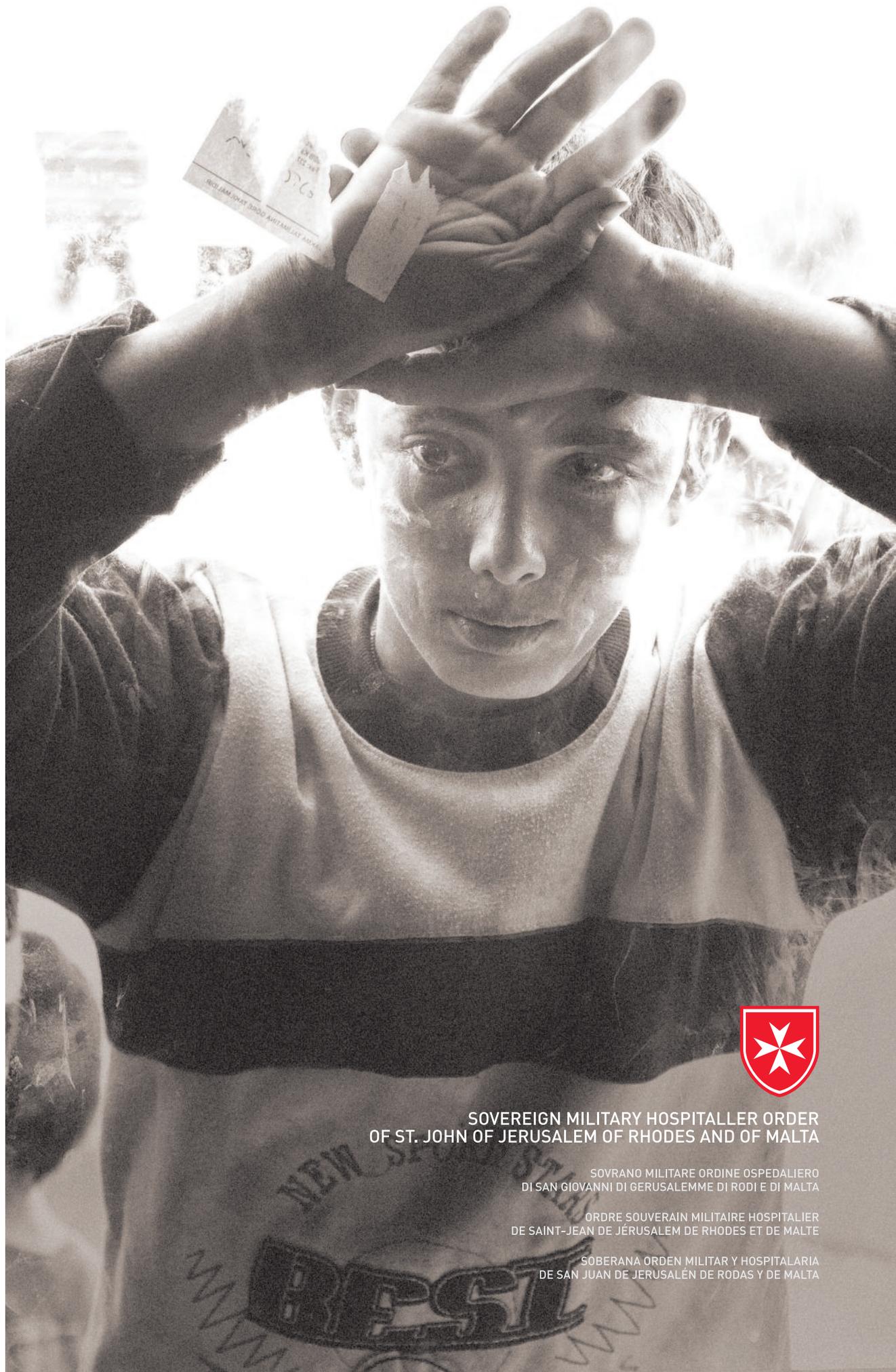


ACTIVITY REPORT 2016



SOVEREIGN MILITARY HOSPITALLER ORDER
OF ST. JOHN OF JERUSALEM OF RHODES AND OF MALTA

SOVRANO MILITARE ORDINE OSPEDALIERO
DI SAN GIOVANNI DI GERUSALEMME DI RODI E DI MALTA

ORDRE SOUVERAIN MILITAIRE HOSPITALIER
DE SAINT-JEAN DE JÉRUSALEM DE RHODES ET DE MALTE

SOBERANA ORDEN MILITAR Y HOSPITALARIA
DE SAN JUAN DE JERUSALÉN DE RODAS Y DE MALTA

THE ORDER OF MALTA

IS MADE UP OF **120,000** 
MEMBERS, VOLUNTEERS AND PROFESSIONAL STAFF
OPERATING ACROSS **6 CONTINENTS**

55 HAS SIGNED MORE THAN 
COOPERATION AGREEMENTS
WITH STATES TO DEVELOP
RELIEF AND MEDICAL WORKS

OPERATES **1500** HOSPITALS 
AND **SOCIO-MEDICAL CENTRES**

HAS OPERATED OVER **50** 
KEY EMERGENCY INTERVENTIONS
FOLLOWING NATURAL DISASTERS SINCE **2000**

ASSISTS **REFUGEES,** 
MIGRANTS AND **ASYLUM SEEKERS**
IN AFRICA, ASIA, EUROPE AND MIDDLE EAST

CARRIES OUT **MEDICAL**
AND **HUMANITARIAN PROJECTS** 
IN **120 COUNTRIES**

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A MESSAGE FROM THE GRAND MASTER

FRA' MATTHEW FESTING

*was elected head of the Sovereign
Order of Malta in March 2008*

The Grand Master attends the Order of
Malta's International Summer Camp for
Young Disabled each year



In these recent times we have seen the greatest movements of peoples since the Second World War. They are fleeing from civil conflicts, from wars, from poverty, disease, famine or the fallout from natural catastrophes. The consequences are that there are millions of refugees seeking asylum and millions of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in many countries across the world.

This publication focuses on this great crisis of our age and describes the work undertaken by the Order of Malta in many countries to give succour to those in peril. It presents, too, a review of the ongoing works of the Order across the world in 120 countries, works of care which continue everywhere every day.

We see that the movements of peoples cause great distress, for those who flee and for those who host them. We have seen the refugee camps in Lebanon as that country bravely tries to support an unprecedented influx of people escaping the war in Syria. The number of registered Syrian refugees in Lebanon at the end of September 2015 was over one million. The Lebanese population has increased by a quarter since the start of the war in Syria.

We have witnessed the chaos in Iraq as persecution of those with religious beliefs terrorizes and drives out populations which have lived together peacefully for centuries.

We have seen the desperate plight of the people arriving in Southern Italy – and these are the lucky ones! They are the survivors of nightmare journeys in uncertain seas in the Mediterranean. But thousands of others have died in those seas in their bid for freedom.

And we have seen the upheavals in Ukraine, where the ECHO recorded at the end of September 2015 that the Ukrainian Ministry of Social Policy totals for registered internally displaced persons were 1.41 million and noted that many IDPs do not register with the authorities. Most have left home due to security concerns and the humanitarian impact of the conflict (lack of water, food, medicines).

These, our fellow men, are in need of support of many kinds. First, humanitarian aid, ensuring survival - food, clean water, medical care. Then, psychological support as so many are traumatised. And then the long road to the rebuilding of lives and livelihoods.

The Order of Malta has aid projects running in all of these theatres, as well as supporting refugees and IPDs in Mali, South Sudan and Pakistan.



We observe that the world is in great need of help right now. In my meetings with political leaders and heads of state, these concerns and our needs to respond are increasingly discussed.

In these pages you will find just some of the many examples of assistance the members and volunteers of the Order of Malta carry out to alleviate the conditions of society's marginalised, including eyewitness accounts from Iraq, Southern Mediterranean, Germany, Lebanon, Ukraine.

As well as attending to current crises, the day-to-day work of the Order of Malta continues tirelessly all over the world. The extensive range of activities includes the running of soup kitchens for the homeless in many countries in Europe and the Americas, the provision of dispensaries and mobile clinics in far-flung regions in Africa and the Middle East, the creation of disaster risk reduction programmes in Asia Pacific. As well, there are projects to help prison populations, to help those with HIV, to support victims of leprosy, to give medical care and community care to society's disadvantaged in many countries, programmes to educate children, programmes to train in hygiene and basic health and income generating skills in many regions where these measures save lives every day.

And then there are the daily acts of support and kindness which do not attract great attention but which are the acts of love and help of man to man, in the great tradition of our Order. They are the ongoing commitment to care with a Christian inspiration which is completely impartial in its application. For as long as poverty, disease, loneliness, exist we will be there.

Fra' Matthew Festing visits the works of the Order of Malta in Kenya



FLIGHT TO NEIGHBOURING LEBANON

Over one million Syrian refugees are registered in Lebanon. Escaping war and violence at home, they are now one quarter of the population. Resources are at breaking point. Some villages of 200 people are hosting more than 2,000 refugees. The Order of Malta strives to meet the most urgent needs of refugees and alleviate pressure on a strained health service through its mobile clinics and permanent health centres.

(p 30)







A photograph of a blue and yellow migrant boat on the Mediterranean sea. The boat is crowded with people, many wearing orange life jackets. The sky is overcast and grey. The boat has Arabic text on its side. A semi-transparent text box is overlaid on the right side of the image.

MIGRATING ACROSS THE MEDITERRANEAN

In the first ten months of 2015 more than 600,000 refugees and migrants crossed the Mediterranean in overloaded boats headed for Europe. Not all arrived.

The Order of Malta is on duty 24/7 patrolling the sea on Italian navy vessels. As the crisis escalates, rescuing survivors of this perilous journey has become a daily duty for the Order's emergency doctors.

(p 32)





DISPLACED IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Women bear much of the trauma and hardship of unrelenting violence in the east of the country. Thousands of women live with and flee from sexual violence, over 2.8 million internally displaced persons struggle to survive. The Order of Malta provides psychological and medical treatment for assault, rape and other atrocities committed in the conflict-ridden zones.

(p 80)



SECTION 1

THE LARGE-SCALE MOVEMENTS OF PEOPLES IN OUR TIME

The first years of the twenty-first century are seeing the movements of thousands of people fleeing from wars in their own countries, religious persecution or poverty. Thousands are fleeing from wars in their own countries, or religious persecution, or poverty. For refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) survival is harsh. By mid 2015, the UNHCR reports a total of almost 60 million forcibly displaced worldwide, with 19.5 million refugees, 38.2 million internally displaced, 1.8 million seeking asylum. These movements raise many questions: the rights of the displaced, the rights of home populations, the need for medical and psychosocial support, the need for food and shelter. And the need for long-term solutions.

THE SOVEREIGN ORDER OF MALTA IN THE WAKE OF THE GLOBAL REFUGEE CRISIS

The world is seeing the greatest displacement of peoples for over half a century. Some 180 million people are affected by conflict and natural disasters worldwide. We have to go back to the Second World War to see similar staggering figures. The proliferation of crises and needs is extraordinary as are the dramatic humanitarian consequences. In these desperate situations, fleeing families are at the mercy of unscrupulous traffickers and the perils of the journey to what they hope will be freedom and a new life. The world economic situation, the effects of climate change and global warming, the rising demographics and an uncontrolled urban development in some areas of the world, are also leading the mass movements of people. There are 60 million displaced in the world, 20 million of them on the move – if they were all together in one spot that would make the 25th largest nation.

Building walls has never been a successful long-term solution. We should be building bridges rather than walls, as Pope Francis has stated. It is the absence of political long-term solutions that is leading to more protracted crises and unprecedented levels of displacement.

We have to learn together to be innovative and courageous, and work towards common policies. How?

- Developing resettlement and relocation opportunities
- Building on reception capacities
- Cracking down on smugglers and traffickers
- Opening up safe and legal avenues to enter Europe
- Ensuring asylum request procedures implemented are respectful of human dignity and of the 1951 Geneva Convention built on the 1948 Declaration of Human Rights
- Prioritising development projects for the countries from

which many economic migrants come

- Increasing efforts to keep under control the current crises and encouraging reconciliation, such as in Libya: 90% of migration routes cross the Libyan territory

We must reaffirm the humanitarian principles and laws codified in the conventions signed after World War II. Asymmetric conflicts where the opposing groups have very unequal military means, non-declared wars, failing states, national armed conflicts fuelled from outside, new means of warfare like drones and the acceptance of the euphemistically labelled “collateral damage” are factors contributing to the fast decline in the application of humanitarian laws. Before World War One, 90% of war victims were soldiers, 10% were civilians. Today it is the other way round, with the consequence being millions of displaced persons and refugees.

People fleeing war and persecution must be entitled to protection. They deserve to see their human rights and dignity respected, regardless of their legal status. Most of the people on the move have lost everything, women have been raped and children are often parted from their parents. In the first half of 2015 one out of every four refugees was a child. It is unacceptable that refugees fleeing from the Syrian war are forced to reach Europe through life-threatening means.

Many people in Europe fear that the influx of such a high number of people of Islamic belief will endanger the Christian civilisation of Europe. The Order of Malta challenges this: will we not risk our identity even more if we put our values of human rights aside, and refuse to host people who flee from persecution and wars?



As migration will continue in the coming years we should look at the opportunities, and not forget that a considerable number of refugees are skilled and can integrate into the labour market. In Italy, for example, migrants contribute to over 8% of the GDP. In Britain, foreign-born entrepreneurs are behind the creation of one in seven firms.

Besides this, nothing in Europe matches the millions who have been driven to seek refuge in Turkey, Lebanon or Jordan. Supporting the countries where the strain is most acute has become an imperative. Conditions for Syrian refugees in the Middle East are so dire that some are now considering returning to their war-ravaged homeland rather than endure poverty and hunger.

The Sovereign Order of Malta, as a 900 year old institution inspired by its Christian faith to help those in need, and with a mission to care “without distinction of religion, race, origin and age” (Art 2,2 Constitution), is involved in many countries assisting refugees, asylum seekers and internally displaced persons (IDPs) - the victims of wars, civil violence, religious persecution and natural disasters.

Faith-based institutions working together play an important role in supporting asylum seekers and migrants. The government of the Order of Malta set up a special initiative in view of the **World Humanitarian Summit** convened by the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon in May 2016 in Istanbul, aimed at creating awareness and drawing public attention to the significant and supportive role played by faith-based humanitarian actors - especially in cases of conflict.

It is often said that religion is at the root of conflict. We must distinguish between terrorist activity involving religious extremism and the wider relationship between religion and peace. Factors other than religious beliefs, such as corruption, gender and economic inequality, political terror and political instability are far more significant in determining levels of violence and conflict.

Through the power of their conviction, their reach, their motivation and their longevity, religious institutions and organisations have a unique position beyond that of secular organisations. The High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) - itself a secular organisation - has recognised the invaluable contribution that faith-based actors provide to refugees and displaced persons. They usually arrive first on the crisis spot, stay longer, do not have a political agenda, do not depend on international funding and have the support of the vast network of their believers. Assisting the poor and the afflicted is deeply rooted in the teachings of religions.

In conclusion, as we reflect on our history as Christians committed to helping our fellow man, and as we seek solutions to the current refugee crisis, our call to action is for measures which are practical and possible, which are embraced by the international community and which provide clearer policies among states and faster administrative procedures to cope with the influx.

We must not underestimate the determination of the oppressed to find a better life, the importance of their human rights in achieving it and the contribution we must make to effect it.

THE ORDER OF MALTA IN THE CONTEXT OF GLOBAL MIGRATION

IN THE STATES OF ORIGIN, ALONG THE JOURNEY, IN HOST COUNTRIES

Mobile Clinics

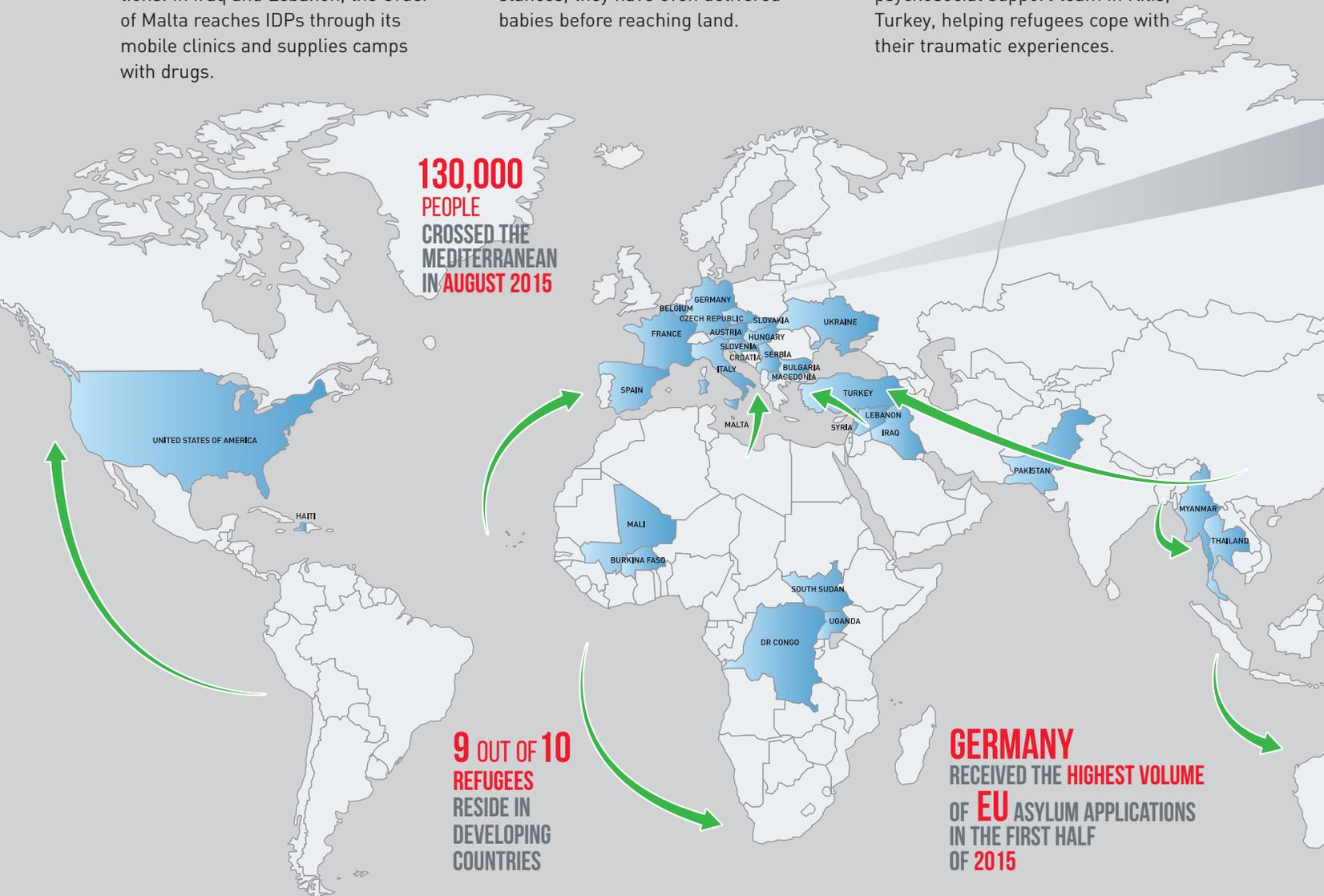
In times of conflict medical facilities struggle to function, just at the moment they are needed most. Doctors are dealing with the dramatic injuries of war, but also people whose lives are in danger as they cannot access medicines for routine conditions. In Iraq and Lebanon, the Order of Malta reaches IDPs through its mobile clinics and supplies camps with drugs.

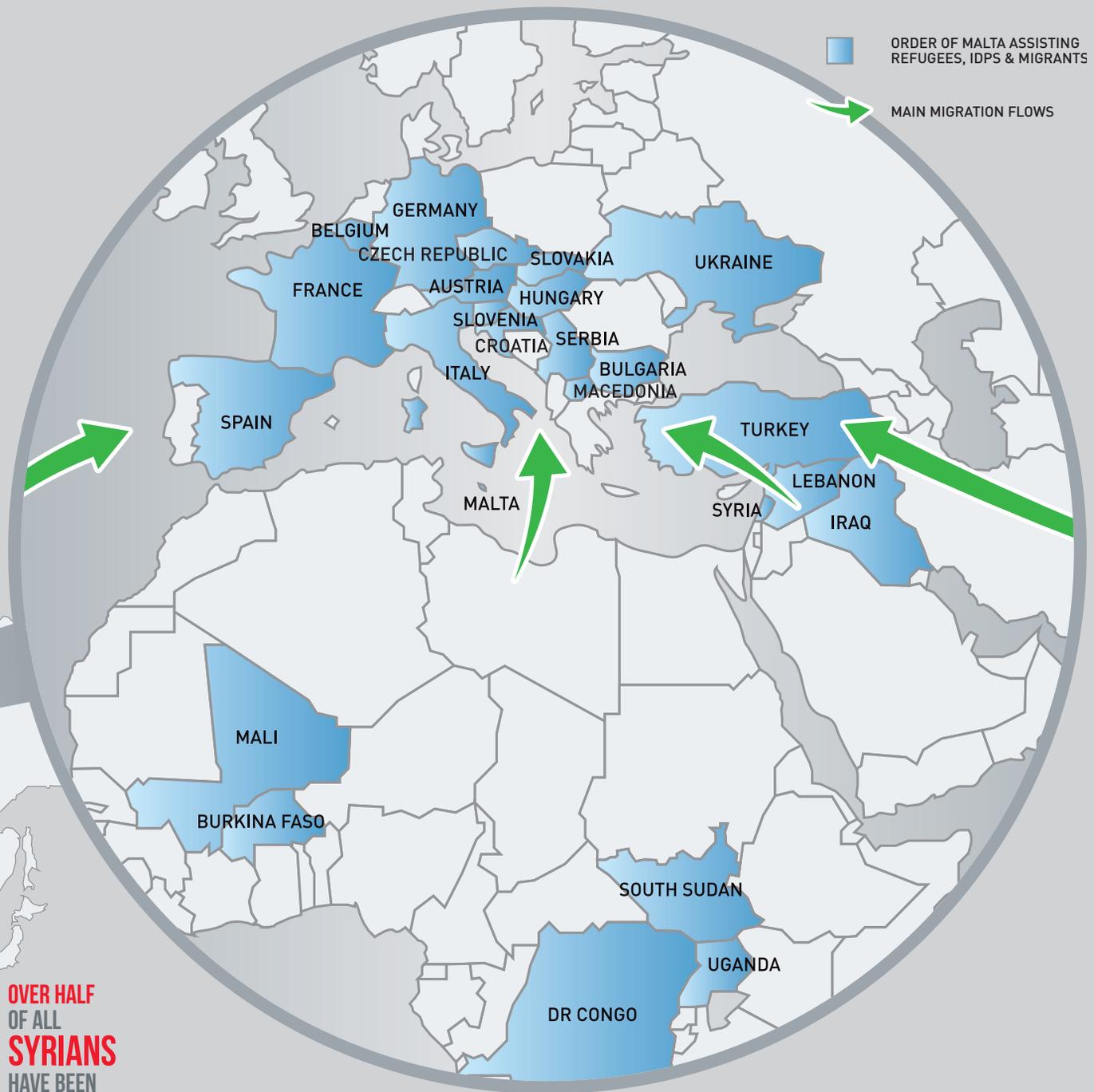
Rescue

The Mediterranean Sea has become a mass grave for people desperate to reach the relative safety of Europe. Those risking everything include women and young children. Order of Malta doctors rescue people daily at sea in dramatic circumstances, they have even delivered babies before reaching land.

Psychological support

Almost one third of Syrian refugee children are psychologically strained. Every 5th child suffers from post-traumatic stress disorder. Reactions manifest themselves through a wide range of problems. The Order's local partner runs a mental health and psychosocial support team in Kilis, Turkey, helping refugees cope with their traumatic experiences.





OVER HALF OF ALL SYRIANS HAVE BEEN FORCED TO LEAVE THEIR HOMES

Emergency first response

For refugees escaping war, fleeing can be as risky as staying at home. Thousands endure hunger, extreme cold and exhaustion on the Balkan route north. Children are separated from parents in the chaos. Branded 'illegals', there are no guarantees. The Order of Malta provides food, assistance and medical aid along the way.

Integration

Successful integration of refugees into host societies can benefit both parties. Structured support for new arrivals and language lessons improve job prospects, as well as the sense of wellbeing in their new home. In 2014, 50% of refugees in Germany passed through the Order of Malta's reception centres.

THE INNOCENT VICTIMS OF CONFLICTS WORLDWIDE

GRAND CHANCELLOR ALBRECHT BOESELAGER CONSIDERS THE ISSUES

Working with the innocent victims of conflict worldwide, the Order of Malta appreciates and welcomes the initiative of UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to convene the World Humanitarian Summit in May 2016

Grand Chancellor Albrecht Boeselager



There are 180 million people affected by conflict worldwide today. The proliferation of crisis and needs is extraordinary, as are their dramatic humanitarian consequences. The millions affected by a variety of very different major crises place unique demands on all humanitarian actors. 80 million depend on humanitarian aid for survival. The majority live in regions of conflict. Conflict will remain an increasingly important component of humanitarian aid, and we must be prepared for this and seek new methods and instruments.

With deep concern, we observe a fast decreasing regard for humanitarian principles. The great achievements of the family of nations after the two World Wars, in codifying humanitarian principles to be observed in wars and armed conflicts, are in danger of becoming mere documents.

How can faith-based institutions and humanitarian actors better assist and protect civilians in times of conflict? By assessing the dimensions of conflict, religion and humanitarian aid in combination we can make an objective assessment, and draw useful conclusions for our future work.

Wars have been fought in the name of gods and goddesses since ancient times. Therefore, it is often suggested that as religion has been involved in all kinds of conflicts it is at the core of these clashes. The current barbarities committed worldwide by groups which refer to a religion for their justification – for example, ISIS/Daesh, al-Shabaab, Boko Haram, and the Christian anti-Balaka (CAR) – and the longstanding regional conflicts in the Near and Middle East, are prompting many to ask if religion is the cause of most conflicts in the world. This is too simplistic. The last century is full of examples of mass killing and wars, which needed no god. I consider that religion is misused as a source of influence to pursue the secular interests of power. Religious motivations can induce violence when separated from moral content and poisoned by corruption and driven by power. Conflicts may contain religious elements. However, they are always driven by cultural, economic, ethnic, territorial and factors such as external pressures. Perhaps the answer to conflicts with a religious element is not less religion, but more – more of religion's peaceful, non-violent content as a rich source of reconciliation, social tolerance, devotion, humanitarian commitment, empowerment and peace-building.

Humanitarian aid is often contested

Humanitarian aid itself is often contested in the same way as religion. The equivalent to the question of whether religion causes war is: 'Does humanitarian aid prolong conflict?' Everyone in the humanitarian world knows the problems and negative effects of humanitarian aid. Conflict parties often manipulate aid for their own benefit; agencies create aid dependency; aid is used as a substitute for political action; there

is the concern of aid giving power to belligerents. These and other issues can influence the dynamics of conflict in its duration and violence. However, the picture is incomplete. Humanitarians know about these challenges and are doing their best to mitigate the consequences. They save lives where they can - most important in settings that are far from an ideal humanitarian world. Helping people has never been easy. Therefore, improvement of the humanitarian system in all its facets should be the goal. In this way, our approach to humanitarian aid in conflict should be similar to our approach to religion in conflict: not less humanitarian aid, but more.

It is now recognised that religion-based actors are a crucial part of the architecture of international humanitarian activity. The common perception is that this is true because religion-based actors and faith-based organisations have professionalised to the point of having no differences from secular actors.

Religious actors have a unique position

I believe that religious actors have a unique position through the power of their conviction, their reach, their motivation and longevity. Assisting the poor is deeply rooted in the teachings of religions. I believe that the particular strengths of religion-based actors do not stop at the operational level. We never lose sight of the spiritual dimension of people in need. Our assistance responds not only to material demands, but combines technical care with an ethical and spiritual dimension.

Faith-based action is rightly challenged when faith actors exclude members of other faith backgrounds; when they proselytise and put pressure on people to convert as a pre-condition for support; or when they discriminate against individuals or groups. Therefore we must do everything we can to lead by example and demonstrate that faith-based action does not undermine the principles of impartiality and neutrality.

Improving aid to people in conflicts

Steps to improve aid to people in conflicts must include: better use of the unique strengths of faith-based actors; promotion of the positive reconciliation role that religion can play through the power of shared values; interreligious dialogue to establish a common understanding of our special humanitarian mandate. Religion based actors are well placed to interact with the religious infrastructure in affected areas, which in most cases plays a crucial role in organising help and promoting peace.

Two examples: after the 2004 tsunami we helped to rebuild villages in Aceh, Indonesia. When I visited the region the local Mullah, in greeting me at the village entrance, remarked how pleased he was to be helped by people who were honouring God. He then invited me to the newly built mosque to pray together, he saying his Muslim prayer, I my Christian prayer.

In Lebanon the Order of Malta runs twenty-eight socio-medical centres all over the county, some in close cooperation with other religions, with the Druse, the Sunnites and, in the South, with the Shiites. There, Shiite nurses wear the Order's cross on their working dress. The cooperation in the humanitarian field of religion-based organisations plants seeds of peace and creates a bond of mutual trust and confidence among people of different religions.

Extracts from the keynote speech of the Grand Chancellor to the Sovereign Order of Malta's Symposium held at the United Nations, Geneva, 27 May 2015 on Faith-based actors and humanitarian aid: is there a 'value added'?



Malteser International field hospital in Kilis, Turkey, 3km from the Syrian border

REFUGEES AND IDPs: THE ISSUES

1. DECONSTRUCTING MYTHS ABOUT IMMIGRATION

An objective analysis of migration and the refugee crisis

Interview with

STEVE KILLELEA,

Australian IT entrepreneur and philanthropist, founder of the Institute for Economics and Peace – an international think tank dedicated to building a greater understanding of the connection between business, peace and economics with particular emphasis on the economic benefits of peace

Refugees migrating north along the Balkan route face severe conditions and are in need of food, water and shelter



Wars, poverty, persecutions, climate change. These are the driving forces that lead millions of people to abandon their country or town of origin. What responsibility does the West have and could this massive movement of populations have been predicted?

There are two ways to look at Europe's moral obligations. The first is from a humanitarian perspective, which many people would agree on. Civil societies alleviate human suffering. The other is a more practical view and that is if these forced migrations are not managed properly they will result in higher long-term costs, both economically and sociologically. These people are desperate; hunger and fear are hard to stop without resorting to violent solutions. The ongoing costs of detention, border protection and internal conflict will be high and long lasting. The solution is to work out how best to incorporate migrants within society so that they become an asset rather than a liability.

