



IOM International Organization for Migration



# SUDAN

MAPPING EXERCISE  
LONDON, JULY 2006

# CONTENTS

<b>Introduction</b>	<b>03</b>
<b>1 Mapping Exercise Outcomes – Information Channels</b>	<b>05</b>
1.1 Introduction, including some characteristics of the Sudanese community in the UK	05
1.2 Media	08
1.3 Other sources of information	13
1.4 Geographical location and size of the Sudanese community in the UK	15
<b>2 Mapping Exercise Outcomes – Characteristics of Respondents</b>	<b>18</b>
2.1 Gender	18
2.2 Age	18
2.3 Length of residence in Britain	19
2.4 General information on the use of transport, phones and local services	20
<b>3 Constraints</b>	<b>22</b>
3.1 ‘Return-phobia’: an aversion to learning about IOM voluntary return programmes	22
3.2 Fragmentation of the community	23
3.3 Perceived constraints relating to IOM programmes	23
<b>4 Conclusions and Recommendations</b>	<b>24</b>

The aim of this Mapping Report is to guide IOM’s outreach activities and communications strategies. The report does not purport to be exhaustive. The mapping consultant who conducted the exercise and wrote the report on behalf of IOM has taken every effort to ensure accuracy in his/her reporting and the views expressed in this report are his/hers. IOM cannot be held responsible for any omissions or inaccuracies.

# INTRODUCTION

## AIM OF THE MAPPING EXERCISE, TARGET GROUP AND METHODOLOGY

The aim of the mapping exercise is to identify the main channels of information and the location of potential beneficiaries of IOM's voluntary return programmes, which are open to asylum seekers and irregular migrants. The ultimate goal of the mapping exercise is to help IOM to improve its communication with immigrant communities in the United Kingdom through media articles, advertisements and presentations to community groups.

In order to carry out the mapping exercise, IOM designed a questionnaire with twenty questions divided into two sections. The first section asks about media and other sources of information, (including, voluntary organisations, religious centres and festivals) that are available to Sudanese people in the UK. The questionnaire also asks about the geographical location and size of the Sudanese communities in this country. The second section of the questionnaire requests specific baseline data from each respondent about characteristics such as age and gender. Questionnaires were disseminated in English and Arabic.

A Sudanese national was recruited on a part-time basis as a mapping consultant to work directly with the Sudanese community and gather the necessary information. The mapping consultant's inside knowledge of the community, together with an established network of contacts, proved to be an essential resource for this exercise.

The mapping exercise was conducted using multiple approaches to data collection. Data was gathered using in-depth interviews with multipliers<sup>1</sup>, and by distributing questionnaires.

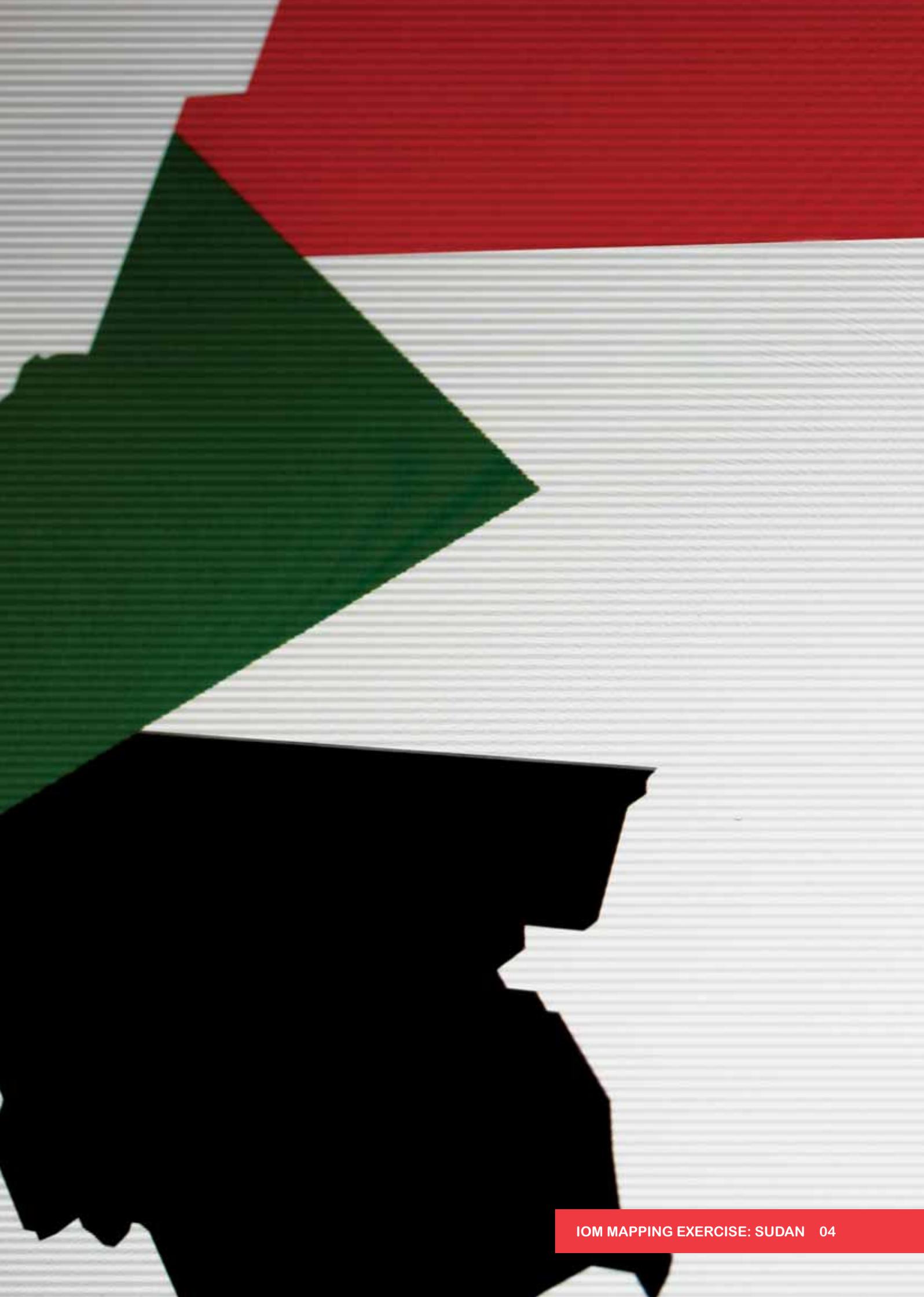
Extensive networking was carried out to identify media, organisations, mosques, and churches, as well as individuals, that interact with Sudanese people and were prepared to distribute the questionnaire. The field work took place between mid-June and July 2006. During this period the consultant interviewed thirty-one individuals and collected fourteen questionnaires. Despite the relatively small number of questionnaires received, the in-depth interviews with the multipliers proved to offer a rich vein of information. Furthermore, the completed questionnaires represent the views not only of these fourteen individuals but also the consensus view of various groups within the community.

