



# NEWSLETTER OF THE ORDER OF MALTA'S WORLDWIDE RELIEF SERVICE



**Malteser  
International**  
Order of Malta Worldwide Relief

March

2009

## ON THE SPOT



### NEW FUNDING

**MALTESER GERMANY,  
ARCHDIOCESE OF  
COLOGNE, SPONSORS  
PROJECTS IN  
SOUTH SUDAN**



Malteser International's projects in South Sudan will benefit from new funding provided by Malteser Germany in the Archdiocese of Cologne. Being the first to adopt this brand-new kind of sponsorship for Malteser International projects, the diocesan executive committee of Malteser Germany in Cologne has decided to support the relief programmes in South Sudan with at least 100,000 EUR p. a. – initially for the next five years – by a large variety of fundraising campaigns in support of the....

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### AFRICA: BURKINA FASO — FLOOD RELIEF

Malteser International and Germany's Relief Coalition (Aktion Deutschland Hilft) recently provided funding for a project of the French Association of the Order of Malta in Burkina Faso. The project provided support to people affected by the floods in the village of Kadomba in the south-west of Burkina Faso for the reconstruction of their houses and the construction of community buildings. The project was carried out by the Emergency Centre of the Order of Malta in Burkina Faso. A total of 12 houses (one for each household affected) were built providing residence and kittens. A school was also built for the formal education of farmers,



A school and storehouse, constructed for the benefit of local farmers.

and a storehouse for grains and cereals. The management of the project was under the responsibility of His Excellency Count Alain de Parcevaux, the Ambassador of the Order of Malta to Burkina Faso.



Order of Malta France workers erect temporary tent constructions to benefit victims of the flooding in Kamdomba, Burkina Faso.

For more of these stories, and other news visit: [www.malteser-international.org](http://www.malteser-international.org) and [www.maltarelief.org](http://www.maltarelief.org)



## KENYA — ANNUAL MEETING AFRICA (AMA)

This year's Malteser International's Annual Africa Meeting took place from 19 to 21 of March in Mombasa, Kenya. The meeting saw the staff from all the project areas of Malteser International in Africa united together with staff from Headquarters. The aim of the annual meeting is to provide a forum for better exchange and co-ordination of the overall decision makers in Africa. The meeting also included a presentation by Ingo Radtke, Secretary General of Malteser International, about the

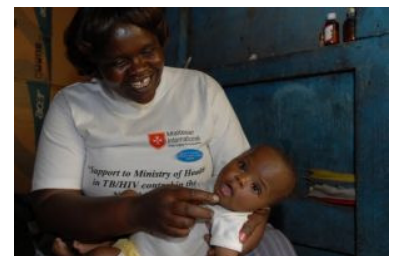
overall situation of Malteser International and the strategic and financial planning for the future development. Two external guests also participated: Kelvin Shingles, of Malteser International's projects in Sri Lanka, who presented on the subject of WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene), and Wolf Christian Paes of BICC (Bonn International Centre for Conversion) who presented on the nexus between natural resources, governances and conflict resolution.



## SOUTHERN SUDAN — HEALTH CARE FOR TB SUFFERERS

In the month which saw the annual occurrence of World Tuberculosis Day, Malteser International's projects in South Sudan continued their broad provisions to combat the disease. TB screenings were conducted in Yei prison, where 36 suspected sufferers were examined and one patient clearly identified as being TB positive. A concomitant screening for sleeping sickness patients was carried out on 126 people and three cases were confirmed. Malteser International is now in discussion with the prison authorities to try and secure the hospitalisation of these suf-

ferers. Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS are cross-cutting issues within Malteser International's approach to health care in Africa, as HIV sufferers are particularly susceptible to contracting TB, thus, elsewhere in Yei a one day TB/HIV sensitisation workshop was held for teachers from across three counties, where they were educated and informed about the role teachers can play in reducing the burden of TB/HIV in schools. And finally a further 18 staff of Malteser International attended a three day "training of trainers" seminar on the subject of TB/HIV.



World TB Day took place on 24th March

## ASIA: SRI LANKA — CIVIL WAR AFFECTS THOUSANDS

Malteser International has launched relief for victims of Sri Lanka's recent civil war. In northern Sri Lanka, a distribution has been organised, along with the local partner organisation Sarvodaya, of hygiene kits, clothing and mosquito nets, together with food supplies for internally displaced persons (IDPs) currently forced into 'transit camps'. This action is being supported by a grant of the Federal Foreign Office of Germany. Within

the camps, volunteers identified among the IDPs are being trained in basics of health care and hygiene. They will then inform the IPDs about the dangers of infectious diseases, and how the spread of them can be avoided. Despite these interventions and others, the situation in the camps is deteriorating, and people do not have enough drinking water and food. The twin threats of starvation and disease are ever present.



