



**Malteser
International**
Order of Malta Worldwide Relief

Activity Report 2012

Editorial



Dear readers,

2012 was, once again, marked by too many disasters – both minor and major, natural as well as man-made. These events caused death and destruction, flight and displacement, loss of livelihood and health for innumerable people around the world. In Syria and its neighbouring countries, in Burkina Faso, Myanmar and the DR Congo, Malteser International provided assistance to thousands of families who had to flee their homes due to violent political conflicts. In Haiti and the Philippines, we helped the population recover after tropical storms and heavy monsoon rains. Beyond responding quickly to disasters, however, we worked to create mechanisms that protect the population in affected areas in the long run by bridging the gap between emergency relief, intermediary recovery efforts and sustainable development.

Thierry de Beaumont-Beynac

The humanitarian aid sector continues to face enormous challenges: more frequent and intense natural disasters due to extreme weather conditions, deforestation, urbanisation and land grabbing, climate change, poverty and population growth, and inequity in access to health services and water supply are some of the many issues that add complexity to our daily work and call for constant innovation in our efforts. For that reason, we have adopted a holistic, needs- and network-oriented approach – not only in our programmes, but also in our structures. In 2013, we will create an even greater proximity to our project locations – and thus to all people in dire need of help – with our new branch offices in Europe (Cologne/Germany) and in the Americas (Miami/USA) – and in the future also in the Asian/Pacific region.

This Activity Report gives you a short overview of the crises and emergencies we responded to in 2012, the new projects we started and the impact of our work. Our Annual Report 2012, to be published by the summer, will inform you about our work in 2012 in more detail and include a financial report, ensuring accountability and transparency.

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to all of those who supported our work in 2012 and contributed to its success. Together, let us continue to work for the well-being of the vulnerable and marginalised, bringing more health and more dignity into their lives.

Cologne, January 2013

Thierry de Beaumont-Beynac
President



Contents

- 02 Editorial
- 03 Africa
- 05 Americas
- 06 Asia
- 08 Middle East

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Africa



Burkina Faso: Bringing Malian refugees to health centres

Fleeing violence and persecution, thousands of Malians have endangered their health and their lives on the way to Burkina Faso. On the Malian-Burkinabe border, Malteser International is supporting the French Association of the Order of Malta in transporting sick refugees from the camps to health care centres in the surrounding area.

Following the fighting between Tuareg rebels and later on Islamicist rebels and Mali's military forces in March 2012 and a food crisis due to droughts in the Sahel region, poor harvests and rising grain prices, more than 210,000 Malians have been forced to flee to neighbouring countries like Mauritania, Niger, Algeria and Burkina Faso.

The joint project aims to ensure the transport of Malian refugees in Oudalan, in northern Burkina Faso, from the camps to adequate health facilities. Due to the poor living conditions in



In Burkina Faso alone, about 38,000 people have sought refuge in the refugee camps on the south eastern and northern borders with Mali. Since the services started last June, the teams provided more than 200 transports and emergency responses. Photo: Ordre de Malte France

the camps, they are suffering from respiratory infections, diarrhoea and malnutrition. Two ambulances have been stationed in the health centres of Gorom-Gorom and Dori. First aid

responders are on call 24 hours a day, both for the refugees and the local population. The project is being funded by Germany's Relief Coalition (ADH) and private donations.



South Sudan: Helping the young nation build up its health system



A total of 35 new health care facilities equipped with latrines, wells and rainwater harvesting tanks have been built in Maridi and Rumbek counties.

In 2012, South Sudan celebrated its first year of independence. Yet, even as the young country made its first strides in its path to development, progress in the health sector lagged far behind the country's dire needs. "Diseases such as malaria, diarrhoea, tuberculosis and HIV continue to kill the people, be-

cause they lack access to basic health services", says Wiltrud Gutschmiel, South Sudan expert at Malteser International.

Malteser International ensures that health care personnel are paid regular salaries and receive professional train-

ing, since the government is not yet able to cover all these needs. An important focus is laid on the training of traditional birth attendants (TBAs). Last August, twelve TBAs working in the rural regions of Rumbek attended a week-long training organised by Malteser International in cooperation with the local health authorities, in order to learn how to improve maternal and child health care. Prenatal care, safe deliveries and referral to a hospital in case of high-risk pregnancies were the main topics of the training. "One of our priorities is to strengthen the existing structures so that we can transfer responsibility to our local partners step by step. Only then can we expect the South Sudanese to develop a sense of ownership and real independence – by moving away from external aid", Gutschmiel says.

