

Emergency Relief: Help  
after the Earthquakes

Health: Psychosocial  
Support during War

Displacement:  
Self-Reliance for Refugees

# Report



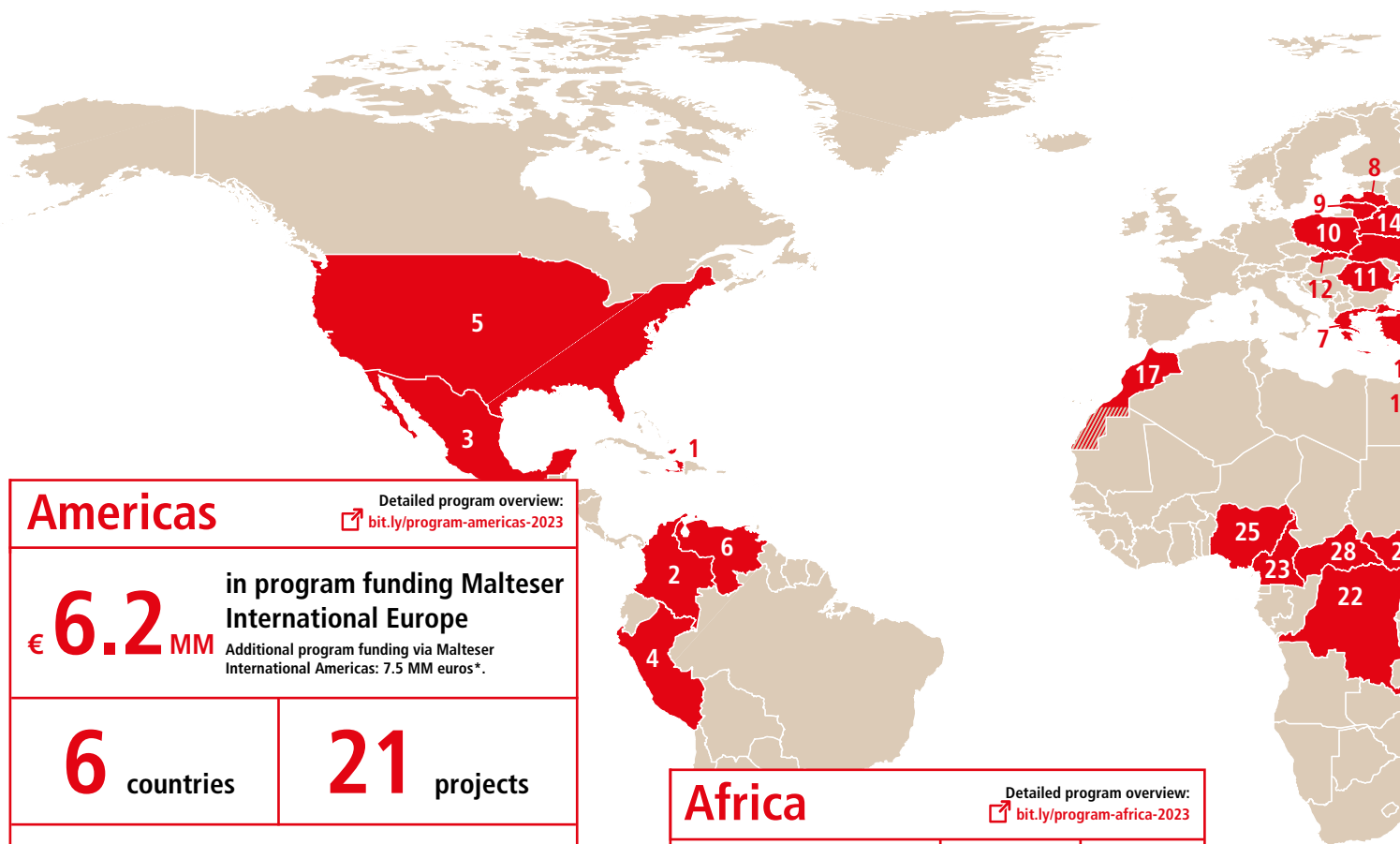
Edition 2023



**Malteser  
International**  
Order of Malta Worldwide Relief

# 2023 Program Overview

In 2023, Malteser International reached more than 5.6 million people in need in 145 projects across 37 countries worldwide. Project spending in the regions of Africa, the Americas, Asia, Europe and the Middle East totaled around 98 million euros. In addition, there were global projects on water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH), amounting to around 455,000 euros. The largest sector of our work in 2023 was the health sector.



## Americas

Detailed program overview:  
[bit.ly/program-americas-2023](https://bit.ly/program-americas-2023)

€ **6.2** MM

in program funding Malteser International Europe

Additional program funding via Malteser International Americas: 7.5 MM euros\*.

**6** countries

**21** projects



Health



Food and nutrition security



Improved living conditions



Disaster risk management and climate change adaptation



Strengthening civil society

## Africa

Detailed program overview:  
[bit.ly/program-africa-2023](https://bit.ly/program-africa-2023)

€ **31.9** MM

in program funding

**8** countries

**45** projects



Health



Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)



Food and nutrition security



Disaster risk management and climate change adaptation



Food/Non food items



Strengthening civil society

\* Malteser International Americas is a legally independent organization based in New York, USA. Both Malteser International Americas and Malteser International Europe manage various projects in the Americas region. Both organizations have a combined program volume of € 11.9 million after intercompany adjustments. Further information on Malteser International Americas can be found at [www.orderofmalterelief.org](https://www.orderofmalterelief.org).

## Europe

Detailed program overview:  
[bit.ly/program-europe-2023](https://bit.ly/program-europe-2023)

€ **11.6** MM  
in program funding

**8**  
countries

**14**  
projects



Health



Food/Non food items



Food and  
nutrition security



Mental health, psychosocial support

## Asia

Detailed program overview:  
[bit.ly/program-asia-2023](https://bit.ly/program-asia-2023)

€ **14.4** MM  
in program funding

**9**  
countries

**46**  
projects



Health



Improved living  
conditions



Water, Sanitation, and  
Hygiene (WASH)



Food/Non food items



Disaster risk  
management and  
climate change adaptation



Displacement

### Project countries in 2023

#### Americas

- 1 Haiti
- 2 Colombia
- 3 Mexico<sup>1</sup>
- 4 Peru<sup>1</sup>
- 5 USA
- 6 Venezuela

#### Europe

- 7 Greece
- 8 Latvia
- 9 Lithuania
- 10 Poland
- 11 Romania
- 12 Slovakia
- 13 Ukraine
- 14 Belarus<sup>2</sup>

#### Middle East

- 15 Iraq
- 16 Lebanon
- 17 Morocco
- 18 Palestinian Territories<sup>3</sup>
- 19 Syria
- 20 Türkiye

#### Africa

- 21 Ethiopia
- 22 Democratic Republic of the Congo
- 23 Cameroon
- 24 Kenya
- 25 Nigeria
- 26 South Sudan
- 27 Uganda
- 28 Central African Republic

#### Asia

- 29 Afghanistan
- 30 Bangladesh
- 31 India
- 32 Indonesia
- 33 Myanmar
- 34 Nepal
- 35 Pakistan
- 36 Philippines
- 37 Thailand

### MI Regional Headquarters:

Cologne, Germany  
 New York, USA

<sup>1</sup> Financing via MI Americas/ HQ New York

<sup>2</sup> Partner projects have already been booked in previous years

<sup>3</sup> Project expenses were settled in 2024.

## Middle East

Detailed program overview:  
[bit.ly/program-MiddleEast-2023](https://bit.ly/program-MiddleEast-2023)

€ **33.5** MM  
in program funding

**6**  
countries

**19**  
projects



Health



Mental health, psychosocial support



Food/Non food items



Strengthening  
civil society



Food and  
nutrition security



Emergency Relief

# Overview:

## Key figures 2023



**1,227**

employees worldwide  
work at Malteser  
International

**145**

projects  
in **5** project regions  
worldwide

**37**



project countries



**5.6 MM**

people worldwide benefited  
from our projects



**1.3 MM**

Refugees worldwide provided  
with support through our projects

**761**

healthcare facilities  
supported

**3.2 MM**

patients received medical  
treatment

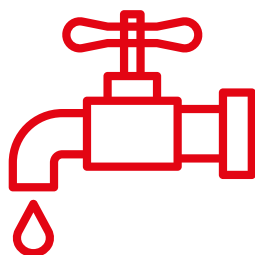


**189,645**

people psychologically  
supported

**72,978**

people could sustainably  
improve their livelihoods  
thanks to our projects



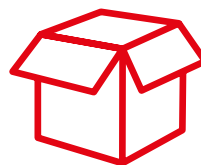
**786,767**

people gained access to clean drinking water



**550,994**

people received support through food  
distributions or supplementary food



**246,458**

emergency packages (food,  
hygiene, water, etc.) distributed



# Editorial



Dear Readers,

The challenges we face grow harder every day: from the exodus of displaced people to visions of wars and natural disasters. The images that we will particularly remember from 2023 are of awful destruction caused by the earthquakes on the Syria-Türkiye border and in Morocco. Meanwhile, wars and violent conflicts in Ukraine, the DR Congo, Myanmar, and Haiti – to name only a few – continued with utmost ferocity. Living in peace is a distant dream for millions of people.

It is everyone's responsibility to work for peace – especially for us as Christians and for Malteser International as the worldwide aid service of the Sovereign Order of Malta. Since its foundation, the Order has chosen a white eight-pointed cross to represent our charism of service to the poor and sick. Each of the eight points of this cross symbolizes one of the eight Beatitudes. One of these speaks very strongly to us at present: "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God" (Mt. 5:9). I hope and pray that Jesus' message gives us the courage we need to continue the mission that has been entrusted to us.

In this report, you will read how we helped people in our countries of operation around the world over the past year, and how we are working to improve living conditions while promoting peace. In both natural and manmade disasters, we dedicate our work to all those in need. We would especially like to thank all our partners, supporters, and the people who make this work possible.

May God bless you and all the people we serve!

Raphael Vermeir,  
President of Malteser International



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Maryam Al-Badawi from the region of Atareb in northwest Syria lost her son in the earthquake that caused massive destruction and loss of lives in Syria and Türkiye in February 2023. She was able to save her grandson from under the rubble of his home, and has taken care of him ever since.

PHOTO: IDA / MALTESER INTERNATIONAL

# Emergency Relief: Saving Lives, Building Futures

**Severe cyclones in Asia, the earthquakes in Syria and Türkiye, Morocco and Afghanistan: 2023 was an exceptionally destructive year that caused great suffering to hundreds of thousands of people in our countries of operation.**



At Malteser International, we are prepared for such deployments in the aftermath of natural disasters or in crises regions. In recent years, we have continuously professionalized and expanded our emergency aid. For example,

*“The challenges will not subside in the years ahead: We are already seeing a dramatic rise in extreme weather events like hurricanes, typhoons, floods, and droughts due to climate change. It is expected that their frequency and intensity will keep climbing.”*

we have been certified as a Type 1 Emergency Medical Team (EMT) by the World Health Organization (WHO). Our volunteers from the Pool of Experts regularly train for emergencies.

To be able to help people in humanitarian emergencies – including wars and violent conflicts – quickly and efficiently, it also helps to work as preemptively as possible: for example by increasing the resilience of communities in regions frequently affected by crises with disaster preparedness plans and by offering disaster training. Or by minimizing risk factors: In coastal regions, for example, the reforestation of mangrove forests helps to alleviate flooding.

