Dear friends,

2021 proved challenging in many ways. The second year of the COVID-19 pandemic saw vast numbers of the poor and underserved throughout the Americas marginalized even further by lack of access to vaccines and basic healthcare. It also pushed many millions more back into poverty, a trend the world hasn’t seen in nearly 25 years.

As our calling to serve the world’s most vulnerable drives our work day in and day out, I am so incredibly thankful to you for your continued support. Today, more than ever, I’m doubly committed to the strength and value of our experts in our core areas of Health, Food and Nutrition, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), and Emergency Response and Preparedness, and am eager to share this report with you to highlight some of the amazing work you’ve made possible.

Health and Refugees: With the war in Ukraine still in the forefront of our minds, we are reminded that refugees, wherever they’re from, are just like us – and we must do everything we can to support and provide for them.

In the Americas, Malteser International Americas has thus deepened its commitment to the plight of refugees and migrants, particularly in Colombia, where the crisis in neighboring Venezuela continues to send hundreds of thousands streaming in every year. It has overwhelmed Colombia’s healthcare system, with a particularly difficult impact on Indigenous and Afro-Colombian communities. Through an innovative partnership with the U.S. Department of State, we’re working towards transforming these systems in Colombia’s La Guajira department which will benefit nearly half a million people over three years (see page 4).

Emergency Response and Preparedness: Disasters, natural and man–made, will continue to increase, and last year was no exception. In Haiti, the devastating 7.2 magnitude earthquake left many rural, isolated individuals without basic necessities. Here, through our active partners on the ground, and our long-standing presence, we were able to provide immediate relief as well as longer-term mental health support (see page 6).

Hunger, too, has grown in 2021, not least because of the COVID-19 pandemic, which is why we continue to support communities in Haiti, Peru, Mexico, and Colombia with food security and nutrition programming to those who are underserved. We work to empower local communities with information, technical training, as well as nutritious food to guide them as they navigate increasingly difficult circumstances. These difficulties will only increase as we begin to see the global knock-on effects of grain shortages, supply chain interruptions, and an increasingly tenuous food security landscape.

Together, we have been able to make a quantifiable difference in the lives of over 757,000 individuals throughout the Americas. For that I couldn’t be more grateful. With you, and our small team of highly committed staff, we’ve been a lifeline for the most vulnerable. Around the world, as part of the Malteser International and Order of Malta family, you’ve helped us support over 9 million people in 2021.

None of this could have been done without you. Thank you,

Ravi Tripp trap
Executive Director, Malteser International Americas
The One Health Approach is based on the understanding of human health, animal health, and the environment as an interconnected system. As the COVID-19 pandemic has shown us, working across disciplines is the only way to mitigate global crises and to truly think holistically about our health.

For us, this means working sustainably towards a brighter future on all fronts. Human health is conceived through a 360 degree perspective, and includes both physical and mental health.

Sound mental health is key to overcoming trauma - a key factor for Venezuelan refugees, Colombians affected by the one of the longest armed conflicts in the Western Hemisphere, or Haitian earthquake survivors. In La Guajira, Colombia, we opened the region’s first mental health facility in partnership with IPSI Anashiwaya, an Indigenous, women-led healthcare provider (and long-time partner of MI Americas) focusing on primary and secondary healthcare.

Sound environmental health is vital now more than ever as the dangers of climate change increasingly affect our food systems, our critical infrastructure, our livestock, and our coastlines. With key programs on Mangrove restoration, Food Security and Nutrition, and environmental conservation, we’re empowering people living in the most impacted communities like Haiti and Colombia to recalibrate their relationship with the environment, change how they relate to their traditional food sources, and learn new income-generating techniques and skills that are both environmentally-friendly and allow them to live a dignified life.

The Crisis in Venezuela and the need to transform Colombia’s Healthcare System

Colombia continues to be the country most affected by the crisis in Venezuela. In 2021, 5.1 million individuals have been directly affected by the crisis. Of these, 4.8 million are in need (Venezuelans, Colombian returnees, and Colombian host communities who welcome both populations into their homes). As a result of the deteriorating situation in Venezuela, many of the 1.8 million arriving or returning to Colombia have no formal protections, which inhibits them from accessing healthcare services (among others), exponentially increasing their vulnerability in addition to a complex array of threats.

Part of our commitment to One Health, one of our key achievements last year was starting a long-term partnership with the United State’s Department of State, specifically the Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration to substantially increase the capacities of La Guajira’s health systems, and in turn, increasing access to primary and secondary health care services for vulnerable Indigenous, migrant, and refugee populations in La Guajira. Over the span of 3 years, our objective is to support nearly 425,000 individuals, both directly and indirectly.
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH:
Mangrove Restoration in Colombia & Haiti

Mangroves are essential in protecting coastal areas from extreme weather. They are well-known carbon sinks, trapping damaging carbon dioxide from the air, and they have the untapped potential to boost local economies, while improving climate resiliency for local communities. And that’s exactly what we’ve set out to do.

