



**Malteser
International**
Order of Malta Worldwide Relief

Order of Malta Worldwide Relief

**MI Americas
2023
Year in Review**



Letter from the President

Dear Friends,

With your support, Malteser International Americas (MI Americas) has steadily grown its programs to impact the lives of over 650,000 sick and poor individuals in need last year throughout the Americas, and 5.6 million around the world with Malteser International. These individuals – most of whom have been displaced from their homes – lacked basic needs like water, proper sanitation, food, shelter, healthcare, and nutrition.

Thanks to you, and guided by our Catholic faith, we have supported refugees fleeing increasingly unlivable situations and armed conflict in their home countries. We have offered livelihood opportunities to small-scale farmers in rural areas. We have given Indigenous mothers access to prenatal and postnatal care and helped them to deliver their babies safely. We have provided women and children with life-saving care to prevent and reverse malnutrition.

In times of great need – during the escalation of conflict or in the wake of sudden onset disasters – we have sought to provide emergency shelter, nutrition, and primary healthcare to those most affected.

Together with our affiliate Malteser International, we've been working in the field of humanitarian aid and relief for over 70 years. Our mission has never changed: building a life of health and dignity for the most vulnerable.

As the Sovereign Order of Malta's worldwide relief organization, our mandate calls us to serve the sick and the poor regardless of faith, gender, ethnicity, or political orientation. As a sovereign entity, loyal only to its mission of service to the poor and the sick, the Order of Malta has a special closeness to people in need. In a manner of speaking, our citizens are the dispossessed, the left behind, and the forgotten.

In the face of increasingly frequent natural disasters, rising insecurity, environmental degradation, and the threat of war, I know the work we do is more essential than ever. Together, we can continue to make a difference and uplift those who need it most.

Many blessings,

John E. McNerney III, KM
President, Chairman

Board of Directors

John E. McNerney III, KM, President, Chairman
Camille M. Kelleher, GCMOb, Treasurer
David M. Belczyk, Esq., KM, Secretary and Legal Counsel
HE Amb. Dr. Paul Beresford-Hill, CBE, KMOB
HE Kenneth R. Craig, KM
Sara K. Cumbelich, DM
Edward J. Delaney, KM
Brian Duperreault, KM

Sophia Löwenstein, DM
Alonzo A. Álvarez Meola, KM
Clemens Graf von Mirbach-Harff, KM
John F. X. Reilly, KM
Marissa del Rosario-Blackett, DM
John G. Sylvia, KM
HE Fra' Nicola Tegoni
Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Thomas Wessels, GCMOb, Director Emeritus

Malteser International Americas 2023 Impact Report



People served

658,256



Countries active

6



Refugees supported

63,154



Hospitals and health facilities supported

81



Women receiving pre and postnatal support

5,091



Children supported

77,771



Mangroves and trees planted

44,300



Mental health consultations

17,498



Medical patients

124,826

Malteser International Global Impact

Throughout the world, Malteser International is active in 37 countries. Through your tireless support, we've had a direct impact on over 5.6 million people around the world.

People served

5.6 M

Countries active

37



Contents

- 2 Letter from the President
- 3 Impact Report
- 5 Health: Our Core Mission
- 6 Colombia: Care for New Mothers
- 8 Ukraine: Caring for Minds and Bodies
- 10 Haiti: Advancing Food Security
- 12 Climate Resilience: Mangroves
- 14 Emergency Relief: Our Approach
- 16 Earthquake in Türkiye and Syria
- 18 The Order of Malta: A Unique Force for Good in the World
- 20 Our Donors, Partners, and Network
- 22 Financials
- 23 Who We Are

Health: Our Core Mission

We at the Order of Malta believe that Jesus Christ calls us to take care of the poor and the sick. We have been “Hospitallers” for more than 900 years. Since being appointed Grand Hospitaller I have visited MI’s projects in Lebanon, South Sudan, Uganda, and been twice to Ukraine. I have been witness to the hardships – but also the incredible resilience – of people in need around the world, as well as to the transformative impact of the Order’s work in the field of health.



“War is the number one disease in the world. And it is just as preventable as any disease. The cure is called peace!”

Fra' Alessandro de Franciscis,
Grand Hospitaller
Sovereign Order of Malta

Last year, the Order of Malta was invited, as a permanent Observer to the United Nations, to participate at the World Health Organization’s yearly General Assembly. This was a great chance to advocate for our health work and give out a call for peace: because war is still the number one cause

for diseases. In 2023, wars, conflicts, and natural disasters in Ukraine, Gaza, Türkiye, Afghanistan, Syria and Libya – to name only the most prominent crises of 2023 – caused disruptions in the supply of food, clean water, and health services, resulting in sickness, malnutrition and poverty.

Back in the eighties, as a young doctor at the Harvard School of Public Health earning my master’s degree in Epidemiology, I learned that the poor always remain under-served. Forty years later, it seems nothing has changed. But we at the Order of Malta never stop believing that it still can! In 2023, MI implemented more than 85 health projects in 25 countries. 69% of our health activities were dedicated to providing basic healthcare, including psychosocial support, and 31% to healthcare system strengthening, including using a One Health Approach. Working hand in hand with local organizations and affected communities, MI reached almost 3 million people with health support in accordance with our mission to bring life in health and dignity to people in need. ■



Lujaris and her son, José, are members of the Wayuu Indigenous ethnic group living in La Guajira, Colombia.

PHOTO: MIGUEL VARONA

Colombia: Care for New Mothers

La Guajira, Northern Colombia

In La Guajira, Colombia, infant and postnatal mortality for mothers are increasingly grave concerns. La Guajira is the department with the worst health outlook for its residents: there is a lack of essential resources, including safe drinking water and food. Colombia's healthcare system, overwhelmed by an influx of Venezuelan migrants and refugees since 2016, is struggling to provide these basic needs for new mothers and their babies.

