

How do the urban '*poor*' access land?

- understanding informal land delivery processes and power dynamics -

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structure of the presentation

context:

snapshots of squatter settlements in Kathmandu Valley

theory:

defining '*access*'

stories of '*starters*':

riverside squatter settlement I

non riverside squatter settlement II

non riverside squatter settlement III

reflections

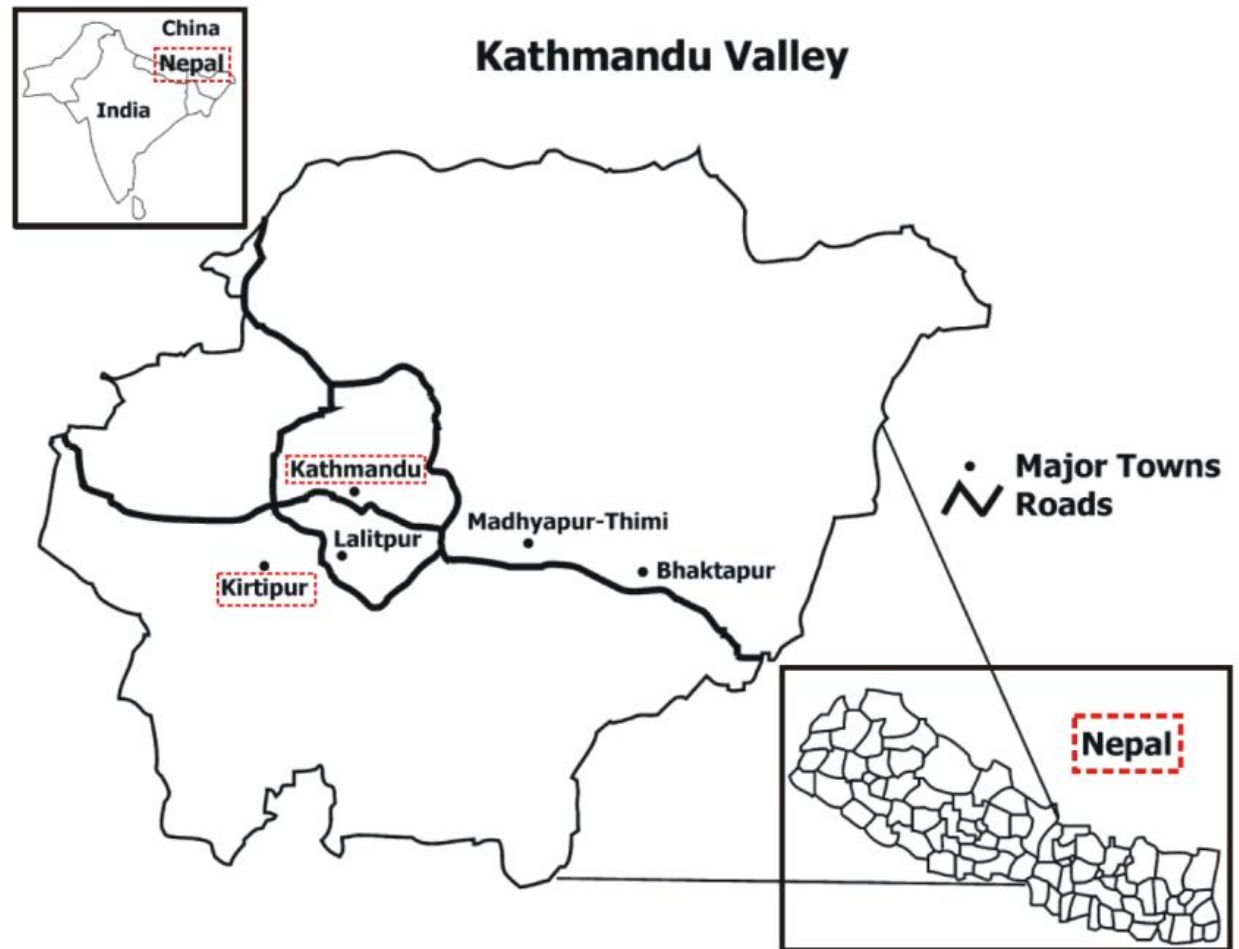
context:

Population of Nepal: **26 million**

Population of Kathmandu: **1.7 million**

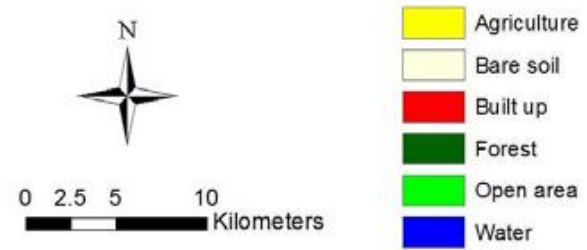
Urban growth rate: **17 percent**

Source: Census 2011

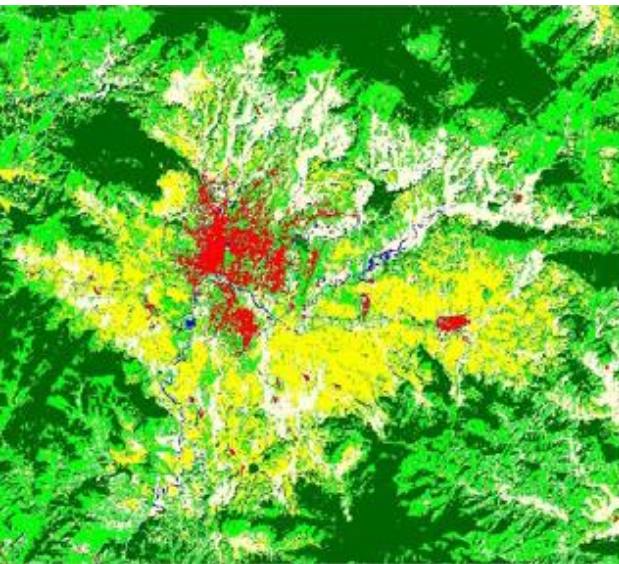


Location of Nepal and its capital Kathmandu Valley Source: Pradhan (2004)

context:



