

ACTIVITY REPORT 2013



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

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

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

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



Haiti



Kenya

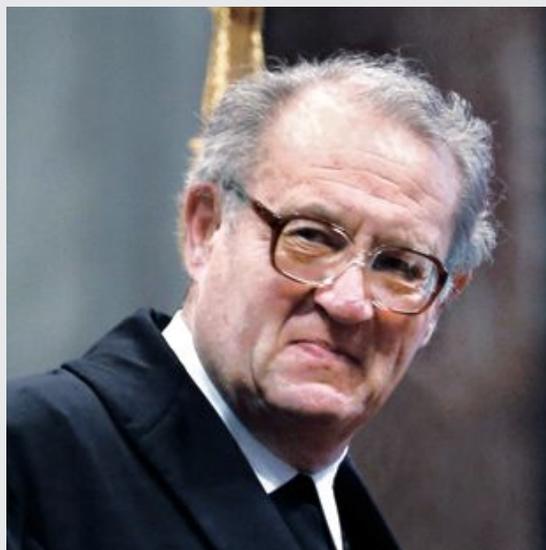


France

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Message from the Grand Master



Year after year we are faced with constant reminders of the frailty of the human condition. The causes are limitless, and frequently unpredictable. The results, however, are all too familiar. Whether through sudden catastrophe, such as flood, famine or earthquake, through economic or social crises, or simply through the natural process of aging and ill health, there are always many millions of our fellow human beings who are in need of help, care and compassion.

The motives which drove the founding of the Order in Jerusalem almost a thousand years ago – to help those in need - remain the motives which still drive us today. As members of a religious lay Order, we commit ourselves to the never-ending task of being not only on the side, but also at the side, of all those who need a helping hand and a caring friend in times of crisis in their lives.

Just some examples of our recent interventions: in Haiti, three years after the earthquake, there is still much for us to do in rehabilitating communities. In Emilia Romagna, the Order's Italian Emergency Corps has been caring for hundreds of victims of the 2012 earthquake there.

In Africa the Order is focusing on support for victims of civil conflict, of diseases such as tuberculosis and malaria and on regions afflicted by drought and famine. In Lebanon and Syria our emergency services are supporting many refugee families who have fled the civil conflict.

Elsewhere around the world, volunteers have joined with the professional staff of the Order's relief organisations to offer their skills - and equally importantly, their compassion and understanding – to those suffering loss through major natural catastrophes such as flooding, earthquakes and famine.

This Activity Report includes many examples of the ways in which the Order's members and volunteers seek to fulfil their pledge of compassion, care and support to our fellow citizens of the world, as active hospitallers with a Christian mission. We were there yesterday, we will be there tomorrow, the day after, and for as long as the need remains.

*Fra' Matthew Festing
Prince and 79th Grand Master
of the Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order
of St. John of Jerusalem of Rhodes and of Malta*

Message from the Grand Chancellor and the Grand Hospitaller

Today our members, staff and volunteers in 120 countries are working in our hospitals and healthcare centres, in soup kitchens and shelters for homeless people, in care homes for the elderly, in prisons and in schools, and for those suffering from the aftermath of conflict or natural disasters. The impact of such events is often concentrated on vulnerable populations who lack access to the essentials of living peaceful, healthy lives. We stay after others have gone, working with them to introduce risk reduction measures and undertake disaster preparedness planning. Our diplomatic network enables our emergency relief teams to access stricken areas quickly, and ensure that aid can be effected with minimal delay. The sovereign status of the Order is one of the advantages which enables us to help those in need, whilst remaining independent and neutral, irrespective of political allegiances. This independence is maintained, and cooperation with other countries is facilitated, through our diplomatic relations with more than 100 states and the European Union, as well as through our permanent observer missions at the United Nations and with the principal international organisations. It is fitting to note some of the activities carried out by our volunteers during 2011, the European Year of Volunteering. The volunteer corps of the Order of Malta in Romania, Albania and Lithuania celebrated the twentieth anniversaries of their foundation following the fall of the Iron Curtain. In Hungary, our voluntary work has become a major

contributor to the welfare of its citizens. The Order's relief corps there now has 5,000 permanent and 15,000 ad hoc volunteers, runs almost 200 social organisations and also works in the area of civil protection. The Order's Italian Relief Corps (CISOM) celebrated the twentieth anniversary of its partnership with the country's civil protection system. The Order's ambulance service in Ireland saw a remarkable rise in the entirely voluntary membership – almost 5,000 by the end of 2012. In Germany, over 47,000 volunteers worked with 30,000 employees to provide medical, social and humanitarian assistance to more than 12 million people in Germany and many other countries. In France 4,200 permanent volunteers were involved in a wide range of social interventions to help homeless people, the handicapped and Alzheimer's sufferers. The Order of Malta continues to fight against diseases such as leprosy, HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis. It has established permanent health centres and clinics in many countries, providing local first-line medical and social care to remote and regional communities. Our humanitarian works also include projects to improve access to clean drinking water, and support to indigenous farmers to help them provide a sustainable source of healthy food and a living for their families. And recent initiatives have included the setting up of the Order of Malta's Global Fund for the Forgotten People to raise awareness and financial support for disadvantaged members of society who are rarely in the public eye or high on national agendas.



Jean-Pierre Mazery
Grand Chancellor



Albrecht Boeselager
Grand Hospitaller

Government



The government of the Sovereign Order of Malta is composed of a senior body of ministers and councillors who assist the Grand Master in overseeing the Order's activities around the world from hospitaller, diplomatic, religious and juridical perspectives.

The government of the Order

Composition and operation

The purpose of the Sovereign Order of Malta is “the promotion of... the Christian virtues of charity and brotherhood.

The Order carries out its charitable works for the sick, the needy and refugees without distinction of religion, race, origin or age. The Order fulfils its institutional tasks especially by carrying out hospitaller works, including health and social assistance, as well as aiding victims of exceptional disasters and war...”

(Extracts from Article 2 of the Constitutional Charter)

Government of the Sovereign Order of Malta is similar to the structures for state governments. However, it also includes specific features associated with its nature as a religious lay order, as well as particular terminology evolved from nine centuries of history.

The Order’s system of governance is divided into three powers: legislative power, which resides with the Chapter General, the representative body for the knights, and the Grand Master with the Sovereign Council; executive power, which resides with the Sovereign Council; and judicial power, which is in the hands of the Courts of the Order. The Grand Master is the Order’s Supreme Leader, elected for life by the full Council of State. Members of the Chapter General and the full Council of

State are drawn from representatives of the Grand Priorities, the Sub-Priorities, the National Associations and the Order’s organisations established around the world.

The Grand Master governs the Order, assisted by the Sovereign Council, which he chairs. It is made up of the Grand Commander (the religious superior of the Order’s religious members); Grand Chancellor (Minister for Foreign Affairs and Minister of the Interior); Grand Hospitaller (Minister for Health and Social Affairs, Humanitarian Action and International Co-operation); Receiver of the Common Treasure (Minister for Finance and Budget), together with six other members, all elected by the Chapter General from among the Professed members or members in Obedience. The Sovereign Council is elected for a term of five years.

The Constitutional Charter and Code governs the life and activities of the Order. The Chapter General of 1997 instituted an Advisory Board to the Order’s government – the Government Council. The Board of Auditors is responsible for economic and financial control. Every five years, the members of these two bodies are elected by the Chapter General. The Order’s Courts are Courts of First Instance and of Appeal, with a President, Judges, Judicial Auditors and Auxiliaries. Legal questions of extraordinary importance are submitted for advice to a technical body, the Juridical Advisory Council.



■ The eight-pointed cross symbolising Order works

Government of the Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of Saint John of Jerusalem of Rhodes and of Malta



Prince and 79th Grand Master
H.M.E.H. Fra' Matthew Festing



H.E. Bailiff Fra' Carlo
d'Ippolito di Sant'Ippolito
Grand Commander



H.E. Bailiff Jean-Pierre
Mazery
Grand Chancellor



H.E. Bailiff Albrecht
Boeselager
Grand Hospitaller



H.E. Bailiff
Gian Luca Chiavari
**Receiver of the Common
Treasure**

SOVEREIGN COUNCIL MEMBERS

H.E. Fra' John T. Dunlap
H.E. Fra' Duncan Gallie
H.E. Fra' Emmanuel Rousseau
H.E. Gian Luigi Magliocco di Brugneto
H.E. Antonio Sanchez-Corea
H.E. Bailiff Winfried Henckel von Donnersmarck

GOVERNMENT COUNCIL

Vice President

Fausto Solaro del Borgo

Councillors

Daniel J. Kelly
Raphael Debbané
Ruy do Valle Peixoto de Villas Boas
Juan T. O'Naghten y Chacón
Simon Grenfell

BOARD OF AUDITORS

President

Franz Harnoncourt-Unverzagt

Councillors

Bruno de Seguin Pazzis d'Aubignan
Lancelot d'Ursel
Fabrizio Colonna
Dominik Mentzigen
Alternate Councillors
Stephen Diaz-Gavin
Uberto Serlupi Crescenzi

BOARD OF COMMUNICATIONS

President

Ulrich von Glaunach zum Kazenstain

Councillors

Julian Allason
Niccolò d'Aquino di Caramanico
Oscar Rafael de Rojas y Villa
Adriano Monti-Buzzetti
André Querton
Klaus Schweinsberg

JURIDICAL COUNCIL

President

Prof. Av. Andrea Comba

Vice-President

Prof. Av. Leonardo Perrone

Secretary General

Prof. Av. Paolo Papanti
Pelletier de Bermigny

Members

Dr. Alberto Virgilio, Honorary
Vice-President
Prof. Damiano Nocilla
Prof. Av. Arturo Maresca

MAGISTRAL COURT OF APPEAL

President

Prof. Av. Cesare Maria Moschetti

Judges

Prof. Av. Giancarlo Perone
Prof. Av. Leonardo Perrone
Prof. Av. Arturo Maresca
Avv. Massimo Massella Ducci Teri

MAGISTRAL COURT OF FIRST INSTANCE

President

Prof. Av. Paolo Papanti Pelletier de
Bermigny

Judges

Prof. Av. Giovanni Giacobbe
Prof. Av. Gianpiero Milano
Dr. Arturo Martucci
Prof. Francesco d'Ayala Valva
Chancellor of the Magistral Courts
Col. Alessandro Bianchi

COMMISSION FOR THE PROTECTION OF NAMES AND EMBLEMS

President

Fra' John T. Dunlap

STRATEGY STEERING COMMITTEE

President

The Grand Chancellor
Delegated President
Winfried Henckel von Donnersmarck

Official Visits of the Grand Master

As Head of State, the Grand Master makes and receives a number of state visits throughout each year. He also makes and receives official visits and delegations, as do senior members of the Sovereign Council.

2010

8-15 February

In Kinshasa, the capital of the **Democratic Republic of the Congo**, the Grand Master is received by Prime Minister Adolphe Muzito, the President of the Senate Léon Kengo wa Dondo and the President of the National Assembly Evariste Boshab. The Grand Master is also received by the Archbishop of Kinshasa, Laurent Monsengwo Pasinya, and meets Leila Zerrougui, Deputy Head of the UN Mission in the DR Congo. The Grand Master then visited the Order's medical and welfare projects in Eastern Congo.

15-18 February

President Mwai Kibaki of **Kenya** receives the Grand Master of the Order, Fra' Matthew Festing, at Harambee House in Nairobi. The Grand Master has talks with Foreign Minister Moses Wetangula and meets the Health

Minister Beth Wambui Mugo, with whom he discusses the numerous cooperation programmes the Order runs in Kenya through Malteser International.

17 March

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of **Paraguay**, Héctor Ricardo Lacognata Zaragoza, is received by the Grand Master at the Magistral Palace in Rome.

27 April

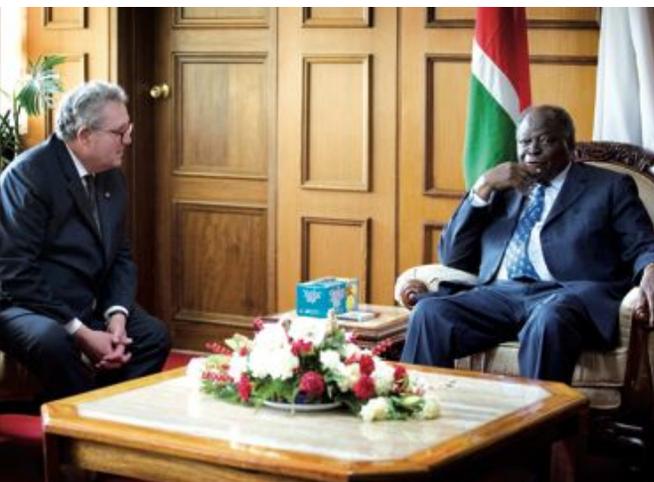
The **Patriarch of the Catholic Greeks** Gregory III Laham is received at the Magistral Palace.

28 April

Diana Štrofová, State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the **Slovak Republic**, is received in the Magistral Palace.

28 April

The Vice-Prime Minister of the **Czech**



■ 15.2.10 President of Kenya, Mwai Kibaki



■ 21.5.10 President of Dominican Republic, Leonel Fernández Reyna



■ 21.5.10 President of the European Commission, José Manuel Barroso

2010 recorded visits from heads of state from as far afield as the Dominican Republic and the Seychelles, to Croatia, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Kenya



■ 25.6.10 Pope Benedict XVI receives the Grand Master

Republic Jan Kohout is received at the Magistral Palace in Rome.

20 May

The Grand Master, Fra' Matthew Festing, receives Hilarion Alfeev, Metropolitan of Volokolamsk and Chairman of the Department of External Affairs of the **Moscow Patriarchate**, in the Magistral Villa in Rome.

21 May

The President of the **Dominican Republic**, Leonel Fernández Reyna, is received by the Grand Master, Fra' Matthew Festing, in the Magistral Palace.

21 May

The first visit of a **European Commission** president to the Order takes place at the Magistral Villa in Rome. José Manuel Barroso is received by Fra' Matthew Festing. The meeting is followed by an official dinner including

some hundred ambassadors and Italian and Vatican institutional personalities, including the Italian Minister for European Politics Andrea Ronchi and Cardinal Jean Louis Tauran, President of the Pontifical Council for Inter-religious Dialogue.

22 May

The Premier of **Bulgaria**, Boyko Borissov, accompanied by a delegation including Vice-Premier and Home Minister Tzvetan Tzvetanov, Foreign Minister Nickolay Mladenov, Culture Minister Vejdi Rachidov and representatives of the Orthodox Church is received by the Grand Master in the Order's Magistral Villa in Rome.

7 June

Fra' Matthew Festing, receives Roselyne Bachelot-Narquin, the Minister of Health and Sport of **France**, in the Magistral Palace.

25 June

His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI receives in audience at the **Vatican**, Fra' Matthew Festing, Grand Master of the Order of Malta, accompanied by the members of the Sovereign Council.

26-29 June

At the invitation of the Honourable Noël A. Kinsella, Speaker of the Senate of **Canada**, the Grand Master Fra' Matthew Festing attends the International Fleet Review hosted by Canada's Navy in Halifax, Nova Scotia, as part of the Canadian Naval Centennial (1910-2010) in the presence of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

15 September

The Minister for Foreign Affairs of **Latvia**, Aivis Ronis, is received at the Magistral Palace.



■ 9.10.10 President of Croatia, Ivo Josipovic



■ 25.10.10 President of Seychelles, James Michel

9 October

The President of the Republic of **Croatia**, Ivo Josipovic, is received by the Grand Master at the Magistral Villa in Rome.

25 October

Grand Master Fra' Matthew Festing receives the President of **Seychelles** James Michel in the Magistral Villa.

27 October

King Simeon II of **Bulgaria**, together with Queen Margarita, Prince Kubrat and Princess Carla, are received by the Grand Master in the Magistral Palace.

17 November

The Speaker of the Parliament of the **Czech Republic**, Miroslava Némecová, is received at the Magistral Palace in Rome.

21 November

Irina Bokova, Director General of **UNESCO**, is received at the Order of Malta's Magistral Villa in Rome.

10-11 December

On a state visit to **Portugal**, Fra' Matthew Festing is received by the President of the Republic Anibal Cavaco Silva, and by the Prime Minister José Sócrates, and meets the nation's political and religious authorities.

150 years of Italian unification, 75 years of the Order's diplomatic relations with San Marino, visits to Liechtenstein, Monaco, Romania and Portugal

2011

28 February

The President of the **European Parliament** Jerzy Buzek is received by the Grand Master Fra' Matthew Festing in the Magistral Villa in Rome.

8 March

Grand Master Fra' Matthew Festing receives the Deputy Prime Minister of the **Hungarian Republic** Zsolt Semjén in the Magistral Palace in Rome. During the meeting the ratification instruments for the international cooperation agreement signed in Budapest on 3 November 2010 are exchanged.

2 June

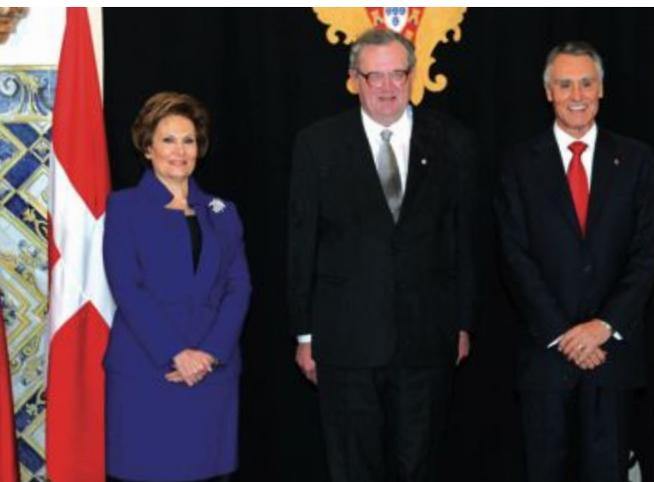
Following the invitation of the President of **Italy**, Giorgio Napolitano, the Grand Master takes part in the official celebration of the 150th anniversary of the Italian unification.

7-12 June

On a state visit to **Romania** Fra' Matthew Festing is received by President Traian Basescu, and also by Emil Boc, Prime Minister of the Romanian government. He also has talks with Roberta Anastase Alma, Speaker of the House of Representatives.

17 June

In Geneva, the Director General of the **United Nations** Office Kassym-Jomart Tokayev receives the Grand Master Fra' Matthew Festing.



■ 23.11.11 President of Portugal, Anibal Cavaco Silva



■ 8.6.11 President of Romania, Traian Basescu



■ 31.7.11 Prince Albert II of Monaco



■ 25.6.11 Sovereign Council with Pope Benedict XVI

25 June

His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI receives in audience at the **Vatican**, Fra' Matthew Festing, Grand Master of the Order of Malta, accompanied by the members of the Sovereign Council.

30-31 July

Prince Albert II of **Monaco** receives the Grand Master Fra' Matthew Festing in an official visit to the Principality. A fundraising concert for the Order's activities is held in the courtyard of the Prince's Palace.

1-2 September

Prince Regent Alois of **Liechtenstein** receives the Grand Master in the twelfth-century Vaduz castle in the principality's capital.

9-13 September

Dalia Grybauskaite, President of **Lithuania**, receives the Grand Master Fra' Matthew Festing in Vilnius. The Grand Master also participated in the celebrations for the 20th anniversary of the Lithuanian Volunteer Corps of the Order.

24 September

The 100th anniversary of the Order of Malta's **Netherlands** Association is celebrated in the presence of the Grand Master Fra' Matthew Festing with a High Mass in St. Catherine's Cathedral, Utrecht, historically linked to the Order of St. John and now seat of the archdiocese of Utrecht.

30 September

Minister of State of the Principality of **Monaco**, Michel Roger, is received by

the Grand Master Fra' Matthew Festing in the Magistral Villa.

19 October

To celebrate the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations with the world's oldest republic, Fra' Matthew Festing is received in **San Marino** by the Most Excellent Captains Regent, Gabriele Gatti and Matteo Fiorini.

6-9 November

The Grand Master of the Order of Malta makes an official visit to the Republic of **Chile** and is received by President Sebastián Piñera at La Moneda Palace.

23 November

Minister of the Interior of the **Slovak Republic**, Daniel Lipsic, is received at the Magistral Palace in Rome.



■ 1.9.11 Prince Regent Alois of Liechtenstein



■ 12.9.11 President of Lithuania, Dalia Grybauskaite

In 2012, visits to Austria, Russia, the European Parliament in Brussels, and a welcome to many governmental representatives, from Belgium to Slovenia, from Liberia to Cyprus

2012

30 January

The Grand Master receives King Michael of **Romania** in the Magistral Palace in Rome.

21 February

Fra' Matthew Festing receives the King of **Tonga** George Tupou V at the Magistral Palace.

21 February

The Vice President of the Republic of **Liberia**, Joseph Nyumah Boakai, is received by the Grand Master in the Magistral Palace in Rome.

27 February - 1 March

On a state visit to **Austria**, Grand Master Fra' Matthew Festing is received by the Federal President Heinz

Fischer in the Hofburg Palace in Vienna. The Grand Master also has talks with the Federal Chancellor Werner Faymann, with the Vice-Chancellor and Foreign Minister Michael Spindelegger and the Mayor of Vienna Michael Häupl. The Grand Master is then received by the Director General of the **United Nations** Office, Yury Fedotov and the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency, Yukiya Amano.

20 March

The Grand Master inaugurates an exhibition on the Order of Malta's activities in the **European Parliament** in Brussels in the presence of the President of the Parliament, Martin Schulz.

12 April

Didier Reynders, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of **Belgium**, is received at the Magistral Villa in Rome.

6 June

In a bilateral meeting between the Republic of **Cyprus** and the Sovereign Order of Malta the protocol that establishes the opening of diplomatic relations was signed in the Order's Magistral Villa in Rome.

25 June

His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI receives in audience at the **Vatican**, Fra' Matthew Festing, Grand Master of the Order of Malta, accompanied by the High Officers of the Sovereign Council.



■ 19.10.11 Captains Regent of the Republic of San Marino, Gabriele Gatti and Matteo Fiorini



■ 8.11.11 President of Chile, Sebastian Piñera



■ 21.2.12 King of Tonga, George Tupou V



■ 6.7.12 Kirill, Patriarch of Moscow and all the Russias, receives the Grand Master

5 July

The Grand Master, together with the Minister of Culture of the Russian Federation Vladimir Medinskiy, inaugurates the exhibition *Treasures of the Order of Malta: nine centuries at the service of faith and charity* in the Kremlin Museums in **Moscow**.

6 July

His Holiness the **Patriarch of Moscow and all the Russias**, Kirill, receives in audience Grand Master Fra' Matthew Festing at the patriarchal residence in the Monastery of St. Daniel in Moscow, Russia.

25 July

The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of **Belgium**, Didier Reynders, signs – on behalf of the Federal Public Service Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Development

Cooperation of Belgium – a Cooperation Agreement with the Sovereign Order of Malta, represented by the Grand Chancellor Jean-Pierre Mazery in Egmont Palace, Brussels.

9-14 September

A delegation of the Sovereign Order of Malta, headed by the Grand Chancellor Jean-Pierre Mazery, and the Grand Hospitaller Albrecht Boeselager, visits Taiwan at the invitation of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of **Taiwan** to discuss the possibilities of mutual collaboration in the humanitarian and social sectors. The delegation has an audience with Ma Ying-jeou, President of Taiwan, and is received by Timothy Chin-Tien Yang, Minister of Foreign Affairs.

18 October

In **Poland** for a two-day visit, Grand Master Fra' Matthew Festing is received

by the President of the Polish Republic Bronislaw Komorowski in Belweder Palace, Warsaw.

25 October

The President of the Republic of **Cyprus**, Demetris Christofias, and current President of the Council of the European Union, is received at the Magistral Villa by the Grand Master, Fra' Matthew Festing, on the occasion of his State visit to the Sovereign Order, the first by a Head of State of Cyprus.

14 November

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of **Slovenia**, Karl Erjavec, is received at the Magistral Palace in Rome.



■ 27.2.12 President of Austria, Heinz Fischer

■ 25.10.12 President of Cyprus, Demetris Christofias

THE ORDER OF MALTA HAS DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH 104 COUNTRIES:

EUROPE

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

THE AMERICAS

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

ASIA

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

AFRICA

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

OCEANIA

Micronesia, Marshall Islands, Kiribati.

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

THE ORDER OF MALTA HAS OFFICIAL RELATIONS WITH:

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

THE ORDER OF MALTA HAS RELATIONS AT AMBASSADOR LEVEL WITH:

- Palestinian Authority

Multilateral relations

THE ORDER OF MALTA HAS RELATIONS AT AMBASSADOR LEVEL WITH:

- European Union

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

United Nations - New York

United Nations - Geneva

United Nations - Vienna

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

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

IAEA - International Atomic Energy Agency

(Vienna)

IFAD - International Fund for Agricultural Development (Rome)

UNEP - United Nations Environment Programme (Nairobi)

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

UNHCHR - United Nations High

Commissioner for Human Rights (Geneva)

UNHCR - United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (Geneva)

UNIDO - United Nations Industrial Development Organization (Vienna)

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

WHO - World Health Organization (Geneva)

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

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

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

ICMM - International Committee of Military Medicine (Brussels)

ICRC - International Committee of the Red Cross (Geneva)

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

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

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

IOM - International Organization for Migration (Geneva)

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

UNILAT - Latin Union (Santo Domingo, Paris)

Council of Europe (Strasbourg)



■ The Order of Malta and the European Commission collaborate on joint projects



OPENING OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS

The protocol that establishes the opening of diplomatic relations between the Republic of Cyprus and the Sovereign Order of Malta is signed on 6 June 2012. Mrs Erato Kozakou-Marcoullis, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cyprus, and Jean-Pierre Mazery, Grand Chancellor of the Sovereign Order of Malta, sign the agreement in the Magistral Villa, institutional seat of the Order of Malta in Rome.



REAFFIRMATION OF BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH ITALY

In Rome on 17 May 2012, the Italian Foreign Minister Giulio Terzi di Sant'Agata receives the Grand Chancellor of the Sovereign Order of Malta, Jean-Pierre Mazery and the Order's Ambassador to Italy Giulio di Lorenzo Badia. The excellent state of bilateral relations is reaffirmed during the meeting and an agreement defining the state of bilateral relations and the presence of the Order of Malta's government seat in Italy is signed.

Working with nations

Cooperation agreements for healthcare and humanitarian initiatives

The Order of Malta enters into cooperation agreements with other states with the purpose of establishing or strengthening the healthcare, welfare or humanitarian services in the country or to agree an operative framework for joint actions going forward.

