



**Malteser  
International**  
® Order of Malta Worldwide Relief

## **Year in Review 2016**

**Malteser International Americas**

*Empowering people to live lives with dignity*





## 2016: A pivotal year

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The humanitarian events of 2016 demanded the hugely diverse range of our work to help people in need in the Americas and around the world. Last year, our vital assistance improved the lives of more than 2 million vulnerable people in 24 countries by giving them the chance to live in health and with dignity.

Globally, our projects in countries that are in the grip of displacement crises now make up almost 40 percent of our overall project volume. From the internally displaced people in Colombia to the refugees in the Middle East, over 65 million people are suffering from the global refugee crisis. Compounding the accelerating need for humanitarian aid in 2016 were the catastrophic effects of El Niño and the destructive impacts of climate change. The missions that followed the Zika outbreak in South



America, Hurricane Matthew in Haiti, epic floods in Louisiana, and the earthquakes in Ecuador and Italy showed that our emergency relief work is paramount to the health of the world, and our aid is needed more than ever. As a result, we strengthened our emergency preparedness capacities in the Americas and created Malteser Colombia.

In 2016, more frequent disasters affecting more people required innovative approaches to relief. To best help communities in crisis and reflect the demand of the innovation, we implemented one-time cash transfers, climate change adaptation initiatives, and urban farming practices. In the following pages, please find highlights of our relief work in the Americas in 2016.

## Iraq and Syria

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Years of violence in Iraq and Syria have cost hundreds of thousands of people their lives. Approximately 9.4 million people now live in often inhumane conditions as refugees or internally displaced people. Globally during 2016, we gave vital support to displaced people in both countries and provided emergency health care to civilians caught in the crossfire – especially in the areas around Aleppo and Mosul.

In Iraq, we provided:

- Health care to 161,000 people in camps and refugee-hosting communities in the north of the country;
- Improved conditions for over 4,000 camp residents and skills development in our *Cash-for-Work* program; and
- Four mobile medical teams to assist civilians fleeing from fighting around Mosul.

In Syria, our aid included:

- Support for a blood bank and pediatric hospital in the besieged city of Aleppo;
- A hospital and three medical units to help displaced people living near to the Turkish border; and
- Shelters and blankets for over 5,200 displaced people in the Azaz region near Aleppo.



## Mexico

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In 2016, we reduced mother and child mortality in Mexico City. Life-saving HIV medicine was given to 100 women and pregnant mothers to remain healthy and to prevent their unborn babies from contracting the disease. Last year, two healthy babies were born in our program. Mothers also benefit from mental health services to improve their lives. To prevent malnourishment, 113 children received supplemental vitamin-enriched meals.

## Peru

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In Valle Amuata, a poverty-stricken town outside of Lima, almost 1 in 5 children are chronically undernourished. For 10 years, we have worked alongside Malteser Peru to strengthen food security. Last year, 55 children received healthy, nutrient-packed, warm meals in our soup kitchen every day. At a community center in Querecotillo, we also tackled loneliness in older populations with support services, warm meals, and extracurricular programs.





## Colombia

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We widened our efforts to improve the health and lives of 4,000 indigenous people and rural farmers who were displaced by 50 years of internal conflict and affected by the devastating effects of the changing climate. In 2016, along with Malteser Colombia and partners on-the-ground:

- 1,800 pregnant women and their unborn babies were protected from the Zika virus with prevention kits;
- 3,000 people received healthcare in clinics and 742 children received healthy food to prevent malnourishment; and
- 100 farmers advanced their skills in agriculture, apiculture, and disaster preparedness trainings.

## Haiti

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Since the Haiti earthquake of 2010, we have improved access to clean water, built hygienic latrines, strengthened sustainable farming programs, launched disaster preparedness initiatives, provided emergency relief, and built schools. After Hurricane Matthew struck Haiti in October 2016, our staff reacted within hours to help the affected people and:

- Distributed 1,200 hygiene kits to help 6,000 people lower the risk of diseases like cholera;
- Provided cash assistance to almost 900 members of vulnerable fishing communities who lost their traps and fishing materials in the storm; and
- Helped with clearance work to reopen streets and drainage channels.

# We Made A Global Impact in 2016

# 1,606,217

patients were treated in our medical facilities around the world.



# 186,134



women received prenatal and postnatal care to protect their health and that of their children.

# 161,360



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



# 178,446

people received emergency food, water, clothing, hygiene items, and shelter.