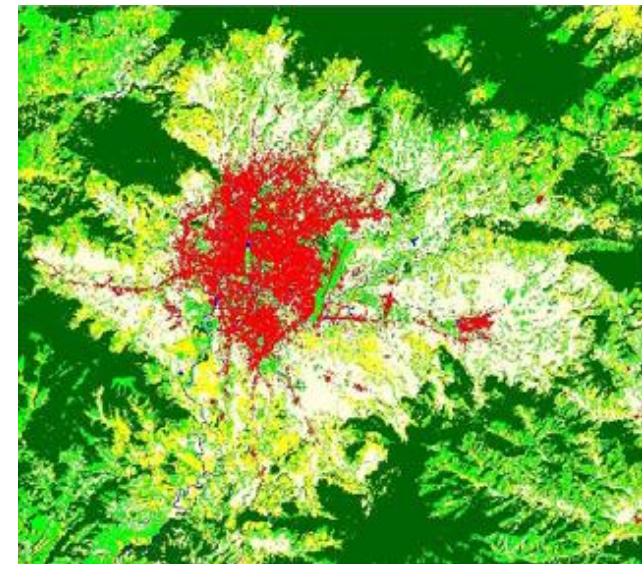
Urban growth in Kathmandu Valley
Source: Bhandari (2010)



1989



1999



2009

...there are at present **53** squatter settlements
in Kathmandu Valley: **35** riverside
and **18** non riverside (DUDBC, 2010)

context:

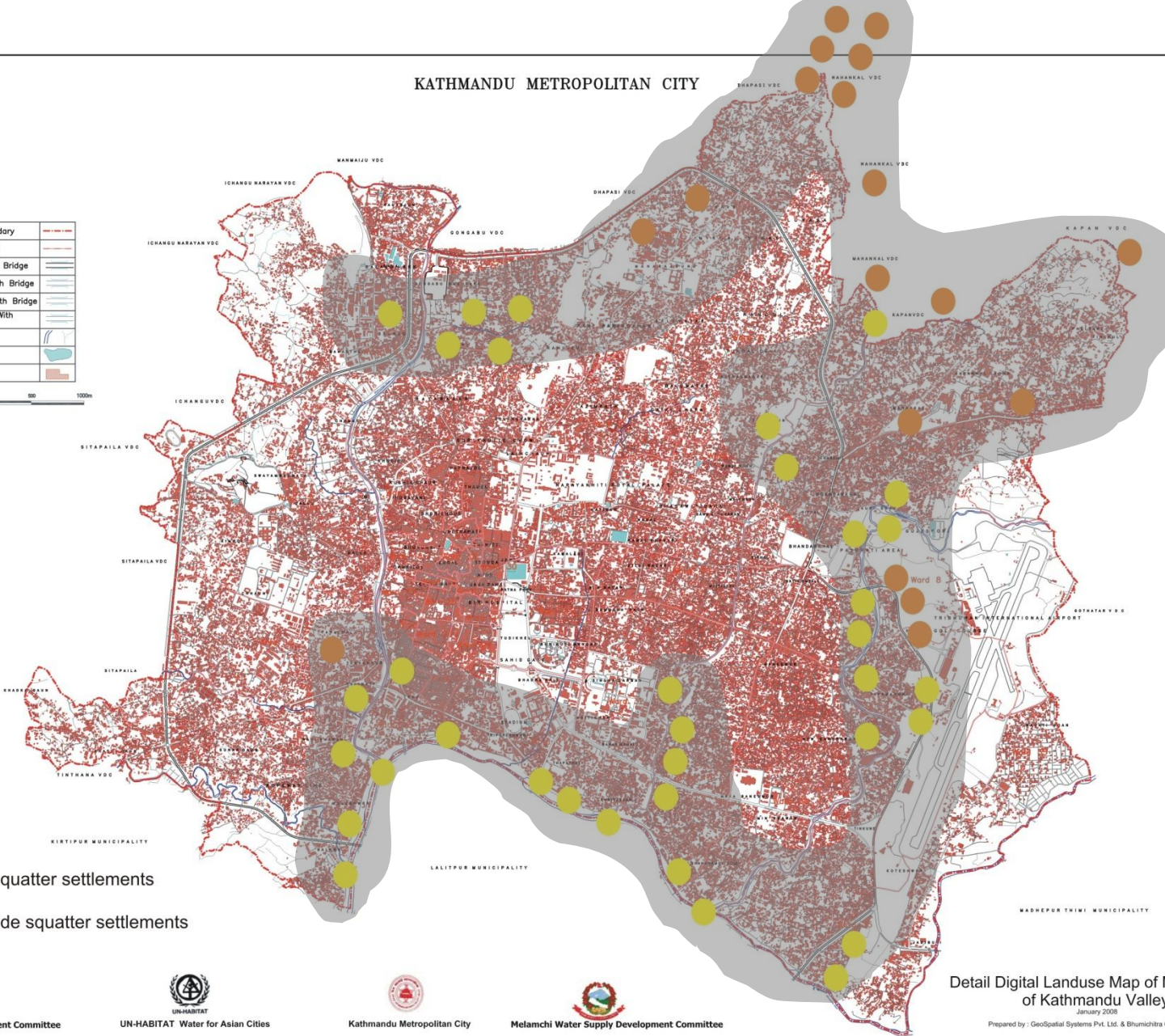
snapshots of squatter settlements in Kathmandu Valley

