



News from the Network

JOIN Board meets online

On 19th February, the JOIN Board held an online meeting. In order to enrich discussions at the next AGM, the Board decided to prepare a survey for each member organisation to express its expectations. The survey will be circulated to the delegates ahead of the meeting, and all members will be encouraged to respond in plenty of time for the Board to analyse the results and prepare the next stages of consultation in time for the AGM. [Continue reading](#)

Two years of war in Ukraine: overview of assistance by Johanniter Germany

The war in Ukraine, which began on 24th February 2022, has brought destruction and suffering to millions of people. Two years later, more than 14 million Ukrainians who stayed or returned are dependent on aid. 7.9 million people have left the country, three million live there as internally displaced persons. Johanniter Germany and its large partner network implement targeted relief measures locally. Hundreds of Johanniter transporters with relief supplies have already reached Ukraine and neighbouring countries. Johanniter's partners provide people in frontline areas with building materials, food and hygiene products. In addition to essential supplies, Johanniter also offers psychological help, focusing its work increasingly on the mental health of local people. Four women's shelters are already being supported, where mothers and their children receive both refuge and psychological support. In Germany, Johanniter operates emergency shelters, catering, and medical and social care at over 70 locations. Read more about the work of [Johanniter Germany in Ukraine](#) and find our network's activities for Ukraine [here](#).



Emergency aid for displaced people from the border region with Israel

Since 8th October 2023, clashes between Israel and armed groups in Lebanon have also increased. Around 30,000 people have already fled to other regions of the country due to these fighting. The first port of call for many is Tyre, the first big city near the border. Here, as in many other cities in Lebanon, they are staying with relatives or in hastily set up shared accommodation. This increases the pressure on the population of the host communities. Johanniter and its partner Nabaa are supporting more than 11,000 displaced people with emergency aid packages. 750 families are receiving mattresses, blankets and food for the next two months. 500 families in shared accommodations are provided with hot meals every day, and 238 families are provided with cash assistance to buy medication or baby food. Furthermore, our readers are reminded that the St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group created a weekly bulletin to inform about the crisis and its impacts on its expert eye-care services in Gaza, the West Bank and East Jerusalem. The bulletin has changed to being updated monthly and informs about the state of the SJEHG staff and management, as well as the collaborations and preparations. Read the latest update from 20th February [here](#).



News from the Members

Germany: Johanniter assistance one year after earthquake in Syria and Turkey

On 6th February 2023, severe earthquakes with numerous aftershocks occurred in southern [Turkey](#) and north-western [Syria](#) causing tens of thousands of deaths and injured people. In Turkey, 2.3 million people and five million in neighbouring Syria became homeless and have been dependent on humanitarian aid ever since. One year on, millions of people still have to live in containers or tents and are dependent on support. Our German member's International Assistance is on site in both countries since the first days after the earthquake. In Gaziantep and Hatay, Johanniter set up soup kitchens and provided 80.000 meals to those affected, as well as 1.300 hygiene kits and 1.400 baby kits. Johanniter has also provided families with 5.000 vouchers for supermarkets to cover their basic needs. In Jindires and Afrin, Johanniter provided emergency aid and supplied the affected people with 34.000 hot meals, supported five hospitals with 2.000 litres of fuel for generators and patient transport. Building materials for 175 damaged houses, as well as vouchers and cash to buy everyday necessities. Together with BAHAR we are rebuilding damaged water tanks, supply roads and canals.



Poland: General Meeting elected new President

During its last General Meeting, our Polish member Joannici Dzieło Pomocy elected new authorities. Bishop Paweł Hause, Head of the Masurian Diocese of the Evangelical-Augsburg Church in Poland, became the new President. Special guests of the meeting were Herbert von Bose, Head of International Affairs of the Johanniterorden, and Götz-Georg von Randow, representing Johanniter Germany. The following day, a solemn church service was held in Warsaw. During the ceremony, the Cross of the Knights of Honour was received by former President Grzegorz Giemza. Read more (in Polish) [here](#).



News from Europe

Johanniter-led KnowEMS Project Kick-off in Madrid

On the occasion of the kick-off of the research project KnowEMS led by Johanniter Germany, the seven consortium partners met in Madrid in February. KnowEMS will create a strong network of Emergency Medical Services, including civil protection and public safety actors, to promote international cooperation and the exchange of knowledge. This will increase the effectiveness and interoperability of civil protection actors and facilitate better crisis preparedness and response. KnowEMS is funded by the European Union.



rescEU EMT workshop in Brussels

Interoperability, Joint Deployment and Joint Procurement were some of the main topics of the rescEU Emergency Medical Team (EMT) workshop on 22nd and 23rd February at the EU Commission's DG ECHO. The conception of these new rescEU EMT capacities by eight consortium partners under the lead of Johanniter Germany will build on the globally recognized standards of the WHO EMT initiative. The rescEU EMT project will strengthen the response capacity of the Union Civil Protection Mechanism with twenty-one new medical capacities and specialized care teams. These capacities can be deployed on their own or flexibly combined to form a joint pan-European field hospital. On 21st February, Johanniter Germany hosted a pre-workshop for the consortium in the premises of Johanniter International.



Register for the MED1stMR final conference

After three years, the [MED1stMR project](#) is coming to its end, and we invite you to join our Final Conference on 17th and 18th April 2024 in Ranst, Belgium, where we will present our findings and training solution. Join us to receive comprehensive insights into mixed reality medical first responder training and explore the promising horizons that lie ahead. Participants can virtualise mass casualty incident training and triage simulation for medical first responders and experience the future of virtual and haptic training. Registration, agenda and detailed information are available [here](#).



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