



OCHA

United Nations Office
for the Coordination of
Humanitarian Affairs

Partnership for Humanity

ETHNICITY

In 1999, Sudan was one of the most ethnically and linguistically diverse countries in the world. It had nearly 600 ethnic groups speaking over 400 languages and dialects.

During the 1980s and 1990s some of Sudan's smaller ethnic and linguistic groups disappeared. Migration played a part, as migrants often forget their native tongue when they move to an area dominated by another language. Some linguistic groups were absorbed by accommodation, others by conflict.

Arabic was the lingua franca despite the use of English by many of the elite. Many Sudanese are multilingual.

PEOPLES NAME	POPULATION	PRIMARY LANGUAGE	PRIMARY RELIGION
Abukeia, Avokaya	16,172	Avokaya	Christianity
Acheron		Acheron	Unknown
Acholi, Shuli	53,898	Acholi	Christianity
Afitti, Ditti	6,471	Afitti	Islam
Ageer	14,557	Dinka, Northeastern	Ethnic Religions
Aja	211	Aja	Islam
Amhara	72,445	Amharic	Christianity
Amri	59,503	Arabic, Sudanese Spoken	Islam
Anuak, Jambo	64,686	Anuak	Ethnic Religions
Arab	1,121,137	Arabic, Standard	Islam
Arab, Egyptian	377,319	Arabic, Egyptian Spoken	Islam
Arab, Juba	21,566	Arabic, Sudanese Creole	Islam
Arab, Maghrebi	149,851	Arabic, Moroccan Spoken	Islam
Arab, Mongaltese	64,686	Arabic, Sudanese Creole	Islam
Arab, Shuweihat	75,464	Arabic, Sudanese Spoken	Islam
Arab, Sudanese	5,174,582	Arabic, Sudanese Spoken	Islam
Arab, Syrian	72,445	Arabic, North Levantine S	Islam
Arab, Ta'izz-Adeni	17,248	Arabic, Taizzi-Adeni Spoken	Islam
Arabized Burun	101,547	Arabic, Sudanese Spoken	Islam
Arabized Dilling	9,057	Arabic, Sudanese Spoken	Islam
Arabized Ghulfan	27,382	Arabic, Sudanese Spoken	Islam
Arabized Kadaru	7,547	Arabic, Sudanese Spoken	Islam
Arabized Kadugli	167,099	Arabic, Sudanese Spoken	Islam
Arabized Karko	14,018	Arabic, Sudanese Spoken	Islam
Arabized Mararit	21,566	Arabic, Sudanese Spoken	Islam
Arabized Midob, Tidida	32,343	Arabic, Sudanese Spoken	Islam
Arabized Nyimang	85,492	Arabic, Sudanese Spoken	Islam
Arabized Tagale	74,820	Arabic, Sudanese Spoken	Islam
Arabized Temein	28,997	Arabic, Sudanese Spoken	Islam
Arabized Tira	86,241	Arabic, Sudanese Spoken	Islam
Arabized Wali	36,650	Arabic, Sudanese Spoken	Islam
Arabized Zaghawa	109,960	Arabic, Sudanese Spoken	Islam
Armenian	1,077	Armenian	Christianity
Awlad Hassan	62,522	Arabic, South Levantine Spoken	Islam
Azande, Zande	592,922	Zande	Christianity
Banda, Mid-Southern	6,249	Banda, Mid-Southern	Christianity
Banda, Togbo-Vara	1,837	Banda, Togbo-Vara	Islam
Banda, West Central	3,230	Banda, West Central	Christianity
Banda-Banda	3,768	Banda-Banda	Christianity
Banda-Mbres	7,547	Banda-Mbres	Unknown
Banda-Ndele	38,276	Banda-Ndele	Christianity
Bari	464,975	Bari	Christianity
Bari, Kakwa	82,293	Kakwa	Christianity
Bari, Kuku	48,409	Bari	Christianity
Batahin	193,615	Arabic, Sudanese Spoken	Islam
Baya, Gbaya	9,384	Gbaya, Northwest	Christianity
Baygo	918	Baygo	Islam
Bederia	723,582	Arabic, Sudanese Spoken	Islam
Beja, Bedawi	2,055,857	Bedawi	Islam
Beja, Bisharin	44,419	Bedawi	Islam
Belanda Bor	33,420	Belanda Bor	Ethnic Religions
Beli, Jur Beli	11,854	Beli	Ethnic Religions
Berta, Barta	242,563	Berta	Ethnic Religions
Berti	247,091	Arabic, Sudanese Spoken	Islam
Bideyat	7,009	Zaghawa	Islam

