

1. Africa

Kenya: Distributions of drugs and food for about 31,000 people suffering from drought

In the beginning of April 2006, Malteser International staff has distributed drugs and supplementary food with a total amount of 80,000 Euro in Northern Kenya.



The failure of two rainy seasons has resulted in a severe drought causing serious consequences for livestock and agricultural production thereby impacting negatively on health and nutrition of the people. Irregular and insufficient food intake led to malnutrition especially hitting pregnant women and children under five. Hence immunosuppressant favoured the occurrence of infections.

Four trucks loaded with drugs and supplementary food left from Malteser International's Regional Office in Nairobi towards the north. They were meant to deliver their cargo in eight health facilities run by the dioceses of Marsabit, Maralal and Isiolo. The distribution for Marsabit in the end of March was followed by those for Maralal and Isiolo in early April.

On 5 April 2006 Regional Coordinator Dr. Jochen Bürkle officially handed over the relief items for the diocese of Maralal (Samburu district). In front of the health centre in Archers Post he expressed his thanks to Mrs Pauline Lenguris, medical coordinator of the diocese, for the good cooperation. The provided relief items will help to improve the health situation of the local people most affected by the consequences of the drought. In Archers Post, about 2,000 people will benefit from these relief items.



Two days later, one truck delivered the relief items for the health facilities of the diocese of Isiolo in front of the dispensary of Ol Donyiro. The development coordinator of the diocese, Mr Joseph Samal, cordially thanked Malteser International's project coordinator Paul Ochieng for the help - especially for the supplementary food since malnutrition has not been a problem in this region before drought.

Overall about 31,000 people will benefit from the anti-malaria drugs, drugs against diarrhoea, antibiotics, vitamin supplements, from the red beans and the milk powder.

The project was initiated by Malteser International's Regional Office in Nairobi in cooperation with the German Foreign Ministry and the North Kenyan dioceses of Marsabit, Maralal und Isiolo and is also financially supported by the British Association of the Order of Malta.

In Kenya, Malteser International runs a project for the prevention of the spread of HIV and tuberculosis in Nairobi slums since 2001. Furthermore, Malteser International's Regional Office Africa is located in Nairobi.

Further information: Marion Zeus, <mailto:marion.zeus@malteser-international.org>

Sudan/ Dafur: Insecurity endangers humanitarian aid

The worsening security situation in Northern Dafur turns out to become a major obstacle to humanitarian aid in the region. Clashes between government troops and rebels affect the civil population as well as the work of relief agencies. The situation gets even more complicated as the oppositional SLA (Sudan Liberation Army) is splitting up into different groups of interest.



In the beginning of April, Malteser International was forced to stop an immunisation campaign as roads into the area were too insecure. Vaccinations of particular importance for children, saving them from diseases like measles, polio and whooping cough had to be left out. Furthermore, the attendance of pregnant women in health care centres can not be assured for the moment. The distribution of mosquito prophylaxis for the upcoming rainy season had to be cancelled, too. In coordination with the United Nations Malteser International will continuously assess the security situation and hopes soon to be in a position to continue the necessary relief activities.

Further information: Marion Zeus, <mailto:marion.zeus@malteser-international.org>

2. Asia

Indonesia: Important need for medical infrastructure

In the district of Nagan Raya/Sumatra, Malteser International in the beginning of April has handed over three newly constructed health centres to the Indonesian health authorities. Collaboration works well and the district health department already selected and employed health workers to work in these health centres. Further, construction of two village meeting halls came to an end and benediction ceremonies took place in the beginning of April.



The number of patients using Malteser International's medical services for UN staff in Banda Aceh has increased up to 300 patients in March 2006.

In a joint project for setting up a computerized health information system that has been started this year by GTZ (Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit ...), Malteser International and the provincial health authorities also cooperate very closely. The first training on the utilization of the computer software data collection at health centre level already took place and the first group of health workers has successfully finished the training.

Further information:

Christiane Steinert <mailto:christiane.steinert@malteser-international.org>

3. Europe

Romania/Serbia/Hungary: Still dramatic situation in flooded areas

The Romanian Relief Agency of the Order of Malta, Serviciul de Ajutor Maltez în România (SAMR), is still evacuating people in flooded areas as more and more dikes busted due to the masses of water of river Danube. Thousands of suddenly homeless flee with their belongings. As the retreat of water is expected to be very slow, nobody knows when they can return to their homes. In some cases, evacuation had to

Imprint

On the SPOT. - Malteser International Newsletter

Publisher: Malteser International * Kalker Hauptstraße 22 – 24 * D-51103 Cologne, www.malteser-international.org

Editorial office: Ingo Radtke, Petra Ipp * Phone + 49 – 2 21 – 98 22 155 * Fax + 49 – 2 21 – 98 22 179

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



be done by force as people did not want to leave behind their belongings.

Malteser International supports relief on the spot with 50,000 Euro for immediate aid measures as for example the distribution of 2,000 packages of nutrition to the evacuated who are accommodated in schools and tents. “It’s first of all the region of Dobrogea in southern Romania where about 10 villages counting a total of 5,000 inhabitants must be provided”, reports Zsuzsa Barla, leader of SAMR.

