



**SOVEREIGN MILITARY HOSPITALLER ORDER  
OF ST. JOHN OF JERUSALEM OF RHODES AND OF MALTA**

**PERMANENT OBSERVER MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE  
AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN GENEVA**

**Human Rights Council - 44th session – Agenda Item 3  
Interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the  
human rights of internally displaced persons  
Statement by Mr. Marco Pangallo, Attaché  
Geneva, 8 July 2020**

Madam President,  
Madam High Commissioner,  
Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

The Sovereign Order of Malta thanks the Special Rapporteur for drawing attention to the serious topic of the obstacles faced by persons with disabilities in the context of displacement and the importance of ensuring their inclusive protection, assistance through durable solutions.

Of the 6.8 million IDPs affected by conflict and violence in 2019 a certain number are disabled. Forced displacements exacerbate and expose persons with disabilities to an increased risk of injury, lack of access to medical services and create new barriers in the environment. These barriers have a major impact on their right to participate in society on an equal basis without discrimination, and more generally to the full enjoyment of their human rights.

The Order of Malta is deeply concerned by the impossibility of internally displaced women, men, children and older people with disabilities to access the basic health care, food, shelter and support they need to survive in displacement situations.

The Order's Associations and its worldwide relief agency for humanitarian aid, Malteser International, are strongly committed to the protection of IDPs with disabilities.

In Uganda, more particularly in Kampala, the Order works to reduce mother and child mortality offering support for mothers with disabled children. In Burundi's provinces of Rutana, Makamba and Muyinga, afflicted by an increasing number of refugees coming from the overcrowded refugee camps in Tanzania, we support returnees and residents offering psychological and psychiatric care.

In 23 countries on the European continent the Order has volunteer corps providing medical care for IDPs and immigrants, as well as first aid at major events.

In the East-Asia region, Malteser International implemented nearly sixty projects in eight countries aimed at ensuring basic medical care targeted to vulnerable segments of society, including IDPs, refugees and disabled persons.

Finally, since 2013 Malteser International has been working from Turkey in collaboration with Syrian organizations to provide medical care for the IDPs and Syrian refugees. Malteser International provides medical and social care, built a hospital and four primary health care clinics in IDP camps situated at the borders between Turkey and Syria.

The Order of Malta fully supports the Special Rapporteur's general recommendations and calls on humanitarian actors to implement, wherever possible, her proposals for Participation and durable Solutions.