

## Annual Report 2019

### Introduction: Peace, Democracy and Cooperation

2019 was an even more revolutionary year than 2018 for Sudan. Omar Bashir was ousted on April 11 after extensive popular protests. Young people, women and men across Sudan demonstrated for peace, democracy and openness. The demonstrations were peaceful but armed abuses of demonstrators led to the killing of over 200 people. After a temporary phase governed by a military council negotiations led to the signing of a peace agreement 20190817 between the military council and the civilian opposition. A government based on the work for peace and democracy could be installed 7/9-2019 under the leadership of Prime Minister Abdallah Hamdok. The government is completely civil except for the interior and defense ministers who are military. Instead of the president, there is a comprehensive council consisting of equal parts of the military and civilian representatives. Peace negotiations with different movements from the conflicts areas in Sudan, Darfur, Nuba Mountains (South Kordufan) and Blue Nile state began in the autumn. According to the plans and hopes, 2020 will be the year when peace agreements are reached with all armed movements, a new parliament and new governments in regions and municipalities are appointed based on competence and representation from democratic parties and a new constitution based on democracy and respect for human rights is agreed upon. The goal is free democratic and fair elections to parliament, presidents, regional and municipal assemblies by 2022.

In order to anchor a new democratic way of thinking and gain support for the process, extensive democracy work is required at grassroots level and upwards. Various coincidences led to that the Swedish Sudanese Association, with support granted by Forum Syd, actually directly contributed its share in this process through the start of its democracy project in the Knalle school "Knalle school - Empowerment and Capacitybuilding for the future". The idea is that the school children and teachers, with inspiration among others from Swedish school democracy, together will take the responsibility to agree on, plan, organize and implement development projects to improve their school environment. We hope and believe that it will be about taking responsibility for improving the nutritional situation and making the Knalle school greener through vegetable cultivation and tree planting, but it has to be decided within the project.

2019 was also the year when the Swedish Sudanese Association together with various Sudanese affiliated organizations worked closely to contribute to the knowledge of developments in Sudan and see what we could do to support the democratic process and those affected by the violence in Sudan. It was also the beginning of a more active collaboration on activities and fundraising that has continued since then.

We had a very well-attended meeting at Sensus Mariatorget 9/6-2020 with the hall full of interested parties and representatives from various organizations. Together we came up with how to network, administer and demonstrate for the respect for freedom of demonstration and human rights and a fundraiser was organized under the auspices of the SSF to provide support to civilian Sudanese affected by the violence.

In the autumn, when the situation in Sudan became calmer and better, a party was held in Tensta with lots of Sudanese singing, music and good food and several hundred happy participants. We have also been able to listen to Sweden's Sudan ambassador's experiences from the revolutionary development in Sudan, learn a little more about the image of Swedishness historically and today and have had Christmas celebrations along with a lot of good food, Sudanese and Swedish music and Christmas decorations.

**Our ambition is to continue to strengthen cooperation** with good forces in Sweden and Sudan to expand the exchange of knowledge and ideas, do more together so that we Sudanese-affiliated organizations in Sweden and Sweden-affiliated organizations in Sudan can benefit more from each other's knowledge, activities, networks, and marketing, with Sudanese affiliated organizations in Sweden and marketing of each other's activities.

In Sweden house, Khartoum, the Sudanese Swedish Friendship Association has since 2003 conducted cultural and social activities most weeks with lectures, art exhibitions, concerts, social events and more. Almost every week, a support group also meets at Sweden House consisting of people with influence in various parts of society, both from business, healthcare, public administration, politics, etc. to socialize and discuss important societal issues. This has resulted in expanded networking and also initiatives in various areas to tackle various societal problems.

The ambition is also to continue to support the boys and staff at the Dar el Fityan orphanage both in terms of the living environment and equipment itself but also the support from local residents and other organizations, not least young people - to do things with young people and support them in their development and health.

Sales on SSF's website of Gunvor Nordlund's book "Sudan in my heart" and direct sales at various events have continued in 2019 and hopefully an Arabic / English version will also be ready for printing in Sudan and Sweden now under 2020 as it is only fine tuning left.

We are a small organization with limited resources, but in this way we think we make our contribution to promoting a positive development in Sweden and Sudan based on the sun, water and the energy that comes from human power to together change their lives for the better. .

