

1. ASIA



Thailand: Relief for AIDS Orphans / 1 December: World AIDS Day

On the occasion of World AIDS Day, Malteser Germany points to the increasing neediness of AIDS orphans. Dr. Peter Schmitz, Malteser coordinator health programmes, explains that “while in Germany AIDS by is being reduced by some people to a trendy symbolic token of concern, in poorer countries it is a subtle attack on society. This disease destroys the middle generation and leaves older people alone with little children and orphans. Worldwide, 16 million children under the age of 15 have already lost one or both parents due to HIV/AIDS; the quickest spread of the epidemic at present can be observed in Asia and Eastern Europe. About 25 per cent of the 42 million people infected with HIV worldwide live in Asia.”

In Mae Sariang in Northern Thailand, Malteser Germany has been implementing a comprehensive health care project since 2002. We especially care for children who have lost their parents due to AIDS. As Diana Peters, Malteser employee in Thailand, states: “Most of them are not only sick, but also extremely poor.” In Mae Sariang, Malteser currently enables 77 AIDS orphans to attend kindergarten and school. Their grandparents receive a monthly scholarship for their grandchildren. Malteser also helps grandparents with additional loans for starting a small business like a laundry or snack bar or for raising pigs or poultry. Furthermore, Malteser organises workshops, which aim at informing people about HIV/AIDS. “We offer HIV/AIDS tests and invite people to speak about the disease. Only those who can talk about AIDS openly are able to stop the virus of discrimination”, Peters states.

On 4 December 2004, Malteser Germany celebrated its 25th year of service to Thailand.

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Afghanistan: New Schools and Libraries for Children in Badghis

Malteser Germany will start to build three new schools in Herat in the western Afghan crisis province of Badghis. 1,100 girls and 1,700 boys will have the possibility to attend the new schools. In Qala-I-Nau, the second project site in Badghis, three schools have already been constructed. Another four are almost finished. Initiated by one of our staff members, two schools will also be furnished with libraries financed by funds from the German Embassy. In addition, the Goethe Institute in Kabul has donated 600 children’s books (a rarity in Afghanistan!) for the new libraries.

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Afghanistan/UNAMA: Handing over of German Malteser Hospital

On 11 December, Malteser Germany handed over the former German Malteser Hospital (GMH) – now “Police Academy Health Center” - to the Afghan Authorities. Attendants to the ceremony were the German Ambassador to Afghanistan, Dr. Rainald Steck, State-Secretary Hellal and further members of the Afghan Ministry of the Interior, staff of the Police Academy, the Malteser project leaders, Rainer Kobe (Cologne) and Dr. Kai Stietenroth (Kabul) and the local Malteser team as well as numerous guests.

The project was initiated with the support of the German Federal Foreign Office, the Ministry of the Interior, the Police Academy, the German Police Project Group and the “Technisches Hilfswerk” (THW) in July 2002. To date, Malteser Germany has provided medical support for the UNAMA forces and has organised training sessions for local medical staff. In



addition, the system for the physical medicals of police recruits has been advanced on a continuous basis .

Despite the termination of the “United Nations Assistance Mission for Afghanistan”, our project will continue on a supervisory basis until 30 June 2005.

Further information: Rainer Kobe, Rainer.Kobe@malteser-ald.de

Myanmar: European Commission Supports Malteser Health & Nutrition Programme for Uprooted People in Northern Rakhine State

Since August 2003, Malteser Germany has been working in Northern Rakhine State, one of the most neglected areas in Myanmar. The new programme aims at integrating the current projects for public health care and tuberculosis control in order to improve the health and nutrition situation of the most vulnerable groups - mostly Muslim population - in a sustainable way. Approximately 100,000 people – especially women and children who live under precarious socio-economic conditions with high incidence of maternal and child mortality, malnutrition, transmitted diseases and with few own resources - will benefit from this programme during the next three years. The European Commission will support the programme with 1,15 million EUR.

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Bam/Iran: One Year after the Earthquake / Construction of new girl school „Khadijeh“

On 1 December, Malteser Germany started the construction works for the new girl school "Khadijeh" in Bam. Preparations to get the necessary building permissions in the post earthquake situation and to find an adequate construction company had taken several months. Special support to the school rehabilitation project is given by Malteser Regensburg in collaboration with the University of Regensburg who have successfully initiated a fundraising campaign.

