

# The Link



Sharing news from the Order of St John

## St John prepares the Caribbean for a disaster

Funding from the German Department of Foreign Affairs, The Johanniter and the Order Secretariat aims to train 12,000 people - preparing them for future hurricane seasons.



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The Order of St John has obtained 169,000 Euros to train communities across the Caribbean region in First Aid and how to respond during emergency situations. The 19 month project starts in June 2009 and has been funded by the German Department for Foreign Affairs in Berlin with additional support from The Johanniter in Germany & the Order Secretariat.

St John Ambulance organisations in seven countries (Antigua and Barbuda; Barbados; Dominica; Grenada; Guyana; Jamaica and Saint Lucia) will receive funds to provide free training days to a total of 12,000 people. The participants will gain increased knowledge and awareness of what to do in a disaster as well as skills in basic First Aid - which has been proved to save lives in disaster and emergency situations.

St John Ambulance has been working across the region for over 40 years, delivering high quality First Aid training and health care services to those in need. Debbie Worrell, Chair of St John Saint Lucia was delighted by the news of the funding, saying

*"This project is a fantastic opportunity for St John in Saint Lucia. There are huge benefits to the people of St Lucia so that in times of crisis even the most rural and disadvantaged communities across the country will have the knowledge of basic first aid and disaster preparedness."*



Federal Foreign Office

2008 was the second most destructive hurricane season on record in the Caribbean. The region is also prone to earthquakes, volcanic activity, flooding and other natural disasters - so ensuring communities are prepared with the correct knowledge about First Aid and how to respond during such a disaster is critical.

The Order's sister organisation, The Johanniter has been working closely with the German Department for Foreign Affairs to help this project get off the ground. For more information or to contact St John Ambulance in the Caribbean please visit <http://www.orderofstjohn.org/north-america-caribbean>

Thank you to our partners for their support.



*First Aid will save lives - Caribbean trainers get practical during a class*

### Developing a regional First Aid training course

Funding has also been provided to help St John in the Caribbean develop their own regional First Aid training course and manual.

This manual will be designed by St John in the Caribbean and be relevant to the health needs of the communities they serve. The first meeting to discuss this course will be held in Jamaica in July.

**THE JOHANNITER**  
International Assistance



# Grand Council '09- St John Malta host for the first time!

In May, the first ever Grand Council meeting was held by a St John Association. St John Malta, on the year of their 100th anniversary, organised and hosted over 30 people for the the Order's annual governance meeting.

Alongside the Priors, representatives from St John PNG, Malta, Dominica, Kenya and Zimbabwe took part in the meeting. The meeting was a huge success with a range of issues being discussed (see below). The members of the Grand Council were also treated to a reception with the President of Malta and a demonstration from the St John Rescue Corps (left), which showed how the volunteers evacuate people from a burning buildings and manholes! Thank you to everyone at St John Malta for making the event such a success.



## Key decisions from Grand Council 2009:

- ✓ the establishment of an Order Humanitarian Relief Fund to support St John organisations in national emergencies
- ✓ continued financial support to St John Zimbabwe during the cholera epidemic
- ✓ adoption of both a Fundraising and Communications policy for the Order
- ✓ reviewing the options for adopting a St John brand
- ✓ a review of the Order's governance structure for decisions in 2010

## Displaced people supported by St John in Sri Lanka

St John Sri Lanka received a request from the Ministry of Social Services to provide temporary shelters for hundreds of internally displaced people (IDPs) in the north of the country, who have sought safety following the recent fighting in the 26 year war between the Sri Lankan government and the Tamil Tigers.

St John donated six large tents on 25th May 2009 - which are being used to house people who fled the fighting. Their nearest branch to the conflict area is in Jaffna – just 80 miles away.

Volunteers from Trincomalee District have been supporting relief activities in the East and volunteers from Jaffna are also caring for people in the Northern Peninsula. Volunteers are going to the IDP camps to support a mobile hospital which has been established to care for those in need in the camp. Nine senior first aiders from Colombo are also stationed at the camp, to support the volunteers. Their main task will be transferring injured people to the mobile hospital. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) has requested three ambulances for their relief work in the North and St John has provided these to enable them to do their vital work.

Work continues despite the end to the conflict. St John Sri Lanka are providing vital support during this difficult situation alongside the International Committee of the Red Cross, Médecins Sans Frontières and the UN agencies.

## When does buying a dress help those most in need?

*Grace Cephas Lewis, Chair of St John Antigua*

Our palliative home care service is in its third year and has assisted approximately 40 patients and their families. The patient is visited from 3 times a week to every day, depending on their needs. Daily reports are recorded by the visiting doctor, nurse aid or volunteer.

The service would not be possible without all those involved. We have an amazing group of nurses, nurses aids and volunteers who are extremely dedicated and undertake regular courses in Grief & Bereavement, Counseling, HIV & Aids and Home Nursing. We have a doctor who volunteers for home visits; the Defense Force help us transfer hospital beds all over the island and the EMS (Emergency Medical Service) assists with ambulance transportation. The University of the West Indies has just joined us in offering student counselors.

The St John thrift shop, "Fashion Encore" was opened last year on Bishopgate Street in St John's and is staffed by 20 volunteers who give 3hrs of their time once a week. We stock new and high quality second hand clothing and the dresses have been flying off the racks! All funds go towards paying the nurses and nurses aids in the Home Care Programme making this arm of St John self sufficient. Thank you to all those involved in our programme, for their dedication and hard work.



