability net."

Norberto : Housing loans only to those who save: What about those who cannot save? Or those who cannot afford those high interest rates? We have to reach the people at the bottom, so that we cover everybody, not only those who can afford.

Somsook's suggestion : If we strategize, and make an example of how to do it in another way, maybe provide an interest rate subsidy, so people pay maybe 8% or 10% interest. And then we try to link with the housing finance market, and bring that market down to the people - but not to individuals, but to the group! The money that we have from ACCA or Clapnet is not going to solve the problems of the bigger number of the poor - it has to come from the system: either the government or the banks.

3. TIBET, CHINA

- **NEW CITY : LHASA** *(Proposal from the Tibet Heritage Fund)*

Proposed budget to ACCA:

- **Big project:** US\$ 40,000
- **Small projects (5) :** US\$ 15,000
- **City process support :** US\$ 3,000
- **TOTAL:** US\$ 58,000

Committee's decision on approval : APPROVED!

This project in Lhasa, Tibet, is the first ACCA proposal from China, and it comes from the Tibet Heritage Fund (THF), the intrepid group of activists, historians, architects and Tibet-lovers whose work began in 1998 in Lhasa, and who are also implementing the ACCA project in the city of Leh - another Tibetan community in northern India.



Lhasa is the capitol of Tibet and the traditional seat of Tibetan Buddhism. Everybody knows the sad story, though, of the Chinese takeover of Tibet, and the enormous changes that have been brought about to its capital city under the Chinese. Some welcome this influx of Chinese capital and development as the much-needed "modernization" of the city, but others despair for the destruction it has wrecked on one of the world's most fabulous ancient cities and cultures. Lhasa now has a population of about 500,000 people, of whom about one-tenth are poor and mostly Tibetan people. As in all of China, all land belongs to the government, so all these poor families live in housing that belongs to the government, but many live in historic Tibetan-style multi-

family buildings in the city center. The conditions in these traditional houses have often deteriorated, with crumbling walls, leaking roofs, no toilets or water supply.

THF's work in Lhasa since 1998 : In the past, the THF has helped low-income Tibetan families living in the historic center of Lhasa to upgrade their houses and infrastructure, and has done so in ways which directly revive the traditional building arts and crafts of Tibetan construction, and indirectly preserve the culture and relationships these crafts and craftspeople are deeply embedded in. Most of the historic structures in the center of Lhasa have now been upgraded - many with assistance from THF. Unfortunately, the Chinese government has taken over most of these houses, evicted the Tibetan residents and converted them into shops and restaurants for the tourist trade.



This proposed project targets Tibetan communities on the outskirts of the city : This proposed project, however, targets Tibetan communities still living in ancient farming settlements on the outskirts of Lhasa, where land is now being bought up by Chinese property developers, threatening eviction. Most of these villages are very poor, since rural income has stagnated since the 1980s, taxes are high, and prices have risen dramatically since the 1990s. A few who could afford it have taken bank loans to buy flats in the city's new high-rise blocks, but they lose their old home and their agricultural income in the process and have little chance to get jobs in the city. So this ACCA project seeks to help these people to either keep their old houses or give them training for a new livelihood. There are about 10 poor Tibetan communities in the outskirts of the city, with about 700 households. This ACCA project will directly benefit 4 of those communities (225 households), but indirectly benefit at least another four communities.

BIG PROJECT (\$40,000) On-site housing and community upgrading in 4 pilot communities (Total 225 households) As a pilot project, four communities are proposed to receive small financial assistance to upgrade their houses and common cultural and community facilities. The four communities are Jara (35 households), Tangkye (80 households), Penbo Nalenda (40 households) and Tsokiyil (35 households). The project will be managed by committees set up in each village, and overseen by a team of representatives from these four villages, with support from local NGOs and academic institutions. The committees have already been set up, and in all four villages, the local village-level government has agreed to the projects and pledged their support. THF will provide technical and logistical support. The villagers are ready to contribute all the general labor necessary, if they get some assistance for specialized building skills and purchase of materials.



SMALL PROJECTS (5 x \$3,000 = \$15,000). In the same four pilot villages, a series of small projects will be implemented to restore traditional community facilities such as :

- **Buddhist temples** which were badly damaged during the 1960s cultural revolution.
- **Health care centers :** Three of the villages have traditional community-owned health care centers, where monk doctors administer traditional herbal medicine and first aid. Two of these centers will have their roofs repaired, as part of the project, using the ancient Tibetan technology that THF plans to revive in these villages.