# 6,526



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



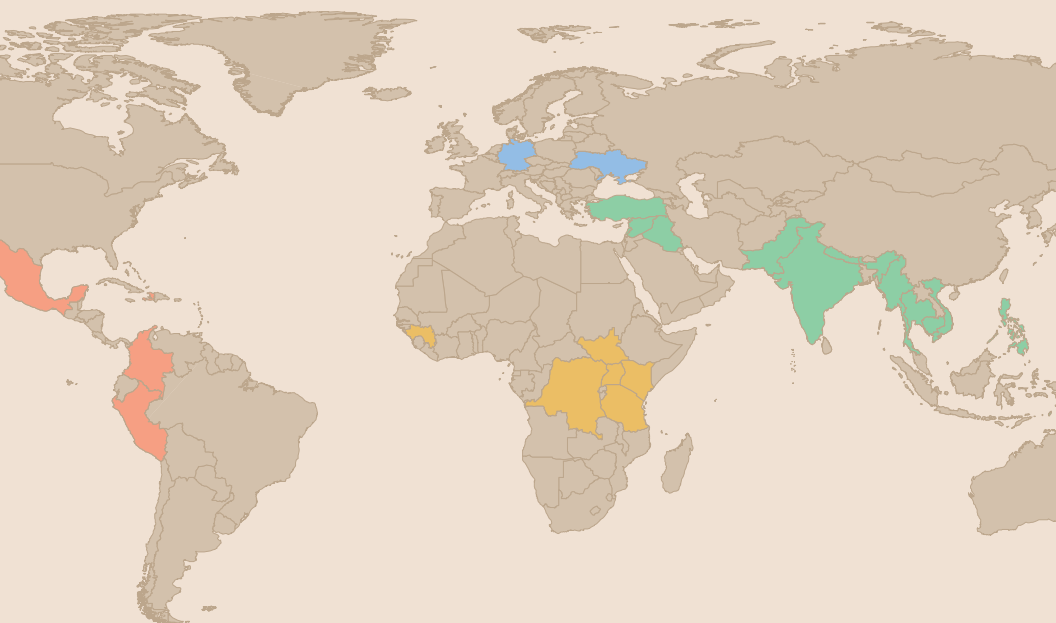
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## Who We Are

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*Malteser International Americas is the U.S. affiliate of Malteser International, the global humanitarian relief agency of the Sovereign Order of Malta - a Catholic religious order with a history of over 900 years of dedicated work to the poor and the sick.*

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Malteser International Americas runs humanitarian programs in four major countries: Colombia, Mexico, Haiti, and Peru. In 2016, we also supported relief efforts in the United States, following the floods in Louisiana, as well as in Ecuador, following the earthquake. In the Americas and globally, we support emergency relief in crises such as natural disasters, epidemics, and armed conflicts; and we implement long-term community-based, transitional aid and development initiatives.

We establish functioning medical structures to protect health by supporting good nutrition, clean water, sanitation, and hygiene. We also boost the resilience of vulnerable people through disaster preparedness.

Founded on Christian values and humanitarian principles, our global work now encompasses more than 100 projects in 24 countries, countries, through which we help people in need live healthy lives with dignity, without distinction of race, religion, or political persuasion.





## Our Strategy

### 2017: Putting aid in place for the future

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The conflicts and crises that have shaped humanitarian activity in recent years continue to grow in complexity, and they demand more resources. El Nino continues to bring devastating storms and drought. World-wide, more people are becoming displaced, and countries that are already in need of international aid are increasingly giving shelter to refugees fleeing from economic and political insecurity. Aid organizations are being forced to come up with innovative ways of working.

This year, we will continue to be guided by the Core Humanitarian Standards, as we strengthen our emergency relief capacities and response in the Americas, together with local partners, Malteser Associations, and the Order of Malta Associations.

The task of implementing the commitments from the World Humanitarian Summit to secure consistent humanitarian aid for the future remains an ongoing goal. The scale of the crises that we face requires that we move beyond transitional aid, and provide sustainable development and humanitarian relief that reinforces local capacities instead of replacing them.

We will continue to secure the health of those in need through sustainable initiatives focused on the following: climate adaptation, reforestation, environmental protection, community-based healthcare, disaster preparedness, food security, clean water, sanitation, and hygiene.



**Published by:**

Malteser International Americas

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**Photos:**

Malteser International, Nyokabi Kahura/African Visuals Media, Jana Asenbrennerova, Aldo Arozena, Jill Watson, Paul David  
Cover photo and Back cover photo: Haiti (Germany's Relief Coalition/ADH)  
Icons: OCHA

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