Birked	119,661	Arabic, Sudanese Spoken	Islam
Bongo	10,778	Bongo	Ethnic Religions
British	6,249	English	Christianity
Bug, Mangayat	433	Mangayat	Islam
Burun, Lange	33,420	Burun	Islam
Dair, Thaminyi	1,077	Dair	Islam
Daju, Dar Fur	161,705	Daju, Dar Fur	Islam
Daju, Dar Sila	50,668	Daju, Dar Sila	Islam
Dar Hamid	578,904	Arabic, Sudanese Spoken	Islam
Debri, Wei	3,557	Dilling	Islam
Delen, Warki	4,317	Dilling	Islam
Dhr Thuri, Wada	7,115	Thuri	Christianity
Di'dinga, Xaroxa	62,522	Didinga	Ethnic Religions
Dinka, Central	34,497	Dinka, South Central	Ethnic Religions
Dinka, Northeastern	517,458	Dinka, Northeastern	Christianity
Dinka, Northwestern	127,209	Dinka, Northwestern	Christianity
Dinka, South Central	404,268	Dinka, South Central	Christianity
Dinka, Southeastern	437,688	Dinka, Southeastern	Christianity
Dinka, Western	840,868	Dinka, Southwestern	Christianity
Dongotono	6,365	Dongotono	Islam
Donyiro, Nyangatom	10,894	Nyangatom	Ethnic Religions
Dubasiyin	79,771	Arabic, Sudanese Spoken	Islam
Dukpu	7,220	Banda, Mid-Southern	Ethnic Religions
El Hugeirat	1,077	El Hugeirat	Islam
Eliri, Nding	3,768	Nding	Islam
Eurafrican	10,894	English	Christianity
Fa-c-Aka, Aka	3,125	Aka	Ethnic Religions
Falasha, Qimant	1,837	Qimant	Ethnic Religions
Fanya, Awlad Mana	41,178	Fania	Islam
Fertit, Kara	9,268	Arabic, Sudanese Spoken	Islam
Fezara	253,773	Arabic, Sudanese Spoken	Islam
Fongoro, Gele	1,077	Fongoro	Islam
French	1,077	French	Christianity
Fulbe, Fulani	140,150	Fulfulde, Adamawa	Islam
Fungor, Ko	3,230	Ko	Ethnic Religions
Fur, Forok	883,989	Fur	Islam
Gaaliin	2,479,463	Arabic, Sudanese Spoken	Islam
Gaam, Ingassana	64,686	Gaam	Islam
Garko, Kithonirishe	21,566	Karko	Islam
Gawamaa	748,811	Arabic, Sudanese Spoken	Islam
Ghulfan	26,949	Ghulfan	Islam
Gimma	124,190	Arabic, Sudanese Spoken	Islam
Greek	13,480	Greek	Christianity
Guhayna	1,125,464	Arabic, Sudanese Spoken	Islam
Gule	18,325	Gule	Islam
Gulud	9,701	Arabic, Sudanese Spoken	Islam
Gumis, Shanqilla	64,686	Gumuz	Islam
Gweri, Mo'da	644	Moda	Ethnic Religions
Habbania, Baggara	268,435	Arabic, Sudanese Spoken	Islam
Hadendoa, Beja	88,722	Bedawi	Islam
Hamer-Banna	282,443	Arabic, Sudanese Spoken	Islam
Hasania	549,801	Arabic, Sudanese Spoken	Islam
Hausa	592,922	Hausa	Islam
Hawawir	186,173	Arabic, Sudanese Spoken	Islam
Heiban, Ebang	7,547	Heiban	Christianity
Homa	3,663	Homa	Christianity

