



DESIGN HELPING REFUGEES/ASYLUM SEEKERS

Innovation project

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BRIEF

DESIGN HELPING THE REFUGEES/ASYLUM SEEKERS IN FINLAND (IN EUROPE)

- What can be done by means of design to help the refugee problem (asylum seekers) in Finland (in Europe)
- What is the phase of problem that needs the development most?

Our brief was to design helping the refugees/asylum seekers in Finland (and in Europe). To help us with our project the brief included some questions to help us get started.

As the theme was quite strange to all of us we did a lot of research. Our researched included several interviews with several people who work on the subject. Each of one of the people we interviewed had their own angle to the subject so we recieved large amount of knowledge.

Our final concept is built for the UNHCR camps and not for the situation in Finland or Europe. As our solution is making the situation better at the UNHCR camps closer to home for the asylum seekers, they'll have no more need to come over to Europe.

*Life is very short, and there's no time
for fussing and fighting my friends*
John Lennon

*Education is the most powerful weapon you can
use to change the world.*
Nelson Mandela

*We cannot solve the problems with the same
thinking we used when we created them.*
Albert Einstein

SOME FIRST IDEAS

REFUGEE PACKAGE (MATERNITY PACKAGE)



A "welcome package" for refugees. Similar to the maternity package, but filled with things that help the people who arrive to a foreign country as asylum seekers.

MAKE SLAVERY LEGAL



When we recieved the assignment our first ideas were not that legal and they don't fit to the current mindset and human rights people have been working so hard on. These few examples here are just to give you a clue about the quality of the first ideas we had.

MOVE FINNS TO SWEDEN AND GIVE FINLAND TO THE REFUGEES



CLONING THE DIPLOMATS



Cloning diplomats and the best peace makers would solve out the real issues behind the man-made refugee problems like wars. If there were no wars, there would be no need for the people to leave their homes.

We started the project in the end of August 2015. We were assigned the project when the crisis was still developing. During our project the European refugee crisis took turn for worse and the situation got out of hands. In the beginning of the project we were in an idealistic mood that grew dreary as the news on the subject got worse.

The first part of our research consists of reading the newspapers. There was no end to the news about refugees. We tried to stay critical to our sources and take our information from the more reliable sources. We read different online publications, including, but not limited to BBC, CNN, Al Jazeera, Business Insider, Helsingin Sanomat. We watched several videos about the subject from Youtube, we watched news and we browsed through UNHCR and other organizations websites.

We managed to arrange four interviews. The first person we met was Metropolias student union METKA's Development Co-operation specialist Heidi Tuhkanen. She provided us with a lot of basic information about the subject. She also told us about her experiences with the Amnesty volunteer groups. With the information we got from her we headed to our next interview.

Our second interview was with someone working with the refugees in Finland. This someone told us about the system and how it works. After our second interview we understood that if we want to actually solve the crisis and do something that really matters we should focus on the situation closer to the root of the problem.

Our third interview was with Saara Lehmuskoski from the Finnish Church Aid. She gave us a lot of information about the camps and how things work there. She also pointed out some of the biggest problems. The interview with her gave us a push to the direction we ended up going to.

The fourth interview we had was around the half way of the project. We met with an anonymous refugee. As our scope had changed quite a lot we didn't get that much information from the interview. None the less it was still good to meet with someone who is currently in Finland as an asylum seeker. The conversation with him was mostly confirming that we were working on the right things.

Even after the interviews we met many people who were interested in our project and we talked about the subject with a lot of people. Many people around us were interested in hearing how we are going to tackle the issue by the means of design.

Our projects core team consisted of Maxime Bigonnet (industrial design student, France), Kiia Kataja (interior architecture student, Finland) and Pirita Paananen (industrial design student, Finland). We also got consultation from Morgan Bigonnet (architecture student, France/Belgium). Morgan helped us define the structure and she pointed out some of the problems we had in our structure.

The fact that our group consisted of people with different backgrounds made it possible for us to come up with a solution that has all the possibilities in making the UNHCR camps better places.

INTERVIEW WITH HEIDI TUHKANEN, DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATION SPECIALIST

Our first interview was with Heidi Tuhkanen. She works as development co-operation specialist for the Metropolia Student Union METKA.

When asking about how the refugees come to Finland Heidi told us that refugees come to Europe by using the human traffickers and then continue their journey to another country where they seek asylum. They often arrive in Italy or Greece and then manage to find their way to another countries. She confirmed our assumption that one of the biggest problems the refugees face when coming to a place like Finland is the prejudice. When talking about the problems, she pointed out that the maybe even bigger problems are with their mental health and the fact that their families might be on another side of world.

Refugees arriving in Finland are placed in the welcome centers. They don't have a lot of money and they are sharing their living area with people they don't know. And all the people they live with have problems that are similar to their own.

When coming to Finland/Europe the reality often hits hard. The refugees have somewhat unrealistic expectations of the life here. They often don't understand where they are coming to. They don't have enough reliable information so that they could be prepared for what's waiting for them. Refugees who have family somewhere in Europe are often more in touch with reality.

Heidi said she thinks that the refugees coming to Europe are often looking for a way to make some money, so that they can send some back home and others have hopes of bringing their whole family with them. She also doubted they won't feel that welcome in Europe as the people around look very different from what they are used to.

In case refugees would be put to live with a local family they would probably adapt more and learn the local manners faster than living in a welcome center.

People choose to take the high risk journey because they have expectations of a better life. The situation in refugee camps closer to their homes is not that good. There's often a lot of people in a small area, the diseases are spreading fast and the resources at the camps are limited.

Ones traveling are usually more well off, they have some money and they are strong enough to survive the trip. The journey to Europe is very demanding and dangerous, physically and mentally.

When choosing the journey, the people have a few options as the smugglers are using boats, trucks and cars. The vehicle will often change several times during the journey. No matter what kind of vehicles they are, they are very crowded - the whole operation is comparable with how nazis took people to the concentration camps back in 1940's.

The people who do not receive the asylum will be shipped back to their

home countries. If it's a minor there will be an adult traveling with them to make sure they get there safe and sound. Many of the people who are returned to their home countries will stay there just enough time to earn money for their next try.

Yet we still have to keep in mind, that there are a lot of people who would love to go back to their home countries. Especially if they have family left there.

Applying for the asylum is a lot of paperwork and the response is not always positive.

The people have had to leave because the situation in their home countries is bad. The most common reasons for leaving are war, poverty, unemployment and being part of a minority. There are always some groups that will have a better situations than the others.

The current situation where the funding is being cut there's many important projects that cannot be continued as the funding ends.

"It would be very important to support people in the countries they live in and not cut the development co-operation budgets. It's cheaper to help them where they are than taking care of them in Finland." said Heidi.

When asked what normal people here can do locally to help the situation Heidi suggested volunteering for an organization that's working on the subject and donating old clothes and things for them.

INTERVIEW, ANONYMOUS (G), WORKING WITH

After our first interview we already had a lot of new information. Our second interview was with a person who is working with the refugees. To protect this person's identity we will call this person simply with the letter G. We agreed to this as G's work is very delicate and we want to help G to stay safe.

The interview with G gave us a lot of deeper understanding about the situation.

G told us that other than using the human traffickers the refugees also come to Europe via UNHCR. The ones coming via UNHCR come from the refugee camps that are in their home countries or the neighbouring countries. These refugees have everything ready for them. UN has arranged for them the flights and apartments, so they have everything ready for them. The refugees who come via UNHCR, come to Europe legally. They are following the official protocol and they are pointed a place where they will be living.

When the people arrive to the camps they are given blankets and tents. They have with them what they were able to carry. It often includes some cooking stuff.

Then there are the illegally traveling refugees, who travel from one country to another through Europe. When they finally reach a country where they want to stay, they walk to the police or customs officer and say 'asylum'. After that the refugees go through an interview. In case they find out during the interview that person has been to another European country before arriving to Finland, they will be sent back there. In case nothing like this comes up the refugees will be taken to the welcome center. In the welcome center they wait for their first longer interview with the officials. This waiting period usually lasts from 2 weeks to 3 months. After this interview there's more waiting before the interview at the immigration office. The interview at the immigration office lasts from 6 hours to several days.

The illegal travelers choose to travel instead of going to the UNHCR camps due to the current situations at the camps. At the camps people are treated 'like animals'. The waiting lists for the asylum via UN are very long and after the application, before their first interview they have to wait at the camp for up to six years.

The welcome centers in Finland are usually former hotels, so the circumstances here are a lot better than at the UNHCR camps where people live in tents.

During the days in the welcome center the refugees are participating the local language lessons. They are also thought about the local laws,

healthcare, history and culture. Some of the people arriving to Finland don't know how to read or write.

The refugees with ID-papers with them are allowed to work after 3 months and the ones without papers after 6 months. Before getting the permission to work, there's very little they can do. There is a lot of free time, but there isn't much to do with it. Some of the guys go the gym and play soccer outside. There are also organizations and places like poikien talo that organizes things they can attend to. For women there is Moninaiset organization that arranges lessons in Finnish, knitting and baking. They encourage the women to participate in the two way communication. G thought that one way the refugees would feel more welcome is if people were more interested in their culture and their ways too. They would love to introduce their culture to other people.

When we were doing the interview in the end of August 2015 the situation at the welcome centers was quite chaotic. At that point the refugees were already sleeping on the classroom floors and there was often up to 6 persons sharing a tiny room.

The people live in the welcome centers until they get the decision about their residence permission. This waiting period can last up to two years. After the residence permit is granted the refugees are given an apartment from somewhere.

Most of the people who come are willing to work. Some of them come to Finland in order to get their permission and then leave to another country to work there. After having the residence permission in Finland they are allowed to stay in another EU-country for up to 3 months in search of a job. After 3 months they need to have a contract.

When people come to Finland they have the option of living with someone they know instead of the welcome centers. When they live with friends or relatives it has to be official, so they need to have some kind of contract and they have to be officially living in the apartment. Even after the refugees get their own apartments they still face racism in their daily lives. The Finns are afraid of the refugees and as the fear makes it hard for the refugees to get to know Finns they don't really learn the language or about the culture. Eventually they may start hating back because the local people are not even giving them a chance to learn.

According to G the asylum seekers seem to think that Finland is a heaven on earth. Many of the people who come already have friends or families here and they have heard good things from them. One of the good things is that Finland has high respect on the human rights.

Refugees seem to expect that Finland has easy jobs and they don't need to learn the language.

The reality comes running after them and will eventually catch up. They study Finnish from one to two years. The language barrier seems to be an

issue even though they are doing their best in learning the language. They want to talk, but they don't really know the language. Even in the case they try, people often ignore them.

Soon after arrival 90% of them get depressed, at that point the refugees are still happy they chose to come, but they start remembering the things that happened to them in the past. If they manage to get into a school or get a job their mood rises. It usually takes two years before they start to use medication in order to live a normal life. Most of them have mental issues that would need psychiatric help. Getting the help they need is difficult because in their culture needing a help with mental issues is a shame.

Those who come with their families are usually happier than the people who come alone. When children go to school or kindergarten the whole family is more in touch with the Finnish culture and people.

Many of the people who get the residence permit will often ask for the family re-uniting application. Trying to get the family together, the family members in the home country need to take the application to the closest Finnish Embassy and they need to travel there legally and they need to have their passports for that. In case the people travel to the embassy illegally the application is automatically dismissed. Even this legal way is time and money consuming as the people need to wait around 3-6 months before getting the answer they so badly need. The application alone costs 400 euro's per person. Besides that they still have to afford the flights and the stay during the waiting period. Some families spend years paying back the loans they took for the process.

INTERVIEW WITH SAARA LEHMUSKOSKI, FINNISH

“Right to peace, livelihood and education”

Our third interview was with Saara Lehmuskoski from the Finnish Church Aid. At this point of the project we were already quite familiar with the subject in Europe and had pretty much come to the solution that the only way we can actually do something in order to solve the issues in Europe is to make the things better - if not by solving the issues behind the wars, then at least making it better at the camps. Our discussion with Saara confirmed our thoughts on the matter.

Finnish Church Aid started working September 25th 1947. That's the day the evangelic-lutheran church of Finland officially joined the international church aid network. During the time FCA was a receiver for the help as the Finland was starting to recover from the war. The war in Finland caused poverty and there was a shortage of food and clothing. FCA was delivering the reliefs to the suffering people. During the 60's the situation in Finland changed and FCA turned from receiver to provider. FCA was part of the church until 1995 when it became independent foundation with its own board of directors.

During the interview we learned that the religious background of FCA makes the work at the camps easier. Outside Scandinavia religion is a lot bigger thing. In many countries religion is one of the first things people ask you. The main conflicts within the current religious field are with in the muslim community and not in between muslims and christians. In that frame the christian background of FCA makes the work they are doing actually easier.

FCA is focusing their work on the most fragile countries in the world and there they concentrate on the people who are the most in need. Their current focus is not in Finland. The key theme FCA is working for is “the right to peace, livelihood and education.”

Even though FCA is doing valuable work on other parts of the theme too we were concentrating on the issues with the refugees. We spent a good part of our time talking about the UNHCR camps as the focus of our project was already shifting towards that end of the problem.

At the camps there are several different organizations working. Practically UNHCR is taking care of the camp management.

FCA's work depends on the camps. They support the education by arranging school tents, school food and supporting the teachers in their job at the camps. Having schools at the camps is offering the daily routines for the children and is very important part of childrens psychosocial development and return to the life after the camp. One of the biggest problems at the camps is the fact that people have very little to do. FCA is trying to tackle this issue by organizing soccer clubs and

courses on different subjects. This way they are trying to not only tackle the issues that come when people have nothing to do. When the youth has nothing to do they sometimes end up making crimes just to have something to do. The increase in the crimes inside the camps decreases the safety. The other option for the frustrated young men is to leave the camp and join the army or terrorist organization. They sometimes do this just to have something to do. When they are attending a course they have something to do and something to think about. This makes them less likely to run away or to commit crimes.

Probably the biggest issue with the UNHCR camps is that the services at the camps don't cater to the numbers. The camps are often planned to be small, but they often grow because there's more people coming than what was originally prepared for.

When asking about what people have with them as they arrive to the camps and what are they given upon arrival we got an answer that it depends. Some people only have the clothes they are wearing and others have taken their kitchen stuff or mattresses with them. Many of them carry photos. Practically people have very little with them. One thing almost everyone has with them is their mobile phone.

Prior arriving to the camp people usually have taken a long journey. The journey to the camp is often very long and demanding. So people are dying not only because they try to cross Mediterranean, but also while trying to reach the UNHCR camps.

When the people arrive to the camp they are given the basic things they need water, shelter and food. They are also given blankets and mattresses.

Any specific handouts are not given as giving handouts is not activating people. If something is given it should be skills and opportunities to use them.



