

2019

SDN End of Year Impact Report

- Sudanese Diaspora Network

Message from the Board

To Our Friends, Supporters, and Partners,

Founding Year of Unity, Mobilization and Empowerment

2019 was a landmark year for the Sudanese Diaspora Network (SDN). Founded in January, SDN emerged as a non-partisan, youth- and young professional-led platform dedicated to representing the diversity of the Sudanese people and supporting Sudan's journey toward justice, peace, freedom and development.

Inspired by the December 2018 Revolution, our members mobilized from across the globe to support the #SudanUprising. From solidarity protests and awareness campaigns to fundraising for urgently needed medical and food supplies, our community demonstrated the power of unity and action across borders.

Throughout our inaugural year, SDN brought together thousands of Sudanese and friends of Sudan worldwide - through sports tournaments, global Ramadan fundraisers in ten cities, and our first international conference in Khartoum. These initiatives strengthened partnerships, raised funds, and laid the foundation for a movement rooted in mobilization, empowerment, and collaboration.

This report celebrates our founding year and highlights the vital role the diaspora can play in shaping Sudan's future. We are grateful to each of you - our friends, supporters, and partners - for making 2019 a year of impact, unity, and hope.

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1. About SDN

Mission, Vision and Values

A global youth and young professionals-led network, a global hub to Unify, Mobilize, and Empower the youth towards a better, more sustainable Sudan. We are an evolving group sharing a common love for our motherland. We aspire to bridge the gap between Sudan and our transnational networks to work together on developmental and relief projects.

Our mission is to develop the capacity, ambition, and minds to become a powerhouse in inspiring Sudan's long-awaited transformation into the great nation it was always destined to become. Through the SDN pillars we aim to:

Unify – Build alliances with people and organizations, initiate and support projects and sustainably grow SDN membership globally.
Mobilize – Channel talent to support the much-desired brain gain within Sudan and enable transnational communities to become effective agents for development within Sudan.
Empower – Mobilize the transfer of knowledge, skills and resources to achieve positive social impact in our diverse communities.

SDN aspires to become a platform where diaspora organizations unify and share resources toward common goals. SDN and potential partners aim to play a part in the 'rebuilding phase' of Sudan – collectively, we will endeavour to help redefine Sudan's image and standing on the international stage and, most importantly, play a role in helping empower the youth for a better Sudan.
Referring to our three pillars, SDN aspires:

- To become a driver for positive change by seeking to unify the diaspora and play a pivotal role in helping foster mutual State-to-State relationships.
- Position SDN as a bridge between Sudan and entities.
- For a Sudan that hones and retains talent, that allows people to flourish, captures the beauty of its innate diversity, and thrives on the success of inclusivity. The land of immense potential to become a land of boundless opportunity.
- For Sudan to be a country that will become a regional leader in Africa & beyond and inspire other African countries.

2. Our Inspiration: The 2018 Revolution

How the Sudanese Uprising shaped SDN's formation

The December 2018 Revolution was a defining moment for Sudan and the global Sudanese community. The uprising, which called for freedom, peace, and justice, and affirmed the Sudanese people's right to democracy and fundamental human rights, inspired Sudanese youth and young professionals abroad to take action. SDN was founded in January 2019 as a direct response to this historic movement, providing a platform for the diaspora to **mobilize, support, and amplify the voices of those on the ground**. From the outset, SDN's mission was shaped by the revolution's ideals: solidarity, peaceful advocacy, and active contribution to Sudan's democratic transition and future development. The uprising demonstrated the power of collective action, and SDN was created to channel that energy into coordinated initiatives that connected the diaspora with grassroots movements, promoted awareness internationally, and delivered tangible support to communities in Sudan.

Initial diaspora mobilization

SDN began with Sudanese youth among the diaspora connecting online, participating in protests, and recognizing the urgent need to unite in support of the revolution. While not all of us could be on the ground in Sudan, we were determined to amplify the voices of youth leading the uprising, ensuring their message reached audiences across the globe. Through these efforts, we forged connections with members of the global diaspora community, all sharing a common purpose: to **support the unity and mobilization of our people in Sudan and abroad**, empowering our collective voices, raising awareness internationally, and contributing to the protection and success of the revolution.

