URBAN DEVELOPMENT CATALYST

A top-down frame for bottom-up initiative

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THANK YOU


INTRODUCTION

This essay is an attempt to sum up 6 months of thesis-work in the field of emergency housing and planning. It is not to be regarded as a scientific report, rather as a text introducing the issue and my thoughts in the matter.

Each section corresponds to a poster from my final presentation. The pages following each poster recollect sketches and thoughts, trying to clarify the issues presented.

The project was evaluated through a trip to Kenya undertaken by myself and three other master theses students within the “Emergency housing project”. The final section of this essay recollects this trip and the reflections it gave rise to.

If you have any questions after reading this report or if you would like to discuss the matter further, do not hesitate to contact me at: carlpontus@yahoo.se

/Carl Johansson
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MASTER THESIS ABSTRACT

THE PROBLEM:

36 million people today are uprooted from their homes living as refugees, mainly in camps. These camps are isolated enclaves in barren areas, dependable on international aid. People in the camps are neither allowed to leave them nor to take part in local economic activity, thus becoming declassed as individuals and without possibilities. Although camps save lives in the emergency phase, as the years go by they slowly waste these same lives creating an apathetic mass of individuals with low self-esteem.

22 of today’s 36 million refugees are internally displaced people, (IDP’s) who have fled their homes following violence or natural disaster. This is a group which has one big advantage in relation to the other 14 million: they are staying in their own country. Even though displaced, they are governed by the same people as before, speak similar language as their neighbours and have better knowledge of local culture. This is a group which it should be possible to take care of in a more socially, economically and environmentally efficient way than to intern in camps.

Many architects conceive emergency shelters which are sometimes more of ingenious design solutions than of locally functioning projects. Few of them, if any, question the very concept of refugee camps.

PROPOSAL:

The aim of my master thesis is to evaluate existing practice and to research the possibilities of considering camps in a more resource intelligent way. This will be done both socially, considering the people living in them and physically, maximizing local gain of foreign economic input.

I envisage a model where refugees are seen as an asset and where the large scale refugee camp is fragmented into smaller units, deployed in developing parts of a city. In a context where informal dwellings are currently taking over, these settlements would form the initial step in a controlled future expansion of a city, working as ”Urban Development Catalysts”.

In acknowledging the settlements as permanent, though the structure will be temporary and continuously evolving, it’s important to include space for commerce, reunion, work and even farming in the structure. This in order to make it possible for the new settlement to become an active part of the city. Over time the original shelters could be improved by the residents/ owners within the given structure which will finally consist of permanent housing units and become a well functioning part of the city. As the refugees might choose to return to their original land, they have the possibility to sell their dwelling to people living in disorganised slum areas, creating the possibility for a housing career in the city.

Housing IDP:s in the city upgrades their status and give them a possibility to profit from their knowledge and earlier experiences. It generates understanding and facilitates temporary or permanent integration. My thesis is to be seen more as a vision for future aid work than as a method to be applied next fall.

COLLABORATIONS:

The Master thesis is part of the “Emergency Housing Project”, an initiative lead by the Formens Hus Foundation in Hällefors and the IKEA Foundation, in close cooperation with the UNHCR, the Red Cross and Triple Steelix. It is developed in association with Dennis Kanter and Johan Karlsson of industrial design firm, Kanter & Karlsson. Their design for an emergency shelter is the departing point for my proposal.

The thesis is also connected to the research project “Homes for tomorrow”, a Chalmers initiative aiming to combine practitioners experience with high technological innovations and experiential research.

Early conceptual sketch ->
1. ANALYSIS OF CURRENT PRACTICE

36.5 MILLION PEOPLE IN THE WORLD TODAY ARE UPROOTED FROM THEIR HOMES

LIVING IN “TEMPORARY” CAMPS

WHAT ARE ARCHITECTS DOING ABOUT IT?

