

Activities

ECOM is currently running emergency relief operations in India, Thailand, Sri Lanka and Indonesia and is also preparing rehabilitation programmes for these countries. We plan to support the rehabilitation measures during the next three to five years within our financial and human resource possibilities. All worldwide measures taken by the Emergency Corps Order of Malta will be coordinated and run by Malteser Germany within the framework of ECOM.

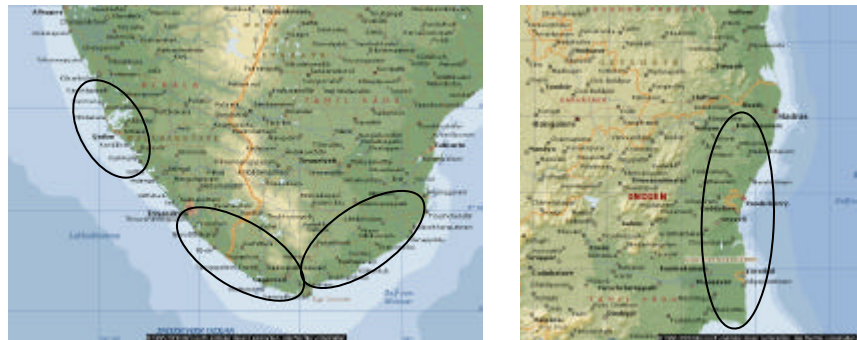
United Nations

On 6 January 2005, the United Nations and its partners launched a Flash Appeal to respond to the urgent and immediate needs of the communities severely affected by the earthquake and tsunami: "... This Flash Appeal reflects the efforts of some forty UN agencies and NGOs to plan and implement a strategic, efficient, and coordinated response to the needs of some five million people. Programmes focus on keeping people alive and supporting their efforts to recover, for example in the agriculture, education, health, food, shelter, or water and sanitation sectors. Reaching isolated communities is a serious challenge because of the destruction of transport infrastructure and communication systems. This requires the establishment of complex logistics and operations platforms. Strong coordination with Governments and between Governments and the international aid community will ensure that assistance is efficient and reaches the people who need aid most. The Flash Appeal focuses on supporting people in Indonesia, Maldives, Seychelles, Somalia and Sri Lanka from January to the end of June 2005, and calls for USD 977 million to fund the work of UN agencies and NGOs." (<http://www.reliefweb.int>)

Further information: Ingo Radtke, Ingo.Radtke@malteser-ald.de

South India

The total death toll according to the UN is now at 10,012. More than 5,600 people are still missing.



Areas with ECOM activities

ECOM is currently providing help for about 16,000 people in South India in cooperation with four local partner organisations (Unnati from Gujarat, HOM Health for One Million, CHAI Catholic

Health Association of India, MSSS Malankara Social Service Society):

1. Kerala – Kollam District: Together with the partner organisation MSSS Malankara Social Service Society from Trivandrum, focus lies on the welfare of refugees in five camps with around 5,000 refugees. Provision of food, blankets, clothing (in cooperation with Indian military personnel) and medical aid as well as counselling efforts for traumatised people. Special care for around 300 families who have lost their immediate relatives (children/parents).

2. Tamil Nadu –Kanyakumari District: Together with the partner organisation HOM Marthandam, integral and complete assistance for around 4,000 refugees in four camps in

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



churches and schools; provision of food, clothing and medical aid. Trauma counselling by Stella-Maris nuns.

Cooperation with further local NGOs in refugee welfare; targeted selective support for smaller villages.

Preparation for the construction of 350 individual emergency shelters in three villages and for the reconstruction of around 350 houses in three villages.

Preparation for support measures through the allocation of a rotation fund for fishermen in cooperation with the Association of Fishing Cooperatives in Kanyakumari District (28,000 member-fishermen).

Preparation of a project for the supervision of trauma counselling by an Indian specialist organisation.

3. Tamil Nadu – Nagapattinam District: Cooperation with CHAI, the Catholic Health Association of India. Medical emergency relief for flood victims totalling about 20,000 patients in over 30 villages. Stationed at base camps, mobile medical teams take on basic medical provision in remote areas, care for the injured and carry out vaccinations.

4. Tamil Nadu – all regions: Support for a Jesuit project in collaboration with Caritas and Misereor is planned. The principle objective is to strengthen social fringe groups and especially the "untouchables", who are traditionally excluded from Indian public support services.

All projects are coordinated by Martin Pfeifer who is currently visiting Tamil Nadu. Several hundred local helpers are working in India within the framework of ECOM/Malteser Germany and its partners.

