
Topic: **Alternatives to Camps –
Displacement in an Urban Context**

Objective: Be aware of forms of displacement and reconstruction involving urban areas, its particular demands and challenges on shelter solutions

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Unlike IDPs **in camps** who are more **easily identified** and **assisted**,

IDPs **in urban areas** comprise a **hidden population**.

Aid agencies and governments have **difficulty identifying them** and understanding their **[relation to host population]**

Relatively **little is known** about their **precise numbers, demographics, basic needs** and **protection problems**.

Source: Internal Displacement to Urban Areas: the Tufts-IDMC Profiling Study Khartoum, Sudan: Case 1, Karen Jacobsen, Feinstein International Center, Tufts University in collaboration with Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, Geneva

”Guidance on Profiling Internally Displaced Persons”

- Tool to **estimate** the **number** and **distribution** of **IDPs** living in **urban settings**;
- Gather **information** about **assistant** and **protection needs**;
- **Case studies** in **Khartoum** (Sudan), **Abidjan** (Côte d’Ivoire) and **Santa Marta** (Colombia) between 2006 and 2008;

Feinstein International Center at Tufts University in collaboration with Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC), Geneva

There are **3 different possibilities** where **shelter** support is linked to **urban context**:

- **reconstruction** in urban areas after war or natural disaster
- **transitional shelter** in urban areas (temporary)
- **durable solution** in urban areas (resettlement)

