

Abstract

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Displacement and Appropriation: Documenting the implications of inadequate resettlement policies in Cairo

Urban displacement is an emerging challenge for cities, triggered by an expanding array of factors that range from political conflict and climate induced disasters to environmental hazards and unsafe living conditions. The most prominent manifestation of the challenges of displacement is the need to evacuate the actual destruction of housing within a neighborhood region, resulting in a dire need for immediate temporary sheltering and consequent, long term housing options such as relocation of residents. This paper is a double-tiered inquiry that first documents the policies of relocation in Cairo, then examines their efficiency through the study of two communities post relocation. This will be done by first, unpacking the government's preventative mechanism of categorizing unsafe areas developed by the Informal Settlements Development Facility (ISDF), as a back for understanding relocation strategies. Secondly, using a community survey to assess issues of belonging, convenience, and social coherence, accessibility to services, adaptations, expectations, and overall satisfaction. The study aims to contribute to a better understanding of how government strategies of identifying and resettling vulnerable communities could become more sensitive to the actual needs of the relocated residents. It also aims to highlight the potential impact of using top-down approaches on the actual institutionalization of displacement, by not fully accounting for the nature of relocation and the socio-economic and spatial needs of vulnerable families, leading to potential future displacement of the relocated communities in search for better accommodations.