The influx of migrants will not stop in the coming years. How can host governments be prepared and what policies should be adopted to deal with this phenomenon?

With climate change, a degraded bio-sphere and over-population it is likely that many more refugee crises will eventuate. What is important is that governments do not back these up without solutions, otherwise the sheer size of the problem will become overwhelming and this will lead to social breakdown.

Looking at the current European scenario, firstly the EU needs to find a way of equitably distributing the refugees according to economic strength, unemployment and other factors. There will be a need to recognise and update skills that they may have, providing temporary accommodation, language training and training in local customs, as well as resettlement back to their homelands for those who wish to return once their home country's crisis has passed. In the long run, immigration is the only solution for Europe and its demographic issue of ageing.

Focussing on the Mediterranean crisis, some European political parties insist that the influx of migrants would cause the collapse of the European social order. In your opinion can Europe handle such an influx? Let us look at a concrete example: Lebanon, where one in four is a refugee. What do these figures tell us and how justifiable is the fear of an invasion that will wipe out Western ideals?

Lebanon has the highest number of refugees of any nation in the world, followed by Jordan where approximately one in ten people is a refugee, and although strained, these countries have not collapsed. A country like Australia may give a better indication of the ability to productively absorb immigrants. It has been taking in somewhere around one percent of its population each year for the last 60 years and has absorbed



them productively into the society. In 2015 more than 1 million refugees registered in Germany, which is about one percent of the population, which is about one percent of the population. Furthermore, if we go back to 1994, Germany took in about 400,000 refugees from the Balkans. Germany has successful past experience and can learn a lot from its history. At that time, the country had absorbed East Germany and did not have the same level of resources as today. What's more, in most circumstances 90 percent of refugees return to their homeland, provided that the conflict stops within a reasonable period.

The EU is about 580 million people, of which point five (0.5) percent is roughly 3 million people, which would seem a very acceptable number given that Australia takes in one percent of its population each year. The real issue for Europe is a political problem driven by fear rather than economics.

Europe's population is ageing at high speed with a huge impact on the work force. Is a continent that closes its borders to immigrants deemed to lose its capacity to compete with the emerging economies?

When we look at the demographic mix of the immigrants arriving in Germany, for example, the average age is 25. The gender numbers are equally balanced and only three percent are over 60, whereas in Germany approximately 28 percent of the population is over 60. Many of the refugees arriving in Europe are highly skilled as paying the various bribes that are needed while in transit is expensive, therefore it is the well-educated who are on the move. The influx, if managed properly, can be a long-term asset for Europe.

According to your research, resilience and adaptability are key to the successful assimilation of migrants into society. Can you tell us the reasons and give us evidence to sustain your findings?

There is a concept known as Positive Peace, based on active behaviors such as resolution of conflicts and the creation of inclusive social systems. Above all, it is a social indicator of resilience, or the capacity to adjust to shocks and change. Germany has a very high measure of Positive Peace. Examples of countries strong in Positive Peace are Iceland and Japan. Iceland was the country most affected by the global financial crisis. Similarly, Japan recovered from the tsunami, although it faced serious challenges such as the destruction of a nuclear power plant.

Teaching refugees the language of their host country is key to successful integration

2. RELIGIOUS FREEDOM, HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE REFUGEE IMPACT

The decline of religious pluralism and tolerance

JOHANNES HEEREMAN VON ZUYDTWYCK

is Executive President of Aid to the Church in Need, a Pontifical Foundation supporting the Catholic faithful and other Christians who are persecuted, oppressed or in pastoral need. His recent report identifies extremism and persecution as significant factors in mass migration

Survivor reaches a Lampedusa beach, medical aid and safety



The persecution of long-established religious minorities and the rise of mono-confessional states is resulting in exceptionally high population displacements that contribute to the worldwide refugee crisis.

The Aid to the Church in Need Pontifical Foundation, in our Report of November 2014, concludes that, to reverse the disturbing trends identified in the Report, responsibility for combatting violence and persecution rests, first and foremost, within religious communities themselves. The necessity for all religious leaders to loudly proclaim their opposition to religiously inspired violence, and to re-affirm their support for religious tolerance, is becoming ever more urgent. Our Report finds that religious freedom is now compromised in 60 percent of the 196 countries we surveyed. The review covers the period October 2012 to June 2014.

Although the right to freedom of religion is enshrined in Article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, it is almost everywhere under threat.

Rise in migration related to religious persecution

Extremism and persecution of this nature emerges as a significant factor in a growing phenomenon of mass migration. Minority faith communities in the Middle East had been in decline for many years, but in the period under review a pre-existing humanitarian crisis suddenly and dramatically worsened. For example Christians in Syria declined from 1.75 million in early 2011 to perhaps barely 1.2 million in the summer of 2014 – a decline of over 30 percent in three years. In Iraq the decline is even steeper. Clearly religion was not the only factor driving people out of their home country – economic factors and general security were prevailing concerns – but nonetheless religious hatred increasingly became a more obvious driving force for the growing refugee phenomenon. The rise in migration related to religious persecution can therefore be linked to the UNHCR announcement in June 2014 that the worldwide number of displaced people and refugees had topped 50 million for the first time in the post-World War II era.

The creation of theocratic or mono-confessional states is having a profound impact not only on those countries where it is being put into practice but also in Western democracies. Displaced members of religious groups are seeking refuge in the West, thereby creating a range of social and economic challenges. Ironically, as religious pluralism in areas such as the Middle East goes into decline, Western democracies, historically mainly Christian and themselves largely mono-confessional, are having to learn to live with religious pluralism, often for the first time. The rise of social media has meant that fundamentalism is being disseminated through another route.

Whatever the possible reasons for the decline of religious pluralism and tolerance –



whether motivated by hatred of another religion or hatred of any religion – the damage to the human condition at its deepest level is apparent. As Pope Francis said in a speech on 20th June 2014: “Reason recognises that religious freedom is a fundamental right of man, reflecting his highest dignity”.

In Erbil, Iraq, a medical team of Malteser International brings aid to thousands of refugees living around the city in camps and disused buildings

3. REFUGEE CRISES AND INCREASING CONFLICTS IN OUR TIME

Malteser International is on the front line

THIERRY DE BEAUMONT-BEYNAC

is President of Malteser International, the worldwide relief agency of the Sovereign Order of Malta for humanitarian aid

Internally displaced persons escaping conflict and violence receive survival kits - household goods, seeds, agricultural tools, South Sudan



During the last two years we have experienced a series of violent disasters, leading to serious refugee crises around the globe. For the first time in history, in 2014 the United Nations declared the highest emergency level for five humanitarian crises in a single year. The people of Syria for example have suffered from the war in their country for nearly five years. The conflict has left over 13.5 million people in dire need of humanitarian aid and it has caused the entire region to spiral down into chaos, in one of the worst humanitarian crises of our day.

In difficult times like these, we are called to come to the aid of those suffering from war and violence, disease and hunger. As the international relief agency of the Sovereign Order of Malta, we answer that call every day with all of our might. For sixty years we have been standing by those affected by poverty, disease, conflict and disaster, helping them to lead a healthy life with dignity. With over 100 projects annually in some 25 countries worldwide, we provide relief in the world's major emergencies and forgotten crises, helping communities rebuild and recover.

Emergency relief in crisis and conflict

At its core, our work in 2014 focused on emergency relief in crisis and conflict regions, as well as providing medical assistance to refugees and internally displaced persons – especially in the Middle East and in South Sudan. Since 2012, Malteser International and its local partners have provided emergency medical care for refugees and the displaced in Syria, Turkey and Lebanon. In 2014, over 15,000 patients were treated in our field hospitals, health centres and mobile clinics. Since 2012 we have provided over 300,000 people with survival packages and emergency relief goods such as food, household and hygiene articles, and winter clothing.

In neighbouring Iraq, attacks by the jihadist rebel group, the so-called Daesh (Isis), have forced nearly 3.2 million people to flee their homes. Many of them have sought refuge in the Kurdistan autonomous region in northern Iraq. Malteser International is committed to improving the health of displaced persons in the region. Since the summer of 2014, 23,000 patients received medical assistance, and hundreds of women received pre- and post-natal care. In and around Erbil, a mobile team visits families to provide health care. In Ainkawa, a district of Erbil largely inhabited by Christians, we have built a permanent health centre. In Dohuk, near the Syrian border, we run two health centres for 25,000 displaced persons.

Taking a look at the African region, a civil war in South Sudan has not only thrown Africa's youngest nation into a refugee crisis, but also caused a food emergency. According to the United Nations, nearly two million have fled the violence, while more than four million are in need of humanitarian aid. In Maridi in 2014, Malteser International distributed corn flour, beans, salt and vegetable oil to 7,600 internally dis-



placed persons. An additional 1,400 refugee families received household items and seeds and hoes to plant their own food. In neighbouring Uganda, where many South Sudanese have sought refuge, we have installed new water tanks and distribution points in a camp which supplies 12,000 refugees with clean drinking water. In Asia, the situation of the internally displaced, for example in Pakistan, is equally severe. Fleeing violence and armed conflicts, 1.6 million internally displaced persons and refugees, mostly from Afghanistan, need humanitarian assistance. Malteser International has been working in projects in Peshawar since 2013, providing basic health services to refugees and internally displaced people, as well as to the local population. Since the earthquakes in Nepal in April and May 2015, which left 2.8 million homeless, our initial emergency aid during the first six months – food, hygiene articles, tarpaulins, blankets, medical care to 70,000 people in 12 villages in the district of Sindhupalchok – has now turned to longer term help, establishing a field hospital there.

Looking ahead

Looking ahead, there is little hope for improvement, as in Europe, too, the refugee crises and Ukraine situation remain tense. To respond better to these enormous challenges, Malteser International is investing in the expansion of its medical and emergency response capacities. Together with our partners, donors and supporters, we continue to transform our vision into reality in the coming years: to allow people in crisis regions around the world to live a healthy life with dignity. For that, we need all the support we can get.

Syrian refugees seek safety in Kilis, Turkey, where the Order runs a field hospital and supports a school for migrant children

4. HUMAN DIGNITY AND GLOBAL DISPLACEMENT

Emphasising the rights of refugees and migrants

AMBASSADOR MARIE-THÉRÈSE

PICTET-ALTHANN

The Order of Malta's Ambassador to the United Nations, Geneva, explains the role of the Permanent Observer Mission and the Order's active engagement in the work of the UN Human Rights Council and its participation in consultations, briefings and workshops of the UN and its specialised agencies

Malteser International's field hospital in a refugee camp, Thailand, where the Karen minority have sought shelter



We are living in an era of numerically unprecedented human mobility which is one of the most prominent features of today's global landscape. According to the International Organization for Migration (IOM), nearly one billion persons are now on the move. Besides voluntary migrants, they include people seeking to escape poverty, refugees escaping conflict and violence, persons displaced within their country by man-made and natural disasters, asylum seekers and victims of human trafficking. As economic, social and environmental factors as well as conflicts are the main motivators of movements of people, it is often difficult to distinguish between forced and voluntary movement.

To address this phenomenon, the United Nations, its specialised agencies and other international organisations are seeking ever greater coordination, cooperation and synergies with all stakeholders. As an important multilateral humanitarian hub, Geneva is in the midst of ongoing global efforts to increase response capacity and promote respect for human rights, international humanitarian law and fundamental humanitarian principles. The Order of Malta's Permanent Observer Mission is engaged in contributing to this process in areas related to the Order's worldwide activities such as fighting poverty, providing healthcare, humanitarian assistance, emergency relief and enhancing sustainable development.

Through our active engagement in the work of the UN Human Rights Council, we are able to emphasise the importance of the rights of refugees, migrants, IDPs, women, older persons, as well as to address other issues of concern such as contemporary forms of slavery, freedom of religion or the protection of the family. In 2014 we organised several events during the sessions of the Council on the subjects of: 'Migration in dignity and security', 'Religions and slavery – what role for religions in the fight against slavery?' and together with other Missions we co-sponsored a panel on 'Christians in the Middle East: Citizenship, human rights and their future'. The Foundation Caritas in Veritate, founded by the Missions of the Holy See and the Sovereign Order of Malta, assists us in these tasks through its network of international experts.

Order of Malta engaged with UNHCR in many refugee areas of concern

Important drivers of large scale population movements are the multiple global crises. The recent unbroken series of major complex humanitarian crises – natural disasters, political upheavals, armed conflicts, environmental and climate change occurrences – are forcing persons to leave home, in desperation and with great human suffering. At the end of 2014, over 51 million people were in displacement due to conflict and persecution. Of these over 28 million IDPs and over 10 million refugees are of concern to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). As the Order of Malta is engaged with UNHCR in many of the same areas, our Mission



Malteser International supports IDPs in Democratic Republic of Congo, through medical, food security, sanitation and infrastructure programmes

ensures that both sides are kept up-to-date on developments on the ground through regular personal contacts, information gathering and reports. We address UNHCR's annual Executive Committee to inform member states' delegations on the Order's emergency relief and assistance to refugees and IDPs. At the 2014 plenary session the High Commissioner replied to our statement as follows: "I express enormous appreciation for our cooperation with the Order of Malta and the work Malteser International is doing. I pay tribute to the courage and the determination of the staff of Malteser International who are doing everything they can to help the people."

A further leading player on the international humanitarian stage is the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). Responsible for ensuring a coherent response to emergencies it mobilises and coordinates effective and principled humanitarian action in partnership with national and international actors to alleviate human suffering in disasters and emergencies. Based in New York, many of OCHA's operations are also run out of Geneva. Our Mission therefore follows closely their interventions, participates in consultations and attends their briefings at which detailed information on overall response efforts is provided.

In 2007 the Order of Malta signed a Cooperation Agreement with IOM. It covers areas of common interest, especially medical and social assistance to persons involved in migration, assistance in emergency and post-crisis situations, protection of victims of trafficking and other vulnerable groups and the dissemination of international human rights law. IOM addresses the challenges related to mass population displacement, migration governance, as well as emerging migration issues and themes, our Mission's participation in IOM's Council meetings and workshops is of mutual benefit. We also follow the work of the Global Forum on Migration and Development.

Serving the needs of people in conflict

Forced displacement and population movements are at the centre of the UN post-2015 development agenda debate, the preparatory meetings for the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction which took place in March 2015 in Sendai, Japan, and the regional and global consultations leading up to the 2016 World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) in Istanbul, Turkey, where the Order of Malta has focussed on the theme: 'Serving the needs of people in conflict'. Our Mission is participating in the Geneva meetings of the consultative process which includes Member States, the global network of humanitarian organisations and experts, associated parties (civil society) and affected people themselves.

The Order of Malta's entities across Europe join forces to assist refugees travelling north



REFUGEES AND IDPS: THE REALITY

1. IN IRAQ: LIFE IN A REFUGEE CAMP

Some have been displaced before, maybe many times

Interview with

OLIVER HOCHEDÉZ

the Malteser International emergency expert has a background in international relief organisations in many countries. As press officer for a government organisation he accompanied emergency relief missions. What he saw stirred him to do more and he turned to fulltime relief work

Malteser International supplies two IDP camps in the autonomous region of Kurdistan, with drugs and medical aid



“To see the faces of people in need when you provide them with a new home or much needed medicine inspired me, too.” Since 2013 Hochedez has been Emergency Relief Expert for Malteser International, the Order of Malta’s worldwide relief agency.

He explains that Malteser International always aims to work with local communities and partners when establishing a health facility in refugee camps or other settings, following local regulations for health support. “The skill is to put the right questions to find the best solutions.” Malteser International follows international quality standards and aims to work with local medical personnel.

Malteser International has been working in Iraq for a decade and is currently in Erbil and Dohouk. In August 2014, following the clashes with Daesh (Isis), it scaled up assistance to refugees fleeing violence. Although the teams have been in refugee/IDP camps before, he emphasises: “The feeling you get when you enter a camp is always overwhelming. It is difficult to get used to. You always see people suffering: they have lost relatives, friends, their belongings, their homes, and they face an uncertain future. You see children on their own, sick people you can’t help anymore. You hear the personal stories, especially in the context of persecution. But you have to switch quickly and act professionally to provide what people need.”

Having to flee from one moment to the next

It is often families who flee intolerable situations, but there are also lots of individuals, he explains. Some had to flee from one moment to the next, with no chance of taking anything with them. Some lost relatives during their escape. Some family members stayed behind to guard their homes or to fight for their land and it is not known what has happened to them. There are people of all ages among the refugees and displaced persons (IDPs). For many it is not the first time that they have had to leave their homes. Some have been displaced before, maybe many times.

In the Kurdistan region all religious groups are represented. In North Kurdistan, Malteser International supports Yazidis, Christians and Muslims, as they all live in the IDP camps where the relief agency runs health centres. For the Order of Malta, relief is for all, without distinction.

The people in refugee camps have been able to escape from the worst scenarios and they are in some way safe. National and international organisations are expanding their relief work from day to day with better services and support actions to improve the refugees’ lives. But with harsh conditions, like the severe winters, their situation is even harder.



In North Iraq, Malteser International offers healthcare for displaced persons (IDPs), plus other support - providing a food supply, education, livelihood, water and sanitation, reconstruction of buildings and infrastructure, shelter, protection for the vulnerable. The children must go to school. Otherwise there will be a lost generation with very little access to the labour market in the future. Mental health support for the traumatised is a pressing issue. Access to besieged regions and suffering populations is of great concern, due to the security situation, blocked access and ongoing fighting.

Financial means and donations are always needed. Humanitarian aid, however, is only an interim solution. The international community must also find political solutions to offer people a perspective to hope for and to enable them to return to their homes one day.

Malteser International emergency relief team, headed by Hochedez (centre), hears a Yazidi refugee's story of his escape from his Daesh-controlled village

2. IN LEBANON: WHERE ONE IN FOUR IS A REFUGEE

Some villages of 200 people are hosting more than 2000 refugees

PAUL SAGHBINI

is Hospitaller of the Lebanese Association.

The situation in the country is disastrous. The Order of Malta's socio-medical centres close to the most concentrated refugee areas are providing constant medical care and support.

In Lebanon, the Order of Malta's twenty-eight busy social and medical structures around the country provide care to all comers



The displacement process of Syrian refugees to Lebanon goes back to the start of the Syrian crisis in March 2011. According to the UNHCR, the official number of registered Syrian refugees in Lebanon at the end of September 2015 was 1,078,338, one quarter of the national population.

The situation in the country is disastrous and the Order of Malta's Association in Lebanon continues to identify support projects to relieve the suffering of the most vulnerable, in Kefraya, in Barqa, in Khaldieh, in Kobayat.

Projects in the Akkar region, as well as the northern centres and Beirut, are also assisted by the Order's worldwide relief agency, Malteser International, targeting Syrian and Iraqi refugees and the needy Lebanese population.

Since July 2012, Malteser International has been providing emergency relief in Syria as well as in Turkey and in Lebanon, aiding 35,000 people in the region. From September 2012, Malteser International has been supporting the Order of Malta health clinic in Khaldieh, northern Lebanon, which offers free health care to Syrian refugees, with medication and medical equipment. The Syrian refugees who attend the health centre in Khaldieh and the two social centres in the Bekaa Valley (supported since August 2013) for medical assistance receive free health care, drugs and where required, follow-up hospitalisation. The neediest refugee families also receive emergency kits, baby food, clothes and hygiene products. In addition, a home visits programme ensures that those unable to come to the health centres have medical attention and are able to participate in health awareness sessions, where the refugees are educated on primary healthcare issues such as personal hygiene, maternal care and the importance of vaccination.

Since March 2014, activities in the region have been expanded to cover an additional 25,000 people, including relief operations in northern Lebanon, in the Wadi Khaled region and Akkar province. The most vulnerable Syrian refugee and displaced families are the beneficiaries – the majority are women and children – who are living with host families, in empty buildings, and outside the refugee camps, as well as unregistered refugees.

Medical mobile unit treats both local population and Syrian refugees

Meeting the need for more support for the refugees, as well as many of its own disadvantaged people, the Lebanese Association has created a new Mobile Medical Unit in the northern border region of Wadi Khaled, thanks to the German government and in partnership with Malteser International.

The project is affiliated to the Association's Primary Health Care Centre and the Antonine Sisters Hospital, both in the village of Kobayat. The mobile clinic can treat both the local population, which is one of the poorest in the country, and the Syrian



refugees. It covers 10 surrounding villages with an average of 1,200 medical acts per month. Some villages of 200 people are hosting more than 2000 refugees. The mobile clinic, bearing the eight-pointed cross of the Order of Malta, is widely welcomed by everyone in a mostly Muslim Sunni region, as it provides high quality services not covered by any other organisation in the area.

Collaboration is effective

This effective example of cooperation for efficient aid among Order of Malta organisations to help those in great need - its Lebanese Association in collaboration with Malteser International - has meant care for Syrian refugees since August 2011, providing medical consultations and medicines and distributing humanitarian kits in all of the Order's Socio-Medical Centres located near the most concentrated areas of Syrian refugees: in Kefraya (Beqaa), Barqa (Beqaa), Khaldieh (North) and Kobayat (North). The kits provide basic food, hygiene products, baby products, mattresses, sheets, covers, clothes for children.

The Order of Malta's mobile clinic tours villages in remote areas of northern Lebanon. Lebanese families and refugees alike are cared for, with the clinic treating 80 patients a day

3. IN ITALY: FIRST AID AT SEA OFF SOUTHERN COASTS

Fleeing from war, conflict or persecution

MARIA GRAZIA MAZZA

graduated in Medicine at the University of Palermo in 2013. With experience in accident and emergency care, she has been working with the Italian Relief Corps of the Order of Malta first aid unit since 2014

Dr Maria Grazia Mazza attends a boat survivor



The number of refugees who crossed the Mediterranean Sea to reach Europe in overloaded rubber boats and fishing vessels reached a record level of 600,000 in the first ten months of 2015. The large majority were fleeing from war, conflict or persecution, making the Mediterranean crisis primarily a refugee crisis. A third who have arrived by sea in Italy or Greece have come from war-ravaged Syria, while those fleeing violence in Afghanistan and Eritrea each made up 12 percent. 2015 has also seen an increase in the numbers of people dying as they try to cross the Mediterranean - 1,308 died in April alone. The central migration route in the Mediterranean, from North Africa to Italy and Malta, is the riskiest.

In April 2015 a major rescue operation took place in the Mediterranean after 700 people drowned just outside Libyan waters, yet another shocking disaster involving refugees and migrants being smuggled to Europe. Order of Malta doctors were on board participating in the rescuing operations.

Since 2008 the Order of Malta's Italian Relief Corps (CISOM) has been involved in medical interventions in the Strait of Sicily, working on the ships of the Italian Coast Guard and the Guardia di Finanza for project 'SAR' - Search and Rescue, financed by the European Union and co-financed by the Italian Ministry of the Interior - seven years of the Relief Corps' emergency medical aid, during which the doctors and nurses have developed a specialism and experience in first aid at sea. From February to November 2014, the Corps collaborated with the Italian navy in the deployment of 'Mare Nostrum' and from December 2014 with the European 'Triton' mission. The area SAR covers is 500,000 square kilometres.

VOLUNTEER DR MAZZA DESCRIBES HER EXPERIENCES

Palermo, February 2015

It is fifteen days since I returned to my daily routine. But not a moment goes by when I don't think of what I experienced on Lampedusa.

I remember every moment of two long but wonderful months - the beautiful things and the shocking things, the difficult moments, those of joy, the emotional ones, the human relationships, of lives intertwined which leave behind something in your life. Day, night, anytime, my mobile would ring announcing an alert. There were days when it didn't stop. Sometimes we were at sea for twenty or thirty hours, putting out in daylight, returning in the paths of red sunsets, or in the dark, or as dawn broke. We worked hard, often sustained by the force of adrenalin when we hit barriers of exhaustion.

You have such mixed sensations of amazement, sadness, wonder and disgust when in the middle of the sea you catch sight of these boats full of people. How can there be people capable of treating their fellow man like this? How can they contemplate



Teams from the Order of Malta's Italian Relief Corps put to sea every day to rescue people who arrive in their hundreds on precarious vessels

enriching themselves at the expense of those fleeing from fear, poverty, even death, and putting up with anything just to escape?

However you must not allow yourself to think, but to concentrate on giving help. I recall the expressions of so many of them, I remember their faces, the few exchanged words, what they did in life, trying to find a common language in which to communicate. I remember their smiles, their thanks on realising we were there to save them, their gratitude when we attended to their children.

The children

They are the worst and the best part of this story. The worst, because catching sight of the children stuck in the middle of that melee and confusion, one asked how is it possible to subject innocent children to this; to see them crying desperately, separated from their parents in the transfer, perhaps fearing they would never see them again, perhaps fearing us, muffled with gloves and masks. And then, the joy in seeing them calm down, in making them smile. We grabbed whatever we had to hand to distract them: a glove became a little ball to draw faces on, a sweetie the best thing ever. Their smiles, their hugs, their little hands waving to us as they went away, these were the greatest rewards.

The luck to be able to say: I was there!

I met hundreds of people, some I could help a lot, others, very little. But the reality is that they did much more for me. They have taught me what sacrifice means, what risking everything in the uncertainty of a better future means. They have taught me to look at life differently, to recognise how fortunate we are, not to be discontent. They have taught me to apply what I have learned from this experience to my daily life and my work, to do it with passion, dedication, humility. They have given me the possibility of considering myself useful to my neighbour and the luck to be able to say: 'I was there!' It is I who must thank them, for the possibility of improving myself, of growing. They have given me this unique, unforgettable experience. And I hope I can go back and do it all again, to feel myself really alive once more as I have in these past two months.

Teams on board ship treat the new arrivals for trauma, shock, disease, dehydration



4. IN GERMANY: WHERE SUCCESSFUL INTEGRATION IS A FOCUS

The Order's Malteser Werke has 25 years of experience

Interview with

SEBASTIAN SCHILGEN

Malteser Werke's energetic Managing Director has a background in theology and social sciences, he has been MW's head since 2004. His responsibilities include overseeing 20 refugee facilities in Germany - a total of 6200 beds - making MW one of the largest organisations in the sector.

Asylum seekers at the Order's Malteser Werke centres in Germany receive medical care, food, clothing and shelter



The service has been running since 1991, caring for over 100,000 asylum seekers in these 25 years. Schilgen reports a dramatic change in the last two: due to world conflicts, numbers have increased exponentially: 200,000 arrived in 2014, with over a million in 2015 as numbers continue to grow.

Ten nationalities dominate the refugee figures

They come from many countries: Afghanistan, Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Eritrea, Iraq, Kosovo, Macedonia, Nigeria, Serbia, Syria, all seeking a better future. The families mostly come from the Balkan states, Syria and Iraq. Single travellers are mostly from other states, Eritrea and Nigeria and many of them are under age or just about. The numbers of unaccompanied minors as well as sick and disabled people have risen drastically in the last two years - a sign of how desperate their situations must be in their home countries. Many from Africa, the Arab States, Iraq and Syria have arrived across the sea, via organisations of smugglers, and then travelled through neighbouring European countries to reach Germany. East European asylum seekers arrive by bus or train.

Most refugees are Muslim or Christian, with a very significant rise in the number of Christians seeking refuge over the last two years.

All Malteser Werke staff speak at least one foreign language, often the mother tongue of the refugees. Many have a migration background themselves and so can easily connect with them.

Refugee health is an issue: frequently the children arrive with typical sicknesses such as chicken pox; TB and hepatitis are well known problems; but some might have serious illnesses or handicaps.

More and more arrive traumatised, especially those from Iraq and Syria, and they need psychological care, a professional expertise that Germany needs to develop more.

Successful integration is very realistic

For many asylum seekers, if their reasons are considered insufficient, they must return home or move to a different country. For the acknowledged asylum seeker life perspectives are not bad, because of the support the state and society provide. They live in a secure country, with the possibility to work and educate themselves. Successful integration is very realistic.

Schilgen outlines what is needed now: society must be taught about the specifics and the backgrounds to foster a healthy welcoming culture. Standards have to guarantee accommodation that is humane and of good quality, and they need to be unified and implemented in all German states to support functioning, effective integration long term.



And Europe needs a master plan, which controls the reception and transfer of refugees as well as assuring quality standards and focused measures of integration. The allocation of refugees in Europe needs to be more balanced and socially fairer.

Refugees who took part in an Order of Malta first-aid course have joined the Stuttgart unit and now help in setting up camps

HOW THE RECEPTION SYSTEM WORKS

At initial reception facilities, the district government has the domiciliary rights and Malteser Werke manages day to day business. The asylum seekers usually stay 1-2 weeks, but not longer than three months. From there they are transferred into communities and shared accommodation, for 1-2 years, taken care of by Malteser Werke.

The children get special attention and enjoy organised activities and social interaction every day. When the families arrive at the shared accommodation, self-sufficiency and integration are fostered and the children are automatically put into school.

Everyone being cared for in the facilities has already applied for asylum. Their reasons, political or other, are checked by the Federal Office of Migration and Refugees. But the focus of Malteser Werke is not political – as part of the Order of Malta’s traditional mission they pledge to take care of everyone equally, unbiased by their origin, religion or their reasons to flee.

5. IN UKRAINE: HELPING IDPs FLEEING CONFLICT

The conflict in the east of the country has brought chaos and fear

Interview with

PAVLO TITKO

CEO of the Order of Malta's relief organisation in Ukraine.

Titko was an Order of Malta student volunteer after the fall of the Berlin Wall, who saw a humanitarian need and responded by founding the Maltijiska Slushba Dopomohy

In Ukraine, the Order of Malta has a volunteer corps, established in 1993



In Ukraine, the social system is in a state of collapse, the conflict in the east of the country has brought chaos and fear, thousands have died, thousands more have become internally displaced persons.

In 2014, Maltijiska Slushba Dopomohy, the Order of Malta's relief organisation, in addition to its regular activities in the west of the country, ran soup kitchens in Kiev at the time of the clashes. In 2015, together with a humanitarian aid specialist from Malteser International, a needs assessment has been put in hand, as an addition to the precarious conditions created by the country's clashes. The Order of Malta's relief organisation in Ukraine has been operating for more than 20 years under its founder and CEO, Pavlo Titko. Why did he get involved?

Establishing Maltijiska Slushba Dopomohy in the '90s

Pavlo Titko was born in Lviv (Western Ukraine), near the Polish border and studied at Lviv University. It was the period of the Cold War and he was not allowed to study German, the language of his family. Pavlo, like all Ukrainians in that area at that time, spoke Polish and Russian as well as Ukrainian. In 1990, as a student and volunteer, he joined the Order of Malta volunteers, to help distribute humanitarian aid after the fall of the Wall. Four years later, together with other volunteers, he established the Order of Malta relief organisation in Ukraine, Maltijiska Slushba Dopomohy (MSD), found his time in the Soviet army had provided useful administrative experience, and became its CEO.