Looking ahead, SDN is committed to transforming this momentum into long-term impact, aligning with our mission to support Sudan's reconstruction, development, and sustainable progress and most importantly investing in our youth and young professionals – in Sudan and across the globe. By fostering collaboration between the diaspora and local actors, promoting knowledge-sharing, and enabling initiatives that address social, economic, and infrastructural needs, SDN seeks to **ensure that Sudanese communities are empowered to shape the future of our country** - building a nation grounded in freedom, peace, justice, and opportunity for all.

3. 2019 Year in Review

a. Key milestones and initiatives

In 2019, SDN made significant strides in establishing its presence and impact. We focused on **growing our global network**, connecting Sudanese youth and young professionals across multiple countries. We fostered **partnerships with grassroots organizations in Sudan**, enabling targeted support for local communities, while collaborating with other diaspora organizations to amplify our advocacy and development efforts. Our initiatives spanned sports and cultural events, fundraising campaigns, and our first international conference in Khartoum, all of which strengthened community engagement and built the foundation for future growth. Notably, our fundraising efforts provided essential medical supplies, food, and support to communities on the ground, demonstrating the tangible impact of diaspora-led initiatives.

b. Sports Tournaments - Community Sports for Sudan

Football Tournament – London, UK (2 March 2019)

Our first-ever fundraising event brought together Sudanese and non-Sudanese from across the UK. Teams competed in a spirited tournament, with the winners taking home the inaugural SDN trophy. The day also featured a bake sale and strong community participation, honoring the protestors in Sudan and those who had been martyred. In the spirit of the revolution and love for the motherland, the tournament embodied the power of unity and mobilization for Sudan.

Funds Raised: USD $2,343

Basketball Tournament – Toronto, Canada (23 March 2019)

In partnership with the Sudanese community in Canada, SDN hosted a basketball tournament that engaged young people through sport and culture while strengthening solidarity for Sudan.

Funds Raised: USD $1,500

c. Ramadan Fundraising campaigns

Laylat Al-Sudan: Global Ramadan Fundraiser (24 May – 8 June 2019)

In Ramadan 2019, SDN launched Laylat Al-Sudan, our first global fundraising campaign, hosted across 10 cities in 7 countries over three weekends. The iftars brought together nearly 100 people across the globe in their relative cities, bringing with them community, connection, inspiration and hope for our country and its future.

Participating Cities: Brisbane, London, Newcastle, Nottingham, Stoke-on-Trent, Toronto/Mississauga/Kitchener/Hamilton, Niagara (Canada), Dallas/Fort Worth, Washington DC, Phoenix, Dubai (event held, no funds raised).

Total Raised (excluding London & Dubai): USD $14,519.79

Funds Allocation: Proceeds were directed to grassroots organisations providing medical and food supplies for protestors in Sudan.

Recipient Organization	Amount (USD)	Purpose	Source Cities
University of Khartoum Alumni Network, USA (Dr. Bakri Ali)	$8,485.24	Medical & food supplies	Brisbane, Newcastle, Nottingham, Stoke-on-Trent, Dallas/Fort Worth, Toronto, Niagara, Washington DC Phoenix AZ
Sudanese American Medical Association (SAMA)	$4,834.55	Medical supplies	Phoenix AZ
African Women Council (Ms. Hanan Eltayeb)	$1,200.00	First aid kits	Washington DC

London Iftar in Partnership with Muslim Aid (25 May 2019)

London hosted the flagship Laylat Al-Sudan iftar in partnership with Muslim Aid. An incredible 250 people showed up for the evening celebrating Sudan and coming together for its future. We had beautiful poetry, Quran recitation, impactful presentation and much needed

While funds were channeled through Muslim Aid's Ramadan appeal, all proceeds were allocated to development projects in Sudan, specifically in Darfur and Kassala.