Czech Republic (28 April 2010)

An agreement protocol for humanitarian cooperation in Haiti between the Czech Republic and the Order of Malta was signed by Jan Kohout, Czech Vice-Premier and Foreign Minister, and the Order's Grand Chancellor Jean-Pierre Mazery. The Czech Republic will provide technical cooperation and funds for health training, disaster preparedness and reconstruction projects the Order is implementing in Haiti after the earthquake in 2010.

Hungary (3 November 2010)

An international cooperation agreement between the Republic of Hungary and the Sovereign Order of Malta was signed in Budapest. This agreement, ratified with a large majority by the Hungarian Parliament on 29 November, strengthens the Order's healthcare, welfare and humanitarian services in Hungary.

Portugal (24 November 2010)

An international cooperation agreement was signed in Lisbon between the Sovereign Order of Malta and the Community of Portuguese-language Countries, which includes Angola, Brazil, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, Portugal, Sao Tome' and Principe and Timor L'Este. The agreement will supply the operative framework for joint actions going forward, and further develop the humanitarian aid programmes the Order already has in place in the member states of the Community.

Russian Federation (27 November 2010)

A memorandum of understanding for cooperation in dealing with emergencies caused by nature or by man was signed by the Russian deputy Minister Pavel Plat and the Grand Chancellor Jean-Pierre Mazery in Rome. The agreement between the Order of Malta's Italian Relief Corps and EMERCOM – the Russian Federation's Ministry of Emergency Situations – specifies the development of cooperation programmes, coordination of emergency situations, and management of civil defence volunteers.

Liberia (1 February 2011)

In Monrovia the Government of Liberia and the Embassy of the Order of Malta signed a Cooperation Agreement to facilitate and foster humanitarian works and projects of the Order in the country. It also grants customs and tax exemption for importing goods, as well

as freedom of movement inside the Liberian territory.

Dominican Republic (12 April 2011)

In Santo Domingo the Minister of Foreign Relations of the Dominican Republic and the Ambassador of the Order of Malta signed a Cooperation Agreement to promote health and social development in the country through the works of the Dominican Association of the Order.

Morocco (30 May 2011)

Ordre de Malte France and the Ministry of Health of Morocco have drawn up a new agreement under which the existing healthcare initiatives are extended to training health practitioners.

Kenya (14 September 2011)

A cooperation agreement was signed by The Hon. Mosé Wetang'ula, Foreign Minister of Kenya, and by Ambassador Gianfranco Cicogna Mozzoni for the Order of Malta. The agreement to develop cooperation in the healthcare and humanitarian field also extends customs and fiscal exemptions for importing equipment – already granted to the embassy – to Malteser International. The accord also facilitates freedom of movement inside the country for all the Order of Malta's personnel.

Chile (8 November 2011)

A memorandum of understanding was signed with the Chilean government for an international humanitarian network to coordinate activities during natural



disasters. The agreement defines the coordination between the Order, the Chilean Foreign Ministry and National Office for Emergencies. The need for this coordination was highlighted by the UN Assessment Report on disaster Risk Reduction in Chile after the earthquake of 2010.

Mali
(5 December 2011)

The Order of Malta and the World Health Organization have signed a cooperation and partnership agreement at the WHO in Bamako. In the agreement both parties have undertaken to define and implement joint projects in hospitals and healthcare. The aim of the agreement is to provide patients in need with the best care, as part of the national health policy of the Government of Mali and in accordance with the guidelines of the World Health Organisation.

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
(28 February 2012)

The Director General of the United Nations Office in Vienna, Yury Fedotov, and the Grand Chancellor, Jean-Pierre Mazery, signed a joint statement between the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and the Order of Malta. This agreement aims to focus on preventing human trafficking, drug abuse and corruption.

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)
(28 February 2012)

An agreement was signed between the Order of Malta and the International Atomic Energy Agency, with the aim of supporting the Programme of Action for Cancer Therapy. This programme has been launched to help developing countries improve their capacities in cancer care tasks and create regional radiotherapy centres.

France
(4 April 2012)

In the Quai d’Orsay, Alain Juppé, Minister of Foreign Affairs, signed a protocol of cooperation between France and the Sovereign Order of Malta, represented by the Grand Chancellor, Jean-Pierre Mazery, and the President of the Ordre de Malte France, Thierry de Beaumont-Beynac. This cooperation protocol, based on the *Oeuvres Hospitalières Françaises de l’Ordre de Malte* experience in emergency medical services, renews and strengthens the already firm bonds that have existed since 1928 between France and the Order. The protocol is a concrete demonstration of France’s interest in the Order’s humanitarian activities and in developing cooperation in this sector.

Guinea
(11 April 2012)

Ordre de Malte France signed a cooperation agreement with the Ministry of Health of Guinea. The Order has been operating in Guinea since 1986, when

the first agreement was signed with the country for a national leprosy programme. The Order’s surgery in Pita operates as a logistics base for national leprosy, tuberculosis and Buruli ulcer programmes.

Belgium
(25 July 2012)

A Cooperation Agreement was signed between the Kingdom of Belgium and the Sovereign Order of Malta. The signing ceremony, which took place in the Egmont Palace in Brussels, reinforces cooperation in humanitarian and charitable projects in third-world countries.

Monaco
(31 August 2012)

A Cooperation Agreement between the Order of Malta and the Principality of Monaco was signed at the Residence of the Minister of State, Mr Michel Roger. The agreement will facilitate the active cooperation and exchange of information in the field of humanitarian assistance worldwide between the government of Monaco and the Order of Malta.

Republic of Congo
(14 December 2012)

A Cooperation Agreement to set up the general framework and guidelines for health care activities, is signed in Brazzaville by the Secretary General of the Foreign Affairs Ministry and the Order of Malta’s Ambassador in the Congo.

A UN perspective

Diplomacy in the Sovereign Order of Malta

The Sovereign Order of Malta has permanent observer missions at the United Nations (New York, Geneva, Paris, Vienna, Rome, Nairobi, Bangkok) and with its specialised agencies.

Permanent Observer mission to the United Nations in New York

The Sovereign Military Order of Malta was admitted by General Assembly Resolution as a Permanent Observer to the United Nations on August 24, 1994. The Permanent Observer Mission supports and extends cordial relations to State and non-State Actors. In New York it is headed by Ambassador Robert Shafer and an eight-member delegation. They ensure that the Sovereign Order of Malta's work is highly visible on the international stage. Members of the delegation attend daily meetings of the Security Council, the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council, and the numerous committees and commissions that comprise the UN system. Views of the Order on issues at the core of its commitment are presented by addressing these meetings: on public health, maternal and child health, HIV/AIDS eradication, malaria, leprosy and tuberculosis; rights of women and children; disaster relief; protection of civilians in armed conflict; rights of refugees and migrants; economic development and the Millennium Development Goals; poverty reduction; safety of humanitarian field personnel. The Order of Malta makes interventions when appropriate, with the exception of the Security Council, where statements may be made only by invitation of the Council President. In November 2009 the Grand Hospitaller of the Order, Albrecht von Boeselager, at the President's request, addressed the Council on Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict.

Interventions and attendance are growing exponentially; the Mission has broadened its scope of participation to include those issues that gain prominence as the world changes, such as climate change, the global financial crisis, food security. The Order of Malta has no voting privileges in the decision

The Mission has broadened its scope of participation to include those issues that gain prominence as the world changes

making bodies of the UN in New York. The Mission also produces Information Notes on its humanitarian relief and development projects worldwide. These are distributed to all Permanent Missions to the UN in New York.

More information can be found at the Mission's website:
www.un.int/orderofmalta

The Grand Hospitaller of the Order of Malta gives a speech at the United Nations Security Council on the safety of civilians in conflict



The Order of Malta Permanent Observer mission in Geneva develops relations with international and intergovernmental humanitarian organisations to inform them about the activities of the Order of Malta and to define possible fields of cooperation.

The work focuses on:

- Refugees - UNHCR
 - Health - WHO
 - Relief - OCHA
 - Human rights - UNHCHR and HRC
 - Migration - IOM
 - Social matters - ECOSOC
-

Permanent Observer mission to the United Nations in Geneva

In 2012, an information conference for new Ambassadors of the Order in Europe and Africa initiated by the Grand Chancellor of the Order and organised by the Order's Mission in Geneva at the Palais des Nations, centred on the role of the Order's Diplomatic Service and its international humanitarian activities.

...multilateral diplomatic activities include ... regular briefings on crisis situations by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

The Order's Permanent Mission to the UN in Geneva carries out multilateral diplomatic activities: participation in the annual World Health Assembly and Executive Board meetings of the World Health Organization, the Executive and Standing Committee sessions of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, the Substantive Session of the UN Economic

and Social Council, the UN Human Rights Council sessions, regular briefings on crisis situations by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the Council meetings of the International Organization for Migration, and the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent. Ambassador Marie-Thérèse Pictet-Althann and her team address the issues raised through statements and participation in debates, inter-active dialogues and informal consultations. On 17th June 2011 Grand Master Fra' Matthew Festing paid an official visit to the United Nations, where he was received by the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva, Kassym-Jomart Tokayev. Discussions focused on the work of the Order in humanitarian emergencies and public health.

Further information on the Mission's work is available at www.ungeneva.orderofmalta.int

Conferences

Every year the Order of Malta engages in meetings and conferences, at national and international level. These are special opportunities to bring together the latest thinking and experience that the Order's members have to offer. The encounters provide inspiration for the development of programmes and activities as well as examination of past projects.

- 1st Asia-Pacific Regional Conference of the Order, Singapore
17-18 September 2010
- Conference: 'Humanitarian challenges in crisis-driven regions,' Rome, Italy
27 October 2010
- Humanitarian Diplomacy and International Crisis Management. Jointly: Order of Malta and the French Navy, UNESCO Paris, France
27-28 January 2011
- 18th European Hospitallers' Conference, Cambridge, England
1-3 April 2011
- National Associations Presidents' Meeting, Einsiedeln, Switzerland
6-8 May 2011
- 40th INTERPOL European Regional Conference. Addressed by the Order of Malta Grand Chancellor Jean-Pierre Mazery: 'The Order of Malta - Subject of International Law,' La Valletta, Malta
15 May 2011
- 2nd Asia-Pacific Regional Conference of the Order, Makati City, Philippines
14-16 October 2011
- Eighth Conference of the Americas, Lima, Peru
3-7 November 2011
- Grand Master in conference at the Pontifical Catholic University of Chile: 'The Sovereign Order of Malta in the World,' Santiago, Chile
7 November 2011
- Seminar: 'Protecting the Sacred Places of the Mediterranean, a contribution to intercultural dialogue'. Jointly promoted by the European Commission and the Sovereign Order of Malta in cooperation with BEPA (Bureau of European Policy Advisers), Brussels, Belgium
6 March 2012
- 19th European Hospitallers' Conference, Prague, Czech Republic
16-18 March 2012
- Conference on the Order's International humanitarian activities, and photographic exhibition, European Parliament, Brussels, Belgium
23 March 2012
- 3rd Asia-Pacific Regional Conference of the Order, Sydney, Australia
12-14 October 2012
- Conference on the Protection and Conservation of Cultural Heritage in the Mediterranean, hosted in Limassol by the Republic of Cyprus and Order of Malta, with the European Commission and UNESCO
22-23 November 2012

Humanitarian diplomacy and international crisis management:

A conference organised by the Sovereign Order of Malta and the French Navy at the UNESCO Paris headquarters



■ Paris: over 400 diplomats, members of the military and humanitarian leaders met for two days

A keynote meeting discusses ways forward with actors on the ground in the management of disasters and crises.

The Sovereign Order of Malta and the French Navy organised a Conference on Humanitarian Diplomacy and International Crisis Management at UNESCO's headquarters in Paris in January 2011.

The aim of the conference was to help define the practices and courses of action which should be implemented by the various actors on the ground. Over 400 diplomats, members of the military and humanitarian leaders met for two days of intense discussion. The conference highlighted the urgent need to define guiding ethical principles in crisis areas, not only of the large humanitarian agencies, but also of the armed forces, politicians, religious leaders, entrepreneurs, opinion leaders

and civil society in general. Since the large humanitarian operations which have taken place in Iraq, Afghanistan, Darfur, Sahel and recently Haiti, crisis resolution has been constantly evolving and now largely affects the relationship between military forces, diplomats and humanitarian organisations.

An urgent need to define guiding ethical principles in crisis areas

The question of relations among military servicemen, diplomats, both civil and humanitarian within the framework of international crises, armed conflicts or natural catastrophes, as well as involvement of mass-media, of large multinational enterprises, private security companies, non-state actors and the multiplication of NGOs, often with different objectives, has raised the issue of having the various actors cohabitate, co-operate and when possible, integrate on the ground. A new approach is therefore necessary: while

the change of relationships between humanitarian organisations, diplomats, civilians and military forces is not new, the recent concepts of 'duty to interfere' and 'responsibility to protect' have paved the way for what is now called 'humanitarian diplomacy'.

Among the important recommendations, the European Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Response Mme Kristalina Georgieva noted:

- The need for more global financial resources for humanitarian aid, especially from the private sector, and through public-private partnerships;
- The need to improve aid effectiveness by strengthening the performance and delivery capacity of the humanitarian system, which means to collectively be better prepared to address large scale disasters, to improve on-the-spot leadership and coordination, and especially the roles of UN Humanitarian coordinators and of UN-led systems of clusters;
- The need to 'de-compartmentalise' policy areas in the management of disasters and crises.

Protecting the Sacred Places of the Mediterranean, a contribution to intercultural dialogue

A seminar jointly organised by the European Commission and the Sovereign Order of Malta in Brussels, chaired by President José Manuel Barroso



■ Androulla Vassiliou, European Commissioner

The seminar focuses on how to strengthen intercultural dialogue through the preservation of sacred places, with a view to contributing to social and political stability.

In March 2012, the European Commission and the Sovereign Order of Malta jointly organised a seminar on 'Protecting the Sacred Places of the Mediterranean – a contribution to intercultural dialogue' at the European Commission headquarters in Brussels, under the chairmanship of President José Manuel Barroso.



■ Conference participants with José Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission

Fifty academics, experts, religious and diplomatic representatives discussed how to define principles for a common declaration on the access to and legal protection of the sacred places around the Mediterranean.

They agreed that the majority of these belong to the three monotheistic religions, Christianity, Judaism and Islam, which share fundamental principles. Thus, identification of a protection framework, taking into account the similarities shared by the sacred places of the Mediterranean, but distinguished from sacred sites elsewhere, is possible.

President Barroso thanked the Order of Malta for "its longstanding and determined efforts with regard to such a complex topic as that of access to and protection of sacred places" and

declared that "Europe is determined to foster intercultural dialogue, and the European Commission is prepared to endorse any concrete proposal in this direction."

Jean-Pierre Mazery, Grand Chancellor of the Sovereign Order of Malta replied: "We are convinced that the sacred places play an important role in fostering intercultural dialogue and an effective system for protecting them could significantly contribute to social and political stability in the Mediterranean region. The Order of Malta is confident that, with the support of the European Union, the States involved, UNESCO and other international organisations, it will be possible to establish principles and policies in agreement with the religious communities and local authorities in the region."

Protection and Conservation of Cultural Heritage in the Mediterranean: A Common Responsibility

A conference hosted in Limassol by the Republic of Cyprus and the Sovereign Order of Malta, with the European Commission and UNESCO



■ Prof. Silvio Ferrari, University of Milan



■ Bishop of Karpasia Christoforos, Church of Cyprus; Jean-Pierre Mazery; George Iacovou, Cyprus Presidential Commissioner

The conference emphasises the importance of protecting our universal heritage, to maintain the multi-cultural and multi-religious character of the Mediterranean, and promote peace.

A conference on the 'Protection and Conservation of Cultural Heritage in the Mediterranean' hosted by the Republic of Cyprus and the Sovereign Order of Malta with the European Commission and UNESCO, took place in Limassol, Cyprus, 22-23 November 2012.

It followed from the resolutions taken at the March 2012 seminar in Brussels on this important topic. Participants representing the European Commission, European States, major international organisations and religious institutions, examined the latest developments in the protection and promotion of universal Sacred Places in the Mediterranean area. The Grand Chancellor of the Sovereign Order of Malta addressed the need to think of new forms of action to safeguard the religious heritage of the Mediterranean region. "Today, in addition to its original mission," explained Jean Pierre Mazery,

"the Sovereign Order of Malta has endeavoured to help to protect such universal heritage with a view to maintaining the multi-cultural and multi-religious character of the Mediterranean while promoting peace and stability in the region." The key conclusions stated a desire to strengthen UNESCO's efforts.



■ Christian Manhart, UNESCO

Spotlight

Care with compassion is part of the Order's mission. In Europe, in Africa, in the Middle East, the spotlight falls on the stories of inspired volunteer involvement, on how innovative care is helping the elderly, on work for the sufferers of gender-based violence and on a firsthand, joyous account of giving birth at the Order's hospital in Bethlehem.

Syria

aid in crisis situations





TOTAL AREA:
185,180 sq km

POPULATION:
22.5 million

LIFE EXPECTANCY AT BIRTH:
74 years

The Lebanese Association of the Order of Malta and Malteser International are assisting victims of the conflict

The dramatic scenes of terrified fleeing citizens have spread out from Syria to the world. Refugees are pouring into the neighbouring countries. The humanitarian demand is great.

In Lebanon, the Lebanese Association of the Order of Malta, together with Malteser International, the Order's international relief agency, are assisting victims of the conflict. The refugees come with heart-wrenching stories. The Lebanese Association has set up a special clinic at its health centre in Khaldieh, 40 kilometres from Tripoli. Refugees have flocked there – up to a hundred a day. In Syria, Malteser International and its long-time partner the International Blue Crescent (IBC), coordinates donations of basic necessities and hygiene kits for internally displaced persons (IDPs).

■ Syria: refugees at an Order/Blue Crescent distribution centre



■ Syria: working in partnerships is effective in the conflict-stricken land

Roland Hansen, Head of the Asia Desk for Malteser International, at the heart of the project in Autumn 2012

What humanitarian issues stand out in this kind of crisis?

First, the velocity of the civil conflict which is like a real war. It means that many people will need psycho-social care, on top of the other basic needs. And then, uncertainty about the future. No-one knows what will happen if President Bashar al-Assad falls.

What is the greatest concern of the aid workers?

They concentrate on assisting the poorest and most vulnerable, whoever they are. So the relief goods are only distributed on demand. Because of the conflict, the observation of humanitarian principles – especially impartiality – is of absolute priority. And naturally the safety and security of their beneficiaries and themselves.

How do refugees learn about the Khaldieh clinic in Lebanon and its support?

Many Syrian refugees or family members have been living in the region for a long time so they know about the Khaldieh clinic. They tell the new arrivals about its services as they have already experienced the quality of the

The observation of humanitarian principles – especially impartiality – is of absolute priority

treatment and the support the clinic gives refugees. In public clinics they have to pay, but the Order of Malta treats poor refugees gratis. Hundreds have already received treatment, but the number seeking help grows all the time.

What is a typical refugee experience at Khaldieh?

Mayada (name changed), 35, is a typical example. She arrived in Lebanon six months ago with her four children. She is five months pregnant. As her husband has been working as a seasonal harvester in Lebanon she could get a permit for her children to attend a Lebanese school. Mayada is very grateful for the pre-natal care she receives in the Khaldieh clinic, as the family cannot afford medical treatment. Her husband's earnings are not even enough to ensure their basic needs, as prices in Lebanon are much higher than in Syria. Come winter he will be unemployed and even more in need of help. Mayada's story is representative of many.

As coordinator of relief projects, is it hard to get information from Malteser International's partners on the ground in Syria?

Information comes through our Turkish partner, International Blue Crescent (IBC), working on the ground. They are extremely busy because the team is visiting every family in Damascus and going to Aleppo, Homs and Hama too. For our last joint distribution, in 2007, the relief kits to Iraqi refugees in Damascus left from central

In May 2012: 70,000 Syrian refugees registered or awaiting registration in Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey, Iraq. By December 2012: over 500,000. Egypt registered almost 9,000 in 2012. In Lebanon and in Egypt, refugees are scattered (in 500 municipalities in Lebanon). In Iraq, refugees are divided between camps and host communities; in Jordan, over 70 per cent live amongst host communities, the rest in three camps. Turkey: assists refugees in 14 camps, while tens of thousands are thought to have sought refuge in various cities.

statistics: UNHCR Regional overview December 2012

warehouses. But this time home visits are needed to identify and distribute relief goods to the very poorest families.

How do communications work?

Communications with the 'field' are quite difficult. Phone and internet connections are not stable and often down. And because we are working in Syria through IBC, our partner organisation based in Turkey, all communications to and from Damascus go via the IBC head office in Istanbul.

Can Malteser International continue to operate in Syria? Are there restrictions?

Yes, we will continue. And we will even extend our help there, as our partner IBC has been registered in Syria since 2007 when we first cooperated, and has

strong relations with the national Red Crescent Society. Right now we are preparing winter emergency relief for 15,500 people in Damascus, Hama, Homs and Aleppo. Hama and Homs are among the coldest cities in Syria. Thousands of people there are living in unheated school buildings and sleeping on the floor without blankets.

You have set up an appeal. How will the funds raised be used?

We have set up an appeal and the German government has supported our activities in Syria with 300,000 euros so far. We have received donations, but sadly need more. We are using the donations to provide the Khaldieh centre with medicines and laboratory equipment.

What happens next to the refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) and can Malteser International address that problem?

Currently, we can only care for a limited number of refugees – at the moment there are about 3,100 internally displaced families in Syria and 500 refugees in Lebanon. We give them hygiene kits, clothing and stoves for the winter. However, we need a lot more funding. If the crisis in Syria ends and we can return, we will support the reintegration of IDPs and refugees and the reconstruction of their homes and social infrastructure, based on the experience gained by our Malteser International teams in Asia. We have provided this kind of support in Cambodia, Afghanistan and Pakistan, and now we are preparing for the return of the refugees to Burma/Myanmar.

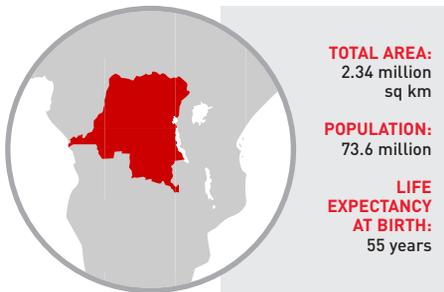


■ Stoves are provided for refugee families fleeing the conflict



Treating the violence

the Order in Democratic Republic of Congo



Despite numerous efforts to stabilise and bring peace in the East part of the Democratic Republic of Congo the situation worsened during 2012.

Over the years, Malteser International has set up and expanded its multi-sector aid programme, responding to the most pressing needs of the population.

Its natural resources should make the Democratic Republic of Congo a rich country: minerals, diamonds, gold, tropical forests, which should guarantee a good standard of living. But this is one of the poorest countries on the planet, listed last in the 180 nations surveyed in the World Outlook Database of the International Monetary Fund. Life expectancy is 55 years, infant mortality is 125,8 per thousand, over 54 per cent of the population live on a dollar a day. After long years of war and guerilla attacks among rival factions and government forces, terrible civilian genocide which has destroyed the social fabric, leaving 5.4 million dead in what has been called the African World War, making thousands of orphans and widows and leaving millions homeless, a fragile agreement has finally been reached. Tension remains high, although kept under control by the government and the UN peacekeeping forces. But in the east of the country, various minor armed groups are reigniting hostilities against the government.

And it is here, under these conditions, that Malteser International, the international relief agency of the Order of Malta, has been working. Its strategic project has two foci: 1) medical and health care in the Faradje and Aba regions; 2) emergency medical interventions to support internally displaced persons (IDPs).

Niccolo' d'Aquino di Caramanico interviews Dr. Alfred Kinzelbach, Malteser International's senior desk officer DR Congo, expert on the humanitarian situation in the country.

When did Malteser International first start its work here?

We began in 1994, in South Kivu, supplying clean water and medical assistance to civil war refugees. We have been taking part in medico-social development programmes with the local Ministry of Health since 2006. And with financial support from ECHO, the Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection department of the European Commission and Europe Aid in Brussels, we have launched a three year



■ Keeping communications lines open: road building in DR Congo



■ Support for victims of sexual violence is a priority in the Order's activities in DR Congo

programme in the Aru region, on the border with Uganda. We are carrying out projects in 13 areas, with 125 centres, hospitals and pharmaceutical dispensaries.

Will the projects be developed progressively?

Yes. In the first phase, when the general situation provoked by the war and the continuing attacks was still at its peak, we distributed medical kits to the centres around Faradje. Then added Aba, encouraging the paramedics, especially nurses, to open the healthcare centres again, allocating monthly financial support to the centres, so healthcare was available to everyone. We were especially involved with refugees: registering, giving free medical assistance, aiming to reduce mortality and disease among the very vulnerable. So far we have been able to offer free care to over 85,000 people. A significant result. But there is still

much to do. Most of the infrastructure has collapsed, but even when the institutions were still working, there were many elements lacking, left over from the colonial era but further impoverished because of the brain drain: many professionals went abroad. So, either the public social services do not exist any more or they are in a state of terminal decline.

Projects in 13 areas, with 125 centres, hospitals and pharmaceutical dispensaries

Is this true in the medico-health sector too?

Sure. The public health system operates its medical centres for profit. Every centre is autonomous and demands payment for its services.

How does Malteser International fit in?

An example of cooperation: since 2006 we have had a regional warehouse for pharmaceuticals, called Caamenihu. It is a joint venture between the local churches, Malteser International, the health districts and civil society. It distributes medicines and equipment worth a million euros each year to the participating centres. The warehouse was originally a pharmacy of Malteser International and the diocese of Mahagi.

How many staff does Malteser International employ in DRC?

'Our' areas are North Kivu and South Kivu. In South Kivu we have a team of 68 (64 are local employees). In North Kivu, near the Sudan border, we have three experts and 29 locals. The more complex situation is in the south - the question is: are we at war or are we at peace? Difficult to say, given the attacks which go on all the time.



■ Malteser International runs a water, sanitation and hygiene programme in eastern DRC, where only a fraction of the population has access to safe drinking water

What do you consider the most difficult problems to overcome?

The worst is sexual violence. It has become an instrument of war, never seen at this level in any other part of the world. It brings real psychological syndromes of post traumatic disorder: it is one of the main priorities where we must help, together with the 'normal' medico-pharmaceutical help. Sexual violence, following in the wake of war and massacres, has exploded in every

Sexual violence has become an instrument of war, never seen at this level in any other part of the world

part of the society: it is no longer a phenomenon linked only to conflicts. To use sexual violence as a strategic ploy creates shame and humiliation in the victims. But it has strong repercussions throughout the community too. The men

see the rape of their wives and daughters as the definitive failure of their capacity to protect them. But for the women, it is worse still, the damage is doubled, because the consequence of having been blamelessly violated often leads to their social exclusion.

