

On the SPOT.

NEWSLETTER
June 2008

AFRICA

Sudan I: Supplementary feeding programme against malnourishment

With an intensified supplementary feeding programme in the health centres of Wada and Tabit in North Darfur, Malteser International reacts to the increased number of severely malnourished children in these regions. The organisation trains and supervises local health workers and medical staff in 27 health centres and sends mobile teams to remote villages in order to reinforce growth controls of small children. Moreover, staff members carry out vaccination campaigns for children under five years as well as antenatal care for pregnant women. Since the reinforcement of these activities in March 2008, Malteser International has already weighed 5,875 children and integrated them – if necessary – into the supplementary feeding programme. Malnourished children receive a special diet for three weeks, while their mothers get nutrition classes where they learn about wholesome feeding.

Sudan II: Meeting with United Nations Security Council in El Fasher/Darfur

In June, Malteser International participated in a meeting of the United Nations Security Council with international non-governmental organisations and local authorities in Darfur. The meeting took place in El Fasher during a visit of representatives of the Security Council. The participants presented their work on the ground and discussed challenges and major concerns of their activities as well as the collaboration with the United Nations African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID). Amongst other organisations, Malteser International requested the Security Council and UNAMID to facilitate the access to the crisis region and to allow the humanitarian agencies to fulfil their respective mandates.

Sudan III: HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis – First stakeholders' meeting

On 2 June, Malteser International invited representatives of all non-governmental organisations, local authorities and schools of Mundri County in South Sudan to a first meeting on HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis. The objective was to improve the cooperation between the different stakeholders in the county. Malteser International itself has been operating in Mundri County since the beginning of 2008.

The organisation gave an overview of its TB/HIV collaborative activities and all participants were invited to present their own activities. Later, staff members talked about the stigmatization of HIV-infected persons and how to deal with it as a stakeholder. In small groups, the participants discussed the benefits of collaboration and areas where cooperation is needed. At the end of the meeting, all representatives elaborated a common work plan for the future collaboration. From now on, Malteser International will organise a stakeholders' meeting in Mundri every quarter.



Sudan IV: Home-based care in tuberculosis, HIV and leprosy control



From 4 to 6 June, Malteser International organised the first training on home-based care in tuberculosis (TB), HIV and leprosy control in Mundri District. The organisation invited health workers, teachers, staff members of local non-governmental organisations, and representatives of the local health authorities in Mundri. Objective of the training was to enable the 19 participants to work as voluntary care takers in their communities. At the beginning, staff members of Malteser International presented the modes of transmission and prevention of TB and HIV. Af-

terwards, the participants talked about myths and stigmatization concerning the different diseases and practised their counselling skills in role plays. They also learnt about nutrition and possible ways of community mobilization. Within the three days, the participants elaborated a work plan in order to take care of ill members of their communities in the future.

Uganda: Village health teams in Kaberamaido

In June 2008, Malteser International started a new project following the emergency relief after the severe floods in Africa in September 2007. The objective of the project now is to establish a village health team system in the district of Kaberamaido in order to sensitise the population to the outbreak of epidemics after flood disasters. Kaberamaido was severely affected by the floods, and the health situation of the population is still precarious.

The village health teams consist of voluntary community members who receive a basic training on the most important diseases in order to inform their communities about prevention and treatment. Malteser International carries out trainings for the teams, provides the communities with educational material and supervises the team members. At the same time, the organisation supports the health centres in the district and collaborates with the local health authorities.

ASIA

Myanmar: Further extension of support for people affected by Cyclone Nargis



In the severely affected Irrawaddy Delta, Malteser International continues with its medical assistance for more than 32,000 internally displaced people and residents in Labutta and Labutta Township. Moreover, the organisation has constructed rainwater harvesting tanks and latrines, and provides the population with safe drinking water. Malteser International also started to work in the peninsula Middle Island, ensuring basic sanitation and health care for 60,000 people in collaboration with the International Hospital Yangon.

The work of Malteser International is supported by the Federal Foreign Office of Germany, Caritas, ECHO, ADH, the Canadian organisation CECI and the international network of the Order of Malta. However, for the continuation and the extension of its work, the organisation is in urgent need of donations!

To support the work of Malteser International in Myanmar, please transfer your donations to:

Donation Account 120 120 120
 Bank für Sozialwirtschaft, Wörthstr. 15 - 17, D-50668 Köln
 Sort Code : 370 205 00
 IBAN : DE49 3702 0500 0001 0258 01
 BIC: BFSWDE33XXX
 Reference : "Cyclone Nargis"

Recent photos of the relief activities in Myanmar can be downloaded under:

<http://php.malteser.de/cpg133/thumbnails.php?album=198&page=1>

Recent videos from Labutta can be downloaded under:

http://www.malteser.de/61.Malteser_International/en/61.11.Downloads/61.11.05.Video/Video.htm

Vietnam: Improved health of the CaTu minority

On 1 June, Malteser International started a new project to improve the health situation of the 7,200 inhabitants of five communities in Tay Giang District in Central Vietnam. 96 percent of the population belong to the ethnic minority of the CaTu. The poverty rate in this region amounts to 74 percent. With trainings and educational campaigns, Malteser International supports the local population, especially women, to analyse their health situation and to carry out health and water/hygiene programmes. Moreover, staff members organise alphabetisation courses for women to enable them to participate in the implementation of community health projects.

