

1. ASIA



Iran earthquake: High-class decoration for Malteser sniffer-dog-leader

The leader of the Malteser search-dog-team from Mainz, Rolf Zipf-Marks, has been awarded a high-class decoration for his humanitarian operation in Bam in South-East Iran after the terrible earthquake at Christmas 2003. The decoration which Zipf-Marks accompanied by his sniffer-dog Joy received, standing for his whole team, was awarded by the former Federal President of Germany, Richard von Weizsäcker. Immediately after the severe earthquake Zipf-Marks had been in Bam with a search and rescue team consisting of 1 medical doctor, 2 paramedics, 3 technicians for the electronic life-detecting-equipment and 2 further sniffer-dog-leaders with 3 sniffer-dogs. Richard von Weizsäcker who also awarded the decoration to 6 helpers from other relief organisations who had been in Iraq and Iran emphasized the peacemaking aspect of such humanitarian engagement: "The activities of these helpers who often even risk their lives in their missions and operations represent a vital message for more humanity. The world needs such active advocates of humanity."

Further Information: Petra.lpp@malteser-ald.de

Myanmar: Malteser Germany provides basic health care for Northern Rakhine State

Since August last year, Malteser Germany and UNHCR run a programme combating tuberculosis and other infections in Northern Rakhine State near Bangladesh. Now Malteser's activities are enhanced by implementing a programme for basic health care. Health structures in rural areas will be improved and 80,000 people will get access to medical services. The project is funded by ECHO, the office for humanitarian relief of the European Union. In the township of Thongwa, near the capital of Yangon and near the burmese-chinese border in Southern Wa Region, Malteser runs basic health care programmes as well.

Further information: Stephan.Huppertz@malteser-ald.de

2. AFRICA



"Water for Ariwara" successfully completed: 325 wells enclosed for 81.250 Euro

Malteser Germany's project of jubilee "Water for Ariwara" has been completed on World Water day, 22 March, with 325 wells enclosed and donations of 81,250 Euro. The diocese of Cologne has been the most successful of all dioceses. Members of this diocese have collected 65,218 Euro for 65 well-frames. Followed by the diocese of Berlin, having collected 13,490 Euro for 54 well-frames and Augsburg with 9,775 Euro for 39 well-frames. Three members of the most successful dioceses will travel to Ariwara/DR Congo from 25. April until 3. May. An African party will give the jubilee project a festive ending on 9./10. June in Ehreshoven near Cologne.

Further Information: <http://www.wasser-fuer-ariwara.de>, michael.luelsdorff@malteser-ald.de

Kenyan government awards a prize to Nairobi Slums Project for the control of TB



The Malteser project in Nairobi/Kenya has received a prize from Kenya's government: The Malteser-laboratory in the Nairobi slum of Kariobangi has found most TB cases in Nairobi. 367 people were tested positive of TB in 2003 and were treated successfully. 12.5 percent of all TB-cases in Nairobi have been discovered by Malteser's eight laboratories, which had been established within the slums' health centres since August 2002. Malteser provides medical treatment and TB- as well as HIV-tests for a population of 700,000 people in eight slum areas in Nairobi.



Further information: peter.Schmitz@malteser-ald.de

Cell-counter handed over to hospital in Nairobi for the control of AIDS-therapy

In the end of March, Malteser and action medeor donated a cell-counter worth 20,000 Euro for the control of AIDS-therapy to Reverend Bill Fryda, head of St. Mary's hospital in Kenya's capital of Nairobi. The device counts CD4-cells, a special kind of white blood-cells. From the result of this test the medical staff can judge whether it is necessary to treat patients with AIDS-medicaments. By using the cell-counter, testing the blood will cost only 5 Euro. The population of the Malteser slums-project should be able to afford paying the fee for the test as well.

Further information: peter.Schmitz@malteser-ald.de

3. STAFF



Thailand: Re-structuring the co-ordination of projects in Thailand

Ms Christiane Steinert, project coordinator of the Thai-Village Health project, will resign her duties in April, looking for new professional challenges as medical coordinator in our project in Herat/ Afghanistan. As a consequence Ingo Radtke, head of Foreign Aid Department has awarded the order of jubilee to Steinert for her great achievements as project coordinator in Thailand.

The project coordination of the two Thailand projects will be re-structured. Marie-Theres Benner, project-coordinator of the refugee project at the Thai-Myanmar border, will be assigned as country-coordinator Thailand, being head of all projects in Thailand. She will be supported by project assistant Diana Peters. Ms Peters will leave for Thailand in the beginning of May.

Our best wishes go to Christiana Steinert, Marie-Theres Benner and a warm welcome to Diana Peters.

Further Information: Cordula.Wasser@malteser-ald.de

Sid Johann Peruvemba

Petra Ipp, Claudia Leipner

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Publisher: Malteser Hilfsdienst e.V./Malteser Foreign Aid Department * Kalker Hauptstraße 22 – 24 * D-51103 Köln, www.malteser-ald.de

Editorial office: Ingo Radtke, Petra Ipp * Phone + 49 – 2 21 – 98 22 155 * Fax + 49 – 2 21 – 98 22 179

E-Mail: petra.ipp@malteser-ald.de