4 CASE STUDY: DAYER EL NAHIA, GIZA
This section presents the proposals and recommendations of intervention for the study area Dayer El Nahia. Based on the application of a qualitative approach, these proposals were built up from a preparatory strategy, methodology and analysis of findings from the fieldwork. The information and data collection during this explorative exercise are based on participatory assessment of the perspectives of residents and main stakeholders involved in the context. The objective of the proposal is to improve the living conditions of Dayer El Nahia, maintaining its strong identity. Therefore it is necessary to apply the hybrid approach mentioned earlier in this document combining different intervention strategies in the same area. Due to its complexity and different spatial and social patterns, intervention proposals in Dayer El Nahia are based on specific approaches and strategies addressing different problems in “pressure points” identified during the fieldwork, which naturally are interrelated as a network of issues that requires an appropriate and specific response for each of them.

4.1 Context

In the central area of Dokki District, one of Giza Governorate’s main and oldest districts, lies the area of Dayer El Nahia, situated between the main roads of AlTahreer and Dokki. The area is located beside the Housing and Building National Research Centre. Its main access (Dayer El Nahia) leads to the AlTahreer Road, the other five sub-entrances are located on the Dokki Road. Its most important streets, aside from its main street, are AlMousha and AlSobky streets along with a network of pedestrian walkways.

Dayer El Nahia, is officially considered to be an unsafe area. Residents are originally from AlFayoum and AlSharqiya Governorates. The land was formally (as many other districts in Giza) agricultural and the main occupation was farming. Over the last three decades, Dayer El Nahia has evolved from a first stop for migrants to an established permanent community of approximately 50,000 residents (AlFajr Journal, 2010).

Supposedly first settled in the late 19th century, the neighbourhood now contains approximately 152 housing blocks (1-8 stories). Today, the area is popular for its car repair and carpentry workshops.
4.2 Fieldwork Methodology

After having gained an insight into several informal settlements in Giza Governorate, the study group conducted a visit to the Dayer El Nahia community. Conversations with local residents provided an initial impression of the community and its current condition regarding building quality, infrastructure, economic activities and livelihood.

“The water cuts off every day and I ask one of my daughters to stay up late to collect as much water as we need in bottles for the next day, just in case there’s no water” – (from an interview with a housewife)

From this explorative visit, a first basic SWOT analysis was derived detecting positive and negative aspects of the area. Through this, using the livelihood approach (DFID, 2004) four major topics were identified as most relevant: Physical Structure, Open Space/Road Network, Economic Livelihood and Social Organisation.

Additionally, three cross-cutting issues, (a) government policies, (b) legal framework and (c) community vision for development, were identified.

These main topics were then further researched through the fieldwork. Guiding research questions were prepared for each of these four topics and the cross-cutting issues to collect information from the field. From this base, questionnaire guidelines for semi-structured qualitative interviews were developed for different target groups: residents, businesses, community leaders and government representatives.

Residents and businesses respondents were randomly selected from different locations evenly distributed throughout the whole community. For the interviews with residents, both owners and renters were included. For businesses, different types of business representatives (such as car workshops, furniture workshops, merchants e.g. for grocery and coal) were incorporated. A focus group discussion with women was arranged by a local NGO.
Additionally to the semi-structured interviews and focus group discussions, participatory mapping was conducted with selected interviewees. Furthermore, a participatory assessment of physical building conditions was conducted. In addition to the fieldwork activities, expert interviews with government representatives from the district administration (district chief, department of urban development) as well as with elected officials from the local popular council were conducted.

Based on the assessment of the findings a set of proposals for intervention and recommendations for further improvements were developed related to the different levels of policy recommendation, strategy development and physical intervention.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Four Topics</th>
<th>Main Questions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Physical Structure**                | • What is the condition of the buildings in the area?  
• Are the buildings served with infrastructure? What is the quality of the services?  
• What is the relation between owners and renters in the area?  
• What is the level of owner fluctuation in the area? |
| **Open Space & Road Network**         | • How do different groups use the different types of spaces in the community?  
• Is there any lack of public services and infrastructure?  
• What are the mobility patterns of different groups in the community?  
• What are the community perspectives on future development of open space-road network? |
| **Economic Livelihood**               | • What are the sources of income for the residents in the community?  
• What are the major business activities in the area and how do they function?  
• What is the legal status of the businesses in the area? |
| **Social Organisation**               | • How does the community organise itself at a grass roots level? (neighbours/associations business corporations, local networks, CBO`s, common decision making)  
• What is the leadership system in the community?  
• What is the community’s relationship with different institutions, such as NGOs, private sector actors, political stakeholders? |

Table 15 Topics in the Interviews  
Source: UM TU-Berlin
4.3 Situation Analysis

As a result of the field research, an in-depth SWOT analysis was conducted to provide the base for a comprehensive understanding of the local situation identifying and assessing the most relevant topics leading to the structure of the intervention proposals. Considering the findings resulting from the SWOT, there was strong evidence to reiterate the importance of the four main topics addressed during the fieldwork as focus areas for the intervention strategy: 1) physical structure, 2) open spaces/road network, 3) economic livelihood, and 4) social organisation.

The first topic, physical structure, relates to the issues of building conditions within Dayer El Nahia. Open spaces and road network overlap the questions associated with the urban fabric and open space structures with infrastructures and service management. Economic livelihood addresses the economic basis of the residents and how business activities are linked to land-use and management. Lastly, the topic concerning social organisation refers to the community’s identity, the level of self-organisation and the community’s position within larger governance networks. The topic of social organisation is considered to be of key importance as it links to all topics mentioned above, functioning as the fundamental basis for community participation in intervention activities.

Hence, the selected issues relate to its five dimensions: the topics of physical structure and open space/road network intend to address the natural and physical capital of Dayer El’Nahia, as the topic of economic livelihood refers to the human and financial capital within the community; issues of social organisation including governance aspects are considered as part of the social capital.

