**Impact Interview Transcription Family 4**

Interviewees: Philip [P]

Evelyne [E]

Interviewer: Michiel Smits [MS]

Observer: Beata Duda [BD]

Social Worker: Geoffrey Ngeywo [GN]

MS: I am going to conduct an interview with you to get to know your new housing situation. You are the Onyapidi family, living in the village of Sokomjinge and for the purpose of our research you have been given family number 4, applicant number4.

This interview is voluntary, will take approximately 1,5 hour and can be stopped by you at all time. If you have any questions or uncertainties you are welcome to address them during the interview. Just like before I have written the questions down and printed them to be precise and accurate also between different families, so I’m able to compare the answers. I know that it might feel a little bit impersonal but it’s important to be accurate.

Your family has applied for the rural housing studio project, which has helped you to build a new house for your family. By signing the contract you had committed your family to the project and were you able to abandon the project at all time. This project is a part of my research at the Delft University of Technology in The Netherlands, that aims at helping rural families to build houses, which would increase the level of family’s self-reliance (so the independence from the help they receive). Although we have helped you to construct a new house, we intended to make you independent from external labour and help. In this way you would be able to maintain, extend or replicate your house by yourself. This interview is meant to understand how did you build your house, to what extent did you do it yourself, with the help of the community or with hired labour. We are curious if you are more self-reliant with regard to your housing situation after the team has left.

Do you have any questions before the start?

P: No.

MS: OK. We are starting with some general, opening questions, just to see where we’re at. How do you think the project went?

P: The project went very nicely, because with this short period, actually I didn’t see any challenge. Although I was not well prepared on the side of finance and at times it kept me moving up and down, and it was not fully with them day to day. Yeah, that was only the challenge I think.

MS: But it was also on a short notice.

P: Yeah, but things really moved nicely and I really appreciate it.

MS: Are you happy with the help you got?

P: Very, very much! Very much.

*[MS smiles]*

MS: Are you happy with the team you worked with?

P: Very happy!

*[Interruption, Robert, community member that comes and helps comes in, everybody greets him and Philip offers him tea]*

MS: Was the project what you have expected?

P: The project? Come up again?

MS: This is the question: was the project what you expected out of it? So if you see now what was realised in the time that the team was here, does it meet your expectations?

P: No really. The project really, the way we wished to put up the house, that’s exactly how it is, so the project was just good.

MS: OK.

P: Because it really met our desire to construct, of constructing a house and that’s the plan really we wanted. Jackson and Maud *[team members]* complied. Though the other time that they came...

MS: There was some deliberation as I understood *[chuckles].*

P: Yeah. Our children were the ones who lamented, very harshly and said: “they want to abandon us, we are not participants”, then we said no, let’s talk with the visitors and then we shall brief you how it’ll go. “Now you see, the decision you have come up with it’s no pleasing us”, then we said: “OK, what would you want?” “We wanted to dig everything, we wanted our house to look like Icaruses house *[local, burnt brick house]*, so now, we really don’t understand this plan that you are coming up with”. We said: “OK”, then when Jackson came we sat down, we told them. They didn’t appreciate *[chuckles]* but actually accepted and we moved on.

So we are very happy.

**Question 1,** MS: Good!  Do you have a new house, Philip?

P: For now I can say I have a new house although it’s not complete, but it is in process.

*[Everybody chuckles]*

**Question 2,** MS: And what isn’t finished yet?

P: Hm, now, everything is not finished, although we have started the foundation of which we believe in few years, one or two years we shall be completing it.

**Question 2a,** MS: And why isn’t it finished in your point of view?

P: Oh, well, the time, because we only had 3 weeks, I think so, and 3 week with that big house we couldn’t finish really, so, that was the challenge. And I know if it was just something little we could’ve finished, but because we wanted a big house, that can accommodate us with the visitors, that’s why it just taken that time and we appreciate it.

MS: So mainly the time?

P: Yeah.

MS: The time was the crucial factor. How much time do you need to finish the house, do you think? You’ve already said something about years...

P: This we said, by the end of next year we shall have completed it.

MS: Mhm. And then you mean the whole *[house has been designed in 3 stages]* house?

P: The whole house.

MS: And what about this first phase, the first part?

P: First part, we have just thought of coming up with everything, so that... Because if we come with the first phase, maybe roofing might be a challenge, so we really wanted to come up with everything, so that roofing would be easier.

MS: OK.

BD: And you will have the space to store the brick?

P: Yeah. We have a store, in fact we want to arrange the store so that we shall store the bricks, but when we get, when we see we are about 2200 bricks, we call fundi to go ahead.

BD: To start?

P: Yeah, so we move.

**Question 2c,** MS: Do you have the knowledge/skills to finish it by yourself?

P: Yeah. As I just told you, because Maud instructed me, I saw, for now I have the knowledge. Even if the fundi will not come I still have the knowledge on how to construct. In fact that’s why I’m saying if you’d be telling you’re going to come, you will get me when I’m moving on.

**Question 2c1,** MS: And will you need to hire labour? Because you were referring to a fundi.

P: Maybe because... Maybe one or two to help, because I cannot do it by myself, but maybe to get one or two to assist, yeah.

**Question 2c2,** MS: And do you expect any community members to help?

P: Not really, because, now so many people are engaged in their work and you find it difficult. Because somebody accepting to come and help maybe when he’s free, but now people are very engaged in their work, especially in their farm, so getting somebody is not easy.

MS: Yeah.

P: Maybe they will be free around August; they will be free until October, when they now starting stating their maize and November they will be harvesting it, so maybe again December they can be free. Of which if you want to go ahead with your work, if you depend on the community it might delay your work, so... I can move on, if I need assistance, I hire one person to come out and help me, we move ahead.