It is also important to use available data to better predict future disasters. The “anticipatory action” approach is about being able to predict hazards like extreme weather events more accurately through precise analyses in order to take preventive measures. In the best-case scenario, those affected can then make vital decisions before disaster strikes and help can already be on its way.



Massive destruction: More than 350,000 buildings were destroyed or damaged in the Syrian-Turkish border region (pictured: the Syrian town of Jenderes), and more than 62,000 people lost their lives in the quakes on February 6th.

PHOTO: HIHFAD / MALTESER INTERNATIONAL



# Syria and Türkiye: Help after the quakes

## Our aid in 2023

### Syria



**633,299**  
patients  
treated  
in clinics



**53,823**  
people obtained  
psychosocial  
support



**50,548**  
earthquake-affected  
people received  
food packages

### Türkiye



**4**  
mobile  
clinics  
supported



**14,156**  
patients  
cared  
for



**23,985**  
persons received  
emergency aid  
packages

The scenes were heartbreaking: People searching for buried victims with their bare hands, families desperately holding out on the streets in the freezing cold while fearing for the lives of their loved ones. On February 6th, 2023, a severe earthquake and several strong aftershocks shook the Syrian-Turkish border region. The devastation affected an area almost as large as the Federal Republic of Germany. The needs were immense: A total of around 20 million people were affected by the disaster.

People in northwestern Syria were hit especially hard. The humanitarian

situation here has been extremely precarious for years due to the ongoing war. In the regions of Idlib and north Aleppo, Malteser International (MI) helps to operate eight hospitals and eight basic health stations run by its partner organizations *IDA*, *HIHFAD*, and *SAMS*. Fortunately, these were only slightly damaged after the earthquakes and are still in service: More than 633,000 patients could be treated in the facilities supported by MI in 2023.

Delivering urgently needed relief supplies to the Syrian population proved to be more difficult, as little aid reached





Immediately after the quake, an emergency relief team from Cologne set off to support the MI team in Türkiye: Oliver Hochedez, Head of MI Emergency Relief, speaks with Mustafa Sengül from the Turkish partner organization *Turkish Red Crescent (TRC)* in Gaziantep.

PHOTO: MALTESER INTERNATIONAL



MI supported the people in Syria affected by the earthquakes with the bare essentials: more than 10,000 households received ready-to-eat meals and 100 households received cash for food.

PHOTO: HIHFAD / MALTESER INTERNATIONAL

the country via the border crossings. MI supported those affected with the bare necessities: More than 10,000 households received ready-to-eat meals and 100 households received cash for food. Over 120 households benefited from newly installed latrines and water tanks and received kits with bedding, hygiene and kitchen sets, heaters and fuel. Also, 150 children obtained psychosocial support in child-friendly spaces run by the Syrian partner organization *SARD*.

To improve the long-term prospects for people in northwestern Syria, MI initiated a program to support sever-

Lena Schellhammer,  
Program Manager Middle East at Malteser International

PHOTO: MALTESER INTERNATIONAL



*“Even if the situation of the people in Syria disappears from the focus of public attention, a year after the earthquake, the situation in northwestern Syria remains dramatic: It is still impossible for people to build a stable living environment – everything works in pure ‘survival mode’. The people in Syria still urgently need support. We must not forget them.”*



MI supports eight hospitals and basic health stations in the Idlib and North Aleppo regions in northwestern Syria. Fortunately, these were only slightly damaged and still operational.

PHOTO: SAMS / MALTESER INTERNATIONAL



al hundred households run by women. The women receive equipment and training in vegetable processing. In addition, 1,300 farmers acquired farming machinery, fuel for irrigation and training on improved cultivation methods.

One year after the earthquake, millions of people in Türkiye still need aid. Together with the *Turkish Red Crescent* and through local communities, MI delivered over 100 tents, 1,900 beds, 2,200

MI supported its partner organization *IDA* in Gaziantep province in operating two mobile clinics, which provided around 13,700 consultations around basic medical care as well as more than 600 individual and group sessions for psychosocial support.

PHOTO: IDA / MALTESER INTERNATIONAL

generators and 3,300 sleeping bags and blankets to the affected region, while distributing 1,400 food baskets and 1,400 hygiene kits to 12,000 people in total.

To close gaps in providing healthcare in rural regions, MI supported its partner organization *IDA* in the province of Gaziantep in operating two mobile clinics that offered free physiotherapy, psychosocial support and mobile clinic services. Many people are still suffering from injuries sustained in the earthquake. Thus, in the city of Kilis, MI assists a physiotherapy center run by *IDA*. Together with its local partner *Orange*, MI is also backing small businesses affected by the earthquake. Economic reconstruction in the region is going to take a long time.



## MODEX emergency relief training

Earthquake operations continued to accompany MI and the emergency relief department throughout the rest of 2023. Organized by the European Union, MODEX, an international emergency aid simulation exercise, took place in Arcevia, Italy, at the beginning of June, in which MI's Emergency Medical Team (EMT) participated. The scenario of a severe earthquake was practiced. In addition to the operational procedures for setting up the tent clinic and treating the injured, the exercise focused on cooperation and coordination with other aid workers. A total of six aid organizations and more than 200 attendees took part in the MODEX.



Setting up the tent clinic: In June, MI's Emergency Medical Team participated in the EU's MODEX exercise. MI's EMT consisted of 18 volunteers from a total of seven countries.

PHOTO: MALTESER INTERNATIONAL

## Earthquake aid in Morocco and Afghanistan

In the fall of 2023, two further severe earthquakes caused massive destruction in the affected regions: Morocco experienced its worst earthquake in 100 years in early September, and in October the earth shook several times in Afghanistan. MI provided emergency aid in both affected regions: Together with the Embassy of the Sovereign Order of Malta Morocco, MI supported the afflicted in the Atlas Mountains by setting up 525 emergency shelters, tents and six sanitary facilities as well as distributing 1,500 aid packages, including blankets, drinking water and food parcels. In Afghanistan, MI distributed food and hygiene packages to 3,000 people in the particularly devastated province of Herat via its local partner organization *Union Aid*.



Emergency relief in Herat, Afghanistan: MI distributed food and hygiene packages to those affected via its local partner *Union Aid*.

PHOTO: UNION AID / MALTESER INTERNATIONAL



In Colombia, together with MI's local partner organization ABIUDEA, 33,000 seedlings were grown in three tree nurseries and sold for restoring 31.4 hectares of mangrove forest, generating income for – among others – 22 single mothers who received training in the context of the project.

PHOTO: MALTESER INTERNATIONAL AMERICAS

# Guarding against emergencies: Creating climate resilience with mangroves

## Our aid in 2023



**85,498**  
trees  
planted  
worldwide



**853**  
solar  
panels  
installed



**38**  
environmental  
groups founded  
and trained



**6,465**  
people received  
emergency  
accommodation



**85,257**  
participants in  
disaster prepared-  
ness trainings



**70,224**  
people supported  
with cash or  
vouchers

Malteser International (MI) has long been active in supporting people affected by the consequences of climate change, both in the context of emergency relief and with projects focused on disaster risk reduction and adaptation to climate change. These activities become more important in MI's work, as extreme weather events accumulate and result in death, destruction, and deteriorating living environments. Studies predict more than 200 million climate refugees by 2050.

“We’ve noticed that we, as well as our colleagues and partner organizations in our country offices, have to deal with extreme weather situations more and more often,” Nicole Müller from the MI Emergency Relief Team in Cologne says. According to the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the past year was, again and by clear margin, the hottest

year on record. In 2023, floods and storms made up around 80 percent of disastrous weather events (WMO 2024); MI and its partner organizations provided emergency relief for the affected people in Kenya, Uganda, Haiti, Myanmar, Pakistan, and Bangladesh. We offered emergency medical aid, and distributed food and other essential survival materials. However, even during the emergency response phase of a disaster, long-term considerations like ensuring sustainable livelihoods, reconstructing infrastructure, or providing disaster risk reduction are crucial.

### Super-tree mangrove

One of our long-term measures has to do with an amazing tree: the mangrove. Planted in coastal areas, mangroves lessen the risk of flood disasters by reducing the power of waves hitting the





In Haiti, beehives are placed between mangrove trees that were planted further inland – the sale of the honey provides alternative income opportunities, lessening the high dependence on charcoal production, the main reason for deforestation on the island.

PHOTO: MALTESER INTERNATIONAL AMERICAS

coast by up to 75 percent. In addition, their crowns and roots mitigate erosion, drought, and wind damage. Finally, they are an excellent habitat for fish, generating improved income opportunities for people in the adjoining communities. In 2023, MI supported the planting of 44,300 mangrove seedlings. 18,050 were planted in the laguna Ciénaga Grande in El Magdalena, Colombia, where climate change and pollution had caused deforestation and a significant decline of the fish population. Another 26,250 seedlings were planted in Baradères and Petit Trou de Nippes in Haiti. Currently, a mere two percent of the country is still forested, which leaves Haiti with very little protection against storms, erosion and floodings. Here, MI also supported the protection and revitalization of 693 hectares of mangrove forest.

### Anticipatory Action

Anticipatory measures like fostering climate resilience by planting trees plays an increasing role in aid work. Experts forecast weather extremes better and better, making it possible, for example, to provide cash or animal feed before a drought turns into a famine, or forewarn populations before a rain-induced flood hits. In 2023, MI commissioned a comprehensive [study](#) on the feasibility of Anticipatory Action in its program work, which was released in 2024.



Together with its local partner organization *AHAAMES*, MI not only plants trees in Haiti, but also cleans out deadwood and supports the protection of large areas of forest, which helps the mangrove population restore itself naturally.

PHOTO: MALTESER INTERNATIONAL AMERICAS

Deifred Pacheco Ibarra, 17, from Isla del Rosario near the Ciénaga Grande, Colombia

PHOTO: MALTESER INTERNATIONAL AMERICAS



*“Growing up, I noticed how the environment was transforming and how climate change was affecting us. My family lived off the production of seafood, and seafood became more and more scarce in the area. Since I got involved in this project, I have better environmental education, and I feel that now I have the tools to fight for a real and better change.”*





Ebiangelis is six years old and a refugee from Venezuela. Now she lives with her mother and siblings in Riohacha, Colombia. Volunteers from MI Americas known as Puntos Focales supported the family with advice on, among other things, healthcare services offered by MI. They all hope for a better future in their new home.

PHOTO: MALTESER INTERNATIONAL AMERICAS



# Health: Fostering Peace, Alleviating Illness



We at the Sovereign Order of Malta believe that Jesus Christ calls us to take care of the poor and sick. We have been “Hospitallers” for more than 900 years. Since being appointed Grand Hospitaller, I have visited Malteser International’s (MI) projects in Lebanon, South Sudan, and Uganda, and been twice to Ukraine. I have witnessed the hardships – but also the incredible resilience – of people in need around the world, as well as to the transformative impact of the Order’s work in the field of health.

*“War is the number one disease in the world. And it is just as preventable as any disease. The cure is called peace!”*

Grand Hospitaller, Fra' Alessandro de Franciscis

PHOTO: SOVEREIGN ORDER OF MALTA

Last year, the Sovereign Order of Malta was invited, as a permanent Observer to the United Nations, to participate at the World Health Organization’s yearly General Assembly. This was a great chance to advocate our health work and call for peace: Because war is still

the number one cause for diseases. Last year, wars, conflicts, and natural disasters in Ukraine, Nigeria, Türkiye, Afghanistan, and Syria – to name only the most prominent crises of 2023 – caused disruptions in the supply of food, clean water, and health services, resulting in sickness, malnutrition and poverty.

