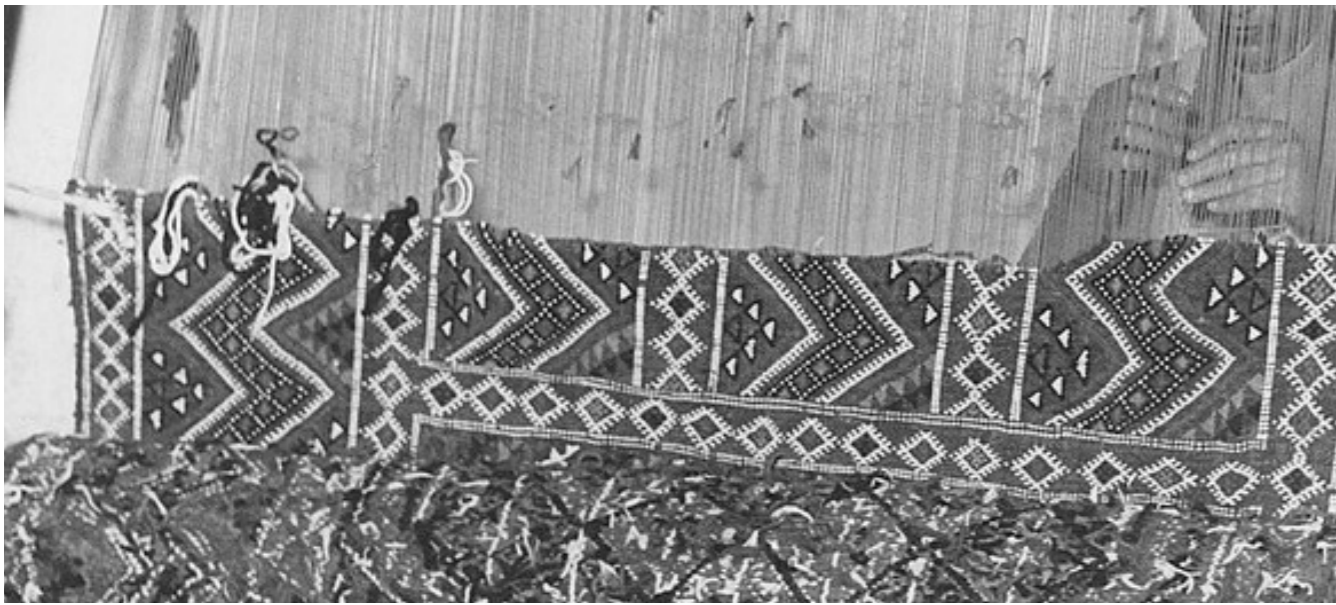




## THE ATLAS LOOM

Woven Resilience in Post-Disaster Morocco



*"Mud cannot be expected to last much longer than that"*  
WILLIAM J. R. CURTIS - Berber Collective Dwellings of the Northwestern Sahara

Architecture is no longer a quest for eternal present within static "spaces," but a living entity evolving through "time" to adapt to unpredictable scenarios. The form of intervention has shifted from occupying lands to managing resources and forecasting material structures across all stages: before, during, and after a disaster. This philosophy is profoundly applied to the reconstruction of Izloulouen village following the 2023 earthquake.

The aftermath of the catastrophe left the village facing a dual breakage: the collapse of physical architecture and the fracturing of human social structures. Drawing inspiration from the traditional weaving structures of the Berber people in the High Atlas, the "Weaving" strategy interlaces micro-spatial pockets into the village to simultaneously regenerate three pillars: Economic, Social, and Ecological. Serving as a foundational "loom," the project transforms passive relief into long-term community autonomy through a set of rules based on temporal forecasting.

### MIRCO SCALE

At the Micro Scale: The 30/70 Hybrid Structure The proposal introduces a 30/70 hybrid system. The 30% "Survival Core" is constructed with external support from NGOs, providing a fortified, earthquake-resistant ground floor that stabilizes the terrain. This essential foundation protects human life and integrates traditional stables (Rwa) to safeguard vital agricultural assets. The remaining 70% above—the "Flexible Core"—is built by the villagers themselves using indigenous rammed earth (tabia), local timber, and stone. Guided by Taïach (traditional communal labor practices), this participatory process heals social trauma and restores local architectural agency.



