

Press Release

6 August 2010

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Pakistan: Care for more than 1000 patients per day Malteser International now also active in mobile clinics

Islamabad/Cologne. The three teams of Malteser International, the relief service of the Order of Malta for humanitarian aid, that are working in the Swat valley since the moment of the catastrophe, are caring for more than 600 patient each day. Additionally to the work in the Health Units, a fourth team tends for hurt and ill people in mobile clinics that are set up in a different village every day. “We are very happy that we could start our relief immediately in Swat, as our medical teams have already been working there before the catastrophe and none of our staff was directly affected,” reports Dr. Juergen Clemens, Senior Desk Officer Pakistan at Malteser International, from Islamabad. “But the situation stays critical as it continues to rain,” warns Clemens.

“We rehabilitated the Health Units, where we now treat the ill and hurt, in 2009. Since August 2009, we are providing primary health care to the people in Swat that had to leave their homes because of the fighting between government forces and Taliban and could come back last year,” explains Dr. Branko Dubajic, Health Coordinator of Malteser International in Pakistan. “The coordination with other organisations and the Pakistani authorities is functioning very well, in comparison better than in past emergencies in Pakistan,” Dubajic continues.

Malteser International was present in the coordination round, lead by the UN cluster system, from the beginning as it has been working in Pakistan continuously since the earthquake in 2005. In the meantime, four million people are affected by the floods. Malteser International

Currently, three Malteser International teams are providing medical emergency relief in the valley of the Swat river for a catchment population of around 40.000 people with funds of the German Federal Foreign Office. Additionally, it is preparing to support 200 families that have found relief in two schools in the Union Council Islampur with drinking water and nutrition. It will furthermore distribute hygiene kits and other relief items like cooking utensils and tarpaulins to about 2000 particularly concerned families in the districts of Swat and Kohistan.

Malteser International has been active in Pakistan since the earthquake in 2005. Since August 2009, the relief service has been providing basic health care for internally displaced persons returning to their home villages in Swat District. Currently, 25 national and two international staff are working on the ground.

Attention editors: Dr. Juergen Clemens, Senior Desk Officer Pakistan, is present in Pakistan and available for interviews, (Contact: +49 221/9822-155)

Malteser International is the worldwide relief agency of the Sovereign Order of Malta for humanitarian aid. The organisation provides aid in about 200 projects in more than 20 countries without distinction of religion,

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race or political persuasion. Christian values and the humanitarian principles of impartiality and independence are the foundation of its work. For further information: www.malteser-international.org and www.orderofmalta.org

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