

# Dates and events

- 639 Arab Muslims invade Egypt, leading to Sudan's gradual Islamisation
- 1504 Founding of the Funj Sultanate
- 1821 Turco-Egyptian invasion of central and northern Sudan
- 1881 Emergence of Mahdi as religious leader, opposed to Turco-Egyptian rule
- 1885 Siege of Khartoum ends with death of General Gordon, leader of Egyptian forces. Mahdist state founded
- 1898 Defeat of Mahdist forces by Sir Herbert Kitchener at Omdurman
- 1899 Establishment of Anglo-Egyptian 'Condominium' to run Sudan
- 1920s Closed districts established, to restrict contact between Muslim and non-Muslim areas
- 1926 Gezira cotton-growing scheme begins
- 1940s Pressure for independence
- 1955 Mutiny of the Equatorial Corps
- 1956 Independence
- 1958 General Abboud takes over from disorganised democratic government
- 1961 Civil war begins in the south
- 1964 Abboud gives up power after failing to solve economic problems and end war in the south
- 1965 Coalition civilian government formed
- 1969 Colonel Nimeiri takes power, promising socialist path
- 1970s Ambitious development programmes start
- 1971 Communist-inspired coup attempt; Nimeiri begins rightward shift
- 1972 Addis Ababa Accord signed to end civil war, promising development and autonomy for the south
- 1973 Arab oil prices rise
- 1980s Debts spiral, output falls, prices rise
- 1983 Southern soldiers mutiny; new rebellion begins; Nimeiri introduces *shar'ia* (Islamic law)
- 1985- Military takeover after Nimeiri
- 1986 deposed in popular uprising. Election leads to coalition government.
- 1989 30 June: Army coup, led by Brigadier el-Bashir, backed by the National Islamic Front

A typical Dinka house near Akot

CRISPIN HUGHES/OXFAM



# Sudan: facts and figures

**Land area** 2,376,000 sq. km

**Population** 27.3 million (1993 estimate), estimated to be growing at 2.8% each year

**Ethnic groups** 19 major groups, 597 sub-groups

**Religions** c. 60% Muslim; c. 15% Christian; c. 25% traditional faiths

**Languages** Arabic (spoken by 60% of population) is the official language; English is the lingua franca in the south. 115 tribal languages are spoken.