Although most refugees from the recent conflicts are still in the east of the country, the Order of Malta has been able to help refugees who have been accommodated in local orphanages. Titko explains: "These people are from very different backgrounds. Initially, there were Tatars and Russians from Crimea, then families from the Donetsk region who asked for asylum in Poland. Recently, there were four mothers and six children from the city of Debaltsevo. For two weeks, they had hidden in an underground cellar. Some of the older children had not been able to run away and were trapped there. We provided them with diapers, medicines and food. Some decades will be required to forget the pain produced by the conflict in the east of the country." The relief organisation is full of young people, aged between 15 and 30. They are trained to be first aiders, to take care of people with special needs, and to be cooks for the soup kitchens, too.

Titko reflects: "Time is irreversible, youth always wins, and Ukraine will never return to the 'Soviet World' of the 20th century. Short-term prospects seem unreach-



able right now. The war in the east of the country, the economic crisis, reforming the old system, emigration of experts, lack of investments – these are only a few challenges that Ukraine is facing. In the long run, I hope that Ukraine will be firmly established in the European structure, with civilised rules and preserving its culture, faith and tradition.”

The Order of Malta’s Ukrainian Relief Corps has 250 volunteers and a personnel of 16 people

A DISPLACED PERSON HELPING DISPLACED PEOPLE

38-year old psychotherapist Oskana L. was forced to flee when unrest broke out in Ukraine. She has since returned to her country but not to her hometown, and runs a centre of the Ukrainian Malteser Relief Service (volunteer corps) for psychosocial care and mental health for internally displaced people in Severodonetsk, eastern Ukraine. Oskana describes her story:

Flight from Donetsk, March 2014

There were military and checkpoints everywhere, people were afraid to go into the street. After six weeks, we decided to flee to Belarus. Firstly, my husband had to leave our home. For a whole week we had no contact until finally, on the last day of the bombardment, he was able to pass the 17 checkpoints to leave the city and to pick us up in Kiev. We were finally together again!

A year of hopelessness and recovery in Belarus

I suffered greatly and had enormous psychological problems dealing with everyday life. But in the end I needed this year and the distance from home to restore my mental health and get my strength back. When I was better I moved back to Ukraine with my children. My husband is still working in Belarus.

Return to Ukraine

I knew from my own experience what kind of burden it brings to be displaced, on the run, and to have to lead your life in a foreign country. I can help the people who come to our centre to change their outlook on life, we can find solutions to their problems together – and a place that is alien to them can even become their new home.





SECTION 2

IN ACTION AROUND THE WORLD

24 hours after an earthquake hit Nepal the Order of Malta's emergency team was on its way to Kathmandu. Young volunteers across Lithuania visit elderly people who are isolated by their own infirmity and poverty. Mothers and their babies are cared for at the Sainte Fleur Pavilion in Madagascar. Large-scale professional operations, small groups of enthusiastic volunteers, dedicated teams working in hospitals: the Order of Malta's works are unique in their diversity.



BEING HANDS ON AND LONG TERM

GRAND HOSPITALLER DOMINIQUE DE LA ROCHEFOUCAULD-MONTBEL ON HIS ROLE IN THE ORDER'S WORKS

The former President of the Order of Malta French Association, elected Grand Hospitaller in 2014, describes how special expertise supports those in need, and how neutrality is a benefit in crisis situations

The Grand Hospitaller during a conference



As Grand Hospitaller you hold a key position in the international life and works of the Order of Malta. What does this mean to you personally?

This special role is the fulfilling of a total commitment to the Order of Malta. I am working with our organisations around the world to enhance international cooperation and to facilitate the possibilities of working together more closely, of recognising and capitalising on synergies. In this way, our impact is both greater and more effective. My background is the experience of a business life, the Presidency of the French Association of the Order of Malta for a number of years, and the Executive Presidency of the Order's Holy Family Hospital in Bethlehem for a long period.

Since my election in 2014, we have organised regional meetings in Hong Kong for our entities in the Asia Pacific region, in Prague for the twelve Central and Eastern European entities, in Cologne for all our Hospitallers to reinforce cooperation and share experiences. Most recently we held an international symposium at the United Nations in Geneva, to discuss the pressing world problem of refugees and the role of faith-based organisations in humanitarian aid. In the Hospitaller role I travel to our projects, to support those in the field in their actions, to create a dynamic.

How would you describe the Order from a humanitarian action point of view?

In the present unstable situations in many parts of the world, organisations pop up. They often lack the years of experience – local experience – that we can provide. It is not the money that counts so much, it is the knowledge and understanding of the local scene. What the Order of Malta has in great strength is time – we have experience that stretches back centuries and, armed with this long experience, we can extend forward too. This helps our mission of care to succeed and it helps in expanding our care networks. It all takes time and patience: if you stop, you go backwards.

In a lay country like France our Association has always aimed to be the best of the best, in ourselves and in our expertise. In this way, we can take our actions to a higher level, with cooperation between Order of Malta entities and States with whom we work. In France we run a range of projects to help the poor, the homeless, the elderly, the sick and, most recently, we added a service providing legal assistance to asylum seekers from Iraq. An example outside France is our work in Palestine – in the last five years we have had support from Austria, Belgium, Britain, France itself, Germany, Ireland, Italy and the USA. So we become a partner and operate on another level – and on a parallel with the Order's relief agency, Malteser International. The works become complementary and there are links – we have established many framework agreements, programmes and partnerships, all of which work to create practical support for people in need.



The world is in an extreme state of flux. How can the attentions of the Order of Malta have a beneficial impact?

We are a hands-on organisation and we are unique – the oldest Christian charity in the world, with a mission to help the poor and the sick with complete impartiality and with a Christian inspiration to guide us. An example of our current action is our participation in the series of discussions for the World Humanitarian Summit in 2016. The symposium we hosted in Geneva on humanitarian aid and the role of faith-based organisations was to assess the value of such contributions and to ensure that our voice is heard in these crucial meetings of internationally involved organisations. Our experience, longevity, and neutrality and impartiality give us appropriate gravitas in international debate.

We undertake large projects, but small ones, too, when we work at local level to alleviate difficult situations. A recent example of this: we set up a micro credit programme in Palestine. It supported 30 families in a village with their small businesses. With an outlay of between \$40k and \$50k, they now have sustainability. Nearby, a disabled woman wanted to open a day care centre for local children, so that their mothers could work. We supported her initiative. The centre is now operational, the women are supporting their families and the disabled lady is a success story in herself! Little things make villages work.

What are the most pressing concerns for the Order of Malta's charitable works over the next five years?

Catastrophes are random and unpredictable and for those concerns, Malteser International, our worldwide relief agency, is there on the front line. They are currently in the field in the world's hot spots in Iraq and in Nepal, as well as engaged in long term projects in many countries. But we also respond to emergencies through other Order of Malta entities as we have a presence in many countries, providing long term, on-going programmes in many instances, and the possibility of moving quickly in a crisis because we have been in the country for a long time and we are therefore familiar with local cultures and traditions. An example is the Ebola crisis in Liberia and Guinea. We could react quickly and send medicines and healthcare products for distribution to the local population and the medical personnel on the ground because our works were already operational there.

Bethlehem's Holy Family Hospital runs a regular mobile medical unit for Bedouin women in the Judean desert

THE ORDER OF MALTA AND HUMANITARIAN AID

JONATHAN BENTHALL

is an expert in disaster relief and the media, Honorary Research Fellow in the Department of Anthropology, University of London and a prolific author in his field. Recent publications include works on Islam and Islamic philanthropy in the 'Age of Terror' and beyond (2014)

Training Dalit women in how to extend their family roles to include the community



The Order of Malta's charitable work first came to my attention as a researcher in the early 1990s. I was astonished to learn how extensive it was, if all its diverse and decentralised activities were taken together. It is still rather unfamiliar to the general public. The exception is Germany, where the Malteser is a national institution with over a million supporting members. Hardly any outsiders would associate the Order with innovativeness in overseas aid. Yet in the 1980s it pioneered a programme to support traditional medicine, healing and mental health in Cambodian refugee camps in Thailand. This provided an opportunity for refugees, in helping others, to recover a dignity which their status usually deprived them of. And since the 1990s, CIOMAL, the Order of Malta's anti-leprosy foundation, has continued a commitment that reaches back to the Order's period in Rhodes in the fourteenth century. CIOMAL has supported, and still supports, a Cambodian programme of leprosy prevention and medical, psychosocial and economic rehabilitation.

In memory of John de Salis (1947-2014)

My friend John was closely associated with both these innovative programmes. First, in Thailand, as the Order's Ambassador to the kingdom between 1986 and 1998, and then in Cambodia as President of CIOMAL from 2000 to 2008. I owe him a strong personal debt, because he gave me the most generous and unstinting help when I was researching a book published in the early 1990s about the relationship between overseas aid and the media. He told me in particular about his earlier years of testing experience as a delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross. Hardly a day passed without him sending me letters and press cuttings by mail and fax. Yet he was quite different from everyone I knew in the world of aid and development – indeed, from anyone else I knew. He was a Count of the Holy Roman Empire, a former British cavalry officer, a qualified barrister – and Swiss. My friendship with John has led me to reflect on how it is that an apparently anachronistic institution as the Order of Malta can sponsor such a range of successful and sometimes also innovative aid programmes.

The Order of Malta seems to thrive especially in republics rather than monarchies, with the exception of Spain. A clue to the success of the Order may be found in its survival in eastern Europe during the Cold War years under Soviet domination, when it was banned from working there. In Poland and Hungary, the symbolism of nobility seems to have retained some of the lustre for ordinary people that it had lost in the democratic West. This was a result of the repression of religion and independent association, the drabness of everyday life, and the corruption of officialdom. In our supposedly meritocratic Western democracies, new elites come to the fore – conspicuously, those grounded in money and political connections as much as in ability. The



Order of Malta embodies a different set of values largely based on family traditions and Catholic social teaching. We should judge by the results: “by their fruits ye shall know them” (Mt 7:16).

Advantage of neutrality

The Grand Chancellor, Albrecht von Boeselager (till recently the Grand Hospitaller), told me in an interview that the Order has an advantage in some geopolitical contexts because, in its unique status as a State without a territory, it has no “hidden agenda” and simply wants to help. One example of this is the immediate response that the Order was able to give after cyclone Nargis hit Myanmar/Burma in May 2008 – a country with a government notoriously suspicious of outside interventions. The Order was able to mobilise a network of some two hundred helpers, having already had a presence there for seven years. A second example is the long-standing commitment of the Order to the Democratic Republic of Congo (formerly Zaire), another troubled country that is difficult to work in. Coordinated from Belgium, the Order has had an Embassy there since the 1980s. In 1993 it negotiated a Humanitarian Cooperation Agreement with the state. It maintains strong relations with the government and with all aid organisations in the DRC, facilitating the import of aid supplies free of tax. Malteser International has extensive programmes in some of that country’s most war-torn regions, especially in the fields of health, nutrition, psychosocial care for the victims of violence, prevention of sexually transmitted diseases, and help with road building. A third example is the Holy Family Maternity Hospital in Bethlehem, in the Palestinian

Rohingya and Karen minorities fleeing persecution for refugee camps in Thailand receive urgent medical attention

1. See *The Golden Fleece: Manipulation and Independence in Humanitarian Action*, edited by Antonio Donini (Kumarian Press, 2012).

2. See "Beyond buzzwords: 'poverty reduction', 'participation' and 'empowerment' in development policy" by Andrea Cornwall and Karen Brock (UN Research Institute for Social Development, Overarching Concerns Programme Paper 10, 2005, freely available online).

West Bank, which operates to the highest international standards of professional care in a region beset by poverty, violence and everyday restrictions. It has extended its clinical commitment to medical training in obstetrics and neonatology. When I visited the hospital in 2012, it so happened that there were one set of quadruplets and one set of quintuplets in the intensive care unit – all thriving in the most up-to-date incubators. Clearly there is no Christian proselytising aspect to the Holy Family Hospital, since the Christian population of the West Bank has contracted to about two per cent as a result of the Israeli–Palestinian conflict.

Those who work in the field of humanitarianism know that it is highly contested – in particular, because of the extent of political manipulation which has so often compromised the supposedly sacrosanct principles of neutrality.¹ The overlapping field of economic development is equally politicised, and it is also pervaded by buzzwords.² Professional aid workers tend to deny that what they are doing is a form of charity. Supporters of social reform have often disliked the notion of charity, on the grounds that it tends to address symptoms rather than causes. Many socialists actually opposed charity as a ploy to legitimate the privileges of the rich and reduce the pressures on politicians to promote redistribution. In strict Marxist doctrine, charity merely slows down the inevitable proletarian revolution.

Charity has strong roots in religious teaching

These arguments surely fall down when one considers the devastating human needs that are all too obvious in the world we know, and the failure of state welfare and emergency systems to satisfy them. It is becoming more normal in the academic study of international aid to study private charity as a supplement to services provided by governments, and as a motivating force. Charity has strong roots in religious teaching. Though other religious traditions have developed robust charitable institutions, the record of Christianity over the centuries has set the strongest practical example for others to follow. Indeed, many of the most important secular international charities had historical roots in Christianity: the Red Cross in Genevois Calvinism, Save the Children in the Church of England. The Catholic Church on its own – if all its aid agencies and religious Orders are taken together – has an immense presence in



Exhausted refugees are cared for in a mobile medical clinic, Hungary



the developing world, based on its social teaching, which has recently been reinforced by Pope Francis in his Apostolic Exhortation, *Evangelii Gaudium* (2013).

The morality underpinning the Order of Malta is simple: those who are most fortunate in life have the greatest obligation to assist people in need. St Matthew's Gospel goes further than this, assuring believers that practical compassion extended to the most unassuming fellow human beings is a service to Jesus. One should not belittle the importance of debates among aid professionals about how to create a world in which charity would be redundant, because those in need would then have enforceable entitlements. But this is very far from being a reality in the foreseeable future.

John de Salis was by temperament hard on himself. He was also constructively critical of the Order that he loved; and he strongly supported the reforming spirit of the present leadership. As a non-Catholic outside researcher, I am impressed by many of the programmes that I have learnt about – especially the policy of quietly remaining to work on in disaster areas after others have left. But there is no doubt more will continue to be done to bring the overall humanitarian operations up to the standard of the best. John disagreed with my view that the scarlet and gold military uniforms, still worn (admittedly on rare official occasions) by the Order of Malta's senior members, give an unfortunate impression today. I know that a number of Knights would like to see them discarded. But for John, these uniforms were an essential testimony to the Order's extraordinary romantic history. He will be remembered for having made a colourful as well as notably practical contribution to this history in his own life.

Care for a survivor of the 2015 Nepalese earthquake where almost 9000 lost their lives and tens of thousands were injured

THE GLOBAL FUND FOR FORGOTTEN PEOPLE

RAISING AWARENESS AND FUNDS FOR THE WORK OF THE ORDER OF MALTA

LISA SIMPSON

is the Chief Executive of the Global Fund for Forgotten People which was founded by the Government of the Sovereign Order of Malta in 2011

The Global Fund for Forgotten People raises awareness of forgotten people and issues, builds capacity, and provides financial support for the work being done by bodies of the Order of Malta throughout the world. Forgotten people are those who, when the spotlight of attention seems to shine everywhere, are suffering beneath the surface.

By Christmas 2015, the Global Fund for Forgotten People had awarded over 150 grants to works run by 43 bodies of the Order of Malta in 48 different countries.

The Fund supports works of every size and scale, from Malteser International, the worldwide relief agency of the Order, and the Holy Family Hospital, the leading maternity hospital in Bethlehem, to many smaller works run by local bodies worldwide.

As the number of people affected by conflict around the globe increases dramatically, the Global Fund for Forgotten People is supporting the Order of Malta's growing response. From the refugee crisis throughout the Middle East, Europe, Africa and Asia, to care for the elderly and vulnerable on six continents, the Fund provides resources to the Order's national Associations, Relief Corps and Embassies working on the front lines. Grants have been awarded to the Order's works providing medical care and essential supplies to displaced Syrian and Iraqi people, and the disabled and neglected in Lebanon. The Fund has also supported the Order of Malta in Europe, providing medical aid and other assistance to arriving refugees.

A collaborative project provides healthcare for 1300 Arhuaco villagers in isolated Bunkwimake, Sierra Nevada mountains, Colombia





Sustainable healthcare for Colombia's forgotten people

In strengthening the works of the Order of Malta through grant-giving, one of the projects supported by the Global Fund for Forgotten People seeks to improve access to healthcare for the indigenous Arhuaco community in remote Bunkwimake, in the Sierra Nevada mountains, Colombia.

To reach the isolated Arhuaco population of approximately 1300 people requires crossing the waters of the Don Diego river in rafts and riding the last three hours by mule. The very real difficulties in accessing the Arhuaco due to their geographical isolation means permanent and regular medical care is not available. The needs of the population are too great for the state to meet them alone: mortality rates are high, health problems range from malnutrition and tuberculosis to tropical diseases. Even snakebites pose a threat.

This grant has been crucial in supporting the combined project - Malteser International and the Order of Malta's Cuban and Colombian Associations are working together - to achieve three goals for the Arhuaco people:

- to build a clinic and ensure it runs successfully
- to provide two medical missions a year
- to assess appropriate measures for safe water and sanitation.

Volunteer architects are working alongside the Arhuaco to do the majority of the building, supplemented by outside medical expertise and training workshops to ensure the project can be run locally in the longer term. The role of the Arhuaco is critical: through their participation a sense of ownership is cultivated. In the workshops, participants learn first aid techniques, awareness on the importance of an emergency stock of food and safe drinking water, as well as life-saving health and hygiene behaviour before, during and after a disaster.

Projects supported by the Global Fund for Forgotten People

-  Forgotten Diseases
-  The Elderly
-  Displaced People
-  Maternal and Neonatal Health
-  Children and Adults with Disabilities
-  Marginalised Communities
-  Prisoners' Children
-  The Homeless

For more information about the Global Fund for Forgotten People: www.forgottenpeople.org





SECTION 3

THE GOVERNMENT

The Sovereign Order of Malta is governed by its Grand Master, who is assisted by the Sovereign Council, the senior body of ministers and councillors who aid him in overseeing the Order's undertakings around the world, from diplomatic to religious to humanitarian to administrative activities.



STATE AND OFFICIAL VISITS



His Holiness Pope Francis greets the Grand Master for the annual audience, Vatican

REPUBLIC OF CHINA (TAIWAN), 5 NOVEMBER 2015

Grand Master Fra' Matthew Festing is received by President Ma Ying-jeou in Taipei. Talks focus on the promotion of bilateral cooperation for humanitarian and healthcare interventions already underway in the health sector in Vietnam, and Taiwan's support for humanitarian projects promoted by the Order's embassies in Bulgaria, El Salvador and Serbia.

LITHUANIA, 29 OCTOBER 2015

Grand Master Fra' Matthew Festing receives the President of Lithuania, Dalia Grybauskaitė, in the Magistral Palace in Rome. The Grand Master confirms the Order's commitment to continue its wide range of assistance programmes for the weaker sections of society. The President thanks the Order for "teaching my people the significance of voluntary service and showing us how we can help others and share what we have."

HOLY SEE, 25 JUNE 2015

Pope Francis receives Grand Master Fra' Matthew Festing for the annual au-

2015

SPAIN, 10 DECEMBER 2015

Grand Master Fra' Matthew Festing is received by King Felipe VI of Spain on the occasion of his official visit to the country, confirming the historic ties of friendship between Spain and the Order of Malta. During the audience at the Palace of Zarzuela the social assistance projects of the Order in Spain and South America are discussed.

1. King Felipe VI of Spain
2. Dalia Grybauskaitė, Lithuania
3. Benigno Aquino III, Philippines
4. Marie Louise Coleiro Preca, Malta
5. Bujar Nishani, Albania



dience. During the meeting held - according to tradition - on the feast day of St John the Baptist, the Grand Master illustrates to the Pontiff the Order of Malta's work in assisting refugees and migrants in various parts of the world, from the Middle East to Africa.

MALTA, 15-17 APRIL 2015

Fra' Matthew Festing, on a State Visit to the Republic of Malta, has a series of meetings with the President of the Republic of Malta, Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca, Prime Minister Joseph Muscat, Foreign Minister George Vella. During the meeting with Prime Minister Muscat, Malta's Foreign Minister George Vella and the Order of Malta's Grand Chancellor Albrecht Boeselager sign an agreement providing greater access for visitors to Fort St. Angelo.

PHILIPPINES, 1-7 MARCH 2015

Fra' Matthew Festing is received by the President of the Republic of the Philippines Benigno Aquino III and a government delegation. His visit marks the 50th anniversary of the opening of diplomatic relations between the Philippines and the Sovereign Order of Malta. Fra' Matthew Festing presents the President with a symbolic key for the 700 homes the Order of Malta has built in Bantayan, Bantayan and Cebu, devastated by typhoon Yolanda.

ALBANIA, 23 JANUARY 2015

Fra' Matthew Festing is received by the President of Albania, Bujar Nishani, the President of the Parliament, Ilir Meta and the Prime Minister, Edi Rama. Marking the 20th anniversary of the Order of Malta's auxiliary organisation in Albania, the Grand Master also visits its medical and social activities in the country.

2014

SAN MARINO, 2 DECEMBER 2014

The State Visit of the Captains Regent of the Republic of San Marino, Gian Franco Terenzi and Guerrino Zanotti, takes place in the seat of the Sovereign Order of Malta, where they are received by the Grand Master Fra' Matthew Festing.

BULGARIA, 11 NOVEMBER 2014

On the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of diplomatic relations between Bulgaria and the Sovereign Order of Malta - established 11 November 1994 - Grand Master Fra' Matthew Festing receives the Vice President of Bulgaria Margarita Popova at the Magistral Palace.

LA FRANCOPHONIE, 26 SEPT. 2014

The Grand Master Fra' Matthew Festing

receives Abdou Diouf, Secretary General of the Organisation internationale de la Francophonie.

HOLY SEE, 20 JUNE 2014

Fra' Matthew Festing is received by Pope Francis in Vatican City on the occasion of the annual audience for St. John's Day, the Sovereign Order's patron saint. At the conclusion of the audience, Pope Francis receives the members of the Order's Sovereign Council.

ITALY, 26 MAY 2014

President of the Italian Republic, Giorgio Napolitano, makes a visit to the Magistral Villa, the Order of Malta's institutional headquarters and is received by Grand Master Fra' Matthew Festing.

HOLY SEE, 12 MAY 2014

The Grand Master receives the Secretary of State of the Holy See, Cardinal Pietro Parolin at the Magistral Palace.

HOLY SEE, 27 APRIL 2014

The Grand Master Fra' Matthew Festing participates in the canonisation celebrations for John XXIII and John Paul II in St Peter's Square. 400 of the Order of Malta's first aiders and volunteers are deployed during the ceremonial weekend to assist the thousands of pilgrims.





The Grand Master addresses 37th Session, General Conference, Unesco, Paris

preme Court, Jorge Alberto Rivera and the Minister of the Presidency, Reinaldo Antonio Sanchez.

LIBERIA, 5 APRIL 2014

The President of Liberia, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, winner of the Nobel Prize for Peace in 2011, is received by the Grand Master of the Sovereign Order of Malta, Fra' Matthew Festing at the Magistral Palace. Diplomatic relations between the Sovereign Order and Liberia were established over 50 years ago.

LITHUANIA, 16 JANUARY 2014

The Lithuanian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Linas Linkevičius, is received by the Grand Master of the Sovereign Order of Malta Fra' Matthew Festing at the Magistral Palace.

2013

COSTA RICA, 8 NOVEMBER 2013

The Grand Chancellor, Jean-Pierre Mazery, meets with the President of the Republic of Costa Rica, Laura Chinchilla Miranda. President Chinchilla is accompanied by the Foreign Secretary, Jose Enrique Castillo Barrantes.

HONDURAS, 25 APRIL 2014

Grand Master Fra' Matthew Festing, receives at the Magistral Palace Juan Orlando Hernández Alvarado, President of Honduras, who is accompanied by the President of the National Congress, Mauricio Oliva, the President of the Su-

1. Giorgio Napolitano, Italy
2. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, Liberia
3. Faure Gnassingbé, Togo
4. Luis Federico Franco Gomez, Paraguay
5. Traian Basescu, Romania



UNESCO, 7 NOVEMBER 2013

Special guest of the 37th Session of the General Conference of UNESCO, the Grand Master is welcomed by the President of the General Conference, Hao Ping, and the Chairman of the Executive Board, Alexandra Cummins, to address the Plenary Session of the General Conference. Earlier, the Grand Master is received by the UNESCO Director-General, Irina Bokova.

PALESTINE, 16 OCTOBER 2013

The Grand Master of the Sovereign Order of Malta receives the Mayor of Bethlehem, Vera Baboun, in the Magistral Palace. The Order's Holy Family Hospital in Bethlehem has offered healthcare to women and newborn since 1990.

SWEDEN, 4 OCTOBER 2013

King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden receives Grand Master Fra' Matthew Festing at the Royal Palace in Stockholm. The Grand Master is accompanied by Grand Chancellor Jean-Pierre Mazery and Grand Hospitaller Albrecht Boeselager.

HOLY SEE, 25 JUNE 2013

Pope Francis receives the Grand Master of the Sovereign Order of Malta, Fra' Matthew Festing, accompanied by members of the Order's Govern-

ment in the Pontiff's private study in the Vatican.

TOGO, 18 JUNE 2013

The President of the Republic of Togo, Faure Essozimna Gnassingbe, accompanied by his Foreign Minister Eliott Ohin, is received at the Magistral Palace by the Grand Master of the Sovereign Order of Malta, Fra' Matthew Festing.

HOLY SEE, 13 JUNE 2013

Pope Francis receives the delegation of managers from the Order's San Giovanni Battista Hospital, Rome, together with the Grand Master of the Order of Malta, Fra' Matthew Festing, and accompanied by the Cardinalis Patronus Paolo Sardi.

PARAGUAY, 20 MARCH 2013

The Grand Master of the Order of Malta Fra' Matthew Festing receives at the Magistral Palace the President of the Republic of Paraguay, Luis Federico Franco Gómez, accompanied by his wife Emilia Alfaro and the Interior Minister Carmelo Caballero.

ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES, 19 MARCH 2013

The Grand Master receives José Miguel Insulza, General Secretary of the Organization of American States.

HOLY SEE, 19 MARCH 2013

The Grand Master attends the Inaugural Mass of Pope Francis. After the ceremony Fra' Matthew Festing paid homage to the new Pope.

ROMANIA, 15 FEBRUARY 2013

The President of Romania, Traian Basescu, is received by Grand Master Fra' Matthew Festing at the Magistral Villa in Rome. The occasion for the State Visit celebrates the eighty years of diplomatic relations between Romania and the Order.

HOLY SEE, 9 FEBRUARY 2013

Pope Benedict XVI addresses over 5,000 members and volunteers of the Order of Malta, the Grand Master and senior office bearers from all over the world, at the celebration Mass to commemorate 900 years since the granting of the Papal Bull by Pope Pascal II, that officially recognised the Order.



STRENGTHENING HEALTHCARE AND SUPPORT SERVICES COOPERATION AGREEMENTS

Below:
Cooperation agreement with Serbia for research into a cure for maculopathy
At right:
The Order of Malta's embassy in Bolivia supports women in rural areas through microfinance projects



COMOROS

13 October 2015

The Union of the Comoros Government and the Sovereign Order of Malta signed a cooperation agreement to facilitate and foster humanitarian works and projects of the Order in Comoros. It also grants customs and tax exemption for importing goods, as well as freedom of movement in the country.

SAN MARINO

22 April 2015

The Republic of San Marino's Secretary of State for the Territory and Environment with responsibility for Civil Defence, Antonella Mularoni, and the Sovereign Order of Malta's Grand Hospitaller, Dominique de La Rochefoucauld-Montbel, sign in Rome a memorandum of understanding for civil defence. The memorandum highlights training and prevention and the Order's Emergency Corps' interventions for the re-establishment of normal living conditions following natural disasters that could threaten the safety of San Marino's citizens.

HONDURAS

4 March 2015

In the presence of President Juan Orlando Hernandez Alvarado an agreement is signed with Malteser International, the worldwide relief agency of the Order of Malta. On the same day, two other agreements are signed: a Memorandum of Understanding and an

Agreement ratified between the Ministry of Agriculture of Honduras, the national Association of the Order and the Spanish Cooperation Agency.

CZECH REPUBLIC

3 October 2014

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic, Lubomir Zaoralek, receives the Grand Chancellor of the Sovereign Order of Malta Albrecht Boeselager and the Grand Hospitaller, Dominique de La Rochefoucauld-Montbel. During the meeting a Memorandum of Understanding consisting in the deployment of a portable ultrasound machine and other medical equipment to Marda Village – in the Salfit Governorate, Palestine – is signed by the Director of the Development Agency of the Czech Republic, Michal Kaplan, and the Ambassador of the Sovereign Order of Malta to the Czech Republic, Mario Quagliotti.

PALESTINE

29 June 2014

Cooperation agreement between Palestine and the Sovereign Order of Malta. The Palestinian Minister of Foreign Affairs Dr. Riad al Maliki, and the Sovereign Order of Malta Representative to Palestine Amb. Justin Simpson, sign to further develop a long tradition of collaboration in the field of medicine and health. This agreement will further facilitate the Order of Malta's humanitarian assistance in Palestine. It is



aimed to promote the medical and care actions of the Order of Malta focusing on the improvement of public health, in particular in the fields of maternal and infant health, the treatment of people in hospitals and clinics and in facilitating the training of medical professionals.

LA FRANCOPHONIE

14 May 2014

The Secretary General of the International Organization of la Francophonie and former President of Senegal, Abdou Diouf, and the Grand Chancellor of the Sovereign Order of Malta, Jean-Pierre Mazery, sign a cooperation agreement in Paris to establish a link between the two institutions. The accord contemplates developing cooperation in the areas of competence relative to peace, democracy and human rights and particularly with regard to preventing conflicts, mediating in countries in crisis and post-crisis situations, promoting human rights and consolidating the state of law.