This report includes tables and charts with the results of all the questionnaire data. Additionally, an extensive list of contacts has been created which merges data gathered directly from completed questionnaires with information provided by the multipliers during the in-depth interviews. This tool will be used by the Information team at IOM to disseminate information on the voluntary return programmes to Sudanese people across the country<sup>2</sup>.

This report is an attempt to represent the diversity of the Sudanese community, as a result of interviewing community leaders and other individuals from a wide range of community backgrounds.

<sup>1</sup> This term is used to indicate individuals or organisations who are well known amongst diaspora groups and could therefore play a key role in delivering insightful information.

<sup>2</sup> This document is confidential and will be used only as an internal IOM document.



# 1 MAPPING EXERCISE OUTCOMES

## INFORMATION CHANNELS

### 1.1 INTRODUCTION

The first section of the questionnaire was designed to identify the main channels of information used by Sudanese people in the UK. The questions were divided into four categories: media; use of services; preferred source of information; and information on other community groups or organisations. For all of these categories it has been necessary to group the answers, because the frequencies of the answers were very often single and therefore not useful for the purpose of the mapping exercise. Contact details that were mentioned by the respondents for media, organisations, churches, mosques, schools, restaurants and shops were merged and organised in a structured way along with the contact details provided by multipliers. The contact list should be regarded as an important element for IOM in raising awareness within the Sudanese community in the UK about voluntary return programmes.

A closely related aim was also promoted while conducting the mapping exercise. This was to inform and raise the interest of Sudanese community leaders and organisations in IOM programmes. The Sudanese community in the UK is not well informed of IOM programmes. Only a small minority of the people interviewed said they knew about them and others did not have a clear idea of the full details of them. Some community leaders, in Edinburgh for example, said they did not know of the IOM programmes. IOM should therefore give priority to publicising its programmes within the Sudanese community. IOM should carefully select the most effective and efficient means of achieving that aim.

Disseminating information on IOM programmes in the course of the mapping exercise helped inform the Sudanese community about their availability. It was also an opportunity to collect insights into the most effective approach to outreach, as suggested in the recommendations at the end of this report.

### Some Characteristics of the Sudanese Community in the UK

The UK is perhaps the oldest Western destination for Sudanese migration. People who came to the UK up to the late 1980s were mostly professionals, business people or academics. Both the nature and magnitude of Sudanese migration to the UK changed dramatically after the *coup d'état* of General Omer Al-Bashir in June 1989. More and more of the Sudanese people arriving in the UK are seeking asylum due to the worsening political situation and the continuing civil strife and conflicts in Sudan. This has had an impact on the nature of both the Sudanese diaspora and its organisations.

## Organisation Patterns

Sudanese community organisations in the UK conform to a number of models, which include the following.

- **Political Organisations:** these are predominantly branches of Sudanese national political parties, for example the Umma Party, the Democratic Unionist Party and the Sudanese Communist Party. They also include organisations like the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) and umbrella organisations like the National Democratic Alliance (NDA).
- **Trade Unions:** these are mostly branches in exile of formerly national organisations, such as the Sudanese Women's Union and the Sudanese Doctors' Union.
- **National non-political organisations:** these are also mostly national organisations. They have an activist agenda. Some of these organisations were banned in Sudan and sought refuge in the UK (e.g. the Sudan Human Rights Organisation); some have been formed *ab initio* in exile (the Sudan Organisation Against Torture).
- **Refugee organisations** are often formed by Sudanese asylum seekers in the UK. There is no single body with an overall remit covering all Sudanese asylum seekers in the UK. Instead, asylum seekers organise themselves in smaller organisations linked to the locality in which they live (e.g. the Sudanese Midlands Refugee Community).
- **Social organisations** are community organisations which have an almost purely social function. They are often formed on a regional basis with reference either to an area in the UK (e.g. the Sudanese community in Leeds) or to their members' origin in Sudan (e.g. the Organisation of Nubian Sudanese). The latter pattern of organisation tends to make them more ethnically oriented. Gender is also the basis of some social (and political) Sudanese community organisations.

Some organisations combine two or more of the above patterns (e.g. the Organisation of Sudanese Nubians in London; the Equatoria Women Self Help Society; or the Sudan Women's Union).

## Coherence and Homogeneity

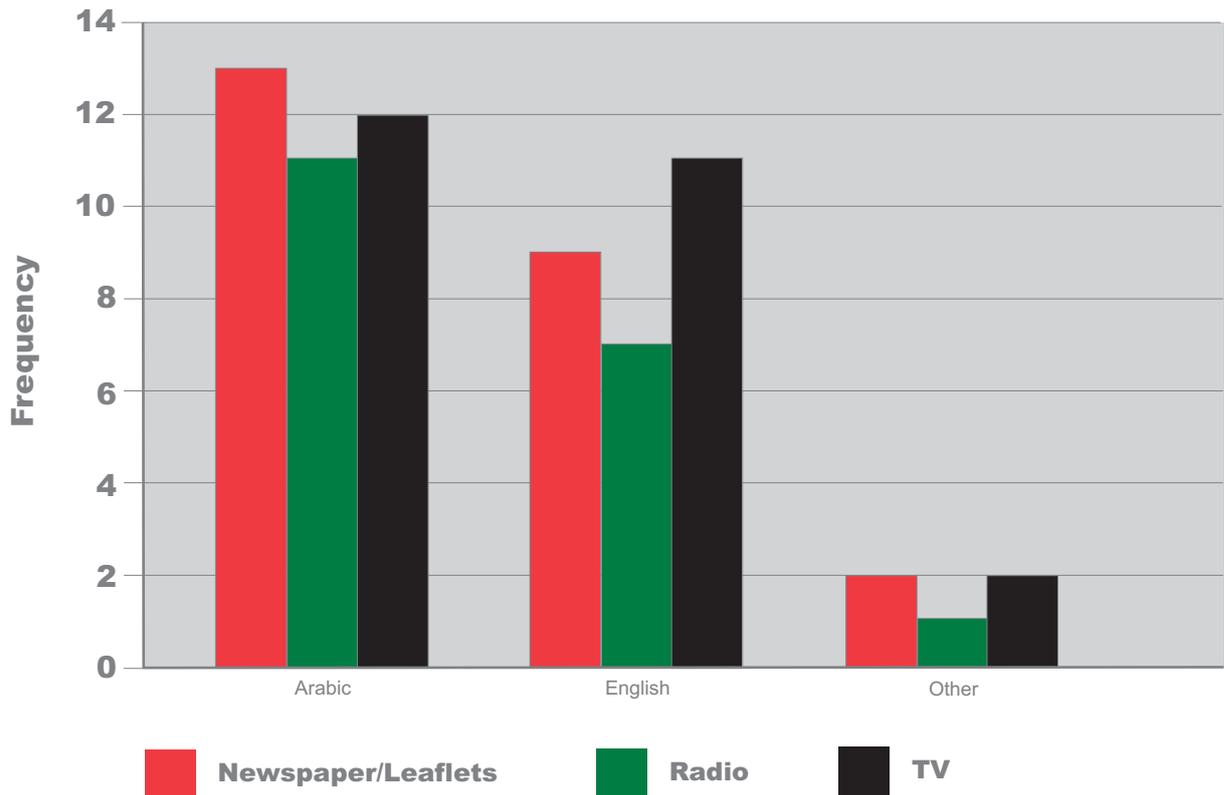
The Sudanese community in the UK is highly politicised, fragmented and dispersed. It is by no means a coherent or homogeneous group. Divisions within the Sudanese community in the UK exist mainly along political and regional lines. This situation is a reflection of the reality of conflict and civil strife in Sudan.

