

# Water relief for a Sudanese family

*Increased irrigation has proved vital to the welfare and future prospects of Nima and her three sons and two daughters.*

Five years ago, her husband died and she was left alone to look after her family.

Her family's land at Shangil Tobya village in Elfashir province covered five acres, of which only three received a reasonable quantity of floodwater for irrigation.

Nima managed to cultivate 1.5 acres with vegetables, tobacco and sorghum, and also sold dry products including meat, okra and chillies. But her hard work still could not cover the needs of her school-age children and she had to borrow from neighbours and receive assistance from relatives.



However, Practical Action Sudan's work with villagers on

refurbishing the local dam and boosting the amount of irrigated land has worked wonders for Nima.



With relatives and neighbours helping with farm work, she has been able to cultivate around four acres of different crops, particularly tobacco and chillies, and increase her net income.

This has allowed her to repay part of the money borrowed to meet the farm's running costs, secure her family's food needs for one year, send her elder son to

Elfashir University, visit the Sudanese capital Khartoum for medical treatment, and hire premises for a catering business.

[http://practicalaction.org/?id=water\\_relief](http://practicalaction.org/?id=water_relief)

## Western Sudan: Increasing Food Security

On the southern edge of the Sahara desert and lying within Africa's arid zone, North Darfur State offers extremely difficult conditions for growing food, raising livestock and living.

Sixty per cent of the state's 1.4 million-strong population are constantly faced with nagging doubts about whether the rains will come and if they will have enough food to survive on each year.



Drought is a regular, unwelcome visitor to the region. Declining rainfall over recent years has led to low production of crops, which makes households vulnerable to food crises. When there is a good production season, farmers often need technical know-how on food processing and storage to help overcome supply problems in poor growing years.

The *North Darfur food security programme* works with poor communities to help improve their lives through various initiatives. Although is the biggest of Practical Action Sudan's projects in terms of budget, it is very cost effective, produces very tangible results and has impacted on a huge number of beneficiaries.

The programme's first task was to understand local communities' perceptions and definitions of problems in food production and use of resources together with reasons for declining productivity. Existing local knowledge of farmers has been enhanced and supported by Practical Action Sudan's work with the rural community on aspects of the design, manufacture and introduction of new technology to improve the production of food.

Conflict in  
Darfur:  
reports from  
Practical  
Action staff  
in Western  
Sudan

The work to help increase poor people's ability to improve their livelihoods has been undertaken in the following areas:

- Food production and processing
- Rural transport
- Building materials

## Building materials

### Construction work raises women's skills

Women have been helping shape their own futures in North Darfur. In a building materials project under the auspices of Practical Action Sudan, members of two women's groups moulded their own bricks and built training centres and stores for their activities. An improved, appropriate and affordable roof style design has been incorporated into one of the buildings to serve as a demonstration model for use in other construction projects.

#### Building materials projects in Eastern Sudan

[http://practicalaction.org/?id=region\\_sudan\\_western#Food\\_production](http://practicalaction.org/?id=region_sudan_western#Food_production)

## Eastern Sudan: Integrated Technology Programme

Eastern Sudan is a region that has received Practical Action's attention and active involvement since the early 1990s. Divided into two states, Kassala and Gedarif, its 2.9 million-strong population contains many people



seeking to rebuild their lives and escape poverty. Eighty per cent of people living in the region reside in rural areas or are nomads.

Then there are the thousands of people from west and south Sudan who have fled from years of civil war. Adding to these war-weary incomers are the many refugees of different tribal groups who have arrived from neighbouring Eritrea and Ethiopia.

Practical Action's *Eastern Sudan Integrated Technology Programme (ESITP)* was established in 1993 and its work has continued to help improve the lives of the region's poor. Under the programme, Practical Action's recent activities have been undertaken in the following areas:

- Building materials and Shelter
- Food processing
- Small-scale manufacturing
- Rural transport

The prime target of Practical Action's on-going work in eastern Sudan is the poor in general with a particular focus placed on the internally displaced people. Women, who are among the most vulnerable groups, receive a special emphasis.

More than 85 per cent of the women reached through the project so far have been widows, divorced or household heads. About 25 per cent have come from displaced and refugee communities. Usually, the skills they developed and possessed in their home area are no longer of use in the urban areas they move to in Kassala or Gedarif.

An example of Practical Action Sudan's activities with this target group includes its work in Kassala town's Wau Nur shanty residential area. Most people living in this community have fled conflict in other parts of Sudan.

Practical Action Sudan has undertaken assessments on displaced women in Wau Nur to evaluate whether they would benefit from additional manufacturing skills training to create new income generating methods. This led to 25 women being trained in tie-dye methods. Additional training has been provided in food processing and producing building aggregates.

Intermediate Technology Development Group Sudan

Reg Charity No. Sudan 13787

[http://practicalaction.org/?id=region\\_sudan\\_eastern#Building%20materials%20and%20Shelter](http://practicalaction.org/?id=region_sudan_eastern#Building%20materials%20and%20Shelter)