

## 1. Asia

### **Earthquake South Asia: Malteser International provides help in Pakistan and India**

On the 8<sup>th</sup> of October an earthquake measuring 7.6 on the Richter scale has affected large areas in northern Pakistan and India. The number of casualties caused by the earthquake is estimated 53,000 in Pakistan and about 1,600 in India. The number affected by the earthquake is estimated to be over 4 million of which 1 million was affected seriously; 76,000 people are confirmed to be injured.

The region has faced major logistical problems due to the fact that the infrastructure has been severely damaged and the most affected regions are mountainous. Access to the affected population in remote valleys has proven to be the most difficult problem.

#### **a) Pakistan**

Malteser International staff members Marie Theres Benner and Jon Freeman left Cologne on 13<sup>th</sup> October. In Pakistan they established first relief measures in cooperation with the Turkish based International Blue Crescent (IBC) which has already been a well-proven cooperation partner after the earthquake in Turkey and the after-war crisis in Iraq. Priority is given to organize relief items such as tents, blankets, mattresses, jerry cans, cooking sets and hygiene kits. In cooperation with other German relief services within the alliance “Aktion Deutschland Hilft” (Action Campaign Germany Helps), Malteser International has already distributed tents and blankets for about 70,000 people. Furthermore, Malteser International is cooperating with the German Leprosy and TB Relief Association (GLRA) which has a strong network and working relations with the people in the remote areas of Pakistan.

Fact is that the incoming winter bears high risks because thousands of affected people do not have shelter, food and medical care. Continues aftershocks lead to road blocks and make access difficult. However, support for the survivors is crucial to prevent further casualties.

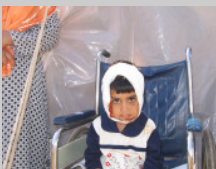
Therefore, within the next weeks, Malteser International in close cooperation with IBC und GLRA will provide another 13,000 people in Muzaffarabad, Manserah and Batgram with tents, cooking sets, blankets and mattresses. As soon as possible, a public kitchen will be established in Muzaffarabad in order to provide meals for around 3,000 people.

Further information:

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#### **b) India**

The devastating earthquake took a toll of approximately 1,300 people killed in India, several thousands are left wounded, and especially in small and remote villages in the Kashmir mountains people are still without medical supply or official support to cover their basic needs. More than 32,000 houses were destroyed, and the winter



started already with snowfall and heavy cold rains. The “Catholic Health Association of India” and the “Sisters Doctors Forum India”, two Indian partner organizations of Malteser International, cooperating with us since many years, have sent medical staff and psychological trained experts to the affected areas. They provide medical treatment for the wounded and psychosocial support to the traumatized.

There is a high risk of worsened health status of the untreated patients, such as tetanus, gangrene and avoidable amputations. Based in Uri, the teams have organized mobile clinics and reach out to the remote hamlets, distributing drugs, blankets, basic nutrition and individual support, wherever possible.

Malteser International supports the relief activities of its Indian partner organizations with 82,000 EUR.

In the beginning of October, the management of the Malteser International coordination office in Nagercoil (South India) for all projects in India has been handed over by Wiltrud Gutmiedl to the new project coordinator Nicole Moran who up to now had been working for Malteser International in Kabul/Afghanistan. We thank Wiltrud Gutmiedl for her dedication and work in India. From now on she will work as desk officer Afghanistan in the Asia desk in Malteser International’s headquarters in Cologne.

Further information:

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## **Tsunami Rehabilitation Indonesia**

### **a) Health care centres in Meulaboh (west coast)**

The construction of three health care centres in Meulaboh is making considerable progress according to schedule. In case of ongoing steady progress the construction work will be completed in December so that Malteser International can provide the furnishing and the technical equipment and start the training program for health workers. The staff for the health centres will be made available by the local health authorities.

### **b) Completion of houses and new projects in Lancok and Jambo Timor (east coast)**

Another fifty houses have been finalized in the village of Lancok. Furthermore a close cooperation for the rehabilitation process has been prearranged with the KfW Banking Group. Three saltern huts have been taken into operation. A small women’s community already produced 120kg salt. The first issue of a village newspaper – including a detailed presentation of the Malteser International team and the community rehabilitation program – has been printed and distributed in both villages.

