

On the SPOT.

SEPTEMBER 2008

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

BREAKING NEWS

Medal of Gratitude for Nicolas de Cock, President of Malteser International



Congratulations on the 70th birthday of Nicolas de Cock de Rameyen (on the left/foreground)

On his 70th birthday, on the verge of a meeting of the Board of Directors in the Malteser International Headquarters in Cologne, Mr Nicolas de Cock de Rameyen, President of Malteser International, was awarded the Medal of Gratitude of the German Malteser Hilfsdienst by its Executive President, Johannes Freiherr Heereman, in a solemn ceremony. With this decoration, Freiherr Heereman paid homage to de Cock in recognition of his long-standing, exemplary and sedulous commitment for the international humanitarian work. – In addition, the Vice-Presidents Count Thierry de Beaumont-Beynac from

France and Richard Freiherr von Steeb from Austria handed over presents of their national Malteser relief services to express their gratitude for de Cock's outstanding engagement. – The festivities were followed by a common lunch with the Malteser International staff.

De Cock has been President of Malteser International since 2005. Already in 1997, he had become President of ECOM (Emergency Corps Order of Malta). He is a Knight Grand Cross of Grace and Devotion of the Sovereign Order of Malta.

I. AFRICA

Kenya: Malteser International links up with new SOM Embassy in Nairobi

On the occasion of the visit of the Humanitarian Consultant (Chargé de Mission) of the Sovereign Order of Malta, Mrs Marina Moll, to Malteser International projects in Kenya, Uganda and DR Congo, a delegation of Malteser International including the Head of the Africa Department Dr. Georg Nothelle, Regional Finance and Administration Coordinator Mr Martin Schömburg, and



The delegation of Malteser International and the Sovereign Order of Malta in front of the Malteser International Office in Nairobi

Kenya Programme Coordinator Mr Paul Ochieng, together with Mrs Moll met with the Liaison Officer of the newly established Embassy of the Sovereign Order of Malta (SOM) in Kenya, Mr Thomas Mason, at the new Embassy premises in Karen, Nairobi.

Earlier this year, Kenya Government officially recognised the wish of SOM to have diplomatic ties with Kenya and accepted the accreditation of the SOM Ambassador to Kenya, H. E. Gianfranco Cicogna Mozzoni. According to Mr Mason the main task of the Embassy will be to represent the Order of Malta towards Kenya Gov-

ernment, to be active in fund raising for projects, to give required support to Malteser International to get semi-diplomatic status in Kenya, and to implement projects on behalf of the Order. Further expansion of diplomatic ties to Uganda, Tanzania and South Sudan are envisaged for the future. This initiative could then be a further boost to Malteser International for the operations in Uganda and South Sudan. Issues of mutual interest were fruitfully discussed. Whereas the Embassy will be most interested in implementing education projects, Malteser International will continue to focus on health and health related activities. It is envisaged to further discuss joint projects in the field of water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH).

Unfortunately, the SOM Ambassador to Kenya, H. E. Gianfranco Cicogna Mozzoni was not able to attend that meeting due to other commitments in South Africa. But in a meeting between the Ambassador and Malteser International the week before, he confirmed his strong will to support Malteser International in being operational in Kenya and Eastern Africa. At his next stay in Kenya, the Ambassador will be visiting the Nairobi Slums Project of Malteser International.

This cooperation with the new SOM Embassy in Kenya is already the second fruitful relationship for Malteser International with a SOM Embassy in Africa, the first being the one with the SOM Embassy in Kinshasa, DR Congo with which Malteser International maintains already since several years a long lasting cooperation. The big advantage of these cooperations is the synergetic effect of combining the political importance of the SOM through the diplomatic representations with the operational capacities and achievements of Malteser International in the region to the benefit of increased visibility and reputation of the Order's worldwide relief efforts.

II. ASIA

Cambodia I: International Delegation of the Order of Malta visits projects in north-western Cambodia

From 4 to 8 September, a high-ranking international delegation of the Order of Malta visited the projects of Malteser International in the provinces of Oddar Meanchey and Banteay Meanchey in north-western Cambodia.



The international Delegation of the Order of Malta - here during the visit of one of the projects of Malteser International in north-western Cambodia.

