



May/June  
2010

# ON THE SPOT



## Contents

### BREAKING NEWS

[Pakistan: Malteser International continues support to returnees in Swat District despite funding constraints](#)

### AFRICA

[Uganda: Impressive and touching project visit](#)

[Southern Sudan: Malteser Cologne supports "TB Children Day"](#)

### ASIA

[Myanmar: Two years after cyclone Nargis — reconstruction and rehabilitation continue](#)

[India: Innovative early warning system successfully tested](#)

### AMERICAS

[Haiti: Working for and with the people](#)

[Chile: Rehabilitation and reconstruction after earthquake and tsunami](#)

[Mexico: Help for HIV-affected mothers and children](#)

### OTHERS

["United for Africa": Exhibition of self-made toys at Cologne](#)

[Efforts in mother-child-health necessary despite decrease in child mortality](#)

### STAFF

[Portrait of our help: "In God's Grace" - Mission to Haiti](#)

[Staff postings](#)

## BREAKING NEWS:

### PAKISTAN: MALTESER INTERNATIONAL CONTINUES SUPPORT TO RETURNNEES IN SWAT DISTRICT DESPITE FUNDING CONSTRAINTS



Medical aid for the displaced

In May 2009, around three million people had to flee from their homes in several regions of Pakistan's North West Frontier province. Meanwhile, most of them could return home, but support is still needed as the crisis is far from over. The returnees need support to resume their daily life. Particularly assistance in the fields of health-care, nutrition, and sanitation are of major importance.

Financially supported by the Federal Foreign Office of Germany, Malteser International had been supporting displaced families in Mardan District from May 2009 onwards with two medical teams, hygiene kits and hygiene awareness campaigns. As soon as their return to the home areas in the Swat District was possible, Malteser International extended the support to three medical teams for a catchment population of about 70,000 people, funded by the WHO. The national partner LASOONA continued the hygiene promotion activities there.

## AFRICA:

### UGANDA: IMPRESSIVE AND TOUCHING PROJECT VISIT

At the end of May, four representatives of Malteser Germany in the archdiocese of Paderborn together with a representative of Malteser International visited the programme region of Malteser International in Uganda. In October 2009, Malteser Paderborn had entered into a partnership with the nutrition unit for under- and malnour-

ished children in the St. Joseph Hospital in Maracha that Malteser International has been supporting since 1996. The new partnership will enable continued support for the children in the East African country and secure a sustainable long-term perspective.

From August 2010 onwards Malteser is looking forward to starting a recovery project in the health sector of Swat District for one year with a grant by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development of Germany (BMZ).

"There is still an urgent need for further funding for essential projects in the health sector," emphasises Dr. Jürgen Clemens, Senior Desk Officer Pakistan of Malteser International, "and we are very grateful for the financial support by the German Government for our relief activities. This is a step in the right direction and we hope that other governments and donors will follow. We know that the Pakistan Humanitarian Response Plan 2010, the joint funding appeal of the UN and NGOs, is still massively under funded. Especially in the health sector only around 17% of the identified projects are being funded."

### Further information

- [Malteser International Press Release](#)
- [Project Description](#)
- [Pakistan Humanitarian Response Plan and regular Humanitarian Updates](#)
- [Pakistan Humanitarian Forum](#)

The project visit offered the volunteers from Malteser Paderborn the possibility to get to know their “godchild” as well as to gain an insight into the work of Malteser International on the ground. In the hospital in Maracha,



**The representatives of Malteser Paderborn in Maracha**

the four representatives met the hospital staff and the patients – an encounter that changed their perception and deeply moved them. “It is unbelievable under which difficult circumstances the people keep their courage to face life,” one of the participants reports.

The travel group also got the opportunity to accompany one of the outreach teams of Malteser International. These teams provide outpatient care to the population in the surrounding villages of Maracha thus monitoring the fur-

ther development of children after being discharged from the hospital and looking for children suffering from malnutrition.

