

## **SOS Malta Annual Report 2005**



## **Mission Statement**

Aiding people overseas experiencing times of crisis and empowering them by providing support services and opportunities to implement development and change in their country to ensure a better quality of life.

SOS Malta advocates and works for the people of Malta and other countries, believing in the strength of the people to implement change in their country in order to ensure a better quality of life. Fundamental to the organisation's belief is that people need to be empowered if they are effectively to overcome limitations.

## **SOS Malta's Aims**

- To bring aid to the people of Malta and other countries,
- To assist all peoples through projects of a social and charitable nature.
- To encourage volunteers to participate in the implementation of the projects,
- To advocate on behalf of the peoples.
- To promote models of good care and practice,
- To enhance the knowledge and skills of peoples.
- To raise funds through sponsorships, donations and fund-raising activities or through any other means as the Council may determine.

## **SOS Malta's Identity**

- SOS Malta is a non-profit making organisation working in Malta and overseas in order to assist with the development of peoples.
- SOS Malta seeks to contribute to the increase in quality of life of the people in need, ensuring that they have access to equal rights.
- SOS Malta invests in children who are the future of the country,
- SOS Malta works with local and international NGO's in order to achieve its aims,
- SOS Malta is accountable both to those who support it as well as those who it aims to assist.
- SOS Malta seeks to assist those marginalised by society especially the sick and the disabled.

## SOS Malta's Culture

- **Sustainability** - all projects that are initiated are created in such a way as to ensure sustainability by the peoples themselves.
- **Reliability** - Our team is made up of seasoned people in the field who ensure that each commitment entered into is followed through to its fruition.
- **Accountability** - due to our non-governmental nature, SOS Malta has had to, over the years, ensure a strict accountable system so that each cent spent is accounted for.
- **Empowerment** - The main aim of SOS Malta has always been that of empowering the peoples to develop their country and improve their quality of life, thus ensuring a no-dependability of foreign aid scenario. **Cost-effectiveness** - All our projects are studied for their feasibility and cost-effectiveness ensuring that the best product is achieved at the best cost.
- **Result-oriented** - All our projects have a specific aim and look to serious results being achieved in the short, medium and long term.
- **Persistence** - As one of the first NGOs in Albania and Kosovo, SOS Malta has a vast experience in operating in a country of transition. SOS Malta has witnessed contrarities most notably during the 1997 crisis when all infrastructural projects were totally destroyed as a result of the uprisings against the pyramid schemes. Despite all, SOS Malta did not give up on the Albanians but with their assistance helped re-build those projects which had been initiated.

SOS Malta, a Maltese-registered NGO set up in 1991, has operated various relief missions and development projects in Albania and Kosovo. In 2005 our operations were carried out mainly providing emergency aid in Sri Lanka and Post Tsunami assistance.

Our future work will focus on development projects in Sri Lanka and Africa, the promotion of the UN Millennium development goals, and an awareness campaign among the Maltese to inform and involve them in the development goals and EU development policy.

Besides our emergency aid and development work overseas, we have initiated a new local project – **The Malta Resource Centre (MRC)** for Civil Society NGOs, aimed at providing capacity building as a means to help NGOs and groups working for social change and development become more effective and efficient and better equipped to operate through sharing of best practices, and provision of training and consultation.

SOS Malta also set up **EAPN Malta** to create a network of Maltese NGOs involved in the fight against poverty and social exclusion. EAPN Malta applied to become a member of EAPN (European Anti-Poverty Network) in July 2004. EAPN monitors and analyses EU policies, which have an impact on people in poverty. EAPN lobbies the European Institutions for the adoption of policies and programmes to combat poverty and social exclusion, provides a 2 monthly newsletter and organises working groups & trans-national seminars.

## **Activities in Albania and Kosovo 2005**

SOS Malta's main areas of activity in 2005 were Health and Education in the South Eastern region of the country.