The delegation was headed by Richard Freiherr von Steeb, Vice-President of Malteser-International, from Austria. The other participants came from Australia: Mr. Michael Mann, Ambassador of the Order to Thailand and Cambodia; from Singapore: Mr. Michael Khoo, President of the Singapore Association, and Mr. George Thia; from Switzerland: Mrs. Marie-Thérèse Pictet-Althann, Ambassador of the Order to the UN; and – last but not least: Mr. Daniel Haas, First Secretary Development Cooperation at the German Embassy in Phnom Penh/Cambodia.

The group was accompanied by a German film team from NRW.TV that is producing a documentary about rural life in Cambodia and Malteser International's activities for this year's Martin Aid campaign (www.martinaid.com).

In Cambodia, Malteser International is currently running two projects: one for health financing through Community-based Health Insurances (CBHI) schemes, which includes activities for health promotion and human rights advocacy. The other project aims at reducing maternal mortality through the improvement of reproductive health services at rural health facilities. The latter consists of training and cooperation with TBAs (traditional birth attendants) and MSGs (mother support groups) on village level. Promotion of home gardens for MSGs and other community members is another important project component which contributes to an improvement of the nutritional status of the family. In addition, health center midwives receive on the job/in service trainings at the facilities and during outreach visits to remote villages from Malteser International staff, who stay overnight with them in the health centers during the week.

For CBHI, Malteser International is cooperating with two local partner organizations. As health expenditures for poor rural population are often catastrophic and lead to the selling of land and livestock, CBHI tries to minimize these risks via risk pooling and prepayment. The premium is 50% subsidized and part of the insurance income is lent out as micro-credits for income generation.

The delegation visited several project sites, witnessed activities for antenatal care and MSG education, and participated in village CBHI committee meetings. In addition, they met with the Director of the Provincial Health Department, as well as with referral hospital and health center staff. To acknowledge a long-lasting cooperation, a motorbike was donated by the delegation to Beng Health Centre to bring health care to women and children in remote villages.

The visit has been highly appreciated and the participants enjoyed their experience of project activities of the relief service for humanitarian aid of the Order of Malta.



The delegation together with the staff of a health center

Cambodia II: New documentary about the work of Malteser International in Cambodia and the Martin Aid Campaign



Nouem and Sandra Harlass from the Malteser International head office explaining the work in Cambodia to the children

On 3 October 2008, the German TV channel NRW.TV (www.nrw.tv) will present the new documentary about the work of Malteser International for mother-child-health and the implementation of health insurances in the northwest of Cambodia. The film has been realized during the visit of the Order's delegation to Cambodia and also informs about the country itself, which is the leading country of this year's Martin Aid Campaign.

To support the Martin Aid Campaign, Nouem, a Cambodian health worker of Malteser International, has been travelling through Germany during the month of September to inform the public about the important work of Malteser International in Cambodia. He also visited schools, kindergartens, as well as further organisations and supporters of the Campaign. On 11 September for example, he went to see a kindergarten near Cologne, baking banana muffins with the children and talking with them about his life and work with Malteser International. For more information about the Martin Aid Campaign: www.martinaid.com.

India I: New floods in India - Malteser International extends emergency relief for flood victims in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar

The federal state of Uttar Pradesh in northern India is flooded: After further heavy monsoon rains, an enormous quantity of water has been discharged from the overfull dams in neighbouring Nepal. "All streets here are flooded; in panic, the people escape onto dams", Annette Wächter-Schneider, Senior Desk Officer for India at Malteser International, currently travelling in the disaster region, reports. Already in 2007, devastating floods had afflicted Uttar Pradesh. "Four weeks ago, we handed out boats to the population - only with these boats, the people can find refuge on the dams", Wächter-Schneider continues. "As daily labourers, people here live from hand to mouth and have no stockpiles. They are now urgently in need of food and further assistance", the expert underlines.

In the neighbouring federal state of Bihar, Malteser International has already been assisting the flood victims on the border with Nepal during the past weeks. In the mid of August, a dam of the river Kosi in Nepal broke and led to severe floods, amongst others in India. Millions of the poorest people in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and the neighbouring regions are affected by the floods. One of the causes is the heaviest monsoon rain since years.

In cooperation with the Federal Foreign Office of Germany, Malteser International has already provided around 165,000 Euro for the emergency relief.



Malteser International staff members help the people who are affected by the floods and currently live in camps

For its emergency relief in Uttar Pradesh and 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"**

South India II: Training of methods for good project planning

Malteser International and its project partner Venture Trust both look back to successful tsunami rehabilitation projects in the coastal region near Nagapattinam in South India. 427 families of crofters are now able to till the destroyed fields again. More than 300 farm ponds and five village wells were reconstructed and state of the art cultivation methods were implemented. Furthermore, there are income generating activities for 500 poor farm worker families with the help of micro-credits.

