

Hospital supplies from Bradford 'in Baghdad'

by **STEVE TEALE**
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Medical supplies from Bradford have entered Baghdad, charity workers said today.

Two lorries packed with equipment spent days on the border with Syria awaiting permission to enter Iraq.

But organisers have received word that they have now crossed the border and entered the Iraqi capital.

The supplies - organised by the Human Relief Foundation in Great Horton Road - are mainly hospital equipment.

The charity's managing director, Dr Nabeel Al-Ramadhani, was in Baghdad with a medical team to deliver the aid programme.

A spokesman for the HRF in Bradford said: "The attack on Iraq may now be confined to history but for many Iraqi citizens, the struggle for sur-

vival is just beginning."

The HRF has set up an office in the Syrian capital Damascus to work alongside the office in Baghdad.

The HRF hospitals have little or no stock of the most basic medications. The decision to go to Baghdad follows an emergency meeting of aid organisations held in Qatar last month.

The HRF has been supported by people across the world, including many in Bradford.

Bradford schoolchildren raised almost £5,000 for their young counterparts in Iraq.

The foundation asked youngsters at schools across Bradford to take part in the fundraising drive.

They held the same campaign last year and ran it again as it was so successful. Project co-ordinator Yousaf Razaq said it was a tremendous effort.

He said: "We did the same thing last year and the chil-

dren did really well. This time we extended it to more schools and again we were overwhelmed by the response."

Children did sponsored events, baked buns and made gifts to sell in order to raise the money, putting their earnings into envelopes to pass back to the Human Relief Foundation. Some youngsters simply took home envelopes which were filled by generous relatives.

"This year, more than last, the need to send over money for vital equipment and medicines is more pressing than ever," said Mr Razaq.

This year the project was again supported by the Interfaith Education Centre.

Nineteen schools were involved in the project, including Carlton Bolling College, Copthorne Primary, Lapage Primary, Margaret McMillan Primary, Miriam Lord Primary and Westbourne Primary.