

1. Africa

Democratic Republic of Congo: Malteser International does not expect worsening of security situation due to elections

According to Malteser International, the security situation in the Democratic Republic of Congo on the whole will not worsen with regard to the elections planned for the end of July. "We only reckon with temporary and locally limited unrests at the utmost", Georg Nothelle, Head of Africa Desk, explains.



However, Malteser International is concerned about the offensive of government troops and the UN mission Monuc aiming at the disarmament of militias in the east of the country. "At the moment, there is no danger for our staff. But we are prepared for evacuations in case of a worsening of the situation", Nothelle announces. Great importance is given to the early identification of new developments: "The best protections we have are our long-standing close contacts with the local population."

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Malteser International takes part in „United for Africa“ - campaign

Also in 2006, Malteser International takes part in the „United for Africa“ campaign. This is a concerted campaign of 30 aid and humanitarian organizations and its goodwill ambassadors Anne Will (popular German anchorwoman) and Wolfgang Niedecken (singer of the German band BAP). Together with the German Federal President Horst Köhler who patronizes the campaign, it appeals to the German population to donate for the improvement of the living conditions on the African continent and thus creates greater public awareness for the need to combat poverty globally. An important aim of the campaign is to illustrate the potential of Africa and its inhabitants and to dispel the image of the "lost continent".



© United for Africa

The sports goods manufacturer Puma also supports the campaign's concern. It has developed the Puma-Charity-Collection which is sold in the "United-for-Africa"-Charity-tramway in Berlin. The tramway drives through the German capital during the Football World Cup comprising information material about Africa and the aid organizations as well as several events like concerts and movies.

In November, the relief organizations taking part in United for Africa are going to invite schools all around Germany to organize projects and run fundraising events in order to rise awareness for Africa among students.

Please have a look at the website for further information:
<http://www.gemeinsamfuerafrika.de> (in German and English)

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2. Asia

Indonesia I: Earthquake relief on Java in full activity

At the beginning of June, Malteser International opened an emergency hospital in the village of Gedong, south of Yogyakarta. It provides 25 beds for in-patient treatment. Furthermore, Malteser International runs a health center and several mobile clinics in the region heavily affected by the earthquake. The project team is thus able to reach even very remote villages which are cut off from medical care. Eight physicians and eight nurses have been treating more than 1,000 patients since the disastrous earthquake on 27 May. “There are people with open fractures or injuries to the head that could not be treated at all or only provisionally in the overcrowded hospitals”, project coordinator Volker Stapke, explains: “Some of them are completely exhausted and deeply traumatized.”



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A medical team of Malteser International is on standby in order to provide medical emergency relief for injured people in the case of another eruption of the volcano Merapi: “In that case we will immediately send medical staff to an evacuation point defined by the government, in order to provide first aid for the arriving evacuees”, Stapke describes the plans.

ABB, an international power and automation technologies company supports Malteser International with 25,000 euros and building material as well as four pick-ups and a van. “We want to contribute to the professional help the scared people receive”, Jörg Holzapfel, ABB project manager, points out.

Please find pictures of Malteser International’s earthquake relief on our website: <http://www.malteser-international.org> -> News/Press -> Pictures for Download.

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

Indonesia II: Tsunami relief: Income generating measures extended

In the mid of June, Malteser International opened a new tailoring business in Jambo Timu offering working places for 13 women. Malteser International has constructed the building and supplied 21 tailoring machines and textiles to enable the women to start their work. It is now up to the women to find suitable markets for their products, for example for the veils they sew.



Furthermore, the aquaculture project in Lhokseumave has been extended: a second group consisting of six fishermen has been established. Malteser International has provided the group with small loans (550 euros per person) to support the fishermen in breeding and selling sea bass, a high quality food fish. Additionally, the group was supplied with a water pump, a pipe and several kilograms of nets.

At the beginning of June, Malteser International also started a new project in Meulaboh city: Here, two houses for a girls’ orphanage will be built in cooperation with Mercy Relief Singapore. The three health centers in Meulaboh which had also been built by Malteser International were handed over to the local authorities in the end of last month.

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Afghanistan: Malteser International forced to suspend project trips for several days after riots

After riots with several deaths in Kabul at the end of May, Malteser International had to intensify again its safety precautions. International and local staff members had to suspend all monitoring trips to their project region in Central Afghanistan and stay in the office in Kabul for several days. During the unrests Malteser International did not suffer any damage to persons or property.

In the mid of May a physician working for Malteser International was murdered during a targeted attack on a UN vehicle between Herat and Qala-e-Naw in the west of Afghanistan. At the end of May, Taliban combatants killed four employees of an international relief organization in an area close to Mazar-e-Scharif in northern Afghanistan.