The four research and intervention topics are related to the overall conceptual framework of qualitative complementation – practically applying it in a concrete case. Accordingly, the interrelating topics generally reflect the logic of interdependency laid out in the livelihood concept trying to adopt it to local specifics.
4 Case Study: Dayer El Nahia, Giza

Conditions in Dayer El Nahia
## Table 16 SWOT Analysis Dayer el Nahia

Source: UM TU-Berlin

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issues</th>
<th>Strengths</th>
<th>Weaknesses</th>
<th>Opportunities</th>
<th>Threats</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td>Prime/central location</td>
<td>Contrast with surrounding formal/middleclass neighbourhoods</td>
<td>On-site redevelopment, including all interested stakeholders</td>
<td>Real-estate speculation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Historical value</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Growing socio-spatial segregation between the neighbourhood and its surroundings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>High land values</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ownership</td>
<td>Legal tenure of buildings</td>
<td>Complexity of actors regarding property: land owners, building owners, renters</td>
<td>Cooperation between actors to promote on-site redevelopment, sharing mutual benefits and costs</td>
<td>Vicious interrelation between real estate speculation, new law 119 (rent issue) and the intentional deterioration of unsafe houses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Long-term stability of ownership</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban Structure/Fabric</td>
<td>Consolidated and livable urban structure</td>
<td>Limited accessibility (roads)</td>
<td>Improve accessibility with minor interventions</td>
<td>Empty private land contributing to real-estate speculation/hindering intervention</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Empty private land used as dumping ground</td>
<td>Reassignment of private empty land for:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>low quality of open space</td>
<td>• Land-pooling (on-site redevelopment)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Public/Communitarian open spaces or facilities</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open Space Use/Management</td>
<td>Open space intensely used by the community</td>
<td>Lack of communitarian responsibility for the overall neighbourhood</td>
<td>Cooperative management of the neighbourhood’s public space between all locally involved stakeholders</td>
<td>Growing socio-spatial discrimination of vulnerable groups</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Security: porous relation between private (houses) and surrounding public space</td>
<td>Gender inequality</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Illegal occupation of open spaces by business workshops</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buildings Condition</td>
<td>Incremental process of construction: housing process adapted to changes in family structures</td>
<td>Weak ventilation and lighting</td>
<td>Concentration of unsafe buildings as a potential for bulk redevelopment</td>
<td>Unsafe buildings affecting interdependent structures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Small plot size</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Unsafe structures and building materials</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infrastructure</td>
<td>Available and accessible physical infrastructure</td>
<td>Low quality of service supply (water, gas)</td>
<td>Upgrade physical infrastructure using appropriate and sustainable technologies</td>
<td>Empty private lot as a potential to facilitate public services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Unsafe sewage system</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Lack of social infrastructures</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Fieldwork in Dayer El Nahia  
### Issues

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Land-Use</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Proximity and mixture of uses (productive, commercial and residential)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Economic Activities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Specialisation of economic activities: car repairing, carpentry and daily goods supply</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partial interdependency between activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good level of entrepreneurship</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Social Composition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strong communitarian identity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strong rooting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strong cultural capital</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good level of self-perception</td>
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</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Governance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Internal solidarity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cooperative initiatives between close neighbours</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Strengths

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Land-Use</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Proximity and mixture of uses (productive, commercial and residential)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic Activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specialisation of economic activities: car repairing, carpentry and daily goods supply</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Strong rooting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strong cultural capital</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good level of self-perception</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Weaknesses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Land-Use</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Polluting manufacturing activities mixed with residential uses</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Economic Activities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Environmental and social impact of polluting workshops</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illegal status of manufacturing activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High percentage of unemployment (especially youth)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low level of education</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Social Composition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Low level of social mobility</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low social status/high level of prejudice regarding Ashwayat dwellers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community associated with the “culture of poverty”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Opportunities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Land-Use</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grouping/Clustering of economic activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Livability due to intensive and mixed use of open public spaces</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Economic Activities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Invisible “women workers” as potential target groups</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interdependency as potential for collaborative initiatives and clustering</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Social Composition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Potential for strengthening the community’s organisational pattern through cooperative associations</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Threats

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Land-Use</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Informal eviction of residential uses due to the polluting productive activities</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Economic Activities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dismantling of the economic fabric due to external relocation of all polluting workshops</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low capacity of adaptation to market demands</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Social Composition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Social encroachment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discrimination and marginalisation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Governance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scale-up cooperative initiatives between locally involved stakeholders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organisational pattern related to specific groups/interests (men, mosque, political interests)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Politicised institutions (NGO/Mosques)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Invisibility of vulnerable groups</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4.4 Intervention Strategies

The following section presents the specific findings, proposals and recommendations for each of the main topics identified and explored during the fieldwork. Within its particular methodology and structure, these intervention strategies rely on the analysis of the collected data during the fieldwork described above.

“Our house is ours, but the land is not. Every year we pay a lawyer that deals with our case with the land owners. We are not the only case, our neighbours go through the same every year and we don’t even know who the land owner is today, some of them passed away and land was inherited by more than one person.” – (an interview with one of the house owners and his wife)

It was also observed that some buildings in good physical condition were located in very close proximity to the dilapidated buildings and therefore were affected by them. However, some new buildings are under construction. According to their physical structures, the buildings were classified into four different types related to the proposed action to be undertaken and to the respective actors involved (See table 17).

The most dilapidated buildings are located in proximity to the mosque as well as in several other areas. A full and more detailed survey is strongly recommended to identify the detailed physical conditions of the buildings and their exact location (See map 15).

