EVALUATION OF NUTRITIONAL STATUS OF REFUGEE CHILDREN AS COMPARED TO SUDANESE DISPLACED CHILDREN IN WESTERN SUDAN

Thesis submitted in the Partial Fulfilment for Master Degree in Epidemiology

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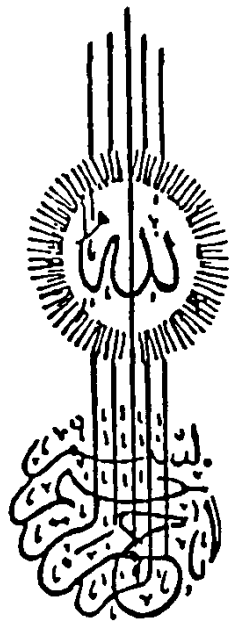


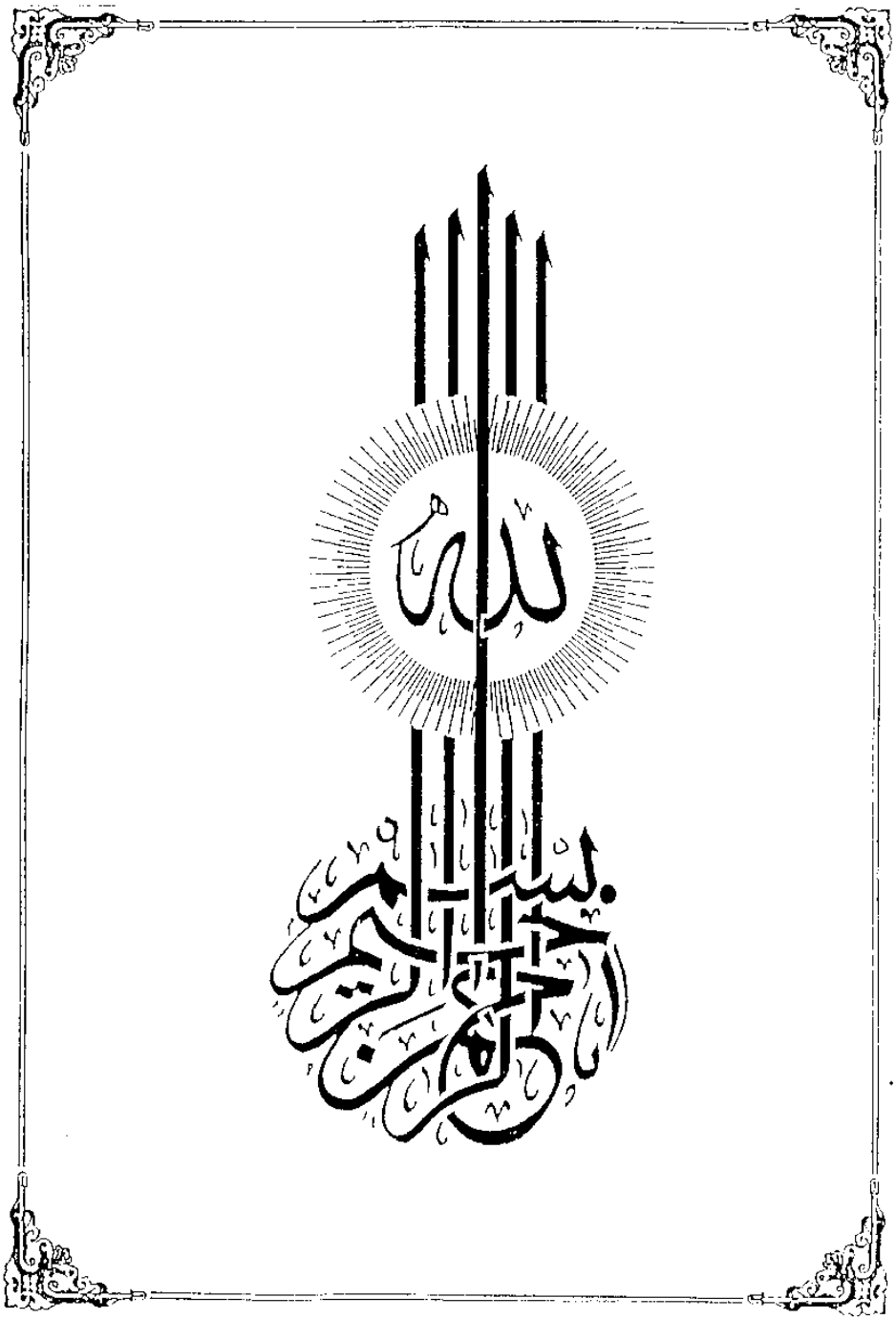
قالوا

سُبْحَانَكَ لَا عِلْمَ لَنَا إِلَّا مَا عَلَّمْتَنَا

إِنَّكَ أَنْتَ الْعَلِيمُ الْحَكِيمُ

صَدَقَ اللهُ الْعَظِيمُ

سورة البقرة (الآية ٣٢)



Abbreviations and Definitions

COR	Sudanese commissioner for refugees, it is the focal point within the Sudan Government for all aspects concerning refugees.
GOAL	An Irish voluntary organization working in refugee camps in Western Sudan, its headquarters are at Dublin, Ireland Telex 809779.
Ht.	Height.
IARA	Islamic African Reliet Agency. A Sudanese voluntary organization; it has its headquarters at Khartoum.
MSF(Belgium)	(Medecins Sans Frontieres). A Belgian Voluntary Organization working in refugee camps in Western Sudan. Deschampheleer straat, 24-26 13-1080 Brussel Belgium, Telex: 63.607 MSFB.
OXFAM	An English voluntary organization specialized in nutrition surveys and water supply in disaster areas.
NCHS	National Center for Health Statistics, United States of America.
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.
UNICEF	United Nations Children Fund.
WHO	World Health Organization.
Wt.	Weight.

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List of Tables

Table of Figures

CONTENTS

Introduction

INTRODUCTION

When I was the director of health in Gedarif area (1984-1985), Eastern Sudan, that borders Ethiopia, the influx of refugees to Sudan started to take a very serious magnitute, thousands of Ethiopians started to cross the international border every day entering the Sudan. At the same time thousands of refugees were crossing the border and entering Sudan from Chad and Uganda. This massive exodus of refugees to the Sudan was mainly due to severe draught leading to famine together with insecurity due to political instability and the civil wars that are going on in these 3 neighbouring countries.

These refugees were in a very bad health situation almost all of them were in desperate need for therapeutic feeding and emergency medical care, which was provided through emergency programmes, funded by the United Nations High Commission for Refugees. Emergency food supplies and medicaments were air lifted and voluntary agencies were sending medical and other personnel from all over the world to help and care for the refugees.

While this was going on, one third of the host country's (1) rural population (5 millions), were struck by the worst famine in its recent history, due to the draught of (1980-1984) that affected all countries accross the subsaharan belt.

This lead to massive movements of rural population, towards urban centres and the erruption of huge camps and villages around all the urban centres in Sudan, inhabited by these displaced people.

While the refugees benifited from relatively well organised, internationally funded, health and other programmes provided by the UNHCR and other agencies; the displaced sudanese population were almost left alone to struggle for survival.

Review of Literature