

On the SPOT

NEWSLETTER
May/June 2007

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Angola: HIV/TB/Malaria Prevention Programme in Kuando Kubango

In order to strengthen the fight against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis (TB) and Malaria in the province of Kuando Kubango, Malteser International started a wide-ranging prevention programme in co-operation with community based organisations (CBOs). The overall objective of the project is to reduce morbidity and mortality of HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria in the region.



The population targeted is estimated at 350,000 with a high TB, HIV and Malaria prevalence. By means of preventive measures including educational campaigns for the communities and sessions in schools, the awareness and knowledge of the population concerning the three diseases is expected to be raised. Assisted by Malteser International, CBOs like Caritas, Angolan Red Cross and Acadir will train community health workers to organise information, education and communication activities in schools, churches and during meetings in their villages.

Furthermore, a programme for diagnosis, treatment and prevention of HIV and opportunistic infections like TB and Malaria will take place in ten health facilities cared for by Malteser International focusing especially on pregnant women and children. Pregnant women who come to ante-natal services (ANC) receive an impregnated mosquito net for the protection of their families. The distribution of the bed nets in connection with ANC brings more women to the clinics and helps them to accept important medical care during pregnancy.

With this new project, Malteser International will contribute to prevent the aggravation of the HIV/ AIDS situation in Angola and strengthen the cooperation with local partners.

The project is financed by the HIV/AIDS, Malaria and TB Control Project (HAMSET) supported by the World Bank and Malteser International.

Further information:

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Kenya / South Sudan / DR Congo: High ranking delegation visits Malteser International Africa Programme

From 15 May to 25 May 2007, Albrecht Freiherr von Boeselager, Grand Hospitaller of the Sovereign Order of Malta visited several projects of Malteser International in Africa. He was accompanied by Mr Nicolas de Cock de Rameyen, President of Malteser International, Dr. Constantin von Brandenstein-Zeppelin, President of the German Malteser Hilfsdienst e.V., Mr Geoffrey Gamble, Member and Counsellor of the US Federal Association of the Sovereign Order of Malta, and Mr

Giovanni Guazzugli Marini, Manager International Affairs of the Italian Association of the Sovereign Order of Malta.

In Nairobi, the delegation visited the Remand Prison Health Centre and the Health Centre in Kayole Soweto, one of the cities slums. They learned much about the living conditions of the slum population and the bad hygienic facilities and got to know how the employees deal with diseases like Malaria, TB and HIV/AIDS. Dr. Constantin von Brandenstein-Zeppelin honoured Paul Ochieng, Project Coordinator in Kenya, with the Malteser Hilfsdienst Jubilee Medal.



In Yei, South Sudan, the delegation visited several health programmes, i.e. St. Bakitha Health Centre, the hospital for leprosy and sleeping sickness patients as well as the new cholera treatment centre.

Finally, the group spent three days in Bukavu in the east of the Democratic Republic of Congo. In the regions of Ituri and South Kivu, Malteser International assists about 300 health centres, providing medical care for more than two million people. In cooperation with the local health structures, the organisation also provides psycho-social assistance to the numerous women and girls who were brutalized during the war. The delegation met some of these women and also assisted in the distribution of food to people who had been forced to leave their villages because of armed riots. Albrecht Freiherr von Boeselager and Nicolas de Cock de Rameyen awarded the Malteser International Medal of Merit in silver to Dr. Alfred Kinzelbach, Regional Coordinator for the Great Lakes Region, and to Christof Ruhmich, Programme Coordinator in Bukavu.

In order to have a look at the “Travel Diary Africa 2007” and the photos taken during the journey, please click [here](#).

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Kenya: Vice-President of Kenya compliments Order of Malta on good cooperation

Albrecht Freiherr von Boeselager, Grand Hospitaller of the Sovereign Order of Malta, in Nairobi also met with the Vice-President and Minister of the Interior, Arthur Moody Awori. The Vice-President received the member of the Government of the Order of Malta on the occasion of the Grand Hospitaller’s visit to the Malteser International programme in Africa.



