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World Vision aids flood stricken families in Kelantan

KOTA BHARU, 8 JANUARY 2015, THURSDAY - About 800 families affected by the devastating floods in Kelantan received relief aid from local humanitarian organization, World Vision Malaysia and its partner, CREST (Crisis Relief Services & Training).

Food, clean drinking water, hygiene essentials, household items, cleaning kits and educational supplies for children were distributed over two days in Tumpat and Kuala Krai to help the affected families in their initial recovery process.

“Our initial stage response focuses on providing essentials to meet the immediate needs of the people, especially children who are the most vulnerable during disasters. In our assessment, Kuala Krai was one of the worst affected areas, and the community here has gone through a lot with loss of their possessions and livelihood means. Being able to lend a helping hand in such crucial times and seeing their faces light up as they received the relief items was priceless.” said Stephanie Chin, Floods Response Manager of World Vision Malaysia.

In Kuala Krai, 600 families were gathered on Tuesday at a temporary distribution station set up in a local primary school turned evacuation shelter and World Vision, staff members and volunteers with the support from the Malaysian Army handed out the relief items.

In Tumpat, the most urgent need was clean drinking water with water supply disrupted. The local community had to resort to drawing water from muddy rivers nearby or by digging their own makeshift wells. Two hundred families received relief items from World Vision Malaysia and CREST on Wednesday.

“It is important that we continue to work closely with the communities after the news subsides and the plight in the aftermath no longer receive due attention. World Vision will continue its assessment of the ground situation to look into the needs of those affected, and assist in the recovery process. The task of recovery and restoration can be daunting but if we all can stand together with compassion in our hearts, we can bounce back together. Therefore, we urge all to continue supporting our work here in the coming months,” Chin added.

As evacuees start to return home as the flood recedes, staff members and volunteers would also be assisting local communities to clean up schools and community areas. More distributions of relief items are planned for Kuala Betis, Gua Musang this week.

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