4.4.1 Physical Structure

The participatory assessment of buildings in the field was based on safety and construction standards as well as discussions with the local inhabitants. It has shown that many of the buildings in the area are old and deteriorated in terms of their physical condition. Moreover, they have been constructed without regard for setback rules. An important reason for the deterioration is the complex application of different regulations of rent laws and land ownership that is hindering investment in maintenance. Moreover, it leads to a separation of land owners, building owners and renters that all need to be considered in intervention.
**Public-Private-Community Partnership for On-site Redevelopment**

Dayer El Nahia is considered as an unsafe area in Giza situated in a very prime location. The community is characterised by its strong identity, active livelihoods and strong internal potentials which are important to maintain in intervention activities. As the land value is comparatively high, the study team proposes to improve the area through an on-site redevelopment strategy relocating the affected people within the community. This strategy is based on the attraction of external investment capital applying strong control mechanisms in order to ensure a common share of profits. Furthermore, it is based on a land pooling system that provides a basis to reconfigure the small-scale structures of plots as a larger spatial basis for successful redevelopment. The incentive for the land owners – contributing with their land share to the land pooling – is to be able to sell their land at better conditions in a pooling system. The onsite redevelopment strategy is proposed to be implemented through a public-private-community partnership approach involving private sector actors, public institutions and the community. The objectives of this strategy are as follows:

- To be financially viable and self-sustaining
- To facilitate and provide affordable housing and basic infrastructure facilities
- To improve physical building conditions
- To enable economic revitalisation of the area and create employment opportunities by using the site or through real estate investment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Physical Structure</th>
<th>Classification</th>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Actors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>[Image]</td>
<td><strong>Unsafe Building</strong>&lt;br&gt;Old building, unsafe construction materials, lack of structure or foundation</td>
<td>Detailed participatory survey needed to identify the buildings.</td>
<td>➢ Governorate&lt;br➢ Affected renters and owners</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[Image]</td>
<td><strong>Safe Building</strong>&lt;br&gt;affected by unsafe building (structural dependency)</td>
<td>Onsite redevelopment</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[Image]</td>
<td><strong>Safe Building</strong>&lt;br&gt;located in unsafe building cluster</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[Image]</td>
<td><strong>Safe Building</strong>&lt;br&gt;with inefficient services</td>
<td>Detailed participatory survey needed to identify the buildings.&lt;br<strong>Upgrading</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 17 Physical Structures
Source: UM TU-Berlin
Steps for implementation of the strategy
• Conduct a detailed survey and identify the unsafe clusters based on the classification of buildings,
• Select the clusters to be assigned for on-site redevelopment,
• Gather detailed information about land owners, building owners and renters. Negotiation/agreement with land owners for participation in land pooling and with building owners/renters about the detailed plan of the project,
• Identification of investors for financing redevelopment. Legal agreement of shared profit for investment in affordable housing and community infrastructure,
• Legalisation of land ownership and partnership of the project,
• Temporary relocation of the inhabitants (with their participation),
• Demolish the structures in the selected area, based on detailed studies,
• On-site redevelopment through land pooling by public-private and community participation,
• The total cost of the project will be financed by the investors – profit will be shared by the different parties,
• The governorate provides control, legal support, monitoring and coordination of the different project phases.

Fig. 16 Land Pooling
Source: UM TU-Berlin

Fig. 17 Multi-Stakeholders Cost and Benefit Sharing
Source: UM TU-Berlin
Project Outcome, Benefit and Profit Sharing Mechanism

The main condition of this system is that all involved stakeholders will gain a share as investors are required to share their profit with building owners/renters and the community for financing affordable housing and infrastructure. First, the investors will gain a profit from a share of units that can be sold or rented at market rates. If there are existing building owners, they will get their share of the overall profit through the same number of units as they owned before. The renters will be provided with improved units at affordable prices.

The contributions and benefits of public, private and community stakeholders are shown in the following table. It is worth mentioning that the public authority can also take on the role of the investor in order to generate profit out of on-site redevelopment which then could be reinvested in other community projects for the benefit of all. In any case, this concept offers major advantages for the public authority in comparison with current redevelopment policies aiming for cost-intensive off-site redevelopment and relocation of the affected population.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Contribution</th>
<th>Benefit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Governorate</strong></td>
<td>• Legal support</td>
<td>• Avoid costs of relocation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Monitoring and control</td>
<td>• Potential profit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Providing services facilities</td>
<td>• Shift informal to formal areas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Replicable model of intervention</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Investor</strong></td>
<td>• Financial investment</td>
<td>• Profit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Develop the area</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Community</strong></td>
<td>• Land sharing</td>
<td>• Affordable housing to the rental group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Participation in plan preparation</td>
<td>• New unit for flat owner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Monitoring</td>
<td>• Land owner will be able to sell the land</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 18 Land Pooling Contribution and Benefits
Source: John P. W. (2006a)
Table 19 Land Pooling
Source: John P. W. (2006b)

**Land Pooling: A Land Development Technique**

Land pooling (sometimes called land readjustment) is a method whereby the ownership of scattered and irregular plots of land is pooled, roads and main infrastructure are built, and the land is then resubdivided into new plots. Each landowner must contribute a portion of their previous land holding (commonly 30% of the total) to provide space for roads, parks and other public spaces, and for reserve land. The reserve land is sold at the end of the project to pay the cost of planning, administration and construction.

**Pros**
- Land Pooling (LP) has the potential to be a self-financing technique for urban land and infrastructure development.
- The pattern of property divisions (cadastral) is reformed and new infrastructure and public space, particularly for roads and parks, is acquired.
- LP projects are attractive to landowners because “substantial increases in the values of land may be achieved by the process”.
- The land pooling provision guarantees the equitable sharing of costs and profits among landowners affected by redevelopment.

**Cons**
- Land pooling requires commitment and coordination by local administration and private landowners. Commercial land market and redevelopment pressure vs. sustainable land pooling
- As increased contribution ratios impose heavier costs defrayment on landowners and leaseholders, it becomes increasingly difficult to gain consensus.
- Often, no detailed land use plans are provided for the readjusted area.
- Where sites have already been subdivided into small lots, it is difficult to assess contribution of land.