Back in the eighties, as a young doctor at the Harvard School of Public Health earning my master’s degree in Epidemiology, I learned that the poor always remain underserved. Forty years later, it seems nothing has changed. But we at the Sovereign Order of Malta never stop believing that it still can! In 2023, MI implemented more than 80 health projects in over 20 countries, some of which you will find presented on the following pages. 69 percent of our health activities were dedicated to providing basic healthcare, including psychosocial support, and 31 percent to healthcare system strengthening, including using a One Health approach. Working hand in hand with local organizations and the affected people, MI reached almost three million people with offers of holistic health support: for a life of health and dignity.



Our mobile clinics provide vital support for Wayuu communities until they are better connected to the state healthcare system.

PHOTO: MALTESER INTERNATIONAL AMERICAS

# Colombia: Improving healthcare for the Wayuu

## Our aid in 2023



**67,075**  
refugees and local residents received medical treatment



**16,253**  
people received mental health support



**62,467**  
refugees benefited from MI's projects



**929**  
pregnant women supported before and after delivery



**823**  
people received food or nutrition assistance



**32,752**  
children were directly reached by our support

The Department of La Guajira in north Colombia is the traditional home of the Wayuu, the largest indigenous group in the country. Due to drought, poverty, and the high number of refugees from Venezuela, the humanitarian situation in the region is very unstable. More than 80 percent of the Wayuu cannot satisfy basic needs like food and education, and are often dangerously underserved by the national healthcare system.

Blanca Uriana, 32, and her husband Omar, 48, live in a small Wayuu community with their eight children. The

nearest clinic is in the regional capital Riohacha – a strenuous two-hour drive away. If a member of their family gets sick, they use traditional herbs and home remedies for treatment. “The few times I’ve gone to the doctor, I either arrived late or they could not see me,” Blanca says.

## Better healthcare through dialogue

The Multi-Actor Partnership for Health Program (MAP Salud), which Malteser International (MI) has been running with local partner organizations since 2021, fosters dialogue and workshops between indigenous communities, local





A family arrives at the mobile clinic. For many Wayuu, motorcycles or donkeys are the only available means of transport – good for travel between communities, but not for greater distances to clinics in the bigger cities.

PHOTO: MALTESER INTERNATIONAL AMERICAS

government entities, and healthcare providers. In this way, community leaders are supported to advocate for their community's healthcare needs and rights, and local healthcare providers are held more accountable to deliver their services how, where and when they are needed.

### Mobile healthcare service

To provisionally bridge the gap for Wayuu communities currently lacking access to healthcare within the national system, mobile clinic services supported by MI offer free of charge treatments and services including vaccinations, information about common diseases, and hygiene kits. Whenever possible, MI works hand in hand with local health providers for this service to further improve the dialogue with the communities they should serve. In 2023 alone, more than 20,000 Wayuu were reached by the mobile clinics as part of MAP Salud and two further projects. Medical staff of the mobile units are also proficient in the Wayuu language Wayuunaiki – an important success factor for the project, as more than two thirds of the Wayuu do not speak Spanish, and most local healthcare is not offered bilingually.

“With the MAP Salud program, we want to make the voices of the Wayuu heard, and ensure that they get the healthcare services they are entitled to – sustainable and with respect for their traditional medical practices,” says Jelena Kaifenheim, Program Director MI Americas.



In 2023, Blanca's decision to seek out the mobile clinic's support saved her youngest son Yoner's life when he almost suffered respiratory failure due to undetected ADR.

PHOTO: CRISTIAN CAVIEDES RODRIGUEZ

Blanca Uriana,  
resident of Petsuain 1 in La Guajira

PHOTO: CRISTIAN CAVIEDES RODRIGUEZ



*“At first, we didn't understand how serious our youngest son Yoner's condition was. Since the medical staff informed me about the warning signs, I can distinguish between a simple cold and a more serious illness like Acute Respiratory Infection (ADR). What I've learned, I share in my community.”*





Group therapies help internally displaced persons, returnees and affected local people process traumatic experiences – and strengthen social cohesion.

PHOTO: MALTESER UKRAINE

# Ukraine: Mental health in times of war – acute and long-term

## Our aid in 2023



**44,593**  
people received  
mental health  
support



**12**  
healthcare  
facilities  
supported



**166,166**  
people  
provided with  
nutritional aid



**5,740**  
persons  
supported with  
shelter



**760t**  
relief goods  
distributed with  
our support



**245,747**  
people were  
reached directly  
by our projects

According to the UN, as of November 2023, the mental health of 15.6 million Ukrainian families has deteriorated as a result of the war. Overall, 25 percent of the Ukrainian population are at risk of developing a mental illness due to the ongoing psychosocial burden of war. In addition, a growing number of former combatants suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder.

Unresolved grief, emotional exhaustion, and an uncertain future: “We work with the affected people to help them

regain their strength amid their perceived powerlessness,” says psychologist Olena Romanova from Malteser Ukraine.

## Support on two levels

Together with Malteser Ukraine and the local partner organizations *Mental Health Service* and *Words Help*, Malteser International (MI) launched a two-part Nexus project in 2023, combining urgently needed aid and longer-term social measures. One component provides people who are immediately at risk with low-threshold



What can be expected when a partner or father returns from deployment in conflict areas? The psychosocial counseling offers answers, support, and can prevent conflicts within families.

PHOTO: MALTESER UKRAINE



Worry about relatives, endless hours in air-raid shelters: With support from MI's partner *Mental Health Service* children and youths can learn to process war experiences and cope with constant stress.

PHOTO: MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE

services like health education and psychosocial services as well as training for medical staff. The longer-term measures include specialized psychotherapeutic services and awareness-raising activities as well as discussion groups and creativity courses. These are intended to strengthen the resilience and social cohesion of the population, which has been disrupted by war and displacement.

Children are one of the focus groups of both components. "My daughter was under constant stress and felt depressed, but now she sleeps peacefully, no longer sobs at night, aggression has disappeared, and she started making new friends," says Veronika, 36, who got displaced from Bakhmut and visited the psychosocial center in Kyiv together with her nine-year-old daughter.

Through the health education that is part of the project, children and adolescents learn to recognize and deal with stress and anxiety – an important investment in their future mental health, which will continue to be strained for as long as the war lasts.

### Vital synergies

Be it visiting schools or offering services in community centers: low-threshold measures enable project staff to identify severely traumatized people and refer them to specialists within the project

if required. These and other synergies between the two Nexus components are the particular strength of this project, which will support more than 50,000 people affected by war in the area of mental health over the next three years.

Khrystyna Halushchak, Head of the Center for Psychological Support and Assistance of Malteser Ukraine

PHOTO: MALTESER UKRAINE



*"Unfortunately, there are no children left here that are not affected by the war. Almost everyday, students must stop studying and spend hours in bomb shelters. Some of them can cope with the stress, while others suffer from panic attacks."*





In the Safe Spaces, women can learn income-generating skills such as tailoring or pasta making, which can give them new prospects and hope for the future.

PHOTO: KATHARINA KIECOL

# Nigeria: Working together for clean water, protection and health

## Our aid in 2023



**1,268**  
people received  
psychosocial  
support



**59,675**  
people provided  
with access to  
clean water



**300**  
water supply  
facilities built or  
renovated



**14,291**  
hygiene and  
other kits  
distributed



**27,995**  
refugees from  
Cameroon  
supported



**75,971**  
people reached  
directly with  
support

In northeastern Nigeria, approximately **16 million people** live in constant danger of violence from armed organized groups like Boko Haram and the Islamic State. Millions are on the run. In the federal states of Borno, Adamawa, and Taraba, Malteser International (MI), together with local partner organizations, supports internally displaced people, returnees and vulnerable host communities. To ensure optimal support, MI's staff in Cologne and Nigeria continuously stay in dialogue with each other and with the local people.

## Strengthening local capacities

In the project region, around 2.8 million people lack ensured access to clean water and humane sanitation facilities, and therefore face increased health risks from polluted water. In 2023, MI started a new project together with its local partner organization *Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Agency*: In several communities in Borno and Adamawa, MI will, after in-depth needs assessments, renovate or build a total of 30 inclusive sanitation facilities at public





Clean wells like this already completed one in Mashamari can significantly improve people's quality of life and reduce health risks through waterborne diseases.

PHOTO: MALTESER INTERNATIONAL



Support for women affected by gender-based violence: MI Global Protection Advisor Helen Hayford trains case managers in Yola.

PHOTO: JEREMIAH SAMUEL

schools and health centers as well as 30 solar or electrically powered wells. Later, elected local committees will run and maintain them. Their members will be trained by MI and equipped with tools and repair materials. In this way, all project communities will be able to ensure safe, inclusive and sustainable access to water and sanitation facilities through their own capacities in the future.

### Support for women and girls

Another consequence of the dire humanitarian situation is the discrimination of women and girls, and their high risk of exposure to gender-based violence in various forms. To protect them and provide psychosocial support, we operate several so-called Safe Spaces together with our local partner, the *National Council on Women's Societies*. There, the affected women and girls can partake in group and individual counseling, make use of mediation between family members, and receive skills trainings. These trainings enable them to earn their own income and become more self-sustained, which is often also of great psychological importance. Since 2021, MI has

opened or renovated several of those Safe Spaces in camps for internally displaced people, eight more are planned. Beyond that, MI trains professionals and volunteers from MI and its partner organizations in areas such as awareness-raising, prevention, case management and gender-mainstreaming.

Hauwa Kyari, MI Senior Hygiene Promotion Officer in the Mashamari camp for internally displaced people

PHOTO: MALTESER INTERNATIONAL



*“WASH interventions can have transformative power, particularly when combined with gender-based violence considerations. By ensuring access to clean water, sanitation facilities, and hygiene education, MI is not just improving physical health but also creating a safer and more dignified environment for women and children.”*





Naw Sha Ro Paw, 24, lives in Mae La Oon refugee camp, Thailand, with her husband and her two little sons, close to the border to Myanmar. She has consulted with the team of the nutrition unit of MI's basic health station in camp about the nutritional status of their younger son.

PHOTO: JANA ASENBRANNEROVA

# Displacement: Increasing Impact, Protecting Dignity

The roots of the Sovereign Order of Malta go back to the eleventh century in Jerusalem. The Hospitallers devoted themselves to caring for residents and pilgrims of all beliefs at the Hospital of St. John the Baptist. Their founder, Fra Gerard, imbued the Hospitallers with a profound ethos: to see Jesus Christ in every patient, regardless of origin or faith, regarding them as their “lords.”

Almost a thousand years since the Order’s founding, our “lords” now extends to those enduring hardship and displacement worldwide, be it from conflict, climate crises, global divisions or natural calamities. At Malteser International, we offer our support to all individuals in need regardless of gender, political affiliation, origin or creed.



*“Through our endeavors,  
we strive to uphold human  
dignity, engender trust, foster peace, and  
steward God’s creation.”*

At the heart of our efforts lie the people we serve, our “lords” in need. Our solutions to displacement are people-centered, localized, and grounded in the fusion of Humanitarian-Development-Peace efforts. This is illustrated in the pages that follow with examples of our impactful interventions in Thailand and South Sudan.

In today’s world, climate change and environmental degradation as well as political instability are the main drivers of displacement, exacerbating poverty. It is estimated that by 2050, climate-related factors could displace over 200 million people, predominantly affecting impoverished communities with limited capacity to adapt. To confront these challenges, Malteser International’s 2025 Strategy aims to bolster our organizational capacity, enhance service quality, and strengthen partnerships with external stakeholders in order to magnify our impact.