**Literacy** 45% for men, 13% for women (1992 estimates)

**Life expectancy** 53 years (1993 estimate); infant mortality is 77 per 1,000

**Currency** Sudanese pounds. S£760 = US\$1 (official rate, 1995)

**External debt** \$16.5 billion (1993)

**Gross Domestic Product** \$456.20m (1993)

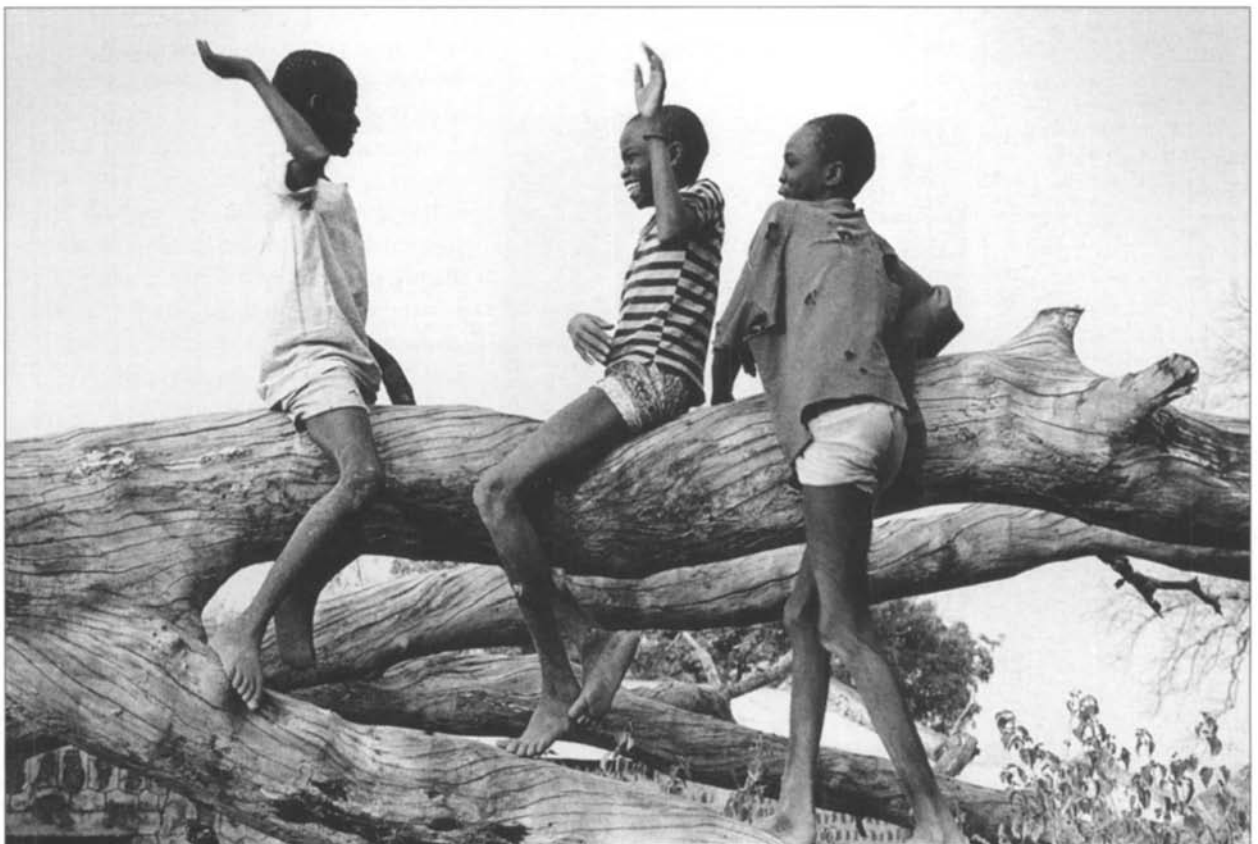
**Inflation rate** 143 per cent (1994)

**Top three exports** Cotton (\$179m), sesame (\$54m), gum arabic (\$45m)

**Top three imports** Petroleum products (\$315m), manufactured goods (\$69m), machinery and equipment (\$63m)

(Source: *Country Profile*, Economist Intelligence Unit, 1996)

Boys playing in Akot



# Oxfam in Sudan

**O**xfam UK and Ireland was first active in Sudan in the early 1980s, with support for Ugandan refugees in southern Sudan. This programme was managed from Nairobi, but in 1984 a field office was established in Khartoum. The programme expanded rapidly during the 1984/85 famine, when Oxfam contributed to the international relief operations in Darfur, Kordofan, and Red Sea State.

In 1989, with the escalation of the civil conflict in south, Oxfam decided to extend its support into the non-government controlled areas of the south. This southern-sector programme operates under the umbrella of Operation Lifeline Sudan from Nairobi. A base at Lokichokio, in northern Kenya, provides logistical support, including air-lift

capacity and a depot for supplies.

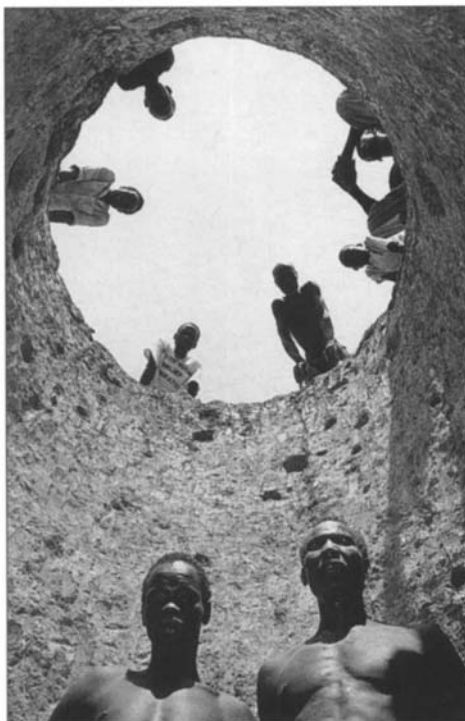
The overall aim of Oxfam UK and Ireland in its work in Sudan is to support and build the capacity of marginalised and vulnerable communities affected by the current conflict.

