LOCAL CHALLENGE PROJECT 2020: Accelerating the SDGs

RUBBISH KITAVA – NEW KITAVA
ALOTAU, MILNE BAY PROVINCE, PAPUA NEW GUINEA

PROJECT OVERVIEW
The slum New Kitava, formerly 'Rubbish' Kitava is located on the outskirts of Aotau, Milne Bay Province, Papua New Guinea. 250-300 migrants from the south pacific Trobiand Islands live here in self-built shanties, made out of rubbish and bush materials. The community struggles with unemployment and poverty, insufficient hygiene and crime. Due to migration, gangs of young men, so-called rascals, threaten people in Aotau. Lately there have been an increasing number of armed hold-ups and assaults.

In 2018, one of these gangs was chased by special Papua New Guinea police forces, but the rascals escaped through the New Kitava settlement into the surrounding forest. Frustrated policemen started to bully the settlers and the situation escalated. In a severe act of ‘police terrorism’, 18 houses were burned down. A woman was shot and one child died in the flames.

The Catholic Diocese of Aotau started an initiative to help the victims with first aid, food, tents and blankets. In discussion with the community, the urgent needs and wishes of the settlers have been captured. The new urban development project – New Kitava – is the result of this Participatory Action Research.

URBAN DEVELOPMENT
Small archetype houses in local building technique (on high posts) are correlating with each other to create an interesting residential environment. Within a grid of similar lots, always the same house is always placed turned to his neighbors and form an interesting outdoor space/pattern. There is a hierarchy of streets, alleys and public spaces and facilities. Two bigger interventions, a community shower and ecological composting toilet (including a composting yard, to end open defecation and provide access to sanitation and hygiene) and a community research centre complement the grid and complete the urban development both functionally and aesthetically.

Each house should have its own rainwater supply to ensure safe and affordable drinking water for the settlers. Existing rainforest trees (which survived the fire) are integrated into the urban design.