



NEWSLETTER OF
MALTESER INTERNATIONAL
THE ORDER OF MALTA 'S
WORLDWIDE RELIEF SERVICE



**Malteser
International**
Order of Malta Worldwide Relief

July/August
2010

ON THE SPOT



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BREAKING NEWS:

PAKISTAN: MEDICAL RELIEF, WATER AND NUTRITION FOR FLOOD VICTIMS

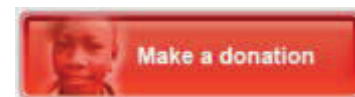
Since August 2009, Malteser International has been providing basic health care for internally displaced persons returning to their home villages in Swat District. Therefore, it was directly able to provide emergency medical relief after the heavy monsoon rainfalls. Meanwhile, estimates place the number of affected people at more than 14 million, at least 288,000 houses are damaged or destroyed

The teams are working in three Health Units and are supporting the national health staff there. As lots of roads and bridges are destroyed, Malteser International enforced its relief activities through mobile clinics that are set up in a different village every day depending on the needs. Furthermore, the distribution of drinking water, nutrition and other relief items has already started and will probably be extended to 2800 families in total.



Medical relief for flood victims

Support our relief efforts and donate:



Further information:

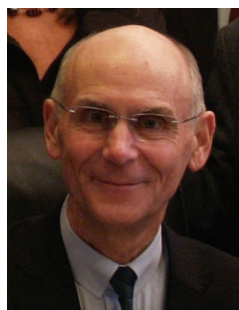
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IN MEMORIAM – PAUL DE FORVILLE (ORDRE DE MALTE FRANCE)

With Paul de Forville, Malteser International does not only lose a highly esteemed colleague but also a very close friend and convincing example of Christian faith and living. Paul de Forville, Director of the Foreign Aid Service of "Ordre de Malte France", the relief service of the French association of the Order of Malta, died on 16 June 2010 at the age of 60 years.



Paul de Forville

His death means a big loss for all those who serve the poor and the needy under the sign of the eight-pointed cross. Nevertheless, we can be assured that when rendering his life into the hands of God his

suffering during many years of sickness has finally come to an end.

Paul started to work with "Ordre de Malte France" and became Director of its Foreign Aid Service in 2005. He has always been actively taking part in the international work of the Order. He was a strong supporter of Malteser International and the good cooperation between Malteser International and "Ordre de Malte France" is to a large extent also thanks to his exemplary commitment. In order to express its sincere gratitude for his outstanding support, Malteser International awarded Paul de Forville with the Malteser International "Medal of Merit".

We will dearly miss and never forget our friend Paul. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and his colleagues. – R.I.P.

AFRICA:

SOUTH SUDAN I: "I WAS ALREADY CONSIDERED TO BE DEAD, BUT THE TB PROGRAMME BROUGHT ME BACK TO LIFE AGAIN"

This statement of a farmer in Yei County demonstrates the gratefulness of the patients for the TB treatment provided by Malteser International in South Sudan since 1998. In June 2010, the international relief service of the Order of Malta carried out an internal evaluation of its community-based TB and HIV/AIDS control pro-



Sibylle Gerstl from Malteser International (2nd from left) together with patients

grammes in order to identify and publish "best practices" and recommendations for TB and HIV/AIDS related programmes.

The evaluation proves the programme's impact: The TB case detection rate in 2010 has been even

higher than the national target set for South Sudan and that in 2009. Last year, a high insecurity in some project locations and stigma related to the disease negatively in-

In the near future, the TB control programme will be integrated in the South Sudanese health system. The evaluation suggests that Malteser International should allow itself to play a technical advisory role in supporting the health system in the TB programme to keep it on an acceptable level of quality. - If you are interested in further details of the evaluation, please contact [Dr. Sibylle Gerstl](#) at Malteser International Headquarters.

"Stigma on TB? Not anymore, TB is a disease as all the others, that has to be cured and the good thing, it can be cured. I am the best example that the treatment works!"

62 year old illiterate man recently cured of TB in Yei County, South Sudan

"It is so great to see the improvement in our patients. They are so sick in the beginning and you are wondering if they will survive. And after six months they look so good again, they are able to work and to get married. Some even invite us at their wedding!"

