

# On the SPOT

**NEWSLETTER  
November 2007**

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## **Kenya: Help for 18,000 flood victims in Budalangi**



The emergency relief for the people in Budalangi affected by the severe floods is in full activity. Malteser International provided relief supplies for about 3,300 families - more than 18,000 people - with financial support of the Federal Foreign Office of Germany. The most important challenge at the moment is the provision of safe drinking water through clean water tanks and water purification tablets to prevent the outbreak of epidemics. The distribution of mosquito nets also plays an important role since the exasperating high season of malaria is now approaching in December and January.

Due to the heavy floods, thousands of families had to flee from their homes. Plastic covers provided the only protection against the rain, the cold or the sun. In addition, Malteser International provided blankets that helped the people to endure the cold nights, since almost no family in Budalangi has a blanket for every family member. With the assistance of the local catholic church, a fair and socially equilibrated distribution system has been developed which is now implemented by numerous volunteers of the local community of Magombe in cooperation with Malteser International.

Further information: Dr. Georg Nothelle, <mailto:georg.nothelle@malteser-international.org>

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## **Myanmar: Primary health care and nutrition services for uprooted people in Northern Rakhine State**



On 1 November, Malteser International with financial support from EuropeAid started a three years' project cycle in Northern Rakhine State. The region's lack of public health services and its poor infrastructure combined with the restriction of freedom of movement have obvious consequences on the health status of the population. The general objective of the new project therefore is to improve the health and nutrition situation of about 130,000 people living in this area. The first objective is to strengthen community-based primary health care and nutrition services in order to prevent a further deterioration of the malnutrition of children under five who are especially vulnerable. Another goal is to further develop self-sufficiency skills of uprooted communities in the region.

Uprooted people, however, are not the only target group; in fact, the assistance aims at the whole population as all communities in the area are considered as most vulnerable. The communities are strongly involved in the design of the program and assume an active part with regard to the implementation of the activities. Government health staff will also be included in staff trainings, referrals, exchange of health data, trends and developments. The main activities will also include advocacy meetings with village representatives, the training of community health care providers, awareness sessions on health related issues, malaria, HIV/AIDS, hygiene, nutrition and environmental sanitation as well as monitoring and evaluation visits. The 143 trained community health care providers are the backbone of the project. During the last project cycle from January 2005 to October 2007, they diagnosed and treated more than 600,000 patients.

Further information: Stephan Huppertz, <mailto:stephan.huppertz@malteser-international.org>

### **Sri Lanka: Project for the improvement of water, sanitation and environmental health extended**



After the first project phase which ended on 30 June 2007, the project for the improvement of water, sanitation and environmental health in southern Sri Lanka implemented by Malteser International and co-funded by Caritas SED Galle has now been extended for a further year financed by Malteser International own funds. The principal objective of the first project phase was to improve the wellbeing of the population affected and displaced by the tsunami as well as of vulnerable local residents. The result was an increased awareness and mobilisation of the population in the project area. Currently, most of the people living in the project area collect their water from private wells in individual houses which have very poor water quality.

In the second project phase, Malteser International now also intends to improve the environmental health situation of the families. This goal will be achieved through the provision of a safe and adequate water supply, improved sanitation facilities and the establishment of an effective solid waste system. First, Malteser International staff will meet with the local authorities and the population of the area for information and coordination and thus prepare the implementation of the extended project measures.

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

### **Vietnam: Emergency relief for families affected by the floods**

In the last weeks, heavy rains have caused severe inundations in Central Vietnam. Many rivers have overflowed their banks and devastated wide regions. The provinces of Quang-Nam and Danang are the ones most affected by the floods. Especially the poor population suffers from the devastating consequences of the heavy rainfalls. Hunger and infectious diseases result from the destruction of houses and the loss of nutrition sources.

In order to reduce the suffering of the people in the disaster region, Malteser International with

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financial support of the Federal Foreign Office of Germany is implementing several relief activities. In four districts, Malteser International distributes food, blankets and mosquito nets as well as iron sheets for temporary housing for in total 1,251 families.

According to reports of local authorities, more than 100 people have died since now. All in all, more than 90,000 people are affected by the floods; ten thousands of houses are destroyed. Also the impact on the agriculture is devastating: 21,000 tons of rice and corn and 30,000 tons of seed are waste, hundreds of thousands of poultry, pigs and cows died.

