



MI

Order of Malta
Worldwide Relief



Malteser International
Program Asia

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Dear friends and partners of MI,

The Asia-Pacific region faces numerous challenges, including earthquakes, typhoons, floods, tsunamis, volcanoes, and droughts, making it the world's most disaster-prone area. Climate change exacerbates these issues, threatening sustainable development. Additionally, we bear witness to numerous internal conflicts that result in flight, displacement, and humanitarian emergencies.

At Malteser International (MI), we aim to alleviate suffering caused by conflict, disaster, displacement, or critical health conditions, and foster community resilience to empower individuals to live a life of health and dignity.

This publication highlights some of our programs in Asia, made possible by invaluable local and national partners and strong international networks. We express heartfelt gratitude to all donors and supporters for their unwavering support.

Yours sincerely,
Cordula Wasser
Head of Regional Group Asia



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MISSION STATEMENT

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

We deploy our experts in crisis situations, conflict-ridden areas, during natural disasters and epidemics around the world. We intervene to provide medical and mental health support, clean water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), food, protection, and shelter where possible. We take a holistic approach to health in our programming, which includes the protection of nature. We work with local resources and engage local partners, as well as the Order of Malta’s global network, to provide rapid and effective responses in even the most remote locations.

People are at the center of our assistance. Our goal is to sustainably increase the resilience of those affected the most by disasters. We are also committed to contributing to the achievement of the UN Sustainable Develop-

ment Goals. In doing so, we extend our support to all individuals in need regardless of gender, political belief, origin, or faith.

Christian values and the humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality, and independence are the foundation of our work. We are committed to the highest levels of innovation, professionalism, quality, and transparency. Driven by our values, and thanks to our over 65 years of experience, we remain a trustworthy organization for our donors, partners and most importantly, for the people we serve. Through our work we experience joy, find greater meaning, and a sense of belonging among like-minded individuals.

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.

MI IN ASIA

MI began its humanitarian work in Asia in 1966 during the Vietnam War, providing medical assistance to internally displaced persons (IDPs). Since then, MI has maintained a continuous presence in various Asian countries, responding to displacement crises and natural disasters. Furthermore, MI has taken a long-term approach to helping crisis-affected populations build resilience.

On average, in the last three years we directly reached around 545,000 people with approximately 44 projects in 10 Asian countries with a budget of 14,4 million euros per year. MI has established its own program implementation structures in Myanmar, Thailand, and Pakistan, employing program management and technical experts in core sectors such as health, WASH, disaster risk reduction, food and nutrition security, and emergency relief, complemented by partner program advisors who provide guidance to our local partners.

In countries with strong local partners, such as Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, the Philippines, Nepal, and Indonesia, MI works exclusively through these local organizations, providing institutional, management, and technical support.

MI's past and current presence in Asia



HOW WE WORK

Cooperation with local actors and promotion of locally-led response

MI in Asia aims to be as local as possible and as international as necessary, emphasizing the promotion of local solutions to local challenges through local stakeholders. This means that whenever feasible, we prioritize engaging local actors in project implementation, and we are dedicated to enhancing the quality of our partnerships. We prioritize investing in the support of local actors and value the exchange of expertise between MI and our local partners.

Our collaborations extend to civil society organizations (NGOs), the Associations of the Order of Malta, national and sub-national governments, as well as locally-led self-help groups and community-based initiatives within affected communities. These partnerships are built on trust and are nurtured over the long term.

People centeredness

We embrace a people-centered approach that prioritizes empowering individuals to discover and express their own solutions within an environment of transparency, trust, and respect. This approach is exemplified through actively involving individuals in the design and leadership of our programs.



Lah Ku Paw is a resident of a refugee camp in Thailand where MI implements a Health and WASH project that trains refugees for jobs in the health and water, sanitation, and hygiene sectors. She has received medical training from MI in 2011 and has been Midwife in Charge at the camp clinic since 2018.

© Jana Ašenbrennerová

Quality and accountability

We are dedicated to upholding rigorous standards of quality and accountability in all of our work. Continual improvement is a core value, driving us to enhance these standards wherever possible.

Our commitment to maintaining high program quality is evidenced by our regular monitoring efforts and the commissioning of external evaluations. Additionally, we employ a robust financial control system and internal auditing procedures to oversee all of our projects, both domestically and internationally.

