



# The Order Secretariat

Annual Review 2009



**St John**

## A message from the Secretary General



What a year! It is hard to know where to begin. I am writing this report from the Order of St John's new permanent home in London. Through the immense generosity of our long term supporter, Robert Ehinger Krehl from Switzerland and the St John Auxiliary Foundation of which he was Chairman; the Order was able to find a new home at 3 Charterhouse Mews in Clerkenwell, London. The new office for the Order Secretariat and St John Eye Hospital Group provides much needed space for our growing activities while remaining close to the historic roots in St John's Gate. Robert sadly passed away in August 2009. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Robert for his incredible generosity and his widow Monique and son Oliver, for their continuing support to the Order.

2009 proved that St John's role in responding to and preparing for emergency situations is critical. Supported by generous donations

from St John worldwide, St John Zimbabwe saved hundreds of lives during the countries' devastating cholera outbreak. Volunteers in the Australian state of Victoria worked tirelessly during the country's worst fire disaster in history. St John in Mumbai, India (right) was immediately on the scene during the horrific terrorist attack and the vital work of the St John Eye Hospital in Jerusalem continued despite some of the worst political upheaval in the region for years.



The Secretariat's role in supporting St John Associations continues to grow and this review gives you a snap shot of our key achievements. A major development in 2009 was a large grant from the Federal Foreign Office in Berlin through our sister organisation in Germany, The Johanniter, to support St John in the Caribbean to deliver Disaster Preparedness training to vulnerable communities. The 15 month project will train 12,600 people in 7 countries in disaster awareness and emergency first aid, as well as helping to develop the first ever Caribbean specific First Aid training programme.

Grand Council was hosted for the first time by an Association – St John Malta. The event marked the 100th anniversary of St John Ambulance in the country and was a treat for all involved. Discussions focused on the idea of "One St John" and how we can capitalise on our role as an international organisation.

I hope you enjoy reading our report and I would like to thank our many supporters for their interest in our work and their kind donations, particularly in such difficult economic conditions. Your support means that we can help St John to extend care for people very much in need.

*Best wishes,*  
Andrew Gough, Secretary General

*"The cholera epidemic that raged in Zimbabwe in 2009 killed thousands of people and really tested the strength and preparedness of St John. With substantial help from St John around the world, we could send our volunteers to two cholera camps outside the city of Harare. I am very proud of our people"*

**Bill Moore, Chairman of St John Zimbabwe**



## Supporting St John Associations

*“Many St John Associations are working in countries where the vast majority of the population are living in poverty with no access to health care. If there was ever a need for St John, it is here. The Order Secretariat and St John as a whole needs to continue to help St John Associations to grow and expand so they can help some of world’s poorest and most in need.”*

Professor Villis Marshall, Sub Prior – The Order of St John

The Order Secretariat has a number of support programmes available to St John Associations around the world. Associations can request help to develop strategic plans, increase staff and volunteer skills in financial management, marketing and fundraising, to name just a few - as well as receiving grants for projects and equipment. The Secretariat also offers help to ensure organisations have qualified and up to date trainers to deliver First Aid and health care training and services.

We work closely with St John Associations and their supporters from around the St John world (known as STAPLE partners) with the shared aim of increasing their organisations’ sustainability and ability to deliver much needed health and care services.

### Where are St John Associations?

- Africa:** Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mauritius, Namibia, Nigeria, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Cameroon (provisionally registered)
- Asia-Pacific:** Fiji, India, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka
- Caribbean:** Antigua & Barbuda, Barbados, Bermuda, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, St Lucia, Trinidad & Tobago
- Europe:** Cyprus, Gibraltar, Malta

Our programmes are...

Long term  
Targeted  
In partnership  
Empowering



Food distribution -  
St John Kenya



Clinic opening - St John PNG



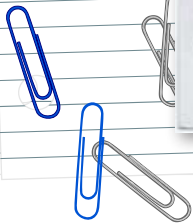
Sharing experiences -  
Asia-Pacific Regional meeting



Dental care - St John Uganda



Blood pressure monitoring -  
St John Dominica



## 2009 in Africa

The year started in very difficult circumstances. A cholera outbreak spread across Zimbabwe needlessly killing thousands due to the deterioration of infrastructure and basic services. Using generous donations from St John worldwide, the Secretariat helped St John Zimbabwe to use their skilled and dedicated volunteers to rapidly respond to the crisis - setting up three rehydration centres and saving hundreds of lives.

The Secretariat ran strategic planning workshops in Tanzania, Uganda and funded a review in the Eastern region of Kenya. These plans have proved critical in helping Associations identify their aims and how they are going to achieve them. Now, 8 out of 11 Associations in Africa have plans in place which they are using to expand their activities and monitor their progress.