In this pursuit, our guiding principle echoes the African concept of Ubuntu: “I am because you are.” In essence, our commitment remains unwavering – to foster a peaceful world where our charism knows no bounds and where the dignity of every human being is upheld.



HDP Nexus project at MI: In South Sudan, farming groups work together to grow food and learn better farming methods to increase their crop yields.

PHOTO: ADAM IBRAHIM

# South Sudan: Humanitarian aid, development cooperation and peacebuilding

## Our aid in 2023



**Ca. 201,956**  
people  
benefited from  
our help



**158,444**  
people gained  
access to drinking  
water



**7,858**  
emergency  
aid packages  
distributed



**1,664**  
people  
received cash  
assistance



**8,192**  
people  
supported with  
food



**655**  
people obtained  
psychosocial  
support

**"My name is Betty Keji James. I come from Mukaya. I am 38 years old. We ran from there because of the fighting between government and the rebels." Betty is one of around two million people in South Sudan currently displaced internally by the ongoing violence in their country.**

The civil war has had a dramatic impact on the population of South Sudan: Of the 12.4 million inhabitants, nine million people depend on humanitarian aid alone, and around 5.8 million people are affected by acute food insecurity (UN OCHA,

as of February 2024). Betty lives with her children in an unofficial camp for internally displaced people in Atende, a small town near the Yei long-distance railroad, directly on the road to the capital Juba.

The camp, home to almost 2,000 people, lies on one side of the road, with the village of Atende on the other. Here, the 38-year-old is now active in a "small-holder farmers group" set up by Malteser International (MI). In these groups, partakers receive training in agricultural cultivation methods to better provide for themselves and their families by





Near Atende, a small town close to Yei airport, Betty Keji James lives with around 2,000 people in a makeshift camp for internally displaced persons.

PHOTO: MICHAEL STEFFEN



Humanitarian aid: MI distributes water canisters, soap and ibriq, which are colored plastic cans for washing hands, to internally displaced persons in Atende.

PHOTO: MICHAEL STEFFEN

Betty Keji James,  
Atende, South Sudan

PHOTO: MICHAEL STEFFEN



growing their own vegetables. Participants can also take advantage of mental health coaching to help them deal with their traumatic experiences.

“Our work in Atende is a good example of the practical application of the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus at MI,” says Roland Hansen, Head of the Africa Department at MI. This approach promotes closely integrating humanitarian aid, development cooperation and peacebuilding. The MI regional program supporting displaced persons in South Sudan and neighboring countries

*“I work very hard so that we can achieve good harvests and send our children to school. In the next growing season, I would like to increase my yield so that I can open a grocery shop that will provide me and my family with a better livelihood. When I arrived in Atende, I had a lot of traumas. Since I have been taking part in the mental health coaching sessions, I am calmer and feel less stress.”*





MI offers mental health group sessions where participants learn to process their traumas.

PHOTO: ADAM IBRAHIM

with their HDP Nexus focus is the subject of a government-funded study by the Bonn International Centre for Conflict Studies on the relationship between humanitarian aid, development cooperation and peace research.

In Atende, MI combines its humanitarian aid activities – distributing water canisters, soap and ibriq, which are colored plastic cans for washing hands – with long-term activities like smallholder farmers' groups to improve the liveli-

hoods of displaced people in the long run.

The aid measures are supplemented by project components to promote peaceful coexistence in the communities. At Atende Primary School, which is attended by children from both the original community and the camp for internally displaced persons, students regularly receive information from experienced therapists on topics like anger management, bullying, discrimination, and exclusion. The aim is to establish these techniques in

the families through the school, thereby reducing problems such as domestic or gender-specific violence and contributing to a more peaceful community overall.

Since the end of 2023, there has also been a school garden in Atende where pupils learn the basics of agricultural practices. In 2024, the training of women's groups in soap production and pottery will also begin in order to provide participants with new job opportunities and better future prospects.





# Thailand: Strengthening self-reliance and future prospects

Ray Mo appreciates the good equipment and organization of the camp clinic in comparison to his experiences in Myanmar. "There are doctors, we have procedures, step by step systems for everything, which makes the work easier," he says.

PHOTO: JANA AŠENBRENEROVÁ

## Our aid in 2023



**552**  
pregnant women received delivery care



**14,778**  
persons received hygiene, first aid and other kits



**33**  
water supply networks repaired



**47**  
new Community Volunteers trained in five basic trainings



**217**  
solar light bulbs installed in public toilets



**1,957**  
mothers and children received food and nutrition assistance

For as long as he can remember, Ray Mo, 46, was interested in working in the medical field. He now fulfills his vision to help his community as one of currently over 300 camp-based Community Volunteers working for Malteser International (MI) in Thailand. Like hundreds of other refugees, he had received training by MI as part of a comprehensive project intended to increase the self-sufficiency of the camp residents, and which saw its 30-year anniversary in 2023.

The two large refugee camps Mae Ra Ma Luang and Mae La Oon are situated close to the Thai-Myanmar border. Around 20,000 refugees from Myanmar live here,

some of them already in the third generation, with many children knowing no other life. In its work in both camps, MI puts a strong emphasis on involving the residents in the planning, implementation, and monitoring of support efforts in the areas of health and WASH (water, sanitation, hygiene), while limiting MI's own role as much as possible to training, supervision, and mentoring. MI also coordinates its work closely with the camp committee, an administrative body that consists of elected refugee volunteers. In this way, MI ensures that the residents are informed about and participate in programs, can give feedback, and are involved in decision-making.





Nan Yin Yin Mya, 39, midwife supervisor, explains lifesaving measures in the event of a shoulder dystocia during labor to midwives at Mae Ra Ma Luang camp.

PHOTO: JANA AŠENBRENNEROVÁ

Lah Ku Paw, 34,  
Midwife in Charge

PHOTO: JANA AŠENBRENNEROVÁ



*“My job is very important for my community and my family. I take care of mothers and their children, which I believe to be very important, as is child delivery and the care of pregnant women. I always understood the importance of the path I chose. I like my job.”*

### Diverse training opportunities

To foster the refugees' autonomy, the training component is at the heart of the project. Ray Mo already had seven years' experience working at a Myanmar clinic when he arrived in Mae La Oon in 2008. More than once, however, he seized the opportunity to broaden his skills via training offered by MI, moving from working in the pharmacy to being a nurse, then a medic, assisting midwives and eventually arriving at his current position as hospital manager. In one of the basic health-care facilities supported by MI in each camp, trained Community Volunteers like him have the option to work as a medic, nurse, midwife, laboratory or pharmacy worker.



The inpatient department of the clinic in Mae Ra Ma Luang camp. Both clinics consist of various smaller and larger buildings.

PHOTO: JANA AŠENBRENNEROVÁ

Through its preventive healthcare efforts, MI offers, for example, skills training for Water and Sanitation workers, Community Health Workers, Nutrition Workers, and Mother and Child Health Workers. These work primarily in the community, visiting households or taking care of water facilities. One of them

is Community Health Worker Naw Eh Say Paw, 32, in Mae Ra Ma Luang. She is responsible for 60 households that she visits regularly to raise awareness about health and hygiene issues like sanitation, communicable diseases, and ante-natal care as well as educating teenagers about menstrual hygiene. She says she

enjoys the educational and social aspects of her work, and is happy that her training enabled her to communicate better: “People follow my advice, and when I call meetings, they attend them.”

### Creating meaning and perspectives

Their work is important to the Community Volunteers in more ways than one. The financial incentive they receive helps them support their families. But Naw Eh Say Paw and Ray Mo are also happy that the training allows them to perform a meaningful job, support others and have a perspective in life – also regarding a possible return to Myanmar one day. For the future, especially that of their children, returning to their home country or resettling to another one would be their greatest wish.



Community Health Worker Naw Eh Say Paw with her sons, 9 and 12 years old, who were both born in the camp clinic. Her parents and younger sister are still in Myanmar.

PHOTO: JANA AŠENBRENNEROVÁ



# Review of 2023 (selected events)

## 01

**Nigeria:** Following severe flooding, there is a sharp increase of cholera cases in the refugee camp supported by MI in Pulka. MI and local partners work on various measures to contain the outbreak.

**Lebanon:** The German Federal Foreign Office extends its funding for the mobile clinics operated by the Order of Malta Lebanon (OML) and supported by MI. Syrian refugees and the Lebanese population in remote camps and villages therefore continue to receive this offer for free medical treatment.

## 02

**Chile:** The destruction of a large number of water tanks by devastating bushfires jeopardizes the water supply for people in rural areas. MI provides 20 new tanks and supports a campaign to purchase additional tanks and a water truck that can supply 200 families.

**Cologne:** On behalf of all local aid organizations working to help the people in the earthquake region of Syria and Türkiye, Mayor of Cologne Henriette Reker visited MI on February 14th, presented a donation from city employees using funds from the “RestCent” campaign and expressed her gratitude for the aid organizations’ efforts.



PHOTO: MALTESER INTERNATIONAL

**Bangladesh:** Around 12,000 people lose their homes in a major fire in the refugee camp near the town of Cox’s Bazar on March 5th. MI increases the medical staff in the supported health facilities, in mobile first aid and in the psychosocial sector.

→ **New York:** On World Water Day on March 22nd, Roland Hansen, Program Director Africa, and Arno Coerver, Global Advisor WASH and Environment, visit the UN Water Conference and promote better access to water for all at side events together with our networks and partners.

**London:** At the MI e.V. General Assembly (March 24th–26th), the Belgian Raphael Vermeir, member of the British Association of the Order of Malta, is elected as the new President of MI.

## 04

**Lebanon:** Actor Benno Führmann and rapper MoTrip visit projects run by local partner organizations of Johanniter, ADRA, Caritas international, Handicap International, HELP – Hilfe zur Selbsthilfe e.V. and Malteser International as part of the #InDenFokus (#IntoFocus) campaign.

## 05

**#IntoFocus:** MI is one of 30 aid organizations taking part in the campaign initiated by the German Federal Foreign Office, which highlights forgotten humanitarian crises in Lebanon, South Sudan, and Bangladesh in the media from May 6th to 13th.

**Bangladesh, Myanmar:**

Cyclone “Mocha” hits the coastal regions of both countries on May 14th. Around 500,000 people have to be evacuated. MI provides emergency aid, distributes relief supplies and subsequently implements rebuilding measures such as the construction of a school that can serve as an evacuation center in the future.

## 06

**Haiti:** MI’s food security project in Belle-Anse takes extensive damage due to severe floodings, rockslides and landslides that hit the country on June 3rd. MI distributes relief goods and cash to 1,000 households affected by the massive flood-related destruction.

**Ukraine:** Several thousand people from almost 80 communities have to be evacuated following the destruction of the Kachovka dam on June 6th. Malteser Ukraine are once again stepping up their aid with support from Germany and countries neighboring Ukraine.

**Thailand:** MI organizes an emergency aid project for newly displaced people from Myanmar, distributing hygiene packages and building latrines for around 4,000 people.



PHOTO: MICHAEL STEFFEN

## 07

**A healthy meal every day:** MI becomes a member of the “School Meals Coalition” and, together with strong partners, can now contribute even more to improving and expanding school meal programs worldwide.

**Uganda:** MI organizes two multi-day workshops on inclusive disaster risk reduction, bringing together disaster risk reduction and emergency aid staff at the end of July to exchange ideas and raise awareness for the need for inclusive approaches in their various areas of work.

**Timor-Leste:** Cooperation begins between MI and the Order of Malta in Australia, the Malteser Embassy in Timor-Leste and the Order’s clinic in Timor-Leste. The aim is to improve mother and child health through integrated health, nutrition and WASH measures in communities affected by vulnerable living conditions.

