

Author: Dr. Tayyeb Tahir
Designation: KLWT Fund Raiser - UK

The Experience from Wales

Despite the tragic events that we all had to face due to this Earthquake of 8th Oct 2005, it has been good working with you all.

Life for all of us who have a link with Pakistan has changed after this earthquake. An email to me from someone who came back after the DAY 2 said "THERE ARE DEAD AROUND AND NO ONE TO BURY THEM". This should be enough to shake even strongest of people into action to do something for those who were left alive. We have to do something more actively rather than passive donations to help our country folk to recover and rehabilitate.

Soon after we were shaken into action I sent SMS to all my contacts on my mobile. One Welsh colleague of mine wrote back "TELL ME WHAT TO DO? I WANT TO DO SOMETHING". I went to visit an elderly patient at home and her son said to me "CAN YOU SEND ME TO PAKISTAN, I'LL HELP DIG PEOPLE OUT?" There are many accounts like these that can easily fill many pages.

That was a start of a very humbling journey of fund raising for earthquake relief. I can't thank Allah Almighty for people having a strong trust on us to pass on their donations of a total more than £40,000 in to right hands to spend on orphans, those without shelter, cold, hungry and injured.

May Allah give us all the strength and courage to continue to do the good work with sincere intentions.

The people of Wales have been exceptional in their support. This narration can't be complete without mentioning a few:

* MR BOB JAMES of BIRD has been a real hero for us. He responded to the radio interview on Monday following the earthquake by sending to Pakistan two shipments of tents, First Aid & medical equipment, clothing, sleeping bags and much more.

* MR TONY TOBIN volunteering from North Wales to go and work at a medical clinic set up by klwt and then handed over to Child Advocacy International.

* Mr ISHTIAQ for helping us in sending the shipments from BIRD and Tony to Pakistan.

* The numerous donors from all over Wales who have contributed significantly to make our total.

* Welsh print and electronic media in highlighting the devastation.

* My fellow Rawallians from RMC Alumni UK for supporting my call.

One retired elderly lady sent a cheque from her pension and a note saying “IF I WAS YOUNGER I WOULD HAVE BEEN OUT THERE HELPING WITH MY OWN HANDS”. I guess that is the least we can do to help those in need.

I hope the funds raised through the joint collaboration of SIAN Cymru and RMC Alumni UK have helped a few. Sadly it is only a drop in an ocean of devastation.