It feels good that we had such an active year in 2019 with 2 well-attended activities in Uppsala and 7 in Stockholm. With an active collaboration with other organizations both when it came to standing up for people affected by violence and disasters in Sudan, to hear about what Swedishness can be and to socialize and have fun with Sudan-inspired food, music and dance. With the start of a Democracy project in the Knalles school and fundraising for life-changing water from a solar pump just when the learning of what democracy has come into focus. It felt like SSA, along with others, could really make a difference. That work has largely continued in 2020, but now almost completely digitally, in the social distancing characterized by Covid 19, physically and at the same time the social rapprochement on social media. But that is another story that we will tell more about in the next Annual Report for 2020.

## 1 Project in Sudan

### 1.1 The SSA villages outside Bara

SSA visited the villages and Knalleskolan in September-October/2019. In addition to SSA's representatives in Sudan Nadera Ayoub (Bara) and the technician Karam Karameldeen, Ola Nordlund (SSA's chairman) and Eva Berggren from SSA-VG were present. Nadera and Karam have since given us some updates.

*Western villages* the most lively project with a larger area around a well with a solar pump is now in **Foja**. **Various** fruit trees are grown there, but vegetables only on a smaller scale. The project area is very small in **Shiq el Nome**. Two large areas with cultivation of fruit trees etc. has, however, been established outside Shiq el Nome by two of the village's families fenced off by high fences to protect against goats and sand. Irrigation is carried out with hoses from a central diesel pump with a smaller cistern.

In **Umm Zein**, the situation is similar to before with a functioning school and water drawn directly into the various households, tree planting is only carried out on a small scale, but many of the houses have a small tree and vegetable cultivation inside their plot. In Umm Zein school has about 200 students, boys and girls, and about 10 adults in the teaching staff.

*Eastern villages* Also in **Um Laham / El Feija and Shiraim El Kharamsha**, the situation was similar to before with a functioning school and health center. In both places, there were reasonably well-functioning diesel pumps from wells and plans to restart projects with water from solar-powered wells, which, however, have not yet been realized for various practical reasons. Very far in the plans of this has come in Um Laham and contacts have been taken concerning the financing.

The situation in **El Awaija** , which has often had the most lively project with tree and especially vegetable cultivation irrigated from the central pump, remains difficult. There is a well for drinking water but the project area is still completely dry. The solar pump in El Awaija lasted a very long time before it was replaced with a diesel pump, but for 4 years it has not worked and resources are lacking to replace it.

The well is intact but 9 of 16 solar panels are cracked. Both the villagers of El Awaija and SSA are active in trying to find funds for a new complete solar pump system (solar panels, solar pump , electronics and irrigation cables )to El Awaija. El Awaija could then function as a branch of the project with University of Kordufan in terms of teaching cultivation methods for vegetables, cereals and not least tree planting within the framework of the concept " Local Development Center".

SSF has decided to continue the collection " Sunwater" to El Awaija after we were able to contribute to the solar pump system to the Knalle school and the water distribution in the school. However, El Awaija's villagers are active in trying to speed up the process and have sought opportunities for loans from other organizations in order to start the project earlier. They have also asked the question whether SSA could guarantee some repayment of the loans, but SSA does not currently consider itself able to take on such a responsibility.

### **1.2 Knalle school, scholarships and the collaboration with Kordufan University**

In 1993, the Knalle school was built by SSA between the villages of Foja , Shiq el Nome and Mashqa . Latest figures from the winter 2020 says that there are 154 students in the Knalle skolan, 62 girls and 92 boys. The number of students has mainly decreased due to one part of Shiq el Nome now going to school in Um Zein which is closer to them and that Mashqa has started its own primary school . Now it had been extended to include the entire primary school year 1-8 and not just class 1-5 as last year. 17 of the school children came from a much more remote village called Mashqa Goose .The village has no school and the students are therefore forced to travel long distances, divided into at least 3 different schools - usually on foot or by donkey to the Knalle school or the school in Mashqa or by other transport to a school in Bara.

It is sad that this year there was not enough students to have a class in year 8 - individual children from the villages in Knalle school instead go to class 8 in other schools. If they do not graduate from class 8, they have a hard time getting on to studies in high school and university. We spent extra time peppering the children in grades 6 and 7 to continue studying during our visit to the Knalle school 2019.

