

# Nubians in Kenya

## Numbers and voices

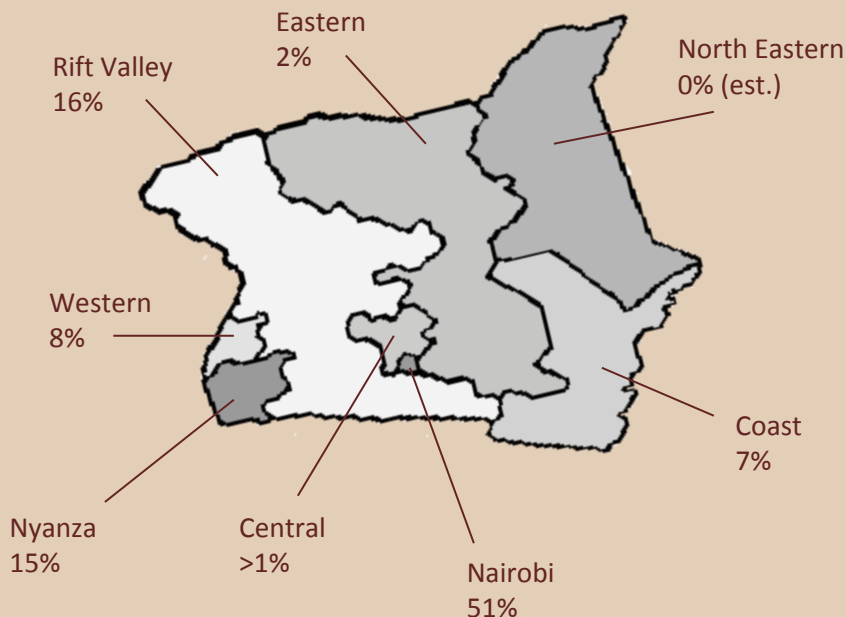


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JUSTICE INITIATIVE

# Nubians in Kenya: The Basics



In 2010, the Open Society Justice Initiative carried out research among Kenya's Nubian population. The research revealed many previously unknown facts about Nubians and their lives in Kenya. The research involved a survey of 18,862 individuals in 5,761 households, as well as focus groups with community members, and key informant interviews with government officials.

This fact sheet explains some of the basic findings of the research.

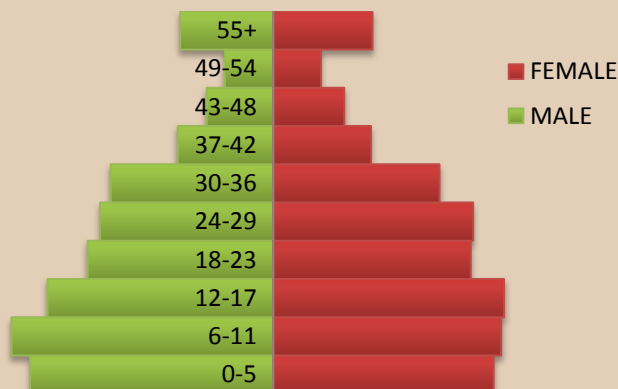
## Documentation

Percentage of Nubians that hold essential documents.