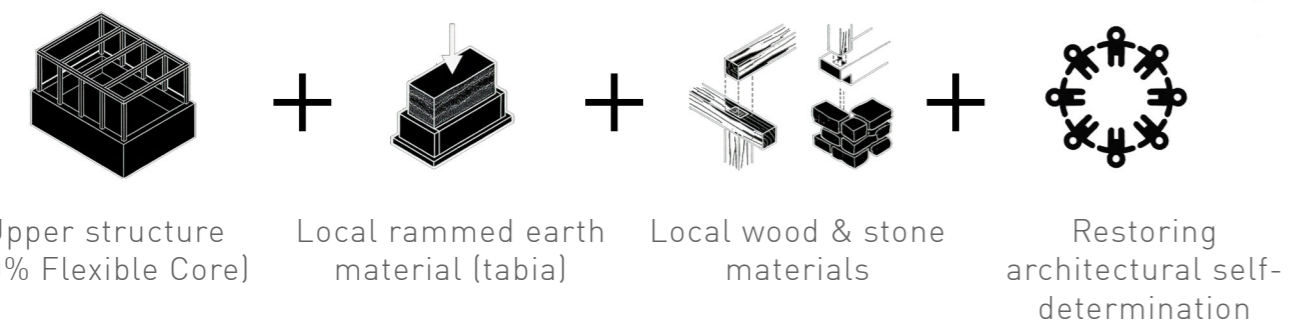
### VILLAGE SCALE

For the village itself, the reconstruction is organized according to the Warp and Weft logic:

**The Warp (The Healing Axis):** Creates "Weave Eye" anchor points (Central Hubs) following a 3m setback between modules. These act as seismic joints while serving as micro-economic spaces where the culture of weaving is revived, preserving the craft's heritage.

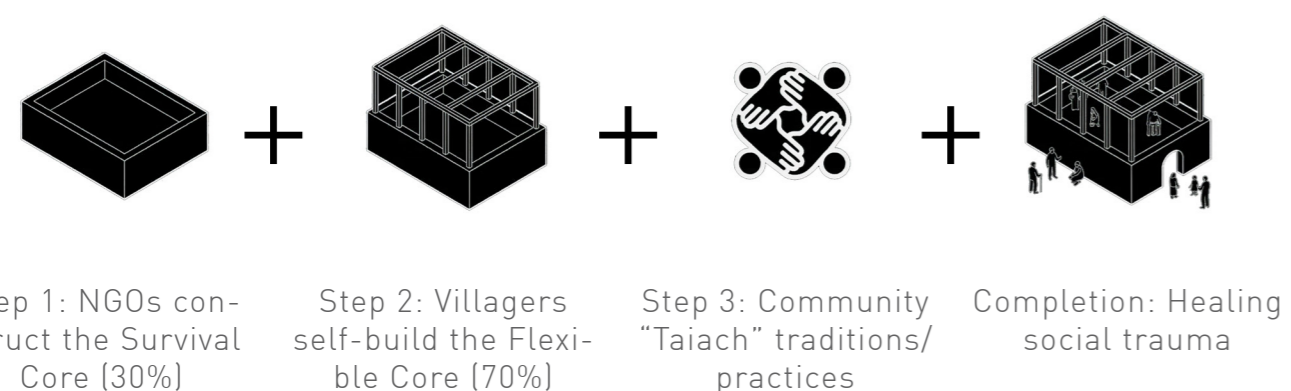
**The Weft (The Rhythm of Life):** Housing modules follow the natural contours of the land, acting as "stitches" compressed into the topography to stabilize terraces and prevent erosion.

The intersections of these axes form public squares equipped with communal kitchens and power/water supply points, rebuilding community cohesion. Interwoven throughout the entire system are restored traditional irrigation channels (seguias), distributing collected water to the terraced fields below.