THE CURRENT REFUGEE SITUATION

(October 2015)

During the spring 2015 Europe saw a significant increase in the numbers of asylum seekers arriving to Europe¹. The situation in the middle east has been bad for years and the war in Syria has been going on for 4 years. The situation in the Middle East hasn't been easy and there's several overlapping crises and humanitarian emergencies.²

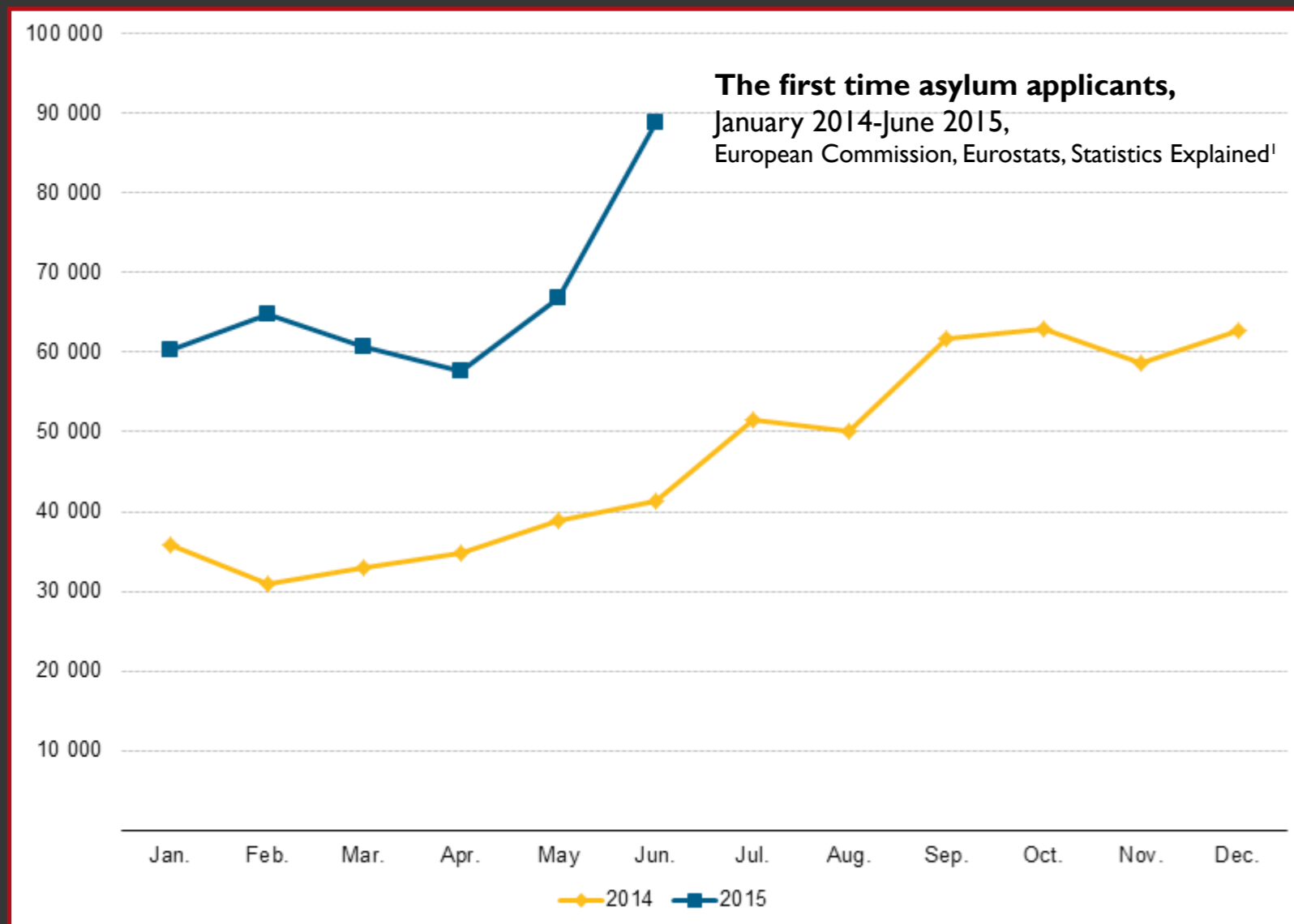
As the situation in Middle East is getting worse more and more people chose to leave their homes behind. Their options were few, the UNHCR refugee camps in Turkey or Jordania or buying a dangerous trip to Europe³.

The refugees started crossing the Mediterranean with rubber boats many of the boats breaking or tipping over in the high seas. The Mediterranean became a watery grave for many who tried to cross it. The hope of a better future in Europe became a death sentence.⁴

The price of the dangerous trip is said to be around \$1000⁵.

The refugees are not flying to Europe even though it's cheaper. This is due to the airline regulations that prevent the airlines from taking people with no visa on board.⁶

In September 2015 a truck filled with dead refugees was found in Austria. There was approximately 70 people dead inside the truck.⁷ Soon after this the media started comparing the situation to the II World war. The last time Europe saw such a flow of refugees, was during that time.⁸ The amount of asylum seekers who illegally arrive to Europe is so large, that Germany decided to temporarily withdraw from the Schengen.



The screenshots from FCA's crisis map from September 2015 and October 2015 show how the situation in the Middle East has developed during our project. Most of the new countries they are following are on the list due to the amount of refugees.

THE STORIES BEHIND THE PEOPLE



UNHCR, Office of United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

established Dec 14th 1950

“The agency is mandated to lead and co-ordinate international action to protect refugees and resolve refugee problems worldwide. Its primary purpose is to safeguard the rights and well-being of refugees. It strives to ensure that everyone can exercise the right to seek asylum and find safe refuge in another State, with the option to return home voluntarily, integrate locally or to resettle in a third country. It also has a mandate to help stateless people.”

When talking about refugees, the first thing to understand, is that we are actually talking about people. The people who come to Europe seeking asylum used to be happy, They once had homes, they had cars, they had friends and relatives... They were once struggling with similar issues as your next door neighbor. Once their biggest problem was the price of gasoline or new computer. They used to have their homes decorated, they had their jobs and they went on with their lives, just as anyone in the western countries. Of course some of the people were poor, but they still had their daily lives to live.

Then something bad happened. It might have been a war or a natural disaster, it might be that the political situation in the country changed and some groups become hounded. The specific groups that have been on the news lately for not being safe in their own countries are christians in the islamic countries and gays in Russia. They leave their homes in order to be able to live their lives. This is quite typical in the situations where they are facing the threat of violence and their lives are in danger.

As the situation gets worse the official way to get an asylum is to apply for it via UNHCR. UNHCR is working on the crisis areas and building camps for people to be safe while waiting for an asylum. The UNCHR's temporary refugee camps have become places where people stay for longer period than originally purposed. Instead of a few months wait the periods people stay in the camps might extend from months to years.

The refugees arriving to the camps have been through horrible things. They have seen death, they have lost family members, everything they ever owned has been destroyed, sold or left behind. They have lost their friends and relatives. All they have with them is what they were able to carry with them. They are often depressed and need help to get through the issues.

Those refugees who come to Europe are the ones who can afford the journey.



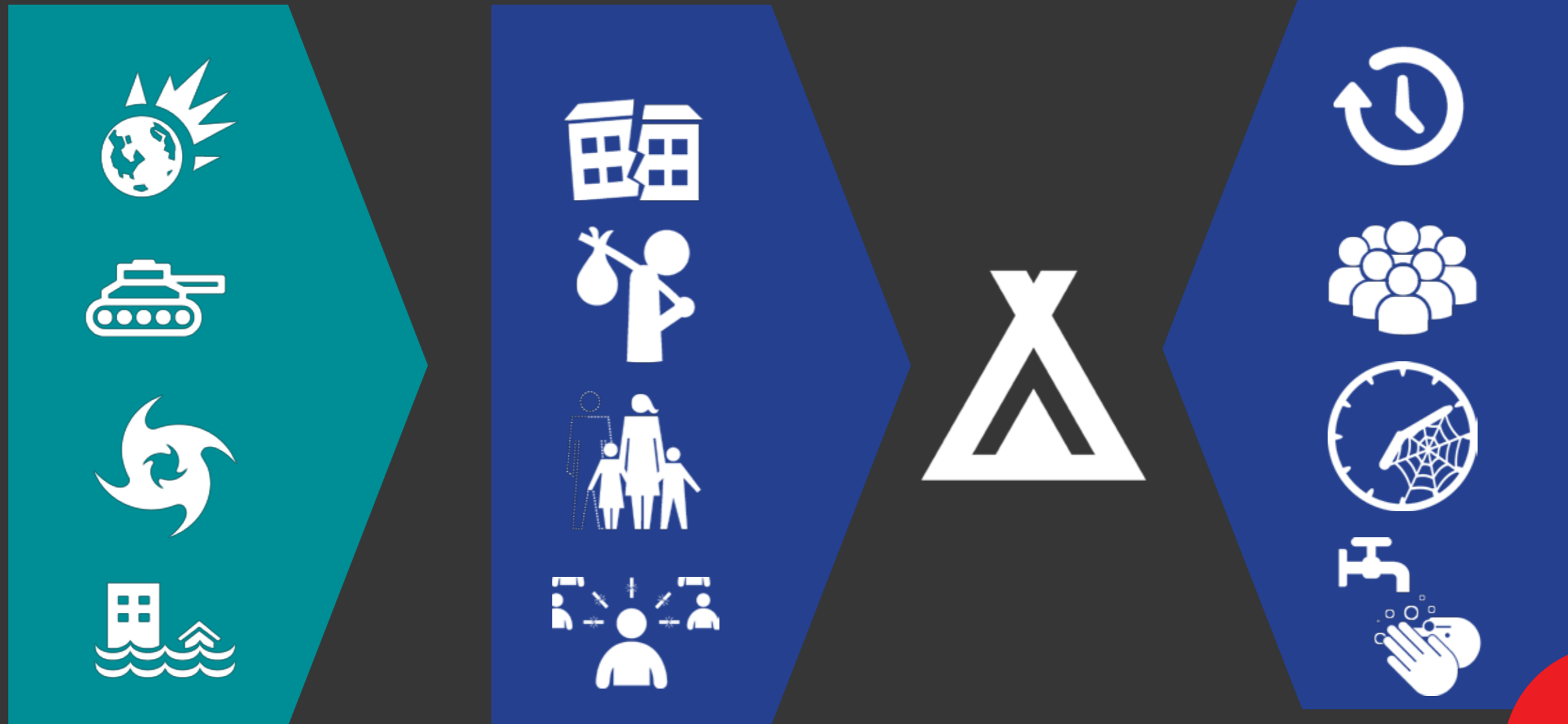
THE STORIES BEHIND PEOPLE



Everytime you throw an even number you must return to the crisis symbol.



THINGS THAT ARE AFFECTING THE PEOPLE AT THE CAMPS



When people arrive to the camps they've already been through a lot. As if the reasons they had to leave their homes behind weren't bad enough, but the things that happen during the long journey to the camp add to the situation. As the journey is demanding everyone doesn't make it, it might be that they lose family members on the way and they lose touch with their friends and relatives.

At the camps there's another kinds of issues that add up to the situation, there's nothing to do and the waiting periods are growing longer. The camps are crowded and there's issues with hygien that lead to the diseases to spread.

CURRENT REFUGEE CAMPS

The refugee camps are originally planned for a shortterm stay. The housing in the camps is made out of tents. The people of UNHCR are doing their best to provide people with enough toilets, fresh food and shelter.

There are other organizations working on the camps as well. One of the organizations is the Finnish Church Aid (FCA), that organizes different kinds of workshops and courses for the people. Due to the limited resources (employees, space) they are not able to let everyone participate. As the resources are limited and they can't let everyone participate, there isn't that much even they can do with it.

In the beginning of the project we consulted the FCA about the issues at the camps. We were provided with a lot of information about the subject and a good insight.

The current camp layout plans are dull, the tents are in never ending rows. In between these neverending rows there are dusty roads, where people walk around.

There's nothing to do.

The main issue at the camps is that people don't have anything to do. Currently there are camps where people cannot sell the things they make, they don't have any money and even if they do, there's no way they can spend it. There are highly educated professionals at the camps who are unable to work due to the circumstances. There are a lot people who could do something, teachers, doctors, nurses, engineers...

When people don't have anything to do, some of them eventually end up committing crimes. Stealing from each other, raping the girls at the camps or leaving the camp in order to join the terrorist groups, just to have something to do. These things make the camps less safe.

Other issue comes with religion. In some islamic movements women cannot be seen doing anything. That causes problems for the women in the camps. There's often no shelter for them to work outside the ones FCA built for them. As the resources are limited they are not able to provide the space for all of the women who live in the camps.

The problems with hygieny and fresh water

There are also problems with the hygieny. Even though the organizations working on the camps do their best with the funding given to them there's still problems keeping up with the hygienic requirements. In the worst case there might be 150 people for one toilet. If one of them has diarrhea, you can imagine how quickly it'll spread. Diseases are another thing that's spreading fast when there's many people.

As the camps are safe, but still located near the crisis areas, there's always difficulties in getting fresh water for all the people.

As the current situation at the camps is bad the people who can afford to travel will do so.

The situation at the camps is so bad, people choose to risk their lives by crossing the Mediterranean with unsafe boats rather than going to the camps.



Finnish Churc Aid

The Finnish Church Aid (FCA) was founded after II World War. It was originally established within the church, which still dominates and funds the organization. The faith based background helps with the work FCA is currently doing as religion is bigger thing in the countries where they operate. The basis of the crisis are often within the muslim communiteis, not against christians.

FCA is specializing in supporting the local communities in three priority areas: The right to peace, livelihood and education.

“THE EUROPEAN DREAM”

What comes to the hopes the refugees and asylum seekers have, they dream of Europe. Europe seems to be a solution for all their troubles. They have illusions that everything will be easier in Europe; they will get a job in no time and they will find true love and meaning to their lives as soon as they arrive to Europe.

It's quite similar to what Europeans lived through in the beginning of 20th century with their American dream. It seems to be similar, there are high hopes and expectations and promises of a better place. The grass is not greener on the other side and life isn't all fun and easy even in Europe.

The dreams will soon fade as they need to learn a new language and they notice that it's not all postcard images and happy people here either.

European

“American dream is that dream of a land in which life should be better and richer and fuller for everyone, with opportunity for each according to ability or achievement. It is a difficult dream for the European upper classes to interpret adequately, and too many of us ourselves have grown weary and mistrustful of it. It is not a dream of motor cars and high wages merely, but a dream of social order in which each man and each woman shall be able to attain to the fullest stature of which they are innately capable, and be recognized by others for what they are, regardless of the fortuitous circumstances of birth or position.” *James Truslow Adams, 1930*



THE KEY PROBLEMS IN EUROPE



The refugees who are lucky enough to make it to Europe there's still obstacles on the way.

The refugees often have "European Dream". They see Europe as safe haven where everything will be good, clean and nice. As they arrive and face the reality in the Europe, their dreams are destroyed.

First problem they face is the government of the country they come to. The fact that they are in Europe doesn't automatically mean that the countries work the same way. The administrative systems are tricky even for the locals, so they must be even harder for the new comers.

The refugees are often placed in the camps locally, where their days consist of learning the local language, culture and habits. Other than that they don't have very much to do. As the amount of refugees grows locally, the waiting times are getting longer. While waiting the refugees are living with each other, so they are not really connecting locally even if they wanted to.

The refugees are not allowed to work without work permission and getting one takes up to a year (it comes along with the residence permission).

Living with the other refugees might sound easy, but there's a lot of issues with the religion. There's the long lasting schism inside the different islamic movements that is rising its head in the Europe as well. As the schism remains unsolved and people from different movements are put in the same place, the unsolved issues eventually start rubbing and become apparate through violence in between the refugees.