“I am very glad and grateful for the commitment of the Order of Malta via Malteser International in Kenya and for your support in the struggle against tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS and malaria”, Vice-President Moody Awori said. He particularly complimented on Malteser International’s work in the Remond Prison in Nairobi where the organisation runs a health centre for the prisoners and the staff of the biggest prison in Kenya. “For a long time, nothing was done for the prisoners”, Moody Awori continued. “Thanks to the good

cooperation between our health authorities and Malteser International, we are now in a position to

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provide essential help for our prisoners. This is very important for us because in case that somebody becomes delinquent and is arrested it does not mean that he loses his human rights and, thus, the right to quality medical care.”

Moody Awori pointed out that the Kenyan Government and particularly the Ministry of the Interior as well as the Ministry of Health were deeply interested in a continuation and even a further extension of the cooperation with the Order of Malta and Malteser International. “We are pleased to collaborate with professional, competent and reliable partner organisations and we very much hope that we will cooperate also in future in further projects.”

Albrecht Freiherr von Boeselager expressed his sincere gratitude for the good cooperation between the Order of Malta, Malteser International and the Kenyan authorities to the Vice-President who also holds the office of the Minister of the Interior. “Kenya is a reliable partner for us. That is also the reason why we have chosen Nairobi as the location for our regional office where all project activities in Sub-Saharan Africa are coordinated. It is very good to know that we have got reliable partners here who share the burden of work with us.”

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A S I A

India: Malteser International expands HIV/AIDS prevention activities

The region of Tamil Nadu ranks the second in the prevalence of HIV/AIDS in India. Having already started a comprehensive prevention project in 33 tsunami affected villages in the Kanyakumari District by the beginning of the year, Malteser International now expands its commitment in the fight against HIV/AIDS also to the Tirunelveli District.

As within the Kanyakumari District, the purpose of the project is to enhance the quality of life of “people living with HIV/AIDS” (PLHA) and their families and to prevent and control further transmission of the disease. People learn how to live with the disease and affected family members receive trainings on extending home based care and support. About 600 PLHA and their family members (2,100 persons in total) will directly benefit from the project.



Moreover, persons migrating to larger cities in search of better employment opportunities are specifically targeted. Every year, about 5,000 people from the Tirunelveli District, mostly young men, migrate to Mumbai or Chennai. The failure of monsoon, lack of industries and the violence still prevailing between the different castes force them to leave their villages. At the destination place, the young men often develop extra-marital relationships or tend to visit commercial sex workers. Many return home infected with the HI virus. Thus, one of the major components of the project is centred around migration with a focus on transit intervention. The railway staff and other stakeholders such as railway station masters, porters and canteen staff are sensitized about the need for transit intervention. With the help of platform theatre performed by cultural troupes and mobile exhibitions managed by health educators, awareness on HIV/AIDS will be promoted to migrants, their relatives, friends and other travellers. Furthermore, direct train in-

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intervention aims at reaching the migrants on the move. Educated and trained staff of the NGOs Arumbugal Trust, Aussi Codes, Peace Trust and Centre for People's Education implementing the project activities distribute information and education material on HIV/AIDS, offer one-to-one and group interaction during the trip and inform the travellers about the difficulties they are likely to face in their destination area.

Malteser International's local partner Pro-Vision will ensure the effective implementation of the project by regular monitoring visits and trainings for all implementing partners.

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Indonesia/Java: One year after the earthquake on Java

On 27 May 2006, the earth trembled on the Indonesian island of Java: Malteser International was one of the first relief organisations that arrived in the disaster area. To date, the organisation has provided emergency relief and rehabilitation aid for more than 30,000 people especially in the hardest hit district of Bantul. By the end of May, Malteser International ended its activities on Java and handed the projects over to local partners.

