

DR Congo: Prevention
that saves lives

Gaza: Help under high-risk
conditions

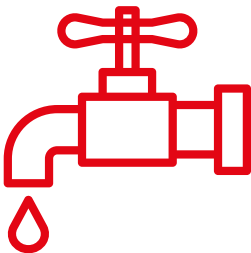
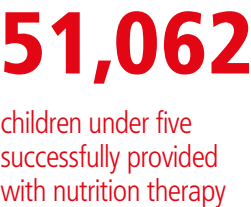
Haiti: Food security despite
chaos and violence

Report



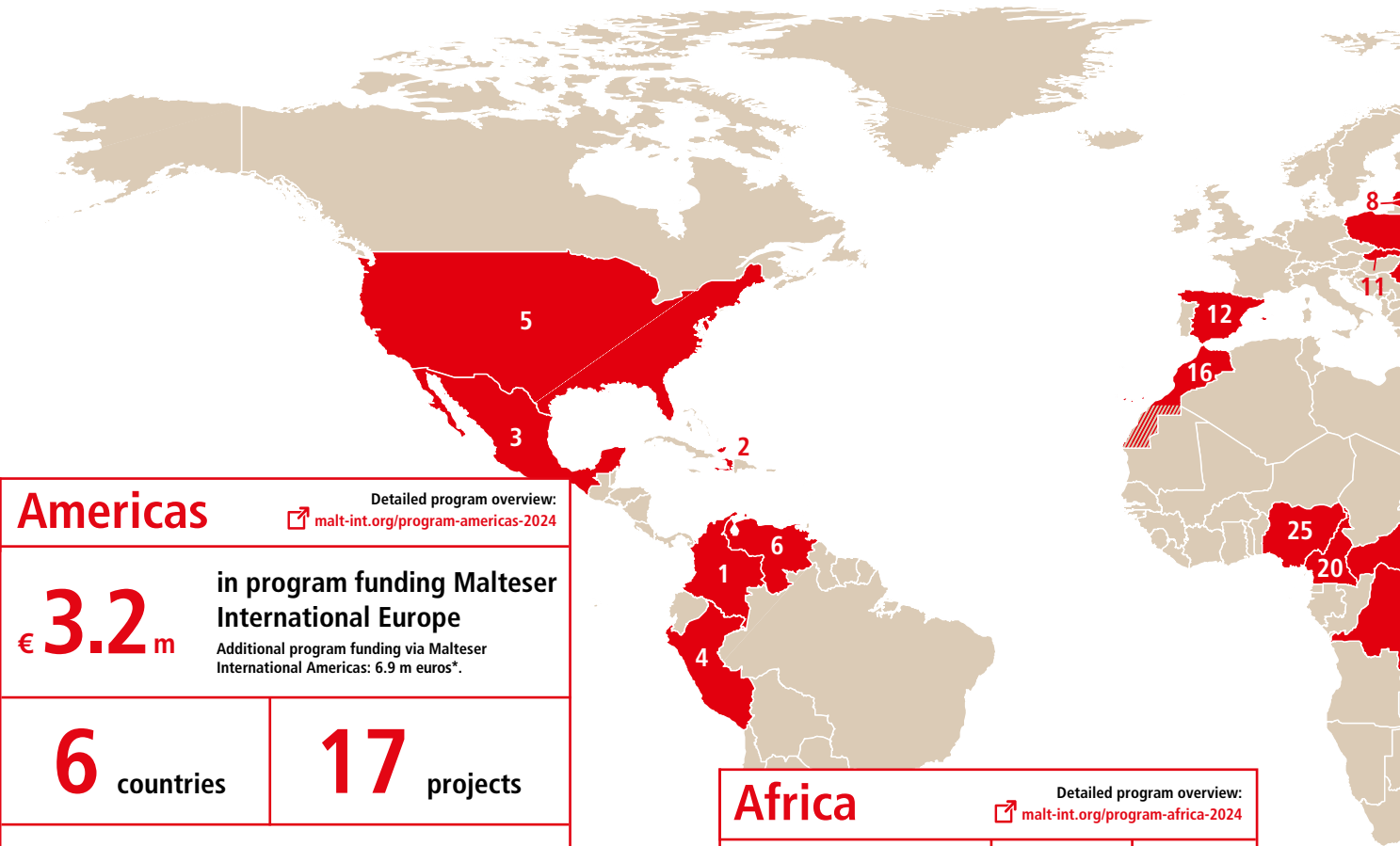
Overview: Key Figures 2024

Figures from MI Europe and MI Americas combined.



2024 Program Overview

In 2024, Malteser International reached 7.2 million people in need through 152 projects across 36 countries. Project spending in Africa, the Americas, Asia, Europe, and the Middle East as well as for global projects totaled around 74.5 million euros. The largest sector of our work in 2024 was in our core sector, health.



Americas

Detailed program overview:
malt-int.org/program-americas-2024

€ 3.2 m

in program funding Malteser International Europe
Additional program funding via Malteser International Americas: 6.9 m euros*.

6 countries

17 projects

Health

Food and nutrition security

Improved living conditions

Disaster risk management and climate change adaptation

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 € 8.7 million after intercompany adjustments. Further information on Malteser International Americas can be found at www.orderofmalterelief.org.

Africa

Detailed program overview:
malt-int.org/program-africa-2024

€ 22.1 m

in program funding

8 countries

48 projects

Health

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)

Food and nutrition security

Displacement

Food/Non food items

Strengthening civil society

Europe

Detailed program overview:
malt-int.org/program-europe-2024

€ **5.8**_m
in program funding

7
countries

18
projects



Health



Food/Non food items



Emergency Relief



Mental health, psychosocial support

Asia

Detailed program overview:
malt-int.org/program-asia-2024

€ **12.6**_m
in program funding

9
countries

51
projects



Health



Improved living conditions



Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)



Food/Non food items



Disaster risk management and climate change adaptation



Displacement

Middle East and North Africa

Detailed program overview:
malt-int.org/program-mena-2024

€ **30.7**_m
in program funding

6
countries

18
projects



Health



Mental health, psychosocial support



Food/Non food items



Strengthening civil society



Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)



Emergency Relief

Project countries in 2024

Americas

- 1 Colombia
- 2 Haiti
- 3 Mexico
- 4 Peru¹
- 5 USA¹
- 6 Venezuela

Europe

- 7 Latvia
- 8 Lithuania
- 9 Poland
- 10 Romania
- 11 Slovakia
- 12 Spain²
- 13 Ukraine

Middle East and North Africa

- 14 Iraq
- 15 Lebanon
- 16 Morocco
- 17 Palestine
- 18 Syria
- 19 Türkiye

Africa

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

Asia

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

MI Regional Headquarters:

Cologne, Germany
 New York, USA

¹ Financing via MI Americas / HQ New York

² Project expenses were only settled in 2025.

Editorial



Dear Readers,

How can we improve the coordination and efficiency of the Sovereign Order of Malta's worldwide relief efforts following major disasters? This question led to the founding of Malteser International (MI) 20 years ago. It was preceded by rapidly improvised relief operations after the tsunami in the Indian Ocean at Christmas 2004.

20 years later, MI has long since established itself as the globally active aid organization of the Sovereign Order of Malta. Our support for people in need is highly professional and constantly being optimized: MI staff have successfully made many hundreds of aid projects happen in various crises since 2005. During this time, the world has changed dramatically: Steadily rising poverty, hunger, and disease led to more than 122 million displaced people worldwide by April 2025. Behind every number is a human fate.

Despite this, the global financing of humanitarian aid is under increasing pressure. This is a development that is affecting all organizations in this field – including us. Again, we must ask ourselves: How can we organize our work so that it is efficient and sustainable? Our answer to this is a targeted consolidation, which we have started to implement. In future, we will focus on our core sector health as well as on food and nutrition security, and WASH (water, sanitation, hygiene), supplemented by emergency aid in the event of a disaster. We will adapt our organizational structures accordingly. With the help of these measures, we will be able to further develop MI and carry it and its vital work into the future.

I would like to thank everyone who supports our work for people in need – today and in the next 20 years and more to come. Thank you for your commitment, your dedication, and, especially in these times, your faith.

May God bless you and all the people we serve!

Yours sincerely

Clemens Graf von Mirbach-Harff
General Secretary of Malteser International



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"We must respond to challenges strategically."

The new Grand Hospitaller of the Sovereign Order of Malta about his worldwide work and the role of Malteser International

H. E. Dr. Josef D. Blotz was appointed Grand Hospitaller of the Sovereign Order of Malta on February 18, 2025. He is a former Major General of the German Army. In his last position, he served as Deputy Commander of the Eurocorps in Strasbourg (France). Dr. Blotz's responsibilities as Grand Hospitaller are similar to those of a Minister of Health, Social Affairs, Humanitarian Action, and International Cooperation. He coordinates and supervises the initiatives of the Grand Priorities, National Associations, and other entities of the Order around the world involved in charitable and humanitarian actions. He ensures especially that Christian principles of care and human dignity are respected. The Grand Hospitaller also serves as the Patron of Malteser International (MI), is a member of the MI General Assembly, and invited to attend all meetings of the MI Board of Directors.

Your Excellency, how did you come to join the Order of Malta, and what makes the Order so special?

In the early 1990s, I met several Knights of the Order, and a year later I was given the opportunity to take part in the annual pilgrimage to Lourdes organized by the Order of Malta Delegation in the Archdiocese of Cologne. That experience changed my life. Being admitted to the German Association, also in Cologne, and later being elected to the Sovereign Council just over two years ago were certainly key milestones. But even more formative were the impressions I gained in Lourdes and at home of the lived charism of the Order, our very DNA: "Tuitio Fidei et Obsequium Pauperum"*.

When I am asked what will hold the Order and its many works and services together for another thousand years, despite all the inevitable changes, I answer: It is not structures, strategies, constitutions, or social comfort zones.



As Grand Hospitaller, H. E. Dr. Josef D. Blotz coordinates the global works and services of the Sovereign Order of Malta. He also visits Malteser International projects in his role as patron of MI.

PHOTO: ORDER OF MALTA/NICUSOR FLOROAICA

It is the poor and the sick. They, and our service to them, are what make the Order of Malta so special and so enduringly relevant.

What experiences from your time in the German Armed Forces and the Eurocorps support you in your current role?

As a soldier, one is inherently committed to the ethos of service – especially in challenging situations. This is something that is also expressed right at the beginning of the Prayer of the Order: "Lord Jesus, thou hast seen fit to enlist me for thy service in the Order of St. John of Jerusalem." This idea, combined with

many years of experience working in international contexts – often in crisis and conflict zones – helps me greatly in carrying out the complex responsibilities of the Grand Hospitaller. This role, too, requires effective communication and action in international and often highly complex operational environments.

What are your current strategic priorities?

