

Camp Farchana



Protection Profile: The road to Farchana, and the surrounding camps, was once considered safe enough for NGO vehicles to travel in convoys of 2 or 3. As the genocide wages on in Darfur and Chadian rebels create insecurity in their country, this road has become a haven for bandits. Armed robbery and murder and stolen vehicles are common weekly, if not daily incidents. For the first time since UNHCR opened their Chad/Darfur Mission, there are now flights to Farchana in between weekly or bi-weekly escorted missions. Even with international support through EUFOR, and in-country protection from Chadian police, cars still turn up missing and aid workers are still under attack. Most recently the Country Director of Save the Children was shot near his office in Eastern Chad. Incidents such as these are on the rise, and the more neutral NGOs suffer such violence, the more likely they are to pull their services and leave refugees with even less resources.

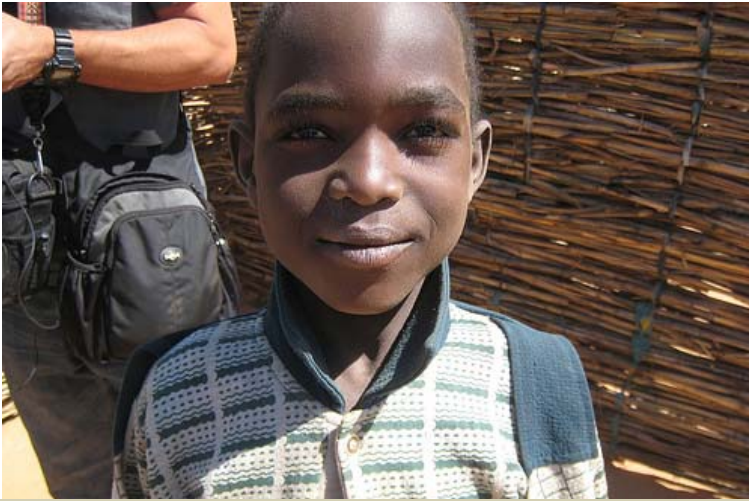
You can work to fill the protection gap: contribute to **GI-Net's Civilian Protection Programs** in Darfur and Burma. Help us to **STANDFast** for civilian protection at www.standnow.org

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

Camp Profile: Camp Farchana in Eastern Chad sits directly on the same road as El Geneina, Darfur does. The camp is organized in several zones and situated around several rock formations that naturally divide the camp into smaller communities. Five-year old tents and sheeting for the 20,027 refugees flap in the wind. There is little vegetation and the dead tree stumps that surround the camp indicate that what was once available as firewood for cooking has long disappeared.

In the center of the camp there is a brick making assembly line. It's all women. Digging up the earth, carrying jugs of water from the chain-link enclosed stations, and mixing the two together as they bend at their waist, many with children strapped to their backs. The bricks are then carried on the women's heads to the delivery point: where men mix mortar and brick by brick attempt to build something more protective than their five-year old tents. At least for a few months the wind, rain and sun will stay out of their small dwelling, but repairs are mandatory to keep these structures standing.

Many might say how resilient of the Darfur people to begin building homes for themselves; what strength it must take. But really it is their loss of hope that they will return home soon. They know this can not be a reality, and they must prepare to stay for a little longer. The little supplies that the international community has contributed is not enough to last in this "temporary" camp. Although they are extremely grateful for what they have been given, it is still only enough to survive, never enough to live.



Alhafis, from Camp Farchana, was very sad the first time the SGN team met him. He hardly cracked a smile for hours. For 5 years he has been living in a refugee camp, forgotten by most of the world. He lives with his mother and sisters, but his father died in Darfur. After two years of visiting Aljafis, he now sees hope for his future.



Badu lives in a refugee camp Farchana, in Eastern Chad. Badu and her friends are getting the very basics for survival, but they want to do more than survive. They love school and would like to continue studying and be teachers, engineers, and doctors. If the situation in Darfur and in Chad continue as they are now, Badu has little chance of being more than a refugee.



Djedda lives with her sisters and mother in refugee camp Farchana, in Eastern Chad. Farchana is not far from the Darfur border. Djedda and her family walked and ran from their destroyed village to the border, where they were met by United Nations High Commissioner on Refugees officers and latter brought to the camp. The girls and others believed that their stay in the camp was going to be short-term. They never thought that they would still call Farchana home five years later.



Fadila is a strong woman in the refugee camp Farchana, in Eastern Chad. She and other women in her camp are the main reason all the children around them are alive. They carry and guide them out of the burning villages; hide them from attackers during the day; find food to feed them; dig deep holes to get water for them to drink; and then give them love and hope at the camps. She is grateful for the assistance they receive as refugees, but Fadila wants more for her children and all the children of Darfur.