CAMPS OF TODAY, CITIES OF TOMORROW
“SHELTER”

- People: 3-5
- Space: M² = 19

“COMMUNITY”

- People: 90
- Space: M² = 2 000

“BLOCK”

- People: 1 250
- Space: M² = 40 000

“SECTOR”

- People: 4 800
- Space: M² = 160 000

“CAMP”

- People: 18 500
- Space: M² = 800 000

+ - RATIONAL
- ACCEPTED BY GOVERNMENTS
- EASY TO SET UP

- “TEMPORARY” SETTLEMENT.
  NO FUTURE = NO DEVELOPMENT
- ISOLATED IN BARREN AREAS AND
  DEPENDENT ON INTERNATIONAL AID
- A SYSTEM DESIGNED TO BE BIG,
  DOES NOT FUNCTION ON SCALES
  SMALLER THAN THE 20 000 PEOPLE
  LEVEL.

- LIMITED RANGE OF SPACES, WITH
  SHARP TRANSITIONS BETWEEN THEM
- SEGREGATED INTO LIVING-AREAS AND
  SERVICE-AREA
- TOP-DOWN PLANNED. ONCE AT REFUGEE
  LEVEL THERE IS A LACK OF SPACE.

- STATIC STRUCTURE WHICH IS HARD TO
  CHANGE.
- POOR POSSIBILITIES OF ECONOMIC
  ACTIVITY
- A SYSTEM WHICH CREATES APATHETIC
  RECIPIENTS OF AID, WASTING THE
  COMPETENCE OF THE DISPLACED
  POPULATION.

THE DISPLACED PEOPLE AS AN ASSET
STAKEHOLDER MAPPING

In order to focus my research in the right areas and to guide my work.

** USERS - INHABITANTS **

What are their needs?
Interview ancient refugees now residing in Sweden regarding conditions in refugee camps, what they would like to see changed. What are their experiences.
Source of motivation, points of departure.

** USERS - AID WORKERS **

What are their needs?
Often architects design shelters with the end user as main consideration. If we don’t consider the intermediary users (aid-workers) and try to meet their conditions as well, our project will never succeed in reaching the people it was drawn for.
Source of motivation, points of departure.

** USERS - POLITICIANS **

Will they be interested and support the research or will they counter act my work?

** KNOWLEDGE BANK **

** Myself **

Vision, interest, personal experiences

** The emergency housing project (Formens hus, Dennis Kanter) **

Source of contacts, points of departure, feedback, credibility
No problem if the report is visionary rather than realistic.

** Fellow students **

Sources of new input, inspiration, discussions and feedback

** Chalmers **

Meetings with tutors and researchers. Source of feedback, contacts, credibility. Will push me towards a physical manifestation of my project.

** UNHCR/UN Habitat **

To use their knowledge and long background in the issue.

** Other Projects **

- Existing master theses'
- Researchers
- NGO’s
- MSB
DISCUSSION PARTNERS

DENNIS KANTER, JOHAN KARLSSON
Project managers
“The Emergency Housing Project”

MARIA NYKVIST
Architect, Chalmers

JENS DYMLING
Architect SAR/MSA
Teacher, Reality Studio Kisumu

JOHN WICKES
Director,
Kedesh Orphanage, Mocambique

EVREN UZER, OTTO VON BUSCH
PhD Candidate, urban planning, HDK
Doctor, critical fashion design, HDK

MARIA NYSTRÖM
Professor, Urban development, Chalmers

PER IWANSSON
City Architect, Båstad
Former camp planner in Kenya.

SOFIA WENDEL
Architecture student, Chalmers
On-site contact
sägas ha introducerat begreppet i svensk arkitekturdiskussion. Hans Bjur och Bertil Malmströms återkommande ordet "stad" hos alla dessa fall tycks ändå vilja peka på att de har något kärt barn med många namn, vilket man först kan tro, har vi i min mening att göra med ett kärt de kransar. Jag är här inte ute efter att analysera eller värdera detta fenomen i sig, min fråga är en namn med många barn. Begreppet stad visar sig nämligen i det närmaste inte beteckna något annat gemensamt; närmast i någon fysisk-rumslig eller spatial mening.1 Trots det är detta i dessa sammanhang än byggnadskomplex som är för stora för att kunna betecknas byggnader.

