

Today is World Refugee Day. Show your support for refugees in Darfur.

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Dear ,

Did you know that the Zam Zam displacement camp in North Darfur now has a population larger than the city of Berkeley? Recent reports estimate close to 200,000 displaced Darfuris now reside in Zam Zam, and it's just one of many locations in the region where we are distributing Berkeley-Darfur Stoves.

The United Nations has declared today, June 20th as [World Refugee Day](#). In Darfur, conflict has claimed the lives of at least 300,000 people and created almost three million internally displaced persons (IDPs) within the region, most of whom have taken refuge in camps like Zam Zam.

Families in IDP camps receive food aid and cooking oil from humanitarian aid organizations; however, they are still responsible for gathering firewood for cooking. Because of the desert-like terrain and the large populations in the IDP camps, wood is scarce. The burden of collecting firewood falls almost entirely on Darfur's women and girls, where they must walk up to seven hours to find a single shrub. During these treks outside the camps, women are often assaulted.

In many parts of Darfur, especially in the North, women purchase firewood from vendors who transport it to the camps and towns on trucks. **In our 2010 survey in Zam Zam, a full 100% of firewood purchasers reported having to trade some of their food rations for fuel in the last food distribution.**

While Darfur has slipped from the headlines, **thousands of families continue to flood into overcrowded displacement camps to escape violence in their villages.** To date, we've distributed almost 20,000 Berkeley-Darfur Stoves but this is just a drop in the bucket compared with the vast need. We need [your help](#) to reach even more women who've been forced from their homes.

As part of World Refugee Day, we invite you to [lend your support](#) to these women so they can provide meals to their families in a safer, healthier, less burdensome and environmentally destructive way.

Thank you for your commitment to our work,

Darfur Stoves Project

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