

EcoPoor Research Framework Workshop

Dhaka, 6th March 2014

Urban poverty in Dhaka

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Urban Poverty in Bangladesh

- **Urban population growth has remained above the national population growth rate since the 1960s.**
- **The level of urbanisation had reached 25 percent by 2004; expected to be a fully ‘urbanised country’ within three to four decades.**
 - Dhaka is in the world’s top ten ‘Megacities’ (and expected to become a ‘Metacity’ by 2020)
 - Chittagong joins Dhaka among the world’s fastest growing cities.
- **Urban poverty is a distinctive and unrelenting feature of urban life**
 - 35 percent of the urban population live in slums (in 2005).
 - Human development is stagnating or actively deteriorating in urban areas.

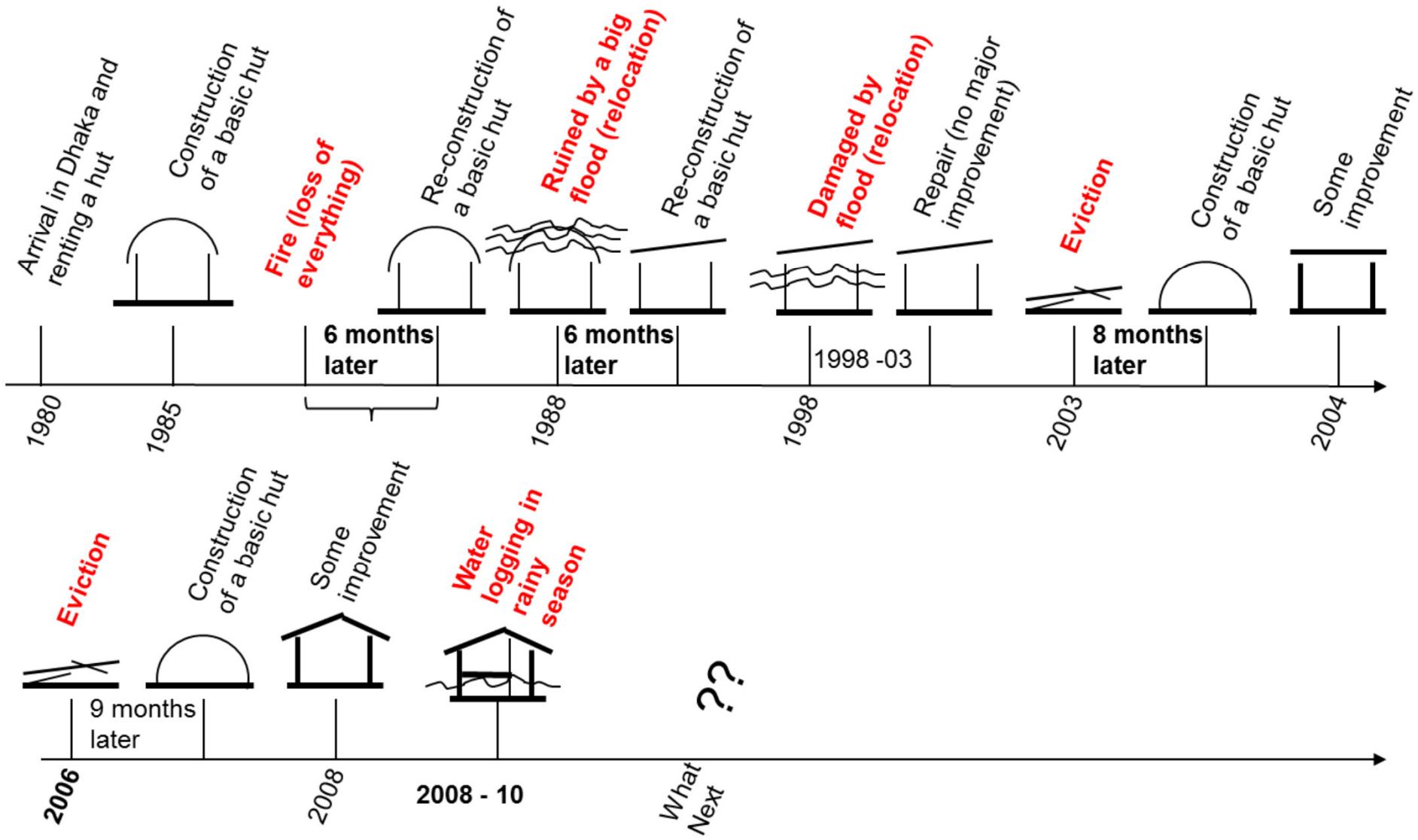
The rise of private low-income settlements