In 2023, women in La Guajira were more than twice as likely to die in childbirth than women in the rest of the country, based on mortality rates reported by the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO). Many women in La Guajira live in rural areas with poor access to any kind of healthcare facility. For many others, including undocumented

Venezuelan migrants and indigenous people, insurance and other barriers limit access to healthcare. As such, they often suffer from common pregnancy-related issues, such as hypertensive disorders, diabetes, parasitic infections, and malnutrition. This is a serious risk for mothers and children. Alarming, 58% of neonatal deaths in La Guajira were deemed preventable.

MI Americas helps to prevent maternal and postnatal deaths by addressing these root causes. This involves improving nutrition among pregnant women to mitigate complications during pregnancy and childbirth, as well as ensuring access to comprehensive prenatal care. Through community engagement, as well as culturally-sensitive approaches, we aim to raise awareness and break cultural barriers

within communities that deter pregnant women from seeking medical assistance. Collaboration with local institutions, humanitarian structures, and community leaders has been pivotal in fostering long-term health improvements for mothers and children. ■

Health in Focus: Indigenous Mothers

Riohacha, Colombia

Comunidad El Pasito is located on the outskirts of Riohacha, Colombia. It lacks access to proper roads, and the few that exist flood often. This community is mainly composed of Venezuelan migrants and refugees who have just arrived or are in the process of settling into new neighborhoods and communities – in which they often struggle to integrate.

One member of this community is Lujaris del Carmen Báez Fernández, a 33-year-old Venezuelan immigrant, who belongs to the indigenous Wayuu community from Maracaibo. She is 22 weeks pregnant with her second child. Living in El Pasito makes getting standard medical care for herself and her child sometimes impossible.

MI Americas has made it easier for vulnerable women like Lujaris to get the care they need by providing access to medical consultations, prenatal checks, psychological consultations, and nutrition services, as well as medical supplies and medication. Lujaris is a resilient woman who has faced many challenges. When she lived in Maracaibo, she knew that with her first son, José, on the way, she wouldn't be able to make ends meet. Life was too expensive, and the pressure she faced was affecting her health and causing her to be underweight during her pregnancy.

Together with her husband she decided the best option for her family was to join the thousands fleeing Venezuela due to instability and a lack of opportunities.

With a heavy heart, they left family and friends behind and made their way to Riohacha, Colombia. Lujaris was six months into her first pregnancy when she was able to contact MI Americas.

This meant she received help with medical and psychological care and was able to gain adequate nutrition and proper prenatal care, resulting in her gaining over eight pounds.

Her son, José Epiayu, now one and a half years old, has also benefited from MI Americas' nutritional support program.

Lujaris is hopeful and confident that the future will be better. She has more support than she had in her home country and is taking active steps to improve both her and her children's health. With our support, Lujaris and her children will have a brighter future. Together, we have changed the lives of the whole family and given them hope that will last for generations to come. ■

HIV-Positive Mothers

Mexico City, Mexico

When a woman is affected by HIV, transmission is most dangerous during pregnancy and in the first two years of the child's life. In partnership with the Mexican Association of the Order of Malta (Orden de Malta Mexico), we support a program aimed at preventing the transmission of HIV from mother to child.

In addition to medication, we provide baby formula, powdered milk for the family, nutritious groceries, income-generating support, and psychosocial care for mothers.

Like many women in Indigenous communities, Lujaris lives in a mud-bound hut in an isolated hamlet, with little access to healthcare.

PHOTO: MIGUEL VARONA





A total of 13,251 children have participated in the Mobil Play Space activities in the oblasts of Tsarkappatia, Ivano-Frankivsk, and Lviv since Project Rhodes began.

PHOTO: MALTESER UKRAINE

Ukraine: Caring for Minds and Bodies

Ukraine

According to the UN, as of November 2023, the mental health of 15.6 million Ukrainian families was negatively affected as a result of the war. Overall, 25% of people in Ukraine are at risk of suffering from mental illness due to the ongoing mental burden of war. In addition, a growing number of former combatants are suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder.

Life in Spite of War

Unresolved grief, emotional exhaustion, and an uncertain future are among the challenges encountered by psychologist Olena Romanova from Malteser Ukraine. “We work with people to help them regain their strength amid their perceived powerlessness,” she explains. Together with our partners Mental Health Service and Words Help, Malteser International and Malteser Ukraine launched a two-part project in 2023, combining humanitarian aid and longer-term social measures. The humanitarian aid component provides

particularly vulnerable people with services such as health education, psychosocial services, and professional training for specialists. The longer-term measures include specialized psychotherapeutic services and awareness-raising sessions as well as discussion groups and creative courses. These are intended to strengthen the long-term resilience and social cohesion of the population, which has been disrupted by war and displacement.

Children are one of the focus groups of both components. “Unfortunately, there is now no child in Ukraine who is not suffering from the war,” says Khrystyna Halushchak, who heads Malteser Ukraine’s Center for Psychological Support and Counseling. As part of their health education, children and young people learn to recognize and deal with stress and anxiety – an important investment in their future mental health, which will continue to be strained for as long as the war lasts.

“Unfortunately, there is now no child in Ukraine who is not suffering from the war.”

Khrystyna Halushchak,
Head of Malteser Ukraine’s Center for Psychological Support and Counseling

Vital Synergies

Whether visiting schools or offering services in community centers, low-threshold measures enable our specialists to identify individuals with severe trauma and refer them to specialists within the project when necessary. These and other synergies between the two components are the defining feature of this program, which will reach around 50,000 people affected by war with mental health and psychosocial support over the next three years. ■



Sirens during air raids are particularly stressful for children. With these specially equipped Mobile Play Spaces, this project aims to provide psycho-emotional relief for children in war. We travel to schools, kindergartens, orphanages, shelters, homes, and various public spaces in an effort to bring back joy, entertainment, and games to their daily lives.

MALTESER UKRAINE

Project Rhodes

Project Rhodes is the first joint service provided by all five modern branches of the original hospitaller Order. It is named after the last base of the Order of St. John prior to the Reformation.

