The CAAP is an instrument that aims to:

- Support local and central government to further understand the needs and aspirations of people living in informal settlements, so they can be included in city-wide visions and advocate their rights to a more just and inclusive city.
- Provide a framework to explore and assess different organisational structures and funding mechanisms that will support change.
- Provide a decision-making tool to help communities plan for future interventions. Provide a framework for testing different scenarios for settlement upgrading.
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Cockle Bay
Community Action Area Plan (CAAP)
Process and Methods (Leaflet 1 of 3)

This leaflet describes the participatory process and methods used to produce Community Action Area Plans in Freetown. This project is an opportunity to create a community-level action plan that considers the needs and aspirations of people living in informal settlements, so they can be included in city-wide visions and advocate their rights to a more just and inclusive city.

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- Support communities to advocate their rights to a more just and inclusive city.
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Diagnosis
This stage is designed to uncover the current conditions at each scale. The aim is to develop a holistic understanding of the situation in the settlement and reflect on opportunities for change.

Dreaming
This stage is designed to uncover residents’ aspirations for improving their living standards, the wider settlement and experience of the city. The aims of these activities is to facilitate discussions around physical improvements but also explore economic, social, political and cultural changes.

Developing
This stage is designed to capture the aspirations identified in the dreaming stage into a range of options and principles. These are used in action planning activities in which residents explore different scenarios for future development.

Defining
The final stage is designed to capture the process and outcomes in a series of community planning documents. Residents and the steering group were engaged to ensure the outcomes reflected the community needs.
Located along the Aberdeen Creek on the western coast of Freetown, Cockle Bay is an informal settlement roughly 5 kilometers from the city centre. Cockle Bay is split into four neighbourhoods known locally as Jai Mata, Kola Tree, Mafengbeh and Hilet View.

The development of the CAAP in both Cockle Bay and Dwozarck was led by Architecture Sans Frontieres – UK in collaboration with the Sierra Leone Urban Research Centre. The process included;

- workshops with key city stakeholders
- with community leaders/representatives
- with community leaders/representatives

The full CAAP document can be accessed at the SLURC office or downloaded from; https://www.slurc.org/reports.html

CAAP's could also be an extremely important tool for dialogue between local council and community, allowing communities to participate, improve capacity and take ownership in their own development in an officially recognised framework.

The Council want to know exactly what development challenges there are and what people really want. ‘We can use report as evidence of conditions to inform policy decisions.’

Abdul K. Marah, FCC

The community to the important areas of the community are mapped as layers on the map. The community then prioritises and identifies the areas of the community that are important to them. This can be used to develop a community action plan.

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