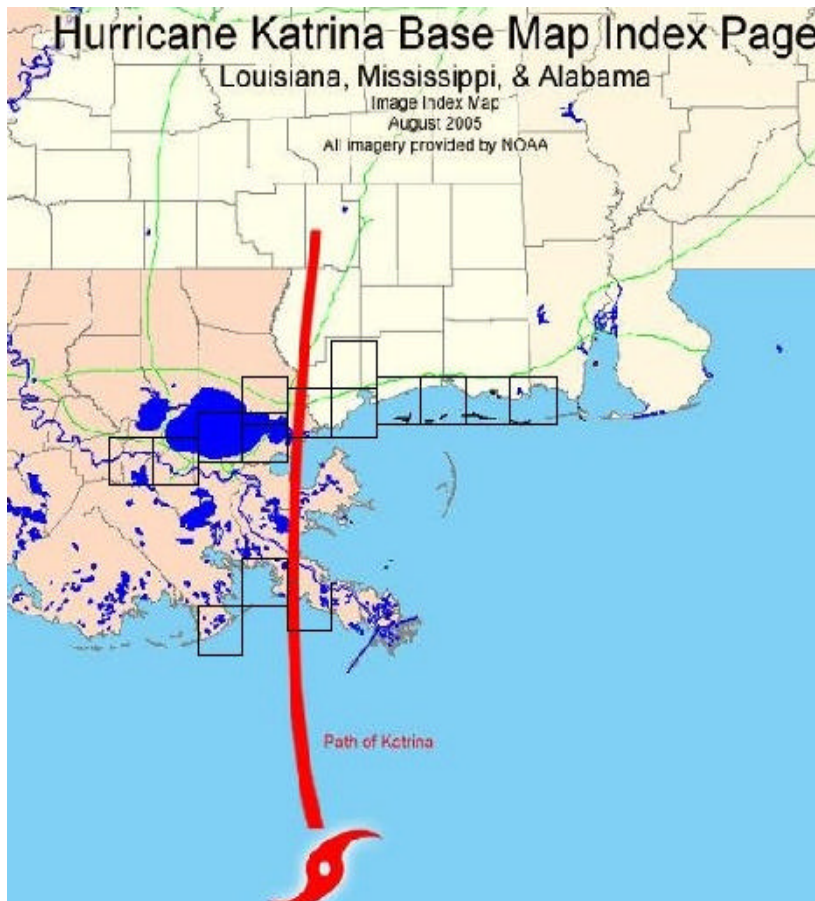


Cologne, 2 September 2005

## Relief Activity Report No. 1 United States: Hurricane Katrina Relief

### Overall Situation



Source: [www.nationalgeographic.com](http://www.nationalgeographic.com)

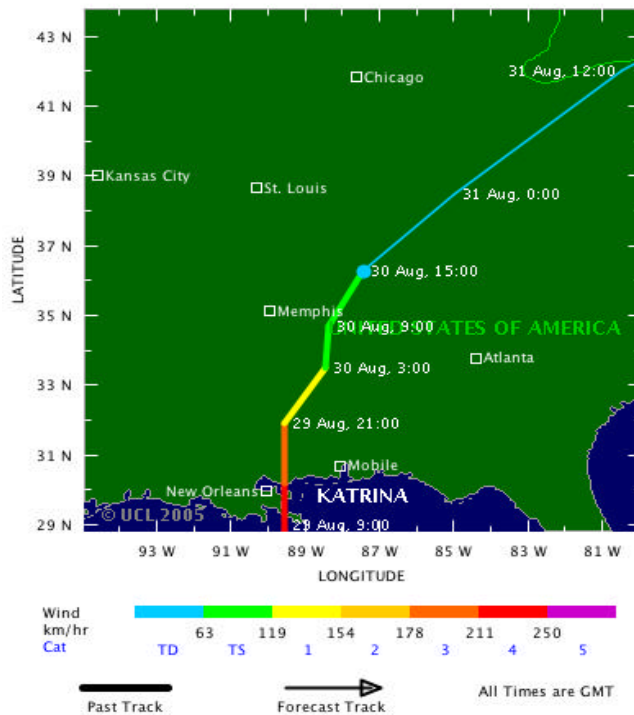
Source: National Oceanic and  
Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)  
(<http://www.reliefweb.int>)