We welcome Dr. Peter Staudacher as new Malteser programme coordinator and NGO adviser in Bam. Peter Staudacher has been working for several years as project manager for Caritas Swiss in the Balkans. Desk officer Annette Wächter-Schneider introduced Peter Staudacher to the local partners on her recent monitoring visit to the region.

The current programme in Bam comprises in addition to the school rehabilitation and three temporary schools that had been delivered by Malteser earlier this year a number of support measures for local NGOs. In cooperation with local partners a series of training measures and workshops are arranged covering topics as project planning, proposal writing, management of NGOs and other. To assist local NGOs active in relief and social activities for the suffering population of Bam, a micro grant fund has been set up from which local NGOs can get financial support for their relief work - thus strengthening the local self help capacities.

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2. AFRICA

DR Congo: Malteser Provide Medical and Psychological Care for about 800 Victims of Rape per Month / 25 November: International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women

In the Democratic Republic of Congo, the years of civil war have led to social erosion and loss of ethical principles. The forms of partly systematic rape of women are becoming increasingly brutal. In special training sessions, Malteser Germany sensitises its medical staff in more than 100 health centres and hospitals in Southern Kivu as well as the local staff of other organisations for an adequate treatment of the victims. Every month, Malteser treats about 800 victims who suffer from venereal diseases, HIV/AIDS, genital injuries or even incontinence and – in addition – provide psychological and social support. Since many

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women are afraid of discrimination by their community and family, only every second woman to date makes use of this relief service offered by Malteser.

Christiane Ruhmich, medical coordinator of Malteser Germany in Bukavu, assumes that there still remain a high number of undetected cases: Many women remain silent in shame. In 2005, Malteser Germany in cooperation with the European Commission Humanitarian Office (ECHO) will begin with further relief measures. Development of a central system for investigations and evaluations for the region of Southern Kivu is planned in cooperation with the provincial health authority in Bukavu. Malteser will also introduce a "medical certificate" in order to enforce the legal position of women. Ruhmich hopes that "this certificate will perhaps one day enable the victims to start legal proceedings against their offenders".

Since 1996, Malteser Germany has been active in DR Congo. In more than 300 health centres and 20 nutrition centres Malteser cares for about 2,5 million people in close cooperation with the local health authorities.

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

Mozambique: Five Years of Successful Work in Sofala Province

After five successful years in Mozambique, Malteser Germany is finalising its activities in the country. In 2000, Malteser began work in Mozambique in order to assist the flood victims in the southern province of Gaza. Also in 2001, we provided medical care to those in need during the floods in the central Sofala and Zambezi province. From 2001 to 2004, Malteser Germany established a system of "Monthly Health Days" in Chibabava district in the interior of Sofala province. In cooperation with our partner, the District Health Directorate, we introduced a system to visit remote communities who do not have access to health care due to long distances. On such a "Monthly Health Day", a health worker rides his motorbike to visit the isolated communities in order to assist with ambulance service and, in particular, to take care of young children, newborn babies and pregnant women. A notable achievement is the increasing vaccination rate made possible through this service. Malteser Germany ran the project in cooperation with its partner, who is now in a position to continue the activities without our support. Nevertheless, we will continue to monitor the situation in Mozambique and are ready to react to any upcoming acute emergency.

Further information: Monika Wissing, Monika.Wissing@malteser-ald.de

Angola: Official Recognition of Malteser Germany as NGO

On 25 November 2004, Malteser Germany received the full and unlimited recognition as Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) in Angola. Since 2002, we have been working in the south-eastern province of Kuando Kubango to assist the local population as well as refugees, returnees and internally displaced people in the health, nutrition and sanitation sectors. During this time, about 200,000 persons have benefited from the rehabilitation of health facilities, the construction of latrines, the distribution of soap, from a supplementary feeding centre for children under five years and pregnant women, the training of health staff and especially from the distribution of drugs and medical equipment to health facilities throughout the province.

We intend to continue this support to the people of Kuando Kubango in 2005 in cooperation with our partners, the provincial health authorities and Caritas Menongue.