**Thailand:** In the two camps for refugees supported by MI on the border of Myanmar, persistent rainfall leads to flash floods, landslides, and flooding. Over 100 homes are damaged, as are parts of MI’s soap production site and the water supply systems.

## 09

**Cologne:** On September 21st, MI receives 15 experts from the emergency services in Kenya and Uganda at MI headquarters in Cologne. Among other things, the group visits a Malteser rescue center in Rheinbach.

## 10

**New York:** On October 11th, as Counsellor of the Sovereign Order of Malta’s Permanent Observer Mission to the United Nations, Marissa del Rosario-Blackett delivers an intervention to the UN’s Third Committee on the rights of indigenous peoples. She also highlights the work of MI with the Wayuu people in Colombia and Venezuela.

**Cologne:** MI celebrates its “coming of age!” Having emerged from the Malteser Auslandsdienst in 2005, the employees of MI can look back on 18 years of support for people in need, and countless lives that have been changed for the better.

**Berlin:** At the World Health Summit from October 15th to 17th, MI co-hosts a lunch-dialogue on the topic of “One Health Governance – Putting Policy into Practice.” Dr Jean Paul Uvoyo speaks about the success of MI’s One Health approach in the DR Congo, where he works for MI as Country Health Coordinator.



PHOTO: MALTESER UKRAINE

**Ukraine:** At the beginning of the second winter of the war, damage to the infrastructure and continuous bombing make life and supply situation more difficult for the civilian population. MI distributes 2,000 food parcels and 1,400 winter parcels.

## 12

**Kenya:** After previous drought, east Africa experiences extensive flooding due to heavy rain and parched soils. MI distributes food to almost 14,000 people in Kenya who have lost their homes via a partner organization, as well as drinking water and mosquito nets.



# A unique force for good in the world

The Sovereign Order of Malta, headquartered in Rome, maintains diplomatic relations with 113 states and holds a Permanent Observer status at the United Nations. In addition, it has permanent missions to European and international organizations. The Order is neutral, impartial, and apolitical.

As the international humanitarian aid arm of the Sovereign Order of Malta, Malteser International (MI) works closely with the Order's embassies and diplomatic Missions. People in need due to conflicts and disasters are often hard to reach due either to political or practical constraints.

## Facilitating access

The Order's network of embassies provides a footprint on the ground, and a protected channel to provide aid, even in the most difficult circumstances. In the fall of 2023, MI was one of the few outside organizations able to deliver urgently needed aid – such as food parcels, tents, sanitation, and water – to earthquake-affected Moroccans by supporting the outstanding efforts of the Order's embassy there, headed by HE Ambassador Julien-Vincent Brunie.



*“In a manner of speaking, it is the poor and the sick who are the citizens whom we serve as diplomats of the Sovereign Order of Malta. MI is a valuable tool in the Sovereign Order of Malta's service because of its global presence, high quality work, and tireless service to people in need. We are united by our common goal: to help people in need, whether in the field or at the conference table.”*

## Trusting relationships

Over the longer-term, we work to develop deep and trusting relationships with Ambassadors to support sustainable humanitarian and development efforts. HE Wilhelm von Trott zu Solz – the Order's Ambassador to South Sudan and Kenya and Permanent Observer at the UN Environment Program and UN-Habitat in Nairobi – has supported MI's projects in the two countries since 2017 by facilitating project and staff visits, helping to raise funds, and fostering good relations with government authorities. In February 2023, he was instrumental in enabling an MI team from South Sudan to take part in the Pope's visit to Juba. MI supported the organization of the visit and helped to take care of pilgrims by distributing water and providing hygiene facilities.

The Sovereign Order of Malta's observer status at the United Nations gives MI access to specialist networks at the highest level. In 2023, this relationship meant that MI specialists were able to take part in the 23rd UN Water Conference in New York, as well as attending the 76th World Health Assembly and the 2nd Global Refugee Forum in Geneva. The close cooperation between MI and the Order's Permanent Observers to the United Nations, HE Marie-Thérèse Pictet-Althann in Geneva and HE Ambassador Dr. Paul Beresford-Hill in New York, makes a crucial contribution to the Order's perennial mission to defend the dignity of people in need: by advocating for them on the global stage.

Dr. Paul Beresford-Hill, Permanent Observer of the Sovereign Order of Malta to the United Nations.

PHOTO: PRIVAT

# Fostering knowledge exchange, boosting quality



Narrative didactics in the “MI Training Center:”  
Entertaining and realistic animated tutorials help new employees to familiarise themselves with internal processes in a short time.

**2023 once again showed how global humanitarian challenges are piling up and crises overlap: The entire field of work for international aid organizations is becoming increasingly complex. The need for professional humanitarian aid increases year after year. To keep up with the rising demands, organizations must constantly improve their quality.**

At Malteser International (MI), the “Quality, Evidence, and Learning” department is responsible for the strategic development of the organization. “A team of international experts ensures and continuously improves professional quality in all operating regions at MI,” says Kai Pohlmann, who heads the department.

## Pooling knowledge

The experts – such as those from the healthcare/One Health, water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) and food security sectors as well as cross-cutting areas like safe work or people-centeredness – are responsible for pooling knowledge within the organization, implementing uniform quality standards and taking care of networking and specialized communication within their sector. Best practice examples and lessons learned are presented in working groups and their applicability to further contexts discussed. The experts also offer personalized training and individual consultations for employees in the field locations

and foster project visits as well as the exchange of knowledge between staff members in the regions. “In November 2023, I had the opportunity to visit Malteser International’s Uganda program. I was particularly inspired by the celebrations surrounding One Health Day, bee farming cooperatives, vocational training school, and the solar water pumping system implemented by the Uganda team. I believe these exchange visits are an effective tool for sharing practical knowledge and on-the-ground experiences,” says Soe Naing, Program Coordinator for MI in Myanmar.

## High-quality training

With the “MI Training Center,” the department has created a comprehensive learning platform for all MI employees, providing various digital training courses. Workshops at the MI headquarters in Cologne and New York, as well as multi-day learning forums in the MI regions of operation, which take place annually and in person, complete the offers of the study program.



*“Our aim is to ensure that all employees at MI receive top-notch support for their personal development.”*

Tsegi Batsukh, Training and Learning Manager at MI

PHOTO: MALTESER INTERNATIONAL



# Our Partners

Together with our local partners, we were able to achieve a great deal in 2023. We would like to thank:

## Region Africa

AAPU: Association of Ambulance Professionals Uganda  
AICHM: Africa Inland Church Health Ministries  
AIWE: African Indigenous Women Empowerment  
Amref Health Africa / The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria  
CAAMENIHU: Centrale d'Achat et d'Approvisionnement en Médicaments Essentiels du Nord-Ituri et du Haut-Uélé  
CAFOMI: Care and Assistance for Forced Migrants  
CARD: Community Aid for Development and Relief Organization  
Caritas Bamenda  
Catholic University of South Sudan, Campus Wau  
Department of Public Utilities South Sudan  
ECSU: Emergency Care Society of Uganda  
EMK Foundation: Emergency Medicine Kenya Foundation  
EUP FASS: Etablissement d'Utilité Publique – Fonds d'Achat de Services de Santé Flare Rescue Ltd.  
Gejja Women Foundation  
GTO: German Toilet Organization  
Health authorities, health centers and general referral hospitals in the Provincial Health Divisions (DPS) of Ituri, Haut Uélé, Bas Uélé, Kasai Central  
IBSF: Impact Building Solutions Foundation  
IECE: Integrated Education for Community Empowerment  
IPCA: Initiative for Peace Communication Association  
Kakuma Mission Hospital  
KCEMT: Kenya Council of Emergency Medical Technicians  
Kiruddu Referral Hospital  
Kulika Uganda  
Local health authorities in the area around Bangassou  
Lubaga and Nsambya Hospitals and Training Centers  
Mary Help Association  
Mentor Initiative  
Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, South Sudan  
Ministry of Animal Resources and Fisheries, South Sudan  
Ministry of Education and Instruction, South Sudan  
Ministry of Health, Nigeria  
Ministry of Health, Uganda  
Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation, South Sudan  
Ministry of Women Affairs, Nigeria  
NCWS: National Council for Women's Societies  
Nsamizi  
PACIDA: Pastoralist Community Initiative Development and Assistance  
Rhema Care Integrated Development Centre  
Robert Koch Institute  
RUWASA: Rural Water and Sanitation Authority  
Salesian Sisters & Catholic Diocese of Wau  
St. Francis Hospital in Nsambya  
State Hospital in Mbarara  
Suubi Lyaffe  
SWISS TPH: Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute  
TVRA: The Victim Relief Alliance  
UCMB: Uganda Catholic Medical Bureau  
UPA: Ugandan Physiotherapist Association  
Viva con Agua Uganda  
Yei Civil Hospital, South Sudan

## Region Americas

Abiudea: Asociación de Biólogos de la Universidad del Atlántico  
AHAAMES: Association Haïtienne d'Assistance Agricole, Médicale, Educative & Sociale  
CBM: Christian Blind Mission  
CEPIN: Sociedad Civil Protección Integral al Niño  
IPSI Anashwaya: Anashwaya Institución Prestadora de Salud Indígena  
Malteser Peru  
M4H: Meals 4 Hope  
Order of Malta American Association

Order of Malta Mexico  
Order of Malta Venezuela  
PALUZ: Primeros Auxilios LUZ 'Paul Rene Moreno Camacho'  
PDPC: Programa de Desarrollo y Paz del Cesar  
PENAH: Pépinière des Enfants pour l'Avenir d'Haïti  
RRHCIPROG: Rassemblement des Rapatriés Haïtiens et des Citoyens Progressistes  
SAHEP: Sociedad Amigos del Hospital de Especialidades Pediátricas  
St. Anthony Catholic Church Maui  
UJEDCOCIS: Union des Jeunes pour le Développement durable de la commune de Cité Soleil

## Region Asien

AFAD: Association For Alternative Development  
CDD: Centre for Disability in Development  
COAST Foundation  
GK: Gonoshasthaya Kendra  
H.E.L.P.: Health, Education and Literacy Programme  
HI: Handicap  
KOSHISH: National Mental Health Self-help Organization  
Mukti Foundation  
Order of Malta Philippines  
PHALS: Programme For Helpless and Lagged Societies  
PKPA: Pusat Kajian dan Perlindungan Anak  
ProVision  
RSDC: Rural Self-reliance Development Centre  
SRSO: Sindh Rural Support Organization  
Union Aid  
Unnati: Organization for Development Education  
YEU: Yakkum Emergency Unit  
WEO: Women Empowerment Organization

## Region Europe

Caritas Belarus  
Embassy of the Sovereign Order of Malta to Greece  
Malteser Hilfsdienst Deutschland  
Malteser Ukraine  
Mental Health Service  
Order of Malta Relief Organization in Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, and Slovakia  
Ottobock  
Words Help

## Region Middle East

Archbishopric Tanger  
DAMA: Doctors Aid Medical Activities  
DDM: Diocesan Delegation for Migration  
Embassy of the Sovereign Order of Malta to Morocco  
Egypt Food Bank  
Hatay Municipality  
HIHFAD: Hand in Hand for Aid and Development  
IDA: Independent Doctors Association  
Kilis Municipality  
Order of Malta Lebanon  
SAMS: Syrian American Medical Society  
SARD: Syrian Association for Relief and Development  
TRC: Turkish Red Crescent  
WRO: Women Rehabilitation Organization



**Malteser  
International**

Order of Malta Worldwide Relief

# Health and Dignity for People in Need

## **Vision**

We aspire to a world where all individuals – particularly those in need and those who are displaced – live a life of health and dignity.

