Upgrading wet slums with floating developments

The City Apps Foundation goal is to upgrade the living conditions on large scale of waterfront slums with small scale instant solutions.
UPGRADING WETSLUMS WITH FLOATING DEVELOPMENTS

PROBLEM DESCRIPTION
One billion people live in slums, most of them close to open water. These locations are the most vulnerable to floods and sea level rise.

Recent large scale initiatives involving upgrading of slums all have to deal with the following problems:
* lack of space for implementing new developments
* a very long response time for new initiatives
* lack of banking comfort and investing security for local banks and local entrepreneurs
* opposition from local municipalities for upgrading projects with a permanent visual character.

OUR GOAL
The City Apps Foundation, Leasing floating facilities to local businesses / organizations to stimulate and upgrade the conditions of people living in slums while ensuring local commitment and a sustainable business model.

WHAT IS THE CITY APP APPROACH
Comparable to adjusting your smart phone with apps according to your changing needs the functionality in a slum can be adjusted by adding functions with City Apps.

City Apps are floating developments based on a standard sea-freight container. They can be added to a slum using the space on water. Because of their flexibility and small size they are very suitable for installing and upgrading sanitation, housing and communication. City Apps have the ability to influence growth of new slums. This makes City Apps a growth planning tool for municipalities.

With Floating City Apps a new approach to slums can be started:
* No need for space on land but using available space on water.
* No static but flexible solutions which are adjustable and are re-usable.
* No planning of new projects but implementing replicable products.
* Not donating money or goods but investing in slums
* No time consuming procedures but effective instant solutions
* No Top down overall solution for a slum, but bottom up small scale answers to needs for a targeted group of clients

SUPPORT
We work with the proven effectiveness of the network of IHE UNESCO which has hydraulic engineers all over the world. These local advisors open the road to long lasting partnerships with local NGO’s, Universities embassies and local politicians.

HOW DOES IT WORK
First slums are mapped and local problems are related to water potential in these slums. Fund raising is done in order to build the City Apps with the best impact or effect on the client groups. With help of our network, a local manager or entrepreneur is selected who leases the App at an affordable price from the foundation. The City App will be transported from The Netherlands to the slum. Locally the floating foundation is built from collected used PET bottles supported by a steel frame. The Floating City App is placed on the function a business model for payed use of the Floating City App is executed in order to get a Return On Investment for the investors. In case of any change in situation the City Apps can be reused relocated or sent back to Holland. It remains its value.
Bringing a FLEXIBLE & DUPLICABLE Solution
Floating City Apps are made of standard 20 foot containers (6 m x 2.5 m) on a floating foundation and can have different functions, i.e. health care, community kitchen, sanitation, garbage collection, or communication.
One of the Floating City Apps is the Communication App. Built with 20 tablets and 2 TV screens, the Communication App will serve as a social and educational platform which connects slum inhabitants to the internet.
The construction of the City App is simple and affordable. A standard 20 ft. container is placed on a floating foundation made of a steel structure with PET bottles inside. Solar panels on the roof provide energy to run the App. A prefab wall unit holds the technological equipment inside the container.
The first built City App is the Communication App. With 20 tablets and 2 tv screens it will offer slum inhabitants modern technologies and help them to get access to the rest of the world. The outside will still look like a shipping container, the inside looks like a high tech E-learning centre.
INSTANTLY UPGRADING LIFE OF THE POOREST