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Attention: BDMs

ME donates \$40,000 to the Red Cross for earthquake victims in China and for cyclone victims in Myanmar (Burma)

As part of Members Equity Bank's (ME's) commitment to corporate and social responsibility (CSR), ME will be donating \$40,000 to the Red Cross to assist its disaster relief appeal in both Sichuan Province, China, and Myanmar (Burma).

In the aftermath of a massive earthquake in central China, the death toll from the 12 May quake may reach 50,000 with more than 100,000 injured. The 7.9-magnitude earthquake has damaged approximately 58 counties and towns in the mountainous western province of China and thousands of people remain buried under the rubble of collapsed buildings.

The Chinese government estimates that as many as 4.9 million homes have been destroyed. The earthquake was so powerful that skyscrapers swayed hundreds of miles away and the shocks were felt as far away as Thailand and Vietnam.

At the same time, a profound human tragedy is occurring in Burma following the destructive impact of cyclone Nargis. Tens of thousands of people have been killed and many more have been injured and rendered homeless. The Australian Red Cross estimates up to a million people have been displaced.

The Red Cross China appeal to date has raised over \$840,000 with more donations expected over the coming days.

The Red Cross is the only organisation (besides the Government agencies) currently engaged in disaster response activities on a nationwide scale in China. So far, its Myanmar (Burma) appeal has raised over \$1.9 million dollars and again, more donations are still coming in.

Affiliates and members wishing to donate can go to <https://www.redcross.org.au/Donations/onlineDonations.asp> to make their donation to this tragic event.

Media Enquiries

Megan Jones, ME Public Affairs Manager, 03 9605 6334