

On the SPOT

1. Asia

Earthquake South Asia

a) Pakistan – Winter relief programs for homeless families



On the 8th of October an earthquake measuring 7.6 on the Richter scale had affected large areas in northern Pakistan and two districts in India. The death toll on Pakistan's territory exceeded the number of 70,000 and more than four million people suffer from the impact of the earthquake. The affected areas are mountainous and therefore difficult to access; the situation has been further aggravated by landslides and destroyed infrastructure. The local government and international relief organizations are still facing major challenges due to the high number of injured people who are still without medical treatment, the enormous amount of destroyed houses, and the inaccessibility of victims.

A lot of people still live in non-winterized shelters which do not provide sufficient protection against the cold winter season. 90 % of the houses in the mountainous region of Azad Kashmir as well as in the districts of Mansehra and Batgram in the north-west-frontier region are completely destroyed and the remainders are all damaged to one degree or another. Since nearly all the buildings are destroyed, food storage and protection of the livestock has become almost impossible. People are prone to further health risks because of a lack of food, income and protection against the cold weather. First priority has to be given to winterized shelters for the affected population.



In Tandali and Kanga, Malteser International provides 4,000 people in remote mountain villages with tents, matrices, plastic sheets, cooking utensils and blankets. High priority is given to households and families which are cared for by women alone and for families with a lot of children or elderly people. The same assistance is given to around 1,000 families – around 10,000 people – in Mansehra und Batgram. Additionally, Malteser International distributes food items like oil, rice, lenses etc.

Malteser International contributed to the relief operations of the alliance „Aktion Deutschland Hilft“ that has been distributing tents and blankets for about 70,000 people in the Kashmir region immediately after the disaster. On the basis of the results of an assessment mission on the spot, Malteser International now implements two comprehensive winter relief programs for homeless families in the mountainous regions of Muzaffarabad and Mansehra. These winter relief programs are realized in close cooperation with the Turkish partner organization “International Blue Crescent” and the Pakistani network of the German Leprosy and TB Relief Association, GLRA. With 250,000 Euro, the ‚Deutsche Bank‘ supports the relief measures of Malteser International for the earthquake victims in Pakistan. The money will mainly be spent on the purchase of relief items.

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b) India

The death toll in India is over 1,300, and 60,000 people got injured. Over 150,000 people in Indian Kashmir lost their houses and are especially vulnerable in view of the starting winter season.



Malteser International provides medical emergency relief in the affected region via two local partner organizations which are also successfully cooperating with Malteser International in the Tsunami affected regions and in Gujarat.

Our partner CHAI (Catholic Health Organization of India) disposes of two hospitals in Kashmir and was able to send medical staff immediately after the disaster in order to take care of the victims. The assistance focuses on medical treatment of injured persons; additionally blankets and food are distributed. At the same time, CHAI provides psychosocial counselling for the affected families. Furthermore, a mobile medical team of four medical staff members of the Sister Doctors Forum of India (SDFI) provides medical relief. Their assistance is supplemented by the distribution of blankets and warm winter clothing for numerous homeless families.

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Tsunami in South and South-East Asia: One year after the tidal wave: Emergency relief and rehabilitation in Indonesia, Sri Lanka, India and Thailand

Emergency relief

During the acute emergency phase, Malteser International immediately provided one million Euro for emergency relief programs. According to international standards for humanitarian assistance, Malteser International has implemented all relief measures in a sustainable way and has ensured the link between emergency relief and rehabilitation.

Rehabilitation

Twelve months after the severe seaquake, Malteser International is in charge of over 65 rehabilitation and reconstruction projects in Indonesia, Sri Lanka, India and Thailand – in cooperation with experienced local partner organizations. 80 percent of the altogether 30 million Euro private and public donations have already been spent in projects or are included in the budget planning. In 2005, the budget volume of implemented projects has been 8.7 million Euro, further rehabilitation and reconstruction projects with a volume of 20 million Euro are in preparation for the next years. The close cooperation with local partner organizations, with the local population as well as with the governments of the affected countries guarantees successful humanitarian action on a long-term perspective. Malteser International considers assistance to be an offer for help. It seeks not only to reconstitute the pre-catastrophe situation but aims at improving the general living conditions of people. This approach helps to reduce vulnerability and to increase disaster preparedness.



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Malteser International focuses on four scopes of activity in the rehabilitation process:

- basic health care and psychosocial counselling
- reconstruction of houses, schools, infrastructure and water supply systems
- income generating measures
- assistance for children and young adults

Further information:

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a) Rehabilitation in Indonesia

In Indonesia, Malteser International particularly supports the rehabilitation of health care structures and fishing villages in three regions: in Banda Aceh, in Lhokseumave/east coast of Aceh and in the region south of Meulaboh/west coast. The largest project is the integrated village rehabilitation project for two villages in the region of Lhokseumave. The village community is fully integrated into the rehabilitation process and the first families were already able to move in their new constructed houses.

