

1. ASIA



Myanmar: Already Three Years of Successful Relief Programmes for People in Need

Despite the difficult working conditions in Myanmar, Malteser Germany can look back on three years of successful work in the country. It all started in October 2001 in the Thongwa Township in the south-east of the capital Yangon. "At that time we were not allowed to move independently within the project region and we were under permanent supervision of Burmese authorities", remembers Dr Michael Pastoors, country coordinator since the beginning of Malteser work in Myanmar. "I would never have imagined that we could succeed in developing such long-lasting programmes in Myanmar within this short period of time." Besides the controlling of communicable diseases like malaria, tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS, the enforcement of decentralized primary health care services, the improvement of water and sanitation as well as the access to clean drinking water are the main objectives of our work. Seven international and about 106 local staff members care for the planning and realisation of the project activities. In addition to our regional office in Yangon, where our projects in the Yangon Division are coordinated, we have meanwhile further project offices in Northern Rakhine State and in the Wa Region. With our projects we could reach about 250.000 people in need during the last three years. This would not have been possible without the great commitment and high competence of our local and expatriate staff. Our sincere thanks and congratulations go to our teams in Myanmar!

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Thailand: 25 Years of Malteser Commitment in Thailand - Visit of the Thai Crown Princess to the Order of Malta

On 11 October, H.M.E.H. the Grand Master of the Order of Malta, Frà Andrew Bertie, received a courtesy visit from H.R.H. Maha Chakri Sirindhorn, daughter of the King of Thailand. The Princess, in Rome for meetings at the World Food Program, wanted to express her appreciation for the Order's long-standing humanitarian activities (executed by Malteser Germany at a large part) and the medical projects that had been implemented in her country during the last 25 years.



In fact, Malteser Germany have been implementing humanitarian aid and development projects in Thailand for already 25 years without any interruptions:

- From 1979 to 1993, Malteser Germany have constructed and equipped two hospitals in Chiang Khan and Chiang Kong for the Khmer refugees living along the Thai-Cambodian border and provided medical services in these two medical facilities. Furthermore, we have implemented a leprosy project in the refugee camp Khao-I-Dang for all leprosy patients living in the border camps.
- From 1997 to 1999, we have run another project along the Thai-Cambodian border in order to provide medical emergency aid for Khmer refugees.
- In 1993, we have started working in the Mae Hong Son area for Karen and Burmese refugees from Myanmar. Since then, we have developed a comprehensive primary health care setting with curative, preventive and promotional components. The aim is to limit the risk of epidemics, reduce mortality and strengthen the capacity and capability of the camp community in order to enhance self-reliance and sustainability.
- Since 1993, we have also been implementing the Thai-Village health project in Mae Sariang District.

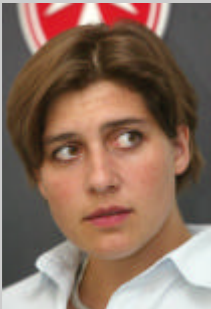
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Bam/Iran: Members of the German Bundestag Visit Earthquake Damaged Sites

In October 2004, Siegfried Helias, member of the German Bundestag since 1998, visited together with a delegation of the committee for Economic Cooperation and Development the city of Bam in the south of Iran, that had been destroyed by a severe earthquake on 26 December 2003.

“My intention was to get a personal impression of the state of rehabilitation. Therefore I was lucky to visit several Malteser projects. In Bam, Malteser focus a strong cooperation with local relief organisations as the latter are familiar with language and social-political situation of the country; they are able to provide carefully directed relief. On the one hand, a fund formed by Malteser feeds different relief projects conducted by local associations like care projects for traumatised women and children. On the other hand, Malteser support trainings for local Iranian staff members like workshops in project management. This Malteser concept provides in an excellent way long-lasting relief in creating self-help. Hence the victims of the earthquake will not be left helpless when the international organizations will have withdrawn.”

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2. AFRICA**Sudan I: Malteser Emergency Expert back from Darfur**

Worried about the enduring conflict situation in Darfur, Malteser emergency coordinator Birke Herzbruch, who has returned to Germany in the beginning of November, states: "During the last four months the security situation in the crisis area has become even worse." Attacks upon refugees, looting and banditry, clashes between the Sudanese Liberation Army and militia/government are causing death and injury – also among civilian population."

Only with observance of strict precaution measures, it has been possible to run the relief programmes: "In the rural areas in the south of El Fasher, Malteser is supporting primary health care facilities and maternity wards. We reach about 45,000 persons who are in urgent need for help." The supply of medicine and consumables is even more important now as the cold season has started .

As more than 99 % of the Sudanese women and girls are circumcised, the care during and after pregnancy is a special challenge. "We are improving the situation by training the midwives and traditional birth attendants; moreover we provide basic drugs and instruments that aim at improving mother and child health", Herzbruch explains.

In North Darfur, Malteser Germany will continue to support and strengthen local health structures. The provision of essential drugs and medical equipment as well as training measures for health professionals are implemented and conducted in cooperation with UNICEF/UNFPA.

ECOM (Emergency Corps Order of Malta) has received 250,000 EUR from the Order of Malta in order to finance the structure for the relief measures. Money for the relief measures came from the Grand Priory in Austria (200,000 EUR), the British Associations (10,000 EUR), the Irish Association (6,000 EUR) and the Italian Association (10,000 EUR). The mission is also financed by the German Government and thanks to private donations.

