

# On the SPOT.

## OBITUARY

## NEWSLETTER JULY 2008

Of the worldwide relief service of the Sovereign Order of Malta

### Malteser International is grieving for Dr. Yohannes Ligiam



Malteser International mourns the sudden and unexpected death of its highly esteemed staff member Dr. Yohannes Ligiam. He has been working as a HIV/AIDS-Project Manager for Malteser International in Wa/Myanmar. At noon on 14 July 2008, when he was on the way from the hotel to an internet café, he succumbed to a sudden heart attack, at the age of 56. He was a dedicated colleague who committed his life, work and thoughts to the people he was working with and working for. His death hit us all unexpectedly. We will never forget Dr. Yohannes Ligiam. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family, his colleagues and friends. We will commemorate him. – R.I.P.

**Foto on the left:  
Dr. Yohannes Ligiam during an HIV AIDS sensitisation campaign**

### Malteser International is grieving for Anne Broquet

Malteser International is grieving for its colleague and friend Anne Broquet of “Ordre de Malte France”, the relief service of the French Association of the Order of Malta. She died in the night of 16 July 2008 at the age of 60 years in the ‘Hôpital des Invalides’ in Paris after having suffered from a heavy disease. Her last deployments took her to Sri Lanka and India for the emergency relief after tsunami. With Anne Broquet, Malteser International does not only lose a highly esteemed colleague and important team member, but also a very close friend and convincing example of Christian faith and living. Our thoughts and prayers are with her and her family. – R.I.P.



**Anne Broquet discussing with a monk in Sri Lanka**

## AFRIKA

### Sudan I: Health care now also in prisons



On behalf of the local health authority, Malteser International now also assures health education in prisons of Yei in South Sudan. At the beginning of July, in cooperation with representatives of the health authority, Malteser International organised health education and trainings for about 100 prisoners and prison staff and informed them about frequent diseases like tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS, sleeping sickness and leprosy. Additional measures as well as the treatment of these and other diseases and the visit of other prisons in Yei are planned in cooperation with the local hospital.

**Foto on the left:  
Testing for sleeping sickness in Yei South Sudan**

## Sudan II: Malaria season starting now – Awareness raising sessions for



In June, Malteser International has conducted awareness raising sessions for 225 Community Health Volunteers in North Darfur. After the comprehensive sessions these Volunteers are now able to carry out mobilization and sensitization in their respective villages on malaria prevention and control; that is to say destruction of breeding sites for anopheles mosquitoes, identification of symptoms and the importance of seeking malaria treatment promptly. The aim of this activity is to improve awareness and knowledge and also to promote community participation on malaria prevention. The Community Health Volunteers also throw light on the danger of malaria for pregnant women and the benefit of sleeping under impregnated long lasting mosquito nets. During the peak of the malaria season, Malteser International distributes mosquito nets to all pregnant women coming to the health centre for ante-natal care.

In addition, Malteser International organised trainings by a nutritionist to 75 Community Health Volunteers in growth monitoring. The growth monitoring recorders are supporting five health facilities in Shangil Tobayi, Wada, Abu Zerega, Galab and Tabit as well as the outreach teams to ensure children under five are screened for their nutritional status. In the areas with the highest numbers of malnourished children Malteser International is providing emergency supplementary feeding.

Furthermore, Malteser International realised measures of compound sanitation in all supported health facilities by installing water tanks, building incinerators and planting a total of 80 desert trees that don't need much water.

## Uganda: Community-based health teams in Kaberamaido

In June 2008, Malteser International started a new project within the scope of the flood relief after the severe floods in September 2007. The aim is to build up a community-based health system in the district of Kaberamaido. Thereby the people will be sensitized for dangers of an outbreak of epidemics, for example after flood disasters. Kaberamaido was severely affected by the floods last year. The health situation of the population is still critical.

## ASIA

### Indonesia: Implementation of health information system reaches new level

Since 2005, Malteser International in cooperation with the GTZ (Community for Technical Cooperation, Germany) has been supporting the public health authority of the district Aceh with the implementation of a computer-based health information system, where all the relevant data of patients are saved. After tsunami, such a system was urgently needed. The software trainings for the staff in the health centres will be completed in the end of July. At this moment, a new phase of the project is beginning: more and more specialised staff from the local foundation Air Putih will assure the sustainable use of the programmes in the health centres.

