

FOUNDER'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

DECEMBER 2025



This has been a terrible year in Sudan and reports are that terrifyingly, things look as if they will get worse. It is hard to believe that children will be facing an even more bleak future in 2026. Unless we can do something about it. We can. And we will.

A malnourished, hungry child whose hair has lost its colour, whose bones and teeth are badly weakened because she hasn't had a balanced diet for months, will have food because of your support. We are so incredibly fortunate here that it is hard to imagine the despair of a mother or, like me, a grandmother, holding her small one and knowing there is no food. No food at all. Our Kids Kitchen Kits are being delivered right now in Tawila where people have fled when they managed to escape the siege of El Fasher.

The dreadful conflict in Darfur has been going on for almost three terrible years, whilst the world turns a blind eye. And now even the scarce food her mother has scrounged for that child – some fed their children animal food in El Fasher last month, ground up shells – even that food has just about disappeared.

You heard on the BBC about the atrocities committed by the forces vying for control of Darfur, armed by other countries some of whom have been buying weapons from us, from Britain. The regional capital was eventually overrun ago. Those lucky few who managed to survive the 80 kilometres' flight on foot across the sands of Darfur are sheltering – if it can be called that – in what was one of the larger villages. Tawila now has nearly a million people there – people who are traumatised. Many had their menfolk, husbands, sons, even boys, taken en route – never to be seen again.

When I first founded Kids for Kids in 2001 all those years ago, I asked for help. You are such special people - people who are determined to help children who have been shamefully deprived of even the most basic of necessities under the corrupt governments of Sudan. The little lad we met walking for a shocking seven hours to reach a handpump was not the only one. No one else has ever helped the remote villages of Darfur.

Water continues to be unavailable in hundreds of villages. Climate change has led to the Sahara advancing at an alarming rate, and in the rainy season unprecedented floods make sandy tracks impassable. Now, today, the crops that are so desperately needed are being attacked by locusts. No one is spraying to control them. Mosquitos have never been in such numbers, leading to escalating levels of malaria as well as spreading dengue fever, yellow fever and chikungunya. The drugs to treat them are not available. Very little medicine is available in Darfur. There is virtually no health care.

And that was before the catastrophe of the violence. The world knows that much of the killing is ethnically based. The word genocide can only be used in extremis. The siege of El Fasher lasted 18 months. The risk of another massacre like that seen in El Geneina was almost certain. During that time the UN, the international community which said 'Never Again', stood by. The massacre happened, is happening. There is no communication from El Fasher. It has been overrun. Pictures from satellites have shocked the world. This *is* extremis.

I plead with all of you to urge Britain and other countries to stop selling arms that are ending up in Sudan. Any country supplying arms – and it has been known from the outset who they are – should be sanctioned to force them to stop. The blame for the tragedy engulfing small children lies at these countries' feet. It must be stopped – now.

So – Kids for Kids. Only this week, a friend questioned me closely about how many people I had working with me. She said “This is my money I am giving you – how are you spending it?” It is a reasonable question. That responsibility is something I have been aware of, from the very start. Donations should be cherished and never squandered on anything unessential. Our little professional team in the UK, Davina and Julie, supported part-time by Sage, Matt and David – and invaluable volunteers – I mean truly invaluable – is all we are! For the programme work in Sudan, only three Sudanese are paid. Tiny when you look at other charities.

I know, like me, many of you have been concerned about Kids for Kids carrying on when I am no longer able to work as hard as I have always done. We cannot let the legacy of truly sustainable projects disappear. I am happy to say that at last I am going to be able to step aside as CEO. We welcome our new Chief Executive, Andy Caudell, in January. Andy has impressive experience in business, and, moreover a long history of supporting children as a volunteer in the charity sector.

By the end of this year we expect our direct help to reach over 51,000 children in our 110 Kids for Kids' villages, plus in Tawila itself. Until the violence erupted we adopted five villages each year – working closely with them for the first two years, then stepping back whilst the communities we had trained, took over to run the projects. Now we are providing emergency aid. 51,000 is not an estimated number.

While Andy takes oversight of our UK operations in January, I will continue as Chairman of Trustees whilst also overseeing project implementation in Sudan. It is essential to understand the dangers of working in Sudan.

I lie awake during many nights, worrying about families – just like yours and mine. Inflation is sky high in Sudan. Every single resource a family has, goes into the hunt for food. Nothing else. Reports of cholera, dysentery, other contagious diseases often from contaminated water, are on the increase. How could we help? **We now provide soap to every family receiving our Kids Kitchen Kits.** The first mothers to be given soap, cried. They have had nothing to wash their children with for months on end. It may seem very little to you and me – but remember there are no latrines. The gift of soap is miraculous in Darfur.

Please can you consider what you or friends might do to help us make even more miracles as we celebrate our 25th Anniversary throughout next year.

Please join with me in prayers for Peace, and please help Kids for Kids to turn every donation into a meal for a child, a bar of soap for a mother, a mosquito net to safeguard a little one – there will be miracles this Christmas.

Happy Christmas everyone!



PATRICIA PARKER OBE – FOUNDER