

## OBI DISASTER RELIEF EFFORTS NOW UNDERWAY IN INDIA, VIETNAM, THE PHILIPPINES AND INDONESIA

–OBI Will Send 100% Of Donations Directly To Disaster Relief Efforts–

VIRGINIA BEACH, VA (October 5, 2009) – The humanitarian organization Operation Blessing International (OBI) has expanded its disaster relief efforts into India and Vietnam, in addition to major ongoing operations in Indonesia and the Philippines.

In Indonesia, OBI has over 40 relief workers on the ground helping earthquake victims in Padang and the surrounding area, including four medical teams in addition to a logistics and distribution team. The charity is focusing on reaching remote villages cut off since last week's earthquake due to landslides, where thousands have died and many more are buried in the rubble. In addition to providing medical care to victims, OBI is distributing thousands of shelter kits containing mattresses, blankets and other materials to provide temporary shelters to victims, as well as thousands of family survival kits containing food, water and emergency provisions.

In the Philippines, which has been hit by two typhoons in over a week, Operation Blessing International's disaster relief teams have helped more than 97,000 victims with relief such as emergency food and water, medical care and cleanup assistance. Today, OBI secured \$151,000 worth of emergency medicines from long-time partner Medical Assistance Programs International (MAP), which international shipping company DHL—another key partner with OBI—has agreed to fly into Manila later this week. OBI has an office in the hard-hit city of Manila, where 80 percent of buildings were flooded.

In India, OBI is responding to record-breaking flooding that has killed 270 people and left millions homeless following torrential rains over the weekend. The charity has its national headquarters in Hyderabad and has been providing humanitarian efforts in the country since 1998, helping millions through clean water projects, medical missions, disaster relief and microenterprise operations.

In Vietnam, OBI is delivering emergency meals to thousands in Quang Nam in the aftermath of Typhoon Ketsana, which affected some 3 million in that country. Since Friday, OBI has delivered over 3,000 emergency meals in flooded areas only accessible by boat. Workers are also preparing to purchase large quantities of tin in order to repair some of the hundreds of homes damaged by the storms.

Bill Horan, president of Operation Blessing International, said, "The last week has seen an unprecedented amount of disasters in Asia with tens of millions displaced. Operation Blessing International is helping in four of the hardest-hit countries, but we would like to expand efforts to assist victims. Cash donations are badly needed at this time, and OBI will send 100% of all donations received directly to these disaster relief efforts."

To donate or read more about OBI's efforts, please log on to [www.ob.org](http://www.ob.org)

#### ABOUT OPERATION BLESSING INTERNATIONAL:

Operation Blessing International (OBI) is one of the largest charities in America, providing strategic disaster relief, medical aid, hunger relief, clean water and community development in 22 countries around the world on a daily basis. In 2009, OBI was awarded Charity Navigator's coveted 4 star rating for sound fiscal management for the fifth year in a row, a feat that only 4% of rated charities have ever achieved. Forbes, which currently ranks OBI as one of "America's 200 Largest Charities" as well as one of "America's Most Efficient Charities," awarded OBI a perfect 100% rating in fundraising efficiency and 99% efficiency in charitable commitment. Additionally, the Chronicle of Philanthropy recently ranked OBI as the 58th largest non-governmental organization and 9th largest international charity.

In 2008, OBI responded to 33 disasters in 16 foreign countries as well as 7 major domestic disasters. Most recently, OBI mobilized teams and funded major relief and recovery efforts in Italy, Myanmar, the Sichuan Province of China, Rift Valley in Kenya, Bangladesh, Mexico, Nicaragua, Peru, the Darfur region of Sudan, Pakistan, Somalia, India, Indonesia, Mozambique and the Philippines. OBI has also made headlines as a first responder to U.S. hurricanes, floods and tornadoes as well as the tsunami disaster in Indonesia, Sri Lanka, India and Thailand. In addition to directing major disaster relief efforts, OBI has often filled the role of logistical arm to organizations including the International Red Cross, the Salvation Army, UNICEF and the United Nations World Food Program.

Founded in 1978, Operation Blessing International has touched the lives of more than 215 million people in more than 105 countries and 50 states, providing goods and services valued at over \$2.1 billion to date.

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