

Dispersed, But Are We United?

Basma Khalifa, International Fashion Journalist

3rd Diaspora International Conference

London 2016

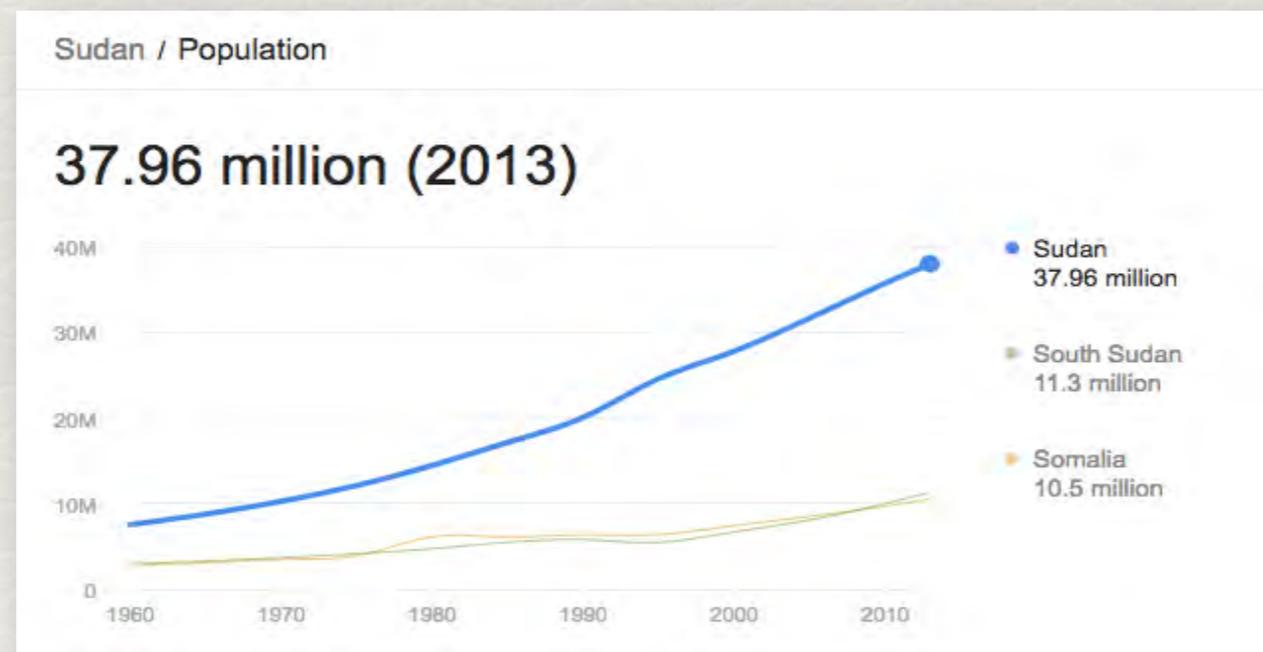
Who Am I?

- My Family
- My Career
- Being part of the diaspora



Our Sudan

- Sudan has a population of **over 36 million** people with the youth making up 62% of this population.
- This means that the rising youth will have a **huge influence** over the future of Sudan.
- They need to be healthy, skilled, and active in the development and recovery of their communities.



The Youth of Sudan

- The Sudanese are not self deprecating.
- We are all powerful, alert, hungry for success and willing to change.
- There is a disconnect with what the youth are doing in Sudan to the Diaspora.
- There is a strong sense of community among the youth.
- Sudanese youth are now all on social media including facebook, snapchat, instagram and youtube. We are viral. Both here and in Sudan.
- They take initiative in order to make sure our generation have the opportunities we deserve.
- Huge initiatives for young people, including groups such as Sadagaat, SVP.

The Youth of Sudan



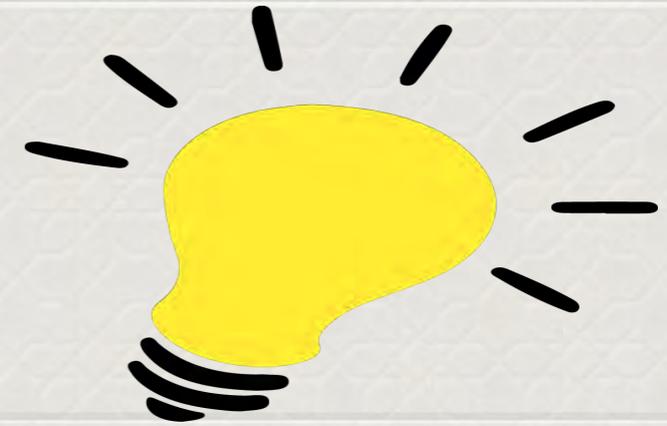
The Youth of Diaspora

- We, like the youth of Sudan, are hungry for success.
- Being part of the diaspora can make young adults fiercely independent.
- When it comes to identity we often feel that we are in the middle, in between where we are and where we are from.
- That is not to say we aren't connected to our homeland. Most young Sudanese people are brought up around a strong family unit, we are raised on the importance of our culture, music, food, love and language.
- We are lucky to be open to different job opportunities that may not be available in Sudan.

Why Is There a Disconnection?

- Lack of understanding because of the lack of community.
- Diasporic youth are very self driven.
- There is no mutual goal for us to connect over.
- Lack of social scene because western life is very fast paced. Unless it is over Ramadan, Eid or Friday prayers no one actually meets.
- There is no actual set up connections between the diaspora and the homeland.

Food For Thought



- Sudanese and African youth need to think **like the youth for the youth**.
- Increasingly, young people live online, with the vast majority of their **social and cultural interactions** conducted through means other than face-to-face conversation.
- Our community is very transient – People are constantly coming and going to Sudan. An **online community** means young Sudanese people can connect virally at any time.
- There needs to be an open **mentoring scheme**. Where people like me and others, can connect with young people in Sudan.

The Spirit, Hope and Determination.

- Whatever the worries, uncertainties and regardless of how much money our nation has, Sudanese people, young and old are so proud and patriotic of their beautiful country and what it has to offer.
- We love our sandy roads, our river Nile and our food markets. But most important we love who we are as people, the kindness, the thoughtfulness and the respect we have towards each other has got our country through the biggest troubles.
- Listening to the voices of our youth will only benefit the future of our children and their children too.
- **We must remember that individually we are one drop, but together we are an ocean.**





Our beloved Sudan

