

On the SPOT

1. Africa

Angola: Rehabilitation “at the end of the world”



Three years of emergency relief could not wipe out all the traces that 27 years of civil war have left to the country. Therefore, Malteser International will continue its support for the needy people in the province of Kuando Kubango in far South-East Angola after completion of its emergency relief programs. Remote areas which are difficult to access and up to now were hardly reached by relief measures will be of top priority in the new program. In cooperation with EuropeAid, we will support the rehabilitation and assist existing primary health care services in five municipalities. Further health care centres will be rehabilitated and equipped in cooperation with the health authorities of the province. Training courses will be organized for the local staff of the health care centres. Special emphasis is put on the education of the population with regard to HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria since these major diseases are to be fought precociously in the province of Kuando Kubango. Malteser International also endorses the local staff to run these programs on their own later on.

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Lent Campaign 2006: „40 Euro for Bukavu“

DR Congo: Sensitization program for victims and offenders



For ten years already, Malteser International supports more than 300 health care centres in war land DR Congo. Due to the large amount of violent attacks against girls and women, we provide medical and psychosocial care for the victims of violence. However, we also offer help und organize special programs for the offenders. A „sensitization program against sexual violence“, for example, sometimes even brings together the victims of rape and their husbands as well as soldiers. Project manager Ursula Mesmer, who reports on a weekly basis from Congo within our Lent Campaign „40 Euro for Bukavu“, in her report “A foretaste of peace” explains how such a program works:

http://www.malteser.de/61.Malteser_International/en/61.02.News_Press/61.02.04.LentCampaign/campaign.htm

The virtual photo gallery “Women in Congo” with photos taken by Birgit Betzelt, realized by ECHO and Malteser International and published on our website <http://www.malteser-international.org> provides an additional insight into our work in DR Congo.

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Kenya: Persisting drought catastrophe: “Rapid increase of malnutrition, diarrhoea and acute respiratory diseases”



The drought catastrophe in northern Kenya persists: thousands of people suffer from hunger as a consequence of the lack of two rainy seasons. Extremely affected are the districts of Marsabit, Samburu and Isiolo. Jochen Bürkle, Regional Coordinator Eastern and Southern Africa, states: “The persisting water shortage and the bad water quality have drastically diminished livestock and therefore the nomadic population has lost its only resource of income. That is also the reason why more and more people are undernourished and especially vulnerable to infectious diseases”. Poor hygienic conditions worsen the situation additionally. Especially with regard to children under the age of five, Bürkle observes an increasing number of cases of malnutrition, diarrhoea and respiratory infections.

That is why Malteser International in cooperation with the dioceses of Marsabit, Maralal and Isiolo provides eight health care centres with protein-containing and supplementary food for pregnant women, nursing mothers and children as well as medicines. Estimated target group: more than 30,000 people. This emergency relief for the victims of the drought catastrophe in Kenya is mainly financed by the Federal Foreign Office of Germany and the British Association of the Order of Malta. Long term measures that aim at improving the water supply and supporting livestock farming adapted to the environment are indispensable components of further relief on the spot.

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2. Asia

Myanmar: World Tuberculosis Day on 24 March: “The disease can be defeated!”



Chances to successfully fight TB (tuberculosis) in Myanmar are not bad. In Northern Rakhine State near the border with Bangladesh, Malteser International runs a comprehensive basic health care project for ethnic minorities and returnees. Among these, the number of TB patients is very high as it is for the rest of the country. Nevertheless, Eric Donelli, Medical Coordinator in Myanmar, points out: “The infection is healable, the disease can be defeated!” It is essential to thoroughly inform the people potentially concerned and to provide sufficient and adequate capacities for diagnosis. Further on, it is extremely important to see to the patients that they regularly take the necessary pharmaceuticals.

In order to assure the necessary intensive medical attendance, we work with community health workers. They go to see their patients regularly, inform them and accompany them following the DOTS (Direct Observed Treatment Short-Course) guidelines developed by the World Health Organization. In order to guarantee that the therapy is not cancelled, we use different incentives: “Those patients who follow the therapy successfully during six months until the end, get food for themselves and their families”, Donelli explains. “The community health workers who treat their patients successfully are rewarded with a bonus, too.” Patients who are in special

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need are supported with a lump sum to cover the transport costs in order to do the necessary examinations in the health care centre. The aim of the project is to detect at least 70 percent of all TB infections, to cure at least 80 percent of the patients and to reduce the quota of those who stop their therapy to less than 10 percent. “If we succeed in doing this, Donelli says, “we will break through the spiral of poverty which is closely connected with TB”.