Thanks to a donation made by the German company “Zahnrad Friedrichshafen hilft e.V.” two new projects could be launched in the villages of Lancok and Jambo Timor. The first project focuses on women in need who will be supported by income generating measures like sewing courses and the provision of sewing and embroiders machines. Micro loans for fish farming and the improvement of the existing fish



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ponds with the aim to increase the income of families are given within the second project.

### **c) Medical services for UN personnel in Sumatra**

The team of Malteser International has successfully started its work within the project „Medical services for UN personnel in Sumatra“ providing medical care for UN staff in Banda Aceh and Meulaboh.

Further information:

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## **2. Central America**

### **Hurricane Stan: Heavy rains cause landslides and floods- Associations of the Order of Malta in Central America in need for assistance**

From 4 to 9 October 2005, Hurricane Stan caused casualties and high damages across Central America and Mexico. Affected countries have been Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador and Nicaragua. El Salvador has additionally suffered with the first eruption in a century of its Llamatepec volcano, which killed two people and forced thousands to evacuate their homes.

As a result of the hurricane especially Guatemala was affected by heavy rains at the southern coast and western highlands. Flooding and over 900 landslides have caused loss of life, injury and displaced persons as well as damage to housing and infrastructure. The number of dead in Guatemala has risen up to about 660. The number of people who are directly affected by the natural disaster is around 1.5 million. Poor and isolated communities have been severely affected, people lost their livelihood and women and children are prone to suffer first from a lack of rescue resources.

Malteser International will provide 100,000 Euro for the relief activities of the Order's Associations. From 28 October until 1<sup>st</sup> November, Ingo Radtke and Osvaldo Marcenaro from the Federal Association of the Order of Malta and responsible for Malteser International projects in New Orleans will be in Mexico in order to prepare further steps to assist the national associations.

Further information: Ingo Radtke, <mailto:ingo.radtke@malteser-international.org>

## **3. Europe**

### **Romania/Timişoara Conclusion of Partnership Codex in Eastern Europe**

The latest Conference of the Central and East European Order of Malta relief agencies set a cornerstone to the process of network-building. On 5 October the representatives from the Ukraine, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, the Czech Republic, St. Petersburg/Russia as well as delegates from Malteser International and H. Exc. the Grand Hospitaller of the Order of Malta, Albrecht Freiherr von Boeselager, for the first time signed a common Partnership Codex. The Codex describes and



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determines the fundamentals of the network and the basic principles of its international cooperation within the Order of Malta partnership network.

Further subjects of the conference were fundamental questions like the spiritual basis of the organizations' work and the understanding of voluntary work. In a field trip during the first stage of the conference, the Romanian hosts gave an insight of some of their ongoing projects. Conferences of Central and East European Order of Malta aid organizations and their German partners have taken place once a year since 2003.

Further information:

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## 4. Others

### IHCOM meets Malteser International in Cologne

On 26/27 October, Malteser International has hosted the International Hospitallers' Committee (IHCOM) meeting in its headquarters in Cologne. IHCOM, headed by the Grand Hospitaller of the Order, H. Exc. Albrecht Freiherr von Boeselager, and consisting of further members of the Government and the Sovereign Council of the Order of Malta and representatives of different national associations, has come together in order to get a detailed overview of the work of Malteser International. As special guests the Ambassadors of the Order to the United Nations in Geneva and New York and to the European Commission in Brussels also joined the meeting. Additionally to the presentation of the headquarters' staff and the running projects of Malteser International, the agenda also included discussions about the medium and long-term strategy of Malteser International and the coordination of humanitarian projects within the associations of the Order.

Further information: Petra Ipp, <mailto:petra.ipp@malteser-international.org>

### Future and Hope: Malteser International Photo Calendar 2006

For the first time, Malteser International presents its desk calendar 2006 in four languages (English, German, French and Spanish) with numerous photos showing the variety of projects in Africa, Asia and Europe. This brand new calendar is especially suitable as present for cooperation partners, donors and friends. The price is 2.95 EUR and includes a contribution of 1.00 EUR for Malteser International's worldwide work. To order the calendar which is enclosed as a pdf file to this newsletter, please contact Janine Hammans at Malteser International's headquarters, phone ++49 – 221 – 98 22 213, <mailto:janine.hammans@malteser-international.org>.

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