Furthermore income generating measures have been initiated, e.g. the production of salt by women in salt-huts. In Meulaboh, Malteser International pays special attention to the local health structures, for example by the construction of three health centres which will be able to provide health care for 10,000 people.

Further information:

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b) Rehabilitation in Sri Lanka

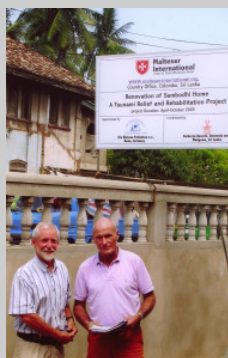
In Sri Lanka, Malteser International is running projects in the most affected areas on the north, east and south coast of the country. In order to assure a socially and regionally fair distribution of assistance and to reach all ethnic groups, Malteser International has chosen partners with different societal background who successfully implement the projects supported by Malteser International. The program focus is on reconstruction of houses, water and sanitation systems, orphanages as well as homes for children and for disabled persons. Furthermore, Malteser International implements income generating and training measures, programs for the rehabilitation of livelihood for fisher families and psychosocial counselling for traumatized victims of the Tsunami.

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c) Rehabilitation in India

In India, the scheduled caste people, widows and disabled persons suffered extremely severe hardship after the Tsunami. Already before the disaster a lot of those societal excluded groups had to struggle for their survival. After the Tsunami they often did not receive goods or were ruled out of state-run relief plans. Malteser International's aid programs are especially directed towards them.



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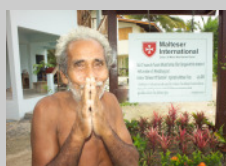


Immediately after the first emergency relief measures, Malteser International and its partner organizations started the rehabilitation in the south as well as projects at the southern east and west coast. Rehabilitation measures include health care for about 60 villages, psychosocial counselling for families and income generating measures such as the production of lime, ropes etc. Up to now, Malteser International was able to help 1,000 families to achieve self-sufficiency. Furthermore, Malteser International has rehabilitated houses and schools, cleared up wells and set up latrines and rain-water-harvesting systems.

Further information:

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d) Rehabilitation in Thailand



The south of Thailand – especially the provinces of Krabbi, Phang Nga, Ranong and Phuket – has been severely affected by the Tsunami tidal wave. Malteser International implements health care projects for disadvantaged minorities in 14 villages and supports Tsunami victims (e.g. by counselling programs for traumatized school-children, provision of orthopaedic material). Another component of the rehabilitation measures are income generating measures, vocational training for the improvement of the livelihood of people, reconstruction of houses and set-up of water supply systems. More than 80% of the homeless families have already moved into their new houses in their villages of origin or have been resettled in new villages.

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Cambodia:

Successful Village Emergency Referral System in Oddar Meanchey

Malteser International's mission for Cambodian people started already in 1979 with the care for Khmer people in the refugee camps in Thailand. Since 1993, we also work in Cambodia and in 1999 we initiated projects in the newly established Province Oddar Meanchey in the remote north of Cambodia, whereto many former refugees were resettled.



Facing the challenge of an almost complete lack of governmental health structures, Malteser International first of all concentrated on malaria control and emergency relief. Expanding step by step the activities, we started to support rehabilitation and capacity building of new health structures on health care centre and hospital level. In 2005, we changed our focus to community health in order to enable the communities to help themselves and to achieve better access to the health system.

An example for a very successful project component is the "Village Emergency Referral System": Malteser International organizes and trains volunteer first aid teams in each village and links them to the next health centre. We already received numerous requests from village communities and also from the government to expand our scope of activity in this field. In order to improve the basic health care system we furthermore initiated a pilot project on community based health insurance.

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The project is funded by the German Federal Government and is still in its first phase.

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Sri Lanka: Annual Meeting Asia of Malteser International

The annual meeting of Malteser International's staff in Asia took place in Sri Lanka from the 24th until the 27th of October. More than 20 Malteser International field staff from six countries participated in the meeting with representatives from the Headquarters in Cologne in order to evaluate the Tsunami projects in Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Thailand and India. The work and cooperation with partner organizations - especially in the area of tsunami relief and rehabilitation - has been another important subject of discussion. A working group has been established with the aim to develop some principle documents such as guidelines and formats for the reporting and monitoring of project development. Other issues of this years' meeting were questions of security and strategy as well as the general exchange of experiences between the representatives and staff members of the projects in Asia.

Further information:

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2. Africa

Democratic Republic of the Congo

a) Continuation of the program for food security

The positive societal impact of the integrated program for nutrition and food security for families in South-Kivu justifies for ECHO further financial support of the project. The project includes several components with the primary goal to reduce the number of malnourished children. Food aid is given in therapeutical and supplementary feeding centres in combination with training courses on nutrition and agricultural subjects. Furthermore, Malteser International distributes pest-resistant seeds, rabbits for breeding and cultivation tools. Structural assistance is also given via cash-for-work projects such as the improvement of access roads to the feeding centres.