## **Mission**

Our mission is to improve the health and well-being of suffering and displaced people around the world. We provide emergency and disaster relief in the immediate aftermath of acute disasters and work towards the rehabilitation and reconstruction of afflicted communities. We work on the frontlines to provide immediate and long-term relief to those who need it most.

We deploy our experts in crisis situations, conflict-ridden areas, during natural disasters and epidemics around the world. We intervene to provide medical and mental health support, clean water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH), food, protection, and shelter where possible.

We take a holistic approach to health in our programming, which includes the protection of nature. We work with local resources and engage local partners, as well as the Order of Malta's global network, to provide

rapid and effective responses in even the most remote locations. People are at the center of our assistance. Our goal is to sustainably increase the resilience of those worst affected by disasters. We are also committed to contributing to the achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals. In doing so, we extend our support to all individuals in need regardless of gender, political belief, origin, or faith.

Christian values and the humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality, and independence are the foundation of our work. We are committed to the highest levels of innovation, professionalism, quality, and transparency. Driven by our values, and thanks to our over 65 years of experience, we remain a trustworthy organization for our donors, partners, and most importantly, for the people we serve. Through our work we experience joy, find greater meaning, and a sense of belonging among like-minded individuals.

Globally, we are united by the goal of standing alongside the displaced, and people in need: Together, we're working to build a life of health and dignity.



# Financial Overview 2023

Financial development of Malteser International Europe

## Total revenue\*

**Total** € 108.544.171

### National and international public grants

**Germany** € 57,198,863

Federal Foreign Office (AA) € 40,244,801

Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) € 16,703,296

Deutsche Investitions- und Entwicklungsgesellschaft (DEG) € 229,000

German Embassy in Yangon, Myanmar € 21,766

**European Union** € 9,365,090

DG ECHO (Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations) € 1,731,584

DG INTPA (International Partnerships of the European Commission) € 7,633,506

**United Nations** € 1,921,708

International Organization for Migration (IOM) € 33,591

UNICEF € 562,773

UN OCHA € 1,300,965

World Food Program (WFP) € 24,380

**Total** 68.485.661 €

### Donations and (international) Sovereign Order of Malta network

Malteser Hilfsdienst e. V. € 3,800,000

Malteser Hospitaldienst Austria € 724,991

Global Fund for Forgotten People, Order of Malta € 8,218

Donations and own funds € 10,626,485

Other revenue € 3,262,886

**Total** € 18,422,580

### Coalitions

Germany's Relief Coalition (ADH) € 18,920,589

**Total** € 18,920,589

### Foundations and other non-governmental organizations (NGOs)

Alfred Neven DuMont-Stiftung € 90,000

Amref Health Africa € 18,859

Deutsche Welthungerhilfe e. V. (WHH) € 922,777

German Toilet Organization (GTO) € 193,126

International Rescue Committee (IRC) € 547,827

Johanniter-Unfall-Hilfe e. V. € 42,450

Merck Family Foundation € 482,000

missio – Internationales Katholisches Missionswerk e. V. € 245,402

Morpho Foundation € 48,000

Save the Children € 124,900

**Total** € 2,715,341

## Total revenue

€ 108.5 MM

## National and international public grants

€ 68.5 MM

## Donations and (international) Sovereign Order of Malta network

€ 18.4 MM

## Coalitions

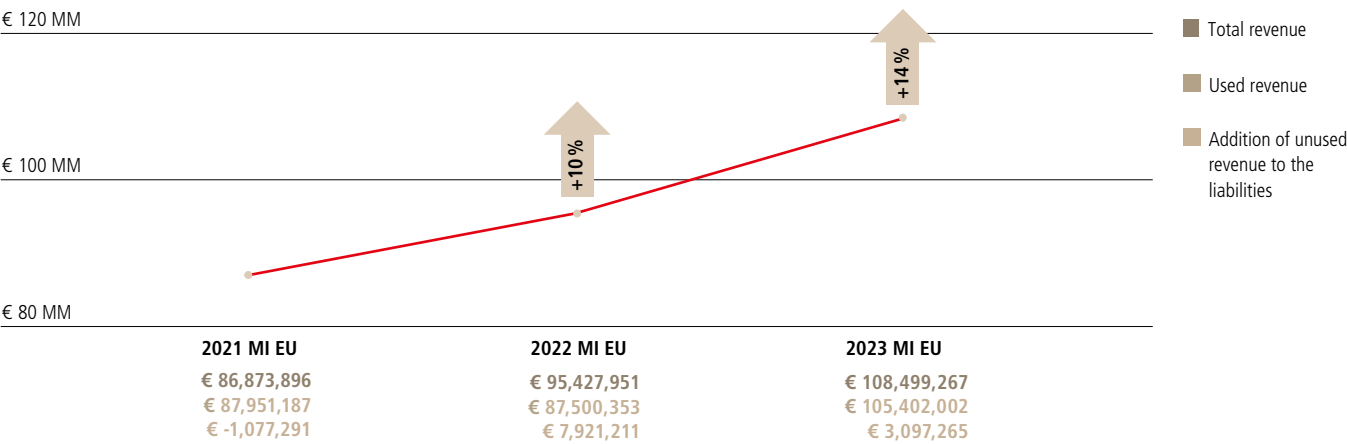
€ 18.9 MM

## Foundations and other non-governmental organizations (NGOs)

€ 2.7 MM

\* Differences may occur due to commercial rounding.

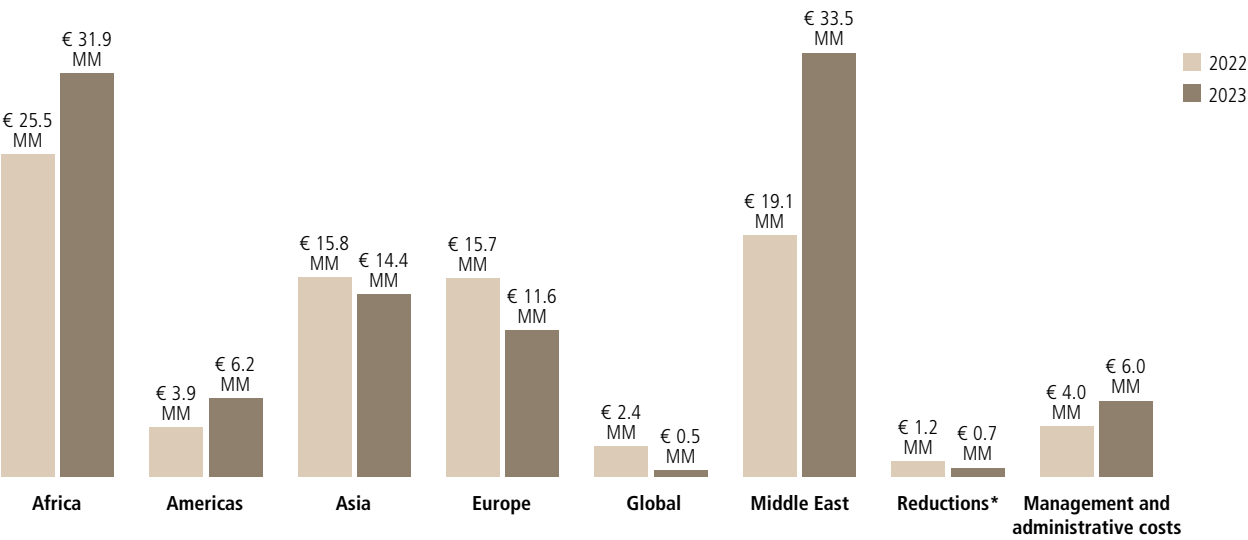
# Development of revenue



Malteser International Europe’s total income amounted to € 108.5 million in 2023. Compared to the previous year, this is an increase of 14 percent. Thanks to the highly valued trust of our

public and private donors and the strong support of Malteser Hilfsdienst e. V., a steady increase in income is evident over the past few years.

# Development of project volume



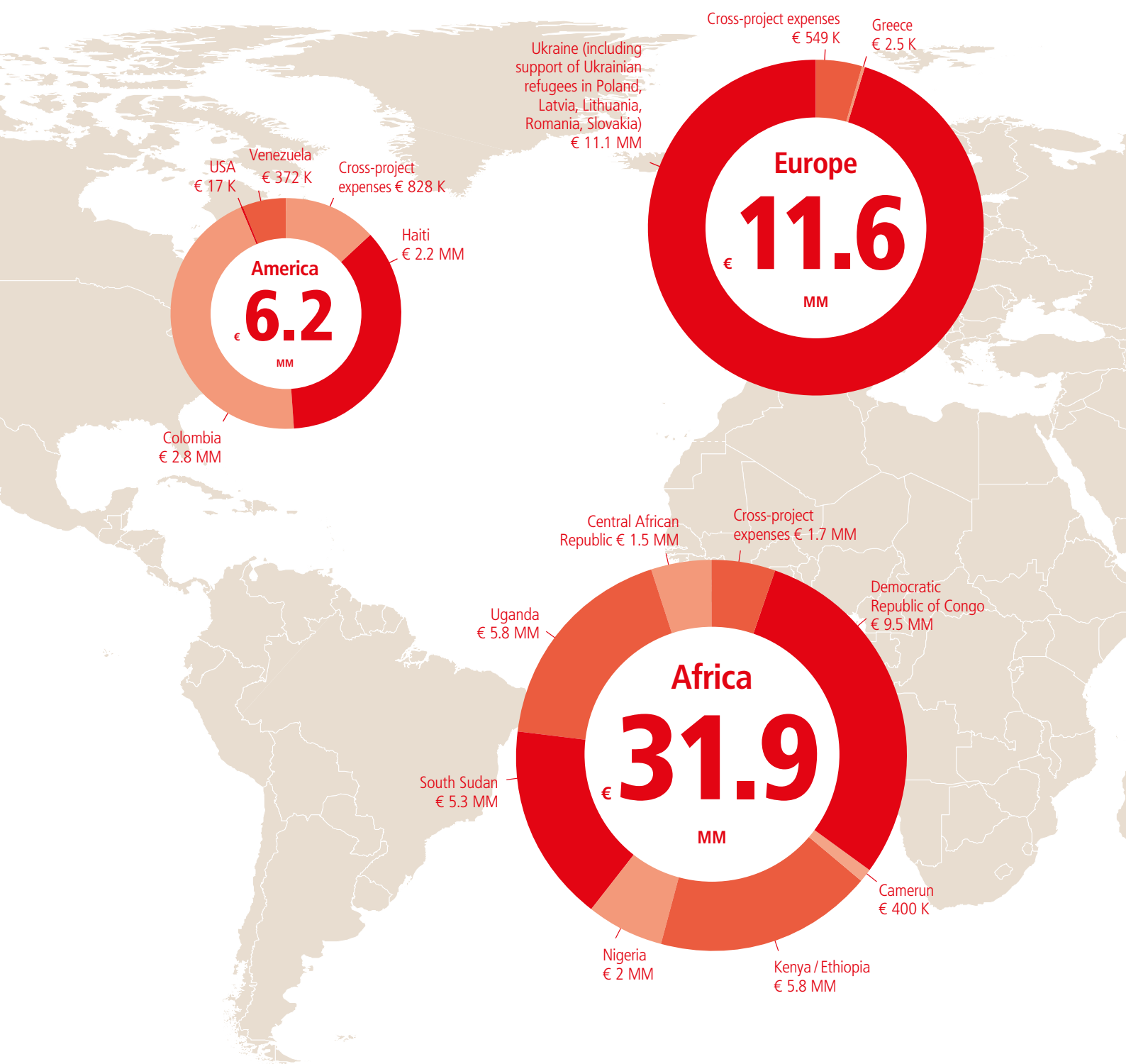
The total volume implemented in 2023 amounted to € 104.8 million, an increase of around 19 percent compared to the previous year. The share of project expenditure amounted to € 98.1 million. At around € 6 million, management and administrative costs account for around six percent of total expenditure. Compared to the previous year, this share of administrative costs is at a constant level. Malteser

International Europe uses all entrusted funds sparingly, efficiently and purposefully to fulfill its tasks. Projects started in the current year are continued in the following years in line with a sustainable approach. Earmarked donations and grants that could not be spent in the financial year are allocated to liabilities. They are available again in the following year and invested in corresponding projects.

