



# CANADA'S PERIODICAL ON REFUGEES REFUGE

Vol. 16 • No. 3

August 1997

## DEVELOPMENT-INDUCED DISPLACEMENT

### Overview

Peter Penz

Refugee studies are concerned with the displacement of people from their homes and native lands. Due to legal conventions defining refugees and their rights, the focus has generally been on people fleeing persecution and violence and seeking asylum in other countries. But much displacement occurs within countries and for reasons other than a fear of deliberate state victimization or violent disorder. In fact, very extensive displacement occurs from apparent efforts to do good. Development is broadly interpreted to consist of bettering the lives of people by improving their economic conditions. Violence is generally considered to be at least *prima facie* evil; people forced from their homes by violence are therefore victims of evil or of conflict that has escaped the bounds of civilized relations. Displacement by development, on the other hand, is an evil resulting from intentional political choices and, more specifically, the (at least alleged) pursuit of good.

The purpose of this issue of *Refuge* is to present instances of displacement due to development. In particular, two

sources of development-induced displacement are evidenced in more than one of the articles. One source is dams, the other the Green Revolution.

Dams are an important form of infrastructure for development, especially in the generation of power for industrial development and in the development of irrigation for agricultural development. In this issue, the displacement effects of dams, as well

as related issues, are discussed with reference to the Péligre Dam in Haiti by Philip Howard, to the Sardar Sarovar project on the Narmada River in India by Laurie Uytterlinde Flood and to the Kafin Zaki dam in Nigeria by Kole Ahmed Shettima. It is not only the huge reservoirs inundating often fertile and well populated land that cause dislocation, but also the irrigation canals and sometimes the degra-

#### CONTENTS:

<b>Overview</b> <i>Peter Penz</i> .....	1
<b>Development-induced Displacement in Haiti</b> <i>Philip Howard</i> .....	4
<b>Sardar Sarovar Dam: A Case Study of Development-induced Environmental Displacement</b> <i>Laurie Uytterlinde Flood</i> .....	12
<b>Dam Politics in Northern Nigeria: The Case of the Kafin Zaki Dam</b> <i>Kole Ahmed Shettima</i> .....	18
<b>The Green Revolution: Socioeconomic Insecurity and Agricultural Displacement in India</b> <i>Mia Biasucci</i> .....	23
<b>Protecting Nature and Displacing People</b> <i>Peter Vandergeest</i> .....	28
<b>How to Make Them Hear: Challenging Transnational Oil Interests in Ecuador's Amazon Region</b> <i>Malcolm Rogge</i> .....	32
<b>The Ethics of Development-induced Displacement</b> <i>Peter Penz</i> .....	37

