

1. ASIA



Afghanistan: Humanitarian Aid in the Crossfire of Conflict Parties

In Jaji Aryub in the southeastern province of Paktia, a health centre recently rehabilitated by Malteser Germany came under fire by dissidents in the end of June and was partially destroyed. The attack was the consequence of an US military operation in this area which – according to local reports - used the health centre as an observation tower. Malteser Germany has lodged a complaint since according to the Geneva Convention it is not allowed to use civil objects for military purposes.

The rehabilitation and construction works for the health centre have brought new jobs for more than 80 returnees – as unskilled workers and building labourers as well as qualified bricklayers and roofers. Furthermore, 57 returnee women are trained as auxiliary midwives. They will be needed in remote areas of the region; especially during Afghan winter, due to the bad infrastructure, many pregnant women will not be able to come to the health centre; therefore, the auxiliary midwives will have to make home visits.

This project is part of a programme financed by UNHCR in order to meet the needs of returnees and offer them possibilities for work and training. Malteser Germany implement income generating activities focussing on economic rehabilitation and community stabilisation. In addition, Malteser encourage community stabilisation by reviving existing self-help systems to sustain the reintegration of returnee families.

Further information: Roland Hansen, roland.hansen@malteser-ald.de

Thailand: Malteser Management System - Solution Workshop in Chiang Mai

From 4 to 7 July, a solution workshop was held in Chiang Mai. Colleagues from Africa, South-East Asia, Afghanistan, the Balkans and the Head Office (HO) in Cologne with wide range of experience in project management, project finance and administration came together to discuss and critically check the viability and transparency of the management concept as worked out from HO level. The concept targets a revised organisational set-up and management process to allow a simplification of systems, standardisation and reduction of sources of problems and mistakes we face in our daily work. The introduced concept was highly welcomed by the participants and necessities from the field could be successfully added to the concept. After 3,5 days of hard work the participants expressed the need for a quick implementation of the system and are looking forward for this desire to be fulfilled.

Further information: Dr. Georg Nothelle, georg.nothelle@malteser-ald.de

Thailand: Malteser Health Workshop in Chiang Mai

Following the solution workshop mentioned above, a health workshop was held in Chiang Mai from 7 to 10 July. Country coordinators, program managers, medical coordinators, doctors, health centre supervisors and further medical staff from Malteser projects in Asia – Afghanistan, Myanmar, Cambodia and Thailand – met in Chiang Mai in order to exchange information on the current projects and to discuss important medical topics. On the agenda were among others: procurement and quality of medicine, HIV/AIDS activities in Asia including income generation activities, home-based care, post-exposition prophylaxis (PEP) as well as voluntary counselling and testing, gender awareness in humanitarian aid as well as malaria management, diagnostic strategies and treatment in Asia. – A similar workshop is also planned for all medical staff in Africa.

Further information: Dr. Peter Schmitz, peter.Schmitz@malteser-ald.de



2. AFRICA



Sudan 1: Successful Registration as Non-Governmental Organisation

After prolonged endeavours and negotiations, our ECOM Malteser assessment team in Sudan on 8 July has finally succeeded in receiving the official registration for Malteser Germany as an NGO (non-governmental organisation) from the Sudanese government. Thanks to this registration, our team is now allowed to enter into the crisis area of Darfur. On 10 July, Malteser Emergency Aid Coordinator Birke Herzbruch has arrived in El Fasher in northern Darfur in order to conduct an assessment in the region in cooperation with other NGOs and to prepare healthcare measures for the IDPs (internally displaced people) and the resident population in Darfur. In view of the difficult political and technical circumstances, a fast realisation of the relief measures will be a particular challenge.

Further information: Marion Zeus, marion.zeus@malteser-ald.de

Sudan 2: Primary Healthcare Kits and Midwifery Kits for Health Centres in Northern Darfur

Last Sunday (25 July), Birke Herzbruch distributed four Primary Healthcare Kits and three Midwifery Kits in cooperation with UNICEF staff. The kits were provided by UNICEF and distributed to three health centres in Shingil Thobaya and in Thabit in rural regions in northern Darfur which were up to now scarcely reached by international relief organisations. 35.000 to 40.000 people in this area benefit from these medical relief goods. They suffer from serious health and nutrition problems. Most of them are victims of the militia attacks and had to flee from their home villages. With this distribution, ECOM via Malteser Germany support the work of the local health centres which urgently need medicaments, dressing material and basic equipment for their midwives.



The primary healthcare kits consist of antibiotics, anti-malaria-medicaments, analgesics, oral rehydration solution (salt and sugar) for the required water balance of the kids as well as dressing material. The midwifery kits comprise everything a midwife needs for her work: needles, fathoms, medical shuts etc.

In the near future, ECOM via Malteser Germany will prepare a comprehensive primary healthcare programme for the people in the Shingil Tobaya region.

