

On the SPOT

NEWSLETTER
July 2006

1. Middle East

Lebanon: Financial support for medical treatment of refugees

The Lebanese Association of the Order of Malta provides more than 2,000 displaced people in the whole country with medical drugs and first aid. "The situation in Lebanon is dramatic, especially in the south", Paul Saghbini, director of the Foundation of the Order of Malta in Lebanon reports. "In Rmeich close to the Israeli border the inhabitants and 8,000 displaced people are insulated due to the fights. One of our physicians treats the people, but medicaments, milk for infants, bread and drinking water are lacking."



© REUTERS / Nicola Solic

The Lebanese Association provides help for displaced persons through their health centers all over the country. Two out of a total of ten centers are located in the combat area in the south. Due to panic buying and caused by restricted transportation possibilities the health centers are short of medical drugs. Furthermore, the sanitary facilities in the schools where the displaced population is accommodated are not sufficient. "Half of the refugees are children", Saghbini says. "We especially care for them, as they are particularly vulnerable to diseases." The association's staff is also concerned about shelter for the displaced people when the school year starts again. It is not sure yet where the displaced people can find accommodation then.

Malteser International and the network of the Order of Malta support the work of the Lebanese Association with more than 120,000 euros.

Further information:

Janine Lietmeyer, [mailto:janine.lietmeyer @malteser-international.org](mailto:janine.lietmeyer@malteser-international.org)

2. Africa

Kenya: Health center best tuberculosis facility in Nairobi

One of the Diagnosis and Treatment Centers supported by Malteser International in the slums of Nairobi has won a prize as the capital's best tuberculosis facility of the year 2005. The "Kenya Association for the Prevention of TB and Lung Diseases" and the Kenyan National Leprosy and Tuberculosis Programme appreciated the "enormous contribution" of Malteser International to the control of tuberculosis. In the year 2004 another health center supported by Malteser International had won the prize as the best facility of the whole country.



© Sven Torfinn

Through laboratories constructed, equipped and staffed by Malteser International the health centers for the first time integrate TB diagnosis into health centers, which so far were only treating the disease. Tuberculosis can thus be diagnosed and treated in the same facility. The slum dwellers now do not have to cover long distances anymore to reach a laboratory for which in most cases they have to pay sums they cannot afford.

Since 2001 Malteser International has been supporting several health centers in eight of Nairobi's slums. Fighting Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS which are often interlinked is one of the project's major goals. Besides diagnosis and treatment another component is the training of community health workers in home based care for tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS patients. It is among other things due to their work that the number of people in the slums willing to be tested for HIV and tuberculosis and the number of successful tuberculosis treatments is on the rise.

Further information:

Bernadette Albrecht, <mailto:bernadette.albrecht@malteser-international.org>

Sudan/Darfur I: New fighting threatens humanitarian aid

New conflicts obstruct the provision of the population with food and pharmaceuticals in the Sudanese conflict area Darfur. "Groups of rebels which have been allied so far have started to fight each other", Ute Kirch, program coordinator of Malteser International in Darfur, explains. "The situation is becoming more and more complex. Civilians are attacked as well. New refugees are arriving in the existing camps, especially women and children." After a peace agreement had been signed by the government and parts of the insurrectionists on 5 May the rebel movement split into even more factions. "Even though it is relatively calm in our project region at the moment, the fights a few kilometers to the west endanger our work", Kirch points out. In April, Malteser International had to suspend its relief activities temporarily after rebels had stopped a medical team and had stolen two cars.



© Birgit Betzelt

Malteser International ensures medical care for 115,000 persons south of El Fasher including a refugee camp.

Further information:

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

Sudan/Darfur II: Expansion of health care project

Although the security situation in Darfur worsens, Malteser International extends its relief activities, as big parts of the local population lack medical assistance. The health center in Abu Zereaga has been rehabilitated since the beginning of the year and opened its doors in June. Malteser International trained employees of the Ministry of Health who now ensure basic health care for 25,000 to 30,000 people in the region. The main programmatic focus is on mother and child health (ante natal care, supply of clean delivery kits, monitoring the health status of children under five) and a community based Malaria program. With the support of UNICEF Malteser International is able to supply necessary medicaments and consumables.



