

# On the SPOT

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Malteser  
International  
Order of Malta Worldwide Relief

## PORTRAITS OF OUR HELP

Christmas Edition



## South Sudan: Leprosy in times of civil war 30 years on Bullem Badi finally receives treatment

Nurse Kopas Wilson is on his way to see Bullem Badi. He needs nearly half an hour to pass the small path leading through high coppice to the patient's hut. Kopas follows this route once every month to bring Bullem Badi his medicines; Bullem is suffering from leprosy for more than 30 years already. He has lost all his fingers and toes and he can barely move on his own any more. That is why Kopas Wilson is coming to see him. Kopas is working for Malteser International in the health centre in Olo in South Sudan and is the responsible health worker for all the leprosy patients in his area.

"I am so glad to see you. I have been waiting for your visit", Bullem happily welcomes the nurse. The old man is sitting next to the fire place and, as he can no longer get up by himself, invites Kopas to sit beside him. Kopas takes a blanket out of his rucksack and gives it to the 76 year old man. When Kopas had come last month, Bullem had told him that his blanket had been destroyed during a storm and that he could no longer cover himself during the nights. Kopas has been coming here for nearly one year now. Initially, the daughter of Bullem's brother had come to the Malteser International health centre and asked Kopas to come with her to see her uncle who was suffering from leprosy. So the nurse followed her and got to know the story of Bullem, his disease and why he never got proper treatment before: "I felt sick and a doctor diagnosed leprosy", Bullem explained. "And I got treatment at the beginning." But then, a 20 years long civil war came over the country and made it impossible for Bullem to continue his treatment.

"It is really sad that Bullem never got an adequate therapy," Kopas says. "Because normally, leprosy is very easy to treat if it has been diagnosed early." Now,



*After 30 years of suffering Bullem Badi finally receives treatment*

Kopas and his colleagues can only give Bullem medicines that prevent the old man from becoming even more disabled. "The only good thing is that Bullem feels no pain." Leprosy is killing the nerves and consequently, the patient loses the feelings for cold, warmth and also pain.

To make sure that Bullem does not forget to take his medicines regularly, Kopas has explained the course of the treatment to Bullem's brother and charged him to survey his brother while taking the drugs. That is a regular component of Malteser International's leprosy programme and normally, it is the husband or wife who surveys the treatment at home. But Bullem has never been married. "But I was the preacher of my parish for years," the old man proudly tells. "And my brother as well as my niece are very kindly supporting me. And I don't want to be a burden for my brother and his family, this is why I am doing this." Bullem says this and shows a chair made from bast that he is currently working on. His niece sells the chairs at the market and thereby gets some additional income.

## Sri Lanka: "I do not want any other job" Tyche Hofman: Programme Coordinator East Sri Lanka

"I could not imagine having any other job in the world. It really makes me happy to be able to help people, even if it is often difficult." The young lady saying this is Tyche Hofman from the Netherlands. Since 2007, she is working as a Programme Coordinator in the east of Sri Lanka. Thus, she is the responsible person for many tsunami rehabilitation programmes in this region: building of houses and whole villages, introducing toilets, rehabilitation of wells, hygiene promotion, accompanying of "child friendly schools" and many others.

"I always wanted to help people to recover after disasters or armed conflicts."

What she likes most in her daily work is to communicate with the beneficiaries of the projects and to get them involved. "For me it is essential not only to implement projects but to build up something together with all those who have been concerned by the disaster. This 'participation' is the best way to achieve sustainability in our work." Therefore, she travels a lot in her project region to meet the local partner organisations, local authorities and the people benefiting from the help.

"Unfortunately, not everyone wants to participate", the programme coordinator says. "Some of the survivors just

wait and see what they will get. And when the is finished so that they could move in, they start to complain about the design of the door. This can be frustrating. But fortunately, I also meet people who want to help themselves and who struggle hard to create a better future for their families.”