32 old Malteser International staff in the TB programme

fluenced the rate. 2010 positive impact is due to several factors: Testing is not only limited to the health centres as medical outreach teams are also conducting TB screenings as well as TB education activities in the villages to detect new cases. The TB treatment success rate was also very high and defaulter rates low. The health staff even seek patients in their villages if they do not come to the health centres to get their monthly TB drugs. Furthermore, as TB and HIV/AIDS often occur jointly, it is another important task for the medical teams to motivate TB patients to go for voluntary HIV tests.

[Read more about our projects in South Sudan](#)

SOUTH SUDAN II: BASIC HEALTH SERVICES FOR REMOTE VILLAGES IN MARIDI COUNTY

Since 1998, Malteser International has been offering health services in Southern Sudan, focusing on TB and HIV/AIDS programmes as well as "forgotten" diseases like leprosy.

As of 1 July 2010, the team in Maridi has started a new project extending its services to 22 basic health care facilities in Maridi County. Malteser International helps to increase access and quality health care for the population living in this remote area under post-war conditions. Having the activities fully integrated into the governmental system, Malteser International offers intense capacity

building for medical staff and infrastructure support.

The project is funded by the British Government (DFID) via the Basic Services Fund for Southern Sudan and will last until December 2011.



Leprosy—a „forgotten disease is still widely spread in South Sudan

DR CONGO: IT'S NOT DEMONS YOU'RE FIGHTING, BUT A POSTTRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER!

Road security is nothing the Eastern Congo is known for. So it is not surprising that a tanker truck hauling fuel from Tanzania to Uvira in the DR Congo in the beginning of July overturned on a rural highway in the centre of Sange, a small town in the province of South Kivu, around 30 kilometres north of the northern tip of Lake

Tanganyika. But this time, the effects were disastrous when the truck exploded into a fireball: 232 people were killed, another 212 people were burned seriously and had to be evacuated by helicopters and ambulances to Bukavu and Uvira. It was not only that the oil in the truck was seen as precious resource, it was also the Football World

AFRICA:

Cup with Ghana playing against Uruguay that had assembled many people in the centre of the town. Many of the injured did not survive their blessings whilst many others now have to fight traumata as they got injured, lost family members or friends or saw the bulk of death and suffering.

Meanwhile, help for the physically injured that survived has been provided, but those suffering mentally also need support. Malteser International has been able to fulfil this demand as it has already been running a programme for psychosocial care in South Kivu for several years. It is funded by ECHO and implemented in collaboration with the only psychiatric clinic in South Kivu, the SOSAME Centre in Bukavu, and the provincial coordination for mental health.

The treatment has already been started with sessions of sensitisation taking place in the community of Sange for those who had been correctly diagnosed with posttraumatic stress disorders. The medical staff in the hospital and other community health workers have been trained

to identify the symptoms and to refer the patients to specialists – if necessary. The tasks here are not only medical, but also educational: Amongst the rural population, there

still is a strong mystification of mental disorders: demons and the spirits of the victims are supposed to be the reasons for posttraumatic stress symptoms. In the near future, the number of patients will probably rise when all the mourning has been done and the families will begin to realise their losses.



Next to physical injuries a lot of people suffer from traumata after a disaster

ASIA:

MYANMAR: EMERGENCY RELIEF AFTER TORRENTIAL RAINFALLS AND SEVERE

Heavy rainfalls in June resulted in severe flooding and landslides in Northern Rakhine State and led to the destruction of



The rainy season has just started and further rain will worsen the situation of the affected people.

destruction of homes, roads, bridges, schools as well as significant areas of paddy fields and farmland, affecting 29,000 families with 68

confirmed deaths.

In addition, the floods had a severe impact on the already precarious situation of water supply, sanitation and hygiene. Traditional water sources like ponds and wells were flooded, leaving communities without access to safe drinking water.

Malteser International has immediately responded by distributing non-food relief items like tarpaulins, kitchen equipment and mosquito nets to 2,200 families in severely affected villages of Maungdaw and Buthidaung Township. To ensure access to safe drinking water, temporary rainwater collection tanks have been set up and ponds will be cleaned. These activities are partly funded by the German Federal Foreign Office and the NGO Samaritan's Purse.

“The rainy season has just started and further rain will worsen the situation of the people,” reports Sandra Harlass, Senior Desk Officer Myanmar at Malteser International Headquarters. The situation is particularly precarious as the people in the region have very limited self-help capacities. Most of the victims belong to the Muslim minority of the Rohingya who earn their living as day labourers. “People won't be able to reconstruct their houses by themselves,” says Harlass.