The projects in South Sudan count on the financial support of the Basic Services Fund for South Sudan, the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development and the Spanish Government.



Northern Kenya: Building resilience one year after the drought

One year after responding to a devastating drought that hit the Horn of Africa in July 2011, Malteser International is working to prevent future water and food crises in northern Kenya by helping residents prepare for upcoming droughts.

Over a period of three years, Malteser International will help the population living near Illeret, a sparsely populated region on the shore of Lake Turkana, harvest rainwater and develop together with the community, ways to improve and maintain their water sources, so their drinking water is safe. In addition, the teams will conduct hygiene awareness campaigns in schools. This long-term recovery project will benefit 15,000 semi-nomad pastoralists from the Daasanach tribe.

Malteser International is also presenting the population with different models of simple, low-cost solutions made with local materials to improve sanitation and hygiene in the community. The goal is to contribute to sustainable development by inspiring the population to take the initiative and participate actively in the project.

The first pilot project to install rainwater harvesting tanks in 50 households has already been completed. To arouse the population's interest and familiarise them with the idea, the pilot project was set up as a competition: 50 families who wanted to participate had to give a goat in exchange for construction materials. "This is important in order to increase their feeling of ownership and to promote the idea of using cattle as active capital, which can help improve their living conditions", says Katja Horstmann, Kenya expert at Malteser International.



The tippy-tap is a simple, cheap and hygienic hand-washing mechanism – the user does not have to touch anything after washing his or her hands. It works with very little water, thus ideal for areas where water is scarce.



Families received staple food items such as beans, flour and salt.



DR Congo: Food distributions for IDPs

Following a series of attacks from armed rebel groups in January 2012, thousands of people fled the Shabunda region, in the province of South Kivu. In cooperation with the World Food Programme of the United Nations (WFP), Malteser International organised food distributions to 37,500 Inter-

nally Displaced People (IDPs). Families received staple food items such as beans, cooking oil, flour and salt. The distributions were especially aimed at families with malnourished children.

The project was made possible thanks to funding from WFP.

Americas



Haiti: Recovering after storms Sandy and Isaac



November 2012: Cité Soleil, a slum region in Haiti's capital Port-au-Prince, in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy

The 2012 hurricane season took a heavy toll on the Haitian peninsula. Tropical storm Isaac swept through Haiti in late August, causing widespread flooding and heavy damages to the southern part of the country. In October, Hurricane Sandy followed, leaving 54 people dead and more than 30,000 displaced. The Haitian government declared a food emergency for up to 1,5 million people after vast parts of the season's harvest were destroyed. In Belle-Anse, a poor rural region on Hai-

ti's south-eastern coast, the population was hit especially hard: the resulting floods destroyed the region's entire crops, leaving hundreds of thousands at risk of hunger. The risk of cholera also increased drastically with the waste brought into the streets and homes by the flood waters.

Immediately after both storms, Malteser International and its local partners in Belle-Anse and Port-au-Prince started emergency relief activities to help the population recover. The teams distributed construction materials so families could repair their homes, re-established the supply of safe drinking water, and cleared the drains and sewage channels. To prevent the spread of cholera, the teams distributed hygiene kits and conducted awareness campaigns. In Belle-Anse, nearly 2,000 small farmers received seeds so they could plant fruits and vegetables, such as plantains, manioc, potatoes, and beans.



People waiting to receive hygiene kits in Belle-Anse



Awareness campaigns are conducted in the schools of Cité Soleil. Children learn how to properly wash their hands to prevent the spreading of diseases.

The emergency relief measures are supported by the German Federal Foreign Office. Malteser International has been active in Haiti since the earthquake of 2010, conducting projects in the areas of health and nutrition, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), livelihood and disaster risk reduction.

Asia



Myanmar: Aid for displaced after man-made and natural disasters

Myanmar was stage to positive developments in 2012: the country witnessed a political opening, and its democratisation process has been seen favourably by the international com-



According to the United Nations, some 115,000 displaced people are still living in challenging conditions.

munity. However, this progress has been marred by a violent inter-communal conflict in Rakhine State, in Myanmar's western region. The conflict which escalated last June and then again in October resulted in the internal displacement of 115,000 people.