We were involved in the development of a management institute in Korce with the collaboration of the Malta Institute of Management and the Edward Debono Institute of Lateral Thinking. It is envisaged that this centre will service the South of Albania assisting to equip the Albanians with modern management techniques and updated methods including also an element of life-long education.

Preca College a Middle School set up by SOS Malta in 1993 was assisted in establishing an income generating project to help in the sustainability of its operations. A Five a Side Football Pitch was financed by SOS Malta on the school grounds which will serve the students but will also generate income after school hours. This was a major project which has proved to be a contribution to the further development of the college and of civil society in Korce.

In Health, support for Palliative Care is ongoing and 2005 saw the establishment of a local NGO under the management of a local doctor and our trained staff. SOS Malta is committed to provide financial and educational assistance to the Palliative Care programme in the South East of Albania and Kosovo whilst assisting the development of the National Association of Palliative Care set up by SOS Malta in the year 2000. Meetings with Sue Ryder International were held in Kosovo to discuss future collaboration and partnerships in Palliative Care.

## **Activities in Sri Lanka**

The 2004 tsunami destroyed many communities in Sri Lanka. The southern districts of Galle and Matara were two of those worst hit. Over 120,000 people in these areas were left homeless and without any means of income in the wake of the Tsunami. SOS Malta's project has helped over 600 families by providing immediate recovery assistance and rebuilding their income-generating activities. It has also been engaged in the reconstruction and refurbishment of St Mary's Convent School Matara.

From January 2005 SOS Malta has been on the ground in Sri Lanka implementing various programmes to bring Tsunami affected communities out of dependency and poverty as rapidly as possible. SOS Malta is providing support to revive local economies and rebuild livelihoods. More than 200,000 livelihoods were lost as a direct result of the tsunami, and a further 125,000 jobs were indirectly affected. Overall 10,981 business units were affected by Tsunami:

- Trade 43%
- Other services 23%
- Fishery 13%
- Tourism 6%

The tsunami had a devastating affect on the coastal fisheries industry, leaving 16,919 fishing boats lost or destroyed and a further 7,266 damaged. An estimated one million fishing nets were also lost. Many of the fisheries harbours and landing sites around the coast were also seriously damaged.

Tourism was the third most badly affected industry, with 144 hotels, 65 restaurants, 7 rest-houses and 161 guest-houses damaged. Over 12,000 jobs were directly affected and a further 18,000 jobs indirectly affected as a result.

SOS Malta completed their emergency relief programme during the month of January 2005. A medical team of three doctors and a nurse provided medical care from a clinic set up within St Mary's Convent School in Matara. Over 3,000 men, women and children received treatment. All medicines and wound care materials were provided free of charge.

## **St Mary's Convent School Improvement Matara Sri Lanka**

SOS Malta has helped in the total refurbishment programme of the damaged school. Work was contracted by the school's rehabilitation coordinator and the principal under the supervision of the School Management board and the Education Committee.

SOS Malta has gone beyond reconstruction and refurbishment and together with an expert team from the Society of the Sacred Heart in India worked with the principal and staff of St Mary's Convent School, Matara. In house sessions were conducted and observations and initial interactions were used to diagnose the needs of the school. It was decided that special efforts would be made to make the school a better place for pupils to learn with improvements to be considered as a distinct approach to educational change.

The project includes:

- The setting up of a School Development Board
- Teacher Training and group facilitation
- Interpersonal skills
- Communication
- Conflict Resolution
- Project Management
- Organisational Development

A fully equipped Audio Visual room was set up to be able to offer all training in a professional environment by the visiting experts from Malta & India. The training programme is being offered to the two adjoining public schools in Matara.



**Development Board St Mary's Convent School, Matara set up in April 2005**

## **SOS Malta's Programme in Matara, Sri Lanka**



**Teaching Aids**



**Resource Centre set up in June 2005**

**Teachers receiving training**



**Reading corner in the junior school set up in June 2005**

## **Livelihood Recovery Programme**

The long-term goal of SOS Malta's programme is to decrease poverty incidence in fishing villages identified as having lost most of the boats. The objective is immediate income-generating opportunities for the fishermen and their families.