1 I fortsättningen använder jag termen spatial istället för rumslig, då den senare är tämligen sliten av vardagspråket.

...
INTERVIEW 1:

WHO: Jens Dymling, Architect SAR/MSA. Teacher, Reality Studio Kisumu

SUBJECT: The city of Kisumu, place for the theoretical “site study”.

COMMENTS ON THE CONCEPT:

S
It is better to add a piece to the puzzle than to move people around.

Life is mainly taking place outside of peoples houses

W
The question of land rights

O
Distances are not a very big problem, the city grows 25% during the daytime.

Work with the spaces connecting different areas to each other.

T
That the set layout will not be respected

Tribal animosity

QUESTIONS:

Is it possible to integrate a camp into a city?

What will be the program of public space in the area?

ALTERNATIVE SITES FOR THE STUDY:

Kondele (Business oriented area)
Bandani (Rural area)
INTERVIEW 2:

WHO: Per Iwansson, City Architect, Båstad.
   Former camp planner for the UN in Kenya

SUBJECT: How to plan camps the UN-Way

COMMENTS ON THE CONCEPT:

S
Camps are already additions to local communities. Local people establish market places in and around camps.

W
Local people pretending to be refugees in order to get subsidies.

People selling their tents

GENERAL COMMENTS:

Define public space well (Streets and squares). Large empty surfaces will provide space for drainage and for expansion.

O
Refugee economy is an exchange of services.
Work with local food production
Use existing physical constraints to create spaces and openings in the camp

T
The question of land rights

It is easy to make straight lines, curved takes forever.
WORKSHOP 1:

WHO:
Dennis Kanter, Johan Karlsson
Project managers “emergency housing project”

Fredrik Axelsson, Marcus Chiu, Carl Johansson,
Petrina Salema, Agustin Vargas.
Master theses students “emergency housing project”

SUBJECT:
Testing the emergency shelter prototype developed by Formens Hus, the departing point for my proposal. Getting to know the weight of the materials, the construction method and, above all, the scale of the proposed dwelling.
CURRENT CAMP DESIGN:

MODELS: Marcus Chiu and Petrina Salema

Trying to get a grip on the distribution of spaces and services in current camp design. Comparing Camps organized by the UN, camps that are self organised and completely unorganised camps.

In general, services are separated from the living areas forming an administrative cluster. The housing is constructed within a grid pattern, extending homogeneously without regard to topographic or social changes. Which steps in the hierarchy of spaces, from private to public, that are promoted, differs between the designs.

UN-guidelines camp: Public space and Private indoor space

Self organized camp: Semi-Public space and Private indoor space

Un-organized camp: Private indoor and private outdoor space
2.

THE CONCEPT
"SHELTER"  3-5

M² = 19

"COMMUNITY"  92

M² = 2 000

"BLOCK"  1 250

M² = 47 000

"SECTOR"  5 000

M² = 160 000

"CAVE"  70 000

M² = 800 000

+ PERMANENT STRUCTURE WHICH HAS
OWNERSHIP AND A FUTURE
+ A PROGRAM IN CONTINUOUS
EVOLUTION
+ FLEXIBLE IN SIZE AND DESIGNED TO
WORK IN AN URBAN CONTEXT BECOMING
AN ACTIVE PART IN THE EXPANSION OF
EXISTING CITIES

+ WIDE RANGE OF INTER-LACING
SPACES
+ DECENTRALISED PUBLIC FUNCTIONS
DEFINING NODES FOR URBAN
REGENERATION
+ DESIGNED FROM THE BOTTOM UP,
PRIORITYING THE NEEDS OF THE
DISPLACED PEOPLE

