



SUMMARY

Community based organization and spontaneous urban planning: keys for a rational urbanization process in the absence of the state

Proposed by the Grupo de Análisis para el Desarrollo (GRADE) and the Economic and Social Research Foundation (ESRF)

INTRODUCTION

The urban expansion of Lima can be divided into two periods: the first wave of migrant-based urbanization between 1970 and 1990, and the ongoing process of urban expansion from 1991 onwards. Both urbanization processes have occurred in roughly the same territory, with little or no formal urban planning, but the results have been quite different. In the first wave, the informal city expanded through regular urban grids which greatly facilitated subsequent urban consolidation. The more recent urbanization process, however, has created a disconnected urban layout that hinders its residents' future integration into the city.

WHAT THEY WILL DO

The research has two main aims. The first is to understand the socio-cultural elements and basic spatial notions that allow for informal occupations to follow rational urban patterns. The second main aim is to design and develop a toolkit composed of simple and cheap methodological guidelines that can be applied and replicated in most fast-growing cities around the developing world.

HOW THEY WILL DO IT

The first aim will be achieved by conducting a comparative study to understand the two urbanization processes that have occurred in Lima. By learning from the experiences of Lima, lessons will be drawn to fit current realities in cities where migrant-driven urbanization is currently under way. Building from this research, the project will develop an Organizational and Urban planning Toolkit (OUT) as a viable alternative for urban expansion where urban planning cannot be carried out in traditional means. This Toolkit will be tested in Dar es Salaam – a city which is currently facing rapid informal urbanization which parallels the situation in Lima 25 years ago.

EXPECTED RESULTS

This project will produce both knowledge about the keys for successful 'spontaneous' informal urban planning, and a set of methodological and spatial tools to disseminate such knowledge elsewhere through the Organizational and Urban planning Toolkit (OUT). Beyond knowledge production, this project aims to generate a measurable short-term impact in the urbanization patterns of expanding urban areas of Dar es Salaam, where the OUT instrument will be tested.