

On the SPOT



**Malteser
International**
Order of Malta Worldwide Relief

NEWSLETTER
May 2006

1. Africa

Darfur/Sudan: Malteser International claims security for humanitarian work

Malteser International appeals to all parties involved in the conflict to guarantee security for the humanitarian organizations in order to enable them to run the necessary relief programs in favor of the population in need. Two of the struggling parties signed a peace agreement on 5 May in Nigeria. Other rebel groups deny this agreement.



Accompanied by high safety precautions, a Malteser International medical team provides three healthcare centers in the north of the Sudanese province of Darfur with pharmaceuticals. In intense negotiations with rebel groups, Malteser International has obtained the promise for the security of its staff.

“The situation in Darfur is dramatically bad. Pregnant women cannot be assisted; children cannot get the necessary vaccinations. Provisions of drugs in healthcare centers have come to an end“, Georg Nothelle, head of the Africa desk, explains. “That’s why we are under extreme time pressure to obtain the necessary security agreements in order to keep our own staff members out of danger and to be able to provide the urgently needed relief for the population as soon as possible.“

Malteser International will support and expand the basic healthcare structures for 80,000 inhabitants in the region south of the province’s capital El Fasher. Vaccinations and the fight against malaria figure on the agenda. The further expansion of the relief programs, however, depends on the further development and whether security promises are kept.

Already since 1998 Malteser International is active in Southern Sudan, since summer 2004 also in Darfur. Eleven international and 237 local staff members assure basic health care for about 630,000 people in Sudan.

Further information:

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Democratic Republic of Congo: International Nurses Day - Fortification of fight against AIDS

On the occasion of the International Nurses Day on 12 May, Malteser International intensifies its fight against rising numbers of HIV infections in the Democratic Republic of Congo. In Ariwara, in the country’s east, Malteser International together with local authorities organized an event to sensitize the population and to confirm the nurses and community health workers in their important struggle against HIV/AIDS. 150 employees of all healthcare centers in the area participated. A new basketball court which had been built by local youths in only five days was inaugu-



rated. It aims at bringing especially young people together and making them aware of the problem of HIV/AIDS. A representative of the local authorities expressed his gratitude for Malteser International's assistance.

Malteser International supports HIV/AIDS information centers in the area which sensitize the population in organizing education campaigns in schools, associations, churches and via radio programs. "Unfortunately, AIDS also becomes an increasingly important topic in DR Congo", Dr. Désiré Rakotoarison, program coordinator in the province of Ituri, explains. "So far, there are no official figures about people infected with HIV. However, in tests of blood bottles we found out that 15 percent of blood donors in Ariwara are HIV positive."

For more than ten years Malteser International has been working in DR Congo and currently supports more than 300 healthcare centers and other medical institutions in the country's east. About 2.7 million people thus get access to improved primary health care services.

Further Information:

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2. Asia

Indonesia I: Earthquake in Java: Malteser International sends out relief team and pledges 100,000 Euro for emergency aid

After the severe earthquake on 27 May, three staff members of Malteser International in Indonesia were sent out immediately to the area around Yogyakarta which was heavily affected by the earthquake. They brought urgently needed drugs, dressing material, infusions and stretchers. The relief team supports the hospital in Bantul, the town in which two thirds of all deaths were registered, and one of the field hospitals. With a mobile clinic, our team will also provide help for the people around Bantul who are still lacking medical care. The local hospitals are so overrun that they cannot cope anymore with the masses of patients. For emergency aid measures Malteser International has pledged 100,000 Euro.



"We permanently receive requests for additional help", Volker Stapke, our program coordinator in Java, points out. Currently, Malteser International plans to buy toilets and cooking utensils in Indonesia to supply the people with necessities. "However, it is important to think already of rehabilitation measures", Stapke explains. Malteser International expects to stay in the affected area for at least three months.

According to the Indonesian government, more than 5,000 people were killed and ten thousands injured during the earthquake measuring 5.9 on the Richter scale. The search for people who have been buried continues. Stapke states that at present it is not possible to foresee how many people are still buried underneath the ruins.

Malteser International has been working in Indonesia since the tsunami in 2004, especially in rehabilitation projects and primary health care services. At the moment 12 international and more than 200 local staff members are in action in the tsunami affected region.

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Indonesia II: School kits for 350 children in the tsunami affected villages around Jambo Timu

Last month, Malteser International distributed around 300 school kits to students of two primary schools in Meuraksa and Jambo Timu. The children were provided with backpacks, suits, socks, shoes, balls and rackets. As other relief agencies had already provided learning materials, Malteser International's school kits contained toys and sports equipment. Further on, the kindergarten of Jambo Timu was supplied with crayons, pencils and painting books. This project could be realized thanks to the financial support of Malteser Germany in the archdiocese of Munich and reached about 350 children.



Reconstruction measures realized by Malteser International in Jambo Timu and Lancok - both near Lhokseumave in the east of the island of Sumatra - also include the rehabilitation of the local fishery sector and the development of a sewing cooperation as income generating measures for the population. The rebuilding of houses, schools, municipal and public health services and the water supply systems are parts of Malteser International's support as well. From the beginning the local authorities were involved in the planning and execution processes of all activities within the program.

Further information:

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Vietnam I: World bank supports capacity building program

Malteser International has been selected as a recipient for the 2006 Small Grants Program of the World Bank for its proposal on "Capacity Building and Organizational Development of District Women's Unions in Central Vietnam". Within the scope of this World Bank Program small projects focusing on participation, promotion of dialogue and capacity building are supported with a grant up to 3,000 Euro. Grant proposals are assessed on a competitive basis in order to select the most innovative activities. Malteser International's proposal was chosen for the grant among nine out of more than 100 submitted project proposals.