A refugee collects her belongings (Reuters/Stringer [www.alertnet.org](http://www.alertnet.org))

## THAILAND — JOINT HEALTH APPROACH

On 1 March a three year project started in Sop Moi district in northern Thailand. The project aims to ensure the provision of primary and secondary health care for refugees and to strengthen the Thai health care system by linking different health care providers together. This objective will be achieved by training refugees as well as local Thais to become health workers in the refugee camps along the Thai-Myanmar border. The trainings will provide full competency for the participants as community health workers, medics, nurses and midwives. In addition,

Malteser International in cooperation with the Thai district health authorities will implement disease awareness and prevention campaigns among refugees and in surrounding villages. The district hospital, the health centres and clinics in Sop Moi will be provided with the necessary equipment or rehabilitation measures. All these activities together will make a significant and positive contribution towards a joint approach of NGOs and the Thai health system for improved practice and behaviour in the field of health care.



Malteser International staff from a Thai village team

## AMERICAS: PERU — WORK CONTINUES FOR THE FUTURE



César Márquez, Director of Malteser Peru and village resident Señora Leonor

The projects of Malteser Peru in the village Cedros de Villa have moved forward rapidly in March. A new park with a playground for children and a small playing field was opened with a huge party on the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month. The opening of this park marked the formal end of the project 'Help for the affected people in the south' which had been financially supported by Malteser International and Germany's Relief Coalition (Aktion Deutschland Hilft).

Malteser Peru continues work in the village which has seen the ongoing construction of a health centre on the second floor of a dining room for poor

pupils. Due to be completed in April, this centre will be run by Carmelite Sisters who will be capable of treating 150 patients daily, particularly focusing on paediatrics and gynaecology. The health centre will be named "Virgin of Philermo" in honour of the patron of the Order of Malta.

A further activity in March was the distribution of school materials such as books, pencils and rucksacks for more than 150 children in the province of Cañete. The distribution could not have been achieved without the help of Malteser International, Germany's Relief Coalition and a private donation by the company Faber Castell.

## OTHER NEWS: GERMANY — NEW FUNDING

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....people in South Sudan.

This support will enable Malteser International not only to consolidate the basic health care projects in Yei, Rumbek, Maridi and Juba but also to enlarge its fight against HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, leprosy and sleeping sickness, its training of local commu-

nity health workers and the identification of new projects in the fields of water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH).

May this pioneer of new funding attract many other delegations, associations or relief services or further partners to adopt such kind of spon-

sorship for one of Malteser International's countries or project regions!

For further information, please contact Mr Ingo Radtke, Secretary General of Malteser International,

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# STAFF PORTRAITS OF OUR HELP — ARNO COERVER

**This edition of “portraits of our help” presents Arno Coerver, an expat who has worked for Malteser International in Sri Lanka and who now is holding the position of country coordinator in Myanmar and thus working in Yangon.**

When Arno Coerver visits a project location, the beneficiaries come and gather around him. Nearly immediately, they start to explain their problems and to ask questions. Arno Coerver listens to all of their sorrows patiently and tries to find solutions for problems. “Arno is always welcome in our village. He and his team have really improved our situation and they have shown us what we can do to continue this development in the future”, Belinda says.

Arno Coerver plays an important role in this and many other success stories. As programme coordinator for the WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene) programmes in Sri Lanka he has been responsible for the project in Mirissa and many others. The WASH team has built rain water collection tanks in households and schools, introduced child friendly sanitation to schools and organised hygiene lessons. They also installed latrines, toilets and water filters, restored

ponds and drilled wells to guarantee the access to safe drinking water and functioning sanitation for the tsunami-affected population.

During this time in Sri Lanka the staff member from the Netherlands was responsible for a large team and has managed, as well as helped to wind down many important projects in the aftermath of the tsunami. He has now moved onto Myanmar to work as Malteser International’s country coordinator. In his new appointment, he will benefit from his multiple experiences. As a civil engineer he already has a long background in humanitarian aid and development orientated work. In the 1980s and 1990s, he has been working in Western and Eastern Nepal, ran community development projects in Mauritania and was responsible for refugee projects in Sierra Leone.

“Steering and guiding project teams, and promoting inter-project and programme coordination”, he says smiling and adds: “I am very happy that I got the opportunity to work with a highly motivated and competent staff team.”

Arno explains that he opted for a career in humanitarian aid as an action of solidarity and social responsibility towards people that are affected by disasters, poverty and injustice and inequality. “I am keen to assist people to live their



**“I am very happy that I got the opportunity to work with a highly motivated and competent staff team.”**

life in dignity and to be less vulnerable to human suffering in the future”, he explains. Therefore, he is happy to be able to stay a member of the Malteser International family. “I am happy to work with Malteser International and thus to be part of a renowned professional humanitarian aid organisation that has goals and objectives that are in line with my personal values.”

## STAFF ABROAD — NEW POSTINGS

### On 1 March

Dr. Micah Mubeezi from Uganda, started work in South Sudan, Juba, as a Health Programme Development Advisor.

David Kirunda from Uganda, started work as a Project Manager Handover in South Sudan, Maridi.

Gabriele Zeck, from Germany, began work as Project Coordinator in Mae Sariang, Thailand.

Arno Coerver, from the Netherlands, formerly Country Coordinator for Malteser International in Sri Lanka, started work in Myanmar as Country Coordinator.

### On 15 March

Charles Birungi from Uganda, started work as a Project Manager in South Sudan, Yei, on 15.03.09