

OUR PROJECT

Jewish World Watch is committed to protecting refugee women and girls from rape and other egregious forms of violence. Women and girls who have fled the genocide in Darfur, a region of Sudan, are particularly vulnerable to rape while performing the critical task of collecting firewood for cooking. Our mission is to reduce the frequency of these heinous crimes by providing women in refugee camps with an alternative cooking option: the solar cooker. Solar cookers enable women to remain within the relative safety of the camp by reducing their dependency on wood.

The Solar Cooker Project not only serves to protect women, but also provides them with income opportunities through manufacturing solar cookers, training others to use the cookers, and making carrying bags to increase the cookers' life span. It gives the women a sense of pride to be able to contribute to their household. This project has been successfully realized in the Iridimi refugee camp and is nearing completion in the nearby Touloum refugee camp. Jewish World Watch plans to initiate this project in other camps in the near future with the goal of mitigating the number of crimes committed against refugee women.

Who We Are

Jewish World Watch works to mobilize synagogues and their surrounding communities to combat genocide and other blatant human rights violations around the world through education, advocacy, and refugee relief.

The Genocide in Darfur

- Black Africans have been terrorized, driven out of their villages, and decimated by Arab militias, the Janjaweed and the Sudan government since 2003.
- It is estimated that at least 400,000 people are dead.
- 2.7 million people have been displaced.
- Women and girls have been raped and beaten at an alarming rate.
- The U.S. government has labeled this a genocide, yet no definitive action has been taken to suppress the violence.

The Refugees

- 250,000 men, women and children refugees live across the border from Sudan in Chad.
- Women must search for firewood outside of the refugee camps where there is no protection.

- While outside of the camps, women are often beaten, raped, and branded by bandits or the Sudanese-supported Janjaweed militia.

Iridimi Camp in Chad

- Of the 17,159 refugees in the camp, 80% are women and children.
- The area is devoid of vegetation even though there are optimum conditions for growth, including abundant sunlight and rainfall 3" - 5" yearly.
- There are 330 days a year of sunlight, which is a perfect condition for solar cooking.
- Relief agencies provide the refugees with monthly allotments of uncooked food and firewood, but the given amount of firewood only lasts for a couple of days. The refugees must then search for wood outside of the camps, thereby subjecting themselves to attack.

TOULOUM Camp in Chad

- There are 22,038 refugees in this camp, and a large proportion of this number are women and children.
- The environment is similar to that of the nearby Iridimi camp (see above).

Benefits of Solar Cooking

- Solar cooking reduces the need for frequent firewood collection, which in turn decreases the amount of violence committed against women and girls.
- Two solar cookers can save one ton of wood each year.
- There is no need to tend to a fire so women are free to do other tasks.
- Manufacturing solar cookers at the camps provides income opportunities for female refugees.

The Cookit Solar Cooker

- The Cookit, developed by Solar Cookers International, is a simple solar cooker which converts sunlight into heat which then cooks food.
- The Cookit is easy to manufacture because it is made out of cardboard and aluminum foil and can be easily assembled by hand.
- It is light, small, and fairly inexpensive.
- It has been successfully used by several refugee camps in Kenya, Ethiopia, and now in Chad.

Our Partners

Jewish World Watch is proud to work in partnership with KoZon, a charitable organization based in the Netherlands. KoZon's aim is to provide women in developing countries with cheap and effective solar cooking alternatives. TchadSolaire, the NGO on the ground in the camps, provides staff and training for the Solar Cooker Project. Solar Cookers International supplies technical assistance. The camps are run by CARE International and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

What You Can Do

Help us provide refugee camps in Chad with solar cookers by raising awareness and much-needed funds.

- Raise awareness by hosting an informational event with an engaging Jewish World Watch speaker at your home, work, parent association, library, synagogue, church...
- Organize a fundraiser to help bring solar cookers home to these women through a BBQ, bake sale, car wash, dinner, theater party...
- Make a donation: A \$30 donation supports one family by providing two solar cookers, training, and two pot holders. A \$150 donation supports five families by providing ten solar cookers, training, and pot holders.

Our Project: 100% Solar Cooking FOR the Iridimi & TOULOU M camps in chad

JWW's goal is to outfit every family with at least two solar cookers and more for larger families.

PROGRESS IN THE IRIDIMI & TOULOU M CAMPS

- As of January 2008, virtually all of the 4,669 women in the Iridimi camp have been trained to use solar cookers. In Toulou m, as of May 2008, 5,000 women have been trained in their use, and several thousand await training; 500 women continue to be trained to solar cook each month in Toulou m.
- After completing a training, women receive 2 solar cookers. One is used for maize meal, the main food distributed by the World Food Programme. The other solar cooker is used for water, sauce, or vegetables (provided they are available.)
- Trained individuals provide follow-up assistance by helping the women keep their cookers in good working condition, which promotes the efficiency of the solar cooking process. In Toulou m, 40 refugee women work part-time as auxiliary trainers alongside the Tchad Solaire team.

- In each area of the camps, teams of two women manufacture the solar cookers, thus providing the women with a new skill and an opportunity to generate income for their families. Currently 24 women are trained assemblers in each camp.
- The women also manufacture carrying bags (to protect the cookers) and hay baskets (which keep the evening meal that is cooked in the daytime hot until it is eaten).
- Families of 5-12 people live in one hut. Often the woman, who is the head of the household, takes care of her own children as well as several orphans, as most of the men have already been killed.
- More than 15,000 cookers have been manufactured and distributed to the Iridimi refugee camp, as replacement solar cookers are needed every three - six months.