Table 20 Best Practices Physical Structures
Source: Own elaboration (UM TU-Berlin)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>International Best Practices</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Land Pooling: Metrovivienda Bogota, Colombia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private Sector Driven Slum Redevelopment Mumbai, India</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inclusionary Housing/Bonus Density California, USA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4.4.2 Open Space and Road Network

Analysis of Current Situation
The actual conditions of Dayer El Nahia in terms of roads and open spaces are quite diverse. The neighbourhood maintains characteristics of a historical village core which is affected by dynamics of change reflecting the needs of the community. A considerable percentage of commercial and manufacturing activities (cars and furniture workshops in particular) located in the areas tend to dominate the use of roads and open spaces. In the case of Dayer El Nahia, public space can be divided as two main types: the main public space such as roads and market place; and the semi public-spaces in front of shops and houses, which are used and maintained by users.

The multiple and overlapping uses of open space within the specific characteristics of Dayer El Nahia’s street grid (narrow streets with no sidewalks in most cases) cause regular congestion and conflicts of usage and mobility between different residential and commercial user groups, vehicles and pedestrians. This is further aggravated through the lack of urban furniture, the problematic conditions of roads and sidewalks (different levels and textures, most of them are not paved), and the need for adequate parks. The open spaces of Dayer El Nahia are either of very low quality or of no use at all as they are often covered by considerable amounts of trash as the community lacks a regular garbage collection service. Hence, public space turns into “no man’s land” and the neighbouring residents do not relate to it.

Main objectives of the proposal
According to the diagnosis, it is important to formulate an integrated proposal for roads and open spaces, which aims to solve existing conflicts and weaknesses maintaining “the residential scale” and the special characteristics of the community. The main objectives of the proposal are:

- Keep the existing conditions of the urban fabric by improving the accessibility and internal mobility in the neighbourhood,
- Define open spaces for common activities,
- Improve the existing conditions and provide the conditions for an organised use of roads and open spaces.

Following these objectives, a set of programmes, actions and recommendations was formulated providing short-term interventions and long-term strategic improvements of the open spaces and the road network in Dayer El Nahia.
Programmes and Actions

Road-Street Grid

In order to generate the proposals for road network and open space, the street plan for Dayer El Nahia prepared by the Governorate’s Urban Planning Department was reviewed. This proposal aims at improving the accessibility and internal circulation of the neighbourhood by introducing a reconfiguration of the block structure with extensive building setbacks and an extended street network. Nevertheless, to implement this proposal a considerable amount of buildings would have to be demolished. This programme can be integrated with the land pooling proposal as redevelopment will allow road network readjustment.

After studying the Governorate’s proposal, an alternative proposal was developed that includes different actions. It aims to preserve the essential characteristic of the neighbourhood while at the same time improving the accessibility through minor interventions using empty plots and existing streets.

In the alternative proposal, three different types of streets are defined to provide improved mobility in the area: collector roads, local streets and primary pedestrian paths. Important elements of the proposed grid are two internal rings ensuring and enhancing the flow of mobility while preserving the residential core with mainly pedestrian traffic.
Map 17 Alternative Proposal Street Grid
Source: UM TU-Berlin

Map 18 Traffic Concept
Source: UM TU-Berlin
- Main connecting road
- Service street
- Local street
- Collector road
- Transition
**New Spaces for Common Activities (Public and Private)**

The establishment of new open spaces for common activities is based on existing vacant plots improving the ratio between built-up areas and open spaces. There are two kinds of proposed actions:

- The assignment of empty areas as potential spaces to be acquired and designed as public parks,
- The activation of empty private lots through temporary uses (commercial or public) on a contractual basis. This can generate an income for the land owners until the plot is eventually redeveloped.

**Improving Conditions of Roads and Open Spaces**

For the improvement of the roads and existent open space the following actions are required:

- Improvement of streets and sidewalks: apply appropriate pavement patterns with different levels and textures as well as structural elements supporting an equalisation of different uses and allowing a fluid and secure circulation of vehicles and pedestrians,
• Installation of street furniture: to complement activities in open spaces with street benches; to permit the visual control of the spaces 24 hours with street lighting; to complement the waste management programme with trash cans; and to control the parking of cars on the sidewalks with bollards.

• Planting of new and maintenance of existing trees, taking into consideration potential effects on building foundations or streets levels.

The following map aims to illustrate how the different proposals of interventions regarding physical structure and open space/road networks function in a comprehensive way.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>International Best Practices</th>
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</table>

Table 21 Best Practice Open Space Source: UM TU-Berlin
4.4.3 Economic Livelihood

Analysis

Based on the field survey two main activities were identified in Dayer El Nahia: carpentry and car repair workshops. As supplements to residential activities, there are also two relevant secondary activities which are: sellers serving ‘daily needs’ and handicraft production. Due to their environmental impacts, such as noise, waste and chemicals, the main criteria to classify Dayer El Nahia’s economic activities distinguishes black, grey and white activities.

Black refers to industrial activities that are not allowed in residential areas (regardless of their scale) and, according to planning regulations in Greater Cairo, must be resettled outside the urban fabric in an area specifically assigned for industrial facilities.

This situation leads to two main questions regarding the intervention proposal:

How to maintain the economic livelihood of the area applying an upgrading strategy?
How to upgrade commercial activities and simultaneously maintain their strong relation with the community?

The following analysis of the current situation illustrates the positive and negative aspects of the different activities.

Car repairing is the main economic activity and it reveals a good level of entrepreneurship by local inhabitants.

Most workshops are owned by local residents and provide local employment opportunities. Moreover, it is observed that the car workshop activities have interdependencies and important links to other related business activities within the neighbourhood creating economic chains. The carpentry activities are another special manufacturing activity in the area that is mostly based on external marketing relations to surrounding neighbourhoods. Most activities, both car workshops and carpentries, are still at a rather basic product stage although they have already existed for more than 15 years in this area. Most of the manufacturing activities also face legal issues as they don’t have official permits from the local authority and cannot afford legal advocacy. At the same time all activities within this area face problems due to the lack of skilled workers and managerial skills.