The decay of the 3 teachers' housing houses, strongly exposed by the sand operation, has continued and now only one of the houses is really reasonably habitable. The principal has taken on continued supervisory responsibility but no longer lives at the school with his wife and children. Several of the teaching staff were new since the last visit in 2018, but the principal was still there. There are plans to renovate 2 of the teachers' houses, which would be of crucial importance for future principals and teachers to be able to live / spend the night there and thus be able to guarantee their presence at the school and have more time for teaching. Transportation to school was a big problem for teachers currently with expensive gasoline prices and uncertain access to a car and driver. Parents of the pupils said that teachers often come to school late and sometimes not at all, which has made several parents not think it was worthwhile to send their children to school. The teachers are also dependent on being able to leave the school at short notice when they are picked up, often around 13.30-14. The teachers have to pay for the transport themselves with their low teacher salaries.

Other buildings were in approximately the same condition as before, worn but possible to maintain after refurbishment. Mainly refurbishment of roofs is needed, but in one of the overnight buildings in particular there are large longitudinal cracks.

The exchange of contacts, letters and drawings between the Knalle school and the Terra Nova school on Gotland continues with new letters to and from the Knalle school. Similar exchanges have been started between other Gotland schools and schools in Khartoum. On the initiative of the artist Fadlabi , he and SSA have started collecting drawings from the schools to start a project where Fadlabi and his companions paint and decorate the whole school. The goal is to get so much money from contributing organizations in Norway and Sweden that it can finance a general refurbishment of the school .

SSA has also made contacts with health care and Bara Hospital about re-establishing a health center in the Knalle school that can teach and contribute with basic health care and preventive measures and serve both students and school staff and the population in all nearby villages. We have applied for funding for this from a network of Sudanese doctors in Manchester, England who could not support us in this situation but may be interested in doing so in the future.

Our fundraising "Sun water" for the Knalle school led to an agreement with Solarman in Khartoum on delivery and installation of a completely new solar pump system to improve water supply in the school and the solar pump system has now come into place and started working from 2020, which we are very proud and happy over. After final payment of the solar pump system, we want to continue with the water distribution at the school for drinking water, hand washing and irrigation and then continue with the collection for a similar solar pump system to El Awaija.

This has been possible despite the fact that neither our nice presentation to launchgood.com nor to Facebook has been approved - all with reference to special security checks that apply to Sudan. We are very grateful to all donors to the solar water collection who made this possible.

**The scholarship program SSA** has since 2003 continued a scholarship program for students from the Knalle school. We have now provided support to more than 50 children with scholarships and at least 22 of a total of 31 university students have gone all the way through basic education (the Knalle school), high school (mainly in Bara) and universities (all over Sudan) and taken full university degrees. 41 of a total of 48 students have taken a full high school diploma. In the autumn, 3 new girls received scholarships from SSA to study in high school and 1 boy and 1 girl received scholarships to study at the University.

Currently, 12 students are studying in high school (11 girls and 1 boy) with scholarships from SSA and 8 students (4 girls and 4 boys) at the university.

The work has begun with a revision of the scholarship program to a clearer and more realistic approach more closely linked to each student.

**The collaboration with Kordufan University** For more than 20 years, we have collaborated with Kordufan University. Many good contacts have been made and many good ideas have been exchanged, unfortunately only a few of these have been implemented so far. In recent visits, Kordufan University has seemed increasingly determined to start up a "Local Development Center" in the Knalle school with courses in rural development for more effective methods in agriculture, animal husbandry, tree planting, health care, recycling, etc. The university has created 3 such development centers in North Kordufan. They could also go and have courses out in the villages around Bara (both the "SSA villages" and others) and we saw them as a good resource in the development of teaching and tree and cultivation projects at the Knalle school. Not least, we saw them as a good knowledge resource in our democracy project at the Knalle school and a guarantee that the solar pump is taken care of in a good way and the water supply is secured. The university would then, with the support of regional and local authorities, take responsibility for the refurbishment of the buildings they would use and contribute to the infrastructure around the school. As long as we did our part with the new solar pump system, we thought this would take off.