This is for example the case for the people living in the little village of Seenaveli between Trincomalee and Ampara. They got displaced twice: first by the tsunami and then by the civil war. Now, they could finally come back to their village where Malteser International together with its local partner “Trincomalee District and Development Association” (TDDA) is building up houses as well as latrines and home gardens for them. “Most of these people really care for their houses. Some of them help the masons; others are involved in the plastering and painting of the walls. And in the regular meetings we all discuss how to go on in the future. That is encouraging.”

Sometimes, when she is really tired after long days on extremely bad roads and hard discussions, she thinks on one of the women, she met during one of her field trips: “One day, I went to a camp for internally displaced peo-



*Tyche Hofman, Malteser International Programme Coordinator*

ple in Batticaloa. A baby was just born the day we visited. Those were very poor circumstances, nobody wants to give birth in such a situation and nobody wants a baby to start within one of those camps. But his mother was still smiling. I don't know if I would be able to do so”, Tyche remembers. “It is such experiences that make me going on even after the hardest of days and the biggest trouble.”

## WASH

Sometimes we refer to WASH projects, “WASH” stand for **W**ater, **S**anitation and **H**ygiene and thus for a holistic approach linking rehabilitation of infrastructure (ponds, wells, toilets, water systems) with health and hygiene education. The aim is to teach the communities how to use the water and sanitation infrastructure and how to avoid water born diseases.



## SRI LANKA: “Thank you, Malteser International”

### **Mrs. Padumawathi and her husband are happy about their new eco-sanitation latrine**

I am Padmawathi, aged 48 years, and I live in Maliyagoda. My husband has been working as a labourer. Since his liver operation due to cancer, I have to play the major role in the family. We don't have children. Anyhow I have to take part in a daily battle for living. I work hard and I am paid 250 rupies or 2.5 US Dollars per day which is just enough to meet the daily expenses. During the tsunami we lost our house. After the destruction we were selected to have a new house, and were informed to find some land for construction of the house by our-

selves. Being very poor it was hard to find some land. Later we were given a small plot of land which is really like a wetland.

Building a latrine on a land like this was a major problem. We were not able to construct even a temporary latrine due to the high water level. We didn't have any option other than going to the bush – but of course the neighbours complained. Only a few of the neighbours have latrines but they didn't like to share them with us.

Several times the Public Health Inspector (PHI) came to our house and instructed us not to go to the bushes as it causes disease outbreaks to the other villagers as well. Actually I couldn't think of what to do.

One day some of the officials from Malteser International visited our house. Some days later I was told that we have been selected to have a latrine which was the happiest news I heard for a long time. We were even given priority in construction as we didn't have any kind of latrine. The technical officer of Malteser International told me that the best option for our house was an eco-sanitation latrine which is a completely new concept.



Mrs. Padmawathi

Within one month, the construction of the latrine was completed. We learnt how to operate and to maintain our new toilet: When the latrine is used, either saw dust or ash should be put into the pit. Ash is available in our house and it costs nothing. The operation and maintenance of the latrine is very easy. After using the latrine for about one year we should shift to use the second pit. After eight months we can get compost from it. Malteser International has also told us how important hygiene is and the team has shown us the best hygiene practices. Now we are free from diseases. The other villagers are also very happy as each villager received a new or upgraded latrine. Thus, the project is a real advantage for the whole village!

## Peru: Señora Leonor Rebuilding a village's hope

Señora Leonor is from Cedros de Villa, one of many places that have been completely destroyed by the earthquake that struck southern Peru last year. Along with Nuevo Hualcara it is one of the two villages that Malteser International and Malteser Peru have been working to support and reconstruct in the aftermath of the earthquake.