Malteser International expresses its solidarity with the victims of Hurricane Katrina in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama. In a letter from 31 August 2005, Antonio R. Sanchez-Corea, Chancellor of the Western Association, reports on the situation in the south of the United States:

*“The news from Louisiana, Mississippi and coastal Alabama is bleak. We have just begun to learn of the truly devastating effects of Katrina’s wrath. Not only have tens of thousands of people lost their homes, but their livelihoods as well. Many people escaped only with the clothes on their*

backs. Those most seriously harmed by Katrina were those least advantaged and without opportunity to make the choice to leave their homes prior to the hurricane hitting.

Now, Southeast Louisiana, Mississippi and to a smaller extent Alabama have a wave of refugees to deal with-to immediately house, feed and offer medical assistance. This is a huge undertaking, and it appears that this will be the worst natural disaster to ever hit our country. Hardest hit was New Orleans in terms of the ability to help the victims as there is no electricity, no drinkable water, limited food, challenged medical resources, virtually no communication and extremely limited mobility within the city as well as into the city.



Track and wind speed of Intense hurricane Katrina,  
Website: <http://www.tropicalstormrisk.com>

Plans are being made to evacuate the remainder of the city at this time, but logistical challenges are making this an extremely difficult task. Water continued to rise for two days after a breach in the levee flooded New Orleans and further damage areas that had escaped the winds of Katrina. To date, the water level has stabilized, but it will take a minimum of 30 days to pump water out of the city once the breach is sealed. The aftermath of Katrina has also left a city with thousands in dire need of immediate medical assistance and the looming threat of infectious diseases as well as respiratory and gastrointestinal illnesses.

After evacuation, there is the strong potential that New Orleans will be “closed” for a minimum of four to six weeks; some estimates are much longer. Most of these evacuees have no place to go and no place to return to; nor do they have employment as so much of New Orleans has been destroyed... possibility in this day and age...”

## Malteser International Activity

Currently the three United States Associations of the Order of Malta (the American Association, the Federal Association and the Western Association), all founding members of Malteser International, prepare for relief actions to respond to the terrible hurricane tragedy in Louisiana in close cooperation with Malteser International Headquarters. 47 members of the Federal Association are Louisiana residents; many live in the New Orleans region. Three assisted living residences for the frail elderly in New Orleans supported by the Federal Association evacuated all residents to Dallas in time.

Malteser International has already pledged \$100,000 in order to support possible relief activities of the United States Associations of the Order of Malta. A team of Malteser International emergency experts is on call to travel to the United States. The team is prepared to offer capacity building for needs assessments and to support the rehabilitation measures of the United States Associations of the Order of Malta.



**Bridge over St. Louis Bay, Mississippi**

Malteser International supports the appeal of the United States Associations of the Order of Malta to raise funds and secure the financial ability of the Associations to respond to the crisis: “Please contribute whatever you can. We are hoping that the monies raised by our three United States Associations, coupled with the funds and efforts of Malteser International, will make a strong impact, and will help many of the poor and suffering people in this region. With your donations the Order will make disbursements after developing a needs assessment and a rehabilitation program.”



**Devastation in Biloxi**

Please help by transferring donations to the Hurricane Katrina Relief fund via 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 BFSWDE33XXX  
Reference Hurricane Katrina Relief

All donations will be forwarded directly to the “**Order of Malta Hurricane Relief Fund**” in the United States in order to support the relief and rehabilitation programmes of the United States Associations.

For further inquiries, please contact Mr. Ingo Radtke  
Phone: +49-221-9822-150

Email: [Ingo.Radtke@malteser-international.org](mailto:Ingo.Radtke@malteser-international.org)  
[Ingo.Radtke@netcologne.de](mailto:Ingo.Radtke@netcologne.de)

Yours sincerely

Ingo Radtke

Secretary General