In pursuit of these goals, we adhere to a comprehensive set of national and international Codes and Standards.

Core Humanitarian Standard on Quality and Accountability

The Code of Conduct: Principles of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and NGOs in Disaster Response Programs

The Sphere Project: Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response

The VENRO Code of Conduct on Transparency, Organisational Management and Monitoring

The twelve basic rules of humanitarian aid, as agreed by the the German Federal Foreign Office's Humanitarian Aid Coordinating Committee



* Replica/Mock-up of "The Nine Principles of the Core Humanitarian Standard on Quality and Accountability" (© Core Humanitarian Standard 2024).

Learn more about how MI works:





Installation of water pipes
for a refugee camp in Thailand.
© Malteser International

WHAT WE DO

We focus on the following sectors: Health, Water Sanitation Hygiene (WASH), Food Nutrition Security and Livelihood (FNSL), Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), Climate Change and Environment.

Enhancing health and well-being

Improving healthcare and public health is a cornerstone of MI's strategy in Asia. This encompasses preventive measures and promoting healthy behaviors, strengthening healthcare systems through training of professionals and volunteers, rehabilitating healthcare infrastructure and establishing health information systems. We provide mental health and psychosocial support, prevent epidemic outbreaks, and implement integrated programs to connect health with WASH, nutrition, and the environment.

Access to clean water, sanitation facilities, and hygiene

45 percent of the Asian population lack access to sanitation, so there is a crucial need for highly effective and affordable solutions that communities can scale up themselves. Our portfolio includes various services and projects such as installing water supply systems, providing access to sanitation facilities, implementing innovative and cost-efficient sanitation solutions (e.g., CLTS, sanitation marketing), promoting hygiene education, and managing solid waste.

Strong partners in Food Nutrition Security and Livelihood

Given the multifaceted nature of malnutrition, addressing it requires a comprehensive approach. MI provides sustainable livelihood interventions with programs including food and agriculture initiatives to ensure year-round availability of safe foods, capacity-building for households in need to access these foods and meet other needs, provision of balanced diet information, and income generation for integrated, demand-driven support to local communities.

Experts on Disaster Risk Reduction

Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) is an integral component of all our projects. MI's initiatives primarily focus on the following areas: enhancing understanding of disaster risk, strengthening local disaster risk management institutions, improving disaster preparedness for more effective responses, advocating for inclusive DRR at national and international levels.

Protecting our common home

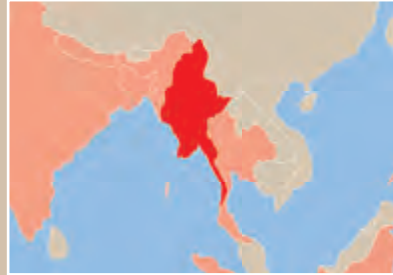
MI programs contribute to environmental protection and climate change adaptation and mitigation in development and humanitarian contexts. We also try to reduce our own ecological footprint and compensate for carbon emissions from international flights.

Planting watermelon seedlings in district Nuwakot, Nepal, as part of a resilience building project.
© Jana Ašenbrennerová



Myanmar

Health and Resilience for People in Need



As of 2024, more than a third of Myanmar's population needs humanitarian aid. Coping capacities and disaster resilience are stretched to the limit as poverty levels revert to 15-year highs while agriculture disruptions and rapid inflation worsen food access. The healthcare system has collapsed, millions are without access to clean water or sanitation. Children, women, people with disabilities and ethnic minorities are hit hardest, often additionally facing displacement, disrupted education, and protection risks.

MI has been operating in Myanmar since 1996. With currently over 250 local staff based in Yangon and program locations in Rakhine, Shan, and Kayin States, projects are carried out directly and in collaboration with local partners for broader reach and long-term impact.