Of course, there were also some other fascinating, slightly different and adventurous experiences included in their travel that they will treasure: being forced to stop in the middle of the road due to an engine breakdown and to cross the Nile on a towrope or meeting an enormous crocodile sitting at the roadside. That is Africa!

The plenty of unforgettable, touching experiences and impressions reinforced the Malteser Paderborn group to support the work of Malteser International in Uganda. Their summary: “We Malteser helpers need each other because the people do need us – let’s lend a hand on it – altogether and with God’s help.”

[Read more about our project in Uganda](#)

## SOUTHERN SUDAN: MALTESER COLOGNE SUPPORTS “TB CHILDREN DAY”

In Southern Sudan, children are on high risk of diseases like tuberculosis or sleeping sickness. In Yei, the Malteser International team has been teaching around 100 pupils for a whole day on how to recognise these diseases as well as how to prevent them. Through role plays, dancing and singing they spread the important information.

In addition, every child received a t-shirt and a backpack with school material. The campaign was financially supported by Malteser Germany in the archdiocese of Cologne. The Malteser groups in Cologne had entered into a partnership with South Sudan in 2009 and now raised funds during the charity gala “The night in Cologne”.

Since 1997, Malteser International has been operating in Yei County, Western Equatoria in Southern Sudan, which

has been ridden by civil war. In order to improve the health situation of the population, Malteser International has been implementing a comprehensive programme to fight sleeping sickness, leprosy and tuberculosis through diagnosis, treatment and health education.



**Pupils at the „TB children day“**

[Read more](#)

### THE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMME

Since 2009 Malteser International has been offering a new way of getting engaged in helping people in need around the world: Associations and groups can enter into a partnership with Malteser International programme regions in Africa and Asia. A partnership comprises mutual exchange, information on the projects from first hand as well as the possibility of a project visit on the ground.

The partners commit themselves for a minimum phase of one year of support through a variable amount of funds. Long-term partnerships are particularly welcome as they will allow Malteser International to plan its relief projects on a sustainable basis and with a long-term perspective.

For more information please contact [Kathrin.Meier@malteser-international.org](mailto:Kathrin.Meier@malteser-international.org)

# ASIA:

## MYANMAR: TWO YEARS AFTER CYCLONE NARGIS—RECONSTRUCTION AND REHABILITATION CONTINUE

“The majority of the people are still struggling for daily survival. A lot of them do not yet have a solid source of income“, reports Sandra Harlass, Senior Desk Officer Myanmar of Malteser International.



**Distribution of water filters**

“The present situation cannot be compared to the life and income situation before cyclone Nargis hit the country on 2 Mai 2008. To give an example: At the moment, no one can afford to buy drinking water.”

Therefore, at request of the government and the affected population, Malteser International distributes purified drinking water by boats to areas with acute water shortage in the dry seasons.

In its rehabilitation and reconstruction programmes, Malteser International focuses on the sectors of health, WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene) and disaster risk reduction. It combines rebuilding and structural measures with programmes raising awareness and strengthening local capabilities. The latest development is the extension of WASH measures in 41 villages which is possible thanks to financial means of the Australian Government Overseas Aid Program. Malteser International will rehabilitate ponds and build rainwater harvesting tanks and an emergency drinking water supply.

On [www.malteser-international.org](http://www.malteser-international.org) Sandra Harlass explains in detail what has been done for and in cooperation with the population up to now. In total, Malteser International has provided relief for more than 275,000 people after cyclone Nargis struck the country. Nargis was one of the most disastrous tropical storms since recordkeeping began. It claimed 140,000 lives and left 1.5 million people homeless.

Read more...

