

## **World Jewish Aid Responds to Darfur**

Attacks by troops and Arab militia in Darfur, in western Sudan have forced about 1.2 million people, mostly black villagers, from their homes. Many have gone to live with families in other parts of Darfur, and about 130,000 have fled across the border into Chad. Some 30,000 have died in violent raids over the past year and reports continue of massacres, rape, torture and looting.

The situation is growing worse and ethnic related violence continues unabated. It is important that we as Jews do not stand by in the face of such violence and support the efforts to help those in need as a result of the conflict.

When World Jewish Aid launched its appeal for Sudan we had been waiting for the right time. It is difficult in situations like the one in Sudan, as the appeal has to be at the time when it will get the most publicity. In the case of the atrocities committed by the Janjaweed the optimum time came when the media organisations in the UK agreed that there should be an appeal on behalf of the major aid agencies.

We made the call to our supporters via the Jewish press, via our mailing list and via the synagogue groupings. Within three hours of releasing the details of the appeal the first Liberal Jewish donations started coming in. Aaron Goldstein had e-mailed his powerful contacts list. These were the first donations we received.

The appeal has so far raised £55,000 and the first disbursements have been made working with the International Rescue Committee to provide immediate shelter and with the Jewish Coalition for Disaster Relief where we have pooled Jewish resources with those of North American organisations. Our response still continues as there is much work to do in Darfur immediately and in the medium-term.

[Daniel Casson \(dc@wjaid.org.uk\)](mailto:dc@wjaid.org.uk)

Director World Jewish Aid, The Forum, 74-80 Camden Street, London NW1 0EG

Tel.: 020 7691 1774

Fax: 020 7691 1780

Mobile: 07971 955 891



*The shelter in the photograph is designed to withstand the harsh wind, heat and rain found in Darfur. Crews have been trained on how to erect the shelters, however the structure has become so commonplace that training is no longer necessary.*