Husseinat	123,440	Arabic, Sudanese Spoken	Islam
Indo-Pakistani	7,980	Hindi	Hinduism
Indri, Yanderika	1,077	Indri	Islam
Italian	3,663	Italian	Christianity
Jew, Sudanese Speaking	33	Arabic, Sudanese Spoken	Ethnic Religions
Jomang, Talodi	2,270	Talodi	Islam
Jumjum, Berin	56,062	Jumjum	Islam
Jur Modo	28,026	Jur Modo	Ethnic Religions
Kababish	301,095	Arabic, Sudanese Spoken	Islam
Kacipo	10,778	Kacipo-Balesi	Ethnic Religions
Kadaru	7,547	Kadaru	Islam
Kaligi, Feroge	11,854	Feroge	Islam
Kaliko	8,624	Keliko	Ethnic Religions
Kanga, Kufo	11,854	Kanga	Islam
Kara, Guda	1,721	Gula	Islam
Karamojong, Jiye	36,228	Karamojong	Christianity
Katcha-Kadugli-Miri	97,029	Katcha-Kadugli-Miri	Ethnic Religions
Katla, Akalak	12,941	Katla	Islam
Kawahia, Fezara	745,792	Arabic, Sudanese Spoken	Islam
Keiga	15,200	Keiga	Islam
Keiga Jirru	3,557	Tese	Islam
Kelo, Tornasi	2,808	Kelo	Islam
Kerarish	34,497	Arabic, Sudanese Spoken	Islam
Kimr, Gimr	124,295	Assangori	Islam
Kineenawi	20,373	Arabic, Sudanese Spoken	Islam
Koalib	75,464	Koalib	Ethnic Religions
Komo	19,402	Komo	Ethnic Religions
Kresh, Kparla	18,114	Gbaya	Islam
Krongo, Tambanya	34,497	Krongo	Christianity
Kunama	18,114	Kunama	Christianity
Kuraan	53,898	Arabic, Algerian Saharan	Islam
Lafofa	8,624	Lafofa	Islam
Lafon, Pari	43,121	Pari	Ethnic Religions
Lahawin	141,121	Arabic, Sudanese Spoken	Islam
Lango	30,190	Lango	Ethnic Religions
Laro, Aaleira	43,121	Laro	Christianity
Lingala	31,266	Lingala	Christianity
Logo, Logo Kuli	7,220	Logo	Christianity
Logol, Lukha	8,624	Logol	Ethnic Religions
Logorif, Liguri	2,153	Logorik	Islam
Lokoya, Owoi	45,707	Lokoya	Ethnic Religions
Lomon	55,000	Lumon	Unknown
Lopid, Lafit	53,898	Lopit	Ethnic Religions
Lotuho, Latuka	166,022	Otuho	Ethnic Religions
Luo	140,150	Luwo	Christianity
Ma'adi	19,402	Madi	Christianity
Maaban, Southern Burun	57,139	Mabaan	Ethnic Religions
Maalia	84,088	Arabic, Sudanese Spoken	Islam
Maba, Borgu	50,668	Maba	Ethnic Religions
Mandala	22,959	Bagheli	Ethnic Religions
Mararit, Abiyi	23,719	Mararit	Islam
Masakin, Dagik	40,967	Dagik	Ethnic Religions
Masalit	199,442	Masalit	Islam
Me'en, Mekan	1,837	Me'en	Christianity
Messiria, Baggara	460,214	Arabic, Sudanese Spoken	Islam
Midobi, Tid-n-Aal	68,993	Midob	Islam

