

# On the SPOT.

**NEWSLETTER**  
**April 2008**

## **BREAKING NEWS**

### **Commander's Cross of the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany for Johannes Freiherr Heereman**

On 15 April, the Executive President of Malteser Germany, Johannes Freiherr Heereman von Zuydtwyck, received the Commander's Cross of the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany. "For more than thirty years, Johannes Freiherr Heereman has been acting true to the mission statement of the Order of Malta to defend the faith and to assist the poor and the suffering", the Prime Minister of North Rhine-Westphalia, Jürgen Rüttgers, said during the ceremony. "He has significantly contributed to improve the situation of sick, disabled, homeless, isolated, lonely and dying people". Johannes Freiherr Heereman von Zuydtwyck has been working for the Order of Malta and its organisations since 1976.

Our sincere congratulations!

## **AFRICA**

### **Kenya I: "Still a smile on their faces" – Evaluation of flood relief in Budanlangi**



In the mid of April, Paul Ochieng, Coordinator Kenya Programme, and Dr. Georg Nothelle, Head of the Africa Department of Malteser International, went to Budalangi in north-eastern Kenya to evaluate the situation after the severe floods in August and September 2007 that affected more than 20,000 people. They were received by Father Frederic from the Magombe Parish who had organised the distribution of the relief goods to more than 3,000 families. A leader had been named by each community to be responsible for the coordination and distribution of the goods to the flood victims. The community leaders of Magombe and Kudunga now received the Malteser International

delegation to report about the use of the 3,300 blankets, 1,584 water cans, 3,276 mosquito nets, 6,600 soap bars, and 470,000 water purification tablets Malteser International had provided with financial support of the German Federal Foreign Office. Even four mobile toilets and two rain water tanks (10,000 litres each) had been delivered to the flood region. The health centre in Mukhobola had been provided with additional medicine and medical equipment in order to fight the outbreak of epidemics like cholera and malaria.

“Thanks to the medical drugs sent by Malteser International, none of our members has been affected by the outbreak of cholera that occurred at some spots when the water went down”, one of the leaders expressed the gratefulness of his community. The delegation also took the possibility to talk to some of the beneficiaries and visit their houses. Whereas the repairs of the broken dike and of broken bridges are already on their way, many people are still striving to reconstruct houses and schools. And everyone fears the next rainy season which is supposed to start in the end of April.

“Although the people here have suffered a lot due to natural and man-made disasters during the last months, there is still a smile on their faces – perhaps because God is caring for them through Malteser International”, Father Frederic summarized the importance of the flood relief which also was a good example for efficient and successful community work.

## **Kenya II: New tent for the treatment of tuberculosis for the Kenyatta National Hospital in Nairobi**

On 16 April, Paul Ochieng, Kenya Programme Coordinator of Malteser International, in a solemn ceremony handed over a tent for the treatment of tuberculosis patients to representatives of the Jomo Kenyatta National Hospital (KNH) and the Ministry of Health. With the donation of this large tent to the KNH in Nairobi, Malteser International enables the national referral hospital for east and central Africa to start the treatment for patients suffering from multi-drug-resistant (MDR) tuberculosis. The tent with huge windows that let in a lot of fresh air and light will be used as temporary outpatient clinic for patients suffering from MDR tuberculosis. At present, there are a total of 289 such patients in Kenya. The tent is of great importance as it offers the possibility of treating the MDR tuberculosis patients in a separated room without the risk of infecting other patients in the hospital.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has donated the drugs for the treatment of the first 40 patients. The two years' treatment of one patient costs about 1.4 million Kenyan Shillings, i.e. about 16.000 Euros. The representatives of the Kenyatta National Hospital and of the Ministry of Health expressed their sincere gratitude to Malteser International for being the pioneer in donating a tent for these patients suffering from MDR tuberculosis.

Tuberculosis is spread through the air when a person sneezes, coughs, or breathes. It can become resistant to the medicines if a patient is not treated long enough (about six months), doesn't take the prescribed medications properly, or doesn't receive the right drugs. MDR tuberculosis is resistant to at least two of the main drugs that are used to treat tuberculosis and is not only more difficult to treat but also more dangerous for the population, since the patients remain infectious longer, increasing the risk of transmission to the public and healthcare workers.