"Death is present everywhere", reports Malteser emergency expert Martin Pfeifer from India's south-west. Three weeks after the devastating tsunami, Malteser Germany continues the co-operation in emergency aid and rehabilitation with its four local partner organisations. "We have many local volunteers caring for the traumatised people in the camps. Especially children are treated psychologically," describes Pfeifer. "Having lost their relatives, many people do not return to their homes. The psychological trauma is too great and so they cannot bear the sight of their destroyed village." Pfeifer further estimates that there exists a "high suicidal risk", which is not discussed openly due to a religious sense of shame. On the Indian shores, Malteser Germany and its partners have provided more than 40,000 victims with medicines, foodstuffs, blankets, and cooking items. Pfeifer states the construction of 400 temporary shelters as the next step of the rehabilitation process. In a second step, permanent houses are planned. "Those houses will be constructed in the typical regional style, but also in a sturdy design to better withstand further natural disasters", Pfeifer continues.



Another assessment was run by Mr Jacques Coffrant (OHFOM, France) from 7 to 16 January 2005 in Tamil Nadu and on the South-Eastern coast of India. Besides emergency aid in four villages – financial aid, distribution of food items and clothing – it is now suggested to realize rehabilitation programmes in the three following fields: 1. repair of fisher boats and provision of working material for the fishermen; 2. water and sanitation and 3. scholarships for orphans.

Malteser Germany co-ordinates the relief efforts and is supported by the network of international Malteser organisations. Malteser prepare for a long-term engagement in the South Asian crisis region lasting three to five years. "We strongly believe that during that time the cultural relationship between our countries will become even stronger and more intensive," says Ingo Radtke, head of Malteser Germany's foreign aid department.

Further information: Annette Wächter-Schneider, AWS@malteser-ald.de

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



South Thailand

“We are distributing medicine, food, blankets, pots and vessels to enable the local population to cook again”, states Marie-Theres Benner, Malteser Country Coordinator for Thailand. She is working together with local helpers and a logistics specialist, Jon Freeman, in the north of Khao Lak.



Areas with ECOM activities

As of 10 January 2005, the following data have been published in Thailand

- 5,305 people have died
- 2,184 bodies cannot be identified

On 9 January, the German Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer visited Phuket and the affected area of Khao Lak and Ban Nam Khem. A holy mass was held at The Assumption Church in Phuket followed by a meeting with the Minister. Two persons who lost their beloved ones as well as one couple who survived the Tsunami attended the meeting. From amongst the humanitarian aid agencies, the project coordinator of Malteser Germany in Thailand, Marie-There Benner, was invited.

The Minister met with the Prime Minister and the Foreign Minister of Thailand. Both parties agreed on assistance if our project is clearly defined and fits within the Thai policy framework.

The Malteser emergency relief experts Marie-Theres Benner (Germany) and Jon Freeman (UK) and about 100 local helpers are focussing their relief actions on the most vulnerable groups in South Thailand, i.e. fishermen and migrants from Myanmar. At present, we are continuing with the distribution of relief items and are conducting a re-assessment in the camp close to the totally destroyed villages of Ban Muang and Ban Nam Kem (with about 12,000 people) as well as on Koh Khao Island to better understand the further needs of the affected population.

Water and Sanitation

- Koh Khao Island:
ECOM via Malteser Germany has delivered two water and one sand pump to re-activate the wells on the island. So far, a 7,500 litre tank (total) has been delivered and needs to be filled with water at the temporary shelter site. This delivers at least 15 litres / person/day. The Navy has requested more water tanks which will be followed up soon.
- Ban Bansak (Ban Muang):
Malteser Germany has agreed with the Thai authorities and a private sponsor to install a water and sanitation system for about 150 households. The private sponsor will construct the houses with his team and Malteser Germany will install the water and sanitation system.
- Soi Tha Sud:
Soi Tha Sud is just opposite the road of Ban Bansak; here, Malteser Germany plans to build 50 houses. A list of required material will be collected in order to start with the de-

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livery of material on site and without delay. Local people are engaged in building measures and therefore receive “cash for work”.

Further relief measures will be assessed such as the Island of Koh Phra Thong.

Psychosocial Support in Thailand:



On behalf of the German Foreign Ministry, seven experts of the Malteser Team for Crisis Management had been in charge of the psychological support for the German tourists in Phuket. Sören Petry, Federal Malteser Coordinator for Psychosocial support states: “Within one hour, more than 20 volunteers had offered to travel immediately to the crisis areas”. Most of those who had survived the disaster are now confronted with self-reproaches. Petry: “The surviving people feel bad about their survival and they are missing their relatives who probably all died. We need to ease their psychological pressure!”

Further information: Cordula Wasser, Cordula.Wasser@malteser-ald.de

Sri Lanka



On 9 January, the ECOM assessment team headed by Mr Roland Hansen (Head of Asia Desk Malteser Germany) and Ms Anne Broquet (relief specialist of OHFOM France) arrived in Colombo in order to conduct an assessment in the southern part of the country. The team supplied an Emergency Health Kit with which 10,000 people can be treated for a period of up to three months. It is planned to prepare a comprehensive relief programme in the fields of shelter, water and sanitation as well as rehabilitation and income generation measures.



