



KICKER: The camp at Thuri Park where the work of the Human Relief Foundation continues to help these survivors

Aid still needed as survivors head for home

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by **SUNITA BHATTI**

T&A Reporter

Bradford-based charity the Human Relief Foundation is continuing to work on providing aid to survivors of the South Asian earthquake which struck in October.

Projector co-ordinator Yousaf Razaq told the Telegraph & Argus that he worked with a bank in Saudi Arabia which has offered to provide funding for school equipment and meat.

In the six months that have passed since the earthquake hit, the charity has set up a camp at Thuri Park for around 400 families on the banks of the Neelam River in Muzaffarabad, costing more than £150,000 to provide food, shelter and medical supplies for the people living there.

"Our immediate priority was rescuing and treating the injured and other survivors



and providing basic necessities to prevent death and illness from secondary causes.

What turned out to be a one-week task has ended up being a one-year mission," said Mr Razaq, pictured above.

But now families are leaving Thuri Park and slowly returning home. These families still need urgent assistance in rebuilding infrastructure, schools, water and sanitation systems and livelihoods.

"As survivors look to restart their lives, their conditions at home are our top priority."

The Islamic Development Bank based in Saudi Arabia has offered to pay for 20,000 kgs of meat to be distributed by HRF to the villagers.

Mr Razaq explained this donation would provide 10kg of meat for every individual who had been living in the Thuri Park camp.

In addition the bank has offered to pay for packs of text books, exercise books, stationery and bags to be handed out to the 3,000 schoolchildren in the Muzaffarabad district.

"These two initiatives will make a massive difference to the health and education of children whose lives have been turned upside down," stressed Mr Razaq.

"But the need for funds and donations is as urgent as ever." To donate to the Human Relief Foundation go to www.hrf.co.uk or telephone 08700 117 112.

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