KATHMANDU METROPOLITAN CITY



LEGEND

Municipal Boundary	
Ward Boundary	
Ring road With Bridge	
Metal Road With Bridge	
Gravel Road With Bridge	
Earthen Road With Bridge	
River, Stream	
Pond, Lake	
Building	



- 35 riverside squatter settlements
- 18 non riverside squatter settlements



Kathmandu Valley Town Development Committee



UN-HABITAT Water for Asian Cities



Kathmandu Metropolitan City



Melanchi Water Supply Development Committee

Detail Digital Landuse Map of Municipalities of Kathmandu Valley

January 2008
Prepared by : GeoSpatial Systems Pvt. Ltd. & Bhumichitra Co. Pvt. Ltd. (JV)



riverside



non riverside

theory:
defining **access**

'a c c e s s'...

is defined as the **right** to use or benefit from resource like **land**

- rights given by law (***de jure***)
- rights by practice based on understanding or tradition (***de facto***)

is also regarded as a "**bundle of rights**" (Riddell, 1987)

each rights in the bundle will have at least three dimensions
- ***people, time*** and ***space*** -

is also defined as "**options and opportunities**" to benefit from, or use,
the resource which people value (Bruce, 1989)

in the context of Nepal

...land underpins all social, economic and political development of a person or a household (Adhikari, 2010)

Therefore, **access to land** is very limited, especially in urban areas

De Jure land rights

De Facto land rights

Landless

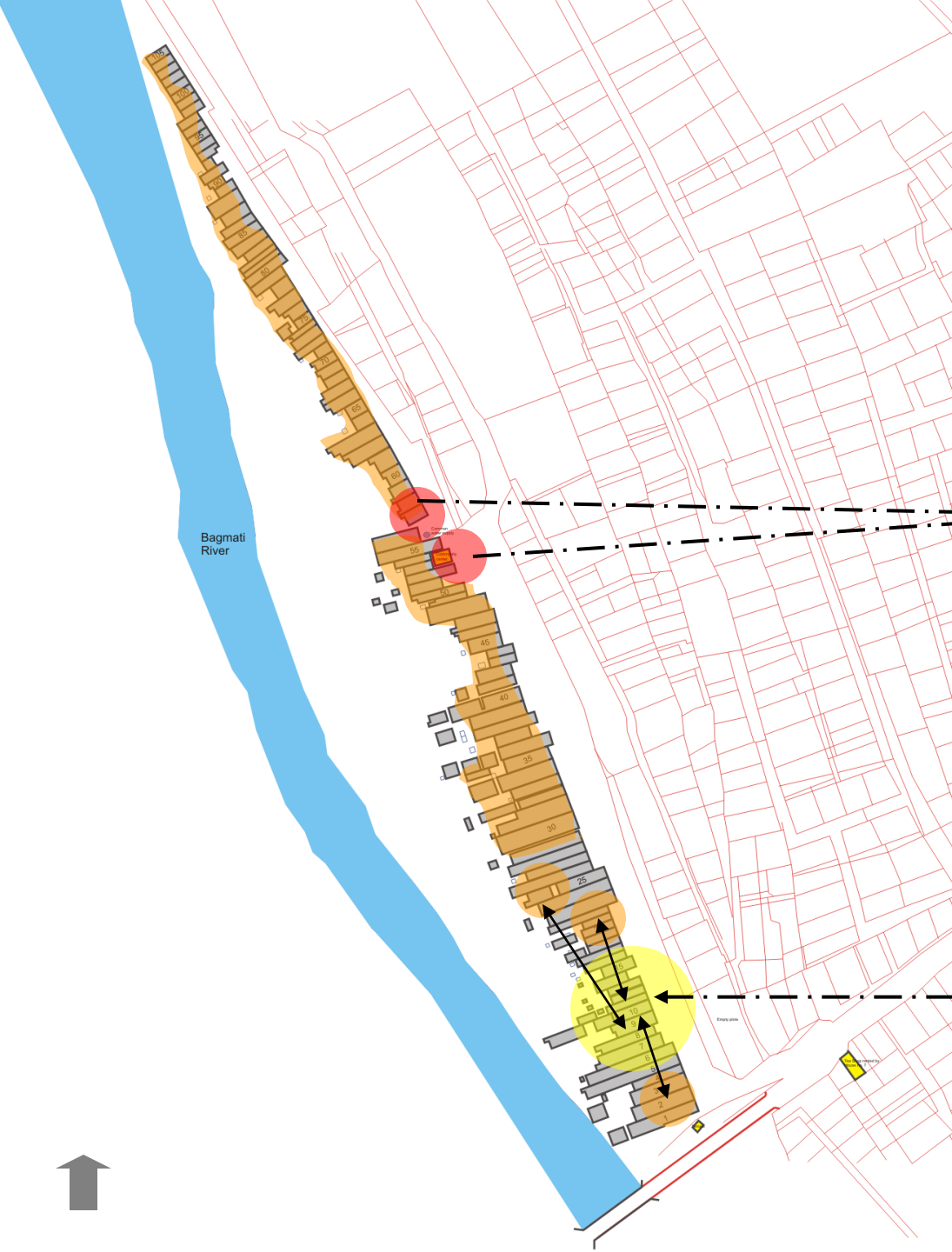
...I see *planning as performed story*:
in process,
in foundational stories,
in stories as catalyst for change,
in **policy** and finally
in **academic stories**,
as **method**, as **explanation** and as **critique**
(Sandercock, 2003)

stories of 'starters':