[Read more about our projects in Myanmar](#)

Malteser International has been implementing a comprehensive health and WASH programme in Northern Rakhine State since 2003 and will continue to support the flood affected population in close coordination with other agencies.

ASIA:

INDIA I: RESCUE OPERATION AFTER FERRY ACCIDENT

On 22 June 2010, a ferry that had been operating illegally and without maintenance on the Saryu River in Bharaiich District of Uttar Pradesh turned upside down as too much water had accumulated inside.

The 35 passengers were on a half-hour trip to reach a market on the other side of the river to go for shopping and sell their products. Villagers from the riverbank plunging themselves courageously into the water could rescue more than ten people. In addition, some passengers could reach



Boats like the one in the photo are not only important in case of natural disasters like floods but also for accidents like the ferry turnover

the bank by swimming, so that 22 people in total survived the accident.

The authorities themselves were helpless as they did not have any search and rescue material at their disposal. That is why the District Disaster Management Cell asked SKK, the local partner of Malteser International, for assistance.

One motorboat and two boatmen were sent to the Saryu river from a village which is about 80 kilometres away from the place of the accident. Here, Malteser International and SKK are running a project called "Mainstreaming disaster risk management into local development processes for Uttar Pradesh" funded by DIPECHO. Unfortunately, it took seven hours to bring the motorboat that had been funded by ECHO in 2008 for a rehabilitation project and now needed to be transported on a lorry to the place of the accident. The local police even reached the place only fourteen hours after the overturn so that the joint rescue efforts only recovered three bodies.

As the incident revealed severe shortcomings of the district rescue operations, the new district magistrate who is very proactive regarding disaster preparedness immediately ordered ten motorboats from the same company where Malteser International had purchased the boats.

INDIA II: EMPOWERMENT AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR DALITS IN RAJASTHAN

In theory, cast-based discrimination is forbidden in India. In reality, Dalits in Rajasthan in the north of India in public places like schools, village meetings or government offices have to sit separated from the rest of the community and face violence in their daily lives on a regular basis. Furthermore, the already poor Dalits and tribal communities in the Thar desert are threatened by droughts. That is why Malteser International and its Indian partner Unnati take action for 12,500 Dalits and tribal communities that live in 50 villages of Jodhpur and Barmer district.

The approach is manifold and aims at enhancing access not only to drinking water also in times of drought but also to government schemes regarding health care, employment and social security. In addition, the Dalits' self-help efforts will be strengthened and their livelihood ensured. In detail, Malteser International and Unnati will support the construction of rainwater harvesting tanks to assure access to drinking water and to water spaces for gardening and pasturing. In the field of health, trainings will be held to raise awareness for the relation between hygiene and basic health.

In India, government schemes exist in many sectors to benefit those in need. It will therefore also be important

to train the leaders of the Dalit and the tribal communities how to participate in these benefits and thus improve the employment, health, education and water supply situation of the communities. The empowerment of women will be an important cross-cutting issue.



The empowerment of women will be an important cross-cutting issue of the project of Malteser International that aims to strengthen the participation of tribal communities.

The project has started on 1 July 2010 and is funded by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development of Germany as well as by Malteser International and its partner Unnati.

[Read more about our projects in India!](#)

ASIA:

SRI LANKA: VOLUNTEERING FOR IMPROVED WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION FACILI-



In eastern Sri Lanka, wells often have been destroyed by the fighting. Malteser International is supporting the villages in the amelioration of their water supply and sanitation facilities

destruction or deterioration of their water and sanitation facilities - if they ever had them before.

In spring 2010, Malteser International with financial support of UNICEF launched a project that aims at ensuring

For several years, the Eastern Province in Sri Lanka was an area of conflict as the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) were fighting the government. In 2006, the government launched an offensive to end the internal conflict. Many people had to flee the fighting and were sheltered in camps or host families. Meanwhile, most of the displaced have returned to their villages of origin. During the conflict, however, the infrastructure was destroyed on a big scale. The returnees now especially suffer from the

access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation facilities in the severely affected districts of Batticaloa and Trincomalee. The approach also includes education on good hygiene behaviour as this is essential for the proper use and maintenance of the water supply sites and sanitation facilities. Special attention is paid to the needs of the youngest: In 22 schools, child-friendly water and sanitation facilities will be constructed.

The communities themselves are closely involved: In so-called "Rural Development Societies" villagers are volunteering to support all measures and to make sure that the communities' needs are adequately addressed.

