Giza FvL's Methodology

Authors: NSCE

Giza Lab makes use of different and simultaneous methodologies according to the Lab's objectives and goals.

1/ Understanding the territory, knowing the community: Urban/Social

Objectives:

A. Have an in-depth understanding of urban fabric of Dashhour, and it needs to achieve better urban quality.

B. Map suitable spaces to apply the different components of the solid waste strategy.

C. Create a mutual understanding and a common ground between the technical experts' team and the local community team, to co-produce a relevant vision that meets the community needs.

D. Have an in-depth understanding of the socio-economic issues, to co-produce alternatives that suit the different groups of the community

Methodologies:

a. Collective surveys. Once a diverse and multilevel relationship with the local community starts to be established, focused surveys will be undertaken during workshops and the other activities. Ethnographic data will be parallelly collected on an individual level, with audio visual tolls as much as possible. These surveys will aim at understanding social perception of the waste problem, practices, co-define causes, solutions, specific requests and needs.

b. A series of focus group discussions to understand local practices related to waste management processes. Each meeting is designed to be addressed to a specific social target and it is directed to a certain aim (school teachers, households, farmers, waste collectors, etc). The discussions must be organized in familiar spaces and/or in neutral places to avoid conflictual situations.

c. Guided in-depth interviews to understand practices and their social context. These utilize a semi-structured format, designed to respond to specific needs and fulfil related objectives. The interview is targeted to a specific social category.

d. Observation activities (walks, audio-visual documentation of the territory and environment, households' waste calendar, etc)

e. Co-produced documentation: in addition to the documentation produced by the team during the observation activities, local communities will join the data collection as well as co-mapping activity and sharing maps, documents, photographs, happenings and so on, WhatsApp groups.

f. Local Community and Territory History (Previous Literature and Stories/Oral Stories): research local community and territory history by collecting reports, documents, and accounts, looking at the social composition of the community and the economic and urban development of the territory.

g. Co-Mapping activities: After collecting different and recent kinds of official maps of the village from local and regional entities, and before starting the co-mapping activity, it is necessary to: a) co-design the mapping survey template and its objectives, b) train the team on the surveying. The co-mapping will focus on two main aspects:

1. Physical Mapping for Urban Features: Waste collection points, Water stations, Water Canals , infrastructures, Public Buildings (services: schools, mosques, Health unit, etc.), Residential buildings

2. Socio-economic Mapping: Land and property tenures, social networks, Workforce, Economic routes, inside and outside the village, Waste routes, inside and outside the village, Potentials and challenges, Stakeholder network mapping, local practices mapping, Seasonal calendar mapping.

Study 2. Being part of the territory

Objectives:

A. Seek recognition from the local community

B. Build a dialogue with the community

C. Create a social network as common ground for activities

Methodologies:

a. Build an inclusive team by hiring key people from the community as Giza Lab field coordinators who will help the team develop contacts with partners, share the project with them, and build a network. The key people should have diversified and easy access to the whole community and they should have precedents or success stories in serving the area.

b. Build partnerships: Define the initial network which we can start with and expand it to be inclusive as much as possible.

c. Organize a series of workshops in collaboration with different associations focusing on waste management solutions, handcraft from recycling material, etc. These activities will also allow the community in all its sectors and levels, to know the Giza Lab team, giving to the community the time to listen, process and understand the project aim. Each activity is then designed to be addressed to a specific target with a specific aim.

3. Seeking formal recognition from the authorities

<u>Objectives</u>:

A. Obtain permission to operate in the territory

B. Strengthen cooperation between the local community and the authorities

<u>Methodologies and strategies</u>:

a. Involve local authorities and establish formal partnerships that would facilitate a legal and free organization of the Lab's activities

b. Organize regular meetings and provide for the project's updates

c. Engage the authorities in the waste management problem through strategies proposed by the community

Phase 2: synthesis and co-evaluation

A. Reframing the requests: Help the local community to frame and submit demands according to the authorities' formats and tools (street connections, public spaces to be allocated as waste collection points, etc.)

B. Defining a co-strategy on the ground

C. Encouraging already existing good practices in waste management through capacity building: direct, assist and support the local community in developing already existing projects and building new ones through fundraising and partnerships with strategic donors

D. Co-defining indicators to monitor the achievement of the Lab's objective.

E. Co-monitoring activities: These include structured/guided observations and unstructured observations. The difference between the two is focused on predictability and control variables. Structured observations are focused on a specific location and are usually repeated to check for trends. Unstructured are usually not necessarily planned. For example - visiting a waste dumping point at the same time of the day for 3 consecutive Fridays and taking a picture at the same spot is a structured observation.

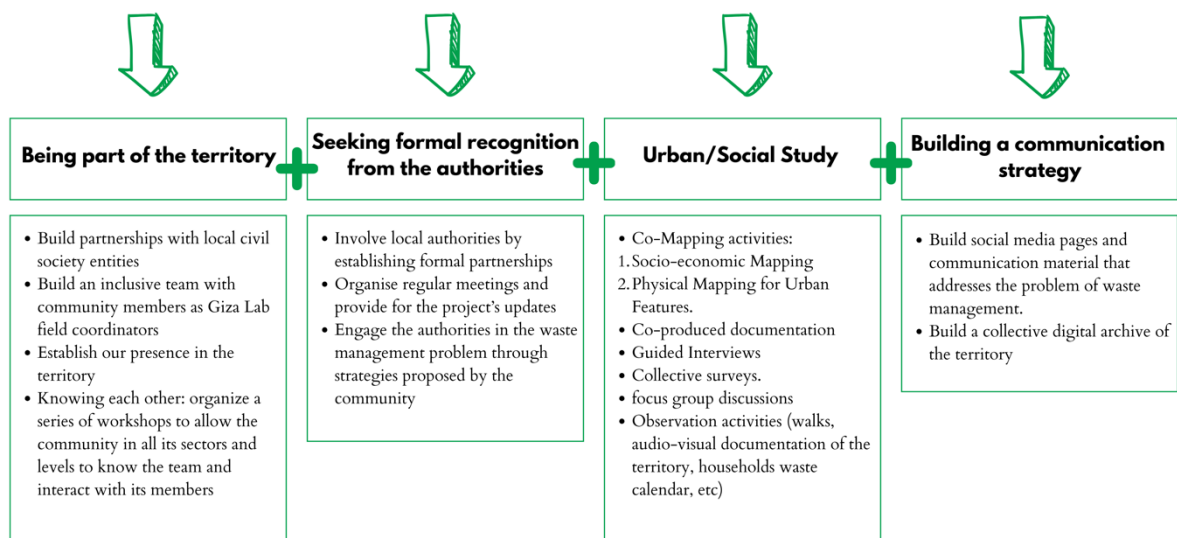F. Organizing a Fairville Lab fair that would be the space for public restitution and validation.

Figure 9: Giza FvL's Methodology, Source: NSCE