ITALY

29 January 2014

The Italian Minister of Defence Mario Mauro and the Grand Chancellor of the Sovereign Order of Malta Jean-Pierre Mazery sign a new cooperation agreement for the Order of Malta's Italian Military Corps. This accord involves first-

aid activities during wars, natural disasters and emergencies, both inside the national territory and on humanitarian peacekeeping missions. This agreement reaffirms over 130 years of joint collaboration between the Order of Malta and the Italian State. The Agreement outlines the establishment of a joint advisory committee, the inclusion of new professional figures (dentists, psychologists, biologists and architects) and stipulates that reserve personnel from all the armed forces can now enlist.

SERBIA

11 December 2013

An agreement of cooperation in the humanitarian field between the Sovereign Order of Malta and the Republic of Serbia is signed. For the Government of Serbia: the Minister of Health, Slavica Đukić Dejanović and for the Order of Malta: the Ambassador to the Republic of Serbia, Alberto di Luca. Social and health initiatives planned for the future will address supply of modern and medical equipment for a collaborative project in research for the cure of maculopathy, with particular attention to children affected by this serious and invalidating disease.

WHO – GUINEA

7 November 2013

A cooperation agreement in the field of

Health Assistance is signed between the Sovereign Order of Malta, represented by the Ambassador of the Order to the Republic of Guinea, and the World Health Organization, represented by its delegate in the Republic of Guinea.

MAURITIUS

14 October 2013

Grand Chancellor Jean-Pierre Mazery signs a cooperation agreement with the Mauritian Foreign Minister, Arvin Boolell, in Port Louis, Mauritius. It signifies that the Sovereign Order of Malta can continue its work on the island – with which it has enjoyed diplomatic relations since 1977 – offering relief and assistance to vulnerable and disadvantaged groups, and in particular training first-aid personnel in the region.

EL SALVADOR

19 June 2013

A cooperation agreement is signed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Ambassador of the Order of Malta to the Republic of El Salvador Maria Emerica Cortese to set up the general framework and guidelines for the future relations between the Republic of El Salvador and the Sovereign Order of Malta. According to their means, the parties shall support and implement measures intended to facilitate, develop and diversify their social, humanitarian and sanitary cooperation.

WHO – MOZAMBIQUE

16 January 2013

The Embassy of the Sovereign Order of Malta to the Republic of Mozambique and the World Health Organization sign a cooperation agreement at the WHO in Maputo. Under the guidelines of the national health policy of the Mozambique Government in accordance with the guidelines of the World Health Organization, the Order of Malta will support the national plan against leprosy by providing medical care, prevention, training and the provision of medicines and medical equipment.

REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL VOICES

ORDER OF MALTA CONFERENCES AROUND THE WORLD

During each year, the Order of Malta runs meetings and conferences at international and regional level. These afford special opportunities to share information and experiences and to offer advice and guidelines when new initiatives are being tabled

Below:

The Grand Master addresses the Order's International Conference in Rome, February 2013

At right:

Symposium on faith-based institutions and humanitarian aid, United Nations, Geneva, May 2015



2015

5th Asia Pacific Conference, Bangkok, Thailand
20-21 November 2015

Populations fleeing wars: relief, assistance, integration, Rome, Italy
11 October 2015

Symposium: 'Religions together for Humanitarian Action,' United Nations, Geneva, Switzerland
27 May 2015

European Communicators' Forum, Rome, Italy
20-22 March 2015

22nd European Hospitallers' Conference, Cologne, Germany
13-15 March 2015

Conference of the Grand Priors and Presidents of the National Associations, Rome, Italy
20-22 February 2015

2014

4th Asia Pacific Conference, Hong Kong, Republic of China
17-19 October 2014

Regional Conference on Central and Eastern Europe, Prague, Czech Republic
4 October 2014

International Strategic Seminar, Rhodes, Greece
12-17 February 2014

21st European Hospitallers' Conference, Rhodes, Greece
12 February 2014

2013

European Communicators Forum, Rome, Italy
8-10 November 2013

Regional Conference on Central and Eastern Europe, Budapest, Hungary
11-13 October 2013

Meeting of the Francophone Ambassadors of the Order, Paris, France
2 October 2013

Meeting of the Presidents of the National Associations, Paris, France
10-11 May 2013

International Working Conference and separate meetings of the Order of Malta on the occasion of 900 years since the Papal document "Pie Postulatio Voluntatis"
7-8 February 2013

20th European Hospitallers' Conference, Rome, Italy
7 February 2013

SYMPOSIUM: RELIGIONS TOGETHER FOR HUMANITARIAN ACTION

UN GENEVA, 27 MAY 2015



The Sovereign Order of Malta hosted a keynote symposium at the United Nations Palais des Nations, Geneva, on 27 May 2015. Panellists from across the spectrum of faith-based organisations and institutions, diplomacy and humanitarian aid discussed 'Religions together for humanitarian action: Reaching out to victims of armed conflicts – the special role of faith-based actors'. The symposium was a preparatory stage in the build-up to the World Humanitarian Summit, launched by the United Nations Secretary General, Ban Ki-moon, in May 2016 in Istanbul. In addressing participants from the worlds of diplomacy, non-governmental organisations, actors in the field of humanitarian assistance and academics, Grand Chancellor Albrecht Boeselager said faith-based organisations and institutions have a potentially crucial multi-faceted role in armed conflict situations: in the protection of civilians, in mediation, in supporting and working for reconciliation, and aslo in protecting the victims and in promoting peace. He noted the need to emphasise the common understanding of human rights.

Cooperation between faith-based organisations and institutions is the seed that leads to peace

Discussions highlighted that faith-based organisations and institutions share values of humanity and dignity, but a common ground through initiatives must be found to counteract the instrumentalisation of religion; religious power cannot be evoked to justify violence; dialogue is always essential; peace building initiatives are effective through faith-based organisations and institutions; actors need a formation in spirituality, wisdom, humanity; there is a need to work with development as well as humanitarian aid; trust between faith-based organisations and institutions and local communities is key in resolution stages; good communications are essential.

Operationally, the panel identified a need for a concrete code of conduct/practice; more involvement from the private sector; good communications on the ground, and a sympathetic approach to local communities, their traditions and culture; and the importance of capacity building.

The Grand Hospitaller, Dominique de La Rochefoucauld-Montbel, closed the event, calling for redoubled efforts to build closer partnerships among faith-based organisations and institutions for effective support for victims of conflict situations, the pooling of resources to carry this forward, a sympathetic support for local communities in helping them return to normal life, and the creation of the widest campaign for public awareness of the human rights due to these affected populations.

GOVERNMENT OF THE SOVEREIGN MILITARY HOSPITALLER ORDER OF SAINT JOHN OF JERUSALEM OF RHODES AND OF MALTA

SOVEREIGN COUNCIL

The Sovereign Council assists the Grand Master in the government of the Order. It is composed of the Grand Master, four State Ministers and six Council members. The Sovereign Council is called by the Grand Master and meets at the seat of the Order of Malta at least six times a year and whenever special circumstances require it.

Prince and 79th Grand Master HMEH Fra' Matthew Festing

HE Fra' Ludwig Hoffmann von Rumerstein
Grand Commander

HE Albrecht Freiherr von Boeselager
Grand Chancellor

HE Dominique Prince de La Rochefoucauld-Montbel
Grand Hospitaller

HE János Count Esterházy de Galántha
Receiver of the Common Treasure

SOVEREIGN COUNCIL MEMBERS

HE Fra' John E. Critien
HE Fra' John T. Dunlap
HE Fra' Duncan Gallie
HE Fra' Emmanuel Rousseau
HE Winfried Graf Henckel von Donnersmarck
HE Geoffrey D. Gamble

GOVERNMENT COUNCIL

Vice President

Juan Tomás O'Naghten y Chacón

Councillors

Fra' Ruy Gonçalo do Valle Peixoto de Villas Boas

Fra' Jean-Louis Mainguy

Franz Graf von Harnoncourt-Unverzagt

Simon Grenfell

Mauro Bertero Gutiérrez

BOARD OF AUDITORS

President

Dominicus Freiherr von und zu Mentzingen

Councillors

Bruno de Seguins Pazzis d'Aubignan

Lancelot d'Ursel

Fabrizio Colonna

Niels Lorijn

Alternate Councillors

Justin Simpson

Andrea Torlonia

BOARD OF COMMUNICATIONS

President

Ulrich von Glaunach zum Kazenstain

Councillors

Klaus Schweinsberg

Alain de Quengo de Tonquedec

Douglas Graf von Saurma-Jeltsch

Lucía González-Barandiarán y de Muller

Christopher Poch

JURIDICAL COUNCIL

President

Prof. Av. Arturo Maresca

Vice-President

Prof. Damiano Nocilla

Secretary General

Prof. Av. Paolo Papanti Pelletier de Bermigny

Members

Prof. Av. Giancarlo Perone

Prof. Av. Mattia Persiani

Prof. Av. Leonardo Perrone

MAGISTRAL COURT OF APPEAL

President

Prof. Av. Arturo Maresca

Judges

Dott. Arturo Martucci

Prof. Av. Leonardo Perrone

Av. Massimo Massella Ducci Teri

Prof. Francesco d'Ayala Valva

MAGISTRAL COURT OF FIRST INSTANCE

President

Prof. Av. Paolo Papanti Pelletier de Bermigny

Judges

Prof. Av. Pietro Sirena

Prof. Av. Venerando Marano

Chancellor of the Magistral Courts

Col. Alessandro Bianchi

COMMISSION FOR THE PROTECTION OF NAMES AND EMBLEMS

President

Fra' John T. Dunlap

THE ORDER OF MALTA'S DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WORLDWIDE

THE ORDER OF MALTA HAS DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH 106 COUNTRIES:

EUROPE

Albania, Austria, Belarus, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Holy See, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Macedonia (former Yugoslav Republic of), Malta, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia (Federation of)*, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Ukraine.

THE AMERICAS

Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Uruguay, Venezuela.

ASIA

Afghanistan, Armenia, Cambodia, Georgia, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Lebanon, Philippines, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Turkmenistan.

AFRICA

Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cap Vert, Central Africa, Chad, Comoros, Congo (Democratic Republic of the), Congo (Republic of the), Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Liberia, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Togo.

OCEANIA

Micronesia, Marshall Islands, Kiribati.

* Relations with the Russian Federation are maintained through a diplomatic special mission.

THE ORDER OF MALTA HAS OFFICIAL RELATIONS WITH:

- Belgium
- France
- Luxembourg
- Canada
- Germany
- Switzerland

THE ORDER OF MALTA HAS RELATIONS AT AMBASSADOR LEVEL WITH:

- Palestine

MULTILATERAL RELATIONS

THE ORDER OF MALTA HAS RELATIONS AT AMBASSADOR LEVEL WITH:

- European Union

THE ORDER OF MALTA HAS PERMANENT OBSERVER MISSIONS TO THE UNITED NATIONS AND ITS SPECIALISED AGENCIES:

United Nations - New York

United Nations - Geneva

United Nations - Vienna

ESCAP - United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (Bangkok)

FAO - Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (Rome)

IAEA - International Atomic Energy Agency (Vienna)

IFAD - International Fund for Agricultural Development (Rome)

UNEP - United Nations Environment Programme (Nairobi)

UNESCO - United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Paris)

UNHCHR - United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (Geneva)

UNHCR - United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (Geneva)

UNIDO - United Nations Industrial Development Organization (Vienna)

UNODC - UN Office for Drugs and Crime (Vienna)

WFP - World Food Programme of the United Nations (Rome)

WHO - World Health Organization (Geneva)

THE ORDER OF MALTA HAS DELEGATIONS OR REPRESENTATIONS TO INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS:

AU - African Union (Addis Ababa)

COE - Council of Europe (Strasbourg)

CPLP - Community of Portuguese Language Countries (Lisbon)

CTBTO - Preparatory Commission for the comprehensive nuclear-test-ban Treaty Organization (Vienna)

ICCROM - International Centre for the study of the preservation and restoration of cultural property (Rome)

ICMM - International Committee of Military

Medicine (Brussels)

ICRC - International Committee of the Red Cross (Geneva)

IDB - Inter-American Development Bank (Washington D.C.)

IIHL - International Institute of Humanitarian Law (Sanremo, Geneva)

IFRC - International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (Geneva)

IOM - International Organization for Migration (Geneva)

IOF - International Organization of La Francophonie (Paris)

PAM - Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (Malta)

SICA - Central American Integration System (San Salvador)

UNIDROIT - International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (Rome)

UNILAT - Latin Union (Santo Domingo, Paris)



ORDINE DI MALTA





SECTION 4

THE GUIDING FORCE

The Order of Malta is inspired by its Christian mission to care for people in need, whoever they are and wherever they come from. This spirituality both guides and motivates its members and volunteers – a force for good.



CARING FOR THE SPIRITUALITY OF THE ORDER'S RELIGIOUS MEMBERS

THE ROLE OF THE GRAND COMMANDER

Fra' Ludwig Hoffman von Rumerstein is the "Number Two" in the Order of Malta. Among his tasks the supervision of formation of all members in the fulfillment of the Order's mission.

Interview by Niccolò d'Aquino di Caramanico

Grand Commander,
Fra' Ludwig Hoffman von Rumerstein



Throughout the centuries, the mission to care for the poor and the sick has not substantially changed: instead, it has adapted to the times and the demands of the moment. But perhaps the mission 'Tuitio fidei' in today's world has changed the sense of the Order's spirituality and its way of expressing its own piety?

Our 'model' of spirituality has not changed at all. It remains as it was, it is as it was. Perhaps the ways in which we express this model have changed, because undoubtedly times have changed. Let us take the family, a fundamental example. In family groups there are problems and new situations. There are divorces, separations or simply a disharmony. This is a new responsibility task for the Order of Malta, alongside those which have always been a part of our history, of help for the vulnerable: we must seek to help families. It is also a way of supporting the children of couples in difficulty. It is almost always these young people who feel the situation deeply, psychologically, in terms of emotion, in terms of how they cope. In this area, we have many ways in which we can offer support, to help the adults to try with all their might to save the sanctity and commitment of marriage, for the sake and well-being of their children. We are always there to 'listen', to encourage dialogue, to encourage them to go to consultative seminars and conferences.

But today, what is the specificity of the Order of Malta's spirituality? What stands out from other organised bodies of Christianity?

The spirituality of our Order specifically targets those in need: the sick, certainly, but not only them. We help those in need of all ages: the old, the young, children, adults, with no regard to their religion, race, nationality or background. We carry out this spirituality in every part of the world where we have a presence, using our wide range of support mechanisms. We look after the sick: with our hospitals, day care centres, special projects in medical specialisms, distribution of medicines and medical equipment where needed, as well as other support for the sick, such as home visits, meals on wheels, local transport. In cases of natural disaster or civil conflicts we send in our emergency relief teams. And we have that special support and activity in which we have great faith: pilgrimage and caring for 'our lords the sick'. Our most important pilgrimage is our annual international pilgrimage to Lourdes, the first weekend of May. But we also have many pilgrimages around the world, organised in the different countries by their Grand Priorities, Associations, Delegations. And here we seek to involve all the members of the Order of Malta. We are delighted to include so many groups of the young. Together, these different ways of help form the nucleus around which the Order's spirituality works.



You have been elected Grand Commander twice – an assignment which gives you the possibility of observing the continuing development of the Order of Malta’s spirituality. Between the first office – from 1994 to 2004 – and now, have you noted differences?

Yes. And they are positive. For example, the number of religious vocations – the members who have taken the three vows of poverty, chastity and obedience - in the Order have risen. From my first ‘turn’ these have increased by a third, particularly among the Americas and the Anglo-Saxon countries. I believe this increase is also to do with the commitment and conviction we ask of the candidates: today, to take the three vows and become a fully fledged religious member of the Order demands a long period of formation, during which each candidate must test out his commitment, prepare and be evaluated. So a candidate must be especially motivated and prepared.

The difference from other religious orders and the Order of Malta is that the Order’s religious are formed from the laity. How do you reconcile this with the fulltime religious commitment of the other orders?

It is difficult but it is also what is specific to us. It is also true that admittance to the First Class (religious) may be restricted for many young people who may have a vocation but do not have either the time or the material possibility of giving up the tasks and demands of their secular lives. Dames and knights, with a few exceptions for specific duties, are not paid by the Order of Malta, thus everyone has to organise their own maintenance. We live in the world: we volunteer for the Order and carry out the mission of the Order, but in this way we are independent of the Order.

Philippine Association Hospitaller Mina Carag-Harada comforts typhoon victim, Samar Island, Philippines

INITIATION OF THE CAUSE OF BEATIFICATION OF FRA' ANDREW BERTIE, 78TH GRAND MASTER OF THE SOVEREIGN ORDER OF MALTA

A special Mass for the opening of the diocesan enquiry on the Cause of Beatification and Canonisation of Fra' Andrew Bertie was held in the Basilica of St John Lateran in Rome on 20 February 2015, attended by over 1,300 members of the Order from 35 countries - a very significant event for the Sovereign Order of Malta, as it is the first time in its history that a Grand Master has been proposed for sainthood.

The 79th Grand Master, Fra' Matthew Festing, declared: "Fra' Andrew Bertie served the Order of Malta with great distinction for almost all his adult years – and twenty of them as Grand Master, the first time an Englishman had been elected to the position since 1258. He was a reformer and moderniser for an Order which has existed for nearly a millennium. He was a polymath and a multi-linguist. In all his endeavours, he was dedicated to the service of God and to the service of the poor and the sick. These qualities shone through everything he undertook. He practised this charity all his life, he inspired so many, and he has left a shining example."

The formal opening of the inquiry was presided over by Cardinal Agostino Vallini, Vicar General of His Holiness for the Diocese of Rome.

Portrait of Fra' Andrew Bertie is displayed at the Mass, St John Lateran Basilica



CARDINAL RAYMOND LEO BURKE'S EXPERIENCE IN THE ROLE OF CARDINALIS PATRONUS

The spiritual interests of the Order and the relations with the Holy See

In November 2014 the Order of Malta was honoured with Pope Francis' appointment of His Eminence Cardinal Raymond Leo Burke as its new Cardinalis Patronus, following the retirement of His Eminence Cardinal Paolo Sardi after six years of distinguished service. The duty of the Cardinalis Patronus is to promote the spiritual interests of the Order and its members, as well as promoting relations with the Holy See.

Cardinal Burke was born in 1948, in Richland Center, Wisconsin (United States). His extensive studies included the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. and the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome, where in 1984 he obtained a PhD in canon law. From 2003-2008, he was Archbishop of St. Louis. In 2008 Pope Benedict XVI named Burke Prefect of the Supreme Tribunal of the Apostolic Signatura, of which he was already a member, and President of the Supreme Court of the Vatican City State. In the consistory of 20th November 2010, Pope Benedict XVI created him Cardinal.

In an interview, Cardinal Burke explained his role: "It is an office of representation of the Pope to the Grand Master of the Sovereign Order of Malta. My work principally is to assist him, be a spiritual guide to him and to carry forward the great work of the Order".



Cardinal Raymond Leo Burke

THE PRELATE OF THE ORDER TAKES ON HIS IMPORTANT POST

The special role of Monsignor Jean Laffitte, the religious superior of the Order of Malta clergy

In July 2015, Pope Francis appointed Monsignor Jean Laffitte Prelate of the Order of Malta. The Pontiff chooses the Prelate from among three candidates presented by the Grand Master, with the deciding vote of the Sovereign Council.

He succeeds Monsignor Angelo Acerbi, whose distinguished fourteen years as the religious superior of the clergy of the Order was greatly appreciated by all around him. The Prelate is the religious superior of the clergy of the Order with priestly functions. He ensures that the religious and priestly life of the Chaplains and their apostolate are followed according to the discipline and spirit of the Order.

Born in Oloron-Sainte-Marie, France, in 1952, Jean Laffitte graduated in Political Science from the University of Toulouse in 1973. Following studies at the Universities of Cambridge and Salamanca, he read philosophy and theology at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome, and moral theology at the John Paul II Pontifical Institute. Since 2009, he has been the Titular Bishop of Entrevaux and secretary of the Pontifical Council for the Family.



Monsignor Jean Laffitte

WHERE RELIGION IS NOT AN ISSUE

IN LEBANON THERE IS A UNIQUE LABORATORY OF COEXISTENCE

'The atmosphere created in the Kefraya Centre is one of deep respect, as it is in all of the ten medical centres the Order of Malta runs across the country, because of the cooperation with the religious congregations.'

'Religion is not an issue in our centres, neither to the people who serve, nor to the patients who come, since the question is not even asked,' says the centre's matron, Sister Maria Josepha. Everyone is treated the same, creating a strong bond between the care givers and their patients.

Kefraya is a majority Muslim Sunni village in north Lebanon where the Order of Malta's socio-medical centre cares for patients from over 40 surrounding villages – some are Christians (Maronite, Catholic, Greek Orthodox), some are Sunni, some Druze, some Shiite. Most Lebanese identify themselves by their religion first, in a country of 4.2 million where a mosaic of different officially recognised religious communities is a unique laboratory of coexistence.

The Kefraya Centre is run by the Sisters of Charity-Besançon with four permanent staff and 15 attending doctors from the villages. They, too, are of different religious backgrounds.



The Order of Malta's network of 28 different operations in Lebanon cares for refugees and the local population throughout the country



Patients side by side, religion next to religion

Patients return to the Centre because of the high quality of care – over 14,000 medical acts are carried out every year in a variety of medical services. They sit patiently awaiting their turn – recently joined by many Syrian refugees - side by side, religion next to religion. Lebanese Association Hospitalier, Paul Saghbini, says: “The atmosphere created in the Centre is one of deep respect, as it is in all of the ten centres the Order runs across the country, because of the cooperation with the religious congregations.” To maintain dignity, personal contributions are symbolic, but as with all of the Order’s centres, only for those who can.

Aftermath of the civil war

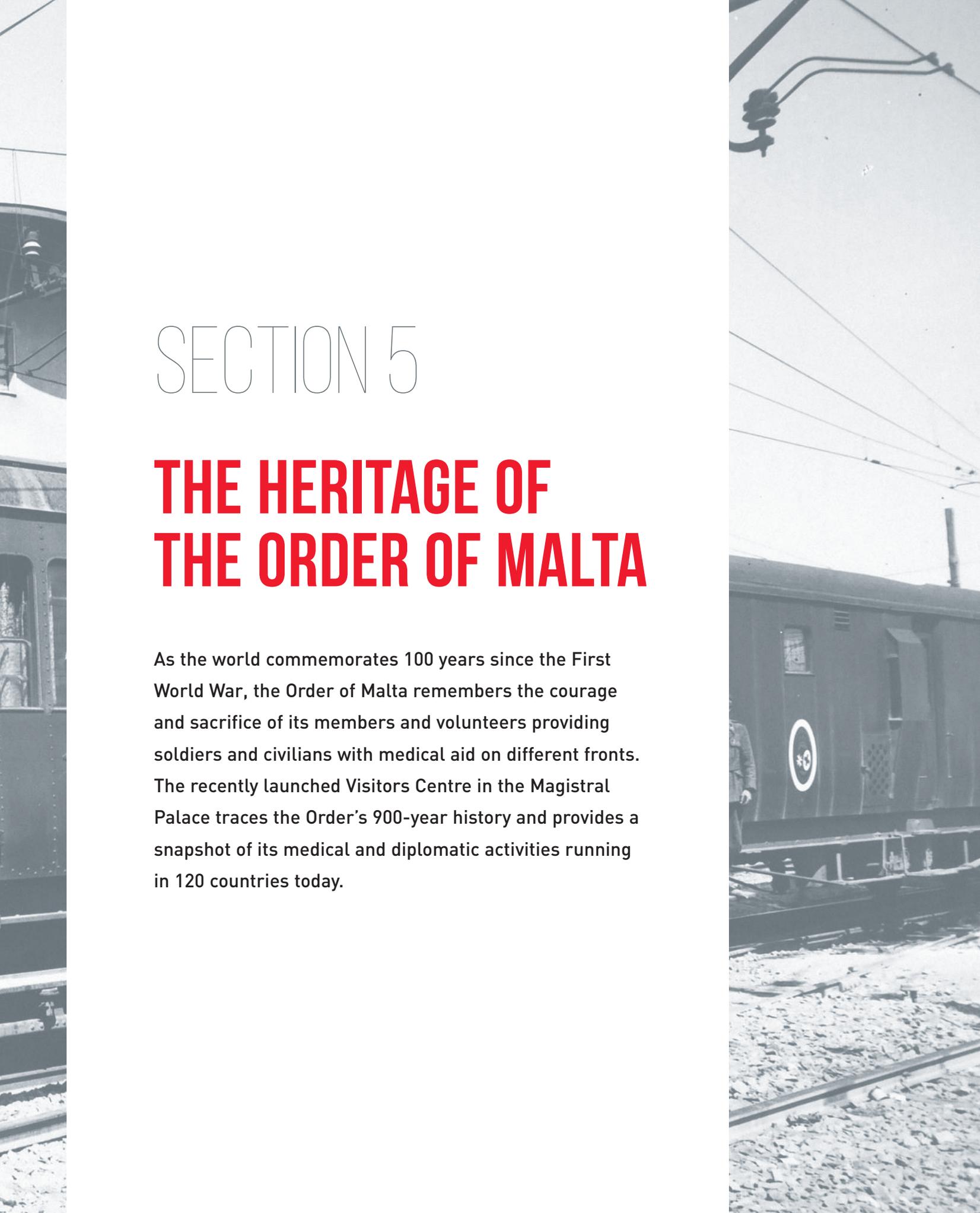
On 13th April 2015, Lebanon commemorated the 40th anniversary of the start of 15 years of a civil war which has torn the country apart. The aftermath is still felt. The Order of Malta’s network of centres in Lebanon was created during the civil war, in the most remote villages with Christian minorities, to support them so that they could stay in their villages, by being open to everyone, and thus creating a mutual respect. This motivation is very much the same today. Currently, the Order of Malta has a network of 28 different operations in Lebanon, reaching as many Christians as Muslims, and run in collaboration with religious congregations or foundations of different faiths.

Particular attention is paid to children in need of medical care

Order of Malta medical centre, Khaldieh







SECTION 5

THE HERITAGE OF THE ORDER OF MALTA

As the world commemorates 100 years since the First World War, the Order of Malta remembers the courage and sacrifice of its members and volunteers providing soldiers and civilians with medical aid on different fronts. The recently launched Visitors Centre in the Magistral Palace traces the Order's 900-year history and provides a snapshot of its medical and diplomatic activities running in 120 countries today.

ON THE FRONT LINES IN THE FIRST WORLD WAR

100 YEARS ON: COMMEMORATING THE ORDER OF MALTA'S CARE FOR THE INJURED OF BOTH SIDES



The Order of Malta operated contemporaneously on both fronts during the First World War through its hospitals, first-aid facilities and medical trains, providing emergency treatment and assistance to hundreds of thousands of soldiers and civilians. The Order of Malta remembers those who cared for the injured and those who lost their lives.

1. The Italian Association operated eight first-aid posts and hospital trains that moved according to battle frontiers
2. One of the many surgical outposts run by the Grand Priory of Austria and Bohemia
3. The Order of Malta in Germany was active with 8,500 medical staff and 350 military chaplains
4. Hospital trains of the Grand Priory of Austria and Bohemia travelled over 800,000km during the war, aiding 250,000 injured soldiers and civilians
5. The Order's Santa Marta Hospital in the Vatican assisted victims of the war from 1915-1919
6. The auxiliary hospital run by the French Association at Verdun was bombed and relocated several times during the war. Casualties of the attacks included both patients and medical personnel



4



5



6

THE ORDER OF MALTA IN THE HISTORY OF MEDICAL AID

1048 First hospital in Jerusalem to receive and assist pilgrims.

1182 First Statute regarding treatment of the sick.

1355 The first infirmary built by the knights in Rhodes.

1489 Inauguration of the new Grand Infirmary in Rhodes.

1533 Establishment of the Infirmary in Malta.

1578 Inauguration of the Holy Infirmary in Malta. One of the largest and best-equipped hospitals in the Mediterranean.

1596 Holy Infirmary extended to accommodate patients with contagious diseases.

1679 School of anatomy and surgery founded in Malta.

1693 Humanitarian mission to Augusta in Sicily, destroyed by an earthquake.

1772 First female medical graduate in Malta.

1783 Humanitarian mission for victims of the earthquake of Messina, Sicily.

1886 First hospital train runs.

1908 Earthquake relief in Messina, Sicily.

1912 Hospital ship Regina Margherita transports 12,000 injured during the Libyan war.

1915 First World War: hospital trains impartially assist more than 800,000 injured on war fronts.

1938 First ambulance service of the Order established in Ireland.

1940 Second World War: the Order operates hospitals, medical centres and first-aid posts in numerous European countries.

1953 Creation of Malteser Hilfsdienst Volunteers.

1956 Aid for refugees during the Hungarian revolution.

1966 Aid for refugees in Vietnam.

1969 Humanitarian aid in civil war-torn Biafra.

1980 Drought relief in Somalia.

1980 First medical centre opens in Lebanon. Today, twenty-eight healthcare structures around the country reduce poverty and isolation.

1981 Earthquake relief in Southern Italy.

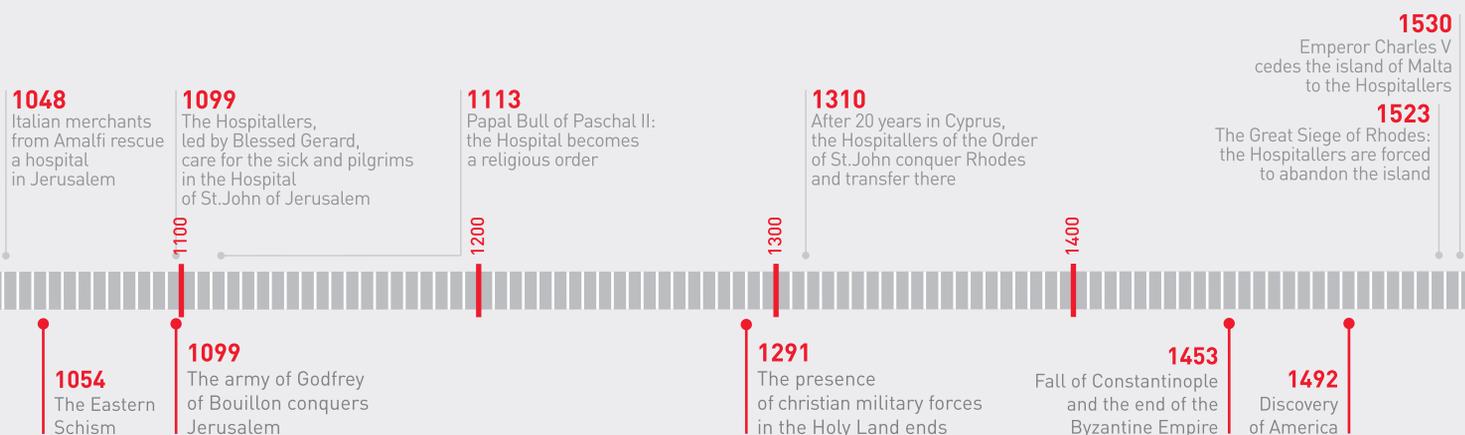
1981 Leprosy programme set up in Cambodia.