New problems arise when they realize that without knowing the local language they have hard time trying to find a job or making new friends from the locals. As there's not much to do when you can't get a job, this path sometimes leads to the path of crime.

Getting to know the locals is often hard too. Not only because the refugees are spending most of their time with the other refugees, but also because the locals have prejudices. The prejudices often lead to racism. In Finland during the end of September and beginning of October 2015 many protests were held around the country for and against rasism. This alone shows that racism is very real and very alive.

In the beginning of the project we did some benchmarking on how different countries treat the asylum seekers. We found out that there's many different ways in tackling the problems. Starting from Australia's large advertisement campaigns with which they are trying to protect refugees from spending their money on smugglers and ending to Uganda's more gentle and generous way of giving a piece of land and taking all the children into the school system.

One thing a lot of people have been trying to tackle is the housing. There is different kinds of solutions for more or less temporary housing that are cheap and easy to build. To mention some of the housing projects I would like to start with the \$300 houses -project and share the information about earthhouse and Marco Casagrande's Paracity. These projects became sources of inspiration for us.

We also found a lot of different projects, that we found would suit the circumstances in the UNHCR camps. The most effective of these were the Warka Water and Dignity toilet. Warka Water is a project that allows you to gather the moisture in the air and make it drinkable. Dignity toilet on the other hand is a product that would significantly raise the hygiene levels in a place like UNHCR camps. The sewer system is not used as you can carry the toilet to the emptying site and empty it there.

As most of the camps are located closer to the equator (at least if you look at it from Finland) we also thought solar panels could be a useful - and nowadays cost-effective way on creating electricity on the camps.

We found out that there's a lot of nice and cool projects that are done around the subject. On the following pages we will share the information and the best projects we found .



BENCHMARKING - COUNTRIES

AUSTRALIA

Australia has very strict policies on immigration. They feel they have had enough illegal immigrants and are having a huge advertisement campaigns to inform people that there's no way you'll ever make Australia home by arriving to the country illegally. The advertisement is translated into several different languages and it has been broadcasted abroad in the national televisions.¹



UGANDA



Uganda has very generous asylum policies. They are offering the refugees a piece of land to build on and they take all the children to their school system.³

In France the immigrants were once put in the same neighbourhoods and they were not integrated to the local society. This was a quick solution, but not a working one. The areas soon turned into ghettos. The problems build up inside the society and have come obvious during the past decade by the riots, car burnings and fights.⁴

The same pattern is now repeating in Sweden.

FRANCE



GERMANY



During the crisis in 2015 Germany first decided to open their borders for the refugees in order to let them in and help them. A few days after that decision the amount of the arriving refugees grew so high that Germany decided to not only close their borders, but to resign from Schengen for now.²

BENCHMARKING - RECYCLED HOUSING

While we did benchmarking on the different housing project we found out that there's a lot of different projects where recycled materials were used as building elements. We found the idea of using 'trash' as building material very interesting. Trash is something that can be found almost everywhere. If there are human beings, there is trash in some form. If there's a way we can reduce the amount of trash that's going to the landfills or use it in this kind of a project and create something better for the people in bad situations, we think we should.

Our first recycled building material is empty plastic bottles. You can use them in several different ways. First way to use them is to fill them with water and the second one is to fill them with sand. Filling the bottles also significantly reduces the risk of fire. The bottles are laid in the walls in a similar way as the bricks are. Using empty or water filled bottles let's the light flow through the walls inside the house. This reduces the amount of artificial light as during the day time sunlight can be used to light up the house.

Besides houses the plastic bottles can be used as flowerpots on the wall, light in the ceiling or building a greenhouse.



Fire risks are reduced by filling the bottles with sand or water...



BENCHMARKING - RECYCLED HOUSING

Besides plastic bottles another material that was used in several places as building materials were used tires.

The tires can be used similar way as the bottles on the previous page, but they provide a bit more structure themselves. The tires can be sealed inside clay or another moist material that will dry in the sunlight. In case of using just the tires, you can fill parts of the tires visible outside the structure and fill them with soil and grow things on the walls. That way the walls besides providing shelter create a good way of growing things to eat.

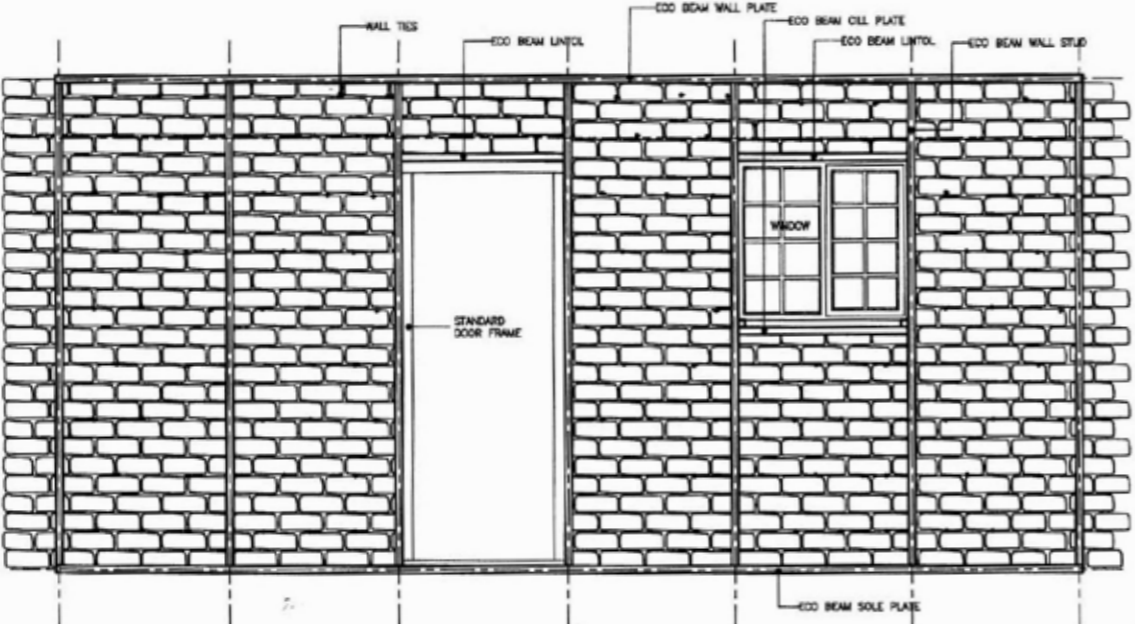
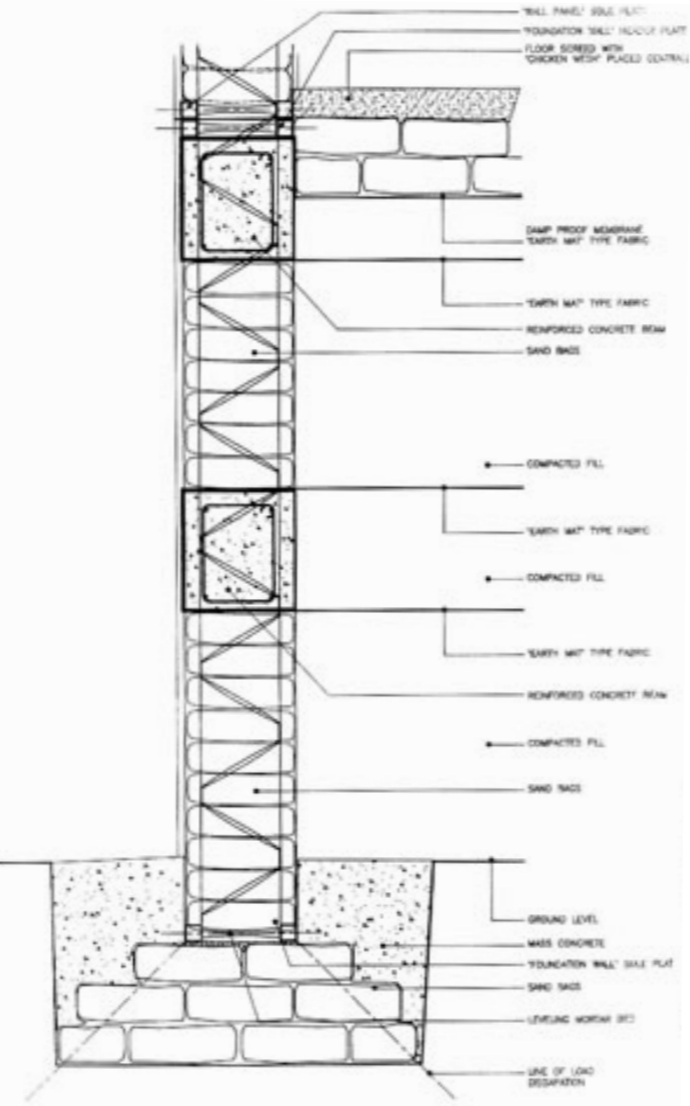
Using tires as wall structure would be a good idea, but they are also a bit more permanent solution than required and needed on the UNHCR camps.



BENCHMARKING - ECOBAGS

EcoBags is a new way of thinking the walls. When starting the bags are empty so the logistics are a lot easier. The bags can be filled with pretty much what you happen to have around you (soil, sand, clay...). Bags can be piled inside a structure and they form a thick wall that offer protection from the outside, but also dampen the noises that might otherwise disturb you.

This product is planned for semi-permanent housing solutions.



1:25 TYPICAL ELEVATION OF WALL PANEL WITH SANDBAGS



BENCHMARKING - PARACITY

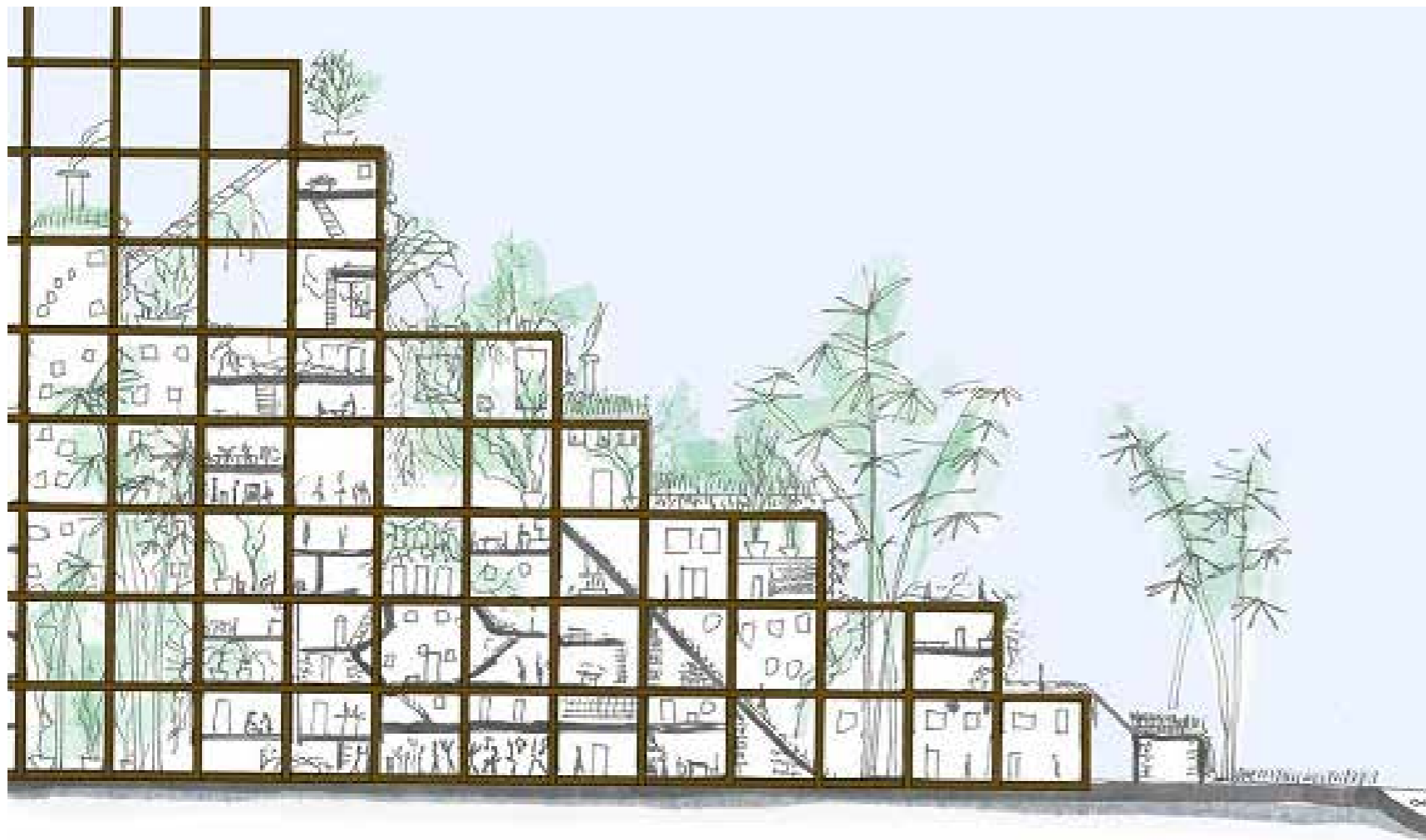
Paracity is a wooden structure by Marco Casagrande. Casagrande has developed the structure after researching the slums of the world. His goal was to create a structure that would allow people to live in touch with nature and create their own way of living.

The first bigger paracity is created to Danshui river island in Taipei. There Paracity is creating the 'spine' for the neighbourhood, letting the people build the city they want to live in.

The Paracity blocks are made out of cross-laminated bars that form cubes.

Paracity itself is ment for permanent structures and it is a durable solution for a place like the island in Taipei.

As the UNHCR camps are not ment to be permanent solutions, paracity as it is won't be the proper solution for it. The blocks are big and heavy and they are designed to form a city. They are hard to remove and the weight and material makes them expensive to move.



BENCHMARKING - EARTHHOUSE

Earthhouse is a Finnish project that includes the structure used in the house. Their main idea is to have a cheap and lasting structure on which people can easily and safely build their homes. Their goal is to use as much locally obtainable materials as possible. Their system is based on pre-tensioned steel frames that are fastened to the structural steel.



BENCHMARKING - PRODUCTS

During the project we did a lot of benchmarking in order to find out what kinds of projects have already been done on the subject and if there are projects we could add to ours.

While doing the benchmarking we found out that there's a lot of different projects done that could easily be used at the UNHCR camps and that would make a difference there.

Even though it was interesting it was also a little surprising to see how many good projects have been done on the subject. There was a lot of different housing solutions and there was a lot of products that are designed to be used in the circumstances that are similar to the ones at the UNHCR camps.



SOLAR BARBEQUE

Solar barbeque was a competition project by Alexandra Abidji and Ugo Janiszewski to Coca-cola Frances' competition 2014.

The main idea behind the barbeque is to use solar power to cook the food. The aluminium mirror is concentrating the heat from sun to the point where the food is. It's a solution that doesn't require fire or electricity to cook the food.

We think products like this would work rather well in such conditions as there is at the UNHCR camps. The idea of a light barbeque that doesn't require anything else than sunlight and that can be moved around sounds like a solution that would work.



GRAVITY LIGHT

Gravity light is a light that doesn't need batteries or sunlight in order to work. It works with gravity. It has a small energy creator that creates just enough energy to keep the light on for half an hour. It works by lifting a sandbag up and then letting it slide down slowly. While the bag is sliding down the friction is creating between the wire and the surface and that turns into electricity that keeps the lamp on.