Does Malteser International have special support programmes for these victims of sexual violence?

Yes. For women who become pregnant as a result of the violence, we provide help and support at the birth and for the next three months. But support in the country's centres is very limited, so we send the women to the best equipped hospitals, and those needing special treatment to Patiz Hospital in Bukavu. Where transport is a problem, we try to improve the medical provisions at the small local centres. There is also the economic aspect. The social isolation of the victims of sexual violence leaves them in extreme poverty. We seek to offer them the means to support themselves, giving them seeds to

cultivate or small animals to raise for market so they regain self respect.

Has the violence diminished recently?

We are working on it. In addition to practical support for the victims, we have organised education programmes for the military, and with a state agency, the PHI (Provincial Health Inspection), to reduce the pull of public opinion, and so to help the social reintegration of the victims. There are two key messages: it is certainly not the woman's fault, and many of diseases resulting from the violence can be diagnosed and cured.

How would you describe the aims of Malteser International's work in the DRC?

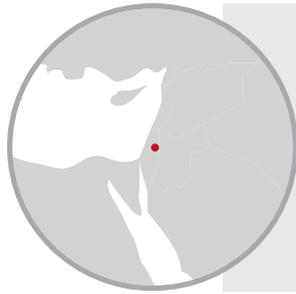
Here, as everywhere we operate, our work is based on the humanitarian principles of neutrality, impartiality and independence. Only strict adherence to these principles allows us to intervene in complex crisis situations without compromise and without being accused of taking sides in conflicts.



An oasis of calm in a chaotic world

The Order's Holy Family Hospital in Bethlehem





TOTAL AREA:
6,220 sq km

POPULATION:
4.3 million

LIFE EXPECTANCY AT BIRTH:
74 years

Something about its venerable history and biblical associations captured the imagination of women here

By Catrina Stewart
British journalist living in Jerusalem

I heard of the Holy Family hospital in Bethlehem long before I ever saw it. Something about its venerable history and biblical associations captured the imagination of women here, and my own interest was piqued by the stories I had heard.

There was the heavily-pregnant American woman I knew who walked there from her home in East Jerusalem one Christmas morning in search of her own seasonal miracle. The baby stayed put, and she returned home by taxi.

And there was the English doctor returning for a post-natal check-up following the birth of her son who described seeing a blackened and shot-up Virgin Mary overlooking the hospital's serene gardens at the height of the Second Intifada. An Israeli tank had machine-gunned the 120-year-old statue just the night before.

■ The Holy Family Hospital has 18 Intensive Care Unit beds for premature babies



■ The mobile clinic from the Order's Holy Family Hospital in Bethlehem makes weekly visits to desert communities

I discovered I was pregnant at an altogether more peaceful juncture in Israeli-Palestinian relations, and the Holy Family hospital, run by the romantic-sounding Knights of Malta, seemed an enticing option.

When I arrived for my first appointment at the private clinic, the receptionist asked me which doctor I had come to see. Seeing my blank expression, the receptionist reeled off two names. When I still looked blank, he softened, and said, "So, the fat one or the thin one?"

One of the first questions my doctor asked me was for my thoughts on the Israeli occupation, and prospects for peace amid stagnating peace talks, which had recently ground to a halt. Optimism for an Israeli-Palestinian peace deal appeared to be at an all-time low.

I gave him some initial thoughts, but my mind was preoccupied with other

things, namely the tiny heartbeat that I could hear on the ultrasound machine.

I could hear a tiny heartbeat on the ultrasound machine

My husband, frantically filing a story for his newspaper elsewhere in the hospital, missed it all.

The Holy Family hospital, a dedicated maternity facility, charmed us the moment we stepped into its cool cloistered surrounds, its peaceful hallways and beautiful gardens an oasis of calm just yards away from a chaotic traffic junction.

Our choice, nevertheless, raised some eyebrows. Israelis wondered aloud why we would choose a hospital in the Palestinian territories when Israel boasted some of the most advanced medical care in the world. Friends back

home generally greeted our choice with amusement, the jokes about no room at the inn eventually wearing thin.

But the Holy Family hospital, just 30 minutes' drive from our home, was not a frivolous choice: it was famed for its maternity care, and had a more natural approach to birthing than its highly medicalised Israeli counterparts. Moreover, the equipment was good, thanks to funding from USAID, the US government's development agency.

When at 28 weeks our doctor spotted enlarged brain ventricles during a routine scan, we were referred to Israel's Hadassah hospital for a foetal MRI to obtain a more detailed diagnosis. We were told that there were no MRI machines in the whole of the West Bank, a reminder of how fortunate we were to have the choice to seek treatment in Israel.

As a result, we were able to experience first-hand the Israeli healthcare system. The consultants were excellent, but they encouraged us to undergo exhaustive tests in the third trimester that left my husband and me stressed and frightened about the outcome of the pregnancy. Our doctor in Bethlehem was critical in urging us to forgo the tests and helping us recover our equilibrium.

As my due date neared, we wondered about the Israeli checkpoint we would



■ Catrina Stewart at the Holy Family Hospital

ESSENTIAL MATERNITY CARE FOR ALL WOMEN

Run by a highly qualified staff of 137 – 11 specialists, 10 resident doctors, 67 nurses, 11 paramedics and 38 administration and support staff – the Order of Malta's Holy Family Hospital in Bethlehem provides Palestinians with an indispensable service. It offers the only possible place for women of the region to give birth in good medical conditions. Since 1990 more than 56,500 babies have been delivered. Each year the hospital performs over 17,000 outpatient consultations and examinations.

With a gynecologist and a midwife on board, the 'Holy Family Mobile Clinic' ensures that essential maternity and pediatric care reaches women and infants in even the remotest corners of villages in the Judean Desert.

The hospital comes under the operational responsibilities of the French Association of the Order of Malta.

have to navigate. Israel's military mans every entry point into the occupied West Bank, and these checkpoints can be shut down at a moment's notice in response to a security threat.

My mother worried that a long-running hunger strike by Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails could spill over into violence amid rising tensions, and that we would find our way to the hospital blocked.

When I did go into labour in the middle of the night, the Israeli soldiers waved us through the checkpoint with barely a glance. At the hospital, we were greeted warmly and taken to a private room, where the nurses and midwives encouraged me to walk, breathe deeply and take hot showers to lessen the pain of contractions. My husband, prepped by Israeli antenatal classes, diligently rubbed my back.

Labour progressed quickly. There was a brief heart-stopping moment when the baby's heartbeat dramatically slowed, resulting in the need for a vacuum delivery.

Rosie was delivered safely just before lunch, and as she was whisked away, my husband took the opportunity to check the cricket scores. A beaming paediatrician presently brought us the best of news, informing us that the enlarged brain ventricles that had caused us so much worry during the pregnancy had shrunk back to their

normal size, and that she appeared perfectly healthy.

We were reunited with our baby daughter a couple of hours later. She arrived in a bassinet accompanied by a donated Father Christmas cuddly toy – no matter that it was the month of May.

I exchanged a few words with other new mothers, all of them Palestinians – both Christian and Muslim - surmounting any language barrier

A stellar team of midwives showed us how to nurse, bathe and change the nappy of our newborn. In the midwives' room, I exchanged a few words with other new mothers, all of them Palestinians – both Christian and Muslim. Through our shared experiences we were able to surmount any language barrier.

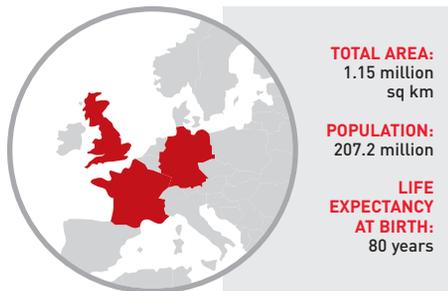
Meanwhile, I fear that our choices have not been entirely fair on Rosie. Her shiny new British passport proudly proclaims Bethlehem as her birthplace, a fact that will surely earn her a lifetime of ribbing. As for visiting Syria and Lebanon, we can only hope that by the time she feels the itch to travel, peace will reign in the Middle East.



Pioneering trends in dementia care

Innovative work in the Order's care homes
in Britain, Germany and France





British Association

In November 2010, a special post to enhance the quality of dementia care, through evidence-based and relationship-centred care was established at the Orders of St John Care Trust homes (OSJCT) in Britain, with an Admiral Nursing Service. The trust manages 71 care homes and five extra care schemes in four countries caring for approximately 3,500 residents and employing 4,000 staff.

One of the results has been the development of the Trust Dementia Good Practice Guidelines. Proposals include that each resident in the homes now has a Life Story interview - hugely important when planning and delivering person-centred care. Following another proposal, memory cafes have been set up in many of the homes for residents and their families. "We feel that coming to the café is the next step of our journey with my wife's dementia," a family carer says.

In the Order's care homes in Britain, Admiral Nurses work with whole families, including the person with dementia and professional carers. It is a very powerful way of improving direct care to people living with dementia and allows exchange of knowledge, attitudes and skills so that staff, too, develop personally and professionally.

One of the most distressing and confounding aspects of dementia care for staff groups is an understanding of and developing approaches to challenging behaviours. The ultimate

■ Dementia care in France is a growing area of attention



■ In Britain innovative dementia programmes bring relief to residents

aim is to enable the resident to stay within the care setting.

Much of the work in the Homes is around looking at personalisation. It involves the themes: maintaining identity; sharing decision-making; and creating community; and looking at how to personalise residents' doors and rooms, along with how murals and tactile pictures can enhance the lives of people with dementia. The new care approach has led to a reduction in antipsychotic usage - currently 50% of Homes have no antipsychotic medication use at all, which is a very positive achievement.

The Service has been very successful in its first year, the demand is increasing and the need for practical and emotional support for carers remains a key element of the service.

Angie Williams Admiral Nurse, Orders of St John Care and **Victoria Elliot** Care Quality Director OSJCT

For more information:
www.osjct.co.uk

German Association

For many years people with dementia and their families have been supported by different services and institutions of the Order of Malta in Germany. The Malteser residential homes established a programme 'Living with dementia', the Malteser Hilfsdienst (MHD) developed several training programs for different target groups that live and work with people with dementia. 'Café Malta' for people with dementia and their relatives was built up in different places, and special counselling services were established.

Personalisation is the key to enhancing the lives of people with dementia

In 2000 the German Association developed cooperation with the Royal Swedish Foundation, Silviahemmet. The work of Silviahemmet is based on the palliative care philosophy. The goal is 'to achieve the best quality of life for the person with dementia and for their



■ Ordre de Malte France runs four specialised homes for sufferers of Alzheimer's disease

relatives'. At the centre of the Foundation's activities is the education of the carers and the empowerment of relatives.

A unique care philosophy: to achieve the best quality of life for the dementia patient, to educate carers and empower relatives

Since 2009, 24 health care practitioners (medical doctors, occupational therapists, nurses, instructors and volunteers) from different institutions and services of the Order of Malta have been trained as Silviahemmet instructors, with 15 more currently in training. In 2009 and 2010 more than 1,900 staff members, volunteers and relatives were trained in the basic concept of Silviahemmet. A special care unit for patients with dementia who need acute medical intervention was inaugurated in the presence of Queen Silvia of Sweden at the Malteser Hospital St. Hildegardis in Cologne.

In 2011 as a consequence of this project a unique care philosophy was developed, taking into account the philosophy of Silviahemmet and the mission of the Order. A competence centre for dementia was established to support the implementation of the strategy and to give advice to the management board. All employers of the different services of the German Association in contact with people with dementia, plus 80 % of the volunteers, will receive special training within the next five years. Additionally all of the Order's residential homes and hospitals will integrate this specialist care for people with dementia as a special competence within their daily work.

In March 2012, the first day care unit for people in the early phase of the disease, which encompasses the Silviahemmet concept, was opened in Bottrop in the presence of Queen Silvia of Sweden.

For more information:
www.malteser-demenzkompetenz.de

French Association

Ordre de Malte France runs four specialised homes for sufferers of Alzheimer's disease and the dependent elderly. Care for the 400 residents centres on giving them a dignified quality of life in a respectful and stimulating environment.

Nurses provide specialist care that responds to patients' needs, many of whom are extremely vulnerable and have difficulty communicating.

Socialising activities are regular fixtures, both in the homes and on excursions outside, often involving family members and friends in the process.

Each resident has a small apartment, furnished with his or her favourite items and mementoes. They are encouraged to elect their own representatives who work with the home's administration to ensure that each single need is addressed. When the time is right, specialist end-of-life care is provided.

Two homes are in St Etienne, one in Nice and one in Clamart, outside Paris.

For more information:
www.ordredemaltefrance.org



In the words of our volunteers

Motivations and experiences from Romania, Albania, Lithuania and France



The inspiration to become a volunteer touches hearts everywhere. Teams of volunteers give their time and energy caring for those less fortunate than themselves.

The work of volunteers is a very important contribution to nearly all the Order's activities. Most of the volunteers are organised in the Order's relief organisations and ambulance corps.

Here, some of our European volunteers describe what moved them to participate.

Romania: you are my hands

"Why did I choose to join the Serviciul de Ajutor Maltez in România (S.A.M.R.) – the health and social service of the Romanian Association? I still do not know. Maybe because it was the first organisation where I found young people sharing the same ideals... maybe the smiles and the drawings of orphan children were embedded in my mind and will stay there... or maybe it was simply God's plan for me. But I know for sure that a decisive moment was the one in which, being in an exchange programme with other young Order of Malta volunteers, I saw in a church the statue of Jesus without hands and underneath a plaque that said "You are my hands."

Then I realised that for me not to remain indifferent to the needs of those around me is a must, and that my work symbolised by the eight points of the Maltese Cross is under the protection of His divine shield."

Founded immediately after the fall of the Iron Curtain, the volunteer corps today numbers 1,400 volunteers and 62

...I found young people sharing the same ideals...

employees. It is involved in some 100 welfare programmes benefitting over 4,000 people including the homeless, abandoned children, disabled young people and the elderly.

Mihaela Herciu volunteer since 1993, currently leader of Sibiu branch.



■ Winter in Romania: Order volunteers bring sustenance to the poor in snowbound villages



Albania: the spirit of volunteering spreads far and wide

My first experience with Malteser Ndihton në Shqipëri (Volunteer Corps of the Order of Malta in Albania - MNSH) was in 1999 during the Kosovo crisis, when I volunteered at the MNSH refugee camp. I remember the smiles with which the people rewarded me for the little things I could do for them. It was hard - I met so many traumatised children and young people, all coming from the wild war. Since 2000, I have been Manager of the Volunteers and Social Department Coordinator of Malteser Ndihton në Shqipëri. My role is to plan, organise, implement and supervise social activities targeting many disadvantaged groups.

The volunteers run all the activities. I train them in interacting with different groups and individuals, and especially the vulnerable. For the last 10 years a very important activity is the summer school camp, on the beach. 200 Roma and gypsy children, and children from remote areas (who have socio-economic difficulties) participate. Our goal is to integrate them and give them the chance of active holidays – treats they never have.

During the year we organise social and educational activities with Roma and gypsy communities twice a week. And we run socio-educational activities with disabled children and girls living at the 'Mother Teresa' missionary centre. In January 2010, Malteser Ndihton në Shqipëri started a kindergarten for needy children not integrated in our communities, and for those whose families cannot afford private kindergartens - state kindergartens do not exist. Our kindergarten is fortunate to have the financial support of Malteser Hospitaldienst Austria, and Ambassador Granser and the offer of the rooms gratis by the Municipality of Shkodra. The kindergarten welcomes 50 children. In 2011, the Malteser Rapid Intervention



■ Warming soup on a freezing winter's day in rural Albania: the Order's volunteer corps at work

Team (mainly volunteers) was in action during Albania's flood emergency in assisting victims, mainly Roma and gypsy families, in the damaged villages

Volunteering challenges others around you and encourages them to volunteer too

and suburbs of Shkodra with food, materials and medical assistance. The MNSH Civil Protection team installed a First Aid Tent where evacuees were arriving by boat from villages, bringing them to the collective centres. In the winter of 2012, MNSH delivered essential items to the families still in the flooded villages.

Orjeta Fusha Manager of the Volunteers and Social Department Coordinator of Malteser Ndihton në Shqipëri since 2000.

"Some people may find the thought of making the world a better place over sweet, but for me it has been very

fulfilling. It has given me the determination to keep volunteering wherever I go, improving the lives of the less privileged and making my community a better place. Volunteering challenges others around you and encourages them to volunteer too. Eventually the spirit of volunteering spreads far and wide! That's my guiding motto, and I am honoured and proud to be part of the Volunteers of the Order of Malta in Albania.

I was fourteen when I came across Malteser Ndihton në Shqipëri. A team from MNSH were organising a First Aid training course for the pupils of my school. I was impressed by the programme of their activities and the motto *Tuitio fidei et obsequium pauperum*. At first I asked to be part of this vital organisation. Now I am an active volunteer member, participating in all activities and proud to be part of the humanitarian work of the Order of Malta."

Miledi Kukaj is a young volunteer: 'I asked to be part of this vital organisation'.

Lithuania: shining eyes and a big smile

Volunteering? It means... a high level of satisfaction in this wonderful world. Result... shining eyes and a big smile on my face most of the time... Do you want to try, too? I can say what inspired me. Beautiful Lithuania with its many forests, 5000 lakes and wonderful fields with flowers and natural nature was suffering very much from rubbish lying on the ground. After the Soviet Union collapse, a tradition to clean nature was lost among local people.

Accompanied by several friends, we started to work on this problem in 2007 – literally clearing rubbish away. But we could only do it during the warm period of the year.

How did this relate to the work I now volunteer for the Order? A year after the start of our 'clean nature' project, I was reading a business newspaper about the Ambassador of the Order of Malta to Lithuania, Douglas Saurma-Jeltsch, in December 2008. The article described how he was inspired to become a volunteer in the Order of

Malta: he had been lost in the jungles of Africa... and he had resolved that if he survived, he had to care for people... His reactions made a strong impression on me... And so, with all of those volunteer friends who had worked with me on the nature project and after we had discussed the article and what action to take, we decided to join the Lithuanian Auxiliary Service of the Order of Malta (MOPT).

We began to carry out the tasks which this organisation needed most: helping with arranging different events.

Volunteering means... a high level of satisfaction in this wonderful world

Every month, together with four of my friends who are volunteers too, we support very poor old people with medicines, hygienic care goods – by just simply buying the goods and bringing them to the Order of Malta Auxiliary Service for distribution.

I am also responsible for the Christmas soup campaign. It is now an annual event, and it starts with a competition: the pupils in Lithuania's 430 schools must come up with the best charity fundraising idea. Then, throughout

December in the main squares of Lithuania's 21 large cities, volunteers of the Lithuanian Auxiliary Service of the Order of Malta give a plate of soup to everyone who is hungry. On 6th January each year we have the final of our campaign with a big concert for 600 in the town hall of Vilnius, with VIP Lithuanian guests, Order of Malta volunteers and friends, and with direct transmission on television. Television viewers have the opportunity of sending an SMS with a donation for lonely old people.

In the spring of 2011, a new financial control commission of the Lithuanian Auxiliary Service of the Order of Malta was elected, where my name was included. My duty was to organise the Official Visit of the Grand Master of the Order to Lithuania and the 20-year anniversary celebration of the Order of Malta Auxiliary Service at the start of September 2011.

It was the biggest challenge I had ever had in my life. No extra funds, no local administration, 100 German partners coming to the 20 year anniversary celebration – and the European basketball championship on the same dates in Lithuania! Thank God I have been working in an international company for more than 10 years, as managing director....

It was the biggest challenge I had ever had in my life

After many hours and days of work, crazy negotiations to get the best possible arrangements, together with volunteers and a few employees of this organisation we managed to make 400 volunteers happy, together with the Grand Master and the Grand Hospitaller...a marvel happened... and we were happy too.

Somehow the volunteer life keeps me attached to the Order of Malta.

Ruta Voveryte Financial Control
Commission, Lithuanian Auxiliary Service
of the Order of Malta (MOPT) since 2009.



■ Grand Master Festing in Lithuania with Ruta Voveryte who organised his official visit of 2011

France: a real force for good

Ordre de Malte France's Youth Group is made up of volunteers aged between 18 and 35, students and professionals, and they carry out charitable activities proposed by Ordre de Malte France. Returning from a pilgrimage to Lourdes in 2005, the young pilgrims founded the Youth Group to create a special organisation where people their own age could get involved in charitable projects caring for the poor and the sick, and also strengthening their faith through

a special organisation where ... their own age can get involved in charitable projects caring for the poor and the sick

spiritual activities relevant to their own stages as students or young professionals. Seven years on, the Youth Group now extends to a number of cities in France. In the last three years especially there has been a great increase in numbers -



■ Young Albanians having fun during the 2012 Summer Camp

thanks in large part to the diffusion of information via social media such as Facebook, the creation of a special space for the young on the Ordre de Malte France's website, and publications targeted at the 18-35 year old age group.

Today, there are almost 700 members working in Paris, Strasbourg, Nancy, Reims, Bordeaux, Châlons-en-Champagne, Angers, Blois and Toulouse.

On a daily basis, these young volunteers are involved in a variety of activities for those in need, distributing breakfasts and warming soup to the homeless, working with the urgent medical aid service (SAMU) for social and medical

A great occasion to help, but above all to forge friendships

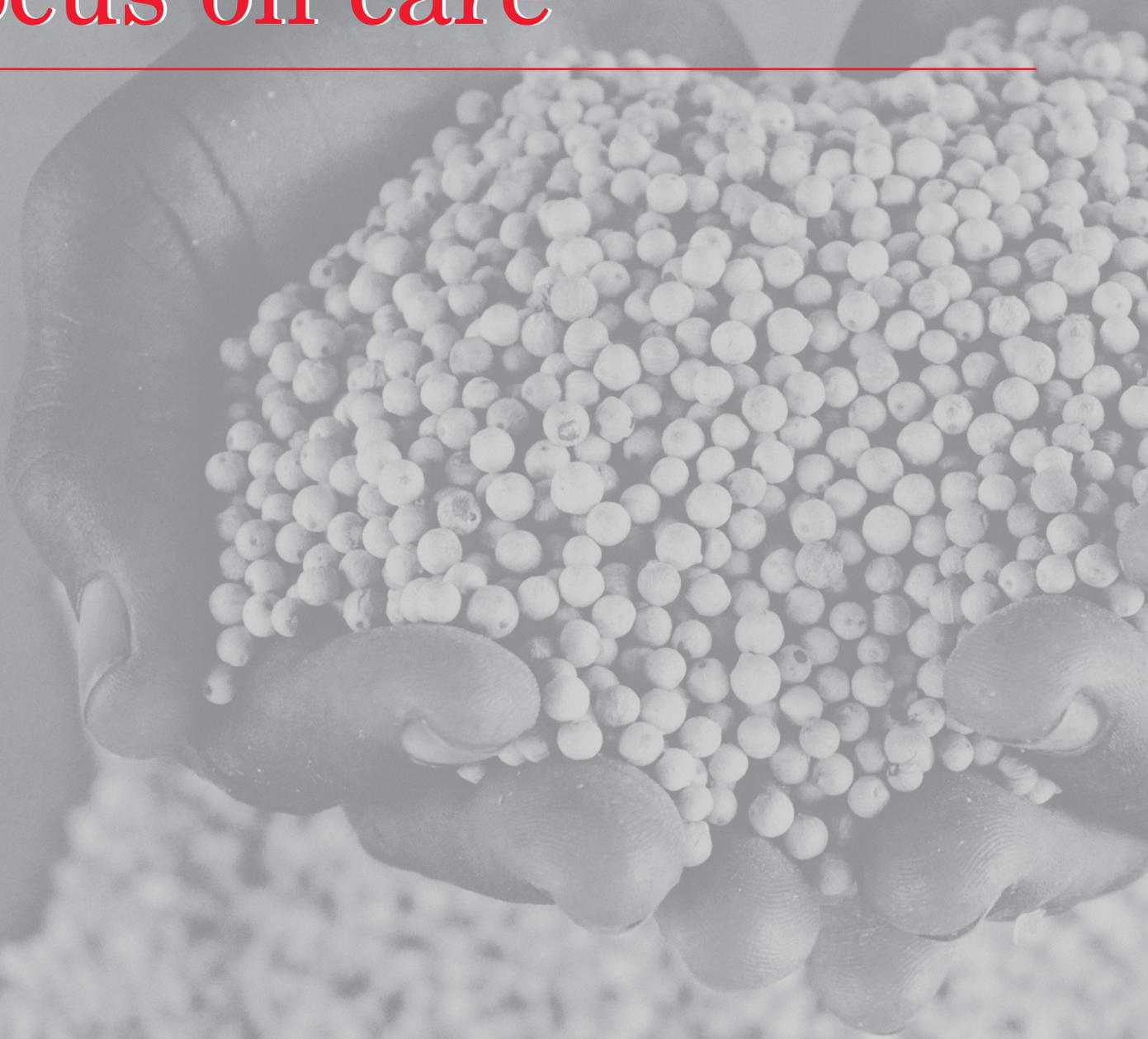
assistance, visiting the sick, and organising outings for the handicapped. A recent highly popular event at the Montlhéry car racing circuit was organised by Ordre de Malte France, where 130 handicapped had the time of their lives, accompanied round the circuit in vintage cars. That day, the Youth Group greeted and accompanied their charges, helping them into the cockpits and taking them around the circuit. A great occasion to help, but above all to forge friendships.



■ And in France, smiles all around as Youth Volunteers pose with guests at the end of another joyful outing



Worldwide focus on care



Across five continents, the Order of Malta works to alleviate suffering. The brief is simple: care for all those in great need, whoever they are, from wherever they come. The Order has been doing this for over 900 years.

Europe

The Order's Associations in Europe look after the elderly, the lonely, the homeless, and those who are disadvantaged or handicapped. They run care homes and transport schemes, hospices, hospitals and soup kitchens and provide medical care for displaced persons and immigrants, summer camps for disabled youngsters.

And they provide first aid at major events, and in emergencies, as well as training sessions for a coming generation of first-aiders. The Order has volunteers corps in 23 countries in the continent.





■ The homeless: a widespread social concern. In a Paris street, Order volunteers work with a 'sans abri'

In **Albania**, volunteers in Malteser Ndhmon në Shqipëri (MNSH) continue to expand their aid work in three main sectors: civil protection, social care and medical care.

