

## 1. ASIA



### **a) Spotlights on Tsunami Relief in South/Southeast Asia**

#### **South Thailand: Reconstruction of Houses in Ban Bansak Completed**

On 29 June 2005 reconstruction projects in Ban Bansak were finalized and 31 houses were handed over to their new owners during a formal ceremony. The project was financed by the foundation "Helft uns leben" of the Rhein-Zeitung and the initiative "Osthessen hilft Südost-Asien".

In the context of Tsunami relief measures in South Thailand during the next months, the following rehabilitation measures are planned:

- Road Construction to the village Ban Jai Dee
- Support of handicapped people in cooperation with the Sirindhorn National Medical Rehabilitation Centre
- Supply of medical equipment to the hospital in Kho Phi Phi
- Water supply for families on Kho Kho Kao Island
- Livelihood Recovery Programme in 14 selected villages

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#### **Sri Lanka: Cooperation Contract With FC Bayern Hilfe e.V.**

Representatives of the FC Bayern Hilfe e.V. signed a project agreement with Malteser International. Karl-Heinz Rummenigge (chairman of the board of FC Bavaria Munich) emphasized his gratification about the new project with Malteser International.

The main objectives of the agreement are to reconstruct the destroyed fishing village Seenanveli in the region Trincomalee located on the northeast coast of Sri Lanka and to support the reconciliation between groups affected by the civil war through sport, with a focus on soccer practice. FC Bayern Hilfe e.V. supports the project with 300,000 Euro.

Malteser International organized tractors to secure the supply of drinking water to Seenanveli residents. Local Malteser International representatives report that all families live in ventilated temporary shelters; meanwhile the building of permanent shelters for each of the 63 families is planned. Each shelter is equipped with new kitchen devices, mosquito nets and mattresses. The atmosphere among the people in the village is relatively relaxed with villagers sitting outside, chatting with their neighbours. Everyday life seems to partially restore itself.

The Trincomalee District Development Association (TDDA) will shortly initiate income generating activities. Currently there are no boats available for use in Trinco, but the Malteser International team attempts to get boats from other locations e.g. Negombo. The current relief measures in Seenaveli establish a sound foundation for further projects.

Further information:

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## **b) Further Projects in Asia**



### **Thailand: Health Project for Karen and Burmese Refugees Along the Thai-Myanmar Border**

Beginning 27 July 2005 Malteser International officially resumed its work in the Mae Ra Ma Luang camp situated along the Thai-Myanmar border. Due to security issues Malteser International staff had been forced to suspend their work in the beginning of June. A self-proclaimed “Health action improvement group” campaigned against Malteser International’s “strict international standards and donor requirements”.

A mediation process in which UNHCR, ECHO, Karen Refugee Committee, CCSDPT were involved, resulted in the clear commitment to a close cooperation of the Karen Refugee Committee, the Camp Committee and Malteser International.

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### **Vietnam: Poverty Reduction Program**

Since August Barbara Heinzelmann, expert of the German Development Service (DED), has been assisting the local project team of Malteser International in Danang. The DED and Malteser International support the implementation of poverty reduction programmes in the provinces Danang and Quang-Nam which are financed by the German Federal Department of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). The program started in February 2005 and women’s organisations of the villages in cooperation with Malteser International already produced a detailed work plan and initiated multiple projects within a short time period.

Projects include the distribution of seeds and animals to families in need based on a revolving fund system. Further projects offer teacher’s training in the field of health, nutrition as well as different workshops for women in kitchen gardening, livestock husbandry, health and small business development to independently generate income.

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## **India: Gujarat and Kerala Flood Relief: Immediate Aid After Severe Flooding**

Responding to the flood catastrophe in the district Gujarat in the West of India and the district Kerala in the South, Malteser International funded immediate aid projects with 200.000 Euro. These regions were afflicted by enormous inundations after severe unprecedented monsoon rains. Over 1000 people died, hundred thousands of residents were evacuated and thousands of houses were destroyed. Malteser International supplies medical care, food and household items in close collaboration with eight local partner organizations. Repair of housing is in process. Plans to establish reasonable disaster preparedness measures are being developed. Most severely affected by the catastrophe are residents of the lowlands living under poor conditions.

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## **2. AFRICA**



## **Food Crisis in Mali and Niger: Malteser International Sponsors Cereal Banks and Distributes Corn**

### **Mali**

Responding to crisis warnings the government of Mali has been distributing free cereal for the third time since October 2004. According to Malteser International teams on the spot these stocks are now empty and the government depends on international emergency relief. The government plans to establish 178 cereal banks nationwide to support especially the rural areas with food to balance the continuously rising prices of cereal.

