FACT SHEET
24 October 2017

CHEQUE HANDOVER

RAHMATAN LIL ALAMIN FOUNDATION & MOSQUES IN SINGAPORE RAISED S$345,000 FOR REFUGEES FLEEING TO BANGLADESH & S$95,200 FOR SURVIVORS OF SOUTH ASIA FLOODS

1. The Rahmatan Lil Alamin (Blessings-to-All) Foundation (RLA), in collaboration with all mosques in Singapore organised special fund raising initiatives between 8 and 14 September 2017 for survivors of the South Asia flood, followed by a collection between 9 and 15 September 2017 for refugees fleeing from Rakhine State to Bangladesh.

Refugees Fleeing to Bangladesh

2. In addition, on 26 September, four organisations expressed support for this urgent initiative. The Singapore Buddhist Federation supported by temples under their charge, Spiritual Assembly of Baha’is Singapore, Madrasah Aljunied Al-Islamiah and the Muslim Converts Association of Singapore handed over a total of S$59,000 to the Foundation for the above cause. To date the total collections from the Singapore Muslim community including contributions from partner organisations listed above amounts to S$345,000 for refugees fleeing to Bangladesh.

3. The total amount collected will be handed to the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) to be spent on life saving and core relief items as well as psycho-social health needs and education of the affected refugees. This is especially critical as the more than fifty per cent of the over 600,000 refugees are said to be the very vulnerable children, women and the elderly.

3. All 70 mosques in Singapore participated in the special collections. RLAF received much support from members of the public which sent in their donations through cash, cheque and online platforms. To date, UNHCR reported over 603,000 refugees had made their way to the camps in Bangladesh and is the fastest-growing refugee crisis in years.

4. This is the fifth instance that the Foundation had contributed to humanitarian relief efforts mounted for communities in Myanmar. All previous help was made possible with our ground partner, Mercy Relief that worked with humanitarian agencies approved by the Myanmar government. Including the collection for 2017, the Foundation has raised over S$800,000 for communities in Myanmar to date. Earlier efforts include:
South Asia Monsoon Floods 2017

5. Meanwhile, a total of S$95,200 from the Singapore Muslim community will be channelled to Mercy Relief to aid in the recovery phase for victims of the South Asia floods. Assistance will provide immediate and essential life-saving relief and aid in the form of food, clean water, medicine, hygiene kits and basic necessities. The affected countries of Bangladesh, India and Nepal have put the death toll at more than 1,200. The floods are a result of heavy rains that coincided with the annual monsoon season. About 45 million are estimated to have been affected by the flooding.

6. The floods have destroyed or damaged 18,000 schools in the South Asia region. Vast swathes of land were underwater in the eastern part of the Indian state of Uttar Pradesh while vast areas of Bangladesh was believed to be underwater. Nepal did not fare better as the situation has been described as the country’s worst flooding in a decade. The Foundation had offered humanitarian relief to the annual floods that affected different parts of South Asia namely Pakistan, Kashmir and most recently South India in 2015/2016.

7. RLA Foundation would like to sincerely thank all those who have donated to these worthy causes. These fundraising efforts represents the Singapore Muslim community commitment as well as the pledge of partners of RLAF to ease the suffering of the affected communities. The Singapore Muslim community prays that the people of South Asia and refugees to Bangladesh will be given the strength and resilience to rebuild their lives. The community also offers its prayers for a speedy end to the flood situation and for the region bordering Myanmar and Bangladesh to return to normalcy.

RAHMATAN LIL ALAMIN FOUNDATION
ABOUT THE RAHMATAN LIL ALAMIN (BLESSINGS-TO-ALL) MOVEMENT

1. The Rahmatan Lil Alamin Committee, comprising mosque chairmen from all the mosques in Singapore was set up by the Islamic Religious Council of Singapore (Muis) in early 2005. Its main objective is to explore opportunities and organise activities that demonstrate the desired attribute of the Singapore Muslim community that is to be a community that brings blessings to all.

