

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 THIRTY-FOUR

Lebanon

The Order of Malta is providing medical assistance to those affected by the recent fighting in Southern Lebanon. Sadly, three healthcare centers run by the Order of Malta have been damaged in the fighting and one near the Lebanese-Israeli border has been destroyed completely. The Order has dispatched three mobile medical teams to compensate for this loss. The work of the Order is especially critical because according to World Health Organization (WHO) statistics 83 percent of healthcare facilities in the region are no longer operational. Through the mobile medical centers over 6.5 tons of medicine and medical supplies are being distributed to those displaced and in need. In addition, the Order of Malta is planning to construct new camps to serve some of the 500,000 displaced people in Lebanon who are now living in desperate conditions.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

The Order of Malta has launched a campaign to halt the spread of pest-born diseases in the east of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The “Black Death” was never completely eradicated in the area and as a result is spread through fleas, with between 100 and 160 cases and 10 deaths registered each month with Order of Malta health workers. In an effort to halt the spread of the disease, the Order of Malta staff has implemented an early warning system and is actively educating the population on methods of prevention and insect control.

The Order of Malta has been active in the Democratic Republic of Congo for ten years, running more than 300 healthcare centers that provide care to nearly 2.7 million people. Also the Order runs 33 nutrition centers and 34 counselling and treatment centers for women who were raped and abused during their brutal civil war.

New York , September 5, 2006