

On the SPOT.

NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2008

*Of the worldwide relief service of the Sovereign
Order of Malta*

I. AFRICA

DR Congo I: Successful fight against the plague



Disinfection of houses against plague transmitting fleas

In the middle of July 2008, Malteser International successfully finished a one-year project aiming at the prevention of and the fight against the plague in Mahagi, in the northeast of the DR Congo. The lives of many people infected by the plague could be saved thanks to effective measures. Until June 2008, 2,332 cases of plague were treated, more than 10,000 cottages and houses were disinfected against plague transmitting fleas and 9,607 persons, who had contact to infected people, got a precautionary treatment. Furthermore, a sensitization campaign had been started with radio spots and the distribution of information material as well as awareness trainings and education measures for the population. The project had been started in July 2007 because of a current plague epidemic and was financed by Pooled Fund.

DR Congo II: Malteser International extends help for victims of sexual violence

In addition to the current projects in South Kivu for the victims of sexual violence, Malteser International has been supporting two further Reference Hospitals in Walungu and Kaniola as well as another health centre in Luntukulu since August 2008. The main focus of the work is the training and supervision of the staff responsible for the medical treatment of victims of sexual violence. Until December 2008, 400 people suffering from sexual violence and 157 partners of them, who already consented to the treatment, will get medical and psychosocial treatment in the health centres. Once a month, local NGOs are organizing an awareness raising about the consequences of sexual violence and HIV/AIDS. They also inform the population about addresses and places where to get medical help. Through special trainings in the health centres, Malteser International assures that the medical drugs are used in a right way. Last year, 16,869 people needed medical treatment because of sexual violence. Malteser International treated 6,927 of these patients, which equates to 41 percent. For this reason, Malteser International was the organisation in South Kivu that helped most people in cases of sexual violence.



Malteser International staff member giving hope to congolese women who have been victims of sexual aggression

II. ASIA

India I: Floods in Bihar - Malteser International finds refugee camp without relief supply near the border with Nepal/ 60.000 people starving without minimum supply

Bihar/Cologne. "Villages that are completely destroyed, ten thousands of people living underneath plastic bags and plastic sheets without safe drinking water, foodstuff or medical supply", Florian Seeger, Malteser International Coordinator in India, describes the situation in the disaster area on the border between India and Nepal. 10,000 to 15,000 families in the district of Basantpur alone are



Flood-affected people in the district of Basantpur

holding out on the remaining dams since nearly three weeks says Seeger who has been assessing the situation in the disaster region during the last days.

The expert describes the situation of the survivors as "atrocious", the people affected by the floods are frustrated: "No help has reached these people up to now, they are living in bare misery under branches of trees and plastic bags. Many of them grieve for family members." Furthermore, the people in the camp are threatened by the outbreak of diseases. „The water supply is absolutely insufficient. The people are suffering from diarrhoea.”

Malteser International will bring water disinfection items, water cans as well as cookware, plastic sheets and tools for the building of emergency shelter to the needy as soon as possible. "We urgently need more money to be able to help", Florian Seeger says.

On the 18 August, a dike of the river Kosi in Nepal has broken leading to severe flooding among others in large parts of the Indian state of Bihar and its neighbouring states. Another cause of the flooding is the ongoing monsoon.

For its emergency relief in Bihar, Malteser International urgently calls for donations! To join the relief network, please transfer your donation to the following account: Donation Account 120 120 120, Bank für Sozialwirtschaft, Wörthstr. 15-17, D-50668 Köln, Sort Code : 370 205 00, IBAN : DE49 3702 0500 0001 0258 01, BIC: BFSWDE33XXX, Reference: "Flood relief India"

India II: First capacity building for Indian project partners in Tamil language

When cooperating with local Indian NGO partners for project implementation, Malteser International uses the Project Cycle Management (PCM) approach. PCM is promoted also by the European Union to structure project ideas shaping them into project plans which then can be adhered to throughout the life cycle of a project. Usually English language has been used to point out the goals and expected results of a project.

In a recent series of trainings in Tamil Nadu, Malteser International could overcome the language gap cooperating with an Indian expert using the local Tamil language to train staff of the partner organizations. All the sudden it became possible to involve experienced field managers of our partner organisations to capture the concepts of structured planning. In vivid group sessions plans were drafted for follow-up projects, generating exit strategies aiming at sustainable project results. Having planning tools at hand helps the field management to keep track of progress made and to more systematically check on results. Using PCM, Indian partners will find it easier to find support from abroad or within India once our support comes to an end.