Women, unemployed people and youth are the community groups with the greatest economic potential although they are currently lacking a sustainable livelihood basis.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Categories</th>
<th>Positive</th>
<th>Negative</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Good level of entrepreneurship</td>
<td>Basis products without addition value</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mix of activities</td>
<td>Environmental and social impacts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Special activities and conventional activities</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Innovation/creativity potential</td>
<td>Low level of legal capacity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Lack of skilled labour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Potential workers in vulnerable groups:</td>
<td>Lack of managerial and technical skills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Youth</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Women</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 23 The Positive and Negative Aspects of the Activities
### Table 24 Economic Strategy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issues</th>
<th>Categories</th>
<th>Positive</th>
<th>Negative</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Car Repairing Shops</td>
<td>Partial relocation</td>
<td>• Organisation to maintain the link</td>
<td>• Cooperative associations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Reception desk for customers</td>
<td>• Coordination of transportation (cars, workers)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Mutual support (technical, legal and financial)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carpentry</td>
<td>Internal clustering</td>
<td>• Assign manufacturing pockets</td>
<td>• Open access for customers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Enhance competitiveness and cooperation</td>
<td>• Reduce conflicting uses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potential</td>
<td>Economic activation of vulnerable groups</td>
<td>• Women</td>
<td>• Vocational training</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Youth</td>
<td>• Adding values to product</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Unemployed</td>
<td>• Distribution and market</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Handicraft shops</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Proposal**

To maintain the economic strength of the community, three main strategies are proposed:

1) **Partial relocation of manufacturing activities** of the black category and/or
2) **Internal clustering** (as a policy recommendation) and
3) **economic activation of vulnerable groups**.

The strategy of partial relocation considers the displacement of the black activities from Dayer El Nahia to newly assigned industrial areas located outside of the community. With this strategy, the negative impacts of industrial activities to the neighbourhood will decrease and the activity itself can have better opportunities to extend business activities.

To facilitate the strong link between the related businesses in terms of a strategy maintaining the dependencies between removed and remaining businesses, the creation of a cooperative association among the workshop owners to empower their capacities of mutual business management is proposed. It permits the management of a reception desk for clients in Dayer El Nahia and facilitation of transportation of cars to the new appointed industrial area to the relocated workshops. The cooperative can also manage to support coordination of transportation for workers. As the most important issue, the cooperative can also be the institution for mutual support regarding technical, legal and financial issues.

The second strategy of internal clustering can be applied to both carpentry and car workshops as it aims at internal relocation of black activities to small-scale manufacturing clusters within the area. The proposal is to assign manufacturing pockets inside the community to concentrate emitting activities. This measure would reduce conflict with surrounding
residential uses, improve access to clients, and enhance competitiveness. It further aims at enhancing cooperation among the owners due to spatial proximity. Moreover, the establishment of an organisational structure (such as a cooperative) would facilitate coordination and mutual support.

The third strategy is the economic activation of vulnerable groups. This strategy targets women, youth and unemployed inhabitants of the area. The objective is to create solutions for these groups in order to make them economically active in a sustainable way. Vocational training is one proposal to increase human capital for these groups. The handicraft activities of women should be enhanced by adding value to products and improving marketing by creating handicraft shops.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>International Best Practices</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cluster of Small-Scale Enterprises OGWI Carpenters Union, Nigeria</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Fig. 20 Partial Relocation
Source: UM TU-Berlin

Fig. 21 Internal Clustering
Source: UM TU-Berlin
4.4.4 Social Organisation

Analysis
According to the fieldwork findings, the current status of the social organisation in Dayer El Nahia is characterised by low representation and recognition of both natural leaders of the community and official Local Popular Council. The residents generally attribute the recognition and representation problem to the elected representatives. The Local Popular Council claims on one hand that they are representatives of the community as they act as natural leaders while on the other hand the community does not recognise them as such.

There is only one NGO in the Dayer El Nahia area. The role of the NGO is perceived quite controversially if recognised at all. Its services focus on specific target groups or selected residents without a clear and transparent selection procedure leading to suspicion and a feeling of unfairness among local residents. The NGO is strongly related to some members of the Local Popular Council and political stakeholders. This enhances mistrust by the inhabitants of Dayer El Nahia.

“The NGO gives away food every year, sometimes medicine and also winter blankets when it gets cold. Not everyone gets his/ her share as they do not have enough for everyone” – (interview with a single mother)

Although there is no integrative community organisation on the level of the whole community, the inhabitants maintain a high level of individual solidarity among themselves. Moreover, they are very well self-organised regarding specific issues or interests. The car workshops especially maintain an informal cooperation mode as they collaborate in a chain of highly specialised car repair services.

Many inhabitants participate in the saving groups called ‘Game’iya’. These groups work as money-savers, where each participant contributes a specific amount (previously agreed on) monthly or weekly. One person, normally the initiator of the club, is in charge of the collecting and the distributing process among the members.

Objective
The fieldwork findings illustrate the level of social solidarity and good relations between neighbours. The strong community bonds are the base and starting point for the proposal which aims at strengthening and enhancing the community organisation as a whole. This will only be possible by empowerment and cooperation between all the stakeholders involved, raising their awareness, recognition and capacities. There is a need to find an adequate structure and procedures aimed at establishing a level of mutual responsibility and control, articulating the community’s demands and advocating their interests. The current organisational patterns of the different community stakeholders seem to be informal, separated and sometimes even conflicting. Hence, the goal is to establish an integrative system of organisation to support the challenges that the community will face in the future.
**Proposal**

In order to provide the community with capacities for articulating interests and adapting to the expected future changes, the creation of a Neighbourhood Committee is proposed. It should include community representatives, Local Popular Council members, the NGOs, owners of workshops of all types, natural leaders, any business related activities in the area, representatives of women, and the vulnerable groups of the community. The main objective of the Neighbourhood Committee is to facilitate a strong link between the community and the local government as well as other relevant stakeholders in order to share responsibilities, create coalitions and maximise relationships and communication. The different interest groups in the community would have the opportunity to articulate their demands in order to negotiate compromises that benefit the whole community. All stakeholders should participate, organise and control the decision-

