

WOMENS HEALTH



When KIDS FOR KIDS founder Patricia Parker sat with the women in Darfur's villages, they told her **their biggest fear was childbirth**. The thought of young mothers dying because of the lack of medical care, leaving children orphaned, made her look at what would be the most effective way of helping at source – in the village itself. Many villages had no health care at all, some had Traditional Birth Attenders (older women who do rope delivery – which is exactly as it sounds.)

Female Genital Mutilation is practically universal, women even getting themselves 'repaired' after giving birth. This results in a **high occurrence of obstructed labour**. If there is no medical intervention at best a woman suffers fistula (incontinence) which destroys her life. No one can live with a sufferer in the heat of Darfur. So the life of a young women, perhaps 17 or 18, is destroyed. She will travel many miles on a donkey in labour to a hospital where there is no anaesthesia, oxygen and virtually no surgical equipment.

KIDS FOR KIDS funds 18-month training courses for village midwives. It is a major commitment on the part of the trainee as they are unlikely to be able to return to their homes during the training, and it is intense. We provide each woman with a small allowance and uniform and shoes.



The girls are selected for their strength of character and honesty and must commit to staying in their villages for a minimum of four years after their training is completed. KIDS FOR KIDS provides them not only with a medical kit on leaving, but also with a crossbred donkey (bigger and faster than the normal local breed) to enable them to travel between huts.

It is also hoped that successful delivery will create trust between women and encourage mothers not to continue the practise of FGM either for themselves or their daughters.

KIDS FOR KIDS

We don't believe in charity, we believe in helping people to help themselves

KIDS FOR KIDS - helping children the world has forgotten

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