

Youths on mercy mission to Cambodia

ABOUT 60 Singaporean youths will spend two weeks in rural Cambodia this June, helping villagers still struggling after last year's devastating floods.

The team will distribute food, provide medical screenings and help with construction work in five villages in the Kampong Cham province, which is at the Vietnam border.

Residents there suffered huge losses from heavy flooding in October last year — the worst in four decades.

The expedition is the second organised by the Young Muslim Secretariat of the Islamic Religious Council of Singapore (Muis).

It follows an expedition to Batam last year, during which volunteers provided health checks and helped build a school.

Between June 4 and 17, the participants will work with 30 Cambodian youths to construct a hall,

repair roads and improve water wells at the village of Phum Srash.

Medical screenings, as well as distribution of food and clothing, will also take place there, and at four other villages.

National University of Singapore student Nor Hidayah Mohd Amin, who is also in charge of public relations, said: "These villages were selected because they are in dire straits.

"When we visited them last year, they had no proper toilets, insufficient food. One woman also had an ulcer, but no access to medical treatment."

The expedition is open to Muslims and non-Muslims between the ages of 18 and 35.

Application forms can be downloaded from www.muis.gov.sg/cambodia2001, or collected from the places listed on the website. For more details, call 359-1121.