

Because I Am a Girl: Emergency Appeals

Because I Am a Girl, a division of Plan International, is involved with impoverished communities all over the world, and consistently seeks to raise awareness throughout developed countries to join in the cause. Reaching hundreds of people with thousands of needs requires no small amount of support. Long after a disaster has left the sound waves of TV broadcasting or the pages of a newspaper, the affected countries continue to suffer.

Fuel Shortages in Sudan

Zamzam, an internally displaced persons (IDP) camp in Darfur, Sudan is home to more than 150,000 people. In a camp so large (in fact, it is the largest IDP camp in Darfur and one of the largest in the world), firewood is hard to come by. The refugees who call Zamzam their home are left with only a few options. Since firewood is needed in order to cook, they can either conserve what little they have by eating fewer meals, or the girls and women living in Zamzam can walk long distances to collect firewood. This activity is both time-consuming and dangerous as venturing out makes them susceptible to sexual harassment and assault in the area.

Since Plan took over camp operations a year and a half ago, they've been able to provide a solution to the fuel shortages. Fuel-efficient stoves have been introduced to reduce fuel consumption and create less smoke than an open fire, making them environmentally friendly as well.

Giving people the means to help themselves generally has a ripple effect, and this situation was no exception. After 250 women were trained to build the fuel-efficient stoves, they turned around and trained 5,000 more women to do the same. Support a refugee family in Sudan with the donation of a fuel-efficient stove today.

Extra Protection for Girls

As they are partnered with Plan Canada, not all of BIAAG's operations are specific to women, but as you read the appeal below, consider your sisters, daughters, girlfriends, and wives, and imagine the lengths to which you would go if you found them in the same situations.

According to Katie Tong, an expert in adolescent girls in emergencies at Plan International, "During emergencies, adolescent girls are part of a group of people that get the wrong kinds of attention." They face an increased risk of sexual violence, early marriage, and unwanted pregnancy. When escaping an emergency, official documentation can be lost and without proof of age or identity, girls are vulnerable to child marriage and trafficking. One tool that can protect girls from these horrors is a birth certificate. Plan helps children and families replace their lost documents, including birth certificates. Return an identity – protect a girl. Give a birth certificate.

There are so many more communities in crisis that may not survive if they are forgotten or ignored. Basic humans rights are being revoked all over the world and Because I Am a Girl, alongside Plan International, are stepping forward and helping out, but their reach can only go so far. Lend a hand. Your support will change lives.