Total Raised: USD $25,437.22

London Iftar Sponsor	Funds Total (USD $)	Details	Where funds go
Muslim Aid www.muslimaid.org/about-us/where-we-work/sudan/	$12,837.77	Ticket Sales + amount raised on day	Development projects in Sudan (Darfur & Kassala)
	$12,599.45	Fundraising pledges	






[Global Iftar Events]

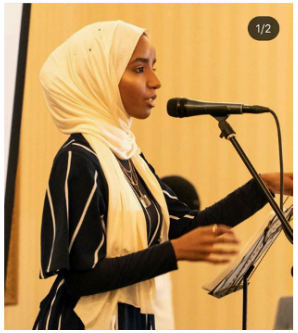
d. Night of Light – Washington DC (24 August 2019)

In August, SDN hosted a cultural and fundraising evening called Night of Light in Washington DC. The event brought together community members for an evening of unity, culture, and giving back. Inspired by the announcement of the transitional government of Sudan and revolution, the evening aimed to both unite and inspire the youth and young professionals across the DMV to come together for Sudan, through music, art and food. SDN presented the

Total Raised: USD $2,707.10

Recipient Organization	Amount (USD)	Purpose
Nafeer Organization	$1100	Emergency Flood Response in Sudan
UMST Student initiative	$123.50	Medical supplies in Sudan
SDN SRP Youth Center Rehabilitation Project	$515	Youth Center in Sudan
SDN Operational Support	$1000	SDN operational expense and transfer fees for donations to Sudan





[Night of Light event, Washington DC]

e. Global Conference – Khartoum (21–22 December 2019)

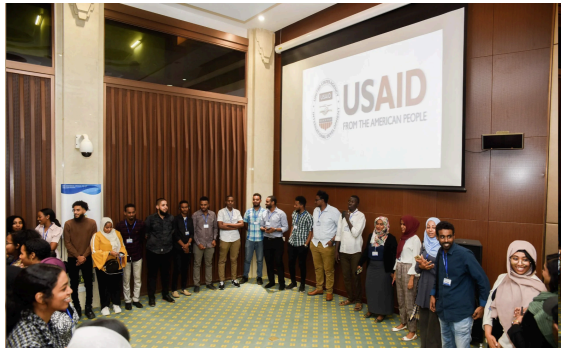
Culminating the year, SDN hosted its first global conference in Khartoum, sponsored by USAID, under the theme 'Bridging the Gap.' The two-day event created a platform for dialogue and collaboration between Sudanese in the diaspora and local stakeholders. It highlighted pilot projects SDN had been developing and featured transformative leaders, scholars, thinkers, and youth innovators.

The conference embodied SDN's three pillars - unity, mobilization, and empowerment - by connecting:

- Diaspora with their counterparts in Sudan
- Elders with the next generation of leaders
- Experts with grassroots youth initiatives

It heralds the opportunity for SDN to expand our network, introduce us to incredible youth led organizations on the ground in Sudan doing transformative work and provided the opportunity for SDN to launch our Sudan recovery program – a series of small to medium size projects. A separate report details the outcomes of the conference. This can be found here







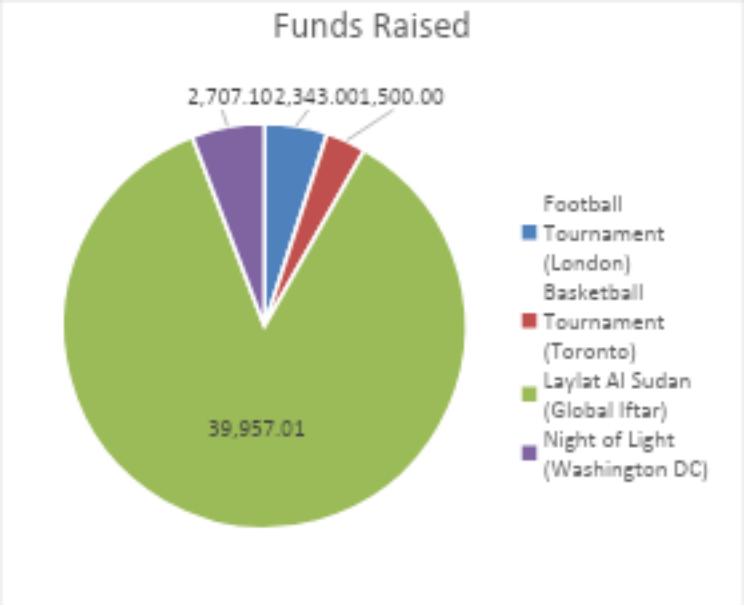
[Photos from SDN Khartoum Conference sponsored by USAID]

