

On the SPOT,

NEWSLETTER
June 2005

Launch of „Malteser International“: „Global Network for Help in the 21st Century“



On 24 June 2005 – St. John’s Day – the worldwide launch of Malteser International, the Order of Malta’s worldwide relief service, takes place. As Non Governmental Organisation (NGO) based in Cologne, Malteser International will provide humanitarian aid in all parts of the world: medical emergency relief measures as well as long-term rehabilitation measures and development programmes. “With Malteser International we bring together the existing forces of the Order and reinforce our network of 46 Order organisations all over the world with the aim of enhancing the synergy of all partners in the worldwide service to people in need”, states Nicolas de Cock de Rameyen (Belgium), President of Malteser International.

Malteser International is based on the experiences and global structures of Malteser Germany and on the Emergency Corps Order of Malta (ECOM), which was founded in 1992 to unite the strengths, resources and activities of the Order’s various agencies for emergency relief more effectively. Malteser International will be coordinated by the former Foreign Aid Division of Malteser Germany which has more than 50 years experience in international relief activities. So for example during the Kosovo Crisis 1999, after the earthquake in Bam/Iran or at last after the Tsunami in South and Southeast Asia. Malteser International carries out missions in 35 countries. At the headquarters in Cologne, about 40 emergency, rehabilitation and administration experts coordinate and administrate more than 150 worldwide projects. About 100 international experts are working in the emergency and crisis regions in the different countries in close cooperation with more than 900 local employees.



An important factor for the efficiency of Malteser International besides its high medical competence is the global network of the Order in five continents with 93 diplomatic representations worldwide”, de Cock adds. The contacts of the Order of Malta will facilitate the access to many crisis regions and to the official authorities. This is an indispensable requirement for competent global help in the 21st century.”

As the ethic foundation of Malteser International’s work President de Cock names the Christian values and the humanitarian principles of impartiality and independence. “The humanitarian aid of Malteser International remains what it has been for 900 years already: aid for people in need in all parts of the world without distinction of religion, race or political persuasion.”

As Secretary General of Malteser International has been appointed Ingo Radtke, former Director of the Malteser Foreign Aid Division.

On the international level, Malteser International can count on a long partnership and support of the European Commission and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Various projects of Malteser International are financially supported by the German Federal Foreign Office, by the German Federal Department of Economic Cooperation and Development as well as by international foundations.

Founding members of Malteser International are the Order associations of the 16 following countries: Austria, Belgium, Bohemia, Canada, France, Germany, Great Britain, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Switzerland as well as three associations from the United States of America (US American Association, US Federal Associations, US Western Associations). – Priors or associations who declare their willingness to become a member of Malteser International until the Hospitallers' Conference 2006 in Dublin/Ireland will be counted among the founding members.

For further information, please visit the new website of Malteser International:
<http://www.malteser-international.org>.

1. ASIA

a) Tsunami Relief in South and South-East Asia:

Six months after Tsunami Malteser International takes stock of its relief actions: “All relief phases run according to plan”

Also six months after the severe tsunami in Asia Malteser International is continuing its relief programmes in four countries affected by the tsunami: India, Thailand, Sri Lanka and Indonesia. “Emergency relief is concluded, and the other relief phases are running according to plan,” states the Grand Hospitaller of the Sovereign Order of Malta, Albrecht Freiherr von Boeselager. Hence Malteser International is currently assisting in 50 rehabilitation projects in the crisis regions – in cooperation with local partner organisations. According to Boeselager the project scopes are totalling 15 million Euro. Malteser until now has already spent 4 million and budgeted for another 11 million, which is more than half of the donations obtained



In the matter of transitory aid we constructed 650 emergency shelters in Sri Lanka and 400 in India. In those camps we ensured that the water supply as well as psycho-social support for traumatised victims was catered for. With the rehabilitation of six orphanages we are caring in particular for the affected children. In the field of rehabilitation Malteser International has signed contracts for the rehabilitation of 1,000 houses in 13 villages in Sri Lanka, the rehabilitation of 20 houses has already been finished. In Sri Lanka the rehabilitation of 500 houses is planned, whereas here the strengthening of medical and health institutions also plays an important role alongside the rehabilitation. In Thailand we are looking after the construction of houses in Ban Bansak as well as the water supply for the entire island of Kho Kho Khao. All projects include income-generating measures, such as the construction of fishing boats or crash courses for local builders, who are urgently needed. The affected population is receiving instruction on how to rebuild their houses themselves, in this way they are able to return a little to normality.

Boeselager summarises the Malteser International relief concept as follows:” People, who have lost their family and professional stronghold shall obtain sustainable assistance to help themselves.” This approach has proven to be successful in previous disaster relief actions it also helps to prevent cultural conflicts. This is particularly important since we are dealing with populations from different ethnical, political and religious background. “We know that our aid is only successful if we are sensitive in

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E-Mail: petra.ipp@malteser-international.org

religious background. “We know that our aid is only successful if we are sensitive in the conduct with local authorities and partners. Rehabilitation without diplomacy and intensive consultations is fruitless.” In the long run Malteser International intends to continue its rehabilitation works for the next three to five years.

