



DO NOT STAND IDLY BY



December 19, 2007

Dear Solar Cooker Project Supporter:

As the year comes to an end, I want to thank you for all you have done to support the Solar Cooker Project. I also want you to be the first to know we have just crossed the \$1 million mark raised for solar cookers in Chad! Since the project began, individuals like you have stepped up to the plate and supported this important work. Clearly this could not have been done without the thousands of people who have spread the word about the difference we are making in the lives of the refugees in the Iridimi refugee camp, and now in the Touloum camp as well.

As of the end of 2007, more than 15,000 cookers have been manufactured and distributed in both the Iridimi and Touloum camps. Almost all of 4,669 women in the Iridimi camp use their solar cookers daily. This summer, Jewish World Watch paid for the construction of the manufacturing plant and store room in Touloum and, soon after, the training of the women began.

This summer, Barbara Grover, a talented photojournalist spent 6 weeks in Iridimi documenting the Solar Cooker Project. You may have seen some of her photos already and we will soon have an incredible video of the project for you to see and share with your friends and colleagues.

As you know, in October, Janice Kamenir-Reznik, Founder and President JWW, Tzivia Schwartz-Getzug, Executive Director of JWW and I had the privilege to travel to the Eastern border of Chad to participate in an evaluation of the Solar Cooker Project and to "bear witness" to the on-going genocide.

The evaluation team consisted of representatives from KoZon, Solar Cookers International, Tchad Solaire, BCI (an organization in Chad dedicated to fuel-efficient stoves), the Chadian Ministry of the Environment, the UNHCR environmental unit and CARE International.

On our trip we were fortunate enough to visit both Iridimi and Touloum. We had the opportunity to see and hear first hand reports. I am excited to tell you that the preliminary findings show that the cookers have greatly reduced the use and reliance of fire-burning cooking methods. We found that prior to having Solar Cookers, those surveyed took approximately 446 trips outside of the camp each week to collect firewood. After the introduction of the Solar Cookers, only 63 trips outside of the camp were made weekly, representing an estimated reduction in dangerous trips outside the Iridimi camp by 86%. Also, approximately 60% of those with solar cookers used them twice per day. At this time, we are in the process of compiling the evaluation report and once it is completed a copy will be forwarded to you. If you haven't had the opportunity to read our journal excerpts or to view the photographs please go to <http://www.jewishworldwatch.org/chad/index.php>.

In December, Janice Kamenir-Reznik, Sheila Wasserman, Chair of the Women's Committee, Derk Rijks, the founder and implementer of the SCP and I participated in a conference in Geneva, Switzerland on "Technical and Policy Interventions for Household Energy Initiatives in Humanitarian Settings" hosted by the Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children. At the forum JWW had the opportunity to present information about solar cooking and the SCP to other NGOs and UN organizations. We also had the opportunity to meet with the Deputy High Commissioner of UNHCR who is responsible for budget and oversight of the UNHCR projects worldwide. Our discussions led to the possibility of additional funding and the expansion of the SCP. The response was overwhelmingly positive. As things develop we will keep you posted.

Many of you have donated and/or raised money for the SCP and we are very grateful for each and every contribution that has made the project possible. We have received donations from synagogues, churches, Girl Scout troops, schools, bar and bat mitzvah children, law firms, and the list goes on...

One 11 year old girl, Zoe Ezzes paints rocks and sells them for \$1 each to raise awareness about Darfur and money for the SCP. She has raised \$3500 to date! (www.darfurrocks.org currently under construction)

Shelby Layne, a high school senior, has donated over \$17,000 to the SCP from the sale of her own hand made jewelry and jewelry donated to her. Another amazing young woman! (www.livebuygive.org currently under construction)

Recently, Helene McCardle and several other artists donated their talents and time to producing the CD "*A Drop of Rain: Songs of Strength and Hope for Darfur.*" A donation will be made to the SCP from the sale of each CD. To hear excerpts or purchase a copy, please go to <http://profile.myspace.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=user.viewprofile&friendid=170792814>.

I wish I had room to tell you about each individual who has motivated others to support this project. You are all amazing! As the SCP continues to grow and flourish we look forward to your continued support. And if you haven't made you 2007 gift to the Solar Cooker Project, please do it today by going to <http://www.jewishworldwatch.org/refugeerelief/solarcookerproject.html>!

Thank you! Please keep in touch and let us know what you and your organizations are doing! Wishing you happy and healthy 2008!
Take care.

Rachel

Rachel Andres
Director
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