## **Uganda: Surviving the „Dry Spell“ – Annual Meeting Africa (AMA) in Entebbe**



From 7 to 10 April 2008, 36 staff members working in the Malteser International programmes in Eastern Africa (Kenya, South Sudan, Darfur) and in the Great Lakes Region (DR Congo, Uganda) met for their Annual Meeting in Entebbe/Uganda. On the first day, the country and programme coordinators gave their status reports from their programmes: “Where do we stand”. The second day was dedicated to the presentation and discussion of new logistic procedures and supply chain management by the guest speaker Cesar Russo, Malteser International Country Logistician and Regional Logistics Advisor from Myanmar. Furthermore, the participants of the AMA got an insight into press and public relations work presented by Petra Ipp-Zavazal, Head of Communication Desk. Last but not least, Ingo Radtke, Secretary General of Malteser International, informed the participants about the evolution, the current situation and the further strategy of Malteser International and discussed with them the latest developments.

The Annual Meeting Africa ended with a social evening with barbecue and African singing and dancing. In the course of this evening, the Secretary General of Malteser International awarded decorations to the following most valuable staff members:

Malteser International Medal of Commitment “St. Martin 2007”:

- Dr. Aziza Aziz Suleyman, Project Manager VAS, Bukavu/DR Congo
- Jean Paul Kadidi, Project Manager Food Security, Bukavu/DR Congo

Malteser International Medal of Merit:

Sandrine Rosenberger, Country Administration Coordinator, Kinshasa/DR Congo

Jubilee Medal of the Order of Malta “50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Malteser Germany”:

- Salma Salim, Administrator, Kampala/Uganda
- Dr. Désiré Rakotoarison, Programme Health Coordinator, Ariwara/DR Congo
- Jean Louis Sumbu, Programme Administrator, Ariwara/DR Congo
- Stephen Macharia, South Sudan Medical Coordinator, Juba/Sudan

Congratulations! – And many thanks to the Malteser International team in Uganda for the excellent organisation of this AMA!

## ASIA

### India I: 97 houses handed over to the Irula



During a solemn ceremony, Malteser International together with its two local partner organisations Bharathi Trust and Eklaviya handed over 97 houses to Irula families. The Irula are indigenous people who used to live without any rights and land, didn't have access to schools, health centres or other government support. After the tsunami had washed away most of their little belongings, they also had to face the calamities of flooding and fire in their temporary shelters.

Now, with the support of Malteser International, their new village “Bharathi Nagar” allows them to fully participate in society thanks to better access to schooling, subsidies through ration cards and political participation. The inauguration reflected this meaningful event. The village was decorated with garlands and palm leaves. Several government officials attended the inauguration and promised to issue land rights and community certificates for all families and provide infrastructure for the new village. More than 200 people participated in the ceremony. The inauguration ended with traditional food that the Irula had cooked for all participants, and the rest of the day children were dancing to rhythmic Tamil music.

## India II: Self-help groups for women show first results



Within its project for the support of vulnerable and marginalised groups in tsunami-affected areas and in cooperation with its Indian partner organisation Vaan Muhil, Malteser International has organised women self-help groups at association level in the districts of Tirunelvi and Thoothukudi. Now, the first positive results can be seen: Association members met with a minister of the local authorities to discuss their needs and demands. Among others, they talked about the problem of the renovation of houses damaged by the tsunami as some houses had been excluded from the reconstruction programme of the government and

the question was to include them into the programme from now on. Such a meeting would have never been possible without the association. Another success is the integration of the Dalit. The so-called “untouchables” belong to a group outside the Indian caste system and are disadvantaged in the society. Their interests and concerns now are also discussed and they can actively participate in the meetings.

## India III: New market for compost

In the past months, Malteser International, in cooperation with its local partner organisation „Health for One Million“, identified a new market for “worm compost”. The efforts to commercialise this kind of compost are part of the project to create income generating measures for the people in the tsunami-affected villages in the Kanyakumari district. By linking the people to plantation owners in the region, it has become much easier for them to sell their compost. Therewith, they can secure an income and provide better for their families.



## Indonesia: New trainings about hygiene and wastewater management



Malteser International is currently implementing trainings about hygiene and wastewater management in the tsunami-affected villages of Jambo Timu and Lancok. The objective is to inform the village communities about the connection between diseases and bad wastewater management and hygiene. Previously, Malteser International had already installed special BIOFIL septic tanks in the households and therewith secured the wastewater management in the villages. Malteser International works in cooperation with the local health authorities that implement the training according to the PHAST method (“Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation”) that has been developed by the World

Health Organisation (WHO) and that, with a participatory approach, is supposed to enable the people to control the risk of diseases with hygiene and wastewater management. In the first part of the workshops, the trainers themselves – 20 community members - were trained according to the PHAST method. Then, they return to their villages and, together with the health authorities, implement trainings for the community. In total, the trainings reach about 2,000 people in 511 households.