In short: improving communication and coordination across our global works and services – our unique network of the Order. That's why I travel extensively. As Grand Hospitaller, I can also help draw additional awareness to our projects through these visits. My key areas of focus include our humanitarian aid in Ukraine, the Holy Land – with the Holy Family Hospital in Bethlehem and the medical project in Gaza – and strengthening our disaster response capacities. The recent earthquake in Myanmar showed just how important good preparation is, and how reliably Malteser International responds. That makes MI one of my most significant supports in carrying out the role of Grand Hospitaller.

Why is the work in Gaza a priority project for you?

Together with the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem, we are addressing immense humanitarian needs with the Gaza project. The war affected people are in a situation that many people can no longer really grasp from the news and have come to regard as hopeless. We are currently laying the groundwork for a container clinic to provide basic medical care. However, to move forward with the next concrete steps, we urgently need an improved security situation, open borders, and additional funding. There is always hope: We must not forget the people in the Holy Land, where the roots of our Order lie.

The current global situation is complex and challenging. How can the Order of Malta respond?

We must respond to challenges strategically and proactively. Protracted crises, growing numbers of people in need, and increasing skepticism about the value and impact of humanitarian aid – these are realities we face. Across all our works, we are responding by continuously developing our concepts and structures. Only then can we truly say: We are modern by tradition.

“These times and challenges, here and now, are our calling. We are called to respond without hesitation. Malteser International with its global network, its dedicated and experienced staff, and its deep roots in our Order can be seen as a pioneer in this regard.”

H. E. Dr. Josef D. Blotz,
Grand Hospitaller of the Sovereign Order of Malta

As much as we might wish to serve our neighbors in more peaceful and less critical times, this, here and now, is our calling. We are called to respond, without hesitation. Malteser International, with its global network, its passionate and experienced staff, and its deep roots in our centuries-old Order, can be seen as a pioneer in this regard. Our charism – “*Tuitio Fidei et Obsequium Pauperum*”^{*} – is also a unique feature that sets MI apart from many other humanitarian NGOs. Even in many non-Christian cultures, this holistic approach, grounded in faith, builds trust and opens doors.

Read an extended version of this interview here:

[🔗 malt-int.org/interview-grand-hospitaller-2025](https://malt-int.org/interview-grand-hospitaller-2025)

^{*} Keep the Faith and serve the poor



Destructive force of nature in Bangladesh: After cyclone "Remal", local partner organizations supported by MI are helping with reconstruction. Read more about this from page 12.

PHOTO: MUKTI FOUNDATION/MALTESER INTERNATIONAL

Emergency Relief: Working in crisis mode

Floods, forest fires, hurricanes, and conflicts: the frequency of natural disasters and the appalling magnitude of wars and violence in 2024 once again showed us the challenges facing the humanitarian system. The state of crisis has long since become permanent. To continue to provide targeted and effective aid, Malteser International (MI) must increase the capacity of its emergency aid, act with greater foresight, and pool capacities in fragile regions.

Particular attention is needed towards strengthening the resilience of local structures and ensuring that our teams and partner organizations are well equipped. The people on the ground must always be able to be the first to provide help after disasters (see p. 13).

In 2024, a massive number of people were affected by flooding and storms in Asian countries. Read

more about our aid following the flash floods in Afghanistan and the devastating cyclones in Bangladesh and Myanmar from p. 14 onwards.

The escalating violence in the Middle East, the conflict-induced hunger crisis in Sudan, and the ongoing war in Ukraine also continue to affect millions of people. Providing aid under life-threatening circumstances with limited political support is a special challenge. At the same time, we need to work sensitively to ensure that our aid does not cause unintended additional harm.

The Middle East offers several examples of these challenges. Only the extraordinary collaboration of the Sovereign Order of Malta with the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem made it possible to bring aid shipments to the sealed-off north of the Gaza Strip from Summer 2024 (see p. 10). And only the immense courage and determination of our colleagues in Lebanon ensured that their aid continued even during a period of intense hostilities in their country.

In the face of increasing global risks and crises, the need for humanitarian aid is greater than ever and will likely continue to rise. We all must keep our hope and courage and continue to stand up for people in need.



“The people on the ground are the first to provide help after disasters. We need to continue to be a strong partner for them, with capacities and expertise, if they need us.”

Oliver Hochedez, Head of Emergency Relief Team at Malteser International

PHOTO: MALTESER INTERNATIONAL

The extent of the destruction in the Gaza Strip is indescribable. According to UN estimates, 90 percent of all buildings have been damaged and more than 50.000 women, men and children have so far been killed in the course of the conflict.

PHOTO: MALTESER INTERNATIONAL

Gaza and Lebanon: “The situation can hardly be put into words.”

MI's support in the Middle East in 2024 Lebanon



137,633
hot
meals
distributed



203,308
medical
treatments
provided



10,104
emergency aid
packages
distributed

Palestine



200 tons
of food
delivered
(Gaza)



139,500
people
reached directly
with aid



1
hospital in the
West Bank financi-
ally supported

The escalation of violence in the Holy Land since October 2023 has caused great suffering among the people. Under the most difficult conditions, Malteser International (MI) was able to work with local partner organizations in 2024 to bring aid to the people in Lebanon and Gaza.

“The situation of the population in Gaza can hardly be put into words. There are almost no buildings left intact. What the people there have had to endure since October 2023 is shocking and absolutely tragic,” says H. E. Fra’ Alessandro de Franciscis, then Grand Hospitaller of the Sovereign Order of Malta, after his visit to the “Holy Family” parish in Gaza City. In May 2024, the former Grand Hospitaller and H. B. Pierbattista Cardinal

Pizzaballa, Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, visited the besieged city. Together with Emergency Relief experts from MI, they brought an urgently needed first delivery of food kits to the people in Gaza.

After this, a team from MI expanded this aid together with the *Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem*: In 2024, six relief transports with food reached the people in the north of Gaza while at the same time planning for healthcare services was underway. “The aid deliveries are an enormous achievement that our team has accomplished despite incredible difficulties. We now stand ready to begin our medical aid mission as soon as access to Gaza is possible again,” says Clemens Graf von Mirbach-Harff, Secretary General of Malteser



Symbolic handing over of the first aid packages between the Latin Patriarchate and the Order of Malta in the parish church in Gaza during a mass in May 2024. Center left: Fra' Alessandro de Franciscis, then Grand Hospitaller of the Order of Malta, center right: H. B. Pierbattista Cardinal Pizzaballa, Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem

PHOTO: LPJ.ORG

International. The new Grand Hospitaller, H. E. Dr. Josef D. Blotz, who was elected in February 2025, also considers this project to be one of the most important for his future work (see also interview on p. 6).

Lebanon: Aid despite hostilities

In Lebanon, the situation took a catastrophic turn during the Fall of 2024: The escalation of the war between Israel and Hezbollah led to a mass population displacement in September: "Our colleagues from the Order of Malta Lebanon risked their lives to continue providing medical care to people affected by the war in Lebanon," says Nayla El-Khoury, MI's Country Representative for Lebanon. Healthcare is a core focus of MI's work with the Order of Malta Lebanon (OML).

With the support of MI, OML operates seven mobile medical units and eleven health centers. Four additional mobile units specialized in dental care, pediatrics, gynecology, and cardiology will start their work in 2025. After the hostilities increased in September 2024, health centers and their staff were temporarily relocated from embattled regions to more secure parts of the country, where many people had fled. There, they provided medical assistance in emergency shelters: volunteers distributed blankets, hygiene and sanitary products; and the mobile kitchens provided the internally displaced people with hot meals.

Looking ahead

When the ceasefire between Israel and Hezbollah came into effect on November



Non-stop packing: A total of over 200 tons of aid was delivered to the people in Gaza.

PHOTO: OMAR ISHAK AL K



In 2024, employees of the mobile community kitchens “The Sharing Wheel” distributed more than 137,000 meals to locals and refugees directly where they were needed.

PHOTO: ORDER OF MALTA LEBANON



Some of the mobile medical units had to adjust their routes daily to continue to bring urgently needed healthcare to their patients safely.

PHOTO: LAMA CHIDIAC

27th, 2024, the mobile medical units were able to resume their work in the south of Lebanon. Although the situation remains tense, there is great hope for a lasting end to the fighting. The outlook is less optimistic for the people in Gaza, who currently have little hope that their catastrophic humanitarian situation will improve.

What will happen next in the region? Dr. Abdalla Khoury, doctor at the mobile clinic in the Akkar region of Lebanon says: “I have been working at the Malteser International mobile clinic in Akkar since 2014. We make an effort for every patient. We must continue to act with hope.”

Fatwa Sleiman, 49, fled from Syria to Lebanon in 2013 and has been a patient at the mobile clinic for eight years

PHOTO: LAMA CHIDIAC



“Malteser International’s mobile clinics not only helped me with my healthcare, but also provided me with psychosocial support, which helped me develop and work on myself.”

Emergency Team: Anchoring Capacities Locally

In the event of a sudden onset disaster, local helpers are always first on site. For them to work as best as possible, strong local structures and knowledge are essential. To help make sure these are in place, Malteser International (MI) offers trainings – for example a workshop for health workers in Uganda, which was organized in cooperation with the WHO and the Robert Koch Institute in October 2024. Over four days, 41 doctors, nurses, and laboratory staff learned about logistical preparation for emergency situations through theoretical knowledge and practical exercises. The training also further developed their skills in the clinical care of patients.

In the event of a crisis, MI can rely on highly qualified additional specialists. Towards this end, MI has a pool of emergency relief experts (PoE) composed of trained and experienced emergency personnel. Their capacities and expertise are regularly put to use in humanitarian aid missions in crisis regions around the world. Like Prof. Dr. Frank Marx, who traveled to Cairo on behalf of the EUCPM



Prof. Dr. med. Frank Marx supported the WHO in Cairo in coordinating medical teams for their missions in Gaza.

PHOTO: MALTESER INTERNATIONAL

(European Civil Protection Mechanism) in August 2024 to coordinate medical teams for their missions in Gaza as deputy head of a twelve-member WHO team.

Specialized units for effective aid

In addition to the pool of experts, MI has further specialized emergency aid units: At the end of 2024, MI achieved recertification of its emergency medical

team (EMT 1) by the WHO for a further five years. This specialized response team can be deployed to crisis areas within 72 hours and can bring a self-sufficient tent health station with them. In this way, they provide life-saving medical aid as fast as possible and support local teams and health structures.

This MI emergency response team, together with members of the expert pool and specialists from the country offices, also set up a unit specializing in infection prevention and control (IPC). This joint conceptual work with MI country offices has also strengthened IPC expertise at local level. In the event of an outbreak of an infectious disease, MI can now deploy the highly qualified IPC team as a supplement to the EMT or as an independent unit. Following a fixed assessment scheme, it quickly initiates or – if necessary – optimizes processes to contain the infection, for example by setting up quarantine measures in hospitals. In this way, the spread of deadly diseases can be contained quickly and efficiently.

MI's Emergency Aid in 2024



144
people
received shelter
in Morocco



76,734
emergency relief
kits distributed
worldwide



15,105
people received
cash assistance
in Africa



10
local disaster
management
groups established
in India



49,079
winter, hygiene
and food kits
distributed in
Ukraine



3.2
million people
supported
worldwide with
emergency aid



The MI-Emergency Medical Team after successful recertification by the WHO.