Using this village upgrading process as an anchor to safeguard against eviction and relocation : The proposed ACCA project in Lhasa is being explicitly used to build links between the community people, the local administration and the NGOs, in a very difficult political context which has involved mostly confrontation and exploitation in the past. In doing this, these small projects to improve traditional dwellings and historic places of worship - done step-by-step and with the approval of the local government - is seen as a politically "safe" way of preserving heritage, safeguarding against eviction and displacement, and softening difficult relationships. There is greater reluctance these days to bulldoze active historic temples.

City Process Support (\$3,000) Part of this budget will be used to employ a part-time coordinator - a trusted person from one of the four settlements, to act as a link between communities and NGO for three years, who will travel regularly to all settlements. The budget will also be used to conduct heritage workshops and skills training, so that villagers who have received initial training in traditional construction techniques can get employment to work as experts on high-quality construction in the future.

4. BURMA

- **NEW CITY : GANGAW TOWNSHIP, Magway Division** *(Proposal from the Buddhist Youth Program (BYP))*

Proposed budget to ACCA:

- **US\$ 12,275** (Bridge Construction costs)
- **US\$ 4,016** (Meetings, coordination, travel, salaries, contingencies, overheads)
- **TOTAL: US\$ 16,291**

Committee's decision on approval : APPROVED, but only a budget of \$10,000, and we will wait for their new plan how to do it. And no computer! No capacity building! We want good community action on the bridge!

This proposal comes from a group in Burma and concerns a disaster, but not Cyclone Nargis. This project is seeking funds to rebuild a 180-meter bridge that was destroyed during heavy rains in October 2009, and whose loss has created big problems for two rural farming communities. The two affected villages are Lonhaw (150 households / 903 people) and Zarhaw (600 households / 2,800 people), and they are located in Gangaw Township, Magway Division, in the western part of Burma. This is a remote area where communication and transport access is poor, and where recent droughts have caused crop failures and increasing poverty.

The bridge : The bridge that was destroyed crossed the Zarhaw River, and was originally built as a donation by the Japanese Embassy, through a Buddhist association. Almost all the villagers had to cross this bridge to go to work, to school or to other neighboring villages. The villagers have collected some donations from within the communities and from the local temples, but these funds are still not enough to rebuild the bridge, which everyone agrees should be stronger than the old one, to withstand the increasing floods and rains in the area. The Buddhist Youth Group (BYP) is an organization that mobilizes young people of all faiths to get more involved in community development work and social change activities in Burma. BYP was involved in relief work in remote areas after Cyclone Nargis in 2008, and has been working with the Lonhaw and Zarhaw communities, with the local Buddhist temples and the township authorities to help them develop clear plans for rebuilding the bridge - including cost estimates, design details, labor, and construction management.

Using the bridge reconstruction to build the community : The idea of the project is most directly to rebuild this much-needed bridge, but the larger goal of the project is to use the collective, participatory process of planning and rebuilding the bridge to bring the two communities together, to make them stronger and more self-reliant, and to bring the young people in the communities (who tend to drift away to the cities) into the process.

Support from ACCA : The proposed funds from ACCA will support the cost of materials for rebuilding the bridge (\$12,275), as well as the costs of covering the BYP's costs to support the project (meetings, office overheads, trips, stationary, reporting, camera, salary, overheads, etc.)



Discussion about the project in Burma, in the Gangaw Township :

Somsook : Any intervention in Burma is very difficult. In the three Cyclone Nargis rehabilitation projects ACCA is supporting so far, the groups have been able to use the project to start getting the community together, to design the house reconstruction, to set up rice banks, to do things that pull people together. We have visited some of these communities and I think they have a lot of potential. There is a lot of culture of people doing things together there, but the political situation is still very stiff and difficult.

- **This new proposal from the Gangaw Township** comes from another group where they have linked together a few villages. This project is a little more in the conventional NGO style, but the organization making the proposal wants to help this community, which otherwise has little access to development finance. We sent them a question: we are not just another donor or construction department to give money to build a bridge! *How will the bridge help build the community?* They said, *yes definitely it will!* But they couldn't explain why or how. And they said, *people will have to build the bridge together - with the chief of the village and everyone.* And they will plan other things after that, but couldn't describe those next steps yet. And that seems reasonable, because in Burma, this kind of community-led development is something new, and it will take time. So I propose we let them try, but make them think and plan a little harder, make them pull in their human resources more, by reducing the budget a bit, perhaps to \$10,000 only, and see how they do. No computer! No capacity building!