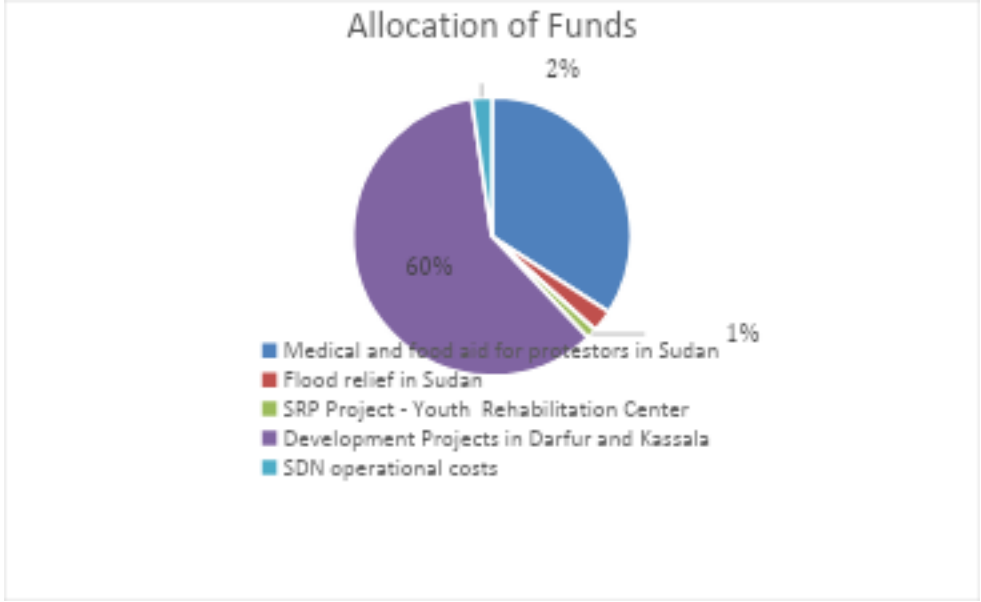
4. Diaspora Engagement

In 2019, SDN demonstrated the power of a mobilized diaspora, connecting Sudanese communities across continents to support the #SudanUprising and broader development initiatives. Our engagement took many forms: participating in global solidarity protests, raising awareness through social media and advocacy campaigns including the viral 'love letter to Sudan' video that was produced as a means of solidarity amongst the diaspora with activists and protestors in Sudan, and lobbying key stakeholders to support peaceful democratic transformation in Sudan. Our organized fundraising initiatives, including Ramadan campaigns spanning ten cities, to provide urgently needed medical supplies and food to communities on the ground. Beyond activism, SDN fostered knowledge-sharing and collaboration within the diaspora, connecting members with grassroots organizations in Sudan, as well as with like-minded diaspora organizations worldwide. These efforts strengthened global networks, amplified the diaspora's voice, and showcased how collective action can make a tangible difference in Sudan's journey toward peace, justice, and development.

5. Financial Overview 2019

From January 2019-December 2019, through our combined global fundraising efforts we were able to raise a total of **$46,507.11**. These funds where used to support Medical and food aid for protestors in Sudan, Flood relief efforts, Youth education and rehabilitation projects and development projects in Darfur & Kassala (via Muslim Aid). We collaborate with several vetted organizations to ensure funds were distributed to the communities most in need, with full transparency and accountability. Our partners include local NGOs, international humanitarian organizations, and community-led initiatives, all working together to maximize impact and ensure that every dollar contributes directly to relief, education, and development efforts .Additionally, a small portion of the funds raised were used to cover SDN operational expense (which includes transfer fees to organizations in Sudan and fees to support SDN's registration as a Non-profit organization in the US). For further information on this year's finances please refer to Appendices.





