

NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS (NGOs):
CONTRIBUTIONS TO DEVELOPMENT



Proceedings of a Seminar held at the Institute
for Development Studies, Nairobi, 19 September 1985

Edited by
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PREFACE

This Occasional Paper presents five papers which were given at a seminar held at the Institute for Development Studies, College of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Nairobi, in September of 1985. The aim of the one-day seminar was to bring together the people working with the Non-government Organisations, government officials, and researchers, and thereby initiate dialogue and sharing of experiences and challenges of being involved in development.

The papers have been revised, edited and issued as an Occasional Paper which we hope will be a contribution to the ongoing debate on the role and place of Non-government Organisations (NGOs) in the process of development in Kenya in particular, and Africa in general.

We regard the debate on the role of NGOs in development as an important and healthy phenomenon which should be encouraged. This debate should, however, be based on the best available information and accurate data. Research work in this field is therefore crucial in generating the required knowledge. In addition, dissemination and sharing of the available knowledge and research findings has to be actively promoted if an understanding of the work of NGOs is to be realised among the NGOs themselves, within the government, among the local communities, and by researchers. In this way the development efforts of various groups can be enriched and enhanced.

As indicated the papers were prepared to generate and provoke discussions and sharing of experiences during the seminar. In issuing them to a wider audience, the Institute hopes that they will not only contribute to the ongoing debate but they will encourage more sharing of experiences among NGOs, research, and reflection on the work of NGOs in development.

The papers were written by Alan Fowler, a Development Consultant, Samuel Kobia, Director, Church Development in the National Council of Churches in Kenya (NCKC), Harold Miller, Peace and Food Concerns of the Mennonite Central Committee, Cyrus G. Mutiso, Director of Mutiso

Consultants and Kabiru Kinyanjui, Institute for Development Studies. The writers are people with wide experience of practical and academic nature in this field, acquired here in Kenya as well as many other parts of the world.

The Institute would like to express our thanks and appreciation to the writers of the papers and all the participants of the seminar. At the same time we would like to apologise to them for the delay which has occurred in publishing the results of this seminar.

Our thanks go to Mr. Tony Troughear for assisting in the editing of these papers and to Ms Esther Werehire for her tireless efforts in the preparation of this monograph.

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