Our support is centered around:

- Improving access to quality primary healthcare services and training of health staff
- Offering TB and Malaria prevention, treatment and control programs, and HIV treatment and support
- Providing mental health and psychological support
- Setting up comprehensive Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) facilities
- Providing livelihood opportunities in agriculture
- Community based inclusive disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation solutions
- Supplying timely relief in the aftermath of disasters

Learn more about our work in Myanmar:



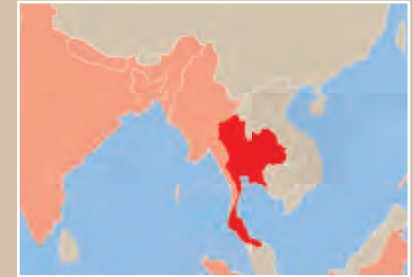
Disaster Risk Reduction training in Rakhine, Myanmar
© Malteser International



Nan Yin Yin Mya, 39, midwife supervisor, explains life-saving measures in the event of a complication during labour to midwives at Mae Ra Ma Luang camp.
© Jana Ašenbrennerová

Thailand

Health and WASH Service Provision by Refugees



Since 1993, MI has been implementing a comprehensive Health and WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) project for displaced and marginalized communities from Myanmar. Approximately 20,000 individuals live in two camps – Mae Ra Ma Luang and Mae La Oon – on the Thai-Myanmar border. The project focuses on empowering refugees to take care of their own health needs.

Refugees are offered training opportunities to provide various healthcare services like:

- Medical and nursing care
- Health screenings
- Psycho-social support
- Disease prevention
- Prenatal and postnatal care

Additionally, the project includes activities to improve water, sanitation and hygiene, such as:

- Building and maintaining water and sanitation facilities
- Waste management
- Soap production
- Hygiene awareness campaigns

MI staff oversee the project, providing training, medicines, supplies, and equipment, and organizing referrals to Thai hospitals for patients in need of further care.

Learn more about our work in Thailand:



Bangladesh

Health and Livelihoods for Refugees and Host Communities



The violence in Myanmar in August 2017 led to the mass displacement of Rohingya people, with now (2024) over 900,000 residing in cramped camps in Bangladesh's Cox's Bazar district. This has affected the local Bangladeshi population, leading to job losses and land use issues. Bangladesh also faces challenges from natural disasters and climate change, resulting in widespread displacement and poverty.

Since 2017, MI has been working in Bangladesh through local partners. One partner delivers essential healthcare and emergency relief within and around the refugee camps, while four others focus on enhancing the resilience of host communities and vulnerable communities across northern, western, and eastern Bangladesh.

Through these partnerships, MI provides:

- Primary healthcare, maternal and child health services
- Psychosocial support
- Health and hygiene education
- Emergency funding for disasters
- Skills training for women to start income-generating activities
- Climate-resilient income-generation activities

Additionally, we strengthen our local partner organizations in project planning and management, emergency preparedness and response as well as institutional development.

Learn more about our work in Bangladesh:



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Pakistan

Holistic Support During Crises and Disaster



Pakistan faces significant challenges from natural disasters and climate change, particularly floods and earthquakes, which disrupt the lives and livelihoods of millions. In 2022, floods affected 33 million people. Malnutrition rates of children under five years of age are quite dire; nearly 10 million Pakistani children suffer from stunting. Additionally, Pakistan hosts over three million Afghan refugees due to instability in Afghanistan. MI is active in Pakistan since the 2005 earthquake and provides relief through its teams or local partners.

Either with its own MI teams or with experienced local partner organizations, the following relief is provided:

Integrated, holistic health services, addressing livelihood, nutrition and WASH needs of Afghan refugees and host communities via the operation of six basic health care facilities and training of health staff

Disaster Risk Reduction and Anticipatory Humanitarian Action to enhance the resilience of crises and disaster affected populations

Providing life-saving assistance like health services, food, non-food-items and cash to people affected by crises and disasters

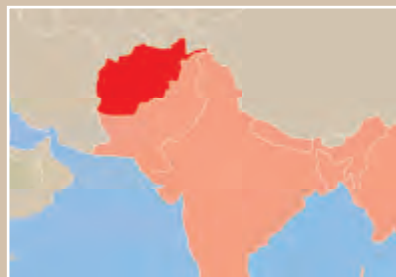
Resilience strengthening and livelihood programs for disaster affected vulnerable communities

Learn more about our work in Pakistan:



Afghanistan

Health and Emergency Relief for Crisis Affected Population



Afghanistan, one of the world's poorest nations, has endured over 40 years of war, violence and terrorism. Since the Taliban took power in 2021, the economic situation dramatically deteriorated. Almost all basic services collapsed, leaving 60 percent of the population in urgent need of humanitarian aid. Around a third of the Afghan people continually face acute food insecurity, with children under five years of age especially at risk of severe malnourishment. After the earthquake in Herat Province on October 7th, 2023, 114,000 people were in urgent need of additional emergency relief aid.