PHOTO: MALTESER INTERNATIONAL



Heavy rainfall led to devastating flooding in the provinces of Baglan, Takhar, and Badakshan in northern Afghanistan. In total, over 60,000 people were affected by the floods.

PHOTO: UNION AID/MALTESER INTERNATIONAL

Asia: Support after the Floods

MI's support in Asia in 2024



888,384
people
directly
supported



2,890
food
kits
distributed



25,445
people
supported
with cash



2
boats handed
over to
villages



24,860
hygiene
kits
distributed



211
houses
built or
restored

Cyclones, flash floods, mudslides: In Asia, extreme weather events cause more natural disasters than anywhere else in the world. In 2024, again, millions of people were directly affected by the consequences.

Afghanistan was hit particularly hard in 2024. People here are suffering from an already catastrophic humanitarian situation. According to UN OCHA, more than half of the population is dependent on aid. In the first half of the year, northern Afghanistan was hit repeatedly by heavy rainfall with floods, flash floods, and

mudslides – with devastating consequences: Over 350 people died and thousands were left homeless. In July 2024, Malteser International (MI) and its Afghan partner organization *Union Aid* distributed food, hygiene articles, and relief supplies to particularly vulnerable households.

Cyclones and flash floods destroy livelihoods

Cyclones are not uncommon during the monsoon season in Asia, but they are becoming more severe due to climate change. In **Bangladesh**, cyclone “Remal”



Reconstruction of destroyed villages in the southwest of Bangladesh after cyclone "Remal". Approximately 4.6 million people were affected by the cyclone.

PHOTO: MUKTI FOUNDATION/MALTESER INTERNATIONAL



More than 400 people died when typhoon "Yagi" hit Myanmar.

PHOTO: MALTESER INTERNATIONAL

caused devastation and flooding at the end of May 2024. In some areas, the entire harvest was destroyed. In partnership with the local organizations *Mukti Foundation* and *CDD*, MI worked with the residents of 34 affected villages in the southwest of Bangladesh to rebuild houses, latrines, and stables.

Also in **Bangladesh**, the world's largest refugee camp (Kutupalong) and the Cox's Bazar region were flooded in the summer after days of heavy rain. In Kutupalong, MI worked with local partner *GK* to distribute clothing and mosquito nets, and supported local partner *PHALS* to provide food to affected households in Eidgaon and Pekua townships.

In September, typhoon "Yagi" caused devastating floods and landslides in **Myanmar**. After the floodwaters receded, debris and mud piled up as high as two meters (six feet) in some areas. Roads and bridges were severely damaged, and hundreds of acres of farmland destroyed. In total, approximately 20,000 people were affected in eastern Shan State. MI distributed relief goods including hygiene kits, chlorine tablets, ceramic water filters, and cash assistance.

Better prepared for future catastrophes

"Disaster risk reduction is an integral part of all our projects. The goal in the future will also be to better predict impending extreme weather events through precise analysis, allowing preventive measures to be taken," says Cordula Wasser Head of the Asia Department at MI.

An example from **Pakistan** shows how preventive measures can work. Many residents of Chitral District are still heavily affected by the effects of severe flooding in 2022. MI is working with communities and its Pakistani partner organization, *WEO*, to protect vulnerable households from recurrent flooding by building dams and floodwalls.



Rita Halder, 46, from Tala, District Sakhira, Bangladesh

PHOTO: MUKTI FOUNDATION/MALTESER INTERNATIONAL

"Cyclone Remal destroyed my house. The government didn't help me. And I didn't know what to do, how to repair the house on my own. MI and Mukti Foundation helped me to rebuild my house and provided all the necessary materials."



Despite the many crises, life goes on in Haiti – but the humanitarian situation continues to deteriorate. Malteser International (MI) supports small farmers and families with livestock and other humanitarian interventions. Like Ismael Germain from Lièvre, who received sheep and training in husbandry. Find out what else MI is doing in Haiti to fight hunger and malnutrition (see page 22).

PHOTO: MALTESER INTERNATIONAL AMERICAS

Resilience: Working for a Better Future



According to the UN, 363 million people worldwide – more than the entire population of the USA – were dependent on humanitarian aid in 2024. In view of the consequences of the numerous global and regional crises, this figure is likely to continue to rise. It is therefore crucial that people living in affected regions can build resilience against future problems.

“We trust in the skills of the people who work with us and ensure that they are not only heard but play a decisive role in shaping the support measures that will affect their future.”

Kai Pohlmann, Head of Organizational Development and Strategy

PHOTO: MALTESER INTERNATIONAL

To help achieve this, our work is based on a holistic approach that combines measures from different sectors. In accordance with our centuries-old hospitaller tradition, our priority is health. To foster supportive conditions for a life in health and dignity, we also focus on water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) as well as food and nutrition

security (FNS). Integrating measures from all three sectors helps to create a strong basis for building resilience in future crises and disasters.

The constant and trusting exchange with local communities ensures that our work is effective and sustainable. The people we support are actively involved in shaping the relevant measures, which creates a strong sense of self-efficacy from the outset. This strengthens both individual and community resilience.

In Ukraine, for example, we are working with our partner organizations to strengthen the mental health of medical staff in highly contested regions. In this way, we also support the health system as a whole (see page 22). Through our Global WASH program, we work with people whose WASH needs are underserved and support local governments to improve WASH services (see page 26). In Haiti (see page 24) and the DR Congo (see page 18) local Community Health Workers trained and supported by MI are passing on their knowledge to thousands of people in their communities. Through this collaboration, health-related and structural challenges can be detected early or prevented altogether, because up-to-date knowledge is a decisive factor for healthy and resilience-building living conditions – both for individuals and whole communities.

Dr. Jean Marie Jakwomg'a treats the 78-year-old widow Uinya Ozerina, who came to the clinic in Angumu with severe schistosomiasis. Here she receives the schistosomiasis medication Praziquantel, which MI provides to the clinic.

PHOTO: NYOKABI KAHURA

DR Congo: Better Health with One Health

MI's support in the DR Congo in 2024



405
health
facilities
supported



3,197,005
patients were
given access to
treatment



10,901
dogs vaccinated
against
rabies



127,565
people given
access to safe
water



43,919
malnourished
children provided
with therapy



317,630
people reached
with Emergency
Relief

Every year, hundreds of thousands of people in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DR Congo) are affected by dangerous diseases transmitted by animals. Malteser International (MI) has been working in the DR Congo since 1996. In 2021, this work was awarded with the renowned Else Kröner-Fresenius Award for Development Cooperation in Medicine. The prize money went towards a project to combat infectious diseases using the One Health approach. What has been achieved since then?

What is the One Health approach? "The One Health approach is of the utmost importance. It emphasizes that we must

consider the health of humans, animals, and their shared environment holistically. If these interrelationships are properly considered, many more diseases can be prevented," says Dr. Jean Marie Jakwomg'a, a doctor at a clinic supported by MI in the Territoire de Mahagi in Ituri province. In this region, MI has been implementing the One Health project co-funded by the Else Kröner-Fresenius prize money since 2021. Serious infectious diseases are common here, including several so-called zoonotic diseases – i. e. diseases that can be transmitted or caused by animals – in particular rabies, schistosomiasis, and even plague.



Veterinarian Abemani Jawiyambe Patrice, 32, vaccinates dogs against rabies: protection for animals and humans. Now, their owners also do not have to pay for preventive rabies treatment if their dogs scratch or bite someone.

PHOTO: NYOKABI KAHURA



Kayeny Rutha, 45, is a Community Health Worker from Muguma: "Malteser International has provided the village with a safe water source and latrines. The cases of schistosomiasis have decreased. Moreover, in the past, not a month went by without five to six cases of cholera or typhoid. That is no longer a problem."

PHOTO: NYOKABI KAHURA

Uinya Ozerina, 78, patient in a hospital supported by MI in Angumu

PHOTO: NYOKABI KAHURA



Breaking the cycle of infection

To reduce the number of people who fall sick or even die, it is important to break the cycle of infections, especially in the case of zoonotic diseases. Schistosomiasis is a parasitic disease caused by trematode worms whose larvae enter the body via contaminated water. Rabies is transmitted by bites or scratches from an infected dog, and plague by infected rat fleas and other sources. One Health measures are crucial in preventing transmission in all of these cases: In 2024, for example, MI supported the rabies vaccination of more than 10,000 dogs in order to protect human health. In

"When I fell ill, I had surgery at another health center. Two years later, I was still sick. Finally, I came here to this bigger hospital. They told me that I had schistosomiasis. Now I'm much better, even though my stomach still hurts. I get medication three times a day, and they check to see if my condition is improving. I am going to be well again, and hope to return home soon."



When Christivie (third from the left), three and a half, showed symptoms of the plague, his aunt immediately took him to the nearest health center. MI provided him and his extended family – 40 people – with free-of-charge medication. The family home was also treated for rat fleas, which can transmit the plague.

PHOTO: NYOKABI KAHURA

communities affected by plague, specially trained health workers regularly take action against rat fleas. MI facilitated information campaigns and installed potable water connections in communities on Lake Albert as well as in several schools. These WASH (water, sanitation, and hygiene) measures have significantly improved protection against schistosomiasis and at the same time helped curb the spread of other diseases such as cholera.

Achieving more together

MI teams collaborate with local stakeholders in order to make sure that the improvement to conditions in Mahagi is sustainable. Among other things, MI fosters the networking of healthcare

facilities, supplies medicine, and subsidizes treatment costs – making a visit to the doctor more affordable for millions of people. In addition, an early warning system for epidemic prevention and a crisis response plan are now in use, which the authorities and communities have developed together with MI.

“We were also in constant contact with the people directly affected by illness and lack of healthcare, in order to adapt measures such as subsidy levels and training, but also the content of information campaigns to their needs, prior knowledge, and skills,” says Johannes Schildknecht, Program Manager for the DR Congo at MI. The

information campaigns support the success of all measures: Those who are informed can better avoid infection, recognize symptoms, know when a visit to the doctor is necessary, and to whom outbreaks of infection must be reported. The information is disseminated by members of the community who have been trained as “Community Health Workers.” One of them is Kayeny Rutha, 45, from the village of Muguma: “I took part in an awareness session organized by MI together with officials from our health zone and staff from local health centers. Thanks to the information I received, I was able to train other community members, which has led to many positive changes in our village.”

Jonas Dolo: “Schistosomiasis treatment is important for the whole community”

Report of a Medical Assistant for MI

My name is Jonas Dolo. I'm from the Nyarambe region in the DR Congo and have been working as an Assistant for Medical Coordination for Malteser International since 2019. A profession in the medical field has been my great passion since I was 10 or 11 years old. Back then, I had tonsillitis and was taken to a health center. A nurse greeted me, carried out the diagnosis and treatment. I was very impressed by her good work. About two years earlier, my younger brother had contracted malaria and died. His death had really traumatized me. After my own treatment, I firmly believed that if he had received the same good care, he would have survived. Back then, I immediately wanted to become a nurse as well, to help my family and my community. No other family member should die like my brother. When I was old enough, I started training as a nurse. I first came into contact with MI in 2003 when I was an intern and took part in a training about plague, held by MI staff.