5. NEPAL

- **2 NEW CITIES : RATNANAGAR and KOHALPUR** *(Proposal from Lumanti)*

FIRST NEW CITY : RATNANAGAR

Proposed budget to ACCA:

- **Big project : US\$ 40,000**
- **Small projects (5) : US\$ 15,000**
- **City process support : US\$ 3,000**
- **TOTAL : US\$ 58,000**

Committee's decision on approval : APPROVED!

The town of Ratnanagar, which is right next to Bharatpur and surrounded by the Chitwan National Forest, was only established as an independent municipality in 1996. But it is already a busy and growing business, trade and tourism center in its own right, and poor migrants from surrounding districts are flowing into the city. With these migrants come the usual problems of growing slum and squatter settlements, which the municipality has neither the funds nor the know-how to deal with. There are 42 squatter settlements in Ratnanagar, of which 22 have been identified by the Municipality as most urgently in need of upgrading. There have been some community-based development interventions in the city (by GTZ and ADB), but these projects, which were done in isolation and without any local NGO base, have not had much impact.



A spin-off from nearby Bharatpur : But the municipal officials in Ratnanagar have been keenly following the community-led ACCA projects in neighboring Bharatpur. Having this living example of a more holistic, more city-wide and more community-driven approach to solving problems of poor people's housing close by has definitely brought about some positive changes to the mindset of government officials, who used to ignore the problem and look down at the poor. The Women's Savings Cooperative and Lumanti have invited teams of municipal officials and community members to make several visits to the ongoing ACCA projects in Bharatpur, and to meet with their peers in the Bharatpur Municipality. The Ratnanagar municipality is now enthusiastic to work in similar ways with communities to improve the lives and living conditions of those living in informal settlements.

City process in Ratnanagar : The community process in Ratnanagar is just getting started, and the first savings groups are being set up, with support from the "big sister" community network in Bharatpur, and with coordination support from Lumanti. Each community in the city (both rich and poor) already has a Tole lane Organization (TLO), and these community-based organizations in poorer settlements will be strengthened and supported as the working and implementing unit for ACCA projects. The TLOs all have a good relationship with the municipality, and a network of these TLOs in slum areas will be formed. A joint ACCA Project Management Committee (PMC) will be set up to oversee the ACCA process, comprising representatives from the communities, the women's cooperative, the municipality and Lumanti.

Linking the Ratnanagar project with the Slum Upgrading Forum (SUF) : The projects will be monitored and evaluated by the national-level Slum Upgrading Forum, which is a network of all the organizations working for slum upgrading in Nepal. Lumanti discussed the ACCA program, and the SUF strongly recommended to work in Ratnanagar. The progress of the works done in different cities is periodically shared in this forum. This body also suggests the various alternatives which can be adopted in the projects. Technical support required in the projects is also provided in this forum. In these ways, SUF will play the role of advisory and monitoring board for the ACCA program. This will also continue for the Ratnanagar as well.

Small Projects (5 projects, total \$15,000) This is a preliminary list of projects selected during the city survey process, and they are in some of the poorest and most unserved communities in the city - most are squatter settlements on public land under the Forestry Department.

- **Jyotirmaya Tole + Dovan Tole (57 households) Community managed water supply system** (including hand pumps and piped municipal water) in two adjacent squatter settlements on government land. Budget from ACCA \$3,000.
- **Naya Tole (29 households) Community managed water supply system and toilets** in another small, flood-prone squatter community on government land. Budget from ACCA \$2,500.
- **Panchakanya (28 households) Community managed water supply and toilets** in a small squatter settlement on government land. Budget from ACCA \$2,500.

- **Janagritti Tole (59 households)** Community managed water supply and toilets in a small squatter community on mixed government and private land. Budget from ACCA \$3,500.
- **Maiwale Tole (26 households)** Drainage, walkway construction and toilets in a small, flood-prone community. Budget from ACCA \$3,500.



