

DISASTERS EMERGENCY COMMITTEE (DEC) LAUNCHES INDONESIA TSUNAMI APPEAL

Leading UK aid agencies today [Thursday 4 October] announced a joint fundraising appeal to help the survivors of the 7.4 magnitude earthquake and tsunami that struck Central Sulawesi Province, Indonesia, last Friday.

Over 1,300 people are confirmed dead and 200,000 people are in urgent need of clean water, food, medical care and shelter.

Homes and entire communities have been destroyed after the earthquake and a tsunami with waves travelling at over 400 miles per hour left a trail of destruction in their wake in one of the worst Indonesian disasters since the 2004 Boxing Day tsunami.

As rescuers struggle to reach outlying communities, authorities fear that casualties and the number of people displaced by the disaster will rise in the coming days. Up to 1.5 million people may have been affected.

The DEC Indonesia Tsunami Appeal is launching today and will be shown on all major UK broadcasters including BBC, ITV, Channel 4, Channel 5 and Sky.

DEC Chief Executive, Saleh Saeed, said:

“DEC member charities and their local partners are working closely with the Indonesian authorities to get aid to those who urgently need it, as well as helping survivors to cope with the trauma of the last few days.

“As the full scale of the disaster unfolds, they are providing emergency relief and are ready to help devastated communities to rebuild their lives.

“There is an urgent need for clean drinking water, food, medical care and shelter. Please give generously and let’s save the survivors.”

At times of very great need, the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) brings together a unique alliance of the UK’s leading aid agencies and broadcasters to maximise fundraising and quickly deliver effective emergency relief. The DEC brings together 14 major UK aid agencies: Action Against Hunger, ActionAid UK, Age International, British Red Cross, CAFOD, CARE International UK, Christian Aid, Concern Worldwide UK, Islamic Relief Worldwide, Oxfam GB, Plan International UK, Save the Children UK, Tearfund and World Vision UK.

We will have a collection in church over the next two weeks, or you can contribute directly on www.dec.org.uk and follow the Indonesia appeal link.