Further information: Roland Hansen <mailto:roland.hansen@malteser-international.org>

b) Spotlights on Tsunami Relief in South and Southeast Asia

Sri Lanka: Construction of 650 Houses for 3.500 People

In cooperation with the local NGO „Tamils Rehabilitation Organisation“ (TRO), Malteser International has built 650 houses for 3.500 persons in the regions of Mullaitivu and East-Vadamarachi. These regions in the north-east had severely been hit by the Tsunami. The new houses are partly constructed in traditional ways and thus adapted quite well to the climatic circumstances. The facilities for the supply of drinking water can be used by up to eight persons in the same time. Special self-closing taps prevent the loss of water. During a project visit last May staff members of Malteser International Headquarters in Cologne could assure themselves of the successful realisation of the project and the good cooperation with TRO.

Further information: Dr. Jürgen Clemens <mailto:juergen.clemens@malteser-international.org>

India I: Reconstruction of Schools Along the Kanyakumari Shoreline

In cooperation with the diocese of Kottar, Malteser International repairs 16 schools for about 7,000 pupils along the south-western coast of India in the severely destroyed district of Kanyakumari. The project has a total volume of 174,000 Euro. At the 40 km long coastal strip about 900 people died due to Tsunami. The families of nearly 15.000 pupils have been affected by the catastrophe. In addition to rehabilitation works, Malteser International provides school furniture as well as working material for pupils in particular need. Together with the headmasters of the schools, Malteser International staff have recorded all damages and dressed up a priority list for help.

Further information: Annette Wächter-Schneider <mailto:aws@malteser-international.org>

India II: Inauguration of Rope making Facilities on Kanyakumari Shoreline – 500 Families Back to Work

On 20 June, Malteser International and its partner organisation “Health for One Million” (HOM) in the South-Indian State of Tamil Nadu have inaugurated the livelihood rehabilitation project for the Tsunami-affected coastal population of Kanyakumari District.

One branch of the local economic activities of the poorer population of the coastal zone was to soak coconut shells in ponds at the seashore to gain fibre for the production of rope. The Tsunami had destroyed all facilities in the coastal stretch and doz-



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ens of poor families involved in this economic branch lost their source of income.

Now, six months after Tsunami not only the ponds are repaired but also a 100 m long wall protects the production facilities from future damage by the sea. Rope making can be started again.



Another income generating activity supported currently is sea shell powder making. Altogether 500 families will be back on their feet economically. For those affected psychologically, counselling through trained volunteers of HOM is still ongoing. Nevertheless, most families still remain in temporary shelter. For those families whose children start their new school year this week, Malteser International and HOM distribute school equipment so that 2,000 children will not miss out on education.

All activities are part of a programme for livelihood restoration and support for tsunami affected children with a total volume of 190,000 Euro realized by Malteser International in cooperation with HOM.

Further information: Annette Wächter-Schneider <mailto:aws@malteser-international.org>

Tsunami Relief: Reinforcement of staff capacities in Asia Team

In order to cope with the new tasks in the additional Tsunami-affected countries Sri Lanka and Indonesia, Malteser International has reinforced the human resources of the Asia Desk in the Headquarters in Cologne. Further international staff are searched for in order to reinforce the teams in Cologne and on the ground.

In the Headquarters, Christiane Steinert, a long-term expatriate and public health expert, is from now on responsible for Indonesia and supervises health projects in other Asian countries, too. Since the beginning of May, Dr. Jürgen Clemens is the responsible desk officer for Sri Lanka. He is supported by Katja Linnartz who after the Tsunami spent three months in Sri Lanka in order to build up administration there. Sebastian Huthmacher, former member of the UN desk, has taken over the processing for several Asian countries.

At the moment, Malteser International runs projects in nine Asian countries with 40 expatriates and 400 local staff members.

Further information: Roland Hansen <mailto:roland.hansen@malteser-international.org>

b) Further News from Asia:

Iran I: New Centre for Computer Training in Bam



With the support of Malteser International, a small computer training centre has been opened in a container in Bam. The courses are especially assigned for children and teenagers and both girls and boys can attend them. At the day of the opening, especially women showed much interest in the centre and the courses offered. Already since summer 2004, Malteser International has been supporting such projects of local Non-Governmental Organisations in Bam with a fund for micro-projects with a total volume of 70,000 Euro. It is the aim of Malteser International to help the earthquake affected people by such micro-projects which are planned and realised by local or-

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affected people by such micro-projects which are planned and realised by local organisations.