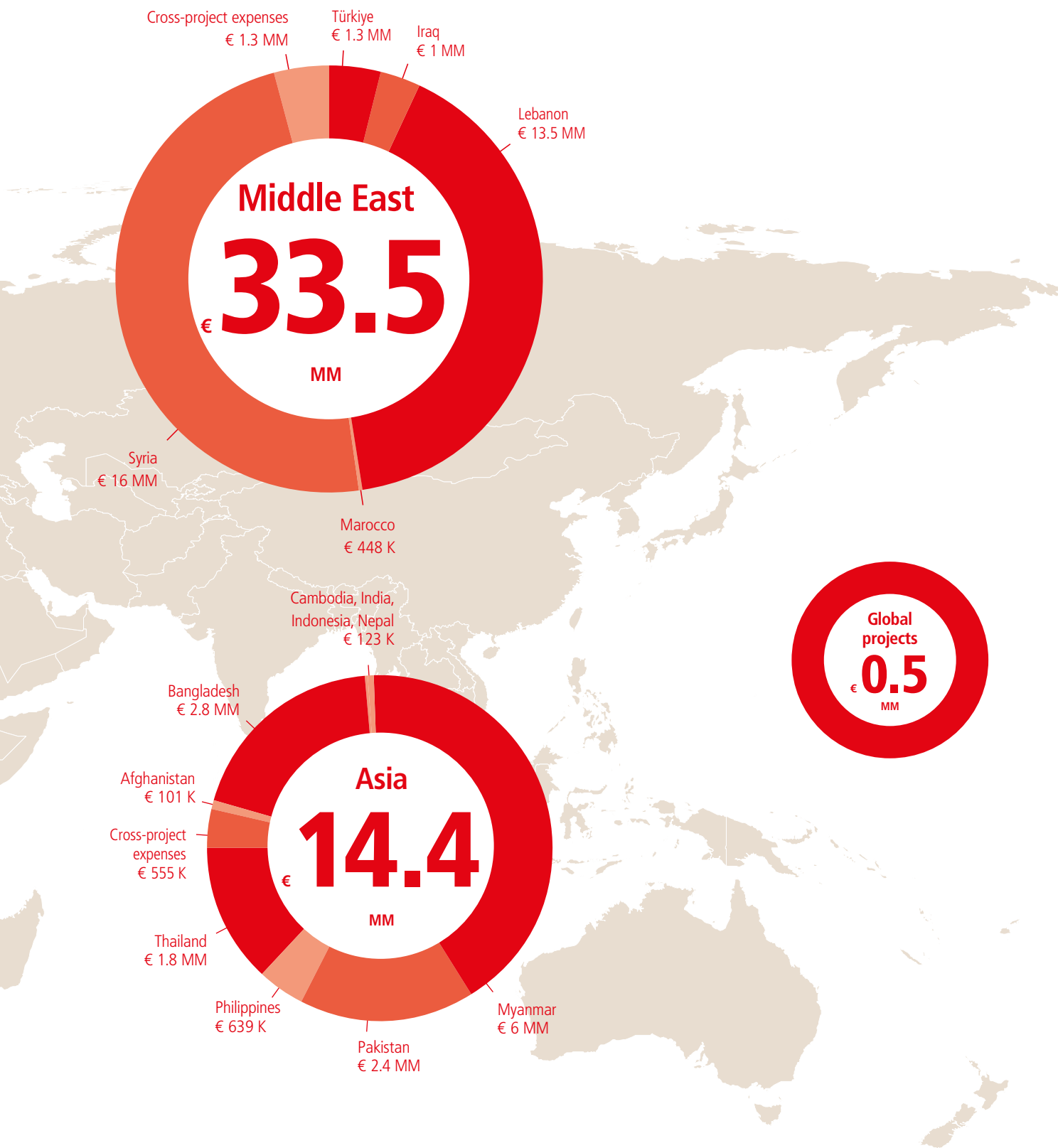
\* Due to adjustments to donor agreements



# Expenses by country and continent\*



\* Please note that minor differences can arise in rounded amounts and percentages due to commercial rounding of figures.



In 2023, Malteser International Europe was able to reach people in need in 35 countries with offers of support. Geographically, the operational focus was on the Middle East, Africa, Asia, Europe, and America. In addition, Malteser International ran global projects, for example on the topics of water, sanitation,

and hygiene (WASH) and disability-inclusive disaster risk reduction. In the Middle East and Africa in particular, program expenditure rose sharply compared to the previous year. In Europe, the Ukraine aid continues to account for a large proportion.

Complete financial facts and figures:  
[bit.ly/ngo-finances-2023](https://bit.ly/ngo-finances-2023)



# Financial statements

Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2023

Complete financial facts  
and figures:

[bit.ly/ngo-finances-2023](https://bit.ly/ngo-finances-2023)

Assets	2023 EUR	previous year EUR
<b>A. Fixed assets</b>		
<b>I. Property, plant and equipment</b>		
1. Other equipment, operating and office equipment	118,415.39	171,041.52
<b>B. Current Assets</b>		
<b>I. Inventories</b>	81,750.98	50,319.44
<b>II. Receivables and other current assets</b>		
1. Trade receivables	136,919.70	10,475.64
2. Receivables from related corporate entities	3,781,227.39	4,641,309.27
3. Receivables from Malteser Hilfsdienst e. V. – internal –	5,589,261.70	2,031,782.96
4. Other assets	81,279,951.66	77,397,304.59
	<b>90,787,360.45</b>	<b>84,080,872.46</b>
<b>III. Cash on hand and bank balances</b>	30,442,653.14	23,729,085.93
	<b>121,311,764.57</b>	<b>107,860,277.83</b>
<b>C. Prepaid expenses and deferred charges</b>	201,200.67	176,885.99
	<b>121,631,380.63</b>	<b>108,208,205.34</b>
<b>Equity and liabilities</b>		
<b>A. Equity</b>		
<b>I. Association assets</b>	6,033,081.18	6,112,186.07
<b>II. Net income for the year (prior year: net loss for the year)</b>	480,583.28	-79,104.89
	<b>6,513,664.46</b>	<b>6,033,081.18</b>
<b>B. Provisions – other provisions</b>	2,481,715.18	1,873,729.98
<b>D. Liabilities</b>		
1. Trade payables	2,126,713.31	1,820,172.80
2. Payables to affiliated companies	0.00	7,408.84
3. Payables to related corporate entities	768,711.28	980,526.18
4. Payables to Malteser Hilfsdienst e. V. – internal –	94,279.47	161,264.53
5. Liabilities related to earmarked allocations	80,649,215.60	77,551,950.12
6. Other liabilities	28,997,081.33	19,780,071.71
	<b>112,636,000.99</b>	<b>100,301,394.18</b>
	<b>121,631,380.63</b>	<b>108,208,205.34</b>

# Income statement for the period from January 1 to December 31, 2023


	2023 EUR	previous year EUR
1. Sales revenue	144,142.94	83,087.02
2. Other operating income	108,355,124.33	95,338,477.06
	<b>108,499,267.27</b>	<b>95,421,564.08</b>
3. Cost of materials		
a) Cost of raw materials, supplies and purchased merchandise	11,422,205.20	15,190,706.78
b) Costs of purchased services	5,811,656.05	4,495,929.34
	<b>17,233,861.25</b>	<b>19,686,636.12</b>
4. Personnel expenses		
a) Wages and salaries	18,493,681.90	14,931,310.91
b) Social security contributions, pensions, and other benefits (of which for pensions € 456,098.54; previous year: € 386,731.28)	1,694,983.93	1,364,377.18
	<b>20,188,665.83</b>	<b>16,295,688.09</b>
5. Amortization and depreciation of fixed intangible assets and property, plant and equipment	79,429.06	77,487.34
6. Other operating expenses	67,145,901.55	51,250,084.16
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>3,851,409.58</b>	<b>8,111,668.37</b>
7. Other interest and similar income	39,767.71	6,386.71
8. Expenses due to addition to liabilities related to earmarked allocations	3,097,265.48	7,921,211.27
9. Interest and similar expenses	22,995.73	60,054.56
<b>10. Earnings before taxes</b>	<b>770,916.08</b>	<b>136,789.25</b>
11. Other taxes	290,332.80	215,894.14
<b>Net income for the year (prior year: net loss for the year)</b>	<b>480,583.28</b>	<b>-79,104.89</b>

## Notes on the main items of the 2023 income statement

1. – 2. The activities of Malteser International Europe are generally financed by public funds and donations. These are reflected in other operating income (see also Financial Report, p. 36). Only a small amount of revenue is generated.
3. – 4. The expenditure of our income is reflected in the expenses of Malteser International. The material costs item includes all expenses for the use of materials (e.g. medical supplies), relief supplies and construction work for reconstruction projects. Expenses for the deployment of local and international employees are shown under personnel expenses. This also includes pro rata personnel costs in the administrative area.
5. Other operating expenses include many items. These include direct project costs like project support from partners, vehicle expenses, and costs for premises, maintenance and servicing. Indirect project expenditures like press and public relations work as well as administrative costs are also included.
6. Other operating expenses include many items. These include direct project costs like project support from partners, vehicle expenses, and costs for premises, maintenance and servicing. Indirect project expenditures like press and public relations work as well as administrative costs are also included.
7. Funds that are not required for aid in the short term are invested. The resulting interest and securities income is reflected in other interest and similar income.
8. Aid projects often have a duration of more than one year. Hence, it is common for earmarked donations not to be fully deployed in the current financial year. The grants still to be used are therefore recognized as liabilities. In the following year, these are released in accordance with their use.
9. Interest expenses generally arise from project funds that are not spent on time.
10. Tax expenses are often determined by tax regulations in the project country.

## Auditor's report

The information printed here has been prepared by Malteser International. The financial report audited by PWC can be found under the following link:

 [bit.ly/ngo-auditorsreport-2023](https://bit.ly/ngo-auditorsreport-2023)



# Our structure

Malteser International is the relief agency of the Sovereign Order of Malta. Malteser International's mission is to improve the health and well-being of suffering and displaced people around the world. In this regard, Malteser International contributes to fulfill the Sovereign Order of Malta's perennial mission "Tuitio fidei et obsequium pauperum" (i. e. nurturing, witnessing, and protecting the faith, and serving the poor and the sick).

Malteser International has two organizational units with their own structures that carry out programs and relief operations: Malteser International Europe (a division of Malteser Hilfsdienst e.V.) based in Cologne, Germany, and Malteser International Americas based in New York, USA.

Both organizations are connected by an international board consisting of experts from the Sovereign Order of Malta worldwide (who hold their position on a voluntary basis). This board is elected by 27 Order of Malta Associations, who also contribute financially to the work of Malteser International.

