

## 1. ASIA



### **Afghanistan: Education and Hope for Street Children in Kabul**

Malteser Groups from Grafschaft-Moers in North Rhine-Westphalia together with the "Afghanistan Hilfe Paderborn" and further relief organisations and associations in Moers have now launched a donation campaign called: "The Street Children of Kabul Need Your Help!". For the first time associations of Moers are trying to collect donations of at least 40,000 Euro supported and associated by several campaigns and fundraisers. By means of this extraordinary campaign and numerous fundraising events they want to rescue over 200 children from street life and provide social attendance and an apprenticeship for 100 boys and girls.

Further information:

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### **Afghanistan: Increasing danger to humanitarian aid Temporary suspension of programmes in Qala-I-Nau**

After the murder of five employees from the international relief organisation "Ärzte ohne Grenzen" (MSF/ Médecins Sans Frontières/ Doctors without Frontiers) in Qala-I-Nau in the beginning of June, the security situation in Afghanistan has become even more aggravated. For safety reasons, Malteser Germany have therefore relocated their staff for the time being to Herat. In the next weeks, we will decide how and in which way to continue our relief programmes. All staff of international relief services at present are exposed to significant dangers in Badghis province as well as in other provinces of Afghanistan.



"We mourn for our five colleagues and offer their families, friends and all staff of MSF our sincere condolences", so Ingo Radtke in the name of all Malteser staff in Afghanistan and Cologne. "We are all shattered by this terrible act. At the same time, we are very much concerned about the further development of humanitarian aid in Afghanistan since the access of the Afghan population to basic healthcare and further humanitarian aid will be increasingly endangered by such crimes."

Since the end of 2001, Malteser Germany implement a comprehensive rehabilitation programme for schools and healthcare facilities in the province of Badghis in western Afghanistan. Having been mandated by the Afghan government, we take on the overall responsibility for the healthcare system in four districts with half a million inhabitants as well as for the province's reference hospital. At present, nine Germans and about 200 Afghan staff work in this programme. In southeastern and central Afghanistan, we implement a community stabilisation programme for villages with a high number of returnees.

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### **India/Gujarat: Rehabilitation of 500 houses in mud block technology**



On 22 June, Dr. Sonal Metha, representative of Ekkklavia Foundation, one of our Indian partner organizations in Gujarat, visited our Head Office in Cologne. Dr. Metha came for the final negotiations on the new rehabilitation project Malteser will start in Bachau, one of the most destroyed cities in Gujarat during the earthquake of 2001. Until today, most of the inhabitants of Bachau are still without a permanent home as planning procedures in the urban context took almost three years. Now people receive building permits so that they can start rebuilding permanent shelter. Malteser in cooperation with Ekkklavia and other NGO partners will provide 500 families with adequate earthquake resistant housing. Special focus is put on urban slum dwellers and migrant workers. Within this project, 500 persons will also be trained in production and masonry with mud blocks, giving their families a new skill for income generation as new basis for their future life. Path breaking in ecological view

is the successful introduction of building resistant structures with mud block technology that Dr. Sonal Metha has promoted in Gujarat.

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## 2. AFRICA

### **DR Congo: Malteser staff resume relief programmes in South Kivu**

After the severe fighting and the occupation of Bukavu in the Eastern part of DR Congo since the end of May, Malteser Germany had been forced to suspend temporarily part of their programmes in South Kivu and to evacuate the international staff.

For the time being, security situation in South Kivu now has stabilized so that on 22 June we could resume our relief programmes in and around Bukavu. First of all, our local staff has assessed the need of medicaments and food in some of the overall 93 health and 22 nutrition centres in the three health zones cared for by Malteser and provided them with new supplies. During the recent riots, militia had also attacked and looted some of our centres. It is extremely alarming that sexual violence and rape of women are increasingly used as a weapon in war.

“Marauding gangs break in the houses and rape girls and women systematically. Men become also victims. They are often forced to rape their own women or daughters”, reports Christof Ruhmich, our programme coordinator in Bukavu. “In armed conflicts, sexual violence is increasingly utilized as an instrument to threat and oppress the population. Often panic and fright are even intensified when the offenders threaten to infect the victims with HIV/Aids.”

In Bukavu and 29 other health centres Malteser staff offer medical care and psychosocial attendance for the victims. “At present, we restrict our help to the basic medical care for the women because we do not want to expose them to additional risks. Many women are afraid of further threat if they talk about what has happened with them”, explains Ruhmich.

About 80 percent of the international relief activities in the region had been suspended due to the recent riots. The 60 local Malteser staff, however, in cooperation with the 800 local staff in the health and nutrition centres could to a large extent maintain the supply of the centres out of stocks in Bukavu.

In Bukavu, our local team also supported the acute medical care for about 700 men and women who for safety reasons had fled out of their houses to a relief camp installed on MONUC ground.

Our international staff will return to Bukavu in the end of June.

