

# Nubians

Unengaged People Group from Uganda

## People of the Nile

Nubians comprise seven non-Arab Muslim tribes which originated in the Nubia region, between Aswan in southern Egypt and Dongola in northern Sudan. For centuries, this area was a crossroads between Egypt and the African tribal kingdoms. In the 1500's to 1800's, the Ottoman Empire encroached upon the Nubia region causing many Nubians to migrate



to remote areas along the Nile. In 1960, many Nubian villages were flooded after construction of the Aswan High Dam. About 100,000 Nubians were forced to relocate. Some went north in Egypt, some traveled south to Kenya or Uganda.

## Language

- Nubi**  
Each group has their own dialect
- Arabic**  
Used in Uganda business & trade
- English**  
Uganda's national language

## Daily Life

In old Nubia, men migrated to the big cities for work while women farmed the land, cared for the animals, and did household chores. Today, men work in the fields while some own grocery stores or drive cabs. Women work at home, as schoolteachers, public service workers, or seamstresses.

Nubians are known for their expressive singing, dancing, and drum beating for religious and agricultural ceremonies.

Dura (a thin, coarse bread) is a staple of the Nubian diet along with mango, citrus and dates.

## Population



Sudan	971,000
Egypt	567,000
Uganda	36,000
Kenya	17,000

## Spirit of the Nile

Nubians were converted to Christianity during the 6th century. Islamization began taking place in the 14th-17th century. Today Nubians are Muslim, but their traditional animistic beliefs (non-living objects have spirits) mingle with their Islamic practices.

Nubians believe the spirit of the Nile has power over life and death and is endowed with angels, sheiks (religious leaders), and other powerful beings.

## Religion



Intense prayer and increased evangelism are necessary to reach these tribes who were once a Christian people.

## Engaging with God

Through an emerging church planting movement in Uganda, a few Nubians have come to know Him, been raised up as leaders and are planting churches among other Nubians. Pray that this momentum will continue among the Nubians!

Sources: [joshuaproject.net](http://joshuaproject.net), [peoplegroups.org](http://peoplegroups.org), [ethnologue.com](http://ethnologue.com)



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