

Charity sets up tent village

A Bradford-based charity is continuing its work on a tent village for survivors of the South Asia earthquake in Muzaffarabad.

The Human Relief Foundation (HRF) has set up a tent village for about 4,000 refugees in Thuri Park based in the Lower Chatter Valley on the bank of the River Neelum.

A delegation of five from the charity travelled to Pakistan with \$100,000 to buy all the equipment needed and now project co-ordinator Yousaf Razaq has stayed on to monitor the transfer of refugees from the city to the park.

HRF has been working alongside other international aid agencies to set up the village. The UN refugee agency UNHCR has

donated an extra 180 tents, while Oxfam has committed to provide 150 toilets for the village.

Caritas has provided a water filtration plant worth about £19,000 to ensure clean drinking water for the village and the Al-Mustafa Welfare Society has provided more than 200 volunteers to set up the tents and arrange for the storage of all the relief aid.

Mr Razaq said: "Work is being carried out round the clock so that the refugees can quickly move into their new abode until it is decided what will happen to the city. People are desperate but patient as they know they'll have a roof over their head."

The government of Azad Jammu Kashmir has provided the land,

connected the electricity and assigned nine full-time policemen to provide security for the village.

The volunteers from the Al-Mustafa Welfare Society will supervise and monitor the transfer of refugees from the city to the park.

It is still possible to donate food, water, clothes or blankets to the HRF by dropping them off at the Claremont Community Trust at 13-15 Claremont, in Great Horton. Pakistan International Airlines has agreed to transport any cargo for free to Islamabad.

Mr Razaq said phone lines for the charity had been jammed with people wanting to donate but the survivors' need is huge and donations are still needed.