



NEWS FROM SUDAN – AUTUMN 2024

Dear Special Friend,

I am sure you have, like me, read with growing concern the articles - all too few - about the atrocities in Sudan and the growing humanitarian crisis. The worst in the world according to the UN – yet the world is silent?

The reason you are so special is because you are part of a small group of people who really care about the world, and especially about innocent children. I know you want to help as much as you can. The incredible thing is – Kids for Kids is helping where no one else is. Without you, even more children would face starvation and an uncertain future.

I am proud to tell you that we have found a way to get assistance to the most remote villages in Darfur. At times I doubted that it would be possible. With both armed forces, the Sudanese Armed Force (SAF) and the Rapid Support Force (RSF, the former Janjaweed), being armed by other countries, the scale of fighting and atrocities have been far greater than in previous years. Reports show that high calibre weapons and shelling from the air have destroyed vital buildings, hospitals and schools, plus countless homes. Women and children continue to face the brunt of the violence. The survivors will be scarred for years.

Despite their worries for their own families, our amazing volunteers in Darfur are finding ways to help. They are taking urgently needed aid to families no one else is thinking about. Despite the closure of the banks, we have found ways to get funds to Darfur through mobile digital transfers. With inflation off the scale, even basic food and medicines are out of reach for thousands of people. So many have lost their homes and everything they ever possessed. The camps for Internally Displaced People (IDPs) are vast. Families face continued violence. Thankfully the World Health Organisation has at last negotiated safe passage for some humanitarian aid for IDPs. As I write, there are reports of a convoy getting aid to West Darfur, for the first time in many months. But in North Darfur, villages are unreachable because of floods. The numbers of families with acutely malnourished children is overwhelming. As so often, where help does get through, it goes to those in the towns and IDP camps. Families determined to stay in their villages, in their homes, are out of sight and out of reach. No one else is helping them.



How Kids for Kids is managing to help

From the outset of the fighting, we have been doing all we can, first to support all those in Sudan who have supported us for so long. Many Sudanese have had to flee the country, leaving behind lives as they have known them. Thankfully Hassan Mehisi, our Programme Manager, is now safely in Cairo with his family, and he and Hatim Abu Sineina, the Chairman of our Khartoum Committee, are managing our projects from there.





They are in constant touch with members of our Steering Committee and village leaders across North Darfur. Our initial aim was to provide a large delivery of aid from Port Sudan, but when El Fasher itself was attacked, that failed. But we did not give up. We have been able to purchase vital necessities. Our Pilot Project to the first six of our villages was 100% successful. We have now delivered aid to nine more villages. To date, 4,000 families have received grain to eat and seeds to plant for the coming year's crop harvest. As well as saving lives immediately, we must plan for the future too! We are also helping through our new initiative, the '**Kids Kitchen Kits**' for families with children aged 5 and under. These Kits provide vital protein, minerals and vitamins, which have been dangerously lacking in children's diets all year. We are prioritising the health of the children. We are aiming to resume purchases of goats to provide milk and better nutrition. So far, thanks to your support, we have helped 24,000 people. That is a miracle. But there are many, many more who need us, need you, right now.

This is The Time to help!

Can you imagine what you would prioritise as urgent for you and your family if you lived in Darfur? Is it a goat, a sack of seed, food for your children, a mosquito net, repairs for your village handpump, medicine, veterinary drugs? What would you need? Please will you donate your choices, and we will send personalised **Christmas Certificates** to your friends and family for you. You can bring joy to those you love and save the life of a child in Darfur. We want this to be the best Kids for Kids' Christmas ever!

Do join us at our **Candlelit Christmas Concert** on Thursday 5th December – invitation enclosed – our Patrons **Timothy West and Lord Cope** are with us again, and - **HOT OFF THE PRESS** - the incredible **Lyse Doucet** has just accepted my invitation too. You will know she is the BBC's top international journalist. Please come and meet her!

Buying presents online? Please use Give as you Live or Easy Fundraising and hey presto they send a donation to us each time you shop with them online!

And do **join our 100 Club Lottery** – it's just £10 a month and the monthly prize is over double your annual donation! It makes a great present too!

Local to Dorking? Jill Atfield is once again donating 10% of every Nordman Christmas tree she sells. Last year she sold out quickly – they are super trees. Visit Chart House, Chart Lane, Dorking RH 4 2BU from 24th November to choose your tree.

Finally, may I wish you a really happy and peaceful Christmas. Please hang a Goat or two from your tree and invite friends to help you provide a real live, milk rich Goat in Darfur!

Happy Christmas!

Patricia Parker OBE – Founder



www.kidsforkids.org.uk
patricia@kidsforkids.org.uk 07957206440

KIDS FOR KIDS Registered Charity No: 1100045, a Company limited by Guarantee, Registered in England & Wales No 0460729
Recognised in Sudan by the Humanitarian Aid Commission as a Charitable Foundation.
US Friends of Kids for Kids Registered with Global Giving 501(c)3 – MaryJane-US@kidsforkids.org.uk, Australian Friends – Lisa-Austl@kidsforkids.org.uk