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

## Mexico: Flood victims need long-term assistance



The Mexican Association of the Order of Malta and its relief service has continuously extended the flood relief for the people in the State of Tabasco. Till now, four shipments with 34 tons of food, hygiene products and livelihood have arrived in the disaster area. “We distribute food, drinking water, blankets and soap to the victims. And we provide hospitals with medicine and medical equipment so that they can treat pregnant women, newborns and wounded people,” Carmen Reynoso, the Executive Director of the volunteers’ relief service of the Mexican Association of the Order of Malta, explains.

In some parts of Tabasco, the water was standing 15 feet high. Thousands of families still could not return to their houses. The volunteers of the Mexican Association and its relief service also go to the most remote regions to help the people who until now did not receive any assistance. “A lot of people have been holding out in the water for days and are very desperate”, Reynoso says.

However, it is not only emergency relief that is urgently needed. The flooded regions will also need support with regard to reconstruction. “Nobody can live here anymore, everything is in pieces”, Carmen Reynoso describes the situation. “Therefore, we need long-term assistance to help the people to build up their homes again.”

In December, Mr Sid Johann Peruvemba, Vice-Secretary General of Malteser International, will visit Mexico in order to evaluate the emergency relief projects and in assistance to the Mexican Association plan and coordinate the rehabilitation phase together.

Further information:

Sid Johann Peruvemba, <mailto:sidjohann.peruvemba@malteser-international.org>

## Peru: First 40 houses handed over to earthquake victims

On 18 November, after a solemn ceremony presided by the His Excellency, Juan Antonio Ugarte Pérez, Archbishop of Cusco, the first 40 prefabricated houses were handed over to 40 families affected by the earthquake that had taken place in Cañete in August. Volunteers of Malteser Peru had helped the inhabitants with the reconstruction of their houses. Furthermore, they had organized a medical campaign in order to investigate the health situation of the inhabitants in Cedros de Villa and Nuevo Hualcará. Thereby, main emphasis has been put on the improvement of the nutrition of children and older people. In the further course of the project, Malteser Peru also plans to set up a bakery thus not only providing food but also some jobs for the population. The earthquake relief in Peru is financed by donations of the international network of the Order of Malta, Malteser International and the German network “Aktion Deutschland Hilft” (Action Campaign Germany Helps).

Further information:

Sid Johann Peruvemba, <mailto:sid.peruvemba@malteser-international.org>

## STAFF

### Africa:

On 1 November, **Ms Angelica Bergmann Zamorano**, former Project Assistant in the Africa Desk in Cologne, left for **Luanda, Angola**, to continue to work there.

### Asia:

On 1 November, **Ms Anne Flaspöler**, former Project Assistant in the Asia Desk, went to **India** to work as Project Assistant there.

Also on 1 November, **Ms Miriam Klier**, former Project Assistant in the Asia Desk, too, started to work as a Project Assistant in **Pakistan**.

Further information: Renate Esser, <mailto:renate.esser@malteser-international.org>

## OTHERS

### A day for the victims of disaster: Two examples



In order to draw the attention of the public to the humanitarian work of Malteser International and to ask for financial support of this work, Malteser International has spread the idea of an international “Day for the victims of disaster” that shall take place in different countries.

The Finish Association of the Order of Malta has immediately acted on this suggestion by organising a charity dinner for the earthquake victims in Peru. The money collected during this evening, was put at the disposal of the Malteser International earthquake relief. Such a charity dinner is now supposed to take place

once a year now – each time for another project of Malteser International.

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Malteser Germany, the relief service of the German Association, this year launched the campaign “Martin Aid”, an initiative that is based on the idea of the shared cloak of Saint Martin. The patron of the campaign is the famous German singer Rolf Zuckowski, who participated in several celebrations and gave a concert for the children. “Martin Aid is a great idea that motivates people to share as Saint Martin did. Saint Martin got a friend by sharing his cloak; the children here can get friends in other countries with a donation for countries where children need our help. Sharing means winning, not losing”, Zuckowski said. This year, the money collected at the celebrations will be used to support – among others – the work of Malteser International in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Further information: [www.martinaid.com](http://www.martinaid.com)  
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