City	Total residents (million)	Total no. of settlements ('000)	No of private settlements (%)	Residents of private settlements (%)
Dhaka	3.42	5.0	89.9	70.3
Chittagong	1.47	1.8	85.9	58.7
Khulna	0.19	0.5	79.2	54.3
Rajshahi	0.16	0.6	82.7	60.3
Barisal	0.11	0.4	87.2	63.4
Sylhet	0.98	0.8	98.9	97.2
Total	5.44	9.1	88.6	66.7

The rise informal private developers: trends and reasons

- The share of population in private settlements is rising fast.
In Dhaka, it rose to 70.3% (2005), from 48.8 % (1996).
- Factors underpinning rise of private settlements
 1. A combination of push and pull factors
 2. Decline in the opportunity to squat on public land
 3. Failure of city planning to catch up with the pace at which urban growth brings more land for urban use
- The city authority does not allocate land for low-income settlements, nor do the building codes allow the use temporary structures & materials

Life in a public settlement



The evolution of private settlements in Dhaka

Dhaka – Phase 1



Phase 2: Dramatic skyline of virtualisation



Phase 3: Permanent structure (Dhaka)



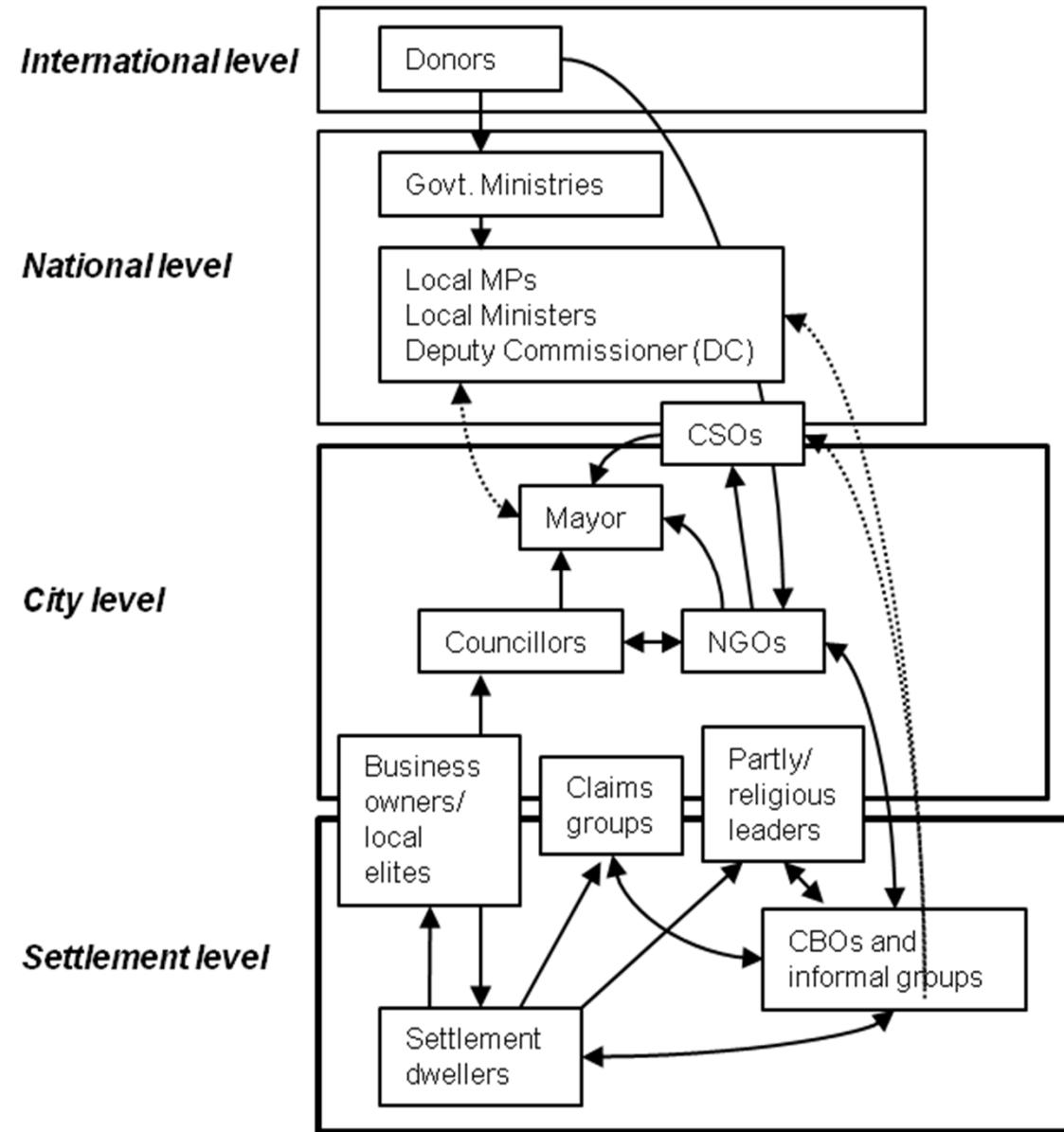
Phase 3: Innovative design (Dhaka)