### **Sustainable Livelihood:**

SOS Malta is supporting sustainable livelihood activities in about 12 villages of the project area. Livelihood activities include the purchase of traditional canoes and 6 metre fibre glass boats to include 9 hp engine, fishing nets, anchor, rope, buoy, masks, snorkels, flippers and torches. 50 boats have already been delivered to the fishermen of Denuwela in the Matara district and Kalamulla in the Kalutara district.



**6 metre fibre glass boats**



SOS Malta looked into giving other opportunities to coastal communities, giving them real incentives to build up economic activities that will also offer enhancement and empowerment. SOS Malta initiated micro financing projects for the women in Welligama and Merissa by providing twenty Sewing Machines and all the equipment to set up a

kitchen for outside catering. In Kalamulla a spray painter's compressor and all accessories were purchased as were all the tools for a carpenter's small business which all perished after the Tsunami. A small family run chicken farm which was completely destroyed was also replaced.



**Ten Sewing Machines for the women in Merissa**

SOS Malta organised Entrepreneurship Training for the beneficiaries? This included:-

1. **Starting a business**
2. **Business planning**
3. **Market research**
4. **Bookkeeping and Record keeping**
5. **Sourcing of products**
6. **Stock control**

We involved women because they are always there for the family, therefore once they are economically empowered the whole **family stand to benefit.**

The response was excellent and the beneficiaries are already working hard to make a success of their project.



**Training session for the women**



**Carpenter happily  
Using his new tool**

After several meetings with the various contacts we have made in the south region of Sri Lanka it was decided to use some of the boats delivered in October to help the rebuilding of the tourist industry. We have supplied boats for dive centres, a diving school, leisure cruises and fishing. SOS Malta will assist a diving school to train the fishermen to dive safely and will continue educating them so that they can become professional divers using the highest safety standards. After they obtain several levels of licensing they will be eligible to take other divers on dive tours to local dive sites. Croc Croozes were set up on the river in Matara which offers the community and visitors a wonderful scenic trip which includes observing the crocodiles and birds. The following ventures have now been initiated offering employment and regeneration of the tourist industry:

- 4 boats to provide a means of collectively owned transportation for the fishermen and divers for continued training exercises in diving.
- 6 boats to provide a means of ferrying passengers and equipment out to the dive sites
- 10 boats to provide a means of leisure cruises for eco-tourists along the coastline and down the river in Matara
- 10 boats have been given to the fishermen in Matara to start a fishing cooperative



**Trying out the Croc Croozes down the river of Matara. Boats will be fitted with benches, shade, binoculars and life vests**





**New nets bought by SOS Malta being prepared**



**One of the boats being used for a Diving Centre**



**Valletta and Stella Maris to be used for training divers**

## **Activities in Malta**

### **Operational projects**

#### ***Capacity Building Events***

##### **Seminars and courses for NGO staff and volunteers**

An agreement was established with the Foundation for Educational Services to provide 2 part-time courses organizers and 3 part-time professional trainers. Malta Resource Centre provided a number of capacity building courses and seminars for NGOs staff and volunteers and for NGO beneficiaries. The project was part financed through the European Social Fund.

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##### **Courses provided for NGO Volunteers and staff**

Relationship Skills  
Volunteers Management  
Planning of Resources  
Problem Solving Decision Making  
Thinking Skills (Six Thinking Hats)  
Managing information  
Managing and Coping with Stress  
Think Skills - Direct Attention Thinking Tools  
Presentation and Public Speaking skills  
The Process of Communication Skills  
Team Building and Motivation Skills

- The total number of participants from different NGOs was 210.