Since last 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 and promoting income generation measures. An important aspect of the project is the increase of capacity building opportunities for the implementing partner organizations, the district Women's Unions, and other resource personnel. The efforts aim at an enhancement of sustainable development in Vietnam.

Further information:

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Vietnam II: High-rank visit of Professor Egon Bahr

In the beginning of May, Professor Egon Bahr, senior statesman in the German Social Democratic Party and former German Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development, visited Malteser International's poverty alleviation project. Bahr was accompanied by Professor Adelheid Bonnemann-Böhner, director of the Institute for Women's and Gender Studies at the University of Applied Sciences of Kiel and chairwoman of the German mother convalescence center, and Dr Wolfgang Biermann, country director of the German Development Service (ded) in Vietnam.



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The small delegation took great interest in the situation of women and their health status in the project area. The alleviation of poverty and especially the improvement of ethnic minority women's health in Vietnam were major topics of discussion, as well as the preconditions for project interventions regarding the prevention of HIV/AIDS. A field visit of one of Malteser International's project locations followed. Formerly poor women presented their small businesses and products which they had been able to develop after participating in small business development trainings organized and sponsored by Malteser International.

Further information:

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3. America

USA: Volunteers of the Order of Malta help to rebuild New Orleans

The 'Home Renovation Program' which is implemented in New Orleans by the three national associations of the Order of Malta in cooperation with the local NGO "Rebuilding Together" and with financial support of Malteser International is in full activity. Groups of volunteers from Rebuilding Together and the Order of Malta associations in the United States merge forces in order to rehabilitate living space for those who have been hit hardest by the hurricane and the subsequent flooding of the city. The program aims at completely renovating 32 family domiciles in the parishes St. Peter Claver und St. Leo the Great Parishes.



Tom Schlafly, member of the Federal Association of the Order of Malta, has worked as a volunteer for the Home Renovation Program in April 2006 and reports:

"Eight months after the storm, the scope of the damage is still beyond description. In New Orleans, we literally drove for miles in almost any direction and saw nothing but empty homes, vacated businesses and abandoned vehicles all around us. We had heard of the good work of Malteser International around the world and had supported it with contributions. Never before, however, had we participated in this work in a hands-on fashion. The satisfaction of doing so is impossible to describe adequately in words.

The particular work in which we took part was rebuilding the home of a widow in New Orleans. We stripped wallpaper, caulked, cleared debris, landscaped, installed light fixtures, assembled and installed cabinets, installed floors, painted and painted and painted some more. The transformation in Lynette's house in less than 96 hours

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was truly remarkable. Lynette's effusive gratitude that strangers from all over the country had not forgotten about her was the greatest reward any of us could ever have wanted."

Further Information:

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4. Europe

Romania: Federal Foreign Office of Germany supports flood relief of the Romanian Malteser relief service SAMR

With an allowance of 35,000 Euro, the Federal Foreign Office of Germany supports the flood relief of the SAMR (Serviciul de Ajutor Maltez în România), the relief service of the Order of Malta in Romania. Malteser staff in Romania uses the money to construct an emergency accommodation for the victims of Danube freshet in the county of Tulcea in eastern Romania. SAMR puts up 16 large tents and 60 pallets for the population of the community Plaur and several neighbouring villages. The material costs about 50,000 Euro. Malteser International contributes the missing 15,000 Euro.



"We particularly support elderly people. The average age in Plaur is 60 years. Especially for them it is difficult to leave their houses and to start all new", Zsuzsa Barla, Secretary General of SAMR, describes the situation. In the county of Tulcea the high water has completely destroyed 32 houses and damaged another 190 houses. 176 persons had to be evacuated. In collaboration with the prefecture of Tulcea SAMR distributed 300 packages to flood victims in the end of April, containing rubber boots, rain coats, blankets and nutrition. After the construction of the emergency accommodation, SAMR considers contributing to the reconstruction of houses in autumn as well.

Further information:

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5. Staff particulars



On 1 May, **Stefan Dold** has started his work as Desk Officer International Communication in Cologne und thus supports the communication team in the headquarters in order to cope with the continuously growing information and communication needs worldwide. He is a trained journalist and has gained experience not only as a business editor for the German TV station n-tv but also as a volunteer on the spot in Eastern Europe and Africa.

On 11 May **Michaela Michel-Schuld** has started to work as a midwife in our health-care project for Karen refugees along the Thai-Myanmar border. She will be responsible for the mother and child health in the two camps for approximately 30,000 refugees.

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Norwin Schafferer is our new project assistant in the tuberculosis and water and sanitation projects in Pang Kham, Myanmar. Before, he worked as an intern for ECHO (Humanitarian Aid Office of the European Commission) in Brussels.

***In MEMORIAM
Dr Ezmeray Azizi***

With deep regret we have learnt a local staff member of Malteser Afghanistan, on 12 May 2006. He Herat with an UN convoy, which grenades around noon. The driver UNICEF, died immediately. Dr then was shot while fleeing. severely injured.



about the murder of Dr Ezmeray Azizi, International, in northwestern was on his way from Qala-e-Naw to was ambushed with rocket-propelled of the UN vehicle, an employee of Azizi first managed to run away, but Another UNICEF staff member was

30 year old Dr Azizi was a physician and supervisor of the hospital of Qala-e-Naw and ten health care centers.

Dr Ezmeray's family will receive financial support according to the Afghan tradition. Furthermore psychological aid will be offered to the family as well as to Malteser International staff in Afghanistan

We are deeply shocked by this cruel murder. Our deep sympathy and our prayers are with the family, friends and colleagues.

R.I.P.

Ingo Radtke

Petra Ipp

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