Señora Leonor remembers the day the earthquake struck, when 60,000 houses collapsed, 300,000 people were left homeless and over 500 died. "It was a horrible day for all of us. The earthquake seemed never-ending and suddenly the first walls tumbled down and people started panicking. The injured called for help, dogs barked, children screamed and people ran. The rest of the night was spent, without electricity, without light and without telephone services. It was incredible. In the following days the government relief supplies just drove past our village," says Señora Leonor, "because the inhabitants possessed no official land titles, the government left us to our fate. When suddenly César appeared a few days later and assured us of help by the Malteser organisation, it seemed like a miracle to us."

At first, the Peruvian Malteser teams dispensed food and clothes and rendered medical aid, before moving onto the reconstruction of the two almost completely destroyed villages. Purposefully, the inhabitants were involved in the work. "Señora Leonor in particular was, and still is, of great help to me", President of Malteser Peru, César Márquez, stresses. "During the initial despair after what happened, she was one of the first who told themselves 'life goes on' and tackled their problems energetically standing by our side. Due to her help and her coordination abilities we have now,



Señora Leonor in discussion with César Márquez of Malteser Peru

after a few months, rebuilt houses for 92 families of the two towns. Leonor is a strong and reliable woman who take the reconstruction of her village into her own hands."

One year and three months after the earthquake, normality has almost returned to the two towns of Cedros de Villa and Nuevo Hualcará and Malteser International's projects are almost finished. "We will miss the Malteser teams when they leave here", says Señora Leonor. "They have shown us, that selfless people still exist in this world, people who are just there, when you need them.."

## DR Congo: All Children Are Children Of God

Sitting in the Malteser International car and steering his way around the big holes on the street, Emile is talking happily with other staff. For four years Emile has been working as a driver for Malteser International in Mahagi. Emile loves his work. "I studied mechanics, because I always loved cars. That's why I am really happy to work as a driver now and to have a fixed salary." Emile needs to look after his young family. "I love my wife. For that reason it was very important for me that I make our marriage official. Previously we lived already together until we went to make our marriage official." This does not happen very often in the DR Congo. In most cases the man pays money to the family of the woman who he wants for his future wife. "Love normally is not important in questions of marriage, most of the women are chosen by how good they cook and how hard they work in the field", Emile says. But we have married in the church, so it is a union in the face of God. I would never marry more women now. Polygamy is very common here, but I also would not

want that my wife marries other man."

The 32 years old Congolese has a little daughter, whom he loves very much. "For me it was never important, if it was a boy or a girl. For me all children are gifts of God." To offer a good future to their children it was important for the couple, that they both had a full education, so that his wife can work again in a couple of years. This too is a rarity in the DR Congo. Often women quit their education, when they become pregnant or get married.

What is the most important thing in his life? "God. And my family of course. I want to spend my life with God and my family, to live in his spirit, in his love. That's the sense of life for me."



*Emile 'I want to spend my life with God.'*

## Myanmar: "Working here means that I can do a lot more than at home" Interview with Dr. Ursula Hergert

*German doctor Ursula Hergert works as a medical coordinator for Malteser International in the Irrawaddy Delta - the region that has been most severely hit by cyclone Nargis in May 2008. Malteser International is supporting the inhabitants of Middle island and of the coastal town of Labutta with basic health care, safe drinking water and sanitation facilities.*

**Dr. Hergert, you are working as a medical coordinator in the Irrawaddy Delta. What exactly does that mean?**

Directly after the cyclone, national staff members were leading the majority of our relief measures in the Delta region. They were working on their own and with great commitment. My task now is it to coordinate their activities in the medical sector and to plan how the relief efforts can be adapted to the current situation. On the one hand, our medical efforts have to live up to the communities and the needs of the survivors, on the other hand, the standards and requirements of the donor organisations have to be respected. Therefore, I am ensuring that all the money that has been donated to Malteser International is used efficiently so that we are able to provide qualified and sustainable assistance. Furthermore, I try to support the medical staff on the spot and to pass on my knowledge.

