

# "Give soap, and you give life"

*Patricia Parker MBE, Founder Kids for Kids*



"Bad news is doubly terrible when one's worst fears materialise," says Patricia. "We have been dreading the news that COVID-19 had reached Darfur. Now it is there. People are dying in El Fasher and Mellit, towns in North Darfur, but there is no proper diagnosis, so no one knows how many already have the virus. 10 or 12 'elderly' people are dying every day in both towns. Elderly in Darfur is anyone over the age of 50. There is no health care, so few people report symptoms. Children are malnourished, so in Darfur they will die."

There are no ventilators and no oxygen in hospitals. There is no treatment. Social distancing is almost an impossibility. An entire family sleeps in a small straw hut. People have to go to market. They eat with their hands from a communal bowl. Patricia says, "Here we are told to wash our hands. In Darfur, people are struggling to feed their children. They cannot afford soap, but it is their only defence. We must help. Provide soap and you will save lives."

For almost 20 years Kids for Kids has been providing sustainable projects to communities across Darfur – projects that the people themselves identify as the things that will help them the most to improve their own lives. "Simple basic things like mosquito nets, blankets, farm tools, make a massive difference," says Patricia. "Our key project is a goat loan. Goat's milk transforms the health of the children and by giving a mother a livelihood from the excess milk and yoghurt and male kids to sell, you give her the ability to make decisions for her family. After two years she passes on goats to another poor family – so that after just a few years, the whole village benefits from that one project alone. But we do much more, including providing access to water, a top priority. We dig handpumps, provide water tanks and carts, and now as inflation and years of conflict take their toll, even jerry cans, without which there is no hope of survival."

Kids for Kids is not an emergency organisation but COVID-19, the pandemic sweeping the world, could not be more dangerous than in Darfur. People's illnesses are seldom treated. Diabetes is almost endemic especially in older men, the most vulnerable group. "We have to provide soap to as many people as we can" said Patricia. "We have already provided enough for 19 villages – 5 bars for each family plus an instruction leaflet detailing how to wash hands properly. Now we are appealing for soap for a further 86 villages – 172,000 people. I've never been so desperate in my life, as this appeal."



**Parents and Grandparents will die, and children will succumb or lose those that care for them. With no one offering any help to the villages of North Darfur, we are the only hope. By providing soap so people can wash properly, we can prevent the virus from spreading and taking lives.**

**£20 will provide 5 bars of soap each to 10 families. Just £380 for soap for an entire village. Please can you help?**

**Please can you help us provide soap – and urgently? Tell everyone you know about this appeal and get them to donate. Anything you can do will make a massive difference. Thank you.**

**Donate Soap Now:**

<https://www.kidsforkids.org.uk/DonateSoap>

**Get in Touch: [contact@kidsforkids.org.uk](mailto:contact@kidsforkids.org.uk) / 07957206440**

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