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The Caravan of Hope has come to its end...

...and Lilianne Donders, wife of Robert Weener, Shell's Country Chairman for Iran, is giving her four camels a well-earned rest, following their mammoth trek from Tehran to Oman and back to Dubai.

The Caravan of Hope started in Tehran in August 2003 and since then Lilianne, her four camels, two dogs and a team of helpers have covered in excess of 4,000 kilometres.

"The purpose," says Lilianne, "was to raise money to build a women's clinic for displaced Palestinian women living in Jordan. The plan is to build this clinic close to the border with Palestine so that Palestinians can cross into Jordan for treatment.

"So far we have raised US \$100,000 but we are still trying to raise more. We have enough to build the clinic but I would have liked to have raised more to open a small but fully equipped hospital."

This was Lilianne's second charity walk with her camels to raise money for the welfare of Arab women in the region. Her first walk, the Caravan for Cancer was, she explains, "to raise funds for a mobile Well Woman Clinic in Syria for the Bedouin women who live out in the desert. This has been very successful and continues to provide treatment with the help of the Hilal al Ahmar [Red Crescent]."

As for more charity walks, she says, "At the moment the camels and I need a rest - as do my dogs, sons and husband, all of whom accompanied me on various parts of the walk. However, once we have all taken time out I am sure that another charity walk will appear on the horizon."

Any queries regarding Lilianne's fund-raisers can be sent to her via 'Shell in the Middle East'.