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978-0-521-12561-1 - Population and Development Projects in Africa

Edited by John I. Clarke, Mustafa Khogali and Leszek A. Kosinski

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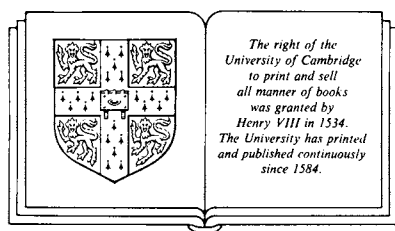
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edited by **John I. Clarke**
Mustafa Khogali
Leszek A. Kosiński

for International Geographical Union
Commission on Population Geography



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Preface

One of the most suitable countries for witnessing the impact of development projects upon population redistribution is Sudan. The largest country in Africa, it possesses what appears to be almost limitless space, ranging from arid desert in the north to tropical rainforest in the south, across which flows one of the world's greatest water resources, the Nile and its two great tributaries, the White Nile and the Blue Nile. The utilization of these waters has involved a long series of development projects, large and small, which have not only greatly affected the economic development of Sudan, but also its population distribution and growth. For each project involves the displacement and changed life styles of people, both local and remote, as it attracts people from far and wide. And the localization of projects is necessarily uneven, and so also is the accompanying urbanization. Consequently, development involves major movements of people.

It follows that government policies for economic and social development must give careful attention to the effects of development projects upon population redistribution, and over the last decade or so there has been growing awareness of the significance of this phenomenon. Among the interested international organizations, the International Geographical Union's (I.G.U.) Commission on Population Geography has played a role in holding symposia in different parts of the world, bringing together not only geographers but economists, anthropologists, sociologists, demographers, planners and others to discuss the problem.

Khartoum was therefore a most appropriate venue for an international symposium upon 'the impact of development projects upon population redistribution'. It was locally organized in 1982 on behalf of the I.G.U. Commission on Population Geography and the Department of Geography in the University of Khartoum by Mustafa M. Khogali, who is a member of both. The other co-editors are the present and past Commission chairmen, John I. Clarke and Leszek A. Kosinski. There were 43 other participants at the symposium, from Canada, Ethiopia, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Tanzania, Turkey, U.K., U.S.A., Uganda and Zambia, who presented 28 papers, many of which provide a nucleus for this volume. Some other papers were solicited from non-participants, in Ghana, Nigeria, Mozambique and South Africa, in order to provide a wider scope for the volume. Obviously, it is impossible to provide case studies from the whole of the fragmented continent of Africa or to examine all the implications of development

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projects upon population redistribution, but it is felt that this volume provides a useful contribution to the literature.

It would not have seen the light of day without the generous support of the British Overseas Development Administration, the International Geographical Union and the University of Khartoum, particularly the Faculty of Arts and the Department of Geography.

Inevitably, with widespread co-editors and authors, much of the labour of editorial work has rested in the University of Durham, where the Chairman of the I.G.U. Commission on Population Geography is especially grateful to his secretary, Joan Dresser, for dealing with manuscripts from many countries, and to the Department of Geography's cartographers (Arthur Corner, George Brown, David Cowton and David Hume), photographers (Derek Hudspeth, Linda Dodds and Andrew Hudspeth) and printers (John Normile and Marlene Crichton). To all we extend most sincere thanks.

John I. Clarke

Durham

October, 1984