MS: OK.

P: Yeah.

**Question 2d,** MS: Do you have the means to finish the house?

P: Of course, yeah, that’s why we’ve already put on now the strategy, when we are ending the 2017 year at 31 we had a fellowship with our family, children, and this project is number 2 for this year. Number 1 is, the project number one is to send our children to school, number two is this one, number three the farm. So we have 3 projects this year, we are intending to do. And that is school, building and the farm.

MS: So you would say the means are limited to the house, because it has second priority, so...

P: Yeah, yeah.

MS: First the school fees, then whatever is leftover that will be used on the house?

P: Yes.

**Question 2e,** MS: Are you going to finish the house?

P: Yeah, of course

*[Laughing]*

MS: What is the size of the new house?

P: The size of my new house actually it is 11 by almost 14.

MS: That’s a really big house. How many rooms does the new house have?

P: About 5.

MS: And what type of function do those rooms have?

P: One is sitting room, sitting room connected with dining, and then we have two bedrooms for visitors, one bedroom for children and one mine.

MS: Sawa *[“OK” in Kiswahili]*

P: And there’s small kitchen inside in the room.

**Question 3,** MS: Are you keeping this house?

P: Yeah.

MS: This one *[pointing at the current house]*?

P: No, this one after completing the other one, I will demolish this one.

MS: Sawa. So until that is being built, this is one is here.

P: Yeah.

**Question 6,** MS: Is the house large enough for the whole family?

P: Yeah, That one is enough. For my family and visitors.

**Question 7,** MS: And how did you finance your house? Did you use savings, loan or both?

P: No actually the house it was little money that I saved since last time, so I was intending to use that money to open a business, but...

MS: Other priorities came in.

P: When we got that priority we left aside the business, and we said ok, we can come up with a project, because it is what we really want. In fact there is somebody who we engaged to assist us with some money, so that we can refund him after 2 years, so when we were doing the application, we thought let us prepare ourselves, because if we’ll be among the four, then it should not get us in surprise, so we talked with the man, we accepted. Said we will do that. So when we got a letter that we are not among the beneficiaries, it is unfortunate that we were not among the beneficiaries, so...

MS: That loan was abandoned.

P: So that man took that money and bought things he needed to buy.

MS: OK.

P: That man is in Nairobi.

MS: OK.

P: So when you called us and you came, we tried to call you, and you said, “Oh I’m very sorry, *[inaudible 3 words 26:49]* I collected some materials, so I have no money right now.

MS: Ah, yeah. So you depended on your savings.

P: The savings that we had, little. Yeah, that is what we used for putting out those foundations.

**Question 8,** MS: OK. What type of the house was built, or will be built? How would you describe that house?

P: I would describe that house as permanent house.

MS: Mhm.

P: Because, it is durable.

MS: And if you look at the material? How would you describe the house?

P: When I look at the material, we have actually used local material, but another different perspective, as we complete, we cannot tell the difference from the permanent house.

MS: But if somebody would be passing by your house, how would he describe the house, if he looks at the material?

P: He will not know, he will just say it another permanent house, because the way the material.. In fact 2 people yesterday came and when they looked at the bricks I was showing them another bricks, the burnt ones [*Philip has bought a stack of those earlier],* we really want this bricks we haven’t burnt, but you see how strong they are [MS smiling]. And when you look on the other one – we took one brick, the other one, the one we made with Maud and Jackson and I took the other. And then I threw it. Yes, I threw it out, this one *[pointing at the mud brick]* it didn’t break, but the other one broke in pieces

MS: Yes.

P: So I said: “Now you see”

MS: Easy at that.

P: The method of making this brick is very easy and this one is costly, but you see, this one is one is not good, because it just breaks. That’s what we are trying to compare this one and the other.

MS: And you consider these to be bricks?

P: Yeah. In fact all our house we are going to construct with this. Maybe we say, the partition, the inside partition, we can use this one [burnt brick]

MS: The weaker one, yes. Mh...

Who decided to build this type of house? Who made the decision to build this house?

P: Whoa, it is now you who came up with that idea, because, we had no idea, we jsut used..

**Question 9,** MS: But we mean this specific type of house, so I came here to see if you would still interested to build a house, but this specific type of house, who made the decision?

P: The decision? The decision it is now, we – I and the family and Maud and Jackson.

**Question 10,** MS: Sawa. And why?

P: Because we are trying to look at the strength that we have and because we say we cannot come up with something which is very expensive, that we cannot afford to do it, but we do it as per our strength.

**Question 11,** MS: Which materials did you use to build the house? I would like to ask you to list from the foundation all the way up to the finishes. So in the foundation, after you excavated the trenches, could you list which materials were used?

P: Wire mesh, that we bought at the cheaper price that the iron y8, it was very expensive, so we used wire mesh, and then we mixed concrete of ballast and ballast and sand and cement, and then hardcore, after putting hardcore, maram, and then the stones

MS: And these are natural stone?

P: Yeah.

MS: What did you use to lay those stones?

P: We used cement and sand, yeah.

MS: And for the floor, do you know what you are going to use?

P: For the floor we are going to use cement, sand and maybe if we get this, the one we can mix, red oxide.

MS: And walls will be made out of?

P: The wall will be made out of bricks, and the mortar we shall mix this soil

MS: So the bricks and the mortar are made out of

P: Soil and sand.

MS: Pokot soil?

P: Pokot, yeah. Pokot soil and sand.

MS: Soil or sand?

P: Sand. Pokot soil and the sand.

