



## What we do in Sudan

- We're protecting 45,239 children from violence and abuse
- We're educating 15,948 displaced children
- We're reducing malnutrition for 1,260 children under five



Sudan has known only 11 years of peace since it gained independence in 1956. **Fighting has cost at least two million lives, and forced four million people from their homes.** The Comprehensive Peace Agreement signed in 2005 is holding – but only just. It promised to direct proceeds from Sudan's rich oil reserves to help rebuild the country's health and education systems. Yet four years on, communities are still struggling to survive and have seen little change for the better.

Most people in Sudan are desperately poor – it's estimated that 90% of the population live below the poverty line. Nearly half of the 37.7 million population are under 18. Children are still dying every day from preventable diseases such as malaria and diarrhoea. Tens of thousands of families still have very limited access to basic healthcare, with just one trained doctor for every 100,000 people. And more than half of all children in Sudan don't go to school.

In Darfur, in the west, at least two million people have been displaced by fighting between militias and rebel forces. Nearly a quarter of a million people have fled and are living in refugee camps along the border with Chad. The people of Darfur have been terrorised by the fighting. They've had their homes looted and burned, and seen family members killed. Many women and young girls have been raped and abducted. Children have experienced trauma, separation from their families, displacement, forced recruitment, physical and sexual abuse,

malnutrition, and sometimes starvation. Despite a partial peace agreement in 2006, fighting is still ongoing.

## Save the Children in Sudan

We've maintained a steady presence in the country. We've provided children and their families with food, clean water and other basic necessities. We've increased children's access to education and helped to protect vulnerable and marginalised children.

Following the 2005 peace agreement, we split our operations into two programmes: one for Southern Sudan and one for northern (including western and eastern) Sudan. We work closely with two of our partners in the International Save the Children Alliance – Save the Children USA and Sweden – and are working towards a unified presence in 2009.

For now, we're working in the capital, Khartoum, and Red Sea State (Port Sudan), helping displaced children and others affected by the fighting. We provide education and vocational training for these children so that they can have a more hopeful future. We're working hard to protect children who have been separated from their families, and other vulnerable children, such as street children and child labourers.

## We're protecting children

Many children in Sudan don't live with their families. They may have become separated while fleeing the fighting or abusive families, or trying to find food or work. These children end up living on the streets. In many areas, children are forcibly recruited as soldiers by the various fighting forces. All of these children risk being physically and sexually abused.

We're protecting 45,239 children from violence, abuse and exploitation. We work with the National Council of Child Welfare (NCCW), the Ministry of Education and Khartoum Council of Child Welfare (KCCW). Recently we have started work with Red Sea State Council of Child Welfare (RCCW). We are working with three local NGOs in Khartoum (Usratuna, St Vincent De Paul Society and Sabah) and one NGO in Port Sudan (Abu Hadia). We're helping them develop child protection policies and strengthen their child protection work.

We've set up 9 community-based child protection networks in the areas where we work, as well as 11 youth groups, 11 women's groups and 4 children's committees. These networks bring together separated children, representatives of their community and the authorities so that they can work together to understand the problems children face and find solutions. Last year we trained 644 members of these groups on children's rights, child protection, gender-based violence, HIV and AIDS and harmful traditional practices like female genital mutilation.

Next year, our protection activities will benefit 45,000 vulnerable children in Khartoum State and 18,800 children in Red Sea State.

## **We're helping children go home**

So far, an estimated one million people have returned to their homes in the South with organised help. But many more people have returned spontaneously, including large numbers of children who were separated from their families during the conflict.

In 2008, we helped 6,132 children go home safely – for example, by talking to them about landmines, risk of family separation, the return process and health. We've provided educational materials and accelerated learning classes for 5,545 children. We've helped 2,165 children through activities in departure centres. We've trained staff from other organisations to assist their family tracing and reunification work. And working with UNICEF and the NCCW, we've set up a database to help track separated and unaccompanied children. Of the 309 children whose details are entered, 46 have been reunified with their families, and work goes on to find family members for the others. Next year, the database will help us track and support 2,500 separated children.