This is a product that could be useful at the camps too. It's getting dark there too and different light sources are much needed during those long nights.



THE DIGNITY TOILET

By Mike Loveless & Terence Woodside (Bridgeable)

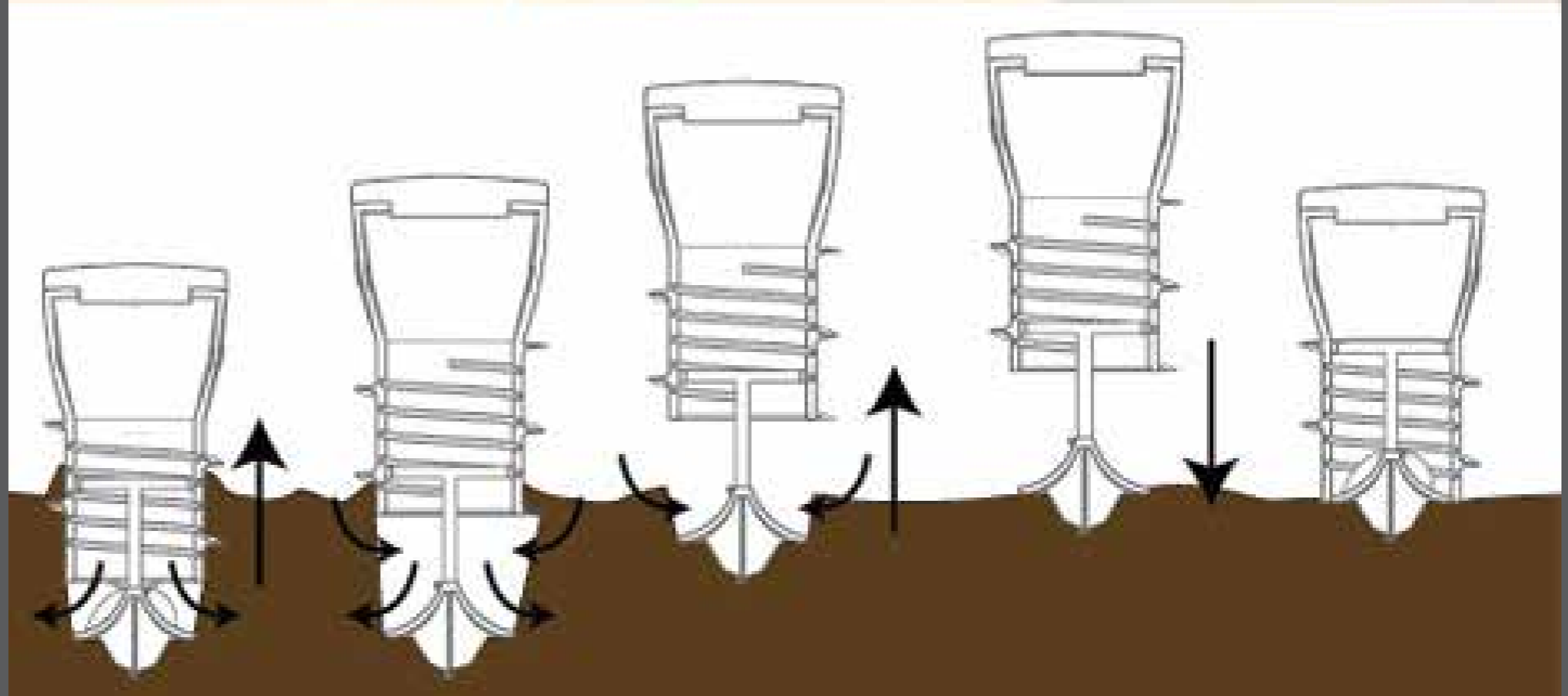
The Dignity toilet is solution that can be used in difficult conditions. It's a sealed sanitary storage for solid waste. For 3 people it will take approximately 7 days before it gets full.

It's based on the composting method. It doesn't use water and it doesn't need sewage infrastructure

Using a product like this can help the water from contamination and make diseases spread slower.

The social aspect of this is, that its empowering people within the community by letting them empty the toilet themselves.

If you can't have a job, you can still do the chores!



SOLAR PANELS

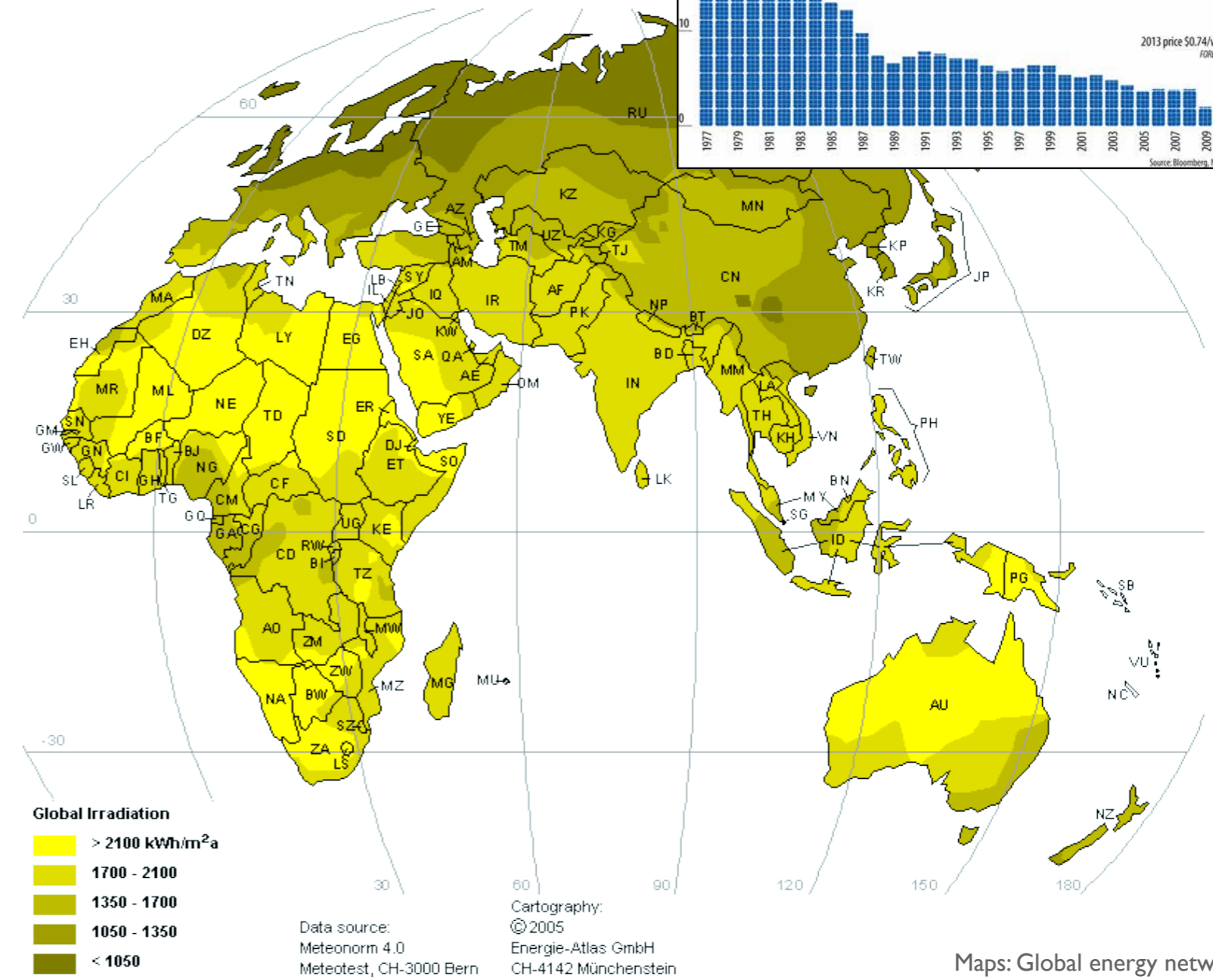
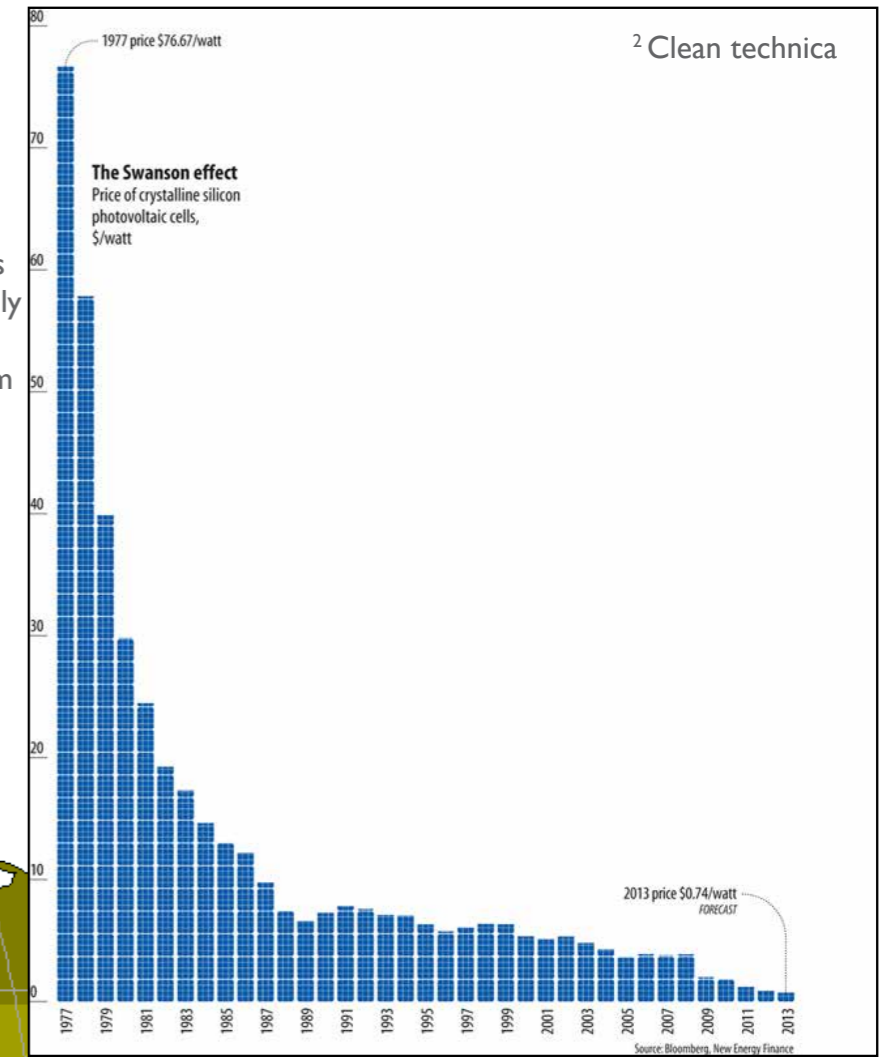
One of the rare things the refugees have with them is their mobile phone. The phones are important for them for the same reasons they are important to us: it's a device that lets you stay in touch with friends and relatives. So this in mind we started thinking about electricity. The easiest way to get electricity for the devices people use is to use solar panels.

There are problems with solar panels and they might not be effective if you happen to be in Finland during the mid-winter. Luckily most of the UNHCR camps are a lot more south and looking from here, the camps seem to be close to equator. Closer to the equator the solar power is very real thing and there you can get the energy from the sun around the year.

The biggest problems with the solar panels is not getting the electricity from the sun, but storing it. The price of the solarpanels has been dropping dramatically (see chart A). The latest information we got was that the price of solar panels has dropped 50% since 2012 and they are expected to drop 40% more during next two years (2015-2017).¹

As the changes in the length of the days is not even close to as dramatic as in Finland the solar panels can actually provide electricity for 10-14 hours a day. During that time people could charge their batteries and use the electric devices they have. After dark there isn't much to get the electricity from, but with the fully loaded batteries people should be able to get through the night. This would increase the happiness of people as their devices wouldn't suffer from low batteries.

Solar panels are cheap and reasonable option for the places like the UNHCR camps.



OUR GOALS AND DESIGN DRIVERS

Our goal with this project was to design a system that would work for the needs of UNHCR and solve current issues on the refugee camps.

As the camps should not be permanent we thought it would be important to keep the materials as light as possible, in order to make it cheaper to transport the materials from one place to another. Another important thing to take in notion for the logistics is the required space. In the end we didn't define the materials for our concept because we thought it would be important to use the materials that can be obtained locally. Using the local materials significantly decreases the price for the logistics and manufacture.

Another important thing that followed our process from the beginning to the end was creating the community. The current layout plan at the camps doesn't really support creating the community. Even though people in the cities don't necessarily know their neighbors, there are times when it's good to know them. Knowing your neighbors increases safety and feeling of belonging. At the camps where people have been through crisis the comfort of belonging to a community helps the traumas to heal. Our goal was to create a housing solution, that would make it easier to form a community and to get to know your neighbors. We created blocks with inner yards. A shared yard or garden will form a community for the people who are using it. The inner yard also provides shelter for the women, who in some religions cannot be seen doing things. This gives them a private place where they can do things.

These small communities form a bigger community. In order for this bigger community to form people need a more public place to meet each other. We created a market place for this purpose. The market place would be a place where people can play games and sell the things they prepare. It also has spaces people can use as an office and that way it lets people work at the camps and keep up with their professional skills. The schools are also located on these public areas. Teachers are educated people who are aware of what's going on around them. They are often hunted because of their awareness. That is one of the reasons they leave their homes. Having a classroom lets the teachers keep working at the camps and it allows the children to go on with their education.

Work is a thing that creates purpose in life and even though there are many educated people at the camps, there just isn't enough work for everyone. The system we created can be built with minimal building experience and minimal tools. This way people can actually build their own homes at the camps. This will make them take better care of their homes and also create the feeling of purpose to their lives.

Last but not least we kept the costs in our minds during the process. In order to have a system that can actually be used on the camps, it needs to be cheap. The funding for the organizations is limited and as the situations get worse and the funding is cut it's more important to keep the costs to the minimal level. The costs can be kept down by using materials that are durable and fixable.

THE JOURNEY - FROM REALITY TO IDEALISTIC SOLUTION



WAR

JOURNEY

CAMP

COMMUNITY

OUR SOLUTION

LET'S PEOPLE PARTICIPATE

A teal circular icon containing a white silhouette of a hammer and a pickaxe crossed at their handles.

ALLOWS WATER GATHERING IN THE CAMPS

A blue circular icon containing a white silhouette of a single water drop.

DECREASE CRIME RATES

A red circular icon containing a white silhouette of a lit match with a flame.

INCREASES HYGIENE

A green circular icon containing a white silhouette of a toilet.