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Sudan II: Malteser Germany Expand Immunisation Campaign against Polio in Darfur

From 21 to 25 November, Malteser Germany realize the second part of the polio vaccination campaign in the very north of Darfur: Tabit, Shangil Tobaya and –new - Tarni. Since Sudan has been exempt from polio in 2001, Ralf Pahlmann, Malteser emergency expert and coordinator of this campaign, is convinced that the Darfur conflict with all the border

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and coordinator of this campaign, is convinced that the Darfur conflict with all the border crossings and failed vaccination campaigns is a main cause for the return of this disease.

“The price for one vaccination is only 38 cent! Within these five days we can reach about 6,200 children under the age of five. That are even 3,500 children more than in the first campaign in October.” 45 local community health workers run this comprehensive campaign in about 140 villages.

The children that have already been vaccinated in October will get their complete protection against polio during a further immunisation campaign in the beginning of the year 2005. All campaigns are run in cooperation with the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF).

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3. EUROPE

Albania: Malteser “Street Controls” in Cooperation with the Local Police

Car drivers using the new expressway between Shkoder and Lezha in northern Albania will be surprised at the new variant on the well-known numerous street controls. It is still the police who – with their signalling disk - ask the drivers to stop; then, however, it is a Malteser volunteer who starts the “interrogation”.

Volunteers of the Albanian Malteser Relief Service “Malteser – Ndihton ne Shqiperi” as well as members of the Albanian Malteser youth in cooperation with the Albanian police and with support of Caritas Switzerland are actually carrying out a survey on car drivers. Topic: “Safety and traffic”. The questionnaire does not only deal with the roadworthiness of vehicles, but also with topics as the safe transport of children inside, the fastening of the seat belt which is not yet really popular in Albania, how to make safe scenes of an accident and how to behave in the face of pedestrians and horses and carts as road-users.

The project will last several weeks and is the first part of a comprehensive programme which aims at improving the traffic safety in Albania. The Albanian Malteser Relief Service will be decisively involved in this programme. Besides road safety training in schools it is for the first time also planned to set up at the roadside big boards with slogans and pictures which can be easily remembered and will prompt to a safe and fair behaviour behind the wheel.

In the beginning of December, Malteser in Albania will contribute to organize a “Road Safety Training” which will be run in cooperation with the Albanian Ministry of Transport, the World Bank and the Swedish Security Organisation Sweroad in Shkoder.

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Central and East European (CEE) Consulting Process: Evaluation in Romania

The present situation of SAMR (Serviciul de Ajutor în România), the Romanian Malteser Relief Organisation, was the focus of a one-week evaluation in the beginning of October in several local branches in Romania. Zsuzsa Barla, SAMR’s secretary general, the German Romania coordinator Friedhelm Koch, the Order of Malta’s ambassador for Romania, Franz Alfred Count of Hartig, Michael Lültsdorff, head of the Foreign Aid Department’s CEE desk, and Axel Dechamps, an external organisational consultant, participated in the journey.

The evaluation took place in the framework of the „CEE Consulting Process“ started in 2003, that the leaderships of the CEE Malteser organisations and their German partners had agreed upon within their common conference last year. Facing the fact that only few donations are still available for development assistance to East European partner organisations, sustainable self-financing will become one of the priorities for them. The consulting process is aiming towards an adequate preparation of the partners.



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SAMR, founded in 1991, with its 24 local branches and a strong German-Romanian partnership network is one of the highest performing Malteser organizations within Central and East Europe.

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Conference of the Central and East European (CEE) Malteser Organisations: The Network is Taking Shape

Following an invitation of Jiri Prince of Lobkovicz, president of the Czech Malteser organization „Maltézská Pomoc“, in November the leaderships of nine Central and East European Malteser organisations and representatives of the German Malteser Foreign Aid Department assembled in Prague in order to discuss the further development of their organisations and their cooperation. In a conference held last year at the “Malteser Kommende Ehreshoven” near Cologne they had agreed on building up a network meant to promote the consolidation and orientation of their aid services as well as their partnership work as a common interest.

Within a friendly and constructive atmosphere supported very much by the Czech hospitality, the participants of the conference agreed on substantial steps to solidify the “Eastern Malteser Network”. A first common profile was drafted which describes target groups, tasks and guiding principles of Malteser work in CEE. Soon, an intranet for better exchange of information and an international Malteser partnership code will be established. The process, being guided from the start by the Malteser Foreign Aid Department, is already to be continued next spring within a further meeting.

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Bosnia-Herzegovina: First Aid and Basic Medical Care in Medjugorje

For the seventh time already, from June till the beginning of November, ECOM Germany provided first aid and basic medical care for the pilgrims and residents in Medjugorje. This year, 4,116 pilgrims (4,045 in 2003) from 45 nations were treated in our health centre. An Irish pilgrim who had broken down in cardiac arrest could be reanimated thanks to help of Malteser. – This medical service in Medjugorje is exclusively financed by donations.

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4. OTHER

Farewell for Dr. Adolf Diefenhardt



In August 1998, Dr. Adolf Diefenhardt took over the position as Regional Coordinator for Malteser Germany in Africa. In the end of this month, he will leave after more than six years in which he has shaped and contributed to the work of Malteser in Africa with an extraordinary commitment and professionalism aimed at achieving the best possible outcome for the people in Africa. “A lot of what Malteser represent today in Africa, we owe to you, Adolf!” – so Ingo Radtke, head of Malteser Foreign Aid Department.

Dr. Diefenhardt has earned the sincere gratitude from the Africa Desk and the whole Foreign Aid Department not only as a highly appreciated colleague but also as a friend. We wish him all the best for his new challenges at the German Leprosy and Tuberculosis Relief Association (DAHW) in Würzburg and him and his family for their new life in Germany.

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Ingo Radtke

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