In parts of northern Albania with no public healthcare facilities, MNSH volunteers aid patients, take them to hospital or to treatments – in 2011 over 1,500 patients were treated. Each year, a summer camp and summer school is organised for 200 Roma children from the north.

Recent interventions: floods December 2009 - provision of automatic water chlorination equipment for Shkodra after flooding contaminated the water; provision of food and hygiene items to more than 100 families in the village of Dajç; rescue by the MNSH Ambulance Service of several hundred people trapped in their homes; at government request, MNSH took over the medical and psychosocial support for 200 Roma at a transitional centre at Rrenc. MNSH was supported by Malteser Hilfsdienst

Germany (MHD) and Malteser Hospitaldienst Austria (MHDA). For future disaster prevention, the MNSH organised training in schools and health centres.

Focus on civil protection, health care and disaster reduction in Albania, and in Austria a range of services including first aid at public events

During the severe winter of 2012, declared a national disaster, the MNSH donated emergency medicines to cut off rural communities, and provided hot meals for 250 Roma. The Order's Italian Emergency Corps (CISOM) also sent volunteers who distributed goods and hygiene packages to those in need.

The Order's emergency relief organisation in **Austria**, the MHDA (Malteser-Hospitaldienst Austria) offers

its services at public events and provides general ambulance services in Vienna, Tyrol, Salzburg and Styria. In Tyrol the MHDA has had a permanent ambulance service since October 2011. The MHDA has 1,200 volunteers. In 2011 they offered 100,000 hours of service. Ongoing services for young handicapped include organising a winter sports week for young handicapped in March 2010, four days of white water rafting using specially adapted craft in August 2011. Medical services are provided at a number of major events. A recent example was the 18th World AIDS Conference in Vienna, 2010, when 20 paramedics and emergency doctors provided 438 interventions and 12 hospitalisations among the 19,000 participants. Overseas aid: The MHDA participated in a donation of €1.2 million to provide support following natural disasters in Pakistan and Haiti. The donation, provided in conjunction with Malteser International and 'Nachbar in Not', paid for water treatment and construction of

■ Italy: providing shelter after the earthquake in Emilia Romagna



■ The homeless: the Order's hospices in Brussels and Liège helped 17,000 in 2012

wells in the areas of Pakistan most affected by monsoon flooding, July 2010.

For over ten years in **Belarus** the Order, through its Malteser Hilfsdienst organisation in Germany, has been active: support for the nursing school and orphanage for handicapped children in Voronowo, construction of workshops for the handicapped in Slonim, rehabilitation of the Caritas holiday places in Niecicz near Lida, and financial help to foster families in the Minsk region. These initiatives benefit Chernobyl victims, in some cases second generation sufferers.

The Institute Albert I and Queen Elizabeth in **Belgium** provides a caring home for chronically ill patients. Volunteers from the Order's Belgian Association have been trained for specialised roles in palliative care at the Institute, which is part of the Cliniques Universitaires Saint-Luc, near Brussels. Meanwhile, 130 volunteers from the Belgian Association, together with the help of two nurses and two social workers continue to care for homeless people in the La Fontaine hospices, established in Brussels 15 years ago,

then in Liège. The hospices registered 17,000 visitors in 2011 who were given food, showers, clean clothing and medical checkups. A third, in Ghent, will be opened soon.

Handicapped young and old cared for in Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia Herzegovina; specialised hospices for the homeless in Belgium

In addition, five annual summer camps in different countryside locations are organised for children who are victims of neglect or deprivation, and there are weekends for handicapped young and their families and regular Sunday outings during the year. Around the country, 570 volunteers pay home visits to the lonely and elderly, organise trips for orphans, visit the sick.

The Association's international aid organisation, Malta International Belgium (MIB) sends large consignments of medical supplies to developing countries. MIB is active in the Democratic Republic of Congo,

where it supports the work of a hospital and two orphanages. In Lebanon, young volunteers are also involved in the Caravan project for disabled youngsters, run under the auspices of the German Association.

Together with a partner, the Order of Malta's Embassy in **Bosnia and Herzegovina** operates four dental ambulances in Doboj, Medjugorje, Novi Travnik and Sarajevo for the poor and uninsured local population. Another focus is supplying medical equipment, medicines and special foods for handicapped and orphaned children in the convent of the Child Jesus of the Egipat, Sarajevo.

In 2011 and 2012, the Order's Embassy organised participation in constitutional law and EU law courses in Bucerius Law School, Hamburg, Germany, for students from Bosnia and Herzegovina, to improve the professional lives of students in a country with 40% unemployment. The Embassy has also organised to supply the Nova Bila Hospital with desperately needed medical equipment.

The Order's Embassy in Sofia, **Bulgaria**



has since 2005 made more than 200 humanitarian and social interventions in 80 locations. Examples include donations of equipment and medicines to hospitals in eight towns and cities, four ambulances to the Children's Hospital in Vidin and the Queen Eleonora Hospital in Avren, a 20-seater minibus with a lift for two wheeled-stretchers donated to the parish of Perchevich and food and basic necessities delivered to hospitals, social and educational establishments to support projects for children and the elderly.

In Bulgaria, humanitarian and social interventions for young and old, in Czech Republic 'Adopt a Senior' project

In 2012 the Order provided a new heating system for the Hospital "King Ferdinand I" in Iskrets, specialised in pneumophysiatriac diseases. The latest initiative is a hot meals service for the poor in three different areas of the capital city: organised by the Embassy, the Order's volunteers in Bulgaria distribute 300 meals a day to the poor in Sofia.

For 65 handicapped children in rural areas of Southern Bohemia in the **Czech Republic**, the daily journey to and from their special school in the regional capital would be impossible without the help of volunteers from Maltéžská Pomoc (Malteser Aid), the auxiliary corps of the Grand Priory of Bohemia, which has over 50 staff and 350 volunteers. Their daily transport service has been running since 1996, and currently carries out more than 12,000 transfers a year. The volunteers arranged more than 125 extracurricular activities for the youngsters between 2009 and 2011. Other activities include providing support for the regional emergency services, while a recently-introduced 'Adopt a Senior' programme is growing

AT THE HEART OF THE ACTION

First aid challenges during the visit of Pope Benedict XVI to Germany

As Pope Benedict XVI concluded his visit to Freiburg in his home country in September 2011, 947 members of Malteser Hilfsdienst, the Order's first aid corps in Germany, from 13 dioceses plus 153 support personnel, stood at ease. Everything had gone according to the plans developed twelve months beforehand by the planning team.

The challenge: for MHD to supervise the over a hundred thousand participants at the papal Mass and Vigil in Freiburg, undertake the personal security services of the Holy Father, and transport and care for disabled participants. This was to be carried out under extreme time pressure with volunteer leaders supported by full-time staff.

The conditions: unpredictable number of participants in the events; several venues; difficult transportation conditions; high security requirements; MHD personnel from several dioceses; extreme time pressure; definitive mission statement issued only shortly before the event.

The planning: the assumed number of participants at the Mass was 100,000, with 20,000 expected at the Vigil. A 100% safety margin was included in the calculations for both events. The number of vehicles was doubled to ensure standard rescue services in compliance with response times.

Adequate fuel supplies were arranged. Accommodation and meals for all personnel was set up.

The service: the MHD provided onsite first aid, onsite medical care, transportation to treatment centres, psychological care (crisis intervention, emergency counselling, emergency personnel care), organisation of transport for the disabled from train and bus stations. And specific rescue and medical care of the Holy Father and other VIPs if necessary.

At Emergency HQ, established by the Federal Agency of Technical Relief, MHD staff and volunteers worked with the Office of Fire and Civil Protection, manning the post in shifts around the clock from 8am on 23rd September to 7pm on 25th. There were also units from the Red Cross, St. John's Ambulance Service and Black Forest Mountain Rescue. 7 field kitchens served 7900 meals and 262 vehicles stood in readiness, including 72 ambulances, 3 emergency doctors' cars and 3 all-terrain vehicles.

The implementation: 387 people were treated, 1520 disabled were transported. No incidents reported, all logistics were covered, deployment preparations and operations effective. The programme goal was achieved, with professionalism and with joy.

Christoph Klausmann Chief of Staff,

Sophie Henckel von Donnersmarck Executive Manager, Malteser Freiburg.

Translation **Gregory Tutton**.

strongly with volunteers caring for the lonely, sick and disabled on a one-to-one basis.

From headquarters in Prague, Malteser Aid coordinates activities in 10 centres. Services include school transport for disabled children and homecare for the elderly. Volunteers have donated more than 36,000 hours over the past three years.

In another scheme, members of the Order lead a group of volunteers in Slovakia helping homeless people, the Roma minority, prisoners and patients in a local hospice.

Services run by the Order's Association in **France** are extensive and long established. They are structured around three operational directions: first aid;



■ Bulgaria: The Order's Embassy provides 300 meals a day to the poor in Sofia

solidarity; training and medico-social establishments. The organisation has 4,200 regular volunteers and 1,510 professional staff (in France and abroad).

At home, 'Ordre de Malte France' services offer 15 health centres providing socio-medical care for around 900 needy people of all ages. The range includes a home for children and adolescents; five homes for the elderly and those with Alzheimer's; four for the severely physically handicapped; four centres for autism or mental handicap; two centres for patients with behavioural problems.

Autism was declared the Great National Cause for 2012 and from 1 January, Ordre de Malte France took over a facility near Chartres for 32 autistic adults where the average age is 31 and where there is always a long waiting list. This is in addition to the four institutions it already runs for patients with autism or mental handicap.

A unique work centres around two barges on the Seine in Paris which care for homeless men – counting 16,000 nightly stays per annum – supervised by

10 staff and 150 volunteers who encourage their guests to return to society and avoid handouts. In addition, Ordre de Malte France operates an ambulance service consisting of 26 response units, 21 teams of rescuers and 393 voluntary medical staff. In 2010 they staffed 1,850 aid stations at sporting and cultural events throughout the country. In 2011,

In France, a range of services – specialised care homes, hospices for homeless men, an ambulance service, migrant repatriation

430 first aid workers offered 33,000 hours for first aid missions. The Order is also a major provider of specialised training programmes for paramedics, running courses in Brest, Bordeaux, Paris and Toulon.

Actions to help migrants repatriate have been operating since 2002 at the request of the government.

The 'Plateforme Famille' project organises housing and provides social support and the construction of 'life projects' to help the families move back to their homeland. In Paris, 1,800 migrants were assisted in 2011; in Lille, Metz and Geispolsheim, human rights and legal support is offered – to almost 2,000 in 2011.

In April 2012, a cooperation agreement was signed between the Republic of France and the Sovereign Order of Malta, based on the French Association's experience in emergency medical services. The agreement strengthened the already firm bonds existing since 1928 between France and the Order, underpinned by joint ventures involving the protection of individuals, public health, and medical and social assistance and training.

Overseas, Ordre de Malte France is active in 27 countries in South America, the Caribbean, Africa, the Middle East and South Asia. It operates 13 health centres and hospitals in Africa and the Middle East, and supports 166 centres in Africa, the Americas, Asia and the Middle East. It offers healthcare



■ Dementia care is a focus of the Order of Malta in many European countries

programmes for leprosy, AIDs, tuberculosis, malaria and Buruli ulcer disease. Ordre de Malte France also supports research into leprosy, with MALTALEP, which finances a clinical research programme for the disease; and it supports an international scientific research programme which has run since 2006.

With almost a million members and supporters, plus 47,000 active volunteers, the **German Association** is one of the busiest in the Order, known through its relief corps Malteser Hilfsdienst (MHD) for its work in civil protection - first aid and training, rescue services, catastrophe relief and a medical repatriation service. There are also almost 8,000 members of the Malteser Youth Organisation, a school ambulance service comprises another 6,000 people, and behind them all stand 22,536 employees at 700 locations throughout the country. In 2011, volunteers performed 5,000,000 hours of work all over Germany.

More than 72,000 patients were cared for in the Order's 7 hospitals and in day-care centres during 2011, emergency transport was provided for 688,000 patients and regular transport for more than 22,000 disabled; and a meals-on-wheels service delivered 3.9 million meals to the housebound.

The organisation also operates 21 homes for elderly people, 11 care facilities for asylum seekers, 32 residential homes specialised in youth work and drug addiction treatment. Over 4,000 volunteers visited more than 10,000 elderly sick or lonely. In addition, 347,000 people attended training courses and 72,000 people used the Order's home emergency call service.

A recent responsibility is a secondary school with 1,200 pupils in Willich, with two more in Westphalia and the Rhineland, taken over from religious congregations.

The organisation has developed a speciality in dementia care through its Silviahemmet programme, where

patients are cared for in distinctive environments set out to help them recognise their surroundings and feel protected in them.

Programmes in Germany - first aid training, ambulance service, hospitals, care homes, centres for asylum seekers, schools

The MHD also responded to a number of emergencies and disasters during 2010 and 2011. One of the most demanding occurred at the 2010 Love Parade music festival in Duisburg, where 400 members of MHD were among 1,000 relief volunteers under the overall management of Malteser Hilfsdienst. Tragically, more than 500 people were hurt in a mass stampede towards the end of the event. MHD helpers were able to save many of the injured, but 21 young people lost their lives that evening.

In 2011, for the visit of Pope Benedict XVI, the MHD provided medical services at the events and Masses in Berlin, Erfurt, Eichsfeld and Freiburg. 2,000 volunteers lent their assistance.

MHD also has a Malteser Migration department to provide help, medical care and support with integration for asylum seekers, refugees and immigrants. Since 1998, more than 1.6 million people from 100 nationalities have been supported as they seek to become assimilated into German life. 2011 also saw the 20-year anniversary of the Malteser-Johanniter-Johanneshaeuser (MJJ) institution, Bonn, a collaboration between the Order and the Johanniterorden to care for mentally ill people.

Every year in Germany, the Order provides medical, social and humanitarian care to over 12,000,000 people and, through the German foreign-aid department, to numerous countries, especially in central and eastern Europe.

The **British Association** (BASMOM) includes a fundraising Foreign Aid Service (FAS), a hospitaller organisation, and volunteer groups. It is a partner in the Orders of St John Care Trust (OSJCT), the second largest provider of not-for-profit care for the elderly in the UK. It operates 71 care homes, employs over 4,000 staff and cares for some 3,300 residents. In Scotland, the Order of Malta Dial-a-Journey service provides a door-to-door transport service for the disabled, and currently operates 24 buses.

The Order of Malta Volunteers (OMV) is a lively group of young volunteers whose activities include pilgrimages, working in summer camps with the Lebanese Association in Lebanon, and participation in the Order's annual international summer camp for young disabled.

The Companions of the Order of Malta is the British Association's auxiliary organisation, made up of volunteers, members and former OMV. Its range of activities covers regular visits to the residents of the OSJCT Homes, activity weekends for those with special needs,

and a project working volunteer weeks in the slums of Nairobi.

The **Hungarian** Order of Malta Charity Service (MMSZ) celebrated its 20th Anniversary in 2009 - founded the same year that the country achieved independence. The turbulent economic and political events of that period saw MMSZ grow rapidly into a large scale relief and rescue organisation, working in partnership with new governmental and social bodies to handle the crisis caused by the influx of East German refugees, the revolution in Romania and war in Yugoslavia.

Extensive relief and emergency service in Hungary, focus on elderly care in Great Britain

MMSZ is now one of the country's largest charitable organisations, with 5,000 regularly active volunteers, a further 15,000 volunteers on stand-by, and 850 permanent employees ready to respond to those in need.

In addition to a wide range of care services which support more than 10,000 people every day, MMSZ has

responded to more than 35,000 emergencies both nationally and internationally. New in the service is a free Smartphone application, or 'App', providing vital information to help non-professional people give first-aid in an emergency.

MMSZ micro economic programmes to help those in need have included an electronic waste disassembly plant founded six years ago. It achieved ISO 9001 (quality) and ISO 14001 (environment) management standards in 2010 and provides employment for 30 people. The MMSZ also provides training in basketry and garden furniture making for 25 disadvantaged people in Tokaj.

In 2010, the red sludge disaster which flooded villages in and around Devecser in early October left hundreds homeless. MMSZ developed 27 assistance programmes to support victims of the catastrophe. Before Christmas, 35,600 families received food donations from the Service and on national Children's Day, 31 May, the Service also gave 20,000 toys to needy families.

In a busy 2011, MMSZ extended its 'Host village programme' (rehousing families who have lost their homes, and integrating them into local communities) to include a school in Tarnabod, where



■ The Order's Volunteer Corps in Ireland has a fleet of 180 vehicles

all the children are Roma, disadvantaged, and living in deepest poverty. New programmes aided heavily indebted families with debt management, and the first mobile playground of the MMSZ was established in Southern Hungary, servicing 35 communities (in many parts of the country there are no events for children, nor community centres). A special service (computer basics and internet use) to combat digital illiteracy among primary schoolers was launched.

Over the last two years, the Order's Association in **Ireland** has seen a rise in

the number of Dublin homeless, drug addicts or those involved in the on-street sex industry. In response, the Order's Ambulance Corps – every member of which is a volunteer – joined with three other voluntary agencies to develop services for those who fall through the net of conventional primary healthcare services. They are working with the Dublin Simon Community, who care for homeless people, the Chrysalis Community Drug Project, which cares for street workers, and Primarycare Safetynet, a voluntary General Practitioner care group. The service started with an adapted

ambulance and now has a purpose designed mobile clinic. In its first year, the service saw 207 referrals to the Homeless Person Unit, and 442 harm reduction interventions for topics such as safer drug use, health promotion advice, and an exchange service for needles and syringes.

Ambulance corps in Ireland, made up entirely of volunteers, now numbers 5000

The Order's Ambulance Corps also provides emergency personnel to assist the duty doctor with wound dressings, immunisation and the treatment of injuries.

In 2011, membership of the Corps rose to more than 4,500 – 5,000 by end 2012. The Corps provides services throughout Ireland, is organised in 85 unit areas across 11 regions, and has a fleet of 180 vehicles including ambulances, minibuses for community care work and 4x4 vehicles for travelling over rough terrain. It is managed on an entirely voluntary basis, with experienced members assigned specific roles in finance, transport, training, CPD (continuous professional development), IT, administration, operations and community care at both national and regional level. The Cadet Corps, for young people aged between 10 and 16, holds an annual camp in Limerick – attended by over 600 cadets in 2011. In the same year, the Ambulance Corps launched a new Mobile Medical Facility to service point-to-point equestrian events.

The Irish Association continues to fund a midwifery training programme at Bethlehem University and the Order's Holy Family Hospital in Bethlehem, with a planned post graduate course for nurses to train as midwives.

In **Italy**, the Order is active through its three Grand Pories and its Association (ACISMOM). In 2011, the Order in Italy hosted the 28th International Summer Camp for young disabled, at Lignano



■ The 10th pilgrimage of the German Association to Rome since 1981: the 1000 pilgrims included 300 disabled



■ Emilia Romagna, Italy: emergency campsite for the homeless after the 2012 earthquake

Sabbiadoro, with the participation of 500 guests, helpers and volunteers from Order organisations all over Europe, from Australia and from the United States.

The **Grand Priory of Rome** organises weekly support evenings for homeless people in Rome, and a special celebration lunch each Christmas. Its Delegation of Florence also runs a summer camp for a month for Belarusian children who have been exposed to second-generation radiation, due to the 1986 Chernobyl reactor explosion. In 2011, 38 children were hosted in Tarquinia, aided by the volunteers of the Italian Emergency Corps of the Order of Malta (CISOM). Members of the Order's Delegation of Pisa continue to support the 'Project Abruzzo' they established following the disastrous earthquake in the region in 2009. Other activities include care for elderly people either in their own homes or at two care homes in Lucca and Livorno.

The **Grand Priory of Lombardy and Venice**, through its Delegation of Genoa, has been running a day care clinic in the historic centre since 1993. A new dental clinic was opened at a retirement home in Voghera, similar to the free service already provided in Pavia. A medical clinic for those without medical

Italian Emergency Corps disaster response on land and sea aids thousands

insurance recently opened in San Remo. In addition, volunteers distributed more than 400 packs of food supplies to elderly people in hospitals and nursing homes in the region. The youth group also made regular visits to people with disabilities at the Fondazione Don Carlo Gnocchi in Palazzolo, while an outreach programme continued to provide support to families in need of help. Between 2009 and 2011, the **Grand**

Priory of Naples and Sicily has continued to provide homes and support for the families of children suffering from cancer. The scheme has been running since 2007, with one of the family homes being completely restored and re-equipped in 2010.

Many members and volunteers continue to provide hot meals for impoverished and homeless people, and additional funding has been provided for the homeless canteens at the shrine of Our Lady of Pompeii and in the parish of Santa Lucia.

Other recent initiatives have included the opening of a clinic to treat the thousands of migrants arriving by boat from North Africa and Central Asia in Sicily and on the island of Lampedusa, and the inauguration of 'Casa di Malta' to provide free accommodation to patients and family members at the Toraldo medical oncology hospital in Tropea.

The Italian Emergency Corps of the Order of Malta (CISOM), headquartered

in Rome, has 3,500 volunteers countrywide and operates in the fields of civil protection and emergencies on Italian territory. A special focus is the work with the Italian Coastguard and the Guardia di Finanza to provide a rescue service at sea for migrants coming to the southern coast of Italy and the island of Lampedusa, 24/7, 365 days a year. During 2011, 30,000 boat people arrived, including almost 3,000 minors who landed on the island, most without an accompanying adult, alone and abandoned.

In May 2011, CISOM and the Italian Association Military Corps ran 5 medical posts around St. Peter's Square, on the occasion of the Beatification of Pope John Paul II – a continuous service of 72 hours. CISOM has also been supporting victims of the earthquakes in the Abruzzo (2009) and in Emilia Romagna (2012), setting up camps for the homeless and providing food and basic necessities.

In Rome, the **Italian Association** runs the 220-bed San Giovanni Battista Hospital, with specialised treatment in neuro rehabilitation, particularly of

post-stroke and post-trauma patients (the Reawakening Unit). Its day centre treats 350 patients a day. The Order also runs 12 day-care and diabetic centres in Rome and other Italian cities, caring for 45,000 patients annually.

The Order's relief organisation in **Lithuania**, Maltos Ordino Pagalbos Tarnyba (MOPT), celebrated its 20th anniversary in 2011, marked by the visit of the Grand Master in September. MOPT has developed from an organisation providing the urgent medical and social help desperately needed in the country following the collapse of the Soviet Unit, into a humanitarian organisation with 26 groups nationwide, plus youth groups, and a long-term strategy of care for the needy of all ages.

MOPT works closely with social services organisations at both regional and national government levels. The local groups include youth sections whose members play an active role in the humanitarian and social work, as well as running their own events and camps.

Meals on wheels projects run in 15 cities feeding 400 beneficiaries. Care for the elderly has been one of the organisation's primary activities for many years. Several hundred volunteers have been trained in specialised patient care, which is provided in four cities for 220 elderly. The volunteers also provide hot meals every day to hundreds of sick and lonely old people in 23 cities and towns in Lithuania – as they have done since 1993, including care for 750 elderly in Vilnius.

Lithuania's 26 enthusiastic groups run activities and care for the elderly and children across the country

There are eight day care centres for children which assist 140 youngsters from socially vulnerable and poor families, and other centres which have been established in schools. With help from the Order's Embassy in Lithuania, the Order's volunteers have



■ Lithuania's Volunteer Corps sell soup to fundraise for the urban poor



■ In Romania, half the population is elderly and poor

raised more than €400,000 in the past two years – a figure which would be equivalent to €13 million when compared to the average income and population of wealthier nations. In 2006 they organised five regional events, by 2010 they had expanded to 20. An innovative approach is the recent 'Best Charity' competition which attracted entries from 20,000 children in 75 schools and has laid the foundations for creating more youth groups and introducing first-aid response units in Lithuanian schools.

A team of assistance dogs and handlers is being trained with funding from the Order's volunteer corps in **Luxembourg** (Premier Secours de la Croix de Malte), with eight dogs having passing their initial tests. The volunteers of the Order of Malta continue their long-established meals on wheels service to elderly and sick people – every Saturday since 1974 – and in 2011 delivering 1000 meals. A programme of visits to the elderly housebound has been under way since 2010. The Service now offers two ambulances, also used for sport and

cultural events, and accompanies handicapped guests to the annual event organised by Rotary Luxembourg.

Activities of the Order's Association in **Malta** (MASMOM) include members and volunteers providing daily help and comfort to patients at the Sir Paul Boffa Oncology Hospital. They also prepare Christmas hampers every year for needy families and support the meals-on-wheels project of the Maltese Cross Corps, providing over 85,000 meals annually to the elderly housebound.

A recent picnic for 500 elderly people was held in the grounds of Verdala Palace, the President of Malta's country seat. Other initiatives: A prison ministry project since 2011 provides guidance and companionship to young foreign inmates who have no contact with their families; organisation of annual pilgrimages to Lourdes and Ta'Pinu for elderly and wheelchair-bound pilgrims. The Association also runs a number of first aid courses. A special venture is a programme for Guide Dogs for the Blind, launched 2012. Together with the Malta Guide Dogs Foundation, the

Maltese Association manages the project to train dogs for the blind. The foundation trains ten dogs a year to help the blind. There are 1,800 visually-impaired people in Malta.

The Order's Embassy in **Moldova** supports a soup kitchen programme in Chisinau and the charitable centre Casa Providentei for elderly people and needy children which distributes hot meals in the capital.

An example of the very effective cooperation among Order organisations: the Order's Association in **Monaco**, together with the Order's Embassies in Monaco and Kenya, coordinated a life-saving operation for Njuki, a small Kenyan baby born with a serious cardiac malformation in early 2011. Together with his mother, he was flown to the Principality of Monaco's Cardiac Surgery Centre for a complex operation unavailable in Kenya, which has given him the chance to live a normal life.

Guide dogs are trained in Luxembourg and Malta, food for the poor is the Moldovan focus, Monaco offers support at its cardiac centre, in the Netherlands hospices and summer camps for disabled young are central

In the **Netherlands**, the Order's Association celebrated its centenary in September 2011, attended by the Grand Master, Grand Chancellor and Grand Hospitaller who came to mark the special occasion.

The Order of Malta and the Order of St John work in partnership to run the Hospice 'Johannes Hospitium' which offers terminal care in the towns of Vleuten and Wilnis. The same two organisations also cooperate in the Kruispost Foundation in Amsterdam,



■ Over 500 people attend the International Holiday Camp for the disabled

which provides primary medical care to uninsured people and those in mental distress.