BD: And one more thing?

P: Sorry?

BD: One more thing that goes into bricks.

MS: What is the mixture of the bricks?

P: The mix of the bricks?

MS: Mhm.

P: The mic x of the bricks is pokot soil and let me call this dust, saw dust.

MS: There we go *[everyone smiles]* Good.

BD: Roof?

P: Roof we shall just buy. By that time we shall see also our strength, if we are in the position we shall put gall sheets.

MS: OK.

P: But if we cannot be in the position of buying the gall sheets we just use this normal one, mabati.

MS: And as the construction, what are you going to use?

P: We are going to use just timber, yeah.

MS: Are there any finishes on the wall inside or outside?

P: Yeah, of course we shall at least do this *[plastering].* We shall use cement and soil to smoothen the wall.

MS: And the doors and windows?

P: The doors and windows also we agreed with my wife if we are not in the position, we can first put first of all wood windows and doors, but sometimes we shall come and put this steel windows and doors. But if we are in the position of putting directly steel doors and windows we shall do so.

BD: Even inside?

P: No, inside no. Inside we shall just use this hardwood to make doors for the inside. But the main door and windows we shall see, we shall use steel.

**Question 12,** MS: OK. Who decided to use these materials?

P: Sorry?

MS: Who decided to use these materials?

P: It is I with the family. We talk, we see it, and we negotiate. And then we see our strength and we come up with the decision.

**Question 13,** MS: Why was it decided to use these materials?

*[B and MS are doubting, the question was already answered]*

P: These, the materials. Actually at first we had no idea, but after doing research with Maud and Jackson then we saw, it is good, it is cheaper and good material. But before my wife was saying: “I wish could use these burnt bricks’”. And I said to my wife: “OK, let’s be patient, let us see what they are doing, then we shall do the comparison, so that we can see which one is better.” The decision is ours. Let them do and see. But it’s sad, they finish until we set this example here, everybody [incomprehensible word 36:27] that, said: “if these can make very strong wall like this – then we should we go for this and this things?” And we were here yesterday with two men, my wife was also there and we were doing experiment, we took one brick from there *[pointing at the stack of the mud bricks]* and one brick - the bad one [pointing at the stack of burnt bricks, then we threw up.

MS: And just dropped them, yeah.

P: This one didn’t break, the other one broke into two. Now we say, we see how we came up with the decision. So through learning, now we are getting the knowledge of on how to construct, yeah.

**Question 14,** MS: The materials that you’ve just listed before are these materials locally available?

P: Yeah. A few just maybe cement and wire mesh we bought, but rest is just available.

MS: OK, so the cement and for the wire you needed transport to get them here?

P: Yeah.

MS: What about the Pokot soil?

P: Pokot soil we also used transport, but it was not so costly.

MS: And the stones?

P: Stones we just kept around here *[family had some materials ready]*

MS: And the ballast?

P: Ballast, we had that one before. We got it at NAI farm. It’s not very far.

MS: And what about timber?

P: Timber, we have our own.

MS: And the saw dust that you use inside the bricks?

P: Saw dust, we just pick at Musa’s place *[shop at the main road, 5 minute walk].* It is just free, because, they just burn it. In fact they appreciate we take it, because it is not of any use there.

MS: And what about the sand?

P: The sand we have probably bought from Pokot, so time back. It was 6000 per 7tons.

**Question 16,** MS: We would like to know if you consider the materials to be expensive or cheap. So we are just going to go through different materials and based on the price is up to you to decide it’s either: very cheap, cheap, affordable, expensive or very expensive. So when we are talking about maram, for instance, do you consider it very cheap, cheap, affordable, expensive or very expensive?

P: I could say maram was somehow very cheap, because this maram I only paid 2000 shillings.

MS: What about the hardcore?

P: Hardcore, I paid 2500, because of labour. Yeah.

MS: And you consider this to be?

P: At least it is cheap because..., yeah.

MS: And the sand?

P: Sand is a bit higher.

MS: Affordable, expensive or very expensive?

P: No, it is really affordable. Because this sand now, we only paid 1200, though actually it has taken time, until I was using it. But I see if you order for sand, for 15 tons, you can push and push and maybe in fact there is somebody who has given me sand, “you can come and have this sand, I have no use for it, so I see this is affordable. There are not very expensive, or cheap. If a friend says, “If you have any means, come and pick it” So for the trip we pay you 2000 in sand.

MS: And what about the ballast?

P: Ballast is now... You have to go to *[incomprehensible word 41:46]* where these people are making, because we don’t go for the *[incomprehensible word 41:48]* one we just go for the local one. So we talk with friends and say” you are a friend of mine, I’ll do for you maybe 30 shilling per wheel barrel” – like this one that we’ve bought about 18 wheel barrels of this ballast.

MS: OK. And do you consider it cheap, very cheap, affordable, expensive or very expensive?

P: But I could not say very cheap but it is cheap.

MS: OK.

P: Because it cost us money and transport, but at least something which is affordable.

MS: And the cement?

P: Cement, ok, I say it is not cheap, but it is standard, as go for 650per bag, and also transport is there. So ok, to me at time I say it is affordable, it is not very expensive. But at least it’s a bit expensive, because of transport

MS: Yeah, exactly.

P: You go and pick it from town.

MS: And what about the BRC, the mesh? The mesh also it’s a bit cheap, compared to this Y8, Y10, Yeah. In fact Jack [son] really helped us. I don’t think I’d be in the position... He said no, if you cannot manage that, you can just buy wire mesh, wire mesh can do.

MS: Sawa.

P: It was a bit cheap, compared.

