Persevering Against All Odds

While much of the world has abandoned those fleeing violence orchestrated by the Sudanese government, the Solar Cooker Project continues to bring relief to tens of thousands of Darfuri families. The flood of refugees entering the camps has dramatically increased as a result of renewed violence against civilians in several regions across Sudan. The horrors of this escalation have driven an additional 30,000 refugees to seek shelter within the camps of Chad since the beginning of 2014. If the dangers that drove them to the camps were not disheartening enough, the Darfuri people face a new threat: the World Food Program has cut the food rations available to families in the camps in half.

Amidst this turmoil, we continue to be inspired by the resilient spirit of Darfuri women and girls, who are central to our efforts, we remain committed to protecting and empowering them through the Solar Cooker Project. When we visit the camps that are home to our Solar Cooker Project sites, we listen to them, we learn from them, and we absorb those experiences and lessons so we can create a more impactful and sustainable project.

Our next trip will be in the fall, when we will conduct a formal evaluation. In 2015, that evaluation will aid our continued expansion into two additional camps where we hope to impact some 42,000 Darfuri men, women and children.

With the tide of violence continuing to rise in 2014, more families will be driven into the limbo of refugee camps where they await the possibility of a peaceful return to their homes in Sudan. Your continued support for the Solar Cooker Project makes their lives in this limbo safer, more humane, and, most importantly, provides them with hope and dignity.

Help Us Outfit Two New Camps with Solar Cookers

Become a Friend of the Solar Cooker Project today

Members of this annual giving circle join their peers in a community of conscience dedicated to helping the women of Darfur.

Gold ▶ A $5,000 annual gift can provide 250 solar cookers for 125 refugee families
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A monthly giving option is available.

Contact solarcookers@jww.org or call (818) 501-1836 for more information.
‘Never Again’ Must Not Become ‘Yet Again’:
You Can Stop Genocide in Sudan

Co-authored by JWW Co-Founder and President Janice Kamenit-Reznik and Dr. Mukesh Kapila, former United Nations Resident Humanitarian Coordinator for the Sudan.

In November 2013, Sudan’s defense minister said before his nation’s parliament and calmly laid out his government’s plan to commit another genocide. It’s no secret what such a statement means from the regime in Sudan, which has already killed more than 2.5 million of its own people under the pretense of fighting rebels, employing a strategy of “getting the own people under the pretense of fighting.”

For decades, Sudan’s small ruling elite — headed by President Omar al-Bashir — have stolen all of the country’s resources and employed repressive policies. The International Criminal Court has issued a warrant for Bashir’s arrest on charges of war crimes, crimes against humanity, and acts of genocide following Khartoum’s actions in Darfur.

Genocide now looms over the country again, with the Sudanese regime threatening the ethnically diverse people of the Nuba Mountains and the Blue Nile state. Nearly 1 million civilians have been displaced or trapped in a government-orchestrated famine, intentionally cut off from their fields and prevented from receiving humanitarian relief by persistent bombing since June 2011. The government has demolished evacuation routes leading out of the region, creating a “kill-box” around the Nuba people. They are now left wondering not how they’ll survive, but what is a less awful way to die — by hunger or by fire?

A long-term solution for Sudan must tackle the source of its many conflicts: the brutal regime in Khartoum. After two decades of genocidal violence, it’s clear that the international community’s piecemeal policies on Sudan have failed. It is high time to tackle the underlying cause of the conflict — and not just its symptoms — or else more atrocities will occur. And that means new governance for Sudan.

18th Century Irish philosopher Edmund Burke said, “All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing.” For too long, too many have averted their eyes and shrugged their shoulders as the international community has allowed the Bashir regime to commit genocide with impunity. By acting together, we can make a decisive difference for the people of Sudan — one letter, one aid package, one life at a time. See the “Take Action” section to see how you can help. A New Life

Excerpt from a report by Dr. Derk Ryks, Director of the on-the-ground implementing partner for the SCP.

We were distributing the pots for the cookers. A young woman, thin as a rod, face worn out by despair, took her turn. I looked at her brand new UNHCR/WFP registration card. Nafisa, born in 1993; no husband and four children under the age of six. One refugee woman on our team asked Nafisa from where she came. “Madmore,” she said. After the bombing of her village, she and her small children had walked 21 days and nights to come to the camp.

She signed the receipt for the pots, a tiny little cross. As she took her two cookers and cooking pots, she sighed, as deep as I’ve ever heard a sigh: a sigh of total relief. I looked at her, and caught her eyes. Her lips lifted into a smile.

That’s what SCP donors do. This war-torn refugee woman has survived violence, hunger, thirst and rape. But, with two cookers and a big and a small pot, SCP donors give her a smile and a chance to start a new, more normal life.

For our team, that sigh and that smile make up for all the hardships and difficulties of the work.

For me, that tiny little cross is worth more than a painting by Rembrandt or Picasso.

