

Dear Supporter

COLLAPSE OF RANA PLAZA IN SAVAR, BANGLADESH – 24th April 2013

Horrific accounts of the collapse of the Rana Plaza building in Savar, Bangladesh on 24th April have been prominent in the world's media. The casualty list is still fluctuating but, as at 28th April, 3,000 were estimated to be in the building of whom 377 have been killed, 2,430 escaped (many with severe injuries) and the balance are still missing.

The Centre for the Rehabilitation of the Paralysed (CRP), just 1 km from the disaster site, has been supporting the emergency services' rescue operation from the outset. This involved sending a medical team with ambulance and blood bags. Also CRP has received some injured patients and liaised with other organisations to assess current and future medical needs. Staff at CRP have donated blood and also raised funds to help those in financial need. Some relatives of CRP staff are caught up in the tragedy and the wife of a staff member is missing.

CRPs work is now focussed on three main areas:

- Visiting local hospitals/clinics to identify those disabled with spinal injuries and amputations – who are likely to need long term care at CRP.
- Reception of victims at CRP
- Delivering CRP's services such as therapy and medical to local hospitals/clinics.

Other CRP assistance includes helping to identify dead, donating blood and preparing for an influx of patients as they are transferred in from other hospitals (the local military hospital has over 180 patients) to receive CRP's specialist services, many of which may be required for many months if not years.

Can VTT Help? – YES

The Trustees have decided that VTT should raise funds to support the treatment of victims of this tragedy in whatever way Valerie Taylor and her colleagues think best. There will be many demands: providing extra bed spaces, carrying out operations; making and fitting prosthetics, long term therapy treatment; increasing out-patient capacity; and helping those who are now unable to work and so support their family.

The recent VTT Autumn Newsletter details ways of donating. See also www.valerietaylortrust.org

We plan to send out money raised immediately after our Annual Supporters Meeting in London on 18th May – any donation, however small, will help.

Thank you

Bertie Woolnough CBE
Chairman, Valerie Taylor Trust