In conversations and community trainings, Jonas Dolo, 41, informs others about the dangers posed by parasites and viruses in natural freshwater sources. Nevertheless, for many people, the use of river water in everyday life is hardly avoidable.

PHOTO: NYOKABI KAHURA

In my current profession, I deal a lot with schistosomiasis. Fast treatment is important for the patients as well as for the entire community. People with schistosomiasis can hardly work anymore, and students are often absent from school. Those who do not receive timely treatment can become seriously ill. If that happens, the therapy costs

often skyrocket, sometimes causing economic ruin for entire families. In the past, medication for schistosomiasis was supplied by the government, but only irregularly and for students aged five to 14. Then, the One Health project was launched in 2021. MI is now working with several partners and local institutions to supply the health centers regularly with the relevant medication – called Praziquantel – and with rapid schistosomiasis tests.

When I was 15 years old, I contracted schistosomiasis myself. We always used to play in the water back then, in the stream near our farm. Fortunately, I was able to get treatment early on and recovered. However, I can well understand the patients' pain, and I'm glad to be part of a team that supports my community in the fight against schistosomiasis and other diseases.

Jonas Dolo organizes training for clinic staff on the use of microscopes, rapid tests, and other equipment that MI provides to the referral hospital in Angumu.

PHOTO: NYOKABI KAHURA



506 medical staff from 32 healthcare facilities took part in 39 two-day group training sessions in 2024. "Doctor & War" is part of MI's "Nexus" project, which has been running nationwide since 2023 and combines acute and long-term support.

PHOTO: MHS/MALTESER INTERNATIONAL



Ukraine: Strengthening the Healthcare System

February 2022: The Russian army occupies the small town of Trostyanets in the south of Sumy oblast, 30 km from the Russian border. The hospital is shelled, there is no gas, electricity, or water. Many people flee at great risk to their lives. **March 2024:** Trostyanets is recaptured, and numerous residents return to the heavily damaged city, including doctors and nursing staff. Many of them are traumatized. **But the work must go on, as in all healthcare facilities in Ukraine. We support those who keep the system running under immense challenges.**

Since 2022, medical staff across Ukraine have often been working at the risk of their own lives – and their mental health. According to the WHO, attacks on healthcare facilities even increased further from the end of 2023. In 2024, Malteser International (MI), together with local partner organizations, put a focus on strengthening the

psychological resilience of medical staff – and thus the entire healthcare system.

Award-winning work

The "Doctor & War" program implemented by MI's Ukrainian partner organization *Mental Health Service (MHS)* plays an important role here. In this program, doctors and nursing staff can learn acute psychological rehabilitation measures such as techniques for burnout prevention and coping with stress and anxiety. In 2024, the program's activities focused on the Sumy oblast, since Trostyanets and other cities here were once again hit particularly hard by the war. As of March 2024, the number of partially damaged healthcare facilities in the Sumy region had reached 32. Three medical facilities were destroyed completely. "At the moment, our doctors cannot take

MI's support in Ukraine in 2024



55,008
people reached
directly with
health projects



41,522
persons
psychosocially
supported



28,418
hygiene
kits
distributed



18,779
food
parcels
distributed



43
health
facilities
supported



222,998
people
reached with
aid in total



In 2024, MHS received an award for outstanding achievements in the “Doctor & War” program. It was awarded by the Ukrainian program “How are you?”, an initiative supported by First Lady Olena Zelenska.

PHOTO: MHS/MALTESER INTERNATIONAL



Over 6,200 young Ukrainians, community experts, and staff members of local institutions took part in courses on medical and psychological first aid.

PHOTO: MALTESER UKRAINE

sick leave for mental health problems. Participation in the program enables medical staff to remain fit for work, prevents further mental health problems, and thus maintains patient care,” says Oksana Ivantsova, who is responsible for “Doctor & War” in Sumy oblast at MHS.

Help that means more

As further support, MI works with partners to deliver medical supplies and provide training on evidence-based mental health techniques. In addition, Malteser Ukraine in particular offers courses in medical and psychological first aid. These courses are also important in the context of mental health: “First aid is not just knowledge, but a culture of mutual support. The ability and decision to help means choosing life,” says Pavlo Titko, Head of Malteser Ukraine.



Vita, participant in “Doctor & War” and senior nurse at the Trostyanets Primary Medical Care Center

PHOTO: MHS/MALTESER INTERNATIONAL

“What we learned in the training sessions had a direct impact on my health. My feeling of heaviness disappeared, and I wanted to go to work again, which I love very much. I became more sociable and friendly. My sleep improved and I felt refreshed. I also teach my patients the stress management techniques I learned during the course.”



Haiti: Fighting Hunger

Gina Mélé (middle) took part in a cooking demonstration in Baradères and shares her knowledge: "To eat well, a person must eat foods that give strength, foods that build the body, and foods that protect the body."

PHOTO: MALTESER INTERNATIONAL AMERICAS

MI's support in Haiti in 2024



625
children successfully treated for malnutrition



7,720
people supported with food and nutrition measures



770
people received cash assistance



7
health centers supported with nutrition therapy



26,420
persons gained access to safe water



43,503
people reached by all activities in Haiti

The political upheaval and escalating gang violence since March 2024 have once again drastically worsened living conditions for the people of Haiti. Closed borders and road blockages are hindering the availability and circulation of essential goods – even humanitarian relief goods have been confiscated or stolen by gangs. Amidst the chaos, teams from Malteser International (MI) are working as hard as possible to maintain vital relief efforts.

For over a year now, Haiti's population has had to rely almost exclusively on their own resources, and those are very scarce: According to the World Food Program, more than 4.97 million



The nutritional status of 8,293 children was checked in the health centers supported by MI in 2024.

PHOTO: MALTESER INTERNATIONAL AMERICAS

Haitians were affected by food insecurity in March 2024. “Hunger is growing since the food production cannot respond to the increasing needs in regions where many people have fled to,” reports Yolette Etienne, Partner and Program Coordinator for MI in Haiti and a native Haitian herself. According to IOM, over one million people are displaced within the country – more than half of them are children. Etienne adds: “As a culture, we never lose hope. But the dark is very deep right now.” Working together with those most affected by hunger and malnutrition, MI has two projects in Haiti focusing on food security and nutrition.

Identifying Need

While widespread child malnutrition is a heartbreaking reality in Haiti, it is often challenging to identify the families most affected. MI works directly with community health centers to reach children as well as pregnant and breastfeeding women. In this way, MI’s staff is able to identify and support more people with essential medicines and nutritional supplements. In 2024, selected households also received cash assistance to bridge particularly insecure food situations.

Tools for a Healthier Future

To prevent malnutrition, MI empowers families and communities with the knowledge and resources to achieve self-sufficiency through nutritious food. Cooking demonstrations teach participants the essentials of healthy eating and how to make the most of locally available ingredients. MI also equips communities and small-scale farmers with seeds and livestock as well as tools and expertise. This enables them to use husbandry, increase yields, and create family and community gardens with a diverse mixture of crops that satisfy their nutritional needs. By selling surplus crops and meat locally, families can strengthen both their income and the health of their communities. At every step, MI places a particular emphasis on equipping communities with the tools and know-how to sow a more resilient future for themselves.



MI supports smallholder farmers in “Farmer Field Schools” with training on agricultural practices as well as storage and processing of food so that it has a longer shelf life and retains as many nutrients as possible.

PHOTO: MALTESER INTERNATIONAL AMERICAS



Merlande Jacques,
Community Health Worker for MI since January 2024

PHOTO: MALTESER INTERNATIONAL AMERICAS

“I have been a volunteer Community Health Worker since 2016. Joining MI has accelerated the process of finding, diagnosing, and treating children. Seeing children getting better is simply amazing!”



MI's partner organization in Uganda uses creative methods to reach the affected people. Here, they promote information about how communities can give feedback to the district water supply authorities on their services.

PHOTO: VIVA CON AGUA/MALTESER INTERNATIONAL

WASH: Collective Efforts Uphold Human Rights

MI's overall WASH support in 2024



7,214
people reached
directly by WASH
measures in Nepal



1,248
WASH facilities
installed or
renovated in Asia



16,719
hygiene kits
distributed in
Uganda



58
WASH and
nutrition demos
held in India



493,498
people supported
with drinking
water in Africa



955,936
people reached
directly by all
WASH measures

Safe water and sanitation are human rights (UN Resolution 64/2931). Yet according to UN figures, 2.2 billion people worldwide did not have access to safe drinking water in 2024, and 3.5 billion lacked access to safe sanitation. Malteser International (MI) is working in India, Nepal, and Uganda to ensure that these rights become a reality.

"The structural challenges in the WASH sector are immense," says MI's Global WASH & Environment Advisor Arno Coerver. "Social inequality, a lack of resources, a lack of sustainability, the marginalization of rights holders, and conflicts are just some of the problems

we have to overcome." Together with *WASH United* and the *German Toilet Organization*, MI has developed a global program for WASH (water, sanitation, hygiene) to address these challenges.

The measures

As part of the program, MI supports **governments** by promoting better WASH delivery methods, strengthens **civil society organizations** through advocacy and awareness-raising work, training and coordination, and strengthens **communities** through lobbying and networking. MI implements all measures in cooperation with two members of the



Most of the inhabitants of the settlements around Jodhpur come from so-called lower castes or other marginalized communities. In the past, they had little opportunity to participate in decision-making processes regarding the provision of WASH services.

PHOTO: MALTESER INTERNATIONAL

German WASH network and four local partner organizations since June 2022.

The work on the ground

In **Nepal**, MI works with local partner RSDC to support the authorities in the districts of Sarlahi and Mahottari to improve their capacities and reach marginalized population groups. In 2024, the program supported the local government to develop a WASH plan, identifying gaps in critical areas and improving WASH services for marginalized communities. The majority of the district's population, for example, drew water mainly from contaminated tube wells – many of which have now already been cleaned up or replaced with new, safe wells.

In **Uganda**, MI is implementing the program in the districts of Ntoroko and Bundibugyo, where the supply of tap water is low. Here, too, the main water sources for many people are contaminated tube wells and/or open wells. Due to refugees from the DR Congo seeking safety in the border areas, the demand for water and sanitation services is constantly increasing. In 2024, MI, together with program partners CAFOMI and Viva Con Agua, has supported local authorities to develop a WASH master plan to enhance resources for WASH service delivery and coordination of partners.

In **India**, MI and local partner UNNATI are working with the Jodhpur municipal authority to improve WASH services

in the city's informal settlements ('slums') and increase community involvement in decision-making. At least half of the households here had neither a water connection nor usable toilets. Waste management is inadequate and often dangerous. In 2024, two mobile toilets

were deployed for communities who did not have any other facility. The program also supported five local WASH committees, which, among other things, improved the involvement of marginalized population groups into decision-making processes.