BD: Stone?

P: Stones for the foundation, we bought them already, though there was a friend who gave us stones and at that time it was 12 shillings per foot. But when I went recently they asked me 21 shillings.

MS: Prices are going up.

P: We were given 12 shilling per foot, the ones we have now used. So also, it is negotiable, but it is not all that expensive.

BD: Pokot soil?

P: Pokot soil, also it is a bit cheap. Because it is just a matter of transport. But you just go and pick it there free.

BD: So timber and saw dust you had for free?

P: Yeah.

MS: The mabati or the gall sheet?

P: The mabati I’ll have to buy it, that’s why I’m saving. By that time it will depend on our strength, if we are in the position to by gal sheets we shall do so, but if we are not in the position we shall just use the mabati.

MS: And where would you rank the mabati, gall sheet? Is it like very cheap, cheap, affordable, expensive or very expensive?

P: Well, gal sheet – expensive, yeah.

MS: And mabati?

P: Mabati is a bit... I can just say it is affordable, because you buy it at 7 *[700Ksh]* a gall sheet 1000 plus.

MS: And steel doors?

P: Steel doors, also a bit expensive, because if you go to town you buy and you come to make it here, steel you can get maybe 1 steel door at about 12000 to 15000*[Ksh].*

MS: Ah, yeah. So that’s a bit expensive?

P: Yeah.

**Question 17,** MS: Were you at the construction site every day?

P: But if I will use this wood, I will maybe only pay the labour cost.

MS: Because the timber is coming from your own shamba?

P: It’s coming from my own shamba, I can even go to forest, I’m one of the members of the forest, I can just get it free. So only the labour.

MS: Were you at the construction site every day?

P: Not really, because of the as I told you sometimes a challenge of finance I had to move to collect material form town, so..

**Question 17a,** MS: But were there any other family members at the site every day?

P: Yeah, yeah, of course.

MS: And who?

P: My wife, and my first daughter. The two have been there full.

**Question 18,** MS: What phases of the building were you directly involved in? Please explain what you did per construction phase.

Ordering materials? Were you directly involved in that?

P: Yeah.

MS: I guess so *[smiling].*

So you were in charge of ordering the materials, the transport?

P: Yeah.

MS: And in the foundation – were you directly involved in that?

P: Yeah.

MS: And what did you do?

P: Digging and preparing soil, even let’s say all of us, because digging of the foundation my children are the one who did that, so they really participated, even during Christmas.

MS: So with hardcore, the maram...

P: Yeah.

MS: You were also all involved, or not so much?

P: No, just ordering the hardcore and maram, yeah.

MS: And what about the block laying so the cut stone. In the foundation – did you help laying those?

P: Yeah, I helped them, I was collecting and Jackson was the one who was now doing and putting the mortar and laying stones, I was carrying them.

MS: Did you also do some missing? The mortar?

P: Yeah.

MS: In the floor will you be directly involved in making the floor?

P: Not really.

MS: Because it’s not done yet, but we talked about this floor *[pointing at the floor in the existing house]* before and the fundi who did it for you?

P: For the floor I will call a fundi, to do it. But the walls...

MS: The walls, that’s you *[laughing]*

What about the roof?

P: Even the roof I will do.

MS: I had this weird feeling *[smiling]*

And the doors and windows?

P: Doors and windows – if it’s wood, I can fix myself.

MS: But that’s going to depend on the budget, that you have available?

P: Yeah. Maybe for the steel ones, I call somebody to fix for me

But if it’s wood, I’ll do it.

**Question 19,** MS: Do you think you were involved enough into the project of building your house?

P: I cannot say I was really involved enough, because as I told you I really wished to be there not missing even a single day, but because of ordering materials and some finances, that’s why I missed some days.

**Question 20,** MS: You are the first person who answers this question truthfully. And I'm not kidding... You are the first one to question his own presence. For us, that somebody is capable of doing that in an interview it’s very... We are very happy to hear that. Because all the other said “yes, yes, I was involved very much, yes.” And they were never there. *[Everyone laughing]* The silliest thing. So thank you for that. It really helps us.

In which phases were your family members involved in? Or will be involved in?

So in ordering material, will there anybody else besides you or not really?

P: No.

MS: In foundation work, were the involved?

P: The foundation, yeah. I was there with my family.

MS: And the floor, will there anybody of the family be involved?

P: In the floor we will be involved in collecting the water. But mixing and all that will be fundi. I have no idea about it.

MS: Alright. What about the walls?

P: The walls...

MS: Will the family be there?

P: They will be involved maybe helping to collect water in mixing it, but wall I’ll do it myself.

MS: But the family will be involved in walls also, you believe so?

P: Yeah, helping to carry the bricks around.

MS: And the roof, would they be involved in that?

P: Not really.

MS: Ok. And the doors and the windows?

P: No.

BD: And finishes?

MS: So the plaster? Will they be involved?

P: No. I know their work is just water, so water is available.

MS: Yeah.

P: And in the material they can help to move around, but plastering, even I will not do it, I’ll give to the fundi. Because I have no idea. Because I need something which is very smooth, something durable, but constructing the wall – I can do that, but plastering, I get the fundi to do that.

**Question 21,** MS: Did you have help from your family, friends or the community members during the project?

P: Not really. I don’t know, I really was asking Jackson, what about this fellow [pointing at Robert, a teenager who was helping with all the houses] do I need to pay him or who? Then Jackson said: “no, he always worked with us, we not really pay him” *[incomprehensible sentence 53:28]*. Because at times it is good to know. So I got two boys, my neighbours who helped me, though I had to pay], I said I will be helping you 200 shilling in a day. So I had those two to assist. But aside of him, he was coming, so I didn’t know, when I asked Jackson it was not clear that he works with us. Now I don’t know if it is you who requested him to work? *[Michiel shaking his head]*

MS: Not me.