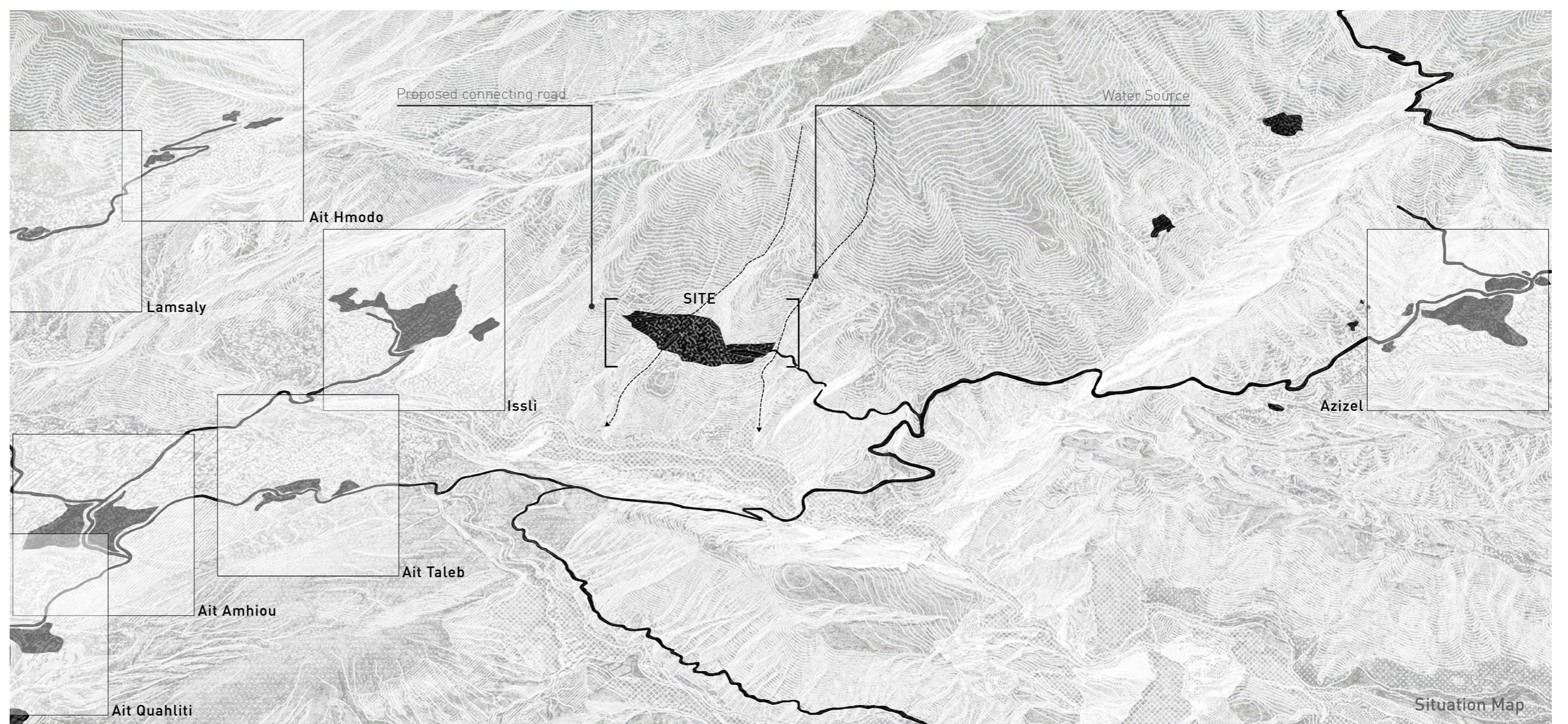
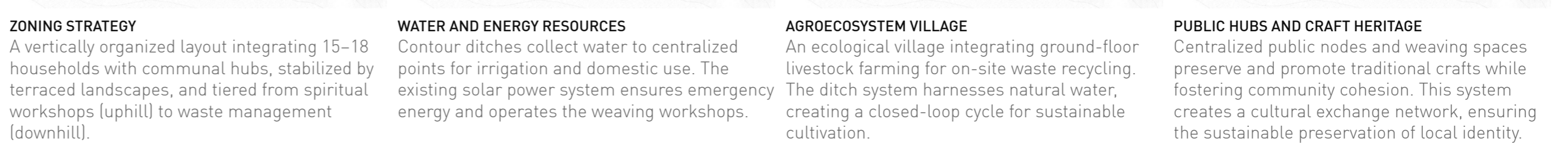