The mapping exercise strove to be inclusive and reach all Sudanese groups. However, many organisations are insular and unknown to many people because of these divisions. The mapping exercise succeeded to a large extent in its inclusive ambitions and the mapping consultant met Sudanese community groups and individuals from the South, the North and from the Darfur region. Nonetheless there are still more groups to be reached.

## 1.2 MEDIA

Respondents were asked in which language they could best understand information in such forms as newspapers and leaflets, radio, and television. Figure 1 shows that the majority of respondents feel more confident understanding information in Arabic. However, a sizeable majority understood the same materials in both English and Arabic. A few respondents indicated a third language for understanding media, but did not specify which.

**Figure 1<sup>3</sup>: Preferred Language for Media Comprehension**



<sup>3</sup>Frequency: This term, which is used throughout the report, is often used in statistical analysis. For example, if Respondent A says: "I can understand media in English and Arabic", and Respondent B says: "I can understand media in English and Arabic", this will be noted as four frequencies.

Many respondents read newspapers and watch television either every day or often, with television having the highest frequency for daily consultation of media. Respondents also listened to the radio but to a lesser extent.

**Figure 2: Frequency of Media Consultation**

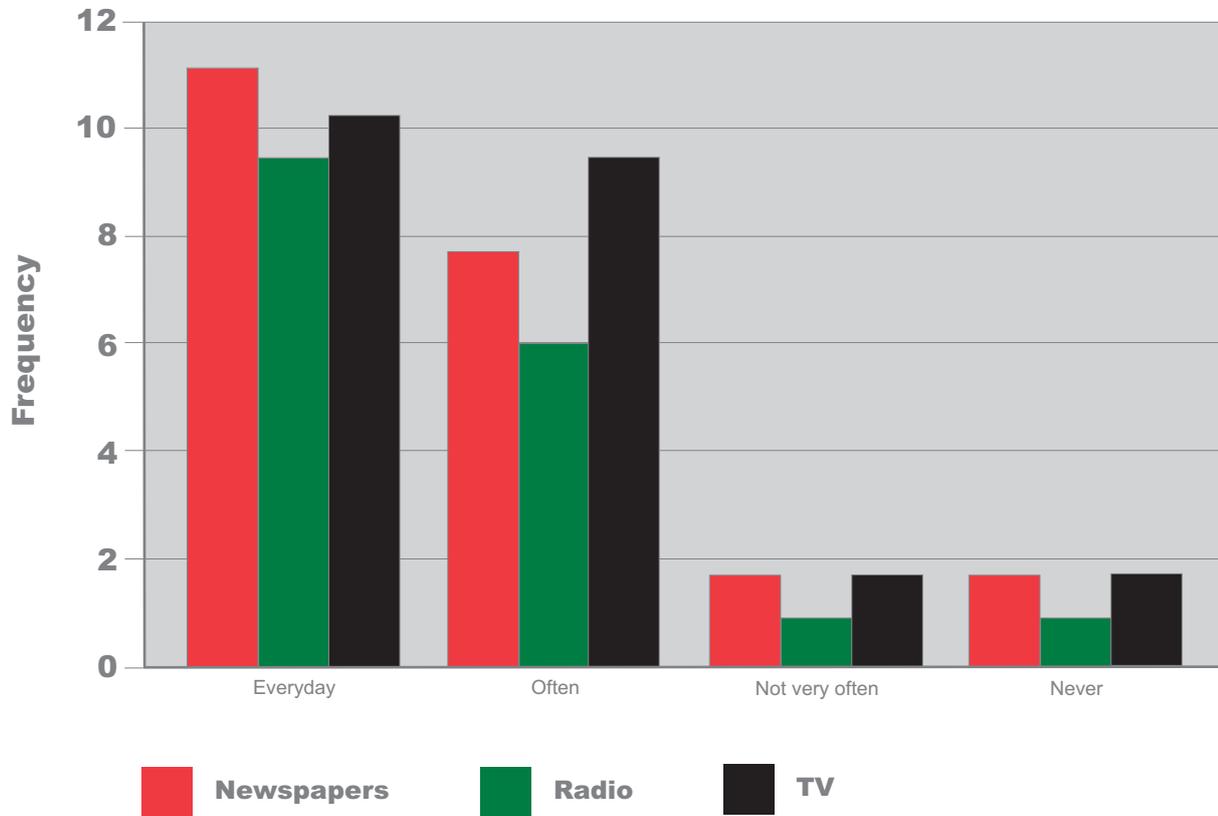


Figure 2 shows that 67% of the respondents read newspapers every day, 25% listened to the radio every day and 92% watched TV every day. 25 % of the respondents often listened to the radio and the same proportion often read newspapers.

## 1.2.1 Newspapers

Respondents were asked which newspapers and other publications they read the most. Publications other than newspapers which were mentioned by the respondents included magazines, journals and “other publications” (e.g. mosque publications and publications by community organisations).

Due to the high number of single frequencies, the results of these responses have been grouped by language into newspapers or publications in English; and newspapers or publications in Arabic.