**Which are the biggest problems and challenges that currently confront you in the Irrawaddy Delta?**

One of the biggest problems is the logistics. Our project region is very difficult to reach as the infrastructure has



*Dr. Ursula Hergert attending in the ward*

been affected very badly during the storm. Furthermore, it always needs a large amount of bureaucracy to get travel permits for the project region. From a medical point of view, one of the biggest challenges now is to realise medical support for the people living in the most remote areas of the disaster region. Since the cyclone, months have passed and nearly all of the survivors have left the camps and have gone to what used to be their villages or they have found refuge with friends or relatives. Therefore, we no longer attend to people in camps but instead with mobile medical teams. At the same time, we are analysing the situation to get to know where it is necessary to build up stable health centres to enable a continued treatment of the people and how we can support the local health authorities.

**Why did you decide to work as a humanitarian aid**

**worker?**

I always wanted to work in this sector. When I finished university, everybody was desperately looking for people who were ready to go and work in this sector. But as I did not have any working experience at that time, I decided to become a specialist for orthopaedics and then opened a medical practice. But I still felt ready to work in the field of humanitarian

aid. - What I specially like in working with Malteser International is the emphasis on the phase between emergency relief and development. This phase of rehabilitation is really important and decisive for the countries we are working in. It is the basis for all further developments in a region that has suffered from disaster. That is where my work begins. And that is what motivates me most.

When cyclone Nargis destroyed large parts of Myanmar on 2 May 2008, Malteser International could immediately start its emergency relief as the organisation has already been working in the country since 2001. In the first phase, the teams on the ground provided first aid and secured safe drinking water and functioning sanitary facilities for the people in Yangon and in the Irrawaddy Delta. Since then, the organisation provided medical relief to more than 100,000 people, was building water and sanitation facilities for more than 150,000 people and distributed thousands of mosquito nets, blankets, soaps, cookware and construction material. Today, the organisation is implementing rehabilitation projects in the coastal town of Labutta and on Middle Island.

**Goodbye, dengue fever!  
Outreach work in Cambodia**

Today I am accompanying two staff of Malteser International's partner organisation in Cambodia to one of the 80 villages where health promotion work is carried out. Due to the rainy season it takes two hours to get from our office to the village of Chheu Teal Chrom. Sometimes it is not even possible to complete this journey as the roads and bridges are easily flooded.

We are welcomed by the village health support group, a man and a woman who are elected by their community. Today's health session is about dengue fever. Dengue is a fast-moving disease that causes many deaths, particularly for young children. The staff explain to me that this type of network, and good relations between villagers, NGOs and the health authorities are essential in order to combat such diseases.

Everybody is listening attentively. With the help of posters and flyers, the community members learn how dengue is transmitted and how they can prevent the dengue mosquitoes breeding. After the educational session, two groups of villagers are formed. One is responsible for cutting the

grass at the side of the roads thereby destroying the shelter of mosquitoes. The second goes from house to house to distribute information for those who cannot join today's activity. Furthermore, the group cleans up the village to eliminate the mosquitoes breeding places like water-storage containers. Most Cambodians lack piped water and collect rainwater in concrete containers. The group puts little bags with a chemical called 'abate' into the water jars, which kills the larvae of the dengue mosquito.

"It takes time and patience to convince the people that sanitation and hygiene is good for them and to bring about behaviour changes", explains CHHR staff member, Sam Sopheap. "Many still don't have a bathroom or a separate place to keep their animals. So it is especially important to keep the house clean and prevent infections. We already achieved a lot in this village but it will take many more visits to make sure that the people take care of their health and their environment and can finally say goodbye to diseases such as dengue fever."



