

## "DARFUR need not be a disaster" says Founder of UK Charity.

### The Pope, a Prince, Archbishops and Film Stars help children in Darfur!



Whilst the world watches Sudan as the South votes to be an independent country, conditions in Darfur continue to deteriorate. Violence is unreported and aid workers are at risk of kidnap. Yet the children of Darfur are the most deprived in the world. They need our help. The Pope, a Prince, Archbishops and Film Stars have joined **Drawn ...to Darfur**, a Celebrity lead campaign to say "We care". The region is struggling with insecurity and unimaginable - and inexcusable - poverty. For 10 years Kids for Kids has been showing that there is a way to bring lasting change by helping people to help themselves. Patricia Parker MBE, who started the charity in 2001 because of a little 9 year old's 7 hour walk for water, says "People are not asking for charity. They are asking for sustainable help to give their children a start in life. We are showing that you can make a difference even in the current conditions". Now celebrities are saying the world must not be allowed to turn a blind eye to these deprived children.

Patricia and her son Alastair have been visiting the villages every year, despite the conflict and despite being taken hostage themselves. Their frequent visits have ensured that Kids for Kids is the most effective organisation in Darfur, known for its impressive record of making real change to the lives of countless children. "For ten years we have been teaching people how to help themselves, but things are getting worse" says Patricia. "I was shocked to find that the poorest families now earn less than \$150 a year in a country where inflation is rocketing. It would be difficult to find poorer people. The Kids for Kids' Programme is unique because we listen to the people and provide what they say will make the biggest difference. Our long term projects address a family's basic needs - water, maternal and healthcare, animal welfare, goats and donkey provide a livelihood, and, dramatically, massive environmental improvements through our extensive and imaginative tree planting programme. Most importantly, we are able to be flexible. Because our funds come mainly from individuals, we are able to act fast and effectively when there is a problem. It is not just families lives that are changed, it is whole communities."

**There is something to celebrate in Darfur! 2011 is Kids for Kids 10th Birthday - we are celebrating because there are now 54 Kids for Kids villages where at last children have a chance, over 250,000 people. Kids for Kids has raised over four million pounds in under 10 years with the help of supporters from all over the world. HRH The Prince of Wales, His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI and the Archbishops of Canterbury and York have joined over a hundred celebrities to create pictures to show they care. The Drawn...to Darfur works of art will be auctioned this summer on the internet and live at a Celebrity Charity Auction in London\*. Join the celebrities and help us celebrate our 10th Birthday and help many more children.**

Families from the camps are applying to settle permanently in our villages. They come with nothing, having fled their homes leaving everything behind. We provide each resettled family with the basics - 6 goats, a donkey, blankets, jumpers, a mosquito net and farm tools. Things they say make an immediate difference. "The cost is just \$420 - a shockingly small amount to transform children's lives" says Patricia. "In our newest villages, Kheirban B, Abu Neylah and Tekailat, families will be receiving their goats and donkeys this month. Children in Kids for Kids' villages wake up to milk every day." Last year the Minister of State for Humanitarian Affairs, Dr Abdelbagi Gaillani, made a presentation to Patricia to thank her for what she is doing for the children of Darfur. "The way you are working is the way forward - listening to the communities and working with them."

**WE DON'T BELIEVE IN CHARITY WE BELIEVE IN HELPING PEOPLE TO HELP THEMSELVES**

**NOTE FOR EDITORS:**

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## DARFUR 2011:

Britain is, for the first time, advising against all travel to Darfur. There are therefore no reports of current conditions. In the villages beyond the camps, children sleep on the sand, in a bare hut made from the stalks of the staple crop, millet. When the crops fail you cannot repair your hut. Many children have nothing to sleep under and succumb to chest infections, a major risk when they are malnourished. Blankets are a status symbol which few can afford. During daylight hours toddlers are tied to the hut to stop them wandering into the scorching sun, whilst their mothers walk many hours to reach water. There are few kindergartens. Illiteracy is high. People toil in the stony ground to grow crops which fail through lack of water or pest infestation. The largest aquifer in Africa lies under Darfur, but villagers cannot afford to dig for water. Since the violence started, even basic health care is beyond reach. The simplest wound, untreated, maims for life. There are no roads. Transport is a donkey. Animals are crucial for survival, but there is no veterinary care in the villages, and few can afford \$40 to buy a goat. No one reports these conditions because no one goes to the villages to see for themselves.

Key to the Kids for Kids' projects is the Goat Loan which helps not just successive families but whole communities. We lend 6 goats to a family for 2 years, then 6 are passed to another family. We teach people to look after their animals, and we provide veterinary care. We give mothers donkeys to collect water, to pull ploughs and carts. Stronger donkeys pull our donkey ambulances and watercarts. There is no healthcare in the villages. Our midwives and first aid workers are saving lives every single day. There are already 68 Kids for Kids midwives, trained in our own school in El Fasher. People travel miles to seek their help. There are latrines, so fewer children suffer diarrhoea and vomiting. The health of the animals is inextricably linked to the health of the children. Our paravets run a revolving veterinary drug scheme in each village. Children sleep under a mosquito net and a blanket each night. They will not die of malaria (still the biggest killer in Africa) or suffer so many chest infections. They will not be malnourished, like every other child in the villages of Darfur - and they will wake each morning with the chance of a better future. Green belts of young healthy drought-resistant trees make a lasting difference to the environment. Most important of all, there is a handpump nearby. Water that used to take hours to reach, and to carry back home on the back of a donkey, or on your head.



*Children at Keirban B - soon to have goats!  
Long awaited rain has brought the grass at last.*



*Expectant mothers & children at a crowded  
meeting at Abu Neylah tell us how we can help*

**For further information and the \*Celebrity Auction: log on to: [www.kidsforkids.org.uk](http://www.kidsforkids.org.uk)**

Donate on line or please send checks made out to Kids for Kids  
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