**Figure 3: Preferred Language for Consulting Newspapers and Other Publications**

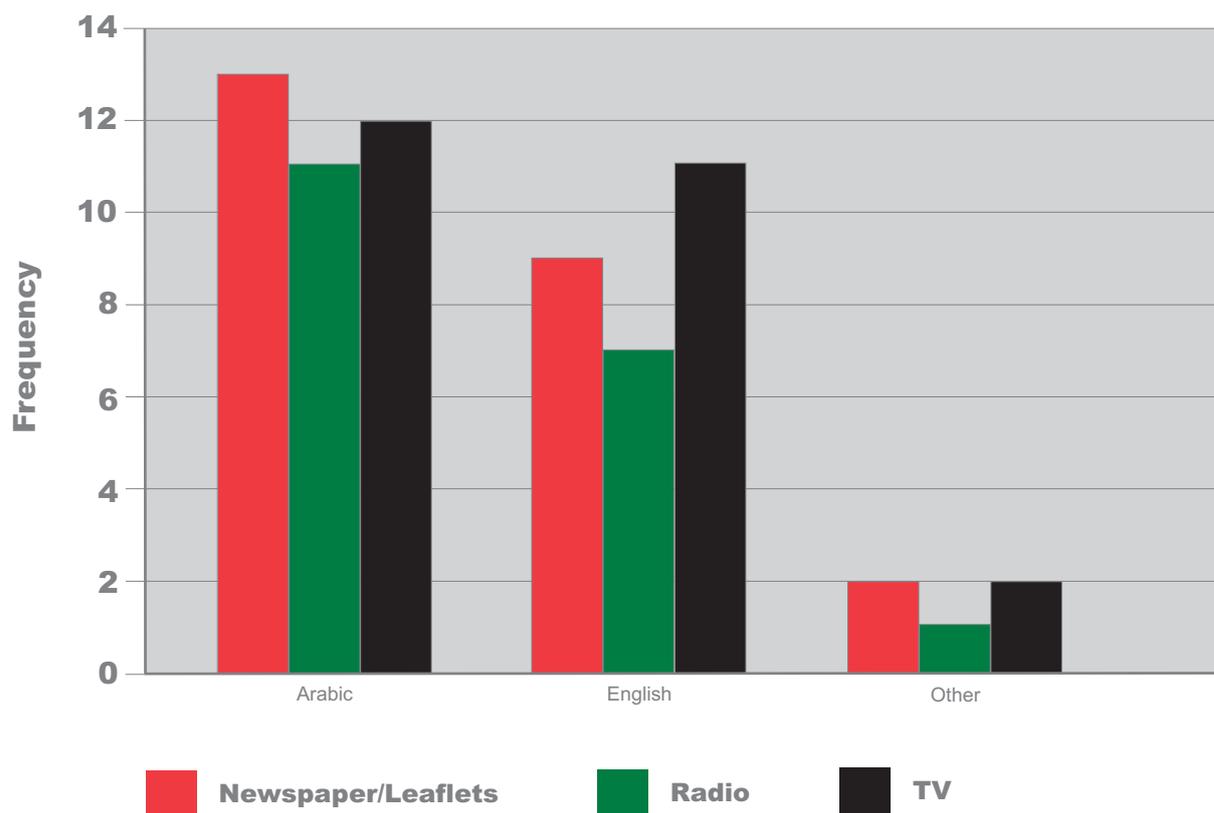


Figure 3 shows that 75% of respondents read newspapers in English and 73% of respondents also read newspapers in Arabic (obviously, therefore, some respondents do both). The most often read newspapers in English are *Metro* (25%), *The Guardian* (19%) *The Independent* (13%) and the *Sun* (13%). The most consulted newspapers in Arabic are *Al-Rayaam* (22%), *Al-Sahafa* (15%), *Al-Watan* (14%) and *Al-Sharq Al-Awsat* (14%). Most Arabic newspapers are consulted through the Internet. *Al-Sharq Al-Awsat* is the only Arabic newspaper published in the UK that respondents said they read. There is apparently no Sudanese newspaper currently published in the UK.

27% of respondents read other publications in Arabic (11% read journals, 5% read magazines and 11% read other publications). 25% of the respondents also read other publications in English (10% read magazines, 10% read journals and 5% read other publications).

## 1.2.2 Television and Radio

Respondents were asked which TV channels and radio stations they most frequently watched or listened to. They were also asked about the programmes they preferred. Due to the single response frequencies, the most frequently watched television channels are grouped into English-speaking, Arabic-speaking, and “other” television channels. Radio stations are similarly grouped into British radio stations; and other radio stations.

The results show that English-speaking TV channels are the most watched. 80% of the responses indicated an English-speaking TV channel. 18% of answers chose an Arabic-speaking TV channel and only 2% watched a channel in a language other than English or Arabic. 92% of the frequently watched English-speaking TV channels were British, among which the BBC had 47% of responses and other channels 53%. Television channels in languages other than English that are most watched are Arabic satellite channels, including *Al-Jazeera*; *Alarabiya*, and *Sudan TV*.

The same is true for radio. 85% of the responses named a British radio station and 15% named radio stations in another language.

None of the respondents mentioned a UK-based Sudanese television or radio station. This may be regarded as indicative of the absence of Sudanese community radio or television in the UK.

Respondents were also asked about the TV and radio programmes they watched or listened to frequently. The news is the most often watched TV programme (32%) as well as the most listened to radio programme (44%).

## 1.2.3 Internet

The Internet emerged as a popular medium for obtaining information. 85% of the respondents said they were able to use a computer to access information on the Internet and 57% of the respondents said they had a computer in their household. Sudanese sites are the most popular (especially *www.sudaneseonline.com*, *www.sudaniyat.net*, *www.sudanile.com*, *www.sudan.net*, *www.rayaam.net*, *www.alnilin.com*), but the *BBC*, *Google*, *Yahoo* and *Hotmail* were also mentioned.

## 1.2.4 Conclusions and Recommendations

- Despite the popularity of TV, radio and newspapers in English and Arabic, it is unlikely that IOM would advertise effectively in these places. The practical issues (cost, political impact, mismatch between target group and total audience) would argue against it. So, for example, IOM is unlikely to advertise in the *Guardian*, BBC radio, ITV or *Al-Jazeera*.
- IOM might, however, continue to advertise in *Metro*, which is read by the majority of Sudanese (25%).
- IOM might also consider advertising on *Al-Sharq Al-Awsat*. The costs of advertising in this newspaper may be high but it has the advantage of reaching a broader audience in the Arab-speaking communities of the UK. Advertising on *Al-Sharq Al-Awsat* would be most productive if carried out in conjunction with outreach to at least one other UK Arab-speaking community.
- IOM should consider advertising on Sudanese websites, such as *www.sudaneseonline.com* and *www.sudan.net*, because they are frequently visited. This would have the added value of reaching many Sudanese people who access newspapers and other news sources through these sites. IOM might also consider commissioning a short explanatory article on one or more of these websites to increase publicity.