The international board is elected for a four-year term and anchors Malteser International within the Order of Malta, while guaranteeing its neutrality and independence as a humanitarian organization. The full-time Secretary General is responsible for operational management of the organization.

## Board of Directors Malteser International:

Raphael Vermeir, *President (British Association)*

Freiherr Richard von Steeb, *Vice-President (Grand Priory of Austria)*

Alexandre Sacerdoti, *Treasurer (Swiss Association)*

Douglas Graf von Saurma-Jeltsch, *President Malteser International Europe*

John E. McInerney III, *President Malteser International Americas*

Luca Aragone (*CISOM – Italian Relief Corps of the Order of Malta*)

Cedric Chalret du Rieu (*French Association*)

Mariann Czirjak (*Hungarian Association*)

Fra' Gottfried von Kuhnelt-Leddihn (*Grand Priory of Austria*)

Bishop Marc Stenger, (*Spiritual Advisor*)

## Management Malteser International e. V.:

Clemens Graf von Mirbach-Harff, *Secretary General Malteser International*

Sophia Prinzessin zu Löwenstein, *Deputy Secretary General Malteser International*

## Malteser International Europe / Malteser Hilfsdienst e. V.:

*Executive Board:* Dr. Elmar Pankau (*Chair*), Thomas Kleinert,

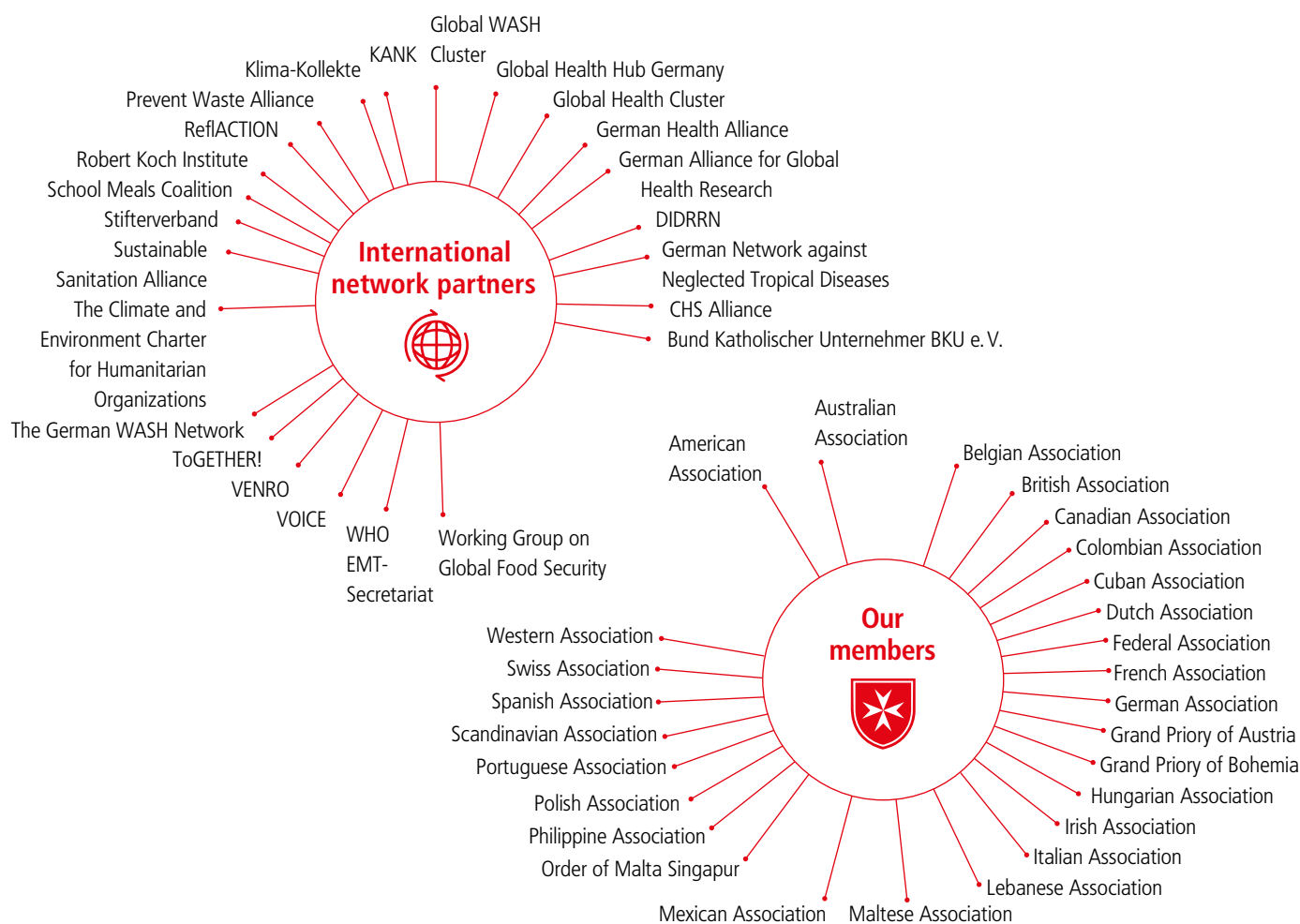
Ulf Reermann, Douglas Graf von Saurma-Jeltsch

## Structure Malteser International:



# International network

Together with our international partner organizations in humanitarian aid and our members, the associations and priories of the Order of Malta worldwide, we form a strong global network – for fast and efficient help for people in need.



## Malteser International – a globally active entity of the Sovereign Order of Malta

**More than 900 years of service for the poor and the sick**

The Sovereign Order of Malta is one of the oldest institutions of the Christian Occident. This religious lay order has 13,500 members worldwide who adhere to the values of Christianity and Christian charity. The Order, headquartered in Rome, maintains diplomatic

relations with 112 states and holds a permanent observer status at the United Nations. In addition, it has permanent missions to European and international organizations. The Order of Malta is neutral, impartial, and apolitical.



# We say thank you!

None of our aid projects would have been possible without our donors. We would like to express our sincere gratitude to our supporters. All of you have contributed to fast, effective and sustainable help for people in need in 2023!

- Alfred Neven DuMont-Stiftung
- Amref Health Africa / Global Fund for Malaria, Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS
- Benebone LLC
- BILD hilft e. V. »Ein Herz für Kinder«
- Burma Hilfe (C. von Henckel-Donnersmarck)
- Christian Blind Mission
- City of Cologne
- Deutsche Investitions- und Entwicklungsgesellschaft (DEG)
- Deutsche Welthungerhilfe e. V. (WHH)
- DG ECHO: European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations
- DG INTPA: Directorate-General for International Partnerships
- Dr. Ulrich Reiter
- Drue and H.J. Heinz Charitable Trust
- Else Kröner-Fresenius-Stiftung
- Embassy of the Sovereign Order of Malta to Kenya
- Erich and Katharina Zinkann Foundation
- European Investment Bank
- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
- Freudenberg Elementary School
- German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ)
- German Embassy in Yangon, Myanmar
- German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
- German Federal Ministry of Health
- Germany's Relief Coalition (ADH)
- German Toilet Organization (GTO)
- GFFO: German Federal Foreign Office (Auswärtiges Amt)
- Globus Foundation
- Global Fund for Forgotten People
- Hilary Galen Weston Foundation
- Hinrich Rave Foundation
- Hungary Helps Agency
- International Organization for Migration
- International Rescue Committee
- Johanniter Unfallhilfe e. V.
- Malteser Hospitaldienst Austria
- Malteser Foundation
- Märklin
- Misereor
- missio – Internationales Katholisches Missionswerk e. V.
- Morpho Foundation
- Myanmar Humanitarian Fund
- Neighbour in Need
- Regine Sixt Kinderhilfe Foundation
- Stiftung RTL – Wir helfen Kindern e. V.
- Save the Children
- Stiftung Indien – Kinderhilfe
- Stiftung Seliger Gerhard
- Technical Mission of the Republic of China (Taiwan) (TTM)
- The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria
- UNICEF: United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
- UN OCHA: Nigeria Humanitarian Fund
- USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA)
- U. S. Department of State – Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration
- World Child Future Foundation
- World Food Program





### ***The Daily Prayer of the Knights of Malta***

*Lord Jesus, thou hast seen fit to  
enlist me for thy service in the  
Order of St. John of Jerusalem.  
I humbly entreat Thee, through the  
intercession of the most holy Virgin  
of Philerme, of St. John the Baptist,  
Blessed Gerard, and all the saints,  
to keep me faithful to the traditions  
of our Order:*

*Be it mine to practice and defend  
the Catholic, the Apostolic, the  
Roman faith against sacrilege.  
Be it mine to practice charity  
towards my neighbors, especially  
the poor and sick.*

*Give me the strength I need, to  
carry out this my resolve, forgetful  
of myself, learning ever from Thy  
Holy Gospel a spirit of deep and  
generous Christian devotion,  
striving ever to promote God's  
Glory, the world's peace, and all  
that may benefit the Order of  
St. John of Jerusalem.*

*Amen.*

### ***Prière quotidienne des chevaliers de Malte***

*Seigneur Jésus, vous qui avez  
daigné m'appeler dans les rangs  
des Chevaliers de Saint-Jean-  
de-Jérusalem, je vous supplie  
humblement, par l'intercession de  
la Très Sainte Vierge de Philerme,  
de saint Jean-Baptiste, du  
bienheureux Gérard et de tous les  
Saints, de m'aider à rester fidèle  
aux traditions de notre Ordre,*

*En pratiquant la religion  
catholique, apostolique et romaine,  
en la défendant contre l'impiété  
et en exerçant la charité envers  
le prochain, avant tout envers les  
pauvres et les malades.*

*Donnez-moi les forces nécessaires  
pour pouvoir mettre en exécution  
ces désirs, selon les enseignements  
de l'Évangile, avec un esprit  
désintéressé et profondément  
chrétien, pour la gloire de Dieu, la  
Paix du monde et le bien de l'ordre  
de Saint-Jean-de-Jérusalem.*

*Amen.*

### ***Oracion de la Orden de Malta***

*Señor Jesús, que te has dignado  
llamarme al rango de los  
Caballeros de San Juan de  
Jerusalén, te suplico humildemente  
por la intercesión de la Santísima  
Virgen María de Philerme, de San  
Juan Bautista, del Beato Gerardo  
y de todos los santos, me ayudes  
a permanecer fiel a las tradiciones  
de nuestra Orden,*

*practicando la Religión Católica,  
Apostólica y Romana, y  
defendiéndola contra la impiedad  
, ejerciendo la caridad con el  
prójimo, ante todo con los pobres  
y enfermos.*

*Dame la fuerza necesaria para  
poder poner por obra estos deseos  
según las enseñanzas del Evangelio,  
con un espíritu desinteresado y  
profundamente cristiano, para la  
gloria de Dios, la paz del mundo y  
el bien de la Orden de San Juan de  
Jerusalén.*

*Amén.*

## **Imprint**

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**Responsible for content:** Clemens Graf von

Mirbach-Harff

**Editorial team:** Elena Becker, Beeke Janson, Kathrin  
Münker

**Date of publication:** July 2024

**Cover photo:** Naw Bu Gaw, 29, resident of

Mae La Oon Camp, Thailand, with her son /

Photo: Jana Aßenbrennerová

**Back cover photo:** Michael Steffen (South Sudan)

Icons: Flaticon

**Layout / Setting / Editing:** [www.mwk-koeln.de](http://www.mwk-koeln.de)

**Printed by:** VD Vereinte Druckwerke GmbH



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now**

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Malteser Hilfsdienst e.V.

Reference:

Malteser International

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