Staff members during an administrative training with the local partner organisation Venture Trust

Myanmar: Malteser International plans long-term relief in the Irrawaddy Delta

After the take over of the medical care for about 62,000 people in the northern part of “Middle Island” in the Irrawaddy Delta, Malteser International plans further measures like the construction of 75 rainwater collection tanks, 2,000 temporary latrines for the affected families, the equipment of three laboratories and the training of five laboratory assistants. In Labutta and its surroundings, Malteser International provides 100,000 people with clean



Malteser International staff in Myanmar presenting one of the rainwater tanks

www.malteser.de/61.Malteser_International/61.16.Downloads/61.16.06.Blogs/61.16.06.05.Reisetagebuch_Myanmar_2008/reisetagebuch_myanmar_2008.htm

Sri Lanka: Flood relief for school children in Nagoda Divisional Secretary's area – Galle District

On 24 July, Malteser International WASH Programme Coordinator Arno Coerver and Programme Administrator Romy Blicke distributed school kits to about 1,000 children in three schools in the Galle District of in southern Sri Lanka. While the children were happy to receive new textbooks, notebooks and pencils, the school directors were informed about the work of Malteser International in Sri Lanka. During the floods of June 2008 many school children had lost their entire school equipment. In particular the poor families lacked the money to buy new school material. Malteser International had consulted the Disaster Management Centre and the Consortium of Humanitarian Agencies to identify areas affected people demanding assistance. Eventually the school children in the Mapalagama area, which is repeatedly flooded by the Ginganga River, had been selected for Malteser International's support.



Malteser International staff handing over the school kits to the children

III. AMERICAS

Peru I: Workshop in humanitarian assistance for members of Malteser Peru



Sphere-Workshop: Working in small groups
Kathrin Meier, Malteser International Partner Support Officer in Peru (On the right), was one of the organisers of this workshop

workshop with their own groups, so all members of Malteser Peru will be on the same page. The seminar ended with a lunch and a mass at the house of Monsignore Helmut Zielinski, founder of Malteser Peru.

From 29 to 31 August, Malteser Peru organised and implemented a Sphere-Workshop for 22 members from different regions in Peru. The goal was to introduce the participants to the Sphere-Handbook so that they will be able to provide better humanitarian assistance in the future. The Sphere-Handbook gives a practical guidance on how to implement humanitarian assistance in case of an emergency. During the seminar, the participants worked and discussed in small groups and there were many practical exercises, like the construction of shelters in refugee camps. The participants will repeat the

Peru II: One year of earthquake relief – positive balance

One year after the devastating earthquake, the reconstruction keeps on going quickly. “Together with Malteser International and many members of Malteser Peru and the Peruvian Association of the Order of Malta, we have reconstructed the houses of 92 families in the two villages of Cedro de Villa and Nuevo Hulacará in a short time”, Monsignore Helmut Zielinski, founder of Malteser Peru, says. In the beginning, volunteers also collected clothes and food and distributed the goods to the survivors. Two community kitchens were established for the affected population in the two almost completely destroyed villages.

After the acute emergency relief has now successfully come to an end, the sustainable development is the central focus of the work. Malteser International is conducting trainings for disaster preparedness and therewith supporting the capacity building within Malteser Peru. Due to the earthquake on 15 August 2007, more than 500 people died and about 300,000 people got homeless.

Peru III: Income generating measures affected by the food crisis



The soup-kitchen during the opening day

A main focus of the reconstruction relief are income generating measures: For example, a new community bakery not only gives bread to the people, but also offers new jobs. Similar to that, a soup-kitchen was opened, which provides about 200 children with a warm meal each day. Nevertheless, the worldwide food crisis also affected Peru as the food prices have considerably increased. *To be able to continue the programmes in Peru, Malteser International needs further donations.*

Donation account number: 20 20 122, Pax-Bank Köln, Bank code : 370 601 93, IBAN: DE93 3706 0193 0002 0201 22, Reference: Peru.