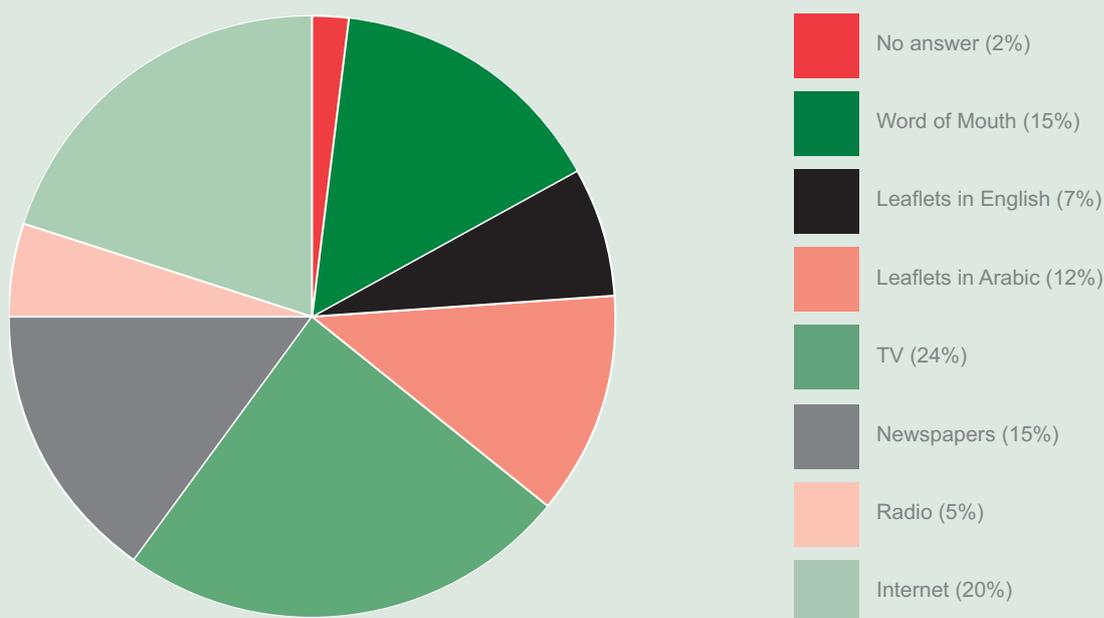
## 1.3 OTHER SOURCES OF INFORMATION

The results from the mapping questionnaire confirmed the impression given by the in-depth interviews with multipliers: the Sudanese community in the UK is highly politicised, fragmented and dispersed. When compared with other well-established communities, the Sudanese community lacks homogeneity and internal strength. There is consequently no community organisation encompassing all Sudanese people in the UK and no media outlet for such a community. Most Sudanese people therefore rely on informal networks of friends, colleagues and relatives for help and support. Other sources of support include Citizen Advice Bureaux and refugee organisations.

### 1.3.1 Common and Preferred Sources of Information

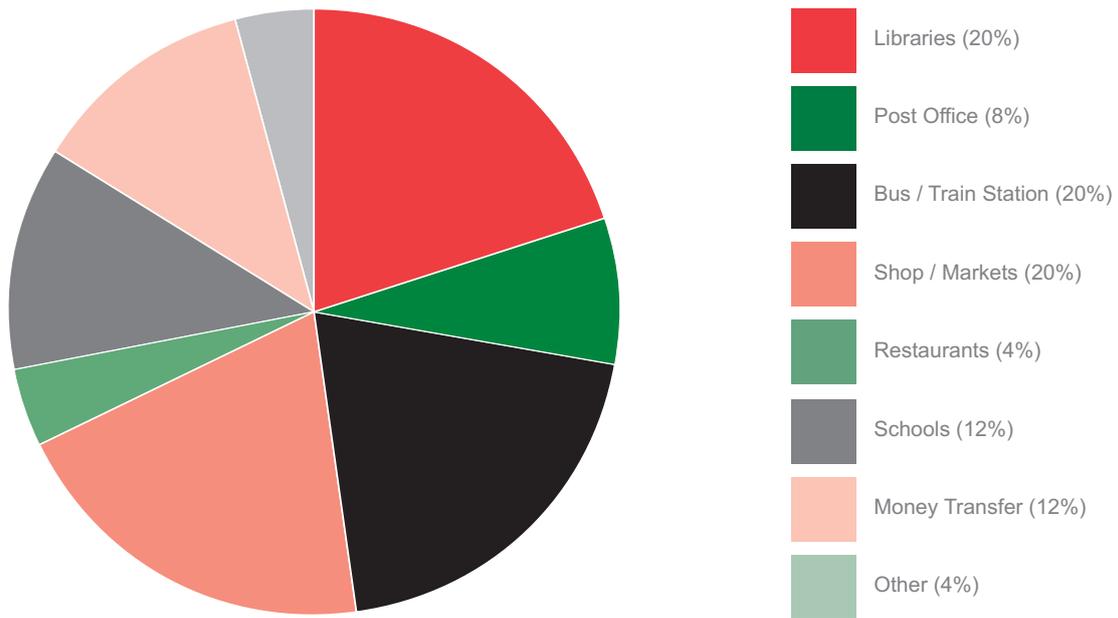
TV is the most common source of information for 24% of respondents. The Internet came second (20%) as a means of obtaining information, followed by word of mouth (15%), newspapers (15%) and leaflets/texts in Arabic (12%).

**Figure 4: Common Sources of Information**



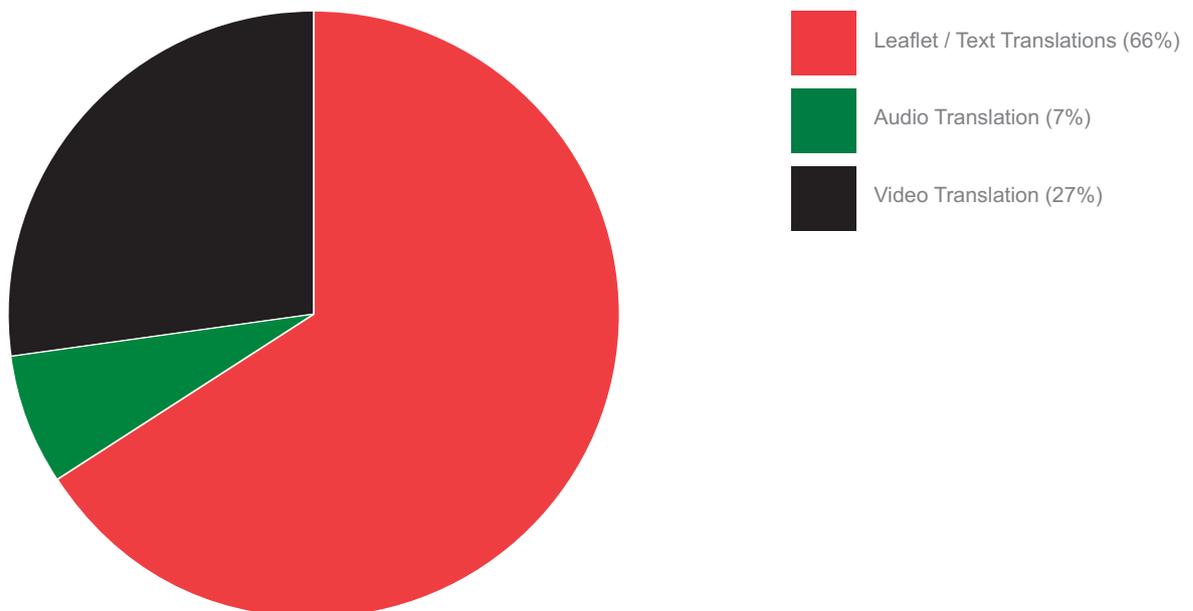
The respondents were also asked about locations where they prefer information to be made available for them. Figure 5 shows that shops, supermarkets, libraries and bus/train stations are the preferred locations for advertisements with each having frequencies of 20%.

**Figure 5: Recommended Locations for Publicity**



The respondents were also asked about the form in which they prefer to receive information. 66% of respondents prefer leaflets or text translations, while 27% prefer video translations.

**Figure 6: Recommended Formats for Publicity**



## 1.3.2 Conclusions and Recommendations

The informal nature of networks amongst the Sudanese in the UK suggests that IOM should liaise with the main multipliers identified during the mapping exercise when it implements outreach activities. Television is unlikely to be an effective way of reaching this community, given the absence of a UK-based Sudanese community TV station. But word of mouth and newspapers are very popular means of obtaining information, so are leaflet/text translations. IOM should focus on the production of materials translated into Arabic and advertise in shops, supermarkets and libraries, as well as considering advertising at bus and train stations.

