

= Sudan women 's national football team =

The Sudan women 's national football team is an unofficial , non @-@ Fédération Internationale de Football Association ( FIFA ) recognised team called The Challenge that plays in a domestic competition in Khartoum against teams wearing traditional Muslim garb . It played its first competitive match in 2006 . No FIFA recognised senior national team has played a single FIFA @-@ recognised game . The development of a national team faces several challenges common to much of Africa , along with Sudan @-@ specific issues such as religion . There is an additional problem of a fatwa banning the creation of women 's teams .

= = The team = =

In 1985 , few countries in the world had a women 's national football team , including Sudan . A FIFA recognised Sudanese national team has never participated in a major regional and international event . As of June 2012 , the team has not played a single FIFA sanctioned game . The country has never entered the Women 's World Cup , competed in the 2010 African Women 's Championships , or participated in the 2011 All @-@ Africa Games . As of March 2012 , no team from the country appears on FIFA 's worldwide ranking , and a national team did not officially exist .

Sudan is one of the only two Muslim countries in the region to have a women 's league . According to Mårtensson and Bailey in *Fundamentalism in the Modern World Vol 2 : Fundamentalism and Communication : Culture , Media and the Public Sphere* , the fact that Sudan has a women 's league could be critical for the development of a national team . An informal national team called " The Challenge " has been created inside the league . This team refuses to wear the hijab or wear traditional Muslim clothing while playing and is based in Khartoum . The unofficial national team is not recognised by , nor receives support , from the Sudan Football Association . In 2006 , the team played its first competitive match . The team was captained by Sara Edward and played against a side from Sudan University that wore traditional garb . The quality of play was not high and the game ended in a 2 @-@ 0 win for the Challenge team .

The national team continues to lack FIFA recognition . In 2012 , the " Islamic Fiqh Council in Sudan issued a fatwa ( religious order ) saying that it is forbidden for the country to create a women 's soccer team , deeming it an immoral act " , in response to a question from FIFA regarding the feasibility of creating a team . The fatwah suggested that football is a men 's sport and women should not participate in it because it challenges the differences between men and women .

= = Background and development = =

Women 's football in Africa in general faces many challenges , including limited access to education , poverty amongst women in the wider society , and fundamental inequality that occasionally allows for female specific human rights abuses . At the same time , if quality female players in Africa are developed , many leave their home countries to seek greater football opportunities in places such as Northern Europe or the United States . Funding for women 's football in Africa is also an issue ; most of the funding for women 's football and for the women 's national teams comes from FIFA , not the national football association .

Inside the Sudan , religion is an issue with growing the game . Most footballers wanting to play are required to wear the hijab and play while fully covered . While football was organised inside the country with 440 men 's clubs in 2006 , and the first ever women 's game being played in the country that year in February between Tahadi and Sudan University at Sports ? City , Sudan University , development was hindered because a fatwa by the Fiqh Council of Islamic in 2006 condemning the creation of a women 's league in Sudan . Still , in the South Sudan in 2006 , the local government was indicating their support of women 's football . By 2009 , women 's football programmes had been established in the Sudan . That year , there were ten senior women 's teams , a school @-@ based competition and a regional competition established . Young girls informally play the game in refugee camps in the Darfur region . Rights to broadcast the 2011 Women 's World Cup in the

country were bought by Al Jazeera .

The Sudan Football Association , which was founded in 1946 , and FIFA affiliated in 1948 , was one of the founding members of Confederation of African Football , and continues to be a member of the Confederation . In November 2011 , a female association member , Laila Khalid , attended a meeting in South Africa where women 's football was discussed , specifically mentioning the problems faced in growing the game in Africa .