

# SchoolAidNetwork



## Press Release

**Project: - 4<sup>th</sup> FOR DARFUR - INDEPENDENCE FROM POVERTY (4<sup>th</sup> JULY 2007)**

**Description: - “A plea for all children and teachers to wear something ODD”**

**Our Aim: - With your help UK Schools can raise £1Million Pounds for Darfur & Chad.**

With your help pupils and schools around the country will be joining forces on the 4<sup>th</sup> July and will be pledging monies for coming to school looking “ODD”.

Student and Staff raise funds to wear “something odd” i.e. odd socks, different coloured laces, hair, trousers, hats etc to school.

The pupils in turn will be made aware of the plight of the people of Darfur through our lesson and assembly plans.

It is easy for schools to take part, **School Aid Network** (Charity No: 1115537) is coordinating the event and all monies will go directly to the DEC Darfur & Chad appeal.

### **How do schools get involved?**

1. Log onto [www.schoolaidnetwork.co.uk](http://www.schoolaidnetwork.co.uk)
2. Teachers register their school on the web portal.
3. Pupils get involved with our Lesson and assembly plans
4. School raises and pledges money to Darfur & Chad through the web portal
5. School Receives a Certificate to reward the donation.
6. Watch the total grow on the web portal.

## Who is School Aid Network?

Formed in January 2005, in response to the Tsunami appeal.

- Our website linked almost 3,000 schools across the UK, in fund raising activities which realised £1.3 million for the DEC (Disaster Emergency Committee) Tsunami appeal.
- After the DEC Tsunami appeal closed, we were approached by many schools still wishing to donate money. We directed them to Plan UK who were building a school in Sri Lanka. Almost £15k was sent in this way from our schools.
- We have established smaller projects where schools can involve students in work contributing to their studies. E.g. Website designs for smaller charities
- Recently we have supported the work of another charity (ABS UK), where projects in Bangladesh have already given considerable help to individual families. There is an aim now to support this Charity in building a hospital in Bangladesh.
- Our new web portal will enable us to link Schools / Further and Higher Education / Youth Organisations and Charities in a wide range of opportunities (curriculum materials, volunteering and job vacancies, fund raising appeals, celebrating successes, linking skills to needs, etc.)
- School aid network trustees are mainly retired educationalists.

For full information please [www.schoolaidnetwork.co.uk](http://www.schoolaidnetwork.co.uk)

## What does School Aid Network do?

- Help schools and organisations respond to emergency appeals
- Provide a calendar of local and national events and fundraising
- Facilitate the school as the hub of the community
- Facilitate twinning of schools
- Connect to charities for information and resources
- Highlight opportunities for voluntary work & jobs with charities
- Share ideas and celebrate success
- Schools working together to redistribute excess or unwanted equipment.
- Opportunities and evidence for **"Making a Positive Contribution"** and **"Economic Awareness" for the Every Child matters initiative.**

## Why Darfur?

With violence in the region escalating, many villages are burnt out shells and two-thirds of the population in Darfur are dependent on aid. Money raised by this appeal will help people affected by the conflict, giving shelter, clean water and sanitation, emergency food and vital items such as water buckets, blankets and soap and enable medical teams to provide healthcare.

With 4.5 million people affected by the ongoing conflict, the looming rains are bringing the risk of deadly conditions like diarrhoea and malaria, especially for children, pregnant mothers and the elderly.

Aid agencies also need to bolster life-saving food and medicine stocks before the downpours hit any time within the next 4 weeks.

The gathering storms will also make the delivery of aid a much more difficult task, with vehicle tracks disappearing and swollen rivers becoming all but impossible to cross – meaning help needs to arrive as soon as possible.

Aid Agencies have been keeping people alive but access is already severely hampered by conflict and the rains will make it much harder for us to respond if we don't act now.

For full information please [www.dec.org.uk](http://www.dec.org.uk)

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