Instead, it feels as if there has been a narrowing of the commitment - perhaps quite naturally as it is now quite clear that the University has not finished with the finances around the local development center. It became certain during the visit in 2019 that the University's finances are now very strained. Another contributing reason is that the current university management may be replaced depending on the new political situation and that there is uncertainty about their scope for action. During our visit to Bara 2019-2020 all vice counselors at universities were changed all over Sudan but we were assured that it did not prevent the university from continuing their engagement in the Knalle School. The closer commitment from the university seems to be in starting up a cultivation project on the Knalle school area where they could teach effective methods with gear use from solar powered pump and help the school to get part of vegetables and other cultivation products. The cultivation could only after a few years start to make a profit from the sale of cultivation products etc. They showed us a similar project they were doing outside of El Obeid with good results. Their proposal was that SSA should invest in a cheaper solar pump than the one now installed and instead put the money as our contribution to the start-up of the cultivation project. They presented an feasibility study for the cultivation project. We made it clear that SSA, as a small association, could not bear other costs than for the solar pump system and water distribution. The university then mentioned that they could start a fundraiser to get support for the project.

We were positive to a continued collaboration on this. The university's involvement in our democracy project, on the other hand, seemed rather limited, even though they emphasized the value of anchoring and working closely in collaboration with the various villages/villagers concerning the development of the school. We met on 4 occasions during our visit and they made 2 visits to the Knalle school but did not attend any of our seminars or class meetings.

Corresponding political paralysis and lack of financial resources we experienced with the regional and local school authorities who previously promised to support us with fences around the Knalle school and solar pump, removal of sand, trees as protection against sand drift and refurbishment of teachers' houses. Everyone seems to continue to be positive about SSA and what we do, but no new resources have yet been added to the education sector and health care, and many of the former politicians and executives at regional and local level remain at risk of being replaced.

### ***The democracy project***

Representatives of the Swedish Sudanese Association started the project through a feasibility study 20190922-20191023 with the support of SIDA funds from Forum Syd (from 202007 Forum Civ) and in cooperation with Sudanese Swedish Friendship Association. A total of 2-3 long class meetings were held in each class and we held 4 joint seminars for the whole school. At seminars 1 and 4, the school committee, the school authority in Bara also participated, and at the last seminar also parents and other villagers. In addition, we had a large support meeting for the school after Seminar 4 where Kordufan University, a representative from the health care in Bara and many villagers also participated.

Each class, grades 1-7, with the help of post-it notes, chose 1 boy and 1 girl to form a school committee for the whole school together with the teacher and principal, and a priority list was made of what needed to be improved in the Knalle school, proposals for measures and who could perform them.

The villagers around the school were inspired to work together in a completely different way than before by supporting the school practically with urgent issues such as a functioning guard and fence.

The nutritional situation at the school remains serious as it is after the World Food Program has stopped supporting the school with school food. Many children do not eat breakfast before going to school or anything during the school day and get their first meal when they get home in the afternoon. It was clearly noticed that this affected the energy level. We therefore decided to buy food for "Breakfast" (roughly the equivalent of school lunch in Sweden) all days during the period instead of just serving food in connection with seminars and snacks in connection with class meetings. Most often it was nutritious lentil soup that was served with bread and vegetables and then dates and nuts during our class meetings. Everything went well and the energy and joy of the children was significantly increased when they ate!

SSA and SSFA intend to apply for support for a democracy project in the Knalle school. In spite of the difficulties we became encouraged by the positive reaction from the children, and after a while even from the teachers, the growing self-confidence you could see in many children. I am important, I can make a difference! The energy among the children when they were able to vote for their candidate for each class and the engagement from the elected children in the school-committee. When we took up all prioritized suggestions from the children and teachers there were children saying I can paint, I want to learn carpentry if the workshops are restored again so I can help with repairs, or I can plant trees and vegetables.

The energy rose during the days we visited the Knalle school and we really felt there was a difference when we left and of course a sadness to leave after all fun we had and all songs and dances we performed together.

We also became encouraged by the villagers that they more than for a long time became engaged in the school work and appointed two good guards to live and cultivate at the school and decided to have a mutual Nafeer where they fixed a natural fence around all the school. We think we have planted thoughts and find a type of structure to continue the democracy work from.

Our idea is to continue our work to establish a form of continuous school democracy. Yearly elections of children and teachers for a school-committee and meetings every month where both children and teachers can take up important questions that they before and/or after the meeting discuss in their class and in their teachers' group. We want to encourage the children and teachers to decide together about what they can do to make their school better and what are the priorities with this action.