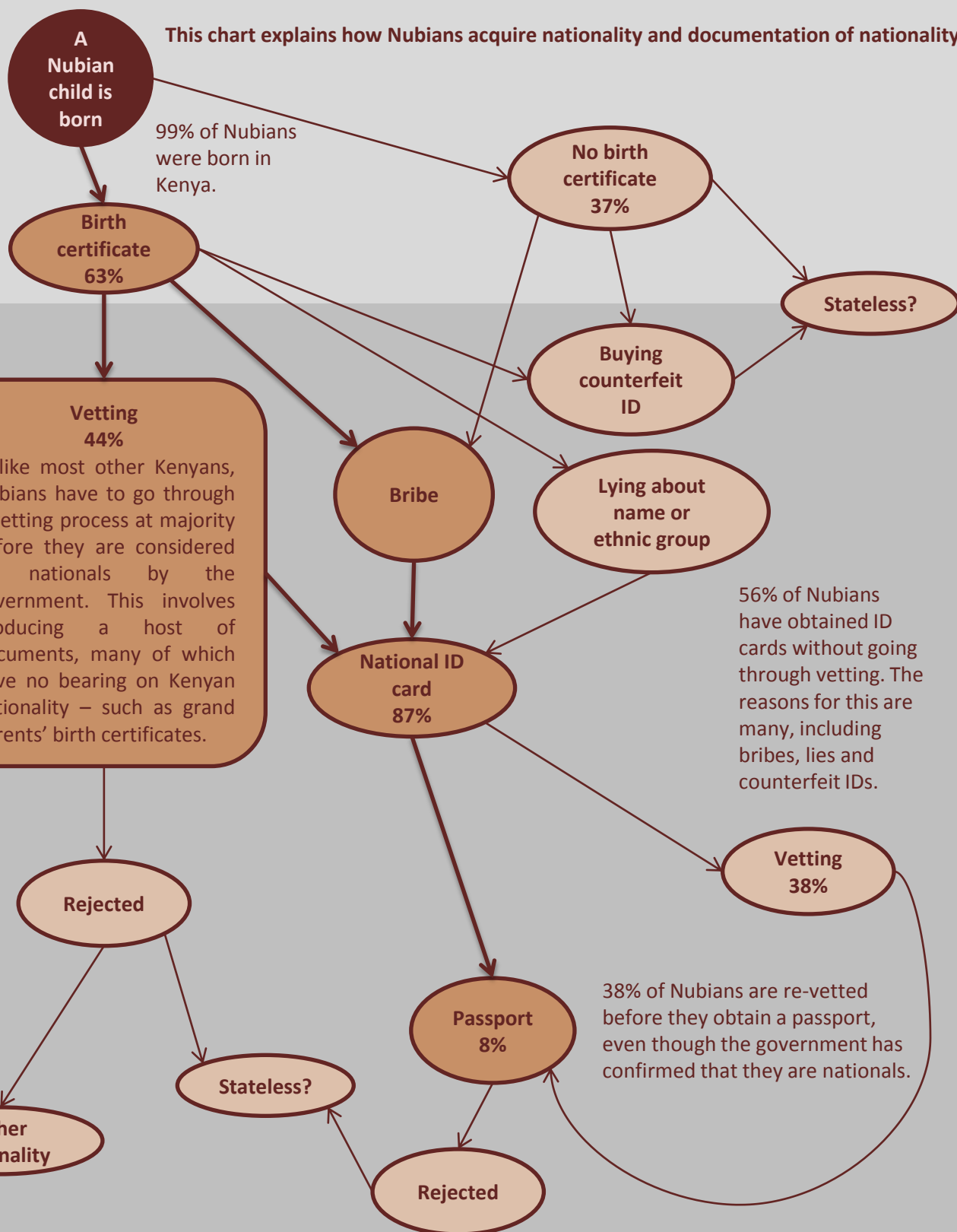
## Age structure

The Nubian population is younger than the average Kenyan population. Among Nubians, 80% are below 30 years, compared to 73% among Kenyans in general.