In response to the clashes, Malteser International provided thousands of displaced families with life-saving household items and medical support. More than 16,000 people received emergency and hygiene kits containing pans, cooking utensils, soap and other hygiene materials, as well as clothes, blankets and mosquito nets. Mobile medical teams provided psychosocial support and medical treatment for victims of violence. Malteser Interna-

tional also helped build almost 500 temporary latrines in camps for the displaced with financial support from the German Federal Foreign Office and UNHCR. Malteser International has worked in the region since 2004 and its staff belongs to both ethnic groups involved in the conflict. The teams ensured that all sides were treated equally.

Natural disasters also led to displacement in other regions of the country. In Kayin State, in Myanmar's south-eastern region, Malteser International supported displaced families after heavy rains and floods in August. Local teams distributed 150 emergency kits to families who had taken refuge in temporary shelters.



Japan: Fujinosono children prepare for their new home

On 25 August, the long-awaited ground-breaking for the construction of the new building for the Fujinosono children's home took place.

After their home was irreparably damaged in the March 2011 earthquake, Malteser International worked with the home's children and staff to make their vision of a safe, sustainable home a reality. The new energy-efficient home is being built according to the latest

earthquake resistance standards. It will rely on renewable energies for a large part of its electricity supply, and function as an evacuation centre for Ichinoseki residents in case of disaster. "We can't wait to have our new home", the children said in their addresses and prayers during the ground-breaking ceremony.

The construction process started in September.



Mr. Nakanishi, the director of Fujinosono's board, plucks a plant from a pile of sand during the ground-breaking ceremony.



The children of Fujinosono - together with Sister Caelina, director of the Children's home and Mr Nakanishi - are looking forward to their new home.

In order to prepare for their new home, the children participated in a workshop at a "nature school" run by a local NGO last September. The 37 children aged 7 and up and their caretakers practiced cutting logs and using them for preparing their lunch on an open fire. They learned about different kinds of firewood which they can use in the home's new stove and about the functioning of the biomass boiler which will be installed to provide hot water and heating in the new home. The project counts on the financial support of the international Caritas network.



Philippines: Emergency relief and a new beginning after Washi

Last August, a tropical storm and heavy rain brought by the annual monsoon submerged large parts of the Philippines' capital, displacing more than 800,000 people. Malteser International supported the Philippine association of the Order of Malta, which distributed relief goods to nearly 14,000 people in evacuation centres in the cities of Quezon, Pasig, Paranaque and Muntinlupa in Metro Manila. Besides medicines, families received ready-to-eat food like instant noodles and canned goods as well as non-food and hygiene products like plastic mats, blankets, containers for drinking water and soap. In addition to the emergency relief activities, Malteser International continued sup-

porting families affected by Tropical Storm Washi, which devastated the northern region of the island of Mindanao in December 2011. To help families who lost everything in the flash floods start over, Malteser International built 100 temporary shelters with latrines and community faucets near the city of Illigan. The shelters were built on a raised concrete base so the residents are protected against future storms and heavy rains. In addition to the shelters, the residents received psychosocial support and were trained in disaster risk reduction. Last summer, the shelters were handed over to the local diocese, which will now help the residents transform the area



About 3 million people were affected by last year's severe floods in the Philippines.

into a permanent neighbourhood including electricity supply. The project received financial support from Caritas Germany and "Die Sternsinger".



Vietnam: Improving the lives of minorities

Reducing poverty through preservation and better use of forests

The ethnic Catu population has faced many hardships over the years: loss of agricultural land, food shortages, almost no income because of inappropriate farming and a continuous decrease of woodland due to slash-and-burn practices. The first disastrous consequences can already be observed: erosion and the loss of animal and plant species lead to the destruction of the indigenous population's livelihood and valuable knowledge about sustainable farming practices and traditional medi-

cine. To stop this vicious cycle, Malteser International has been implementing since January a project to support the preservation and sustainable use of forest in Tay Giang District. It aims at reducing poverty and contributing to disaster risk reduction. Malteser International is implementing trainings in the area of natural resource protection and reforestation and advising communities on how to start their own community-based organisations. The project receives funding from the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development.

People with disabilities get active in disaster reduction

Persons with disabilities continue to be disadvantaged worldwide – and this is not different in Vietnam. They often have very little say in their community, and are regularly confronted with many additional barriers, social as well as structural. Due to their impairments and their marginalised position within their community, disabled persons belong to the most vulnerable group when disaster strikes. But, in Vietnam, Malteser International is working to change that: In the province of Quang Nam, often affected by floods and typhoons, a community-based disaster risk reduction project is empowering persons with disabilities in 46 villages to actively contribute to the local disaster risk reduction processes. The project promotes the direct participation of disabled persons in the village committees for disaster risk reduction, who receive additional training in early warning and inclusive evacuation. They elaborate inclusive emergency plans and test them in evacuation drills with the village population. The project receives financial support from Germany's Federal Foreign Office.