JUST THE FACTS

The Conflict

• The genocide in Darfur, Sudan began in 2003. It has claimed up to 400,000 lives and displaced an estimated 3 million refugees.

• After foiling the genocide perpetrated by Sudanese government forces and Arab militias, many of these black African Darfuri families found refuge in Chad.

• In April 2014, Sudan’s President Omar al-Bashir launched a “decisive summer campaign” against all rebellions, which has led to 285,000 newly displaced people from Darfur and another 100,000 newly displaced from South Kordofan and Blue Nile as civilians flee daily aerial bombardment.

The Project

• SCP offers an alternative, environmentally sustainable cooking method not requiring scarce firewood. Collecting firewood requires long, often dangerous trips outside the refugee camps. The reduction in these trips has thereby reduced women’s exposure to rape by over 85%.

• Solar cooking gives refugee girls more time to attend school. Girls’ enrollment, attendance and success rates in school have all increased.

• SCP has seen participation rates of 75% in Oure Cassoni, 85% in Touloum and 100% in Indieu.

• Two solar cookers can save one ton of wood per year and reduce greenhouse gases by over 3,814 pounds per year.

Bring SCP to the Next Generation

JWW is proud to introduce Eden Banarie, the newest addition to our team. She started with JWW in January 2013, bringing enthusiasm and passion to her position as our Youth Engagement Coordinator. She has already facilitated JWW educational programming for young activists at dozens of institutions. Sound like a good fit for your community? Give her a call at (818) 501-1836 and she will help you develop solar cooker-related programming for your young activists.

Activists in the making: dishing out meals and the vital education that will prepare Amir a safe place with proper child care, education and the opportunity to run their own philanthropic foundations and become strategic grantmakers. For years, they have consistently supported JWW’s efforts in the Darfur Refugees Camp, often directing funds specifically to the Solar Cooker Project. This last grant cycle, they gave the SCP a whopping $17,500. We honor them for their dedication to tikam ulan and the plight of the Darfur people, and thank them for choosing to wield their philanthropic power through us.

ACTIVIST SPOTLIGHT

• After learning about the injustices facing women and girls around the world, eight young girls in Los Angeles came together to make a difference. Twelve-year-olds Leila Khorrani, Saba Kalepali, Tyler Kohan, Eliza Enghian, and Miaya Massied, and ten-year-olds Hannah Khorrani, Nicole Wizman, and Annabella Zangrini raised more than $1,500 for the Solar Cooker Project from their “Party with a Purpose” and individual donations from friends and family.

• Even the tiniest of activists understand our mission. Pre-schoolers at Temple Beth Hillel in Valley Village raised hundreds of dollars to support the SCP. After learning about the SCP, they decided to donate their change for a year to the project.

• The Jewish Community Teen Foundations of the San Francisco Area empower their teens with the opportunity to run their own philanthropic foundations and become grantmakers. For years, they have consistently supported JWW’s efforts in the Darfur Refugees Camp, often directing funds specifically to the Solar Cooker Project. This last grant cycle, they gave the SCP a whopping $17,500. We honor them for their dedication to tikam ulan and the plight of the Darfur people, and thank them for choosing to wield their philanthropic power through us.

JWW was honored to recognize Dr. Mukesh Kapila at our 7th Annual I Witness Awards, recognizing leaders who make significant contributions to the fight against genocide by raising awareness and spurring activism. Dr. Kapila is pictured here in dialogue with young activists from Promise International Academy who were presented with the Survivors’ Legacy Award at the event.

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SALE: JEWELRY: THE GIFT THAT GIVES BACK

Donate or purchase fine jewelry at SB4Jewelry.com. SB4Jewelry is a project of long-time Solar Cooker Project activist Shelby Layne. All proceeds support SCP.

Nuba civilians take shelter in caves from bombs dropped by their own government.
‘Never Again’ Must Not Become ‘Yet Again’: You Can Stop Genocide in Sudan

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In November 2013, Sudan’s defense minister stood before his nation’s parliament and calmly laid out his government’s plan to commit another genocide. It’s no secret what such a statement means from the regime in Sudan, which has already killed more than 2.5 million of its own people under the pretense of fighting rebels, employing a strategy of “getting the enemy” by draining the pond. “The Bashir regime to commit genocide with impunity. By acting together, we can make a decisive difference for the people of Sudan — one letter, one aid package, one life at a time. See the “Take Action” section to see how you can help.”

Activist Spotlight

Just a few of many individuals, churches, synagogues, schools, clubs and other community organizations “Not Standing Idly By” on behalf of the SCP!

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Perspiring Against All Odds
By Brie Loskota, Chair

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Take Action

To address the pattern of conflict in Sudan, rooted in the genocidal regime in Khartoum, and create a space for democratic transformation, Sudan needs an inclusive peace process, encompassing a broad swath of stakeholders. The US needs to increase our diplomatic capacity in Sudan to help facilitate this process, in conjunction with the AU and UN.

To join with the rest of the JWW and anti-genocide community, add your name to the petition to the State Department by visiting jww.org.