



**Malteser
International**
Order of Malta Worldwide Relief



Malteser International Americas Year in Review 2015

Empowering people to live with dignity

2015: A year of opportunity

2015 was a year of growth for Malteser International Americas. While we continued to build our reach in North America, Latin America and the Caribbean, we took swift action and provided support following the devastating earthquakes in Nepal. And as the world saw an unprecedented global refugee crisis of 60 million displaced people unfold, we helped supply critical healthcare, shelter, nutritious food and education to Syrian refugees. In Latin America, we delved deeper into the Forgotten Crisis in Colombia, placing a focus on helping internally displaced Colombians who are suffering the consequences of climate change, armed conflict and economic disparity.



Among many other accomplishments, in 2015 we grew our network in South America and created Malteser Colombia. We signed a memorandum with the government of Honduras paving the way for further disaster reduction projects. We also helped malnourished

Haitians rehabilitate their crops to survive the worst drought in a decade. And, we celebrated our 10 year involvement rebuilding New Orleans as an expert panelist at the Rockefeller Foundation's Katrina 10 event, addressing the importance of faith-based organizations in the wake of a disaster. None of these achievements would be possible without the generous support of our donors.



Our focus in 2015

Nepal ▶

On April 25th 2015, Nepal was shaken by the strongest earthquake to take place in the country in the past 80 years. More than 8,000 people lost their lives, around 22,000 were wounded, and around 2.8 million were left without a home.

Within hours of the disaster, supporters of Malteser International Americas responded to our urgent plea to help the Nepalese survivors. The day after the disaster, the first emergency team responded to provide medical care. In 2015, we provided almost 90,000 people in Khavre and Sindhupalchok with aid. Together with our local partners, we distributed food, drinking water, hygiene material, tarpaulins and tool kits, and treated thousands of sick and injured people at our

field hospital. Around 15,800 people received blankets, stoves, lamps, insulation and warm clothing to help them through the cold mountain winter. Faced with an almost unimaginable scale of devastation, and a population in the gravest need, we will continue to support Nepal's rebuilding efforts in the coming years.



◀ Mexico

Many Mexicans struggle with social and economic disadvantages, especially mothers living HIV. According to UN statistics, 40,000 women in Mexico City are infected with the disease.

For the last 3 years, our HIV prevention and education program is helping mothers protect their babies - their most precious gift. Through this program, mothers are able to be physically and mentally healthy to take care of their children.

Last year, over 100 mothers received proper medication, education and training, regular check-ups and follow-ups, nutritional support, and

therapy and counseling. And, in 2015, 120 children under the age of 5 years received nutritional support. Since the program began, we have raised awareness of HIV and its consequences to 6,000 youth.

Our work training local communities in disaster preparedness proved successful last year when Hurricane Patricia swept through the country. The devastation was minimal due to successful disaster preparedness programs put in place by our disaster experts.



Colombia ▼

Over 50 years of conflict have left their mark on Colombia, with more than 6 million people affected by violent displacement.

In 2015, Malteser International Americas widened its aid measures for the especially vulnerable and neglected part of the population living in the north of the country. We are worked to improve the lives of 4,000 Afro-Colombian small farmers and indigenous people in the rural areas of La Guajira and Magdalena. We trained more than 2,000 people in new methods of sustainable farming, while new community hygiene and sanitary facilities are helping to protect

the health of over 1,500 vulnerable locals, and thanks to the construction of a new health center – now run by a local partner– 1,300 members of the Arhuaco minority in the mountains of Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta have been given access to secure, long-term medical help.



Haiti ►

Haiti is still one of the world's most vulnerable countries: from viral epidemics such as dengue and chikungunya to hurricanes and drought, Haitians are faced with yearly challenges.

Following Haiti's deadly earthquake in 2010, we responded with emergency relief and support with rebuilding efforts. In the years since, we have strengthened our sustainable development efforts, which have focused on teaching Haitians the skills they need to build better futures and live dignified lives. We work closely with local partners in the urban slum areas of Cité Soleil and Tabarre, as well as Belle Anse to improve water, sanitation and hygiene. Last year, 26 new

latrines were built to protect community health. To reverse the effects of climate change nearly 1,000 small farmers were taught sustainable farming to protect their land, increase productivity and harvest nutritious crops. Port-au-Prince also received 18 new schools which gave schoolchildren a greater opportunity to learn.



Peru ▼

In Peru, poverty and malnutrition remain a grave problem, which disproportionately affects the country's indigenous population, children, and the older population.

Since the 2007 earthquake, our experts have been working alongside Malteser Peru helping to expand their volunteer structure using our network in Latin America, as well as strengthen their disaster preparedness programs with our global disaster experience. Last year, nearly 50 new locals were trained in first aid response to mitigate future disasters in their own communities. In the outskirts of Lima, impoverished Peruvians survive on \$1.25 or less per day and almost one in five children in the country is chronically undernourished. To make sure no child goes hungry, we run a soup kitchen in Valle Amuata that cooks warm meals for around 55 young children who are threatened by malnutrition.

In Querecotillo, the elders are not forgotten. We help them celebrate life in a community center where we offer support services, warm meals, and extracurricular programs each day.



Global impact in 2015

Here are just some examples of relief and sustainable development efforts in 2015*:

540,000

people received food, water, medication, clothing, hygiene articles and/or an emergency shelter.



970,000

patients were treated in our medical facilities around the world.



Spotlight on the Americas:

When global disasters strike, Malteser International Americas supports relief efforts everywhere, and our daily focus remains on strengthening our reach in the Western Hemisphere.

Last year:

160,000

patients were given treatment for malaria, or advice on preventing future infection.



14,000 people were taught life skills for better futures.

1,000 people have nutritious food because of gardens.

135 were saved with emergency relief.

26 new latrines were built improving community health.

128,000

people now have access to clean drinking water thanks to our projects.



2,250

malnourished children under five were restored to health, and given the chance for a better start in life.



* Rounded numbers

2016-2017: A look ahead

Working together for people in need

Since the beginning of January 2016, the effects of the El Niño event continue to be felt strongly around the world, and we will focus on providing relief to those who are struggling from its detrimental effects.

Malteser International Americas will continue to build awareness in the Western Hemisphere. We will grow our presence in program countries to better help the region's most vulnerable live lives with dignity. We will continue to deliver sustainable solutions to the people who are suffering from displacement, natural disasters, conflict, health crises and epidemics.

At the same time, we are deepening our cooperation with local and international humanitarian organizations by continuing to build on our engagement with the WHO Global Health Cluster, and striving for a constant improvement in the capacity of our local partners. With their local knowledge and networks, these partners are a pillar of our work – allowing us to deliver rapid and effective humanitarian aid. 2016 is a pivotal year for global humanitarian aid. The World Humanitarian Summit taking place

in Istanbul in May – a personal initiative of the UN Secretary General – is expected to give renewed impetus to the work of humanitarian organizations. As the Americas office of Malteser International, the Sovereign Order of Malta's international aid agency, we are taking an active part in the Summit process, tasked with examining the role that faith-based humanitarian organizations can play in conflict regions.

The world's Forgotten Crises – people in outlying and disadvantaged regions who are engaged in a daily struggle, and far away from the attention of the public and media, are a special concern for us. We will continue our work to make sure they get the help they need to have better health and to live with dignity. Please give us your support, and help us to build a future for people in need.



Donate now!

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