The Association runs a week-long summer camp for young people 20-32 years old with physical disabilities, an annual event since 1995. They are accompanied by Order volunteers - students or young working people in the same age groups. Two camps (12-13 age group and 14-15 year olds) also run for a week each summer. For the first time in July 2011 a group of Dutch students and young professionals participated in the Lebanon Caravan project of the German Association.

The Order's Association in **Poland** has a range of activities around the country: care for dependent children in Katowice and Myslenice, for hospital patients in Krakow and Tarnow, and for elderly and lonely people in Krakow. In Poznan, three centres care for those with mental

handicaps and psychic disorders as a major focus. In Warsaw, St. Nicholas House, a social assistance facility for adults with mild mental handicaps, has operated since 2007. June 2012 saw the Order's Blessed Gerard Hospital housed in new buildings in Barczewo, extending its specialist treatment centre for

Poland runs centres for handicapped children and adults, Portugal offers a medical service to Fatima pilgrims

patients with coma and linking in to the medical department of Olsztyn University. In five Order centres - Katowice, Warsaw, Poznan, Radom and Olsztyn, 589 people with significant motor disabilities are cared for under the programme 'Support in the job

market for people with motor disabilities'.

The ambulance service provided by the Order of Malta Medical Service in Poland attends sporting, religious and cultural events throughout the country. And when serious floods inundated parts of the country in 2010, members of the Service focused their support on the district of Wola Rogowski Tarnów, where more than 500 residents had lost everything - homes, food, crops. Emergency and non-emergency transportation is also provided, while first-aid courses and an Honorary Blood Donor Club are other facets of the service.

The Order's Centre of Assistance for Handicapped Children and their families in Cracow celebrates its 6th anniversary in 2012, and, as every year, summer camps are organised for young handicapped. The Centre has already assisted over 1,400 families with handicapped children, with 400 remaining under continuing care.

In **Portugal**, volunteers from the Order's Association help the elderly in two homes in Lisbon (Carnide and Menino de Deus), and others in Crato and Gaviao; they undertake prison visits (Caxias and Carregueira), and support primary healthcare initiatives for the poorest in Evora and Porto. The Portugese Association also runs an outpatients' clinic for the poor in the San Francisco da Cicade hospital, Lisbon, inaugurated by the Grand Master during his State Visit in 2010. For over 36 years the Order of Malta's voluntary corps in Portugal (CVOM) has been offering medical assistance to pilgrims who make the long pilgrimage on foot to the sanctuary of Fatima. They added in 2011 a further post along the way, for which they obtained the donation of an ambulance and equipment. In 2012, 4,000 pilgrims were helped by the assistance provided free by the Association, which also donated essential equipment to six social and healthcare clinics.

The Order's Relief Service in **Romania**, Serviciul de Ajutor Maltez in România

WORLD YOUTH DAY IN MADRID

More than 120 of the Order's volunteers from many countries took part in World Youth Day 2011 in Madrid.

Coordinated by the Order's Spanish Association, they contributed to the smooth running of the event and ensured that more than 4,600 disabled people were able to participate in the celebration of mass by Pope Benedict XVI. They worked side-by-side with medics and two teams of experts, one from the Order of Malta Italian Emergency Corps (CISOM) and the other from Malteser Hilfsdienst (MHD) in Germany.

(SAMR), celebrated its 20th anniversary in 2011, with a special recognition from the President of Romania who awarded SAMR the national Order of Merit, rank of Commander. The service has developed from small beginnings to 23 active branches, 1,500 volunteers, hundreds of supporters and over a hundred social projects. After Bulgaria, Romania is the poorest country in Europe, with a population that has more retired people than those employed and where the average income is very low. Programmes for elderly people in five towns include meals on wheels for the

housebound, and social canteens providing daily hot meals and company for those without mobility problems, with a new 'meals on wheels' branch established in 2011 in Bucharest. At the SAMR home in Timisoara, running since 1992, 20 elderly people with no family and low incomes are given free accommodation and medical care. Programmes for children include the Special Order of Malta kindergarten in Cluj Napoca which is helping to prevent marginalisation and abandonment for children with disabilities, many of them from families with social problems. SAMR runs a maternity programme in Sfântu Gheorghe; and other daytime centres, weekend schools and summer camps include provision for street children and Gypsy children. Social programmes for marginalised children and young people are organised at the Multifunctional Youth Centre, at Micfalău, including the 2012 summer Eurocamp for 150 young people, and the 17th national youth camp. In Transylvania, a regional project 'Create new chances through education' focuses on disadvantaged children, providing them with their first opportunity to experience life outside difficult home surroundings.

The Relief Service also supports the works of many hospitals, medical centres, surgeries and clinics throughout Romania, providing free medical assistance to people who might

otherwise be left with their conditions untreated.

Among the pioneers of first aid training at a national level in Romania, SAMR continues to train not only its own cadets, but also many thousands of citizens each year. In July 2011, SAMR set a new world record by training 7,402 people in basic resuscitation techniques at the Dynamo Stadium in Bucharest. SAMR also provides emergency relief following natural disasters: in the bitter snows of winter 2012 in the south east, SAMR distributed emergency kits for the neediest families. The Relief Service also offers support after natural

1500 volunteers provide social programmes for children, seniors and the socially marginalised across Romania

disasters in neighbouring countries as well as providing transport to and from hospital for elderly and homeless people with disabilities.

In **Russia**, the Maltese Aid Service of St Petersburg (SMRO) provides aid to the elderly. A mobile health and social centre provides medical care, food aid and clothing, while a soup kitchen serves weekly meals for over 400. Transport is provided to and from hospital for elderly and homeless people with disabilities.

For the homeless, the service regularly offers 120 breakfasts in two locations. Each winter, SMRO erects large heated tents to give 40 homeless a place to survive the biting cold nights with the help of a warm bed, a hot breakfast and dinner, and medical and social advice. SMRO volunteers counsel and support families with disabled children and over 1000 children were taken on 76 excursions in 2011; they also support a day care centre for children from migrant or disadvantaged backgrounds. A Social Centre of the Order of Malta has been operating in Moscow since 1996, with 26 staff and volunteers caring for 7,000 elderly poor annually. 400



■ The German MHD ran all the first aid during the Pope's 2011 visit to his homeland

participants are trained in first aid every year and children over 3 years benefit from pre-school education classes. Since its foundation, 260 million roubles of relief goods have been distributed to 28,000 families. The Centre is an official partner of the Moscow Social Programme of the City of Moscow, for the years 2012-2016.

Support is also offered to poor and depressed children with visits to 30 events for over 1,200 participants. Home visits to the elderly totalled 2,500 in 2011 and food parcels are distributed to the needy.

Elsewhere in Russia, the Order of Malta provides humanitarian aid, runs soup kitchens and social counselling in Kaliningrad, Dubna and Smolensk. In addition, first aid courses are organised in Kaliningrad and Smolensk.

The Order's **Scandinavian Association** is active in Denmark, Finland, Iceland and Sweden.

Volunteers organise a programme of summer camps for young people with handicaps, and visits and days out for those who are elderly, lonely and sick. In Stockholm, members regularly visit the elderly in a home, reading and conversing with them, and taking them

on excursions. They also pay weekly visits to those in detention centres and they support activities for disabled children (a favourite is horse riding). In Iceland, members visit the elderly and the sick, in their own homes or in hospices, and provide transport to Mass, as do those in Finland. In Skane, temporary lodging and financial support help those in need. The Association also supports a kindergarten in Tallinn, Estonia, which cares for the children of very young single mothers.

Food for the poor in Russia and Serbia, social integration programmes in the Slovak Republic, and camps for handicapped young in Scandinavia

The youth section of Maltese Relief Organisation (MDOS) in **Serbia** collects clothing and household articles to help local poor in 10 villages around Zrenjanin; in summer they collect fruits to give the elderly a more nourishing diet. The youth group also attends the Order of Malta's summer camps for

young disabled in Romania and Germany. The Order of Malta's Embassy in Belgrade has donated funds to update the 'House for Parents', a facility where the parents of children with cancer can stay together during the child's treatment in Belgrade.

In the **Slovak Republic**, the Order of Malta Volunteer Corps carries out activities in Bratislava, Nitra and Trencin, Kosice, Kezmarok and their surrounding areas. They distribute food packages and soup to the needy in Bratislava, Nitra and Kosice and nearby villages, make regular house calls to the lonely and sick; have recently supported a new children's home for the Roma population; donated medical equipment to hospitals in Trencin and Bratislava, and assist the homeless in Nitra and Trencin. Strong support is provided by the Order's Embassy in Bratislava.

The Corps' main project is a Roma children integration programme, operational in Kosice, Lunik IX, Olejnikov and Nitra. Additionally, they provide educational support to 1,200 Roma children in the Roma slum in Kosice. They also work for the terminally ill in the Nitra hospice. During the emergency of the December 2010 floods, the Corps provided meals and clothing for flood victims.

In **Slovenia** Maltézska Pomoc Slovenija has continued to provide transport and help for refugees, hospital patients, care home residents and victims of natural disasters. The Order plans to introduce a permanent home-care service for the disabled, elderly and sick. Volunteers also joined in the emergency response efforts after the floods which inundated some regions in September 2010.

Regular activities include Easter and Christmas lunches which are offered to the poor in Ljubljana; and donations of goods distributed to needy families in the poorest areas of the country – the most recent in Bistrica ob Sotli and Vinica. The Order of Malta's Embassy in Slovenia organises regular visits to children's hospitals including to the Children's Hospital in Ljubljana, to donate medical



■ Care for the elderly: the touch that consoles

equipment, toys and foodstuffs.

The Order's Association in **Spain** provides vitally-needed meals for immigrants and homeless people. It operates two soup kitchens in Madrid. Another was inaugurated in Seville in January 2012. The service provides over 140,000 meals annually to the homeless. In Cataluna and Balears members and volunteers continue collecting food and delivering it to several soup kitchens.

Programmes for seniors are ongoing in Castilla, where the Order has a care home for 84 residents, as well as others in Valencia, and Catalonia.

The Spanish Association also runs a number of educational schemes and summer camps for young disabled in Valencia, Andalucía, Castile and the Balearic Islands. An imaginative new project in Valencia teaches disabled young people how to grow garden plants and aromatic herbs, providing them with marketable skills.

Slovenia plans home care services, Spain runs soup kitchens and education schemes for young disabled

New in 2012: in Balears, members and volunteers have taken over the running of the 'Hermitas de los Pobres' home in Palma de Mallorca; in Madrid, after-school support for poor and immigrant children aims to provide them with better social integration.

The Order's Association in **Switzerland** provides medical and educational supplies to countries in need, thanks to donations from a network the Association has built up with Swiss hospitals, schools and pharmaceutical companies. Ongoing projects: in Zurich visiting the lonely, the dying, and those suffering from dementia; in Lausanne, Neuchatel and Basel, caring for the homeless, refugees and disadvantaged families; and in its 14 divisions, supporting disabled and sick people. In June 2011 the Swiss Association



■ In Britain, weather was ignored at the 2010 International Youth Summer Camp

celebrated its 50th anniversary at an Assembly in Geneva, attended by the Grand Master.

In 2010, 30 semi-trailers and eight shipping containers of equipment were shipped to countries including Poland, Slovakia, Lithuania, Lebanon, Hungary, Uruguay and Timor Leste. And in 2011, a similar project provided 11,000,000 CHF for supplies for hospital and schools. Since its foundation in 1994, the Swiss Association has sent a total of 485 semi-trailers and shipping containers with a total weight of 18,000 tons.

The work of collection, collation and packing involves many volunteers, including 120 school children who help to sort and pack clothes, and the Swiss Army who transport goods from the donor to the Order's warehouse in Freiburg.

The Swiss Association was among several of the Order's national organisations which continue to fund the fight against leprosy, through the work of the Order's CIOMAL Foundation. In 2010, the Republic and Canton of Geneva's International Solidarity Foundation provided a two-year funding package to CIOMAL totalling 300,000 Swiss Francs

to support programmes in education, early detection, medical care, surgery and social rehabilitation.

In **Ukraine**, more than 1,120,000 meals were served in two soup kitchens in the Lvov region, run by the Order's Ukrainian Volunteer Corps (MSD) in 2011. Regular projects run by the MSD in Ukraine include educational summer camps for young people with physical or mental difficulties (100 in 2011), information programmes in natural family planning and first aid; and ongoing support for four orphanages with over 400 children. Every December, 8,000 children receive Christmas parcels.

In **Vatican City**, the Order of Malta runs a first aid post in St. Peter's square which is at the disposal of millions of pilgrims who arrive constantly to participate in the regular audiences and ceremonies conducted by the Pope.

Staffed by members and volunteers (85, including doctors, nurses and trained first aiders), the post treats many hundreds of pilgrims per annum. The service has been in operation since 1975.

Middle East

In the Middle East, the cradle of Christianity, the Order of Malta runs a range of outreach and health clinics in Lebanon and a maternity hospital in Palestine. All who come are cared for, whatever their creed or background.





■ Parts of the Order's heating stoves become playthings for Syrian refugees in Turkey

In **Iraq**, Ordre de Malte France supports 2 health centres.

The **Lebanese Association** of the Order runs and maintains 10 Social and medical centres around the country, near the borders with Syria, at Kobayat and Barqa, to Yaroun, in the south near Israel. The clinics, some with the financial support of Ordre de Malte France, Malte Liban Association and the Order of Malta in Germany, care for many thousands of poor and disadvantaged, the majority of whom are Muslim. The Lebanese Association manages a Socio-Medical Center and a Mobile Clinic in the village of Siddikine, next to Tyre, in partnership with the Imam Al Sadr Foundation, one of the largest Muslim Shia Foundation in the region, carrying out over 8,000 interventions annually. In Bhannès, north east of Beirut, the Association cares for the disabled, through a Center specialized in Cerebral-Motor deficiency and

Balneotherapy. A hosting Center in Chabrouh, in the Lebanese mountains, offers holiday camps for the physically and/or mentally disabled. The Lebanese Association also cares for the elderly, through 3 Day Care Centers and 7 care homes.

The Order has a growing corps of volunteers in Lebanon, working with the needy at both ends of the age spectrum.

In Lebanon, 10 health centres and summer camps for young disabled, special support for Syrian refugees

Elderly residents of the Ain el Remmaneh region receive monthly visits from volunteers- all of whom are part of the Lebanese Youth Groups. who provide not only much-needed social contact but also donations of food and clothing. The Order organizes summer camps for physically and mentally disabled young

people, 15 during the year with 200 and 400 guests. The Centre of Chabrouh, 60km north east of Beirut, is being renovated to accommodate camps throughout the year, involving members of the Lebanese youth group and volunteers from the Order's youth movements in Germany, France, Great Britain, and the Netherlands. Hundreds of young people with disabilities attend the camps as guests. Each guest is befriended by an individual volunteer who also benefits from relationships and experiences which extend well beyond the camps themselves – truly an example of how those who give also receive. Caravan: a joint Lebanese - German project, brings ten to twelve young people of different nationalities every year giving ten months to serve the disabled in Lebanon. Back home, they act as the young ambassadors of this "project of civilization", solely based on coexistence and human dignity. The project also includes programmes of academic, spiritual and practical

■ Serving medical needs in the Judean Desert



■ The special care unit, Holy Family Hospital, is the only one of its type in the region

education. Participants are given an intensive course in Arabic before starting their Placement.

The Holy Family Hospital in Bethlehem, **Palestinian Territories**, is a joint project across the Order of Malta, under the operational responsibilities of the French Association of the Order. The hospital, with a staff of 148 medical and paramedical staff, offers the population of Bethlehem and its surrounding area –

Bethlehem maternity hospital is a joint Order project. Syria: with local partners the Order distributes food, medicines

estimated at 200,000 women - the only possible place for women of the region to give birth under good medical conditions. Since the Order has run the Hospital (1990), 56,000 babies have been

born there. In 2011 there were 10,347 obstetrical consultations and 2,176 paediatric consultations. The outreach

clinic, which covers outlying villages and remote hillside communities, totalled 2,543 consultations. A diabetic clinic was opened in the Hospital in 2010. 2011 saw the first work on the renovation of the 45-bed postnatal department with funding from the US Agency for International Development (USAID) and implementation by American Near East Refugee Aid (ANERA).

In **Syria**, in response to the escalation of violence in mid 2012, Malteser International has been working in Damascus, distributing thousands of start-up kits – blankets, mattresses, towels, pillows kitchen utensils, and for those most in need, special hygiene kits of soap, diapers and wound care ointment for babies – and operating through its long-standing local partner, the International Blue Crescent (IBC). To ensure access to the areas for distribution, where many displaced persons have sought refuge with relatives, IBC has been working with the Syrian Red Crescent, the only non-governmental organisation officially allowed to provide humanitarian aid in the region. Alongside this project, Ordre de Malte France supports two clinics in Damascus and Aleppo.

SYRIA: FACING A HUMANITARIAN CRISIS

The crisis in Syria has forced thousands to flee urban zones and cross borders. In Damascus, many hundreds of families (IDPs) were assisted in early 2012 with startup and hygiene kits, distributed by Malteser International's long-time partner, the International Blue Crescent. In Lebanon, throughout summer 2012 refugees arrived every day in increasing numbers at the medical centre of the Order's Lebanese Association at Kahldieh, near Tripoli.

Malteser International continues its work with refugees in the harsh winter. Its relief activities within Syria: more than 15,000 displaced people (IDPs) are receiving aid packages; in Lebanon, emergency relief and medical support continues for more than 500 Syrian refugees; in Turkey, Malteser International's partners on the ground are distributing winter clothing for up to 2,000 children and blankets to 1,000 families in Kilis province, and winter relief packages to 300 of the neediest families in Hatay province. Official figures (UNHCR, December 2012) currently estimate well over 1.5 million IDPs inside Syria. More than 600,000 Syrians – half of them children – have fled to the neighbouring countries of Iraq, Turkey, Jordan and Lebanon and have been registered as refugees or assisted as such. In addition, a similar number of Syrian refugees may not have yet been officially registered.



Africa

With activities in over 30 countries, the Order's projects here concentrate on care for HIV positive mothers and infants, on treatment for malaria, tuberculosis, on providing clean water facilities and health and psycho-social care to women victims of violence, as well as basic health care.

The Order runs health centres and dispensaries in many rural areas, treats leprosy sufferers and trains them in income-generating activities, and cares for internally displaced persons fleeing famine or civic conflict.





■ Bukavu, DR Congo: Lessons in basic healthcare: the Order's local village clinic

Malaria, HIV, leprosy, tuberculosis. The Order runs clinics and programmes in many African countries to combat these diseases which strike down hundreds of thousands of victims each year. It also provides general healthcare and water and sanitation programmes and cares for internally displaced persons fleeing civil unrest in many communities. In **Benin**, the 100-bed hospital run by Ordre de Malte France in Djougou carried out more than 20,000 consultations in 2011, the year which also saw the installation of a new scanner and the start of construction on a new extension. From early 2012 a new tomography service is now offered. The hospital, inaugurated in 1974, is the sole provider of surgical procedures in a catchment area of 350,000 people. It also provides an outreach service to 20 villages. The Order is also involved in the continuing fight against tuberculosis, with programmes for the detection and

treatment of the disease in 11 clinics and dispensaries.

The Ordre de Malte France provides an extensive programme of healthcare support to the people of **Burkina Faso**. The dispensary in the capital city of Ouagadougou is open for 24 hours every day, with the number of consultations rising from 12,000 in 2009 to 17,000 in

AIDS programmes in Burkina Faso and Cameroon; new tomography service in Benin

2011. An expansion in 2012, includes a maternity unit and dental facility. The Order also supports a national AIDS programme, supplies and distributes medicines to 13 health centres and dispensaries and offers first aid training programmes. The Order also provided emergency

response to the major floods which hit the country in 2009 and again in 2010. Since mid 2012, some 55,000 refugees from Mali have arrived in Burkina Faso, fleeing from civil war. Ordre de Malte France, present in the country for over ten years and specialised in first-aid and transport of the wounded, has provided human and logistic resources, with ambulance corps and paramedics in Bobo-Dioulasso in the south-west, mobilised to assist the refugees.

A new unit for out-patients' reception and medical examinations was inaugurated in 2011 at the Order's Hospital in Njombé, **Cameroon**. The hospital has also been taking part in a national AIDS control programme, with 700 patients undergoing retroviral treatment.

A second mobile health unit was also introduced to assist road victims and strengthen the health service in the Haut Penja region. Leprosy remains a continuing focus in Cameroon, where patients and their

■ Mandeni, South Africa: an AIDS sufferer in a remote village is provided with healthcare



■ In Africa the Order runs over 300 dispensaries, most of them in rural communities

families are cared for at the Roham-Chabot Centre in Mokolo, the principal city in the far North of the country. This forms part of an extensive global leprosy programme by the Ordre de Malte France, MALTALEP. The Order also runs programmes for the detection and treatment of tuberculosis through 15 clinics and dispensaries.

The Embassy of the Order of Malta in **Cape Verde** gives support to the local population affected by terminal diseases so that they can obtain special assistance from the Portuguese Health Service due to the difficulties of the local system.

The **Central African Republic** is undergoing a humanitarian crisis and has the second lowest life expectancy in the world. Ordre de Malte France supports 13 health centres in the country, including in the diocese of Berbérati (St. Basil and St. Anne) and Pygmy care centres in Mabondo, Manasao and Bélemboké. The Order assists with donations and goods in kind – for example, May 2011 saw the delivery of a container containing 423 parcels, 2 pallets of medicine and medical devices which were immediately distributed. For most

of the centres, the donations of medicines are essential, as the Order is often the only donor. A request from the Order has also resulted in the training of Pygmy nurses at the Polish hospital in Manasao.

Ordre de Malte France runs four health centres in **Chad** – one at Amtoukoui, serving a population of 90,000 people, another at Singako serving an isolated area where the nearest hospital is 24 hours away by ox cart, a third at Kouyako and the fourth at Wallia which provides maternity and paediatric services for a population of 60,000 people. In **Comores**, Ordre de Malte France aids three health centres.

The standard of living remains very low in **Democratic Republic of Congo** with precarious socio-economic conditions. In 2011, the Embassy of the Order imported goods and equipment to the value of 12.1 million euros - material needed for numerous health, educational, agricultural and social projects throughout the country. This service is rendered to religious congregations, dioceses and the Church, Protestant missions and all associations and NGOs active in those fields. The Order supports the Houses of 'Paix et de Repos dans le Seigneur' and 'Don

de Marie' (200 beds) of the Sisters of Mother Teresa, in Kinshasa, where very young orphans are abandoned by their parents for witchcraft or because they are infected by HIV and will not live above 5 or 6 years old. The Sisters provide with exceptional dedication palliative care for those in their final stage. They distribute food and medicine to the poorest families of the area, thanks to donations from the Embassy. In the General Hospital of Kinshasa, chaplain of the Order Abbé Paul Peeters established a Committee of Aid to the Poor in 2000. Supported by the Embassy, it cares for the sick who are abandoned in front of the hospital. Malteser International, active in the east of Democratic Republic of Congo since 1996, has built, renovated or improved 21 health facilities which serve health zones in South Kivu, where the existing infrastructure has been left in a seriously dilapidated condition following

Health care centres in remote areas in Central African Republic, Chad and DR Congo

years of armed conflict. A food security programme - where 63% of the population are chronically malnourished - has focused on internally-displaced families returning to their villages. Malteser International has set up nutrition and health centres and distributed seeds for the first harvest, supported the formation and training of local agricultural associations and helped to open up new trade channels and transport facilities for a sustainable food supply.

Further to the east, an existing health centre at Nzibira has been extended to create a referral clinic for a population of more than 60,000 people. Access to health care and essential medicines in areas close to the Ugandan border was seriously disrupted by rebel incursions which forced 30,000 people to flee their homes. Here, Malteser International distributed essential medical drug kits to 21 health centres in the Faradje and Aba areas and

continues to provide psychological and medical treatment in 64 health centres for some 49,000 women subjected to rape and violence in the conflict-ridden province.

Since early 2012 Malteser International has been monitoring the situation and registering the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in the region. In cooperation with the World Food Programme, food distributions to 37,500 IDPs have been especially aimed at families with malnourished children.

In addition, Malteser International continues to support the region's health facilities to combat malnutrition among children under five. The project also includes measures for the rehabilitation of agriculture, to strengthen the self-help capacity of people to ensure food security in South Kivu.

The reconstruction of a 344km road – overseen and given financial support by Malteser International – between the

cities of Burhale and Shabunda in DR Congo has become a vital connecting route for 300,000 people who can now more easily reach medical treatment in the healthcare centre of Shabunda.

The Order of Malta Embassy in **Egypt** focuses activities on the Abu Zaabal Leprosarium to improve the health and living conditions of about 800 long-term patients, in cooperation with the

Abandoned children in DR Congo, leprosy care in Egypt, rural health centre in Ethiopia

Franciscan Sisters and the Director of the hospital. With the help of Ordre de Malte France a minibus, water, electricity, medicines, repairs of the inpatient departments, equipment and qualified medical assistance have been

donated.

In 2011 the Embassy received €50,000 from Ordre de Malte France and €50,000 from Fondation Française de l'Ordre de Malte to improve the facilities, and support the medical personnel.

There is a sponsorship programme assisting 50 healthy children living in the leprosarium, and plans for a family day care centre in Shoubra El-Sahel in Cairo, coordinated between the Embassy, the Egyptian government and UNDP.

In **Ethiopia**, the Embassy of the Order of Malta has set up a health centre – 'Minnie Health Post' – in the Arsi region, Arba Gugu; a primary school in Pawi; a school in Meki; and a well for the Franciscan Missionary Sisters in Gilgel Beles, a village devoid of water. It is also contributing to the building of a first-level Health Centre in Korke (Oromia region) to support the hospital in



■ Staff are trained by the Order all over Africa: here, a group in eastern DR Congo



■ Leprosy care and prevention has been an Order focus for centuries: campaigns and classes run regularly

Wolisso managed by CUAMM – Doctors with Africa (a Catholic organisation based in Padua).

In **Gabon**, 65 people with leprosy are cared for in a hospital supported by the Ordre de Malte France, in Eberigné. The Order also aids three clinics in the country.

In **Guinea Conakry**, the Ordre de Malte France continues to implement a national fight against TB and leprosy under an agreement with the state government. Patients are diagnosed and treated in public health centres. The Order also operates a dispensary in the major city of Conakry which provides a free service covering malaria,

bronchitis, parasites, skin diseases, urinary infections and HIV, and supports 13 dispensaries throughout the terrain. In 2012, the Ordre de Malte France distributed 12.5 tonnes of medicines and medical equipment.