*“The Order Secretariat has allowed St John Uganda to improve our skills in different areas so that we are more effective and capable of expanding and coordinating the organisation”*

Christine Kasirye, St John Uganda

St John Associations have continually stressed the importance of improving governance and leadership to ensure growth and good organisational practice. The Secretariat funded governance training in Zimbabwe and Zambia and it also helped Zimbabwe and Swaziland with staff training.

£10,600 was provided in Small Grants to Kenya, Cameroon, Tanzania, Uganda and Zimbabwe for a variety of projects – such as laptops, projectors, office renovation costs, cameras and equipment. As well as this the Secretariat supported Tanzania and Kenya to develop their own websites and leaflets and posters to market their services.

The STAPLE programme continues to thrive around the region and the Secretariat works closely with STAPLE partners to coordinate support.

**Number of St John Associations:** 11

**Key Activities:** First Aid training and services, Ambulance services, Home Based Care, HIV/AIDS services, primary health care, malaria prevention, health education, response to emergencies, youth programmes.

**Total population of the St John countries:** 360 million people

Dear Order Secretariat,

2009 has been so busy for us here in Zambia but we feel we have achieved so much and we are very excited about all the new activities we are developing. In March we were proud to welcome the Chief Commander and 12 youth members from St John Wales, our STAPLE partner. It was wonderful to see our young people working side by side to train schools and the general public - over 1000 in total! The visit was inspiring and we hope to have many more in the future.

Our Council has quite a few new people on it and in discussion with and funding from the Order Secretariat, we organised governance training for all members. This has helped our Council to have a clearer understanding of its roles and responsibilities. The Order Secretariat also enabled two of our members to visit Zimbabwe to take part in fundraising and proposal writing training with their colleagues there. This exchange as well as the training has really enriched those involved.

We are so grateful to all those who support us and we are very proud of what we are achieving. We look forward to updating you more very soon.

Best wishes, Caroline Mweemba  
National Coordinator, St John Zambia



## 2009 in Asia-Pacific

In February, all nine St John Associations came together in Singapore for the Asia-Pacific Regional meeting which was part funded and facilitated by the Order Secretariat. The two day meeting gave people the opportunity to discuss their youth programmes, understand more about the support programmes on offer from the Secretariat and improve their skills in fundraising from a local consultant. For the first time a representative from India came to the meeting which allowed all the participants to learn more about the work and experience of St John in India.

**Number of St John Associations:** 9

**Key Activities:** First Aid training, Ambulance services, Hospital and blood services, haemodialysis. Care for the elderly.

**Total population of the St John countries:** 1.4 billion people

*“Spending time with my colleagues from around the region was a wonderful opportunity. I learnt so much and hope that I could also share our work from India”*

Feroze Sethna, St John India

The Secretariat also made visits to Papua New Guinea (PNG), Malaysia and Sri Lanka to follow up on the activities since the tsunami hit in 2004. The Secretariat helped PNG develop their new website and trained staff to update it. Equipment and First Aid manuals were also sent to St John in Mumbai.

### The STAPLE workshop

**What is the STAPLE programme?** This programme partners or ‘staples’ two St John organisations together. The aim is to share ideas and experience, to learn from each other and to help each other grow and develop.

Following the regional meeting, the Order Secretariat organised STAPLE partners from Australia, Canada, South Africa, New Zealand, England to come together in Singapore. The workshop aimed to share experiences of supporting St John Associations and to identify potential ways forward. The participants identified that more needed to be done to increase awareness of the programme and harness more resources.

Dear Order Secretariat,

Hello from us all here at St John Singapore! 2009 gave us the honour of hosting the Asia-Pacific Regional meeting and welcoming our colleagues from the region. At the outset, may we express our gratitude to the Order Secretariat for the excellent arrangements in making this Asia-Pacific Regional meeting possible. The meeting helped built camaraderie amongst St John organisations and strengthened regional and international links. All our members, young to old, worked tirelessly during the weeks running up to and during the meeting to ensure it was a success. We were delighted to show case our social and multicultural uniqueness and hoped it was enjoyed by all.

We ourselves also gained much from attending the discussions and workshops. We learnt from our colleagues from the region of their challenges and successes - which helped us to reflect on our work and plan new activities.

Other highlights for the year include our First Aid cover at the 2009 Formula One Night Race which was stretched over a period of 3 days. To make the race an enjoyable experience for all, the organiser sold Survival Kits, which contain a pair of earplugs and a rain poncho. All profits from the sales at the 4 designated St John sales points went to St John. Other activities include our Annual General Inspection; the 2009 Walkathon and all the other fantastic events our young people attend.

Looking forward to seeing you all again soon.

