

## Portraits of our help

### After the typhoons in Southeast Asia:

## Damaged houses and heavy rains in Vietnam

### Interview with Project Manager Dr. Hai Ho Pham in Danang

Dr. Hai Ho Pham coordinates the emergency relief in the City of Danang and in the Quang Nam province. In 1996 he had his first mission for Malteser International in Vietnam, missions in Afghanistan and Myanmar followed.

### How is the situation in Vietnam about one month after the heavy earthquakes?



**Dr. Hai Ho Pham during the distribution of relief items in Danang at the end of October**

**Dr. Ho Pham:** When I arrived in Danang, immediately after the typhoon, a lot of houses were without roofs, and trees were lying around like matches. One month after the typhoon and the heavy floods the destruction in the city of Danang - where we organized the first distributions of relief goods – are still visible all over the places. Houses are not yet fixed or rebuilt. And the road to the mountainous areas in Tay Giang in the

province of Quang Nam where we will organize further distributions of relief goods is still partly covered by a landslide.

### What were the challenges you had to face during the past month?

**Dr. Ho Pham:** The biggest challenge for us was to organize a fair distribution of the relief items – we had to make sure that we give priority to the poorest families and those families

that were hit most by the typhoon. The distribution of relief items was done in a good co-operation with the People's Committees on commune level. In the community of Hoa Xuan, for example, we could distribute 200 hygiene kits, 200 water cans and 160 tarpaulins within two hours as the people's committee had well prepared the lists and the distribution. As the rainy season has commenced, people are now in urgent need of iron sheets to cover their houses.

**How will Malteser International continue to help the people?**

**Dr. Ho Pham:** After having completed the distribution of relief items in Danang, we will move on to the neighbouring province of Quang Nam in the mountainous areas in Tay Giang. We also plan to organize trainings on how to use the distributed iron sheets or how to treat soiled water.

**What do people need most at the moment?**

**Dr. Ho Pham:** Iron sheets to fix house roofs are very much needed – the rainy season has started and people need shelter.

Interview by Petra Ipp-Zavazal, November 2009