Coordinated by MI and our partners on the ground, these buses are specially equipped with play and support materials for children traumatized by the war. We are currently using them in three oblasts (regions) in western Ukraine to offer children age-suitable and playful psychosocial support

in schools, kindergartens, emergency shelters, orphanages, and other public institutions. The project is about creating stable, safe, and relaxed spaces where children can express their emotions, feelings, and thoughts through games and interaction with other participants and caregivers in the process.

Measures:

- Physical activities (sports, team-building activities, quests, dancing)

- Creative workshops (art therapy, handicrafts, music sessions, etc.)
- Activities with a psychologist (board games, metaphorical cards, psychological sessions with game elements)

The combination of these types of activities contributes to a child's complex development, helps them reduce stress, become more creative, work in a team, improve their communication skills and fine motor skills. ■

Order of St. John

Ukraine

In addition to the Sovereign Military Order of Malta, which is the original order, the reformation led to the separation of four protestant branches of the Order of St. John. Most of these were, or continue to be, under the protection of European monarchs. Today, the four modern protestant Orders of St. John and the Sovereign Order of Malta recognize their shared kinship, history, and values. They work together to promote this heritage. In addition to the Order of Malta, the only recognized current branches of the original Order of St. John founded at Jerusalem in the 11th Century are:

- Die Balley Brandenburg des Ritterlichen Ordens Sankt
- Johannis vom Spital zu Jerusalem
- The Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem
- Johanniter Order in Nederland
- Johanniterorden i Sverige



Haiti: Advancing Food Security

Haiti

Over recent decades, Haiti has been confronted with a series of intersecting humanitarian crises. The deadly 2010 earthquake was followed by mounting challenges, including destructive hurricanes, a persistent cholera epidemic, political turmoil, gang violence, and devastating earthquakes in 2021-2022. The country's limited resources and fragile infrastructure have been pushed beyond their limit. These ongoing trials have tested the resilience of Haiti's population and emphasized the urgent need for sustained international assistance to address the deep-rooted humanitarian crisis in the Caribbean nation.

MI Americas works directly with community health centers to identify and assist people suffering from malnutrition, particularly children and pregnant women, who we then provide with essential medicines and nutritional supplements to reverse the deadly effects of malnutrition. Clinic staff offer life-

saving education to parents on diagnosing and managing malnutrition, while the program provides cash transfers to households facing food insecurity. We aim to ensure a lasting impact through institutional capacity-building with local partners and health providers.

Malnutrition is closely tied to food insecurity. As part of our programming, we help families and communities establish sustainable agricultural practices so that community members can grow their own nutritious food. We assist small-scale farmers to enhance irrigation and water storage capabilities as well as support community members to create family and community gardens. We provide the tools, inputs, and training so that community members can grow a diverse mixture of crops that satisfy their nutritional needs. We hold awareness sessions to promote the importance of healthy diets. Additionally, we provide livestock, including goats,

sheep, pigs, chickens, and ducks, along with necessary materials and tools for husbandry. These serve as vital protein sources for children's diets. Families can also boost their income and the health of their communities by selling crops and meat locally.

In all of our programming, we place a particular emphasis on giving communities the tools and know-how to sow a more resilient future for themselves. ■

Hunger in Haiti



87.6%
of Haitians live in poverty (estimated by the UN World Food Program)



4.35 million
Haitians (45% of the population) are suffering from acute food insecurity according to the Integrated Food Security Phase Certification (IPC)



115,000
children experienced life-threatening malnutrition in 2023 (estimated by UNICEF)



Health

2023 Impacts of Nutrition and Food Security Programming

	Cash transfers to food-insecure households	2,161
	Local health centers supported for nutrition	7
	Individuals receiving nutrition trainings	4,059
	Individuals benefiting from sustainable livelihoods training	11,916
	Number of children <5	
	• Screened	10,707
	• Treated for malnutrition	865
	• Recovered	753

Background on the Crisis in Haiti

The power and influence of violent gangs in Haiti is not a new phenomenon, and for decades has been fueled by poverty, political corruption, and lack of access to education and opportunities. In Port-au-Prince in particular, the nation’s capital, violent groups have seized political control, spreading their influence to surrounding towns. Their rule has limited access to healthcare, food, water, electricity, and other essentials for its residents.

MI Americas continues to support the people of Haiti and work with them to build a healthier, happier future. As stated by Yolette Etienne, Malteser International Programs Coordinator Haiti, “Our wish for this country is that we can get some security, and that people can again have hope.”



Six-year-old Thiago and 49 other school children have reasons to smile each day. Mothers from the community volunteer their time to make sure every child in the San Juan Bautista center in Lima, Peru has nutritious, homemade meals.

PHOTO: MALTESER PERU

Feeding Children in Peru

Lima, Peru

In Lima, Peru, we have worked with our partner Malteser Peru on the Comedor San Juan Bautista, a soup kitchen solely dedicated to low-income children and their families. With many poor families working in the informal economy, the pandemic was disastrous for their livelihoods. Located in the Amauta neighborhood, the soup kitchen has gone mobile, making deliveries of food items and hygiene kits.

Climate Resilience: Mangroves

Climate change and natural disasters threaten the safety, food security, and economic well-being of communities supported by MI Americas in northern Colombia and southern Haiti. Haiti ranks among the top 3 countries most affected by extreme weather, with 96% of the population exposed to shocks from natural disasters: floods, droughts, and hurricanes made worse by climate change. Similarly, coastal Colombian communities face storms and flooding as well as severe droughts each year. The deforestation of coastal mangroves exposes these coastlines to storm surges and coastal erosion, which harms communities reliant on fishing and agriculture.

In Haiti and Colombia, our projects mitigate degradation of mangroves and forests by promoting alternative livelihoods for individuals involved in activities such as charcoal burning, logging, and other practices that contribute to deforestation.

