



DISPLACEMENT

An Interrupted Life

2007 RESOURCE PACKS

One of the most striking issues of poverty in the developing world, concerns many millions of people who have been dislocated or displaced due to wars, famines or the search for a better life.

WHAT IS A REFUGEE?

A refugee is someone who is forced to leave their own country to seek sanctuary and protection. At the end of 2004 there were 11.5 million refugees worldwide, driven or forced from their own countries by ongoing conflicts and persecution.

WHAT IS AN IDP?

IDP stands for Internally Displaced Person. Like refugees, IDPs are often forced to flee their homes because of conflict or persecution. However, they seek safety within the borders of their own country and are often forced to live in camps.

Away from their homes, IDPs rely on the international community and aid agencies like GOAL for their most basic needs, including shelter, food and clean water. There are as many as 25 million IDPs living in 50 countries around the world. Half of these displaced people live in Africa.

GOAL'S WORK IN CONFLICT SITUATIONS

GOAL has responded to every major refugee crisis since its establishment in 1977, working with other agencies in many refugee camps around the world.

GOAL set up its first refugee camp in western Sudan in 1986 to cater for refugees who were escaping war in neighbouring Chad. Since then GOAL has worked in refugee camps in countries such as Swaziland (Mozambican refugees), Tanzania and Zaire (Rwandan refugees), North Sudan (Ethiopian refugees), Angola and Sierra Leone (IDPs) These camps provided secure shelter, clean water, food and health care for thousands of people.

Today GOAL runs a programme for refugees in Nairobi, Kenya, which deals with refugees



A civil war which lasted for 27 years destroyed many parts of Angola.

and asylum seekers from Somalia, Ethiopia, Sudan, Eritrea, D.R. Congo, Rwanda, Burundi and Uganda.

We also work in a number of countries still affected by conflict, including Sudan. In Darfur, a region in western Sudan, more than two million people have been driven from their homes by a brutal conflict. Some fled to neighbouring countries, while others have sought sanctuary in relief camps.

GOAL is working with IDPs in Darfur and has established healthcare and education programmes, as well as distributing food and non-food items. Non-food items include blankets, cooking utensils, soap, sleeping mats and containers for carrying water.

Elsewhere in Sudan, a civil war raged between the North and the South of the country for more than 20 years, killing 1.5 million people. Now that both sides have signed a peace deal, all those people who were forced from their homes can begin to return home.

However, the process of returning is not easy. Many IDPs have been living in camps for years and have nothing to return to. Their homes and villages have been destroyed and they no longer have access to their land. The returning IDPs will need help for many years to come as they start their lives from scratch.



An IDP camp in Kalongo, Uganda. Thousands of people now call this camp home.



A child minds her younger brother at camp Grafton in Sierra Leone, which housed thousands of IDPs when civil war broke out in 1999.

LIVING IN A REFUGEE / IDP CAMP

Families arrive at camps with only the clothes on their back. Often, their villages have been raided in the night and families become separated. The most urgent need is to provide shelter so GOAL provides families with plastic sheeting to make tents and with sleeping mats and other non-food items such as soap, pots and pans and candles.

Refugee and IDP camps vary in size but they are generally overcrowded with very few resources. Hundreds of families share water pumps and latrines.

It is essential to provide access to clean drinking water and latrines to prevent

the spread of disease, as well as vaccinating children.



This small tent is home for a family who were forced to flee to an IDP camp in Darfur, Sudan, when their village was attacked.

CASE STUDY

Tiernan Dolan, a teacher from Longford and a long time GOALie, travelled to Darfur earlier this year, where he witnessed the suffering in the IDP camps.

“Darfur is largely forgotten by the western media. Yet the statistics are truly staggering. Darfur, a state within Sudan, is the size of France, with a population of six million. The land is arid and poor, with temperatures regularly in the mid-40s. It’s no holiday destination and that’s for sure.

The UN estimates at least 400,000 people have died from fighting, hunger and disease. Thousands die every month in massive camps which house just over two million displaced people.

If it wasn’t for the intervention of GOAL, many thousands more would surely have perished in this, the most inhospitable of lands.

Kassab Camp is in a town called Kutum, in North Darfur. More than 22,000 displaced people live in makeshift shelters here. The shelters are made using sticks as roof beams, with rags and bags sewn together as roofs. A family of eight could be sleeping together in an area not much bigger than a small car.

GOAL is constructing wells for clean and



A makeshift shelter in a very overcrowded IDP camp.



Twins Marwa (left) and Safa (right) Abraham at Kutum camp in Darfur, Sudan.

fresh water, providing non-food items like soap, mosquito nets, plastic sheeting and cooking utensils. As well as all that, they’re also involved in health care, food distribution, health education and disease prevention.

Everyone in the camp has a heart breaking tale of how family members were killed. But in the midst of the horror stories, there were also remarkable accounts of survival. Twins Marwa and Safa Abraham, aged two-and-a-half, together with their mother, hid in a tree while the Janjaweed (meaning evil men on horseback) searched for them underneath.

Their village, Bara Kala, was burned. Twenty people were killed and everything was destroyed. After the raiders departed, the terrified twins and their mother walked for five hours in the searing heat before they reached the safety of the GOAL camp. Three weeks later their father and two siblings also turned up at the camp.

Now, thanks to the care from GOAL, the entire family is safe and healthy. One day they wish to return to their home but in the meantime the luckiest twins in the world are looking forward to starting school in the camp.”

DID YOU KNOW?

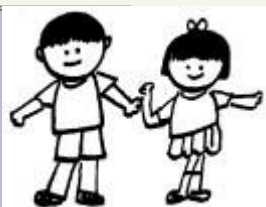
The US Committee for Refugees estimates that of the 11.5 million refugees worldwide, three million are in Africa.
(US Committee for Refugees)



237 people were recognised as refugees in Ireland in the first three months of 2005. They mostly came from Nigeria, Somalia, Romania, Afghanistan and Sudan.
(Irish Refugee Council)

The number of child refugees increases by about 5,000 per day.

(80:20 Development in an Unequal World)



For every dollar spent by the United Nations on peacekeeping, the world spends \$2000 on war keeping.

(80:20 Development in an Unequal World)

WHAT CAN YOU DO?



- Watch the news every day and keep up to date on the various conflicts that are going on throughout the world.

Some are not in the news as much as they should be, like Sudan and Uganda, which you have read about here. Why do you think that is?

- Learn more about GOAL's work in response to all of these issues.
- Complete the following sentence:

Children who live in refugee or IDP camps live without...

How many things can you and your classmates come up with?

GOAL'S DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION OFFICERS

GOAL aims to increase young people's awareness and understanding of the plight of the poorest of the poor and of global issues that affect the developing world.

GOAL's development education officers visit primary and post primary schools, third level institutions and youth and after school groups to share information on their first hand experiences of working with GOAL in the developing world.

If you would like a member of our development education staff to visit your school please contact GOAL on 01 2809779,

visit www.goal.ie or email info@goal.ie

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