For more information, please read also "Portraits of our help" – Daniel Apolinarski in Indonesia later in this newsletter.

**Foto on the right: during the computer software training in Aceh Besar**



## Myanmar I: Relief for the survivors of cyclone Nargis proceeds – Basic health care and WASH activities also on Middle Island

In addition to the relief measures in Labutta in the severely affected Irrawaddy Delta, Malteser International now also takes care of health care and water supply for about 62,000 people in the northern part of Middle Island which is located about 40 kilometres from Labutta. After cyclone Nargis hit the coast of Myanmar on 2 May, the government of Myanmar requested medical teams of the International Hospital Yangon to provide assistance to the population of Middle Island. The cooperation with Malteser International started soon afterwards and the International Hospital is now handing over four health centres on Middle Island, providing medicines, staff and equipment.



Staff in Middle-Island

Four medical teams with five doctors, seven nurses and one pharmacist in cooperation with local health workers at present distribute insecticides to prevent an outbreak of infectious diseases like dengue or malaria. “The insecticide will be put in all cisterns and water tanks because dengue and malaria are transmitted by mosquitoes breeding in the water”, Dr. Marie Theres Benner, Senior Health Coordinator of Malteser International reports from Yangon. In the worst case the diseases lead to death if no medical support is given. The insecticide avoids the breeding of the mosquito larvae and minimizes the number of infections. “Before the start of the campaign, we have trained the health workers in the use and handling of the insecticides. Furthermore, we inform the people living here on Middle Island how they can protect themselves against infections and how they can identify them in an early stage”, Dr. Benner explains. In addition, Malteser International will build 75 rain water harvesting tanks as well as 2.000 fly proof latrines and rehabilitate 100 water sources on Middle Island that have been flooded by sea water during the disaster. Families on the island who have lost all their belongings during the cyclone receive cookware, soap, plastic sheets, rain coats and other urgently needed relief items. Furthermore, Malteser International trains community health workers in order to enable them to inform their communities about infectious diseases and how to avoid them. The project is implemented with financial support from Caritas International.

Also in Labutta, a heavily destroyed coastal town in the Irrawaddy Delta, the aid measures of Malteser International still go on. Staff members provide medical care for 16,000 internally displaced persons and 24,000 inhabitants. Moreover, Malteser International is supplying about 100,000 people in Labutta and its outskirts with safe drinking water. More than 15,000 mosquito nets help families in Labutta to protect themselves against mosquitoes. 2,700 “family kits” with cookware, hygiene articles and water cans have been distributed to the neediest families. In Yangon, most of the disaster relief measures have been concluded by now. In the first weeks after the cyclone, Malteser International has provided safe drinking water and medical care for about 60,000 people.

Esther Suchanek, Communication Assistant of Malteser International, is currently travelling through the disaster region. Read her travel diary on our homepage [www.malteser-international.org](http://www.malteser-international.org) (Downloads/Blogs).

## Myanmar II: Deichmann Shoe Company Group

Dr. Heinz Horst Deichmann, founder of the German-based Shoe Company Group of the same name, donated 30,000 Euro to support the humanitarian help for the people in the Irrawaddy Delta. The money is used to purchase urgently needed family size mosquito nets. The 8,800 nets will protect 32,000 homeless people against malaria. This is especially important for risk groups such as children under five years, pregnant women and young mothers.

## Myanmar III: Disaster prevention in areas at risk by cyclones and floods

With a new project, Malteser International strives to improve disaster prevention and disaster preparedness in Myanmar. For that purpose, special measures are planned in eight slums and villages nearby the cities in the Townships Sittwe and Rathi-daung: the simulation of danger scenarios, awareness trainings and the development of emergency plans in case of disaster as well as accompanying measures to improve infrastructure. This project is financed by the Federal Foreign Office of Germany.



The hospital on Middle Island has completely been destroyed during the cyclone



## Vietnam: Business trainings for the poorest women in Hoa Quy

With business trainings, Malteser International is responsive to the alarming situation of many women in Hoa Quy in the district Ngu Hanh Son. The women suffer from a lack in almost everything in daily life and are not able to comply with the basic needs of their families. In trainings, named Competency based Economies through Formation of Enterprise (CEFE) trainings ([www.cefe.net](http://www.cefe.net)) the women get basic economic knowledge and learn sell skills. After the training, they are able to set up a small business, earn money and thus save sustainably the living of their families. The project is financed by the German consulate in Ho Chi Minh City.