P: So that one. So that’s why I was asking Jackson, because I really wanted to know.

MS: Yeah.

P: How many communities are helping me. I appreciate it. That was the challenge

MS: Yeah, I understand.

Originally, we were hoping that people will be willing to. Like the younger boys, like his age, will be willing even if it’s five day to come and help, learn something on the job and in return you would offer lunch, maybe some chai, that’s it. That was the original idea, but apparently that was not the right time to get plenty of people in.

So you did get help.

P: Me I can say I got help from two, and him. And then Jackson and Maud. And then team I, II, III, all they came, Despoina, the other one, strong one...

MS: Atdhe *[laughing]*

P: Corne, Athanas. All they came. That was really nice.

**Question 21b,** MS: And besides the teams, in which parts was this lovely guy participating or those two boys that you had. What did they do?

P: They were helping with mixing the mortar. And aside making bricks – they were the ones mixing it and Maud was now trying to compact it, so... She was putting the slab, they were the ones mixing and pushing and pouring the trench.

**Question 21c,** MS: And did you consider it a small or substantial help?

P: It is substantial help.

**Question 21c1,** MS: Would you describe those tasks that they helped you with as skilled or unskilled tasks?

P: I cannot say unskilled, because you see, for they, now they have the knowledge of mixing.

MS: Mhm.

P: So I cannot say...

MS: That it was completely unskilled. OK.

P: Even today I asked, he has come to finish to put the slab, so they are coming now to mix at least ballast, sand and ...

**Question 21c2,** MS: Did the team - Jackson and Maud teach the community members new skills?

P: Yeah, in fact, these are all skill now we have, they have taught us. We are very happy. Because at the beginning we had so maybe doubts: “will this really work?” and we say ok, let’s give patience, let’s keep an eye in what’s going on, and we shall see at the end if it works or not. We came to proof, when now we see it practically works.

**Question 21d,** MS: Sawa. Did you hire any labour during the project?

P: No.

**Question 22,** MS: No? OK. Clear enough.

To what extent do you have the knowledge to build in this way, so the new house? I know that only the foundation is there, so not the whole house is there, but I would like to go through the different phases to see to what extent do you believe you will be able to replicate that. That you are going to be able to extend or t replicate the house. So there are five levels 0 is that you have no knowledge, you don’t know, absolutely not, and five you are like and expert level. And you have like different steps in between, so from 0 to 5 you can state where you are. So when it comes to the foundation works, where would you rank yourself? To what extent are you able to build this foundation by yourself? (And your family obviously).

P: At least I know how to do that. So measuring, the size of the mortar [?] putting the rope, even *[incomprehensible due to laughter, Philip is mentioning all the task which he can do]*

MS: So where would you rank yourself?

P: I can rank myself maybe to nr 4, then maybe just little...

MS: Still modest, he? *[Smiling]*

P: Yeah.

MS: And what about the floor?

P: The floor now. The floor smoothening is what I said I need a fundi for to come and do for me.

MS: But there’s not only the smoothening, there are other part of the floor too. So if you look at making the floor, the whole floor, how much do you know about that?

P: Now, the way I saw it was being made here, now at least I can do it. I have a book here, with me *[instruction made by the team]* If I don’t get *[it]* I can come and go through.

MS: Ahh, That’s Maud’s work

Where would you rank yourself when it comes to the floor?

P: Ok, I rank myself to nr 4. Why do I say so – I only maybe smoothening I can’t do. But putting those other things, I can do it.

MS: And the walls?

P: The walls, I can now build the walls. That one is not a problem to me.

But maybe the challenge might be at when I reach the window – maybe that is where I might be getting some small complication, but it should not be a big issue.

MS: Give us a ranking. *[Smiling]* Tell us, where do you see yourself?

P: 3

MS: At 3 Sawa. And the roof?

P: The roof, that one I can do it myself, that one is not a problem.

MS: So, give us a number.

P: That one I can just say automatically 5.

MS: Yeah, Tha’s what I also thought. And doors and the windows?

P: Doors and windows – if it is wood, I just fix it. That one number 5. If it is steel, maybe 2. I cannot.

**Question 23,** MS: Did the team train you or family members to build this way?

P: They just trained me fixing of wood, but still we did not discuss it.

MS: Oh, sorry, I meant the whole house. So I you look at what has been built here now did the team train you and your family to build this way?

P: Yeah! That is what Maud was tryin to teach us on Saturday. And even my wife said, “So I can even build us a house” *[laughing].* She was telling me how the joints should be, so that it cannot crack, yeah.

**Question 24a,** MS: Could you still afford the repairs if your income got smaller, as a family. So if you look at when this house is built and you have a crack in your wall, and you need to repair the wall, but you would lose, like your income would get smaller, do you think you could still make that repairs to that house?

P: The repairs I can do it, myself, because I have the materials, I have the idea, yeah.

MS: Sawa.

P: That one in not a big challenge to me, now.

**Question 25,** MS: OK. Could you extend or duplicate the house by yourself (with the rest of the family and maybe some community members)? Do you believe that now you can build such a house again without the help of us?

P: Maybe the challenge that I might get if somebody can do the measurements for me.

MS: Ah, yeah.

BD: In the field or on paper? *[Question added because many people refer to design or technical drawings as ‘measuring’]*

P: On paper.

MS: Mhm.

P: That’s the challenge I have.

