

# WATER IN DARFUR



**WATER is essential for survival, both for people and for animals.**



Even in the regional capital of North Darfur, in El Fasher itself, **water is collected from the 'lake' (which dries up in the summer), or from hand dug wells, from which animals also drink.** It is delivered in horse or donkey carts and is contaminated. Children are often the ones to collect the water.

**Hand dug wells can be seen in many areas of Darfur, but these are shallow and in years of drought dry up entirely.** In 2001 all surface water in North Darfur had dried, even in the dam at Mallit - the first time since it was built many years ago. **HANDPUMPS** are often the only way the aquifer under Darfur can be reached, but this has to

be sourced through a geophysical electro magnetic survey and then drilled. When we were first in Darfur there was only one drilling rig which was often hundreds of miles away. There are now several more but, tragically, virtually the only hand pumps that have been installed since the violence started in 2002 have been for the vast IDP camps. **People are still walking miles for water, and now they risk attack.**

Clean water is maintained by creating an hedge around the handpump. A narrow concrete channel is then built beyond the pump to a trough for the goats and donkeys. And, **if there is sufficient water, run off is often used to plant tomatoes, okra, watermelons and other vegetables,** often for the first time.

Not only do we seek help with providing handpumps, but it is essential that all water sources used for human consumption should be kept clean. **We are helping to fund simple filtration methods plus fencing to keep animals to where it is safe for them to drink, and to train communities in good hygiene practise.** You may have read how cholera is now a feared disease again in Darfur.



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