- [Interview with Sandra Harlass, Malteser International Senior Desk Officer Myanmar](#)
- [Malteser International in Myanmar](#)

## INDIA: INNOVATIVE EARLY WARNING SYSTEM SUCCESSFULLY TESTED

On 7 April an improved flood early warning system was successfully tested at the District Disaster Management Cell (DDMC) in Bahraich. After the effective trial the computer and auto-dialing-software was installed at the district. The software company People Tech Systems then started with trainings on the software for the staff of Malteser International’s local partner organisation Sabhagi Shikshan Kendra (SSK) and of the government. To cover the whole project area 18 sirens will be needed. In community meetings the locations for the siren installations will now be identified.

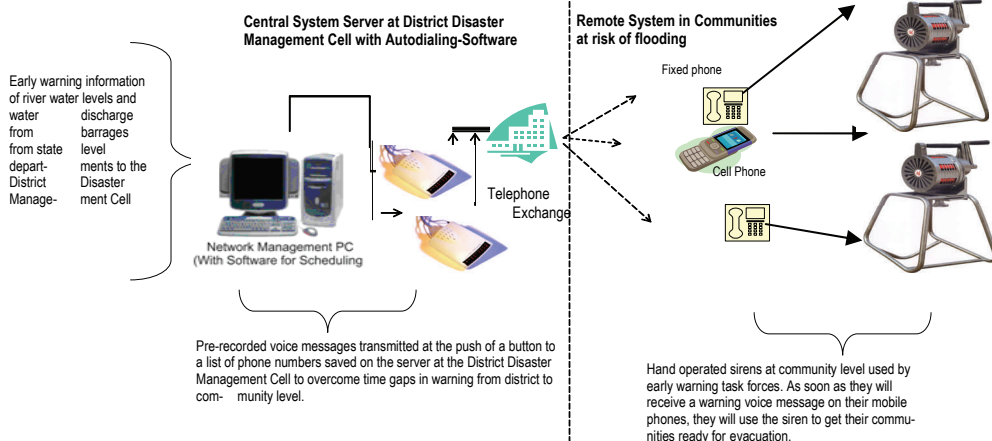
Thanks to the new system, the authorities can send flood warnings via voice messages to selected distribution lists -

in particular to civil protection teams - in the flood affected villages.

This method enables a timely response and the possibility to evacuate the village population before the onset of the flooding.

Since March 2008 Malteser International has been implementing a project on disaster risk management in the Bahraich District of Uttar Pradesh, supported by the Disaster Preparedness Programme of the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid Department (ECHO). The area situated on the border of Nepal is highly prone to flooding. Extensive and debilitating flooding occurred on four occasions between the months of July and September 2007 and again in September 2008 and affected 886 villages.

### Voice Broadcasting by Phone for flood early warning dissemination



[Read more](#)

## AMERICAS:

### HAITI: WORKING FOR AND WITH THE PEOPLE

Photo: Juergen Peperthowe/WN)



Half a year after the devastating earthquake that hit Haiti the people in the disaster region are still in urgent need of international support.

After the completion of the emergency phase

Malteser International has committed itself to stay in the country for at least three to five years in order to support a sustainable reconstruction and rehabilitation of the insular state. This commitment has been agreed upon in a "Master Plan" of the Sovereign Order of Malta which has been adopted by all Order associations involved in relief for Haiti. The long-term aim is to pool all relief efforts of the Order of Malta and to integrate all relief measures into Haitian structures to foster a sustainable reconstruction of the country.

The relief activities concentrate in particular on Léogâne and Darbonne, two towns in the west of Port-au-Prince. In Darbonne, Malteser International is currently installing a semi-permanent health facility to maintain the health services in the region; a new health centre will be built up. For the early recovery phase, the following sectors were identified as priorities:

#### HEALTH

In the health sector, Malteser International will continue to provide primary health care for the population in Léogâne and Darbonne as well as in the surrounding areas and villages through mobile medical teams. Next to this, the focus will be on mother-child health and psychosocial care and counselling, especially for young adults. In addition, Malteser International supports the reconstruction of health centres and hospitals in cooperation with national and international partner organisations.