riverside squatter settlement I

non riverside squatter settlement II

non riverside squatter settlement III



Bagmati River

● Provided by local NGO - Lumanti

'access' to land

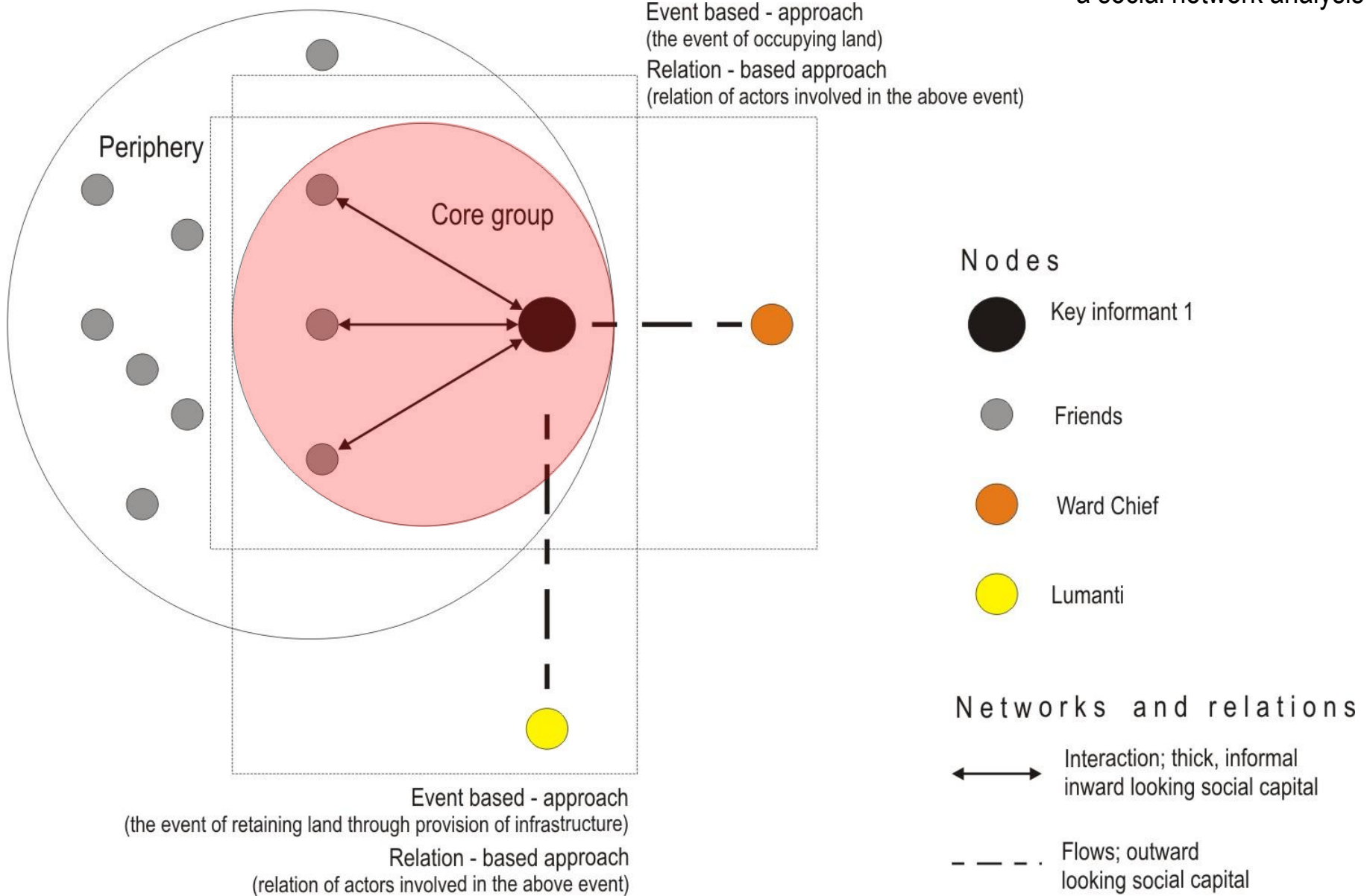
- *initial occupancy of land*
- *retaining land through provision of infrastructure*

