

A VERY BIG YEAR

Two major national appeals made 2004/05 the biggest fundraising period for the DEC to date

We launched the first appeal in response to a harrowing man-made disaster in Darfur, Western Sudan. The second, launched in answer to the Indian Ocean Tsunami – a truly devastating natural disaster – tapped into a mood of extraordinary compassion and generosity among the general public, took on a life of its own, and raised ten times the amount collected for Sudan. This staggering response makes the Tsunami Earthquake Appeal the biggest DEC appeal so far by a very wide margin.

Along the way, the DEC notched up some notable 'firsts'. These included the chance to donate by mobile phone text message, and via the 'red button' on interactive television. Pop and rock bands staged the first-ever mega-benefit gigs for the DEC – in Scotland and Wales. And we broke the world record for most money raised on-line, too – an incredible £10 million in just 24 hours for the Tsunami Earthquake Appeal.

Such success helps us to do our job immeasurably. And that job, of course, is getting our member

agencies the funds they need to allow them to distribute vital emergency aid, relieve human suffering, and support people's efforts to rebuild their lives.

And in this, the DEC member agencies proved themselves more than worthy of the public's trust this year. Several hundred tonnes of aid was delivered to where it was most needed.

To everyone who has supported DEC appeals this year – a very big 'thank you' for helping us in our work.

