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Kiwi firms launch relief effort

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A New Zealand internet service provider and a barter exchange company have joined forces in a relief effort for victims of the Asian tsunami.

Orcon Internet and Ozone Barter have set up the Indian Ocean Relief Fund for the Maldives and Seychelles islands.

The two kiwi companies are also sending two high-capacity water treatment plants put together with their own money along with assistance and donation of parts by Contamination Control.

The World Health Organisation has warned that the death toll of around 150,000 people could double, and that a further 150,000 people are currently at "extreme risk" of disease unless they receive clean water supplies quickly.

The water treatment plants Ozone and Orcon are providing are each capable of purifying 100,000 litres of water a day, and are similar to the units that the New Zealand Defence Force uses.

"In the aftermath of a disaster like this, clean water is essential to prevent the spread of giardia, diarrhoea and respiratory illnesses," Orcon managing director Seebj Woodhouse says.

"We know that the Maldives have at least 20 major islands with contaminated water supplies, so getting assistance to the people there is of the utmost urgency".

The Maldives and Seychelles have a combined total of 1,311 islands and a total population of nearly 400,000 people.

The United Nations says over 100,000 people in the Maldives alone have been "severely affected".



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