BIG Housing project at the Navodaya Community (47 households) Relocation to nearby land being provided free by the municipal government, with government-provided free infrastructure. (\$40,000 from ACCA) Navodaya is a 20-year old squatter settlement of dilapidated mud and thatch houses, built in a long line, very close to the highway, on land which belongs to a school. The school wants to expand, and so the community is facing eviction. Most houses have no toilets, and the two-seat common toilet the municipality built some years ago is broken down and kept locked, so most people must defecate in open fields nearby. The community's only water supply is from a common tube well. After making several visits to see the ACCA projects being implemented in nearby Bharatpur, municipal officials and community leaders in Ratnanagar decided to initiate similar projects. The squatter settlement at Navodaya was jointly proposed to be the big ACCA

project. But instead of following an on-site upgrading strategy, as in Salayani, the municipality proposed providing free land nearby (with land title) for relocating the community, and has agreed to provide all the infrastructure. The community members in Navodaya, who already have an active savings group, are positive about the idea of nearby relocation, feel the new land is suitable, and ready to undertake a participatory process of planning their new community and building their new houses, with technical housing and community design support from Lumanti and the local Engineering College, and incremental housing loans from ACCA.

- **This will be an important demonstration project in community-planned and community-managed housing for Ratnanagar**, because if it works, the local government is interested in replicating the model in other squatter settlements.
- **The Municipality has already allocated budget for this project**, plus it has allocated budget for similar projects in seven other settlements also.

Discussion about the project in Ratnanagar :

Somsook : Two suggestions for Ratnanagar :

- **Strengthening the demand side to make the supply side work :** Instead of pre-selecting the 5 small projects, how about bringing those 22 squatter communities together to learn, to know, to link, and to work together, to strengthen the *demand side* in the process. So these five or six projects are a part of their process - not the city's project alone, or Lumanti's project alone. If you can do this from the very beginning, you can use these small projects as tools to build and strengthen the *demand side* in the process, as a new platform for all those 22 communities in the city. This is also a way to secure government support in the longer term. Because municipal governments may come and go, and their support for communities may come and go, but the support will continue only if the *demand side* is strong. So we go ahead and build these five or six projects, show new concrete possibilities, forge new working partnerships, energize the city - but at the same time we build the 22 communities into a solution. *We strengthen the demand side to make the supply side work - and continue working in the long term.*
- **Bringing all 22 communities in the city into the selection process :** If the 22 communities can see clearly how the 5 small projects and the big housing project are being selected, and if they feel they are part of the selection and given the space to see and discuss and agree, then they will start moving along, start negotiating for land for their own communities, start making their own upgrading plans, start thinking how they can make changes like their friends. If the selection of the projects has nothing to do with them - which is usually the case everywhere! - they won't care, they won't want to know, they'll be sleeping. What we are talking about is a change from "*We are being selected by others*" to "*We select ourselves!*" And this is not something that we do after the projects are finished - we have to do this from the very beginning.

SECOND NEW CITY: KOHALPUR

Proposed budget to ACCA:

- **Big project : US\$ 40,000**
- **Small projects (5) : US\$ 15,000**
- **City process support : US\$ 3,000**
- **TOTAL : US\$ 58,000**

Committee's decision on approval : APPROVED!

Kohalpur is a small town which is adjacent to the fast-growing municipality of Nepalgunj, in western Nepal, on one of the major roads leading to India. During the Maoist insurgency, many migrants from war-affected rural areas came to

Kohalpur and began building shacks in several densely-crowded and unserved squatter settlements, mostly on government land. The local authorities in Kohalpur have shown a commitment to improve living conditions in the city, and are ready to contribute funds from their development budget for these poor communities. Most importantly, the local authority is willing to contribute land for housing the poor in the city. The poor communities in Kohalpur are already quite well organized, have active savings groups and have formed a district-level committee of Nepal Basti Basobas Samrakchan Samaj (NBBSS) - the national squatter federation, which is very strong in the city and links all the squatter settlements in Kohalpur.

- **Strong savings groups and community organization already in place :** For the past three years, Lumanti has been working in Kohalpur, under a special Oxfam-funded project for "internally displaced people" affected by the civil war. So this project has opened space to start savings groups, register a city-wide women's savings cooperative, bring in the federation, collaborate with the local authority, form a community network, organize the communities and lay a good groundwork for the community development process supported by ACCA.

