



## NEWS FROM DARFUR – CHRISTMAS 2019

**This is the time of year when we are celebrating Christmas across the world, thinking perhaps of the gifts we can give, and even of those we might receive ourselves. But have you thought of those children who have never ever been given a present, whose parents cannot afford to give them a bed to sleep on at night, whose lives are beyond poverty? What can they look forward to at this time of year?**

In Darfur, years of violence, of neglect, of the impact of the ever encroaching desert and increasing desertification, of extreme heat and years of drought, of flood if the rains come, and then relentless violence, have combined to make survival a constant struggle. **At Kids for Kids we have been doing all that we can to help people to help themselves.** With the adoption of eight villages this year the total number of people receiving our support has risen to over half a million. Our projects demonstrate that sustainable development – like the millennium goals – are not just buzz words but can be achieved. This, despite years of violence, despite those of us in the UK being refused visas for the past eight years, despite other aid agencies being banned from the region. Our projects continue to transform people's lives. Children, who never had a chance before, are going to schools, our schools. They are more healthy. Their mothers have a livelihood, and, almost more important than anything, they have hope in the future.

And there is real hope now for the whole of Sudan! Peaceful demonstrations by ordinary people have led to the arrest of President Bashir and the creation of a coalition Government, with the promise of democratic elections in three years' time. The new Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok has announced the lifting of the ban on the aid agencies forced out of Sudan in 2013 and we are planning to revisit Darfur at last and to see for ourselves all that we have achieved in recent years. It has become increasingly difficult not being able to visit our projects, especially as conditions deteriorate.

**Return to Darfur:** We have of course seen photographs and had detailed reports of everything Kids for Kids has funded, from our goats, donkeys and chickens, new handpumps, mosquito nets and blankets, to our Kindergartens, Health Units, Veterinary Units and growing trees. But at last we are planning to visit them ourselves! And of course, my greatest ambition is to return to that very first village we adopted – to Um Ga'al, where Ibrahim, whom I first met when he was nine years old, whose heartbreaking walk for water across the desert was the inspiration for starting Kids for Kids, has a family of his own. His children are at our Kindergarten, and that Kindergarten has my name!

We have serious work to do, of course. Despite all the changes afoot in Sudan, conditions could not be worse, especially in Darfur which is so far from Khartoum and the Federal Government. Inflation, the loss of revenue from oil, investment in security, have led to neglect of vital services, health and education, the building of roads and even the provision of water. People are desperate. Medicine is in short supply. In Darfur in September there were over 1,000 cases of malaria in North Darfur alone. The lack, and soaring

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price of bread was the trigger that lead to the demonstrations; and it continues. Peace is not secure, although there are sterling efforts at peace talks.

Kids for Kids needs your help to enable us to reach as many people as we can. We continue to keep a reserves fund for emergency help but the way ahead is for us to support as many villages as possible, to enable them to improve their own future. Kids for Kids proves time and time again that sustainable help, when delivered correctly – and it takes time, and patience and attention to detail - can be a measurable success. Today there are 100 Kids for Kids villages. The oldest ones have more than doubled in size.

**Can you help us to double the number of Kids for Kids' villages?**

**Our motto is One Goat at a Time.**

**Whether you donate a goat, or a tree, or a village, please help us now.**

## **Let us help more families to face the future with hope**

To help us keep our promises when we adopt a village, please consider becoming a Regular Supporter, or even to join our Children's Champions.

**Regular Supporters:** when we know we can rely on a steady income, however small, we know how much we can commit to spending to help change children's lives. Please download our Regular Supporter's form or sign up on line at [www.kidsforkids.org.uk/donatemonthly](http://www.kidsforkids.org.uk/donatemonthly)

**Children's Champions:** wonderful friends who commit to sponsoring a project of their choice for three years, from adopting goats and donkeys (£1000 a year) to adopting an entire village each year (£30,000) which can bear the names of your choice. [www.kidsforkids.org.uk/childrenschampions](http://www.kidsforkids.org.uk/childrenschampions)

All our projects are sustainable so that your support lives on, and on.

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

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