## **We're helping children living on the streets**

Children living on the streets are harassed by police and often detained and punished for minor offences. We're advocating with government and communities to protect the rights of these very vulnerable children, and to prevent their unlawful arrest and detention.

We're providing practical help and care. Working with UNICEF and the Khartoum Council for Child Welfare, we provide health screening, treatment and referral services in four detention centres. We're also training the police and other local authorities to increase their awareness of children's rights and their responsibilities to children.

## **We're educating children**

The legacy of decades of fighting is that Sudan's education system is barely functioning. One in every two children misses out on their right to primary education. In some areas, less than a third of girls are enrolled in school. Even getting to and from school may be dangerous in some areas. In the schools that are functioning, the curriculum bears little relevance to children's lives and ignores minority languages and cultures, which fuels resentment among marginalised groups. Corporal punishment is common. Families have to pay for schoolbooks and materials and contribute to school running costs, including teachers' salaries. Teachers receive little support or recognition from the authorities. Sudanese people are still waiting for the 'peace dividend' – less than 2% of the national budget is spent on education.

## **We're providing good quality primary education**

Through our Rewrite the Future campaign, we're providing a quality education to 15,948 displaced children (including 6,355 girls) in 18 schools in Khartoum. We're also helping children who missed out on schooling catch up through three accelerated learning programme (ALP) centres in Port Sudan. Last year, the ALP centres enabled 121 girls and 100 boys to go to school for the first time. There has been a significant increase in the

number of girls accessing education, in part due to our vigorous awareness-raising work with communities to encourage parents to send their daughters to school. In our ALP centres, 59% of students are girls. Girls' enrolment has increased by 25% from 298 to 373 in Khartoum alone.

### **We're making schools better places for children**

We're also making schools better places for children to be so that fewer children drop out. We've provided teaching, learning and play materials in the 18 schools we support. We've repaired and re-equipped classrooms that were damaged during the rainy season. We've trained 256 teachers and 18 students' representative committee members on child-centred teaching and children's rights, including ways to promote positive discipline rather than corporal punishment. All these activities have made a big difference to the classroom environment and pupil retention rates are good (85% among ALP learners in Port Sudan, and 67% among displaced children in schools in Khartoum). Six out of ten girls that had enrolled from grades 5 to 8 continued with their education.

Schools built by communities in areas where internally displaced people (IDP) have settled are not recognised by the Ministry of Education and therefore lack support. We're working with the Ministry so that these teachers can access training and receive the same pay and conditions as other teachers. As a sign of the Ministry's increased recognition of IDP schools across Khartoum State, 876 children (567 boys and 309 girls) took their state-wide Basic School-Leaving Examinations last year. A total of 64 teachers in these schools (47 men and 17 women) were invigilators in the exams.

Next year, working with our Alliance partners, we aim to provide access to primary education and ALP classes to a further 14,780 children in Khartoum and Red Sea States, as well as 24,000 children in Darfur. We plan to increase girls' enrolment by 50% in Red Sea State and 70% in Khartoum. All schools we support will benefit from teacher training and student representative committees. We'll also continue to lobby the government to increase the amount it spends on education from 1.8% to 3%.

### **We're reducing child malnutrition**

Another legacy of the fighting is that many families in Sudan no longer have enough land or a reliable income to survive on. And the millions of people who were displaced from their homes have had to rely on aid to get food and other essentials. Shortages of food can often result in chronic or acute malnutrition, and children are most vulnerable. People need help to rebuild their livelihoods.

We're starting a project to provide supplementary feeding to reduce malnutrition among 1,260 children under five. We'll work closely with communities to make sure that this support reaches the most vulnerable people.

## **We're rebuilding lives**

We're planning activities to help 500 of the poorest households in Haya, Red Sea State, increase their income so that children can get enough food to eat. We'll provide poultry, goats and cash grants to 120 households, together with training in animal health and management. And we'll provide vocational training so that people can learn new skills and find work. Working with UNICEF, the World Food Programme, government departments and NGOs, we'll develop a food security information system so that all agencies can respond quickly to shortages.



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