City process : As in the other Nepali cities with ACCA projects, an ACCA Program Management Committee (PMC) will be formed at the city level, to oversee the implementation of the projects. This committee will include representatives from the communities selected for the program, the savings cooperative, the squatters federation and the Municipal Development Committee, with Lumanti acting as facilitator. The ACCA program will be supervised and managed by the squatter federation, in close collaboration with the Women's Savings Cooperative, with the communities at the centre of the entire processes. The process in Kohalpur will build on the learning and achievements from Bharatpur and Biratnagar, where the first ACCA projects in Nepal were initiated. Continual sharing and workshops and exchanges between communities will be organized by the federation, with support from the Lumanti team and other stakeholders in the city.



Small Projects (5 projects @ \$3,000 grant from ACCA for each) The selection of these small project communities was done with the communities, in a big city-wide meeting with the government.

- **Shamshergunj (90 households) Individual toilet construction.** This is a poor farming community that is close to the national park. They have legal land ownership but have to pay land-use taxes to the government. Their main problem is sanitation: only a few households have toilets and the rest must defecate in the open fields and forest.
- **Khadi Khola Tole (number of households?) Individual toilet construction.** This riverside community has the same problem of lack of toilets, and they also have to use water from the river for their daily use.
- **Shanti Nagar (45 households) Toilets and drainage** in a community which has problems of sanitation and flooding during the monsoon season.
- **Prem Nagar (number of households?) Drainage line** in a flood-prone squatter community on government land, near farms. The local authority is planning to build a road which cuts through the community, and the people want to build a culvert to drain the water.
- **Anand Nagar (40 households) Toilets and water supply system.** 95% of the households here have no toilets and must defecate in the open. They also have to travel very far to collect water.



BIG project at Ekta Nagar (300 households total - project starts with 30 households) \$40,000. On-site upgrading on public land being provided free by the government, with infrastructure also provided free by the government, with secure tenure. This large community is made up mostly of migrants who have fled from war-affected parts of the country. The national squatter federation's local office is located in this community, and the village development committee has committed to provide security of tenure to the community members who have been paying their land taxes. The community upgrading project here will be developed as a model for community-planned, community-managed and community-built housing, which can be replicated in other communities in the city. The community already has a strong women's savings group, and the group is part of the city-wide women's savings cooperative. The \$40,000 ACCA funds will be used to provide incremental housing loans to the first 30 community members. The loans will be channeled

through the women's savings cooperative, which will manage all the finances and loan repayment. The local government has already made some infrastructure improvements here, and has allocated funds to do more infrastructure development.

Discussion about the project in Kohalpur :

Somsook : Please try to ensure that the first families to get housing loans in Ektanagar are not the leaders! Try to plan it in such a way that the leaders get their housing loans in the second or third batch! This will strengthen the housing

process. It has happened many times in Thailand that the leaders get the benefit of the project first, leaving the others behind, and the rest of the community doesn't feel very good about that.

6. MONGOLIA

- No new cities proposed
- Several additional activities proposed in already active cities (Proposals from CHRD and UDRC)

1. UVURKHANGAI (CHRD)

Budget already approved by ACCA:

- City process support : US\$ 3,000

Proposed NEW ACCA activities in Uvurkhangai :

- Small Projects (3) : US\$ 7,880
- Big Projects (2) : US\$ 36,337
- TOTAL : US\$ 44,217

CHRD is proposing to add the following small and big projects to the already-approved town of Uvurkhangai :

Committee's decision on approval :

- **SMALL PROJECTS** : Instead of proposing small projects bit by bit like this, it was agreed to approve the full \$15,000 ceiling for small projects for Uvurkhangai.
- **BIG PROJECTS** : Only the house improvement loans to 73 households approved (US\$ 25,647). For the other proposed project to give loans to build fences, the revolving fund can be used for this later.

Small Projects (3) :

- **9 Erdene Savings Group (10 members) Playground** on land provided by the government. 1,460 children in the bag (sub-district) will benefit. Proposed budget : \$2,000 from ACCA + \$314 from savings group.
- **Tod Gyalbaa Savings Group (25 households benefit) Street upgrading**, fence improvement, new toilets in 3 houses. Proposed budget : \$2,450 from ACCA + \$300 from savings group.
- **Mungun Undraga Savings Group (98 households benefit) Water supply tank and distribution point** on land provided by government. Proposed budget : \$3,000 from ACCA + \$430 from savings group.

Big Projects (2) :

- **House improvement loans to 73 poor households** in six different savings groups (73 households will benefit). Total Budget : \$25,647 from ACCA + \$25,647 from savings groups = total \$51,294. Loans to be repaid in 2 years.
- **Loans to build fences around new land of 8 households**, which is provided free by the government. Total budget : \$10,690 from ACCA + \$1,400 from savings group = total \$11,910. Loans to be repaid within 2 years.