Leprosy care in Gabon, and TB and leprosy programmes in Guinea Conakry

At the Marian sanctuary of Boffa, where some 20,000 pilgrims arrive every year from west Africa, paramedics from Mali and Burkina Faso trained by the Ordre de Malte France offer first-aid services

to the pilgrims.

The Order has been operating in Guinea since 1986, when the first agreement was signed with the country for a national leprosy programme. Its Pita surgery operates as a logistics base for its national leprosy, tuberculosis and Buruli Ulcer programmes.

The neglected tropic disease, Buruli Ulcer, is also widespread in **Ivory Coast**. Here, clinics supported by Ordre de Malte France are involved in the treatment of patients with the disease, most of whom are children under the age of 15. Ordre de Malte France supports 19 clinics and dispensaries in the country, which include those treating leprosy patients.



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sexuelles



■ Knowing what to do, where to turn: help in assault cases

In **Kenya**, almost half of Nairobi's total population of 4.5 million people live in slums. In shanty towns, about 10% of the adult population is infected by the HIV virus. The Dandora Health Clinic in Nairobi sees more than 210,000 patients each year and provides access to TB diagnosis and treatment to 380,000 people. It was presented by Malteser International to the Kenyan Government in 2010.

Leprosy treated in Ivory Coast, TB and HIV in Kenya

Benchmarks set by the World Health Organization (WHO) for the control of tuberculosis have been met or exceeded as a result of a programme of testing, diagnosis and treatment which the Order has maintained since 2002. Malteser International installed tuberculosis laboratories, each with a

qualified lab technician, at 10 Ministry of Health clinics in slum areas of Nairobi. Specialist training has been provided for health centre staff, and an education programme has helped local residents to minimise the risk of contracting TB, and to recognise early symptoms of the disease.

At the end of 2010, an agreement was reached to hand over all the supported health centres to the Kenyan Ministry of Health. Malteser International has continued to manage a team of community health workers to enhance the prevention and cure of tuberculosis. Malteser International also continues to build the capacity of the Lamu District Hospital, particularly in the area of maternal health and child welfare which are the greatest priorities in the local community.

Meanwhile, the Order's Embassy has been providing food, activities and education for 75 orphaned children at the Terry Hope Centre in Nairobi since 2008. Also in Nairobi, the Kangemi

Resource Centre supports 70 community-based primary schools by providing training for teachers and also offers internet access to the local community.

The 'Mama Africa' sewing project continues to empower disadvantaged women in Nairobi's Kangemi slum by enabling them to earn a living by selling the colourful cotton clothes they make. Malteser International has been fighting against AIDS and TB in eight Nairobi slums for the past ten years by training and employing local specialised staff who are qualified and able to provide intensive care to patients. Counselling and blood tests for HIV/AIDS are also provided for more than 24,000 people each year.

With the signing of the Health Agreement between the Embassy of the Order of Malta in **Liberia** and the Government of Liberia in February 2011, the humanitarian activities of the Order have been facilitated. The first activity is

the shipment of a large container of medical equipment and materials to health centres and the hospital in Monrovia. From February 2012, a post has been opened in the port of Salerno for the shipment to Liberia of medicines and basic essentials, collected from all over Italy.

Ordre de Malte France runs the Sainte Fleur Pavilion in the Antananarivo University Hospital Centre in **Madagascar**, delivering some 2,000 births annually and with special facilities for premature babies.

The Order's Embassy in **Mali** signed a Cooperation Agreement between the Sovereign Order and the Republic of Mali in 2009, and in 2011 another Agreement between the Sovereign Order and the World Health Organization in Mali. The Agreement recognises the various healthcare structures in Mali. It provides for: the training of first-aiders and ambulance personnel at the Ecole de Bamako; a programme to combat epidemic diseases; maintenance of the health structures; and participation in the country's Programme for Health and Social Development. Ordre de Malte France also provides assistance for a variety of projects in Mali, through 11 dispensaries and health centres in the regions of Kayes, Bamako, Sikasso, Segou and Mopti.

Services include treatment for malaria, maternity and infant care, basic healthcare education, laboratories, renal dialysis.

Donations for Liberia, a maternity hospital in Madagascar, dispensaries and clinics in Mali, Morocco treats leprosy and diabetes, in Mozambique, HIV screening, in Namibia, care for HIV orphans

In 2011, Ordre de Malte France signed new framework agreements to extend existing healthcare initiatives in **Morocco** - three dispensaries and clinics - to the training of health practitioners. The Order has continued its cooperation with the country's healthcare programmes for leprosy, diabetes and eye disease and has supported a cataract project, providing 700 treatments annually, and provided financial support for the dispensary at Temara.

An innovative programme started by the Embassy of the Order of Malta in **Mozambique** aims to reintegrate

HIV/AIDS victims back into local society. The programme presents a monthly traditional music and dance festival, using cultural heritage to reach out to isolated sufferers of the condition. Run at the Mumemo Reassessment Camp, north of Maputo, the programme's two foci are to train young people to become musicians and professionals, and to search and find isolated victims who live in silence to bring them to the festival and involve them in local life. Two years into the project, by 2012 over 15,000 people have been screened and 10% new HIV positive cases have been detected and treated. The initiative which has brought joy and a practical support for the population.

The Order has been operating for more than six years in the Kavango region in northern **Namibia** where high incidence of HIV/AIDS limits average life expectancy to less than 40 years. In the community of 200,000 people there are many more children than adults, with an estimated 24,000 orphans. A coordinated assistance and development project is helping HIV-positive widows and young orphans to find work through a tailoring project. Interventions include a food support programme and the renovation of the Mururani hostel, which houses 140 boys and girls aged between 7 and 12. The Order's Embassy also provides 250

RESPONSE TO DROUGHT

In the Horn of Africa where the worst drought in 60 years has brought the world's greatest ongoing humanitarian disaster, the Order of Malta has provided aid to a population of over 20,000 in Marsabit and Isiolo in north eastern Kenya - including pregnant women and malnourished children. Emergency aid included kits of staple foods - rice, beans, maize, oil - and medical kits including vitamin A, iron, folic acid and antifungus drugs, and mosquito nets to protect against malaria.



■ Leprosy victims often suffer from foot problems and need special shoes

meals a day for orphans in the Kehemu kindergarten, which is being enlarged to accommodate dormitories and bathrooms for children who would otherwise sleep in the street at risk of ill-treatment and abuse.

The Embassy of the Order of Malta in **Niger** has distributed medical materials and equipment to the hospitals of Niamey, is currently planning construction of a dispensary at Maradi; and a dispensary is supported by Ordre de Malte France.

In **Republic of Congo** a serious explosion in a munitions depot on 4 March 2012 in the eastern part of the capital, Brazzaville, left over 200 dead, 14,000 homeless and 2,300 injured. Ordre de Malte France, together with the Order's Embassy in Brazzaville, rapidly mobilised and allocated funds for emergency relief and also distributed 400 kilos of medical and first-aid supplies. Ordre de Malte France runs 13 clinics and

dispensaries in the republic.

In **Senegal**, the care and treatment of leprosy sufferers continues at the Central Hospital of the Order of Malta (CHOM), in Dakar. The hospital, which is supported and funded by Ordre de Malte France, recently broadened its field of action to include orthopaedic surgery and functional rehabilitation, together with a surgical training unit for medical staff. The International Cooperation Department of the Principality of Monaco provided Ordre de Malte France

Clinics and dispensaries in Republic of Congo, leprosy care in Senegal, needy Seychelles families aided

with a contribution to set up a teletraining unit in the hospital for both medical students and surgeons. In 2011, Ordre de Malte France signed a

new agreement to provide a healthcare programme for street children in Dakar. Sick or injured children can now be admitted to the new hospital centre. Ordre de Malte France supports 19 clinics and dispensaries in Senegal.

Activities carried out by the Order's Embassy in the **Seychelles** cover donations to very needy causes: to Seychelles Hospital; to needy families affected by a serious fire in Takamaka district; financing and food products offered to very poor families in the affected area; to Glacis primary school; clothing to the diocesan association "Les li Viv" to help single mothers; to the Youth Centre in the district of Grande Anse; a large donation of teaching materials to the orphanage President's Village; and support for a Christmas event for the orphanage Foyer of Nazareth.

In **Sierra Leone**, the Order of Malta, through its Embassy, is supporting the development project at the Southern Eye



■ In the drought-stricken Horn of Africa the Order's relief team register families for assistance



NORTHERN KENYA
BROUGHT RESPONSE 2011
SUPPORTED BY:
Malteser International
University of Malta, Maltese Order of St. John



■ The Order of Malta in South Africa assists hundreds of HIV/AIDS sufferers and their families every day



■ A tuberculosis checkup: South Sudan

Clinic at Serabu, which specialises in cataract surgery, the number one cause of blindness in third world countries. The project covers three clinical issues: expansion of public access to the clinic's services, increase in the availability of basic medicines and financial support for ongoing shipping expenses for medical and surgical supplies. Patients travel to Serabu from all over Sierra Leone, and from nearby nations – Liberia, Senegal, Guinea, Ghana and Nigeria. Every January and June, Order members Dr Cathy Schanzer and Tom Lewis travel from Memphis, Tennessee, to carry out over 400 surgeries each year.

The Order's relief organisation in **South Africa**, known as the Brotherhood of Blessed Gérard, provides a comprehensive range of community-based programmes including free counselling, HIV testing and Highly Active Anti-Retroviral Treatment (HAART) for poor AIDS patients in Mandeni. The scheme, which is at the forefront of anti-retroviral therapy in South Africa,

includes a number of support groups where HAART patients can meet to encourage each other and avoid the sense of isolation which otherwise can inhibit recovery. The Order also runs a care centre, hospice and children's home, and a pre-primary school and crèche for 30 children in Whebede.

Eye surgery in Sierra Leone, HIV care in South Africa and South Sudan, TB programmes in Togo

Other continuing activities include home care and inpatient services, as well as an ambulance and emergency response organisation.

Malteser International is helping to train and qualify urgently-needed medical staff in **South Sudan** following the country's recent independence after more than 20 years of civil war. By July 2011, 55 students had successfully

completed the two-year programme at the laboratory school in Rumbek, which also serves as a referral lab for more than 330,000 people.

In addition, local health authority staff are also being trained in family planning and health management.

An internal evaluation in June 2010 proved that the Order's community-based TB and HIV/AIDS programmes in South Sudan were having a positive impact. The TB case detection rate was above target, and treatment success rates were also very high.

In **Togo**, Ordre de Malte France aids 10 clinics and dispensaries and is involved in the continuing fight against tuberculosis, with ongoing programmes for the detection and treatment of the disease. It also runs the Order of Malta hospital at Elavagnon, which has been operating since 1980. The 54-bed hospital provides health services for a population of 70,000 and specialises in malaria, diabetes, diarrhoea, eye disease and infectious diseases.

Americas

The Order's activities in North America embrace specialised programmes in health care, home visits to the sick, shelter for single mothers and women who have suffered domestic violence. It provides medical care for disadvantaged children and the homeless, and runs soup kitchens and drug programmes.

Active in 26 countries in South America, medical services include screening for diabetes, and care in hospitals and homes for the elderly. There are programmes for street children, for HIV-positive mothers and infants, food aid centres for the homeless and for people with handicaps. The Order also runs specialised dental clinics and paediatric centres.





■ Mexico: Order medical teams provide primary health care

In **Argentina**, terminally ill cancer sufferers receive the latest palliative care treatment at the Hostel de Malta, Buenos Aires. In operation since 2001, the Hostel provides an imaginative integrated programme of psychological, medical, social and spiritual care for patients and their families. Care focuses on the individual with the aim of controlling physical symptoms while offering activities ranging from painting and music to reading, yoga and massage – all designed to enhance each patient’s self-esteem. As the Hostel de Malta is a day care centre, it enables patients to end their days in their own homes, surrounded by their families. Home visits are also undertaken by the team of professional physicians and nurses, as well as by volunteers. For many years, the Argentinian Association has also provided specialised life-saving equipment for premature babies at the Children’s Hospital of San Justo, La Matanza, Buenos Aires. This has helped the

survival rate to rise to 97% among the 350 babies who are born prematurely at the hospital in an average year, as well as for the 45 babies who are seen as outpatients each day.

In Argentina, focus on palliative care and leprosy, in Bahamas, disaster risk reduction, kidney dialysis care in Bolivia

Meanwhile, Argentina Maltese Aid for the Elimination of Leprosy (AMAPEL) has been relaunched to regain control and treatment of the disease following a rise in the incidence of cases since the closure of a number of clinics during the global economic downturn. Each year, the Association runs a first aid post during the November Youth Pilgrimage to the Basílica de Luján.

The Embassy of the Order in the

Bahamas in 2011 continued efforts to help the Haitian people following the devastating earthquake, with a commitment of US\$500,000. Haiti is less than 100 km from the Bahamas. The donation has supported the new Catholic orphanage on the outskirts of Port-au-Prince and the Sacré Coeur Hospital, Milot. The Bahamas is a developing country, hurricane-prone and directly in the path of tropical storms. The Embassy has conferred with Maltese International in the event of a severe natural disaster. In 2011 the Embassy donated US\$500,000 to Bahamian charities.

The Order’s Association in **Bolivia** has, with a number of other organisations, operated the hemodialysis unit in the San Juan Bautista Centre for Renal Care in the City of El Alto since 2002. Kidney disease and diabetes are chronic medical problems in Bolivia and dialysis provision is minimal (mortality rate from chronic renal insufficiency is 15 %). The centre has 11 donated dialysis

■ Microfinance - helping communities in the Altiplano, Bolivia

machines and staff provided 3,000 treatments in 2011, free or with subsidised minimum payment. In June 2012 the Order's Association, in close coordination with the Order's Embassy to Bolivia, donated an X-Ray Unit to the 'FIDES Clínica Solidaria' which provides medical care in the poorest urban area of Bolivia. The Bolivian Association runs the 'Centro de Damas Paceañas', a day care centre for the elderly in the city of Our Lady of La Paz. Operational since 2010, the centre cares for 85 patients daily, offering spiritual support, medical checks and meals. In Santa Cruz de la Sierra, in coordination with the Universidad Autónoma Gabriel René Moreno, the Bolivian Association runs the Cardenal Julio Terrazas Sandoval Diabetes Centre and is presently working with the Santa Cruz Municipal Health Department on the acquisition of four new hemodialysis machines to expand the medical services provided.

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

The Association's educational programme is focused on minimising failure and truancy by providing enhanced opportunities including cultural activities and sports. The Maltese Cross Nursery, for example, enables mothers to earn and contribute to the family income while their children under the age of seven are well cared for. Older children up to the age of 14 can take part in a number of vocational courses and enjoy meals, sports and games at the Association's Youth Centre. The Centre also houses toy and book libraries – both of which are also available to the general public. Meanwhile, a floating dispensary called Saint Jean-Baptiste II continues to ply the waters of the Amazon River in Brazil

carrying medicines and medical care to people who would otherwise have little access to healthcare. The project is financed by Ordre de Malte France.

Since 2001, members of the **Canadian Association** have been running outreach eyeglass clinics in the lower mainland of Vancouver – to date 16 clinics have offered eye tests, treatment and free spectacles. In the Montreal area Order volunteers work in six homes for the aged that house 1,000 patients and give assistance to pilgrims all year round at St. Joseph's Oratory and Notre Dame du Cap. In Quebec City, a special project helps severely handicapped children. In Ottawa a day clinic project connected with the Shepherds of Good Hope is underway. Members in Toronto support a shelter for the homeless, St. Michael's

Health education, mobile medical/dental clinics in Brazil, outreach eye clinics in Canada, medical centres in Chile, 'Bringing Life' project in remote areas in Colombia

Hospital, and a soup kitchen, St. Francis Table, and make home visits to the handicapped, the elderly and the chronically ill and / or their care givers. A new project will operate in one of the poorer parishes of the city, helping an aging immigrant population to obtain better access to social services. The Association is also very active in aid and outreach programmes in Bolivia and Haiti.

In **Chile**, the Order's international aid agency (Malteser International) worked closely with the Order's Chilean Association and the country's relief service, Auxilio Maltés, to distribute clothes, blankets, food and water treatment tablets to people affected by the earthquake, which struck on 27 February, 2010. In the aftermath of the

earthquake, Auxilio Maltés worked in conjunction with Malteser International and Aktion Deutschland Hilft on a number of schemes designed to encourage rapid economic recovery. For example, a 'Maltese Market' was built in the centre of Chépica to replace shops and workshops which had been destroyed. Echoing the style of traditional Chilean architecture, the building has enabled 30 families to earn their own living while supplying goods and services to a population of 14,000. When the tsunami that followed the earthquake washed away diving equipment, high-tech diving sets and compressors were provided to the local fishermen of Tubul to enable them to harvest shellfish.

The Association supports four bronchopulmonary centres in Santiago (Roberto del Rio, Exequiel Gonzalez Cortes, San Jose and San Borja) and provides patient transport services and rehabilitation care. 13,500 patients were treated in 2011.

Auxilio Maltés also runs a number of social programmes in different regions of the country. In the village of Liquiñe, near the border with Argentina, volunteers visit the sick and arrange for doctors and health centre staff to care for people living in remote outlying areas. In Graneros, the Order has built a waiting room and gynaecological care facility at the Farmers' Medical Centre, while in the southern city of Loncoche, the 'Blessed Charles of Austria' day shelter was opened in 2011 to provide care, comfort and comradeship for elderly people with low incomes who would otherwise spend their days alone. Together, these social and economic support projects have aided more than 25,000 people.

The Order's Association in **Colombia** acts as an intermediary between international donors, such as AmeriCares with whom it has had a relationship since 1997, and Colombian institutions serving vulnerable people who are not covered by the National Health System. A typical year will see more than 40





■ Reconstructions after Hurricane Katrina continue in New Orleans: Order volunteers in action

institutions benefitting in this way through donations of medicines, medical equipment and supplies. These are distributed by the Order to hospitals, health services, retirement homes and hospices throughout the country. The Association also provides a number of other services to the needy. Recent examples include the construction of a health care centre in Barrio Palermo Sur, which caters for a population of 20,000 people in low income neighbourhoods with high unemployment. The centre includes doctors' surgeries as well as a psycho-social clinic staged by an interdisciplinary team of professionals in psychiatry, psychology, neuropsychology, social work and occupational therapy. Training is also provided for students in these disciplines. Meanwhile, a separate project in low-income areas of Lisboa has provided a fully-equipped dental surgery and legal advice centre staffed by specialists in

civil, employment, family and tax law. Since its launch in 2003, the 'Bringing Life' project has provided essential medical aid to remote rural populations, with a particular focus on children and on complex diseases which can only be treated in the capital city. The project is run in conjunction with the Civil Air Patrol in Bogota, the E-Kovio Foundation and the Medical-Scientific Foundation Alexis Carrel.

The SMOM Embassy in **Costa Rica** is working on a joint project in Guanacaste with local parishes to increase school attendance in truant children, through the game of football. The Embassy also supports the educational project of the Carmelite Sisters of the 'Carmel Centre' which is under the aegis of the Order of Malta. Another Embassy activity is help for the 'Miraculous Medal' parish project, under the care of the Comboni Fathers in the Barrio Cuba, which promotes activities for the local children and gives financial

and social support to poor families. A third project supported by the Embassy is the Hospital de los Niños in

Youth sports projects in Costa Rica reduce truancy and in Cuba soup kitchens feed the hungry

San José, which plans to develop into a Centre of Medical Science. It deals with more complex diseases and is thus able to improve child health in Costa Rica.

The Order's Cuban Association is highly active in **Cuba** and Florida. It also runs medical missions to the Dominican Republic and Haiti. 150 volunteers are providing regular meals – breakfast and lunch five days a week, plus parcels for the weekend - for elderly people in 60 parishes throughout Cuba, while there are also 60 soup

kitchens, which between them served over 700,000 meals to homeless people throughout the island in 2011, thanks to the fundraising efforts of the Association.

Members of the Order also made significant donations of their own, including one of \$500,000 to the Psicopedagógico Institute in Puerto Rico, which provides specialised health services, nutrition, education and care to severely affected children and adults. They also support an assistance centre in Palma Soriano for children with Down's syndrome.

In 2010, the Order also began to support a paediatric dental clinic for the children of immigrants in Homestead, Florida. Members of the Cuban Association continue to provide medical, dental and educational care to children living in migrant camps in South Florida.

Societal shifts in the **Dominican Republic** have seen massive migration of the population from rural to urban

centres – primarily Santo Domingo – as well as an increasing percentage of children and young people. An intervention by the Order's Dominican Association, in cooperation with other governmental and voluntary agencies, is addressing the inevitable issues raised in terms of access to healthcare through a comprehensive programme based on mother and child clinics in Santo Domingo and Monte Plata.

Mother /child and primary healthcare focus in Dominican Republic, with medical and dental care provided in remote areas of Ecuador

Using a sustainable primary healthcare model, the clinics combine medical care in obstetrics and paediatrics with education and health promotion.

COMMITMENT TO HAITI

The 2010 earthquake hit an already suffering population in the poorest country in the world. Then in 2011 a cholera epidemic swept through. Malteser International reacted swiftly with experts to fight the disease, raise awareness, teach hygiene and set up clean water supplies and sanitation systems. 2012: tropical storm Isaac caused severe flooding and damage - deaths, injuries, 16,000 evacuees. In Belle-Anse, a very poor region. Malteser International - running relief programmes there since 2010 - provided emergency repairs and equipment.

Each covers a population which is marginalised through unemployment or underemployment, and which previously had high rates of infant mortality. The Cuban Association has sent more than 100 doctors, nurses and assistants who give their time and expertise free in support of impoverished communities. More than 3000 patients were treated during two missions in 2012, with follow-up missions in April and September 2013. The project is ongoing. Among them was a four-year-old Dominican girl suffering from the congenital condition, megacolon, which left her with seven inches of intestine outside her body cavity. With the aid of the physicians from the Cuban Association's medical mission, a paediatric surgeon was able to perform corrective surgery for \$5,000 – a fraction of the \$75,000 the same operation would have cost in Florida.

Medical and dental facilities are few and far between for remote communities living along the banks of the Puyo and Pastaza rivers in **Ecuador**, and when volunteers from the Order's national association organised a medical mission to the area they found many cases in urgent need of treatment. One in particular, a 14-months-old baby girl called Amber, was close to death



■ Health checkup, Peru



■ Haiti: emergency medical aid post earthquake

from pneumonia and malnutrition. Immediate arrangements were made for her to be taken to hospital in the county's capital, Quito, where life-saving surgery was performed. Meanwhile, the Order's team of 45 volunteer surgeons, doctors and dentists treated 1,300 patients, performed 50 minor operations and distributed 140 doses of antiparasitics.

The Order's Association in **El Salvador** runs nine clinics throughout the country. Diagnosing and monitoring osteoporosis is the new project launched by the Association this year, adding bone density testing to its range of medical services. Each provides primary health care as well as general medical and nursing services. In addition, a clinical laboratory is provided at four clinics, dental services at four clinics and a physiotherapy service at one clinic. In 2011, over 140,000 health consultations were carried out, with a rise of 14% in dental and gynaecological services. The Order of Malta Volunteers (VANESOM) has supported these initiatives, raising funds for the centres and visiting the patients.

When emergencies caused by natural disasters occur, the Association sets up emergency centres that distribute basic necessities. Following the tropical storm Agatha in 2010, the Association provided emergency aid to 287 families and after the floods of the same year, together, with donations from the USA Federal Association, supported 1114 affected families in the region of Puerto Parada, Usulután, with basic necessities and food supplies.

Healthcare clinics feature in El Salvador, rehabilitation in Haiti, support for orphans in Honduras

A team of volunteers raises funds to help run the clinics and pay for medicines and tests needed by the very poorest members of the community. The Association also runs a donation programme which channels humanitarian aid from national and international organisations to El Salvador's public institutions, such as

hospitals, orphanages, nursing homes and schools.

In **Haiti**, many of the Order's national associations – Canadian, Cuban, Dominican, French, German, the Austrian MHDA and the three USA Associations – worked with the Order's emergency response agency, Malteser International, to provide medical aid in the wake of the disastrous earthquake of January 2010. Emergency relief focused on basic healthcare and nutritional programmes in the districts of Darbonne and Léogane, including hygiene campaigns to avoid the spread of cholera. In the north of the country, the 73-bed Sacred Heart Hospital at Milot, supported by the Order for the past 15 years, continues to care for patients from a catchment area of 225,000. Its specialist prosthetic department has been working overtime since the earthquake of 2010 and its aftermath. A recently donated telemedicine and internet service means that hospital staff can now consult face-to-face with top medical experts in the United States and around the world.

In **Honduras**, where more than 35% of the population exist on less than \$2 a day, medical aid provided by AmeriCares is channelled through the Order's Association to two hospitals, Torax, an advanced care 211-bed facility, and San Felipe, with 409 speciality services beds. The American Association of the Order also supports the House of Friendship orphanages: two homes caring for 130 abandoned boys and girls aged 2-18.

When hurricane Karl struck southern **Mexico** in September, 2010, the Order's Mexican Association provided emergency medical relief, including the distribution of medicines and the deployment of mobile medical teams to treat people living in remote areas of the country. The Mexican Association also runs a programme in the district of Tabasco to prevent the transmission of the HIV virus from young mothers to their babies. More than 350 mothers and



■ Basic food necessities are organised after any catastrophe: here, an earthquake in Peru left thousands without shelter or food

babies had received support up to the end of 2010.

In 2011, 46 mothers and babies were provided with pre- and post-natal care, including treatment and transport. However, demand for the service far outstrips available resources, with some 800 mothers seeking admission to the programme each year.

Street children, 'Help me grow' programme, HIV care in Mexico

Other recent programmes launched by the Order in Mexico include 'Help me Grow', which combats malnutrition. More than 1,900 children in three communities have benefited from the provision of individually-tailored nutritional advice, and the distribution to hospitals and health centres of medical drugs and equipment, also donated by AmeriCares and other US charities. Long-running care provision includes a school and boarding home for more than 150 street children, a care and

PRISON MINISTRY IN THE UNITED STATES

Today, there are more prisoners in the United States than at any time in the nation's history. In 2012, over two million men, women and children were behind bars. If the current average is maintained, almost 1.5 million of them will be back in prison at some future stage. Faced with this seemingly never-ending rise in the prison population, and the depressing cycle of reoffending followed by further incarceration, the Order's American Association has expanded its programme of Prison Ministry from small beginnings to where it is now - a national initiative active in 26 states. Based around a core concept of restoration and reconciliation, the programme includes regular face-to-face visits and a Pen Pals scheme. It encourages prisoners to gain qualifications and learn new skills during their sentence, and fosters employment opportunities for post release - factors which have a dramatic impact on the number of those who will reoffend. There is also a mentoring programme for the young, many of them sons and daughters of prisoners, with the aim of breaking the vicious circle in which it is considered a 'point of honour' to follow their father or mother into prison. So far, over 100,000 bibles and books have been provided to prisoners throughout the US, and 2010 saw the launch of a quarterly magazine 'The Serving Brother' which is now distributed quarterly with content specifically aimed at the spiritual needs of prison inmates. Behind the scenes, the Order continues to promote prison reforms, seeking developments in areas such as the death penalty, prison conditions, and education, and to improve the public perception of people who are imprisoned.

nursing home for more than 50 elderly people, both in Mexico City; and an outpatient clinic that provides services to very poor families in the impoverished outskirts of Mexico City at Ciudad Netzahualcoyotl.