1985 Aid for victims of famine in Africa.

1989 Humanitarian aid for Eastern Europe after the fall of the Berlin Wall.

1990 First infant is born at the Order of Malta's hospital, Bethlehem. Today over 65,000 babies have been delivered, mostly Palestinian.

KEY EVENTS IN THE ORDER'S HISTORY



The Sovereign Order of Malta has always been strongly committed to research and innovation. Throughout its history, the Order's medical and welfare expertise and practices have been steadily

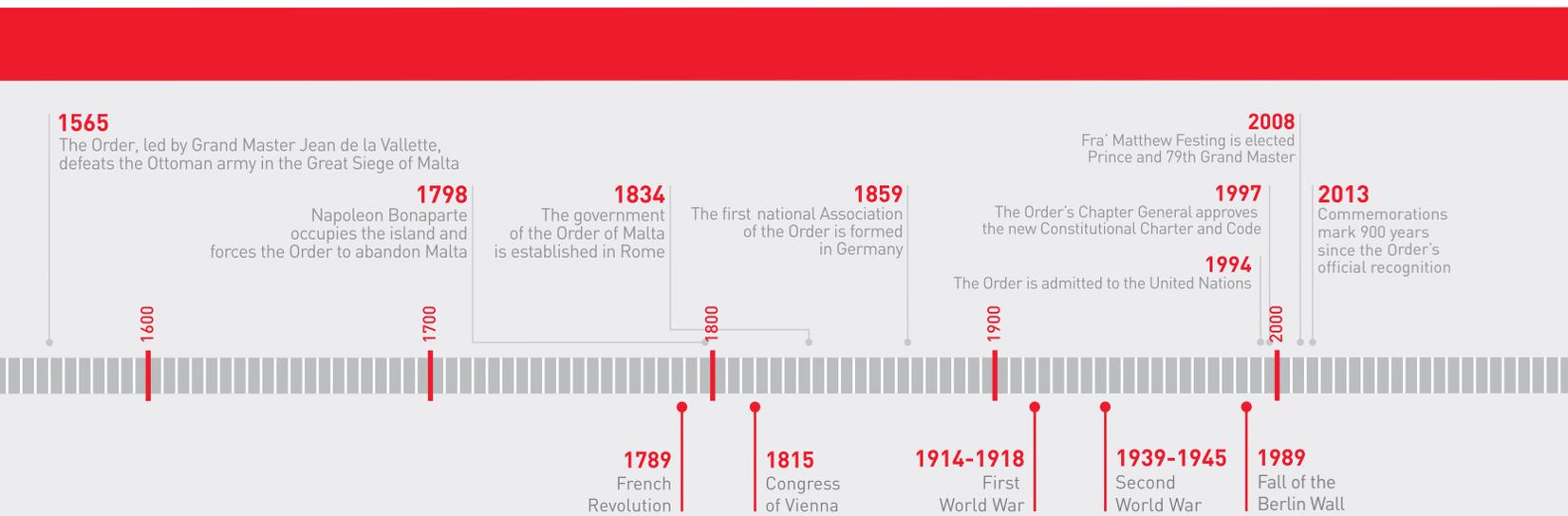
enriched thanks to the numerous peoples and cultures with which it has come into contact and to the research it has initiated and supported. Following a timeline that begins in

the Middle Ages and continues to the present day, here is a list of projects, scientific and medical innovations and humanitarian interventions in which the Order was involved.

- 1991** Humanitarian aid for former Yugoslavia.
- 1992** Reconstruction aid in Lithuania, Romania, Russia and Ukraine.
- 1993** Aid for Karen refugees, Thai-Myanmar border.
- 1994** Aid for the people of Rwanda, a country ravaged by ferocious combat between ethnic groups.
- 1996** Opening of MAS Saint-Jean de Malte, home for the disabled in Paris.
- 1996** First Order of Malta children's clinic in the Dominican Republic.
- 1997** Reconstruction aid in Zaire.
- 1997** Earthquake relief in Central Italy.
- 1998** Healthcare in Southern Sudan.
- 1999** Reconstruction aid in Kosovo and the Balkans.
- 2001** Relief for refugees in Afghanistan.

- 2003** Refugee aid in the Democratic Republic of Congo.
- 2004** Intervention and reconstruction aid after the earthquake in Iran.
- 2005** Emergency relief and reconstruction after South-East Asia tsunami.
- 2006** Reconstruction aid in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina.
- 2006** Emergency aid during the conflict in Lebanon.
- 2007** Launch of Prison Ministry in the United States.
- 2007** Emergency aid after floods in Pakistan, India, Vietnam and Mexico.
- 2007** First Order school in opens Germany.
- 2008** Emergency relief and reconstruction following the cyclone in Myanmar.

- 2009** Emergency aid in Sri Lanka, Pakistan and Democratic Republic of Congo.
- 2009** Disaster relief and management of two camp sites following the earthquake in LAquila, Italy.
- 2010** Medical assistance for earthquake victims, Haiti.
- 2011** Emergency food relief in Kenya after devastating drought in the Horn of Africa.
- 2012** Campsite with essential provisions for victims of the earthquake in Emilia, Italy.
- 2012** 73rd home for the elderly opens in the United Kingdom.
- 2012** Assistance to Syrian refugees
- 2013** Emergency relief measures after Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines
- 2015** Humanitarian intervention following earthquakes in Nepal



THE GRAND MAGISTRY LAUNCHES THE VISITORS CENTRE

PHOTOS, FILMS, MEMENTOS TELL THE STORY OF THE ORDER OF MALTA

MONICA LAIS, VALÉRIE GUILLOT

*The centre's curators describe
the project*

On Wednesday 30 April 2015, the Visitors Centre of the Order of Malta, an exhibition area on the ground floor of the Grand Magistry, was inaugurated. Grand Master Fra' Matthew Festing performed the traditional ribbon-cutting ceremony and the Order's prelate, Monsignor Angelo Acerbi, gave his benediction.

Three exhibition rooms reveal the Order of Malta's history and works: in the first room, the exhibition presents the Order's humanitarian network, captured in images both historical and contemporary. The second room is dedicated to the history of the Order and a description of its hospitaller and humanitarian activities carried out on six continents. The third offers a series of short films produced by the Order's organisations around the world to present their activities.

The first surprise is the photographs: They reveal that the Order of Malta is today active in very many areas and regions. These images contrast strongly with the often held impression of an exclusive knightly order which relates to another era.

Our visitors ask to know more about the Order of Malta's activities and the current works of these knights, dames and volunteers. And through the images and films there's another surprise – that almost a thousand years after it was founded, today 13,500 members and 80,000 volunteers are involved in carrying out the work of the Order, inspired by the desire to combat suffering, to care for the sick and the socially marginalised through difficulties of many kinds. What drives this concern and this care is a profound Christian charity, which has always moved the Order of Malta and inspired it to act and to confront these problems which arise from century to century.

The Centre's curators



The most frequent questions are always about what the Order does now

The visitors want to know about the organisation and government of the Order of Malta. The most frequent questions are always about what the Order does now, how its hospitaller and socio-humanitarian organisation works. Using the photographs and historical images, we explain the different kinds of support the Order gives: the volunteers in our Delegations and the volunteers in our First Aid Units. And to the question: 'What is a sovereign Order which has no territory?' we reply that the scope of the Order of Malta can only be to help those who suffer and therefore it has no need either of frontiers or territory.

The third surprise is not so much for the visitors – it is more for us because they always ask enthusiastically how they can become knights or volunteers for the Order of Malta. This is the first indication of the success of the Centre.

Italians, Americans, Spaniards, Germans, French, Japanese, Taiwanese, Russians – we welcome so many nationalities, and already many hundreds have visited since the Centre's opening. This also reflects the international dimension of the Order of Malta. With the Relief Corps of the Order of Malta in Italy (CISOM), the Centre has organised



an awareness campaign, open to all, especially children, on how to perform first aid – fundamental elements in domestic safety and civil protection. In a world which is moving always faster and in which loneliness and suffering are always more present, this awareness also transmits the charitable values to future generations.

For us, the Visitors Centre represents an opportunity to remember and relive the works and unique characteristics of the Order of Malta. The Visitors Centre is a place of meetings and surprises – come and discover it!

VISITORS CENTRE

Sovereign Order of Malta, Magistral Palace

79 Via delle Carrozze, 00187 Rome

Opening days: Thursday, Friday, Saturday

Opening hours: 9.30 am to 2.00 pm.

The central location attracts locals and tourists alike



SECTION 6

AID ACROSS SIX CONTINENTS

On every continent the Order of Malta is engaged in active aid on the ground, providing medical, psycho-social and social care to society's marginalised.

The many thousands of Order members and volunteers, together with medical professionals, care for the young, the old, the infirm, the disabled, the lonely, the homeless. The list is long, the reach is wide, and the task an enduring commitment.

AFRICA

Africa has long suffered under threats of disease, natural disasters, war. The Order of Malta has a widespread and long-standing presence on the continent, working in medical, health and social care and supporting those displaced by violence in their countries. The Sovereign Order of Malta has bilateral diplomatic relations with 35 African States.



BÉNIN

In the Republic of Bénin, the Ordre de Malte France 106 bed hospital in Djougou effects 19,000 consultations annually, with an average of 2000 births. A major extension was added in 2013/14. The hospital, inaugurated 1974, is the sole provider of surgical procedures in a catchment area of 350,000 and provides an outreach service to 20 villages. During the Ebola epidemic in 2014, the hospital joined all others in West Africa run by the Order

in launching monitoring programmes and staff awareness training.

In the country, the Order supports 11 medical centres and dispensaries, which include programmes for tuberculosis detection and treatment.

BURKINA FASO

Ordre de Malte France has provided extensive healthcare support in Burkina Faso for over a decade. The dispensary in Ouagadougou, open 24/7, totalled over 22,000 consultations in 2014.

The Order of Malta also supports a national HIV/AIDS programme, supplies and distributes medicines to 15 health centres and dispensaries and offers first aid training. A special initiative, with centres in Ouagadougou, Bobo, Dioulasso and Banfora, is support for albinos, who receive no State medical assistance.

When 55,000 refugees fled to Burkina Faso in 2012-13 from civil war in Mali, Ordre de Malte France provided ambulance corps and paramedics in Bobo-Dioulasso to assist the refugees.

By 2013, the Order of Malta was managing eight ambulance centres in Burkina Faso. The work continues today. The centres respond to 2,300 calls each year, many from refugee camps near the Mali border - the Mentao Camp near Djibo and the Goudobou camp near Dori and Gorum-Gorum.



▲ Ordre de Malte France has been providing refugees in Burkina Faso with medical aid and emergency supplies since the start of the 2012 crisis in Mali

CAMEROON

The Order's 104-bed hospital in Njombé, Cameroon participates in a national AIDS programme, with 700 patients undergoing antiretroviral treatment. The hospital has a new reception and examination unit and now a second mobile health unit to assist road victims and strengthen healthcare in the Haut Penja region. The hospital carries out 27,000 consultations annually, delivers 800 ba-



▲ Mother and child care, Njombe, Cameroon, where Ordre de Malte France runs a 104 bed hospital specialising in HIV/AIDs treatment

bies and undertakes medical and surgical procedures for 5,000 inpatients.

Leprosy patients are cared for at the Rohan-Chabot Centre in Mokolo, part of a global leprosy programme by Ordre de Malte France, a relief campaign supports cured patients in their own villages. The Centre effects 9,200 consultations yearly and can look after 400 inpatients at any one time. Outreach services include 'The Joy of Living' programme for malnourished children.

The Order of Malta also supports programmes for the detection and treatment of tuberculosis through 14 clinics and dispensaries.

CAPE VERDE

The Sovereign Order's Embassy in Cape Verde donates locally and in 2013 organised funding to attend Rio de Janeiro for World Youth Day.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

The Central African Republic has the world's second lowest life expectancy. Through its Embassy in Bangui, the Order supports 14 health centres aiding 100,000 people, including the diocese of Berbérati and Pygmy care centres in Mabondo, Manasao and Bélem-boké.

Ordre de Malte France – present in the country for over 30 years – provided urgent aid following violent clashes in Bangui in 2014. Medical equipment and supplies for local hospitals and clinics were distributed by the Order's Embassy.

Every year Ordre de Malte France provides food for 3,000 malnourished children, and carries out 90,000 medical examinations in the health facilities it supports.

CHAD

The Order of Malta runs four health centres in Chad – at Amtoukouï, serving a population of 90,000, at Singako serving an isolated area 24 hours' travel from the nearest hospital, at Kouyako and at Wallia, N'Djamena, with maternity and paediatric services for a population of 60,000.

UNION OF COMOROS

In the Union of Comoros off the east coast of Africa, Ordre de Malte France aids three health centres in Moroni, and a dispensary and nursery for pre-schoolers.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

In Democratic Republic of Congo, where over 75% live in poverty, the

TRAUMA CENTRES FOR GENDER VIOLENCE VICTIMS



The Order of Malta provides medical and psychological care for victims of assaults, rapes and other atrocities in the conflict-ridden province of South Kivu, eastern side of DR Congo. Since 2003, Malteser International has provided its support in trauma centers for thousands of distressed women. The service is also active in five health zones and 60 health centres in the region, where treatments include post exposure prophylaxis to reduce the risk of HIV infection.

Sovereign Order of Malta's Embassy regularly imports goods and equipment for health, educational, agricultural and social projects throughout the country, a service offered to religious congregations, dioceses, the Church, Protestant missions and all associations and NGOs active in those fields.

The Belgian Association's organisation, Order of Malta Belgium International Aid, provides annual support to the King Baudouin Hospital; on the Idjwi Island in the Kivu lake – population 200,000 – MBI with local partners is reconstructing and reequipping two hospitals (Monvu and Kihumba) and setting up a network of water ambulances.

In Kinshasa the Order supports two

houses run by the Sisters of Mother Teresa 'Paix et de Repos dans le Seigneur' and 'Don de Marie' for 200 young children abandoned for witchcraft or because they are infected by HIV.

In the aftermath of the long conflicts, where some regions in the east of the country are still volatile, the population still struggles. Malteser International is active in Ituri and Haut Uélé provinces, supporting health centres and hospitals – catchment population about 1.2 million. It also supports a pharmaceutical warehouse to action 2,400 orders per year ensuring delivery of much needed drugs; and provides food aid for IDPs and malnourished children in cooperation with the World Food Programme.

REPUBLIC OF CONGO

In Republic of Congo, with support from the Sovereign Order of Malta's Embassy, Ordre de Malte France supports 13 clinics and dispensaries country-wide. In 2013 Ordre de Malte France opened the St Kisito Medical Centre for mothers and infants in Brazzaville, treating up to 70 outpatients a day.

EGYPT

The Order of Malta Embassy in Egypt focuses activities on the Abu Zaabal Leprosarium, helping improve the health and living conditions of 750 patients, in cooperation with the Franciscan and

Comboni Sisters and the Director of the hospital. Ordre de Malte France has donated equipment and since 2014 the Order's Embassy and the Global Fund For Forgotten People continue to support the Leprosarium. The hospital also treats infectious diseases. A sponsorship programme assists 50 healthy children living in Abu Zaabal.

ETHIOPIA

In Ethiopia, the day care centre 'Minnie Health Post' set up by the Embassy in the Arsi region, Arba Gugu, continues its work. A collaboration between the Embassy and Doctors with Africa (CUAMM – Padua-based Catholic organisation) is developing a much needed hospital in Adwa, region of Tigray. With CUAMM, the Embassy is also sponsoring construction of a health centre in Korke; supporting the Waliso hospital and construction of a well in Gilgel Beles, Gumuz Zone.

GABON

In Gabon, 65 leprosy sufferers receive care in a hospital supported by Ordre de Malte France in Eberigné. The Order also aids the St Joseph de Lalala clinic in Libreville and three medical centres in the country.

GUINEA-BISSAU

The Embassy of the Sovereign Order of Malta in Guinea-Bissau, in collaboration with Portuguese NGO Viver 100 Fronteiras, delivered six containers of hospital equipment, medical supplies, medicines, clothes and school books to hospitals, health centres and schools in the country.

GUINEA-CONAKRY

Guinea-Conakry saw the outbreak of the Ebola epidemic in 2014. While Malteser International helped to fund awareness and prevention campaigns,

Ordre de Malte France sent protective equipment and disinfectant products, tests and medicines to its clinic in Pita, which is a logistics base for national leprosy, tuberculosis and Buruli Ulcer programmes. The Order of Malta operates a dispensary in Conakry, providing a free service covering infectious diseases and HIV, and supporting 15 dispensaries throughout the terrain. At the Marian sanctuary of Boffa, which welcomes 20,000 West African pilgrims every year, Ordre de Malte France-trained paramedics from Mali and Burkina Faso provide first-aid services. The Order of Malta has worked in Guinea since 1986, when the first Agreement was signed for a national leprosy programme.

IVORY COAST

The neglected tropic disease, Buruli Ulcer, is widespread in Ivory Coast. Clinics supported by Order of Malta's Embassy and Ordre de Malte France

treat its victims. Most are children under 15. Ordre de Malte France supports 18 clinics and dispensaries in the country, including those treating leprosy patients, plus two dental centres in Abidjan. The Embassy also collects and distributes books, medicines and medical kit to schools and local health centres in Abidjan. The St John Baptist Hospital, Tiassalé, inaugurated April 2015 in the presence of the President of the Republic, with 25 beds, increasing to 80 in the next 2-3 years and managed by Ordre de Malte France, offers a range of general medical and specialist services. In managing the hospital, Ordre de Malte France is taking an active part in the Ivorian healthcare system, testified to by its partnership with the Ministry of Health.

KENYA

In Kenya, almost half of Nairobi's 4.5 million people live in slums. About 10% of adults in shanty towns are infected



▲ A home visit to a tuberculosis patient, Oloitokitok, Kenya. The programme, run by Malteser International, connects villagers with local health care structures

with the HIV virus. The Dandora Health Clinic, set up by Malteser International, sees 210,000 patients annually and provides access to TB diagnosis and treatment for 380,000. The relief agency also continues managing community healthcare staff working for prevention and cure of TB in eight Nairobi slums, benefitting 24,000 per year and the Kangemi Resource Centre helps train local health workers.

World Health Organization (WHO) benchmarks for the control of tuberculosis have been met or exceeded in a treatment programme maintained by the Order of Malta since 2002. In 2011-2013 a programme to prevent mother-to-child transmission of TB and HIV increased availability of services, by linking health clinics and facilities in the Langata and Embakasi districts of Nairobi to governmental structures and

the community.

A separate €340,000 project in the vast remote area around Kajiado and Loitokitok near the Tanzanian border is helping to increase awareness and detection of TB among the mainly Maasai community, many of whom are semi-nomadic.

The Order continues its support at Lamu District Hospital, particularly maternal health and child welfare, highest priori-

ACTION FOR FAMINE VICTIMS IN THE HORN OF AFRICA



In the Horn of Africa where the worst drought in 60 years brought the greatest ongoing humanitarian disaster on the African continent, the Order of Malta provided aid to a population of 20,000 in Marsabit and Isiolo, north eastern Kenya. Emergency aid includes kits of staple foods (rice, beans, maize, oil) and medical kits (vitamin A, iron, folic acid and anti-fungus drugs) and mosquito nets to protect against malaria.

ties in the local community.

In 2014, a new borehole provided by the Order of Malta's Embassy in Kenya gave the town of Wamba, in the Rift Valley province, central Kenya, clean water, also greatly benefitting the local hospital, previously supplied with water only twice a week.

In addition, a project to harvest rainwater and improve water supply and hygiene, at Illeret, Lake Turkana, involved each household giving one goat in exchange for a water harvesting set. Half the goats became prizes to collectors of most rainwater, the rest to special needs people. Malteser International has been in Kenya since 2001.

LIBERIA

An Agreement signed in 2011 between the Sovereign Order of Malta's Embassy in Liberia and the Government is the new basis for the Order's humanitarian activities in the country, which include shipments of aid supplies, still needed as the country struggles to recover from years of civil war.

In 2014, in response to the Ebola crisis, the Order of Malta sent 1.6 tonnes of protective equipment and disinfectants for medical personnel in hospitals, and healthcare products for patients and the local population. Managed by Ordre de Malte France, the shipments, overseen by the Order's Embassy, contributed towards controlling the outbreak.

Donations of medicines and medical equipment to local hospitals were delivered in 2013 and 2014. The Order of Malta continues its support for the country's Ganta leprosarium, on the border with Guinea.

MADAGASCAR

In Madagascar, Ordre de Malte France runs the Sainte Fleur Pavillion in the Antananarivo University hospital, carrying out 12,400 check-ups and delivering 2,500 babies annually; another specialism is treatment of children

with infectious diseases. It also supports the Manara Leprosy Centre and two dispensaries.

MALI

The Sovereign Order has a Cooperation Agreement with Mali and with the World Health Organization in the country for training of first-aiders and ambulance personnel at the Ecole de Bamako; a programme to combat epidemic diseases; maintain health structures; and participate in the country's Programme for Health and Social Development.

Ordre de Malte France also supports a range of projects in Mali, through 12 dispensaries and health centres in the regions of Kayes, Bamako, Sikasso, Segou and Mopti, treating malaria, maternity and infant cases, renal dialysis and giving basic healthcare education. In 2013, armed conflict forced an estimated 475,000 people to flee. 47,200 escaped to Burkina Faso where Ordre de Malte France was active in the aid operations of the United Nations refugee agency (UNHCR). In Mali itself, supplies of medicines, hygiene products, food and clothing were delivered to 300,000 IDPs.

MAURITANIA

Ordre de Malte France supports two dispensaries in Mauritania.

MAURITIUS

A Cooperation Agreement signed with Mauritius in October 2013 aims to better facilitate the Order of Malta's assistance activities in the country, and cooperation with the country's healthcare system. Ordre de Malte France runs first-aid training courses with the scope of improving local healthcare capacities.

MOROCCO

In Morocco, Ordre de Malte France sup-

ports three dispensaries (Rabat, Tatouine, Casablanca) and annually sends supplies of cataract kits.

MOZAMBIQUE

An innovative programme of the Sovereign Order of Malta's Embassy in Mozambique to reintegrate HIV/AIDs victims into society continues its monthly traditional music and dance at the Mumemo Reassessment Camp, north of Maputo, training young musicians and searching for isolated sufferers to involve them for screening and treatment. The Embassy has created a self care programme for leprosy sufferers – now 51 groups in Nampula - and with the Order's Portuguese Association has provided each with a pair of goats as an income generating project. In 2013 Ordre de Malte France signed an Agreement to support the Ministry of Health's National Plan Against Leprosy for four years, with drugs and medical equipment. A nationwide project provides medical and educational aid to children after heart surgery, on return to their villages.

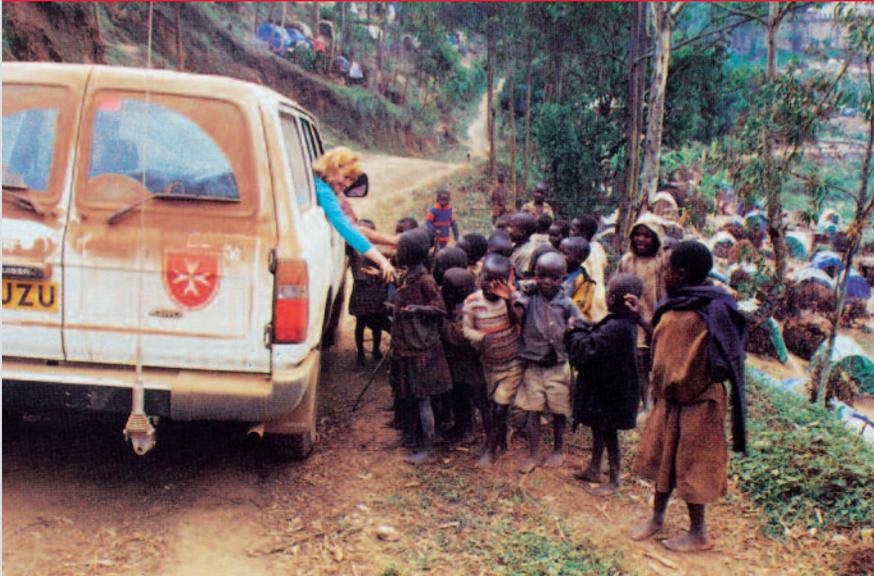
NAMIBIA

The Sovereign Order of Malta's Embassy has been working for over eight years in Namibia's Kavango region, where high incidence of HIV/AIDs limits life expectancy to under forty. The community of 200,000 has many more children than adults and an estimated 24,000 orphans.

A tailoring project at Lalla Sewing Centre, Kehemu, helps widows and HIV-positive women obtain work. Other initiatives include a food support programme and the renovation of the Murrurani hostel, housing 140 children aged 7 to 12.

The Embassy also provides 350 meals a day for orphans in the Piergiorgio Ballini nursery, Kehemu, Rundu - now adding dormitories for children who would otherwise sleep in the street, at risk of ill-treatment.

REMEMBERING RWANDA, TWENTY YEARS ON



In 1994, an appalling act of genocide in Rwanda left more than 800,000 people dead and 4,000,000 displaced. The first teams of the Order of Malta arrived in northern Rwanda in the region of Byumba shortly after the beginning of the massacre. Medical emergency relief was provided for over five months to about 30,000 internally displaced persons in three different camps. Staff from the Order of Malta started the rehabilitation and reconstruction of the local medical facilities, as well as providing aid for Rwandan refugees in DR Congo.

The Order of Malta marked the 20th anniversary of the atrocity, emphasising what humanitarian aid organisations have learned from the tragedy. "Back then there was little accountability, and relief was hardly standardised. Rwanda and the Great Lakes refugee crisis were the starting point for the development of quality standards. We have now developed a greater sensitivity for the role of humanitarian organisations in conflicts and crisis, and we are better at preparing our staff for the political, cultural and social context of the countries where we are working. We apply the lessons from Rwanda in countries such as Syria today" - the then Grand Hospitaller Albrecht Boeselager.

NIGER

The Embassy of the Sovereign Order of Malta in Niger, in agreement with the Ministry of Health, plans construction of a dispensary at Maradi when current unrest subsides.

SENEGAL

In Senegal, the 45-bed Central Order of Malta Hospital (CHOM), Dakar, is the only unit for leprosy patients in Senegal and West Africa. The hospital, funded by Ordre de Malte France, has an operating theatre of European standard and offers orthopaedic surgery and rehabilitation, trains young medics, added a radiology

department in 2013 and plans to establish a university degree in hand surgery. The Medico-Social Centre on the island of Gorée has upgraded its facilities for patients. The service is managed by the Order's Senegalese Association and provides quality care to all, especially the very poor.

Ordre de Malte France supports 18 clinics and dispensaries in Senegal and provides a healthcare programme for street children in Dakar. The Senegalese Association also runs a soup distribution project for street children and the poor in Dakar.

SEYCHELLES

In 2015 the Order's Seychelles Embassy arranged an exceptional donation of 258 healthcare equipment from Italy, organised via the Seychelles Minister of Health for Anse Royal, Praslin and La Digue Hospitals, the Elderly Centre, North East Point and Seychelles Hospital laboratory. The Embassy throughout the years donated to many causes, including Seychelles Hospital paediatric ward, local schools, an orphanage.

SIERRA LEONE

In Sierra Leone, the Order of Malta supports the Southern Eye Clinic at Serabu, which specialises in cataract surgery - the main cause of blindness in developing countries - and provides all treatments and glasses free. Patients travel to Serabu from all over Sierra Leone and from nearby countries. Every January and June, Order members Dr Cathy Schanzer and Tom Lewis travel from USA, to carry out about 400 surgeries annually.

SOUTH AFRICA

The Order of Malta's relief organisation in South Africa, the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard, established in 1992, provides a range of programmes and support around HIV, including testing

and Highly Active Anti-Retroviral Treatment (HAART) and free counselling for poor AIDS patients in Mandeni KwaZulu, where two thirds of the population are HIV positive.

The Order also runs a care centre, hospice, children's home for 42 orphans, and a pre-primary school and crèche for 30 children in Whebede; its health personnel are assisted by many volunteers, undertake home care services and run an ambulance and emergency response group.

2013 saw an extension to the children's home, a new soccer field and car park and an agreement with the South African government to supply drugs and laboratory services free.

SOUTH SUDAN

The Order of Malta, in healthcare in South Sudan since 1997, has further strengthened its support with the opening of diplomatic relations in November 2014. Following independence after 20 years of civil war, Malteser International has set up a three-year programme at Rumbek Health Training School for urgently needed medical staff. 106 will graduate in 2016; local staff are trained in laboratory and nursing. The School also serves as a referral lab for 330,000 people.

In the Great Lakes region, the Order supports 35 medical centres for tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS, and treats leprosy sufferers in three. Numerous water sources have been restored and hygiene awareness campaigns for local communities launched. A long-standing project has constructed 12 primary care units and rehabilitated eight in Maridi and Ibba. When violent conflict broke out in South Sudan's capital, Juba, in December 2013 – forcing Malteser International and other organisations to leave temporarily – the Order's Nairobi and Kampala offices immediately moved to help 200,000 displaced people. By January 2014, IDPs numbered almost 1,000,000, many seeking

refuge in Uganda. Malteser International aided 12,000 South Sudanese refugees, built pumps for clean drinking water, helped a camp build a well with a solar-powered pump, and distributed food packages and household items to 7,500 IDPs in Maridi county. By August 2014, continued fighting left half the population at risk of famine. Malteser International distributed food products to refugees in Maridi, and corn and peanut seeds and farming tools to help IDPs grow crops for next season.

TOGO

In Togo, Ordre de Malte France aids 10 clinics and dispensaries and continues to fight tuberculosis with detection and treatment programmes. It has run a 54-bed hospital at Elavagnon since 1980, providing healthcare for a population of 87,000 and specialising in infectious diseases. Nutritionists run an outreach service for malnourished children in surrounding villages – with 500 helped in 2014.

UGANDA

In Uganda, Malteser International, active in the country since 1996, responded to a humanitarian crisis of thousands of fleeing refugees, following clashes between the Congolese army and rebels in Democratic Republic of Congo in 2012.

