



SOVEREIGN ORDER OF MALTA

PERMANENT OBSERVER MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS
AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN VIENNA

Sovereign Order of Malta
Statement by H. E. Ambassador Günther A. Granser
Permanent Observer to the United Nations and other
International Organizations

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Chair, distinguished delegates,

The Sovereign Order of Malta, as a predecessor of today's international humanitarian institutions, is actively demonstrating the humanitarian commitment that inspired its founding over nine centuries ago. Its long experience, ability to adapt to the present without renouncing its initial vocations and its social and humanitarian activities all over the world have earned the Order universal respect.

The Order has provided its experience and engagement especially in assisting displaced and refugee's population and we support social humanitarian actions conducted by our national associations and our worldwide relief agency "Malteser International". From the beginning of the Syrian crisis in 2011, more than 100.000 people, mostly displaced Syrians and Iraqi refugees as well as vulnerable host communities within Lebanon, have received extensive health care, food, hygiene kits and winter items. Since 2014, a Mobile Medical Unit operates in the Akkar area at the northern border with Syria.

A similar operation has been implemented in the West Bekaa area, where with 35% the highest concentration of the displaced population lives. A recent project has been launched in the hospital of Baalbeck-Deir Al Ahmar, aiming to provide health care for refugees and hosting communities by improving the health structures in Lebanon. In addition, all our community Health Centers across the country are providing socio-medical assistance.

Concluding, we face a crime wave that has become a security crisis. Making better use of international instruments to enforce the rule of law where uncivil society prevails, should be the way to fight organized crime.

Thank you for your attention.