## 1.4 GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION AND SIZE OF THE SUDANESE COMMUNITY IN THE UK

Due to the fact that the Sudanese community in the UK is highly fragmented and widely dispersed, it proved very difficult to gather accurate estimates on the number of Sudanese people in the UK<sup>4</sup>.

### 1.4.1 Mapping Results

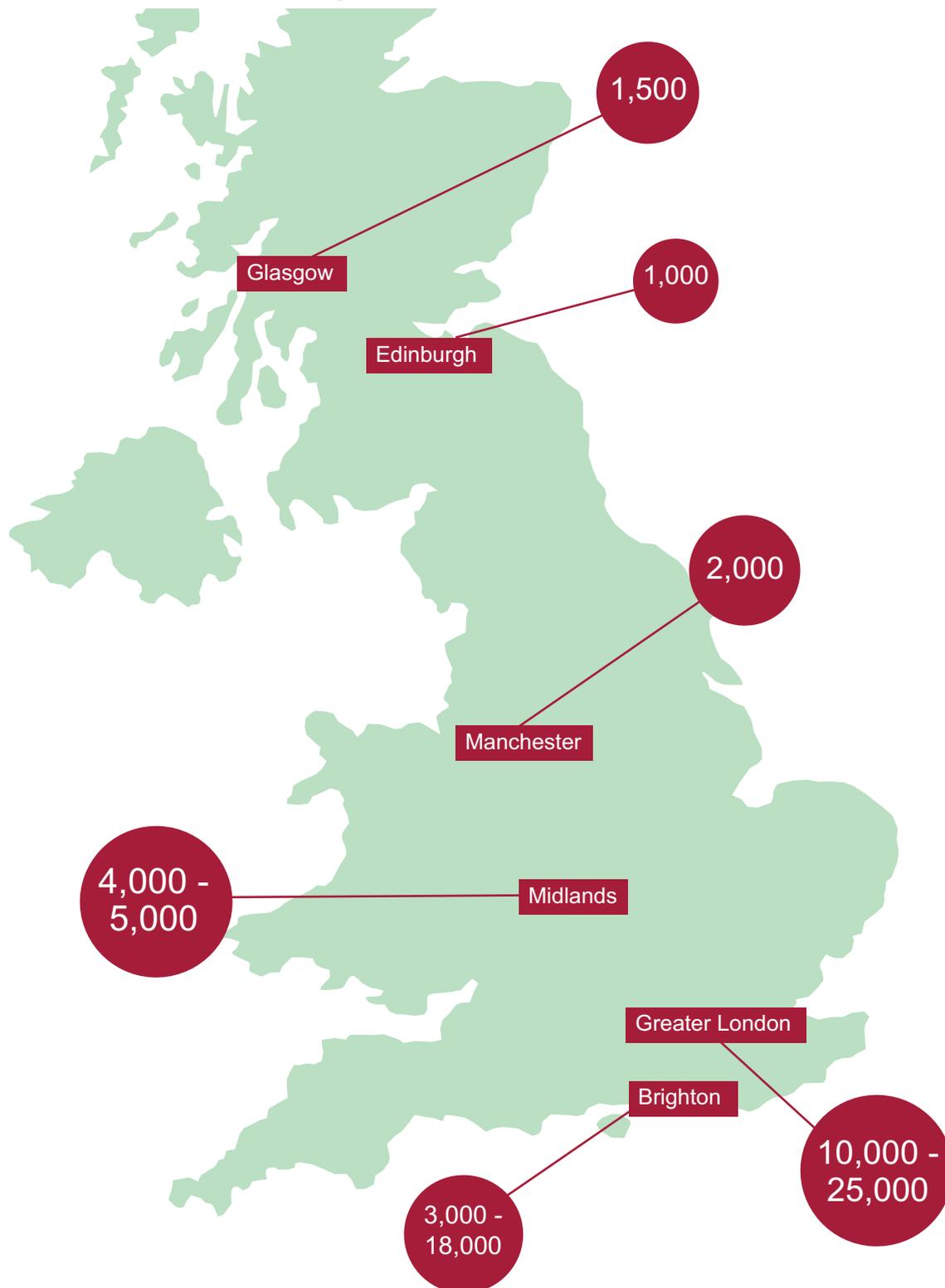
Results from the mapping questionnaires and in-depth interviews with multipliers indicate the following distribution of Sudanese people in the major UK cities (see map below):

- London (10,000 – 25,000)
- Brighton (3,000 – 18,000)
- Midlands (4,000 – 5,000)
- Manchester (c. 2,000)
- Glasgow (c. 1,500)
- Edinburgh (c. 1,000)

In addition, the mapping results suggest that there are smaller Sudanese communities in Dundee, Aberdeen, Cardiff, Leeds, Portsmouth, Newport, Bristol, Newcastle, Stoke on Trent, Leicester, Sheffield, Derby, Southampton and Nottingham.

<sup>4</sup> A study by the Institute of Public Policy Research includes Sudanese among 72,000 people born in North Africa and living in the UK.

## Geographical Spread of the Sudanese Community in the UK, 2008



Based on estimates supplied by community leaders



## 2 MAPPING EXERCISE OUTCOMES

### CHARACTERISTICS OF RESPONDENTS

#### 2.1 GENDER

There was an imbalance in the gender of the respondents. Out of fourteen respondents, ten were men, two were women and two did not specify their gender.

#### 2.2 AGE

Figure 7 shows the ages of the respondents. The majority (58%) were between 35 and 44 years old. 21% of the respondents were between 25 and 34 years of age.

**Figure 7: Age of the Respondents**

Age group	Number of respondent	Percentage
Under 18	0	0
18 -24	1	7%
25 – 34	3	21%
35 - 44	8	58%
45 - 54	1	7%
55 - 64	0	0
65 and over	0	0
No answer	1	7%

**Total: 14**

## 2.3 LENGTH OF RESIDENCE IN BRITAIN

Figure 8 shows that the length of residence varied among the respondents. 31% of the respondents have been in the UK for more than three but less than five years. 25% have been in the UK for more than a year but less than three years. 19% have been in the UK for less than twelve months.

**Figure 8: Length of Residence in the UK**

<b>Length of residence</b>	<b>Number of respondent</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Less than 12 months	3	19%
1 year but less than 3	4	25%
3 years but less than 5	5	31%
5 years but less than 10	1	6%
10 years or more	2	13%
No answer	1	6%

## 2.4 GENERAL INFORMATION ON THE USE OF TRANSPORT, PHONES AND LOCAL SERVICES

Respondents said they used buses most frequently (70%). The frequency was 6% for each of the other means of transport (train, Tube, mainline train etc.).

Respondents were also asked how they made telephone calls to friends and families back in Sudan. The results in Figure 9 show that many (43% ) used a landline with a card, and that landline alone, mobile phone with a card or another method was used by 13% of respondents for each of these categories. 18% provided no answer to the question.