We think this can lead to at least 2-3 working groups (maybe more) of children and teachers interested of working for example with cultivation of a limited area for vegetables and/or for fruit trees or a green fence/trees to stop the sand drift etc. Another group may work with cleaning and small repairs in the school and another one may work with painting etc. This depends of the acute needs then of course and what are decided between teachers and children. This development can then be promoted by

support of knowledge from the University of Kordufan, the school committee and Bara youth holding meetings and seminars at the school. If we manage with this Knalle school can be an example to be spread to other schools. At least that is our vision!

During a meeting in Stockholm 20191026, Eva Berggren and Ola Nordlund told about their experiences from the start of the project / study and showed pictures. A feasibility study report to Forum Civ is available for those who want to know more about our experiences and plans concerning the democracy project.

### **1.3 Sweden House in Khartoum**

Sweden House in Khartoum International Park, inaugurated by the SSF in 2003, has 2019 continued to be a cultural meeting place, not only between the Swedish and Sudanese culture, but for many forms of culture from different parts of Sudan. Responsible for management and operations in Sweden House is SSA's sister organization Sudanese Swedish Friendship Association (SSFA) in Khartoum.

Social and cultural events, lectures, networking, discussions, courses in Swedish, art exhibitions and mutual celebration of Sudanese and Swedish holidays have become a natural part of the house's identity. Due to the political transition situation, however, it has been difficult to meet during parts of 2019. The Swedish Sudanese Association pays half the insurance cost for Sweden House as we are still the owners of the property.

Our vision is that Sweden House should be able to be an inspiring meeting place between younger and older people, young people from different economic, social and ethnic backgrounds. An inspiring source for the development of ideas, new entrepreneurs, democratic cooperation between men and women, North, South, East and West Sudanese. We want it to be a place where people get inspiration and energy to create a better life together.

### **1.4 I Care - the boys in Dar el Fitiyan**

Since 2008, members of SSA have supported the orphanage in Dar el Fitiyan, a home for homeless boys with mental, intellectual and physical disabilities.

The project was started by a youth committee within SSA (SSAyc) which then transformed into a project group. Every year since the start, money has been raised to promote the boys' health and well-being. The assistance to Dar el Fityan has included support for employees and volunteer staff, painting of walls, refurbishment of toilets and delivery of nappies, toys, clothes and many other necessities.

It has also meant that, especially young, Sudanese people in Sudan, with different skills have visited the orphanage and contributed with their knowledge and commitment in areas such as health, personal development and education. In general, the living conditions of the boys at Dar el Fitiyan have improved, although they are still very tough, and in recent years several organizations and local residents have begun to get involved in the orphanage.

The collection work has been low during the year, but there are unused funds raised from before and the orphanage has also in 2019 been supported with, among other things, clothes and shoes for the boys who live there.

## **2. Activities in Sweden**

**2.1-2.2 An afternoon about Swedishness in the present and past with Fatima Idris, linguist and professor at Kordufan University and formerly at the University of Gothenburg and chairman and Swedish teacher in Sudanese Swedish Friendship Association .**

**Saturday 2 / 3-2019 Uppsala Vaksala school canteen** - Fatima gave lectures and showed pictures before a large audience and ended with little question and answer session. After that started the festivities with good food, wedding celebration and social gathering for all. Collaboration with the Sudanese Association in Uppsala.

**Sunday 3/3-2019 Stockholm SENSUS Mariatorget** - Fatima gave a lecture and showed pictures in front of an audience of about 15 people. Then there was a film screening of the film "Is the Swede a human being" with subsequent coffee, question time and discussion. Not least about the movie that touched many of us quite strongly,

### **2.3 Sunday 28 / 4–2019 Annual meeting SSF - Stockholm SENSUS Mariatorget**

The annual meeting 2019 was held in the large hall of SENSUS premises near Mariatorget. In addition to annual meeting negotiations and coffee, we had discussions about activities, projects in Sudan and cooperation with other organizations as well as showed pictures and written material.

### **2.4 Saturday 9 / 6 - 2019 Sudan in my heart - Stockholm SENSUS Mariatorget**

Against the background of the serious development of events with extensive shootings and abuses of peaceful democracy demonstrators in Khartoum, a meeting was held with slide shows and film clips from Sudan followed by discussions about what is happening in Sudan and what we can do in Sweden to support those exposed to violence and promoting democracy and human rights in Sudan. We were about 11 participating organizations with a Sudanese connection that arranged and participated in the event under the leadership of Ali Eltom from the Swedish Sudanese Association. The room at Sensus was full and we had to open the doors to get air. The discussions led to the formation of a working group, a collection was started by the Swedish Sudanese Association for support to the victims of violence in Sudan and to the organizing of a demonstration 30/6-2019 at Soltorget central Stockholm in support of democracy and human rights in Sudan.