To address these challenges, MI Americas helps communities to restore mangroves in coastal areas of Haiti and

Colombia. This project brings together locals, authorities, and experts from both countries in a South-South exchange of best practices on how to restore and protect their coastal ecosystems. Along with our partners, we train community members to cultivate mangrove seedlings in greenhouses. Our experts help map and analyze deforested coastal areas and identify where the new seedlings should be planted for maximum impact. Communities are trained to care for these ecosystems and recognize the importance of the mangroves in their own lives and livelihoods.

Agriculture is also crucial to ensuring livelihoods and local food security. However, some agricultural practices can damage the ecosystem through: inefficient use of water resources, crops and growing cycles which deplete the soil, and techniques such as controlled burns that damage the soil and risk sparking forest fires. Consequently, MI Americas works with communities in Haiti and Colombia to implement sustainable, climate-resilient agricultural practices. This approach boosts soil health, food security, and the income of local families while making the land more resilient to future natural disasters.



As the mangrove forests recover, fishermen like Dubosse Louberne in Haiti see their fish stocks replenishing, and are able to sustain themselves.

PHOTO: MALTESER INTERNATIONAL AMERICAS








In Ciénaga Grande de Santa Marta in northern Colombia, the Association of Resilient Women of Tasajeras works to restore the mangroves.

PHOTO: MALTESER INTERNATIONAL AMERICAS

In Haiti and Colombia, our projects mitigate degradation of mangroves and forests by promoting alternative livelihoods for individuals involved in activities such as charcoal burning, logging, and other practices that contribute to deforestation. MI Americas helps community members establish beehives and grow plants that are ideal for honey production in nearby forests. In addition to creating alternative livelihood opportunities, this approach incentivizes the protection of local ecosystems through awareness-raising activities with local communities. The goal is a mutually beneficial and durable solution to promote reforestation in the community. In both Colombia and Haiti, our projects have helped fishing communities to form associations to sell their catch. As the mangrove forests recover, fishermen see the fish population rebounding. Thanks to our work on mangrove renaturation, the shoreline will be more resilient to storm erosion for decades to come.

The physical cultivation and planting of mangroves is accompanied by important institutional strengthening activities with local communities. In Nippes, Haiti, MI Americas ensures a long-term impact by bringing together community members in local mangrove committees. In Colombia,

Impact of Climate Resilience Programming		Haiti	Colombia
	Hectares of mangroves forests restored/renaturalized	40	35
	Planted eco-friendly mixed-crop gardens	596	66
	Bee hives established protecting local ecosystems	56	10
	Number of trainings in sustainable agriculture practices	21	68
	People benefiting from environmental activities	80,753	55,261

the project focuses on the Ciénaga Grande of northern Colombia, a coastal lagoon where the mangrove ecosystem has been devastated. There, we helped organize and train the Association of Resilient Women

of Tasajeras, a group of women who now care for the mangroves. Members, often single mothers, also cultivate and sell their own mangrove seedlings, an important new source of income for their families. ■

Emergency Relief: Our Approach

Millions of people around the world are threatened with the consequences of extreme natural disasters and armed conflict. In countries affected by earthquakes, flooding, drought and violence, infrastructure is often heavily damaged, while the population suffers from a lack of food, shelter, medical care, and future prospects. Many live in profound poverty or find themselves forced from their homes to live as refugees or displaced people in their own country.



At Malteser International, we have been responding to emergencies around the world for over 70 years.

Oliver Hochedez,
Head of Emergency Relief Team
Malteser International

At Malteser International, we have been responding to emergencies around the world for over 70 years. Developed out of the Foreign Aid Service of the German Auxiliary of the Order of Malta and the international Emergency Commission of the Order of Malta (ECOM), Malteser International

was formally designated as the Order's international humanitarian relief arm in 2005. Beginning with supporting refugees at the Austro-Hungarian border in 1956, we have built a strong team with worldwide expertise in handling emergencies.

Oliver Hochedez is the Head of MI's Emergency Relief Team. Having started his career in Germany's Federal Agency for Technical Relief – the German government's federal civil protection organization – he has developed experience around the world, holding posts in Indonesia, Haiti, and Ethiopia.

Now with Malteser International for over 10 years, he has led our relief efforts in major emergencies like Syria's refugee crisis in 2014, Nepal and Haiti's devastating earthquakes in 2015 and 2021, the outbreak of war in Ukraine in 2022, and most recently, last year's earthquakes in Türkiye, Syria and Morocco. ■

Three questions for: Oliver Hochedez Head of Emergency Relief Team, Malteser International

Emergency Relief

What criteria do we use to determine whether we will intervene in a given emergency?

As soon as we hear the alert, regardless of the nature of the emergency – whether man-made or sudden onset natural disaster – we use several criteria to assess whether we will intervene. While we would like to support every person in crisis, we must assess whether our organization can add value: do we have the existing infrastructure to support relief operations at scale? We must then assess the larger context: has the local authority requested international help? Do we have access at all? What about security for our staff? Are there other organizations already active in the region? Where could MI intervene effectively without duplicating the efforts of others? This generally happens quite rapidly, within a day or two of the event.

Take us through responding to a crisis. How do you create an effective intervention?

Once we determine whether we will respond, we start planning our interventions, coordinating with all relevant authorities, starting to build our team from our active Pool of Experts, and sending the initial assessment team, if still needed, to the affected areas.

At the same time in headquarters, we'll start fundraising and getting as much information out there as possible through constant communication with our donors, partners, and the media.

The first 72-100 hours are critical for search and rescue operations, during which saving lives is the priority. In certain cases – after Haiti's earthquake in 2021 and Türkiye and Syria's earthquake in 2023, for example – individuals were rescued close to hour 100. Individuals who had been in the rubble for close to six days were still being found alive.

Once on the ground, we'll connect to local teams in the affected regions, including the national and local emergency management agencies. Coordination with other actors on the ground is paramount, we plan our interventions to make sure we're not duplicating efforts in one sector (health, for example), and leaving gaps in another.