#### WASH

In the field of WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) Malteser International together with a partner organisation will concentrate on community-based water supply and sanitation. Through promotion campaigns Malteser International strives to improve the hygiene situation in the earthquake affected regions.

#### LIVELIHOOD

In all projects, it is the aim of Malteser International not only to work for the people in Haiti, but above all with them. Thereby, training and capacity building always play

an important role. Through livelihood programmes and income generating measures Malteser International supports the reconstruction efforts in the country and intends to give the people a long-term perspective.

#### DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

Disaster risk reduction is another important focus of the work of Malteser International in Haiti. Trainings of communities, the installation of early warning systems and further community-based disaster preparedness measures help the people to be better prepared to future disasters.

Please also have a look at our new ["Portrait of our help"](#) with Marina Moll, head of the Italian (CISOM) team providing medical aid in Haiti in March/April 2010!



Distribution of hygiene kits (photo: ArcheNova)

[Read more](#)

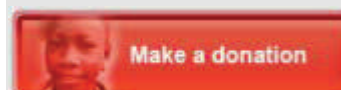
#### MALTESER INTERNATIONAL SAYS "THANK YOU"

Malteser International is grateful for the great generosity of the population and the international network of the Order that enables the teams on the ground to implement the above mentioned sustainable relief and rehabilitation activities.

[Watch the new video!](#)

**The survivors of the earthquake in Haiti need your help!**

**Donate online:**



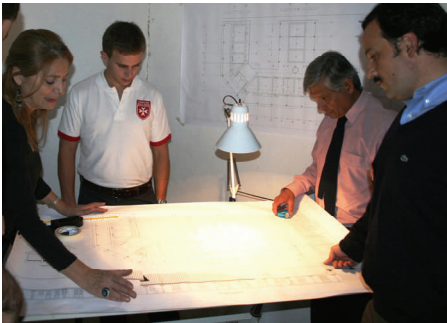
**Donation Account 2020122;  
 Pax-Bank Köln, von-Werth-Str. 25-27,  
 D-50670 Köln, Germany,  
 Sort Code : 370 60 193; IBAN : DE93 3706 0193  
 0002 0201 22; BIC: GENODED1PAX  
 Reference : "Earthquake Haiti**

## AMERICAS:

### CHILE: ONGOING REHABILITATION AND RECONSTRUCTION AFTER EARTHQUAKE AND TSUNAMI

After the devastating disasters in February 2010, the combined relief activities of the Chilean Association of the Order of Malta, the Chilean relief service Auxilio Maltés and Malteser International move on and are making good progress. “Nevertheless we need not to forget that the extension of the disasters caused by the earthquake and the following tsunami is unique in the Chilean history,” reports Jorge Espinoza Bardavid, Executive Director of Auxilio Maltés.

“And circumstances like the weather conditions – we are facing the beginning of winter – or the lack of appropriate material needed for the reconstruction have slightly restricted the continuation of our projects.”



**Volunteers planning the reconstruction measures in Chépica**

further work. The activities that are scheduled for at least one year concentrate on the three zones of Chépica, Tubul and Loncoche.

Several activities, however, have already been realized: the distribution of construction material, waterproofing of the roofs of the affected houses, rubble disposal and assessments in order to identify the focal points of

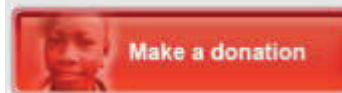
In order to improve and enlarge the capacities of the volunteers of Auxilio Maltés with regard to future disasters, Malteser Peru

organised a “Sphere Training” in Chile. “Sphere” is an internationally recognized quality initiative on the “Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response”. The training which also prepares the participants for emergency relief was realised by César Marquez, Executive President of the Peruvian relief service of the Order, who also conducted two trainings for the Mexican and Columbian Association.