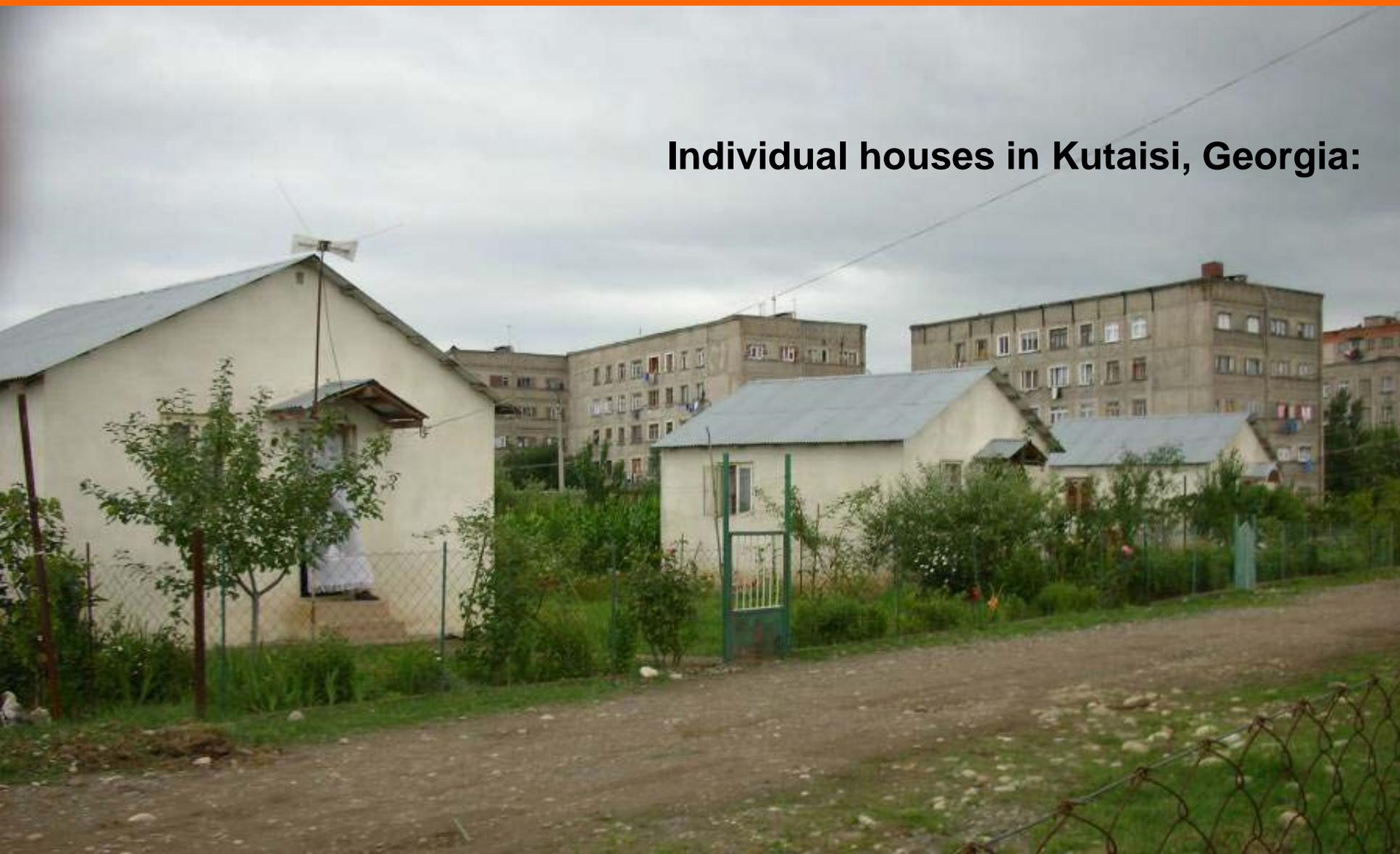


Abkhazia-Georgia, 2005



Collective Centre, Georgia, 2005

Individual houses in Kutaisi, Georgia:





**Collective Centre,
Beirut,
Lebanon, 2008**



Southern
Lebanon,
2008



**Mohajareen Area, Nahr al
Bared Camp, Tripoli,
Lebanon, 2008**

What kind of guiding document exist?

- first UNHCR policy on refugees in urban areas, 7 May 1997 (IOM25/97FOM30/97)
- promoting **self-reliance** of refugees
- **advocating** for integration of refugee **assistance** into **national programs**
- policy **lacks focus** on refugee **protection** as the central consideration

- **new** “UNHCR Policy on Refugees in Urban Areas” on 12 December 1997(IOM/90/97/FOM/95/97)
- addressing **urban protection issues** in more comprehensive fashion.
- still **lacking guidance** in core protection issues
- **need** for yet **another new policy framework** which would address critical protection challenges in **urban settings**.

→ **UNHCR POLICY on REFUGEES and ASYLUM-SEEKERS in URBAN AREAS, Geneva 2008**

Some aspects of the "very new" policy:

- primary **responsibility** of the **State** to ensure ... adequate accommodation
- In urban situations, many ... do manage to find their **own accommodation**
- certain parts of urban centers ... rise to **slum-like** conditions of living
- Various options ... existing public structures, or paying incentives to private home owners to expand their houses
- Initiatives ... negotiations with landlords to reduce rents, ... ensure security of tenure; support for short term stay in economical hostels; shared accommodation schemes, ... and small subsidies

Reference: Chapter V PROTECTION INTERVENTIONS AND STRATEGIES , page 27, 9) Accommodation, Draft UNHCR POLICY ON REFUGEES AND ASYLUM-SEEKERS IN URBAN AREAS, Geneva 2008

Why are IDPs/Refugges coming to Urban Areas (**Push/Pull Factors**)

- social, economic, social status, generell urbanisation related factors
- frustration with lack of livelihood options in the camps
- reunification with family members (already in the city)
- lack of adequate protection provided in rural camps

A number of people also fled directly to urban areas at a time when official IDP camps had **not yet been established**

Source: Refugee Law Project, Faculty of Law, Makerere University, Briefing Paper December 2007, WHAT ABOUT US? THE EXCLUSION OF URBAN IDPS FROM UGANDA`S IDP RELATED POLICIES AND INTERVENTIONS

How to Distinguish between an Urban IDP and a Urban Poor?