*Visual material helps the villagers to understand and remember how to prevent dengue fever.*



*Health education session on the prevention of dengue fever conducted by a medical assistant of the health centre.*

## Kenya: Networking and having an impact

*Paul Ochieng is 49 years old, married, and has four children. He holds a Master Degree in Community Health and Development. Has been working for Malteser International since 2004.*

### **What are your duties as Kenya Programme Coordinator? And which programmes is Malteser International actually running in Kenya?**

It is my main task to manage the Kenya programmes. Currently we are supporting eight health facilities in different slums in Nairobi, focusing on TB and HIV/AIDS treatment and care. Besides, Malteser International in a consortium with other NGOs is supporting the "AIDS, Population and Health Integrated Assistance Programme in Nairobi and Central provinces. The objective is to support the Kenyan government to expand health care for HIV/AIDS/TB patients and also to bring such services closer to the people by bridging the gaps that hinder accessibility free and quality medical care. Last year, we also provided emergency relief to about 3,000 families affected by the severe floods in Budalangi western Kenya.

### **What does a normal week of work for you look like?**

Normally, my week is characterized by managing the whole programme, by meeting different stakeholders and by visiting the project sites. I try to go and see each of the health centres at least once a month in order to see how work goes on. In order to ensure smooth running of the health facilities I do a lot of coordination and consultation with the Ministry of Health personnel and other stakeholders. Finally, I have to coordinate our work with the Kenya Desk Officer in the Malteser

International Headquarters in Cologne. We hold the contact via mail and phone and at least twice a year the responsible Desk Officer comes from Cologne to Nairobi to monitor the work we are doing.



*Paul Ochieng ,  
Photo: Sven Torfin*

### **What are the biggest challenges for your work here in Kenya?**

The shortage of health staff is the biggest challenge for us. That is why Malteser International decided to support the work in the health centres by employing additional staff, i. e. clinical officers and nurses in order to decrease the work load of the Ministry of Health staff and thereby ensure quality health care.

### **What would you see as the most important success of your work?**

Malteser International has played an important role in convincing the Kenyan government of the importance of the TB treatment. Malteser International supported health centres have in the last five years won the Isaac award for the best managed TB care centres nationally and are models for reference by MOH and local WHO office. - According to the Malteser International strategy, it is our aim to leave an impact when we leave one day and therefore we constantly work on strengthening the capacity of local partners.

## Peru: César Márquez

### **Confrontation with different realities**

The mobile phone rings, it is already the 21st time today, and it's not even lunchtime. Sighing deeply, Cesar Marquez picks up the phone, "Hello? No, actually we didn't consider that in the budget, there will still be 150 more children for Christmas? I will see what can be done." He hangs up the phone and shakes his head. "You see how it is before Christmas, all the different agencies in Cañete are asking for our help," says the President of Malteser Peru.

The 35 year old has been a man in demand since he

arrived in Cañete last year. In the earthquake of the 15 August 2007, more than 500 people in southern Peru lost their lives, 60,000 homes were destroyed, 300,000 people were made homeless. Thanks to financial support from the German Relief Alliance "Aktion Deutschland Hilft", Malteser International was able to secure 100,000 Euros of support for emergency relief in the affected region. With the cooperation of numerous volunteers of Malteser Peru, Malteser International was able to distribute food and clothing and provided emergency medical aid in the two devastated

villages of Cedros de Villa and Nuevo Hualcara. After this first phase, Malteser Peru started the reconstruction of the two villages.

“For me this project was a completely new challenge,” says Cesar Marquez. “I have been president of Malteser Peru since its beginnings in 2002, but until 2007, we were simply a group of friends, who ran health campaigns or organised circus visits for children from poor neighbourhoods - all during our spare time. When Malteser International entrusted me with the earthquake relief, I first had to think it over. Actually I am a journalist by profession, but my experiences in Cañete have shown me that I still have a lot of abilities beyond this; I also love to work with the people and for the people.”