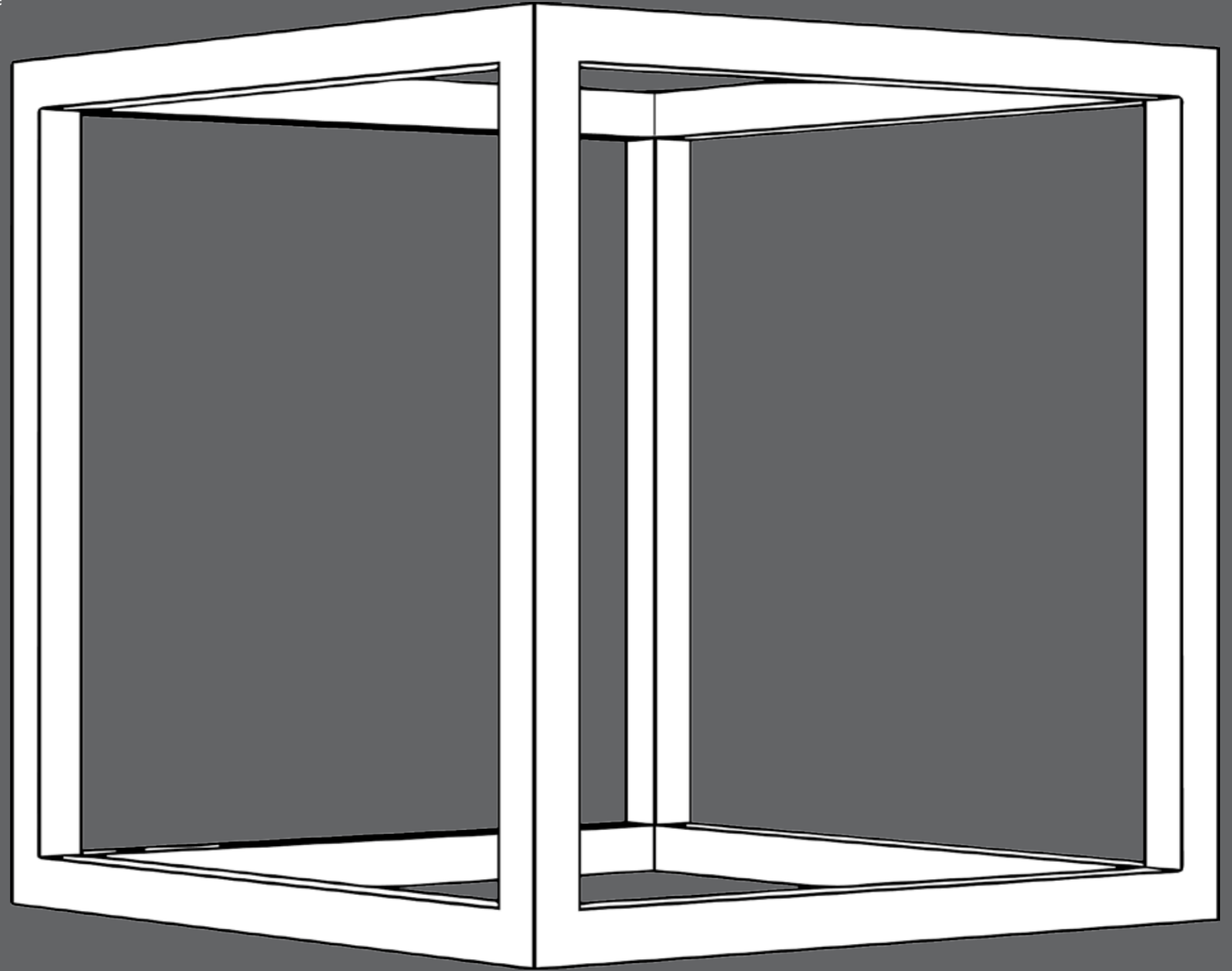
CREATES COMMUNITY

A purple circular icon containing three white silhouettes of people's heads and shoulders, arranged in a triangular pattern with lines connecting them.

THE CUBE

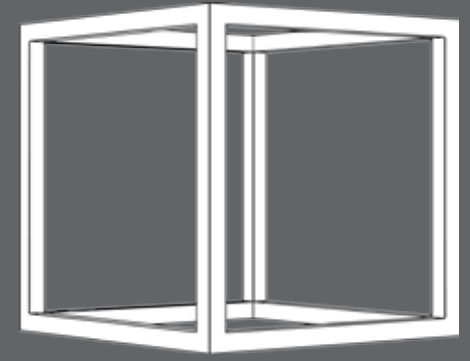
The most important unit of our concept is a cube. Cube is a structure that can be built and manufactured locally when possible and it consists of beams that can be put together to form a cubical structure. On the structure you can build walls and instead of spreading along the ground, you can build one floor up.

We have chosen several materials on conceptual level for the structure of the cube and some suggestions for wall materials.



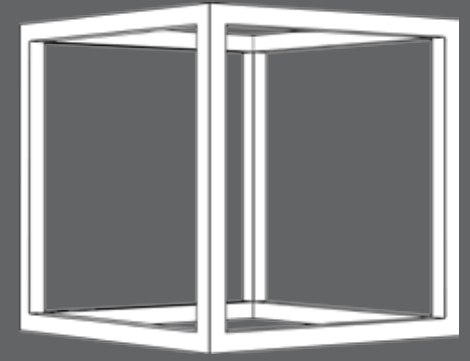
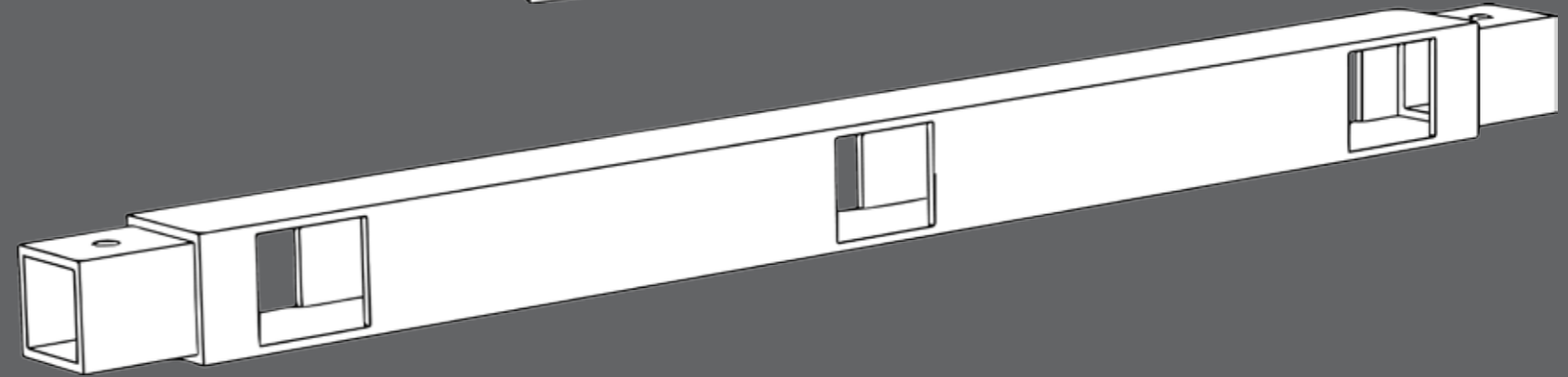
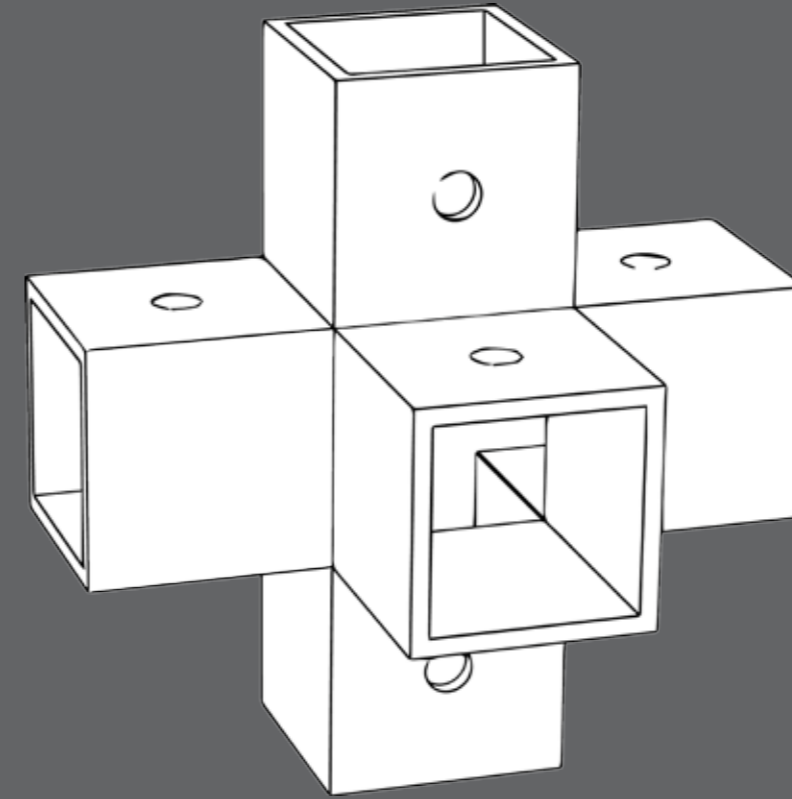
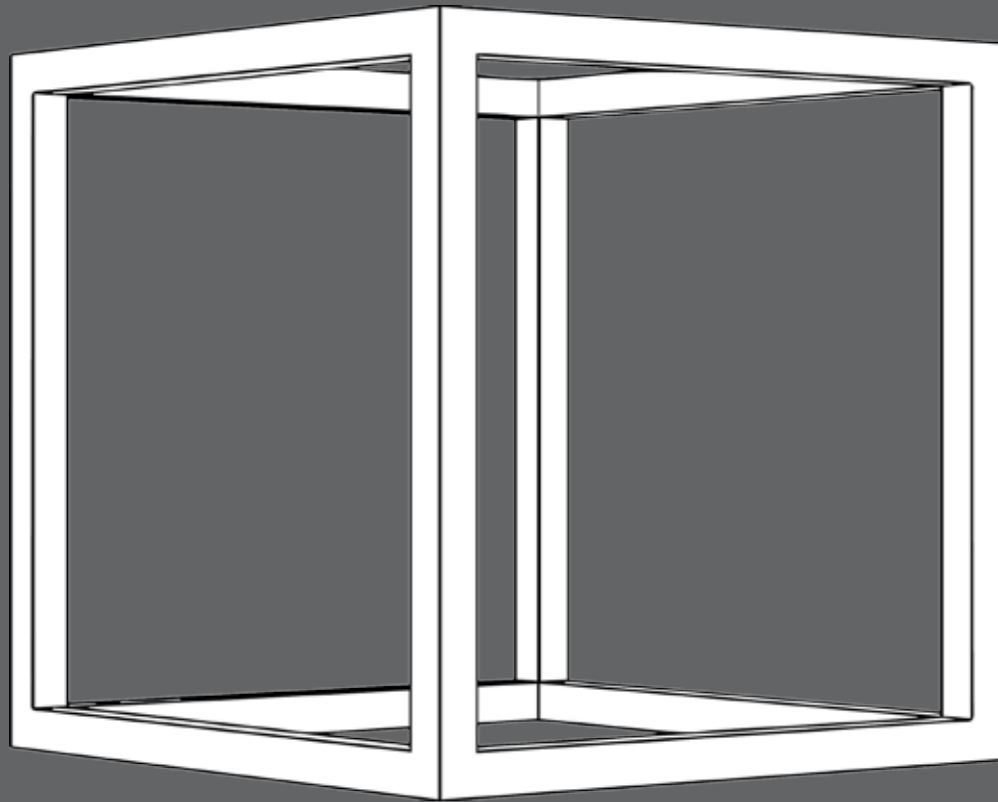
FLEXIBLE WITH MATERIALS

The solution is flexible, so you can use the materials that can be obtained locally. The structure can be ordered from the local providers or shipped from further destinations. Different wall materials can be used with different structure materials.



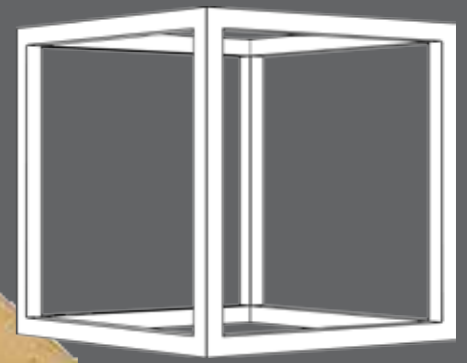
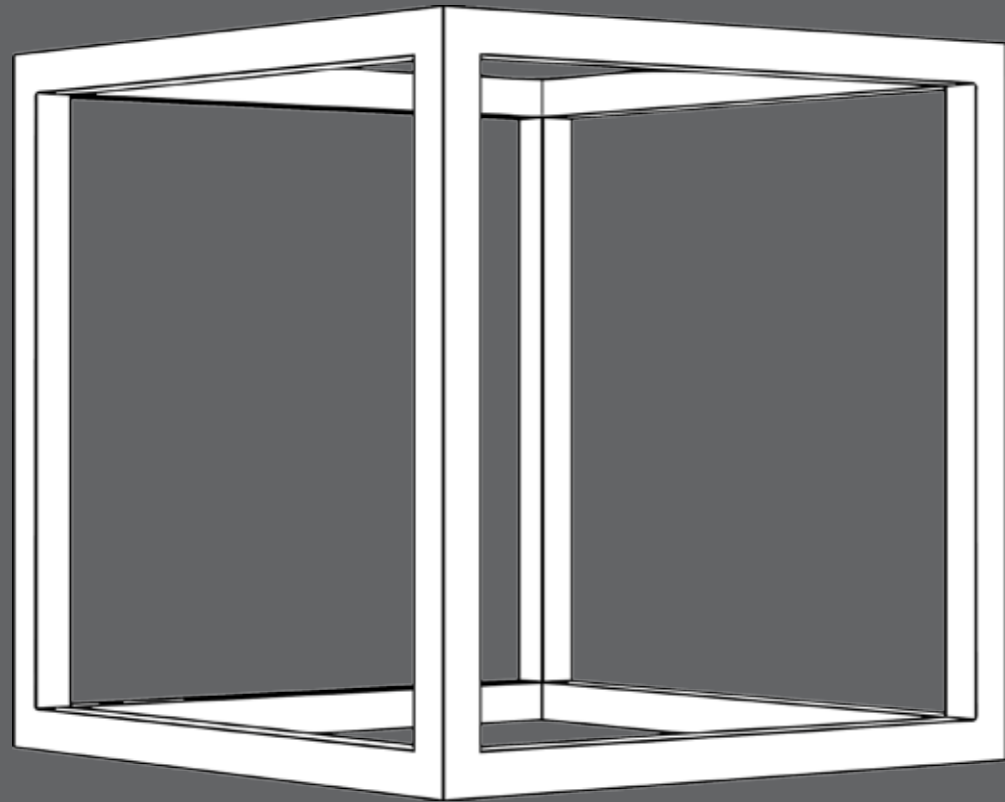
STEEL FRAME

Steel frames can be created with the system that allows quick and easy setup and demolition. The part in the middle can be used everywhere on the cube. That reduces the mold costs (compared to option where several pieces as such would be needed) and makes it easier to build as there's only two different pieces needed. As we are using hollow steel structure the transportation cost is kept as minimal as possible.