Malteser International has initiated a process to transfer woodland property rights to the population.



India: A health insurance for at least 23,000 Tibetans in exile

23,000 Tibetans living in exile in India are now able to protect themselves against unexpected health costs, thanks to a new community-based health insurance developed by Malteser International in cooperation with the Central

Tibetan Administration and the Micro-Insurance Academy. In the future, all Tibetan refugees will benefit from this system. Through information campaigns, the communities learn how the health insurance system works and

what its benefits are. This project receives financial support from Germany's Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development and aims to reduce the poverty risk caused by illness within the exile community.

Middle East

Emergency relief for 23,000 people in Syria, Lebanon and Turkey

In 2012, the violence between government and opposition forces in Syria escalated to unprecedented proportions. Millions of Syrians were forced to flee their homes and seek safety in other areas, whether inside Syria or in neighbouring countries like Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq and Turkey.

In July, Malteser International started providing emergency relief to 1,200 displaced families in Damascus, where many sought refuge in the homes of friends and relatives. Through its long-standing partner, the International Blue Crescent (IBC), Malteser International distributed hundreds of start-up kits and hygiene kits. The displaced families received blankets, mattresses, towels, pillows, and kitchen utensils as well as soap, diapers and wound ointment for babies.

In Lebanon, Malteser International has supported a medical centre near Tripoli to provide basic health care for Syrian refugees. More than 600 refugees received free treatment at the center, which is operated by the Lebanese Association of the Order of Malta. In November, Malteser International also supplied the Khaldieh medical centre with medical drugs and laboratory equipment.

With the arrival of winter, the displaced families had to face additional challenges: many of them sleep in abandoned,



To escape the violence, Omar Sharif and his wife found shelter in Turkey. As thousands of Syrian families, they are living under extremely difficult conditions. Photo: Kerem Yucel

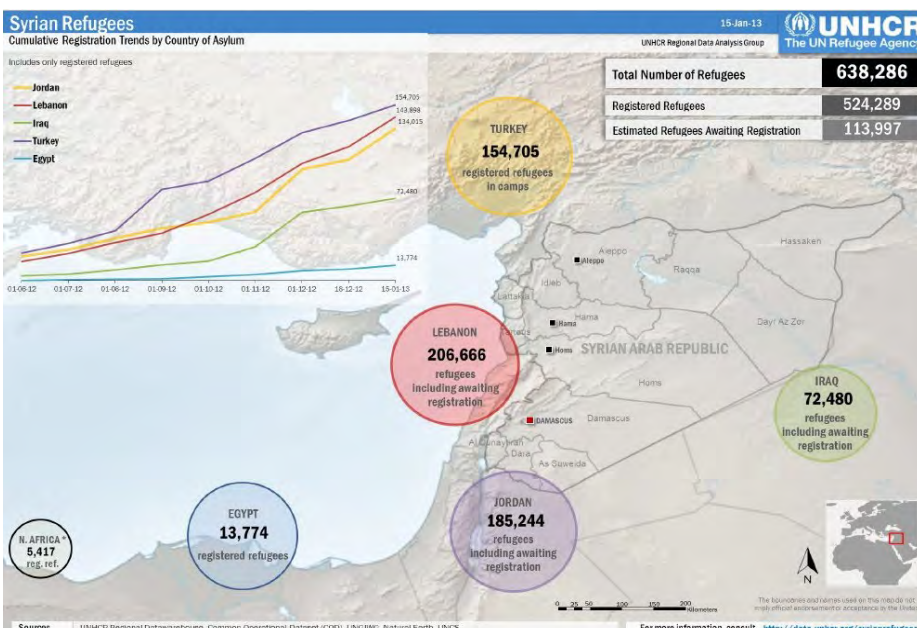
unheated buildings, and the already overstretched resources of the host families are not enough to cover their needs. To help them cope, Malteser International provided winter relief in four Syrian cities, two Turkish border provinces, and in Lebanon.

In Syria, teams distributed warm clothes for 1,000 children and heating stoves for 500 families in Homs and Hama, which are among the coldest cities in Syria. In addition, more than 15,000 displaced persons in Aleppo, Damascus, Hama and Homs have

received start-up and hygiene kits.

