

# The Balkans

Humanitarian aid remains at the core of Malteser's mission in the Balkans. Considerable experience and expertise of people and local cultures greatly benefit Malteser activities there. Professional co-operation with various donor organizations as well as local authorities are an important asset, and so is our highly motivated and well-trained staff. In the field of income-generation and especially through programs promoting women, Malteser is well equipped to foster social and economical reconstruction programs, co-operating with development-oriented donor organizations.

## Albania

Even after the closure of the Shkodra refugee camp Malteser remains actively involved in Albania. Our main activity in 2000 centered on the continuation of the basic health care program that has been in existence since 1994. The program employs three doctors who provide the inhabitants of remote villages of northern Albania with basic medical care.

## Bosnia and Herzegovina

In 2000, Malteser once again received official UNHCR recognition as implementing partner for the Bosnian Women Initiative Program. The program assisted more than 150 different projects launched by local women organizations in a variety of fields. A total of more than 3 million German Marks were spent on projects for women and relief efforts for society's most needy members. Malteser, furthermore, managed a revolving microcredit fund, which, thanks to its especially high repayment quota, is expected to become self-sustainable within the year 2001. In addition, Malteser's Foreign Aid Department became UNHCR's partner for the implementation of income-generation projects

targeting ethnic minority returnees in central Bosnia and southern Hercegovina. As in previous years, a large-scale winter aid program was carried out, funded by the German Federal Foreign Office.

## Serbia

Political changes in Serbia and the problematical humanitarian situation of certain fringe groups of society sparked Malteser's decision to open another branch office in Zrenjanin in September 2000, in order to intensify our organization's efforts in the country. Backed by the German Federal Foreign Office and in co-operation with local Malteser groups, a number of instant relief and emergency aid programs were put into effect during the winter months of 2000/2001. Other medium- and long-term programs were aimed at the sustainable development of the region.



Going places to help the needy – an annual highlight Malteser volunteers look forward to.

### Projects in the Balkans

Country/Location	Project description
Albania	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Basic health care program</li></ul>
Bosnia and Herzegovina	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Projects for the socio-economic promotion of women</li><li>• Microcredits</li><li>• Supporting a community kitchen for the poor</li><li>• Income-generation for minority-returnees</li><li>• Distribution of food parcels, personal hygiene items, firewood</li></ul>
Kosovo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Rehabilitation of carpentry workshops</li><li>• Production of windows and doors for reconstruction of houses</li><li>• Construction of prefabricated homes for ethnic minorities and returnees</li><li>• Projects for the socio-economic promotion of women</li><li>• Capacity building for local aid organizations</li><li>• First Aid seminars</li></ul>
Montenegro	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Distribution of pharmaceuticals and general consumer goods</li><li>• Distribution of relief goods e.g. beds, shoes, food</li><li>• Assistance to local women organizations</li></ul>
Serbia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Distribution of food parcels and personal hygiene items</li><li>• Distribution of pharmaceuticals</li></ul>

## Kosovo

The advancement of economic and social reconstruction and the development of a long-term perspective for Kosovo was the main goal of Malteser and its local partners in 2000. The Workshop Project started in 1999 by assisting the rehabilitation of local carpenter workshops and providing more than 5,200 doors and 8,700 windows for war-induced dwellings. These were produced by more than 150 carpenters participating in the project. UNHCR funding permitted the construction of 400 emergency shelters for socially vulnerable parts of the local population, targeting especially ethnic minorities. Malteser also co-operates with UNHCR in self-reliance initiatives for women. Some 96 projects received assistance, among them literacy as well as computer courses and the provision of funds and expertise for income-gene-



Delivering new windows and doors in Kosovo

rating activities. The re-integration of ethnic minorities into society also got a much-needed boost.

## Montenegro

Administering distribution programs funded by the European Union and the German Federal Foreign Office in Podgorica, Malteser assisted refugees from Kosovo as well as the local population impoverished and isolated by the last ten years of war in former

Yugoslavia. Beginning in September 2000, Malteser has been supporting local women organizations in Montenegro, too, by introducing income-generating activities and offering educational programs.



Especially children live in danger even now the war is over. German UN-Malteser care for a young mine victim.

# UNIKOM

Since 1995, a Malteser team with five medical doctors, two nurses and seven paramedics has been on duty in Kuwait. Serving as the official contingent of the Federal Republic of Germany on location, the German Medical Team (GERMED) is providing medical care for UNIKOM, the United Nations Observation Mission in the Kuwaiti-Iraqi border region. UNIKOM consists of 1,300 individuals from 57 nations.

In the year 2000, two GERMED teams, each doing a six-month tour, treated 5,861 patients. That figure inclu-

ded 212 Kuwaiti and 601 Iraqi civilians, who received medical assistance for humanitarian reasons. 130 hygiene inspections were conducted as well as 195 First Aid Trainings. GERMED was also present at 52 mine blastings, serving as on-site medical safety team. There were 30 medical emergencies in 2000 during which 37 patients received First Aid treatment, most of them Iraqi civilians who became victims of mine blasts. Both military and political sources expressed their appreciation for GERMED's medical assistance to the local population.