Malteser International is the international humanitarian relief agency of the Sovereign Order of Malta – a Catholic religious order with a history of over nine hundred years of dedicated work for the poor and the sick.

We undertake emergency relief in crises such as natural disasters, epidemics, and armed conflicts; as well as implementing long-term transitional aid and development. We work to provide functioning medical structures and to protect health by supporting good nutrition, safe water, sanitation, and hygiene; as well as boosting the resilience of vulnerable people by encouraging disaster risk reduction.

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

Our Strategy

2017: Putting aid on a footing for the future

The conflicts and crises that have shaped humanitarian activity in recent years continue to grow in complexity. Countries that are themselves in need of international aid are increasingly giving shelter to refugees fleeing economic and political insecurity. Aid organizations are being forced to come up with innovative new ways of working.

This year, we will work to strengthen our efforts in the fields of emergency relief and health to provide rapid and effective assistance to people affected by disasters, as well as support vulnerable communities struggling to provide food, shelter, and medical care for refugees.

The task of implementing the commitments that we made at the World Humanitarian Summit to help place humanitarian aid on a footing for the future will continue throughout the coming years. The scale of the crises that we face requires concentrated teamwork to move beyond transitional aid, and to provide humanitarian relief that reinforces local capacities instead of replacing them. Whatever the future may bring, we are certain that with your support we will continue to change the lives of the world’s most vulnerable people for the better!

#Year in Review 2016

1,606,217

186,134

6,526

178,446

16,1,360

women received antenatal and/or postnatal care to protect their health and that of their children.

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

unmarried children and five women were treated.

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

people lost access to clean drinking water thanks to our projects.

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people were treated in our medical facilities around the world.

people were restored to health and given the chance of a better start in life.

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The events of 2016 highlighted the hugely diverse range of our work to help people in need around the world. Last year, thanks to the tireless efforts of our staff, we brought vital assistance to over two million people in 24 countries, helping to give them the chance to live a life in health and dignity.

Our projects in countries in the grip of displacement crises now take up around 40% of our overall project volume. Nevertheless, the missions that followed the Zika outbreak in South America, Hurricane Matthew in Haiti, and the earthquakes in central Italy showed that the central importance of our emergency relief work remains undiminished.

We are proud to present all of our donors, partners, staff, and well-wishers with this Activity Report, containing some brief highlights of our work in 2016. None of this work would have been possible without your essential support. Thank you!

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Malteser International in the region: 

Iraq and Syria

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

In Iraq we provided:
• Healthcare for around 161,000 people in camps and refugee-hosting communities in the north of the country
• A cash-for-work program to build skills and improve conditions for over 4,000 camp residents
• 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
• Shelters and blankets for over 5,200 displaced people in the Azaz region near Aleppo.

Myanmar

Conflict, underdevelopment, and natural disasters have made conditions in parts of Myanmar unbearable. Poverty, malnutrition, and disease characterize life for the marginalized Rohingya people of Rakhine State. In 2016, our work to improve conditions for all social groups in Rakhine included:

• Operating five health posts, three mobile clinics, and two nutrition centers
• Providing medical supplies and building improvements at two clinics, and training for 273 birth attendants and 310 health workers

In Myanmar:

Uganda

Around half a million people displaced by the ongoing conflict and instability in South Sudan sought refuge in Uganda in 2016. To help support refugees and local people, Malteser International teams in Uganda:

• Provided 13 wells to give around 60,000 refugees access to clean water
• Distributed menstrual hygiene kits to 2,000 girls so they no longer have to miss school
• Provided support and renovation for a maternity ward to allow mothers to give birth in safety.

Myanmar:

Haiti

Hurricane Matthew left many communities in Haiti bearing the long-term consequences of natural disasters. In 2016, Malteser International had been working in the country since 2010, meaning that our staff were able to react within hours to help the affected people:

• Helping with clearance work to re-open streets and drainage channels
• Providing cash assistance to almost 900 members of vulnerable fishing communities who lost their livelihoods in the storm
• Distributing hygiene kits to help 1,200 families lower the risk of diseases like cholera.

In Haiti