2. Over the years, the Mosque Committee organised various activities both locally and overseas to help nurture these blessings-to-all ethos in the community. These include special collections for humanitarian relief efforts and also local projects by mosques in collaboration with community and grassroots organisations. These projects also aim to further enhance bonds of friendship within Singapore's multi-racial and multi-religious society.

3. To heighten the spirit of bringing blessings to all, the Committee organised the inaugural RLA Day in July 2008, to coincide with the Racial Harmony Month where Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong was the Guest-of-Honour. An annual signature programme, it has since been expanded to a month long activities with participation by mosque leaders, volunteers, community and faith leaders as well as guests comprising of residents from welfare homes and others. Each RLA Day carries a specific theme which seeks to promote the RLA ethos within the community.

ABOUT THE RAHMATAN LIL ALAMIN (BLESSINGS-TO-ALL) FOUNDATION

4. The Rahmatan lil Alamin Foundation (RLAF) was launched by Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong in July 2009 to coincide with the 40th Anniversary celebrations of the Islamic Religious Council of Singapore (Muis) and the official opening of the Singapore Islamic Hub.

5. ‘Rahmatan lil Alamin’ is the Arabic for ‘Blessings-to-All’ which is the inspiration behind the establishment of the RLAF as it seeks to fund activities that bring blessings to all irrespective of creed, race or religion including the environment.

6. The Foundation was established by Muis to provide grants for humanitarian and community development projects and initiatives. The Foundation aims to spread the message of compassion for all humanity and concretising within the Singapore Muslim community the ethos of being a community that is a blessing to all. Through the grants, the Foundation hopes to build capacity and deeper interest amongst youths, and empower them to have the skills, capabilities and passion to volunteer and participate in humanitarian work both locally and beyond.
The mosques and RLAF have collected over $5 million from the community for international humanitarian relief projects up to 2016.

1) 2004 Boxing Day Tsunami (Aceh)
2) 2005 Kashmir Earthquake
3) 2006 Java Earthquake
4) 2007 Lebanon Conflict
5) 2007 Jakarta Flood
6) 2008 Cyclone Nargis (Myanmar)
7) 2008 Sichuan earthquake
8) 2008 Yemen Cyclone
9) 2009 Gaza Humanitarian Conflict
10) 2009 Typhoon Ketsana (Philippines)
11) 2009 Earthquake in Sumatra
12) 2009 Typhoon Morakot (Taiwan)
13) 2009 Earthquake in West Java
14) 2009 Karachi Flood
15) 2010 Sumatra Earthquake and Tsunami
16) 2010 Haiti Earthquake
17) 2011 Japan’s Tohoku and Miyagi Earthquakes/Tsunami
18) 2011 East Africa Drought (Somalia)
19) 2011 Floods in Thailand
20) 2011 Floods in Cambodia
21) 2011 Philippines Floods
22) 2012 Victims of Conflict in Myanmar
23) 2012 Victims of Conflict in Gaza
24) 2012 Philippines Floods
25) 2013 Philippines Floods
26) 2013 Philippines Typhoon Haiyan
27) 2014 Syrian Refugees in Turkey
28) 2014 Victims of Conflict in Gaza
29) 2014 Kashmir Floods
30) 2014 School Project in Syria
31) 2015 Floods in Malaysia
32) 2015 Earthquake in Nepal
33) 2015 Floods in Myanmar
34) 2015 School Upgrading Project in Gaza
35) 2015 South India Floods
36) 2016 Japan & Ecuador Earthquakes
37) 2016 Aceh and Rakhine Floods
38) 2017 Winter Collections and Educational Outreach Programmes for Syrian Refugees in Jordan and Lebanon
39) 2017 Humanitarian Crisis in Yemen
40) 2017 Victims of South Asia Floods
41) 2017 Rakhine Refugees in Bangladesh