“Our concept to offer not only emergency relief but also development-oriented rehabilitation aid has worked perfectly well”, Dr. Bernward Hammel, Project Coordinator of Malteser International on Java, says. In numerous crises intervention trainings, Hammel prepared the persons in charge for future emergencies: “It is important that the local staff know how to react best because earthquakes and other natural disasters occur regularly in this region.”



Additionally, Malteser International staff accompanied many families to administrative authorities and instructed medical staff as well as patients and their relatives how to treat wounds in order to assure better medical care also in absence of the doctors. Together with local artists, the organisation produced songs and short stories dealing with health issues which are regularly broadcasted by local radio stations. Thus, they aim to improve the level of knowledge of the population about hygiene and prevention.

“Immediately after the catastrophe”, Hammel continues, “we cared for about 1,600 injured in a field hospital. Mobile medical teams visited remote villages to treat the injured and to take the severely injured to the local hospitals.” In two temporary village hospitals and six health centres, Malteser International took over the medical care for the injured until the health centres in the region of Bantul were in good working condition again. The organisation equipped the hospital of Bantul with modern medical instruments for diagnostic and treatment. “When the situation slowly normalised”, so Hammel, “we started with the rehabilitation measures in order to help the people to improve their living conditions on a sustained basis.”

Even after having finished the projects on Java, Malteser International will continue its work in Indonesia. In the region of Aceh which was heavily affected by the tsunami 2004, the organisation reconstructs villages and provides small loans to the poor that enable them to set up small businesses and, thereby, to earn their own income. The programme also comprises a project that helps

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to develop a computer-based health information system for the province.

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Pakistan: Malteser International staff decorated for earthquake relief/ Monitoring visit of Federal Foreign Office of Germany



On the occasion of the International Humanitarian Conference in Muzaffarabad (Azad Jammu and Kashmir) on 7 May, Malteser International staff was decorated with a medal of gratitude for their emergency relief and rehabilitation activities after the devastating earthquake of 8 October 2005.

The medal was handed over by Raja Zulqarnain Khan, President of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK). The conference gathered around 500 participants, among them the

Prime Minister of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, high-ranking military officers, dozens of ambassadors, UN officials and representatives of national and international NGOs and donor agencies.

In the months following the earthquake, Malteser International - together with its Turkish partner organisation International Blue Crescent (IBC) as well as with the Pakistani NGO Aid to Leprosy Patients- has provided the earthquake affected people in AJK in Kohistan District and in the Hazara Division with relief goods. Also in the second winter after the earthquake, Malteser International and IBC have supported those earthquake victims who still had not received a permanent accommodation and were in need of food, blankets, kitchen sets etc. In the meantime, Malteser International focuses on rehabilitating water schemes and providing medical assistance by mobile clinics to those cut off from any medical service.



In mid May, Mr Michael Ahrens from the Federal Foreign Office of Germany came to visit the project. After a round of meetings in Muzaffarabad, Ahrens visited the beneficiaries of the project together with Malteser International staff. Mr. Ahrens' final statement was: "You did a good job. The relief items reached the right people."

For further information about the health situation in Pakistan and Malteser International's relief activities, please find an interview with Dr. Branko Dubajic, Programme Coordinator Health in Pakistan, on our [website](#).

Further information:

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Sri Lanka I: New family reunification project in Galle District

Last month, Malteser International started a new project in the southern district of Galle which aims at reducing the number of children who unnecessarily live in children's homes and preventing further children from being institutionalised.

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There are plenty of children's homes in Sri Lanka accommodating a high number of children who have at least one parent. Some of the reasons for the institutionalisation of children are poverty due to no or low income, the breaking-up of the parents, and no house to stay. Lack of knowledge about child development, low self-esteem and high respect particularly towards religious institutions make many parents believe that a children's home is a better place for their children to live compared to what they can offer them at home, especially with regard to education. The local authorities also often tend to institutionalise children due to a lack of alternatives. There is no functioning foster parent scheme in place and adoption processes take a long time. The conditions in most of the homes create a whole range of social and psychological problems which the children have to struggle with, sometimes for the rest of their lives.

