



A refugee mother giving her baby water made clean and safe by PuR.

SAVING LIVES WITH PROCTER & GAMBLE'S PuR®

More than a quarter of the Sudanese refugees in eastern Chad suffer from acute malnutrition, but lack of access to clean drinking water rather than a shortage of food is the main cause of this alarming situation, according to a recent report by the United Nations.

Water is a scarce resource in this desolate region. Refugees often walk three hours each way in sweltering heat to find water from sources contaminated by parasites and sewage. The result is illness and diarrhea, which can prove deadly for people already suffering from malnutrition and dehydration, especially the children.

In response AmeriCares, in collaboration with Procter & Gamble, has delivered one million PuR water purification sachets to the region. The sachets will provide 10,000,000 liters of clean water, enough for 30,000 refugees for two months. Curt Welling, President & CEO of AmeriCares comments, "The sachets are easy to transport, simple to use and will be a powerful tool in saving countless lives in Chad and other regions of the developing world."

Mixing the contents of one small teabag-sized packet into a container of water is all it takes to separate the dirt and other

contaminants from the water. Within minutes, the water can be filtered through a cloth, resulting in clean and safe water. Greg Allgood, PhD, associate director of the P&G Health Sciences Institute explains, "PuR acts like a dirt magnet. The research and testing clearly show that it works." In fact, a recent health intervention trial published in the American Journal of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine demonstrated PuR's effectiveness in reducing diarrheal illnesses in children.

An AmeriCares partner since 1988, Procter & Gamble has made a significant contribution to our efforts to help those in need around the world. AmeriCares thanks Procter & Gamble and looks forward to continuing our work together. ★

DID YOU KNOW?

Worldwide

- 1 billion people lack safe water¹
- An estimated 2 million children die each year because of diarrhea diseases, many of which could be prevented by safe drinking water¹
- Almost 40,000 men, women and children die each day from diseases directly related to drinking polluted water²

Sources: 1:WHO, 2:www.globalwater.org



STEP 1

A sachet of PuR is poured into a bucket of dirty lake water.



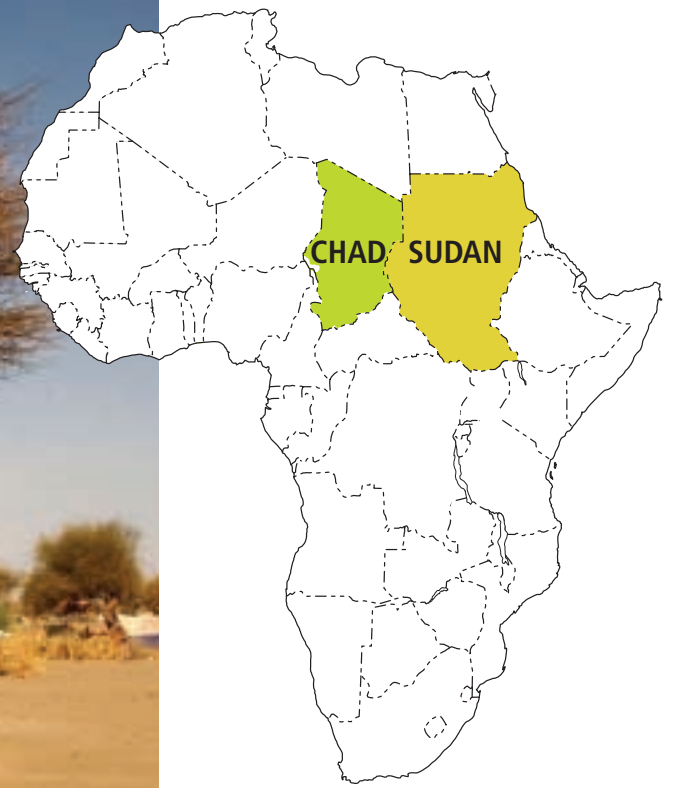
STEP 2

Clean water is filtered after the PuR process.

The Worst Humanitarian Crisis of Our Time

"This is the most dramatic race against the clock that we have anywhere in the world at the moment. If we lose, hundreds of thousands of women and children will perish," warns U.N. Emergency Coordinator Jan Egeland about the ongoing crisis in Sudan. A campaign of brutal violence in Darfur (western Sudan) has driven more than one million people from their homes. An estimated 150,000 have fled to desolate areas along the Chad/Sudan border where resources are severely inadequate and there is no shelter from the relentless desert sun and sandstorms. The U.S. Agency for International Development estimates that up to 300,000 refugees could die of starvation or disease.