● Ward Chief

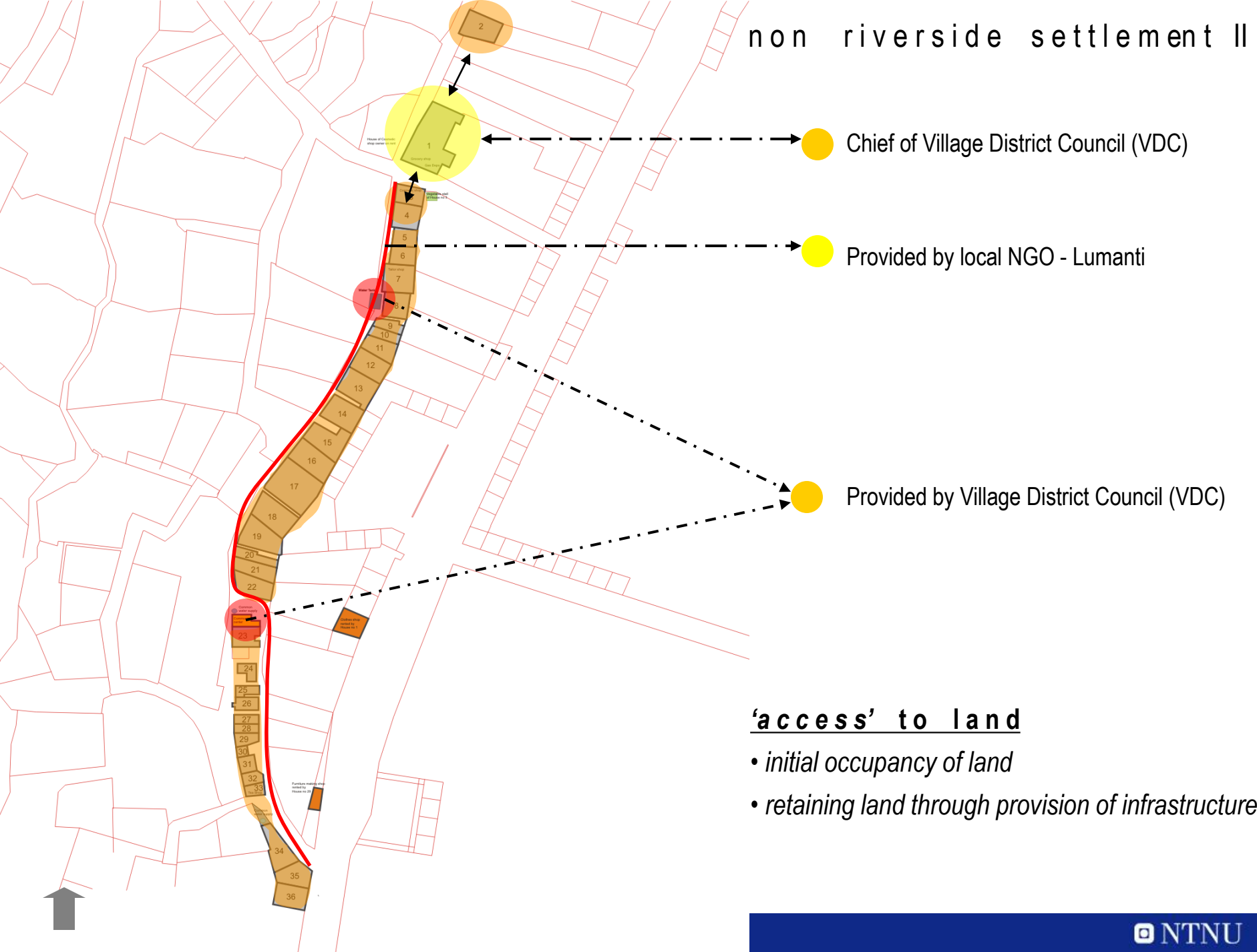


informal land delivery processes

a social network analysis



non riverside settlement II



● Chief of Village District Council (VDC)

● Provided by local NGO - Lumanti

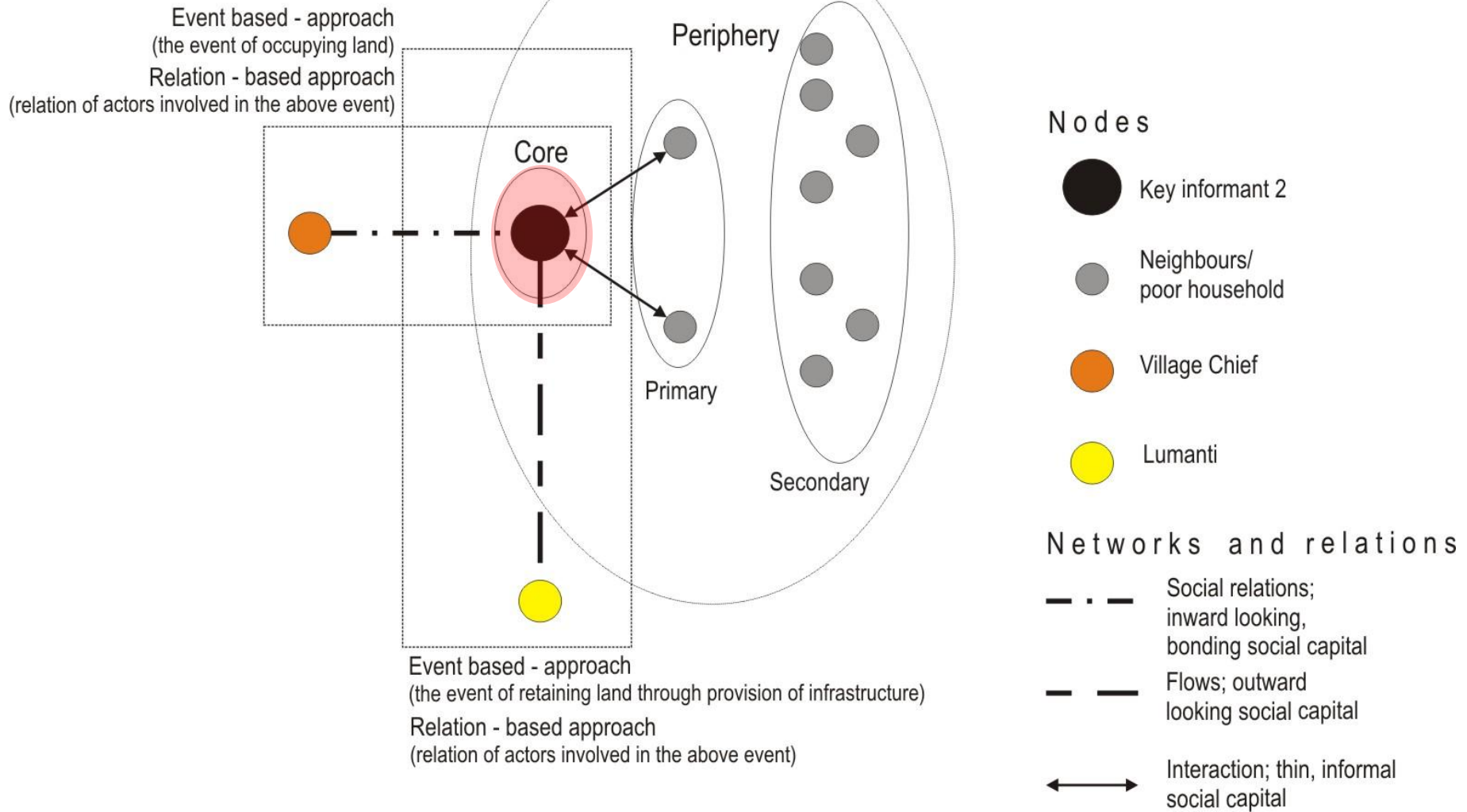
● Provided by Village District Council (VDC)

