



SOVEREIGN MILITARY ORDER OF MALTA

PERMANENT OBSERVER MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

215 EAST 67TH STREET, 4TH FLOOR, NEW YORK, NY 10017

TEL: (212) 473-6215 FAX: (212) 475-1011

E-MAIL: UN.MISSION@SOVEREIGNMILITARYORDEROFMALTA.ORG

STATEMENT BY
FRA' NICOLA TEGONI
LEGAL COUNSELLOR OF
**THE PERMANENT OBSERVER MISSION OF THE SOVEREIGN ORDER OF
MALTA TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

TO THE SIXTH COMMITTEE
“PROTECTION OF PERSONS IN EVENT OF DISASTERS”

01 NOVEMBER, 2018

(Check Against Delivery)

Mr. Chairman,

The Sovereign Order of Malta, one of the oldest institutions in the world, is active in 120 countries caring for people in need through its medical, social and humanitarian works. Day-to-Day, its broad spectrum of social projects provides a constant support for forgotten or excluded members of society. It is especially involved in helping people living in the midst of armed conflicts and natural disasters by providing medical assistance, caring for refugees, and distributing medicines and basic equipment for survival. As it pertains to disaster relief, the Order focuses upon providing Disaster Risk Reduction by implementing measures to ensure communities are prepared when disasters occur.

Recent emergency interventions have taken place in Indonesia where an emergency response team from the Order of Malta's worldwide relief agency, Malteser International, has been deployed to help the victims of the September 28, 2018 violent earthquake and tsunami. The decision followed the Indonesian government's appeal for international aid to deal with the aftermath of the disaster. Malteser International emergency response team consists of specialist doctors, paramedics, nurses, and logisticians as well as experts in the provision of clean water, safe hygiene, and sanitation. The Order of Malta's worldwide relief agency has a long history providing emergency relief in the aftermath of natural disasters in Indonesia, including the 2004 tsunami.

Other recent disaster relief interventions have taken place in Guatemala in the aftermath of the Fuego Volcano eruption. The Order of Malta's Guatemalan Association intervened immediately after the emergency and assisted over 500 displaced persons while managing shelters and setting up mobile clinics to provide medical and psychological support to people who have lost family members and their homes. Essential supplies, food, and hygiene kits were distributed to the population and Malteser International also provided emergency aid. In addition, in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico, Malteser International and the Order's Puerto Rican delegation joined efforts in working to improve water, sanitation, and hygiene conditions for the most affected communities, and in providing many thousands warm meals, food packets, and bottles of drinking water.

Other recent emergency interventions by the Order of Malta have taken place in Nepal after severe earthquakes, the Philippines devastated by Typhoon Haiyan, and the Horn of Africa struck by famine and across Europe where our Relief Corps respond to floods and extreme weather. Long-term sustainable development projects are ongoing in regions of Asia and Haiti.

With over 100 projects in 20 countries throughout Africa, Asia and the Americas, Malteser International provides emergency relief after disasters and supports recovery efforts with a focus on sustainable development. "For nearly 60 years, Malteser International has been standing by those affected by poverty, disease, conflict and disaster, helping them lead a healthy life with dignity – without distinction of religion, race or political persuasion.

The international network of the Order of Malta plays an essential role in Malteser International's work, allowing the relief agency to help people in need quickly and efficiently.

Through a close collaboration with local communities, national and international partners as well as donors, the relief agency ensures its projects are sustainable and efficient. Transparency, accountability and the compliance with international standards of humanitarian aid are the fundamental basis for the quality of its programmes.

Malteser International supports long-term and future-oriented development by combining short-term relief measures with a holistic and sustainable approach in the following areas:

1. Providing emergency relief after disasters, helping communities rebuild and recover;
2. Establishing and promoting primary health care services and nutrition programmes;
3. Ensuring access to drinking water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH);
4. Helping people secure their livelihoods through social programs that reduce vulnerability and poverty;
5. Reducing the risks of disaster, especially at the community level.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.