

MALTESER INTERNATIONAL IN PAKISTAN

Malteser International started its activities in Pakistan after the devastating earthquake of 8 October 2005 in Azad Jammu and Kashmir. Since then, the organisation has responded to natural and manmade emergencies in the country and has focused its reconstruction and rehabilitation efforts on the health sector. Considering the region's highly hazardous environment, disaster risk reduction became a main focus of Malteser International's work in Pakistan. A proper governmental DRR policy was developed only recently (2006) and has not yet been applied to the local communities. Preparedness and prevention do not only save people's lives and belongings, but also save money spent in emergency assistance. Beyond disaster management, Malteser International's Pakistan programme intends to contribute to the capacity building and thus the development of marginalised and vulnerable communities.



Capacity building for the public health staff, but also for local partner organisations, is an important aspect of Malteser International's work.



If possible, local workers are employed to reconstruct and rehabilitate health facilities and other social infrastructure projects.

COOPERATION AND COORDINATION

Humanitarian aid is centred on people in need. Nevertheless, it respects the national sovereignty of states and their responsibility for their own people. Therefore, Malteser International closely cooperates and coordinates its activities with all relevant national, provincial and district authorities. The emergency relief in Pakistan was coordinated via the UN Cluster System. This meant that all organisations participated in sectoral cluster meetings, mapped demands and coordinated their relief. Various UN institutions headed these sectoral clusters. They assured that every demand was recognised and – depending on resources – that every affected population was covered by the relief.

PARTNER ORGANISATIONS

To implement its programme, Malteser International not only cooperates with the UN and other international organisations (like WHO and UNICEF), but also directly with governmental and community structures and local non-governmental organisations. These partnerships are very valuable for Malteser International's work in Pakistan. The organisation therefore thanks all of its partners.

Official partner authorities are the EDO Health or DHO of the districts Muzaffarabad, Bagh, Kohistan, Swat and Rahim Yar Khan. Malteser International's local partners are, among others, PCDF, ALP, MALC, NIDA, Lasoona, Sungi, Caravan, Paiman and REED.

MALTESER INTERNATIONAL

Malteser International is the worldwide relief organisation of the Sovereign Order of Malta for humanitarian aid. The non-governmental organisation has more than 50 years of experience in humanitarian relief and at present covers around 100 projects in about 20 countries in Africa, Asia and the Americas. Currently, 23 national associations and priorities of the Order of Malta are members of Malteser International. Malteser International provides aid in all parts of the world without distinction of religion, race or political persuasion. Christian values and the humanitarian principles of impartiality and independence are the foundation of its work. Its mission is not only to provide emergency relief, but also to implement rehabilitation measures and to facilitate the link between emergency relief and sustainable development. Malteser International establishes and promotes primary health care services and seeks to reduce vulnerability and poverty.



These men were affected by the flood in 2010. In spring 2011, they can draw some income from constructing a retaining wall for their village.

Layout: www.media-team-huerth.de

Photos: Jorge Scholz, Florian Kopp, Alexander Bühler, sectyelectronics, Malteser International



Join our network of relief!

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Malteser International
Order of Malta Worldwide Relief

Malteser International in Pakistan

Photo: Jorge Scholz

www.malteser-international.org

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

After the earthquake in Azad Jammu and Kashmir in 2005 and the severe monsoon floods in 2010, your solidarity with the people in Pakistan made our emergency relief possible. It also allows us to stay with the Pakistani people during the reconstruction phase and to draw their attention to the possibilities of disaster preparedness and risk reduction. Your donations have helped to ensure fast, focused and sustainable humanitarian assistance – and it can still go on.

Thank you very much for your confidence in our work!

QUALITY AND TRANSPARENCY

Malteser International is committed to ensuring high-quality standards in its work. These standards include the International Humanitarian Charter, the Code of Conduct, the Sphere Project, and the People in Aid Code. Accountability and transparency are priorities on its agenda.

Malteser International also thanks its corporate donors for their support. Its institutional donors include the following:





EMERGENCY RELIEF, RECONSTRUCTION AND REHABILITATION

Malteser International started to work in Pakistan after the disastrous earthquake in 2005. Since then, it has assisted the affected population after numerous natural and man-made disasters. In 2009, the fighting between militants and the army forced millions of people to flee their homes in the Swat District and surrounding areas. The devastating monsoon floods in 2010 had an even bigger scope than other previous disasters, affecting all provinces and more than 20 million people.

Measures usually include:

- Emergency medical health care
- Food aid: in kind or as cash vouchers
- Supply of drinking water
- Distribution of relief kits that contain basic items for the survival and the hygiene of the affected population
- Winter relief: distribution of winter-proof shelters, stoves and special relief items
- Rehabilitation of livelihoods

Since 2005, Malteser International responded to the following disasters:

2005: Earthquake in Azad Jammu and Kashmir: Emergency relief in Azad Jammu/Kashmir and the neighbouring regions of today's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province

2006/07, 2007/08, 2008/09 and 2010/11: Winter relief and medical support in high mountain valleys of the Kohistan District

2007: Cyclone Yemyin, followed by heavy rains and floods in western Pakistan: Emergency relief in the Kharan and Washak districts of Baluchistan

2008: Earthquake in Baluchistan: Emergency relief in the Ziarat District

2009: Humanitarian crisis in the Swat District/ Khyber Pakhtunkhwa: Emergency relief for internally displaced persons fleeing the fighting; continued also after their return home in reaction to epidemic diseases.