Narendra Ray Yadav,
Ward Chairman of Dhankaul Rural Municipality – Ward Number 4

PHOTO: MALTESER INTERNATIONAL



“Working with MI and RSDC on the Global WASH program has been deeply fulfilling. It not only allowed me to contribute to the critical issue of water and sanitation but also highlighted the fundamental human rights to these necessities. Seeing my community benefit from improved health and well-being due to our efforts was incredibly satisfying. This program shows the importance of collective action in ensuring these rights are upheld, enhancing both my knowledge on WASH and commitment to social justice.”

Year in Review 2024 (further selected events)



PHOTO: HIHFAD/MALTESER INTERNATIONAL

01

→ **Syria/Türkiye:** One year after the major earthquake in the border region, more than three million people are still living in emergency shelters. In both countries, MI is supporting those affected via local partners with medical care and relief supplies.

02

DR Congo: A wave of violence in the east, triggered by the militant group M23, leads to a sudden rise in the number of refugees and a worsening of humanitarian needs in MI's project areas. Employees are working at the limit to ensure medical care and support with essential relief supplies.

Cologne: MI publishes a study on the feasibility of anticipatory action in its project work. For the study, the Global Public Policy Institute conducted research on behalf of MI for five months in the MI project countries Bangladesh, Kenya, Pakistan, and Uganda. You can read and download the study here: malt-int.org/anticipatory-action-study

03

Kenya: In a move to improve health and hygiene standards in primary schools, MI starts work on spearheading an initiative titled "My Healthy School". This multi-sectoral project aims for a comprehensive approach towards fostering healthier school environments, touching on aspects such as good hygiene, sanitary conditions, health behavior, and nutrition.

South Sudan: More and more people are fleeing hunger and violence in Sudan to neighboring South Sudan. The humanitarian situation in the reception areas is dire. This population displacement also worsens the situation for over nine million South Sudanese people currently dependent on food, medicine, and other vital relief supplies. In the district of Western Bahr el Ghazal, MI repairs over a dozen wells, providing around 7,000 people with drinking water.

04

Bangladesh: The MI team obtains official registration with the the NGO Affairs Bureau under the Prime Minister's Office in Bangladesh. It will be valid for ten years. This significantly expands the possibilities to implement programs for the Rohingya refugee crisis and for people in need in Bangladesh. MI can now, for example, officially hire local and foreign employees in Bangladesh.

→ **Kenya:** Heavy rainfall due to El Niño leads to floodings in large parts of the country. Over 165,000 people are forced to flee, and many livestock die in the masses of water. In the Marsabit district, MI distributes food and cash together with a local partner.

06

Türkiye: The "Economic Recovery Project", implemented by MI and partner *Orange*, enables 33 men and women to attend a 14-day training course to support them in rebuilding their businesses after the 2023 earthquake. Upon completion of the training, the participants receive a starting grant.

Berlin: MI, represented by the Ukraine Country Team and the Managing Director of the MHD, Douglas Graf v. Saurma-Jeltsch, is taking part in the third "Ukraine Recovery Conference" from June 11–12. It is opened by former German Chancellor Scholz, President Selenskyj and EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen.



PHOTO: PACIDA/MALTESER INTERNATIONAL

07

Syria: On July 18, MI and *HIHFAD* convened the regular UN Health Cluster meeting in Idlib. This pivotal gathering united representatives from local NGOs, WHO, OCHA, MSF, the Idlib Health Directorate and hospital directors all focused on addressing the health and humanitarian challenges facing Northwest Syria.



PHOTO: MALTESER INTERNATIONAL AMERICAS

09

Nigeria: Enduring heavy rainfall leads to the breaking of the Alau dam close to the city of Maiduguri. Hundreds of thousands of people lose their houses and farm animals. Animal cadavers and feces swept away in the water masses cause significant hygienic dangers. As part of the “MI Emergency Program Africa”, MI distributes 800 cholera prevention kits and 1,000 hygiene kits in the Bakasi refugee camp.

Indonesia: After the earthquake and tsunami in 2018, MI’s Indonesian partners *YEU* and *PKPA* provide fast emergency relief in Central Sulawesi. In October, *YEU* and *PKPA* completed the subsequent resilience strengthening projects they had implemented with financial support from MI. With this, MI’s Indonesia portfolio closes, but MI is prepared to support the partners again in case of an acute emergency, if necessary.

10

Berlin: MI and WaterAid organize a side event at the World Health Summit (October 13–15) on how WASH in healthcare facilities can prevent Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) using a One Health approach. According to the WHO, AMR is currently the third leading cause of mortality in the world.

11

Ukraine: MI is starting to distribute winter relief supplies and hygiene articles via local partner organizations, which will reach over 80,000 people. After almost three years of war, many houses no longer have functioning heating systems, windows have been destroyed, and the power grid is severely damaged.

Thailand: From November 12–15, MI is working with local partners in the Mae La Oon and Mae Ra Ma Luang camps to provide urgently needed eye screenings, glasses, and eye surgeries. The refugees in both camps are often at high risk of eye diseases due to environmental factors.

Cologne: MI launches *OneSec* magazine, a multi-sectoral platform that gives voice to practitioners from the field, local and international NGOs, donor representatives, consultants, and policymakers. In this way, MI aims to promote dialogue between all relevant stakeholders on current humanitarian aid issues: onesec-magazine.org

→ **Colombia:** Together with the local partner organization *Anashiwaya IPSI*, MI opens a new health center in La Guajira. More than 550 indigenous Wayuu families now have improved access to high quality basic medical care.

12

Syria: Following the fall of the Assad regime, the nationwide emergency situation is becoming even more apparent, particularly in the health sector. Some of the 18 health facilities supported by MI are rapidly becoming overcrowded. In addition to therapeutic and clinical care, MI offers support in the area of mental health, where the need is now particularly great.

Afghanistan: Following thorough security checks, an international MI team visited MI-supported projects for the first time in 14 years. The team traveled to the health project run by partner *Union Aid* in Mazar-i-Sharif and to earthquake reconstruction projects in Herat province. After MI employees were killed in an attack in 2007, the MI country office was closed and work continued through local partner organizations.

Our Partners

Together with our local partner organizations, we were able to support millions of people in need in 2024. Their work is truly invaluable! We would like to thank:

Region Africa

AAPU: Association of Ambulance Professionals Uganda
AICHM: Africa Inland Church Health Ministries
AIWE: African Indigenous Women Empowerment
CAAMENIHU: Centrale d'Achat et d'Approvisionnement en Médicaments Essentiels du Nord-Ituri et du Haut-Uélé
CAFOMI: Care and Assistance for Forced Migrants
Caritas Bamenda
CBM: Christian Blind Mission
Department of Public Utilities South Sudan
ECSU: Emergency Care Society of Uganda
EMK Foundation: Emergency Medicine Kenya Foundation
EUP FASS: Etablissement d'Utilité Publique
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
Lindii Peace Foundation
Local health authorities in the area around Bangassou
Lubaga and Nsambya Hospitals and Training Centers
Mentor Initiative
Ministry of Agriculture, Nigeria
Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, South Sudan
Ministry of Animal Resources and Fisheries, South Sudan
Ministry of Education and Instruction, South Sudan
Ministry of Environment, Nigeria
Ministry of Health, Nigeria
Ministry of Health, Uganda
Ministry of Water Resources, Nigeria
Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation, South Sudan
Ministry of Women Affairs, Nigeria
NCWS: National Council for Women's Societies
NIHSA: Nigeria Hydrological Services Agency
Nsamizi
PACIDA: Pastoralist Community Initiative Development and Assistance
Rhema Care Integrated Development Centre
RKI: Robert Koch Institute
RUWASA: Rural Water and Sanitation Authority
Salesian Sisters & Catholic Diocese of Wau
St. Francis Hospital in Nsambya
State Hospital in Mbarara
State Ministry of Health Central Equatoria
Suubi Rehabilitation Center
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 County Hospital, South Sudan

Region Americas

ABIUDEA: Asociación de Biólogos de la Universidad del Atlántico
AHAAMES: Association Haïtienne d'Assistance Agricole, Médicale, Educative & Sociale
BALG: Banco de Alimentos de La Guajira
CEPIN: Sociedad Civil Protección Integral al Niño
HI: Humanity & Inclusion

IPSI Anashiwaya: Anashiwaya Institución Prestadora de Salud Indígena
Malteser Peru
M4H: Meals 4 Hope
Orden de Malta Mexico
Orden de Malta Venezuela (AVOM)
Order of Malta American Association
PALUZ: Primeros Auxilios LUZ 'Paul Rene Moreno Camacho'
PDPC: Programa de Desarrollo y Paz del Cesar
RSRI/WRC: Refugee Self-Reliance Initiative

Region Asia

AFAD: Association For Alternative Development
Afghanischer Frauenverein
CDD: Centre for Disability in Development
ERA: Efforts for Rural Advancement
DCCN: Development Center for Children and Community Network
DEVCON: An Association for Rural Development
FRDP: Fast Rural Development Program
GK: Gonoshasthaya Kendra
KOSHISH: National Mental Health Self-Help Organization
KTWG: Karen Teacher Working Group
Mukti Foundation
Order of Malta Philippines
PHALS: Program For Helpless and Lagged Societies
PKPA: Pusat Kajian dan Perlindungan Anak
ProVision
RSDC: Rural Self-reliance Development Centre
SRSO: Sindh Rural Support Organization
SSK: Sahbhagi Shikshan Kendra
Union Aid
Unnati: Organisation for Development Education
YEU: Yakkum Emergency Unit
WEO: Women Empowerment Organisation

Region Europe

Avalyst
CFSSS: Charity Foundation Stabilization Support Services
MHS: Mental Health Service
Order of Malta Relief Organization Latvia
Order of Malta Relief Organization Lithuania
Order of Malta Relief Organization Poland
Order of Malta Relief Organization Romania
Order of Malta Relief Organization Slovakia
Order of Malta Relief Organization Ukraine
Order of Malta Spanish Association
Words Help

Region Middle-East and North Africa

Archbishopric Tanger/DDM: Délégation Diocésaine des Migrations
Bahar Organization
DAMA: Doctors Aid Medical Activities
Embassy of the Sovereign Order of Malta to Morocco
HIHFAD: Hand in Hand for Aid and Development
IDA: Independent Doctors Association
LPJ: Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem
Orange Organization
Order of Malta Lebanon
SAMS: Syrian American Medical Society
Shafak Organization
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 2024

Financial development of Malteser International Europe

Total revenue¹

Total € 105,764,523

Total revenue

€ **105.8** MM

National and international public grants

Germany € 40,521,596

Deutsche Gesellschaft für internationale Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung (giz) € 428,988