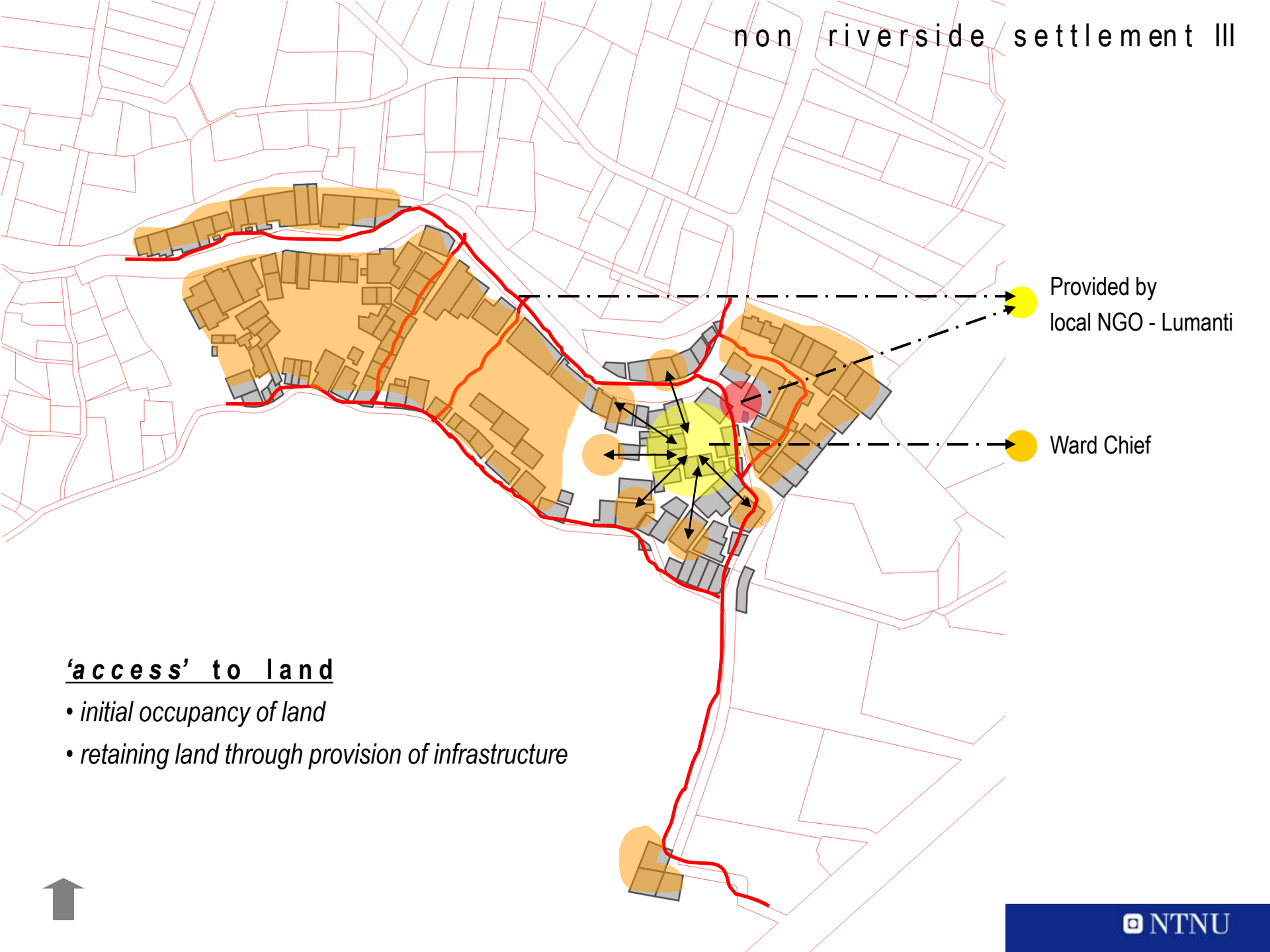
'access' to land

- *initial occupancy of land*
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informal land delivery processes