To give an example: In the village of Karadiyanaru with 270 households, 20 villagers – among them many women - are working for their community on a voluntary basis up to four hours a day. The Rural Development Societies are supported by their divisional secretariats with a bank account and some office equipment so that all communities can be motivated to participate in the project.

Please [read here](#) the portrait of Nithiyanthan Mallika, one of the volunteers in Karadiyanaru.

[Learn more about our projects in Sri Lanka](#)

THAILAND: REFUGEES IN THAILAND? - THAT'S NEW, TELL ME MORE!

This was the kind of reaction which the Malteser International team had waited, albeit not hoped for. Many Thai do not now that there are big refugee camps in their own country where several thousands of Karen and Burmese have been living for years.

On the occasion of World Refugee Day on 20 June 2010, the team on the ground had organised a photo exhibition at a busy shopping mall in Chiang Mai to inform about the camps and the difficult living conditions of its inhabitants. The aim was to raise awareness for the situation of these refugees that are not recognised as such and to inform about the work of Malteser International in the camps. The exhibition was possible thanks to the funding of ECHO, the European Unions Humanitarian Aid Department.

Malteser International's work for and with the refugees in two camps along the Thai-Burmese border focuses on health and WASH issues.

[Learn more about our projects in Thailand](#)



People of all ages were interested in the photo exhibition that informed about the refugees camps in Thailand.

AMERICAS:

HAITI: TOGETHER FOR A BETTER FUTURE FOR THE HAITIANS

It is the one big desire of thousands of Haitians: To see their country getting rebuilt and to benefit from improved living conditions.

“Build back better” is the aim of any emergency relief and



Reconstruction in Haiti—a chance for the country?

achieve and many Haitians have the feeling that too less is done and too little progress was achieved up to now.

In fact, the rehabilitation process is a chance for Haiti, a country where large parts of the population were starving, without access to basic health care and barely integrated in the political processes.

rehabilita-
tion: it
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disasters.
Yet, this
aim is not
easy to

However, the knowledge about the funds that were promised without being provided, about the problems to build shelters for the homeless shortly before the hurricane season starts as well as all the rubble still lying around in the streets contribute to people’s impatience. “Of course, many things proceed only slowly, but all in all not more slowly than after similar disasters in the past”, explains Stephan Huppertz, Senior Desk Officer Haiti at Malteser International. “The Haitians that we meet in our project areas are satisfied with what we are doing as they see that our words are followed by actions.”

Malteser International is now proceeding from the first relief phase to more sustainable, long-term projects. These include for example a network of functioning health posts and local health workers that are trained and prepared for future emergencies. Whereas the focus remains on health, especially mother-child health in Léogâne region, Malteser International also aims at strengthening the population’s livelihood. Therefore, as education is of utmost importance, a vocational school will be rebuilt in Darbonne so that people can secure their income and in the long-term can increase their self-help capacities.

[Photo gallery](#)

[Our projects in Haiti](#)

PERU: ENTERTAINMENT AND EDUCATION FOR ELDERLY PEOPLE IN QUERECOTILLO

On 18 June, Malteser Perú, the Peruvian relief organisation of the Order of Malta, inaugurated a centre for elderly persons in Querecotillo. With financial support of Malteser International, the Peruvian volunteers organise leisure time for 45 men and women at the average age of 70 three times a week.

The activities also include educational lectures on psychology and self-care given by professionals of the local health centre which is cooperating with Malteser Perú.

This centre for elderly persons forms part of the social programmes which Malteser International has been supporting since 2007. Other components are, for example, the family centre in Talara, a soup kitchen for poor children in Lima or income generating measures in Trujillo.



Physical activity is good for everyone!

If you are interested in further information about the projects in Peru, please visit the Malteser Perú website: <http://www.malteserperu.com.pe/portal/> or contact Kathrin Meier: kathrin.meier@malteser-international.org.

OTHERS:

NEW WAYS OF SUPPORT AND SPOTLIGHTS ON OUR WORLDWIDE HELP: READ OUR ANNUAL REPORT 2009!



The Annual Report 2009 can now be [downloaded](#) or [ordered at Malteser International Headquarters!](#) It does not only publish the financial audit and an overview of our programmes, but also presents projects and development in the five sectors we're working in: Relief, Reconstruction and Rehabilitation, Health and Nutrition, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

(WASH), Livelihood and Social Programmes and finally Disaster Preparedness. - We would like to draw your special attention to our new partnership programme that you will find on pages 49 to 51. All kinds of groups can enter into a support partnership with one of our project regions and will get first hand information about the developments there. Even a project visit is possible and can generate new understandings of what it means to be part of the worldwide Malteser family – as Dr. Andreas Archut from Malteser Germany in the archdiocese of Cologne reports from his visit to South Sudan.