MS: So more like design, measurement.

P: Yeah. But when everything is set, I can help the community with digging, construction, how to lay the foundation, all that I know. But the challenge is those measurements.

MS: I understand.

BD: But if you were to build a copy of this house *[pointing at the drawings of the new house],* exactly the same house, would you be able to do it yourself?

P: Yeah. Exactly this, I can do it.

**Question 26,** MS: Are you satisfied with your new house?

P: Very much.

**Question 26a,** MS: What do you like about the house?

P: I like the house, the way it is, because it is my desire, our desire that we wished to have in the future. So, I’m happy.

**Question 26b,** MS: And what makes it special, would you say, this house?

P: What makes the house special, it is now permanent. It is not like this one *[pointing at the current house]*, because at time, when you see at night, rat moving, making noise, but that one *[pointing at the new house]* now.

MS: Even I woke up tonight of rats on the ceiling.

So I understand what you are talking about, it wakes you up.

**Question 27,** MS: What would you say your house have in common with other houses in the community?

P: This one *[pointing at the new house]*?

MS: Yeah, if it’s finished, what would you say it has in common?

P: I really can’t say if it has something in common, because it is different, yeah.

**Question 28,** MS: If you needed to make estimation. I know that you are very precise, but just a rough estimation - how much do you think the house would cost in the end?

P: The whole house?

MS: Yeah.

P: The way I’m seeing, maybe... That is why I cannot say really the exact.

MS: It doesn’t matter, just estimation.

P: If I would use this wood doors and windows..

MS: Yeah, so the cheaper version, so no gal sheets but regular mabati.

P: With regular mabati it might cost me about roughly 200 *[thousands shillings].*

MS: And that’s for the whole house?

P: Yeah.

MS: But originally the team had the idea only to make the first phase, the smaller part. I know that from the roof’s perspective you decided I prefer to build the whole house, but if you only look at that unit, how much would that cost. Only the first bit.

P: Ah, that one. Might cost me about 44-45 *[thousand shillings].*

**Question 29,** MS: OK. Looking back at the project and the realized house, which is [now] foundation that was realised, could you have realized this house without the help of the team that came here?

P: Not really.

MS: Could you maybe explain why do you think so?

P: I had no idea about it, so...

*[Laughing]* They are the ones who pumped the knowledge to my mind, yeah. I thank God because of that, because of the knowledge now. Though, I had a dream of building a permanent house, yeah, I had the dream, but now the knowledge I have it.

**Question 30,** MS: Would you like to have a different house to the one you are building right now?

P: I don’t want. That one is enough for me.

**Question 33,** MS: Would you have preferred to build your house differently?

P: No *[chuckles].* Just this one is enough.

**Question 45,** MS: Happy to hear that. Really happy to hear that. It’s quite surprising that in such a short time they were able to find what you as a family want and help you and train you, it’s quite surprising.

OK. The last part of the interview is about the team and the research process. So whatever you are stating here is private, it’s between us. It’s just so we know, how the team was communicating.

How would you describe the communication with your team?

P: The communication was very clear. Yeah, we had no challenge in communication. All of us could speak English and we could understand one another. So we had no challenge on side of the communication.

**Question 46,** MS: Good. Did you like the ideas the team presented to you and your family?

P: Very much. Yeah.

**Question 47,** MS: Did the team incorporate your ideas into the design of the house?

P: Yeah.

MS: Which ones? Could give examples?

P: The one with, as I told you, when they came up with the idea of constructing the house, our children refused and said: “no, we don’t want that, we want, we should make the house just the same as Icarus has”. And Jack and Maud came and we had discussion with them and we told them how it came about and they complied. And we moved forward, we were happy. I thought maybe they might feel scared, but really they didn’t so, they complied and we worked happily.

**Question 48,** MS: Who was mainly making final decisions about the new house?

P: ?

MS: Who was making the final decisions about the house?

P: It was the family all. Because, I really wanted to incorporate all. Because at the first when we learnt the small mistake that we did, me and my wife we said “anything we have to do, we have to do it the whole family, so that we come up with one answer and decision”. And that’s how we did.

MS: Great.

P: And anything if Maud and Jackson want to do something, they call us and we meet together, they tell us: “this is what we want, this is what we are intending to do, how do you see, what is your comment” then everybody comments and say:”OK, this is good, this is good.”

**Question 49,** MS: Good. Do you feel you were forced into any decisions?

P: Ah, not really.

MS: Did you force any decision on the team, do you feel?

P: Maybe... The way we told them... Though they could not show it up, but they way our children lamented that they didn’t want the other, the first one *[design]* they came up with. So when we told them, they just complied with it. Though maybe we forced them and maybe they didn’t show, we cannot predict that.

**Question 51,** MS: OK. Do you believe that the team had substantial influence in making decisions or were they mainly advising and did the family made the final decisions?

P: Yeah, they were just advising, because in most cases they were doing some consultations. And we really liked that, because they couldn’t do anything without consultation. If they want to do they tell us, and also call. And they we were lucky that time, my family were there all, so we could meet, they tell us their suggestions and then it was now up to us to either to buy the idea or to reject, yeah. And they were really free about it. When we talk, we agree, we move forwards.

**Question 52,** MS: Alright. Do you think the team would have preferred to build the house differently?

P: At the beginning. At the beginning they were preferring, but when we came up with the idea, the way our children also wanted to be, then they accepted.

