

Acknowledgements

The production of this book is the result of numerous efforts and contributions from various individuals and institutions, both through material and moral support. I would like to extend my heartfelt appreciation to everyone who, in one way or another, aided in the accomplishment of this work.

I thank Almighty God for granting me breath and good health while preparing this book. I express my heartfelt gratitude to Prof. Dr. Julia Tischler of the University of Basel and Prof. Dr. Jamie Monson of Michigan State University for their mentorship and unwavering support in providing numerous substantive suggestions and alternative perspectives when needed. I am deeply indebted to both of them.

I am mindful of the contributions of members from the Departments of History at the University of Basel and Dar es Salaam, as well as research fellows at the Käte Hamburger Research Center, global dis:connect, Ludwig Maximilians University (LMU) in Munich, who reviewed and provided valuable feedback on parts of my work. Anonymous reviewers for De Gruyter prompted me to rethink and refine key aspects. Professor Li Anshan of Peking University shared his painstakingly collected information and publications on Chinese medical teams across various African regions, which proved to be extremely useful.

This book stems from a PhD dissertation awarded by the University of Basel, Department of History, in 2021. I acknowledge the generous financial support of the Humer Foundation for Academic Talent and the *Forschungsfonds der Universität Basel* (Research Fund of the University of Basel). I would also like to thank the Basel Graduate School of History (BGSH), Freiwillige Akademische Gesellschaft (FAG), and the Centre for African Studies (ZASB) for their financial support during my fieldwork in China and Tanzania. A fellowship at the Käte Hamburger Research Centre, global dis:connect, Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich, enabled me to effectively work on this book to meet publishable standards. I am also grateful to my employer, the University of Dar es Salaam, Mwalimu Nyerere Campus, for their kind assistance. I would like to express my sincere gratitude for all this support.

I owe my profound debt to archivists and librarians. I have relied on materials held by the Tanzania National Archives (TNA), Mbeya Records Centre (MRC), Dodoma National Records Centre (NRC), Shandong Provincial Archives (SPA), the World Health Organization (WHO) Archives, and the University Libraries of Dar es Salaam, Basel, East China Normal University, and the Bavarian State Library. Their kind and patient assistance made my data collection and writing processes successful.

I am equally grateful to my library, archives, and fieldwork research assistants. Hamad Mwange assisted in examining newspapers in the East Africana research collections at the University of Dar es Salaam. In the archive section, Li Zuxian and Shi Jing did a commendable job translating Chinese archival information into English at the Shandong Provincial Archives. Li Mengmeng's transcription of some Chinese interviews was extraordinarily helpful. Their kind assistance addressed several hurdles and simplified my research work. I am also indebted to the government officials at the Ministry of Health in both China and Tanzania, as well as to my informants in both countries, for their warm welcome, cooperation, and hospitality during the data collection process. Indeed, the informants provided valuable information that enriched this study.

Last but certainly not least, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to my family – my parents, the late Mr. Azizi Mdoti Kifyasi and my dear mother, Mrs. Agnes Mbonane Mpinge, for their love, support, and assistance with childcare. I am equally grateful to my brothers and sisters, Abri, Godluck, Felista, and Elizabeth, whose unwavering love and support have steadied and strengthened me. I am profoundly indebted to my sweetheart, Salima, and our children, Paschal, Anthony, and Alica, for their patience and encouragement throughout the busiest periods of researching and writing this book.

Dar es Salaam, July 2025