### **2.5 Friday 20/9-2019 Sweden in history and present - Uppsala Folkuniversitetet**

Babiker Elobeid from SSA and the Sudanese Association in Uppsala and with many years of life experience from both Sudan and Sweden, told and showed pictures about Sweden and Swedish society now and historically and about the ties between Sweden and Sudan. The event was open to everyone but primarily intended for newcomers to Sweden. Then good coffee and conversation were served. The idea was that Eva Berggren and Ola Nordlund from the SSA would also participate in the presentation but due to obstacles at the last moment they managed only to participate in the final socialization.

### **2.6 Saturday 26 / 10-2019 Knalle School Democracy - Empowerment and Capacity Building Stockholm Sensus Studieförbundet - Torkel Knutssonsgatan 39 T-Mariatorget**

Eva Berggren and Ola Nordlund from SSA-VG and SSA who visited Sudan, mainly Bara, 21 /9-23 / 10-2019 - told and showed pictures and film clips from their journey, feasibility study and start-up of SSA's democracy project in the Knalle school. Inspired by children who have grown in self-confidence and energy, who have offered so much common singing and dancing and who voted for the first time and inspired by all the young people, villagers and teachers who supported them, they conveyed their story about their impressions and experiences and thoughts about the future. Then there was coffee, question time and discussion.

### **2.7 Monday 11 / 11-2019 Transition, Opportunities and Challenges - Stockholm Stora Salen SENSUS Mariatorget**

Sweden's Ambassador to Sudan - Hans Lundquist told and showed pictures from Sudan about the transition in Sudan with democracy as a goal, what he has experienced himself, Sweden's perspective, cooperation with and support for Sudan and thoughts for the future based on the tough economic and political conditions that still prevails. Then there were questions and views from a large audience, followed by coffee of course.

### **2.8 Saturday 30 / 11-2019 Sudan Day - Stockholm, Tensta träff**

So it finally went off the rails. Sudan Day in collaboration between various Sudan-affiliated organizations in Sweden and an audience of over 300 people!

We were treated to a Sudanese artist cavalcade with well-known artists such as Yasir Vardi and Zaenelebbeen El Mubarak, Adam Chance and Habtom, Eva Alkadar and Saif Eldin Awad.

Good Sudanese and Swedish-inspired food and coffee were available for purchase, Pictures, artwork and materials from Sudan and participating organizations to view. Above all, it was a wonderful evening together with a lot of music and dance and a lot of joy in having something to celebrate and look forward to after all. All costs were covered by the entrance fees and there was a small surplus to share between organizing organizations.

### **2.9 Saturday 15 / 12-2019 Christmas dinner with Swedish, Sudanese and international Christmas specialities Sensus Studieförbundet - Torkel Knutssonsgatan 39 T-Mariatorget**

In a Christmas-decorated room, we enjoyed the delights of Christmas from near and far to Christmas tones and Sudan pictures. We talked a bit about what is happening in Sudan and with SSA and then

we got to enjoy live singing and music, among others by the newly formed , cool and wonderful song and music group " Nahar " and by the joy-spreading inspirer Mari-Louise Gwada.

### **3. Activities of the board:**

#### **3.1 Members of the Board have been:**

Ola Nordlund: Chairman and contact person for the Bara projects

Khadija Norell: Treasurer and also Secretary

Ali Eltom : Member and Webmaster

Yasmeen Osman : Member

Awatif Hazim , Member

Motaseem Ahmed, Member

Rosa Maria Nordlund: Member

Babiker Elobeid : Replacement

#### **Association auditor:**

Sten Arvidsson

#### **Nomination Committee:**

Nageeb Kamal Eldin, Iqbal Yasin and Ayat Ahmed

#### **3.2 Summary of activities carried out by Board members during the year:**

**3.2.1** The board held 9 board meetings, a large number of working meetings individually and with other organizations and arranged 9 member activities and has had a lot of contact via WhatsApp, e-mail and, to a lesser extent, by phone.

**3.2.2** Sent money for scholarships/incentives to Knalle school students

**3.2.3** SSA has participated in 2 meetings with the Sudanese ambassador in Sweden and in a meeting in Sweden with the Swedish ambassador in Sudan, in addition we have had telephone contact.