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Pakistan: Close-down of tent camps and rehabilitation of villages

The heavy earthquake of October 2005 left 3.5 million people in Pakistan without shelter. Those who did not find any accommodation in the houses of relatives had to live in huge tent camps on the outskirts. According to the latest decree of the Pakistani government, people are now requested to leave these tent camps mostly set up and attended by international and local relief organisations and to return to their home villages. These villages, however, have been destroyed in large part by the earthquake. In order to facilitate the population’s new start in their destroyed villages, Malteser International has now transported by helicopter the necessary material for more than 640 emergency shelters into the remote mountain villages of the Pallas Valley. These half-round huts made out of steel pipe and corrugated iron sheets are easy to build up or to strike and later can be used multifunctional.



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Sri Lanka: Rain water harvesting for 3,000 families – Handing over of the first 40 water tanks

In Southern Sri Lanka, Malteser International has started a new kind of water project: In the districts of Hambantota, Matara and Galle rainwater will be collected in tanks from the roofs of 3,000 private houses and public buildings. The aim is to cope with seasonal water shortages. Each year after monsoon the population suffers from water shortages even in southern Sri Lanka. This new project is realized in cooperation with UNICEF and a local partner organization, the „Lanka Rain Water Harvesting Forum“.



The project was started by a training workshop from 1 to 5 of March 2006. The skilled masons then did a training-on-the-job for unskilled masons. After this phase the local masons continued construction by themselves so that on 28 March the first 40 rain water harvesting systems were completed and handed over to the beneficiaries. The ceremony for the official handing over took place at the temple in Godagama.

One of the first rain water harvesting systems is directly constructed at the Godagama temple for the children in the kindergarten. The Minister for Urban Develop-

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ment and Water Supply was present to hand over this tank to the local community together with our Country Coordinator Sri Lanka, the head of Unicef office Galle and the representative from USAID. After traditional dancing and singing, all the guests were welcomed to “taste the rain water”. The minister opened the memorial plaque which will remain at this tank and always mark the first milestone for the whole project. The honour of tasting the water first was given to the minister.

After the official ceremony, the first 40 new tanks were handed over to the first 40 beneficiaries with a certificate. All of them also got a test-kit to monitor the water quality by themselves.

Within this new project, we also inform the population about general questions of hygiene. „The causality between water quality and health still needs more education programs for the rural population in Sri Lanka“, Dr. Jürgen Clemens, Desk Officer Sri Lanka, says. „Many people suffer from avoidable infections because of the inappropriate handling of water and sanitation. We want to initiate a ‘culture of hygiene’ which improves the living conditions of many families in a sustainable way. Wells should be protected from excrements coming from improperly sealed latrine sumps. Ditches for drainage are supposed to be cleaned regularly before the rainy season and unprotected water sites – breeding ground for insects - should be avoided.“

Since January 2005, Malteser International is active in Sri Lanka. Immediately after the Tsunami catastrophe we took care of the water supply of nearly 90,000 people in Sri Lanka’s district of Galle.

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Thailand: Order of Malta and Malteser International representatives received in audience in the Thai Royal Palace

On 20 February, Mrs Otilie Mooshofer, Project Coordinator of our Tsunami relief programmes in South Thailand, had the honour to be received in audience by HRH Princess Sirindhorn in the Royal Palace in Bangkok. She was accompanied by Ambassador Michael Mann and Honorary Consul Assunta Link, both representatives of the Order of Malta for Thailand. The objective of the audience was the handing over of a mobile orthopaedic clinic to the Siridhorn Foundation of the Princess. This mobile clinic sponsored and equipped by Malteser International will be used especially in remote rural regions. Besides the Vice Minister for Public Health and other high ranking government officials also the director of the Siridhorn Foundation attended the audience. The Order of Malta and Malteser International representatives handed over to HRH Princess Sirindhorn a detailed documentation showing all Tsunami activities realized by Malteser International in Thailand.

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Vietnam: Capacity building for project partners - towards dialogue and participation



For one year, Malteser International has been coordinating a holistic poverty alleviation project in four districts of Central Vietnam. The project comprises activities which aim at improving the health situation of women and children, small enterprise development for women, as well as other income generation activities and subsistence related start-ups. Almost 2.000 families - half of them belonging to ethnic minority groups - are active participants of the various activities and benefit from the project measures.