The next phase of our emergency relief efforts will have a strong nexus with development. Here we closely coordinate with our regional teams that may carry on the projects once the emergency phase comes to an end. It is important to consider the affected communities from the very first minute.

As much as possible, we want to make sure our interventions will be sustainable and lead into the reconstruction and rebuilding phases after the critical rescue phase has passed. We want to work to strengthen the underlying vulnerabilities of affected communities.

You mentioned the Pool of Experts (PoE) at MI? How do you involve volunteers in our emergency response?

Beyond our dedicated team members on staff, we work closely with the Pool of Experts which is composed of volunteer professionals. These volunteers come from different backgrounds ranging from doctors, nurses, generalists, logisticians, media officers and the like. Long before they are deployed in an emergency setting, each individual is required to go through extensive training, a week-long induction course, safety and security training and assessments, and of course, medical assessments and tests. Many of these training courses must be repeated annually in order to maintain eligibility for deployment.

We do this because responding to crises comes with a great responsibility for the people we serve: we must always adhere to the highest standards. But it also comes with a great responsibility for the people we deploy, our duty of care.

For more information or to express interest in volunteering for the Pool of Experts at MI, please reach out to volunteer.us@malteser-international.org. ■



Oliver Hochedez on the ground surveying the extensive damage in the wake of the earthquakes in Türkiye and Syria in March 2023.

PHOTO: MALTESER INTERNATIONAL

Emergency Relief Nexus with Development

We have been a longstanding partner to the communities we serve in coordination with our local NGO partners. The community and its members are at the heart of our service. With this people-centered approach, we foster the resilience of affected populations to cope with, adapt to, and recover quickly from the impact of disaster or conflict. In the Americas, for example, our nexus approach is highlighted throughout

our programming focused on improving livelihoods and bolstering the resilience of multi-ethnic host communities across northern Colombia. Here, our activities provide strengthened community governance on disaster risk management and socio-economic empowerment. This helps vulnerable multi-ethnic communities reduce risks and strengthen their capacities.

Earthquake in Türkiye and Syria

Türkiye and Syria

In the early morning of February 6th, 2023, a 7.8 magnitude earthquake struck sleeping communities along the Türkiye-Syria border. Its epicenter was near the small town of Pazarcik, in the province of Kahramanmaras, Türkiye. This initial earthquake was followed shortly afterward by an aftershock with a magnitude of 7.6. The region reeled.

Many structures could not withstand the repeated shocks and collapsed, burying families and the residents of whole apartment buildings. As the dust settled and the scale of devastation became clear by morning, teams of locals began frantically digging through the rubble, seeking to rescue neighbors and loved ones. In the tragic days that followed, the grim toll would become clear: the quakes had claimed the lives of 60,000 people, injured 125,000, and damaged or destroyed more than 350,000 buildings. Almost 18 million people were affected. In a region already impacted by conflict and displacement, the



During times of emergency, the most vulnerable are the first to suffer.

PHOTO: HIHFAD

seismic violence of nature now left millions grieving and in need of support.

In response, Malteser International immediately jumped into action. We launched an emergency response in Northwest Syria and Türkiye and in the following months, we provided immediate support and assistance to over 221,000 people directly affected by the earthquakes, all the time working closely with local civil society organizations.

In collaboration with local health partners in Northwest Syria, Malteser International provided medication, medical supplies, and diesel for generators. Together with the Independent Doctors Association (IDA), we deployed five mobile medical units to earthquake-affected areas in Afrin, Azaz, and Harim, and jointly established a field hospital in Afrin to provide urgent medical care. These activities served 119,099 people in desperate need of health services. To provide emergency WASH services, we coordinated with our local partners – the Turkish Red Crescent Society (TRCS) and the Syrian Association for Relief and Development (SARD) – to provide water, sanitation services, and hygiene items to more than 30,000 people impacted by the disaster.

We also prioritized the distribution of ready-to-eat food, drinking water, and food baskets to victims of the earthquake. Meanwhile, we provided cash vouchers and livelihood assistance to help local communities and economies recover from the disaster and begin the long-term work of rebuilding. Our teams also distributed crucial non-food items, such as blankets, mattresses, tarps, tents, and shelter kits to hundreds of households to ensure vulnerable families could shelter from the bitter winter cold.

When disasters strike, the most at-risk members of society often suffer the most. With this in mind, our comprehensive response to the Türkiye-Syria earthquakes made sure to include and strengthen refugees, given that they make up a significant and vulnerable part of the local population in the affected areas. Our support to refugees and their neighbors from the local host community aimed to improve the resilience of these populations so that they could recover and be better prepared for future calamities.

Likewise, children are often disproportionately impacted by disasters. Thus, we included child protection initiatives in our comprehensive approach, among them child-friendly spaces, support for an interim alternative care center, and the distribution of toys for children in Türkiye. With services such as case management, psychosocial support, and awareness-raising activities, we reached hundreds of children and parents. ■



PHOTO: IDA/MALTESER INTERNATIONAL

Art can help children like Shahed process their experiences of conflict and express their hopes and desires.

PHOTO: MALTESER INTERNATIONAL



Of Hardship and Hope: Finding Sanctuary in Art

When 10-year-old Shahed paints, the picture seems ordinary at first glance. But, upon closer inspection, her painting reveals a real-life story of hardship and hope.

Shahed is the youngest of four children in a Syrian refugee family. In the time before her family fled the war in Syria, Shahed and her siblings lived in constant fear. “We moved houses a lot because of the war, but it never felt safe anywhere,” she recalls. Then, one year ago, her family found refuge in Reyhanli, a small Turkish town on the border with Syria.

“It used to be very grey, but now I can see life in color, and I feel safe,” Shahed says, explaining how she feels about her new home. She now uses her art to tell her story.

Shahed’s daily routine in Reyhanli has changed a lot since she arrived. She goes to school in the morning and spends her afternoons in the children’s care center supported by Malteser International. Here, she can play with the other children, paint, and take English and Math classes.