**3.2.4** Continued the development of our new website which should be easy to reach, find and update

**3.2.5** Updated Face Book and Twitter account for SSA

**3.2.6** Continued to sell the new updated and supplemented edition in Swedish of Gunvor Nordlund's book "Sudan in my heart" both via the website and via direct sales at various meetings and events.

**3.2.7** Collaborated continuously with the Sudanese Swedish Friendship Association (SSFA) in Khartoum and had talks about possible future projects / activities with Sweden House as a base.

**3.2.8** The local association in Kinna, SSF-VG (Västra Götaland), which was formed 2012-04-17, continued its work to create interest in the area to help the Knalle school and surrounding villages and support the plans for a collaboration with Kordufans University on establishment of the University presence in the Knalle school. They also again raised money for continued scholarships for 8 study-motivated girls in Bara, to continue their studies in high school and university.

It is an independent organization within the framework of SSA in close collaboration with SSA's board. SSA and SSA-VG have had quite a lot of contact by phone and met on one occasion together.

**3.2.9** Travel to Sudan 20190921-20191023 by SSA 's chairman Ola Nordlund and SSA-VG's Eva Berggren who volunteered 1985-1991 in Sudan and together with her husband Sigvard started up the village project and the construction of the Knalle school outside Bara. Visit to the Sweden House, villages and Knalle School outside Bara. Talks were held with authorities, Kordufan University and



Al Fahd University in support of the development and start of a local development center in the Knalle school.

Funds raised were handed over in Khartoum to the network " Nafeer " (\$ 100 USD) for aid to flood victims and to the " Committee for Solidarity and Documentation of Violations in Sudan " (60 000 Sudanese pounds - 9009 Sek) to assist those affected by the violence in Sudan. We also handed over collected funds for the Knalle school scholarships to the School Committee in Bara from SSA and to scholarships for 8 girls from Bara from SSA-VG.

An agreement was concluded and signed and the first down payment was paid to Solarman in Khartoum for delivery and installation of a new solar pump system in the Knalle school.

The democracy project "Knalle school Democracy - Empowerment and Capacity Building for the future " was started with the support of grants from Forum Civ within the framework of a feasibility study that forms the basis for continued democracy work in the Knalle school and the application for project funding from Forum Syd.

**3.2.10** Board members have participated in two Saturday meetings arranged by the Sudanese Association in Uppsala, where we also told about SSA's activities and distributed brochures.

**3.2.11** - Board members have participated in the Open House and other activities at Sensus organized by Sensus together with participants from other organizations.

The board would like to thank all members and donors for your valuable support last year and we look forward to seeing you in future activities we invite you to.

We would like to thank once again Osman El Kheir in Khartoum and Nadera Ayoub in Bara who have a crucial role to play together so that we can continue to maintain Sweden House as an active meeting place, the Knalle school as a place for basic education for both girls and boys, to develop the collaboration with Kordufan University and actively contribute to the creation of a Local Development Center in the Knalle school. To distribute scholarships to motivated children from the Knalle school for higher education and to network around our previous projects in the villages outside Bara. To our great sorrow and loss, Tariq Karameldeen, our friend, water technician, problem solver and driver who for many years helped us with the work out in the villages and in the Knalle school died in a traffic accident. During our trip in Sudan, we still had the privilege of taking part in his brother Karam Karameldeen's equally great technical know-how in our work.

With secured water supply through the solar pump system the guards have already been able to start up a vegetable garden in the Knalle school area, something already seen on Google , and our dream is that the Knalle school gradually returns to become as green and ecological focused, it was supposed to be, that more pupils will have the opportunity to study further with the support of our scholarship program for the Knalle school and that the Knalle school becomes a role model others want to visit in the development of school democracy and the students' and school staff's joint responsibility for the school.

So perhaps with our contribution to the democracy development and further education of the Knalle school children and young people, we can be a small part of the great revolutionary democracy project that the Sudanese youth have started up throughout Sudan.

Yes, we truly believe in an exciting year together and we hope to become more and more!

Follow the development via SSF's website [www.swedishsudanese.org](http://www.swedishsudanese.org) and [Facebook \(Swedish Sudanese Association\)](#) .

Let us continue to learn from each other and continue the good work together.

***The board of SSA***