



SOVRANO MILITARE ORDINE OSPEDALIERO
DI SAN GIOVANNI DI GERUSALEMME DI RODI E DI MALTA

WHO 78th World Health Assembly - 21 May 2025

Dr. Josef D. Blotz
Grand Hospitaller of the Sovereign Military Hospitaller
Order of St John of Jerusalem of Rhodes and of Malta

Distinguished Chair:

The Sovereign Order of St John of Jerusalem, known as the Order of Malta, is a catholic lay religious Order. It has medical and humanitarian activities in 120 countries on six continents. We are hospitallers, neutral by mission, and serving without distinction with our 170.000 members, volunteers and staff.

The Order is modern by tradition, for over nine centuries, we have adapted, endured, and served: not guided by an agenda, but by the simple call to help the poor and the sick. Wherever people are in need, we are there, providing assistance with our ambulance corps, in our hospitals, clinics and other medical-social facilities.

This past year has proven, once again, that our presence can make the difference. To name but a few, in the Holy Land, our long-standing commitment to peace and care continues amidst unimaginable suffering. Between June and December 2024, 35,000 people from all communities in northern Gaza were supported through the delivery of food supplies.

In Ukraine, a land battered by war, we have extended our operations from emergency relief to long-term rehabilitation and psychological trauma support. Our relief efforts reach 64 cities from frontline cities such as Kharkiv to the borders with Poland, Hungary, Slovakia, and Romania, where the Order of Malta has supported over 4 million people.

Following the recent earthquake in central Myanmar, the Order of Malta, through its international relief agency, Malteser International, is delivering urgent medical care, psychosocial support, and public health services to affected communities. With hospitals overwhelmed and infrastructure damaged, our teams in Yangon and Shan State are addressing critical health needs, including access to clean water and sanitation to prevent disease outbreaks. The Order has been active in Myanmar since 1996.

And we are committed, always, to placing human dignity at the centre of every action.

Thank you.