Even so this is not always easy. “At the beginning, I found the confrontation with the reality outside of my own world very difficult. Originally I come from a poor family, but the extreme poverty with which I am confronted in Cañete has always challenged me. After



*César Márquez with inhabitants of Cedros de Villa*

the earthquake, the situation was catastrophic and I had to learn to deal with it. I've learned a lot from this and I'm very grateful to Malteser International for the unique opportunity to manage this project. We have worked together to give back normality and a perspective to the inhabitants of Cedros de Villa and Nuevo Hualcará.“

## Myanmar: The good taste of clean water

**New latrines, water filters and mosquito nets for the families in Sittwe**

It is pouring rain. In the little village of Ka La Chaung on the peninsula of Mayu Kan in the region of Sittwe in northern Myanmar, the villagers sit at home and chat with each other. Just a normal day during rainy season. We meet Ko Wing Naing\* at his house with his family and some neighbours. He is working in the fishing industry and in paddy-farming and lives together with eight other family members. Until a couple of months ago, the family did not have a latrine. When they needed to go to the toilet, they either had to walk a long way to one of the community latrines in the village or help themselves around the house. Conditions with which the family wasn't really happy. But fortunately, the situation changed when the community decided to construct a latrine for each household in the village.

The whole process started with a survey that Malteser International conducted in 2006 to determine the status of hygiene and health in this region. Staff members went to every single village and talked to the people to see what exactly they needed. The villagers were included in every step of the planning – they decided how many latrines they wanted to build in which locations. Malteser International then provided the materials and technical support where needed and the villagers did the construction work. In total, 624 households on Mayu Kan already built a new latrine, 1,078 are still under construction.

Ko Wing Naing did not only build the latrine, he also expanded it, made it more stable and pretty. Malteser International provides a basic set for the construction, Ko Wing Naing exchanged some of the materials: for example he used bamboo for the walling instead of plastic sheets and stones and cement for the pit of the latrine.



*Water filters helping to prevent illness.*

He had to invest some money, but he is convinced it's worth it: “Now, we don't have to walk far anymore to get to the latrine when we need to. That is nice”, he smiles, looking outside at the rain. “And furthermore, the surroundings of the house stay clean.”

Malteser International also provided a mosquito net and a water filter to every household in the village. Ko Wing Naing runs upstairs and proudly signals to follow him: There it is, his family's water filter. It consists of a basket with a clay filter and a lid on top. The water comes out through a tap. “Before, our drinking water was not clean. With the filter, we have safe drinking water.

And the water also stays clean, because we don't have to get it out of the bucket with cups that might be dirty, but there is a tap”, he says. And it's not only clean, it also tastes better. “Now that I know how good the filtered water tastes, I don't want to drink other water ever again”, Ko Wing Naing says laughingly, having a sip.

## Cambodia: Mai Eun

### The “association of health” – an investment in the future!

Mai Eun can't wait to tell Mr. Nouem that one of her daughters is going to have a baby. “Soon, I'll be a grandma. My daughter went to the health centre and everything is fine,” she proudly tells us with her voice full of joy.

Mai Eun was born in 1964, is married and has five children. When Malteser International helped to introduce a health insurance scheme in their very remote village in 2005, it was not a question for Mai Eun to join: “The Malteser and CHHRA staff have been helping our village to develop and have been teaching us on health, hygiene and sanitation. During their educational sessions I learned how important it is to take care of my health status and seek professional help in case of illness. Before, I just stayed at home and treated myself with herbal medicine when I felt sick. The same with my family. When this didn't help we went to a private clinic where treatment is highly expensive and can quickly lead to poverty. Now I am happy that my family can go to the health centre to receive proper care without having to pay.”

To join the CBHI scheme, every family in Prasath Bey has to pay a premium of \$5 per year - this can be paid in the form of rice which is then sold on. Malteser International and its partners then contribute towards the total sum raised.

“I think the association for health is well accepted in our village. But still many don't join. I am always trying to motivate them to become a member.” Mai Eun tells us. Because of this, Mr. Heng Kim Noeum of Malteser International knows how important it is to have regular meetings with the community and improve understanding of the health insurance. “Life in the remote villages of Oddar Meanchey is rough; education and information are limited. The CBHI develops slowly but we want the system to be sustainable.



