

PERMANENT OBSERVER MISSION OF THE  
**SOVEREIGN MILITARY ORDER OF MALTA**  
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## **INFORMATION NOTE ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTEEN**

### **Tsunami Disaster.**

The Order of Malta is currently running emergency relief operations in India, Thailand, Sri Lanka and Indonesia and is also preparing rehabilitation programs for these countries. The Order of Malta plans to support the rehabilitation measures during the next three to five years within its financial and human resource possibilities. Throughout the following areas, the Order of Malta is offering psychological treatment to survivors of the disaster.

**In South India**, the Order of Malta is providing help for about 16,000 people in cooperation with four local partner organizations (Unnati from Gujarat, HOM Health for One Million, CHAI Catholic Health Association of India, MSSS Malankara Social Service Society).

**In South Thailand**, Order of Malta teams are focusing their relief actions on the most vulnerable groups, i.e. fishermen and migrants from Myanmar. The distribution of relief items is ongoing, and a re-assessment is being conducted in the camp close to the totally destroyed villages of Ban Muang and Ban Nam Kem (with about 12,000 people) as well as on Koh Khao Island to better understand the further needs of the affected population.

An agreement has been reached with the Thai authorities and a private sponsor to install a water and sanitation system for about 150 households. The private sponsor will construct the houses with his team and the Order of Malta will install the water and sanitation system. Local people are engaged in building measures and therefore receive “cash for work.”

The Order’s assessment team arrived in Colombo, **Sri Lanka** on January 9 to conduct an evaluation of conditions in the southern part of the country. The team supplied an Emergency Health Kit with which 10,000 people can be treated for a period of up to three months. It is planned to prepare a comprehensive relief program in the fields of shelter, water and sanitation as well as rehabilitation and income generation measures. Further reconstruction measures are planned: shelters, sanitary facilities, health care stations, in close cooperation with the government and the Bishop of Colombo.

An assessment team is headed for Medan and Aceh province in **Indonesia** in order to assess the needs of the population. Also in Indonesia, the Order of Malta plans to set the main focus on the rehabilitation of water and especially sanitation facilities, the care for

internally displaced people and the strengthening of primary health care services as well as income generating activities for a sustainable long-term rehabilitation.

New York, February 1, 2005