a social network analysis





Provided by
local NGO - Lumanti

Ward Chief

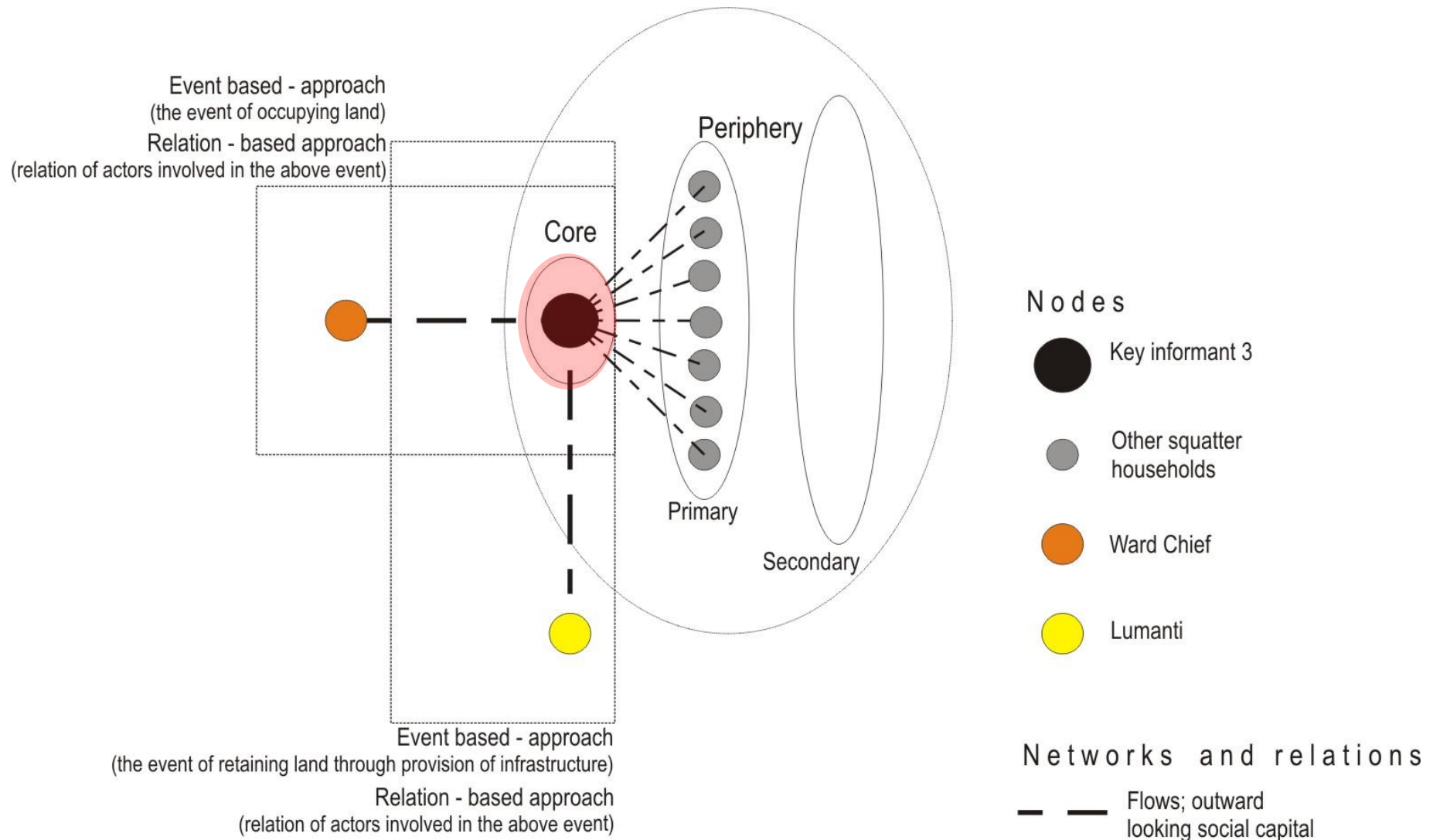
'access' to land

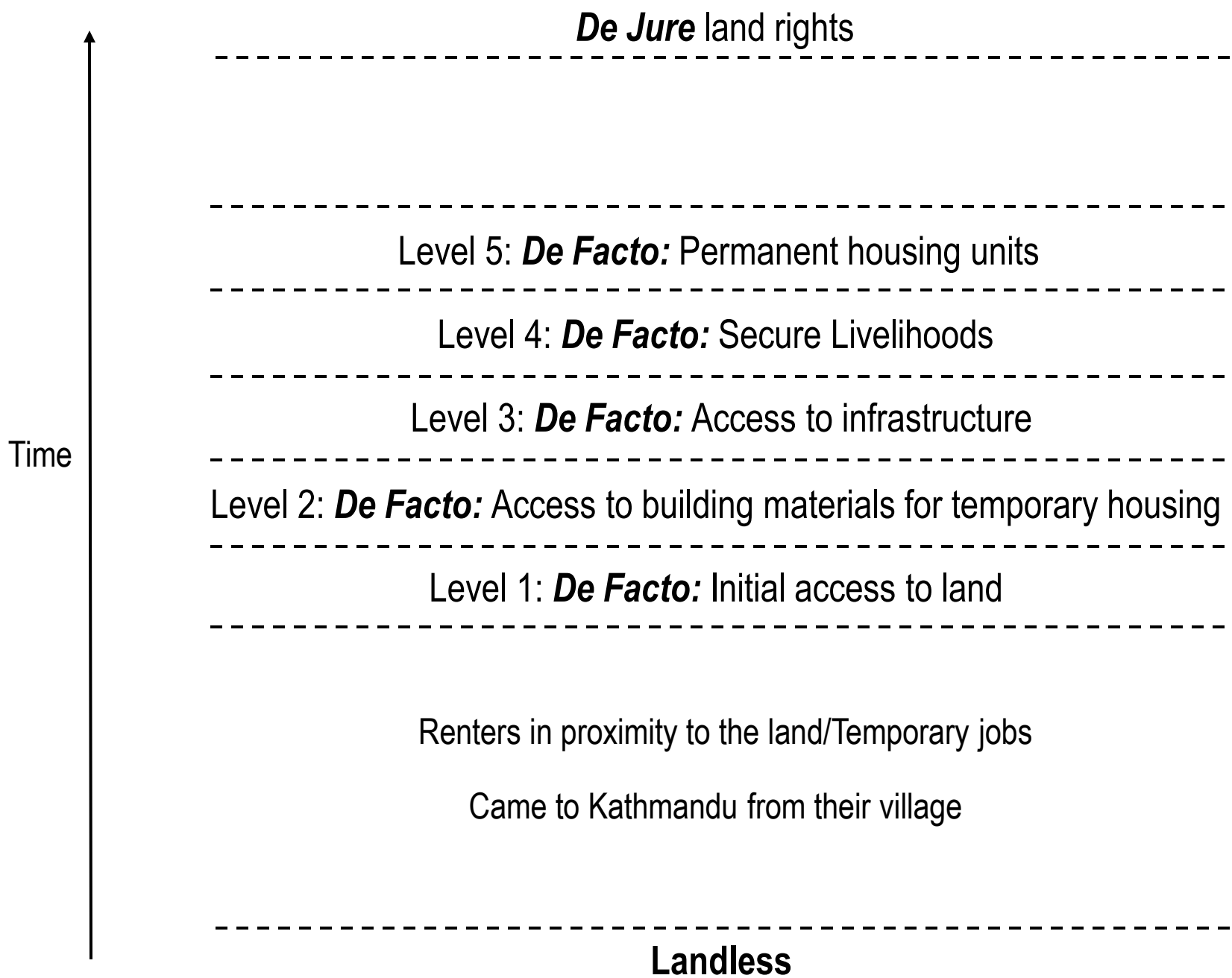
- *initial occupancy of land*
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informal land delivery processes