Four health posts were established along the border, beds for a health centre in a refugee camp in Bubukwanga of 16,000 people, medicines for refugees outside the camp and aid for a dispensary on the Congolese side of the border.

Another refugee wave occurred in late 2013 and into 2014, when clashes in South Sudan put thousands to flight. Malteser International improved the water supply for 12,000 residents at Rhino refugee camps with the rehabilitation of wells. A system of elevated tanks delivers the water to distribution stations. New fences around the boreholes prevent water supply contamination.



▲ Nyahuka Health Centre IV, Uganda, provides emergency relief for refugees from DR Congo

THE AMERICAS

The Order of Malta has an active presence in 28 countries in the region, with facilities providing care and treatment in hospitals and homes for the elderly; programmes for street children, HIV-positive

ARGENTINA

In Argentina, the Order of Malta's national Association supports people in two impoverished areas of Buenos Aires where 3,000 destitute people live. In the Almirante Brown district, in the north of the country, the Order is working in a multipurpose centre which offers professional training sessions and a children's refectory serving 200 meals daily. The Order's volunteers are working as teachers for mature students.

In Plaza Libertad in Buenos Aires every Thursday, the Argentinian Association operates a mobile soup kitchen. Volunteers cook the food at home and transport it to the plaza. As well as a hot meal, they offer friendship and attention to 200 needy children and elderly. Elsewhere in the city, terminally ill cancer sufferers receive palliative care at the Hostel de Malta, a day care centre which enables patients to end their days at home. A new initiative in 2015 is members' weekly visits to inpatients at the Pombo Hospital.

For over 30 years the Association has provided support for the neo-natal unit at the Children's Hospital of San Justo, La Matanza, Buenos Aires.

Meanwhile, Argentina Maltese Aid for the Elimination of Leprosy (AMAPEL)

mothers and infants, food aid centres for the homeless and for people with disabilities. In many countries the Order also runs dental clinics and paediatric centres. 2013 saw the opening by Malteser International, the Order's worldwide relief agency, of its American headquarters in Miami. The regional HQ is well placed to serve and empower communities in need throughout the Americas.



has relaunched following a rise in cases since the closure of many clinics during the global economic downturn. Other medical services from the Association include support for the 'bones bank' at the Orthopaedics and Traumatology Hospital in Buenos Aires and the AMAPES (AIDS prevention) programme, in collaboration with the national programme of HIV screening. Each year, the Association also runs a first aid post during the November Youth Pilgrimage to the Basílica de Luján and a pilgrimage with malades.

BAHAMAS

The Sovereign Order of Malta's Embassy in the Bahamas continued aid efforts for Haiti following the devastating earthquake of 2011. Haiti is less than 100 km from the Bahamas. The Embassy continues to work with Catholic charities with a special focus on assisting Haitian refugees living in the Bahamas.

The Bahamas is a developing country, hurricane-prone and in the path of tropical storms. The Embassy, aware of the threat of natural catastrophes, consults with Malteser International to ensure its emergency relief capabilities are available in the event of a severe natural disaster.

BOLIVIA

The Order of Malta's Association in Bolivia has, with other organisations including the Agencia Espanola de Cooperacion Internacional (AECI), operated the haemodialysis unit in the San Juan Bautista Centre for Renal Care in El Alto since 2002. Kidney disease and diabetes are chronic problems in Bolivia, dialysis provision minimal (chronic renal insufficiency mortality rate 15%). The Centre has 11 donated dialysis machines; in 2014 over 3,300 treatments were given free or with subsidised minimum payment.

The Bolivian Association runs the 'Centro de Damas Paceañas', a day care centre for the elderly in La Paz. Operational since 2012, the centre cares for 100 patients daily, offering spiritual support, medical checks and meals.

In Santa Cruz de la Sierra, a joint venture between the Agencia Espanola de Cooperacion Internacional (AECI) and the Order of Malta Bolivian and Spanish Associations runs the Centro de Prevencion y Tratamiento de Diabetes; and with the Universidad Autónoma Gabriel René Moreno the Association supports the Cardenal Julio Terrazas Sandoval Diabetes Centre.

In Cochabamba the Association, with

the Canadian Association, supports the Centro de Lucha contro el Mal de Chagas (tropical parasitical disease, also called trypanosomiasis), benefitting 460 patients.

The Canadian Association's support for the Altiplano Tapacari project has helped reduce hunger and poverty among the Aymara people on the Bolivian Altiplano uplands. Working with local partner, AGRUCO, farming efficiency has been transformed. The project, completed 2013, has benefitted 644 families, increased the potato harvest by 83%, improved seed potatoes biodiversity.

BRAZIL

In Brazil, the health programme run by the Order of Malta's Association of Sao Paulo and Southern Brazil provides a range of care for all age groups. It includes a mobile clinic delivering medical and dental services to remote districts of the capital.

The Association's educational programme focusses on minimising failure and truancy by providing cultural activities and sports. And the Maltese Cross Nursery in Sao Paolo enables mothers to work while their children under the age of seven are well cared for.

Older children up to 14 can participate in vocational courses and enjoy meals, sports and games at the Association's Youth Centre. The Centre also houses toy and book libraries – both available to the general public.

In the state of Paraná the Association supports a 60-bed home for the elderly. Meanwhile, a floating dispensary, Saint Jean-Baptiste II, continues to ply the Amazon River carrying medicines to people with little access to healthcare. The project is supported by Ordre de Malte France.

In partnership with the city of Sao Paulo, the Association has launched a digital inclusion programme providing computer training sessions and how to write job applications.



▲ Awareness-raising and on-the-spot medical care for World Diabetes Day, Bolivia

The Rio de Janeiro Association's activities support the Leprosy Clinic in Picos, together with CIOMAL, the Order of Malta's Swiss-based funding organisation for treatment of the disease - the programme reaches 300,000 people; assist youngsters and the very old at the Belo Horizonte Centre; and run the Sao Joao Bautista Health Centre in Rio. Established in 2011, it benefits 70,000, providing free medical treatment and medicines.

CANADA

Since 2001, the Canadian Association has run outreach eye clinics in the lower mainland of Vancouver, offering eye tests, treatment and free spectacles, treating 450 people a year. In Montreal Order of Malta volunteers work in six homes for the aged; and assist pilgrims all year round at St Joseph's Oratory and Notre Dame du Cap. In Quebec City, a special project helps severely handicapped children. In Ot-

tawa a day clinic connected with the Shepherds of Good Hope is underway. Members in Toronto support a homeless shelter 'Out of the Cold', St Michael's Hospital, the 'St Francis Table' soup kitchen, and make home visits to the disabled, elderly and chronically ill. A new project will operate in a poor city parish, helping ageing migrants obtain better social services access.

The Order's Auxiliaries Corps in Quebec has six brigades – 126 volunteers provide first aid at the country's two national shrines, and regularly visit four homes for the elderly, disabled and sick, benefiting 1500 people. In 2015 the Corps celebrates its 60th anniversary. The Association celebrated its 60th in 2013.

CHILE

In Chile, the 'Mercado Maltés', constructed in Chépica in conjunction with Malteser International to replace destroyed shops and workshops after the 2010 earthquake, today gives small businesses a permanent sales location. The Association supports four medical centres in Santiago (Roberto del Rio, Exequiel Gonzalez Cortes, Josefina Martinez, San José y Felix Bulnes) and provides patient transport services and rehabilitation care. At San José, the Order of Malta extended the lung patients' centre in 2013; renovated the bronchopulmonary departments and donated equipment; continued support for oxygen-dependent children in the four hospitals. Over 13,500 patients were treated in 2014.

Auxilio Maltés, the auxiliary service of the Chilean Association, runs many social programmes – examples: in Liquiñe volunteers visit the sick and arrange for doctors and health centre staff to visit people in remote outlying areas; in Santa Elena, the Order has built a waiting room and gynaecological care facility at the Farmers' Medical Centre; in Loncoche, 'Blessed Charles of Austria' day shelter was opened in 2011 to provide care and comradeship for lonely and elderly poor.

COLOMBIA

The Order of Malta's Association in Colombia is an intermediary between international donors, such as AmeriCares with whom it has had a relationship since 1997, and Colombian institutions serving vulnerable people not covered by the National Health System. In a typical year over 40 institutions benefit like this through donations of medicines, medical equipment and supplies, distributed by the Order to hospitals, health services, retirement homes and hospices throughout the country.

In the poverty-stricken Lisboa district of Bogotá the Association supports a health centre, treating over 4,300 dental and 4,400 medical patients in 2014; a day care centre sees 150 regulars; a soup kitchen serves 500 meals a day. There is a legal advice centre staffed by specialists in civil, employment, family and tax law; and a foster home for displaced and trafficked people, built 2014. An orthopaedic support programme also launched in 2014 provides wheel chairs, canes for the blind / disabled, crutches and orthopaedic splints to the needy; and the Fra' Andrew Bertie day centre for 200 disadvantaged elderly was opened in Bogotá.

The Association has also been working with Malteser International and the Order's Cuban Association to strengthen disaster preparedness among vulnerable people living in remote areas. The



▲ Four of the Order of Malta's nine medical centres in El Salvador also run clinical laboratories



▲ The 'Mercado Maltés', Chépica, Chile, rebuilt by the Order of Malta after the 2010 earthquake, ensures local businesses can thrive and support the local population

'Bringing Life' project, launched 2003, together with several partners, provides medical aid to remote rural populations, focussing on children and on complex diseases only treatable in Bogotá.

In conjunction with the Pro-Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta Foundation and the Order's Global Fund for Forgotten People, a training programme has created teams in a number of villages who act as lookouts for potential hazards. A new activity is the "Duni" project for the indigenous Arhuaco people in isolated mountain areas of the Sierra Nevada ('Duni' means "thank you"): construction of a health clinic in Bunkwimake in collaboration with Malteser International, the Colombian and Cuban Associations of the Order and support from the Global Fund for Forgotten People.

The Association provides other services to the needy, including construction of a health care centre in Barrio Palermo Sur, Bogotá, catering for people in low income neighbourhoods with high unemployment. The centre includes doctors' surgeries and a psycho-social clinic with an interdisciplinary team of professionals in psychiatry, psychology, neuropsychology, social work and occupational therapy.

COSTA RICA

The Sovereign Order of Malta's Embassy in Costa Rica has a joint project in Guanacaste with local parishes to increase school attendance in truant children, through football. The Embassy also supports the educational project of the Carmelite Sisters of the 'Carmel Centre' and is setting up a canteen in Barrio Cuba, San José, for the local poor.

Further Embassy activities: help for the 'Miraculous Medal' parish project in the Barrio Cuba, promoting activities for local children and giving financial and social support to poor families; support for the Hospital de los Niños in San José, which plans to develop into a Centre of Medical Science, dealing with complex diseases to improve child health in Costa Rica.

CUBA

The Order of Malta's Cuban Association is highly active in Florida and Cuba and runs medical missions to the Dominican Republic, Haiti and other countries in the Caribbean. These missions comprise four to nine doctors, an equal number of nurses plus non-medical personnel to

help distribute free medicines.

In Cuba, 150 volunteers provide regular meals – breakfast and lunch five days a week, plus weekend parcels – for elderly in 60 parishes. In 2014, 60 soup kitchens served 800,000 meals to homeless people throughout the island, thanks to the Association's fundraising efforts.

Order members made significant donations, including to the Psicopedagógico Institute in Puerto Rico, which provides health services, nutrition, education and care to severely disabled children and adults. They also aid a centre in Palma Soriano for children with Down's syndrome.

Since 2010, the Order has supported a paediatric dental clinic for immigrant children in Homestead, Florida and members of the Association provide medical, dental and educational care to children in migrant camps in South Florida.

The Cuban Association and Malteser International rebuilt 61 homes destroyed by hurricane Sandy, which struck Santiago de Cuba in October 2012. By August 2013, 300 residents moved into their new homes; Malteser International also provided training in humanitarian aid delivery to its local Cuban partners.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Societal shifts in the Dominican Republic have seen massive migration from rural to urban centres, primarily Santo Domingo, and an increasing number of children and young people in the cities. The Order of Malta's Dominican Association, together with governmental and voluntary agencies, has introduced an access programme in mother and child clinics in Santo Domingo and Monte Plata. The clinics combine obstetrics and paediatrics care with education and health promotion for a population marginalised through unemployment or underemployment, with previously high infant mortality rates.

The Cuban Association sends 100 doctors, nurses and assistants who offer their expertise free to impoverished communities, treating 3,500 patients during the twice-yearly ongoing missions.

In 2014, the Dominican Association began construction of its third Child, Family and Community Maternal Centre, in Haina, San Cristobal. It also sponsored delivery of medicines and medical supplies to three clinics in Santo Domingo,

with the corporate social responsibility organisation AllMedia as part of the PUSH (Programme for Social Humanitarian Unit) initiative launched by the Dominican Association.

ECUADOR

Along the banks of the Puyo and Pastaza rivers in Ecuador volunteers from the Order of Malta's national Association run a medical mission, finding many cases in urgent need of medical or dental treatment. In 2014 the Order's team of 45 volunteer surgeons, doctors and dentists treated 1,300 patients, performed 50 minor operations and distributed 140 doses of anti-parasitics.

EL SALVADOR

In 2013 the Order of Malta's Association in El Salvador launched a campaign for prevention and treatment of diabetes, which is widespread in the country. 500 people participated – adding to the estimated 4 million who have benefited from healthcare programmes run by the Association since 1974.

The Association operates nine medical

centres across the country, treating 140,000 patients each year. By 2014, cardiology departments for patients unable to pay for treatment were set up in five of the nine clinics, in the municipalities of Sonsonate, Chalchuapa, Zacatecoluca, Suchitoto and Santa Tecla.

The clinics also received IT equipment donated by the Embassy of the Republic of China (Taiwan) in 2014, to add to the resources for diagnosing and monitoring osteoporosis. Each clinic provides primary healthcare and general medical and nursing services, with a clinical laboratory at four clinics, dental services at four and a physiotherapy service at one. The Order of Malta Volunteers supports these initiatives, raising funds for the centres and visiting the patients.

The Association also runs a donation programme which channels humanitarian aid from national and international organisations to El Salvador's public institutions - hospitals, orphanages, nursing homes and schools.

After the experience of tropical storm Agatha in 2010, the Association set up disaster preparedness centres.

GUATEMALA

The Order of Malta's Guatemalan Association offers assistance to families of hospitalised patients in the capital, and distributes medicines, clothing and food to the poor and needy in country areas. The Association supports the country's health services in a variety of ways – providing funds for specific projects, distributing food to those in need, giving books and other equipment to schools and libraries. A recent addition is the Tilapia project – a micro-finance programme to construct ponds in villages and stock them with the fish, providing nutrition and an income source.

HAITI

In Haiti, many of the Order of Malta's national Associations – Canadian, Cuban,



▲ Emergency hygiene kits are distributed in El Salvador following floods



▲ Training programmes for disaster prevention and sanitation help local populations in Belle-Anse and Darbonne, Haiti

Dominican, French, German, the Austrian MHDA and the three USA Associations - worked with the Order's emergency response agency, Malteser International, to provide medical aid after the earthquake of January 2010. Emergency relief focused on first aid and nutritional programmes in Darbonne and Léogane, including hygiene campaigns to avoid the spread of cholera. Reconstruction programmes have re-established infrastructures and Malteser International is focussing on improvement of water supply, sanitation and food for the very poor, and reforestation and climate change adaptation in designated areas, such as Belle Anse.

Belle Anse, one of Haiti's poorest regions, was hit by severe storms in 2012 - another natural disaster. Since then, Malteser International and local partner COTEDO have been working with local

people to help them make most effective sustainable use of limited resources. Initiatives include establishing a model community garden to help villagers grow their own seeds to protect future harvests. This has helped 700 farmers to learn about sustainable agriculture and soil conservation and use these techniques in their own fields. Also benefiting from the scheme are women in Cadud who grow eggplants to enrich their families' daily nutrition.

The extreme weather which batters Haiti almost every year brings the threat of viral infections such as cholera, dengue and chikungunya and debilitating infections transmitted by mosquitoes. At least 40,000 such cases hit Haiti in 2014. To fight the spread of the disease Malteser International carried out mass awareness and training campaigns including live events and ra-

dio announcements, reaching more than 6,000 Haitians, who acted as multipliers to reach more than 250,000.

In the north, the 122-bed Sacred Heart Hospital at Milot, supported by the Order for the past 15 years, continues its care for patients from a catchment area of 225,000. Its prosthetic department has been working overtime since 2010.

HONDURAS

In Honduras, where the weather is becoming more extreme and unpredictable and natural disasters become more frequent, Malteser International has signed an agreement with the government to put in place a project for disaster risk management and climate change adaptation in the country's southern region. The implementation will be done jointly by the Order of Mal-



▲ Explaining health education to young poor in Mexico City – a collaborative project of the Mexican Association and Malteser International

ta Honduran Association and Malteser International Americas, involving national actors wherever possible, strengthening networking and exchange within the country.

Medical aid provided by AmeriCares is channelled through the Order of Malta's Association to two hospitals, Torax and San Felipe. Administrative support and donation of goods for the Bless the Children Foundation in Progreso, which provides drug rehabilitation centres for children, is organised through the Order's Embassy.

MEXICO

When hurricane Manuel struck Mexico in September 2013, the Order of Malta's Mexican Association immediately launched an appeal for cash donations

and aid materials such as food, bottled water, blankets and clothing. They were distributed to many communities where the Association also provided teams of volunteer doctors, paramedics, nurses and psychologists.

For over 15 years the Mexican Association has run a programme in the district of Tabasco to prevent transmission of the HIV virus from young mothers to their babies. To date, almost 1000 mothers and babies have received support. However, demand for the service far outstrips available resources, with some 800 mothers seeking admission to the programme every year.

Other programmes include 'Help me Grow', to combat malnutrition. More than 2000 children in three communities have benefited from individually-tailored nutritional advice and the dis-

tribution to hospitals and health centres of medical drugs and equipment donated by AmeriCares and other US charities.

Long-running care provision includes a school and boarding home for 150 street children in Santa Martha Acatitla; a care home for 50 elderly in Mexico City; an outpatient clinic providing services to very poor families in the impoverished outskirts of Mexico City at Ciudad Netzahualcoyotl; and support for the disadvantaged in two community centres, at Cacalote and Zentlapa.

NICARAGUA

Since 1989 the Sovereign Order of Malta's Embassy in Nicaragua has supported the most vulnerable in Nicaraguan society providing humanitarian aid, es-

pecially in times of natural disasters, and distributing medical equipment.

PANAMA

The Order of Malta's Panamanian Association provides free medical and dental treatment for over 8,400 patients annually at the Don Bosco clinic in Panama City; and in a poor area it supports two schools for the disabled with equipment and buildings maintenance.

In Panama City, an annual 'Happy Kids Day' Christmas lunch is organised for 200 local children. The Association makes regular donations to improve the lives of prisoners, providing musical instruments, dental equipment and financial support. A Cooperation Agreement between the Order and the Panamanian Ministry of Education provides equipment and maintenance improvements to a number of primary schools. Another initiative brings medical help to poor residents in the Province of Darien, close to the Colombian border – the 'Christ Heals' project supports sending doctors, dentists and ophthalmologists to the Darien jungle.

PARAGUAY

The Order of Malta's Association in Paraguay has an agreement with the Municipality of San Lorenzo (an impoverished suburb of Asunción), to provide free dental care in a mobile clinic to local school children. Dentists are paid by the Ministry, all other staff are volunteers. In the Puesto de Emergencia Malta poor children are offered free meals and their mothers follow courses in cookery and hairdressing, all donated through the Order.

PERU

70 school children in Amauta, Ate-Vitarte, near the capital Lima, sit down to a free meal daily thanks to Malteser Peru, the Order of Malta's volunteer organisation founded in 2002, and fami-

lies from the village benefit from a soup kitchen which has operated every week day since 2004.

In another programme, a School Toy Library in Piura helps 50 children learn and develop good social values through play. At the other end of the age scale, the Order's home for the elderly in the Piuran district which opened three years ago cares for 70 residents.

The Malteser Family Home in Talara cares for 50 sufferers from domestic violence or with relationship problems, their rehabilitation aided by psychologists and lawyers.

A hospital ship, which plies the Rio Napo, is supported by the Order of Malta, and provides medical examinations, gynaecological and dental consultations, and assistance for the elderly. 2014 saw 50,000 procedures, mainly healthcare, benefitting a population of 5,000 in villages along the river. The project is carried out with the cooperation of the Peruvian Navy (who provided the ship) and the Ministry of Women and Social Development.

During his visit to Lima in November 2011, the Grand Master inaugurated the intensive care ward in the 'Divino Niño

Jesus' clinic supported by the Order of Malta's Peruvian Association, where 68 doctors now perform 11,000 medical consultations a month. He also laid the first stone of the new library financed by the Association for the 'I.E. Soberana Orden Militar de Malta' secondary school. To encourage future volunteers, Malteser Peru runs a 'Malteser Kids' project on the outskirts of Lima: 10 to 15 year-olds learn about visiting the sick and working at soup kitchens. This helps them develop their own social skills and benefits their local communities. Those wishing to can graduate to becoming a Malteser Peru volunteer.

SURINAME

In Suriname, the Sovereign Order of Malta's Embassy supports an orphanage in Abadukondre and homes for the elderly.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

In the United States of America, the Order of Malta is active through the American, the Federal and the Western Associations.



▲ Core projects in Peru include community care, education, medical aid and care for the elderly



▲ Providing food for the homeless is a focus across the United States

The Grants Program is at the very core of the **American Association's** raison d'être. The majority of the grants support domestic projects, including care for the elderly, soup kitchens and educational facilities in impoverished areas, in which American Association members are actively involved. A portion is allocated to international projects in which Association members or the Order have an active role, such as the Holy Family Hospital in Bethlehem, and shipping essential medicines to developing countries.

Volunteers from the American Association have participated in the Order of Malta New Orleans Home Rebuilding Program, running since Hurricane Katrina. The project aims to improve the quality of life of low-income home owners, in particular those who are elderly, disabled, or single mothers.

Members of the Order in Michigan have established and run the Medical and

Dental clinic at St Leo's Church, inner Detroit, providing free medical and dental checkups for local disadvantaged.

The Association runs a prison ministry programme across 31 US States, with the other US Associations of the Order, aiding prisoners and their families and aiding ex-offenders to reintegrate into society. Donations and grants from the Association, which exceed millions of dollars annually, help support needy causes around the region.

Since the Katrina hurricane of 2006, the **Federal Association** responded with financial support and with over 1000 volunteers from the three Associations participates in the Order of Malta New Orleans Home Rebuilding Program. Thanks to partnership with Rebuilding Together, Catholic Charities of New Orleans volunteers have worked a continuing programme of one-week work sessions in Treme, Gentilly and New Orleans East to provide homes for very

many families.

In Dallas, members prepare a weekly meal for 100 homeless at a 'Saturday Picnic', established in 1990 by the daughter of an elderly man who died from exposure in one of the poorest parts of the city. In 2014, over 3000 meals were served.

Providing grants to improve the lives of the sick and poor, both in the US and overseas, is an important part of the Association's work. Donations in 2014 helped support medical missions in Haiti, the Dominican Republic and Guatemala, and 25 domestic projects from Dallas to Philadelphia.

The work of the Order of Malta's **Western Association** touches the needy and the sick across California. Free clinics of volunteer physicians and nurses in the Los Angeles Order of Malta Clinic and in the Order of Malta Northern California Clinic provide medical care for uninsured sick and poor.

The Association also supports – financially and practically, with volunteers – over 50 other community services throughout the State. Examples include free meals for the homeless and those on low incomes, shelters and transitional homes for the homeless, support for expectant mothers and young chil-

dren, and care for the elderly and sufferers from HIV/AIDS, totalling 60,000 hours of volunteer service in 2014.

Twice each month in Los Angeles volunteers distribute 400 hygiene kits to homeless people, while in Phoenix Arizona the Association is working with other charities to provide housing and

help for women leading dangerous lives on the streets.

The Association supports programmes in Monterey County, one for removing gang-related tattoos, the other providing food, clothing, blankets and school supplies to low-income farm workers.

The Western Association's Parish Nurse Programs provide a friendly lifeline for the elderly housebound in Los Angeles, Orange County, Phoenix and San Francisco. Registered nurses, with Association volunteers, make regular home visits to check on the resident's general wellbeing, offering counselling and referral services as necessary.

The Association also continues its assistance for those in need in various parts of the world, including the Holy Family Hospital in Bethlehem and CRUDEM Hospital in Haiti.

PRISON MINISTRY IN THE UNITED STATES



The Order of Malta's American Association Prison Ministry programme has grown from small beginnings to representation in 31 states, reflecting the escalation in the prison population, currently over two million in the United States.

Their aim is restoration and reconciliation, not retribution and revenge. The programme includes regular face-to-face visits, a Pen Pals scheme, encouragement to gain qualifications and learn new skills during their sentence, and fosters employment opportunities for post release – factors which dramatically impact on the number who will reoffend.

A mentoring programme for young people, many the sons and daughters of prisoners, aims to break the perception that it is a 'point of honour' to follow father or mother into prison.

A quarterly magazine 'The Serving Brother' is distributed with content specifically aimed at the spiritual needs of prison inmates.

The Order of Malta continues to promote prison reforms and improve public perception of people who are imprisoned, also through the influential biennial American Association Prison Ministry Symposia - the fourth, held in March 2015, focussed on recidivism.

URUGUAY

In Uruguay the Order of Malta's Association, while still caring for a decreasing number of new cases of Hansen's disease (leprosy), is focussing on helping the homeless. In Montevideo it supports a home for vulnerable women, a centre for young mothers with children, and a shelter for the homeless.

The Association has worked with the Ministry of Public Health to develop a mobile dental service in remote areas. In 2014, a computer training centre for mothers and children was set up with the assistance of the Association and the Order's Embassy to Uruguay.

VENEZUELA

The Order of Malta's Association in Venezuela provides poor, sick and needy people with free medicines donated by pharmaceutical companies. It regularly supports a soup kitchen for the homeless, a home for elderly people and a day-care training and medical centre offering free consultations to residents of an impoverished area of Santa Cruz.

ASIA PACIFIC

The Order of Malta has a presence across Asia Pacific where a range of projects improve healthcare and living conditions for many thousands of people.

In addition, the Order's national Associations and Malteser International are at the ready to respond to natural and man-made disasters, and implement extensive programmes in Disaster Risk Reduction throughout the region.



ARMENIA

The Sovereign Order of Malta, through its Embassy in Armenia, supports three significant initiatives - the Svartnotz orphanage, providing daily meals for 120 orphans; the tuberculosis sanatorium in Dilijan ensuring distribution of the very expensive imported medications to patients; and the School for the Hearing Impaired (deaf and dumb children).

AUSTRALIA

In Australia, the Order of Malta's Association delivers a range of voluntary support services through six branches, the five states of Australia, plus New Zealand. An Australia-wide campaign distributes specially-designed coats to Australians sleeping rough - an estimated vulnerable 20,000. The shower-proof coats are warm, black and have internal pockets. 2,500 coats were distributed in 2013, 3,000 in 2014.

Fund-raising by volunteers in all six branches provides support for a number of campaigns both at home and overseas. Examples: the Western Australia branch donated to the Personal Advocacy Service in Perth to help people with intellectual disabilities; the New South Wales branch donated equipment to the Palliative Care Services at St Joseph's Hospital, Sydney. The Order of Malta continues support of

health services and undertakes home visits in Brisbane, Melbourne and Sydney. Further afield, the Order aids Timor-Leste, Australia's closest neighbour.

CAMBODIA

A food security programme for mothers and children in Cambodia helps to combat malnutrition, reduce infant mortality and ensures that more children enjoy healthy lives.

With local partner Agricom, Malteser International has been working in 175 villages in Cambodia's Oddar Meanchey province to fight malnutrition. 300 small gardens have been planted where mothers grow vegetables for the family or to sell through local markets. The agency, with the Cambodian Health and Human Rights Alliance, has set up a comprehensive WASH programme (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) for Oddar Meanchey and Bantey Meanchey. In 2013, 36,600 villagers took part in the agency's health, nutrition and hygiene awareness campaigns, while a total of 35,850 pre- and post-natal care examinations were conducted in its supported health centres.

The Order of Malta CIOMAL Foundation also continues to help eradicate the stigma of leprosy and to train medical personnel in specialist treatments and procedures. They also run radio-based education campaigns country-wide and

campaigns in regional communities. CIOMAL supports the Cambodian National Leprosy Control Programme, and its teaching and rehabilitation centre Kien Khlang in Phnom Penh covers all aspects of the disease - detection, prevention, early treatment, medical and socio-economic rehabilitation; programmes for social reintegration and microeconomics encourage former patients to become self-sufficient.

In Battambang province Ordre de Malte France opened a new 20-bed department for treating plantar ulcers in early 2015. It was built inside the hospital complex of the Battambang district in the western part of the country, with the contribution of the Cambodian Ministry of Health.

In 2013, widespread flooding from monsoon rains affected 160,000 Cambodian families. Malteser International distributed water containers, chlorine tablets, filters and hygiene kits in Oddar Meanchey and Siem Reap, while their local teams ran awareness campaigns to help prevent diseases, distributed seeds to small farmers and trained local authorities in disaster management.

GEORGIA

In Georgia, the 'Cardinal Pio Laghi' Foundation created by the Sovereign Order of Malta's Embassy in Tbilisi has been offering aid to elderly poor in Tbil-

isi since 2011, adding a home care service in 2013 which treats 20 patients per month.

INDIA

Malteser International is working in close cooperation with partners to contribute to poverty reduction through development and community participation, and to help make members of marginal groups less vulnerable to natural disasters, which can affect them disproportionately to the rest of the population. The multi-sectoral approach is to help communities break the poverty and aid dependency cycle. Current work includes improving flood resilience in a cross-border project between India and Nepal.

Ordre de Malte France runs the Shanti Centre in Dubrayapet, a disadvantaged area of Puducherry, southern India, which supports underprivileged children and their families. The Centre's kindergarten is attended by 39 children, while 41 children attend the primary school. A sponsorship programme supports 125 school children. The Centre also runs a surgery where the children and their families receive medical check-ups, with a focus on hygiene education for mothers. Over 80 families were supported in 2014.

Health insurance for 23,000 Tibetans in India

Malteser International, in cooperation with the Central Tibetan Administration and the Micro Insurance Academy, has developed a community-based health insurance for Tibetans living in India so that 23,000 Tibetans can protect themselves against unexpected health costs. The scheme is due to be extended to cover all Tibetan refugees in India.