may be **reluctant** to **give conflict** as the **reason** for coming because

- they do **not** wish to be defined as **IDPs/refugees**, or are fearful of repercussions (→ **hidden population** that seeks **anonymity**)
- they may have come to the city for **work related reasons**, even though they were **initially displaced** by **conflict** and/or **food insecurity**
- tend to **live alongside** the **urban poor** and **economic migrants**
(in Khartoum concentrations range from 5% to 57%)

Source: Internal Displacement to Urban Areas: the Tufts s-IDMC Profiling Study Khartoum, Sudan: Case 1, Karen Jacobsen, Feinstein International Center, Tufts University in collaboration with Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, Geneva

Aspects of urban displacement

- Future migration intentions
- Registration and Profiling

50% intend to **remain** in Khartoum, **Only 22%** expressed the **desire to go “back home”**.

Beside the basic data, **migration plans**, mobility, **type of livelihood** for both IDP and host population, education are important to assess

Source: Internal Displacement to Urban Areas: the Tufts s-IDMC Profiling Study Khartoum, Sudan: Case 1, Karen Jacobsen, Feinstein International Center, Tufts University in collaboration with Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, Geneva

Reference: Chapter V PROTECTION INTERVENTIONS AND STRATEGIES, page 27, 8) Food, water and other essential items; financial and material assistance, Draft UNHCR POLICY ON REFUGEES AND ASYLUM-SEEKERS IN URBAN AREAS, Geneva 2008

Aspects affecting Shelter Planning

- Tracking

Difficulty of accessing **detailed maps of slum areas** to keep track of IDPs/refugees living among host population. **Flow monitoring** of inner urban migration.
- Various support mechanism

Type of **vocational and live skills** needed in an urban context. **Land ownership** and protection. **Food distribution.**

Aspects affecting Shelter Planning

- Employment

The study states that 25% were self-employed, and 18% were housewives

- Building materials

The study states that 48% lived in mud houses, 39% lived in brick houses, 9% in concrete houses, **just 3% in temporary dwellings** (or shacks)

Source: Internal Displacement to Urban Areas: the Tufts-IDMC Profiling Study Khartoum, Sudan: Case 1, Karen Jacobsen, Feinstein International Center, Tufts University in collaboration with Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, Geneva

Aspects affecting Shelter Planning

- Mobility and forced evictions
The study states that **56%** of all our respondents had **moved within Khartoum**
- Addressing beneficiaries
In urban situations, voluntary repatriation often takes place **on an individual or single family basis;** general **problems of addressing and access the community**