2. KHAN-UUL DISTRICT, 5TH HOROO, ULAANBAATAR (CHRD)

Budget already approved by ACCA:

- Small projects (2) : US\$ 5,700
- City process support : US\$ 3,000
- Community savings and fund support : US\$ 2,000

Proposed NEW ACCA activities in Khan-Uul District :

- Small Projects (3) : US\$ 8,150
- Big Project : US\$ 30,000
- TOTAL : US\$ 38,150

CHRD is proposing to add small and big projects to the already-approved project in Khan-Uul District, UB City.

Committee's decision on approval :

- **SMALL PROJECTS** : Instead of proposing small projects bit by bit like this, it was agreed to approve the remaining \$15,000 ceiling for small projects for Uvurkhangai.
- **BIG PROJECT** : Not approved, because this is not a housing project, as the big project funds are intended. It was suggested that this community center project could be financed as a loan or grant later on, from the revolving loan fund.

Small Projects (3) :

- **Chandmani Savings Group (400 senior citizens benefit) Constructing a "Senior Park"** with benches, trees, pagoda, grass, on 225 m2 land. Total budget : \$ 2,250 from ACCA + \$535 from savings group = total \$2,785. 90% of the budget is a grant, and 10% of the budget will be repaid by the savings group to the CDF.
- **Construction of individual toilets for 20 households**, in various savings groups. Total budget : \$2,770 from ACCA + \$450 from savings groups = total \$3,220. 30% of the project budget will be a grant, and 70% will be repaid by beneficiary households within 2 years.
- **Mandahnar Savings Group (100 members) Starting a concrete block-making factory**, which will supply blocks for housing and fence upgrading, and will employ 6 people. Total budget : \$3,130 from ACCA + \$350 from the savings group = total \$3,470. The ACCA funds will be a loan, and repaid by the savings group within 2 years.

Big Project (1) :

- **Constructing a Community Center**, which will be the headquarters for all 10 savings groups in the 5th Horoo of Khan-Uul District. The center will have meeting rooms, library, training rooms, internet, social activities, etc., and will be built on land next to the block-making factory. Total budget : \$30,000 from ACCA + \$1,200 from the 10 savings groups = Total \$31,200. Loan repayment terms not clear (*internet use charges to pay back the loan?*)

3. DARKHAN (CHRD)

Budget already approved by ACCA:

- **Small projects (5) : US\$ 15,000**
- **City process support : US\$ 3,000**
- **Community savings and fund support : US\$ 2,000**

Proposed NEW ACCA activities in Uvurkhangai :

- **Big Project : US\$ 20,000**

CHRD is proposing to add the following BIG project to the already-approved ACCA project in Darkhan.

Committee's decision on approval : APPROVED!

BIG Project : Housing loans to 10 households in 2 savings groups (Orgil Savings Group and Baynsanaa Savings Group). These 10 savings member households are facing eviction from the rented barracks where they are living. The project proposes to give them loans to "secure their housing condition." It's not clear whether this is a collective housing project, or simply loans to individual households to find their own new housing. No details about land or housing options. Total budget : \$20,000 from ACCA + \$23,914 from the savings groups = Total budget \$43,914. The loans will be repaid within 3 years to the local community development fund. No details about loan terms or project management.

4. BAYANCHANDMANI DISTRICT (UDRC)

Budget already approved by ACCA:

- **Small projects (5) : US\$ 15,000**
- **Big Project : US\$ 25,120**
- **City process support : US\$ 3,000**

Proposed NEW ACCA activities in Bayanchandmani District :

- **Restoration of historic wooden building as a community center and museum : US\$ 20,000**

UDRC is proposing to add the following project (under the "Understanding Cities" budget category) to the already-approved ACCA project in Bayanchandmani :

Committee's decision on approval : Sent back for reconsideration.

Renovating historic building : This proposed project involves the restoration of large 2-story wooden building, built in the 1940s, to be a community center and local museum and savings group office. The project will be a joint undertaking of the local government and the community savings network. Total budget : \$20,000 from ACCA + \$6,700 from local government and savings groups and UDRC = Total \$26,700.