Since 1989 the Order's Embassy in **Nicaragua** has been supporting the most vulnerable sectors of Nicaraguan society with millions of dollars' worth of humanitarian aid, gathered particularly in times of natural disasters.

Dental healthcare is a key issue in Nicaragua, Panama and Paraguay

For the last seven years, in conjunction with AmeriCares, the Embassy has also been supporting Dentists Without Borders with medical equipment, transportation, logistics, board and lodging. These dental brigades give free dental care to the very poor all over the country. Americares donations also go

to CONANCA (a national association for children with cancer). This association organises soup kitchens for children and voluntary groups of doctors and dentists who treat patients in remote areas.

By 2011 donations had grown and the Embassy received two containers valued at \$5.8 M for Caritas Nicaragua, which is run by the Nicaraguan Episcopal Conference.

The Order's **Panamanian Association** continues to provide free medical and dental treatment for over 7,000 patients annually at a clinic in Panama City. Meanwhile, a cooperation agreement between the Order and the Panamanian Ministry of Education has included the provision of equipment and improvements to two primary schools. Another initiative provides medical help to poor residents of the Province of Darien, close to the Colombian border.

The Order's Association in **Paraguay** drew up an agreement with the Municipality of San Lorenzo (a poor

suburb of Asunción), to provide free dental care to the schoolchildren of the area in a mobile clinic. Dentists are paid by the Ministry and all the other staff are volunteers. The health centre operates daily from 7 am to 3 pm and women also receive gynaecological care. The premises of the Puesto de Emergencia Malta were donated by the Embassy and here poor children are also offered free meals and their mothers follow courses in cookery and hairdressing.

70 school children in Amauta, Ate-Vitarte, near Lima, **Peru**, sit down to a free meal each day thanks to Malteser Peru, the volunteer organisation of the Order of Malta founded in 2002, and families from the village benefit from a soup kitchen which has operated every week day since 2004.

In another programme, a School Toy Library in Piura is used by more than 50 children to help them learn and develop good social values through play. In conjunction with Malteser



■ The joy of learning! – an Order kindergarten in Brazil



■ Order donates hospital X-ray equipment to the Fides Clinica Solidaria, El Alto, Bolivia

International and Faber Castell, Malteser Peru recently covered school fees for 350 children from disadvantaged backgrounds, whilst providing educational materials to children from the country's most impoverished areas. At the other end of the age scale, the Order recently opened a new home for 70 elderly people in the Piuran district. The Malteser Family Home in Talara in 2010 looked after more than 50 people suffering from domestic violence or with relationship problems, and provided them with professional support from psychologists and lawyers. In November, 2010, Malteser volunteers from all over Peru took part in a specialised training course covering the development, management and monitoring of social projects. This will be invaluable in providing future emergency response and patient care throughout the country. The Peruvian Association of the Order has also been active in four special projects since 2009: to improve living conditions including better access to clean water and the construction of a

community dining room and medical dispensary in the Cañete district following an earthquake in 2007; reconstruction of water and drainage facilities and distribution of seven tonnes of blankets, clothing and food in the Andean mountain town of Puno; construction of an intensive care unit at a clinic in one of the poorest districts of Lima; provision of water supply, food and clothing to the needy in Pichacani, Pikillaca and Old Hacienda San Juan.

USA Associations run care programmes - homeless, mental health, prison ministry, uninsured immigrants; in Peru youth education is highlighted

During his visit to Peru in November 2011, the Grand Master inaugurated in Lima the intensive care ward in the 'Divino Niño Jesus' clinic, supported by the Order of Malta's Peruvian

Association. 68 doctors perform some 10,000 medical consultations a month there. He also laid the first stone of the new library financed by the Association for the 'I.E.Soberana Orden Military de Malta' secondary school, destroyed in the 2007 earthquake.

In the **United States of America**, the Order is active through its three Associations: the American Association, the Federal Association and the Western Association.

The **American Association** runs a number of programmes for homeless people, notable among them being the St Patrick Centre in Saint Louis, Missouri. This, the State's largest source of services for the homeless, is providing employment and mental health care for more than 9,000 people each year. Since 1983 the Centre has helped more than 141,000 homeless men and women to bring permanent, positive change to their lives. In 2010, the Centre placed and maintained 422 men and women and their dependent children in permanent housing. It also helped 645

unemployed into full-time and part-time jobs, as well as providing services to over 3,000 homeless with mental illness and/or substance abuse.

Meanwhile, in Rhode Island the Poverello Centre, run by the American Association, serves approximately 1,900 needy and poor families each month through food and wellness programmes. In Bridgeport, Connecticut, one of the poorest US cities in one of the country's richest states, the Thomas Merton Centre is a soup kitchen and very much more. It is a house of hospitality, day shelter, sanctuary and welcoming place of hope and care to the hundreds of people it provides with food and a helping hand each day.

Programmes at the Centre include one for high-risk children and families, and two which promote self-esteem and cultural pride in men and women respectively. In addition, families who are either homeless or at risk of homelessness can now be offered supportive accommodation in 22 homes of two and three-bedrooms each. Since the Katrina hurricane of March 2006, the **Federal Association**, together with the other Associations in the United States, has responded not only with thousands of rebuilding dollars to those who were hit hardest, but with 'Malta Hours' of service. Over 1000 volunteers from across the United States have participated in the Order of Malta New Orleans Home Rebuilding Program. Thanks to a successful partnership with Rebuilding Together, Catholic Charities of New Orleans volunteers have worked

37 one-week work sessions in Treme, Gentilly, and New Orleans East to provide homes for very many families. And since 2008, smaller groups of 15 to 20 volunteers have worked in houses that require less construction and more finishing touches.

Members and volunteers from the Federal Association were quick to react when a tornado ravaged the city of Joplin, Missouri, in May 2011, leaving 162 people dead and causing damage to buildings and infrastructure estimated at US\$3billion. Within days, two 20-foot trucks had made the journey from Kansas City to Joplin, loaded with household supplies and food for families whose homes had been destroyed.

Leprosy and help for the homeless are key areas in Uruguay; in Venezuela, the focus is the poor and elderly - soup kitchens are a new task

In Dallas, members are continuing to provide a weekly meal for up to 100 homeless at a 'Saturday Picnic' which was established 25 years ago by the daughter of an elderly man who died from exposure in one of the poorest parts of the city.

The work of volunteers and members of the Order's **Western Association** touches the poor, the needy and the sick across California. Free clinics in Los

Angeles and Oakland provide medical care for the uninsured sick and poor, thanks to the skills of voluntary physicians and nurses.

The elderly housebound receive regular friendly and helpful visits under the Association's Parish Nurses Program, which covers Los Angeles, Orange County, Phoenix and San Francisco. The Association also supports – financially and practically, with volunteers – more than 50 other community services throughout the state. A few examples include free meals for homeless people and those on low incomes, shelters and transitional homes for the homeless, help and support for expectant mothers and for young children, as well as care for the elderly and those suffering from HIV/AIDS, totalling over 60,000 hours of volunteer help in 2011.

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

In **Uruguay** the Order has played a significant role over many years in reducing the number of people suffering from Hansen's disease (leprosy). While continuing to care for the low number of new cases, the Order's Uruguayan Association has switched its focus to helping homeless people, with the primary objective of attacking the root causes of this situation.

The Association also continues to work with the Ministry of Public Health in the development of a mobile dental service in remote parts of the country.

The Order's Association in **Venezuela** is expanding both its membership and its range of humanitarian services, which include providing poor, sick and needy people with free medicines donated by pharmaceutical companies, and running regular soup kitchens for the homeless. The Association also runs a home for elderly people, as well as a day-care training and medical centre providing free consultations for residents of an impoverished area of Santa Cruz.



■ Inspecting flood damage in Bolivia



Asia Pacific

Across Asia and the Pacific the Order of Malta provides emergency aid after natural disasters and civil conflicts, as well as disaster prevention measures, rehabilitation, and support for internally displaced persons, refugees and the homeless. The Order also cares for leprosy sufferers, treats eye cataracts and supports orphaned children.





■ Burma/ Myanmar: explaining how to purify water

The Order of Malta, through its Embassy in **Armenia**, supports three main initiatives in the country: the orphanage of Svartnotz, so that 120 orphans receive daily meals, the sanatorium for treatment of tuberculosis in Dilijan so that patients can receive their extremely expensive medications which are all imported; and the School for the Hearing Impaired.

The **Australian Association** delivers a wide range of voluntary support services through six branches, one each for the five states of Australia and the sixth covering New Zealand.

Homelessness is a national focus of the Association, with all branches being involved in the project 'Coats for the Homeless,' and distributing more than 1,000 purpose-designed all-weather coats during the recent cold winters to those who sleep rough. The coats have been made by prisoners, many of whom had previously experienced

homelessness themselves and so gained a particular sense of satisfaction from their involvement.

Individual branches continue to play significant roles in the palliative care initiatives in their respective states, with an ongoing country-wide education programme supported by an Order of Malta award scheme for excellence in palliative care.

In Queensland the Australian Association provides major support to St.Vincent's (Mt.Olivet) hospital, Brisbane, and the Mt Olivet Home Care Service and for St Gabriel's Early Intervention Centre for the Hearing Disabled.

In Victoria, the Order supports state-funded palliative care services in Melbourne, a city of 4 million, while in Sydney, New South Wales, volunteers provide meals and shelter for alcoholic and homeless men and women. Support is also provided for the Norma Parker Respite Centre for those caring for the disabled.

A community counselling centre was

established in Taggerty for children and others left traumatised after some of the worst bushfires in the country's history, which in 2009 destroyed homes and businesses in many areas of Victoria, causing death and devastation over a wide area.

Orphans and handicapped children are cared for in Armenia, the homeless, the terminally ill and addicts in Australia

The Order provided immediate disaster relief including food, clothing and emergency hygiene packages following the floods over 500,000 sq km of Queensland in 2010 and has remained involved in the long-term rebuilding programme in an area larger than Germany and France combined. In South Australia, the Order supports two centres for homeless people and is

■ India: helping the ostracised Dalit community provide for itself



■ One of the Basic Health Units supported by Malteser International in Kohistan, Pakistan.

also involved in the work of the Overseas Pharmaceutical Aid for Life (OPAL) organisation which packs and ships donated medicines to Timor-Leste. The Association's work overseas includes providing emergency aid to Thailand following flash flooding in October 2010, continued support for the development of the Order's activities in the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste and assistance for the development of the Mount Sion Centre for the Blind in Goroka, Papua New Guinea.

For over 10 years Malteser International has maintained aid programmes in **Burma/Myanmar**.

The country suffered two major natural disasters during 2010. In June, heavy rainfall brought severe flooding and landslides to Northern Rakhine state, destroying homes, roads, bridges, schools and farmland. At least 68 people lost their lives, and 29,000 families saw their everyday patterns of life washed away. Four months later, cyclone 'Giri' hit Rakhine state with winds of up to 177kph and waves rising four metres. 70,000 people lost their homes. Malteser International provided food and other essentials for the most vulnerable victims, and helped to restore water and sanitation facilities. 'Giri' also proved

the value of Malteser International's community-based disaster risk reduction project in Rakhine, when trained village committees were able to evacuate their fellow citizens to cyclone-proof centres rehabilitated during the

In Burma/ Myanmar and Cambodia, health programmes, crop generation, clean water, risk reduction are the focus; leprosy is key in Cambodia

project. Following the catastrophe, a two-year pilot project was launched to regrow mangroves destroyed by the cyclone. The groves now provide protection on the coastline and fish and shrimp have become plentiful again.

A health insurance system, launched by Malteser International in 2005 in Oddar Meanchey, one of the poorest provinces in **Cambodia**, is now available to more than 200,000 local people, of whom 30,000 were insured during 2010. In conjunction with two Cambodian partners, the scheme covers all

members of a family at an annual cost of €2.5 per person.

Other current programmes include provision of clean water systems, including construction of wells and rainwater reservoirs which the local population learn how to maintain. They also learn how to build latrines and they receive training in basic health care and sanitation. A special project teaches children to breed mesocyclops (a small crustacean) which are then transferred to ponds to control diseases such as dengue fever.

The Order of Malta CIOMAL Foundation also continues to help eradicate the stigma of leprosy and to train medical students and health personnel - 533 in 2011 - in specialist treatments and procedures, as well as running radio-based education campaigns country wide and campaigns in regional communities. It supports the Cambodian National Leprosy Control Programme, and its teaching and rehabilitation centre, Kien Khlang in Phnom Penh, covers all aspects of the disease - detection, prevention, early treatment, and rehabilitation, both medical and socio-economic. In 2010, the rehabilitation centre received 249 leprosy inpatients and gave medical consultations to 1,250 outpatients.





■ Burma/Myanmar: hygiene awareness programme. The Order has been active in the country since 2001

Programmes for social reintegration and microeconomics encourage former patients to become self-sufficient.

In Gu Cheng, Lijiang, **China**, a home for the elderly built by the Order in cooperation with Caritas Germany, was handed over in November 2010. It provides a safe and secure home for elderly and impoverished people affected by the earthquake in 2008.

In **Georgia**, the 'Cardinal Pio Laghi' Foundation was created in 2011 by the Order of Malta's Embassy in Tbilisi to give aid to the city's poor. By mid 2012, 50 patients had been cared for, for periods ranging from 30 to 90 days, and there are plans for the Foundation to extend its programme. A soup kitchen project is currently underway in the city centre.

The programme of disaster risk reduction in **India**, which forms a major component of the work carried out by the Order's Malteser International,

proved its value during the 2010 monsoon season in Uttar Pradesh state. In previous years, regular flooding had taken its toll on the availability of pure drinking water. In cooperation with the European Commission and its local partner, Sahbhagi Shikshan Kendra, Malteser International helped local communities to assess the risks to water supplies and implement mitigation programmes including hand pumps, grain banks, raised roads, solar lamps and boats.

Care is for elderly in China, the hungry in Georgia, the socially outcast in India, and disaster risk reduction on the Sub Continent

Although the 2010 flood inundated 87 villages, the early warning system led to speedy evacuation. As the waters rose, search and rescue teams helped to

transport people to safe places where the most vulnerable were given shelter, food and safe drinking water.

Meanwhile, members of a first aid task force distributed 50,000 chlorine tablets and 50,000 sachets of oral rehydration solution.

In helping to end discrimination against Dalit women, Malteser International and Unnati, a local partner organisation, are giving technical support to the communities to help them build their own rainwater reservoirs.

The programme includes showing the women how to use the water to plant vegetables and how to increase the family's nutrition and generate income by selling the surplus at market.

Training also covers how to gain access to vital social services and provides the women with practical, sustainable solutions to improve their lives and the environment – a way out of poverty and social discrimination. At the heart of one of the poorest areas of New Delhi, Ordre de Malte France fights against the social exclusion of children suffering from

leprosy at its special needs school. Across India, Ordre de Malte France manages in total seven medical centres.

In **Indonesia**, Malteser International has been supporting the formation and training of local disaster management committees as practical applications of disaster preparedness and disaster risk reduction. Local emergency plans have been drawn up in several areas, including the province of West Papua in the 'Ring of Fire' earthquake zone, and a public earthquake warning system has been installed.

The 2011 earthquake and tsunami in **Japan** left devastation in its wake. Malteser International gave aid and supported a children's home in the city of Ichinoseki, Iwate Prefecture. It has now been reconstructed, using the concept 'build back better' so that it is earthquake-resistant and runs on renewable energies.

Each time the seasonal floods inundate vast swathes of land in **Pakistan** they wash away homes, lives and livelihoods.

And they also wash away hope among those who already had little, and now have even less.

Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) is now the main focus of Malteser International's work in Pakistan, to strengthen the capacity for communities to prevent, or at least prepare for, situations in which lives and livelihoods may be lost. The organisation is helping

Disaster risk reduction programmes in Indonesia and Pakistan, reconstruction in Japan after 2011 earthquake

communities to prepare themselves for disasters using Risk Maps to analyse their vulnerabilities and then develop and implement emergency concepts. It was in response to the disastrous flood of 2005 that Malteser International first became active in Pakistan, and it has retained a presence ever since, through a growing number of interventions – providing emergency

relief in response to natural and manmade disasters, and in ongoing programmes of reconstruction and rehabilitation.

In emergency responses Malteser International has provided aid following the earthquakes in the Azad Jammu and Kashmir region in 2005 and in Baluchistan in 2008. It also provided medical, health and food aid to victims of the floods in the Swat Valley, Western Pakistan, in 2007, in 2010 and in 2011. Winter relief kits – shelters, stoves and other essential items – were also distributed in several parts of the country from 2006 - 2012.

Malteser International continues to provide medical and other aid to the substantial numbers of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the Swat area following fighting between militants and the army in 2009. The provision of health and nutrition in rural and remote areas, and access to clean water for drinking and sanitation, continues in many parts of Pakistan. The healthcare programme focuses on mothers and children and prevention against infectious diseases, while water



■ The Order of Malta works with community leaders in disaster-prone areas, Pakistan

aid includes the provision of treatment plants and filtration.

In **Papua New Guinea**, the Australian Association has provided assistance for the development of the Mount Sion Centre for the Blind in Goroka. Since 1996, more than 5,000 local people have had their sight restored by cataract surgery provided by volunteer Australian eye surgeons who visit regularly. In West Papua's Manokwari and Wasior cities, disaster preparedness training and early warning procedures are conducted by Malteser International, because of the constant inundations of floods and landslides and following the tsunami warnings of 2011.

The **Philippines** Association was among the first to respond to the typhoon which hit Manila in September 2009 leaving 243 dead and destroying more than 2,000 homes. While staff fed the stranded and gave blankets to rain-drenched survivors, members of the Association organised distribution of food, drinking water and

other essential supplies to five evacuation centres as soon as the streets became passable. The Association's quick response was enhanced by a training course in Disaster Preparedness, Management and Mitigation, conducted by Malteser International. In addition, the Association has opened a warehouse, chapel and office on land donated by the Archdiocese of Manila. This helps increase the supply of medical assistance, with donations including from the AmeriCares Foundation in the United States, and will become the base for a clinic. Following the December 2011 severe tropical storm 'Washi' which devastated Mindanao, the second largest island in the Philippines, the Order of Malta, with the Diocese of Iligan on Mindanao, distributed relief packs, food and medicines, and constructed 100 temporary houses for stricken families. The Philippines Association's ongoing medical programmes include the Malta Medical and Dental clinic which has carried out over 40,000 consultations in

the past five years. A breast care programme was launched in 2011 in conjunction with AmeriCares, the Association's partner for almost 26 years.

Disaster preparedness training in Papua New Guinea, Philippines

Another joint venture between the Order and AmeriCares is distribution of 40-foot container-loads of mineral and vitamin-rich porridge to support feeding and emergency response programmes throughout the country. Medical and dental missions continue in rural areas of the country, including HIV and AIDS awareness initiatives and the distribution of medicines, medical equipment and nutritional supplements to the local populations.

The **Singapore** Association has responded to disasters and emergencies since its formation in 2006 as the first land-based Order Association in Asia.



■ Philippines: after tropical storm Washi, homes are reconstructed, families rehoused



■ Malaria and TB vaccinations: refugee camp, on the border of Burma/ Myanmar and Thailand

Between them, the members have provided specialised medical and financial aid for those injured by the terrorist bomb disaster in Bali, the Asian Tsunami in Aceh, Indonesia, the earthquake and volcanic eruptions in Bantul, Indonesia, the cyclone in Myanmar, typhoons in Vietnam, Laos and the Philippines, as well as the recent Australian floods and the Japan Tsunami. The Association has instigated outreach programmes including provision of an outpatient clinic for the poor in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and the Apostolic Nunciature in Bangkok. Internal missions include counselling work with prisoners and their families, aid to organisations caring for the terminally ill, and outings for elderly sick and disabled people.

In **Sri Lanka**, Malteser International, working in partnership with local agency

Sarvodaya, distributed aid to internally displaced persons (IDPs) living in transit camps following 26 years of continuous civil war.

Singapore: aid in regional disasters; in Sri Lanka aid for IDPs, and a WASH programme; refugee camps in Thailand

When the number of IDPs rose from 200,000 to 270,000, leading to dangerous sanitary conditions and lack of primary health care in the overcrowded transit camps, Malteser International responded by increasing the supply of hygiene kits and provision of clean water and sewage removal. The agency also distributed daily food rations and ran a hygiene education programme. Those returning to their home villages following the end of hostilities in Spring

2009 faced further dangers from the spread of disease due to dirty water and poor sanitation. Working in collaboration with UNICEF, Malteser International launched a WASH (Water, Sanitation, Hygiene) initiative in the heavily affected districts of Batticaloa and Trincomalee. The aim has been to guarantee the water supply at local and household levels, and to build sanitation facilities for schools and health centres in 46 villages.

For over 17 years in **Thailand**, the Order of Malta's relief service, Malteser International, has been responsible for health care in two refugee camps, Mae La Oon and Mae Ra Ma Luang, caring for over 35,000 inhabitants. The refugees are fully dependent on international support for shelter, food, education, water and health services, while income opportunities are limited. Malaria and tuberculosis are major concerns which the relief service



■ Thailand: handwashing lessons to prevent disease can be fun

continues to combat. In 2009, Malteser International teams built 60 rainwater collection stations and maintained a water storage and distribution network serving 800 taps. They also renovated 800 household flush latrines, installed 100 additional hand washing facilities in schools and

Training ambulanciers in Timor Leste and supporting Malebe maternity clinic

public areas, and distributed soap to every family each month. In north-western Thailand, the organisation has set up training sessions for Traditional

Birth Attendants (TBAs), who are midwives without formal education.

In **Timor-Leste**, the Order's Embassy has organised a number of initiatives. The Embassy organised a Basic Life Support Course and the 34 graduates received their ambulance service badges from the President of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, Jose Ramos Horta. A second course included participants from the Timorese Armed Forces medical services. Members of the Order's Australian Association have provided funding for a fully-equipped four wheel drive ambulance, which is now in use by the Timorese Ambulance Service. New birthing rooms at Malebe clinic opened in 2010 as the result of a

collaboration between the Order and the Café Timor Cooperative, a local coffee growing collective. New birthing equipment was also installed at Bacau Hospital, funded by the Order's Swiss Association.

The Embassy has also organised the supply of medicines, consumables and children's clothing around the country; funded the construction of a tuberculosis clinic at Venilale; and supported a palliative care programme run by the Carmelite Sisters in and around Dili.

Humanitarian aid was provided to victims in five districts of Quang Nam province, **Vietnam**, following typhoon Ketsana in 2010. Rice, hygiene kits and water containers were given to 7,000

families, while 600 householders received corrugated iron sheeting to restore the damage to their homes. Meanwhile, 5,000 farming families received rice and peanut seeds as well as banana saplings to help them grow crops for themselves, and to supply local markets.

Under its global programme of disaster prevention and protection, Malteser International organised training in roof strengthening techniques for 48 local builders, plus training in hygiene and water treatment for 100 community health workers.

As of 1 January 2012, Malteser International has been implementing a project to support the preservation and sustainable use of forests in the Central Vietnamese district of Tay Giang.

The project will reduce the poverty of the local population and contribute to

disaster reduction. The community has also benefited from Malteser International's health and hygiene awareness campaigns and now always has clean water for drinking, cooking and washing.

In Vietnam, disaster preparedness programmes after 2010 typhoon, crop regeneration, sustainable use of forests

An agreement signed in March 2012 between the Ho Chi Minh City hospital of dermatology and venereology and the Ordre de Malte France aims to strengthen the prevention of disabilities and functional rehabilitation through

corrective plastic surgery for leprosy victims in the Ho-Chi-Minh City region. The project will run for five years and is funded by Ordre de Malte France.

A longer-term programme of medical aid in Vietnam reaches out to poor and vulnerable patients in remote rural areas. Here, visiting team of dentists, nurses, general practitioners, eye specialists and other medical volunteers from the Canadian Association are joined by local Vietnamese healthcare professionals in treating up to 12,000 patients on each trip. While the volunteers all meet their own costs, fundraising activities in Vancouver, Calgary and Chicago help to pay for surgical procedures and equipment and the 1,200 pairs of spectacles given out to patients on each visit.



■ Vietnam: Learning how the risk of disasters can be reduced

Heritage

The heritage
of the Order of Malta
is traced not only in its history,
but also in its traditions,
its holy places, its fortifications
and its artefacts

Over 900 years of history



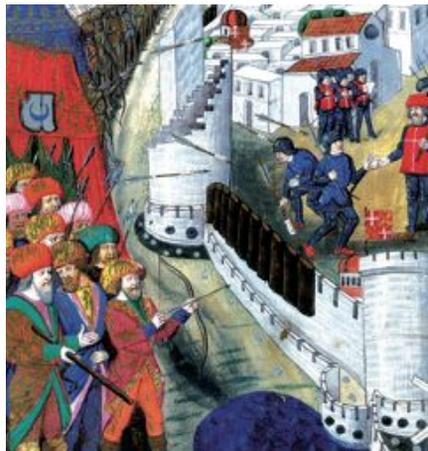
Gérard. Pope Paschal II approved the foundation of the Hospital with the Bull of 15th February **1113**, and placed it under the aegis of the Church, granting it the right to freely elect its superiors without interference from other lay or religious authorities. By virtue of the Papal Bull, the Hospital became a lay-religious order. All the knights were religious, bound by the three monastic vows of poverty, chastity and obedience. The constitution of the Kingdom of Jerusalem obliged the Order to take on the military defence of the sick and the pilgrims, as well as guarding its medical centres and main roads. The Order thus added the task of defending the faith to that of its hospitaller mission. As time



went on, the Order adopted the white eight-pointed cross that is still its symbol today.