WOODEN FRAME

Where wood is easily aquired wood can be used to build the structure. For the wood the structure to help building still needs development. To make sure the wooden structure lasts, we can add metal



12 CUBES = BLOCK

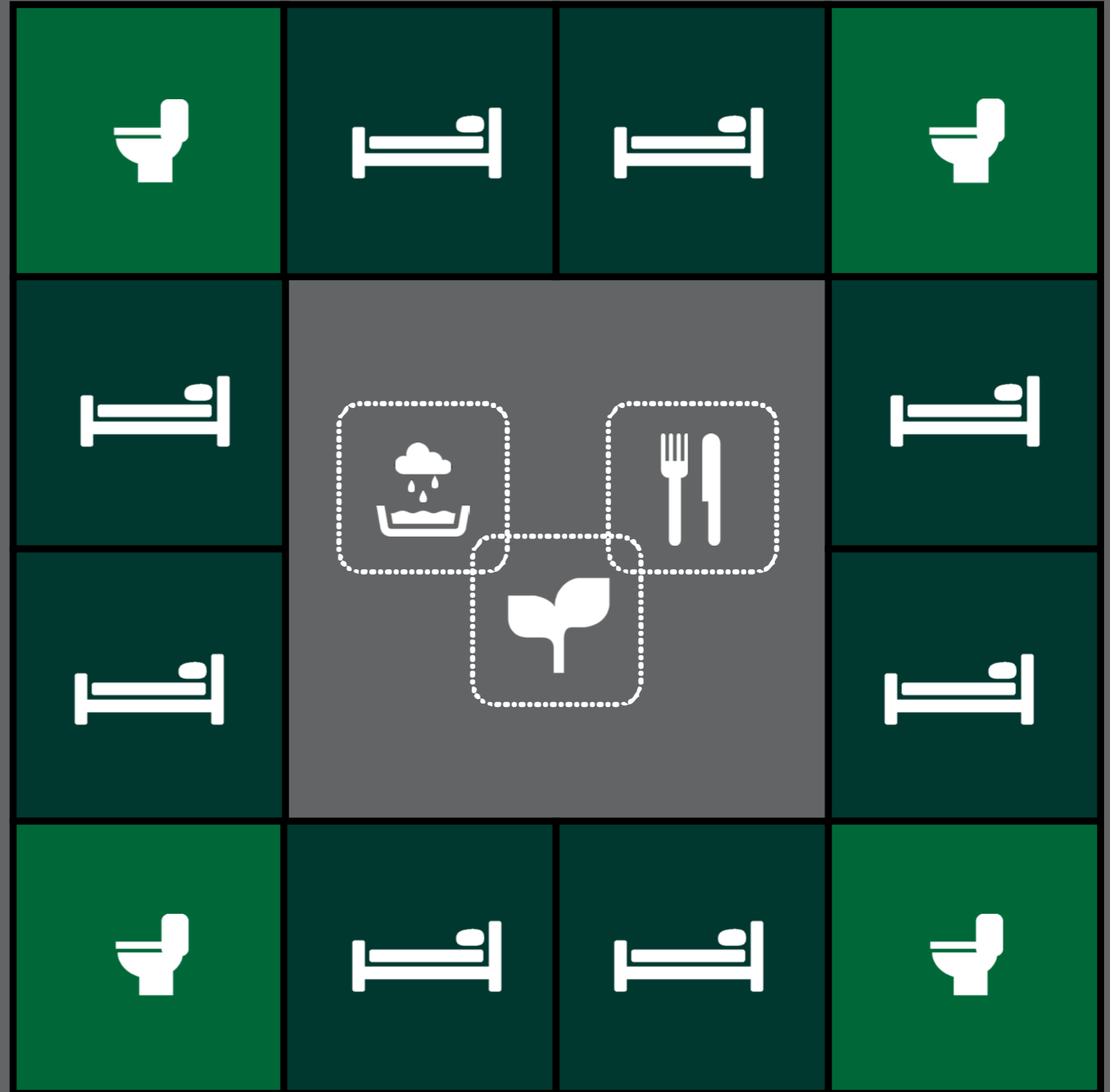
People in the cities live in their own houses, row houses or in apartment buildings. We thought about the community the neighbours create and we created a block out of the Cubes.

A single cube consists of 12 beams. Blocks are a way of reducing the amount of beams needed. A block practically has 12 cubes in one floor, but as there is the system, the amount of the beams needed can be significantly reduced. 12 single cubes would require 144 beams, but a block only takes 88 beams. As the cube is designed to build up the second floor takes additional 52 beams. So all together this two floor structure takes 140 beams, less than 12 single cubes.

One of the most important things with the block is that the inner yard is a closed area. The inner yard is especially important in the islamic countries where women cannot be seen doing things. This gives the women a space where they can be in peace and work. As the inner yard is shared with up to eight families it also creates the community inbetween the neighbours. The inner yard can be used for growing plants, gathering rain water and installing cooking solutions.

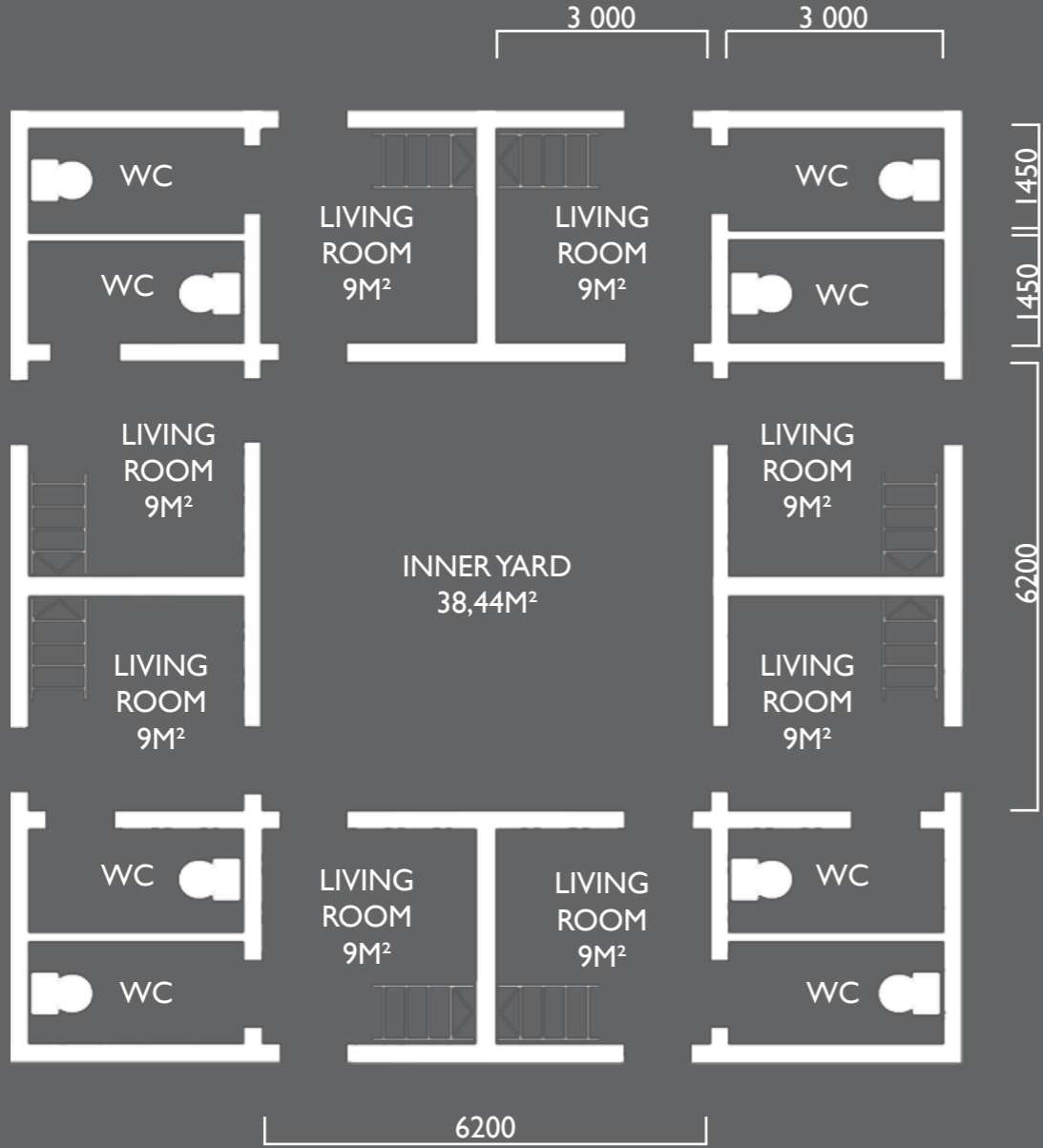
As the living this way is more communal, people know each other and that increases safety.

The feeling of belonging somewhere is also giving them a more secure place to heal from the trauma they've experienced prior arriving to the camps.

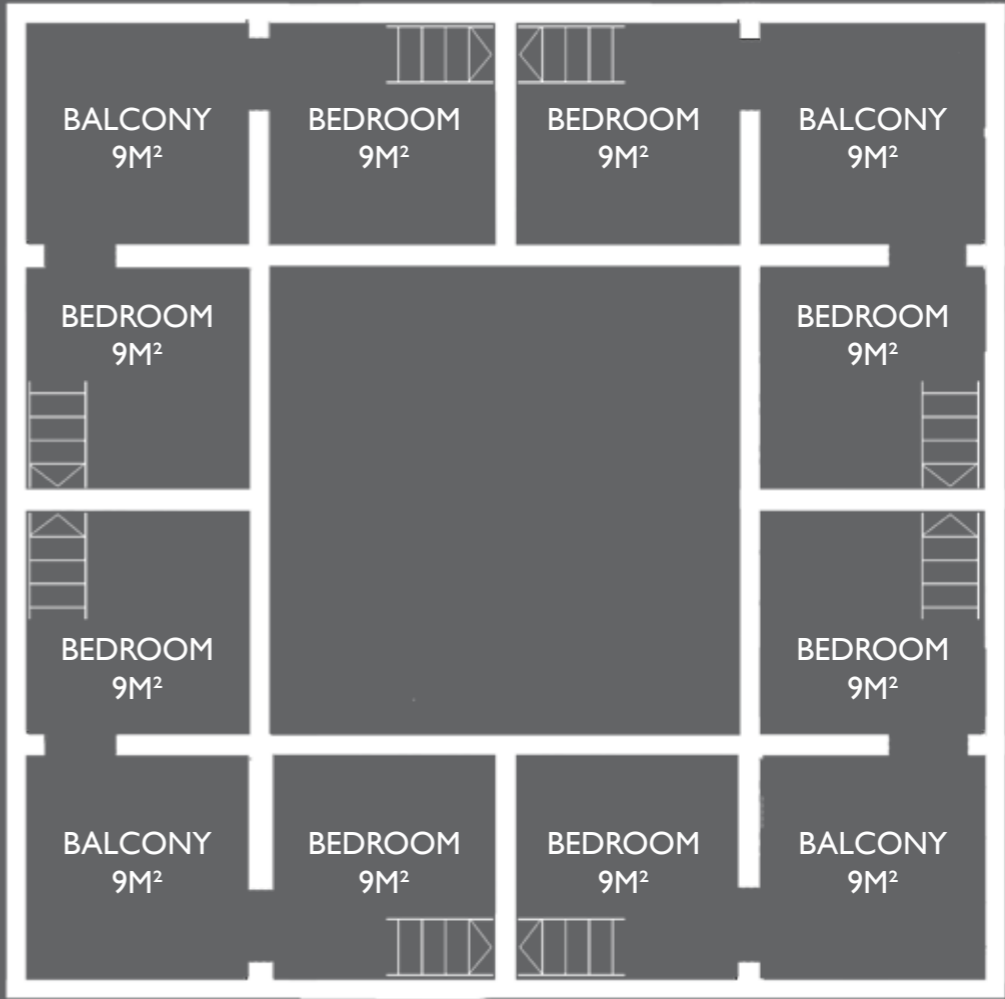


FLOORPLANS

FIRST FLOOR



SECOND FLOOR



INNERYARD

The inner yard is the common area for each block. It's safe place for the children to play and for the women to work.

In order to provide shelter and shade from the afternoon heat a light roof made out of fabric can be installed above the yard. The shade allows plants to grow and makes the inner yard more useful during the day time.

Cooking facilities, like barbecue, can be put to the inner yard and one barbeque can be used by all of the households in the block.

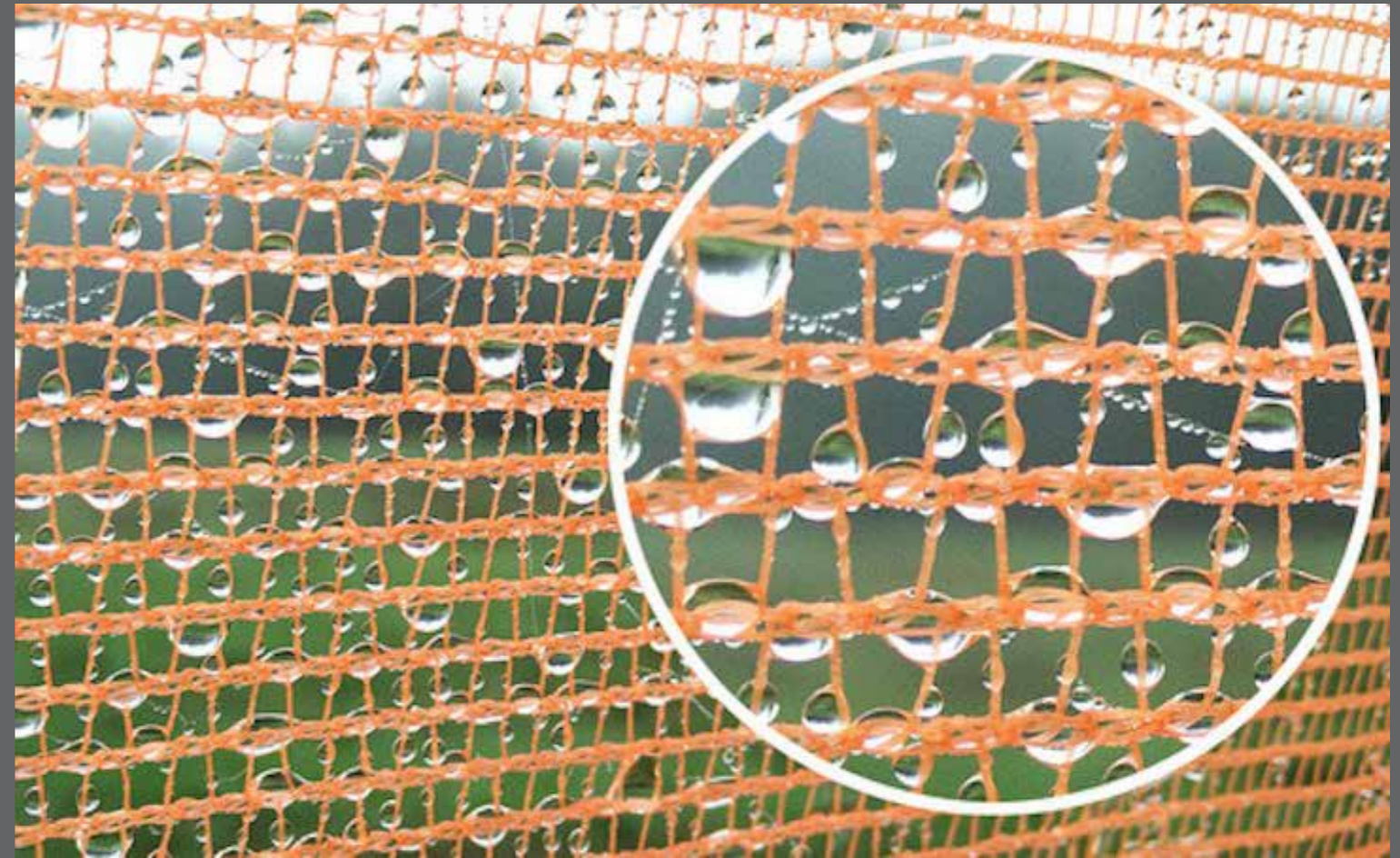


INNERYARD WATER SOLUTIONS

Water solutions for the inner yard can be many. The main idea is to reduce the need for water by gathering as much water as possibly can be gathered with simple and cheap solutions.