[Read more](#)

**The survivors of the earthquake in Chile need your help! Donate online:**



**Donation Account 2020122;  
 Pax-Bank Köln, von-Werth-Str. 25-27,  
 D-50670 Köln, Germany,  
 Sort Code : 370 60 193; IBAN : DE93 3706 0193 0002 0201 22; BIC: GENODED1PAX  
 Reference : “Earthquake Chile”**

### MEXIKO: HELP FOR HIV-INFECTED MOTHERS AND CHILDREN

In the federal district of Tabasco and Distrito Federal Malteser International supports the project „Salva a un niño del Sida“ (Defend a children from HIV/AIDS) run by the Mexican Association of the Order of Malteser. At present, 54 pregnant women are provided with medical and social care. In total, 355 mothers and babies have received support up to now. The transmission of the HIV virus from young mothers to their babies can be prevented by medical therapy.

The Mexican Association of the Order has already been working in the district of Tabasco since the floods in October 2007. Together with Malteser International, the association has been supporting several programmes - for example in the fields of emergency relief, livelihood or disaster prevention.

Further information: [www.ordendemaltamexico.org.mx](http://www.ordendemaltamexico.org.mx)

## OTHERS:

### “UNITED FOR AFRICA”: DEMONSTRATING THE CREATIVITY OF AFRICAN KIDS: THE EXHIBITION “GLOBAL PLAYERS” SHOWS SELF-MADE TOYS

You think, bottle caps and empty tins can just be recycled and textile rags are of no deeper use? Then you should visit the exhibition “Global Players” which is shown at the moment at the Cologne Chocolate Museum and presents self-made toys of children from all over Africa.



A plane ready to take off—the toys reflect the dreams of the children.

They employ what they find: old wires, plastic bottles, tins or banana leaves are used to create racing cars, trucks, helicopters, rattlesnakes and footballs. Even the skeleton of an old calculator can be reutilised for the construction of a vehicle. Manufactured toys are neither available nor affordable for these children, living on the streets, in the slums or in the poor regions of the continent. But who needs these when creativity comes into play and imagination and the absolute will to make it even without the necessary tools lead to unique and fabulous creations?

The German journalist and Africa correspondent Birgit Virnich has met many of these kids whilst filming in all

parts of the continent. That’s why she started a collection of self-made toys but also of the stories and dreams of the children who built them.

This collection is now presented by the German campaign “United for Africa” with Malteser International being one of 24 member organisations. The collection also shows the potential of these kids if they get the chance to realize it: “Who can construct a bike out of old parts of wire should also be successful as an engineer“, as the former German President Horst Koehler put it.

David is a Kikuyu and lives in Kenya in a refugee camp near Eldoret. In 2007, after the last elections, there were excesses against his ethnic group.



Former neighbours burned down his parents’ house. Meanwhile, the mistrust is enormous. The children in the refugee camp often play football to distract themselves. Together, they have tied up their own football out of plastic rags – ethnicity didn’t matter for that.

### CONTINUOUS EFFORTS IN MOTHER-CHILD HEALTH NECESSARY DESPITE WORLDWIDE DECREASE IN CHILD MORTALITY

Under-5 mortality is falling in every region of the world – this is the [result of a new study](#) of the [Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation \(IHME\)](#) at the University of Washington published in the British medical journal [The Lancet](#) on 24 May.

According to the study that examined 187 countries, the worldwide proportion of children under five who die each

Children play an important role in many programmes implemented by Malteser International. Especially in the fields of health and nutrition they form a major target group.

In Uganda, for example, Malteser International supports the nutrition unit for malnourished children in a hospital in Maracha with the objective of providing direct treatment for malnourished children as well as preventing a relapse of the children through regular follow-up examinations and home visits. In addition, families are informed about proper nourishment of their children to guarantee a lasting improvement of their health.

