



SOVRANO MILITARE ORDINE OSPEDALIERO  
DI SAN GIOVANNI DI GERUSALEMME DI RODI E DI MALTA

### 34<sup>th</sup> IFRC General Assembly

#### **Speech of Ivo Graziani, Chief of Cabinet of the Grand Hospitaller, Minister of Health and International Cooperation of the Sovereign Order of Malta**

Distinguished Chair and honored Delegates,

Today, we gather under the theme of "The Power of Humanity." As the Chief of Cabinet of the Minister of Health and International Cooperation of the Sovereign Order of Malta, it is my honor to address the pressing challenges we face in the Near East, along with our ongoing commitments in Ukraine.

In our increasingly interconnected world, it has become evident that the globe is a smaller place than ever before. The challenges and crisis faced in one region can quickly resonate across borders, reminding us that we are all part of a shared human experience and in particular I refer to the last pandemic. However, with this interconnectedness comes a reality we cannot ignore: our resources are limited. It is our duty to preserve these resources for the future, ensuring they are available not only for our needs but for generations to come.

At the heart of our mission lies a holistic approach that embraces the principles of our Christian faith and humanitarian values. These elements are not just equal; they are intertwined, guiding our actions as we strive to serve those in need. The Sovereign Order of Malta stands as an impartial and neutral institution, free from political agendas, dedicated solely to alleviating human suffering regardless of religion and origin.

In Gaza, our cooperation with the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem is vital, providing support to more than 5,000 individuals who rely on us for basic needs such as food and hygiene items. I've been myself in May this year in Gaza City for the first delivery, what I saw with my eyes is beyond every worst scenario. Our efforts focus on delivering immediate assistance while fostering medical projects that empower communities with dignity.

In Lebanon, the Sovereign Order of Malta, is at the forefront of providing essential healthcare and social support services to the population. We operate a network of 60 projects focused on health, social assistance, and agro-humanitarian initiatives. In response to the internal displacement crisis, we have implemented various interventions. We have established a clinic in the Ain el Remmaneh shelter, offering medical consultations, supported by our dedicated teams across 9 centers and 6 Mobile Medical Units.

Turning to Ukraine, the ongoing conflict has resulted in immense human suffering, and we have supported over 4 million people through critical humanitarian assistance, including food, psychological support, medical supplies, and shelter from the very first day of the war. Our response is driven by compassion and solidarity during these challenging times.

As I stand before you today, I take this opportunity to express our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who has supported our mission. Your generosity and commitment enable us to provide essential aid and make a tangible difference in the lives of those in need. Together believing in the same principles, we can continue to be a beacon of hope, embodying the enduring spirit of compassion that transcends borders and cultures.

Thank you.