

VOLUNTEER GOES ON MISSION TO QUAKE ZONE

'Give the survivors a chance'

by **SUNITA BHATTI**
T&A Reporter

A charity worker from Bradford on his first mercy mission abroad has spoken of the need to help survivors of the earthquake get on with their lives.

Yousaf Razaq, a project co-ordinator with the Human Relief Foundation, based in Bradford, has been working in Pakistan and Kashmir for the past month.

This is the first time that Mr Razaq has travelled with HRF on a humanitarian mission.

"It's been a big challenge," he said. "Over time it's just turned into a whole different ball game."

He said that as the weeks had passed since the earthquake, the aid effort had changed from providing relief to finding a way to help the survivors begin to rebuild their lives.

The HRF team initially sent out a team of five to stay for ten days. Mr Razaq stayed on to continue the relief effort and he will not be leaving until the end of November.

Although the effects of the earthquake can be seen in Islamabad, the capital of Pakistan, it was the Kashmir region which suffered the most. And the work of the HRF has

been focused on the city of Muzaffarabad. Mr Razaq, who has seen first hand the level of devastation in this region, said that the charity is focusing its efforts on this area but this does not mean that other parts of Kashmir are being neglected. He explained that charities and NGOs from around the world were working to get relief across the region.

The efforts of HRF have focused on getting a tent village for 4,000 people up and running and the first group of families have been able to take up residence this week.

The village has been created in Thuri Park near Muzaffarabad. And additional support and help has come in UNICEF, Oxfam, Caritas, the Al-Mustafa Welfare Society and the Kashmiri government.

Mr Razaq said that the combined efforts of each organisation means that these families will have food, shelter, running water, a clinic, a mosque, a school and most importantly a safe place to live.

Anyone that would like to donate money to the Human Relief Foundation to support these families should telephone 08700 117 112/113.

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Donations are flooding in to help the victims

Donations of clothes, food and shelter are still coming into the Human Relief Foundation (HRF) in Great Horton to help survivors of the South Asia earthquake.

On Wednesday, a lorry filled with aid was loaded up ready to be sent out to Pakistan through the United Nations.

The charity is continuing to collect aid as long as it is needed. Anyone that would like to donate any food,

water, clothes or blankets to the HRF can drop them off at the Claremont Community Trust at 13-15 Claremont, in Great Horton.

HRF representatives are still in Muzaffarabad working to help survivors set up a tent village on the outskirts of the city. Azeema Bhatti is pictured with some of the parcels from the Human Relief Foundation in Bradford.

