



P R E S S R E L E A S E

Newport organisation supplies vital medical equipment to help earthquake survivors in Kashmir

27th October, 2005

A Newport-based disability organisation has donated vital medical equipment to treat earthquake survivors in a remote valley in Pakistan-administered Kashmir.

ResponsABLE assistance, which provides emergency relief to disabled people affected by natural and man-made disasters, has donated splints and slings that will be used to treat approximately 150 people with fractures.

The equipment has been given to Merlin, a UK-based medical aid agency which is running a field hospital and a temporary clinic in Panjkot village, which is currently only accessible by helicopter.

Merlin will be setting up a second field hospital in the Neelum valley in the coming days, and will be rebuilding health facilities in the longer term to replace those that have been destroyed by the earthquake.

All roads to the region are impassable due to multiple landslides, so Merlin has been completely dependent on helicopters to send in staff and supplies.

Trevor Palmer, Head of ResponsABLE assistance, said: "We are very proud that we are linking up with an organisation such as Merlin to distribute this equipment, and we hope that we can work together in the future."

Allan Bell, Merlin's Operations Manager for Asia, said: "Merlin would like to thank ResponsABLE assistance for supporting our work in Pakistan, which is providing vital medical relief for the people of Panjkot and Neelum valley. All health facilities in this region have been completely destroyed, and Merlin's priority is to get temporary health facilities up and running as quickly as possible

"Our medical specialists are now working round the clock to treat the injured and sick, and to ensure that the more serious cases get the attention that they need."

Merlin is a member of the UK's Disasters Emergency Committee, which is co-ordinating a nationwide fundraising appeal for earthquake survivors. To make a donation to Merlin, please call 0870 60 60 900 or give online at ww.dec.org.uk or to ResponsABLE assistance call 01633 216644.

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NOTES TO MEDIA:

- Merlin is the only specialist UK charity which responds worldwide with vital health care and medical relief for vulnerable people caught up in natural disasters, conflict, disease and health system collapse. Each year, Merlin helps more than 15 million people in up to 20 countries.

For more information, please visit www.merlin.org.uk

ResponsABLE assistance is a Not for Profit organisation.

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