Federal Foreign Office (GFFO) € 31,775,125

Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) € 8,317,482

European Union € 6,886,640

DG ECHO (Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations) € 837,850

DG INTPA (Directorate-General for International Partnerships of the European Commission) € 6,048,790

United Nations € 1,044,853

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) € 177,118

International Organization for Migration (IOM) € 36,045

UNICEF € 417,864

UN OCHA € 380,106

World Food Program (WFP) € 33,720

Total € 48,453,089

National and international public grants

€ **48.5** MM

Donations and (international) Sovereign Order fo Malta network

Malteser Hilfsdienst e. V. € 1,750,000

Malteser Hospitaldienst Austria € 102,633

Donations and own funds € 14,900,956

Other revenue € 4,112,234

Total € 20,865,823

Donations and (international) Sovereign Order of Malta network

€ **20.9** MM

Coalitions

Germany's Relief Coalition (ADH) € 28,805,346

Total € 28,805,346

Coalitions

€ **28.8** MM

Foundations and other non-governmental organizations (NGOs)

Alfred Neven DuMont-Stiftung € 250,000

Bild hilft e. V. € 48,497

Deutsche Welthungerhilfe e. V.² € 3,916,076

Else Kröner-Fresenius-Stiftung € 250,000

International Rescue Committee² € 414,687

Migrant Offshore Aid Station € 5,000

Save the Children² € 2,558,033

Sinngeber gGmbH € 50,000

Swiss Tropical & Public Health Institute (Swiss TPH) € 70,000

Wasser ohne Grenzen (WoG) € 31,450

Water is Right Stiftung € 20,000

World Child Future Foundation € 26,522

Total € 7,640,265

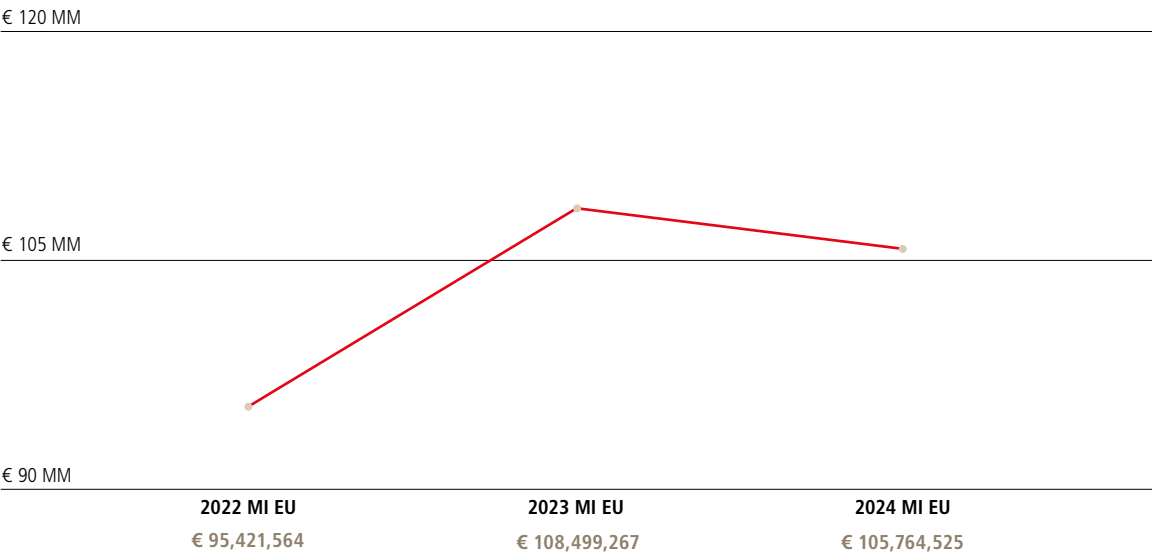
Foundations and other non-governmental organizations (NGOs)

€ **7.6** MM

¹ Differences may occur due to commercial rounding.

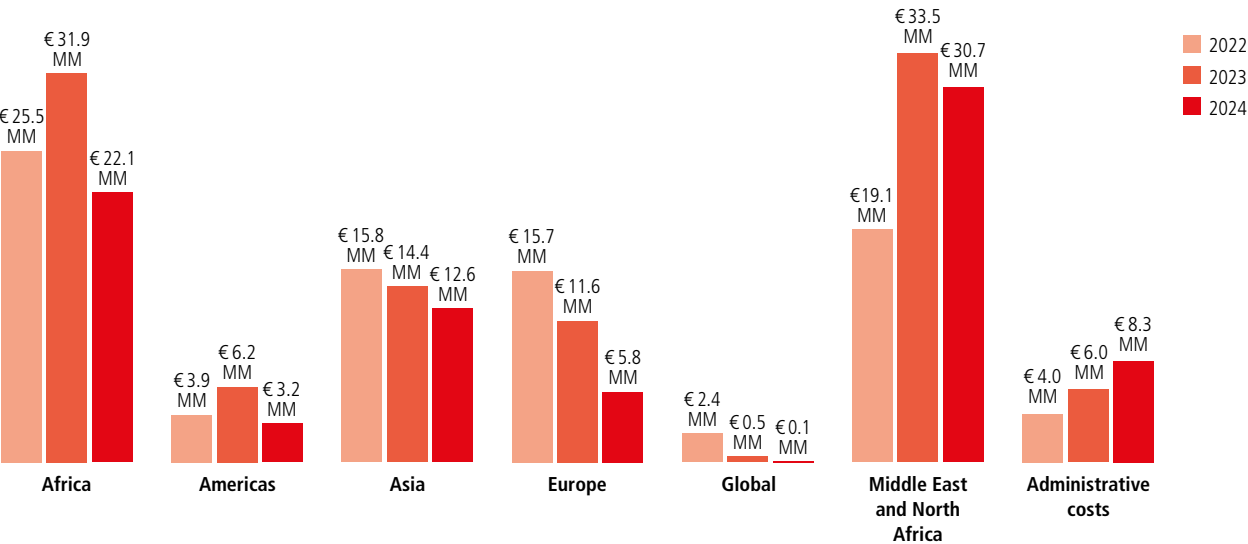
² Partial forwarding of public grants as a consortium partner.

Development of revenue



Malteser International Europe’s total income amounted to € 105.8 million in 2024. Compared to the previous year, this is a slight decrease of 2.5 percent. However, we continue to build on a constant and positive development of income over the past few years with an increase of almost 11 percent since 2022.

Development of project volume

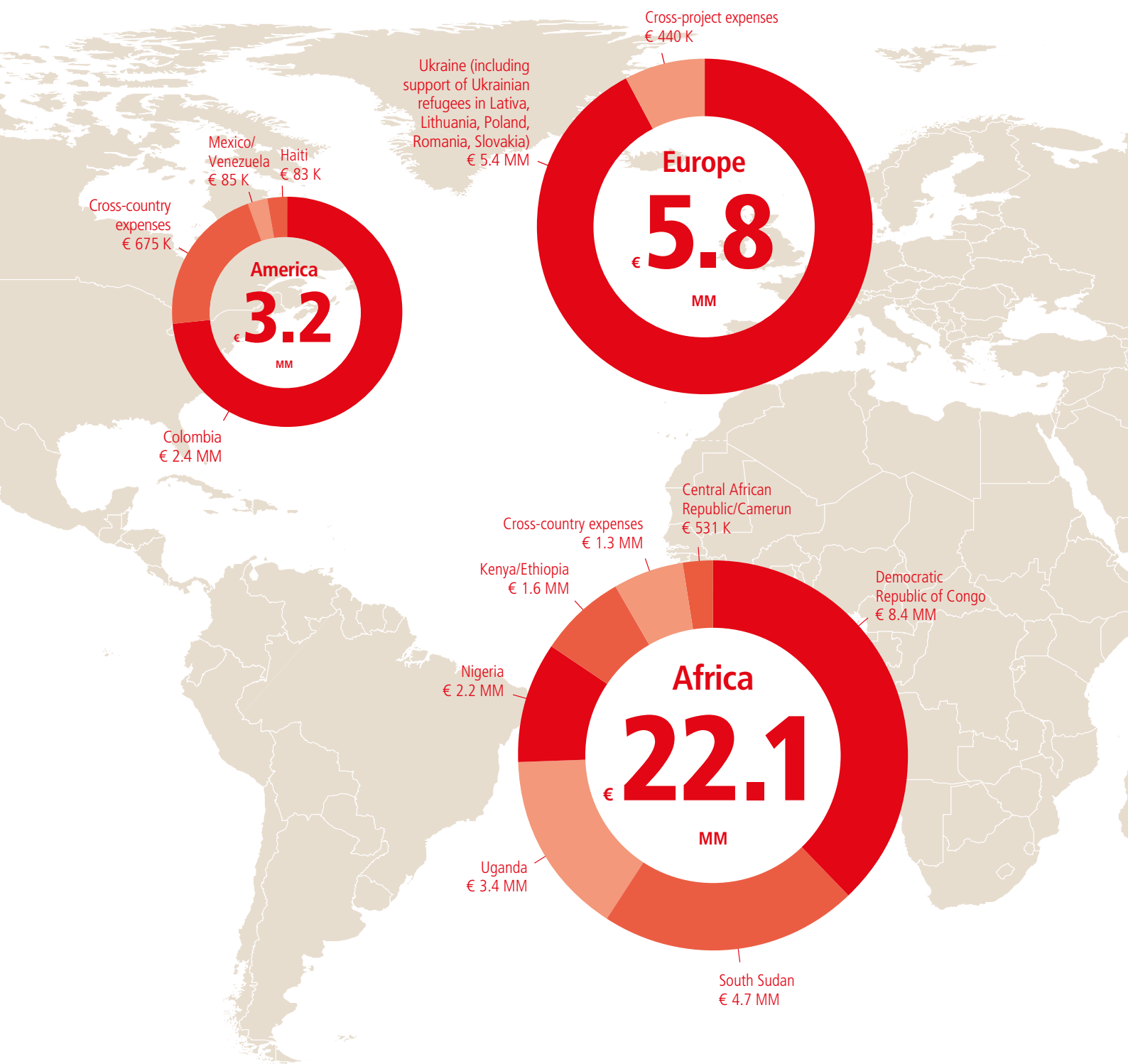


The total volume implemented in 2024 amounted to € 82.8 million. At around € 8.3 million, management and administrative costs account for around ten percent of total expenditure. Malteser International Europe uses all entrusted funds sparingly, efficiently, and purposefully to fulfill its tasks. For projects that extend beyond the current financial year,