Malteser International plans to further extend its help to Wadah, south-east of El Fasher. "In this region there has not been a single doctor for three years. The health facilities are run down and have been working again provisionally for only a short time", Ute Kirch, program coordinator of Malteser International in Darfur, describes the situation. Malteser International is going to provide pharmaceuticals and medical

Imprint

On the SPOT. - Malteser International Newsletter

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

Editorial office: Sid Johann Peruvemba, Stefan Dold, Katrin Rehfuss * Phone + 49 – 2 21 – 98 22 155 * Fax + 49 – 2 21 – 98 22 179

E-Mail: stefan.dold@malteser-international.org

3. Asia

treatment with the support of UNICEF and WHO for almost 30,000 people in this region.

Further information:

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

Afghanistan: Schools for more than 20.000 children in remote regions

On 10th of July, Malteser International handed over the last school constructed in Western Afghanistan to the local authorities. Malteser International is active in the area since 2002 with aid measures in the field of education and health. With the support of the German government, eleven new schools were constructed and several other schools of impoverished communities in the provinces of Herat and Badghis were rehabilitated. Now more than 20.000 children (40% of these are girls), have better access to education, especially in remote areas.



In a public ceremony representatives of the local authorities expressed their gratitude for Malteser International's contribution to the improvement of living and education conditions in the region. The authorities especially appreciated this commitment in the context of a deteriorating security situation.

Further information:

Wiltrud Gutsmedl, <mailto:wiltrud.gutsmedl@malteser-international.org>

India: New income for marginalized people in the tsunami affected area

In the state of Tamil Nadu which was severely hit by the tsunami of December 2004 Malteser International jointly with local partner organizations recently started two new projects worth a total of 370,000 Euro running for the next two years.

The first project located in the devastated area of Nagapattinam focuses on rehabilitating the income sources and thus the living conditions of small farmers, landless Dalits (those who stand outside the caste system) and destitute women. One important measure is the reclamation of saline land to enable the farmers to cultivate crops again. Farmer field schools in which the farmers are taught how to adapt to the new agricultural situation in cultivating traditional flood and saline resistant seeds are part of the project. Additionally new sources of income are promoted with loans for income generating activities.



The second rehabilitation project aims at strengthening 32 women self-help groups in ten coastal villages of Toothkudi District. Malteser International's partner organizations support the women in starting small businesses like animal husbandry or mushroom cultivation. Another constituent of the holistic approach is the training of 480 youths in human rights and environmental issues, also supporting 75 students with loans. Finally, legal advice is offered to help people to apply for compensation pay-

Imprint

On the SPOT. - Malteser International Newsletter

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

Editorial office: Sid Johann Peruvemba, Stefan Dold, Katrin Refhuss * Phone + 49 – 2 21 – 98 22 155 * Fax + 49 – 2 21 – 98 22 179

E-Mail: stefan.dold@malteser-international.org

ments.

Recently, the psycho-social care program for tsunami victims was renewed for a second year. Malteser International's Indian partner trained 60 community level workers to attend about 2,000 families through family visits in two coastal districts. Special activities are provided for traumatized children and youths. Most recently a support group for the wives of alcohol addicts has been established, as alcoholism became a greater problem after the tsunami.

Further information:

Annette Wächter-Schneider, <mailto:annette.waechter@malteser-international.org>

Indonesia: Emergency aid after tsunami on Java

After a seaquake resulting in a tsunami on Java's coast on 17 July Malteser International immediately sent a relief team to the disaster area. The team led by Dr. Gudrun Müller, which had been working in one of Malteser International's Indonesian projects, assessed the situation and offered medical help for the victims of the tsunami in Pangandaran, a vacation resort which was severely hit by the tsunami. All houses close to the coast were destroyed leaving thousands of people homeless. The team supported the government and other relief organizations in ensuring basic health care for the displaced people in six camps with a mobile clinic. On 23 July the situation was under control so that Malteser International's help was not needed anymore.

The seaquake measuring 7.2 on the Richter scale caused a huge flood wave and three minor aftershocks. More than 600 people died in Pangandaran, more than 36,000 people in the tsunami affected region lost their homes.

Further information:

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

Sri Lanka: Raising awareness of health and hygiene among children

In the seaport of Galle and the adjoining southern province of Sri Lanka Malteser International has started a pilot project to increase public awareness of health and hygiene issues and to potentially change behavior to reduce health risks.

As school kids are seen to be ideal disseminators, the project – supported by UNICEF – focuses on them. Health and hygiene education is part of the lessons in 43 selected schools. But the modules not only try to impart knowledge but also provide the students with the possibility of working practically. For example, they get equipped with kits for testing drinking water on the bacterium *Escherichia coli*, which can cause infections.

