

# Camp Djabal



**Protection Profile:** EUFOR forces were sent to Goz Beida in mid-May to help protect refugee and IDP camps in the area. The small group of soldiers was barely enough to protect one camp, let alone all eight of them. Shortly after their arrival, Chadian rebels launched an offensive in the town of Goz Beida and shelling from the conflict reached the camp.

Peacekeeping forces held their ground, but were unable to protect the NGO compounds where many aid workers were held at gunpoint, offices looted, and cars stolen. It's uncertain who set the 2 hangers of reserve supplies on fire during the 3-day battle, but ultimately it was the refugees who suffered. These supplies were supposed to provide food, blankets and extra sheeting during the July-October rainy season; during which it is almost impossible for large shipments to make it South. Violence such as this is yet another reason that non-essential service providers continue to pull out of the Chad/Darfur region, and why the refugees are most certainly the most affected.

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*As of March 2008 there are 256,341 refugees in camps in Eastern Chad.*

**Camp Profile:** Camp Djabal is one of two Darfur refugee camps located in Southeastern Chad. Only secondary, unpaved roads travel to this area; that is a good six hours from the central NGO-hub of Abeche. Surrounding Camp Djabal are half a dozen Internally Displaced Persons camps home to local Chadians who have been displaced from their villages due to inter-ethnic violence that has been on the rise. From the air, Camp Djabal is organized in communal zones, much like other refugee camps, but here the camp is spread out and flat. Wide street-like paths carry you through compounds that have stick or dry straw fences; an image not seen the further North you travel. Shade from large trees planted when the camp was first created five years ago brings relief from the hot sun. Still, with the extra room that this camp provides, refugees are not allowed to grow crops and raising animals draws unwanted attention. In the morning hours you see several women returning to camp with straw and firewood balanced on their heads. Especially here where refugees are at odds with poor and displaced Chadians, firewood collection is very dangerous. Still the women must go out. And for those who gather an excess, they walk the rest into the nearby town of Goz Beida with the hope of selling enough to buy a vegetable or piece of meat to flavor their broth or grain.

Resources dedicated to Camp Djabal and the other camps in the area are few. Firewood is scarce and the threat of being raped or beaten while collecting it, is high. Education offered in the camp only reaches level 6, and the students are eager for more. Without this opportunity the older boys will most likely return to Darfur in search of a school, work, or most likely a rebel group to join. This journey, if forced to make it, will most likely end in death, as boys are the primary target of the Janjaweed.



Amouna is a refugee woman who came to Camp Djabal with her daughter several years ago and has been struggling to survive. She, like many women in Darfur, was most likely raped during the attack on her village, but holds it inside of her. There are hardly any services or programs to benefit the women of this genocide, to help them heal and recover because violence and security is getting worse, not better as the years go by.



Haroum is a Darfuri refugee, living in camp Djabal in Eastern Chad. He is in the sixth grade and would like to continue his schooling, but there's no seventh grade class. Haroum and his classmates do not have many options as they grow older. Many of the boys return to Darfur, where they become prime targets to be killed.



Kadija lives in refugee camp Djabal, in Eastern Chad. She that does all that she can so that her children are healthy. Women in camps do not have it easy. They do most of the hard labor, such as building structures for their homes around the tent, washing clothes, cooking meals, and collecting firewood. It is very dangerous to collect the firewood, since they have to walk long distances in areas that are not safe. Kadija and other women still maintain a positive attitude. They want them to continue their growth in a peaceful Darfur.



Madi is a refugee, living in Camp Djabal. Madi and other boys in Djabal like to play soccer, but there are no soccer balls to play with. They sometimes make balls out of any fabric they can find, which they roll up and tie with string. They also like to go to school, but there's only primary education in Madi's camp, so they cannot hope to continue studying. Most students drop out of school by the 5th grade, knowing that there will be nowhere to go when they finish primary school. Some of the older boys go back to Darfur, where they are prime targets for government forces