The project is conceived for three years and financially supported by the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development.

STAFF

“PORTRAITS OF OUR HELP”

Under the new column “Portraits of our help”, Malteser International would like to present staff members of the organisation to give a more personal impression of the people realizing all the projects on the ground. Let us start this new column with the presentation of ...

... Madagascan manpower in Ariwara/DR Congo



Dr. Désiré Rakotoarison (r.) with staff in Aba

Aba, eight o'clock in the morning: All staff members of the referral hospital in the little village in Ituri/DR Congo have already arrived for the meeting with Dr. Désiré Rakotoarison and Dr. Gaby Rakotondrabe from Malteser International. They can immediately start with the first item on the agenda – against all stereotypes about African time management. “That was the first condition for our work here: punctuality”, Dr. Désiré explains. “I have told everyone who works with us that the development of the Congo starts exactly

here. If they want, they can come an hour late, but they must think about if this serves for the purpose of the work that they are doing here. Because it's all about their own country." The 49-year old Madagascan works as Programme Coordinator for Malteser International in Ariwara in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Together with Dr. Gaby – the Health Coordinator in Ariwara, who also comes from Madagascar – he has come to Aba today in order to have a look on the development of the project. Malteser International has been collaborating with the referral hospital for several years, training the medical staff and rehabilitating several wards.



Dr. Gaby Rakotondrabe (r.) during a financial management training for staff members of the hospital

What motivates a Madagascan to come to the Congo? "It has always been my vision to help people. And I can broaden my horizon here. As a Health Coordinator, I have many different tasks: health, road rehabilitation, administration, capacity building, and much more", Dr. Gaby tells enthusiastically. "In Madagascar, I used to work as a medical doctor in a hospital. But it was only one working area. With Malteser International, I have more responsibility, and can see the progress directly. I love to work with people on the spot and to see that the help really reaches them." Of course, there are setbacks, too, but "there are even much more moments of success", Dr. Désiré adds. It is not always easy to live here alone – the families of Dr. Désiré and Dr. Gaby are living in Madagascar. "But they are all very proud of us".

STAFF ABROAD

On 1 June, **Béatrice Lauer**, former Project Assistant in the Africa Department in Cologne, started to work in Uganda as a Project Assistant.

On 9 June, **John Leslie Freeman** from Great Britain started to work as a Project Manager in Sudan.

On 10 June, **Jared Broad** from New Zealand left for Myanmar to work as a Project Assistant for Logistics there.

On 20 June, **Johannes Schweda** left for South Sudan to work as an Administrator in Juba.

OTHERS

Martin Aid 2008 for the programmes of Malteser International in Cambodia



In memory of Saint Martin – the famous Roman soldier who shared his cloak with a freezing beggar in a cold winter night – thousands of celebrations and lantern parades take place in Germany on 11 November every year. Against this background, Malteser Germany has launched the campaign "Martin Aid", an initiative that is based on the idea of the shared cloak and represents the ideals of Malteser work: Knowing that there are numerous people in need, the campaign "Martin Aid" calls on people to help spontaneously. The idea is to include Martin Aid into the celebrations and lantern parades and to share the proceeds with Malteser International for projects in Africa and Asia. Therefore, the initiators are looking for people all over the world willing to support this idea by helping "Martin Aid" become part of their celebrations.

This year, the money collected will be used to support, amongst others, the programmes of Malteser International in north-eastern Cambodia. The organisation has been working there for more than ten years. The region is still marked by the consequences of the former civil war, like diseases, malnourishment and an extremely high child mortality rate. Together with its local partners, staff members of Malteser International support the people to return to a normal life. The programme includes community-based health insurances, mother and child health care and nutrition projects.



Please find more information about Martin Aid and possibilities to contribute to the campaign on www.martinaid.com.

Ingo Radtke

Petra Ipp-Zavazal

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Publisher: Malteser International * Kalker Hauptstraße 22 – 24 * D-51103 Cologne, www.malteser-international.org

Editorial office: Ingo Radtke, Petra Ipp-Zavazal, Kathrin Meier, Esther Suchanek * Phone + 49 – 2 21 – 98 22 155 * Fax + 49 – 2 21 – 98 22 179 *

E-Mail: petra.ipp@malteser-international.org