# Starting from scratch

**What would you do if your St John organisation lost its customers and most of its trainers all at once?**

This is exactly what happened to St John in Tanzania. They were integrated into the Tanzania Railway Corporation, but when it was privatised in 2007 first aid training was not a priority for the new owners.



So what did they do? St John in Tanzania asked for help! The Order Secretariat's *Capacity Building Programme* held a workshop in Dar es Salaam in 2007 to help them devise a plan to start the renaissance of St John. St John members from different parts of the country participated and they were determined to revitalise their organisation.

The first steps were to re-register the legal and constitutional documents of the Association; find and equip a small office space; establish communication facilities; and have a full time staff person to drive the revitalisation process. This required money, advice and support - all of which was provided by the Order Secretariat.

The next step was to have a group of trainers with up to date skills and sufficient training equipment and manuals so that the Association could attract income through commercial training. An experienced trainer from St John Ambulance England went to Tanzania to conduct a Training for Trainers (TOT) event for 9 people. St John Tanzania then hosted a workshop for business managers to promote the importance of health and safety and first aid. They were off! Commercial training began to take place.



St John Tanzania was then STAPLED with St John in Staffordshire (Priority of England). The county has provided manikins, training equipment, a laptop, first aid manuals and a small car.

St John Tanzania and Staffordshire are now planning a second TOT event in 2009. In May 2009, the *Capacity Building Programme* supported

## The road to recovery...the timeline

- April 07** ✓ First planning workshop
- June 07** ✓ Rental of the office  
✓ Developed the Constitution
- July 07** ✓ Compiling a list of trainers  
✓ Preparation of first aid syllabus  
✓ Recruitment of Treasurer  
✓ Opening of new bank account
- August 07** ✓ Preparation for TOT event
- Sept 07** ✓ Marketing of commercial training  
✓ TOT event held in Dar es Salaam  
✓ 9 trainers received their certificates
- Oct - Dec 07** ✓ Networking with Occupational Safety and Health Authority at the Ministry of Labour  
✓ Developed a training strategy  
✓ Started training at the Tanzania Ports Authority
- March - May 08** ✓ Awareness raising workshop for Business Managers  
✓ Training at primary schools
- June - Aug 08** ✓ Finalise the Constitution  
✓ Registration of the Association
- Sept 08- March 09** ✓ Training at the International School  
✓ Training the Panasonic Energy Factory, Superdoll Company & the Tanzania Ports Authority  
✓ Strategic Planning Workshop

the Association to develop a new Strategic Plan for 2009-2011 to help continue the work which has begun to revitalise St John.

Their key strategic priorities are:

1. Increase commercial first aid training and other commercial activities
2. Reform the Council to bring in new skills
3. Develop a schools first aid training programme
4. Develop a marketing and PR strategy
5. Develop annual plans and budgets to increase the resources
6. Develop partnerships both within and outside Tanzania

Congratulations to St John Tanzania for all that has been achieved in a short space of time!

## News in brief...

### From Malaysia



**14th May 2009, Penang** - Muhammad Jusri of St John Ambulance Penang, Malaysia, holding Puteri Syifa Balqis Ismailthe, the little girl he helped to deliver just four months into his job with the Emergency Medical Assistance Service (EMAS) of St John Ambulance. He has been made a life member of the Penang St John Ambulance.

### What are you doing on St John's Day?

Send us your photos - like St John Grenada, who sent us photos of them giving out packages to the community in 2008!



### Dates for the diary...

24th June: St John's Day  
28th-30th July & 17th-20th Nov: Steering Committee meeting, London  
23rd-24th Nov: Caribbean Regional Meeting, Dominica

### From Papua New Guinea



*Hospital staff awaiting the arrival of dignitaries and guests to the ceremony.*

**21st May 2009, Port Morsby** - H.E. Grand Chief Sir Paulias Matane, Governor General of Papua New Guinea & President of St John PNG cuts the ribbon to open the St John Hospital in Gerehu on the 21st May 2009. He is flanked by the Deputy Chairman of St John PNG, Justice Mark Sevua CBE (left).

### From Kenya

**30th March 2009, Nairobi** - Mr. Kosaku Onaka, the representative from the Japanese Embassy in Nairobi and St John Kenya Chairman, Hon. Maj. Marsden Madoka, sign the grant agreement for the construction of a St John Youth Resource Centre and Voluntary Counselling and Testing (VCT) facility donated by Japanese Government.



The grant of US\$ 85,905 will develop the new centre which is expected to address challenges facing young people including drug abuse and HIV/AIDS which is rampant in the coastal town of Mombasa and in particular the Tononoka area, where the centre will be located. The centre will be immensely beneficial to the community, the organisation and its members.

### Online donations now up and running...

Do you want to donate to support the Order's work around the world? Now you can, by visiting:

[www.justgiving.com/orderofstjohn](http://www.justgiving.com/orderofstjohn)

Our secure online page allows you to donate to us from anywhere in the world! If you are doing an event and want to get sponsorship, you can set up your own fundraising page and the money you raise comes straight to us!

For all the latest news and resources from the Order go to the website [www.orderofstjohn.org](http://www.orderofstjohn.org)

If you have any stories you would like to be covered in The Link or you would like any information on any of the news featured in this edition, please contact Gemma Mullick at the Order Secretariat at [gemma@orderofstjohn.org](mailto:gemma@orderofstjohn.org) or 0044 (0)20 7251 3292