**Figure 9: Means of Telephone Communication**

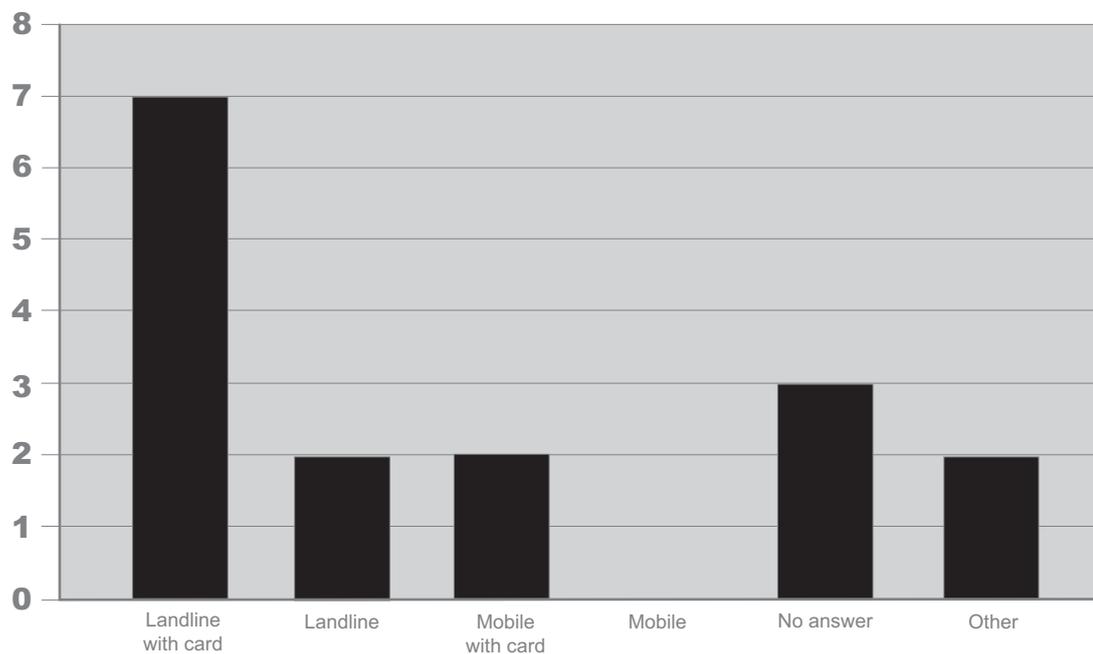
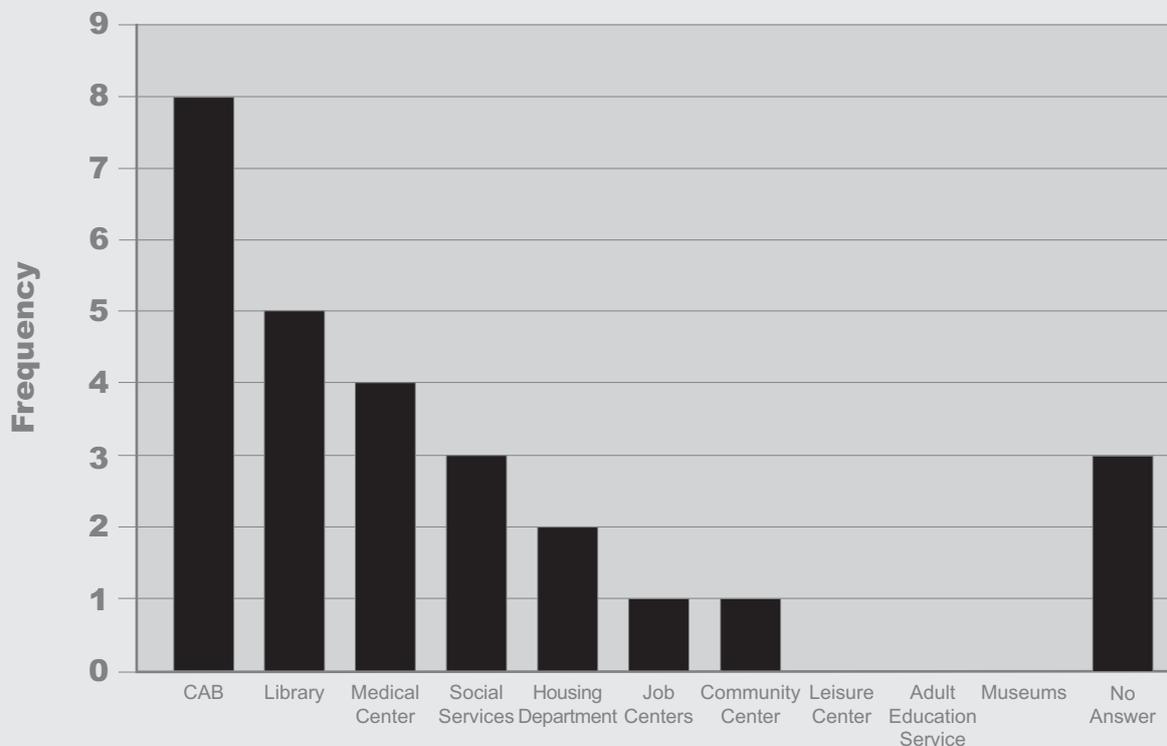


Figure 10 shows that 29% of the respondents say they use the services provided by the Citizens Advice Bureaux (CAB), 19% use libraries, 15% use medical centres, and 11% use social services. Another 11% did not offer an answer.

**Figure 10: Local Services**



Additional information gathered from both the questionnaires and the in-depth interviews indicates that a great majority (56%) of respondents use telephone cards (either with a mobile phone or a landline).

The information above could be used in devising IOM outreach strategies by taking into account the following recommendations.

- IOM should advertise in bus/train stations because these types of transport are the most widely used by the great majority (70%) of the Sudanese community.
- IOM should consider advertising in Arabic on phone cards, particularly those used to call from landlines and mobile phones.
- IOM should consider placing posters and leaflets in CABx, libraries, social services and medical centres, since they are the local services most frequently used by the Sudanese community.

# 3 CONSTRAINTS

## 3.1 'RETURN-PHOBIA': AN AVERSION TO LEARNING ABOUT IOM VOLUNTARY RETURN PROJECTS

Besides the fragmentation of the Sudanese community in the UK, the major constraining factor during this mapping exercise has been 'return-phobia'. It can be characterised as a lack of interest or aversion to learning about IOM projects for fear that any interest in the voluntary return programmes might be construed as indicating a desire to return. This factor was not immediately discernable at the outset of the mapping exercise but it gradually became clear that it plays a major role in the low level of information about IOM programmes amongst the Sudanese community in the UK. A sense of fear was an underlying factor which, perhaps, caused this lack of interest. The fear arose from:

- Fear of stigmatisation. Return to Sudan (without having obtained residency in the UK) is regarded as synonymous with failure and the waste of valuable years in one's life. Therefore, it is a source of likely stigmatisation.
- Fear of deportation: Some people seem to believe that by showing any interest in IOM projects they will be exposing themselves to deportation.