The geographical scope of the program reaches also very remote areas which have not yet benefited from international assistance at all until today. In the region of Mulungu a survey project is carried out in order to collect data about the health and nutritional status of the population which will be used as a basis for further project planning.

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b) Set-up of a liaison office in Kinshasa

From now on, a liaison office of Malteser International in Kinshasa will become operational. The most important responsibilities of the office are to keep up contacts with governmental authorities, diplomatic corps and the representatives of donor organizations in the DR Congo. This is meant to support the work and the planning of Malteser International's projects in Eastern Congo as well as to facilitate the cooperation with donors and the Congolese government. Additionally, Mr Andreas Rube, responsible for the set-up of the office in Kinshasa, will promote networking with other relief organizations and strengthen Malteser International's presence and visibility in the DR Congo.

Further information:

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World Aids Day I:

Kenya: Help for TB and HIV/AIDS patients in the slums of Nairobi

The Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS project of Malteser International in Nairobi, financially supported by the German Foreign Office, offers a modern system of diagnosis and treatment for 600,000 slum dwellers since 2002. Every second TB patient is also infected with HIV. Personnel in eight health centres, which have been equipped by Malteser International, carry out not only the voluntary counselling and testing but also the treatment on the spot.

Since 2005, Malteser International also offers the possibility of antiretroviral treatment for people infected with HIV. The treatment does not stop the disease but slows its progress down. Thus, until today the life of 160 patients in Nairobi has become more supportable thanks to the treatment provided by Malteser International.

Further information:

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World Aids Day II:

South Africa: Executive President of Malteser Germany visits Malteser hospice in Mandeni: „Death is omnipresent!”

On the occasion of the World Aids Day on the 1st of December, the Executive President of Malteser Germany, Johannes Freiherr Heereman, has visited the Malteser hospice in Mandeni (South Africa). Providing 40 beds for patients, it is the largest hospice in Africa. On average, every second day a patient passes away, sometimes five patients die on one day. “Thanks to numerous volunteers and medical doctors specialized in palliative medicine, the patients here get the chance to die in dignity; the staff members take perfect care for them day and night. This hospice is an oasis of love and peace amidst an environment of hardship and despair”, Heereman states.



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The hospice has been established by Rev. Father Gerhard Lagleder, member of the Order of Malta and Benedictine, who has been working in the missionary field for nearly 20 years already. His work in Mandeni is financially supported by Malteser groups from different countries. Malteser Germany, for example, pays for the medical drugs which will be required for the patients in the hospice in the year 2006. Heereman is shocked by the overall situation in the city of Mandeni: “Death is omnipresent in this city. This is not astounding since Mandeni holds the sad world record of having an HIV-positive testing toll of 76 %. One third of the total population of Mandeni is already infected with HIV.”

Hereeman is filled with consternation in view of the fact that also a high number of children suffer from the disease. “More than 200,000 children become infected every year.” Half of the 40 children living in the Malteser children’s home in Mandeni are infected. In the light of this hardship Heereman urgently asks for donations in order to finance medical drugs. Since: “Every human being in this world has the right to live and to die in dignity.”

More information about the Malteser hospice in Mandeni and the work of the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard are available here: <http://www.bbg.org.za>

3. Others

Children’s photo competition: “Show me your world”



Sponsored by the German company ‘Agfa’, last year Malteser International had sent a number of one-way cameras to the numerous project regions in Africa and Asia and asked the children living in the project areas to demonstrate their every-day life through the lens of the camera. In total, more than 140 cameras had been sent back to the Headquarters in Cologne; about 3,400 photos had to be developed, they giving a remarkable integrated overview of children’s environment in different parts of the world. The many laughing faces on the pictures show that also the people in front of the camera enjoyed taking part in the competition.

Finally, a selection of more than 50 photos was presented to a jury consisting of staff members of Malteser Germany’s headquarters in Cologne which had the really difficult task to chose the winner photos:

Our sincere congratulations go to the following winners:

1. DR Congo / Ariwara (unfortunately, the name of the photographer was not written on the camera)
2. India / Chawhan Chndrikaben
3. India / Parmar Kishorbhai Khemjibhai
4. Vietnam /Ho Van Dang
5. DR Congo / Upenj Mungu

The winner photos as well as a further selection of photos taken by children in Malteser International’s project regions can already been viewed on Malteser International’s picture gallery. To see the photos just click here:

<http://php.malteser.de/cpg133/thumbnails.php?album=44>

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Our thanks and congratulations to all children who have participated in this competition as well as to our staff on the spot who have supported this competition by distributing the cameras to so many children and also recollecting them and returning them to us! All the children shall receive a special certificate expressing our gratitude for their participation and the winner photographers will be rewarded with a special prize for all children in the project.

It is also planned to present a selection of the photos in a special photo exhibition to the interested public in 2006.

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Ingo Radtke

Petra Ipp

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