2010: Floods and landslides due to heavy monsoon rainfalls: Emergency relief in the Swat and Kohistan districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and the Rahim Yar Khan District of Punjab.

Spotlight: Emergency relief and rehabilitation after the floods in 2010

In July and August 2010, massive monsoon rainfall made the rivers in Pakistan swell rapidly. In the north of the country, flash floods washed away everything that was situated too close to the rivers and creeks. In the south of Pakistan, the run-off from rainfall in the mountainous north led to a wave along the Indus River which flooded vast parts of the lowland for several months, displacing hundreds of thousands people from their homesteads. Malteser International immediately started its relief activities.



Women and children are the main target group for emergency medical aid: A queue of women in front of the doctor's office in August 2010.

In the Swat and Kohistan districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Rahim Yar Khan District of Punjab, up to ten medical teams supported the health care either at public health facilities or by operating "mobile clinics" in areas where access to primary health care was disrupted by the floods. They acted quickly to prevent the outbreak of epidemics and held hygiene education sessions to hinder the spread of waterborne diseases like cholera. More than 5,000 families from northern Pakistan received relief kits containing kitchen equipment, hygiene items and other relief items like tarpaulins.

515 of these families, living in high-altitude mountain valleys, additionally received winter-proof shelters for their families.

After the emergency relief, early recovery measures restore people's livelihood by rebuilding not only the material, but also the social infrastructure. In the Swat District, an early recovery project with the local partner organisation Lasoona rebuilt infrastructure that protects residential areas and rehabilitated farmland through a "cash for work" programme. Furthermore, four primary schools are being rehabilitated, enlarged and equipped with sanitation facilities.



Winter relief in Kohistan 2006: An old man shows the shelter kit he just received.

HEALTH AND NUTRITION



In rural and remote areas of Pakistan, the health system often does not function properly. There's a lack of qualified and regularly trained staff; the buildings of the health facilities, their equipment and their supply with clean water are often deficient or even non-existent. Malteser International gives special attention to the very high mother and child mortality rates in Pakistan.

Measures include:

- Mother and child health care
- Prevention against infectious diseases
- Support of immunisation campaigns
- Capacity building for health staff
- Support of the disease early warning system
- Establishment and training of village committees that support health activities and advocate for quality primary health care

Spotlight: The reconstruction of Basic Health Units after the humanitarian crisis in 2009

When the internally displaced population returned home after the fighting between militants and army ended, they found many of their health facilities out of use and in terrible condition. To meet this demand, Malteser International rehabilitated and partly reconstructed two Basic Health Units and one Civil Dispensary in the Swat District. The new facilities provide more comfort to female patients, as they include separate waiting and treatment rooms. Furthermore, there will be new space for the training of the community-based Lady Health Workers.



Mother and child health care is a focus of Malteser International's work.

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)



Safe drinking water is a basic source of life. An assured water supply is not only needed for drinking water, but also for hygiene, which is crucial for a healthy lifestyle. Furthermore, the provision of adequate sanitation facilities promotes people's dignity.

Measures include:

- Hygiene awareness campaigns
- Installation and operation of water treatment plants
- Distribution of water filters, soaps and other hygiene items
- Construction of sanitation facilities
- Digging of wells

Spotlight: Water and sanitation for rural areas in Rahim Yar Khan District

In summer, the temperatures can reach 50° Celsius, and water often is a scarce resource in the area around Sadiqabad. In 2010, the monsoon rainfalls caused a vast flooding, leaving many people trapped on hills or in camps. When they returned, the hygiene situation was deplorable. The provision of drinking water by three water treatment plants was one of Malteser International's first emergency relief measures. In addition, household water filters and jerry cans were distributed, especially to families living as semi-nomads.



Photo: Alexander Bühler

Malteser International provides hand-pumps for the operation of the wells.

DISASTER RISK REDUCTION



Pakistan is a country prone to natural disasters. Although people have experiences with these kinds of disasters, they are not prepared for major shocks. For that reason, Malteser International is strengthening the capacities of communities and local authorities for disaster preparedness and emergency relief. The communities are encouraged to discuss about their experiences with different disasters and to map the risks. Afterwards, they develop coping strategies and implement them with support from Malteser International. Technical measures, such as the installation of advanced earthquake warning systems and alert exercises, complete the interventions.

Spotlight: Improving disaster preparedness capacities in Azad Jammu and Kashmir

The districts of Muzaffarabad and Bagh are located in close proximity of the epicentre of the October 2005 earthquake. Because of their geographical location in the Himalayas, natural disasters like landslides, floods or heavy snowfall occur frequently as well. In 2008/09, Malteser International therefore



Photo: sectyelectronics

In the Muzaffarabad area, earthquake warning systems were installed at health centres which can warn several surrounding villages. These systems proved their functionality during an earthquake in 2009.

Photo: Florian Kopp

Stand: 5/2011