Areas with ECOM assessment

Despite the assurance of water provision in most affected areas in Sri Lanka, Hansen sees no reason to give the “all-clear” sign: “Within the framework of our assessment mission, we have encountered villages and emergency camps with poor water provision. Meanwhile, we have been able to erect water tanks there with a capacity of 1,000 liters.” Further reconstruction measures are planned: shelters, sanitary facilities, health care stations, in close cooperation with the government and the Bishop of Colombo.



Apart from this “medical-logistics” task, Hansen considers long-term Malteser engagement in Sri Lanka a “medical-educational” task: “When we erected the water tank in a school, we became aware just how common prostitution amongst students is. Therefore, education is vital in this area as we especially fear that even more adolescents will succumb to prostitution having lived through the devastation and despair.”

Psychosocial Support:

42 German tourists from Thailand and Sri Lanka were attended to by Malteser teams in Cologne and Brussels. On behalf of the German Foreign Ministry, experts for psychosocial support as well as doctors and paramedics provided help for the victims. Some of them had to be brought to a hospital, some were taken care of in hotels.

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Further information: Sonja Greiner, Sonja.Greiner@malteser-ald.de

Indonesia

An assessment team with Dr. Peter Schmitz (Coordinator Health Programmes, Malteser Germany) and Dr. Andreas Reich, an epidemiologist, has left for Medan and Aceh province in Indonesia in order to assess the needs of the population. Also in Indonesia, ECOM plans to set the main focus on the rehabilitation of water and especially sanitation facilities, the care for internally displaced people and the strengthening of primary health care services as well as income generating activities for a sustainable long-term rehabilitation.



Areas with ECOM assessment

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

2. AFRICA

Sudan: Peace Agreement for Sudan and Further Staff for Darfur

Finally, there are some positive news from the development in Sudan. The comprehensive peace agreement signed on 9 January between the Sudanese government and the Southern Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/A) marks a new beginning for a peaceful co-existence across Sudan. The peace agreement does not cover the war in Sudan's troubled Darfur region but all parties involved expressed hope that the resolution to the long-lasting conflict in southern Sudan, between Khartoum and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/A), will play a role in determining the conflict in the western Sudanese region of Darfur. For Malteser work in Yei and Rumbek, both located in Southern Sudan, a long-term successful peace agreement would make things a lot easier. Without the agreement there was no connection between the southern regions and Khartoum, the Sudanese capital. We hope that soon it will be possible to connect these locations with the upcoming Malteser Office in Khartoum.

From the beginning of February, the Kenyan midwife Judith Barasa and the Tanzanian doctor August Temu will support the Malteser team in Darfur which is led by Birke Herzbruch, Malteser expert in emergency aid. Julian Jekel will go to Khartoum as a project assistant and thus complete the Malteser team for Darfur. In 2005, Malteser Germany will continue to intensify the basic health care services with the special focus on safe motherhood, expand the polio vaccination for children under five years and rehabilitate a revolving-fund-system to sustain and secure the financing of the public health care structures.

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



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3. EUROPE**Balkan: Malteser Structures in Bosnia 2005**

Following a five-year assignment to the Balkans, regional coordinator Wolfgang Herdt left the region at the end of 2004 to take up work for Malteser Germany in Afghanistan as programme coordinator for Iraq and Afghanistan. We would like to thank him for his important contribution in the Balkans and wish him every success for his new work assignment. In future, follow-up projects in the Balkans in the areas of income generating measures and refugee repatriation will continue via local, directly responsible project managers. At the Malteser Foreign Aid head office in Cologne, desk officer Annette Wille and project officer Sandra Krüger will remain in charge of the Balkans.

Further information: Sandra Krüger, Sandra.Krueger@malteser-ald.de

Romania: Thanks to Malteser in Mayen-Koblenz from Alba Iulia

Voluntary Malteser helpers from Mayen-Koblenz distributed numerous Christmas parcels donated by two Kindergarten centres in Koblenz to a children's home and children's refuge in Alba Julia in time for Christmas. The Romanian-orthodox philanthropy, a Malteser project partner, is currently giving away a further fourteen tons of donated relief goods from Mayen-Koblenz to needy families in Alba Julia. The prefect of Alba district thanked the German Malteser who have already been engaged in helping the population of Alba Julia for the past fifteen years.

Further information:

Ralf Zielinski, Malteser-Ausland-@web.de and Michael Lülsdorff, Michael.Luelsdorff@malteser-ald.de

Ingo Radtke

Petra Ipp

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