Mimi, Mima	90,559	Mimi	Islam
Molo, Malkan	106	Molo	Islam
Mondari, Chir	129,362	Mandari	Christianity
Moro Hills	4,096	Tocho	Islam
Moro, Dhimorong	51,745	Moro	Christianity
Morokodo, Ma'di	7,009	Morokodo	Ethnic Religions
Moru, Kala Moru	123,978	Moru	Christianity
Mundu	34,497	Mundu	Ethnic Religions
Murele, Ajibba	102,413	Murle	Ethnic Religions
Naath, Nuer	1,401,500	Nuer	Ethnic Religions
Narim, Lariminit	6,471	Narim	Ethnic Religions
Ndogo	26,949	Ndogo	Christianity
Ngala	32,343	Bangala	Christianity
Ngile, Masakin	66,840	Ngile	Ethnic Religions
Njalgulgule	1,942	Njalgulgule	Islam
Nobiin	318,027	Nobiin	Islam
Nubian, Fedicca/Mohas	107,807	Nobiin	Islam
Nubian, Kenuzi-Dongola	269,512	Kenuzi-Dongola	Islam
Nyamusa-Molo	12,941	Nyamusa-Molo	Ethnic Religions
Nyiman, Ama	80,858	Ama	Islam
Olubogo, Ondoe Luloba	18,114	Olubo	Ethnic Religions
Opuuo, Shita	2,692	Opuuo	Ethnic Religions
Otoro Nuba, Kawama	68,887	Otoro	Christianity
Pygmy, Bayaka, Binga	1,077	Yulu	Ethnic Religions
Rashaida	73,310	Arabic, Hijazi Spoken	Islam
Reel, Atwot	26,949	Reel	Ethnic Religions
Reshiat, Dasenach	3,125	Daasanach	Ethnic Religions
Rizeigat	310,447	Arabic, Sudanese Spoken	Islam
Rufaa, Rufaiyin	441,994	Arabic, Sudanese Spoken	Islam
Sara Ngambai	8,624	Ngambay	Christianity
Sebei	13,691	Kupsabiny	Islam
Selim, Baggara	40,967	Arabic, Sudanese Spoken	Islam
Shaikia	754,627	Arabic, Sudanese Spoken	Islam
Shatt	25,872	Shatt	Islam
Sherifi	142,303	Arabic, Sudanese Spoken	Islam
Shilluk, Dhocolo	312,633	Shilluk	Christianity
Shukria	204,826	Arabic, Sudanese Spoken	Islam
Shwai, Shirumba	3,768	Shwai	Christianity
Sinyar	5,394	Sinyar	Islam
Sokoro, Tunjur	1,298	Sokoro	Islam
Somali	1,298	Somali	Islam
Sungor, Assangori	16,172	Assangori	Islam
Suri, Surma	1,077	Suri	Christianity
Tagoy, Tagoi	14,018	Tagoi	Islam
Tama	118,584	Tama	Islam
Tara Baaka, Mbaka	32,343	Baka	Christianity
Temain, Ronge	16,172	Temein	Islam
Tennet	5,394	Tennet	Ethnic Religions
Tese, Teis-Umm-Danab	1,509	Tese	Islam
Tigre, Xasa	431,217	Tigre	Islam
Tigrinya, Tigrai	36,228	Tigrigna	Christianity
Tima, Lomorik	3,346	Tima	Islam
Tingal, Lajakja	10,778	Tingal	Islam
Tira, Thiro	43,121	Tira	Ethnic Religions
Tocho	4,096	Tocho	Unknown
Togole, Tegale	59,292	Tegali	Islam

Topohta, Taposa	172,483	Toposa	Christianity
Tubu, Teda	6,904	Tedaga	Islam
Tukam	14,557	Tagoi	Islam
Tulishi	12,941	Tulishi	Ethnic Religions
Tulishi, Kamdang	3,230	Tulishi	Ethnic Religions
Tumma, Sangali	21,566	Katcha-Kadugli-Miri	Ethnic Religions
Tumtum	10,778	Tumtum	Ethnic Religions
Tungur	175,723	Arabic, Sudanese Spoken	Islam
Turkmen, Turkana	3,663	Turkana	Ethnic Religions
Turum	1,721	Koalib	Ethnic Religions
Uduk	17,248	Uduk	Christianity
Umm Heitan	18,758	Koalib	Ethnic Religions
Viri, Belanda Viri	39,891	Belanda Viri	Ethnic Religions
Wali	760	Wali	Islam
Wallega	70,070	Oromo, West Central	Christianity
Warnang, Werni	3,663	Warnang	Ethnic Religions
Yazeed	326,967	Arabic, Sudanese Spoken	Islam
Yega, Keiga, Kega-Timero	6,576	Tese	Islam
Yerwa Kanuri	258,734	Kanuri, Central	Islam
Yulu	3,452	Yulu	Christianity
Zaghawa, Zoghaua	204,826	Zaghawa	Islam

Source:

Joshua Project Peoples Data