

# The Link



Sharing news from the Order of St John

## Just how big is St John?

**The Order of St John is a vast organisation but we have never really known how large we are globally and what impact we have on our communities - until now.**

Understanding our global footprint is essential, for people within our organisation but also those outside. Externally, we need the data to demonstrate to people that St John is a power for good and should be taken seriously. Individual Establishments and the International Office also need the data to demonstrate to funders the international scope of St John and the effectiveness of our work.

Internally, we need the data so that we can meet our reporting requirements to external bodies, such as the UN. The information is also a great way to demonstrate to our members the concept of "One St John" and to boost morale and increase the sense of a collective purpose. It will also help the Grand Council to determine the trends which will guide them in the future policy making of the Order, and guide the International Office in the support it provides to Associations.

It has been a long process to get to this stage. Grand Council started the process by setting up a working group, led by the late John Stopford, to determine what financial and non-financial indicators should be measured. A number of indicators were included, financial information; number of Order Members and Fellowship Members; number of Volunteers (adults & youth) and staff; Hours of Service; number of people trained and number of people helped and treated

There was a great response by St John Establishments to the request for information and the International Office then collated the data. Now, for the first time St John can say how big we are. The 'Measurement Exercise' will now happen on a yearly basis and details will be sent out in December. The International Office requests that the forms be completed and returned by the end of February so that they can be collated together and presented to Grand Council each May.



*A volunteer from St John Uganda supports a young mother in Kampala*

### During 2009-2010, St John....

⇒ reached 5.9 million people in over 40 countries

⇒ trained 2.7 million people in first aid - 28% were below the age of 25

⇒ treated over 3 million people

⇒ our volunteers dedicated over 14.5 million hours of service to communities.



**St John has 363,664 staff and volunteers around the world.**

## News from around the world...



### St John Kenya to support 16,000 as the worst famine in decades continues

Kenya is experiencing one of the worst droughts since its independence in 1963. The result has been catastrophic with the World Food Programme estimating that 2.4 million Kenyans are highly food insecure and in urgent need of support. Close to 500,000 children under 5 years old and breastfeeding mothers in the worst hit areas are malnourished. Daily life and schooling throughout the pastoral areas has been disrupted. St John Kenya has made a successful request to the St John Emergency

Relief Fund for £33,000 in order to provide vital medical care and food distribution to two of the worst hit areas in the Eastern Region and North Eastern Province.

St John Kenya will organise 4 camps which will provide medical care and distribute a month's worth of food supply to 16,300 people. Priority will be given to children under 5 years old, breastfeeding mothers and the elderly. St John Kenya will continue to work in the areas for the long term through their regional offices. They provided similar assistance to 14,000 people in drought affected areas in 2009 which was funded by the Johanniter (see right).



The St John Emergency Relief Fund was set up in 2009 and ensures any St John organisation can have access to funding if a major humanitarian disaster occurs in their country and they have the capacity to provide immediate, living saving interventions. The famine in Kenya and around the Horn of Africa has developed from a complex set of factors which include poor seasonal rainfall, heightened food prices, livestock disease and an ongoing debilitating conflict which have all combined to cause a precarious decline in food security, which will take a long time to reverse.

### The Barbados - Devon Action Plan

The Council of St John Barbados spent a day gaining more information about governance issues during a workshop held in August. The workshop was facilitated by a team from the International Office. The STAPLE partners from St John Ambulance Devon were able to visit Barbados at the same time.

The workshop covered topics including the roles and responsibilities of council members, managing risk and ensuring the effectiveness of the council as the overall governing body of the Association. The Barbados Strategic Plan was reviewed and it was noted that great progress has been made in the Association over the last 3 years. St John Ambulance Devon has updated their action plan of support to St John Barbados and renewed their commitment to their STAPLE partnership.



St John in Devon provided an ambulance to St John Barbados (pictured left). Devon have provided mentoring and advice as well as resources and equipment, including some drums which are very popular with the cadets!

