Follow Up Report for Funded Projects

Program: Darfur Peace and Development Organization (DPDO)
http://www.darfurpeace.org/

Mission: Darfur Peace and Development
Organization is a 501(c) 3 non-profit corporation founded by Darfuris in the U.S. Its mission is to provide humanitarian relief to war-affected civilians, facilitate just governance, and enable Darfuris to rebuild and effectively to develop their homeland.

Kassab Center women receive new "tobes" and caryy bags.

Featured Program in January 2010
Amount of DFW Donation: $27,479

I. PROJECT NARRATIVE:

1. **Goal:** The DPDO Women’s Centers are designed to support the recovery of displaced women by providing livelihood opportunities, literacy and skills training to help support their families and rebuild their communities.

2. **Results:** The two Centers have experienced very different results. **Kassab Center,** with 125 registered members and daily drop-ins, moved to a neighboring compound with more space for classrooms and larger work areas. The semi-permanent buildings have been rehabilitated and a kitchen area added. The women have planted a vegetable garden with tools provided by DPDO. All members of the Center share the harvest. (A significant, cost-free addition to their rations.)
The weavers have proven themselves motivated and competent, producing beautiful and durable baskets. Literacy training is ongoing within the Center and in four DPDO-supported classrooms near the Center. 26 women have graduated from the first level of literacy training, and new first and second level training has begun.

The Center’s management team has embraced their role in ensuring efficient operation of the Center. The team also enabled the distribution of tobes (the outer “wrap” all women wear), carry-bags for weaving supplies, soap and first aid supplies. They issue photo ID badges that have been part of the overall push to recognize the uniqueness of each individual. After discussion of “ways and means,” daycare for working moms at the Center will be started in early 2011. Also scheduled for 2011 are additional training in solar cooking and women’s health.

UNDP (United Nations Development Program) is partnering with DPDO to begin a Rule of Law program, based at the Kassab Center. UNDP-trained paralegals will conduct consultations and public training on civil and human rights. This initiative as taken a full year to bring to fruition and should begin in March 2011.

Abu Shouk Center, with 185 members, has not fared as well, largely due to the lack of managerial skill. New managers are being recruited. The Center’s two tents were destroyed in a windstorm, and then replaced by a large rakova (a woven-grass roof on poles). The weavers produced over 1000 baskets but many were poor quality. The livelihood program is being revamped; about 100 competent weavers will continue while the other women will begin another business making and selling noodles locally.
The literacy program continued well with approximately 100 women receiving first level training; The child day care program, headed by a very energetic woman named Habiba, continues to serve approximately 80 children. The Center held a solar cooker training for 122 women. Three solar cooking trainings are planned for 2011.

For the two Centers:

1. **Payment to Weavers: The program delivered $17,977 in payments to the weavers in 2010 for 2,803 baskets.** An uncomfortably large quantity of poor quality baskets (from Abu Shouk) were donated to Washington DC public schools for storage uses. Abu Shouk basket weaving has been temporarily discontinued until quality issues are rectified. (Note: the currency exchange rate continues to reduce the relative value of the payments to weavers; Over 2010, the average payment fell from $10/per basket to $8.90. For Kassab, we are planning a 16% increase in payments.

2. **After a year of intensively developing relationship with retailers, the Weaver’s Program is approaching the break-even point.** We filled a large order from National Geographic for their Spring 2011 catalog. With potentially 2,000+ for the Holiday Catalog, DPDO has 13 other active retail partners selling the women’s baskets. In the U.S., the business is well positioned to become self-sustaining in 2011.

3. Payments of staff salaries and to local vendors injected an additional $7,158 into the local (North Darfur) economy.

3. **Obstacles:** The obstacles are many: poor security in the camps, unpredictable jamming of communications, and local shortages of needed supplies. It’s clear from the experience in Kassab that motivated, competent managers can maneuver around these obstacles.

   International shipping has become a huge challenge and expense. Although DPDO has identified a shipper (Qatar Air Cargo) who will grant discounted cargo fees, the onerous fees and procedures of both US and Sudanese Customs are making costly demands on limited organizational funding.

II. PROJECT DETAILS:

1. Tell us **specific ways** the funds from Dining for Women were used.

   Funds were used to pay salaries of the Center staff in the camps and to continue literacy and other training.

2. Please attach: **financial statement of the project and a list of itemized expenses.**
SEE Attached statement (December totals not included)

3. If DFW donations did NOT cover the entire cost of the project, what percentage did the funds cover, and how were the funds used?

DFW funds supported approximately 25% of the Centers’ operating costs.

III. IMPACT:

1. How many lives do you estimate the funds (1) impacted directly and (2) impacted indirectly [through a mother’s children, community, etc.]?

The Center directly supports 305 women and 13 staff, including teachers. Indirectly, this support improves the lives of an additional 1,600 – 1,800 members of their extended families.

2. Please include one to three stories or quotes from women, preferably in their own words, whose lives were affected by the funded project.

“May God hold you in his hands for helping us.” (often repeated)

“The Women’s Center gives us a safe place in the camp to do our work and learn new things that we need for a better life.”

Is there anything else you would like our members to know about this project or your organization?
We need continuing support to run the current Centers and to open new Centers. The needs are great throughout DPDO’s area of operation.

Current needs of the Centers include:

- Cots and toys for day care
- Desks for literacy classes
- Sitting cushions for weavers
- Additional blackboards, textbooks and notebooks for literacy classes and other training
- A laptop and printer for the Kassab Center office
- A foldable solar charger to power office equipment and cell phones at Kassab
- Soaps and lotions
- First aid kits and manuals
- A 4-Wheel drive vehicle to transport staff and supplies

Donations allow DPDO to acquire these items in country, fueling the continuing push toward self-sufficiency.