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current Status</th>
<th>Objectives</th>
<th>Recommended Action</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Local popular council** | • Strengthen links with the community | • Capacity training  
• Leadership workshops |
| • Low level of recognition by the residents | | |
| **NGO** | • Expand the coverage of the existing NGO activities and other institutions | • New registered NGOs  
• Presence of external NGOs in the area |
| • Activities are focused on specific groups and objectives | | |
| **Natural leaders** | • Strengthen links with the local power council and the community | • Leadership mapping and capacity training  
• Raise awareness |
| • Low representation | | |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Community</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Low level of integrative community organisation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **Individual** | • Capacity training | • Vocational programmes  
• Courses  
• Upgrading skills |
| • Strong community bond | | |

Table 26 Current Situation and Recommended Actions  
Source: UM TU-Berlin
making processes and should be involved in conflict resolution. The main activities of the Neighbourhood Committee should include the following types:

1) public hearing to facilitate information sharing with the whole community, participation and transparency,
2) committee meetings where all committee members participate in decision-making,
3) thematic working groups comprising a few members developing proposals for action related to specific issues to prepare decision-making by the committee.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>International Best Practices</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participatory Budgeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Port Alegre, Brazil</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

People of Dayer Nahia

Table 27 Best Practices Social Organisation
Source: UM TU-Berlin
4.4.5 Spatial Application of Proposals

As an example to illustrate how the proposed actions can be applied on the ground, the area surrounding the Mosque was selected to illustrate a “future image”. It applies several actions and different interventions that are proposed for the whole community in one particular exemplary area. The following step is to coordinate the different interventions with an effective management system that includes all the stakeholders involved.

The main characteristics of the selected area:
- The mosque, a focal point of the neighbourhood,
- The main road, with a high amount of commercial activities that extend to public space in most cases, creating traffic conflicts,
- Concentration of unsafe buildings according to the observational visit,
- Different levels of vehicular and pedestrian roads,
- Unqualified open space.

Following the defined framework of the proposals, the interventions and actions are proposed as follows:

Physical Structure
- Based on the public-private-community partnership approach and land pooling, on-site redevelopment of unsafe buildings is proposed with a rational mix of land uses. Buildings are designed to respond to the familiar composition and the cultural characteristics of the community,
- Upgrading of the deteriorated buildings through structural reinforcement, renovation of interiors and exteriors as well as maintenance of the buildings’ infrastructure.

Roads and Open Spaces
- Defining new streets grids based on the communal understanding of open spaces: vehicular streets that allow accessibility to the buildings and connecting pedestrian streets including meeting pockets of different scales,
- Establishing new public spaces to ensure a well-balanced distribution between built-up and open areas,
- Improving open spaces for the establishment of commercial activities (e.g. market facility, shops),
- Equipping with urban furniture to enhance the use of public spaces (e.g., benches, waste receptacles) as well as setting up green areas,
- Upgrading of both roads and sidewalks to strengthen the flow of mobility in the whole community (especially for children, the elderly and the disabled),
- Maintenance of the existing public services networks.

Economic Livelihood and Social Organisation
- Partly relocating emitting commercial activities in order to reduce conflicts with other uses of open space,
- Developing additional commercial activities in the open space (e.g. market stands) using the concept of mutual benefits where users have to pay or be in charge of the maintenance.
4.5 Summary Dayer El Nahia

The expected outcomes of Dayer El Nahia intervention proposals tend to go further than to merely develop Dayer El Nahia as a livable neighbourhood. Indeed, the livelihood approach that inspired the proposal’s conceptual framework points at the mobilising of all the community assets/resources in order to build capacity within all the relevant stakeholders. Capacity building refers to steering cooperative modes of social organisation, as well as to entrepreneurship initiatives that can sustain and develop Dayer El Nahia’s economic fabric and, also, to develop communitarian responsibility for the neighbourhood qualified public spaces and upgraded buildings, their maintenance and management. Equally so, it foresees an implementation of the on-site redevelopment that can only take place if all the involved stakeholders are properly informed of all its mutual costs and benefits. Capacity building, then, especially on the community’s social organisation, is the utmost mean/instrument to align the expected intervention outcomes with the objectives/principles of a true sustainable development. Such a complex achievement, considering the recognisable constraints, is the reason for the elected hybrid intervention strategy which this proposal practically applies.
5 GENERAL CONCLUSION
The Cairo experience was extraordinary in many regards and developed valuable capacities in order to successfully deal with the multiple challenges at stake. Working under extreme time pressure required the application of unconventional working methods with parallel processes of data collection, analysis and elaboration of conceptual solutions based on high levels of dedication, coordination and efficiency in order to achieve valuable results. Working in interdisciplinary and multinational teams of experienced young experts representing different professional backgrounds created a highly productive atmosphere of new thinking with a valuable exchange of ideas and perspectives where cultural and disciplinary limits were overcome. Working as consultants in a real context and therefore being exposed to multiple stakeholders and interests required various perspectives to be taken on at the same time in order to successfully develop and position proposals in a sensitive political context.

The approach that was chosen for the fieldwork was derived from an important finding. During the preparatory weeks, the instrument of categorisation of informal areas linking to respective intervention strategies (upgrading, resettlement, containment) was analysed and critically discussed. As a result, the group suggested combining this rather quantitative approach as it is currently applied with a more qualitative analysis of spatial foci and key issues within informal settlements. This complementary understanding might lead to the application of different focused intervention strategies within the same settlement in the sense of a hybrid approach. This qualitative addition of the categorisation framework was operationalised and successfully applied during the fieldwork in the two selected areas Ezzabet Al Nasr in Cairo and Dayer El Nahia in Giza. Especially given the short timeframe, this approach proved to work well in terms of rapid assessment leading to a substantial level of understanding about the local situation in the areas and the major issues at stake.

Based on the findings of the fieldwork, both groups identified key areas of intervention and proposed adequate strategies as well as a collection of concrete ideas for practical implementation. The strategies suggested for the two areas differ due to the highly different contexts. In Dayer el Nahia, a hybrid intervention approach is proposed focusing on

1) on-site redevelopment of deteriorated houses through land pooling and Public-Private-Community-Partnership,
2) the improvement of the road network and open spaces as well as
3) the reconfiguration and vitalisation of economic livelihoods. An important precondition for successful implementation is the establishment of a neighbourhood committee as a basis for community participation and collaboration between the different stakeholders involved.