Malteser International together with its national partner organisation Sarvodya now tackles the complex problems with a comprehensive project which includes the following activities: First of all, children living in children's homes who could be reintegrated into their families are identified and their parents are supported (housing, livelihood, counselling) to create the conditions for a family reunification. Secondly, the project team works with individual families whose children are about to be institutionalised; these families and the local authorities are encouraged to find alternative solutions. Finally, the team assists the local authorities in implementing a foster family scheme and to speed up the adoption process.

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Sri Lanka II: Strategy workshop on water and sanitation programmes in Asia



From 21 to 24 May, Malteser International staff from Asia and the Headquarters in Cologne came together in Galle, Sri Lanka to exchange their experiences, lessons learnt, problems and recommendations from completed and ongoing Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Projects (WASH) within the overall Malteser International Asia programme.

Representatives of the Sri Lankan government, UNICEF as well as national and international partners also took part in the workshop. Apart from presentations of Malteser

International WASH projects in Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Indonesia and Thailand, a standing working group was established to work out guidelines and best practices in the context of water, sanitation and hygiene projects. Furthermore, the workshop focussed on the discussion of a WASH programme and the development of a WASH-strategy for the Sri Lankan country programme. An outlook on the United Nations International Year of Sanitation 2008 was also part of the agenda.

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Thailand: “Clean-Up Day” in the streets of Ban Nai Rai

The youth group of Ban Nai Rai recently gave a splendid example of how young Thai people have pride in themselves and their community. Working with the assistance of the Malteser International mental health unit, the Ban Nai Rai youth group took part in a successful “Clean-Up Day” on 23 April 2007.



The exercise brought together more than 200 children and young people from Ban Nai Rai and surrounding villages. The chief of the village, the school principal, Tambon Na Toei authority and Malteser International project manager Otilie Mooshofer took part in the opening ceremony and congratulated the young

participants for their wish to have a clean-up project.

After a ribbon-cutting ceremony, the children started to clean up their village by collecting rubbish from roads, drains and all public areas.

Whenever the children had collected a bag of rubbish, they took it back to the school where it was sorted in recyclable and non-recyclable materials. Clever games were organized to teach younger children in recycling rubbish correctly. The youth group expressed their wish to establish a recycling bank.

After lunch, further games were played aimed at having good fun and teaching children how to manage waste and to take care of their village surroundings.

Malteser International staff was impressed by the enthusiasm and organisational skills of the children. By the end of the day, everybody was convinced that with the strong support of the youth groups it will be possible to find ways of a better disposing of garbage in order to keep the environment clean in and around Ban Nai Rai.

Further information: Cordula Wasser, <mailto:cordula.wasser@malteser-international.org>

S T A F F

Africa:

On 1 May, **Mrs Miriam Chocobar**, former Project Assistant in the Africa Desk in Cologne, left for **Menongue, Angola**, to continue work there.

Asia:

On 1 May, **Mrs Tyche Hofman** from the Netherlands went to **Ampara, Sri Lanka**, to work as Programme Coordinator East.

Also on 1 May, **Mrs Suzanna Lipscombe** from the UK started to work as Junior WatSan Engineer in **Galle, Sri Lanka**.

On 15 May, **Mrs Asja Hanano** went to Myanmar to work as Community Development Manager in **Maungdaw and Sittwe, NRS**.

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G8 summit: Malteser International demands sustainable co-operation with African partners

“We have to talk with the people in Africa, not about them”, calls Nicolas de Cock de Rameyen, President of Malteser International, on the participants of the G8 summit in Heiligendamm/Germany. De Cock appreciates that Africa will be one of the main topics of the debates. However, solutions should not be based on unrealistic ideas developed behind the desk, but should contain concrete concepts being worked out together with the ones concerned for the good of the people.