Art can help children process their experiences of conflict and express their hopes and desires. In the after-school care center in Reyhanli, children who suffered trauma from the war can receive psychosocial care. This includes activities like painting and sketching, which help the children work through what they have lived.

Shahed’s eye-catching and vivid drawings adorn the walls of the facility. In one of her drawings, a little girl stands at the foot of a mountain in a landscape covered with lush greenery. “These landscapes calm me down and make me happy,” she says. Through her art, Shahed aims to translate her feelings into colorful pictures, telling the story of her life’s journey - from fear in Syria to peace and hope in Türkiye.

The war in Syria has been raging for the past 13 years. What began as peaceful protests in 2011 escalated to a full-scale civil war. Since then, millions of people have been displaced within the country and beyond its borders. In Türkiye, Malteser International provides support to Syrian refugees and helps them integrate into Turkish society. Thanks to

the after-school children center in Reyhanli, Syrian refugee children can enjoy a stable, caring environment.

For a child of 10, Shahed is wise beyond her years. When asked what she would like to do in future, she answered: “I want to become a teacher. I want to give children who, like me, have been robbed of their carefree childhood, an education that gives them hope for their future.” ■

Our assistance to affected populations

Health:



13,657
basic medical
consultations



609
psychological
support sessions



410
people received 41
group sessions of
psychological support

Non-Food-Items Distributed:



1,900
beds



2,200
generators



3,300
sleeping bags
and blankets



1,400
food and
hygiene kits

The Order of Malta: A Unique Force for Good in the World



As both an Order of the Church and a sovereign entity, the Sovereign Order of Malta has a network of international relations that is unique in the world. It has diplomatic relations with 113 nation states and the European Union, cooperation

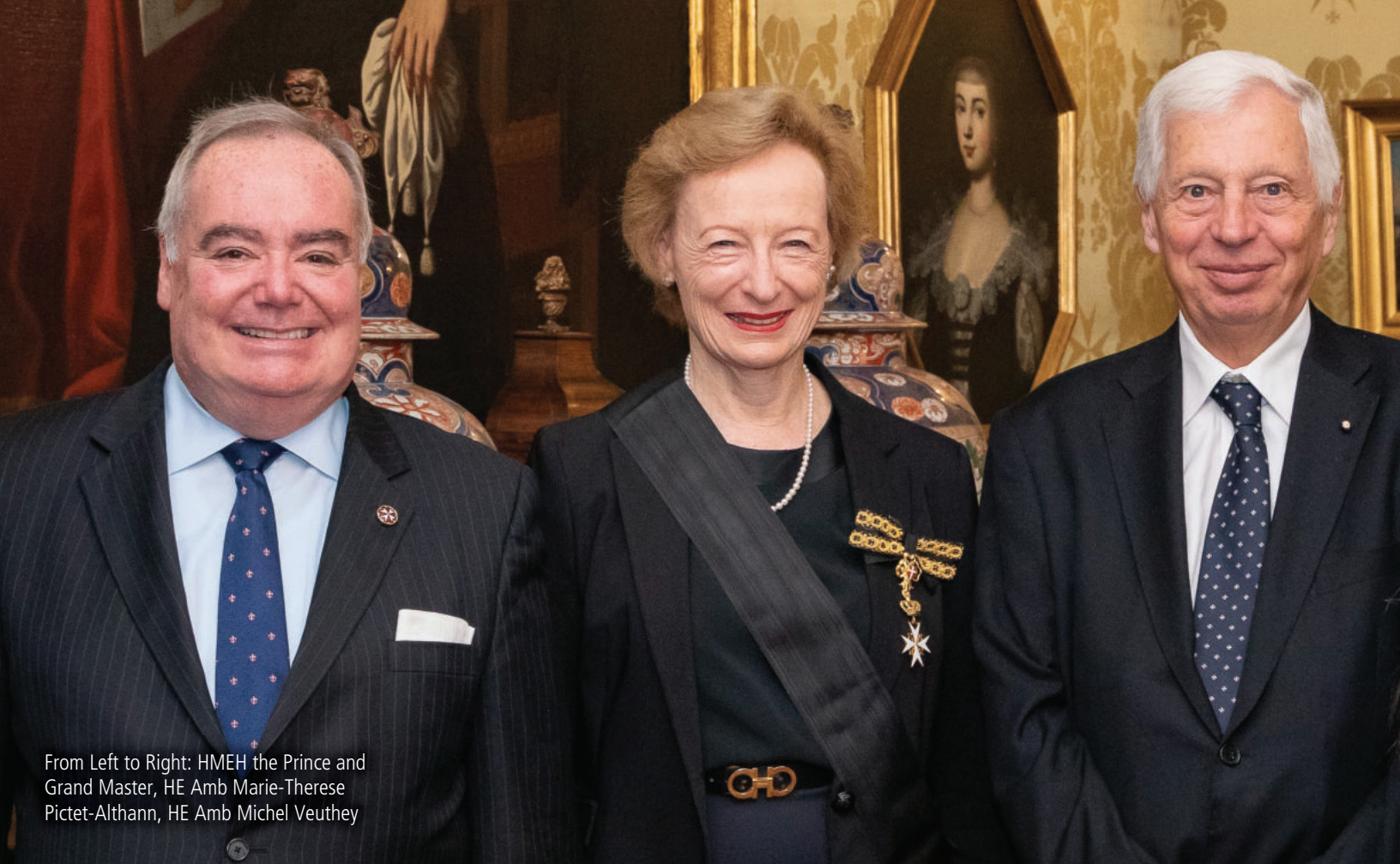
As the international humanitarian aid arm of the Sovereign Order of Malta, Maltaser International (MI) works closely with the Order's embassies and diplomatic missions. People in need due to conflicts and disasters are often hard to reach due either to political or practical constraints. The Order's network of embassies provides a footprint on the ground, and a protected channel to provide aid, even in the most difficult circumstances. In the fall of 2023, MI was one of the few outside organizations able to deliver urgently needed aid – such as food parcels, tents, sanitation, and water – to earthquake-affected Moroccans by supporting the outstanding efforts of the Order's embassy there, headed by HE Ambassador Julien-Vincent Brunie.

