

PERMANENT OBSERVER MISSION OF THE
SOVEREIGN MILITARY ORDER OF MALTA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
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INFORMATION NOTE ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-THREE

Indonesia

A powerful undersea earthquake struck off the south coast of Java, Indonesia on July 17 and set off a tsunami that has devastated the area. At least 300 people have been killed in the tsunami and many more have been displaced due to the flooding. The Order of Malta has sent a relief team to the region to treat the injured and create temporary housing for the displaced. The Order has been active in this region with relief and development projects since the massive tsunami of December 2004 and it will continue to expand its projects.

Sudan

The Order of Malta is continuing its work in the embattled El Fasher area of Darfur in Sudan, ensuring health care to over 115,000 people, including prenatal care and malaria vaccines. Recent skirmishes between rebel groups have disrupted the flow of medical and food aid and driven people from their homes. In spite of the worsening security situation, the Order is committed to expanding its healthcare services in the area with plans to open a new out patient clinic.

Pakistan

Ten tons of seeds and 40 tons of fertilizer were distributed by the Order of Malta to farmers in the Palas Valley region of Pakistan, in an effort to help those residents who lost their livelihoods during last year's earthquake. With the supplies provided by the Order, at least 400 farmers will now be able to grow maize for themselves and other residents of the area, which also helps to insure a supply of food for next winter.

New York, July 19, 2006