The more traditional solution for gathering the water is installing gutters, so that the rain water can be gathered in buckets in the inner yard.

The newer solution is in the roof that's placed above the yard. As the roofs main purpose is only to create shadow it can be created out of fabric which can be reinforced with a mesh that helps gathering the moist in the air. This way we can increase the amount of fresh water available in the camps.



INNERYARD GROWING SOLUTIONS

As the materials and the budget at the UNHCR camps are limited we gathered planting solutions that support recycling and reusing things that are often thrown away. The idea is to give more chances for growing things. To support these small gardens we wanted to put a roof above the inner yard so that the plants are not burned and dried out by the raw sunlight.

Another thought behind the inner garden was to add to the possibilities women at the camps have. This way they can grow fresh food in the inner yards and that way make the food their families eat a bit more fresh.



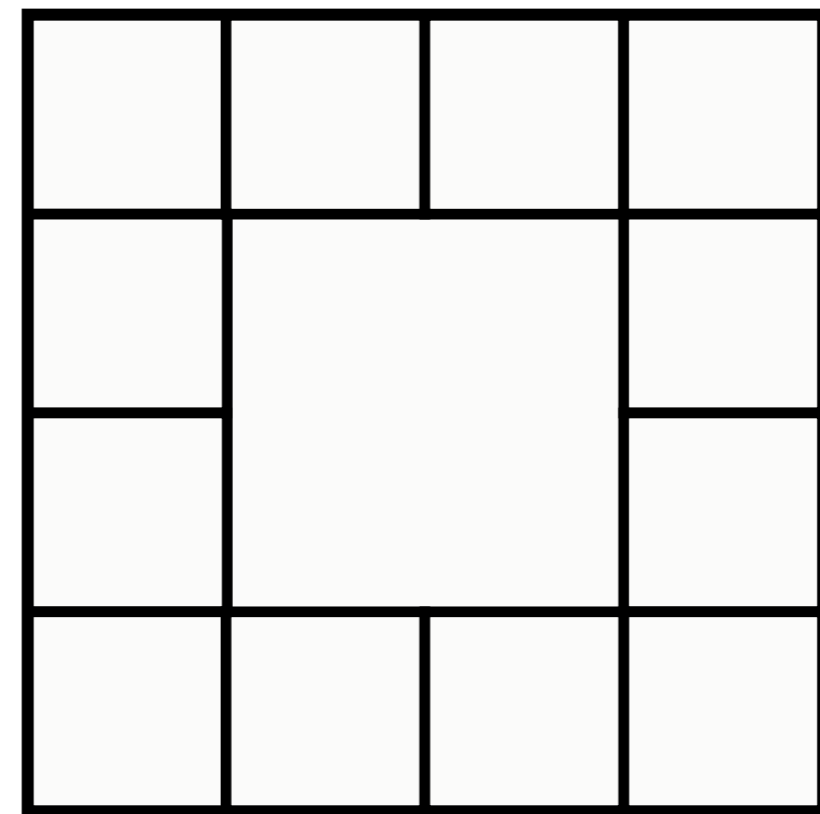
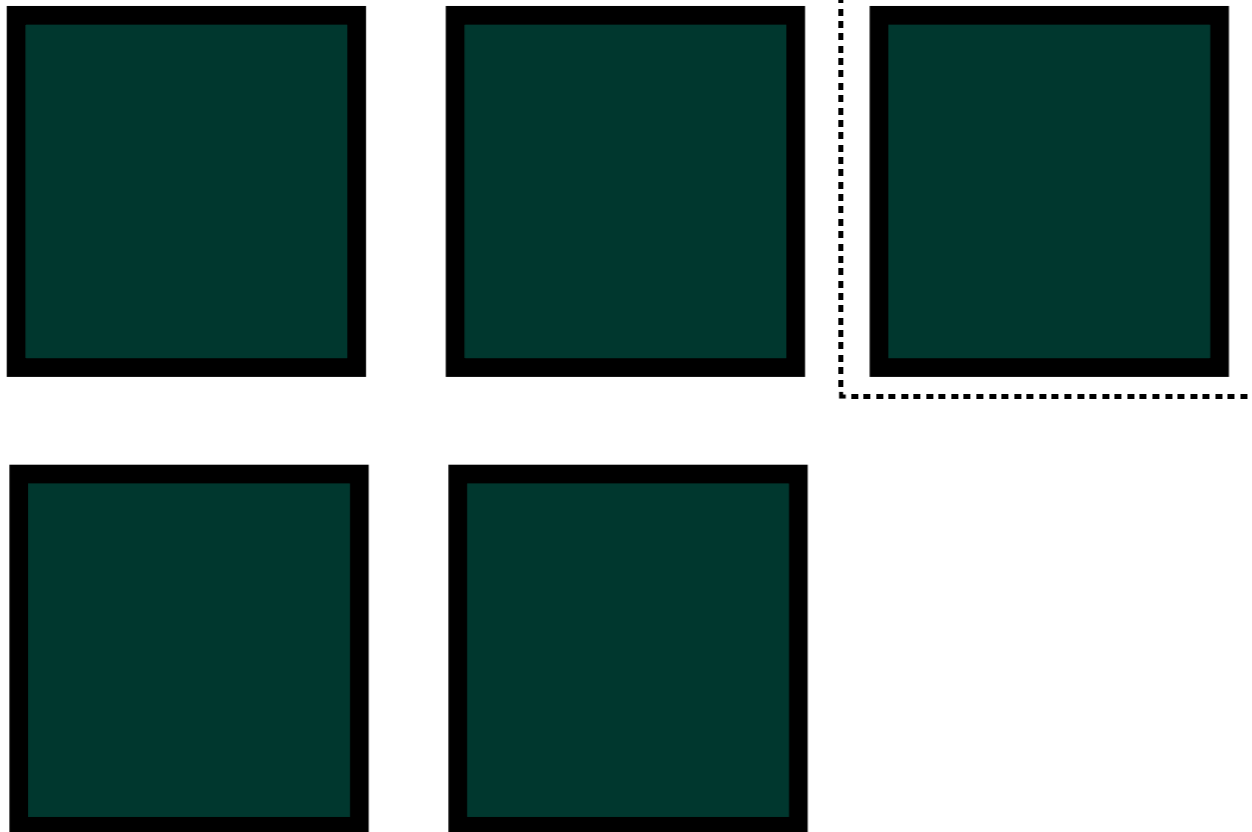
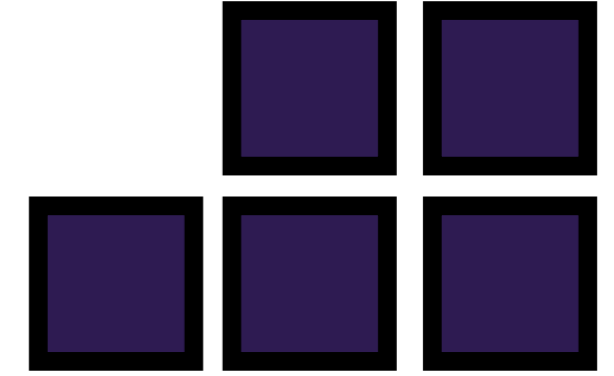
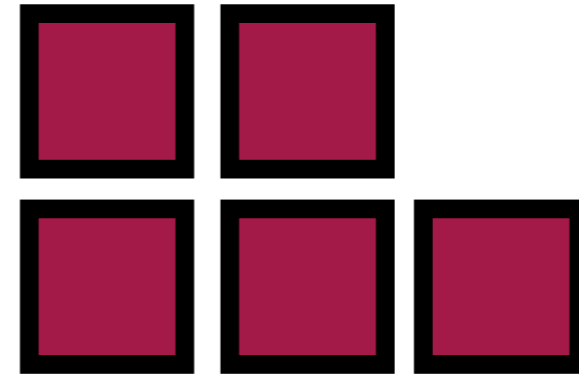
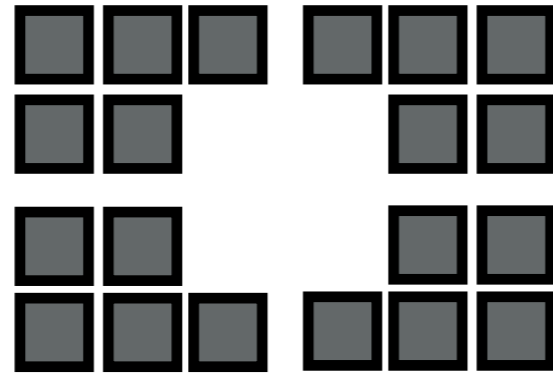
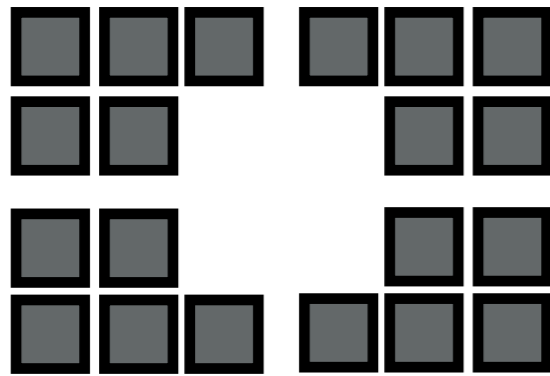
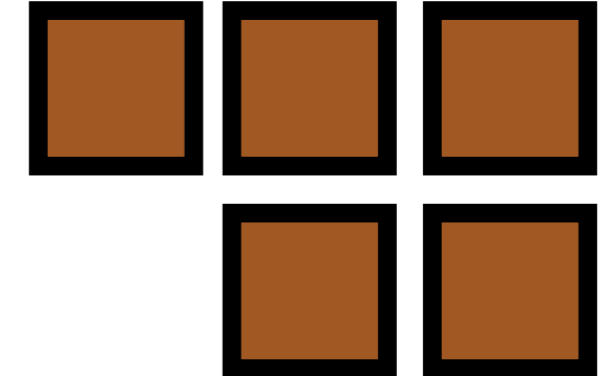
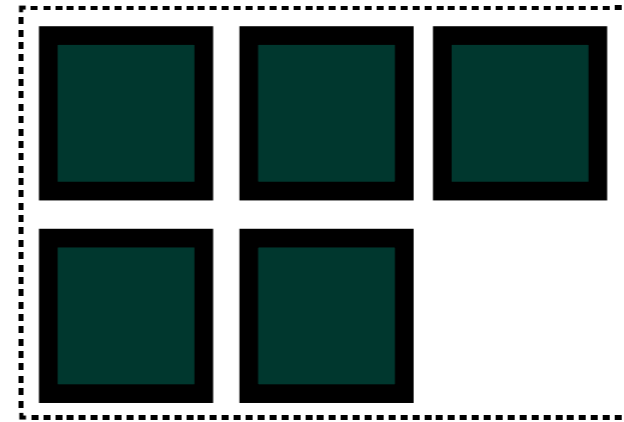
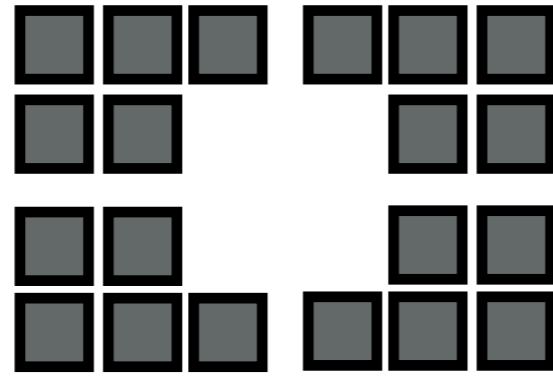
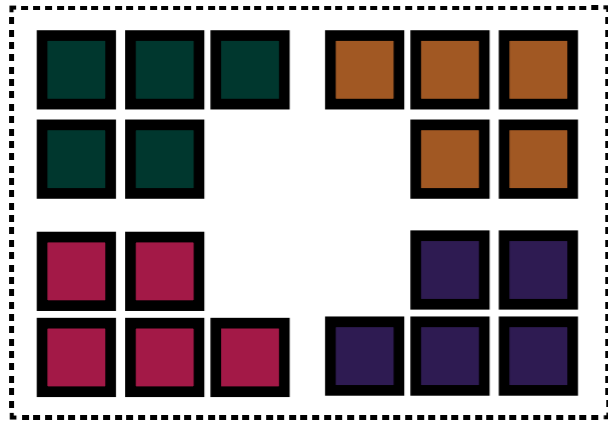
INNERYARD COOKING SOLUTIONS

The inneryard can be used as a common kitchen for the people living in the block. Using fire and more traditional barbeque is one option. The more traditional barbeque can be built from bricks. The bricks can be created by the people who would be using the barbeque and from the materials that can be found around. Clay can be found in most areas around the world so it can be digged out for the purpose.

Another option is to use sunlight for the cooking. There is solar barbeque project for which cooks the food using only the sunlight. It's created out of aluminium and the surface focuses the sunlight to a smaller area where you can then cook your meal.

Both of these options are for consideration. The benefit of the solar barbeque is that it can be used without electricity, it's light weight so it can be easily transported from one place to another. On the other hand building a barbeque from the bricks gives people something to do with their time. Having a fire in a place like UNHCR camps can also be a little dangerous.