IV. EUROPE

Floods in Central and Eastern Europe: Malteser International supports flood relief of national Malteser relief services with 20,000 EUR

After the heavy floods in July in the Ukraine, Romania, Hungary, Moldova and Slovakia Malteser International supports the emergency relief of the Malteser relief services with 20,000 EUR. 10,000 EUR will be spent by the Romanian Relief Organisation of the Order of Malta, [SAMR \(maltez@maltez.ro\)](mailto:maltez@maltez.ro), for small-scale distribution programmes in affected areas where Malteser teams are already active. The second part of the fund will be used by the Ukrainian Relief Organisation of the Order, the MSD (Malteser@malteser.lviv.ua). They will concentrate on small rehabilitation works in the district of Lviv. In total, about 40,000 people have been evacuated in these countries. In Ukraine, the number of people killed has risen to 34; about 25,000 people had to be evacuated. 9,000 houses and 24,000 hectares of farmland are still flooded. In Romania, the floods are reported to be the worst for the last 40 years; about 9,000 houses were damaged and 26,000 hectares of land were flooded.

V. STAFF

„PORTRAITS OF OUR HELP“

Under the column *„Portraits of our help“*, 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 *Maung Tin Saw*, head of the health promotion team on Middle Island, Irrawady Delta, in Myanmar.

After the cyclone: Health promotion on Middle Island – prevention of diseases and capacity building

Maung Tin Saw sits at the desk in the office of Malteser International in Thin Gan Kone. He just took a shower (here, this means a bucket of cold water) and changed his soaked clothes after coming back from a field trip to a village. Maung Tin Saw is the team-leader of the eight local health promoters that go out to the villages around Thin Gan Kone to inform the people there about the importance of the “4 cleans” – clean water, clean food, clean hands and clean latrines.



Maung Tin Saw working in his office on Middle Island, Myanmar

After cyclone Nargis hit Middle Island on 2 May 2008, it became especially important to assist the people with sanitation and hygiene since many of them are still living in temporary shelters with no access to proper sanitation and clean drinking water. These are ideal circumstances for diseases like malaria, dengue but also diarrhoea to spread rapidly. With posters, pictures

and leaflets, the health promoters inform the people on how to prevent these diseases.

Maung Tin Saw usually works as a health promoter for Malteser International in Sittwe, in the north of Myanmar. But after the cyclone, he - like many others - was called to the Irrawaddy Delta to assist the people in need. He has been working for Malteser International for more than two years now and enjoys his job. *“I like to communicate with the people from the villages, to go to see them and to be able to teach them something that will have a positive impact on their lives.”* In a couple of months, the 28-year old man will go back to Sittwe to his project. But then, his work will not be left undone in the villages around Thin Gan Kone – by that time, he will have trained the local health promoters in his team to go on with their work on their own.

STAFF ABROAD

On 25 August, **Vesna Bukvic** from Serbia and Montenegro started working as a Country Administrator Pakistan.

On 1 August, **Cecil Dunne** from Ireland left for Myanmar to work as a Programme Coordinator.

On 1 August, **Johannes Kaltenbach** from Germany, former Project Administrator/Coordinator Indonesia, started to work as a Country Administrator in Myanmar.

On 1 August, **Carolin Kleine-Cosack** from Germany, former Project Assistant in the Asia Desk in Cologne, started to work as a Project Assistant in Indonesia.

On 1 August, Kathrin Meier from Germany, former Project Assistant in the Communication Desk in Cologne, started to work as Partner Support Officer in Peru.

VI. OTHERS

Malteser International Annual Report 2007 – English version now online!

The Malteser International Annual Report 2007 now is available for download. On 48 pages, it gives an account of the large variety of programmes realised for about seven million people in 21 countries worldwide in 2007. In order to download the Report, please click [here](#).

For printed copies in English or German please contact Mrs Nadine Fislage/Malteser International, <mailto:p.kommunikation3@malteserinternational.org>.

World Water Week 2008

From 17 to 23 August, the 2008 World Water Week took place in Stockholm, Sweden, with more than 2,000 experts from about 100 countries. The motto of the week was “Progress and Prospects on Water: For a Clean and Healthy World with Special Focus on Sanitation.” It took place at a time when billions of people live without sustainable access to safe drinking water or suffer ill health due to poor sanitation, when worsening food crisis battles bio energy for land and water resources, and when global climate change is shaking the overall water balance.

One of the focal points of Malteser International is to ensure safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) in countries that do not make the news every day. You can read more about the WASH programs of Malteser International in our brochure “[From safe water and sanitation to good health](#)” and watch our movie about WASH in Sri Lanka [here](#). – According to the United Nations more than 1.8 billion of people don’t have access to clean drinking water. Every day 6,000 people die – 4,000 of them are children – due to diseases caused by polluted drinking water.

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