All the best,  
St John Singapore



## 2009 in the Caribbean

2009 was a very busy year for the Secretariat's work in the Caribbean. During 2009, the Secretariat received almost £150,000 for the region from the Federal Foreign Office in Berlin and our sister organisation, The Johanniter in Germany. The grant will enable seven St John Associations to run free one day training courses on Disaster Preparedness and Emergency First Aid for vulnerable communities. Over the 15 month project, 12,600 people will benefit from increased knowledge of how to prepare and respond in hurricanes and other natural disasters.

**Number of St John Associations: 9**

**Key Activities:** First Aid training, disaster and community preparedness training, ambulance work, health care services for vulnerable people.

**Total population of the St John countries: 5.6 million people**

*"Disaster preparedness is the centre piece to our survival. Our responsibility is to build the capacity of communities so that they can help themselves. I am very pleased that St John is doing just that"*

*Ronald Jackson, Director of National Disaster Office, Jamaica*

Some of the funds are also being used to develop a Caribbean specific First Aid manual and training programme. The Secretariat, with support from St John in England and Canada, has convened and supported the Caribbean working group to draft the first regional manual and training programme. It is planned to be launched in late 2010.

During the year, St John in Grenada, Guyana and Antigua developed strategic plans with support from the Order Secretariat. Despite being held over weekends, the workshops were packed with St John members who contributed their ideas and thoughts to the planning process. Currently, 8 out of 9 Associations have plans in place.

The Secretariat also arranged for an induction session for new Council members in Dominica and for new staff in Barbados to have an induction with their STAPLE partner, St John Devon. £2828 in Small Grants was provided to Dominica, Jamaica and St Lucia for equipment, uniforms and office renovations. Seven Associations also received digital cameras to record their activities.

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Dear all at the Secretariat,

So much has happened in Guyana in the last year! In September we started training the public in disaster preparedness, as part of the project funded by the Federal Foreign Office in Berlin and the Johanniter. We have been offering free courses and distributing First Aid kits and booklets. With so many disasters occurring day to day, the project is not only providing vital information for those who need it but it is also raising the profile of St John here in Guyana. We think the project will save the lives of many Guyanese.

In August, the Order Secretariat came here to run a workshop to help us develop a strategic plan. We have not had such a plan before and were not sure what to expect - but what has emerged is not only a very useful plan for us to follow and work to but the workshop provoked internal examination. It allowed us to realise our weaknesses and then use these as building blocks. We were also happy to welcome our STAPLE partner from St John Essex (England) back to Georgetown to take part in the workshop.

In our usual tradition we held many activities during St John's week in June. As well, Dr Holly Alexander, who is a member of our Council, attended the Caribbean Regional meeting in Dominica in November using funds from the Secretariat - the first time we have been represented for over 5 years. Dr Alexander found working with our peers in the Caribbean very enlightening and brought many ideas back to us all to discuss. We look forward to having our new regional First Aid training programme and all that 2010 will bring.

Thanks to all for your ongoing support. Best wishes,  
Vibert Parvatan, Chairman - St John Guyana



Antigua, Barbados, Bermuda, Guyana and St Lucia are all STAPLED and the partnerships are working well to strengthen the core training and care functions of St John. St John Ireland is keen to support St John Dominica and attended the regional meeting to build relationships and understand their work.

The Regional Meeting was held in Dominica in November where participants prioritised the development of a regional youth programme enabling the Associations to work together more as a region.

## 2009 in Europe

This year the regional meeting for the Associations in Europe took place in Dublin, Ireland and was co-hosted by the Commandery of Ards and the St John Ambulance Brigade of Ireland. So many topics were covered in just two days including fundraising techniques, ideas for improving youth programmes, ideas for marketing and partnerships. We also were treated to tea with the President of Ireland at her official residence.

For the first time ever, the Grand Council meeting of the Order was held in an Association. St John Malta took on the responsibility and excelled at the task (see right). As well as this, St John in Northern Ireland was asked to host the annual meeting of the Council of the Alliance of the Orders of St John. The theme of the meeting was "Reconciliation" and the opportunity was used to showcase the work of St John in Northern Ireland and the part played by St John Ambulance both north and south of the border during "The Troubles".

The STAPLE programme begins to grow in the region. St John Surrey (England) is keen to renew their historical partnership with Malta and St John Lincolnshire (England) generously donated an ambulance to Malta.

**Number of St John Associations:** 3

**Key Activities:** First Aid, rescue services, youth programmes, ambulance services.

**Total population of the St John countries:** 1.3 million people

Dear all at the Secretariat,

Bongu! That is hello in Maltese! How are you?

Despite the long history of St John in Malta, 2009 was the 100th year of St John Ambulance in the country and we thought the best way to celebrate would be to invite the leaders of the global organisation to have their Grand Council meeting here with us in Valletta. It was a huge undertaking to organise with 30 delegates from 12 countries, the workshop facilities and the relevant programmes outside the meeting.