+ POROUS STRUCTURE, DESIGNED TO
CHANGE OVER TIME
+ DESIGNED TO PROMOTE SELF
SUSTAINABILITY
+ A SYSTEM WHICH GENERATES EMPOWERED
CITIZENS

- THE QUESTION OF LAND RIGHTS
- JEALOUSY OF THE LOCAL POPULATION
ON THE PRIVILEGES OF THE DISPLACED
POPULATION
- RACIAL ANIMOSITY BETWEEN HOST
POPULATION AND DISPLACED POPULATION

DENNIS KANTER AND JOHAN KARLSSON
Project managers “The Emergency
Housing Project”

EVREN UZER AND JOTTO VON BUSCH
PhD Candidate urban planning, HDK
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Architect SAR/MSA

JOHN WICKES
Director, Kedesh Orphanage,
Mocambique

SOFIA WENDEL
Master Student,
Architecture, Chalmers

DISCUSSION PARTNERS
WORKSHOP 2:

WHO: Marcus Chiu, Carl Johansson, Petrina Salema

SUBJECT: Researching possible camp structures.

* Can a layout be designed which departs from the needs at individual level and then scale up it's pattern throughout the settlement?
* Would that approach then create a more dynamic and adaptable living environment without losing the logic and structure of a grid?

* How can you use neighbouring houses to define each others’ private outdoor space, and in that way incorporating private space in the design?
REFERENCE PROJECT, CORE HOUSING:

WHAT: Elemental Quinta Monroy, Chile

ARCHITECT: Alejandro Aravena, 2004

Through the design of the complex, vacant space is reserved next to each dwelling. This allows for the living area to be extended over time by the residents themselves.
REFERENCE PROJECT, CORE HOUSING:

WHAT: Deck-house, prototype core housing, Kallebäck,

ARCHITECT: Erik Friberger, 1960

In this project of “vertical villas” the staircases hold all installations. The residents are then free to develop their houses as their need and their economy changes.
REFERENCE URBAN ENVIRONMENTS:

WHAT: Hierarchy of spaces

WHERE: The western city

I believe that the hierarchy of spaces, from private to public, present in the western city give fundamental qualities to it’s residents. This is a sequence I would like to incorporate in my proposal even though the design might be different.

The apartment:
Private space

The stairwell:
Semi-private space

The courtyard:
Semi-public space

The street:
Public space

The square:
Public space
REFERENCE URBAN STRATEGY:

WHAT: Regulating where to build, not what to build.
WHERE: Melun-Senart, France.
ARCHITECTS: O.M.A

In order to make it possible for people to adapt the system to cultural specificities in different parts of the world, it is important to set a framework regulating the most important issues, without deciding every part of the proposal.
REFERENCE URBAN STRATEGY:

WHAT: Multiple centra
WHERE: Paris

Using public functions to define nodes in an urban environment causes thoroughfares to emerge. The nodes will become centres for urban regeneration and the streets good environments for small scale economic initiatives to develop.
REFERENCE SOCIAL STRATEGY:

WHAT: Working with catalysts
WHERE: Dale, Norway
PLANNERS: Roomservices

Catalysts in this regard are site specific projects meant to stimulate and sustain local economic and social initiatives. The goal is to find new ways of uniting citizens and creating a hotbed for community activity.

SheepShare
Call and get a sheep delivered to your front yard for keeping your lawn short.
main actor: sheep
potential contributors: sheep owners
HOUSING DEVELOPMENT CONCEPT:

A Top-down frame for Bottom-up initiative

Day 1:

Setting a permanent structure for the future
development of the new community

Week 1:

NGO:s construct initial shelters within the given
framework. Possession rights to the land are given to
the residents.

Year 1-5:

As families grow and personal economy allows, the
shelters are transformed and upgraded by their
residents. New programmes are introduced.

