

Cologne, 22 July 2005

Relief Activity Report No. 2 Floods in Romania Information on famine in West Africa

Floods in Romania

Overall Situation



The blue circles indicate relief activities of Malteser Romania (SAMR)

The situation in the affected areas is still critical and within the last seven days the number of affected localities has risen from 581 to 700. About 20.000 houses and more than 1000 bridges are severely damaged. The figure for affected agricultural areas has also been revised upwards from 88,000 ha to 94,000 ha. Even though floods are receding the situation is very critical and the about

14.000 people who have left their homes have to be taken care of. In total 23 people died. A central collection and distribution point for material has been built up at the airport in Bacau.

The national authorities of Romania are providing food, water and shelter for people who had to leave their homes and vaccinations against hepatitis A and typhoid are about to start. Measures are ongoing to drain water, remove animal corpses and administer pest control against insects.

Malteser International Activities

Within the last week Malteser Romania's immediate response could be completed: With assistance of the Romanian Ministry of the Interior, which provided a helicopter to transport around 700 more food packages to the affected population in the town of Focsani, county Vrancea, SAMR activities were brought to a momentary end. Some last 100 packages have been distributed to the counties Cluj and Arad recently.



On 17 July, the Romanian Government appealed to the EU and NATO states for Humanitarian Assistance. By that time SAMR had already carried through most of its activities. At least for the Northern Part of Romania, SAMR was the only Romanian NGO to react spontaneously and effectively to this exceptional disaster.

Meanwhile the emergency phase has come to an end and measures of reconstruction are now beginning.

According to Romania's request for international assistance mostly technical aid organizations are now beginning their activities because they possess the needed tools. SAMR will continue to concentrate on reconstruction measures in an existing project in the region of Timisoara in the West of Romania. This region has already been affected severely during the first two heavy floodings this year and is now even more in need of help.

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Please transfer donations for the Malteser International missions to the following Malteser International bank account:

Bank für Sozialwirtschaft
Sort Code 370 205 00
Account N° 120 120 120
IBAN: DE 49 3702 0500 0001 0258 01
BIC BFSWDE31XXX
Reference: Romania



Information on famine in West Africa

Overall Situation

A severe food crisis and malnutrition are currently threatening about 8 million people in the West African countries Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania and Niger. In the last year poor rain, drought and the worst locusts invasion since 20 years caused shortfall of cereals production, which now creates a dramatic situation especially in Niger and Mali. Every day the number of people dying of starvation is raising, only in the West of Niger about 400 people each day are dying. As usual in famines especially children are victims. Only in the west of Niger about 400 people are dying each day. Food stocks are used up and by consequence no seeds are left for planting for the harvest in October. Many people have left the countryside and moved to the cities hoping to find support.

Malteser International Activities

Malteser International Headquarters has contacted OHFOM, which possess own structures in Mali. Aim is to analyse the current situation in Mali together with local structures and the ambassador of the order, to clarify the need on-site and to prepare an eventual assignment of an assessment team. At the moment a team of Malteser International under management of Mrs. Sandrine Rosenberger, new head of francophone Africa of Malteser International, is preparing an eventual departure to Mali.

As a first emergency aid Malteser International budgeted 200.000 Euro.

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Yours sincerely

Ingo Radtke
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