In Northern Darfur and Red Sea State, our relief operations are evolving towards long-term community-development programmes, working alongside village-development committees, in the sectors of water supply, health, education, and food security. In Juba, Bahr el Jabal State, Oxfam works on relief projects through a consortium of agencies, and is helping returning rural populations to re-establish themselves. In the Khartoum urban programme, partner agencies, working with displaced communities, are funded in the fields of income-generation, revolving credit schemes, and family reunification.

In non-government controlled areas, Oxfam works to rehabilitate the most vulnerable populations through an integrated programme combining water-supply, health-care, and food-security measures. In Western Equatoria, Oxfam concentrates on agricultural and social development, working alongside co-operatives and local women's groups. Throughout Sudan, with the support of Oxfam, paraveterinary programmes operate revolving drug funds for the benefit of pastoralist and agro-pastoralist communities.

In 1994/95, Oxfam made grants worth more than £2,650,000 to relief and development work in Sudan.

An Oxfam-funded well in Akot, Rumbek County  
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Opposite page: An Oxfam-funded co-operative in Rumbek County



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# Further reading

**Africa Watch**, *Civilian Devastation. Abuses by All Parties in the War in Southern Sudan*, New York, Washington, Los Angeles, London, 1994

**African Rights**, *Sudan's Invisible Citizens. The Policy of Abuse Against Displaced People in the North*, London, 1995

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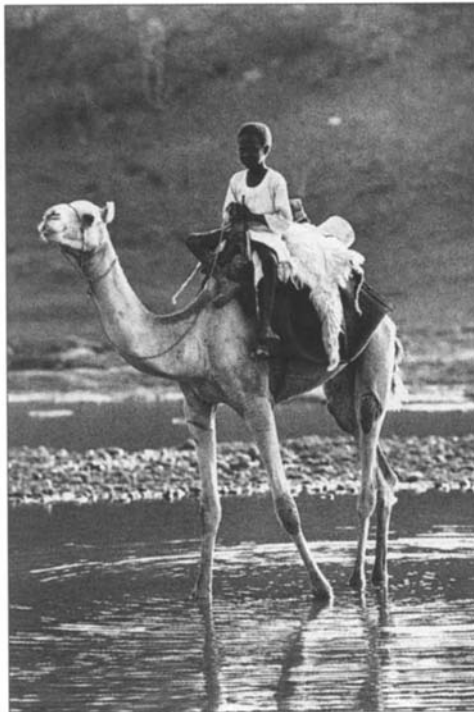
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*Sudan Democratic Gazette* (monthly), London

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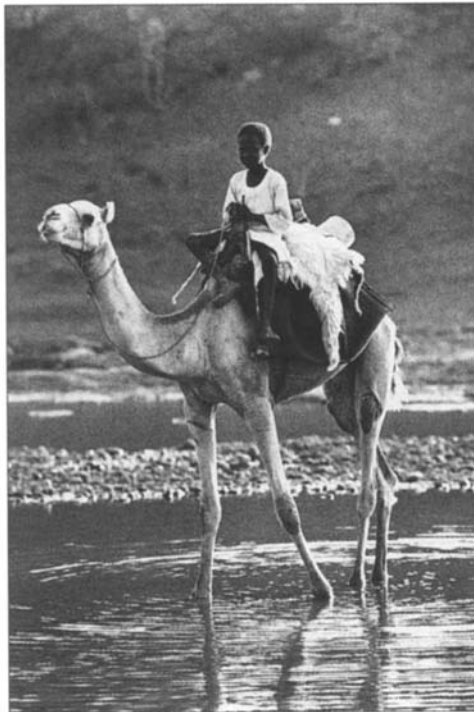
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First published by Oxfam UK and Ireland in 1996  
Reprinted by Oxfam GB in 2004

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ISBN 0 85598 316 7

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Published by Oxfam GB, 274 Banbury Road, Oxford OX2 7DZ, UK.

Printed by Information Press, Eynsham.

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