

PERMANENT OBSERVER MISSION OF THE
SOVEREIGN MILITARY ORDER OF MALTA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
216 EAST 47th STREET / 8 FL
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10017
PHONE: (212) 355-6213 - FAX: (212) 355-4014
e-mail: orderofmalta@un.int

INFORMATION NOTE ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY

The Sovereign Order of Malta continues to conduct its relief efforts throughout the Tsunami-stricken areas of South and South-East Asia—including South India, South Thailand, Sri Lanka and Indonesia. Since our last Information Note, the Order has carried out personal, specific and wide-reaching relief.

In South India the distribution of food, clothes, household items, and medical assistance reached 60,000 flood victims (especially widows, the sick and the elderly) in the areas of Kollam, Kanyakumari, Pondicherry, Nagapattinam, and Madras.

In South Thailand vital goods have been provided, such as charcoal, grills, blankets, building material, and food, as well as child-care, and transportation of disinfection lime (in Ban Bang Sak, Ko Kho Khao Island, and Ban Bang Muang, to name a few). Medical provisions have also been supplied to Thai Muang Community Hospital and the General Hospital in Taku Pa.

Similar emergency relief has been and is being carried out in Sri Lanka and Indonesia. Other more specific examples are the provision of fishing boats, engines, and fuel to fishing families in Jaffna and Mallaittivu, and the building of a playground and upkeep of an overflowing orphanage in Tincomalee.

Planning and implementation of rehabilitation measures are underway throughout the region. Local men and women employed by the Order of Malta are constructing housing, refugee camps, healthcare facilities and water/sanitation facilities in South India, South Thailand, Sri Lanka, and Indonesia.

In Banda Aceh, Indonesia, the Order of Malta's medical technicians are responsible for training local experts at the General Hospital, and the Order has provided epidemic prevention supplies to the local relief service, Perdahki, who work especially in regions where international humanitarian organizations do not have access. In cooperation with UNICEF, the Order also runs regular immunization campaigns for children.

In all regions, psycho-social support for traumatized victims is a special concern. In South India, for example, social workers are provided by the Order of Malta and voluntary trauma counselors are being trained. New orphanages, also run by members of the Order, have committed to supporting hundreds of children throughout the region.

New York, May 10, 2005