SAMR is the relief service of the Order of Malta in Romania and was founded in 1991. With 25 local branches and more than 1,100 volunteers they are present all over the country. The work concentrates on aid and education in the social area. In pharmacies for the poor, collections of second hand clothes, meals on wheels, residential homes for elderly, health facilities, and clubs for elderly or handicapped people, the poorest of the poor are provided with the essential and get human warmth and affection.

Also in Serbia and Hungary, Malteser International supports the flood relief of the national Malteser relief services.

Further information:

Michael Lülsdorff, <mailto:michael.luelsdorff@malteser-international.org>

4. Staff particulars



In the beginning of May, Mrs Katja Linnartz will go to Kenya for the next two years in order to coordinate finances and administration on the spot as the regional administrator in the Malteser International regional office in Nairobi.

After having joined Malteser International in 2004 for a six months’ internship in the Africa Desk in Cologne Headquarters, she worked as a project assistant in Ethiopia from August to December 2005. After the tsunami catastrophe, in the beginning of 2006, she left for Sri Lanka in order to work in Colombo. After her return to Cologne, she worked as a project consultant for Sri Lanka in the Asia Desk until April 2006.

As an expert on social science in combination with a master degree in humanitarian aid, Mr Christian Frost in the middle of May will go for a first mission with Malteser International to India in order to coordinate our tsunami relief and rehabilitation programmes and offer consulting for our local project partners. In September, he will then replace Mrs Nicole Moran who has been working in India since September 2005 as the responsible country coordinator.

Imprint

On the SPOT. - Malteser International Newsletter

Publisher: Malteser International * Kalker Hauptstraße 22 – 24 * D-51103 Cologne, www.malteser-international.org

Editorial office: Ingo Radtke, Petra Ipp * Phone + 49 – 2 21 – 98 22 155 * Fax + 49 – 2 21 – 98 22 179

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

IN MEMORIAM**Mrs Clare Ann Kalkwarf D.M.**

With deep regret we have learnt about Dame of Magistral Grace of the of the South African Association of the Blessed Gérard in Mandeni/South victim of a gunshot at her own house President and a founding member of just went home from a dedicated burglars at her home having taken her Klakwarf was a board member of the bore the Silver Medal of the "Order Malta. As Vice-Director of Blessed project manager the Hospice HAART Children's Home and the Community responsible for a Bursary Fund the Blessed Gérard's Poor Sick Fund and the Relief Fund of the foundation. Father Gérard T. Lagleder O.S.B., President of the Brotherhood, described her "unparalleled efficiency and determination to do whatever is possible to alleviate the sufferings of the sick, the poor and the destitute" only topped by "her very motherly way, which won the hearts".



the sudden death of Mrs Clare Kalkware, Sovereign Order of Malta, and member Order of Malta and of the Brotherhood of Africa. On 6 April 2006, she became in Mandeni. Having been the Vice-the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard she members meeting when she surprised husband Geoff as hostage already. Clare Catholic Health Care Association and pro merito melitensi" of the Order of Gérard's Care Centre she supported as a Programme and coordinated the Development Centre. Further on she was

According to her last wish Clare Kalkwarf was buried on the ground of Blessed Gérard's Care Centre on 18 April. Next to her grave a natal mahogany tree was planted.

We are deeply shocked by this cruel murder. Our deep sympathy and our prayers go to her husband and her whole family, to her friends and colleagues as well as to the whole Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard and all those she leaves behind. Clare Kalkware has died in the service of a better South Africa. She will be with us in our prayers, and we shall never forget her.

R. I. P.

IN MEMORIAM

With deep regret we had also to learn about the death of two staff members of Caritas International in Sri Lanka. Pathmanathan Shanmugaratnam and Chevendra Pradeepkumar died in an ambush in northern Sri Lanka on 11 April when returning from a Tsunami project. We wish a speedy recovery for the two staff members who were injured in the ambush.

In Afghanistan, our partner organisation Norwegian Project Office (NPO) lost five working members in the field. All of them were located in a health care centre in the village of Dar-e-Boom, 30 km north of Qala-e-Nau, capital of the Badghis province in Western Afghanistan. On 10 April an armed group entered the health care centre at 1 a.m. and shot Dr. Mohammed Ewaz, Mohammed Yasin, Dr. Sayd Abdul and Bashir Ahmad from the medical team as well as their driver Gholam Mohammad dead. The reason for the killing and the committers are still unknown. Already since 2003, Malteser International supports health care centres in the province of Badghis and runs an office in Qala-e-Nau.

We are deeply shocked by these cruel murders, and we would like to express our heartfelt condolences to Caritas International and Norwegian Project Office, the colleagues of the killed staff members, their families and all those they leave behind. Our thoughts and prayers are with their families.

R. I. P.

Ingo Radtke

Petra Ipp

Imprint

On the SPOT. - Malteser International Newsletter

Publisher: Malteser International * Kalker Hauptstraße 22 – 24 * D-51103 Cologne, www.malteser-international.org

Editorial office: Ingo Radtke, Petra Ipp * Phone + 49 – 2 21 – 98 22 155 * Fax + 49 – 2 21 – 98 22 179

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