## Sri Lanka: 25 “little builders” visiting construction site of their new school



The construction site of the new primary school in Islamabad/Sri Lanka closed for one week as the New Year has recently started in Sri Lanka. Meanwhile, 25 “little builders” took control of the site and explored their new school. On 17 April, they arrived in their bright shining school uniforms. For each visitor, a safety helmet was a must, even while there was no construction work going on. So the children also had to fill in their names in the logbook to obtain

an own helmet. After a short introduction about the visit on this day and the safety regulations at the site, the “little builders” explored the site curiously. The site engineer representing the building contractor and the technical officer of Malteser International explained the function of each room in the building and answered all the questions of the “little builders”. A second visit of the children is planned by the end of June when the internal work will be almost completed.

## Vietnam: German Honorary Consulate in Ho Chi Minh supports „Small Business Trainings“ for women

For several years, Malteser International has been successfully implementing „Small Business Trainings“ for women in need in the provinces of Quang-Nam and Danang. The German Honorary Consulate was very impressed by the success of the trainings and is now supporting a „Small Business Training Project“ with about 10,000 Euros. The project will last seven months and the target group are 275 women in the district Ngu Hanh Son. Due to resettlement, these women will lose their land and therewith their main income source within the next months. In the workshops, they will learn about alternative income sources and how they can become successful small entrepreneurs.

## STAFF

On 1 April 2008, **Ms Harriet Loyd**, former Project Assistant in the Africa Department in Cologne, left for Nairobi/ Kenya to work as a Project Assistant there.

Also on 1 April 2008, **Ms Sandrine Rosenberger** started to work as Country Administration Coordinator in Kinshasa/ DR Congo. She had previously worked in the Africa Department in Cologne as Desk Officer for the Great Lakes Region.

## OTHERS

### Ghana: Malteser International at the international conference on “Access to Sanitation and Safe Water”

“Access to Sanitation and Safe Water: Global Partnerships and Local Actions” was the slogan of the 33rd WEDC (“Water, Engineering and Development Centre”) International Conference, which took place from 7 to 11 April in Accra/Ghana. Kelvin Shingles from Malteser International was invited to give a speech about the community use of hydrogen sulphide (H<sub>2</sub>S) as verification tool for water safety plans. The Health and Hygiene Coordinator works in Sri Lanka and has significantly contributed to pilot a study in the introduction of H<sub>2</sub>S in the rural communities of Sri Lanka as part of the development of Rural Water Safety Plans.

Malteser International has been implementing a comprehensive Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) programme in Sri Lanka since 2005. Please have a look at the brand-new brochure "[From safe water and sanitation to good health](#)" and find a German version of the new documentary about the Malteser International WASH projects in Sri Lanka on [www.malteser-international.org](http://www.malteser-international.org). (The English version will follow within the next weeks.)

## Germany: Malteser International and World Health Day 2008 in Berlin

“Protecting health from climate change” was the slogan of the World Health Day 2008 with the central launch event taking place on 3 April 2008 in Berlin. Arno Coerver, Programme Coordinator for WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) in Sri Lanka, represented Malteser International and introduced the new documentary about the water and hygiene projects of the organization in Sri Lanka. Moreover, he presented the [Career Entry Programme for Recent Graduates](#) of Malteser International.

## Thailand: International workshop on approaches to psychosocial care after disasters



On 29 and 30 April, Malteser International and Seameo Tropmed Network organized an international workshop in Bangkok on approaches to psychosocial care after disaster and lessons learnt from selected projects in South and South East Asia.

As Malteser International and Seameo Tropmed Network are coming to an end with their project on improving psychosocial care for adolescents in tsunami-affected areas in Phang Nga, which was successfully implemented over the past two years, they wanted to share their concept and experience with the participants of the workshop.

On behalf of Malteser International Dr. Peter Schmitz, Chief Medical Officer, Roland Hansen, Head of Asia Department, and Dr. Aziza Aziz Suleyman, VAS (Victimes d’Agression Sexuelle) Project Manager Bukavu/DR Congo participated in the workshop.

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### Imprint

On the SPOT. - Malteser International Newsletter

Publisher: Malteser International \* Kalker Hauptstraße 22 – 24 \* D-51103 Cologne, [www.malteser-international.org](http://www.malteser-international.org)

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