The lack of interest in IOM programmes within the Sudanese community is perhaps also attributable to a lack of serious discussion of these programmes there.

Nonetheless, Sudanese community leaders and individuals, in conversation with the mapping consultant, frequently expressed a desire to organise a formal community meeting and invite IOM to give a presentation of its programmes. This suggests that IOM is perceived not only as a source of information, but also as a facilitator for greater and more open discussion of these programmes within the Sudanese community.

## 3.2 DIVISIONS

The highly politicised, fragmented and dispersed nature of the Sudanese community in the UK has already been described. It isolates most of its community organisations. Consequently, most of these organisations are unknown and unrecognised by many members. In addition, the fragmentation also results in the absence of community organisations in some localities. For example, there is no Sudanese community organisation in either Oxford or Reading, despite the presence of Sudanese people in these cities.

For these reasons, IOM needs to undertake extensive networking to disseminate information on voluntary return programmes among the Sudanese community in the UK. The contact list developed during the mapping exercise for IOM's internal use is a good starting point.

## 3.3 PERCEIVED CONSTRAINTS RELATING TO IOM PROGRAMMES

As mentioned at the start of this report, the mapping exercise's remit included disseminating information on IOM voluntary return programmes. As such, the mapping exercise provided an opportunity for community members and leaders to express their views on these programmes.

Some of those interviewed expressed the desire for an increased cooperation between IOM and the Sudanese community. Such cooperation would offer a unique opportunity to strengthen IOM's programmes using the inside knowledge and networks of the communities.

Views were also expressed about the amount of financial assistance offered. The general attitude was that this amount should be increased in the case of Sudanese returnees. In response to this view, the mapping consultant explained that IOM must treat potential returnees from all countries equally.

Additionally, the issue of health and safety from disease repeatedly arose in several of the interviews. Health issues constitute a particular concern for potential returnees. Some solutions which would overcome health-related concerns are proposed in the following sections.

## 4 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Sudanese community in the UK seems to have a low level of information about IOM voluntary return programmes. This situation is further compounded by the fact that the Sudanese community in the UK is highly fragmented and that there is widespread lack of interest in IOM's programmes. IOM should therefore enhance its dissemination efforts in order to familiarise and interest the Sudanese community in its activities and programmes.

During the mapping exercise, and despite many challenges, many Sudanese community leaders stressed the fact that IOM programmes could benefit many community members. These leaders also expressed genuine interest in co-operating more with IOM in disseminating information to members of the Sudanese community in the UK. The way forward envisaged by these community leaders was to invite IOM to give a presentation at a community meeting.

The fact that many individuals approached the consultant in the course of this mapping exercise and expressed their desire to return to Sudan suggests that there are many potential beneficiaries in the Sudanese community waiting to be reached.

IOM outreach activities should be carefully tailored to the outcomes of the mapping exercise. The following list summarises the conclusions and recommendations of the exercise.

- Selecting the most effective method of advertising is crucial to success in informing the Sudanese community about IOM voluntary return programmes.
- IOM should use both English and Arabic to disseminate information amongst the Sudanese community, with some emphasis on Arabic.
- Advertisements on TV and radio may not be productive.
- Newspaper advertisements in *Metro* and *Al-Sharq Al-Awsat* should be considered by IOM. Advertisements in *Al-Sharq Al-Awsat* have the advantage of reaching a broader Arabic-speaking audience in the UK. *Al-Sharq Al-Awsat* is the only Arabic newspaper mentioned by respondents and published in the UK. It is also available in most UK public libraries.
- IOM should continue producing leaflets in Arabic, and start producing posters and voluntary return information cards in Arabic. It became clear during the mapping exercise that leaflets and posters are very effective forms of advertising for conveying information to the Sudanese community.
- In the production of leaflets and other materials in Arabic, it should be remembered that charts and other sequencing of information must run from right to left to ease comprehension. These materials must also include all the relevant information.
- IOM should also enhance its ability to reach the Sudanese community through extensive networking using the Contact List. Networking is particularly important considering the informal nature of networks among the Sudanese and the absence of UK marketing agencies with a particular focus on the Sudanese community.

- IOM should respond positively to invitations from Sudanese community organisations for presentations on IOM programmes. For these presentations IOM staff should always be accompanied by an interpreter and equipped with leaflets and posters in Arabic and English.
- IOM should seriously consider making available a small book in Arabic of Sudanese returnee stories. It became very clear during the mapping exercise that stories of return have a very significant impact. People tend to identify themselves with these stories, especially when there are illustrations of the people involved.
- Sudanese returnee stories might also include the difficulties the returnees faced and not be limited only to the positive aspects of these stories. This would help counter any negative publicity regarding return among the Sudanese community in the UK.
- IOM should publicise its programmes at the locations that are most frequently visited, including libraries, shops, supermarkets, and bus and train stations.
- IOM should consider advertising on Sudanese Internet web-sites. *www.sudaneseonline.com* and *www.sudan.net* are particularly often visited. Advertisements on these websites have the added value of reaching many Sudanese people who access newspapers and other news sources through them.
- In addition to advertisements, IOM should also consider commissioning a short explanatory article on one or more of these sites to increase publicity.
- During the mapping exercise it emerged that interpreters play a very important role in liaising between clients and solicitors and have extensive connections with potential beneficiaries of IOM programmes. Interpreters must therefore be regarded as important multipliers with whom IOM should liaise in the course of implementing outreach activities.
- Sudan is afflicted with a number of endemic diseases (Malaria, Tuberculosis, etc.). Long absence from the Sudan increases the hazards and vulnerability of returnees to these diseases. Potential returnees have serious concerns not only about the risk of catching diseases, but also about incurring the heavy financial costs of treatment. These concerns are even more acute in the case of families with children. IOM might therefore consider the following recommendations in order to lessen health-related concerns and thereby increase interest in AVR programs:
  - IOM might consider enhancing its programme packages (AVRIM and VARRP) with health insurance policies for the first six to twelve months following return.
  - Where possible, IOM might also consider providing returnees with vaccination against endemic diseases or epidemics prevalent in the Sudan, such as Malaria, Kala Azar Tetanus, Meningitis, before they leave the UK.
- IOM should make available an up-to-date translation of the Sudan fact sheet, including the number of returnees, their gender, location in Sudan and the nature of economic activity they have engaged in after their return. The fact sheets could include a country profile dealing with various issues of concern to returnees (e.g. security issues, economic activities likely to profit returnees and health issues, including a list of diseases for which IOM offers vaccination to returnees).

**IOM UK**

21 Westminster Palace Gardens,  
Artillery Row,  
London SW1P 1RR

**Freephone: 0800 783 2332**

**Tel: 020 7233 0001**

**e-mail: [iomuk@iom.int](mailto:iomuk@iom.int)**

**[www.iomuk.org](http://www.iomuk.org)**



IOM International Organization for Migration



Actions co-financed  
by Community Funds