

FROM THE EDITOR



Bright Field New Village is a government-built public housing project on the outskirts of Guiyang, the capital of Guizhou province and a city of 4 million people. The complex is filled with people who used to live in inaccessible villages in the province mountains. Rob Schmitz/NPR

War on Poverty

Xi Jinping's War on Poverty Moves Millions Of Chinese Off The Farm

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By Rob Schmitz/NPR

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China's government hopes city life will push tens of millions into the workforce on their way to joining the world's largest middle class.

In the first five years of Xi's presidency, more than 60 million Chinese have risen above the poverty line; Xi wants to move 70 million more Chinese above that line within the next three years, a goal China's government is more tightly focused on than ever.

"I think they have fundamentally changed the way they are doing things, and there's just so much more money flowing through the system," says Sarah Rogers, a research fellow at the University of Melbourne.

Rogers, who made China's poverty alleviation the focus of her thesis, says that under President Xi, China's government has transformed how it tackles the issue. *One big change has been evaluating local officials not just on GDP growth, but on how well they alleviate poverty.*

"You've got a particular target for poverty alleviation," says Rogers. "If you don't meet that, you're in a bit of trouble."

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