

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-SEVEN

Indonesia

In December, due to the heaviest rainfalls in more than 25 years, large parts of North, East and Central Aceh were flooded. More than 100 people reportedly died in the floods and subsequent landslides. According to official numbers, up to 170,000 people have been forced to leave their homes.

In response to this catastrophic natural disaster the Order, in cooperation with Cordaid and several UN organizations, is distributing approximately 1,500 family kits to those in need. The kits include articles of daily necessity, as well as sanitary products and food stuffs. The packages are distributed with the help of volunteers from the affected villages in the regions of Aceh, Utara and Lhokseumawe, which are difficult to access and, therefore, are in danger of being overlooked by other relief organizations.

Lebanon

During the most recent conflict between Israel and Lebanon, the Order assisted the affected population during all the different stages of the war. The fighting left medical centers damaged, churches destroyed, and thousands of people displaced, and the Order played an influential role in helping those displaced and rebuilding areas that were damaged.

Through the six medical centers it operates in Lebanon, the Order provided milk for approximately 1,000. The Order assisted approximately 25,000 internally displaced persons by distributing clothes and basic medical supplies, operating emergency clinics, and installing sanitation and bathing structures. Several hundred refugees are housed in the Order's Khaldieh Center of the Bekaa Valley and many of the displaced and needy were helped at the Siddikine, Barqa, Ain el Remmaneh and Kobayat Centers. In addition to the Mobile Medical Unit in Siddikine, which serviced approximately 150 people per day during the war, a new Mobile Medical Unit has been established in Ein Ebel which can service a large number of remote border villages.

The Order is continuing to train local medical personnel for emergency situations and has mobilized and updated their human resource services and technical and financial

resources in order to consolidate their activities. Additionally, a total of 16 churches damaged in the conflict are being rehabilitated

Bethlehem and Palestine

In 2006, the Holy Family Hospital in Bethlehem saw a 30% increase in its activities. The hospital, which is the only modern maternity center in the West Bank, saw the delivery of over 3,000 babies in 2006 alone. Due to the increase in activities, a new obstetric and neonatal wing of the hospital was created. This very important extension will allow mothers to deliver in a more comfortable and safe environment where their babies will be treated using state-of-the-art-technology and equipment. The hospital was also blessed in 2006 with the addition of several doctors.

New York, January 23, 2007