

# Aiding Darfur War Refugees

PROJECT PROFILE

The Goz Beida region of Eastern Chad was never meant to support 70,000 war refugees. But that's exactly what has happened as the Darfur war in Sudan and internal attacks on Chadian villages forced families to leave their homes. Hostile militias burned homes, raping and killing their victims. The survivors fled in search of safety, and with no place else to go, they've settled in temporary camps.

The vast majority of the population does not have access to latrines, and clean water is scarce. Because of the crowded conditions in the camp, disease spreads easily and medical care is almost non-existent. Families who once farmed their own land, owned businesses, and were able to feed and educate their children, now have nothing.

## How We Help

World Concern has been working in Goz Beida since May of 2007. When we arrived, conditions were deplorable. Slowly, life has begun to improve in the camps. World Concern is working toward strengthening and improving people's lives in Chad so they can eventually return to their own land and rebuild their lives.

Beginning with the basics, we work to promote health and hygiene by building communal latrines; each latrine serving about 20 people. We're also educating people about the importance of hand washing, personal hygiene and drinking only clean water.

Knowing that once people begin earning income, they'll be able to feed and support their families, we provide income generating activities. From the Cash for Work program, which pays people to perform daily labor so they can buy food and necessities, to small business loans aimed at building futures, getting people to work is a priority.

We're also helping people grow their own food. From vegetable sack gardens to crops that can be sold, we provide agricultural training, seeds, farming tools, and assistance in marketing their crops.



*This woman received a bar of soap for each person in her family. Soap enables people to utilize the personal hygiene practices they're learning from World Concern.*

## Who We Help

More than 30,000 Sudanese refugees and internally displaced Chadians are benefiting from World Concern's programs in Chad. They are people who would otherwise have no resources to lift themselves out of their desperate circumstances.



*A woman and her son plow a field with a horse plow provided by World Concern.*



*A woman carries fresh water on her head to her family.*



*Saboune stands in his successful shop, which he stocked from income he earned through World Concern's Cash for Work program.*

## **Saboune's Story: Evidence of Hope**

Saboune Adakar Abdoukaye had what it takes to succeed in running a business: experience, skill, motivation and perseverance. But even with these strengths, he faced nearly impossible circumstances. He had lost everything, including his business, when his village in Chad was burned by janjaweed militia. He fled with his six children to Goz Beida in 2004. His extended family came with him, but his sister became ill and died in the camp where they'd settled, leaving Saboune responsible for the care of her seven children.

Now, with 13 little ones looking to him for survival, he needed help—a spark to reignite the dedication and success he'd had

before. That spark came in the form of World Concern's Cash for Work program. By performing labor for a daily wage, Saboune was able to buy food and clothing for his children. He also began purchasing goods and established a new shop in the camp. With each paycheck, he increased his inventory, and now has a thriving business with stocked shelves and enough profit to support his family. Others are benefitting as well. He now employs seven people in his business.

Saboune's infectious grin expresses rising hope and budding joy. But he has one request: that World Concern continues to help people like him—those who, through no fault of their own, find themselves with nothing. His children, and many others, will continue to need food, clothing and the chance to go to school.

### **About World Concern**

*World Concern, part of CRISTA Ministries, is a Christian humanitarian organization that helps lift people out of poverty. World Concern works with the poor in 22 countries, with the goal of transforming the lives of those we touch, leading them on a path to self-sustainability. Worldwide, World Concern offers life, opportunity and hope to nearly six million people. For more information on our work around the world, please visit [www.worldconcern.org](http://www.worldconcern.org).*