**Question 53,** MS: At the beginning do you remember what they wanted to do differently?

P: Yeah, yeah, I remember. I remember we were not to dig the whole trench; we were just to dig and put up pillar, yeah. So we couldn’t dig the whole foundation, so they really wanted that and then because we told them, here during the rain season, we have a challenge of water. So they wanted to put pillars and raise up the house so that they put the slab on top and than to leave the gap, so that if water is there it cannot enter the house. So in fact I was also for the idea, because I know the challenge, but my children refused, said:” no, no, no – what kind of a house is that? You want to make the house like we did the store?!” Because the store we raised. [E*verybody is laughing]* They said: “no, we don’t want such a house, if you see digging the foundation is the problem, just measure for us, we shall dig.” *[Chuckles]* So when Jack and Maud came, we told them, they said: “Philip we shall do it the way you want it, it was only the idea we were giving you, but if you are not for the idea, we can move the way you want, because we are just trying to advise you, because you were complaining of water” then I said: “no, it was just children who have come up with that decision”. And they accepted. That’s why I said if we say we forced them, but they didn’t refuse, they didn’t show any reaction, so we cannot guess.

**Question 55,** MS: Good. Were you feeling comfortable talking to the team members about your wishes and ideas?

P: Very much.

**Question 56,** MS: Good. Were there any conflict between you and the team?

P: I didn’t realize any.

**Question 57,** MS: To be honest I also didn’t hear any. I would be also very surprised if that was the case.

What types of buildings the team proposed to you? So, were there any other building that they proposed.

P: Now, the one they proposed at first to make some pillar, and the second one, which is now this *[final]* one. We all agreed up.

MS: That was it?

P: Yeah.

**Question 58,** MS: Alright. Why did you choose this one? Why did you abandon the pillars?

P: To me I was just seeing it very ok, but it was now the family, my family, that had their objections.

**Question 59,** MS: OK. Were you convinced and comfortable with this choice?

P: Yeah.

MS: To abandon the pillars, were you ok with that?

P: Yeah. When we talked about it with children, it’s OK. We all agreed and my wife.

**Question 60,** MS: Did the team explain why they advised you on that type of building?

P: Yeah.

**Question 61,** MS: OK. Good. Do you think the team is happy with the result of the project?

P: Now, That one is now on them. *[Chuckles]* But yesterday I received a message from Jackson appreciating it. So I believe with that comment, and the way Jackson was writing to me I see they are also happy about it.

**Question 62,** MS: Good. Do you have any regrets about the project?

P: Not really. I don’t have any.

**Question 63,** MS: What would you have done differently, given the opportunity?

P: No.

MS: Nothing?

P: Because this is excellent.

*[MS smiles]*

**Question 64,** MS: Did the project influence the well-being or the composition of the family?

P: Come up again.

MS: If it influenced the well-being of your family? So if you look for instance – you have to pay the school fees – and maybe because of the building process you feel pressured or stressed...

P: Ahh... That one we planned. As we told you, maybe the amount that I can afford id this one, if you accepted to work with little budget I had, and I was very happy – because we set aside the school fees and the strategy of paying it, so the amount we’ve used here was not meant for school fees but I wanted to do some business, but I said, OK, business you can do it later, start first with the foundation, because that was what we were longing for and we were thinking on how we can get a fundi to come and put plans for us, for the house. And all that. And so we say this try to gather some money, enough.

Money so that we can pay the fundi, who will come and do the measurements and all of that. And now, we got free fundi’s who came [smiling – he is indicating Maud and Jackson] and measured for us, so we are very happy. We are pleased. Because we didn’t pay anything. Only materials.

**Question 65,** MS: Did the project influence your position within the community? Would you say? Did anything change how the community looks at you?

P: Yeah, because at least I can see, a few of the community’s now come and see what’s going on, and I tried to explain to them: you want to construct a house - it is very cheap, you see – these materials, they are just available here, you only need very few – like cement. And I was showing them – this soil is Pokot soil, saw dust, saw dust you can pick them here, where people have been splitting timber. Even if you want – thousand bags, so I was telling them – we had only the dilemma, because we didn’t have the knowledge, but now, we can apply this knowledge – you can get a better house, so at least I’ve drawn some impact.

MS: OK. And also how the community looks at you?

P: Now, the community, what I see... The community is trying to realise that they had no idea on using those local resources, but now, what they are seeing it here. So some are appreciating it, and saying: “OK, maybe they’ll pay us a visit when we are constructing, so that they can see what’s being done”. So at least I see to the community it might bring a change. A little change to the community, because they have seen, so they can just use local materials and get something which is very durable, so...

MS: OK.

P: So you can say it brings impact to the community.

**Question 66,** MS: Did it change any relationships between you...

P*: [interrupting]* Not really. Because in fact so many people now are just coming, because they really want to do the same thing, they are coming to see what’s going on. And they were happy. Even children were happy, especially Athanas *[the camera man]*, “Where is that camera man?” – They ask us, “Will he come today?” *[Everybody smiling]*

MS: He said that he felt like coming back to his village – coming back here. Everybody knew his name, everybody was greeting him. He really enjoyed this time here.

P: Yesterday morning, also children were asking, about Despoina, it was unfortunate, Despoina came here when they were coming back from Icarus at around 2 – so many crowd of children.

*[Everybody laughing]*

They wanted just to move here, forcing Despoina to speak Kiswahili *[everybody laughing]*

**Question 68,** MS: How would you describe the current state of the team; are they happy or do you think that they are disappointed?

P: To my team actually I cannot say they are disappointed, because in a way I couldn’t see anything that could support that, though at first they felt somehow a bit disappointed when we were telling them about changing of the design of the house, form making just the part, just to dig everything. I saw Jack was somehow a bit scared and Maud was quiet, but they said: “Ok, Philip, if the family has decided at one, we shall just do it. Ours *[meaning 'We']* are just to advice you, because you said you really have some challenges during the rain seasons but if you are for this, we’d still do it.” So that is where I immediately realised that moving forward didn’t *[84:53 share?]* us anything.