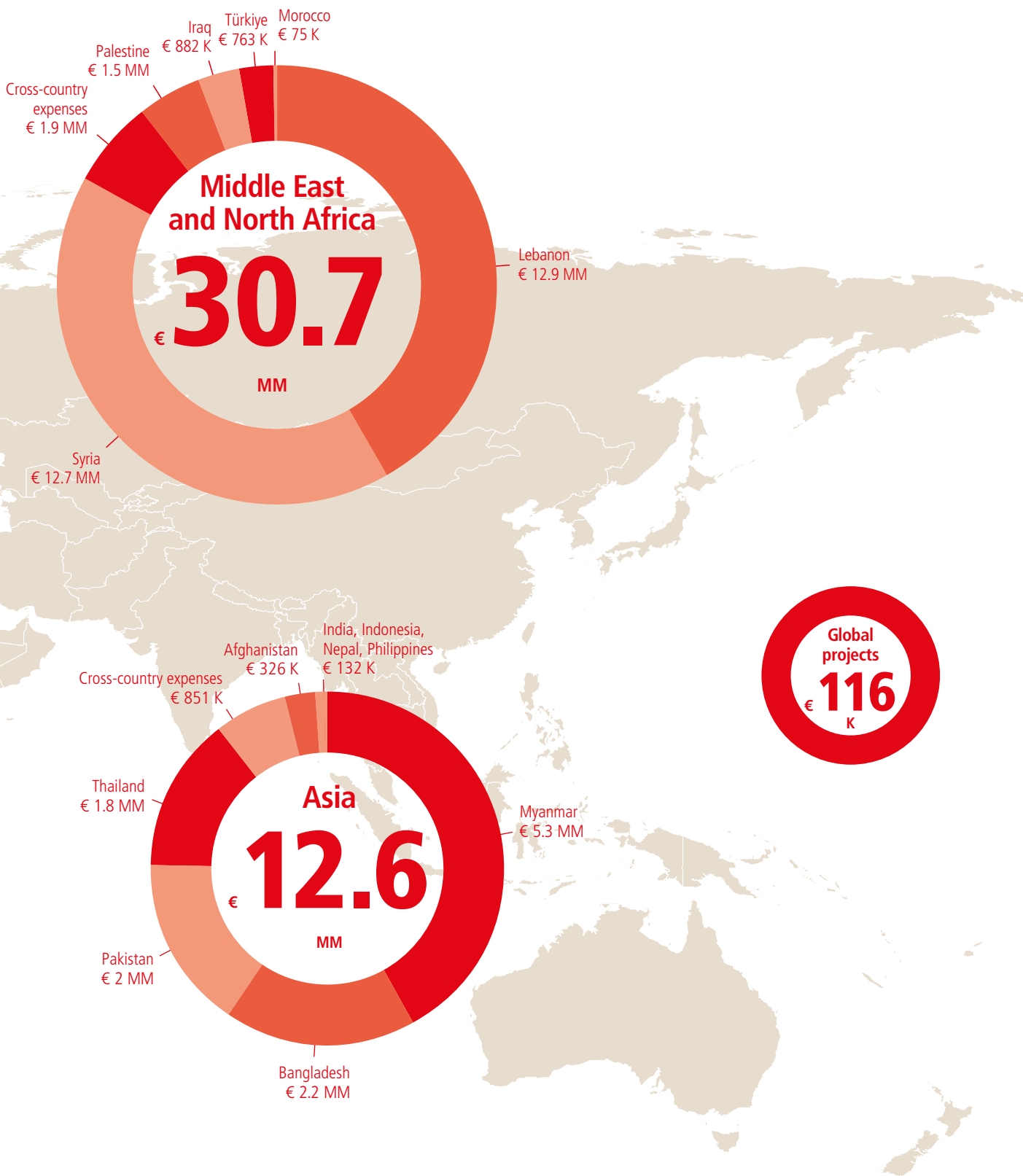
earmarked donations and contributions that have not been spent are allocated to liabilities. Depending on the start date and duration of a project, the amount recognized as liabilities can vary significantly. A total of € 22.6 million was allocated for 2024. This sum is available again in the following year and invested in corresponding projects.

Complete financial facts and figures:
malt-int.org/mi-europe-finances-2024

Expenses by country and continent*



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



In 2024, Malteser International Europe was able to support people in need in 33 countries. 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.

Complete financial facts and figures:
malt-int.org/mi-europe-finances-2024

Financial statements

Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2024

Assets	2024 EUR	previous year EUR
A. Fixed assets		
I. Property, plant and equipment		
1. Other equipment, operating and office equipment	118,639.02	118,415.39
B. Current Assets		
I. Inventories	129,936.05	81,750.98
II. Receivables and other current assets		
1. Trade receivables	89,310.99	136,919.70
2. Receivables from related corporate entities	6,915,975.54	3,781,227.39
3. Receivables from Malteser Hilfsdienst e. V. – internal –	9,500,000.00	5,589,261.70
4. Other assets	76,292,465.71	81,279,951.66
	92,797,752.24	90,787,360.45
III. Cash on hand and bank balances	39,850,699.92	30,442,653.14
	132,778,388.21	121,311,764.57
C. Prepaid expenses and deferred charges	143,256.34	201,200.67
	133,040,283.57	121,631,380.63
Equity and liabilities		
A. Equity		
I. Proportionate association assets	6,033,081.18	6,033,081.18
II. Retained earnings	480,583.28	0.00
III. Net loss for the year (prior year: net income for the year)	-3,214,050.74	480,583.28
	3,299,613.72	6,513,664.46
B. Provisions – other provisions	3,936,628.51	2,481,715.18
C. Liabilities		
1. Trade payables	866,616.45	2,126,713.31
2. Payables to related corporate entities	890,094.89	768,711.28
3. Payables to Malteser Hilfsdienst e. V. – internal –	2,254,524.40	94,279.47
4. Liabilities related to earmarked allocations	103,207,241.11	80,649,215.60
5. Other Liabilities thereof from taxes € 7,396.55; prior year: € 3,160.64	15,340,428.58	28,997,081.33
	122,558,905.43	112,636,000.99
D. Prepaid expenses and deferred charges	3,245,135.91	0.00
	133,040,283.57	121,631,380.63

Income statement for the period from January 1 to December 31, 2024

	2024 EUR	previous year EUR
1. Sales revenue	148,076.19	144,142.94
2. Other operating income	105,404,092.86	108,355,124.33
	105,552,169.05	108,499,267.27
3. Cost of materials		
a) Cost of raw materials, supplies and purchased merchandise	9,828,577.96	11,422,205.20
b) Costs of purchased services	4,404,281.62	5,811,656.05
	14,232,859.58	17,233,861.25
4. Personnel expenses		
a) Wages and salaries	22,142,320.91	18,493,681.90
b) Social security contributions, pensions, and other benefits (of which for pensions € 560,323.94; previous year: € 456,098.54)	2,040,849.20	1,694,983.93
	24,183,170.11	20,188,665.83
5. Amortization and depreciation of fixed intangible assets and property, plant and equipment	70,864.31	79,429.06
6. Other operating expenses	47,510,479.05	67,145,901.55
Subtotal	19,554,796.00	3,851,409.58
7. Other interest and similar income	205,019.85	39,767.71
8. Expenses due to addition to liabilities related to earmarked allocations	22,558,025.51	3,097,265.48
9. Interest and similar expenses	87,691.24	22,995.73
10. Earnings before taxes	-2,885,900.90	770,916.08
11. Other taxes	328,149.84	290,332.80
Net loss for the year (prior year: net income for the year)	-3,214,050.74	480,583.28

Notes on the main items of the 2024 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. 32). 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.

Net loss for the year: In 2024 major investments in our Headquarters led to an increase in personnel and other expenses. These increased expenses were not covered by the current year's income but instead utilized the existing equity.

Auditor's report

The information printed here has been prepared by Malteser International. You can find the financial report audited by PwC as well as all other complete financial facts and figures in the Finance section of our website: malt-int.org/mi-europe-finances-2024

Malteser International and the Sovereign Order of Malta

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 114 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.

Structure of Malteser International

Malteser International (MI) is the relief agency of the Sovereign Order of Malta.

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

The international board is elected for a four-year term and anchors MI 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

Executive Director: Clemens Graf von Mirbach-Harff

Structure Malteser International:



Leading MI into the future: Our New Executive Team



Margi English, Clemens Graf von Mirbach-Harff, Izabella Toth, and Kees Zevenbergen (from left to right) have been leading Malteser International (MI) as the new executive team since 2024, ensuring the organization becomes strong and resilient for decades to come.

Dear readers, dear friends of MI,

Change is the new normal, they say. We have, however, always needed to change: Only if we constantly renew ourselves, can we continue into the future.

MI is undergoing fundamental change. Our successful business model of translating public donations into good Catholic humanitarian aid worldwide is being challenged by a breathtaking change in government funding. This has been happening for some time, primarily in the USA, but also among major donors in Europe – and is likely going to remain another “new normal”. This calls for a rapid diversification of donors. At the same time, we must meet increasing demands on risk management, quality, and flexibility in a world where more and more people are in need.

These changes are already being implemented in the “MI 2025” process.

It is a change process that demands a high level of trust. And we are dedicated to upholding the trust that has been placed in us: by the people we want to support, by the donors who provide us with the funds, by our committed national sponsors particularly in Germany and the USA, by the Order that gives MI its identity and historical roots, and by the more than 1,000 MI employees worldwide who tackle new challenges every day.

We are a team with a wealth of experience: international, highly professional, and passionate about bringing the Order’s mission into the present day and into tomorrow. We trust in our gifts and talents and, above all, in the help of God, who has remained faithful to us since the Order was founded.



Margi English joined MI Americas as *Executive Director* in May 2024. She has a degree in Organizational Leadership from University of San Francisco and an Executive Non-Profit Leadership certification from the Stanford University Graduate School of Business. She has held positions in fundraising, communications, and development at state, church, private, and non-governmental organizations, most recently as Executive Director at the St. Vincent de Paul Society of San Francisco. She has been a Dame of the Sovereign Order of Malta since 2022.



Izabella Toth joined MI in September 2024 as *Director of Business Control*. She studied Humanities (ELTE Budapest) and Dutch Law (University of Rotterdam). She has over 26 years of experience in development cooperation as a board and committee member as well as in management positions at international NGOs and institutions. From 1998 to 2024 she held leadership roles at Cordaid, including Director for Institutional Fundraising & Donor Relations.



Clemens Graf von Mirbach-Harff was appointed *Secretary General* of MI in November 2020. He joined the Sovereign Order of Malta in 2004 and served as a volunteer for five years as Vice President of the German Association. He spent his professional career in Consulting (Boston Consulting Group) and running his family business. In 2017, he joined MI as Country Coordinator in Lebanon.



Kees Zevenbergen joined MI as *Program Director* in April 2024. He studied Human Geography at the universities of Utrecht and Amsterdam. He has held both advisory and management positions for international NGOs as well as for actors in the government and private sector. From 2016 to 2023, he was CEO of the Dutch Christian organization Cordaid.

Risk Mitigation at MI

In some areas of humanitarian work, the risks of misconduct or security problems are particularly high. These can include fraud or corruption, sexual exploitation, abuse, and harassment, or risks to the safety of staff. Malteser International (MI) is actively committed to minimizing these risks.

What does it mean?

Integrity Management –

are measures for the protection against fraud and corruption.

Safeguarding –

means protection against sexual exploitation, abuse, and harassment (SEAH).