Malteser International has been working in Afghanistan since 2002. Four international and about 220 Afghan staff members are active in implementing a comprehensive rehabilitation program in the fields of basic health care and reconstruction of schools as well as a consolidation program with income generating measures for communities with a high number of returnees. The programs provide aid to approximately 220,000 people.

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Pakistan: Distribution of seeds to farmers in Palas Valley

To enable the victims of last year's earthquake to restart agriculture again, Malteser International in the beginning of spring has distributed ten tons of certified seeds and 40 tons of fertilizers to farmers in Palas Valley (Kohistan). This was necessary as the earthquake had destroyed most of their stocks. Furthermore many families had to use the seeds and the stocks as food in order to survive during winter.

According to the Haashar tradition, the 400 farmers who had received the seeds and fertilizers are now going to share the crop with those village inhabitants who were not able to grow maize. Thus the whole community benefits and can ensure stocks for the next winter.

Malteser International expects that parts of the population living in the area affected by the earthquake will again need help to survive the next winter, as it will not be possible to reconstruct all houses till the onset of winter. One reason is the difficulty to transport building material to some villages since many streets are still destroyed or spilled. The necessary blasting is going to need some months. Malteser International thus again plans food supplies during the next winter season as well as the implementation of primary health care services.

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Thailand I: Influx of new refugees from Myanmar

In the two refugee camps Mae La Oon and Mae Ra Ma Luang in northern Thailand, an influx of new refugees from Myanmar had to be observed in the last weeks. Malteser International vets the arriving people, who are mostly in a poor state of health, often suffering from illnesses such as malaria. Malteser International staff also informs them about the health care system in the camps.



© Caroline von der Tann

According to the UNHCR, some 2,000 refugees have arrived in northern Thailand saying they are fleeing renewed conflict and human rights abuses in Myanmar. The UNHCR set up emergency shelters.

Since 1993, Malteser International runs a broad basic healthcare program in the two refugee camps reaching 30,000 refugees. The project includes curative and preventive measures in order to better the refugees' state of health. Further on, there is an educational component to strengthen the ability of the population to help themselves. Members of ethnic minorities in Myanmar gather in Thai refugee camps to protect themselves from assaults by the military government. They live there without an official refugee status and thus rely on assistance from the international community.

Further information: Cordula Wasser, <mailto:cordula.wasser@malteser-international.org>

Thailand II: Tsunami relief: New mental health project

Malteser International in cooperation with its project partner SEAMEO TROPMED organized a high ranking workshop with the topic "Mental Health Project for Adolescents in Tsunami Area" in Khao Lak, Phang Nga Province at the end of June. The purpose was to launch and officially introduce the project of mental health to all project stakeholders. 13 representatives of the Ministry of Public Health and the Ministry of Education as well as staff of different health institutions and institutes took part.



Malteser International's mental health project in the tsunami affected region aims at improving mental health for adolescents in 20 schools of the Khao Lak area. It will reach about 10,000 students. The project is going to run within the next 18 months and tries to implement mental health issues into the school curricula. One aim of the project is to fight the stigmatizing of psychosocial diseases. Further on, counseling services and psychological help will be offered to those young people who are in need for treatment. The measures include selected stress management techniques, game therapy, music therapy, art therapy and sports or group therapy.

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3. America

USA: Mexican National Bank donates 300,000 US dollars for rehabilitation project in New Orleans

The Social Foundation of the Mexican National Bank 'Fomento Social Banamex' has donated 300,000 US dollars for the Home Renovation Program in New Orleans. This Renovation Program is carried out by the three American Associations of the Order of Malta and Malteser International in cooperation with the "Catholic Charities New Orleans" and the local NGO "Rebuilding Together". It aims at assisting the victims of Hurricane Katrina in regaining their livelihood by renovating their homes. Special attention is paid to low-income families with no insurance coverage for their homes. A group of around 40 volunteers spends a week monthly in New Orleans doing all the necessary renovation and clean-up work together with the house owners.



For the last ten years, Fomento Social Banamex has provided support when natural disasters have occurred. Their primary mission is to support the neediest victims of any disaster.

A delegation from Banamex, Fernando Peon Escalante and Mario Gonzales, together with Julieta Conroy, responsible for international relations within the Mexican Association of the Order, visited New Orleans in May. They got the chance to meet a group of volunteers and visit several of the homes currently being renovated. Malteser International project manager Osvaldo Marcenaro was able to take them into the hard hit areas to get a first-hand look at the devastation.

After having seen the Renovation Program in New Orleans, the Foundation decided to reward the exceptional work that is done by the three US associations of the Order of Malta and Malteser International with a grant coming from the funds that have been raised for the victims of Hurricane Katrina.