“In a manner of speaking, it is the poor and the sick who are the citizens whom we serve as diplomats of the Order of Malta. MI is a valuable tool in the Order of Malta's service because of its global presence, high quality work, and tireless service to people in need. We are united by our common goal: to help people in need, whether in the field or at the conference table.”

HE Amb. Dr. Paul Beresford-Hill, CBE, KMOB
Permanent Observer of the Sovereign Order
of Malta to the United Nations in New York

agreements with more than 50 more states, and permanent observer status at the United Nations, its agencies, and other international organizations. This provides unrivaled advantages to its humanitarian activities.

Over the longer-term, we work to develop deep and trusting relationships with Ambassadors to support sustainable humanitarian and development efforts. HE Wilhelm von Trott zu Solz – the Order's Ambassador to South Sudan and Kenya and Permanent Observer at UN UNEP and UN HABITAT in Nairobi – has supported MI's projects in the two countries since 2017 by



From Left to Right: HMEH the Prince and Grand Master, HE Amb Marie-Therese Pictet-Althann, HE Amb Michel Veuthey

facilitating project and staff visits, helping to raise funds, and fostering good relations with government authorities. In February 2023, he was instrumental in enabling an MI team from South Sudan to take part the Pope's visit to Juba. MI supported the organization of the visit and helped to take care of pilgrims by distributing water and providing hygiene facilities.

The Order of Malta's observer status at the United Nations gives MI access to

specialist networks at the highest level. In 2023, this relationship meant that MI specialists were able to take part in the 23rd UN Water Conference in New York, as well as attending the 76th World Health Assembly and the 2nd Global Refugee Forum in Geneva. The close cooperation between MI and the Order's Permanent Observers to the United Nations, HE Marie-Thérèse Pictet-Althann in Geneva and HE Ambassador Dr. Paul Beresford-Hill in New York, makes a crucial contribution to the Order's perennial

mission to defend Catholic values and the dignity of people in need: by advocating for them on the global stage. ■

Wildfires in Hawaii

Following the devastating wildfires in the communities of Lahaina and Kula in Maui, Hawaii in August of 2023, MI Americas responded swiftly. Partnering with Saint Anthony of Padua Catholic Church, we provided critical cash transfers to the survivors and basic supplies of food, water, and personal hygiene products.

This financial support helped provide survivors and families with a sense of normalcy amidst the uncertainty of their living situations and the grief of losing loved ones.



Scan QR Code
to hear voices
of gratitude
from Hawaii

Our Donors 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 continue to work with local communities. Together with 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 MI Americas in 2023, we're helping to create lasting change. Here are just a few of our supporters and partners we work with:

Government

US Government: The United States Department of State, Bureau of Population Refugees and Migration (BPRM) and United States Agency for International Development, Bureau of Humanitarian Assistance (BHA)
German Government: German Federal Foreign Office (GFFO), German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Taiwan International Cooperation and Development Fund (ICDF)

The Sovereign Order of Malta Associations

Order of Malta Canadian Association
Order of Malta American Association
Order of Malta Western Association
Order of Malta San Jose
Malteser Hilfsdienst

Foundations and Corporate Social Responsibility

Aktion Deutschland Hilft (Germany's Relief Coalition)
Amaturo Family Foundation
Angels with a Mission Foundation
Benebone, LLC
Cannery Row Company
Capital Group Charitable Foundation
Charles Delmar Foundation
Christus Health
Conrad N. Hilton Foundation
Dan Murphy Foundation
Drue Heinz Trust
Linde Corporation
New Street Research
Redwitz, Inc.
Shiley Foundation
STUF United Fund
The Caritas Corporation
The FLS Caritas Fund
The Krump Family
The Versailles Foundation
United Way Worldwide

Individuals

Paul Antle
Barbara Knollmann-Ritschel, DM
Boyd E. Sharp Jr., KM
Camille M. Kelleher, GCMOb
Catherine Anne Burleigh, DM
Catherine B. Reedy
Charles Mifsud, KM
Chris Pilalas, KM
Christopher Nelson
Constance Frankino
Edward Delaney, KM
Edward J. Briody
Ellen Barrosse
Hawley Hilton McAuliffe, DM
Janice Obuchowski, DM
John and Mary Caffrey
John E. McInerney III, KM & Sally McInerney
John Richard Blackett
John Sequeira
John William Given, MD, KM
Jonathan Frase
Joseph Amaturo
Margaret Libera
Marissa del Rosario-Blackett, DM
Mary Hartnett, DM
Matthew D. Lee, KM
Michael R. Haverty, KM
Nancy Jeton
Peter B. Kellner II, KM
Peter Nolan
Rev. James P. Swiader
Richard D. Kelly, KM
Richard J. Guzior, KM Sr.
Richard Smith
Robert B. Morris
Robert Striano, KM
Sara K. Cumbelich, DM
Teresa Claugus, DM
Terrance Barry, KM
Thomas Schlafly, KM
Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Thomas Wessels, GCMOb
Thomas Wilbur, KM
Wilber Clint Fisher, KM
William V. Regan III, KM

International Network

Through Malteser International, together with our international partner organizations in humanitarian aid, as well as associations and priorities of the Order of Malta around the world, we form a strong global network for fast and efficient help for people in need.



Malteser International – a globally active entity of the Sovereign Order of Malta

More than 900 years of service for the poor and the sick

One of the oldest institutions of the western world, this Catholic lay religious order has 13,500 members worldwide who actively practice to the values of Christianity and Christian charity. The Order, headquartered in Rome, maintains diplomatic relations with 113 states and holds a Permanent Observer status at the United Nations. In addition, it has permanent missions to European and international organizations. The Order of Malta is neutral, impartial, and apolitical.