6. Looking Ahead

2019 was just the beginning. As our founding year, it proved that the diaspora is a powerful force for change - when united, mobilized, and empowered.

In 2020 and beyond, SDN will:

- Expand its global network of chapters and volunteers
- Strengthening partnerships with NGOs, grassroots groups, and development actors
- Launch new development programs in education, youth development, and community building
- Continue the Laylat Al Sudan Global iftar event, positioning the event as a key annual fundraising event for SDN and allow us to connect further with key grassroot organizations on the ground to aid in emergency response and development initiatives.
- Position the diaspora as a key stakeholder in Sudan's reconstruction and development

2019 was the year SDN was born. We mobilised thousands across continents, raised over $46,000, and built a bridge between the diaspora and Sudan. The foundations laid out in 2019 will shape our journey in the years to come.

a. Upcoming programs and strategic priorities

As we look ahead, our focus is on transforming the ideas presented at the conference into actionable programs that strengthen Sudan's recovery and empower our communities. Guided by the Sudan Recovery Program (SRP) and our cultural and community initiatives, we aim to expand partnerships, engage the diaspora, and create opportunities for youth and young professionals both in Sudan and abroad.

1. **Sudan Recovery Program (SRP) Projects**
   At our recent conference, we introduced the Sudan Recovery Program (SRP), a framework inspired by global post-conflict recovery models and adapted to Sudan's unique context. Moving forward, we will focus on developing and advancing the highlighted pilot projects, while also identifying and designing additional initiatives under the SRP umbrella.

The three priority projects already introduced include:

- **Tourism Project** – promoting Sudan's cultural heritage and historic sites as drivers of sustainable economic growth.
- **Youth Center Rehabilitation Project** – restoring and modernizing community spaces to provide safe, inclusive environments for education, skills training, and youth engagement.
- **Accident & Emergency (A&E) Unit Project** – developing small-scale, strategically located emergency care facilities to improve access to life-saving healthcare.

These initiatives will be pursued in close collaboration with grassroots organizations on the ground, Sudanese diaspora professionals, and international NGOs, ensuring that projects are community-driven, technically sound, and globally supported.

2. **Continuing *Laylat al-Sudan***
   Building on the success of *Laylat al-Sudan*, we will continue to host this flagship event as a platform to celebrate Sudanese culture, strengthen diaspora connections, and raise funds for initiatives on the ground in Sudan. Going forward, the program will expand to include structured dialogues on recovery, entrepreneurship, and knowledge exchange between Sudanese professionals worldwide.

3. **New Events and Collaboration Opportunities**
   We are also looking forward to introducing further events and platforms designed to bring together the Sudanese diaspora and connect them with youth and young professionals across Sudan. These initiatives will create opportunities for:

   - Joint innovation and project development between diaspora professionals and local communities.
   - Collaborative networks that bridge Sudan and the global community, amplifying youth voices in shaping recovery and development.

b. Opportunities for engagement and collaboration

We see significant opportunities to strengthen our impact through meaningful partnerships. This includes working closely with grassroots organizations on the ground, many of whom we connected with during the conference, to identify synergies between shared ideas and goals. In addition, we aim to build collaborations with international NGOs on future development projects that are informed and inspired by the initiatives and concepts presented by the SRP. These partnerships will help bridge local knowledge with global resources, ensuring that projects are both community-driven and sustainable.

And we will continue to advocate for Sudan with any opportunity present, and ensure we stay at the forefront of any emergency relief and advocacy particularly as Sudan enters this new phase of transition and development.

7. Acknowledgements

Thanks to our partners, supporters, volunteers, and members

We extend our deepest gratitude to all those who made our work possible in 2019. To our **partners**, thank you for your commitment, expertise, and collaboration in ensuring that funds reach the communities most in need. To our **supporters and donors**, your generosity and trust provided the resources necessary to deliver life-saving aid and long-term development support. To our **volunteers**, we are profoundly grateful for the countless hours, dedication, and energy you contributed to this cause. Finally, to our **members**, your continued engagement, advocacy, and belief in our mission have been the driving force behind our success.

Together, we have shown the strength of collective action and solidarity, and we look forward to building on this foundation in the years ahead.