Farmers and nomads, who lost their base of existence caused by last year's extreme drought and locust plague, live in extreme poverty and malnutrition. Mothers collect leaves and grass to save their children from starvation. Locusts and drought destroyed last October's harvest in Niger as well, according to UN figures leaving 3.6 million people in Niger alone short of food and threatening the lives of tens of thousands of starving children. The rain season increases the risk of diseases: Diarrhoea, respiratory diseases, malaria and hepatitis can have deadly consequences especially for the acutely malnourished children, whose immune system is weakened.

Based on assessment meetings with representatives of WFP in Bamako and a visit of the governor of the region and visits of the affected areas and communities Malteser International restocked 17 cereal banks of the "National Security Stock" (SNS) of the government of Mali with Euro 200,000 providing 520 tons of cereal for 60,000 people in the region Mopti, located 640 kilometres northeast of the Malian capital Bamako. Cereal banks offer not only immediate emergency relief but also represent a long-term relief for periods of severe food crisis.

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Malteser International established short-time emergency relief actions on the spot in response to the acute crisis in close cooperation with the structures of the Order of Malta / OHFOM (Oeuvres Hospitalieres de l'Ordre de Malta), the relief service of the French association of the Order of Malta, and local authorities and organisations.

Further information:

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## Niger

Last year Niger was affected by the same crisis as Mali: Locust attacks and low levels of rain with a early stop of the rainy season that led to a poor harvest for the season 2004/2005 generating problems to supply the market, important increase of the prices of cereals, decrease of the price of the cattle, shortage of food in the families, etc. According to UN figures 3.6 million people in Niger alone are left short of food and the lives of tens of thousands of starving children are threatened.

French-German teams of Malteser International in cooperation with local helpers distributed 285 bags of maize corn (100 kg per bag) to 1,500 families in the region Tilabery, located 70 km northwest of the capital Niamey in the district Korja Haoussa. Each family received 20 kg corn; after the next harvest, each family repays 10 kg into the village cereal bank.

Malteser International in cooperation with the village elders of eleven villages established administrative committees to organize the distribution and repayment of the corn. Malteser International cooperates with OHFOM.

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## “United for Africa”:

### Malteser International Project in Rumbek/Sudan in the Global Spotlight

On 18 August 2005, German TV journalist Anne Will visited the Arcangelo-Ali Health Centre in Rumbek. Since 1997/1998 Malteser International supplies the regions Rumbek and Yei in South Sudan with medical care. In the region Yei live 300,000 people, in the region Rumbek 360,000 people as well as over 35,000 war refugees.

The Arcangelo-Ali Health Centre offers ambulatory medical services. Approx. 100 patients are examined daily; up to 3,000 patients monthly. 15 to 20 children per day receive inoculation, e.g. against polio, diphtheria and tetanus.

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Additional visits included the regional hospital where Malteser International reconstructed the TB facility in July 2004 and supports the diagnosis and treatment of TB patients. Further visits included a medical training centre, the Tawil elementary school in Maridi and projects in the region Tonj. During her 3-day visit of South Sudan, Mrs. Will travelled as ambassador for “United for Africa”.

The alliance “United for Africa” connects 33 German aid organisations with the objective to give the people in Africa a platform to voice their concerns. Worldwide, 20 children under the age of five die every minute. The rate of mortality is particularly high in sub-Saharan Africa with hunger, poverty, AIDS and armed conflicts as the main causes. One in three Africans suffers from malnourishment, only half of the continent's population has access to healthcare.

The goodwill ambassadors, TV presenter Anne Will and musicians and singers Wolfgang Niedecken and Herbert Grönemeyer as well as 80 other celebrities support this campaign in combating poverty and AIDS in Africa. The German President Horst Köhler has kindly agreed to accept the patronage of this initiative.

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## **Kenya: Official Launch of Health Centre at Nairobi Remand Prison**



The Nairobi Remand Prison health facility is one of eight health centres supported by Malteser International in cooperation with the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). In 2001 the health centre was a small-depilated facility that had been constructed during the colonial era and thus no longer complied with the health demands of its community i.e. offered no laboratory or facilities for neither TB diagnosis and treatment nor Voluntary Counselling Testing (VCT), Anti Retroviral Testing (ART) or Mother Child Health (MCH).

In March 2005 Malteser International finalized the construction of a laboratory to enable TB diagnosis, VCT and ART services as well as bathrooms to collect specimen in coherence with the Nairobi slum project (a Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS project). In order to operate as a VCT and ART centre the Ministry of Health (MOH) officially authorised the facility in June 2005.

