

Relocation Failures in Sri Lanka

'This book is a welcome addition to the literature. There are instructive similarities, but also important differences, among forced resettlements as a result of development projects, armed conflict or natural disasters. Muggah brings insightful social science analysis to this subject, plus an incisive historical perspective. His choice of Sri Lanka as a case study is apt, since this country offers relevant examples of all three kinds of internal displacement for us to learn from.'

Norman Uphoff, Cornell University

'Can one author concomitantly wield the analytical lenses of several disciplines? This insightful study brilliantly conquers this daunting methodological challenge. Muggah's major book is the sharpest theoretical, political and sociological analysis of the conundrum of displacements and resettlement processes, which are integral not only to Sri Lanka's social fabric but epitomise the status of today's world at large.'

Michael M. Cernea,
George Washington University

Each year, millions of people are displaced and resettled in the wake of wars, floods or large-scale development projects. This number is increasing, and humanitarian and development specialists continue to struggle with designing and executing effective protection strategies and durable solutions.

Relocation Failures in Sri Lanka explains how internal displacement and efforts to engineer resettlement are conceived and implemented and why they often fail. The author argues that policies for internally displaced peoples are weak, diluted by narrow interpretations of state sovereignty, collective action dilemmas and, in the case of Sri Lanka, unintentionally intensified ethnic segregation and war.

In highlighting the ways that development assistance can exacerbate smouldering conflicts, *Relocation Failures in Sri Lanka* provides an important caution to the aid community.



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