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STATEMENT ON EMERGENCY APPEALS FROM THE AUSTRALIAN MERCY BOARD

From time to time Australian Relief & Mercy Services Ltd (Australian Mercy) will launch emergency appeals so that it can respond to disasters and other emergency situations.

Australian Mercy takes all donations to such appeals very seriously and handles the funds given with the same care as it does for all other support that is given to its projects.

All donations made to an emergency appeal have a 5% administration charge levied against them. This percentage has been capped by the Australian Mercy Board and the funds help us to cover the administration costs involved in running the appeal. 95% of all donations will be used to alleviate the need related to the emergency appeal.

Appeal funds are usually used to provide medicines, clothes, plastic sheeting, food, clean water and other direct needs that people caught up in disaster may have. A small percentage of the funds may be used to pay for transport costs of getting teams or resources to the disaster or refugee sites.

All emergency appeals usually have a cut off date. Once an appeal has reached its cut-off date, Australian Mercy will do one of two things with the unspent funds or excess funds that come in.

1. The funds can be transferred to ongoing second phase projects related to the emergency, such as reconstruction work etc. For example; excess funds from our Boxing Day Tsunami Appeal in 2004 / 2005 were used to maintain a hospital in Aceh that was serving tsunami refugee populations.

2. The other option we have is to place excess funds into our Emergency Response Fund (ERF). The ERF is an account we use to launch an emergency response. It pays for some of the initial costs of sending out a disaster response team. These costs might include the purchase of medical supplies or emergency resources and equipment that teams take with them. The ERF can give team leaders cash in hand that they can use on site to buy needed resources. Eventually once donations begin to come in the ERF is repaid the money that was outlaid and the funds are there for the next time Australian Mercy responds to a disaster. The ERF is subject to Australian Mercy annual audit.

Australian Mercy wants to thank its many donors for supporting to its emergency appeals and hopes that this statement will give better understanding of exactly how use the donations to these appeals.

If you have any questions, please contact the Australian Mercy National Office (info@australianmercy.org)

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "D Skeat", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

David Skeat
National Director / Chairman