The highlight for us was definitely the opening service in the magnificent St John's Co-Cathedral conducted by the immediate-past Archbishop of Malta. Afterwards we had a wonderful tour of the Cathedral and the famous Caravaggio painting - The Beheading of St John the Baptist.

We felt it was important for the Grand Council to see and to understand our work as a St John Association. Our Rescue Corps volunteers put on a fantastic display to show off their top quality emergency rescue techniques.

Also during 2009, St John Lincolnshire (England) kindly donated an ambulance to support our work here in Valletta. We are also keen to work more with St John in Surrey - as there is always so much more to do!

Thanks for all you help - look forward to seeing you soon.  
From all at St John Malta



## Policy and Honours and Awards

The Grand Council meets once a year and in 2009 it was in Malta. A 3 year programme of policy development work has been ongoing and will result in a new strategic plan for the Order for the period 2012-2017. In Malta, policies were agreed on communications; fundraising; centres of expertise; and a statement of purpose. A St John Emergency Relief Fund was established drawing on lessons learned from the Order's response to the Asian tsunami, Kenyan post-election violence and Zimbabwe cholera outbreak. Work is in full swing for Grand Council 2010 which includes a review of governance and development of options for a common look and feel, in support of the theme of 'One St John'.

In recognition of their outstanding contributions to the work of the Order 924 individuals from all over the world, were honoured by HM The Queen by admission or promotion within the Order. The Order's Life Saving Medal was awarded to 5 individuals who put their lives at risk to save those of others.

## Communications and Fundraising

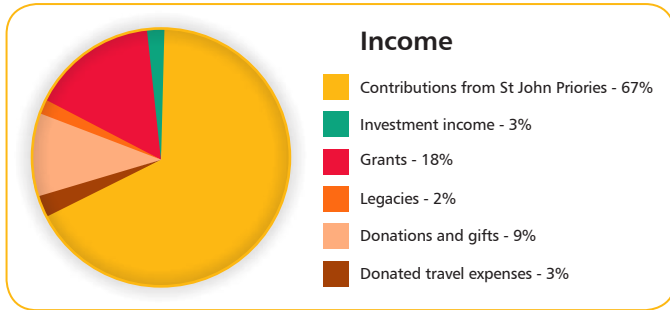
During 2009 a major effort was made helping St John Associations improve their communications and marketing. In many of their strategic plans, this area continually comes up as a priority. One aspect has been to help Associations develop branded stationary sets and templates, leaflets, posters and websites.

Another focus has been to increase the profile of the Order, the Secretariat and the work of the St John Associations. Marketing materials were produced and sent out to key contacts and our website received a record number of hits. News stories were printed in a variety of publications around St John globally and national press in different countries.

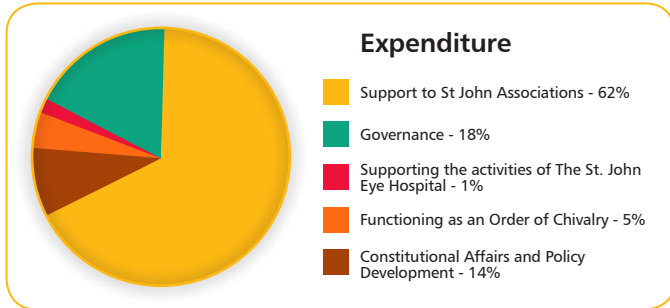
The Secretariat is now spending more time on fundraising for the work of St John Associations. A fundraising volunteer has been recruited and a strategy is being developed for the next few years. Our focus will be funding international projects from UK based Trusts, as well as increasing donations from individuals.



## Finances



Excludes £3.85m property grant



The Order Secretariat would like to take this opportunity to thank all our donors for their generosity and continuing support. In particular, the St John Auxiliary Foundation, the Johanniter and the Federal Foreign Office in Berlin, all our individual supporters and of course the eight St John Pories who are our largest financial contributors. Your kindness has enabled us to expand our work with St John Associations so they can provide more care to those most in need.

## Income

The Secretariat increased its income from £656,301 in 2008 to £4,602,404 in 2009. This dramatic increase was due to a £3.85 million restricted grant from the St John Auxillary Foundation for the purchase of a property for the Order's new home in London.

When excluding this grant, our income still increased to £752,458. The main increase came from our total fundraising efforts which rose by 3% mainly through the grant from the Federal Foreign Office in Berlin, sales of the Order of St John Egg and individual donations.

## Expenditure

Our total expenditure, excluding the property grant, was £785,494 in 2009, increasing from £645,783 in 2008. 62% of this went to support St John Associations and once again much of our focus was on the Africa and Caribbean regions. Some highlights included regional meetings in Singapore, Dominica and Ireland; activities for the Capacity Building Programme; the disaster preparedness project in the Caribbean.

Our aim is to help and support St John Associations around the world to become sustainable, high profile organisations which deliver high quality services to their communities.



**St John**

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