Year 10:

The original shelter is now a proper house. The
formerly displaced residents are becoming citizens
of a new area of the host city. Families are growing
and local economy is developing further.
SOCIAL STRATEGY:

The original social strategy for the project was to create an “adaptor-zone”. An area between the new settlement and the city with the purpose of counter-balancing eventual friction between the two groups. The adaptor was an architectural intervention facilitating the integration of two incompatible objects.

As the project developed so did the social strategy. In line with the fractal approach of the projects spatial layout, the adaptor-zone became incorporated on all levels of the layout.

Spaces reserved for future expansion and spaces not to be constructed are part of the catalyst strategy. With the support of NGO functions and catalyst projects in the settlement, these spaces bring the opportunity for people to start up businesses or agricultural lots.

Scaling up the vision, the settlement represent a controlled urban expansion of the host city. In a context where informal dwellings are taking over, the settlement will act as a catalyst for the host city: an “Urban Development Catalyst”.}

Initial adaptor concept

Developed catalyst concept
3.

THE DESIGN
THE TENT: \( \frac{X}{Y} = \frac{Y}{Z} \)

THE GRID

THE RULES

"THE COMMUNITY" (140 PEOPLE)
DEAD ENDS:

WHAT: - Attempts at finding a universal community layout.
  - Zoning the settlement into agricultural-, business- and industrial areas.
CONCLUSIONS:

CONCLUSIONS: * Let people design their own living environment within a set frame adapted to the global demands of the settlement.

* Let the settlement develop through these stages, but in its own way. Establish a decentralised base-layout and develop certain rules in order to provide good conditions for progress.
GENERATE THE MODEL BOTTOM-UP

Designing the structure from the bottom up suggests a fractal-approach where the form of the "seed" is scaled up and repeated throughout the settlement pattern. Like the UN-camps, my settlement is based on a grid system. This is in order to make the work of applying the layout in the field rational and simple.

The shelter being under development in the "Emergency housing project" has been my point of departure. The tent frame serves as "seed"-unit for the grid which scales up fractally in terms of three. The dimensions of the tent will thus serve as a base measurement for the following levels of the community:

1. The Garden
2. The Pair
3. The Courtyard
4. The Block
5. The Community
6. The Settlement

DIVIDING THE LAND

On each level the land is divided into three categories:
- land to use for construction right away
- land reserved for later use
- land that can never be used for construction

This is to enable future expansion of both home and settlement and to provide space for the people to earn their livelihood.

FREEDOM WITHIN RULES

To avoid the rigidity of the system the inhabitants of a courtyard are allowed to place their tents and garden any way they choose following two rules. These rules are designed to make sure that the public roads of the settlement provide good conditions for a city-like expansion. They also guarantee an adaptable layout of the road-network as the fractal scales further up.
The tent frame
- Private indoor space

The garden
- Private outdoor space

The pair
- Semi-private outdoor space

The courtyard (450 M²)
- Semi-Public space with toilet, shower, garbage disposal and compost.

RULE 1:
- Place the tent within one tent-length of large roads

RULE 2:
- Leave one long-edge or two short-edges of the courtyard free for passage
DEVELOPMENT OF A SETTLEMENT

As the fractal scales up, the layout become more dense. The disposition of surfaces to develop and surfaces never to be built is left to the settlement planner.

The next step is to combine a number of communities plus their supporting services, in the form of NGO- and catalyse functions, into a settlement. This is a site specific task left to the planner within the framework of a few rules presented on the following page.

![Diagram of a settlement layout](image)

**Courtyard**

![Diagram showing 3 courtyards with rules applied](image)

3 courtyards with rules applied

![Diagram showing the community layout](image)

**The Community (4000 m²)**
- Public Space with water standpoint
APPLY THE MODEL TOP-DOWN:

When applying the model, the generated grid is affected by different constraints. UN-regulations concerning firebreaks and distribution. But most notably by the site specific context.