Further information: Marion Zeus, marion.zeus@malteser-ald.de

DR Congo/Bukavu: Malteser Team again on the Spot

Thanks to the temporarily stabilised security situation, our German Malteser project staff - Christoph and Christiane Ruhmich and their colleague Norbert Häberlin - could return to Bukavu in the beginning of July. In first examinations on the spot, our staff investigated the effects of the recent riots on the population and our project. Some programmes will have to be reconverted and run via remote control and those which had been suspended during the fighting will be resumed. Norbert Häberlin especially looks after the programme activities for the numerous girls and women who have become victims of sexual violence. In Bukavu and in 29 other health centres Malteser offer medical care and psychosocial attendance for the victims.



Further information: Sandrine Rosenberger, Sandrine.rosenberger@malteser-ald.de

Kenia: "Being Challenged" in Africa – Malteser Strategy Workshop

Under the title "Being Challenged", the Malteser Africa team conducted this year's annual workshop in Naivasha/Kenya from 12 to 16 July. Numerous challenges which Malteser face in Africa were presented by the participants including topics like fundraising, logistics and budgeting guidelines, safety and security measures – illustrated by the latest events in Bukavu/DR Congo – as well as a new FPA (Frame Partnership Agreement) Guideline from our important donor ECHO. Medical aspects were highlighted via a well appreciated introduction to the HIV/AIDS policy of ECHO given by Dr. Enric Freixa from Nairobi. Health standards and indicators to assure quality management in our health projects were presented by our regional coordinators, Dr. Adolf Diefenhardt and Dr. Alfred Kinzelbach. At the

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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

end of the workshop, Mr Ingo Radtke, the director of the Foreign Aid Department in Cologne, also joined the workshop and gave an insight into strategic developments in the Head Office.

Further information: Dr. Georg Nothelle, georg.nothelle@malteser-ald.de and Marion Zeus, marion.zeus@malteser-ald.de

3. EUROPE

Turkey: Opening Ceremony for New Health Centre for 3.000 People in Former Earthquake Region

On 20 July, a festive opening ceremony took place for the new health centre co-financed by Malteser Germany with 75,000 EUR in Yazlik in the province of Izmit struck by a severe earthquake in 1999. In cooperation with our Turkish partner organisation IBC (International Blue Crescent) we could give another important contribution to the improvement of the local healthcare. Even five years after the earthquake of 17 August 1999 there are still big breaks in the regional health system. About 1,500 people lived in the little town of Yazlik before the earthquake had destroyed many villages in the region; today, the population counts up to 3,000 people since many of them have come from their destroyed villages to Yazlik. Until now, patients could only be treated in a small barrack in a makeshift way. The new health centre with its 200 square metres offers six consultation rooms with emergency room and all equipment required for the treatment of the common sicknesses. The Ministry of Health will bear the running costs and provide doctors and nurses.

Muzaffer Baca, IBC's vice-president, the governor of Izmit, the mayor of Yazlik and the regional representative in the Turkish parliament expressed their sincere thanks to Malteser Germany. After the opening of a centre for 170 handicapped children in Izmit last year, the health centre is already the second important project in the former earthquake region realized by Malteser in cooperation with their Turkish partner organisation IBC.

Further information: Sid Johann Peruvemba, sidjohann.peruvemba@malteser-ald.de

Poland: Ukrainian-Polish Malteser Meeting

In springtime, the annual contests for people in wheelchairs took place in the Polish town of Pilawa. For the first time, Ukrainian Malteser were invited to take part as guests of honour. One week later, the Polish association of the Order of Malta had invited another Ukrainian group with young handicapped people to attend a partnership meeting in Poland. For all participants, both events and the days spent together were a unique experience contributing to an intensified exchange between the geographical neighbours and increased solidarity in the Malteser community. A return visit of Polish Malteser groups is planned on the occasion of the nationwide summer camp which will take place in the Ukrainian Carpathians in August and has meanwhile already become an international event.

Further information: Lena Golyschewa, lucky@malteser.lviv.ua and Michael Lülsdorff, michael.luelsdorff@malteser-ald.de

4. OTHER

Annual Report 2003 – Malteser Germany/Foreign Aid Department

With its "Annual Report 2003", the Malteser Foreign Aid Department informs about its activities in Africa, Asia and Europe. In the last year, Malteser could realize about 80 projects and programmes in 34 countries with a total project volume of almost 18 million Euro. The "Annual Report 2003" is published in English and German and is also at your disposal for download on <http://www.malteser-ald.de>. Copies of the Annual Report 2003 in German or English can be ordered at p-kommunikation@malteser-ald.de (Heike Otto).

Further information: Petra Ipp, petra.ipp@malteser-ald.de

Ingo Radtke

Petra Ipp

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