▲ In Siem Reap, Cambodia, Malteser International teams educate locals in nutrition and hygiene practices

INDONESIA

In Indonesia, the Order of Malta's relief agency has been working to improve health and nutrition for women and children in the communities of Paya Bakong and Cot Girek in rural Aceh. With partner Hati Nurani, the agency trains health volunteers and midwives to strengthen the local health service. Home gardens and income-generating measures for women are also being developed to improve access to nutritious food. Since the 2004 tsunami Malteser International has been implementing programmes for reconstruction and rehabilitation, and disaster preparedness. In 2014, the Singaporean Association donated equipment for the new operating room at Bhakti Wara Hospital in Pangkal Pinang. The hospital serves the poor and needy, who constitute 80% of its patients. The new operating room means surgical procedures can continue throughout the year without the previous delays for free cataract operations.

KAZAKHSTAN

The Embassy of the Sovereign Order of Malta in Kazakhstan continues to pro-

vide financial and logistic support to the Missionaries of Charity active in the country. Through this project, the Embassy is involved in the distribution of food and medicines for people without support living in poverty.

LAOS

As part of its extensive international programmes assisting leprosy patients, Ordre de Malte France is renovating its specialist centre in Lak Sam Seap, southern Laos. On completion, the centre will give essential health-care to leprosy patients, as well as running a day-care centre for mothers living in poverty and their children.

MYANMAR/BURMA

In Myanmar/Burma Malteser International has been active with its own staff since 2001. Today, the agency employs over 350 national staff in Rakhine, Shan and Kayin states, with projects designed to ensure that communities have access to primary health care services. Also offered are comprehensive WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene) programmes, for example in northern

Shan state, disaster risk reduction/climate change adaptation solutions, and relief after disasters. The aim is to enable and empower the most vulnerable communities in marginalised areas through a participatory and sustainable approach.

NEPAL

Malteser International dispatched an emergency team to Kathmandu in the immediate aftermath of the first April 2015 Nepal earthquake. The initial response was to supply the crisis zone with medical supplies; now to aid the

population in outlying rural regions with distribution of aid material to families in need, and to hospitals.

Following flooding in the Bardiya district of western Nepal, villagers were able to protect their homes and water supply thanks to an earlier disaster risk reduction project led by Malteser International, using pumps on elevated platforms which also acted as safe evacuation areas. This was the first real test of lessons learned in disaster management and practical steps taken - involving 13 riverside village communities in the areas of India and Nepal most at risk of flooding, a combination of the

annual Himalayan snow melt and the start of monsoon season. 30 flood-resistant water pumps were also installed - and results were impressive.

Malteser International's work in northern India and Nepal has also involved a number of active women's groups in improving overall living conditions. As a result, 2,000 families now enjoy improved nutrition through home gardens or income generation activities, while more than 9,000 families have year-round access to clean drinking water.

PAKISTAN

When floods inundate vast swathes of land in the rainy season they wash away homes, lives and livelihoods - and hope among those who already had little, and now have even less. In Pakistan, Malteser International provided initial flood relief measures in July 2015 for the population of the district of Chitral, in Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province, strongly affected by heavy rain and flooding. Malteser International supports the health authorities of the district, which neighbours Afghanistan, by providing medication, hygiene and baby kits, mosquito nets, water purification tablets, information material and personnel. Almost 80% of the district was underwater and many were injured by the rising water or by debris from the damage it caused.

Disaster Risk Reduction is the main focus of Malteser International's work in Pakistan, to strengthen capacity for communities to prevent or prepare for disaster situations. The organisation is helping communities to prepare themselves for disasters using Risk Maps to analyse their vulnerabilities and then develop and implement emergency concepts.

Malteser International first became active in Pakistan after the 2005 flood and continues to provide: emergency relief in response to natural and manmade disasters, reconstruction and rehabilitation programmes, care for pregnant women and young children, medical

EMERGENCY INTERVENTION: EARTHQUAKES IN NEPAL



In the first three months after the severe earthquake which hit Nepal on the 25th April 2015, Malteser International provided emergency aid for around 33,000 people. In the especially hard-hit districts of Sindhupalchok and Kavre north east of the capital, the aid organisation provided 4,600 families in 54 communities - a total of almost 28,000 people - with essential food supplies, hygiene articles and tarpaulins for the construction of emergency shelters. Since it opened at the end of May, around 5,000 sick and injured people have received treatment at the Malteser International led field hospital in Lamosanghu, near to the Chinese border. In light of the violent destruction in the country, Malteser International plans to continue to support Nepal with rebuilding efforts through the coming years.



▲ Trauma counselling is provided so that Philippines grade schoolers go happily back to school after Typhoon Haiyan

supplies and equipment for health centres and support for training of specialists. Example: after serious flooding, Swat Valley populations received medical, health and food aid.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

In Papua New Guinea, the Australian Association provides assistance for the development of the Mount Sion Centre for the Blind in Goroka. Over 5,000 locals have had their sight restored by cataract surgery from volunteer Australian eye surgeons who visit regularly. In West Papua's Manokwari and Wasior regions, disaster preparedness training and early warning procedures are conducted by Malteser International, because of the constant inundations of floods and landslides and following the tsunami of 2011.

PHILIPPINES

Typhoon Haiyan/Yolanda hit the Philippines in November 2013 leaving four million homes destroyed and at least 6,000 dead. The Order of Malta's Philippine Association assessed needs in the worst affected region around Tacloban City; Malteser International, the Order's relief agency, sent an emergency team to collaborate with the national Association's own specialists, the Order's Ambassador to the Philippines and the local government.

The Order's joint teams provided food and hygiene kits to 1,000 families on the island of Samar, and other areas outside Tacloban. Malteser International focused on Samar and Bohol, providing water, rice, beans, kitchen utensils, blankets, sleeping bags and buckets to thousands of families. The Philippine

Association sent a mobile medical team to the towns of Basey, Marabut and San Sebastian on Samar, while vouchers for construction materials were distributed on Bohol. In addition, the Swiss Association of the Order donated 13 motorised boats for fishermen in the town of Marabut, Basey, who had lost their boats in the typhoon.

Long term reconstruction and recovery continued into 2015, with the Philippines Association and Malteser International working in close collaboration. 700 specially designed disaster-resistant homes – in Samar, Bantayan Island and Cebu – completed early 2015 provide for many who lost their homes. The Order's relief teams have worked with residents in vocational training, teaching skills to generate income for their families.

The Order of Malta's Philippines Asso-

ciation continues its medical programmes including the Order of Malta Medical and Dental clinic which has carried out over 40,000 consultations in the past five years and a breast care programme launched in 2011 in conjunction with AmeriCares, the Association's partner for almost 26 years.

Another joint venture between the Order of Malta and AmeriCares is the distribution of 40-foot container-loads of mineral and vitamin-rich porridge to support feeding and emergency response programmes throughout the country.

A special project focuses on training local women in vegetable farming. Medical and dental missions continue in rural areas, including HIV and AIDS awareness initiatives and distribution of medicines, medical equipment and nutritional supplements to local populations.

The Association has 500 volunteers in the metropolitan area of Manila.

Since September 2015, Malteser International has been working in cooperation with the Philippine Association of the Order of Malta and Caritas Baguio to improve Lengaoan's water and sanitation, in particular at its two primary schools. Concurrently, activities on the protection and sustainable use of natural resources are being supported.

SINGAPORE

The Singapore Association has responded to disasters and emergencies since its formation in 2006 as the first land-based Order of Malta association in Asia. The members have provided specialised medical and financial aid for those injured by the cyclone in Myanmar, typhoons in Vietnam, Laos and the Philippines, the recent Australian floods and the Japan Tsunami.

Internal missions include counselling work with prisoners and their families, aid to organisations caring for the terminally ill, and outings for elderly sick and disabled people.



▲ Traditional birth assistants are trained by Order healthcare teams at the Mae La Oon refugee camp. 35,000 refugees received healthcare in camps on the Thai/ Myanmar border

THAILAND

For less than 20 years in Thailand, the Order of Malta's worldwide relief service, Malteser International, has been responsible for health care in two refugee camps, Mae La Oon and Mae Ra Ma Luang, caring for 35,000 inhabitants. The refugees are dependent on international support for shelter, food, education, water and health services. Income opportunities are limited. Combatting malaria and tuberculosis remain major concerns.

The team recently built 60 rainwater collection stations and maintained a water storage and distribution network serving 800 taps. They also renovated 800 household flush latrines, installed 100 additional hand washing facilities in schools and public areas and distributed soap. In north-western Thailand, the agency has set up training sessions for Traditional Birth Attendants (midwives without formal education).

In No Pa Poo, northwest Thailand, Mal-

teser International works with the local community to improve living conditions. Through the 'WASH' initiative water, sanitation and hygiene projects have been completed, including protection of the village water system to prevent contamination and construction of latrines.

Recently the Singaporean Association instigated an outpatient clinic for the poor in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and the Apostolic Nunciature in Bangkok.

Improvement in providing basic medical care for marginalised groups, and disaster reduction programmes remain high priority.

TIMOR-LESTE

In Timor-Leste, one of the world's poorest countries, still recovering from 25 years of unrest, the Sovereign Order of Malta's Embassy has set up initiatives including a Basic Life Support Course for civilians and members of

the Timorese Armed Forces medical services; organised supply of medicines, consumables and children's clothing around the country; funded construction of a tuberculosis clinic at Venitale; and supported a palliative care programme run by the Carmelite Sisters in and around Dili.

The Australian Association's projects for their near neighbour include help in rehabilitating the country's ambulance service by providing essential medical equipment. Two ambulances have been donated to provide primary health care for 1,200 families in rural areas.

The Association also leads a project to provide four clinics in Timor-Leste with regular supplies of medical and surgical equipment, with four deliveries in 2013 and again in 2014.

New birthing rooms at the Malebe clinic opened in 2010 - the result of a collaboration between the Order and the local Timor Café Cooperative. New birthing equipment was also installed at Bacau Hospital, funded by the Order's Swiss Association.

A new Dominican Orphanage at Hera has been funded by the Order of Malta for 26 boys and young men aged 6 to 18, replacing a makeshift zinc-roofed dormitory. In 2014, as part of its capacity building project, the Order launched a scholarship programme for promising students, while in 2015 a new health centre has been opened in a disadvantaged area of the capital city Dili.

VIETNAM

In Vietnam Ordre de Malte France has been present nationwide for over 40 years. It runs specialised centres in eight Vietnamese towns where 300 new leprosy cases are diagnosed every year. In Ho Chi Minh City it supports a treatment and rehabilitation department in the Dermatology and Venereology Hospital, caring for 600 leprosy patients per annum. In 2015 a new project was launched in collaboration with the Republic of China (Taiwan) to

improve the quality of healthcare offered with mobile medical units, carry out more reparative surgery and better prevention; invest in the training of local health professionals.

Since January 2012, Malteser International has been implementing a four-year project to support the preservation and sustainable use of forests in the Central Vietnamese district of Tay Giang. Emphasis is now on disaster risk reduction, geographic focus the poor central region. A process is also under way to transfer woodland property rights to the local population as an income, particularly for women. With hygiene awareness campaigns the community now has clean water.

A medical programme reaches out to poor and vulnerable patients in remote rural areas. Visiting teams of dentists, nurses, general practitioners, eye spe-

cialists and other medical volunteers from the Canadian Association are joined by local Vietnamese healthcare professionals to treat 12,000 patients each trip. While the volunteers all meet their own costs, fundraising in Vancouver, Calgary and Chicago helps pay for surgical procedures and equipment and the 1,200 pairs of spectacles given out to patients each visit.

In 2013, the Order of Malta carried out a survey in Vietnam as part of the United Nations global data collection programme to improve disaster preparedness for people with disabilities. The survey covered 733 respondents living in disaster-prone areas. The findings indicated that people with disabilities are not sufficiently informed about disaster preparedness and their needs are often not met during an emergency.



▲ Vietnam: Malteser International teaches the disabled the basics of disaster risk reduction

EUROPE

The Order of Malta's national Associations in Europe care for displaced persons, refugees, migrants, the disabled, the homeless and the elderly sick. The Order also provides training programmes for first-aiders, health

ALBANIA

Working in close cooperation with local communities, as well as with other national and international organisations, Malteser Albania, established in 1995, continues its activities in medical, social and civil protection fields. In 2015, 20th anniversary celebrations included an official visit to Shkodra by the Grand Master Fra' Matthew Festing, which also marked 21 years since bilateral diplomatic relations were established between Albania and the Sovereign Order of Malta.

Recent medical assistance has focused on the 4,000 people living largely beyond the reach of state healthcare services in three remote mountain villages. 2,500 patients each year now benefit from medical checkups and treatments. Malteser Albania also holds first aid training sessions in 15 schools (the first 290 students, from schools in Lezha and Scutari, gained diplomas in 2013), organises training in clinical breast examination for doctors and nurses, assists over 100 disabled children in homes, regularly works with autistic children and provides first aid at national football games.

The integration of Albania's Roma and Egyptian communities remains a focus, supported by social and medical activities to alleviate exclusion and poverty.

education, medical and social care services in remote areas and in underprivileged inner city environments, runs hospitals, old people's homes, transport for the disabled, meals on wheels services, rehabilitation and day care centres, including special centres for people with dementia and a number of first-aid and emergency corps that provide support after natural or manmade disasters.

Malteser Albania is a member of the PAIRS partnership (Effective Programmes for the Active Integration/Inclusion of the Roma in South-East Europe) providing the Roma community with improved access to work, education, social benefits healthcare and housing in eight countries; already over 2,500 have benefitted in Albania.

Meanwhile, 60 children who are autistic or from poor families or Roma attend the Malteser Albania Kindergarten in Shkodra.

The Malteser Consultation and Service Centre for the Community in Shkodra continues developing its range of support including physiotherapy and therapeutic treatments for children and teenagers, and for elderly and disabled at the House of Charity in Laç-Vau Dejës.

AUSTRIA

The Order of Malta's emergency relief organisation in Austria, Malteser Hospitaldienst, offers its services at public and sports events, providing ambulance services in Vienna, Graz, Innsbruck and Salzburg.

Recent attendances include the World Economic Forum, the Maccabi Games in Vienna and the 2015 'Ambulanz Air and Style' festival in Innsbruck/Tyrol. Regular ambulance service is provided at St Stephen's Cathedral in Vienna and



at the residence of the Austrian Federal President; an annual summer White Water camp in Styria is organised for disabled young. In 2014 the MHDA and their 1800 volunteers gave 150,000 hours to serve others.

Since August 2015, Malteser Hospitaldienst has been offering medical care to hundreds of refugees housed in a temporary camp in Innsbruck, in the Tyrol. In Westbahnhof station in Vienna, volunteers are providing medical first-aid to refugees arriving by train. Together with the Syrian Orthodox Church of Vienna, the Order is promoting lessons for learning German to aid integration and offers legal aid to asylum seekers. The same project is also underway in another refugee camp in Salzburg.

Other initiatives include 2,600 home visits to old, sick and lonely people, meals for the homeless and needy during the sharp winters of 2013 and 2014 in Salzburg, and first aid courses for learner drivers and in schools.

The Malteser Care Ring offers case management at home, with 24-hour nursing. In 2013, 310 people received care, by 2015, it had extended to 400. The Care Ring opened a nursing home in Loosdorf in 2014, and also laid the foundation-stone for a home for palliative care for 10 young patients in Amstetten.

The Order of Malta in Austria runs weekly soup kitchens in Linz, Salzburg and Vienna.

BELARUS

In Belarus the Embassy of the Sovereign Order of Malta is working to improve scientific cooperation in the field of cancer research in the country.

BELGIUM

In October 2014 the Association of the Order of Malta in Belgium opened a third house for the homeless - 'La Fontaine' in Ghent joined similar facilities in Brussels and Liege. The three houses cater for over 25,000 visitors each year, and, in addition to the basics of healthcare and hygiene, clothing if needed and services for laundry and haircuts. Each home has three permanent staff, with a group of regular volunteers providing vital support.

Other activities include summer camps for 92 disabled young each year, and regular visits to sick, elderly, lonely and disabled people in hospitals or their local communities.

The Association in Belgium has supported the Hospital of the Holy Family in Palestine's new neonatal unit project, the Khaldieh centre in north Lebanon and aids projects in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Together with a partner, the Sovereign Order of Malta's Embassy in Bosnia and Herzegovina supports dental ambulances in Dobo, Novi Travnik, Sarajevo; Malteser Germany runs a health post for the poor in Medjugorje. Another focus is the supply of medical equipment, medicines and special foods for handicapped and orphaned children in the convent of the Child Jesus of the Egipt, Sarajevo. After disastrous floods in May 2014, the Hungarian Association, with the Order of Malta's Hungarian Charity

THE ROMA ARE EUROPE'S LARGEST MINORITY



The Roma are often deprived of citizenship. The Order of Malta facilitates their integration into society with programmes in Albania and the Czech Republic (legal assistance and education), Hungary (summer camps, 33 socialisation areas, community meeting places, social housing and integration) and Romania and Slovakia (educating the young, riding and gym activities). In 2013 the Sovereign Order appointed its first Ambassador tasked with the coordination and development of the Order's activities for Roma in the European countries with large Roma communities.

Service and Malteser International, provided emergency aid, initially with relief goods and medical supplies and then treating and rehabilitating flood-damaged homes (one had 250 litres of water drained from its walls).

BULGARIA

The Sovereign Order of Malta's Embassy in Sofia, Bulgaria, has made around 350 humanitarian and social interventions in 93 locations between 2005 and 2015. Examples include hot winter meals for the homeless in Sofia (450 meals daily, five times a week in three locations), donations of equipment and medicines to hospitals, am-

bulances to the Children's Hospital in Vidin and the Reginia Eleonora Hospital in Avren, and food and basic necessities delivered to hospitals, social and educational establishments to support projects for children and the elderly.

Initiatives in summer 2014 helped those affected by disastrous floods - groups of volunteers went to the most badly-hit areas and distributed medicines and food.

With the ever increasing flow of refugees from Syria and Iraq the Order of Malta's Embassy has launched initiatives for providing emergency aid to refugees in the Sofia and Kovachevitsa camps.

In November 2014, the Sovereign Order of Malta and Bulgaria celebrated 20

years of diplomatic relations with a series of ceremonies, and the Republic issued a special stamp to mark the occasion.

CZECH REPUBLIC

In the Czech Republic, the Order of Malta Relief Corps provides an outreach service to needy elderly and disabled: the Prague 'Adopt a Senior' programme has set up food banks and a social activation service. The Relief Corps also supports disadvantaged / dysfunctional families, caring for children at risk of social exclusion in the region around Olomouc and providing nationwide support for parents with disabled children. A Pilgrim Service in the Cathedral of St. Vitus provides pre-medical and guiding advice to participants at important religious events. Other ongoing activities include transporting disabled children to school in Melnik, outreach social services to homeless people, such as collecting and distributing coats for winter nights in major cities and helping them organise their personal affairs (identity cards,

security benefits, etc.), annual summer camps for children at Hradec Kralove, letters for prisoners in Brno and Olomouc, and most recently an IT training programme for elderly people.

In Ceske Budejovice, the Order of Malta cares for children with disabilities - five of its eight vehicles are specially equipped - and provides a psycho-social programme for the lonely elderly.

FRANCE

Ordre de Malte France operates a national support network providing specialised care for all ages. It includes four homes caring for elderly people with Alzheimer's and related disorders, four medical centres providing medical and social services to disabled people, seven facilities for patients with autism and behavioural problems and a centre for child functional rehabilitation. The Order provides 902 beds in its health-care establishments and runs eight training institutes in France.

Emergency response work within France is provided by the Unités Départementales d'Intervention de l'Ordre

de Malte. In 2014, 820 first aid workers provided first aid availability totalling 5,000 hours at major events including the International Aeronautics and Space Show in Le Bourget.

On average, they are called out 3,000 times each year. The Order also runs social programmes to reduce vulnerability and poverty, provides courses for paramedics and ambulance crews at three training institutes, and offers health care and medical services to homeless people in four major cities. Over 30,000 warm meals were distributed in 2014 in 42 soup kitchens across the country.

In Paris, a converted barge on the Seine, the Fleuron Saint Jean, has been providing homeless people with a safe haven in the city since 1998. It hosted 875 guests and 40 of their dogs in 2014, while its sister ship Fleuron St Michael in the port of Asnières, is the base for a social and professional reintegration programme.

Ordre de Malte France also continues to care for families whose applications for asylum have been turned down after appeal, organising housing and providing social support to help 2,600 people to move back to their native countries.

Since September 2014, Ordre de Malte France has provided legal assistance to 170 refugees in Tours. Projects to facilitate integration are also operational for refugees, the majority of whom come from Iraq, as well as others from Syria. The organisation runs health programmes in more than 30 countries in Asia, Middle East, Africa and South America. Ordre de Malte France directly manages 15 health structures across the world, including 7 hospitals and 8 dispensaries, and supports 170 health centres, with 1,500,000 consultations per year, 21,000 births and 106,000 hospital admissions. During 2014 the organisation contributed to the fight against Ebola, sending medical supplies to Liberia and Guinea Conakry, two of the West African countries affected by the disease.



▲ Ordre de Malte France runs four specialist homes across the country for Alzheimer's patients



▲ Malteser Germany first-aiders await the crowds

GERMANY

With almost a million supporters, 23,000 professionals, 48,000 active volunteers and around 8,000 members in its Malteser Youth Organisation, the Order of Malta in Germany is one of the busiest entities in the Order, performing 7.8 million hours of work in 700 locations around the country in 2014.

Known through its relief corps Malteser Hilfsdienst (MHD) for its work in civil protection - first aid and training, rescue services, catastrophe relief and a medical repatriation service - the Order of Malta is one of the country's largest providers of care for elderly people, through a portfolio of eight hospitals and 29 homes. It offers a variety of services, including specialist care for people with dementia, and a focus on post-stroke rehabilitation. The organisation also operates 22 residential homes specialised in youth work and drug addiction treatment and 205 rescue stations.

Malteser Hilfsdienst employs 3,500 staff in its hospitals and clinics and runs hospices providing palliative care. Surgical and medical provision includes lung and respiratory diseases, plastic and reconstructive surgery.

For 25 years, Malteser Werke, the Order of Malta's special branch in Germany, has focussed on the care of refugees and asylum seekers in institutional facilities - an activity that has expanded dramatically through 2014 and 2015. In 2014 the organisation offered 3,000 beds; by 2015 this number has risen to 10,300. On average, Malteser Germany cares for 50,000 refugees per day, providing: food and winter clothing, language lessons to facilitate integration, medical and social care, with a particular focus on unaccompanied children. This influx of refugees has strained state resources and logistics - the asylum process which took three months may now take up to eighteen. The Order of Malta in Germany is pro-

moting the need for unified quality standards for the accommodation and care of refugees and migrants.

In 2013, the Saint Joseph Hospital in Uerdingen became part of Malteser Germany, providing general medical treatment for 35,000 patients annually. Other services include professional training in first aid and nursing, and a Home Emergency service which in 2014 helped around 100,000 people. The Order of Malta also runs three high schools - St-Bernhard-Gymnasium in Willich, Liebfrauegymnasium in Büren and Antoniuskolleg in Neunkirchen-Seelscheid.

The MHD continues relief in southeast Germany two years after disastrous floods in 2013. And its local communities 'Volunteer 2020' programme continues.

GREAT BRITAIN

The Order of Malta works in Great Britain through its British Association and is also one of two partners in the Orders of St John Care Trust (OSJCT), the second largest provider of not-for-profit care for the elderly in the UK. It operates 73 care homes in four counties - two new homes were opened in 2014, and another in Wiltshire in spring 2015 - employs 4,000 staff and cares for 3,500 residents. Dementia care is a special innovation. Four soup kitchens for the homeless are now in operation - in London, Oxford and Colchester. They served 8500 meals in 2014. In central Scotland, the Order of Malta Dial-a-Journey service, now 25 years old, provides a transport service operating 24 buses for people with mobility problems. Projects include a community centre in Glasgow, regular visits to residents in the Order's Homes.

Meanwhile, the Association's Foreign Aid Service fundraises for humanitarian missions around the world; the Order of Malta Volunteers (OMV) has a very active group of volunteers aged 17 to 29, whose projects include working with the Lebanese Association's summer

camp for the disabled in Chabrouh; the Companions of the Order of Malta is the very busy auxiliary organisation.

HUNGARY

The Order of Malta's charity service in Hungary, Magyar Máltai Szeretetszolgálat (MMSz) celebrated its 25th anniversary in 2014 with its founder, Father Imre Kozma and senior Hungarian authorities. German Chancellor Angela Merkel sent a video message praising the work of the service, which began with humanitarian assistance for 47,000 East German refugees in 1989 after the fall of the Berlin Wall. Today it is one of the country's largest charitable organisations, with 5,000 regularly active volunteers across its 350 branches, a further 15,000 ready to participate in special events, 130 local volunteer groups serving the poor and collecting and distributing donations on a weekly

basis, over 200 institutes and 1,200 permanent employees.

In August 2015, the Order of Malta in Hungary tripled its efforts to give first aid to the refugees passing through the country in the attempt to reach other places in Europe. Volunteers have been deployed in the major train stations of Budapest, Győr and Szeged, on the border with Serbia, providing medical care, food and water. The Order of Malta's charity service also assisted refugees by providing transport services to the Austrian border.

In addition to the care services which support more than 10,000 people every day, the Order of Malta in Hungary has responded to over 35,000 emergencies nationally and internationally.

Health services include four medical centres and clinics, a nursing home, a mobile lung screen programme which visits communities, homes for the elderly and provision for homeless peo-

ple. The Order's doctors visit remote areas for special campaigns and erect 'pop up' hospital tents to treat patients. The Charity Service provides for special needs patients through a nationwide network of over 25 support services initiatives, nine day care centres for the disabled, plus many special events such as the annual sports day for the handicapped held in Győra and the national summer camp for young disabled. In 2013 the Service launched a WebNurse programme on its website, providing information backed by short videos showing how to care for disabled people.

Other recent initiatives: the launch of the S-Credit scheme which provides debt management support to families suffering after the credit crisis. The scheme helps disadvantaged families to rebalance their finances and acts as an intermediary with their banks.

A separate programme with one of the country's major power companies launched in October 2014 helps customers to avoid having their electricity disconnected. The scheme focusses on the disabled and vulnerable.

Another pioneering programme in 2014 enables Roma children to take part in music workshops, playing instruments donated through a national appeal. The Symphony Programme, supported by well-known musicians, aims to create opportunities and improve the sense of well-being among children raised in poverty.

Meanwhile an educational programme in flood prevention measures attracted strong participation in 2014 from local residents in a flood threatened area.

The Hungarian Association works with the Order's Hungarian Charity Service to care for the homeless, visits the elderly lonely, offers medical treatment for the poor, and collects relief goods for the needy.

IRELAND

The Order of Malta's Association in Ireland manages and supports a range of



▲ Soup and supper for a homeless man in London. The Order of Malta's British Association currently runs three soup kitchens in London, a fourth in Oxford

first aid and community care projects, respite holidays for people with learning and physical difficulties, and a specialist adult education and training day centre in Drogheda, which sees 90 users daily. The organisation hosted the Order's International Summer Camp for young disabled in 2013.

The 'Share to Care' project in Co.Fermainagh offers breaks to families with difficult circumstances (229 guests in 2014). A new initiative, the Knight Run Project, in St Stephen's Green, Dublin, provides food and clothing to the needy – 128 assisted in the first two months of 2015.

The Order of Malta Ambulance Corps is a major contributor to first aid provision in Ireland, with 4,000 volunteers involved in more than 80 units. The Corps, which celebrated its 75th anniversary in 2013, operates 165 ambulances, rapid response vehicles, mobile accident and emergency suites, support vehicles, medical bikes and command centres. Community service is a growing area of care offered by the Corps' units.

Volunteers from the Ambulance Corps are in attendance at events throughout Ireland, including Horse Racing Ireland and the O2 Arena, international motor racing, rugby matches and music festivals.

The Ambulance Corps also provides extensive training programmes for its volunteers, many of whom are nurses, doctors and paramedics in their working lives. Cadets are the junior section of the Ambulance Corps aged between 10 and 16 and are organised into units throughout the Republic and Northern Ireland. Cadets are trained in basic life-saving skills – First Aid, CPR, assisting with activities of daily living. The Order in Ireland runs annual competitions at both regional and national levels in conjunction with the National Cadet Weekend.

In October 2015, the Order of Malta Ireland launched 'Adam's Gift CPR Awareness Week', where volunteers of the Ambulance Corps across the country



▲ Medical care is provided in impoverished areas in Hungary

trained over 2,000 members of the public in CPR and Cardiac First Response.

ITALY

On Italy's southern coast the continuing influx of migrants and refugees crossing the Mediterranean Sea from North Africa to Europe – often in unsuitable craft and under the control of unscrupulous people traffickers – has been a major focus for humanitarian aid provided since 2008 by the Italian Relief Corps of the Order of Malta.

In the first ten months of 2015 some 600,000 people crossed the Mediterranean Sea. Nearly 220,000 in October alone. 3,100 have been reported dead or missing. It is at sea that some of Order of Malta's volunteer doctors and nurses bring medical help to those arriving with injuries or illnesses in need of immediate treatment, operating from Italian Customs and Coastguards' vessels.

Never was this support more needed than after the tragedy of 3rd October 2013 when an overcrowded boat capsized with the loss of 368 lives. In addition

to attending to many of the 150 survivors, the Order's volunteers set up a centre to provide professional psychological support both to survivors and to those who had taken part in the recovery of the dead.

By 2015, growing migration on the eastern coast of Sicily prompted additional support action.

Across the country, the Italian Relief Corps of the Order of Malta counts on over 4,500 volunteers.

Recent activities include setting up a first aid station on the island of Asinara, off the coast of Sardinia, as a service to 700,000 annual visitors, organising a holiday camp for Belarusian children and providing emergency response to homeless people in Milan during severe winter weather. In 2014, the Emergency Corps provided crisis assistance after serious floods in Emilia and Liguria, and ran summer camps for young disabled.