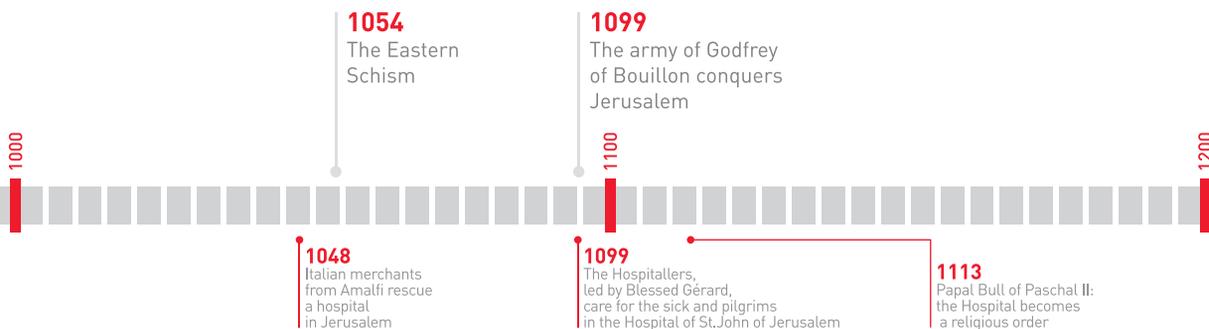
1048 Jerusalem

The birth of the Order of St. John dates back to around **1048**. Merchants from the ancient Marine Republic of Amalfi obtained from the Caliph of Egypt the authorisation to build a church, convent and hospital in Jerusalem, to care for pilgrims of any religious faith or race. The Order of St. John of Jerusalem – the monastic community which ran the hospital – became independent under the guidance of its founder, Blessed



1291 Cyprus

After the fall of Saint John of Acre and the loss of the Holy Land in **1291**, the Hospitaller Order of St John transferred its seat and hospital to Limassol on the island of Cyprus, where it had been present since **1210** thanks to the concession of important properties, privileges and commercial rights. It continued to build new hospitals faithful to its hospitaller mission, and benefitted from the strategic position of the Island to constitute a naval fleet to protect pilgrims on the sea route to the Holy Land. The number of members coming from all over Europe continued to grow



and contributed to the strengthening of the Order's structure, acquiring new possessions on the Mediterranean shore. Amongst these were the important port of Famagusta, the city of Nicosia and numerous Commanderies. Due to the consequences of increasing instability in Cyprus, which resulted in restricting their expansion on the island, the Hospitallers sought to consider a more suitable base for the seat of the Order of St John on the Island of Rhodes. Nevertheless, Magistral Lieutenants remained present in Cyprus to govern the Priories and Commanderies (said to have been over sixty by 1374) for another century until the middle of the fifteen century, when the knights were recalled to the conventual seat in Rhodes.



1310 Rhodes

Under the leadership of Grand Master Fra' Foulques de Villaret, in 1307, the Knights of the Order of St. John landed with their fleet in Rhodes, completing the acquisition of the island by **1310** when it transferred its seat there. Besides offering natural ports for its fleets, the island was a strategic location that linked the eastern and western worlds. From then, the defence of the Christian world required the organisation of a naval force. Thus the Order built a powerful fleet and sailed the Eastern Mediterranean, fighting many famous battles. The Order's independence from other nations granted by Pontifical deed, and its universally recognised right to maintain and deploy armed forces and to appoint ambassadors, has constituted

1291

The presence of military forces in the Holy Land ends

1300

1310

After 20 years in Cyprus, the Hospitallers of the Order of St. John conquer Rhodes and transfer there

1400

1453

Fall of Constantinople and the end of the Byzantine Empire

1492

Discovery of America

1500



the grounds for its international sovereignty. In the early 14th century the institutions of the Order and the knights who came to Rhodes from every corner of Europe



were grouped according to the languages they spoke. There were initially seven groups of Langues (Tongues): Provence, Auvergne, France, Italy, Aragon (Navarre), England (with Scotland and Ireland) and Germany, and later on an eighth: Castille and Portugal. Each Langue included Priors or Grand Priors, Bailiwicks and Commanderies. The Order was governed by its Grand Master (Prince of Rhodes) together with the Council, it minted its own money and maintained diplomatic relations with other states. The senior positions of the Order were given to representatives of different Langues. The seat of the Order, the Convent, was composed of religious members of various nationalities. After six months of siege and fierce combat against the fleet and army of Sultan Suleiman the Magnificent, the knights were forced to surrender in **1523** and left Rhodes with military honours.

1530 Malta

The Order remained without a territory of its own until **1530**, when Grand Master Fra' Philippe de Villiers de l'Isle Adam took possession of the island of Malta, granted to the Order by Emperor Charles V with the approval of Pope Clement VII. It was decided that the Order should remain neutral in any war between Christian nations.

In **1565** the knights, led by Grand Master Fra' Jean de la Vallette defended the island for more than three months during the Great Siege of the Ottomans. Following this victory the city and port of La Valletta was built and named after the Grand Master, its founder. The knights transformed Malta, undertaking urban construction projects: palaces and churches were built, as well as formidable new defence bastions and gardens. Architecture flourished as well as artistic patronage. The island was given a large new hospital, considered to be one of the best organised and most effective in the world. A school of



1500

1523

The Great Siege of Rhodes: the Hospitallers are forced to abandon the island

1530

Emperor Charles V cedes the island of Malta to the Hospitallers

1600

1565

The Order, led by Grand Master Jean de la Vallette, defeats the Ottoman army in the Great Siege of Malta

1700



The 20th and 21st Centuries

In the second part of the 19th century, the original hospitaller mission became once again the main focus of the Order, growing ever stronger during the last century, most especially because of the contribution of the activities carried out by its Grand Priorities and National Associations in so many countries around the world. Large-scale hospitaller and charitable activities were carried out during World War I, and World War II under Grand Master Fra' Ludovico Chigi Albani della Rovere (1931-1951). Under the Grand Masters Fra' Angelo de Mojana di Cologna (1962-1988) and Fra' Andrew Bertie (1988-2008), the projects expanded until they reached the furthestmost regions of the world.

anatomy was also founded and the faculty of medicine followed. In particular, the Order contributed to the development of ophthalmology and pharmacology. As well as these activities, for centuries the Order of Malta's fleet took part in the most important manoeuvres in the Mediterranean against the Ottoman fleet and against North African pirates.

Egyptian campaign in **1798**, Napoleon Bonaparte occupied Malta for its strategic value. Because of the Order's code prohibiting them from raising weapons against other Christians, the knights were forced to leave their island. The Treaty of Amiens, signed in **1802**, which established the sovereign rights of the Order over the island of Malta, was never applied.



1571 The Battle of Lepanto

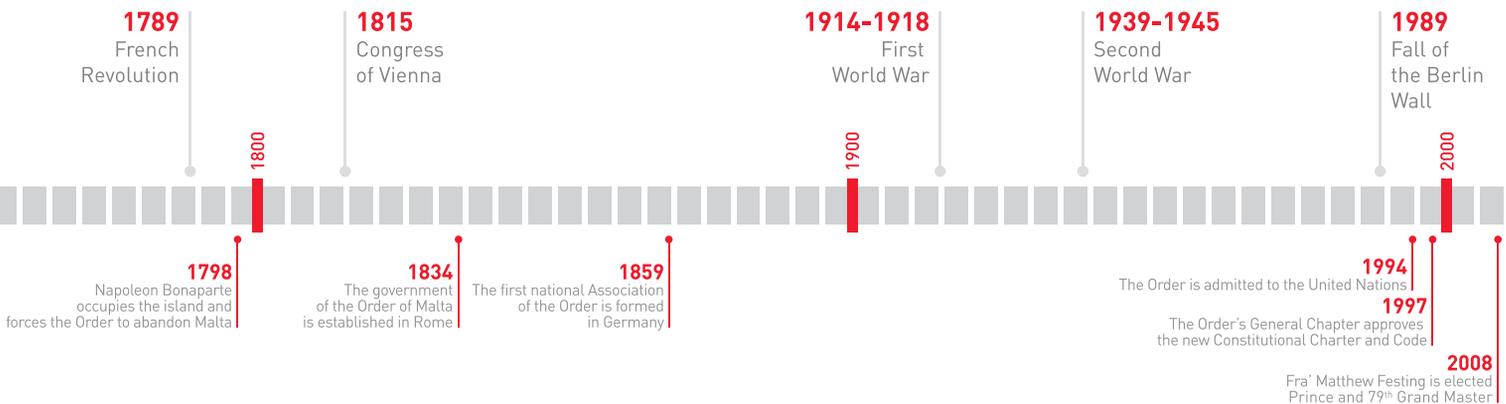
In **1571** the fleet of the Order of Malta took part in the Battle of Lepanto, contributing to the victory of the Christian fleet against the Ottoman Empire's expansion into Europe.

1834 Rome

After having temporarily resided in Messina, Catania and Ferrara, in **1834** the Order settled definitively in Rome, where it owns, with extraterritorial status, the Magistral Palace and the Magistral Villa on the Aventine Hill.

1798 Loss of Malta

Two hundred years later, during his



A special anniversary: 1113-2013

In February 2013 and throughout the entire year, the Sovereign Order of Malta is celebrating a significant anniversary. Exactly 900 years have passed since Pope Paschal II promulgated the *Solemn Privilege* that officially recognised the monastic community of the Hospitallers of St. John of Jerusalem.

This document, identified with the initial words of its text, *Pie Postulatio Voluntatis*, set in 1113 the legal base for the sovereignty and independence of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem, known today as the Sovereign Order of Malta, and was a fundamental element for its development. Today it still has great institutional significance; with this *Solemn Privilege* the Pope recognised that the Order had the absolute right to ensure the continuation of its work by electing, in due time, a successor to its founder, Blessed Gerard.

And so for the Order of Malta, 2013 is a very important anniversary which will be celebrated right around the world – by its Government, Grand Priories, Subpriories, National Associations, and its Embassies.

Sanctuaries of the Order

The hospitals, sanctuaries, castles and fortifications are the footprints left by knights of the Order in former times. They still inspire today.

An unforgiving sun washed the ancient stones of the fortress but the chapel's interior remained cool. As my eyes adjusted to the shadows they came to rest upon a figure at prayer, a knight in the presence of his Saviour. This scene, at the great Hospitaller citadel of Krak des Chevaliers in the coastal mountains of the Levant was repeated in Asia Minor, the Aegan and across Europe. For as long as the spiritual traditions of the Order are preserved it seems sure to remain so, however much the historic mission of Tuitio Fidei et Obsequium Pauperum may be adapted to meet changing modern needs. The history, spirituality and works of the Order of Malta are inseparable. Locate one of the many historic sites associated with the Order and there, almost invariably, will its hospitaller work be discovered, proceeding without fuss or publicity. Many of these holy

places are little known beyond the membership of the national Association. Thus, walking up through the little town of Byblos on the Lebanese coast, once a port for the Order's galleys, I literally stumbled upon some Roman remains.

A figure at prayer, a knight in the presence of his Saviour. This scene, at the great Hospitaller citadel of Krak des Chevaliers in the ... Levant was repeated in Asia Minor, the Aegan and across Europe

Facing me was what was unmistakably a crusader church shaded by palm trees – and one with an intriguing history. When construction began in 1116, making use of Roman masonry, the



■ Byblos, Lebanon: the 12th century St John Baptist church



■ Tartus, Syria: the 11th century Krak des Chevaliers

Hospitaller Knights brought their knowledge of military engineering to bear, the Church of St John the Baptist surviving an earthquake in 1176 with only partial damage. For all the grace of its romanesque arches and baptistery, the underlying solidity betrays the anxieties of a period in which churches were regarded as prime targets by the enemy. Saladin drove out the Christian forces in 1187, but came to regret the provocation of stabling his cavalry in the church, to which the knights took considerable exception, recapturing the city. Today, 800 centuries on, holy Mass continues to be celebrated in this romanesque jewel with the support of the Lebanese Association of the Order. Support in this context can mean rather more than reaching into the pocket, as Lebanon's war-torn recent history indicates. It is only two decades since the civil war in which churches in Beirut suffered shelling. The application of discreet pressure at the highest levels remains a hallmark of the Order's diplomatic work, particularly in trouble spots like the Holy Land. But who could fail to be moved by the moral courage displayed in the face of military force and terrorist threats? Or forget the bravery of the doctor who faced down a tank commander who had just fired on

the Order's Hospital of the Holy Family in Bethlehem, so close to the Saviour's birthplace?

One reason then to visit the great sites associated with the Order is to be inspired. In Malta, history snaps into sharp focus when viewed from the lookout point of Fort Sant'Angelo in Birgu. Many have visited the Sacra

One reason to visit the great sites associated with the Order is to be inspired

Infermeria, an impressive witness to the pioneering medical – and surgical – skills of the Knights. Fewer will have had the opportunity to explore Fort Sant'Angelo now back in the guardianship of the Order. This redoubt from which the knights decisively repulsed vastly superior Ottoman forces in 1565 remains a moving memorial to the courage of those who fell in defence of Christendom and lie buried in the enclosure of Valletta's Co-Cathedral of St John, formerly the conventual church of the Order. A humbling experience, but inspiring.

This is not to say that one should skip the other, less melancholy aspects of a

visit, notably Caravaggio's graphic depiction of the execution of the Baptist displayed in the sacristy, nor the oubliette at Fort Sant'Angelo. It was in this bell-shaped subterranean cell that the artist, then a novice knight, was confined in 1608 after one brawl too many. He escaped and was expelled by the Grand Master from the Order. Castles have necessarily played a distinctive part in the history of what was originally a hospitaller order which developed a military commitment. Amongst the most impressive are the fortifications, hospitals, palaces and churches built by the Knights during their tenure in Rhodes from 1309–1522. There is also much of interest in lesser sites, like Bodrum in Aegan Turkey, for example. A bust of Herodotus, father of written history, stands at the entrance to the Hospitaller castle of St Peter here. But then the site was already ancient two millennia before the arrival of the Knights in 1402 on the orders of Grand Master Philibert de Naillac. For this craggy coast was the land of Homer's heroes. The purpose was to provide armed shelter for the Order's galleys from the depredations of the Ottomans and a refuge for all Christians in Asia Minor. The castle protects both inner and outer harbours with towers



■ Malta: the 13th century Fort St Angelo

built by the English, French, Spanish, Italian and German languages comprising the Order's garrison. All stand to this day, the English or Lion Tower still bearing the arms of Henry IV. The identity of the knights and the bailiffs who commanded them is not in doubt, no fewer than 249 coats of arms being still set into the walls. Such was the ingenuity of the Knights' military engineering that despite Turkish attacks in 1453 and 1480 none breached the walls. The castle was only given up as part of the treaty negotiated with Suleiman the Magnificent upon the fall of Rhodes in 1522. Today's visitor will admire the restoration. The chapel, converted by Suleiman into a Mosque by the addition of a small minaret (destroyed in 1915 by expert gunnery from a French warship), is now given

over to an exhibition of underwater archeology. One of the towers houses a superb exhibition of glass from the time of the Knight's occupation back to the

...a scene upon which the security of the Christian presence in the Holy Land depended for over a century

Bronze Age. Today peacocks strut about a tranquil scene but one upon which the security of the Christian presence in the Holy Land depended for over a century. Some sites associated with the Order are difficult to visit at present, notably the shrine of the Baptist's head inside the great Umayyad mosque in the old

Roman city of Damascus, and indeed Krak des Chevaliers. But alternatives abound. Visiting the Topkapi Museum in Istanbul one can find exhibited in a gilt reliquary what is catalogued as the right arm and incorrupt hand of the Baptist: scholars consider the provenance quite reasonable, though it remains impossible to authenticate.

And then there are the ancient commanderies of the Order dotted across Europe as far north as Scotland, each a place of pilgrimage, source of inspiration and a reminder of nine centuries of commitment.

By **Julian Allason**
British journalist

Order of Malta Heritage Exhibitions:

Kremlin Museums, Moscow, and the Royal Castle, Warsaw

The Director of the Moscow Kremlin Museums, Yelena Gagarina - daughter of the first man to travel in space, the Soviet Union hero Yuri Gagarin - welcomed the Grand Master, who inaugurated the exhibition devoted to the Sovereign Order of Malta, with Vladimir Medinsky, the Russian Federation's Minister of Culture, among the many guests. It was the first time in over 200 years that a Grand Master had set foot on Russian soil. The exhibition 'Treasures of the Order of Malta - Nine Centuries of Faith and Charity' opened on 5 July 2012, and marked the 20th anniversary of the establishment of official relations between the Russian Federation and the Order of Malta.

The first time in over 200 years that a Grand Master had set foot on Russian soil

One of the most significant events linking the Order of Malta to Russia was the appointment of Tsar Paul I as the Order's Grand Master. Although he lacked the legal requisites and remained in office only from 1799 to 1801, the Tsar protected the Order's continuity in one of the most dramatic periods of its existence after the loss of the island of Malta. A close cooperation between the Order of Malta's diplomatic mission in Moscow and the management of the Kremlin Museums provided artefacts from the Kremlin, from the Hermitage, Gachina

and Pavlovsk museums in Russia, the Palatina Gallery in Palazzo Pitti in Italy, the Louvre and the Légion d'Honneur Museum in France, and the National Museum of Fine Arts, the Armoury housed in the Grand Masters' Palace, Maritime Museum, Archaeological Museum and National Library in Malta. Numerous objects came from the Order's own collections.

Later in the year, Fra' Matthew Festing and the Polish Culture Minister Bogdan Zdrojewski inaugurated the 'Around the Maltese Cross' exhibition in the Royal Castle in Warsaw, on 22 October. The many guests included the Mayor of Warsaw, Hanna Gronkiewicz-Waltz. The

event celebrated the 20th anniversary of the resumption of diplomatic relations between the Order of Malta and the Republic of Poland. Fra' Matthew Festing noted that the exhibition "testifies to the Order's significant presence in Poland since the 13th century". A focal point was the activities of the hospital run by the Order at the outset of World War II during the Nazi occupation and uprising in Warsaw. Works came from the collections of the Magistral Palace and Magistral Villa in Rome and the Fine Arts Museum, the National Library and the Grand Master's Palace in La Valletta, Malta, together with many artefacts lent by Polish institutions and private individuals.



■ Kremlin Museums, Moscow: Grand Master Fra' Matthew Festing and Grand Chancellor Jean-Pierre Mazery examine relics and treasures

Order of Malta entities worldwide

For further contact details see
www.orderofmalta.int/addresses

GRAND PRIORIES, SUB-PRIORIES AND NATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Argentina
ARGENTINE ASSOCIATION

Australia
SUB-PRIORY OF THE IMMACULATE
CONCEPTION

AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION

Austria
GRAND PRIORY OF AUSTRIA

Belgium
BELGIAN ASSOCIATION

Bolivia
BOLIVIAN ASSOCIATION

Brazil
BRAZILIAN ASSOCIATION OF RIO DE
JANEIRO

SÃO PAULO AND SOUTHERN BRAZIL
ASSOCIATION

BRASILIA AND NORTHERN BRAZIL
ASSOCIATION

Canada
CANADIAN ASSOCIATION

Chile
CHILEAN ASSOCIATION

Colombia
COLOMBIAN ASSOCIATION

Costa Rica
COSTA RICA ASSOCIATION

Cuba
CUBAN ASSOCIATION

Czech Republic
GRAND PRIORY OF BOHEMIA

Dominican Republic
DOMINICAN ASSOCIATION

Ecuador
ECUADOR ASSOCIATION

El Salvador
EL SALVADOR ASSOCIATION

France
FRENCH ASSOCIATION

Germany
SUB-PRIORY OF ST. MICHEL

GERMAN ASSOCIATION

Great Britain
GRAND PRIORY OF ENGLAND

BRITISH ASSOCIATION

Guatemala
GUATEMALAN ASSOCIATION

Honduras
HONDURAS ASSOCIATION

Hungary
HUNGARIAN ASSOCIATION

Ireland
SUB-PRIORY OF ST. OLIVER PLUNKETT

IRISH ASSOCIATION

Italy
GRAND-PRIORY OF ROME

GRAND-PRIORY OF LOMBARDY AND
VENICE

GRAND-PRIORY OF NAPLES AND
SICILY

ITALIAN ASSOCIATION

Lebanon
LEBANESE ASSOCIATION

Malta
MALTESE ASSOCIATION

Mexico
MEXICAN ASSOCIATION

Monaco
MONEGASQUE ASSOCIATION

Netherlands
DUTCH ASSOCIATION

Nicaragua
NICARAGUA ASSOCIATION

Panama
PANAMA ASSOCIATION

Paraguay
PARAGUAYAN ASSOCIATION

Peru
PERUVIAN ASSOCIATION

Philippines
PHILIPPINE ASSOCIATION

Poland
POLISH ASSOCIATION

Portugal
PORTUGUESE ASSOCIATION

Romania
ROMANIAN ASSOCIATION

Scandinavia
SCANDINAVIAN ASSOCIATION

Senegal
SENEGALESE ASSOCIATION

Singapore
SINGAPORE ASSOCIATION

Slovenia
SLOVENIAN ASSOCIATION

Spain
SUB-PRIORY OF ST GEORGES AND ST. JAMES

SPANISH ASSOCIATION

Switzerland
SWISS ASSOCIATION

Uruguay
URUGUAYAN ASSOCIATION

USA
SUB-PRIORY OF OUR LADY OF PHILERMO

SUB-PRIORY OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION

FEDERAL ASSOCIATION

WESTERN ASSOCIATION

Venezuela
VENEZUELAN ASSOCIATION

RELIEF CORPS

Malteser International
ORDER OF MALTA WORLDWIDE RELIEF

Albania
MALTESER-NDIHMON NE SHQIPERI

Austria
MALTESER HOSPITALDIENST AUSTRIA

Belgium
MALTE ASSISTANCE

Chile
FUNDACIÓN AUXILIO MALTÉS

Croatia
UDRUGA MALTESER HRVATSKA

Czech Republic
MALTÉZSKÁ POMOC

France
ORDRE DE MALTE FRANCE

Germany
MALTESER HILFSDIENST E. V.

Great Britain
ORDER OF MALTA VOLUNTEERS

Honduras
CUERPO DE VOLUNTARIOS

Hungary
MAGYAR MALTAI SZERETETSZOLGALAT

Ireland
ORDER OF MALTA AMBULANCE CORPS

Italy
CORPO MILITARE DELL'ASSOCIAZIONE ITALIANA DELL'ORDINE DI MALTA

CORPO ITALIANO DI SOCCORSO DELL'ORDINE DI MALTA

Lithuania
MALTOS ORDINO PAGALBOS TARNYBA

Luxembourg
PREMIER SECOURS DE LA CROIX DE MALTE

Malta
VOLUNTEERS OF THE ORDER (VOTO)

Nigeria
RELIEF SERVICE OF THE ORDER OF MALTA

Russia
MALTESKAJA SLUGBA POMOSCHI KALININGRADSKAJA OBLAST

Paraguay
SERVICIO DE EMERGENCIA MALTA

Peru
ASOCIACIÓN MALTESER

Philippines
AUXILIARY CORPS OF THE ASSOCIATION HOSPITALLER FOUNDATION

Poland
MALTANSKA SLUZBA MEDYCZNA POMOC

Portugal
CORPO DE VOLUNTÁRIOS DA ORDEM DE MALTA

Romania
SERVICIUL DE AJUTOR MALTEZ IN ROMANIA

Serbia
MALTEŠKA DOBROTVORNA ORGANIZACIJA U SRBIJI

Slovakia
ORGANIZÁCIE ZBOR DOBROVOL'NÍKOV MALTÉZSKEHO RÁDU

South Africa
BROTHERHOOD OF BLESSED GÉRARD

Spain
FUNDACIÓN HOSPITALARIA DE LA ORDEN DE MALTA EN ESPAÑA

Switzerland
MALTESER-HOSPITALDIENST SCHWEIZ

Ukraine
MALTIJSKA SLUSHBA DOPOMOHY

USA
TRI-STATE AUXILIARY OF THE SOVEREIGN ORDER OF MALTA

Bilateral relations

STATES WITH WHICH THE ORDER HAS DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS

Afghanistan
Albania
Angola
Antigua and Barbuda
Argentina
Armenia
Austria
Bahamas
Belarus
Belize
Benin
Bolivia
Bosnia-Herzegovina
Brazil
Bulgaria
Burkina Faso
Cambodia
Cameroon
Cap-Vert
Central African Republic
Chad
Chile
Colombia
Comoros
Congo (Democratic Republic of)
Congo (Republic of)
Costa Rica
Croatia
Cuba
Cyprus
Czech Republic
Dominican Republic
Egypt
El Salvador
Equatorial Guinea
Eritrea
Ethiopia
Gabon
Georgia

Guatemala
Guinea
Guinea-Bissau
Guyana
Haiti
Holy See
Honduras
Hungary
Italy
Ivory Coast
Jordan
Kazakhstan
Kenya
Kiribati (Republic of)
Latvia
Lebanon
Liberia
Liechtenstein
Lithuania
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
Madagascar
Mali
Malta
Marshall Islands
Mauritania
Mauritius
Micronesia
Moldova
Monaco
Montenegro
Morocco
Mozambique
Namibia
Nicaragua
Niger
Panama
Paraguay
Peru
Philippines
Poland
Portugal
Romania
Russian Federation*

Saint Lucia
San Marino
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
São Tome and Principe
Senegal
Serbia
Seychelles
Sierra Leone
Slovakia
Slovenia
Somalia
Spain
Sudan
Suriname
Tajikistan
Thailand
Timor-Leste
Togo
Turkmenistan
Ukraine
Uruguay
Venezuela

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

THE ORDER OF MALTA HAS OFFICIAL RELATIONS WITH

Belgium
Canada
France
Germany
Luxembourg
Switzerland

THE ORDER OF MALTA HAS RELATIONS AT AMBASSADOR LEVEL WITH

Palestinian Authority

Multilateral relations

THE ORDER OF MALTA HAS RELATIONS AT AMBASSADOR LEVEL WITH

European Union

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

United Nations - New York

United Nations - Geneva

United Nations - Vienna

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

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

IAEA - International Atomic Energy Agency (Vienna)

IFAD - International Fund for Agricultural Development (Rome)

UNEP - United Nations Environment Programme (Nairobi)

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

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

UNHCR - United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (Geneva)

UNIDO - United Nations Industrial Development Organization (Vienna)

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

WHO - World Health Organization (Geneva)

THE ORDER OF MALTA HAS DELEGATIONS OR REPRESENTATIONS TO INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

CTBTO - Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (Vienna)

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

ICMM - International Committee of Military Medicine (Brussels)

ICRC - International Committee of the Red Cross (Geneva)

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

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

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

IOM - International Organization for Migration (Geneva)

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

UNILAT - Latin Union (Santo Domingo, Paris)

Council of Europe (Strasbourg)

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