

● **City relief charity to send £25,000**

● **Fund gets calls from Europe**

by **KATHIE GRIFFITHS**

T&A Reporter

A Bradford relief charity has vowed to send more than £25,000 towards the world's largest aid operation to help countries stricken by the tsunami disaster.

Essential supplies from 24 nations are already being flown in to the 11 countries devastated by the underwater quake that has claimed more than 70,000 lives.

Food, water sterilisation equipment, shelter and medicine are urgently needed as aid officials fear the risk of disease could now threaten the lives of many of the survivors.

To help the humanitarian effort, the Human Relief Foundation, based in Great Horton, has pledged its financial support and has launched a major appeal asking the public for more donations to boost its emergency efforts.

The Foundation's project co-ordinator Yousaf Razaq said the charity would be sending the cash as soon as possible.

He said: "The cash will go where it's needed most. It will be channelled via sister organisations who are either working in the UK or are out there in Sri Lanka, Indonesia and India. This time charities are joining together in a relief effort as it is such a big crisis and impossible for one charity to work alone.

"We have been inundated with calls from right across Europe. Our phone-lines have been ringing non-stop and we are getting e-mail after e-mail offering help. We are confident we will be able to top £26,000."

Thousands of leaflets asking for donations will be handed out in Bradford over the next couple of days and pushed through letterboxes.

The Human Relief Foundation has worked in 40 countries since it was set up in 1991 after the first Gulf War.

It regularly sends out aid from Bradford and across the UK.

The massive aid operation in South Asia and the Far East is being co-ordinated by United Nations chiefs – and disaster assessment teams are working round the clock to pinpoint where help is most urgently needed.

Anyone wanting to make donations to



DESTRUCTION: Meulaboh in the Aceh province of Indonesia. Facing page, people run after an aid truck in India

the Human Relief Foundation for its tsunami disaster aid efforts can send cheques made payable to the charity at Freepost BD3125, PO Box 194, Bradford BD7 1BR or pay in to Barclays bank account, sort code 20-11-81, account number 70554022. For further details, visit www.hrf.co.uk.

Oxfam's Yorkshire campaigns officer Kim Tan, who is Malaysian and lived in the South East Asian region for 18 years, appealed today for more help for a massive relief effort in areas devastated by the Boxing Day tsunami.

He said: "The British public's response has been phenomenal. Oxfam's appeal has received over £633,000 in the days since the disaster,

and donations are continuing to come in.

"But it is vital that governments meet their responsibilities to help those affected by the disaster with short-term emergency aid, and the funds that will be needed to rebuild lives and communities.

"The international response to this disaster must not be at the expense of existing aid budgets, or future increases in aid, but must be an additional funding effort. The scale of this catastrophe requires the biggest international response effort ever seen."

Oxfam's international director Jasmine Whitbread said: "If we are to be fast, effective and save lives, it is

absolutely critical there is strong co-ordination to the response to this crisis at the local, national and international levels."

A plane chartered by Oxfam headed yesterday for Sri Lanka and Indonesia, carrying 27 tons of emergency water and sanitation equipment which will provide safe water for 170,000 people.

To donate to Oxfam call 0870 333 2500 or go online at www.oxfam.org.uk.

The Federation of Tour Operators, which has been arranging the flying of empty planes to the region to bring back stranded holidaymakers, has started organising the transport of aid on the outward flights.

● **Continued on facing page**