Further information: Dr. Georg Nothelle, [georg.nothelle@malteser-ald.de](mailto:georg.nothelle@malteser-ald.de)

### **Sudan: Launch of relief programmes for the needy people in Darfur**

At the beginning of June, Dr. Frank Marx from Malteser Germany was sent on a two-week mission to evaluate possible options for assistance on the spot. Due to the travel restrictions by the Sudanese Government it was not possible for him to visit the affected region, therefore, major contacts to the international humanitarian community as well as to the local authorities were made in Khartoum. Thomas Reuter, programme coordinator Ethiopia, followed up his mission enforcing the organisation's notification at the Sudanese Government and the Humanitarian Aid Commission for travel permission and registration in order to ease access to the Darfur region. As soon as travel permits are issued, Birke Herzbruch, emergency aid manager from Malteser Germany, will be on her way to northern Darfur to assess the situation and priority needs; preparations are made for 1 July onwards.

The government of the worldwide Sovereign Military Order of Malta with its seat in Rome will support relief measures for the needy people in Darfur with 250,000 Euro. With this money, the Order wants to enable Malteser Germany and further national relief services of the Order to purchase immediately the necessary relief goods and send further staff to Sudan.

On the evening of 14 June, Malteser Germany had already sent three tons of medical relief goods from the airport Berlin-Schönefeld to Nyala in Southern Darfur. With these three tons of drugs and antibiotics contained in two "Emergency Health Kits" we can provide basic medical care for more than 60,000 people at least for the next four weeks. These medical



#### Impressum

On the SPOT. - Malteser Foreign Aid Department Newsletter

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

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goods are part of a flight organized by "Aktion Deutschland Hilft", a German association of ten relief services. The relief flight contained in total 35 tons of relief goods: e.g. ten tons of therapeutic nutrition as well as four medical emergency units and non food items: 2,000 tarpaulins, 3,100 blankets, 5,275 water-cans and kerosene-boilers. From Nyala airport the relief goods were transported by land to a refugees camp in Muykar in the west of Darfur. Actually, more than 40,000 people live in this camp. They have fled from the brutal fights in their villages and now urgently need water, food and medical care.

Further information: Dr. Georg Nothelle, [georg.nothelle@malteser-ald.de](mailto:georg.nothelle@malteser-ald.de)

### 3. BALKANS

#### **Successful cooperation between the German Federal Foreign Office and Malteser Germany**

In close cooperation with the German Federal Foreign Office, Malteser Germany will continue their projects for refugees, returnees and ethnic minorities in Kosovo, Macedonia and Serbia also in the year 2004. With income generation measures we assist Albanian refugees coming back from Kosovo to their former homes in Macedonia as well as returnees in Kosovo to build up a new existence. In Serbia our main focus is healthcare: Five dentist's practices are provided with dentist's chairs and further equipment. The project for the improvement of medical care for Roma which was started in 2003 will also be continued in 2004. The German Federal Foreign Office supports these projects with 588,000 Euro from the stability pact for South-Eastern Europe.

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#### **Bosnia-Herzegovina: British Association of the Order of Malta and Malteser Germany**

In May, Nicolas Count Reuttner von Weyl-Mynett from the British Association of the Order of Malta (BASMOM), visited our projects in Bosnia Herzegovina. One of the aims of his journey to Bosnia-Herzegovina was the identification and the planning of new relief projects. Our two projects in Bosansko Grahovo and in Mostar met the special interest of Count Reuttner. Upon his return to Great Britain, BASMOM immediately made a contribution of 14,600 Euro destined for a first-aid and basic healthcare training for women as well as for a domestic nursing programme for people in social need. - Last year, the British Association already supported the extension of an old people's home in Boka/Serbia which now has become a safe haven for 20 impoverished elderly people.

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### 4. CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE

#### **Ukraine: First overall Polish-Ukrainian Youth Pilgrimage to Univ**

"The relations between Ukrainian and Polish people in the past have often been tense", states Lubomir Kardinal Huzar, head of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic church, on 15 May in Univ. For the first time in history, 1,300 Ukrainian and Polish pilgrims took part in this traditional youth pilgrimage to the Ukrainian monastery in Univ. The Ukrainian Malteser among others had organized and invited for this pilgrimage of 64 kilometres which had to be covered by feet. For the eleventh time already, Malteser teams provided psychological and medical support for the people on their way and the pilgrims in wheelchairs and organized the food supply for the pilgrims.

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**5. UN****UNAMA/Kabul: United Nations Mission to Afghanistan**

Mr Thomas Doepner is the old and new Head of Mission of our UNAMA team in Kabul. Already from November 2002 to April 2003, Doepner had been in charge of this mission. Doepner who meanwhile was in Burundi/Africa, now succeeds Dr. Renate Bothur who has worked in Kabul for three months. While our UNAMA team meanwhile in cooperation with their Afghan colleagues is running routinely the German Malteser Hospital (GMH) in the police academy at Kabul, a new challenge has arisen. Starting midst of June we will in accordance with the German Federal Foreign Office extend our activities to Herat. In Herat, our team will, as they already do in Kabul, give medical support to the police including the medical check of the police recruits and first aid training for policemen.

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**6. CENTRAL AMERICA****Dominican Republic: Malteser Germany supports emergency aid for the flood victims**

With at first 20,000 Euro emergency aid Malteser Germany support the relief measures of the Dominican Association of the Order of Malta for the victims of the severe floods in the Caribbean Sea. The Cuban Malteser Association have immediately sent urgently needed medicaments to the Dominican Republic. - After severe storms in the end of May in Haiti and the Dominican Republic probably over 2,500 people lost their lives. Solely in Haiti more than 10,000 people lost their belongings.

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