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Innovation for Darfur war refugees: Using the sun's energy for cooking

Chad's unrelenting sunshine beats down more than 300 days a year, sometimes sending temperatures soaring to 130 degrees. World Concern is helping refugee families living in Eastern Chad use the abundant, safe and free energy nature supplies to cook.

World Concern's alternative giving catalog, the Global Gift Guide™, is introducing solar cooking stoves this year. The solar cookers cost \$25 and save poor families about \$136 a year in cooking fuel costs. That's roughly 25% of a family's income. Most of these families lost everything when they fled the Darfur conflict in Sudan and their villages and homes were destroyed by militia.



For many women in Chad, finding wood to cook with is an exhausting and dangerous challenge. If they buy wood, it may cost about a fourth of their meager income. Fatime chooses to find it on her own. Some days she leaves the camp and hikes 5 or 6 kilometers to look for dead wood. By law, she is not allowed to cut from the few remaining live trees near the camp. She is at risk for being beaten or raped by men who resent the competition for scarce resources.

Not only will Fatime be safer using a solar stove, her children will be too, without the risk of being burned or having a fire in their straw hut.

Currently the 15,000+ residents of the refugee camp depend almost exclusively on wood or charcoal for cooking. The impact and cost savings of solar stoves is tremendous. Harnessing the sun's energy for cooking is just one of many innovative ways World Concern is transforming lives in impoverished countries like Chad.

Solar cookers can be ordered through the Global Gift Guide online at www.WorldConcern.org/ggg or by calling 1-866-530-LIFE (5433).

For more information or interviews, call Derek Sciba, World Concern spokesman, at 206-713-5564.

Photo caption: *Solar cooking stoves utilize the abundant sunshine in Chad where wood for fuel is scarce.*

World Concern, part of CRISTA Ministries, is a Christian humanitarian organization that helps lift people out of poverty through activities including microfinance, agriculture, disaster response and small business development. World Concern works with the

poor in 24 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 more than six million people.

