

*Save the Children in Sudan:
Our Unwavering
Commitment to Children*

March 6, 2009



At a Save the Children health clinic in Geneina in 2007, Sa'adia Amin held her baby, Ahmed, while his arm was measured to assess his growth.

Why was Save the Children asked to leave Sudan?

On March 5, Save the Children-USA received a letter from the Sudanese authorities asking us to suspend operations in Sudan. Save the Children-USA was one of at least 13 international aid organizations to have their registrations revoked. No reason was given for the action.

What is happening now?

This has very worrying implications for the more than 1 million children and adults we are currently supporting.

The agency is complying with authorities. Our 37 international staff in Sudan are being relocated to the capital, Khartoum, and arrangements are being made for them to depart the country. We also have some 1,500 other staff working throughout the country.

We are in the process of appealing the decision and exploring all avenues, including working through the United Nations, to help ensure that the children and adults we serve are not left without a lifeline.

What does this mean for Save the Children's programs?

Save the Children-USA and our colleague member from the International Save the Children Alliance, Save the Children-UK, were reaching children and their families in West Darfur, North Kordofan, South Kordofan and Red Sea States and communities in Abyei and near Khartoum. If Save the Children's registration is cancelled, there are grave implications for those benefiting from our programs. Save the Children was providing essential support to children and their families including food, clean water, nutritional interventions, basic and reproductive health care, protection and education programs for children and women in camps and communities throughout Sudan.

What does this mean for donors who are supporting Save the Children-USA programs in Sudan?

Save the Children is exploring all avenues so that it can continue delivering essential support to children and their families in Sudan. We hope that the cessation of our work in country is temporary. Our commitment is to serve the needs of children and to fulfill the programming commitments made to them and to our loyal Sudan donors.

How long has Save the Children-USA worked in Sudan?

Save the Children-USA began working in Sudan in 1984, conducting programs for children and families affected by conflict, displacement, extreme poverty, hunger and a lack of basic services. Many of the children and families we served were among the country's most vulnerable and hardest to reach.

In March 2004, with permission of the government of Sudan, Save the Children-USA entered Darfur to address the urgent needs of children and families displaced by several years of conflict. Within a month of our arrival, Save the Children had launched a large-scale response that became a sustained relief operation to provide hundreds of thousands of children and adult members of their families – especially women – with access to lifesaving food and water, basic health care and emergency obstetrical care for women, protection programs, and educational and income-generating activities.

At the five-year anniversary of our initial deployment to West Darfur, Save the Children remained by the side of children and women still unable to return to their villages and communities because of the region's instability and fluctuations in violence. Many roads in Darfur are unsafe because of armed groups; the violence has also periodically affected Save the Children and our local staff directly.

We continued to provide a lifeline of food, clean water, nutrition interventions, basic and reproductive health care, protection and education programs to children and women in camps and communities throughout West Darfur.

As the time Save the Children's programs were suspended, some 500,000 children and adults were being reached every month in camps and communities in West Darfur. (*Additional information about our work in Sudan below.*)

Will this have an impact on your work in Southern Sudan?

It is not year clear what impact this may have, but it is essential that aid agencies like Save the Children continue to be able to deliver lifesaving assistance to children across the country.

ADDITIONAL DETAIL: SAVE THE CHILDREN'S WORK IN SUDAN

Save the Children-USA's work was especially vital in the contested Nuba Mountains of South Kordofan State during two decades of conflict there. Save the Children-USA was the first international nongovernmental organization (NGO) granted access to opposition-controlled areas in 1994 and for some time was the only international agency conducting humanitarian relief, primary health care and livelihoods programs in both government and opposition-controlled areas.

Save the Children-USA opened a South Sudan office in 2000, and had worked nonstop since to address children's needs through programs in clean water, health care, protection and education. The signing of a Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) in 2005 removed the greatest obstacle to humanitarian efforts in the region and allowed Save the Children to move from emergency efforts to longer-term relief.

In 2003, at the request of the United Nations Development Program and USAID, Save the Children-US initiated conflict resolution and community development in the Abyei Province of the

West Kordofan State. The province had been isolated by war and had seen no development work for two decades. Save the Children was the first NGO asked to facilitate two formerly warring tribes' collaborative efforts to achieve a lasting peace and start development programs benefiting all children and families.



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