a social network analysis





synthesis of findings

formation of *cohesive* groups or communities

formation of various *positions* during the formation of this group

core group members are *gatekeepers* of the settlement

power lies with core group members

How do the urban '**poor**' access land?

the definition of urban 'poverty' is relative even in squatter settlements

urban 'poor' are not a homogeneous group rather a diverse sets of households:
starter households, old households, new households and renters

Not all of these can be categorized as 'poor'

...networks are relational links
through which people can obtain access to
material resources, knowledge
and **power** (Hillier, 1999)

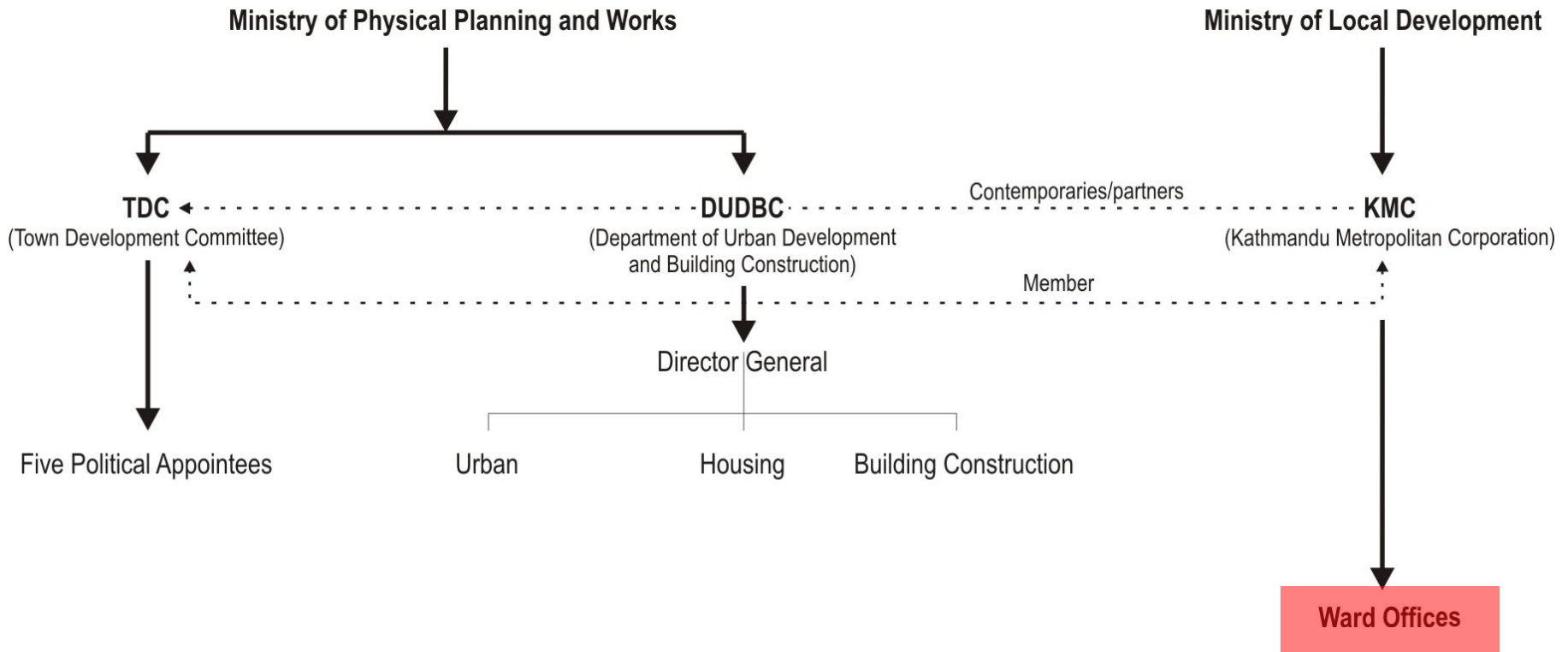
reflections

How do the urban 'poor' access land?

'access' to land

initial occupancy of land → ● Ward Office Chief / VDC Chief

retaining land through provision of infrastructure → ● Lumanti – a local NGO



There is no doubt that the livelihoods of the urban poor are deeply affected by how cities are governed and managed (Devas, 2002)



...in times of crisis these external networks especially with NGOs become stronger

however one must not overlook the internal power structures that already exist within each of these urban poor squatter settlements

otherwise one may often
“privilege the already privileged”