After the rehabilitation of the beneficiaries' livelihood Malteser International now also focuses on capacity building of its local partner organizations. The aim of capacity building is to brush up their project management skills to become more independent from the support. Currently, a three-days training on log frame elaboration is carried out for Venture Trust. Based on the resume of the last two years all field staff review and elaborate objectives, results, activities and indicators of their project to plan a sustainable exit phase for their project. The training helps them to lift up the standard of their project work and promote their skills and tools to attract other international donor agencies when Malteser International's support is ending. In the exit phase of the project, from September 2008 until December 2008, Malteser International will give the necessary support to ensure the sustainability of all activities. At the same time, the responsibility will be passed over to the communities by transferring the knowledge from field staff to volunteers in the communities. Specific objectives are decreasing the soil salinity level in the fields, strengthening the existing farmers' and women's groups and linking up all groups to bank and government programmes and schemes. Another focus will be the strengthening of income generating activities with refresher and advanced trainings as well as with marketing skills trainings.

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 who are realizing all the projects on the ground. This edition continues with the presentation of...

Dr. Stephen Macharia, Coordinator of the health programmes of Malteser International in South Sudan

“HIV is like a wild fire that spreads all over the world and brings suffering and destruction to the people”, Dr. Stephen Macharia explains while gesticulating with his hands. The participants of the workshop are listening attentively. “And tuberculosis is like the aridity that also brings a lot of sorrow.” His voice is getting louder. “The relation between fire and desert is the same as between HIV and tuberculosis: they determine and aggravate each other. On a dry ground, fire is getting faster and disperses everywhere. It is the same with the tuberculosis. A healthy person doesn’t have too many problems with that. But if somebody is infected with HIV, it is more probable that he will also get tuberculosis. Is that clear for everybody?” The people around Dr. Macharia are nodding.

Dr. Macharia is working up a sweat and looking for some fresh air in the room. It is hot. For three days, he is running this workshop for health workers in the district of Mundri, a remote part of South Sudan. Although it is hot, the participants are very concentrated because Dr.



Dr. Macharia during his workshop in Mindri, South Sudan

Macharia has the talent to tell and explain everything in a very interesting and exciting way. He can explain difficult backgrounds in a simple way. The Coordinator of the health programmes of Malteser International in South Sudan is born in Kenya. But for many years he has already been working in South Sudan.

“Unfortunately, my family decided to stay in Kenya because here in South Sudan living conditions are very hard. I miss my family very much, but I try to fly to Kenya as often as possible to

see them all. The work for Malteser International here brings a lot of satisfaction to me”, he tells.

The duties and responsibilities of Dr. Macharia are various: he is responsible for all health programmes of the organisation here in South Sudan. Usually he works in Juba, the capital of South Sudan. But he is very rarely in his office in Juba, because he has to travel a lot, from one project location of Malteser International to another: Rumbek, Yei and Maridi. “But on Sunday”, the Kenyan says, “I try not to work and not to travel, because this is my praying day of the week. This is very important for me. Here in Sudan, there are not many masses in English; this is easier for me in Kenya. But at least, there is one mass on Sunday in Maridi, although it is not my confession.”

It is afternoon, the sun is shining and it's about 30 degrees. The participants have already eaten and begin to feel tired. Only one of them doesn't seem to feel tiredness: Dr. Macharia. He is clapping in his hands: "Now, we stand up! The coconut will help you." The people, wondering, are looking around. "Let's do the coconut gym! First, we form a ,c' with our arms..." He bends his body to one side. "...then an ,o'...hands together over the head! Then a ,c' again." Everybody is laughing and doing the coconut gym with him. After three rounds all sit down again. "Are you awake?" Dr. Macharia asks. Everybody is replying "yes" and Dr. Macharia is smiling. "Ok, then we can continue with the next part."

(Kathrin Meier, Malteser International)

STAFF ABROAD

On 01 September, **Georg Selle** from Uganda, begins his work as Project Assistant Construction in Sudan.

On 01 September, **Suzanna Lipscombe** from United Kingdom, left to work as a Programme Coordinator in Myanmar: we congratulate her for an excellent job in Sri Lanka in the sector of WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene)!

Ingo Radtke

Petra Ipp-Zavazal

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