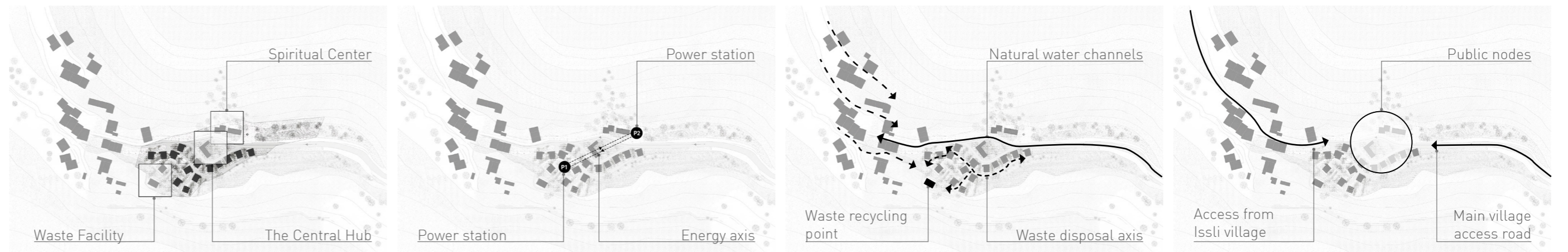
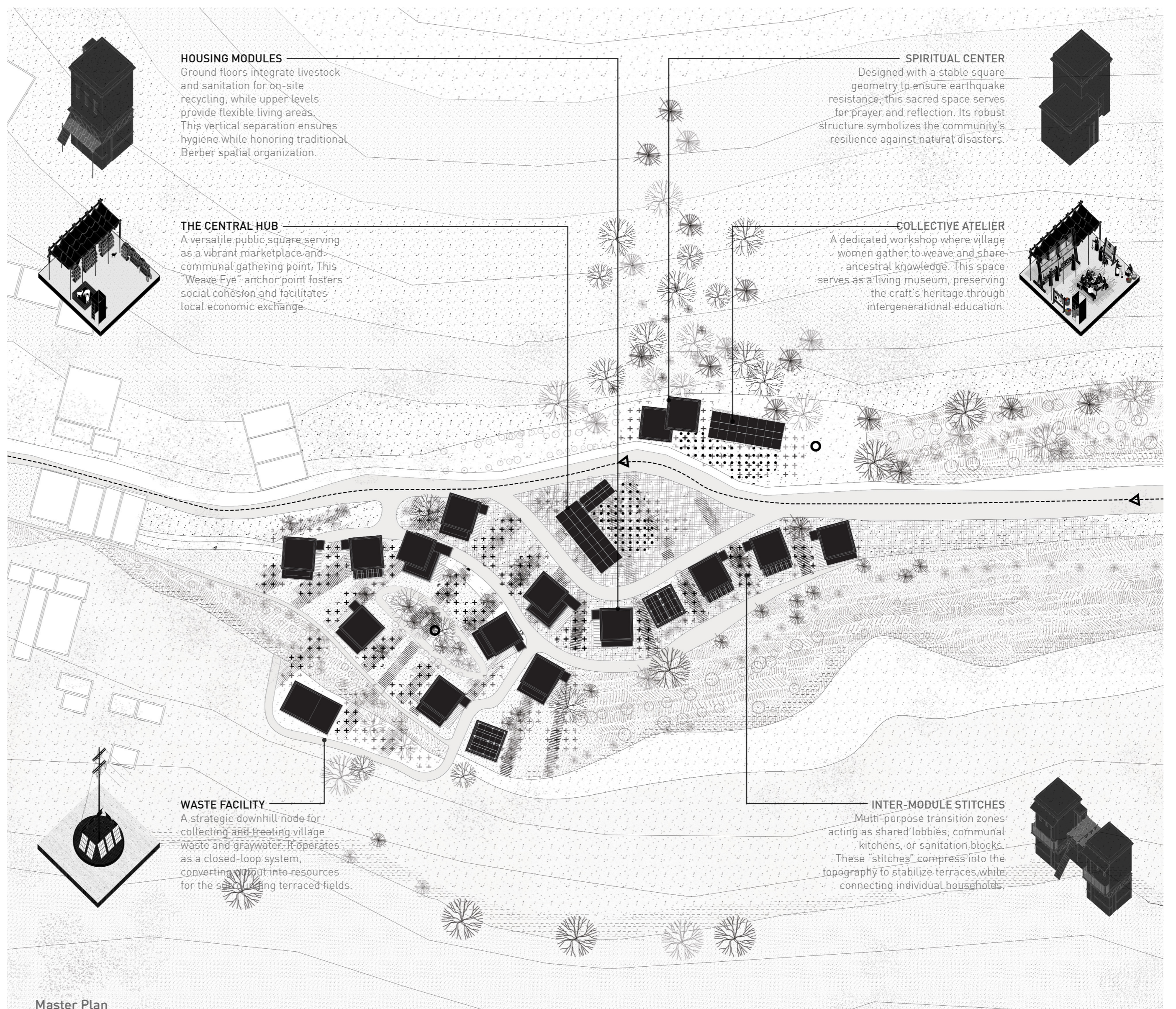