Further information: Monika Wissing, Monika.Wissing@malteser-ald.de



3. EUROPE

Albania: Albanian Malteser Provide Relief for Flood and Earthquake Victims

At the beginning of December, Malteser Albania provided shelter and food for the victims of the severe earthquake in the south of Albania. Malteser Germany in the diocese of Cologne and the Foreign Aid Department initiated an emergency fund to provide the affected families with tents, radiators and alimentation.

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At the same time, Malteser Albania provided emergency relief for flood disaster victims in the north of Albania. Several villages in the district of Shkodra as well as the town itself had been inundated due to continuing rainstorms and the opening of a full reservoir. Many people were in need of emergency accommodation and the local hospital had to be evacuated. The prefecture of Shkodra was on high alert and called an emergency unit that among others consisted of members of the army and of Malteser Albania.

Further information: Michael Lültsdorff, Michael.Luelsdorff@malteser-ald.de

Ukraine: Malteser Provides Help in Kiev and Lviv during the Government Crisis

During the protests after the presidential elections on 21 November, which were attended by some hundreds of thousands of Ukrainians in the larger towns of the country, Ukrainian Malteser volunteers provided hot tea and food for the freezing and weak demonstrators. One week ago when the supreme court promised to renew the election and most people went back home, Malteser teams could also leave the site of peaceful revolution in order to run their traditional Santa Claus campaign, which takes place every year in favour of children's homes in the region of Lviv.

Pavlo Titko, director of the Malteser relief service in Ukraine, reports on a great amount of helpfulness - in his own country as well as from foreign countries. Titko especially thanks the German Malteser partners for their overwhelming solidarity.

Further information: Michael Lültsdorff, Michael.Luelsdorff@malteser-ald.de

4. OTHER

"Facts and Figures" – The Malteser Foreign Aid Department's Financial Report 2003

In 2003, about five million people in 34 countries benefited from the programmes and projects of Malteser Germany with a total project volume of almost 18 Million Euros. This is an increase of about 500,000 Euros compared with 2002. "Facts and Figures" – the Financial Report of the Malteser Foreign Aid Department - is published on our website for [download](#). The detailed account proves that we have utilised the financial means entrusted to us in a diligent and transparent manner and that we have employed the respective monies in an efficient and timely manner for the benefit of humanitarian aid.

If you wish to order printed versions (English/German), please contact:
-> Stefanie Mosch, E-mail: p-kommunikation@malteser-ald.de

Photo Shooting Campaign "I Show You My World"



In Summer 2004, Malteser Germany began a photo shooting campaign "I Show You My World". This campaign is aimed to open the donor's mind for needy people in Africa, Asia and Europe and to spend money for our projects. Numerous one-way cameras had been sent to our different project regions and distributed to children and young people to take pictures. Meanwhile, about 90 one-way cameras from six different countries have been transferred back to Germany. Films from another seven countries have been announced. The first films will now be developed free of charge by Agfa and then we shall choose the best and most suitable photos to inform our donors and the public in different publications about the situation in the field. If there is a sufficient number of good photos, we will also be able to prepare an exhibition.

There are still about 200 one-way cameras waiting here in Cologne to be sent to our project regions. If you have not yet received a camera and if you would like to join this photo shooting campaign, please contact your responsible desk officer in the Malteser Foreign Aid Department.

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Thank you to everybody who has already supported this wonderful campaign!

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Brussels: ECHO Partners Annual Conference

The ECHO partners annual conference took place on 6 and 7 December in Brussels with more than 200 participants from European humanitarian organisations. Both the new commissioner for development and humanitarian aid, Louis Michel (Belgium), and the new Director-General of ECHO, Antonio Cavaco (Portugal), emphasised the importance of humanitarian principles, the partnership between ECHO and the European NGOs and the quality of humanitarian aid. In 2005, ECHO will be operating with a budget of 490 Million Euros, which is pre-allocated in an annual strategic programme presented during the conference. Africa remains a focus of ECHO. Cross-cutting issues are HIV/AIDS, children, water, LRRD (linked relief, rehabilitation and development) and disaster preparedness. On three issues that were also themes for conference workshops, ECHO presented practical guidelines (Security, Communication, Children).

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