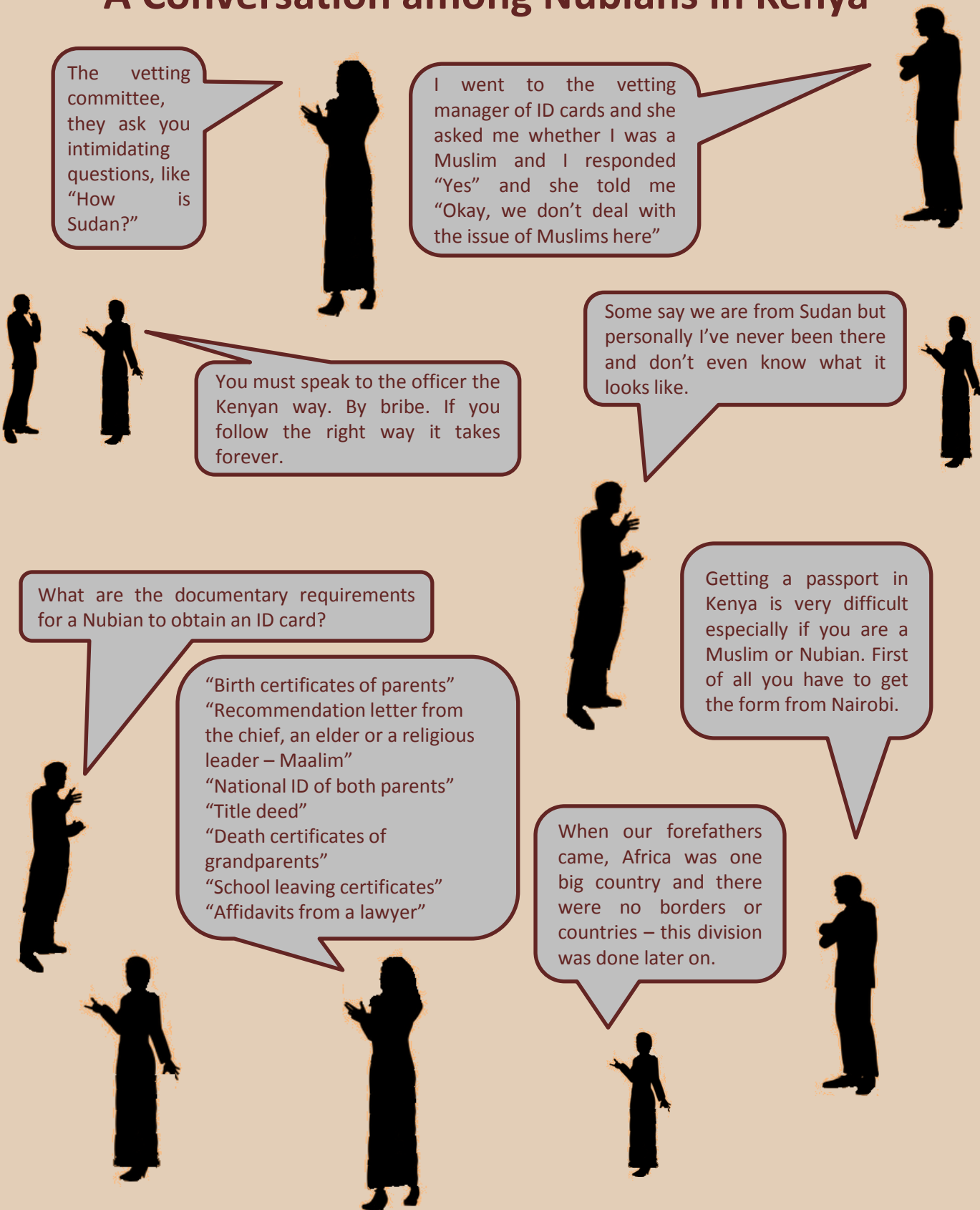


# Nubians: Statelessness and Discrimination

This chart explains how Nubians acquire nationality and documentation of nationality



# A Conversation among Nubians in Kenya

The background of the entire page features silhouettes of several people in various poses, suggesting a group conversation. The silhouettes are black and set against a light beige background. Some figures are standing and gesturing, while others are in more static poses. The overall composition is centered around the text blocks, which are arranged in a way that suggests a flow of conversation.

The vetting committee, they ask you intimidating questions, like "How is Sudan?"

I went to the vetting manager of ID cards and she asked me whether I was a Muslim and I responded "Yes" and she told me "Okay, we don't deal with the issue of Muslims here"

You must speak to the officer the Kenyan way. By bribe. If you follow the right way it takes forever.

Some say we are from Sudan but personally I've never been there and don't even know what it looks like.

What are the documentary requirements for a Nubian to obtain an ID card?