Working with the International Rescue Committee, who is staffing mobile health clinics, AmeriCares has supplied 27 tons of medicines for diarrhea and cholera, IV fluids and other essential drugs and relief provisions, in addition to Procter & Gamble's PuR. Additional shipments will provide diagnostic and surgical equipment to establish a hospital in Bahai, near the Chad/Sudan border. Staffed with volunteer doctors and nurses through the IRC, the hospital will offer care for the 30,000 people taking refuge there. The hospital will also provide therapeutic feeding for the severely malnourished, comprehensive treatment for infectious diseases, and have the surgical capacity to deal with emergencies, such as complicated deliveries and trauma cases.



Makeshift homes that refugees have set up along the northeastern Chad/Sudan border.

REFLECTIONS ON CHAD

Randy Weiss
AmeriCares Relief Worker

June, 2004

As an emergency relief worker for AmeriCares I have witnessed much human suffering, both in the after-math of natural disasters and the devastation left by civil war. Co-workers had told me what they had seen in Chad on previous trips and news reports reinforced the crisis but I was still shocked by what I saw during my ten days there.

After a 13-hour commercial flight into N'djamena, the capital of Chad, an open seat on a United Nations flight took an AmeriCares co-worker and me as far as the northern town of Abeche. But we still faced a long trip to the northeast region of Bahai, where tens of thousands of refugees escaping brutality in Sudan had sought safety. With only desert sand for roads, we traveled for nine hours in an old non air-conditioned jeep wrapped in turbans to keep our bodies hydrated and protected from the sun and sand. It quickly became apparent just how desolate, remote and challenging this area is.

Once we arrived in Bahai, we viewed the immense suffering up close. Many of the refugees who made it to Chad were survivors of vicious beatings and rape. They had witnessed brutal killings of their husbands and brothers and the burning of their villages and towns. Their journey from Sudan to Chad, often six days on foot, had taken its toll with no food or water. Many others had died along the way.

Living situations in Chad were not much better. "Shelter" was often a scrub tree, not enough to shade a family from 100 plus degree heat. Dead animal carcasses littered the land around us. Once a source of wealth for these people, these animals now pose the threat of disease. The desperate search for water is constant. Water in old wells, often a three-hour walk away, is contaminated with parasites and sewage. They drank it anyway.

Much of our days were spent traveling with the International Rescue Committee, our partner in the region, to set up mobile medical clinics. We check for malnourishment in the young by measuring their wrists, which are usually too thin. Many are so sick they throw up any food and water. Children are so severely dehydrated they can no longer shed tears as they cry out in hunger. The dust that is everywhere infects the lungs of many of the refugees, causing terrible respiratory infections. It was very difficult to witness.

I am thankful we can bring assistance to these desperate people by supplying water purification tools, critical medicines and medical equipment. But it was hard to watch the extreme suffering knowing I come from a place where water runs freely and food is often thrown away. The stories, the sadness and the suffering will continue to haunt me. I can only hope the world acts quickly to help these people who have endured unthinkable atrocities. ★



Refugees await medical care at an overwhelmed clinic in Bahai, Chad.

Future AmeriCares Disaster Relief Shipments



Chad/Sudan



Haiti



Dominican Republic

AmeriCares
 ★★★★★

Since its founding in 1982, AmeriCares has provided more than \$3.5 billion of short-term and long-term assistance to more than 137 countries. When a country is faced with hardship as a result of hurricanes, floods, earthquakes or civil strife, AmeriCares responds immediately with life-saving relief assistance and continues its support as long as there is a need. AmeriCares works with in-country partners to determine local needs and customize the appropriate assistance, assembles product donations from the private sector and solicits the funding to send the aid via airlift or ocean cargo. AmeriCares works hard to ensure that it is effective and accountable, and has been awarded the four-star rating from Charity Navigator. For every \$100 donated, more than \$2,800 of aid is delivered.

For more information about AmeriCares or to make a donation, visit our web site at:
www.americares.org