MS: OK. If you look at them now, after the project, when they left?

P: They are every happy.

**Question 69,** MS: That’s also what we thought. Would you advise other community members to participate in this project in the future?

P: Yeah, in fact as I told you yesterday, they were two community members here, when we were trying to talk with them and when I was trying to show them how we did this cheaply, they really appreciated us. Somebody was quoting a verse from the Bible that my people are perishing because of lack of knowledge. So one quoted that verse.

*[Everybody smiling]* And said: So if we would have had this knowledge then we couldn’t so such a house that at times when it rains it brings so many challenges. So some are saying they will ready themselves and try to come up with something like this. But I told them – when you are ready call me and I will come and share, so that you can see what to do.

**Question 70,** MS: And you would also consider helping other community members?

P: Ah, very! In fact I would never want anybody to give me even a single cent. When I’m free, I just go there, show them and help them. Yeah, I really want to. This is my share. I want to help community so that community should learn that we should do things in teamwork, not depending on money. Because if today I say you come and assist me – I give you money, that one cannot bring good relationship. Somebody says – they only did this because of money... But I really wanted that human hand in the community – to assist one another freely, because there are so many challenges that arise. When such challenges arise we need to help one another. With or without money. So the little time that I have, I will assist.

MS: Do you think there’s a need for us to come back?

P: If you have time, please do.

*[Everybody laughs]*

MS: But if we don’t have time, do you think that there is a need for us to come back?

P: There is a need, very big.

MS: How come? Because you know now *[how to build].*

P: You see, I know, but as I told you, I still have challenge on how to come and put something on the paper, they way – this one [showing the floor plan] is. So OK, I can do it practically, I can just say, on what you are doing, maybe I don’t think it a quarter what I know, because coming up with an idea of putting up a house, it is just not they key. It really was a lot of knowledge, drawing, coming up, because like me now – if somebody tells me – come and measure this – I don’t know how many bags of cement, how many bags of sand... I don’t know that, so, we still need you, so that once I can know that if I put up a house of this size it can cost certain amount of cement, it can cost maybe 50 iron sheets, or 30. Maybe about the timber if you have about 2000feet, can finish up these- I don’t know all that measurements. That’s why I say we really need you. I don’t want to pretend, so oh, I know, but then when it comes it fails, because it is good to advice somebody you say if you want to construct a house with the string – maybe somebody says I want to construct a house of 36 iron sheets and maybe I don’t know how many cement, how many hardcore, so I have no idea, so that’s why I still need you. I cannot say that we know everything.

MS: Last question. If you look at the habitat project that I’ve done, all these houses are basically the same, there are two typologies in that project. Do you believe that this type of project is a solution? That everybody lives in the same type of house? Or is it more different, should all houses be different?

P: Actually maybe if there some that might be different, very few. Because when I look at the economy of this community, it’s very low. So that’s why I say, if we could move with this standard, this is the standard of the majority, because that’s their strength. Very few that can desire different houses, but in most cases many because of the economy they have still *[91:33“none”?].*

MS: But in terms of what the wishes and the dreams of the family are and the composition of the family is. So not looking at the economical factor, but if you look how different people are, do you think that putting them in the same type of house – that’s desirable? Because if you look at the Habitat project, it will be a 1/5 of the size that you have now. The layout: where you cook, everything, it’s completely different.

P: You see, OK, people have different dreams and ambition, but you see. People might have visions or dreams, but to accomplish such dreams to them it’s still a challenge, because you only accomplish you dream when it depends on your strength. But somebody might be a bit down in finance and he wants to live in a house that maybe it will take time; maybe by the time he wishes to be in such a house, maybe he would have got old. But when we look at the Habitat houses, those houses are very good – one thing- it suits with the community – community’s economy, because this is not the only thing that you needed to do. After building a house you need also to eat well, to dress well, you need to educate children of which everything depends with the capital, so if you wish to stay in a very expensive house, why build a very expensive house and then you live in regret, because you cannot eat the house. You have finished all the money you had in the building the house and you need to travel, you need to eat, you need to educate, you see. That’s why I say if all people could buy the idea it will be good. But as I said, people here, Dr. Bea has really helped. Dr. Bea has really transformed this community. Because really, the standard of education here, so many people didn’t go to high school – they just dropped at primary school. Some got to do business, other got to work at ADC farms. So if somebody doesn’t have enough knowledge he cannot even have good vision for himself. Even taking the children to school – some says, “Ah, there’s no need to take children to school, I’ve learnt, I went up to the class 7, and now here I am, working at the ADC, I’m a driver or..” But you see, he’s working, he’s a driver but, the situation he is, you cannot explain. Because he doesn’t have any dream, any vision towards his life. When you ask him: “what are you intending to do after you are done with your *[incomprehensible word 95:44]*. He says nothing. Have children, everybody will find for his own or her own. So that’s the challenge. We say we better use... I suggest – such a house is, they are good. Because they cannot break down really easily, that can still stand for more than 20 years of which some of us – our days are numbered now, we don’t know. If we have 15 or 20 years, and then we go, so we’d better get a house that can move with the standard. It is just my suggesting, but I really don’t know others. But what I see that is.

MS: Thank you Philip. Thank you for your time, I really appreciate it.

BD: And your words.

MS: We can go back now.

P: With me, I am also very happy, Mr. Michiel, you have really helped us a lot.

*[End of recording]*