



Human Destruction

- ▶ During the war in my country Sudan, many people died, majority of children and elderly people suffered severely.
- ▶ In the early 1980s to 90s when the war and starvation intensified in Sudan between North and the South, a major human exodus occurred from Sudan to different countries, the main routes were to Ethiopia and Uganda.
- ▶ People travelled for months to cross borders, and along the way there was no food and water, it was a journey between live and death, many people got sick and die, there were many diseases and a lot of children died on the way and at the camps from Yellow fever and measles outbreaks.

Human Compassion

- ▶ With great morality around the world, UNHCR came to rescue thousand of people at the refugee camps in Ethiopia.
- ▶ At that time I was a little child at 7 years old, even at that age I still remembered today all the miserable events of what happens during the epic journey to reached the refugee camp.
- ▶ Now I became one of the lucky survivors, I'm living my life in freedom but I can never forget memories of my brothers and sisters who did not make it.

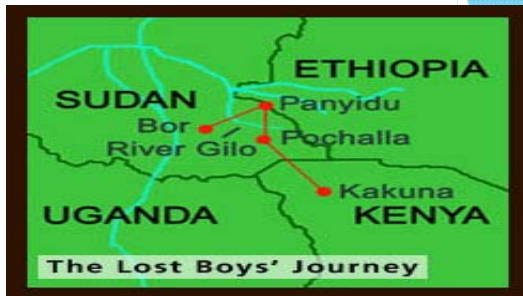
Children of War/Children of peace and Freedom



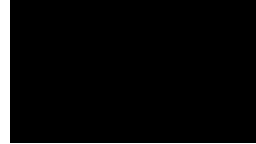
Long Journey to Death or Freedom



Escaping Routes



My Journey and Savannah Pride (pls. refer to the last slide for full story)



Inspiring youth through sports, education and community.

What is Savannah Pride?

Savannah Pride was my dream to give back what was given to me during my refugee journey as a child, and to hold the spirits of my past brothers and sisters alive. And aims to inspire Australian youth through sports and education. Basketball has been the vehicle for me.

I started Savannah Pride initiative with the South-Sudanese community Youth, but have always been inclusive as it was our goal, taking on youth from many different backgrounds and gathering "under the branches of the Savannah tree"



Challenges?

- ▶ Migrant Youth misunderstanding with authority 'Police etc' was born out of negative experiences, peer pressure, media stereotypes and negative stories, cultural identity, and lack of youth engagement in the community.
- ▶ Refugee and Migrants parents that came from a background where they never went to school, experiences hardship to settle in a new country.



Empowering Youth



Savannah Pride's Dream

- ▶ To make Australian youth proud and embrace belonging to one another
- ▶ Making education a priority and use sports to get negative thoughts out of youth's minds and keep them healthy physically and mentally.
- ▶ Engage the community to create real respect and integral supports for the next generation.
- ▶ Our youth to graduate from the program and become positive role model by returning to share their stories and encourage other youth in the community to continue make Australia a better place.



