



World Vision

World Vision Response in Darfur, Sudan

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The Gospel Experiment



Crisis in Darfur

The crisis that has unfolded in Darfur, Sudan since early 2003, continues to be one of the worst humanitarian and conflict related crises in the world today.

The most recent assessments show that approximately 2.2 million people have been affected by this crisis, including over 70,000 who have died so far as a result of the conflict, malnutrition and disease. The crisis has also affected people in terms of security and protection as many of those who are displaced continue to face risks and uncertainties and are still subject to threats and attacks if they leave their camps. World Vision has responded with several interventions:

1. Initial Response
2. Food Aid
3. Health Centres
4. Supplementary Feeding Centres
5. Water Distribution
6. Sanitation Promotion
7. Outbreak Response and Preparedness
8. Child Friendly Spaces and Emergency Education
9. Protection

Initial Response

World Vision's initial response to the humanitarian crisis in Darfur was to airlift emergency supplies to Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) Camps. This took place in July 2004. Camps were supplied with tarps for shelter, blankets for warmth, mosquito netting to reduce the incidence of malaria and jerry cans for collecting water.

Food Aid

World Vision quickly partnered with the World Food Programme to be one of the main organizations responsible for food aid delivery in South Darfur, especially in the Nyala area. World Vision distributed 11,000 metric tonnes of food aid between August and December to approximately 175,000 beneficiaries in several locations. Regularly distributed food rations prevented the further deterioration of the nutritional status of displaced people.



Health Centres

World Vision has established three clinics to provide primary health care services in Otash, South Karere and Genena. The staff at the centre treat patients with malaria and respiratory tract infections, immunize children for polio, measles and provide prenatal care for pregnant women. In a single week a clinic screens and treats more than 600 patients. Patients with malnutrition are referred to the World Vision supplementary feeding program. A total of 100,000 people have so far benefited from World Vision's health services.



A World Vision doctor examines a sick baby at the Otash Health Clinic.

Supplementary Feeding Centres

World Vision also runs two feeding centres that provide supplementary feeding an average of 580 beneficiaries with malnutrition each week. New families regularly register for supplementary feeding services, which World Vision provides in partnership with the World Food Programme. Staff refer extreme cases of malnutrition to the Nyala Hospital.



A woman receives food rations for her malnourished baby.



Water Distribution

World Vision is also providing clean water for internally displaced people in several locations. In the short term, water is being distributed in water tankers and measures for chlorinating water have been established. Aid agencies, including World Vision, have started drilling boreholes, which will also benefit the wider community.

Sanitation

World Vision has helped construct 500 latrines to date, as well as laundry slabs and bathing units in IDP camps to increase the level of sanitation and prevent further illness. Staff are training displaced people about the importance of frequent hand washing and other sanitary practices.

Outbreak Preparedness

World Vision has been recruiting additional staff for an Outbreak Preparedness and Response Taskforce. The team is comprised of nurses and community health workers who are reviewing health education material and are training people in the Otash camp about preventing the outbreak of diseases.

Child Friendly Spaces and Emergency Education

A child friendly space is an area where children and youth visit for formal and informal age appropriate educational activities. These activities help children deal with the challenges they face in emergency situations. Child friendly spaces give children a sense of safety, structure and continuity that they desperately need amidst overwhelming experiences. World Vision Canada and the Canadian International Development Agency have partnered to create 15 Child Friendly Spaces in South Darfur (see news release). World Vision is also restoring and expanding existing schools so that children in IDP camps may have a place to study and learn. This program is currently benefiting over 1,000 children.



Protection

Women and children remain vulnerable in the camps and surrounding area. There have been cases of women being sexually assaulted while leaving the camps to collect firewood for cooking. World Vision is responding in several ways. The most innovative response has been to train women how to make more fuel-efficient clay stoves. The stoves reduce women's need to leave the camp. World Vision has selected some female residents of the camps to train other women how to make these stoves.



Darfur has a total population of six million. The United Nations reported that two million people have been uprooted from their homes to displacement camps around the region. Another 200,000 crossed the border to neighbouring country, Chad. "While the world is busy talking, these people are facing tremendous hardship. The conflict needs to be reduced by all parties. Displaced people need urgent help. They urgently need food, water and shelter," Atul Tandon, Senior VP, World Vision US



IDP Women Graduate as Clay Stove Trainers

Twenty-four internally displaced women have graduated as “Trainer of Trainers” in the construction of fuel-efficient clay stoves in south Darfur.

The training is part of the effort to address protection issues among women IDPs who face threats and rape outside the camps whenever they venture out in search of firewood. Clay stoves can reduce firewood consumption by 40 percent.

World Vision and Intermediate Technology Development Group (ITDG) conducted the training. The weeklong training drew participants from Kalma and Otash camps in south Darfur. Sudan government officials and World Vision Protection sector staff attended the graduation ceremony held in Nyala Town.

“I am very pleased with the work and so impressed that you could make these stoves. We will continue to work together,” Holly Hughson, World Vision Protection Manager told the women as she awarded them with certificates.

“I am very happy that I have learned something new. I am especially happy that I can make a stove and teach other women to do it,” an excited new trainer, Assia Harun from Kalma camp said. “It will save us a lot of time walking to fetch firewood and in places where we are usually robbed and raped.”

Each of the trainers is expected to train at least 20 women in the camps. The clay stoves are easy to make and use both charcoal and firewood efficiently. The training also included efficient cooking methods that will help save fuel and time - like soaking beans before cooking instead of putting them straight into the fire.

“I am very happy because it will reduce the number of times I leave the camp to look for firewood. I don’t want to be threatened by militias again,” said Faisal Mohammed, from Otash IDP camp.



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Thank you



Marilyn Friedmann, Vice President of Donor Development, World Vision Canada, gratefully receives your donation toward the relief efforts in Darfur, Sudan.

Thank you for making a difference in the world!