Further information: Annette Wächter-Schneider <mailto:aws@malteser-international.org>

Iran II: First Malteser Container School in Use in Zarand

Malteser International also supports the children in the mountain villages of Zarand who have been affected by the earthquake on 25 February 2005. Now, 25 air-conditioned containers serve as classrooms for 650 pupils from three primary schools. Girls also attend the classes. The project has a volume of 100.000 Euros. With the money, Malteser International also finances school material for the pupils. The first container school has been set up recently. Lessons will start in all container schools until June 2005. After the earthquake in Bam on Christmas 2003, Malteser International had already built up similar containers in Bam which are still in use.

Further information: Annette Wächter-Schneider <mailto:aws@malteser-international.org>

Afghanistan: First-aid Card in Dari for Afghan Policemen

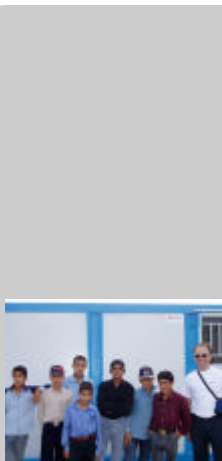
A unique first-aid pocket-card has been developed by Dr. Oliver Heindinger from the Ministry of the Interior in North Rhine-Westphalia for the first-aid-training of Afghan recruits at the police academy in Kabul. Upon approval by the German Federal Foreign Office, the card has been translated into the Afghan dialect Dari and printed by Malteser International. The small card is robust and water-resistant and will be handed out to all police recruits to support them in their daily work. Already in 2003 Dr. Heindinger had supported the project in Kabul by setting up instructions and guidelines for the physicals of police recruits on the basis of the German model.

Further information: Rainer Kobe <mailto:rainer.kobe@malteser-international.org>

Asia: Malteser International Sends Security Expert

Since middle of May, Alexander Hasenstab has started work as Malteser International security officer for the projects in Asia. He started his work in Afghanistan and gives advice to staff members in all questions of security. Besides security analysis, his main tasks are trainings and supervisions for local and international staff in security, acquisition and maintenance of technical instruments and communication tools. Furthermore, Hasenstab is going to develop widespread security concepts for Malteser International worldwide and will also carry out security assessments in other project countries.

Further information: Roland Hansen <mailto:roland.hansen@malteser-international.org>



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2. AFRICA

Bukavu/DR Congo: Photographer Visits Project for Victims of Sexual Violence



In the beginning of June, the photographer Birgit Betzelt has visited the Malteser International project in Bukavu in the north-east of DR Congo. Since 1996, Malteser International has been supporting about 100 health centres in South-Kivu. In the context of a specific programme, Malteser International also assists the numerous girls and women who have become victims of sexual violence during the war. Through special trainings they sensitise the local staff for the problem and train local helpers to assist the affected women. The number of girls and women who have become victims of sexual violence and now come to the health centres is increasing. Last year, about 8,000 girls and women were assisted in the health centres; this year, Malteser staff on the ground anticipates about 14,500 female patients to come. Nevertheless, there are still many women who fear discrimination and thus stay quiet.

Further information: Sandrine Rosenberger <mailto:sandrine.rosenberger@malteser-international.org> and Dr. Georg Nothelle <mailto:georg.nothelle@malteser-international.org>

3. EUROPE

Central and Eastern Europe: Flood Relief for Affected Countries



In reaction to the recent flood catastrophes in Romania, Serbia and Hungary, Malteser International has supported the emergency relief and rehabilitation measures of its Malteser partner organisations in the affected countries with a total amount of 78.000 Euro. Furthermore, the diocese of Trier and some more volunteer Malteser groups in Germany contributed money and relief goods to their partners in the afflicted areas. The Malteser relief services in Romania, Serbia and Hungary have distributed food to the flood victims. Reconstruction works have already been started. From summer 2005 on, there will be support to assure minimum existence, for example by distributing agricultural equipment and crops.

About 4.000 houses have been destroyed by the flood catastrophe in Rumania, 10.000 people were affected. In Serbia, 2.000 people had to be evacuated, at least 120 houses have been destroyed in the Vojvodina.

Further information: Michael Lülsdorff <mailto:michael.luelsdorff@malteser-international.org> and Annette Wille <mailto:annette.wille@malteser-international.org>

Bosnia-Herzegovina: First-Aid Service in Medjugorje



Since 1st of June, Malteser International has restarted its first-aid service in Medjugorje. The team which mainly consists of voluntary helpers from Malteser Germany and local nurses and doctors already offers this first-aid service for the eighth time. Last year, 4,117 patients from 44 different countries were assisted and treated by the Malteser International team on the spot. For the service in this year which will be offered until the beginning of November, helpers are still needed for the following periods (each 14 days): 25/26 June to 9/10 July, 6/7 August to 20/21 August, 20/21 August to 3/4 September and 1/2 October to 15/16 October 2005.

Further information: Ernst Brück <mailto:malteser-lgs-nrw@t-online.de>

Ingo Radtke

Petra Ipp

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