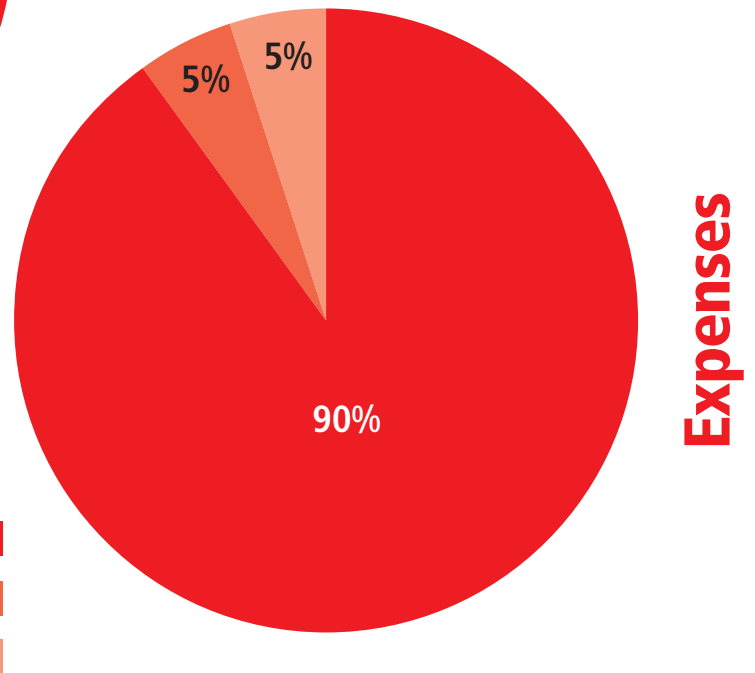
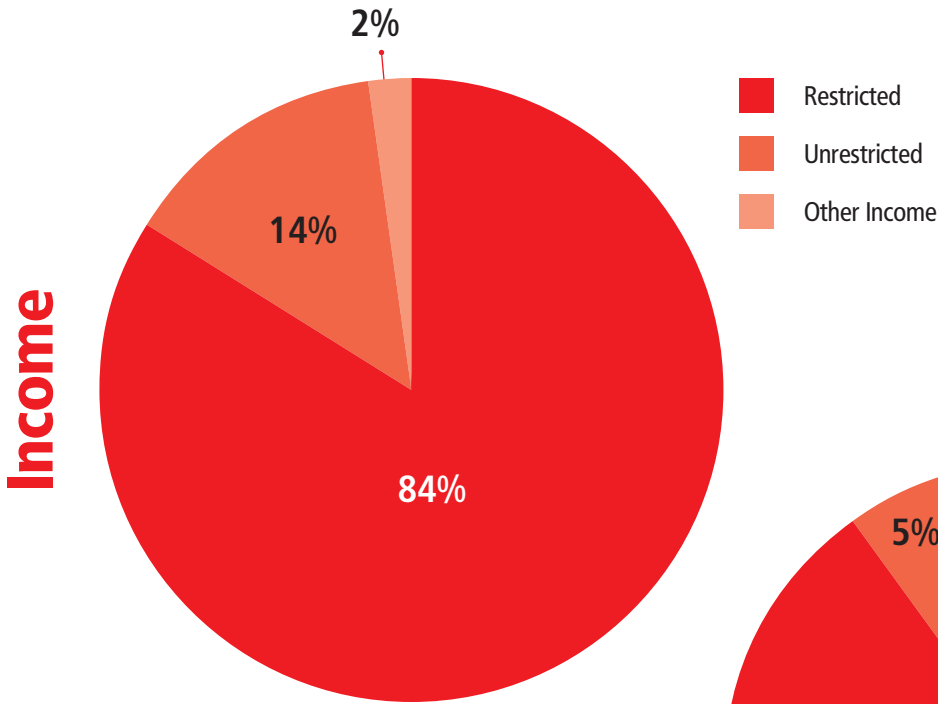
Financials

Income **\$6,693,294**

Restricted	\$5,603,737
Unrestricted	\$952,954
Other Income	\$136,602

Expenses **\$6,568,372**

Management & General (5%)	\$355,159	Colombia (68%)	\$4,479,157
Fundraising (5%)	\$320,843	Türkiye/Syria (5%)	\$305,319
		Ukraine (4%)	\$289,822
		Hawaii (4%)	\$261,719
		Haiti (1%)	\$50,000
		Other (1%)	\$78,552
		Program Management (7%)	\$427,799



Malteser International Americas is a legal entity, based in the United States, affiliated with Malteser International e.V. based in Germany. The overall program volume, including program funding via Malteser International Europe managed by Malteser International Americas is \$11.7 million. For full transparency, please visit www.orderofmaltarelief.org to access Malteser International Americas' financials and www.malteser-international.org/en.html for Malteser International's financials.

Who We Are

Vision

We aspire to a world where all individuals – particularly those in need and those who are displaced – live a life of health and dignity.

Mission Statement

We improve the health and well-being of suffering and displaced people in crisis situations around the world. In this way, we especially fulfill the mission of the Sovereign Order of Malta to "serve the poor and the sick," regardless of gender, political belief, origin, or faith.

Imprint

Editorial Team: Olga Palinkasev, Sara Villoresi, Lauren Wiley, Conor Heathcote

Special thanks to Margi English, Henry Manning

Date of Publication: October 2024

Photos: Miguel Varona, Malteser International, Malteser International Americas, Malteser Peru, Malteser Ukraine

Graphic Design & Printing: FSSI Splash

Icons: Flaticon.com



Donate Now

orderofmaltarelief.org/donate-now/



Follow us:



@MalteserAmericas



@MalteserInternationalAmericas



@MalteserInternationalAmericas



@MalteserAmerica

Charitable contributions can be made online at www.orderofmaltarelief.org or by sending a check to:

Malteser International Americas
1011 First Avenue, Suite 1322
New York, NY 10022 USA

Malteser International Americas is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. All donations are tax deductible.
EIN 26-3701623



**Malteser
International**
Order of Malta Worldwide Relief