HIV/AIDS STILL A MAJOR PROBLEM WORLDWIDE

The fight against HIV/AIDS must go on! This is the message of the 18th World AIDS Conference which took place from 18 to 23 July 2010 in Vienna (Austria). On this occasion, the Austrian Grand Priory of the Order of Malta and its relief service presented the AIDS-related work of the Order of Malta, realised by Malteser International, the “[Brotherhood of Blessed Gerard](#)” in South Africa and the “[Austrian AIDS-Dienst-Malteser](#)”.

The interest of the conference participants was huge as many of them had not yet been aware of the fact that Malteser International and other relief works of the Order are seriously engaged in the fight against HIV/AIDS. Malteser International is implementing HIV/AIDS programmes for example in India, Kenya, Myanmar, South Sudan and Thailand.

MALTESER INTERNATIONAL WELCOMES NEW MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS

The Scandinavian and the Cuban association of the Sovereign Order of Malta have recently joined Malteser International as new member associations.

Altogether, Malteser International now counts 22 member associations that support the work of Malteser International and strengthen its worldwide network as the relief organisation of the Sovereign Order of Malta.

[See the list](#)

STAFF:

PORTRAIT OF OUR HELP: MALLIKA'S DREAM OF DEVELOPING HER OWN VILLAGE VOLUNTEERING AS CHAIRWOMAN OF A RURAL DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY IN SRI LANKA



Nithiyanthan Mallika (44) is serving her village. Every day, she gives plenty of her time to work voluntarily as the chairwoman of the Rural Development Society (RDS) of Karadiyanaru, a village in the north of Batticaloa District in the Eastern Province of Sri Lanka.

Mallika has been living in Karadiyanaru for over 25 years. With her husband and her five children - three boys and two girls - she had a house and cultivated vegetables. But the happy time was over when in 2006 the family was compelled to leave the village leaving their all belongings. The government had launched a military initiative to fight the Liberation Tiger of Tamil Eelam and ordered the villagers to leave and settle in a camp in Chenkallady. Moreover, her husband was killed in this war in 2006.

When Mallika returned in 2007 within the framework of a resettlement scheme, her house, her belongings and the vegetable cultivation had been destroyed by the fighting. "We had to start our life from the beginning. Fortunately, the government and some international NGOs assisted us to have at least temporary housing and some basics for our living", Mallika remembers.

When the villagers returned, the government wanted them to assume responsibility and participate in all village developing activities. They initiated so-called Rural Development Societies – that means community-based organisations that are supported by the regional administration. As Mallika is

well educated and has a General Certificate of Education (CGE), she was asked to work for the Rural Development Society and accepted happily: "I wanted to improve my community with the support of the other members especially after the resettlement."

Meanwhile, Mallika is the chairwoman of the Society where more than 150 women are members. "I conduct monthly meetings with the Society to take decisions and to report to the Divisional Secretary. In consultation with the Society, I



The members of the Rural Development Society at Karadianaru

have to look into the needs of the community area and I am responsible for monitoring the activities of the committee members and to help the community." She also maintains data and organizes social events in the village.

[Read more...](#)

SECRETARY GENERAL OF MALTESER INTERNATIONAL AWARDED

Ingo Radtke, Secretary General of Malteser International, in July 2010 was awarded the Cross of Commander "pro merito melitensi" by the Sovereign Order of Malta. – Congratulations!

STAFF POSTINGS

July 2010:

Andrea Adler, German citizen, started working as Deputy Programme Coordinator in Sri Lanka
 Estela Celia Kohn, Argentine citizen, started working as Programme Health Coordinator in Haiti.
 Annika Kunze, German citizen, started working as Project Assistant in DR Congo.
 Maren Paech, German citizen, started working as Senior Desk Officer Haiti.
 Carine Weiss, Swiss citizen, started working as Health Officer in Cambodia.

August 2010:

Christina Adam, German citizen, former Project Assistant in Haiti, starts working as Desk Officer Haiti.
 Colin Fernandes, Indian citizen, starts working as Disaster Risk Reduction Coordinator in Myanmar.
 Livia Radó, Hungarian citizen, starts working as Country Administrator in South Sudan.

Imprint

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