Safety and Security –

concerns operational security and protection against attacks.

MI does not tolerate any misconduct or unethical behavior by staff or contractually bound partners and service providers. In the areas of *integrity management*, *safeguarding* and *safety and security*, MI has developed guidelines and procedures to minimize risks and learn of possible misconduct. Systematic prevention and the “Hintbox” online portal for anonymous reporting introduced in 2023 are key elements of this. The team responds to all reports in accordance with the guidelines (zero-tolerance approach to non-acting in cases of a perceived integrity-breach). The guidelines and procedures also govern fair and proportionate responses to any misconduct in line with international standards.

Integrity management

At its core, *integrity management* is about reducing the risk of fraud and corruption by creating a work environment based

on honesty, fairness, and respect. “MI’s *integrity management* includes internal audits, training, advisory services, and the review of reports and investigations when a report is suspicious,” says Gerhard Serafin, MI’s internal auditor. The first aim of these activities is to prevent corruption. By raising the employees’ awareness of the tools and knowledge needed to fight corruption, as well as of the risks and reporting channels, the organization aims at increasing both deterrence and willingness to report. Secondly, the *integrity management* team works actively to detect corruption, if it occurs despite all preventive measures. Investigations are implemented to identify both corrupt individuals and systemic gaps, such as weak controls. Internal audits and requests for advice also draw attention to integrity gaps. In 2024, 413 MI employees actively participated in a total of 14 prevention events.

Shane Fischer,
Global Safeguarding Manager at MI

PHOTO: MALTESER INTERNATIONAL



“We invest a lot in training because we know that education is incredibly important. Studies show that when the work environment is educated, there is significantly less harassment.”

In collaboration with external experts, the dedicated MI team also produced “A Quick Guide to Workplace Investigations” as well as an accompanying video, which is available free of charge to other humanitarian organizations in MI’s media library: malt-int.org/mi-media-library

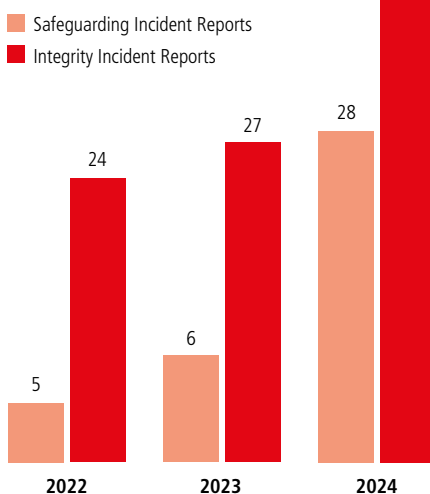
Safeguarding

MI is committed to maintaining an environment that effectively prevents the abuse of power and protects the people MI serves as well as MI employees from sexual exploitation, abuse, and harassment. To this end, the dedicated *Safeguarding* team has developed and rolled out a Complaint and Response Mechanism (CRM) that considers the needs of the communities, their feedback, and their complaints. Transparency, confidentiality, and personal contact are key: “If you don’t know the system, you don’t trust it. We respond to all allegations. Our focus is always on the survivors of violence, and we try to handle what can be very traumatic issues with the utmost sensitivity,” says Shane Fischer, Global Safeguarding Manager at MI. She and her team handle complaints and the associated investigations. They provide support for those affected in a survivor-centered way and follow a trauma-informed approach. The team also holds trainings to raise awareness among colleagues at headquarters, MI project sites, and for partner organizations. In total, the team has held 23 safeguarding trainings in 10 different locations worldwide in 2024.

Safety and Security

Humanitarian workers are often exposed to considerable risk. The insecurity and volatility of many of our operational locations are two of the main drivers of threats to our staff. At the same time, MI has a legal and moral duty of care towards its employees, compelling it to take all reasonable steps to ensure their physical and emotional well-being. “We do this through constant, systematic identification, analysis, and mitigation of risks through MI’s *Safety Risk Management Framework*. We provide tools, technical assistance, and practical

Reports of potential breaches 2022 – 2024



The measures have a clear impact: the staff trainings in 2024 and the introduction of a safe disclosure guideline, the “Hintbox”, and a general reporting e-mail-address in 2023 are leading to significantly more reports. All reports are followed up; not all of them turn out to be actual breaches.

guidance to country operations. This helps to establish and maintain a positive safety culture at all levels of the organization,” says Robert Urner, Global Safety and Security Advisor at MI. In 2024, the Safety and Security team introduced a system to rapidly assess and communicate the threat level in MI’s countries of operation. This helped both decision-makers and staff to better understand needs and minimum standards. In addition, an alarm and monitoring system linked to travel bookings was established for all business trips, and security training (HEAT) was standardized for all travellers to high-risk countries.

With these combined measures and their continuous development, MI has reached a high standard of operation that protects all people involved in MI’s work and thereby ensures the save continuation of MI’s service for those in need.



MI uses this poster at many project locations to provide information on how to raise complaints, concerns, and suspected breaches.

PHOTO: MALTESER INTERNATIONAL

We Say Thank You!

None of our aid projects would have been possible without our sponsors. Thank you! All of you contributed to rapid and sustainable aid for people in need in 2024.

Thank you to our large-scale¹ donors:

- German Federal Foreign Office
- German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development
- DG INTPA: Directorate-General for International Partnerships
- Germany's Relief Coalition (Aktion Deutschland Hilft e. V.)
- Our private donors

We also thank for their valuable support:

- Alfred Neven DuMont-Stiftung²
- Amref Health Africa/The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria
- B.E.A.R. Family Charitable Foundation
- Benebone, LLC
- BILD hilft e. V. "Ein Herz für Kinder"
- Charles Delmar Foundation
- Charles Edison Fund
- CHD-Aid-Burma
- City of Cologne
- Conrad N. Hilton Foundation
- Deutsche Investitions- und Entwicklungsgesellschaft (DEG)

- DG ECHO: European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations
- Dr. Ulrich Reiter
- Else Kröner-Fresenius-Stiftung²
- Erich und Katharina Zinkann Stiftung²
- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
- Freudenberg Elementary School, Germany
- German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ)
- German Federal Ministry of Health
- German Toilet Organization (GTO)
- Hartnett Family Foundation
- Hugenthof Foundation
- International Organization for Migration
- International Rescue Committee
- Johanniter-Unfall-Hilfe e. V.
- Latter Day Saint Charities Australia
- Merck Family Foundation
- Migrant Offshore Aid Station (MOAS)
- Misereor (Bischöfliches Hilfswerk Misereor e. V.)
- missio – Internationales Katholisches Missionswerk e. V.
- Morpho Foundation gGmbH
- Myanmar Humanitarian Fund

- Neighbour in Need
- Raskob Foundation for Catholic Activities
- Regine Sixt Kinderhilfe Stiftung²
- Rheinkohle AG (RAG)
- Sinngeber gGmbH (Hoffnungsträger Stiftung)²
- Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace Generalate
- Stiftung Indien – Kinderhilfe²
- Stiftung RTL – Wir helfen Kindern e. V.²
- The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria
- U.S. Department of State – The Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (BPRM)
- UNICEF: United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
- USAID Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA)
- VielRespektStiftung²
- Wasser ohne Grenzen e. V.
- Water is Right Foundation
- World Child Future Foundation
- World Food Program

¹ Funding of over 1 million euros in 2024

² Original foundation names not translated ("Stiftung" = "Foundation")

Our special thanks go to our worldwide partners of the Sovereign Order of Malta and the Malteser network for their financial support and the excellent cooperation:



- Archdiocese Paderborn
- Archdiocese Munich
- Embassy of the Sovereign Order of Malta to Latvia
- Embassy of the Sovereign Order of Malta to Kenya
- Embassy of the Sovereign Order of Malta to Monaco
- Grand Hospitaller of the Sovereign Order of Malta
- Malteser Hilfsdienst e. V.
- Malteser Hospitaldienst Austria

- Malteser International Americas
- Malteser Stiftung*
- Stiftung Seliger Gerhard*
- The 30 Associations and Priories that are member of Malteser International e. V.: American Association, Australian Association, Belgian Association, British Association, Canadian Association, Colombian Association, Cuban Association, Dutch Association, Federal Association, French Association, German

Association, Grand Priory of Austria, Grand Priory of Bohemia, Grand Priory of Lombardy and Venice, Grand Priory of Naples, Grand Priory of Rome, Hungarian Association, Irish Association, Italian Association, Lebanese Association, Maltese Association, Mexican Association, Philippine Association, Polish Association, Portuguese Association, Scandinavian Association, Singapore Association, Spanish Association, Swiss Association, Western Association

Stronger together – for people in need: We also thank our national and international network partners from the bottom of our hearts. Through this support, exchange and fruitful cooperation, our joint project work has an even greater impact. Please find the list of our valuable partnerships here:

malt-int.org/network-partners

* Original foundation names not translated ("Stiftung" = "Foundation")

The Order's Cross



You know the iconic eight-pointed cross as part of the Malteser International logo – but it is much more than that. It symbolizes the founding values of the Sovereign Order of Malta, which still guide us today.

The eight-pointed cross is a key element of the Order of Malta's visual identity. The eight-pointed cross was originally used in the Byzantine Empire and adopted by the medieval trading republic of Amalfi, which contributed significantly to the development of the Hospital of St. John in Jerusalem, the founding place of the Order of Malta. The shape of the eight-pointed cross gradually evolved over the centuries. Its modern form has been established

since approximately 1530 and remains an iconic symbol of the island of Malta until today – it is even featured on the euro coins of the Republic of Malta. The cross can also be seen on buildings, churches, ambulances, and uniforms worldwide.

Every point has a meaning

Throughout history, various meanings have been attributed to the elements of the cross. For instance, the four arms have been interpreted as symbolizing the cardinal virtues of classical philosophy: justice, temperance, courage, and wisdom. Often, it is said that the eight points represent the Beatitudes from the Gospel of Matthew (5:3–10), or alternatively, they

symbolize knightly virtues: loyalty, piety, honesty, courage, honor and glory to God, contempt for death, solidarity towards the poor and the sick, respect for the church. We like to see the points in this last way especially, since even after centuries, most of the knightly virtues still represent our work values. Today, they stand for a community that treats everyone with dignity, regardless of origin or religion. A community whose members stand up for others with courage and solidarity and treat each other with loyalty and honesty. These values have shaped our global humanitarian commitment for centuries. Because, in the spirit of Jesus Christ, being there for people in need is our passion and our calling.

Imprint

Malteser International

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Editorial team: Elena Becker, Conor Heathcote, Beeke Janson

Date of publication: June 2025

Cover photo: Jonas Dolo, medical assistant at MI, during a WASH and One Health training session for schoolchildren in the province of Ituri, DR Congo. Photo: Nyokabi Kahura

Back cover photo: Junior Munguromo, 14, from the DR Congo, is a pupil at the Mbunya School, which MI supports with WASH and health measures. His dream is to study medicine and become a doctor. Photo: Nyokabi Kahura

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Our work is not done yet.



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now**

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