### TERRITORIAL SCALE

At the Territorial Scale: The Warp and Weft The project identifies the "Warp" as a strategic inter-village transport network. Along this axis, "Nodal Points" (Social Knots) are established midway between villages. In daily life, these serve as rest stops and rotating "Mobile Souks" for agricultural exchange; during disasters, they transform into first-aid stations and fortified shelters, ensuring communication points remain open between settlements.



By evaluating resources through the units of both "Time" and "Space," the project provides strategic social aid and a technical framework for the people to "re-weave" their own village. By leveraging internal resources and transferable construction techniques, the project empowers residents to use their own hands to bridge the ruptures, creating a sustainable and autonomous Izloulouen.





**BUILDING PROCESS**

**1. Social Intervention: The "Survival Core" [Steps 1-3]**

After locals source initial materials, NGOs step in to construct a solid foundation and ground floor. This earthquake-proof "Survival Core" (30% of the structure) protects human lives and vital agricultural assets. External support drives 70% of the effort here, supplying crucial technical and financial resources.

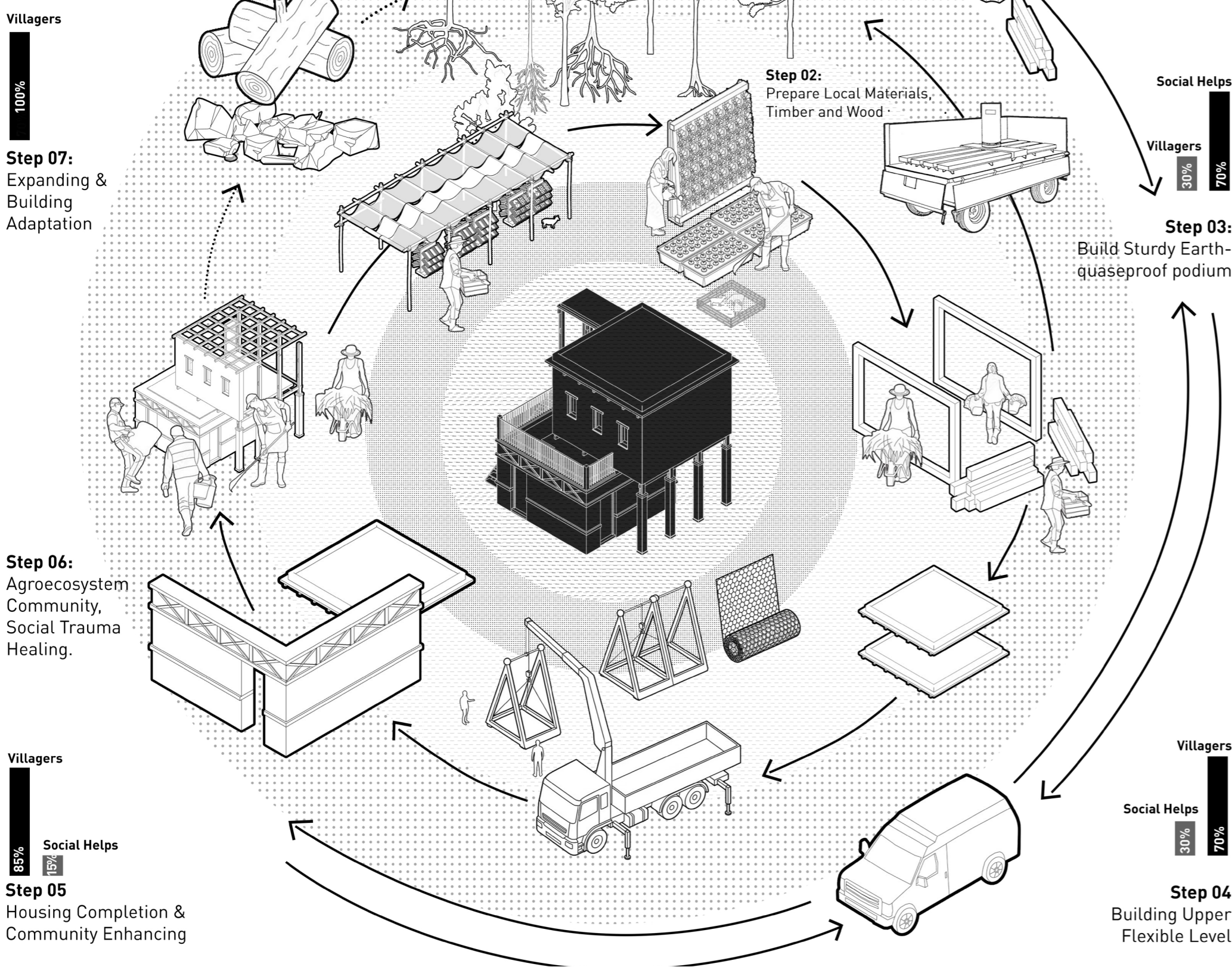
