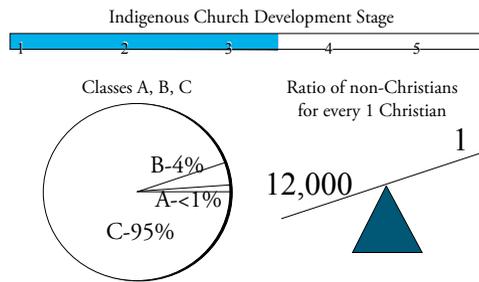


# Sudanese Arab



## Quick Facts

**Population:** 18,000,000  
 Sudan: 15,000,000  
 Egypt: 2,000,000  
 Yemen: 350,000  
 Libya: 200,000  
**Religion:** Sunni Islam  
**Believers:** 0.008%  
**Scriptures:** NT, OT  
**Ministry Tools:** JRGT  
**Church Status:** 3  
**Mission Status:** 2  
**MS Subgroups:** 100+



Class A- Are members of a Culturally Relevant Church  
 Class B- Have close access to a CRC, but have not yet joined  
 Class C- Have no reasonable or close access to a CRC

**Identity:** The Sudanese Arabs are a complex cluster comprised of Arabized african peoples, descendents of mixed marriages between Arab masters and their harems of black slaves, and pure Arabs which can legitimately claim descent back to Arabia. They are, in effect, a people in the making, united by the Arabic language but divided by ethnic origin and social class.

**Lifestyle:** Sudanese Arab lifestyle is varied from the nomadic cattle and camel herdsman, to the shanty town dwellers in Khartoum (many of which were former subsistence farmers affected by 20 years of man-made war-related famine), to the small percentage of well-off ruling families which control the economy and government. Increased oil production is giving the economy a much needed boost.

**Customs:** Leadership among Sudanese Arabs differs between the sedentary tribes and the nomadic ones. Among

sedentary tribes, royal lineages have been established from ancient times when Arab immigrant clans established themselves as rulers over indigenous peoples. Among the nomadic tribes, leaders are called *sheiks*, in contrast with the *meliks* (kings) of the sedentary groups. Unlike the hereditary *meliks*, Sheikhs come to power through wealth and strength of personality.

**Religion:** Powerful Islamic brotherhoods and religious orders known as *tariqas* add a distinct flavor to the Sunni Islam practiced by most Sudanese Arabs. The most politically influential is the Mahdi group which overthrew the Egyptians in 1843 and formed a theocratic state. Members of this group seek the Islamicization of all Sudan, and contributed to the ethno-religious genocide which killed 2 million Southern Christians in the last twenty years.

**Christian Outreach:** Missionary work among Sudanese Arabs is mostly

limited to aid programs in or around Khartoum. Visas are increasingly difficult to obtain and keep. Even so, dozens of discipleship groups have been established and are growing in Khartoum. However, among the rural and nomadic Sudanese Arabs, there is yet no disciple-making movement or fellowship.

## How to Pray:

☞ Praise God for the wide distribution of the Jesus Film among the Sudanese Arabs. Pray for its continued showing and good response among the estimated 10 million which have seen it.

☞ The fascist totalitarian government of Sudan has produced widespread disillusionment with Islam. Pray that this may result in a massive turning to the Gospel of grace and salvation.

☞ Pray for the emergence of a Sudanese brotherhood, or *tariqa* that gives Lordship to Jesus Christ. Pray that the followers of the Mahdi (messiah) might find in Jesus the eternal Mahdi who gave his life that they might be with him forever.

☞ Pray for spiritual breakthrough among all the ruling families and wealthy elite among the Sudanese

**Every year 160,000 Sudanese Arabs die without Christ.**

# Sudanese Arab (cont.)

## 30 Least-Evangelized Peoples in the Sudanese Arab Cluster

People, Population, % Evangelical

Arab Tribes (30+)	5,000,000	0.03%	Batahin	180,000	0.00%
Gaaliin	2,000,000	0.00%	Shukria	165,000	0.00%
Guhayna	1,000,000	0.00%	Tungur	160,000	0.00%
Sudanese Baggara	750,000	0.01%	Maghrebi	140,000	0.00%
Gawamaa	700,000	0.00%	Husseinat	115,000	0.00%
Kawahia	700,000	0.00%	Lahawin	115,000	0.00%
Bederia	670,000	0.00%	Sherifi	110,000	0.00%
Shaikia	620,000	0.00%	Arabized Kadugli	75,000	0.00%
Dar Hamid	530,000	0.00%	Maalia	70,000	0.00%
Hasania	460,000	0.00%	Dubasiyin	65,000	0.00%
Yazeed	300,000	0.00%	Mongallese	60,000	0.00%
Kababish	280,000	0.00%	Liri	38,000	0.00%
Rizei Qat	250,000	0.00%	Selim	38,000	0.00%
Fezera	235,000	0.00%	Kerarish	32,000	0.00%
Berti	235,000	0.00%	Kineenawi	19,000	0.00%

**Kababish**— The Kababish are a confederation of over a dozen camel herding tribes in Northern Sudan. Due to their nomadic lifestyle, the total population remains unknown and estimates range as high as 2 million. Their area of nomadism is north and to the east of Khartoum, including parts of Northern Chad and Southern Libya. Originally, the Kababish were Arab tribes which migrated from Arabia in the 11th century. But over the years various other non-Arab breakaway clans have joined their confederation, resulting in intermarriage with each other. The Kababish camels are bred for sale, and find their way to the Upper Egyptian markets through trading networks. All Kababish males carry firearms and a dagger. Every wife has their own tent, which they are confined to for the entire encampment period.

**Baggara**— The Baggara are believed to have originated from Arab immigration up the Nile river into the Nuba plains, driving the Nuba peoples into the mountains. Their nomadic range is south of the Kababish. The term Baggara means cattle-raisers, and this is their essential occupation. They practice a mix of pastoral nomadism and seasonal crop cultivation along their nomadic routes. Pastoral nomadism is the highest and most respected occupation for the Baggara, and families with large herds hold the highest social status. Unlike the Kababish, the Baggara do not practice wife seclusion, nor are women veiled in public. A young couple may live in a sedentary community until they have accumulated enough cattle. The husband will then embark on a nomadic venture, leaving his wife behind to tend the crops. If the venture is successful, she will come join him and a new nomadic band will begin. Population figures for the Baggara range from 750,000 to 4 million. This range is due to the fact that there are many non-Arab tribes which adopted the Baggara culture, religion and language. Despite intermarriage in some clans, there are still pure Arab Baggara tribes.

**Dar Hamid**— The Dar Hamid are former Egyptian Arab bedouins who lost their herds in the 19th century through conflict with the Baggara. Today they practice a type of agricultural nomadism, shifting cultivation from one area to the next every few years in the Kordofan region. Population figures range between 160,000 to 530,000. Some families have begun to rebuild their herds of cattle, sheep and camels.