It is important that the planner let geographic and social particularities affect the layout as they provide a much needed disturbance to the rigidity of the system. This way, a more dynamic living environment is created.
4. PROPOSAL - KISUMU

After the elections in 2007 when Mwai Kibaki remained in power, tribal aggressions struck many parts of Kenya. 600,000 people were displaced from their homes.

Kisumu is a Luo town and the most probable cause of establishing an IDP camp in this area would be to house Luo people from other parts of Kenya displaced after the elections summer of 2012.

THE IDP'S IN KENYA
SITE COMPARISON:
Overlapping Långgatorna, Göteborg

KONDELE - NEIGHBOURING COMMUNITY

MIGOGI - PROPOSED SITE
MIGOGI: THE SITE

Migogi is situated in the northeastern corner of Kisumu. It is an empty field bordered by the port authority customs area to the east, the national railway to the north, an interstate road to the south and an irrigation ditch to the west. The neighbouring informal settlement of Kondele is an active business district in the city.

The site is flat and fertile but has problems with flooding in the springtime. It is not used for anything in particular today but three-storey housing will be developed on the western part of the site. The steelworks in the southern part of the site have also expressed wishes to expand their territory.
5.

DRAWINGS
- DEVELOPMENT OVER TIME
DEVELOPMENT OVER TIME

LOCAL FOOD COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
LOCAL SERVICE ECONOMY
LOCAL INDUSTRY
NGO PRESENCE

2011
2026
2041
APPLIED GRID LAYOUT

BUILDING ALLOWED

BUILDING PROHIBITED
YEAR 30
6.

DRAWINGS
- IN FOCUS
CATALYST: CONNECTING CROSSROADS
YEAR: 1
GOAL: INTERFACE BETWEEN LOCAL AND DISPLACED POPULATIONS
DEVELOPMENT OVER TIME:

YARD SECTION: YEAR 1

PUBLIC SQUARE SECTION: YEAR 1

YARD SECTION: YEAR 15

PUBLIC SQUARE SECTION: YEAR 15

YARD SECTION: YEAR 30

PUBLIC SQUARE SECTION: YEAR 30
CATALYST SPACES:

CATALYST: Incubator
YEAR: 1
GOAL: Support displaced craftsmen
EVALUATION:
- VISIT TO KENYA
The first visit we made was largely about setting the tone. Realizing the extent of the situation, feeling and getting to know the people struck by tragedy, getting rid of preconceived notions on how the camps and life in them would be.

This was my first visit to a camp and I was not entirely prepared on how to go about asking questions and registering answers. I did not do any proper interviews with the people; instead of meeting them as a professional I met them as a person.
This was the best organized camp that we visited. I was also better prepared for the visit. Instead of strolling around talking to people in the settlement I walked around it together with the camp chairman and the camp secretary. The topics being raised during our tour of the camp gave many valuable insights into the organization of a settlement and the problems to arise.
“86” IDP-CAMP 110630

The relatively well organized camps that we had visited earlier left me unprepared for the realities of camp 86. I tried to conduct an interview with a family and with the camp chairman through the help of an interpreter but I was overwhelmed by the despair and could not make myself look objectively on the situation. I felt pity and sadness both of which I was unable to suppress. After this visit I started to reflect more consciously on the justification of our visits and of our research.
KIBERA 110701

A different approach as we did not study the configuration or standard of the houses but a very specific program upgrading sanitary facilities and roads in a dense urban fabric and the results of these improvements. The nature of the visit was more formal. We did not meet many of the inhabitants of the community but mainly representatives from the UN-Habitat and local politicians.
A first lesson learned from the layout of the camps is that the plot size belonging to each tent in my project is too small in order to sustain the people living on it. Even though the plots at Vumilia and Pipeline were fairly large, the residents claimed that the size of the allotted land did not allow them to grow enough food for their families and definitely not enough to sell at the local market. At the same time, the layout of the Vumilia IDP camp also showed the difficulty of arranging the space of a settlement in a city-like way. Even if applying my “house-next-to road”-rule the size of their plots would create a very loose urban fabric. The solution might be to divide the plots belonging to a family. Smaller size plots to place the tents would form a more dense urban fabric. To complement this each family could be given a plot of equal size in a field next to the established settlement. In this way there would always be land to sustain the families even if their dwellings would develop and extend all over the allotted land.
REFLECTIONS

INTEGRATION:

Judging by the way the IDP camps were forming ties with the host communities around them, my theories on integration as a crucial part of overcoming the plight of displacement are accurate.

