

# COVID-19 Activity Report

October 2021



St John

Malta

The past year has been a most extraordinary year for St John Malta. The COVID-19 pandemic had a significant impact on the organisation just as it has had on everyone else.

The stoppage of events, group gatherings and the disruption to the normal routines meant that St John Malta had to find new ways to deliver and live up to its mission. We have done this in different ways at various stages of the pandemic.

## Foodbank Deliveries

At the initial stages of the pandemic the disruption to business led to a number of foreign workers losing their jobs whilst being unable to travel back to their countries due to the prevailing travel restrictions. St John Malta's Rescue Corps played an active role in supporting affected families through a collaboration with Foodbank Lifeline Foundation to deliver food supplies to such families in difficulty.



## Contact Tracing in COVID-19

At a later stage of the pandemic, St John volunteers, were engaged in the contact tracing of COVID-19 patients. This was carried out in collaboration with the Malta Health Network and our volunteers contributed over 300 hours of contact tracing services.



## Vaccination Programme

As the vaccination drive began, our volunteers were also involved in the process concerning the distribution and administration of the vaccines. St John volunteers were provided with the necessary training by the authorities in order that they could be able to assist in the national effort.



## First Aid Training

The demand for First Aid training was also interrupted. At this time, our training branch embarked on a number of projects to address this new situation.

## Adaptation of First Aid courses

The COVID-19 restrictions served as a catalyst to adapt our conventional First Aid course to be delivered in a blended modality. We started delivering the knowledge / theoretical component of our courses online and organised the practical and assessment sessions in class. The in-class sessions were limited to 6 persons at any given time. Online lectures were delivered via Zoom whilst an

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e-learning platform based on Moodle was also installed.

## **Refurbished Training Facilities at Headquarters**

During the second half of 2020 we started the first phase of the refurbishment project of our Headquarters in Valletta. A new lease agreement on the premises has enabled us to start making the required investments on the property. We took the opportunity of the reduced training activity at the premises due to COVID by starting off with the setting up of a new and very welcoming training room for both our trainers and course participants.



## **New Online Course Conflict Resolution: Addressing Divisions of Identity**

In collaboration with the Organisation for Identity + Cultural Development Institute, we have launched a new online course Conflict Resolution: Addressing Divisions of Identity.

## **Civil Protection Support**

Throughout all this period, our services in support of Civil Protection continued uninterrupted. We provided firefighting assistance to various grass fire incidents and other major fire incidents.



As tourism reopened, we also continued to provide our lifeguard services and provided fire prevention services at various cultural events.