We are now reinforcing the project's participatory note and are introducing increased capacity building opportunities for our implementing partner organizations, the district Women's Unions, and other resource personnel. A workshop on participatory moderation and presentation techniques was a further step to emphasize the importance of active involvement of target groups during project related trainings on health, nutrition and agriculture. Engaging facilitation methods are used in all project related meetings with partners. One of our project partners said: 'Working with Malteser staff is different and has been a new experience for us. There is dialogue and an openness which creates a partnership based on trust'. More workshops on participatory project cycle management are planned in the upcoming months, as well as regular possibilities to exchange experiences. Junior Women's Union staff members are being trained by Malteser staff in a special program to boost local organizations' capabilities. The newly applied capacity building efforts will enhance sustainable development in Vietnam.

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4. Others

German Federal Cross of Merit for Josef Bredol, representative for foreign aid of Malteser Hilfsdienst in the diocese of Osnabrueck



On 6 March, Josef Bredol who has worked for more than ten years as the representative for foreign aid of Malteser Hilfsdienst in the diocese of Osnabrueck has received the German Federal Cross of Merit from Dr Reinhold Kassing, first counselor of the county of Osnabrueck, on behalf of the President of the Federal Republic of Germany. He was honored in view of his selfless commitment in favor of people suffering distress in Lithuania.

Bredol, who organized up to five relief transports direction Lithuania each year since 1996 in the frame of partnership between Malteser Osnabrueck and the Lithuanian town of Kaisiadorys, significantly took part in the development of a Malteser relief service on the spot. He assisted in the construction and equipment of a social centre and the development of numerous social services and measures in the medical field. Exchange programs for the youth were also part of the initiatives that shaped German-Lithuanian Malteser friendship throughout Bredol's auspices.

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With regard to the procurement of means necessary in order to finance the relief actions, he showed high deployment and extraordinary creativity: On the occasion of the Christmas market in Osnabrueck he organized the selling of hot wine, apple punch and dripping sandwiches in the „Malteser Cellar“. In his laudation, counselor Dr. Kassing also put emphasis on the commitment of Bredol's friends and family: „To me it is outstanding and not self-evident that you found such great support. I very much hope that you and your extraordinary involvement can serve as an example to lots of others. “

Also attending the conferment of the order, the Commissioner for Malteser Foreign Aid, Ambassador Theodor Wallau, found compliments for Bredol: „You have demonstrated in a convincing way how a commitment to the Order of Malta can be more of passion than of burden. Passion for a meaningful activity in an affluent society, which helps widening an angle of view strongly shaped by false problems. “ Wallau remarked that the righteous acknowledgement of Bredol's commitment on behalf of Malteser Hilfsdienst Osnabrueck at the same time was to be seen as an acknowledgement of the Malteser service in its whole.

Further information:

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Staff particulars



Since the very beginning in July 2004, Program Coordinator Ms Birke Herzbruch has set up and successfully run all Malteser International activities in Darfur/Sudan. After nearly two years of work in Darfur, in the middle of April Herzbruch will leave Africa in order to take on new challenges in Asia. As Malteser International Country Coordinator in Myanmar she will be responsible for all basic healthcare programs which we are running in three regions since autumn 2001. Her successor as new Program Coordinator in Darfur/Sudan will be Ms Ute Kirch who has already worked for Malteser International in the Balkans and in Western Afghanistan.



After nearly six years' work as Senior Desk Officer in the Africa Desk, Ms Monika Wissing in the end of March has left Malteser International Headquarters. Besides being the responsible for our projects in Southern Sudan she has also successfully set up our programs in Southern Africa. On 1 April 2006, Ms Marion Zeus will assume her duties as Senior Desk Officer for Eastern Africa with main emphasis on Sudan. Up to now, Zeus worked as Desk Officer Sudan, Kenya and Ethiopia. Before joining the Africa Desk, Zeus worked for Malteser International in Mostar/Bosnia-Herzegovina and in the Balkans Desk. As new staff member in the Africa Desk we welcome Ms Bernadette Albrecht who will above all take care of our projects in Angola und support the work in Eastern Africa.



Our sincere thanks for all endeavours and our best wishes for everybody's new start!

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