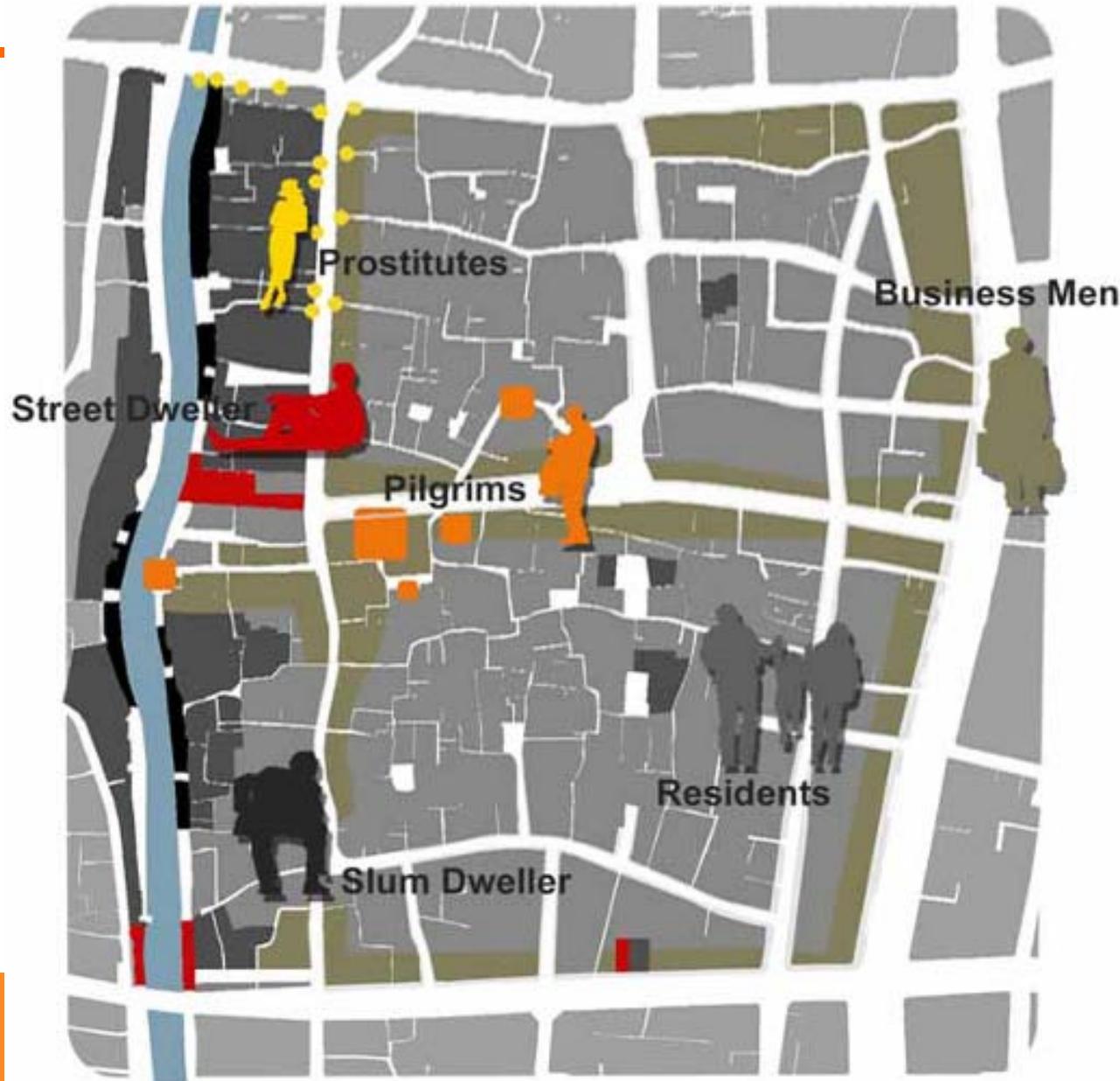
Source: Internal Displacement to Urban Areas: the Tufts s-IDMC Profiling Study Khartoum, Sudan: Case 1, Karen Jacobsen, Feinstein International Center, Tufts University in collaboration with Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, Geneva