**2. Community Transition: The "Flexible Core" [Steps 4-5]**

Once the foundation is secure, the community takes over, contributing up to 85% of the effort. Villagers build the upper 70%—the "Flexible Core"—using native rammed earth (tabia), wood, and stone. Guided by Taich (traditional communal labor), this hands-on process restores architectural self-determination and helps heal social trauma after the disaster.

**3. Recovery and Circularity [Steps 6-8]**

The project then expands to a "Warp and Weft" planning scale. Housing modules follow contour lines (Weft) to stabilize terraced fields and prevent erosion, while 3-meter setback spaces (Warp) act as Central Hubs to revive the local weaving economy. By Steps 7 and 8, external aid completely ceases (100% local effort). Residents adapt their homes and implement forest replanting strategies for sustainable material reuse, closing the eco-architectural loop.

**Step 08: Conscious Material Reuse Provide Forest Planting Strategy**



**MATERIAL EVALUATION**

Material	Location	Time
Wool, fabric, straw	Local surroundings.	Max 1 day
Rammed Earth	Within 500m radius.	Max 3 days
Damaged Wood	Within 1km (old buildings).	Max 10 days
Stone	Within 2km (nearby slopes).	1-2 weeks
Atlas Cedar Wood	Within 5km (nearby forests).	Max 1 month
Gabion Wall	10km from the site.	> 2 months
Insulation	Local surroundings.	Max 1 day
Wall Finishing	Within 500m radius.	Max 3 days
Balconies & Furniture	Within 1km (old buildings).	Max 10 days
Pedestrian Path & Column	Within 2km (nearby slopes).	1-2 weeks
Roof & Floor Structure	Within 5km (nearby forests).	Max 1 month
Safety Core - Podium	10km from the site.	> 2 months

