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SOVEREIGN MILITARY ORDER OF MALTA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
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INFORMATION NOTE ONE HUNDRED FORTY

Kenya: Budalangi

In November, 2007, the Sovereign Military Order of Malta provided relief supplies for about 3,300 families—more than 18,000 people—with financial support of the Federal Foreign Office of Germany for those affected by severe floods. The Order supplied safe drinking water through clean water tanks and water purification tablets to prevent the outbreak of epidemics. The distribution of mosquito nets also played an important role since the exasperating high season of malaria occurs in December and January every year. In addition, the Order provided blankets that helped families endure the cold nights, since almost no family in Budalangi has a blanket for every family member. With the assistance of the local Catholic Church and volunteers of the Magombe community, the Order implemented a fair and socially equilibrated distribution system.

Myanmar: Northern Rakhine State

The Order has begun its second project cycle in Northern Rakhine State, Myanmar, in an effort to improve the overall health and nutrition situation of about 130,000 people living in that area. The first objective is to strengthen community-based primary health care and nutrition services in order to prevent a further deterioration of the malnutrition of children under five who are especially vulnerable. Another goal is to further develop self-sufficiency skills of uprooted communities in the region. The Order is instituting activities that include advocacy meetings with village representatives, the training of community health care providers, awareness sessions on health related issues—malaria, HIV/AIDS, hygiene, nutrition and environmental sanitation—as well as monitoring and evaluation visits. During the last project cycle from January 2005 to October 2007, they diagnosed and treated more than 600,000 patients.

Sri Lanka

The Order has begun the second phase of its project for the improvement of water, sanitation and environmental health in southern Sri Lanka. The principal objective of the first project phase was to improve the well-being of the population affected and displaced by the tsunami. In the second project phase, the Order now also intends to improve the

environmental health situation of the families. The Order believes this goal will be achieved through the provision of a safe and adequate water supply, improved sanitation facilities and the establishment of an effective solid waste system.

Vietnam: Central Vietnam Provinces

In November, heavy rains caused severe floods in Central Vietnam, specifically in the Quang-Nam and Danang provinces. The poorer populations of these regions have been impacted most significantly and hunger and infectious diseases have resulted from the destruction of houses and the loss of nutrition sources. In response, the Order has implemented several relief activities in order to reduce the suffering in the region. The Order has distributed food, blankets and mosquito nets, as well as iron sheets for temporary housing, for over 1,250 families.

Mexico: Tabasco

The Mexican Association of the Order of Malta and its relief service have been assisting the victims of floods in the State of Tabasco, Mexico. The Order distributed food, drinking water, blankets, and soap to the victims. The Order has also provided local unequipped hospitals with medicine and medical equipment so that they can treat pregnant women, newborns and wounded individuals. Finally, The Order has earmarked over \$200,000 to be distributed to those affected by the floods.

New York, January 23, 2008