*Malteser International staff member, Nouem, with Mai Eun*

That's why the villagers manage everything by themselves,” Mr. Noeum explains. “I am proud of what we have achieved so far: 71 families out of 180 are insured. Before we introduced CBHI in this village, only about ten people per month went to a health centre to receive professional care. Now people who are ill use the health centre services more frequently.”

Mai Eun hopes that her daughter can serve as a convincing model for those who are not health insured yet. “People don't understand why they should pay \$5 although they are not ill. But the premium is an investment in the future. Thanks to our membership card, my daughter can now go to the health centre to check on her baby regularly. She will deliver with the help of professional medical staff without paying, because she already paid for the insurance”, the future grandmother explains. “And I'll be there to welcome the new life,” she says with pure joy all over her face.

#### Martin Aid

Martin Aid is a campaign of Malteser Germany aiming to raise funds for the projects of Malteser International. On 11 November, thousands of festivals are celebrated everywhere in Germany and throughout the world to commemorate St Martin. Martin Aid is based on this idea of the soldier who shares his cloak: We see the hardship of our fellow human beings and help spontaneously. Focus country in 2008 was Cambodia.

For more information: [www.martinaid.com](http://www.martinaid.com)



## DR Congo: Julie

### Bananas instead of education

As the sun sets, Julie\* is sitting on the streets and is selling bananas and corn to people that pass by on bicycles. Beside her, in the shadow, her three years old son Emile\* is constructing a tower with small stones. Living with her parents, and working in the garden Julie once had dreams of studying and having a family of her own. "But life is rarely a dream", she says.

Three years before Julie was raped for the first time, in broad daylight. An unknown man was following her. When nobody was around on the streets any longer he pulled her into the bushes. Two months later she realized that she was pregnant. So she had to tell her parents and explain her pregnancy. "It was a terrible blow for them. Not only because such a thing happened to me, but also for the shame that I had brought to the family: made pregnant by a man whose name I didn't even know? When she became pregnant, she had to leave school.

Rapes are still a part of daily life in Congo. In most of the cases the perpetrators are not caught or adequately punished. But the affected women, girls and boys are also discriminated against in their own society. Many victims of rape need medical and emotional support and because of this Malteser International has a project to care for the affected girls and women. Its main focus is the prevention and treatment of sexually transmitted diseases like Hepatitis or HIV/Aids. Local partners then take care of the necessary psychological support.

Since the beginning of the project in 2005, Malteser International has treated almost 7,000 women. "The most terrifying thing is that the victims are getting younger. More and more we are seeing children aged five or six. Absolutely horrible. Every month I have to treat 300 to 400 cases," says the attendant doctor at the clinic in Mahagi.

Julie has found herself yet again under the care of the medical centre, having been raped again last year. Twelve months later, she still has serious inju-



Julie — "Life is rarely a dream".

ries over her whole body. "I am very happy that I get treatment for free in the health centre", she says. "And that I have somebody with whom I can talk about what happened. Furthermore Malteser International gave me a bicycle. With this I can get to the health centre a lot quicker and I am not so afraid of the going home alone."

It is late afternoon. Julie has sold all the bananas and is packing her things together, ready for going home with Emile: "Maybe one day I can go back to school. This is my dream."

\*Name has been changed.

## India: Commitment for a better future

Florian Seeger is coordinating the relief programmes of Malteser International in Northern India

“In principle, my work resembles very much the work of a CEO in a small enterprise.” Florian Seeger is laughing when he says that. But even if his duties often look like those of a business manager, his daily routine is not situated in a warm and dry office. Florian Seeger is working as a programme coordinator in Northern India. This title means many different tasks like the planning and implementing of relief projects together with local partner organisations and the beneficiaries, financial administration and logistics, calling for tenders, human resources management, ... “What motivates me most is the fact that we can really produce some changes with our work. Furthermore, it is really enriching to work with people having a different cultural background, to explore different ways of living and thinking and to reach our aims together.”