##### **Courses provided for the Community and NGO Beneficiaries**

Literacy and Numeracy Skills  
Self-Awareness Skills  
Communication Skills  
Job Motivation Skills  
Job Seeking skills  
Letter of approval and CV  
Interviewing Skills  
Development skills for Women Returners  
Building Self-esteem  
Practising English through communication  
Coop awareness

## **EU Funding Seminars for NGOs**

Malta Resource Centre organised three afternoon seminars on EU Funding for NGOs working in the social field. The seminars involved workshops to train NGO members in the writing skills needed for producing excellent proposals. The seminars and workshops were organised in collaboration with MIC (Malta EU Information Centre) and with the EUPU (EU Programmes Unit). The Resource Centre has obtained funding through MIC in order to be able to offer the seminars and workshops free of charge.

The seminars provided:

Seminar 1: **Introducing EU Funding** provide the broad picture of EU funding and the necessary information needed on the funds that are applicable to all NGOs in the social field. The seminar had an informal approach in order to allow space for discussion and any possible queries. The seminar was directed by Mr. Carmel Attard (MIC) on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2005

Seminar 2: **Leonardo Da Vinci Programme: Information and Workshops** offered practical information about the Leonardo Da Vinci programmes and the procedures involved for participating in such programmes. It provided information on euro guidance and dedicated an hour of workshop training focusing on the writing skills needed for applying in the Leonardo Da Vinci Programmes. These programmes provide vocational training and they actively support the lifelong training policies conducted by the Member States. They support innovative transnational initiatives for promoting the knowledge, aptitudes and skills necessary for successful integration into working life and the full exercise of citizenship, while providing links with other Community initiatives.

Seminar 3: **Youth Programme: Information and Workshops**, applicable solely to youth organisations provided effective information on the five action schemes of the Youth Programme together with an hour workshop session focusing on the writing skills needed for applying in such programmes. The Youth Programme allows young people to acquire knowledge, skills and competencies outside formal education and training structures in order to promote the young people's personal development and their active participation as responsible citizens.

## **Capacity Building, workshops, courses and seminars for managers and leaders of NGOs and groups**

Malta Resource Centre organized a number of Courses, workshops and seminars for voluntary organisations to be provided in October, November and December 2005. The courses, seminars and workshops were organised in collaboration with Solar, with Woodward Group UK (Malta Branch -SSM Group) which represents the UK Institute of Administrative Management and with various field experts and lecturers.

The Courses organised:

Administration Management  
Leading Meetings  
Organisational Planning  
Managing Conflict and Change  
The Individual Interacting with the Organization

The Workshops organised:

The voluntary organisation Learning Manager  
Developing voluntary organisations Project Management  
Strategic Decision Making for voluntary organisations

The Seminars organised:

Emotional Intelligence for volunteers  
Sustainability of voluntary organisations  
The value of voluntary work  
Fundraising for voluntary organisations

The above workshops were not implemented since MRC did not receive sufficient applications to provide the courses, seminars and workshops. The potential reasons for having a poor turnout include the fees and concurrent courses on NGO management offered by the Ministry for the Family and Social Solidarity.

## **Seminars during the Commonwealth People's Forum held in Malta in Nov 2005**

SOS Malta Resource organized two seminars entitled:

- Strengthening voluntary organisations fighting social exclusion and poverty
- Reproductive Health in the Fight Against Poverty

The aim of the first seminar was to share and exchange good and useful practices regarding volunteers' management, voluntary organisations capacity building, voluntary organisations management, voluntary organisations sustainability, networking and the use of ICT by voluntary organisations from the various local voluntary organisations and CPF participants. The focal point was fighting poverty and social exclusion. The participants discussed how organisational skills, resources, ICT and good management can contribute to strengthening the fight against poverty and social exclusion.

The second seminar offered participants the opportunity to discuss reproductive health and sexual rights within EU development policy. The President of EuroNGOs Mr Frans Baneke was invited to address the issues and discuss networking and building partnerships. The reduction of poverty and the Millenium Development Goals were high on the agenda during the meeting. A set of cards depicting the MDGs were produced and distributed to include a 9<sup>th</sup> card on Reproductive Health. The statement hereunder was issued after the meeting and sent to all Heads of State attending the Commonwealth Meeting in Malta.