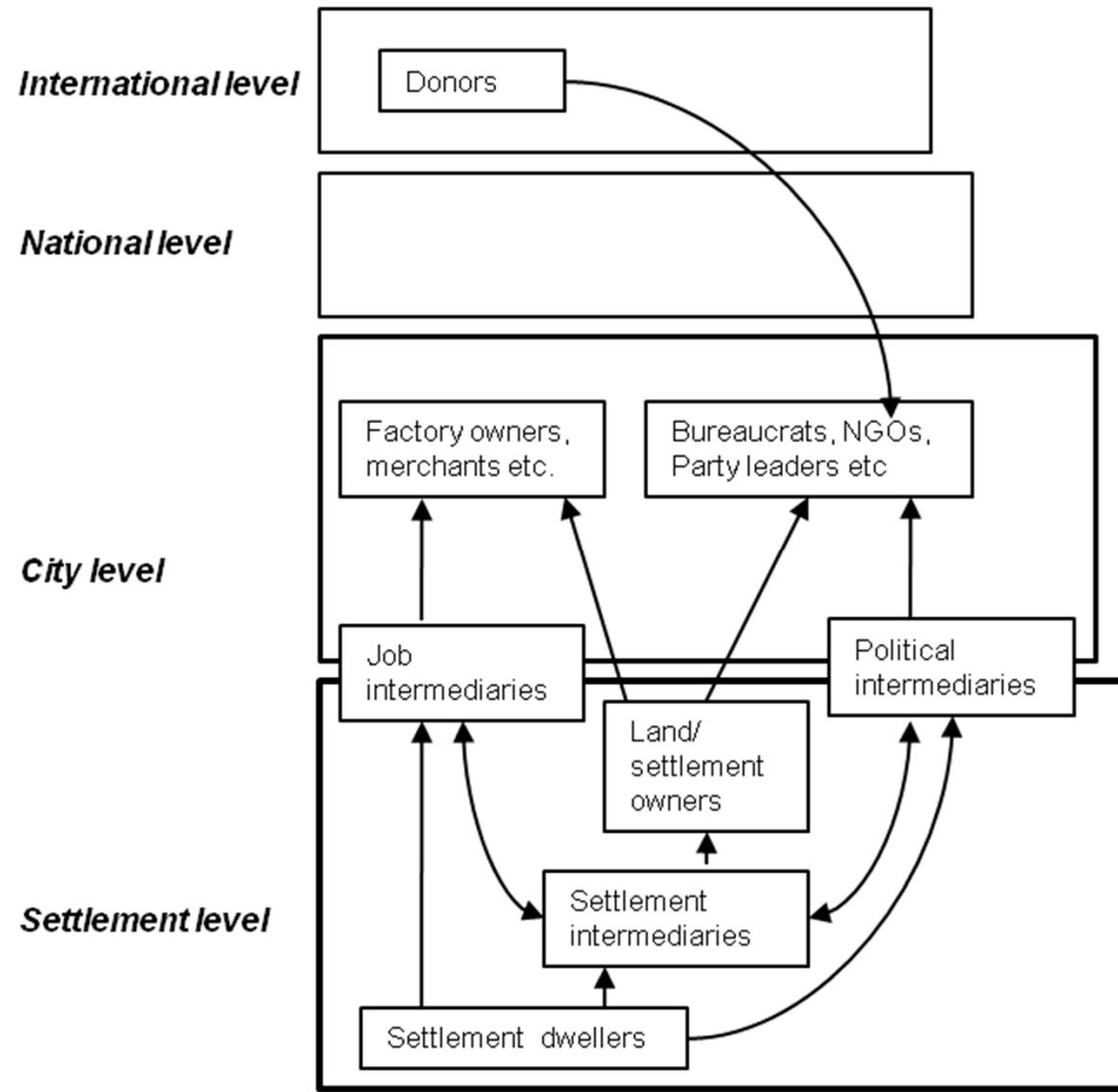
Life in a private settlement: Market-led eviction



Access to institutions for dwellers of a public slum



Access to institutions for dwellers of a private slum



What institutions must do: views from low-income people

One of ClimUrb's very poor female respondents, *Amena*, gave a comprehensive answer. Addressing both local and national authorities, and the international community she said:

“We have given you our votes and your position, but we will not beg from you. You've seen our situation and you must think from your own conscience about helping us.”

In valuing representative democracy and trusting that such political arrangement works for poor people, she asked for a combination of local, city-level and national responses, and for the international community to play its part.