Due to environmental degradation and harmful practices like slash-and-burn agriculture, the once thriving mangrove forests of northern Colombia and Haiti have dramatically deteriorated, in some areas by up to 70%. This has had negative ripple effects not only for the populations living near mangroves above sea level, but also for the now-dwindling levels of biodiversity below sea level.

As part of our commitment to environmental health, this innovative, long-term development program aims to harness the potential of mangrove conservation by training local communities in new income-generating projects and strengthening civil society.

With a goal to restore over 80 hectares of mangrove forests in four distinct areas within Haiti – Cité Soleil, Petit Trou des Nippes and Barradères – and within Colombia – Puebloviejo en la Ciénaga Grande de Santa Marta including the territories of Tasajera, Isla del Rosario, Palmira, and Bocas de Cataca – we are working with communities who live along vulnerable coastlines.

With restored mangroves comes restored sea life, and increased potential for economic opportunities for small-scale fishermen and women.

Here, thanks to our close collaboration with our partner ABIUEA, we have created the region’s first fish processing plant, which will allow local small-scale fishermen and women a safe and hygienic place in which to store and process their catch, to later sell at local markets.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE & PREPAREDNESS

While the crisis in Ukraine continues to harness our attentions, there were no shortage of emergencies last year, from Haiti’s multiple earthquakes to German flooding. Our expertise in Emergency Response and Preparedness allowed us to be on the front lines, serving the vulnerable when they need us most.

HAITI’S EARTHQUAKE

On August 14th, Haiti was hit by a massive 7.2 magnitude earthquake, which resulted in 2,246 deaths and over 12,763 wounded. The number of people in need of emergency assistance after the quake exceeded 650,000. The quake also produced 1,600 registered landslides in its aftermath. Our response included emergency shelter, cash distributions, as well as mental health support, focusing on more affected rural areas.

45,276 Children, school teachers and headmasters, and community members received trauma support.

Using an innovative approach in collaboration with our partners AHAAMES, we assessed the levels of post-traumatic stress in community members in l’Asile, Baradères, and Petit Trou de Nippes and determined their need for support. In schools and communities, we trained teachers and community leaders to assess the same, to ensure continuity and resilience, and expand our impact.

3,640 Individuals received cash distributions in the acute relief phase for the earthquake. A growing trend in humanitarian aid, cash distributions as a component of good programming is a dignified way to aid the people whom we serve, showing them we trust them to make informed decisions for themselves when local markets are still operational.

45,276 Mental Health Support

5 Schools in l’Asile, Baradères, and Petit Trou de Nippes were reconstructed or rehabilitated.

More than 1,500 students and 30 teachers were able to benefit from new facilities to foster a safe learning environment.

Scan here for an in-depth interview with Yolette Etienne, Malteser International Americas country director in Haiti.
Supporters and Partners

Thank you! Our work is only possible with the generous support of our donors and the collaboration of our partners on the ground as we make a concerted effort to work with the communities in which we work. From institutional donors, private foundations, individual donors, community fundraising efforts, as well as the many Order of Malta Associations who mobilized their time and resources in support of Malteser International Americas in 2021 - together, we're creating lasting change. Here are just a few of our supporters and partners we work with:

![Supporters and Partners Logos]

Financials

Income* $16,727,806
- Restricted $14,732,718
- Unrestricted $1,521,770
- Other $473,318

Expenses* $10,168,407
- Colombia (64%) $6,670,308
- Haiti (20%) $1,990,070
- Venezuela (8.9%) $91,335
- USA (2.2%) $235,685

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*Please note that surplus funding is reflective of restricted funding earmarked for on-going, multi-year projects.

† Malteser International Americas is a legal entity, based in the United States, affiliated with Malteser International e.V. (MI) based in Cologne, Germany. For full transparency, please visit www.malteser-international.org to access MI’s annual report and financials. The figures you see above are consolidated, in that they include donations from European entities (government grants as well as individual donations) which go directly to our project countries.

*Order of Malta Worldwide Relief Malteser International Americas Inc.
In Colombia, the armed conflict between guerilla factions (FARC, EPL, ENL, AGC, etc.) and the government has been one of the longest running in the hemisphere. For those who have lived it first-hand, it has touched every aspect of their lives.

Through conversations with community elders and the dreams and aspirations of youth leaders, the documentary traces the histories, traditions, and cultures of seven different communities in Colombia's northern department of La Guajira. At times deeply personal, the documentary exemplifies the communities’ resilience, their desire to preserve traditions, to see themselves represented in history, and to build the building blocks of a brighter future.

The creation of this documentary is testament to the clear, sustainable impact our work – and thus, donors like you – have in the lives of real people.

At Malteser International Americas, one of our main objectives throughout all of our programming is to ensure sustainability and affect long-lasting change – and there is nothing more sustainable than long-term investments in the capacity of our youth.

Scan here to watch the documentary!
Charitable contributions can be made online at www.orderofmaltarelief.org or by sending a check to:
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Make an Impact.