***We, representatives from Malta, Samoa, Cameroon, South Africa, Ghana, Fiji, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, The United Kingdom, Tonga, Jamaica, Trinidad and Zimbabwe call on the Heads of State of the Commonwealth to reaffirm their commitment to gender equality, safe motherhood, the sexual and reproductive health of men, women and children and health and rights.***

***We call on you to mobilize additional resources and to remove barriers in our countries so as to improve access to sexual and reproductive health care and policies and HIV/AIDS prevention, counselling, treatment and care services. We emphasize the need to recognize adult literacy as a necessary prerequisite to reproductive health education.***

***We also express the need for a target to monitor the implementation of RH programmes agreed at the 2005 UN Summit defined as: Reproductive Health for all by 2015.***

***We also call on you to recognize the special capacity and importance of civil society organizations in this field and to enter into dialogue and partnerships with them.***

### **Planning of Expert Training on EU funding**

Malta Resource Centre and Impetus Europe have invited Welcome Europe to provide a course on EU Funding for voluntary organisations in Malta. A two-day programme focusing on the European structural funds for Malta and an overview of European external funds for development projects.

The course will be held on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2006

Application forms and further information, including a detailed programme have been developed

The training is based on a **progressive dynamic approach** in order to allow a good acquisition of the knowledge. They offer numerous possibilities of exchanges between participants and the trainer. They are completed and illustrated by **case studies and examples** chosen according to the areas of activities of the different participants.

The course will help voluntary organisations to seize all European funding opportunities by acquiring knowledge on European structural funds and external funds functioning; to get practical knowledge on the design of a project and budget; and to use the European funding programmes in their next projects.

## ***Coordination and development of a EU Funded Projects***

**Pluralism, tolerance, respect for diversity, non-discrimination and solidarity, especially towards disadvantaged groups**

Malta Resource Centre in collaboration with Impetus Europe Consulting Group Ltd invited NGOs working in the social field to propose a minor awareness and educational project, by responding to a Call for proposals - DG EAC 46/05 - Promotion of Active European Citizenship - Support to non-governmental organisations, associations and federations of European interest

The call for proposals supports initiatives conducted by Non-governmental organisations of European interest, participating in European dialogue, on specific themes relating to the objectives of the programme to promote active European citizenship.

The Thematic area selected was “encouraging the implementation of European projects favouring specifically pluralism, tolerance, respect for diversity, non-discrimination and solidarity, especially towards disadvantaged groups (such as the disabled, the elderly, young people in difficulty), in the context of European integration

## ***Research - NGOs Capacity building needs analysis***

A University social administration student has been recruited to develop and carry out the research on capacity building needs. This will take place over March, April and May 2005. (Under the supervision of Dr Pace)

## ***Voluntary organisations databases***

A number of databases were built and developed on Excel and placed in the SOS Malta, MRC and EAPN Malta websites newsletter managers system. These include NGOs in the health sector in the social field, culture, sports, environment, and media, members of parliament, MEPs, local councils, parishes and Unions

## ***Forum Malta in Europe – Civil Society Fund Project***

Malta Resource Centre for Civil Society NGOs developed a project proposal to make use of the Forum Malta in Europe – Civil Society Fund by focusing on information provision and training.

As means of achieving this objective MRC has identified a number of publications to be purchased for its office and for its library available for NGOs; subscribe to the Welcome Europe website to be alerted about EU funded projects, subscribe to the European Citizen Action Service (ECAS) Associate Membership for Non Profit Organisations as a means to provide information to NGOs on EU policies and funding possibilities; apply to attend training seminars and programmes on EU Funding and organize Training on EU Funding for NGOs in Malta.