In Turkey, the winter relief packages were distributed to almost 8,000 people living in Kilis and Hatay provinces, outside the already overcrowded refugee camps. 300 of the neediest families also received wood-burning stoves for heating.

The emergency relief is made possible thanks to funding from Germany's Federal Foreign Office and Germany's Relief Coalition.



Current refugee and displaced situation in Syria and in the neighbouring countries*

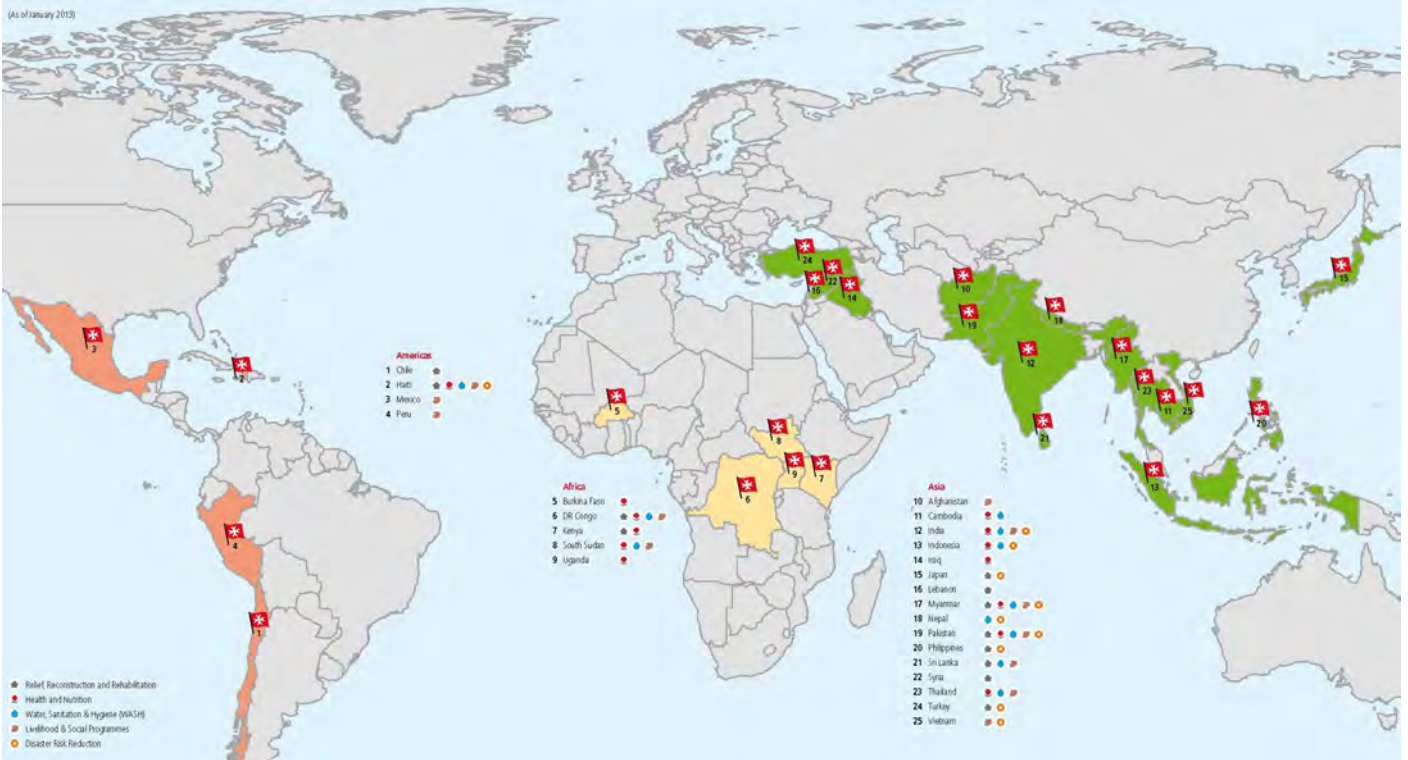
According to the latest estimates, there are more than 2 million IDPs inside Syria.

According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) more than 600,000 registered people have already fled to neighbouring countries like Iraq, Lebanon, Turkey or Jordan. Unfortunately, those numbers are expected to continue to increase.

*(As of January 2013)

Malteser International - For a life in health and dignity

Our help around the world



Malteser International would like to thank all of the supporters, partners and donors who have helped us to promote a healthy life with dignity all over the world in 2012!

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