In the province of Oddar Meanchey, Cambodia, Malteser International carries out a comprehensive community-based mother-child health programme with the aim of improving the nutritional status among children and women and reducing infant, child and maternal mortality.

year has dropped by 60% since 1970. From 11.9 million deaths in 1990 the number declined to 7.7 million deaths in 2010. Even though most countries will not reach the Millennium Development Goal 4 set by the United Nations – to reduce child deaths by 66% between 1990 and 2015 –, the results give hope for further success, the US researchers point out.



At the nutrition unit of the Maracha hospital in Uganda (photo: Stefanie Mosch)

Malteser International is encouraged with regard to these positive results: “That reinforces us in our work”, says Nicholas de Cock de Rameyen, president of Malteser International. “At the same time, it is a signal that it is necessary to continue with our programmes as despite all achievements child mortality is still dramatically high in many countries of the world.“

## STAFF:

### PORTRAIT OF OUR HELP: „IN GOD’S GRACE“ - MISSION TO HAITI



Marina Moll

**From 13 March to 4 April, an eight-strong medical team with volunteers from the Italian Malteser relief service CISOM provided first aid and basic healthcare in the Malteser International health centres in Léogâne and Darbonne**

**for the survivors of the devastating earthquake that hit Haiti on 12 January 2010. The team consisted of one male orthopaedic specialist and one female general doctor, both from Palermo (Sicily), one male gynaecologist from Naples, one male nurse and physiotherapist from Bari (Southern Italy), one female midwife from Vercelli (Northern Italy), one female nurse from Milan (Northern Italy), one male nurse from Lugano (Southern Switzerland) and one female nurse from Rome, Mrs Marina Moll, the team leader and author of this article. In her “normal life”, Mrs Marina Moll is working at the Grand Magistracy as “Chargée de Mission” to the Grand Chancellor and to the Grand Hospitaller and has long-time experience also in humanitarian relief missions.**

“There is no such a thing as a free lunch”, my colleague and dear friend smiled sweetly as she asked me to write about my three weeks’ experience in Haiti. And suddenly I realized that I wanted to write about it, to see if I could make more sense about my very confused feelings.

#### **Enveloped in a blanket of heat, humidity and endless heaps of rubble**

For a start in Haiti nothing seemed to relate to my previous emergency experiences, probably because when the earth moved what little “law and order” had been there, disappeared with everything else. I was forced to come to terms with the fact that it was incredibly difficult to operate in a context where the very texture of the country had ceased to exist. As we left the plane we were enveloped in a blanket of heat and humidity while we desperately tried to hold on to our luggage which a crowd of ‘porters’ were trying to help themselves to.

Once we made it to our vehicle and started on our trip from Port-au-Prince to Léogâne, our final destination, we began to realise the extent of the catastrophe that had hit Haiti.... [Read the whole story!](#)

## STAFF POSTINGS

April 2010:

Christina Adam, German citizen, started working as Project Assistant in Haiti.

Udo Koehl, German citizen, started working as Project Assistant in Thailand.

May 2010:

Maren Platzmann, German citizen, started working as Community Development Officer in Haiti.

Jelena Kaifenheim, German citizen, started working as Country Administrator in Haiti.

June 2010:

Daniel Nash, Canadian citizen, started working as Logistics Coordinator in Haiti.

Martin Lucas Idele, Kenyan citizen, started working as Accountant in South Sudan.

Walter Berier, German citizen, started working as Programme Coordinator in Sri Lanka.

Marcus Koth, German citizen, started working as Project Assistant in Haiti.

#### Imprint

On the SPOT. - Newsletter of the worldwide relief service of the Sovereign Order of Malta for humanitarian aid

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

Editorial office: Ingo Radtke, Petra Ipp-Zavazal, Christine Prokopf, Julia Kost \* Phone +49-(0)221-98 22 155

\* Fax +49-(0)221-98 22 179 \* E-Mail: [petra.ipp@malteser-international.org](mailto:petra.ipp@malteser-international.org)