During a ceremony on 22 June, Fernando Peon Escalante, General Director for Fomento Social Banamex, handed over the donation to Jim Kelly KM, member of the Board of Directors of the Federal Association of the Order of Malta and CEO of Catholic Charities New Orleans. Also present were the following distinguished personalities from Banamex/Citigroup and the Mexican Government: Alfredo Harp Helú (Chairman of the Board of Fomento Social Banamex), Javier Arrigunaga (Corporate Director of Banamex Legal and Institutional Affairs), and from the Mexican Ministry of Foreign Affairs: General Director for North America Juan Bosco Marti.

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4. Europe

Kosovo: Projects run out: final workshop and honoring of staff

At the end of May, a meeting of the national staff members in the Balkan projects took place in Brela, Croatia. The programs in Kosovo will close down at the end of June, the projects in Bosnia and Herzegovina at the end of December. Thus the main topic of the workshop was to develop ideas and measures how Malteser International

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can accompany local staff members who have been working for our organization for several years in the future. One result is the set-up of a database which helps to connect the staff members to other Malteser International projects or to other NGOs worldwide.

The workshop was the last possibility for the Kosovo project staff to meet again before the projects run out. The following persons were decorated for their enormous commitment and efforts in the Kosovo projects with the Jubilee Medal of the Order of Malta: Mimoza Polloshka, Sadik Dani, Violanda Morina, Vlora Kepuska, Blerina Hima, Nysret Krasniqi, Sherif Idrizi, Nexhdet Hoxha, Yilka Lamaxhema, Fitore Fazliu, Kastriot Morina and Luljeta Murtezaja.

We say: Thank you very much and all the best for the future!

Malteser International has been working in Kosovo since 1999 with two comprehensive programs: special support for women (Women Initiative Programs) and the rehabilitation of carpenter workshops. The main focus was on income generating measures for returning refugees aiming at an improvement of the socio-economic living conditions. Meanwhile nine international and 27 local staff members worked in the projects.

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Poland: Central and Eastern European Forum on brand identity and fundraising

As a result of their last conference in Romania in October 2005, the Central and Eastern European (CEE) Order of Malta aid organizations and Malteser International carried out the first common CEE-Forum for their leaderships and aid workers from 12 to 15 June 2006 in Cracow/Poland.



According to the decisions of the latest CEE conference, a group of 20 participants from the Czech Republic, Hungary, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, the Ukraine and Germany worked on the topics “brand identity” and “fundraising”. Establishing their own brand on the “social market” and providing an effective fundraising has been getting more and more important to the young Eastern European Order of Malta organizations on their way to economical independence. So the CEE steering committee which prepared and organized the event was glad of the support of an experienced team of fundraising trainers from a Romanian consulting agency, disposing of a profound knowledge of the special conditions for NGOs in Eastern Europe. The outcome is a highly motivated group of workshop participants with new ideas and enthusiasm to bring forward their national Order of Malta relief agencies.

In the future, the CEE networking process is going to focus on further major topics of the CEE agenda, such as e.g. the idea of voluntarism and the development of youth work. This year’s Order of Malta CEE Conference will take place by the end of 2006 in Győr/Hungary.

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5. Staff

Staff particulars

In June, four staff members have left Europe to work in our new project for the earthquake victims on Java, Indonesia:

Dr. Gudrun Müller, a specialist for internal medicine; before, she already worked for another relief organization in Africa.

The nurse **Eva-Maria Schmidt** also supports our medical team on the spot; she already worked for Malteser International as nurse in Afghanistan in 2002.

Claudio Moret has lots of experience in humanitarian aid: he has been working in Africa, Asia und Europe for several organizations since the 1980s. He is going to coordinate logistics on Java.

Daniel Apolinarski, former Asia Desk intern in Cologne Headquarters, is the new project assistant on Java.

Since 1 June, **Stoyanka Stich** works as the new Desk Officer Finances in the Africa Desk. In the last six months, she already supported the Finance Desk's works for the annual closing of account.

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6. Others

Malteser International's first "birthday" – Facts and Figures

One year after the launch of Malteser International on 24 June 2005, we can register an impressive extent of our relief activities. Note the facts and figures of the year 2005 and see where we are standing at the moment:



- Comparing to 2004 the volume of the projects has risen by 44 percent to the record level of 26.5 million euros in 2005.
- In 2005, almost nine million euros have already been allocated for the rehabilitation after the tsunami at the end of 2004; 20 million euros are foreseen for further rehabilitation and reconstruction programs in the coming years.
- Malteser International currently runs 200 projects in basic healthcare services and poverty reduction in 40 countries in Asia, Africa, America and Eastern Europe.
- 100 international and more than 800 local staff members work for our organization.
- We provide help for more than seven million people worldwide.

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