>> Social Structure

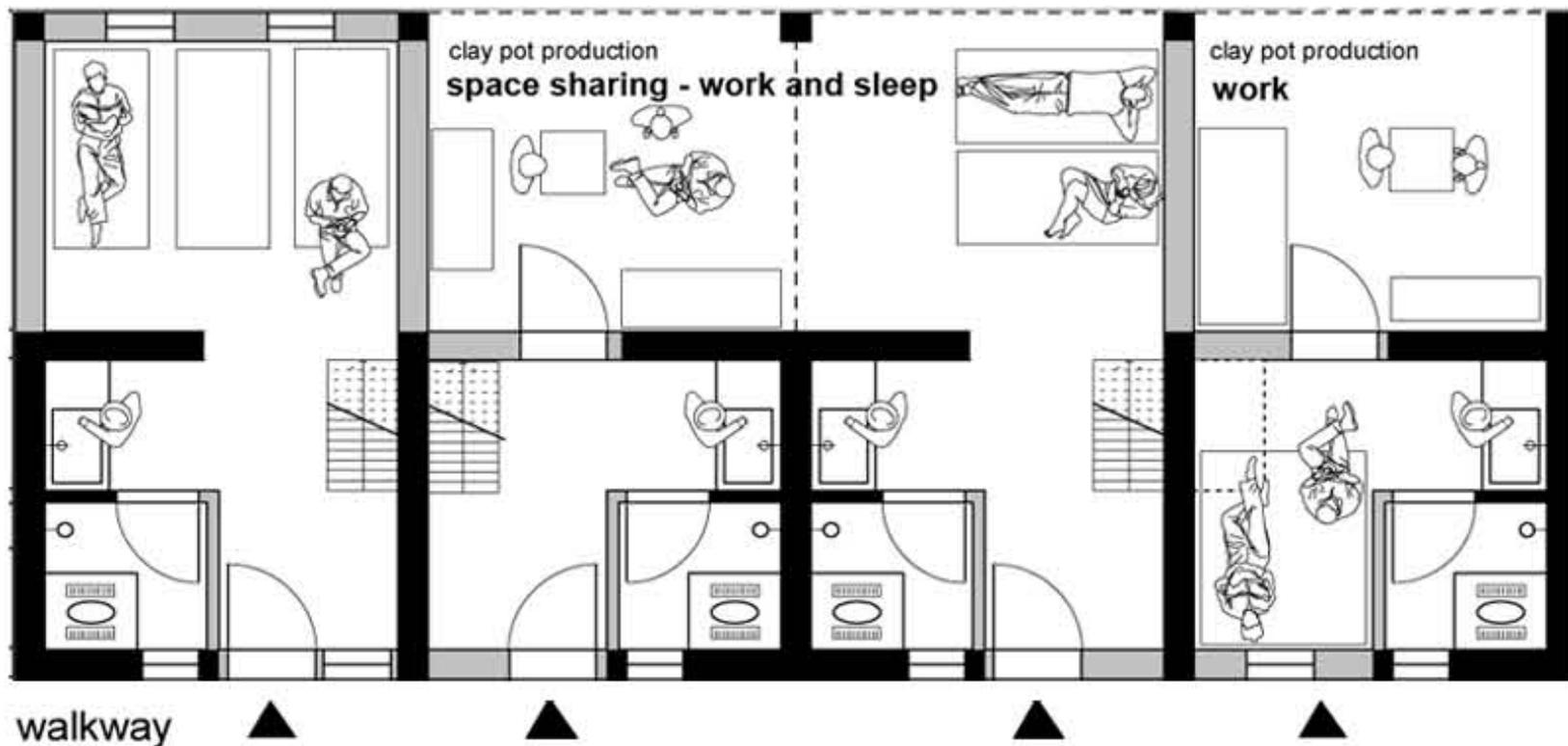


Specific Urban Conditions

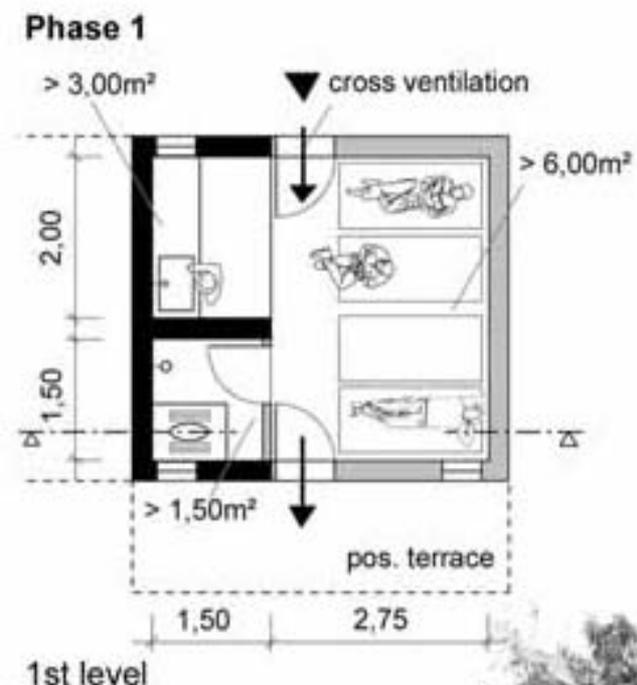
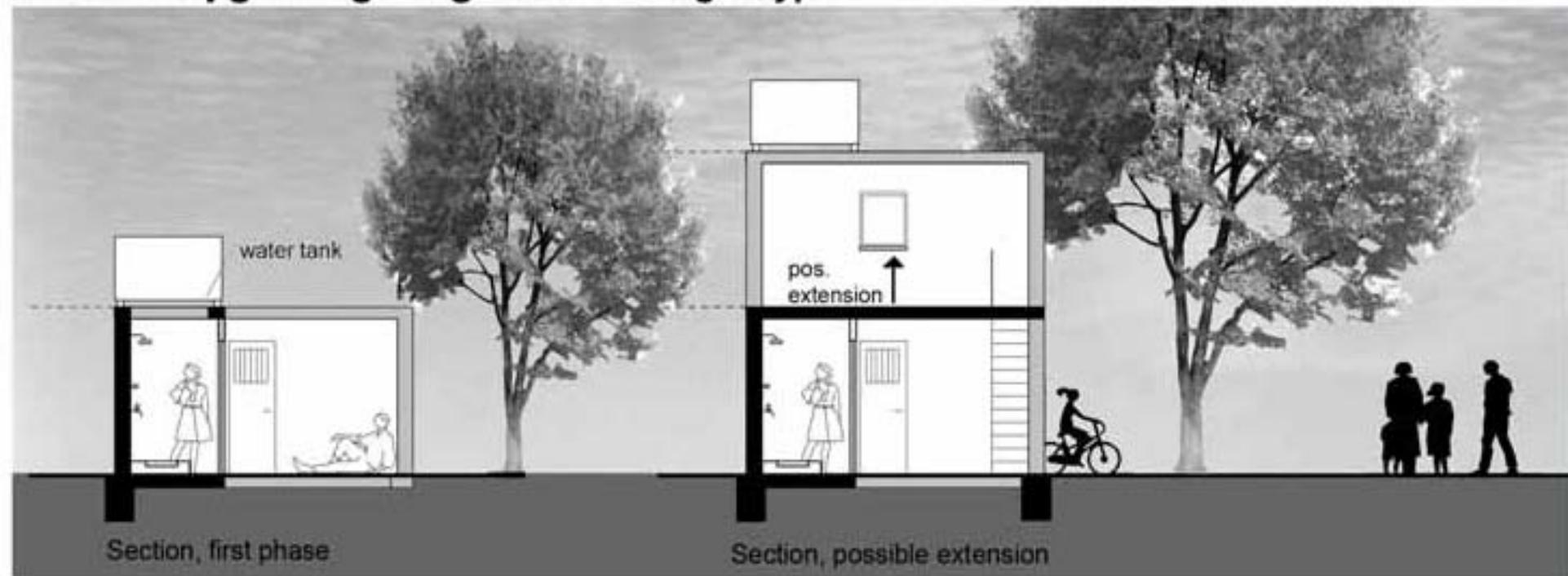
Different to rural settings, the social structure is in an urban context often reflected in the spatial distribution of dwelling spaces



Work and Live - pos. Version for the resettlement of unauthorized bustees walkway



1st level



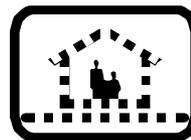
The end of displacement

- decisions on **when displacement ends** have tended to be ***ad hoc* and varied**.
- we may judge urban IDPs as **integrated** into their “**new**” **local communities** and therefore no longer in need of assistance.
- can living in **slum conditions** be **accepted** as a **durable solution**?

Source: Walter Kälin (the UN Representative of the Secretary-General on Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons), together with the Brookings-Bern Project on Internal Displacement, and the Institute for the Study of International Migration at Georgetown University

Discussion:

What do we have to consider when dealing with the various Settlement Options?



Occupancy with no legal status



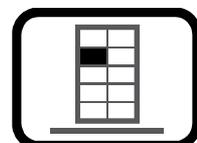
House tenant



Apartment tenant



Land tenant



Apartment owner-occupier



House owner-occupier

Source: Shelter Centre, Shelter Training 08b