With our local partner organization, we provide:

- Comprehensive health care in six basic health stations
- Training of health workers
- Maternal and child health services (prenatal and postnatal care, obstetric care, immunization of children under one year of age)
- Education and information campaigns on infant and young child feeding
- Establishment of village health committees
- Training of volunteers and community health workers
- Health education for the community
- Emergency relief and rehabilitation for earthquake affected people

Learn more about our work in Afghanistan:



© Union Aid



Our project in Rajasthan trains women to teach and inform other women about agricultural techniques, hygiene, and government programs.
© Jana Ašenbrennerová

India

Reaching the Most Vulnerable



India, with one of the world's fastest-growing economies, still struggles with inequality, as nearly a fifth of the population lives on less than two dollars a day. A quarter of the world's undernourished people live in India, facing limited access to healthcare and safe water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH), especially in rural areas and among marginalized communities. Since 1989, MI has been working with local partners in India to address poverty through community-led development.

Currently MI supports local partner organizations in Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, and Tamil Nadu. The partners implement:

- Education campaigns and awareness-raising activities on healthy nutrition and WASH
- Ensuring access of socially vulnerable communities to the benefits of government-run social programs on food security and health
- Training of women farmers on climate resilient and improved cultivation methods and livestock rearing
- Capacity development, local advocacy and local awareness for Making Rights Real in the WASH Sector
- Income generation for women and environmental protection through plastic recycling
- Improvement of WASH facilities
- Establishment and strengthening of local Disaster Risk Management

Learn more about our work in India:



Nepal

Strengthening Resilience of Communities

In Nepal, a quarter of the population lives below the poverty line, with many relying on subsistence farming. Around 35 percent of the children under five continually suffer from malnutrition. The country is also highly affected by natural disasters and climate change.



The activities of MI in Nepal started in 2012. Since then, we have responded to multiple crises, like the Earthquake in 2015, and provided a range of support to people in rural Nepal. We aim to strengthen the resilience of the population and prepare the communities for future natural disasters by holistic community-development programs. All projects are implemented by experienced and specialized local partner organizations.

Our partners provide:

- Psycho-social care and trauma counseling for individuals with mental health conditions
- School programs on mental health and psycho-social well-being
- Training on disaster preparedness in schools and communities
- Livelihood and income generation for women through the establishment of income generation groups and conducting agricultural trainings
- Improved access to water supply, sanitation and hygiene

Learn more about our work in Nepal:



Lokbahadur Situala oversees the training center for mushroom farmers in Nuwakot.
© Jana Ašenbrennerová



Income generation and environment protection: the “Womenpreneurs4Plastic” project has a wide range
© Malteser International

Indonesia

Community-driven Disaster Response and Rehabilitation



Indonesia is one of the most disaster-prone countries in the world, regularly experiencing earthquakes, tsunamis, landslides, volcanic eruptions, flooding, and drought. Poverty, population growth and rapid urbanization exacerbate these vulnerabilities along with climate change.

MI and local partners offer immediate emergency relief during disasters, saving lives and easing suffering. Simultaneously, partners focus on reducing overall disaster risks and enhancing community resilience. This includes empowering communities to respond effectively to disasters.

MI works through experienced local partners who:

- Provide lifesaving emergency relief
- Improve living conditions
- Offer disaster risk reduction training and equipment
- Promote awareness and access to water, sanitation and hygiene
- Create income opportunities (especially for women)
- Promote income generation for poor women by plastic recycling

These efforts aim to build long-term resilience, and support communities in facing and overcoming the impacts of disasters.

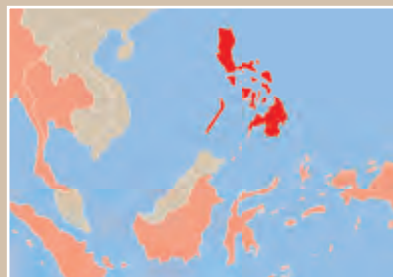
Learn more about our work in Indonesia:



Philippines

Emergency Relief and WASH

The Philippines are highly vulnerable to natural disasters like tropical storms, typhoons, earthquakes, floods and droughts. Widespread lack of access to sanitation and safe water is worsened by frequent catastrophes. Distinct income disparities among the population compound the precarious humanitarian situation.