The Order of Malta is active in Italy through its three Grand Priorities, its Italian Association and its Relief Corps. In 2015, the members and volunteers of the **Grand Priory of Rome** dedicated

Soup kitchen in Pompeii

The management of the House of the Pilgrim in Pompeii was handed over to the Order's Grand Priory of Naples and Sicily by the Pontifical Delegation for the Sanctuary of Pompeii with an agreement dated 21 November 2013. The renovation works on the facilities were finished in December 2014 and the soup kitchen was opened to the public. Food is served from Monday to Saturday, with 100 full meals provided daily. The service is offered by 65 volunteers. On 21 March 2015, the soup kitchen was dedicated to His Holiness Pope Francis on the occasion of his visit to Pompeii.

over 100,000 hours of service in a variety of areas of assistance. The Grand Priory assumed co-management in 2015 of the soup kitchen "Comunità Matteo 25" that distributes breakfast and 350 meals every Sunday, provides shower facilities, medical visits and a clothes bank. The Delegation of Rome organises weekly soup kitchen evenings for homeless people in Rome, at Termini and Tiburtina railway stations: a total of 22,000 meals were served in 2015. The Delegation of Florence runs a summer camp for a month for Belarusian children exposed to second-generation radiation from the 1986 Chernobyl reactor explosion. Other activities include care for elderly people in their own homes, and at two care homes - in Lucca and Livorno. In Viterbo, the Delegation runs a counselling centre for the elderly, lonely and marginalised. Food banks and the distribution of staple foods are a focus the Delegation of Perugia.

The Grand Priory of Lombardy and

Venice, through its Delegation of Genoa, has been running a day care clinic in the historic centre since 1993. The centre carried out 39,000 medical examinations in 2014. The volunteers of the Delegation in Milan support the Sacra Famiglia di Cesano Boscone Institute for severely disabled children, dedicating time to improving the quality of life of the children through organising games and events. The delegation also provides free dental care in Pavia and Voghera. The Delegation of Turin runs a kindergarten for 85 children aged between three and five in an impoverished area of the city with a high population of immigrant families. In 2015 a new day care centre dedicated to paediatrics was opened. In Sardinia, two medical day care centres provide free health care. The Delegation of Venice's care for Alzheimer's patients is focussed on Cognitive Stimulation Therapy, as well as providing assistance to families.

The **Grand Priory of Naples and Sicily** continues to provide homes and support for the families of children suffering from cancer in Naples. The scheme has been running since 2007.

Many members and volunteers continue to provide hot meals for impoverished and homeless people, and in 2014 the Grand Priory opened a soup kitchen at the shrine of Our Lady of Pompeii,



▲ In Milan, the Italian Relief Corps looks after the homeless

and continues to run another in the parish of Santa Lucia. In Naples and Messina, food collections are organised for refugees and migrants arriving on European shores. In Sicily the Grand Priory's delegations run special transport-for-the-disabled services. A day-care centre in Catania provides free medical care for the local population living in poverty and migrants and refugees.

The **Italian Association** runs the 240-bed San Giovanni Battista Hospital in Rome, which specialises in treatment for neuro rehabilitation, particularly of post-stroke and post-trauma patients (the Reawakening Unit). Circa 350 patients are treated each day in its day centre. The Order also runs 12 day-care and diabetic centres in Rome and other Italian cities, caring for 45,000 patients annually.

The Military Corps of the Order of Malta's Italian Association - an auxiliary of the Italian Army - celebrated its 138th anniversary in Rome on 31 January 2015. The swearing-in ceremony of the Military Corps' new volunteer recruits took place at the Artale Barracks in the presence of Grand Master Fra' Matthew Festing. The 600-strong Personnel on different occasions (such as the humanitarian emergency on the island of Lampedusa), provide an important contribution to first-aid interventions.

In January 2014 the Italian Ministry of Defence and the Sovereign Order of Malta signed a new Cooperation Agreement for the Military Corps to work in the Italian healthcare and relief sector. The accord involves "first-aid activities during wars, natural disasters and emergencies, both inside the national territory and on international humanitarian peacekeeping missions."

LITHUANIA

In Lithuania, the Order of Malta's relief organisation Maltos Ordino Pagalbos Tarnyba (established 1991) provides active and on-going support to needy peo-

ple in 29 towns, with meals and social assistance programmes for the elderly and sick, transport services for the disabled, and day centres for the children of disadvantaged families.

'Awareness' projects: the annual Easter campaign for lonely and disadvantaged children, and the country-wide 'Maltese Soup at Christmas' campaign which raises money for the sick, elderly and lonely. In addition to dispensing hot soup, gingerbread, apples and pancakes, the 2014 campaign saw the ever-popular 'Best Charity Idea' competition inspire school children nationwide to organise concerts, exhibitions and events. The campaign was promoted by the President of the Republic with a video message. It also included a national televised fundraising Concert, with participation of prominent Lithuanian musicians and actors.

Current projects include 'meals on wheels' in 16 towns - in 2014 volunteers distributed some 80,500 hot meals in 37,000 home visits, home care services for 300 sick, elderly and lonely people, four Seniors Clubs, plus a 'Let's go' transportation service for 90 disabled in Vilnius and Klaipeda added in 2014.

A school supplies collection campaign in 2013 provided toys and equipment for eight child day care centres, benefiting 200 families, with two new social day care centres for children added in 2015. Programmes offering disabled children horse riding therapy, and first aid training courses in schools have been introduced.

The Order's Lithuania Youth Group celebrated 20 years of service to the poor in 2013. Its 400 volunteers are involved in social projects in 26 towns and cities in Lithuania.

LUXEMBOURG

A team of assistance dogs and handlers has been trained, with the support of the volunteers of Ordre de Malte Luxembourg. The team took part in trials over varied terrain in 2013, with its



▲ The 'food and company' project in Lithuania is rolled out over all the country's major towns, with young volunteers visiting the lonely elderly

final successful operational test in October 2014.

The volunteer Corps continues its long-established meals on wheels service to elderly and sick people, delivering more than 1,100 meals annually, while a programme of visits to the elderly housebound has been underway for over five years.

A first-aid course, relaunched in 2013, attracted 38 participants; and responders from the corps attended more than 60 emergencies during the year.

MACEDONIA

In the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the principal care activities of the Embassy of the Sovereign Order of Malta focus of children orphaned by recent violent conflicts in the region. The Embassy supports two orphanages in Skopje, where some of the children from minorities have experienced dis-

crimination on the basis of their ethnicity or language. The Embassy also organised a summer camp for 40 children and supports the Institute of Mental Health in Demir Kapija.

MALTA

In Malta, the Order's Association provides support to those in need both at home and abroad. Children from underprivileged homes are a special focus, with events including film shows, annual family fun days, visits to the seaside and Christmas parties, while members make daily visits to the Sir Paul Boffa Oncology Hospital in Floriana, and regular visits to local and foreign inmates at the island's two prisons. The Association's annual pilgrimage to Ta' Pinu accompanies 270 malades; 80 are accompanied to Lourdes. In 2014 the Association embarked on the construction of housing for fam-



▲ The Order's very active Embassy in Bulgaria runs many activities, including the distribution of food for the desitute

ilies at a refugee centre in the village of Balzan. A 'Guide Dogs for the Blind' project, for the acquisition and training of the dogs, is operational. The dogs, which are trained locally on the island of Malta, significantly improve the quality of life of visually impaired people. The Association's auxiliary relief corps in Gozo includes the collection of tonnes of clothing, medicines and first-aid equipment for distribution in Ghana.

MOLDOVA

In Moldova the Sovereign Order of Malta's Embassy runs a soup kitchen in Chişinău at the charitable centre, Casa Providentei, which distributes 1,000 hot meals per month to elderly people and needy children in the capital. During the Christmas period in 2014, the Embassy

distributed food to elderly people living in poverty.

MONACO

Through a Cooperation Agreement signed between the Principality of Monaco and the Sovereign Order of Malta in September 2012 to coordinate their humanitarian aid efforts, the Office of International Cooperation of the Principality continues to support the medical centres and the centres for the elderly of the Order's Association in Lebanon. The Monegasque Association through an agreement with the Cardiac Centre in Monaco supports major surgical operations for children in Africa with heart problems. They are referred through other structures of the Order of Malta. The arrangement has been re-

newed for a period of three years. The Association continues to raise funds to support the Order's leprosy projects.

NETHERLANDS

The Order of Malta's Association in the Netherlands runs, in conjunction with the Johanniter Order, the 'Johannes Hospitium' for terminally ill patients in Vleuten, which provides round-the-clock professional care. The focus of the hospice is to improve as much as possible the quality of life of patients in their final days. The Association runs a second hospice in Wilnis.

For twenty years, the Association has been running a summer camp for Dutch disabled young and in 2014 hosted the Order's International Camp for Disabled Young, welcoming over 500 participants from 22 countries. Volunteers also participate in summer camps for the disabled held at the Order of Malta Lebanon's centre in Chabrouh.

The Kruispost Foundation in Amsterdam exemplifies the cooperative action between the Order and other aid institutions including hospitals, refugee organisations and other voluntary bodies. The Foundation operates a city-centre medical facility which provides primary assistance to uninsured people and those with mental disorders.

POLAND

In a national project, 2009 to 2014, the Order of Malta's Aid organisation in Poland (Maltańska Służba Medyczna) joined partners in a European Union-funded drive to help people with physical disabilities to enter or return to the labour market, with individual action plans and ongoing support for parents and carers. The Order continues to advertise job opportunities for disabled people in its own five regional centres.

The Polish Association and its 1,000 volunteers currently have six centres

for disabled people (in Poznan, Krakow, Katowice, Radom, Olsztyn and Warsaw), two hospitals, two social care centres and two occupational therapy centres for disabled people. In 2015, there were 2,000 people in permanent care and 7,000 in temporary care.

Wide-ranging social support programmes for Poland's sick, disabled and disadvantaged of all ages continue to be delivered countrywide. Examples include a new 67-bed hospital in Barczewo, a help centre in Krakow for children with impaired psychomotor development and a centre in Puszczykowo for mental patients.

In 2013, the Order's Polish Association opened a four-storey clinic in Poznan, providing a range of surgical and investigative procedures free to those in need. The new clinic replaces an earlier centre where the Order treated more than 87,000 patients over 20 years. The centre has added a 'Therapy Workshops Foundation' offering skills development programmes in crafts, cookery, painting and social skills to people with moder-

ate or severe intellectual impairment. Other ongoing activities include a programme of aid for people with disabilities in Silesia and a medical service which provides first aid provision and training in 11 cities.

PORTUGAL

In Portugal, volunteers from the Order of Malta's Association help the elderly in homes in Lisbon (Carnide and Menino de Deus), and in Crato and Gaviao; undertake prison visits (Caxias and Carregueira), and support primary healthcare initiatives for the poorest in Evora and Porto. The Association also runs an outpatient clinic for the poor in San Francisco da Cicade hospital, Lisbon, and a day centre for the disabled. Every May and October the Order's Volunteer Corps offers medical care, meals and shelter for pilgrims to Fatima. First-aid posts are set up on the main roads to the Sanctuary starting from 200 kilometres north and south of Fatima.

ROMANIA

The Order of Malta has a strong organization in Europe's second poorest country, Romania, with 17 branches providing more than 100 social and medical programmes for those in need. The 100 employees and 1,200 volunteers of the Maltese Relief Service in Romania (SAMR) focus on helping children, the elderly and people with disabilities. Support for the elderly – one of the country's most vulnerable groups – includes running the St John Home for the Elderly, a meals-on-wheels service in three towns and cities that last year offered over 100,000 hot meals, home medical care for 50 people in Timișoara, and three daycare centres. Among permanent programmes for people with disabilities is the Special Maltese Kindergarten, which celebrated its 20th anniversary in 2013 with completion of a major renovation. The Order of Malta Relief Service also runs a home for 35 physically disabled adults, several clubs for disabled people and an annual international camp for physically disabled young people. As well as a maternity programme, the Relief Service runs a daycare centre for approximately 200 disadvantaged children as well as after-school activities in three towns and cities and annual summer camps for disabled young. A new initiative is working with dogs and disabled children – a rewarding therapeutic approach.

In partnership with the European Union and local municipalities, the Order of Malta has launched a programme for social inclusion of minorities through skills training & developing the social economy. Recently created by the Order's Ambassador to the Roma people is the 'Education is for Everyone' project in the town of Satu-Mare. It helps educate Roma children aged between 7 and 14. From early 2015, free dental care and paediatric dermatology are also offered. A similar 'Integrated Education' project has been run for the past



▲ First-aiders in Portugal set up camps to assist pilgrims en route to Fatima



▲ Every summer, camps for young disabled are organised by the Order of Malta's Romanian youth groups

two years in Roma education and consisted of working with and empowering Roma women in home and family management skills. In 2014, the Baia Mare Branch of the Relief Service donated 30 boxes of medical supplies, eight bedside tables, 22 hydraulic nursing beds and 450kg of bed linen to the town's Oncology Institute. The Relief Service played a significant role in response to severe flooding in parts of the country in 2013. In partnership with Habitat for Humanity, the Order provided 22 families with emergency heating and cooking equipment, evaluated 410 damaged houses, planned repairs and provided building materials.

The year 2016 is a landmark year: 25 years of bilateral diplomatic relations between the Sovereign Order of Malta and Romania and 25 years of social and humanitarian work through the Relief Service in this country.

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

The Order of Malta's organisation in the Russian Federation is active in Moscow and St Petersburg, providing social care and medical services, several in cooperation with the Order of Malta Relief

Service in Germany.

For 50,000 people in Saint Petersburg there is no roof and no walls, no kitchen to cook in, no warm bed to lie in. Worse still for many of the city's homeless is that they have no legal right of residence, so are without social and medical assistance. The Volunteer Corps of the Order of Malta in the Russian Federation, plus teams from the Order in Germany, have been providing primary medical and nursing care to this constantly-shifting population since 2002, recently adding services for severely disabled users of a night shelter and an optical service for visually impaired homeless people.

The Order of Malta also operates a regular soup kitchen providing a social meeting point as well as 49,000 meals each year for 250 poor people, and heated tents for those who might otherwise spend winter sleeping on the streets (14,000 overnights in 2014). In addition, 27,000 hot meals were served to homeless in the city during the harsh winter.

In 2013, social workers from the Order of Malta Relief Service in Germany helped 249 migrants to return to their home towns. 194 were helped in 2014 –

in Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

In 2014, outings for over 1,000 disabled and orphan children meant 79 bus excursions as well as visits to museums and concerts.

In Moscow, the Order of Malta Germany's Munich branch, with partnerships, provides a range of social services. In 2013 and 2014 more than 2,500 visits were made each year to bedridden or disabled people, 2014 activities included 14 first aid courses with 162 participants, a first aid service offered at five public events, and the distribution of 33,000 food and hygiene packages – all packed by 29 volunteers.

SAN MARINO

In April 2015 the Republic of San Marino and the Sovereign Order of Malta signed a Memorandum of Understanding for civil protection. It highlights training and prevention and interventions for the re-establishment of normal living conditions following natural disasters or particular climatic and atmospheric conditions that could threaten the safety of San Marino's citizens. These activities will be jointly carried out between the Republic of San Marino's Department of

the Territory and Environment Civil Defence Service and the Order of Malta's Italian Relief Corps, which deploys over 4,500 volunteers throughout Italy.

SCANDINAVIA

The Order of Malta's Scandinavian Association covers Denmark, Finland, Iceland and Sweden.

Members in Stockholm organise regular visits to the elderly, lonely and sick, as well as to the elderly in a home, reading, keeping them company, and organising excursions. They also pay weekly visits to those in detention centres, and support activities for disabled children (a favourite is horse riding).

In Iceland, members visit the elderly and the sick in their own homes or in hospices, and provide transport to Mass, as do those in Finland. In Skane, temporary lodging and financial support helps those in need. The Association also supports a kindergarten in Tallinn, Estonia, which cares for children of very young single mothers.

SERBIA

In Vojvodina, the northern region of Serbia, the youth section of the Order of Malta's Relief Organisation (MDOS) collects clothing and household articles to help local people living in poverty in 10 villages around Zrenjanin.

The Sovereign Order of Malta's Embassy in Belgrade runs initiatives to donate equipment to hospitals in Belgrade and each winter organises 'Hot meal in a cold winter' soup kitchens in Sebac and Aleksinac.

In 2013 boxes of clothing donated by the Order's Grand Priory of Lombardy and Venice were distributed to disabled children and young people with disabilities at a residential home in Sremčica, Belgrade.

In 2014 the Order's Embassy in Belgrade coordinated the distribution of 33 tonnes of food, clothing and blankets to people left homeless after the country

suffered the worst flooding for 120 years, followed by a second consignment of 17 tonnes, and launched a 'Make a wish to the Order of Malta' project, asking school children living in areas struck by the floods to identify what was most needed. An ad hoc commission then selected the wishes and presented them to the children in October 2015. The project goes on in 2016.

Malteser International, the Order's worldwide relief agency, provided personnel and equipment to help in the immediate aftermath of the floods. The Hungarian Association sent a team to coordinate aid and launch a fundraising campaign for those left homeless. In addition, construction material was pro-

vided to victims of natural disaster when a tornado hit the town of Torda in April 2013, to help them rebuild their homes.

SLOVAKIA

The work of the Order of Malta's Volunteer Corps in Slovakia, Malteser Aid Slovakia, spans four regions: Bratislava, Nitra, Kezmarok and Kosice, each of which has a high proportion of needy people, including homeless and Roma. Help for the Roma, which has been a special focus for 2014/15, covers soup kitchens in five towns, the support and expansion of two elementary schools in Roma villages and a social integration programme. In Kosice, the Corps train



▲ 4,000 volunteers divided into 80 units form the Ambulance Corps in Ireland

young Roma in practical life skills and also give them a vital source of hope. A Roma integration programme is now in its fourth year in Olejnikov, with support from local authorities. A children's day care centre has been established in a Roma village in the north east, in a building bought by the Order. And a school for Roma children of all ages operates in Orechov Dvor, outside Nitra. In addition, food and hot soup are distributed to the needy in the winter months in the country's major cities. A popular new initiative in Tatranska Lomnica takes disabled children riding and activities are organised for 200 young orphans in Nitra and Kosice. Other current community activities include home visits and outings for sick and lonely people in Bratislava. The Corps also provides first aid and medical services at large public events.

SLOVENIA

The members of the Slovenian Association, together with the Order of Malta

Aid Service of Slovenia, are involved in community activities – including visiting the residents in three homes for the elderly in Ljubljana, an annual 'St Nicholas campaign' which brings food and gifts to disabled children in Stara Gora at Christmas, and accompanying disabled guests on the annual pilgrimage to the national shrine, the Basilica Mary Help of Christians in Brezje. From 2014, the Order's Aid Service has been providing first aid service every weekend at the Shrine.

SPAIN

The Order of Malta's Spanish Association provides homeless people, refugees and migrants with almost 220,000 meals every year at two centres in Madrid and one in Seville. Launched in 2013, the 'Breakfast Solidarity Project' targets those living in extreme poverty. From 2014, the project includes collection and distribution of 'Nadie sin zapatos' – used and new shoes. Since 2013, in the Asturias

and Baleares, Order volunteers have been organising activities for 150 disabled children at weekends, to aid their social integration. In Madrid the volunteers of the Order of Malta, with the Fundaciòn Götze, launched a project in 2014 which takes disabled children on weekend outings.

The Association also runs the 84-bed San Juan Bautista home for the elderly in Aldea del Fresno, Madrid, and activities for elderly people in other parts of the country, including an annual holiday, social gatherings and internet training.

Activities for Spain's young include a horticultural therapy centre in Valencia which gives children with mental disabilities the opportunity to cultivate and tend plants, an annual summer camp for children with disabilities in Andalusia and a day care centre for young children of working parents in Madrid.

From 2010, the Association's Delegations and auxiliary organisation (FHOME) have been providing a first



▲ In difficult economic times, the Spanish Association provides 220,000 meals per year in soup kitchens

aid service for pilgrims at Santiago de Compostela from end May to October.

SWITZERLAND

In Switzerland, the Order of Malta's Association has an 'Aid and Assistance' Foundation which collects medical supplies, such as equipment and instruments still in a good state but no longer used by Swiss institutions, and makes them available to hospitals and health centres worldwide. The results are encouraging: in 2014 the Foundation obtained medical supplies from 32 hospitals and 239 social and health centres in Switzerland. Last year 91 containers with medical and sanitation supplies totalling 6000 cubic metres and weighing some 3000 tonnes were sent, with a 19% increase over the previous year.

More than 1,000 volunteers of the Hospital Service of the Order of Malta Switzerland (SHOMS/MHDS) regularly assist ill, disabled and disadvantaged people in Swiss cities – Basle, Berne, Fribourg, Lugano, Zurich. In a joint partnership, the Order supports the Point d'Eau, Lausanne, which offers hygiene, medical and dental care to migrants, homeless and elderly poor every week day – totalling over 32,000 consultations in 2014.

The Order has traditionally cared for leprosy victims, and its Foundation in Geneva, was established to further this cause. Today CIOMAL is a fundraising body which supports Order leprosy programmes in South East Asia (Cambodia is a focus) and South America (Brazil).

UKRAINE

Current programmes of the Order of Malta's relief organisation in Ukraine (Maltijska Slushba Dopomohy Ukarajiny - MSDU) include the launch of a social media initiative: people donate towards the cost of providing beds for children in orphanages by clicking 'like' on the MSDU Facebook page - already 30 beds for three orphanages have been funded.



▲ The Order of Malta has run a first aid post in St Peter's Square in Rome for over 40 years. With numbers always growing, it now opens 7 days a week

Nationwide, the MSDU has a strong focus on children. It runs a vocational guidance programme for children from orphanages, services for young disabled, an annual youth summer camp – the 15th held in 2015 in the beautiful Carpathian Mountains for 135 participants - and runs outings for blind and orphaned children living in residential homes; in 2014 8,000 Christmas presents were distributed to them.

Help for homeless people includes soup kitchens and food programmes - the Kiev soup kitchen serves 240 people a day, with 70 elderly and poor benefitting from a meals on wheels service. In 2014 the Ukrainian Relief Organisation ran a soup kitchen on Kiev main square for 100 days during the conflicts in the capital. The Order of Malta Polish Aid Service provided medical treatment and rehabilitation for the injured, and in 2015, train-

ing programmes for emergency medical technicians (a multi-financed project with the European Union for 2,000 first aiders). The MSDU is also working with Malteser International to provide basic medical training and psychosocial support for the war traumatized.

VATICAN

The Order of Malta has been running a first aid post in the Vatican, in St Peter's Square, for over 40 years. Due to increased visitor numbers the service has expanded from treating 335 patients in 2009 to over 1,500 in 2015. Wednesdays and Sundays, the days of the Papal audiences, are busiest. The Post is open seven days a week, staffed by 92 medically trained Order members and volunteers working in shifts.

MIDDLE EAST

The Order of Malta continues to respond to the conflict in Syria, through the provision of vital medical and humanitarian aid to the

IRAQ

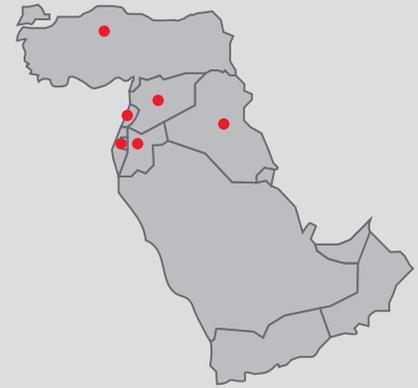
With the resurgence of violence and religious persecution in Iraq in 2014 many hundreds of thousands of refugees and IDPs fled the north. By December 2015, the International Migration Organization estimates over 3.3 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the country.

The Order of Malta's relief agency Malteser International was forced to close the medical clinic it had supported for

millions of refugees seeking sanctuary in neighbouring countries, with a special focus in Lebanon. Medical facilities assist the growing displaced population in Iraq since the resurgence of fighting in the country. Elsewhere in the region, the Order continues as a significant provider of socio-health services for the poor and needy, and also runs the Holy Family Hospital in Bethlehem.

ten years in the village of Karamless, north of Mosul. Medicines and medical supplies, wheelchairs and water dispensers are now provided in two refugee camps in Ainkawa, a suburb of Erbil, where the relief agency set up a clinic for inpatient treatment for 25,000 IDPs and has constructed a central health centre at the Chaldean Church, Ainkawa, plus a mobile clinic with a local partner to bring psychological and medical healthcare to the region.

In late 2014, as the number of internally



displaced people (IDPs) and refugees continued to grow at camps in the north, thousands fled to 18 temporary sites in Kurdistan's Zakho district on the border between Iraq and Syria. The relief agency provided medical aid and is now running two health centres in the Kurdistan region (Dohouk, with 10,000 IDPs and Kadia, with 15,000).

LEBANON

In October 2015 the UNHCR reported over one million Syrian refugees registered in Lebanon. The number of new arrivals continues to grow. The Lebanese Association of the Order of Malta provides free medical consultations and medicines in all of its centres across the country. In centres in the North (Khaldeh and Kobayat) and the Beqaa (Kefraya and Barqa), the Association distributes humanitarian kits of essential food, hygiene and baby products, bedding and children's clothing. The Association also provides professional social and psychological care to the traumatised, forced to flee their homes and all things familiar. A home visit programme has reached out to 400 Syrian families living in precarious shelters in northern Lebanon.

Malteser International supports four health centres of the Lebanese Association as well as a mobile medical clinic in Wadi Khaled, close to the northern



▲ At the refugee camp supported by Malteser International in northern Iraq, Zahra, a refugee who fled Daesh, now runs the camp's pharmacy



▲ The Order of Malta has assisted over 65,000 Syrian refugees in Lebanon since 2011

border, which provides care in this poor and sensitive area to both the local and refugee population. Health professionals from the socio-medical centre in Khaldieh visit refugees in two villages, carrying out health and hygiene awareness sessions and distributing emergency food packages and bedding. A vaccination programme among refugee children has helped protect from diseases such as polio and rubella.

Since the beginning of the crisis in 2011 and to this day, the Order of Malta has assisted 65,000 Syrian refugees - a commitment which will be maintained as long as the need remains.

The Lebanese Association runs 10 health centres, from north and east near the borders with Syria, at Khaldieh and at Barqa, to Yaroun, in the south near Israel. The clinics care for thousands of poor and disadvantaged, re-

gardless of their religious denominations or affiliations. In Siddikine, together with the Imam el Sadr Foundation, the Order of Malta runs a clinic providing all kinds of medical care, a pharmacy and a laboratory, with over 8,000 interventions every year, and its mobile clinic - treating people from all the surrounding villages. Bhanès Medical Centre, north east of Beirut runs a balneo-therapy centre for disabled adults and a home for children with cerebral palsy; in Ain el Remmaneh region elderly residents receive monthly visits from volunteers who provide social contact and gifts of food and clothing.

The Lebanese youth movement has a strong involvement with the Order of Malta's German Association in the Order's international project, Caravan, where people under 30 from around the world care for the sick and impover-

ished in Lebanon. The project, which runs for 10 months, includes programmes of academic, spiritual and practical education and courses in Arabic. The placement is spent living with and caring for disabled people of all ages at a residential home in Beirut and summer camps in Chabrouh.

The Order has a growing corps of volunteers in Lebanon, working with the needy at both ends of the age spectrum. Several initiatives encourage wider international friendship and understanding among young people. Summer camps organised for physically and mentally disabled young have risen to eleven - and two winter and two Easter camps now accommodate 390 guests. The camps are held at the Order's Centre in Chabrouh, north east of Beirut, with the Lebanese youth group and volunteers from the Order's youth move-

ments from Germany, Britain, Holland, France and Switzerland.

Hundreds of young with disabilities attend the camps as guests. Each is befriended by a volunteer who also benefits from the relationships and experiences – truly an example of how those who give also receive.

PALESTINE

The Holy Family Hospital in Bethlehem, Palestine, is a joint project across the Order of Malta, under the operational responsibilities of the French Association. The hospital, with 137 medical and paramedical staff, offers the estimated 200,000 women of Bethlehem and its surrounding area the only place to give birth under good medical conditions.

In 2013, new paediatric and neonatal care facilities funded by a donation

from the Belgian Government were inaugurated, extending care for the most vulnerable in villages surrounding Bethlehem. By December 2015 more than 65,000 births had been recorded at the Hospital since the Order took over its running in 1990.

In 2015 the Hospital met the healthcare needs of 22,000 women and children annually and provides critical care for 400 children born with medical conditions. Construction of a new wing and operating theatre started in 2015.

An outreach maternity clinic in outlying villages and hillside communities runs 2,500 consultations annually. There is also a diabetic clinic and a paediatric service for children up to 18 months, and services to rural areas which often lack running water, electricity and sanitation. A micro-economic project, developed by the diplomatic representa-

tion of the Order of Malta in Palestine, aids local villagers.

SYRIA

In Syria violence has raged since 2011, with disastrous consequences for its people. Since escalation in 2012 the Order's international relief agency has been working with local partners to help the most vulnerable – the women, the children, unregistered IDPs. During 2015 Malteser International provided medical treatment to almost 75,000 people in Syria.

Malteser International distributed thousands of start-up kits – blankets, mattresses, towels, pillows, kitchen utensils, and for those most in need, hygiene kits, and baby products – operating through the IBC. To ensure distribution, where many displaced persons



▲ Operating theatre, the Holy Family maternity Hospital, Bethlehem. Managed by Ordre de Malte France, the hospital delivers over 3000 infants every year



▲ A hot meal every day sustains pupils at the school supported by the Order of Malta for Syrian refugee children in Kilis, Turkey

have sought refuge with relatives, IBC (International Blue Crescent) has been working with the Syrian Red Crescent, the only non-governmental organisation officially allowed to provide humanitarian aid in the region.

Hundreds of thousands of internally displaced Syrians seek protection in 100 improvised camps along the Turkish-Syrian border. They urgently need medical aid. With local partners, Malteser International provides medical facilities for 25,000 Syrians, as well as around 15,000 local residents who have no other access to medical care.

Aid to Syrian IDPs and Syrian refugees in Turkey, Lebanon and Bulgaria (where

aid is coordinated by the Order of Malta's embassy in Sofia) includes food – particularly for women, children and the elderly, especially during winter – and drugs for typical winter illnesses.

TURKEY

A main support centre is the Malteser International 47-bed in-patient mobile clinic at Kilis, three kilometres inside Turkey from Syria. A team of six doctors, 13 nurses, two pharmacists, two ambulance drivers and one midwife, all Syrian, are providing medical and psychosocial support to ill and injured refugees. Many of the illnesses – mal-

nutrition, anaemia, vitamin deficiency, asthma, pneumonia and skin diseases – are triggered by the strenuous journey on foot through deserted areas without enough food, water or shelter.

Malteser International has also set up a community centre in Kilis to train teachers in conflict analysis, mediation and negotiation in a humanitarian context. The centre also offers language classes in Turkish, English and Arabic to help communication between refugees and their hosts. In addition, 1,650 Syrian refugee children in Turkey receive a warm school meal every day, basic educational equipment and support for continuing education.

ORDER OF MALTA ORGANISATIONS WORLDWIDE

FOR CONTACT DETAILS SEE WWW.ORDEROFMALTA.INT/CONTACT

* National Volunteers Corps

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