Before he started working for Malteser International in India, Florian Seeger has already been part of the Malteser International family by working in Myanmar and Cambodia. During this time, he has seen and lived extreme poverty but also enriching successes. “Everywhere where I have been working, it was very important for me to have a high level of participation from the beneficiaries. They are not only survivors of a disaster but experts for their current situation and they can really make a change. To be part of the project also motivates them to continue to improve their lives even after the phase-out of the international relief organisations. And when the beneficiaries participate, sometimes it only needs a little impulse to cause a surprisingly big impact“, the German relief expert points out. That was the case in India during the autumn 2008: “Already in 2007, the federal state of Uttar Pradesh has been severely flooded”, he reports. “We were rebuilding houses and hand pumps in five villages – on elevated land so that they would not be flooded and destroyed when the water came back. And we gave the villagers boats and lifejackets.“ When the



*Florian Seeger conducting an assessment at the flood affected areas*

breaking of a dam in Nepal and heavy monsoon rains caused new floods in during this year, all the inhabitants of the Malteser International project region could be evacuated in time with the boats. “And when they came back to their villages after the disaster, their houses were still standing and the elevated hand pumps were still working and providing safe drinking water”, Florian Seeger smiles. “This was a success that made me happy, even if the situation for those people will remain difficult. But now they have a base on which they can build up more successes in order to continue to improve their conditions of life.“

A specially heavy monsoon caused the breaking of a dike in Nepal in August 2008 thus also flooding large parts of Northern India. Malteser International was providing emergency relief for more than 1,000 families in the state of Bihar, distributing water filters, cook ware, boilers and material to build up emergency shelters. In the neighbouring state of Uttar Pradesh, the inhabitants of five villages could evacuate themselves before the floods in boats that had been provided to them by Malteser International after the heavy flooding in their region in 2007. When they could go back to their villages some weeks later, they found their houses and hand pumps all intact as Malteser International has rebuilt them on small knolls after the floods that destroyed them last year.



Photo: Angola (Malteser International/Birgit Betzelt)

**Merry Christmas!**  
**Joyeux Noël**  
**Frohe Weihnachten!**  
**Buon Natale!**  
**Feliz Navidad!**

We are grateful for your cooperation and wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Nous vous remercions beaucoup pour votre fructueuse collaboration et nous vous souhaitons ainsi qu'à votre famille des joyeuses fêtes de Noël et succès pour la nouvelle année.

Le agradecemos su cooperación y le deseamos a Usted y su familia Feliz Navidad tanto como éxito para el año nuevo.

La ringraziamo per la buona collaborazione e auguriamo a Lei e alla Sua famiglia un felice natale e tanta successo per il prossimo anno.

Wir danken Ihnen für die angenehme Zusammenarbeit und wünschen Ihnen und Ihrer Familie ein gesegnetes Weihnachtsfest und Erfolg für das neue Jahr.



Nicolas de Cock de Rameyen  
President

Ingo Radtke  
Secretary General

In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'  
Acts 20:35

En todo os he enseñado que, trabajando así, se debe ayudar a los necesitados, y recordar las palabras del Señor Jesús, que dijo: 'Más bienaventurado es dar que recibir.'  
Hechos 20:35

Je vous ai montré de toutes manières que c'est en travaillant ainsi qu'il faut soutenir les faibles, et se rappeler les paroles du Seigneur, qui a dit lui-même: Il y a plus de bonheur à donner qu'à recevoir.  
Actes 20,35

Damit wollte ich euch zeigen, wie man arbeiten muss, um den Armen zu helfen und das zu erfüllen, was unser Herr Jesus selbst gesagt hat: Geben macht glücklicher als Nehmen.  
Apg 20,35

In ogni cosa vi ho mostrato che affaticandosi in questo mondo ci conviene sostenere gli infermi e ricordarsi delle parole del Signore Gesù, il quale disse: 'C'è maggior felicità nel dare che nel ricevere!'  
Atti 20:35

#### Imprint

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