In contrast, an all-encompassing upgrading concept was proposed in Ezzabet Al Nasr with very specific interventions. Aiming at a high impact with a minimum of intervention, three priority issues using the available resources were identified. Accordingly, proposals were articulated for

1) Street upgrading taking advantage of the existing morphology,
2) land development involving managing material flows and community responsibility, and
3) waste management securing a better environment for the residents of Ezzabet Al Nasr.

Due to the participants’ international experiences, the proposed interventions combine innovations and best practices from all over the world.

In addition to continuous discussions with the GTZ and Urban Upgrading Units partners at both governorates, the proposals were finally presented to the political decision makers: the Governor of Giza and the Vice-Governor of Cairo.
Both presentations were received with a high level of attention and interest. The fieldwork findings and the intervention proposals were discussed in a very constructive manner along with concrete steps for future implementation. The strong collaboration between GTZ and the Governorates in the context of PDP and the dedication of the involved stakeholders will provide a promising base to facilitate the follow-up process and to continue with the implementation activities in both areas. Additionally, the cooperation between GTZ and TU Berlin will ensure a fruitful continuation of exchange and discussion in the future.
6 GUEST COMMENT: UNDERSTANDING CULTURE IN CAIRO’S INFORMAL AREAS
Guest Comment by Hassan El Mouelhi*

Understanding Culture in Cairo's Informal Areas

This section explores cultural characteristics that shape the local urban context. Once identified, these factors could help inform the broader qualitative research framework and ultimately, the proposal for intervention. It also shows that understanding context-specific insights relating to local cultural dynamics could improve the outcome of urban development processes, specifically related decision-making leading to intervention. In particular, this section seeks to propose complementation to the categorisation of Cairo’s IAs in order to take into consideration the cultural parameters of targeted communities.

Since the early eighties, urban developmental and upgrading projects in Egypt have focused almost entirely on physical interventions based on the current physical conditions of the subject area. However, it has become clear in subsequent years that the sustainability of upgrading projects depends profoundly on the participation of the inhabitants.

Beyond this, the incorporation of cultural aspects into policy making is often lacking. However, aspects of local culture could be introduced into categorisation and be useful for intervention. Through understanding people’s values and beliefs, their behaviours could be predicted. Moreover, once the interrelated reasons for people’s behaviour in a certain setting are understood, subsequent intervention strategies might be enriched accordingly.

Insights from Fieldwork: Local culture

The field research in Cairo and Giza provided various insights into community life in informal settlements. Through the qualitative interviews, group discussions and observations, several cultural aspects raised special attention and were assessed as relevant to be incorporated into analysis/categorisation, decision-making and intervention.

The high level of communication and cooperation between community members of both Ezzbet el Nasr and Dayer El Nahia communities - either between different residents, or between residents and workshops owners/ workers who sometimes live outside the area. This was obvious in the case of Ezzbet El Nasr, as neighbours collaborated and collected money together to overcome or solve a certain problem, through sharing the expenses of a solution, or even through paying bribes.

Sometimes residents cooperate to install a shading tent over a street, or remove garbage from a certain part of a street or to plant some trees in front of one of the mosques, or put water jars for the pedestrians to drink or illegally install light to a part of a street. This could be an indicator for potential community self-organisation and cooperation. Thus, sharing problems, through facing the same legal and physical problems together with other factors (e.g. origin/family) may lead to a better sense of cooperation between the residents of IAs.

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Common Climatic Protection Created by Residents
The level of homogeneity and coherence in the community targeted by development is a crucial factor that might help a lot as a resource for the development process. Communities, which are formed on formerly agricultural land in many cases were communities originating from the same village (e.g. Upper Egypt) or belonging to the same family. Whether the level of homogeneity affects the potential for community participation needs to be further researched.

Mistrust between the community and the government is a defining factor in many communities. Many local residents commented that the money which is going to be given to the governorate is not necessarily going to be spent on their needs. This rather common issue is very important to consider as it highly influences the relations between the different community and government stakeholders involved in intervention processes.

Corruption is discussed by many scholars addressing the contemporary Egyptian society (G.Amin 2009), and it is also reflected in daily life of many IAs. Most of the interviewees mentioned the necessity to pay bribes to different officials in order to gain public services such as building licenses or electricity provision in the house. It has been found that the informal status of settlements is often being abused by government officials for additional benefit and at the same time hindering solutions to the local problems.

Marginalisation is debated as one of the most challenging issues regarding IAs in Cairo (Shehayeb 2009). Such communities, as in the case of Ezzbet Al Nasr, can be considered to be “marginalised” in the sense of lacking basic needs (e.g. water supply and sewage system, garbage collection, safety, income, health). At the same time, they share in the workforce of the society, playing a role in the market economy (Perlman 1979-2005). Their way of perceiving themselves as “informal” might be one of the motivators of some of their behavioural patterns, the so-called “A’shw’aya” meaning random behaviour.

The concept of “the other” between inhabitants of Cairo IAs on one side, and other people living in the so called “formal areas” on the other side could be still considered an obstacle against integrating such communities within the whole Cairene society (Safey El Din, H., El Mouelhi, H., 2009).

This selection of cultural aspects that were observed through fieldwork in Dayer El Nahia, and Ezzbet Al Nasr is still incomplete. However, it raises the central question in how far different cultural aspects are interrelated with each other as well as with other non-cultural characteristics of informal areas.

Complementing Categorisation with Cultural Aspects

Informal settlements in Cairo represent very different characteristics regarding their physical, environmental and socio-economic conditions. These differences are reflected in the categorisation approach developed and applied by GTZ in order to guide decision-making leading to intervention strategies. It is argued that cultural aspects play an important role in shaping a certain community. Therefore, understanding the local culture of informal settlements is crucial. Hence, the incorporation of cultural aspects into the categorisation framework would widen the understanding of informal areas and subsequently enrich the decision-making regarding specific intervention activities.