At the beginning of this pilot project and at the end – after six months – Malteser International undertakes surveys to answer the question if the measures changed the students' knowledge, attitude and behavior. If the project proves to be effective there is a good chance of extension in 2007 on a wider scale.



Imprint

On the SPOT. - Malteser International Newsletter

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

Editorial office: Sid Johann Peruvemba, Stefan Dold, Katrin Refhuss * Phone + 49 – 2 21 – 98 22 155 * Fax + 49 – 2 21 – 98 22 179

E-Mail: stefan.dold@malteser-international.org

Malteser International also plans to implement further programs which combine water/sanitation, health and health education measures.

Further information:

Dr. Jürgen Clemens, <mailto:juergen.clemens@malteser-international.org>

4. Staff

Staff particulars



Since 24 July **Claudia von der Gathen** is Desk Officer in our headquarters' finance team where she handles the project finances of the Asia Desk. Before joining Malteser International she worked as a business employee with the Konrad Adenauer Foundation.



The Dutch nurse **Carla Rinkel** started to work in Bantul, Indonesia on 1 July. She supports the medical project for the victims of the earthquake.



Juma Salim from Kenya joined the team of the project "Medical services for UN and INGO staff" in Banda Aceh, Indonesia, on 5 July. He worked for the International Committee of the Red Cross in Nairobi before.



Since 1 July **Kelvin Shingles** from New Zealand is the project coordinator of the new project in Galle, Sri Lanka focusing on health and hygiene. He obtained a "Diploma of Humanitarian Assistance" and worked for another relief organization in Sudan before.



Manuel Wollschläger left Germany on 16 July to work as the new project assistant in Kinshasa, Kongo. In the last months he was as an intern in the Communication Desk in the Headquarters.

5. Others

First Training and Assessment Course for volunteers

The first training and assessment course for the set-up of a Rapid Deployment Unit (RDU) took place between 28 June and 2 July near Treves (Trier), Germany. The aim of this training program is to recruit a group of 20 to 30 volunteers who will be qualified in disaster reaction. According to our character as the Order of Malta's worldwide relief organization, the training program is open for volunteers from all the national structures of the Order. The 18 participants of the first training course came from France, Germany, Great Britain, Austria, Sweden and Switzerland. During the three day course they got a general idea of the field of humanitarian assistance and experienced some of the challenges of our work themselves during interactive workshops.

The further preparation of qualified candidates for the RDU is divided into different modules which are designed to impart technical aspects as well as to enhance team building among the participants. The overall objective is to reach an operational readiness status for the whole team. Future sectors of intervention will be search and



Imprint

On the SPOT. - Malteser International Newsletter

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

Editorial office: Sid Johann Peruvemba, Stefan Dold, Katrin Refhuss * Phone + 49 – 2 21 – 98 22 155 * Fax + 49 – 2 21 – 98 22 179

E-Mail: stefan.dold@malteser-international.org

rescue, medical assistance, water and sanitation as well as the provision of other relief measures.

The concept of a Rapid Deployment Unit helps Malteser International to integrate the valuable experience of volunteers into the difficult context of humanitarian assistance provision and to enhance the quality and rapidity of our answer to major emergencies and crisis.

Further information:

Janine Lietmeyer, <mailto:janine.lietmeyer@malteser-international.org>

Annual Report 2005 in German available

Malteser International's Annual Report of the year 2005 is now available in German.

The document can be downloaded here:

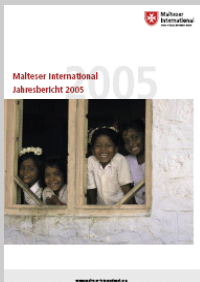
www.malteser-international.org (-> Aktuelles/Presse -> Dokumente zum Download)

To order the printed edition call us: +49 (0) 221 – 9822-183 (Katrin Rehfuss)

We inform you as soon as the English edition is ready.

Further information:

Petra Ipp, <mailto:petra.ipp@malteser-international.org>



Sid Johann Peruvemba

Stefan Dold

Imprint

On the SPOT. - Malteser International Newsletter

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

Editorial office: Sid Johann Peruvemba, Stefan Dold, Katrin Rehfuss * Phone + 49 – 2 21 – 98 22 155 * Fax + 49 – 2 21 – 98 22 179

E-Mail: stefan.dold@malteser-international.org