De Cock who had visited projects of Malteser International in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya and Southern Sudan with a delegation of the Order of Malta just few days ago continues: “Our partners in the local non-governmental organisations and administrations every day fight against illnesses as Malaria, HIV/AIDS or Tuberculosis and know best how to cope with bad infrastructure or critical safety conditions. Only by talking to them we can support them

reasonably.” De Cock emphasises: “Africa needs long-lasting solutions which not only serve the political-economic interests of the leading industrial nations but also the continent marked by illnesses, wars and natural disasters.”

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International HIV/AIDS Conference: The Way Forward to 2015

From 23 to 24 May, 125 participants of more than 60 civil society organisations from Europe and Africa came together in Bonn/Germany for the International Conference “Responsibilities of Governments and Civil Society in the Fight Against HIV & AIDS in Africa – The Way Forward to 2015”.



Malteser International was represented at the conference by Dr. Peter Schmitz, Chief Medical Officer, and Paul Ochieng, Project Coordinator of the Kenya programmes. Ochieng gave the participants an insight of the work of Malteser International in the slums of Nairobi and specifically emphasized the urgent need of sustained investment in local health structures, including staff. The local health systems need to be strengthened by creating better working conditions for health workers in Africa and counteracting brain drain to developed countries. - At the current rate of scale-up, less than half of all people in urgent need of treatment by 2010 will receive it – the lives of millions depend on a joint effort to make universal access a reality and not just a vision.

The conference was held within the context of the German EU and G8 Presidency and addressed the various dimensions of “Universal Access”, meaning prevention, treatment, care and support. The participants expressed their deep concern that the resources available and political commit-

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ment demonstrated do not match the scope of the pandemic and the human suffering that it causes: UNAIDS estimates that the global AIDS response needs \$10-23 billion per annum. Thus, on current commitment, the shortfall in funding for a comprehensive response to HIV & AIDS has reached 8 billion US\$ in 2007 and is expected to reach at least 10 billion US\$ per annum between 2008 and 2010. Funding of the global AIDS response and political commitment of governments will have to be dramatically increased if the goals of Universal Access by 2010 and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals by 2015 are to be reached.

Further information: Dr. Peter Schmitz, <mailto:peter.schmitz@malteser-international.org>

International Conference “Towards Sustainable Global Health“



From 9 to 11 May, the International Conference "Towards Sustainable Global Health" took place in Bonn. Experts from the fields of politics, science, private companies, NGOs and grassroots organisations, and institutions for development, knowledge transfer and education addressed a broad range of issues related to human health.

For Malteser International, Dr. Peter Schmitz, Chief Medical Officer, and Marie-Theres Benner, Senior Health Coordinator, took part in the discussions. In his speech, Schmitz discussed the question of how we can ensure access to primary health care for vulnerable populations. Schmitz focussed on the work of Malteser International in the province of Ituri in the DR Congo. He showed how access to primary health care can be ensured in a sustainable way as a result of :

1. availability of health care services,
2. motivated and appropriately paid health staff,
3. participation and contributions of the population,
4. political commitment of the regional health authorities,
5. the support and trust of Malteser International and
6. a maintained network and coordination of stakeholders.

The conference gave the participants from developing and developed countries a platform to exchange their knowledge and experiences, concepts and visions in the context of hygiene, health protection, health promotion and public health in an interdisciplinary and inter-sectoral manner in order to develop strategic partnerships for global health. Moreover, the culmination of the conference produced an Action Programme called “The Bonn Declaration” to ensure that the outcome of the meeting will find its way into decision making processes and strategies of stakeholders and policymakers from government, academia, civil society, education and vocation systems, and the private sector, all over the world.

The conference was organised by UNESCO-UNEVOC, UNU-EHS, ILO, IHDP and the University of Bonn, Institute for Hygiene and Public Health (WHO CC).

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