Defining Cultural Characteristics for Further Research

The aspects of local culture that have been assessed through fieldwork in Greater Cairo represent a preliminary and still incomplete collection. However, they lead to several hypotheses and research questions that need
to be addressed in subsequent investigations in order to reach a model for in-depth understanding of culture in IAs. The interrelation between several aspects seems most relevant to be understood. It tackles the issue of “understanding culture” (Tylor 1924) from the scope of its association with the dynamics and interrelationships of the three different entities (1) cultural characteristics (2) behavioural patterns of the residents and the (3) physical environment. Hence, a question needs to be addressed: how far people, who represent certain cultural characteristics, interact with their setting and shape their area?

The factors which define the physical settings are already being used in the pre-established list for assessment and categorisation frameworks. Indicators for cultural characteristics related to behavioural patterns need to be further defined. However, they may differ from one area to another, meaning that some of the factors may be applicable in all cases or types of areas (e.g. origin, profession), while others may be neglected in other cases (e.g. religion).

Based on the analysis of qualitative data gathered from the field, a preliminary list of five factors comprising cultural characteristics is suggested, which still need to be further investigated, tested and elaborated. These factors are argued to be interrelated and responsible for several forms of interaction between the residents and their physical setting in the form of certain behavioural patterns.

Origin and kinship: The informal settlements of Cairo residents’ origins are different from one area to another. They migrate from one of the following places: Upper Egypt rural/urban areas (different cities or villages), Delta rural/urban areas (different cities or villages), or other districts in Cairo.

Taking Ezzbet Al Nasr area as an example, most of the residents originate from a specific area in Upper Egypt, and some families are located in certain neighbouring streets in the area. Upper Egyptians known as “Sa’idi” are known for their dignity and pride in their cultural identity, which makes them maintain their beliefs or cultural characteristics (Miller 2006). The kinship traditions of upper Egyptians place great importance on respect for elders, and each group of people who belong to the same origin has a leader. Sometimes these leaders intervene in conflicts between households. These inter-family and intergeneration links also strongly influence economic and social networks in the settlement.
Improving Informal Areas in Greater Cairo

**Major economic activities:** This factor, including the profession and income generation, addresses the economic status of the area and its relation to other areas and districts of the city. Many informal areas act as business incubators, each specialising in a specific type of goods or service. As the informal settlement’s reputation for a specific range of products grows, these business networks extend regionally. Having different workshops sharing the same profession, or maintaining related specialities, helps strengthen the bonds between its owners, as in the case of chain process for car maintenance in Dayer El Nahia.

**Religion:** Households that share specific religions – especially minority religions – tend to concentrate in specific precincts comprising one or several streets. These spatial arrangements help shape the dynamics of community governance, and not infrequently result in tension and territorialism between various groups.

**Education:** Also the level of education, which is somehow related to the type of jobs or professions, shares in shaping the character of the users, their belonging to a certain social class, their perception about their present, and their vision about their future. A question could be raised here: how far can the desire to reach a relatively high level of education and/or to sustain a certain prestigious job affect the behaviour and social aspiration of IA residents?

**Self perception:** The community’s perception about itself and its role in the regional context plays a crucial role in shaping the community’s capacity to share in the development process. These perceptions are frequently shaped by different factors such as the intensity of contact between the informal community and nearby formal settlements. The question arises: In how far does the way inhabitants of IAs are perceived and often stigmatised (Shehaye 2009) by formal inhabitants affect their behaviours?
These factors could be reflected in residents’ Behavioural Patterns, which are the ways residents act, react and behave according to their culture, which shapes the built environment. The usage of open space is one means by which cultural specificities manifest themselves in physical space. It is assumed that activities in these areas are an extension of indoor activities, workshops, restaurants or even a living room. Outdoor activities also depend on and help to shape the usage of the physical environment. In Ezzbet El Nasr, males and females have different types of outdoor activities.

This context raises some questions: is this behaviour due to certain concepts and traditions rooted in their culture of origin? Or is it only due to the lack of space?

Studying cultural aspects of informal settlements also demands a critical assessment and reflection of the work of various academic disciplines and schools. The academic debate about the relevance of culture to urban development is grounded in several disciplines, mainly “Urban Sociology”, “Urban Anthropology”, “Cultural Studies” and “Environmental Psychology”.

Anthropology is the origin of most of the mentioned disciplines, and understanding cultural factors was based on theories derived from extensive fieldwork by anthropologists like Edward Hall (Hall 1966). Environmental Behavioural Studies (EBS) is also a discipline involved in investigating the relation between culture and space in urban context. According to Rapaport, built environment is usefully conceptualised as the organisation of space, time, meaning, and communication (Rapaport 1986). Park in his theory of “Human Ecology” assumes that the human community consists of a population and a culture (Park 1936), Luis Wirth (1938) in his article: “Urbanism as a Way of Life” agrees with Park’s concept of the city as “mosaic social worlds”. Wolfgang refers to the importance of social networks, and believes that spatial opportunities alone are not sufficient (Wolfgang 1986, pp.64).

Hence, crossing through theories and methods of those different interrelated disciplines, and using their various techniques could benefit the understanding of residents’ culture in the research field of IA development. However, it must be remarked that the study of cultural aspects in urban development of informal areas needs further research linking between theories and empirical practice. The preliminary findings of this section guide the way to further investigation that will be conducted in the PhD project of the author.
7 ANNEX
7.1 Professional Profiles

Abakisi Lincoln Brown, Ghana.
Urban Planner. Project Manager, Solid Waste Landfill.

Altami Chrysani Arasty, Indonesia.
Bachelor of Psychology, Communication Expert for Environmental and Climate Change project (SFF - GTZ, Indonesia), experienced in cross-cultural studies, relevant experience in administrative affairs of National Development Planning.

Ana Isabel Ruiz Remolina, Mexico.
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