**Foto on the left: Women during the CEFE-Training**

## Pakistan: New project supports disaster prevention

With the financial support of the Federal Foreign Office of Germany, Malteser International can now realize comprehensive measures for disaster prevention in areas that are regularly threatened by forces of nature like Azad Jammu and Kashmir in Pakistan. Due to the geographic conditions, these regions are suffering from regular earthquakes and other natural forces. Long-dated disaster prevention is necessary as the effects of the earthquake in October 2005 have shown. At that time 73,000 people have died.

**Foto on the right: Rehabilitation of health facilities in Kashmir**



## PORTRAITS OF OUR HELP

*Under the new column „Portraits of our help“, published for the first time in the June edition of “On the SPOT”, Malteser International presents staff members in Africa, Asia or the Americas to give a more personal impression of the people, realizing all the projects on the ground.*

*This edition continues with the presentation of a German who went out to work in Asia: Daniel Apolinarski, Project Manager in Aceh Province/Indonesia.*

“I was always interested in cultures from South-East Asia“, Daniel Apolinarski reports with bright eyes, while he is looking a little wistful to the map hanging behind him on the white wall in the office in Cologne. At the moment he is on holiday in Germany. For one day, he visits his colleagues in the Headquarters in Cologne, reporting directly from the field, before he will leave to see his family and friends in the “Sauerland“, a region in the northwest of Germany where he was born.



**Daniel Apolinarski in front of the map of Indonesia**

Since November 2007, Daniel Apolinarski has been working as Project Manager in Banda Aceh, Indonesia. The goal of the project in Aceh is the development and implementation of a health information system, which is the first of its kind in whole Indonesia. One of the main goals of a working health system is to minimize the mother-child-mortality which is still very high in Indonesia. „Every day brings its own surprises and challenges“, Daniel Apolinarski says, talking about his daily work in Indonesia, while he is smiling. “We need to remain flexible to all sudden situations. That’s what I really like and what motivates me: when we find solutions for every special thing and can change it for the better, together with the people living here.”

Yet during his studies of Ethnology, Sociology and History that he successfully finished in 2005 with a main focus on South and South-East Asia, he went to collect experiences in Vietnam and Thailand, doing research for his final thesis. After that he applied for the one-year Career Entry Program of Malteser International. He was successful: In 2006 he started working in the Asia Department in Cologne as a Project Assistant. Half a year later, he began to work in a project of Malteser International in Indonesia. Now he is Project Manager. His biggest wish for the project is, “that it can be continued as soon as possible by the local people. I hope that this project is seen like a pilot project to implement such a computer-based health system in whole Indonesia.”

## STAFF ABROAD

In June 2008, the Communication Assistant Kathrin Meier visited for about four weeks our projects in the South-Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo. Read her interesting travelogues from Maridi and Ariwara/Mahagi on our home-page under the category Downloads/"Portraits of our help"/"Fightings myths and roosters" respectively "Congolese welcome ceremonies...".

On 26 May, **Johannes Schweda** from Germany left to start working as a South Sudan Administrator in Juba, South Sudan.

On 25 June, **Martin Schömburg**, former Desk Officer Finance in the Headquarters in Cologne, left to work in Nairobi, Kenya as a Regional Finance & Administration Coordinator.

On 3 July, **Rosemary Kikon** from Sri Lanka started to work as a Child Protection Advisor in Sri Lanka.

On 7 July, **Panos Navrozidis** from Greece started to work as a Programme Coordinator in Rumbek, South Sudan.

On 15 July, **Dr. Ursula Hergert** from Germany left to work as a Health Manager in Labutta, Myanmar.

On 14 July, **Nicole Derbinski**, former Desk Officer Sri Lanka in the Headquarters in Cologne, started to work in Yogyakarta in Indonesia as a Partner Project Coordinator.

## OTHERS

### Malteser International presents its Annual Report 2007

With its Annual Report 2007, Malteser International gives an impressive insight into the work in more than 20 countries in Africa, Asia and the Americas. The German version of the Annual Report is already published on [www.malteser-international.org](http://www.malteser-international.org) under the category "Downloads/Publications" and can be ordered as a printed version and free of charge: <mailto:info@malteser-international.org>. The English version will follow within the next weeks.

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