Discussion about the project in Bayanchandmani and other proposed small and big projects in this round:

Kirtee : Preservation of historic buildings is not usually a priority of the poor or NGOs. It is a beautiful building and a nice project, but who does the project really belong to?

Somsook : ACCA is about city-wide strategy, and a community-driven approach. Which means that any project we do with ACCA, should lead to some change of the urban poor situation in that city - a significant change. Here, we're back in the world of free-standing "projects" - all valid and all with very good reasons! But what change does it lead to? We can't see that picture. When we don't have that picture, we get lost in the sea of good, valid, interesting projects! It's the *welfare* approach, not the *change* approach. And if we lose that bigger picture, we can keep proposing projects and projects forever, because it's really quite fun to implement them! For the past 30 years, we can see most donors coming

with all kinds of stand-alone projects, no relation to each other. More and more money gets spent on these projects, but somehow they never bring about any significant change in the situation. They don't lead anywhere!

- ***But here with ACCA, we have some very flexible funding which for once give us the opportunity to do something totally different than that, to link all these free-standing islands into a new direction, a new force.*** That's the objective of the ACCA Program. If we use this flexible money exactly the same way as those free-standing projects, it's a great pity. I feel we shouldn't keep doing the same thing, no matter how valid the proposed project may be.

5. NATIONAL CAPACITY-BUILDING ACTIVITIES BEING PROPOSED (UDRC)

Activity	Budget
National meeting of mayors to discuss community driven development processes (2 days) :	US\$ 6,000
Purchasing one imported compressed earth block making machine, for experimental use in housing projects	US\$ 2,000
Making 3 copies locally of the imported block making machine (3 machines @ \$500 each)	US\$ 1,500
TOTAL	US\$ 9,500

6. MEDIA AND COMMUNITY ARCHITECTURE ACTIVITIES BEING PROPOSED (UDRC) (to the Rockefeller Foundation Project)

Activity	Budget
Produce documentary videos of people-driven processes (4 videos @ 1,250 each)	US\$ 5,000
Copying videos for dissemination (400 copies @ \$4 each)	US\$ 1,600
National community architects meeting (May 2010)	US\$ 2,000
TOTAL requested from Rockefeller	US\$ 8,600

Discussion about the Mongolia process :

Somsook : Proposes organizing a national meeting in Mongolia now. Because the ACCA process has spread out very widely. Might be good to come back to see what has been happening with ACCA, what breakthroughs, what problems. But how to strategize the ACCA process in the next two years, and look at each of the 12 cities we support, and discuss how to strengthen the process - maybe add more support, but with a proper direction. Might be good to stop for a while, and review, so people can see more clearly what they have been doing, and how they would like to go forward. And then, after this national reflection and discussion has happened, then come back with a fresh set of proposals in the next meeting - many of which can be taken care of by the additional budget from the Gates Foundation.

PART 8 :

Participants who took part in the meeting in Lang Son

ACCA / ACHR Committee members :

Representatives from core countries active in the program (total 9 countries):

- From Philippines : Ms. Ana Oliveros, FDUP NGO in Manila, ana_oliveros2@yahoo.com
- From Cambodia : Mr. Somsak Phonphakdee, UPDF Cambodia, updf@clickmail.com.kh
- From Sri Lanka : Mr. K. A. Jayaratne Sevanatha NGO, Colombo, sevanata@sltnet.lk
- From Nepal : Mrs. Sama Vajra Upreti (Lumanti, Kathmandu), shelter@lumanti.wlink.com.np
- From Viet Nam : Ms. Vu Thi Vinh (ACVN), vuthivinhacvn@yahoo.com
- From Mongolia : Ms. Ekhbayar Tsedendorj (UDRC), udrc@mobi.net.mn
- From India : Mr. Kirtee Shah (ASAG, Ahmedabad), kirtee@ksadps.com
- **ABSENT** : From Indonesia : Ms. Wardah Hafidz, UPC in Jakarta, upc@urbanpoor.or.id
- **ABSENT** : From Pakistan : Mr. Muhammad Younus, URC in Karachi, urc@cyber.net.pk

Community leaders :

- **From Nepal** : Ms. Bhanu Gurung (Community leader, Salyani Community, Bharatpur) and Mr. Abdul Kaish Miya Teli (Community leader, Shanti Tole Community, Birgunj)
- **From Sri Lanka** : Mrs. Anoma Jayasinghe, Mrs. Swarnalatha Elpitiyage and Mrs. Rupa Manel (all from Women's Bank)
- **From Mongolia** : Mrs. Urantsetseg Byamba (Community leader, Tuv Province)
- **From Lao PDR** : Ms. Phayvanh Phomvongsa and Ms. Pangkham (Community savings group leaders)
- **From Cambodia** : Mrs. Kan Bolin (Community leader)
- **From Vietnam** : (see list below)

