Refugees and Development in Africa The Case of Eritrea

Gaim Kibreab



Contents

Abbreviations xii	
PART ONE — THE BACKGROUND	
Chapter 1 — Refugees 3	
Refugees in Today's World 4	
Defining Refugees 5	
The Problem of Refugees in Africa	8
Studying Eritrean Refugees 11	
Chapter 2 — Eritreans Flee to Sudan	15
The Flight Begins—1967 16	
The Second Influx—1969 19	
The Third Influx—1970 19	
Fleeing the Dergue—1974-75 20	
More Refugees from Fighting—1977	22
The Final Group—1978 23	
Deciding to Flee 24	
The Sample Families 28	
Alternatives to Flight 29	
Distance and Flight 34	
The World They Came From 46	
Aid As a Pull Factor 54	

ix

Acknowlegements Editor's Note xi

Chapter 3 — Sudan: Country of Asylum 59	
The Settlement Area 59	
Background on the Sudan 69	
Refugees in the Sudan 70	
The Administrative Structures 77	
Land Settlements in Eastern Sudan 80	
Chapter 4 — The Refugee Households 87	
The Population 87	
The Families 88	
Their Work 97	
Chapter 5 — Land in the Settlements 105	
Land in the Qala En Nahal Settlement 106	
Land in the Aburakham and Wad Awad Settlements 108	
Land Potential and Population 111	
Allocating the Land 112	
Landlessness 118	
Acquiring More Land 123	
Working the Land 125	
Land Tenure and the Refugees 130	
Chapter 6 — Labor in the Settlements 133	
Families and Labor 134	
Traditional Division of Labor 141	
Agricultural Labor 147	
Labor Through the Seasons 153	
Constraints on Labor 160	
The Utilization of Labor 162	
Labor Strategies 170	
Responding to Prices 174	
Responding to the Market 176	
Chapter 7 — Mechanization and Self-Reliance in the Settlements	181
The Background to Mechanization 182	
Tractors Come to Qala En Nahal 184	
Problems in Qala En Nahal 191	
Development Without Beneficiary's Participation? 199	
The Failure to Link Refugee and Development Aid 202	
Can Mechanization Be Justified? 204	
Mechanization Creates Dependence 208	
The Poor Farmers are Marginalized 212	
Alternative Methods of Cultivation 213	

Income from Crop Production 224	
Income from Other Sources 228	
The Importance of Non-Farm Income 242	
Food to the Vulnerable 245	
Chapter 9 — Viability and Self-Reliance in the Settlements	249
The Viable Household 249	
The Minimum Viable Income 258	
The Viable Farm Household 262	
The Viable Farm 264	
The Viable Settlement 266	
Chapter 10 — Conclusion: Self-Reliance or Dependence?	269
Appendix 1 — Methodology 279	
The State of Research Into Refugees 279	
Methodology of the Study 281	
Choice of Type of Settlement 281	
Means of Data Collection 282	
Reliability of the Data 288	
Bibliography 293	
Unpublished Primary Sources 293	
Published Primary Sources 294	
Unpublished Government and Other Sources 295	
Published Secondary Sources 299	
Journals 301	
Newspapers and Periodicals 303	

223

Chapter 8 — Income in the Settlements