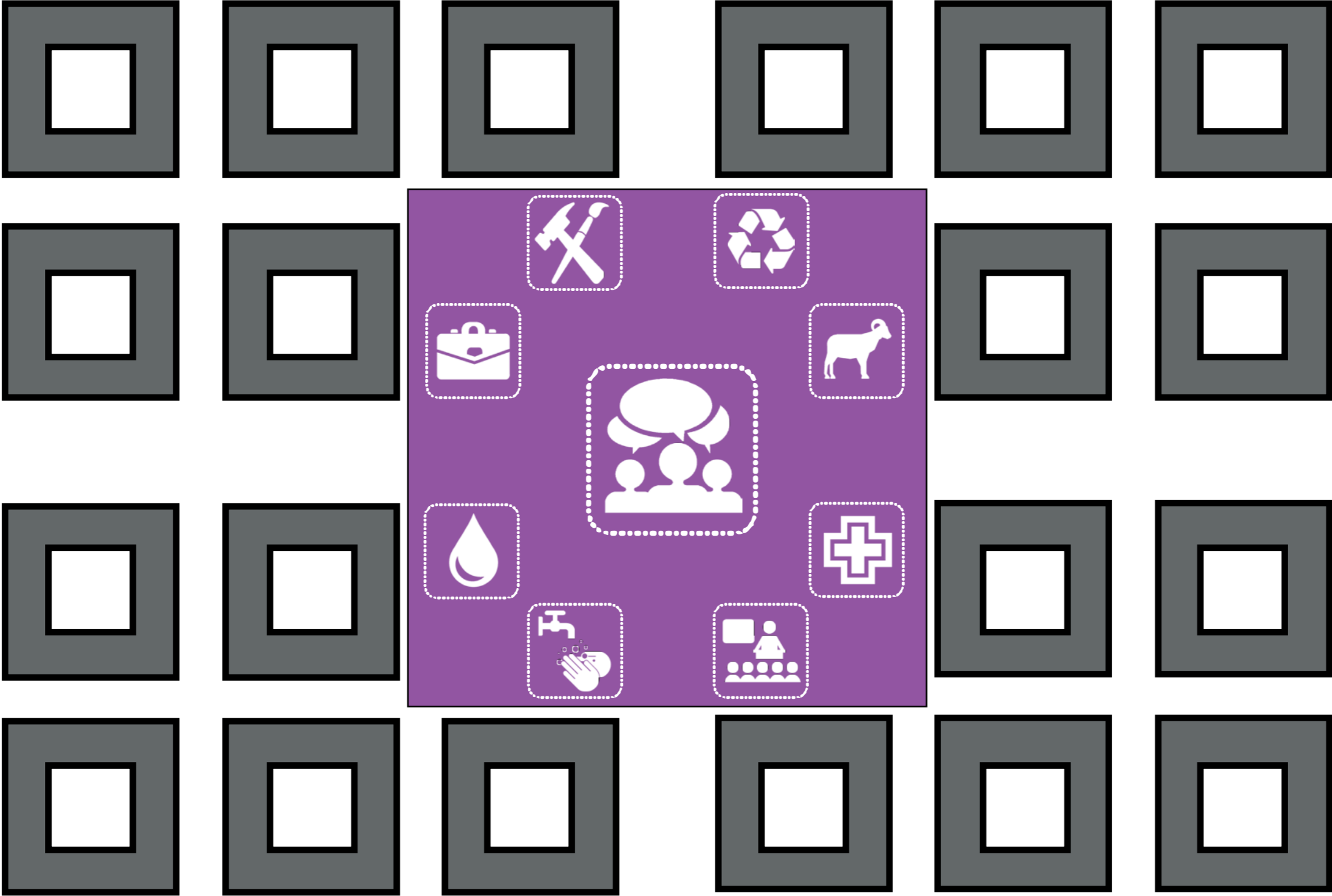




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MARKET PLACE



MARKET PLACE

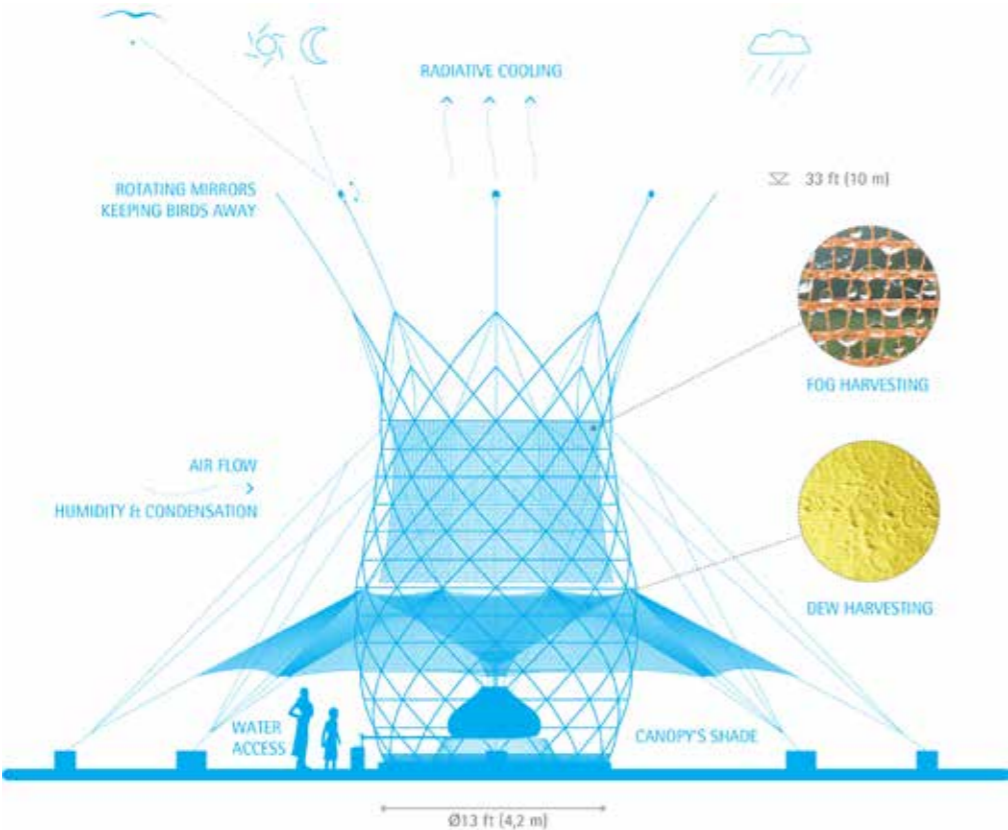
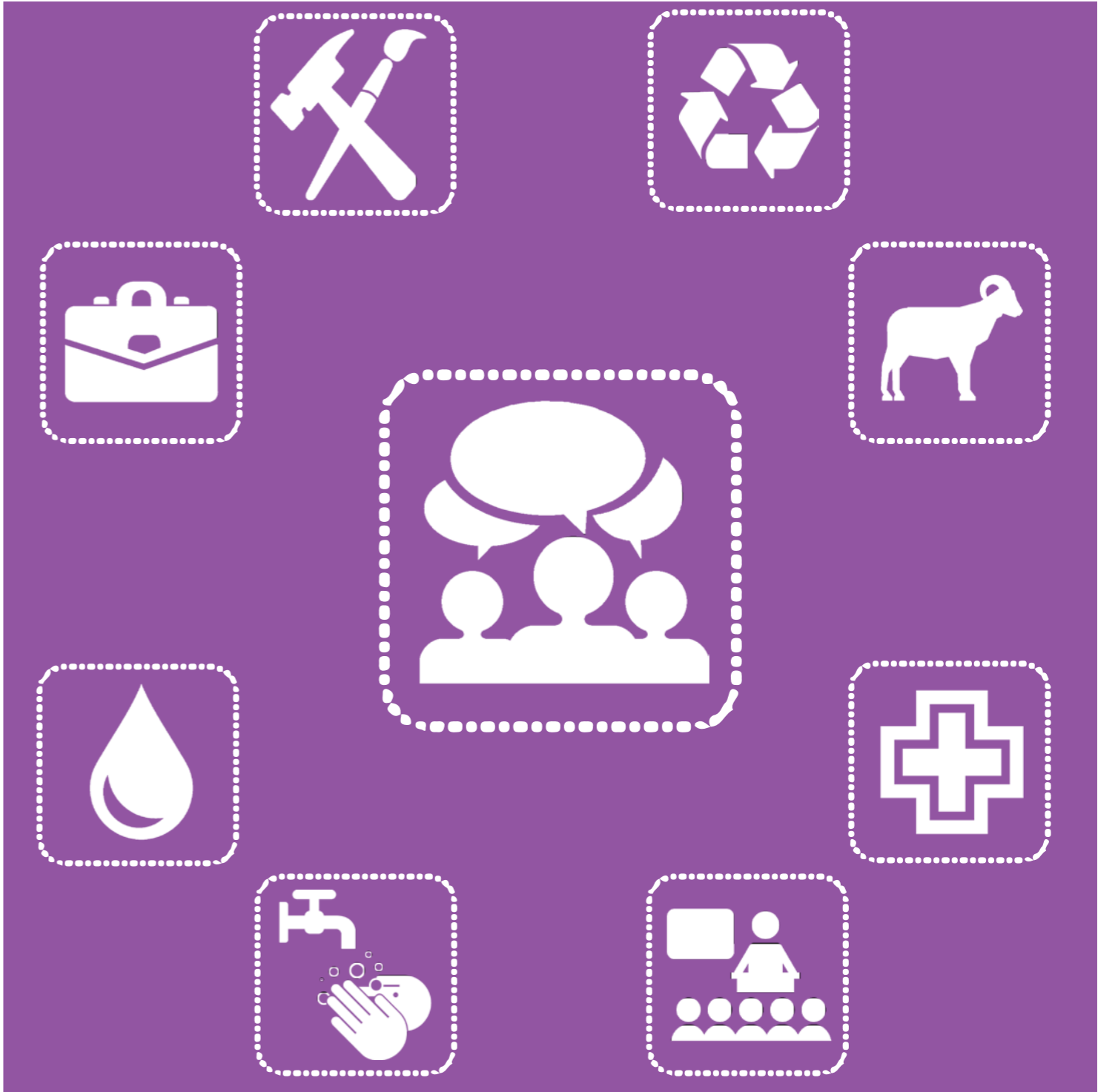
You cannot really force people to create a community, the community is something that develops during time and builds up on the existing system. Our main idea behind the market place is “Build it and they will come.” As long as we give people the opportunity to create something of their own they will eventually grasp to the idea.

In our camp plan the market place is in the middle of 4 sets of the blocks. It’s an area that’s dedicated for the people living in those blocks. This the area where they can use the cubes to build structures for what they want and need. This is where they can build schools for the children in the neighborhood, they can have market days, they can have cubes that work as offices and so on. The idea is to provide a space for them so that they can create what they want and need for the community. If there happens to be a doctor in the neighborhood, the doctor can have a cube in the marketplace that works as a clinic here.

The marketplaces of different neighborhoods will have different things as they are there for the people and different people have different needs and different ideas on what they need to have in their marketplace.

Having a space for the people helps the community to build up.

Besides the things we thought they could have on the market places we want to let people have their own things there. we wanted to leave the decision about it for them.



One thing we thought could be installed on all the marketplaces is the Warka Water. Warka Water is a solution that gathers the humidity of air and condensates it to water.

FINAL WORDS

The project we did was long and inspiring one. Big part of the project was learning new things about the people who are in the worst imaginable situations, it was about learning how the organizations work together in the crisis areas and it was about understanding humanbeings.

One of the key things for the project outcome was our basic understanding of how human mind works. When working on a project like this, it significantly helps to understand Maslow's hierarchy of needs and how the community and daily routines can help people to heal from the mental traumas they've suffered.

We think the project outcome is a new way to solve issues at the UNHCR camps and implementating it would make living at the camps a lot better.

We are grateful for all the people who supported us during the project.

And last but not least, thank you for taking the interest in our project and reading through the documentation.

Thank you,

Pirita, Kiia, Maxime

SOURCES

Icons in the presentation from nounproject, several different designers: <https://thenounproject.com/>

The first ideas

- Maternity package; picture; Kela; <http://www.kela.fi/web/en/maternitypackage> (read 09/2015)
- Martti Ahtisaari with his Nobel Prize; picture; Telegraph/Getty images; Notable winners of Nobel Prize; <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/picturegalleries/worldnews/8192226/Notable-winners-of-the-Nobel-Peace-Prize.html?image=1> (read 09/2015)
- Map of Finland & Sweden: <http://www.zonums.com/gmaps/colorit2.php>; Illustrations on the map: nounproject; Flags; <http://www.freeflagicons.com/>

Interview with Heidi Tuhkanen, Metropolia Student Unions development co-operation specialist

Interview with anonymous, working with refugees

Interview with Saara Lehmuskoski, Finnish Church Aid

- Pictures are from FCA's mediabank, from top to bottom;
 - Zara Järvinen, Education, Haiti
 - Outi Behm, Boys with their unicycle, Jordania
 - Ville Asikainen, Womens bank, Nepal

The current refugee situation

- Maps; Finnish Church Aids; Crisis map; <https://www.kirkonulkomaanapu.fi/riskikartta/> (read 09/2015)

¹ European comission, Eurostat, statistics explained, http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/File:First_time_asylum_aplicants,_EU-28,_January_2014_%E2%80%93_June_2015.png (read 05/10/2015)

² UNHCR, 2015 UNHCR subregional operations profile, Middle East, <http://www.unhcr.org/pages/49e45ade6.html> (read 09/2015)

³

⁴ UNHCR, The sea route to Europe: The Mediterranean passage in the age of refugees, <http://www.unhcr.org/5592bd059.html> (read 09/2015)

⁵ Washington Post; Birnbaum, Michael; Sept 3rd 2015; Smuggling refugees to Europe is a new growth industry; https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/europe/smuggling-refugees-into-europe-is-a-new-growth-industry/2015/09/03/398c72c4-517f-11e5-b225-90edbd49f362_story.html; (read 09/2015)

⁶ Eu legislation; Council directive 2001/51/EC; <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2001:187:0045:0046:EN:PDF> (read 05/10/2015) and Hans Rosling; Why boat refugees don't fly?; April 2015; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YO0IRsfrPQ4> (seen 09/2015)

⁷ Daily Mail; Aug 28th 2015; Death Lorry had no air vents...; <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3213858/Migrant-death-toll-chicken-meat-truck-rises-70.html> (read 08/2015)

⁸ Business Insider; Aug 28th 2015; Europe is facing the worst...; <http://uk.businessinsider.com/r-migrant-tragedies-on-land-and-sea-claim-hundreds-of-lives-2015-8?r=US&IR=T>

The stories behind the people

pictures: UNHCR, <http://d.ibtimes.co.uk/en/full/1393570/yazidi-refugees-flee-iraq.jpg>

European dream, page 6

- American dream, James Truslow Adams, 1930, <http://www.loc.gov/teachers/classroommaterials/lessons/american-dream/students/the-dream.html> (read 05/10/2015)

<http://www.frugals.ca/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/italy-europe-places.jpg>

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Benchmarking the countries

¹ Australian government, border control; <https://www.border.gov.au/about/operation-sovereign-borders/counter-people-smuggling-communication>; picture; <http://honisoit.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/no-way-australia-home.jpg> (read 09/2015)

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³ Uganda; Interview with Saara Lehmuskoski, Finnish Church Aid; and UNCHR; Country operations profile Uganda; <http://www.unhcr.org/pages/49e483c06.html>; picture; <http://waterstep.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/DSC00216.jpg> (read 06/10/2015)

⁴ The french ghettos; <http://www.ccf-sorbonne.fr/doc/IMG/pdf/05-les-cites-francaises-sont-elles-des-ghettos.pdf>; picture; <http://pamelagellercom.c.presscdn.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/car-fire.jpg> (read 06/10/2015)

Benchmarking Products

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¹ Interview with Mo El-Fatary, Founder and CEO of Masar Smart Energy

² Clean technica; 13 charts of Solar panel cost & growth trends: <http://cleantechnica.com/2014/09/04/solar-panel-cost-trends-10-charts/> (read 09/2015)

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<http://inhabitat.com/5-life-changing-projects-take-home-top-honors-in-worlds-largest-design-awards/> 5 projects (including language app)

http://design-milk.com/castaway-furniture-reimagining-waste/?utm_source=dvtr.it&utm_medium=facebook (furnitures directly made of wastes)

http://design-milk.com/precious-waste-contemporary-jewelry-made-from-waste/?utm_source=dvtr.it&utm_medium=facebook waste jewelery

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