Malteser International established a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Prison Services that guide the partnership and define the roles and responsibilities in the Nairobi slum project. According to MOU standards Malteser International will

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rehabilitate existing structures onsite to facilitate operations. Since VCT and ART services were never before available at the health centre, an official launch to create awareness among local communities and project partners was initiated.

Guest of Honour for the ceremony on 16 August was Mr. Gilbert Omondi – Commissioner of Prison Services. Other guests in attendance included representatives of the German Embassy, the senior prison officers and inmates.

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### 3. EUROPE



#### **Flood disaster in Romania – Malteser International Secures Immediate Emergency Relief**

The Romanian Malteser Relief Service immediately initiated relief measures to support the affected population after heavy inundations had repeatedly hit 31 of the 41 national districts. Malteser International supported its Romanian partner "Serviciul de Ajutor Maltez în România" (SAMR) with funds of 50,000 Euro.

According to Michael Luelsdorff, Head of CEE (Central and Eastern Europe) / Foreign Aid Desk, a total of 2,000 food parcels were distributed in the districts Cluj, Alba, Bacau and Vrancea. Malteser International will further assist with remedial measures. Already in April and May of this year Romania had been hit by heavy inundations.

Further information:

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#### **Albania: Malteser Volunteers Receive Honorary Citizenship**

In June 2005 three Malteser International volunteers of the archdiocese Cologne were selected to receive the honorary citizenship of the North-Albanian city Shkoder on the occasion of the 10<sup>th</sup> jubilee of Malteser Albania (Malteser Ndihton ne Shqiperi). Foreign Aid Commissioner Dr. Michael Faber (Head of Foreign Aid Malteser Cologne and President of the Albanian Malteser Relief Service), Stefan Schwarz (Pastor, Malteser Bonn) and Matthias Heiden (Foreign Aid Desk Officer Malteser Cologne) received the rare honour for their commitment and services in the health care sector in North Albania.

Malteser Albania provides eight remote mountain villages in that region with medical supply.

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## First Introductory Seminar for German Voluntary Malteser Staff Working in Foreign Aid

For the first time Malteser International offers a seminar for German voluntary Malteser staff organised in German Malteser branches and working in foreign aid. The introductory seminar "Competence in Foreign Aid" will impart theoretical and practical aspects of honorary collaboration with partners abroad.

A task force of experienced honorary and employed foreign service workers of all association levels compiled the course concept, which had been tested during a pilot course last year. The seminar is scheduled for December 9 – 11, 2005 at the Malteser Kommende Ehreshoven.

Further information:

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## World Youth Day 2005 in Cologne



During the World Youth Day in Cologne from August 15 to August 21, Malteser Germany was responsible for the medical emergency service. During the events in Cologne, Bonn and Düsseldorf about 1,000 Malteser volunteers, up to 19 medical checkpoints and 5 mobile units were active. The weekend events on the Marienfeld in Cologne were supported by over 2,800 employees and volunteers of the large relief organizations under leadership of Malteser Germany. 50 checkpoints and five mobile paramedics as well as an additional supply of drinking water offered their services. Each first-aid checkpoint cared for about 35,000 pilgrims and offered emergency aid equipment, defibrillator with monitor function, suction unit and day-beds to treat hypothermia.

The majority of volunteers was from Germany, but not all: Malteser Germany was supported by numerous helpers e.g. Malteser teams from Poland including 46 task forces and physicians from Krakau and other cities. They served at the Poller Wiesen, the Marienfeld and particularly aided the Polish catechises.

Technical manager Dr. Michael Faber (Malteser Germany) was supported by "Malteser – Ndihton ne Shqiperi" (MNSH) from Albania. A group of ten Albanian Malteser volunteers provided medical service in cooperation with Malteser Germany in Bonn for approximately 60 meetings and events. 100 volunteers provided daily health care for the pilgrims.



Also 20 Malteser volunteers of the Irish "Order of Malta Ambulance Corps" from Dublin and other Irish cities and 20 volunteers of the Italian Malteser Relief Service "Corpo Italiano di Soccorso del Sovrano Militare Ordine di Malta" (CISOM) were actively supporting the activities.

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More international support offered Malteser teams from Lithuania (“Maltos Ordino Pagalbo Tarnyba”/MOPT), Luxembourg (“Premier Secours de la Croix de Malte), Austria (“Malteser Hospitaldienst Austria”), Romania (“Serviciul de Ajutor Maltez în România”/SAMR) and Hungary (“Magyar Máltai Szeretetszolgálat”/MMSZ).

To take stock of the Malteser Germany mission at the WYD 2005: Over 5,000 pilgrims received assistance and about 300 patients were transferred to nearby hospitals. Disease patterns included cardiovascular system problems, adynamia and minor injuries.

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