

24 March 2012

Knowledge – Unity – Self-reliance – Healing ...



This is what **KUSH** means – headed by Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar Belkys Lopez, our in-country partner in South Sudan. The devastation and displacement of families, especially female and children-headed families in South Sudan is so great, we returned with another 400 Family Survival tents and additional 800 mosquito nets. KUSH were so impressed with the way we go about our humanitarian aid delivery, they are now fundraising within the Sudanese communities around the world for 1,000s of our **Disaster Aid Australia** Family Survival tents.

Belkys Lopez said of our assistance to the people of South Sudan, “you guys provided the first help to the Dinka’s in Abyei. No other NGO has made it there. Now they will follow.”

Our first Disaster Aid Response Team (DART) members to arrive in Abyei and Agok were Larry Agee and Tore Knos from DA USA setting all logistical strategies in place in readiness for the second team to arrive.

Howard Bradfield from the Rotary Club of Woodend (Vic), on his first deployment as a volunteer DART formed part of the second team together with DAI Head of Training & Deployment Ed Cox and another first-timer in Nick Robinson from the UK.

On returning from South Sudan, Howard said, “this was probably the hardest three weeks of my life – physically and emotionally. We delivered the first Disaster Aid tent to a lady who lost her husband and she and her children had lived under a tree since last May, only eating berries for food. It was gratifying to see her and her children now safe and secure in one of our tents – you would have thought we had given her a Ferrari, she smiled so much!”

“I was proud as an Australian Rotarian to be a part of this deployment – rebuilding this community,” he said.

Following personal meetings with the Abyei Government and other non-government organisations, Disaster Aid was praised for not only our humanitarian aid, but also for the adaptability and range of product.

We continue to serve ... all in the name of our fellow Australian Rotarians.



And...

Patron: Max Walker AM

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Update from the Philippines – *Rebuilding Communities ... together.*



We at Disaster Aid Australia continue to monitor the delivery of our life-saving Family Survival boxes through our partner on the ground, The Balay Mindanaw Foundation (BMFI).

The BMFI reports, “The Disaster Aid International tents remained to be the most resilient in all tent communities. In more than two months, we haven’t seen or heard any major complaints from the residents. What we always hear is their query on when and where they shall have their permanent shelters”.

Jenni Heenan, CEO of Disaster Aid Australia said, “we are extremely proud of the quality of our products and importantly, how they are delivered and installed. In every instance we work with the local authorities to ensure those most in need receive the aid donated by Rotarians and our generous donors around the world in accordance with UN standards to allow the survivors of disasters a chance at a safe and secure new beginning. And of course, we totally respect these survivors and afford them the dignity they deserve by planning the best outcomes before we set up their new homes.”

“We are in the business of putting smiles back on the faces of those who have lost everything following a disaster and working in the name of our generous donors and this is certainly the case in our deployment to the Philippines,” Jenni said.

“With a citation from the Filipino Government, we continue to grow and show the world how committed we are to providing the best possible aid; all delivered with dignity and respect,” she said.

Smiles now from the Philippines ...



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\$1 million needed urgently

When?

By 31 March, 2012

Why?

Family Survival boxes are depleted following deployments to Sudan, Haiti, Dadaab and the Philippines.

What?

Purchase of 1,250 Family Survival boxes.

How?

Donate to DAA, an Australian Rotary club project delivering aid on behalf of Australians.



**Please help – we cannot continue to rebuild
devastated communities without your support.
The need is now.**