All camps visited had some friction to overcome at their establishment. Even though land is available it is hard to find people willing to sell to a community of IDPs due to cautiousness and resistance towards strangers. The initial hostility waned as the host community realized that the newly arrived were people just like themselves just misfortunate. The integration was further promoted by a number of activities. The kids go to local schools where their parents become active in the governing, teaching and partly the financing together with the parents form the host community. Many IDPs are members of congregations in the host community. It also happens that people from the host communities join churches started by pastors in the IDP community. In Vumilia, the residents had a dispensary to which people from the host community could address themselves when doctors were visiting. At Pipeline people from the host communities got increased supply of freshwater at a shorter distance than before due to investments made by the government and by aid organizations. Before the arrival of the IDPs the settlement at Pipeline was small and had problems with criminals raiding the farms. The increased number of people in the area made the government establish a police station next to the camp. In addition to this, the matatu-services have increased and a butchery and two smaller grocery stores have been established by the neighbours.
REFLECTIONS

ECONOMY / CATALYST PROJECTS

Before their displacement people in the camps that we visited worked mainly as farmers, businessmen and merchants. Once relocated it was hard for them to continue working in their trade. Currently the men worked mainly in construction and the women as farmers. Some people started up smaller bars in the camp. A couple sold charcoal or vegetables which were bought in the city and sold in the camp.

One big problem for the reestablishment of former businesses was, according to the residents of Pipeline, the status of the town. If you establish a business in the camp you will be far from your clients and you will also have less credibility, thus be paid less. The main problem stigmatizing the camps were the tents. Replacing them in the settlements would be a major step in making life there dignified and to obtain the respect of neighbours.

A couple of catalyst projects had already been effectuated in the camps to varying effect. To spark integration of the IDPs at Pipeline an aid organization gave out sheep if the people in the host- and IDP communities worked together to take care of them. This particular initiative had worked pretty well when implemented but had not been continued.

At Vumilia a chicken farm run by the people in the camp had been established since 3 months back. The goal was to produce chicken to sell at the local market. Since the project was so recent it was hard to evaluate if it would work in the long run, but the implementing organization had left the camp and the project seemed to be doing very well.

The policy of the Kenyan government to handle the IDP crisis is to buy land to compensate everyone who has been displaced. The problem with this approach is that it will make all the displaced people farmers even if they are actually more apt for other trades. I believe that catalyst projects like the ones mentioned above are an important factor in establishing alternative ways of earning your livelihood after a crisis. The main problem is the continuity of the implemented projects, how to make sure that they will have a lasting impact in the community and that the knowledge is passed on after the initiating party have left. One important thing is to make sure that your project is supporting a local initiative rather than importing a foreign concept.
CONCLUSION

After these experiences I believe that the core ideas of my thesis are valid. The major obstacle for it to work rests the question of land rights. Not being residents of a country is a big problem, but especially the lack of available land next to urban areas is an even greater one.

The visits to Vumilia and Pipeline gave me hope. The people had been there for 4 years, were recognized by the Kenyan government as IDPs and were gradually improving their condition. According to me, the key to their relative success was their determination to improve their current life, not waiting for a better one tomorrow. Even though they had been promised 2.5 acres of land somewhere in Kenya in the future, they decided to upgrade their current dwellings (with financial aid of course). They have chosen to involve themselves in the local community, especially concerning the schooling of their kids. One could say that they consider their current situation as permanent until it changes and that they work to improve it as if that change will never come without their help.