Describe your idea with one concise sentence.

Organize and capacitate urban slum dwellers of Dhaka city to prepare themselves in order to avoid the occurrence of fire hazard as well as act as first line of response during incidence of fire.

Draw and describe the ideal user

Title: Urban slum dwellers

Name: Rahima, Sontu, Sobhan, Sarifa
Age: 29, 24, 30, 22
Profession: Housewife and Day labourer
Any Other Key characteristics: All are residents of Korail slum

Concisely describe what is happening

Absence and ineffectiveness of fire hazard preparedness mechanism make urban slum dwellers vulnerable to incidents of fire. Electrical short circuit, mosquito coils, kitchen stoves, burning waste materials were identified as potential source of fire hazard. Professional fire fighters find it difficult to take immediate actions for reducing the risk due to communication gap with the community and deficiency of proper infrastructure.
Title: Community prepares their own risk map and identifies causes of fire hazard.

Through a participatory process slum dwellers are preparing their slum’s risk map. They are identifying the potential source of fire as well as the potential resources for mitigating and fighting fire. They will come up with their strength, weakness, opportunity and threat (SWOT) regarding this issue.

Title: Community prepares action plan to address identified fire risks.

Based on the fire hazard risk map and SWOT analysis the community will prepare an action plan to eradicate the root causes of fire and the immediate steps to take as first responders during the occurrence of fire. They may come up with forming community groups, marking emergency escape routes as well as infrastructural measure to avoid fire.
Concisely describe what is happening

Rahima, Sontu, Sobhan along with other community member find out the most appropriate (safest and quickest) escape route in terms of accessibility and road width with technical support from the Bangladesh Fire Service and Civil Defence. They will also mark the route and keep it clear of any obstacles at all time through the assistance of voluntary community groups.

Title: Community identified the safest and quickest exit/escape routes in case of fire.

Concisely describe what is happening

As per action plan voluntary community groups with representation from different age, sex and occupational groups are formed. These groups will act as a focal point to communicate with Bangladesh Fire Service and Civil Defence in case of fire. They will also act for community based activities like keeping the escape route obstacle free all the time ensuring community vigilance.

Title: Representative community groups are formed.
Concisely describe what is happening

Prepared community to avoid the occurrence of fire

Based on the identified reasons for fire, members of the community are taking collective action as a risk mitigation measure. It will vary from slum to slum but can be in the following aspect:

- Identify risky cooking facilities and build fire-prone shared cooking facilities.
- Prohibit waste burning place inside the slums.
- Placing all electric wire in the slum above human height.

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Concisely describe what is happening

Partnership Building with public body and local businessman

Slum dwellers establish a functional relationship with Bangladesh Fire Service and Civil Defense (BFSCD). BFSCD will provide technical support to slum dwellers including training while slum dwellers will inform and assist them during any fire incident. Slum dwellers also established a good relationship with the local businessman for avoiding the storage of hazardous and fire-prone material in close proximity of the slums.
Mitigating fire risk by infrastructure development

Rahima, Sontu, Sobhan, Sharifa putting at least one bucket of sand and one bucket of water in front of their house. And they also encourage other household member of the community to keep this two bucket of water and sand as precautionary measures for fire. They also take a collective action either to identify potential water source or build a water reservoir within the close proximity of slums. As a community they are putting some fire extinguisher evenly throughout the slums at some convenient place that is accessible by all.

Capacity building training of slum dwellers

Rahima, Sontu, Sobhan, Sharifa participating in the awareness and capacity building training organized by BRAC and Bangladesh Fire service and Civil Defense. This training gives them awareness on:

- What are the potential consequences of fire breakout both in terms of life loss and property damage?
- When the fire is likely to happen and how it spreads?
- How it can be avoided and who can be the actors?
Fire Hazard risk of urban slums has been reduced.

Urban slum dwellers are now aware about their potential risk of fire hazard and equipped with appropriate firefighting mechanism.

Moreover, the community volunteer groups will act as a vigilance team to uphold the action taken by community members even after the completion of this project.