

News from the Network

Read the weekly bulletin of our member from Jerusalem

Since 7th October, the hostilities in Gaza, Israel and the West Bank has caused large numbers of civilian deaths and injuries. The St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group is releasing a weekly bulletin with the aim to provide the latest information about the crisis and its impacts on the St John expert eye-care services in Gaza, the West Bank and East Jerusalem. Read the weekly bulletin on the following [link](#).

Update on humanitarian aid for Ukraine

As the war in Ukraine continues so does our network's solidarity: our members provide immediate emergency relief to Ukraine, transport services, as well as accommodation and support to refugees. Johanniter Austria now focuses on individual support for internally displaced people in Carpathian-Ukraine. Together with its local partners, they are delivering supplies to help the people through the cold Ukrainian winter such as sleeping bags, blankets, gas stoves, solar lamps and much more. Johanniter Germany is providing additional individual social support and voluntary repatriation of MEDEVAC patients from Ukraine. This is carried out as a project funded by the European Union Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) and the German Federal Foreign Office. Read more about the activities under News from the Members and for all updates on our network's activity for Ukraine click [here](#).



Johanniter Austria and Germany start Christmas trucker action

The 20th of November marked the start of the collection of parcels for people in need in Southeastern Europe by our [Austrian](#) and [German](#) members. Within the frame of the 'Weihnachtstrucker' (Christmas trucker), parcels have been driven and delivered by Johanniter volunteers in close cooperation with their local partner organisations in the target countries for 30 years. The parcels can be packed by everyone with listed food and hygiene products and small gifts to reach disadvantaged families, schools and kindergarten, people with disabilities, soup kitchens, elderly and children's homes. The additional option to donate allows anyone to contribute quickly and easily to packing parcels and sending a sign of hope. The parcels will reach people in Albania,



Bosnia, Bulgaria, Romania, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine. Johanniter Germany is also giving to disadvantaged people in Germany.

News from the Members

Austria: 25 years emergency care service

On 23rd November, the Johanniter emergency care service celebrated its 25th anniversary. What started in 1998 with a five-person team working on weekends became the emergency care service available around the clock every day, and an indispensable part of Vienna's healthcare system. The emergency care service team of qualified nurses and paramedics is on duty 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, at short notice when care is needed - whenever a care service cannot be organised, or caregivers or caregiving relatives suddenly fall ill and no replacement is available. This avoids unnecessary and stressful hospital stays and, of course, saves costs in the healthcare system. Read more (in German) [here](#).



Denmark: fundraising concert for homeless people

On 14th November, our Danish member held a fundraising concert in the Holmens Church in Copenhagen. This was the eighth time that Johanniterhjælpen held its annual fundraising concert. The church is made available for these concerts at no cost. Likewise, the acclaimed pianist Jesper René performed pro bono and played pieces by Bach, Beethoven, Brahms, Chopin and Debussy. The full revenue from ticket sales, as well as donations, went to 'Morgencafé', an activity which provides various free services for homeless people, such as facilities, food, doctors and nurses, and occasional legal advice.



England: HRH The Princess Royal celebrates St John Young Achievers

On 22nd November, young volunteers who have saved lives, shown exceptional bravery, or overcome difficult personal circumstances, were recognised by HRH The Princess Royal at St John Ambulance's annual Young Achievers awards. The special event, held at the Priory Church in London, celebrated St John Ambulance Badgers (ages 5-10), Cadets (ages 11-17), and young carers who have made outstanding contributions in their communities. During the reception, The Princess Royal, who is Commandant-in-Chief - Youth of St John Ambulance, spoke with dozens of young people who had travelled from across the country and heard directly how their actions have positively impacted those around them. Read more [here](#).



Germany: Additional Individual Social Support and Voluntary

Repatriation of MEDEVAC Patients from Ukraine

Since the start of the armed conflict, more than 850 seriously injured and ill patients from Ukraine have been brought to Germany for treatment via the EU Civil Protection Mechanism and distributed to German hospitals via the MEDEVAC mechanism. Since September 2022, Johanniter and four other major German aid organisations have been supporting this medical aid with additional individual social support and voluntary repatriation for patients. The project is being implemented in close cooperation with the Federal Ministry of the Interior and Homeland, the Federal Ministry of Health, and the Federal Office of Civil Protection and Disaster Assistance. After the pilot phase was financed from federal budget funds, this year, the project was granted two-year funding from the European Union Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) and the Federal Foreign Office. So far, (as of November 2023) 265 patients from Ukraine have been accepted for supplementary social care throughout Germany and 86 people were repatriated (of which 40 were completed with AMIF funding). One year after the start of the support measures, representatives of the aid organizations and the federal ministries and authorities involved met in Berlin on 13th September to share their experiences to date. Read more (in German) [here](#)



News from Europe

MED1stMR third Field Trial in Sweden

From 16th to 20th October, the third MED1stMR Field Trial took place in Östersund, Sweden. The Swedish project partner 'Region Jämtland Härjedalen' hosted the training with the mixed reality training solution for medical first responders. The Field Trials let the end users experience the training sessions, allow the research partners to carry out the scientific studies and enable the technical partners to test the setup in the training environment. Each session ends with questionnaires and other research activities to learn about the levels and effects of stress during training. [Continue reading](#)



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