MI and our partner, the Order of Malta Philippines (OMP), respond to disasters, providing emergency aid to vulnerable communities. Additionally, we work together to enhance community resilience through Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) interventions, income generation, and disaster risk reduction efforts.

This collaborative approach aims to empower and support vulnerable communities in preparing for and mitigating the impacts of natural disasters by:

- Responding to natural disasters
- Building water and sanitation facilities
- Conducting hygiene awareness campaigns in communities and schools
- Providing training in disaster preparedness and development of disaster risk reduction plans
- Raising awareness on waste management, capacity-building for waste segregation and recycling
- Reforestation
- Fostering income generation for poor women through business development in plastic recycling

Learn more about our work in the Philippines:



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Regional & Global Programs

ToGETHER! – “Towards a Greater Effectiveness and Timeliness in Humanitarian Emergency Response”

Together with Welthungerhilfe, Caritas International and Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe, MI supports eight countries and 40 local partner organizations in their joint effort to put the localization of humanitarian aid into practice. The program fosters capacity building in emergency aid and crisis prevention, coordination and finances, and representation of local interests. In Asia, the program is being implemented in Bangladesh, Indonesia, Myanmar, and Pakistan; MI has the operational lead in Myanmar as well as Bangladesh.

The main components of the program are:

- Capacity strengthening and sharing
- Exchange, learning and advocacy for localized humanitarian aid
- Strengthening the leadership role of local actors
- Funding of emergency response through a “Humanitarian Operation and Innovation Facility”

“ToGETHER!” is funded by the German Federal Foreign Office.

Learn more about ToGETHER!:



Disability inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction Network (DiDRRN)

MI is co-founder and member of this coalition of Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (OPDs) as well as mainstream development and relief organizations, which aims to promote the active involvement of disabled individuals in Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) policies and practices. DiDRRN’s work is crucial in addressing the disproportionate impact of disasters on persons with disabilities and strives to create more equitable outcomes in DRR.

The program:

- Promotes collaboration and knowledge-sharing among diverse organizations and stakeholders
- Indicates challenges faced by disabled individuals in disaster situations, such as accessibility and communication barriers
- Ensures access to vital information and resources for people with disabilities
- Advocates for the inclusion of disabled individuals in decision-making processes
- Fosters resilience, inclusion and equity in communities

Through these measures, persons with disabilities are empowered to prepare for and respond to disasters effectively. MI implements in the framework of DiDRRN inclusive disaster risk reduction programs in Myanmar, Uganda, and Columbia.

Learn more about DiDRRN:





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Global Program

WASH

Through its ongoing Global WASH program, MI is expanding its focus on promoting the human right to access safely managed water and sanitation.

Approaches such as Making Rights Real (MMR) and WASH Systems Strengthening are at the center of our cross-regional WASH Program in India, Nepal, and Uganda. In the participating countries, MI focuses on:

Strengthening local government authorities: by building their capacity, promoting better WASH delivery methods, and sharing knowledge
Boosting Civil Society Organizations (CSOs): via advocacy and by raising awareness, building capacity, learning, coordination, and exchanging information

Empowering communities: by raising awareness, sharing information, networking, and developing their capacities

Enhancing knowledge and collaboration: by sharing information at the national and international level, raising awareness and advocacy, and capacity building

Learn more about our global wash program:



Partners

Association For Alternative Development (AFAD)
Catholic Health Association India (CHAI)
Centre for Disability in Development (CDD)
Gonoshasthaya Kendra (GK)
Koshish
Mukti Foundation
Order of Malta Philippines
Programme For Helpless and Lagged Societies (PHALS)
ProVision
Pusat Kajian dan Perlindungan Anak (PKPA)

Rural Self-reliance Development Centre (RSDC)
Sahbhagi Shikshan Kendra (SSK)
Sindh Rural Support Organization (SRSO)
Union Aid
Unnati: Organisation for Development Education
Women Empowerment Organization (WEO)
Yakkum Emergency Unit (YEU)



© Union Aid

THANK YOU

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German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development
GIZ: Deutsche Gesellschaft für internationale Zusammenarbeit
Global Fund
International Organization for Migration (IOM)
Save the Children
Stiftung Indien – Kinderhilfe
UNICEF
US Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (BPRM)
World Child Future Foundation (WCFF)
World Food Program (WFP)



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