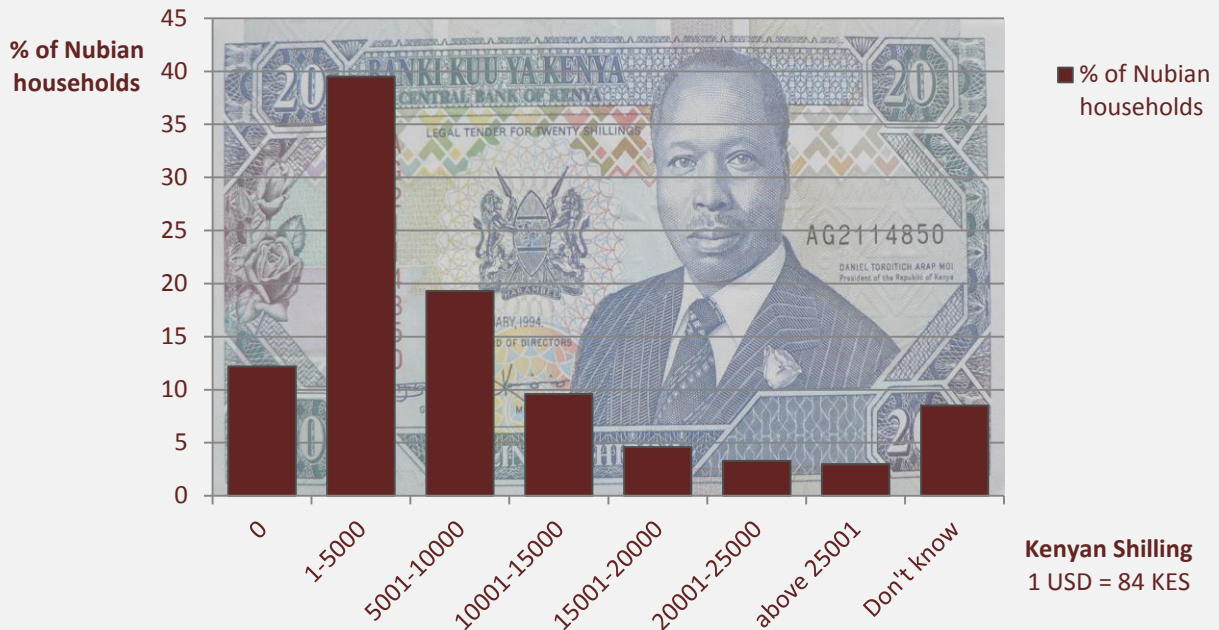
- "Birth certificates of parents"
- "Recommendation letter from the chief, an elder or a religious leader – Maalim"
- "National ID of both parents"
- "Title deed"
- "Death certificates of grandparents"
- "School leaving certificates"
- "Affidavits from a lawyer"

Getting a passport in Kenya is very difficult especially if you are a Muslim or Nubian. First of all you have to get the form from Nairobi.

When our forefathers came, Africa was one big country and there were no borders or countries – this division was done later on.

# Nubian Household Incomes

This chart shows self-reported income levels of Nubian households in Kenya in February 2010.



Research by the Justice Initiative shows that reported income levels within the Nubian community in Kenya are relatively low. Some 52 percent of Nubian households have a monthly income of 5,000 Kenyan Shilling or less. This equals roughly \$60, or \$720 per year.

While data on average household incomes in Kenya is not available, GDP per capita is \$738 (World Bank, 2009) which suggests that the majority of Nubians are significantly poorer than your average Kenyan.

This is in part explained by the fact that a very significant number of Nubians are unemployed: 60 percent of Nubians above 18 are unemployed, and if one includes lower age cohorts the figure rises above 70 percent.

The reported levels of income may in some cases not include rent and/or remittances.

I am still single. Due to discrimination I cannot get a job and hence I cannot marry because I'm broke. And when you go and ask a job they ask you where you come from. When you say Kibera they start telling you that Nubians are very lazy. I'm over thirty and I'm not married as I have no money to feed a family.