## ***Development of the Health REPSS Project***

*Health REPSS* (Research, Education, Policies, Services, Sustainability)

A project aimed at developing and organising voluntary civil society contributions to health care services in Malta - contributions to sustainability, quality of services, research, education and policies

A Project Application has been developed and presented to the Focal Point EEA & Norwegian Financial Mechanisms 2004 -2009 for funding

A number of meetings were held with the Ministry of Health, the Elderly and Community Care. These included meetings with the Minister, the Director of Corporate Services, the Financial Advisor- Health Reform, the EU International Affairs Office (Health Ministry) and the FMS CEO,

An agreement with Richmond Foundation was established to develop and implement the project regarding Mental Health Treatment non- compliance and stigma

The project includes the following sub projects:

- Voluntary Services in Hospital
- Networking Health NGOs
- Developing Health NGOs
- Mental Health Treatment non- compliance and stigma - Research on mental health treatment non-compliance and its relation to stigma; setting up a unit aimed at creating awareness and education campaigns on the importance of mental health treatment compliance and reducing stigma related to mental illness. A project in Partnership with Richmond Foundation

- Voluntary services to facilitate Health Care in the Community - A needs-assessment to identify voluntary services which facilitate the provision of health services in the community for elderly persons who have been discharged from the general hospital; develop a system that recruits, coordinates and links volunteers to elderly persons needing health care in the community

## ***Administrative back up to EAPN Malta***

To date **46 NGOs are member organisations of EAPN Malta**

<b>Administrative work input</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
The setting up of 6 Target Groups Committees to address illiteracy, refugees, domestic violence, mental health, children at risk and disability)	6 Target Group Committees to coordinate the main work of the network and to facilitate the participation of persons facing poverty and social exclusion.(To address government policies and the national action plans). Each committee held 6 meetings.  An assessment report of the NAP light update report
Coordination of the Coordination Committee meetings and events	(8 meetings) An assessment report of the NAP light update report Recorded agendas and minutes of all the committees' meetings A number of press releases
Application for an EU transnational Funding project (as a partner network)	Project submitted with EAPN Austria as the lead applicant. (Not approved for funding)
Communication with EAPN (Europe)	Correspondence by emails on position papers and planning and follow up of meetings
Communication with EAPN Malta member organisations and key stakeholders	3 e-newsletter updates
The Setting up of an Employment Task Force	Participation in a questionnaire on 'The New Member States and Local Employment Development: Taking Stock and Planning for the Future'

	<p>(through the Employment Task Force)</p> <p>Participation in a local roundtable on employment. (Employment Task Force)</p> <p>Participation in the National Reform Programme seminars and provided a document with recommendations (through the employment task force)</p> <p>A seminar for the unions to inform them about EAPN Malta and to discuss corporate social responsibility and human rights. (Employment Task Force)</p>
Media coverage	<p>Euronews interviews (10 minute programme shown for a whole week)</p> <p>Organised 30 TV slots of 15 minutes each on Education Channel 22</p> <p>News paper feature and interviews (wider definition of poverty and participation of people in poverty – EU presidency meeting)</p> <p>A number of press releases</p>
Structural funds questionnaire and input for EAPN Manual on Structural Funds	<p>Questionnaire designed, disseminated and collected. Meetings with MFSS S. Funds office and Managing Authority Input collated for EAPN Manual</p>
Organisation of the EAPN Malta General Assembly 2 <sup>nd</sup> December 2005	<p>General Assembly Meeting held including a number of presentations and discussions</p>

## ***Participation and input in the Commonwealth People Forum 2005 steering Committee***

- Participation in the Steering Committee preparing for the Peoples Forum 2005
- Participation in the sub-committee preparing the NGO workshops for the CPF 05
- Leading the sub-committee to organise the opening ceremony

## ***Human Resources***

Volunteers have been recruited on a project basis. The majority were university students on placement. The work carried out by the volunteers included book keeping, development of databases updated, websites updates, communications and PR, capacity building logistics and promotion and NGO capacity building needs analysis.

## ***Media promotion work***

- TV and radio programmes
- On-line adverts
- Printed adverts
- Brochures
- MDG Cards

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