

Pakistan: Medical aid for returning families

Malteser International sends three medical teams to the Swat District

Cologne. Three medical teams of Malteser International are providing health care for internally displaced people now returning to their home villages in the Swat District in north-western Pakistan. “There is currently no adequate health care for the returning families,” reports Dr. Jürgen Clemens, Malteser International Desk Officer for Pakistan. “According to the local authorities many health centres are damaged or completely destroyed and are in urgent need for qualified medical staff.” The returnees are exhausted due to their flight and due to extreme heat and aridity; many of them also suffer from diarrhoeal diseases.

Each medical team consists of a medical doctor, a midwife, a medical assistant and a social worker. “Our teams reinforce medical services at local health centres on a regular basis. On demand they also offer additional consultation hours at easily accessible public places such as schools”, Clemens explains. The medical aid is primarily targeted at infants, children under five and pregnant or breast-feeding women and is financially supported by the Federal Foreign Office of Germany.

In addition, Malteser International – also with financial support of the Federal Foreign Office of Germany - distributed 4,000 hygiene kits to internally displaced people in Mardan and Swat. In June and July, two mobile teams of Malteser International had already supported the medical care for internally displaced people in Mardan, amongst them many women and children. Around two million people had to leave their homes due to fighting between the Taliban and government forces.

Malteser International will continue to provide basic health care for returnees in the North-West Frontier province of Pakistan at least until the end of the year 2009.

Attention editors: Dr. Jürgen Clemens, Malteser International Desk Officer for Pakistan, is available for interviews. Contact: +49-(0)221/9822-155

The whole press release in English and German can also be found on our website:

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