

Local Relief Agency Assists Families in Sudan

A second group of medical volunteers with Northwest Medical Teams is now caring for suffering families camped in makeshift shelters in conflict-ridden Sudan.

The medical workers are in the West Darfur region where nearly 1.5 million people struggle to survive in temporary housing. The camps have little food, no medicines and scarce water supplies.

Another team of volunteers from the local relief agency just returned from a four-week assignment.

"The last 18 months have been horrific for the people of Sudan," says Bas Vanderzalm, president of Northwest Medical Teams. "The ongoing violence and fear have caused hundreds of thousands of families to be uprooted, losing crops, livestock and their very livelihoods. Our volunteers will bring medical care and hope to people who are traumatized physically and emotionally."

The volunteers have been assigned to provide healthcare

in three local clinics and to teach Sudanese healthcare providers in a regional hospital near El Geneina. The U.N. estimates that relief efforts will be needed at least through late 2005.

To contribute to Northwest Medical Teams Sudan Disaster Relief Fund, call 1-800-959-4325. Donations can also be made at any US Bank office.



Dr. Mike Pendleton, a Northwest Medical Teams volunteer, assists families camped in shelters in Sudan. The physician just returned to Oregon from the conflict-ridden country.

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Moore Blasts Republican Priorities

(AP)—Michael Moore shot back at Republicans after they requested that the filmmaker be prosecuted for offering underwear and food to college students in exchange for their promise to vote.

"It's ironic that Republicans have no problem with allowing assault weapons out on our streets, yet they don't want to put clean underwear in the hands of our slacker youth," Moore said. "The Republicans seem more interested in locking me up for trying to encourage people to participate in our democracy than locking up bin Laden for his attacks on our democracy."

The Michigan GOP asked four county prosecutors Oct. 5 to file charges against Moore, citing an

election law provision that prohibits a person from contracting with another for something of value in exchange for agreeing to vote.

So far, no prosecutions have been announced.

Moore is touring the country and imploring "slackers" who usually don't vote to head to the polls



Michael Moore speaks to a crowd Oct. 4 at the University of Florida in Gainesville. (AP photo)

this year, saying they could make the difference in the presidential race.

During each program, habitual nonvoters are invited on stage to pledge to vote. First-time student voters are offered gag prizes such as clean underwear.

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