

KIDS FOR KIDS - action before words – The Millennium Goals in practice in Darfur



**Long term solutions for children in Sudan
enabling families to stay in their homes,
Simple projects reaching into the heart of families –
Goat loans that bring health and a future.**

KIDS FOR KIDS is supporting the sort of projects that people for a long time have said are the only lasting solutions to the problems in Africa: **long term, self-sustainable projects**, identified by local communities.

North Darfur is isolated – hundreds of miles of bare lands, with virtually no infrastructure. Despite being three times the size of the United Kingdom, Darfur has been ignored by the world, until the terrible conflict which began in 2002. Drought takes its toll of crops and livestock alike. Malnourishment is a way of life for children in rural communities. Villagers, clinging to their homes, can only do so if they can be self sustainable – but help to Darfur is concentrating on emergency aid in the camps only, and even this is failing.

It is possible to help – **KIDS FOR KIDS** projects, because they are run by the villagers themselves, are enabling families to stay in their homes. One leader told us that families returning to their homes because they had heard we were there and they “thought it would give the village a chance”. There are now 60 Kids for Kids villages where children are healthier, go to school and their mothers have a livelihood.

The Millennium Goals include “halving global poverty, protecting the environment, improving health and sanitation and tackling illiteracy and discrimination against women”
(*DFID – Millennium Development Goals website*)

How KIDS FOR KIDS achieves the Millennium Goals: we provide integrated services to maximise their impact. A **goat** transforms children’s lives. **KIDS FOR KIDS** lends goats for children to have milk. This contains essential vitamins and proteins and can be sold to pay for water – and education. It costs just £132 to provide 6 goats for a family for two years and 6 of the offspring go to another family, and then another. Over **2000 families** are already benefiting from this scheme, and every **two years 6 kids are passed on to another family in need by each family**. Our **Veterinary Scheme**, which trains paravets in the villages and provides veterinary drugs, is protecting entire flocks. There is no other veterinary help. **Water** is the first priority for people and animals. It is scandalous that there is insufficient water for children when there is water underground. Children walk sometimes up to 14 hours, to collect water. By reducing that walking distance to less than 1 hour, **KIDS FOR KIDS handpumps** have enabled hundreds of children to go to school for the first time. But we need help to provide clean water. Tomatoes, okra and cucumbers are growing near the pumps where before there was just sand. We provide **donkeys** - the only transport.

The women of the villages are terrified of childbirth. Many die needlessly because there is no medical help. The only help in many villages is a Traditional Birth Attender who does ‘rope delivery’. Our **midwives transform the chance of survival** – 18 students last year delivered 281 healthy babies during their training! We fund 40 every year - that alone costs £80,000 - but at £2,000 for each midwife it is a real life changing investment. We provide **first aid** workers at the request of villagers. The simplest hygiene prevents small problems become catastrophes. Children in the UK are helping us provide **tree seedlings** for long term **environmental** improvement. Our baobabs are already tall enough to provide shade for students to study under! Villagers are trained in **irrigation techniques** to prolong the growing season. Blankets, mosquito nets, ploughs and donkeys ambulances - all items with real impact. We are not only helping individual families, we are strengthening communities so that children have the chance of a future.

**Help us help children today – not tomorrow
Help us achieve the Millennium Goals Now**

KIDS FOR KIDS the only organisation created specially to help children in Darfur, Sudan – one of the most marginalised areas in the world currently facing the effects of terrible conflict

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