2 senior people from the ACHR network :

- Fr. Norberto Carcellar (PACSII NGO, Philippines) pacsii@info.com.ph
- Ms. Diana Mitlin (IIED, London, UK), Diana.Mitlin@iied.org

1 representative from the ACHR secretariat :

- Ms. Somsook Boonyabancha, achr@loxinfo.co.th

International observers attending the meeting :

- Mr. Mahendra Shakya (Lumanti)
- Ms. Shinetsetseg Munkhbayar ("Shinee") (UDRC)
- Ms. Onesy Sengmeuang (Lao Women's Union, Lao PDR)
- Mr. Kanthone Phamuang (WCEP NGO, Vientiane, Lao PDR)
- Ms Chou Lennylen (UPDF, Media, Cambodia)
- Mr. Say Leak (UPDF, Media, Cambodia)

From the ACHR Secretariat in Bangkok achr@loxinfo.co.th

- Mr. Maurice Leonhardt
- Ms. Le Thi Huyen
- Mr. Thomas Kerr
- Ms. Somporn Boonyabancha ("Im", translator)

Observers from Vietnam (Community leaders from CDF network)

- Ms. Tran Thi Ngoc Tot, community leader, Quy Nhon
- Ms. Tang Thi Duong, community leader, Vinh
- Ms. Le Thi Hoa, community leader, Vinh
- Ms. Le Thanh Huong, community leader, Vinh
- Ms. Nguyen Thi An, community leader, Viet Tri
- Ms. Nguyen Thi Thu, community Leader, Viet Tri
- Ms. Phuong Thi Kim, community Leader, Viet Tri
- Mr. Le Van Quy, community leader, Viet Tri
- Ms. Nguyen Thi The, community leader, Viet Tri
- Ms. Pham Thi Thuy Hang, community leader, Hai Duong
- Ms. Do Thi Hien, community leader, Hai Duong
- Mr. Chu Duc Khoi, community leader, Lang Son
- Ms. Do Thi Vinh, community leader, Lang Son
- Ms. Chu Thuy Sung, community leader, Lang Son
- Ms. Hoang Thi Xuan, community leader, Lang Son

- Ms. Nong Hai Van, community leader, Lang Son
- Ms. Nong Thi Hang, community leader, Lang Son
- Ms. Trieu Th Diep, community leader, Lang Son
- Ms. Ly Kim Thu, community leader, Lang Son
- Ms. Hoang Thi Huyen, community leader, Lang Son

Observers from Vietnam (Government officials, Women's Union staff)

- Ms. Tu Thi Thanh Giang, Women's Union / CDF, Viet Tri
- Ms. Nguyen Huong Ly, Women's Union / CDF, Hai Duong
- Ms. Nong Bich Thuan, Lang Son City People's Committee, Vice Chairwoman
- Ms. Hoang Thi Yen, CDF Lang Son
- Ms. Hoang Thi Anh, Lang Son City People's Committee, Officer
- Ms. Vu Kim Lien, Lang Son City Woman's Union, President

Observers from Vietnam (ACVN, ENDA, Professionals)

- Mr. Nguyen Lan, ACVN General Secretary, Hanoi, acvn@fpt.vn
- Ms. Vu Thi Vinh, ACVN Vice General Secretary, Hanoi
- Mr. Nguyen Ninh Thuc, ACVN Vice General Secretary, Hanoi
- Mr. Le Quang Thong, National CDF Coordinator (Architect, Hanoi)
- Ms. Le Thi Le Thuy, National CDF consultant
- Ms. Nguyen Thi Thu Thuy, ACVN staff, Hanoi
- Ms. Tran Thi Thuy Linh, ACVN staff, Hanoi
- Ms. Nguyen Thi Phuong Thao, ACVN staff, Hanoi
- Mr. Doan Van Khai, Enda Viet Nam Project Coordinator, HCMC
- Ms. Nguyen Thi Dung, Enda Viet Nam Staff, HCMC
- Ms. Nguyen Thi Thinh ("Chips"), Young Professional, Hanoi