### In Memoriam

It is with deep regret that we announce the death of Professor John Stopford, the Independent member of the Steering Committee, who died at home in London on 13 August after a long illness. A Memorial Service is to be held in the Priory Church, Clerkenwell on 13 October. He will be sorely missed.

### St John Kenya to become a Priory

In 2010, Grand Council highlighted a desire to remove the distinction between St John Priors and St John Associations. In order to develop a suitable global governance structure, it is likely that this change will take some time. Grand Council therefore also invited St John Kenya to consider becoming a Priory. St John Kenya have agreed and are delighted with the news. The planned transformation will take place over the next few years.

## ***“Improving and developing the ways in which we work with our communities on health projects”***



This was the theme of the 2011 African Regional Meeting, which was hosted for the first time by St John in Nigeria. The event happens every 18 months and brings the region together to work on joint projects and share experiences and ideas.

The key focus of the meeting was the development of the new International Development Programme. The programme is being piloted in Africa and will begin with consultations with communities, St John staff and external stakeholders to identify community health needs and a potential programme area. All Associations reviewed the community consultation materials and agreed a way forward for the project.

Also on the agenda were sessions on how St John can diversify their income, manage their volunteers effectively as well as understanding quality management systems such as ISO. At the previous meeting in Kampala the Associations decided to split the region into smaller Regional Zones and work on joint projects together. Time was also spent reviewing progress to date and plans for the future. Siziwe Dlamini from St John Swaziland said *“This meeting was so useful as we got to know what is happening in other Associations, sharing ideas and recognising our own mistakes.”* The regional meetings are funded and organised by the International Office and hosting Association.

## **A focus on....St John in Nigeria**

St John in Nigeria was first formed in the 1950s. It currently works in Lagos and runs first aid training, a thriving schools programme and vital health screening. In a country of 155 million people, the need for St John's work is very clear. St John Nigeria recently hosted the African Regional Meeting and *The Link* talked to the Chief Commissioner, Dr Patrick Orumbie (right) about their work.



*Dr Patrick Orumbie being interviewed with St John volunteers Agnes Shomefun and Emmanuel Ekeoha*

### **What did it mean to St John Nigeria to host the regional meeting this year?**

It meant a great deal to us as we wanted to dispel the negative perceptions surrounding our country. The meeting was a huge success and very productive. Delegates have gone home with positive thoughts about Nigeria.

### **What do you feel have been your key achievements this year?**

I think our key achievement this year was putting together the Regional meeting successfully! But also our continued focus on schools and youth, our Training of Trainers program and being part of the pilot for the International development programme.

### **What challenges do you face?**

The major challenges we face are the same as many small organisations - that of lack of finance, infrastructure and materials. However we have a plan and key goals as well as highly motivated members whose potentials are waiting to be harnessed.

### **Where do you hope St John Nigeria will be in 5 years time?**

If I am to go beyond being ambitious and allowed to dream - I see St John Nigeria really making waves in the next 5 years. With the new International Development Programme which we believe so much in - alongside strengthening our infrastructure and materials - we could do so much! We always remember that we have our future - as the cadets are so strong.

# News in brief....

## International Health Links Funding St John Kenya and St John in Somerset

St John Ambulance in the English county of Somerset is partnered (or STAPLED) with St John Kenya. During recent discussions together it emerged that a key priority for St John Kenya was to increase the standards and skills of their emergency response department.

Working with St John in Somerset, they have applied for and received funding from the British Council and the Tropical Health and Education Trust who are coordinating the International Health Links Funding Scheme. The idea behind the programme is to connect and partner health providers in the UK with their counterparts in developing countries in order to develop skills and standards and provide sustainable change.

This initial grant for £3000 will allow 2 members from St John Somerset, who are also full time ambulance personnel with the local National Health Service, to travel to Kenya to understand the specific needs and resources of SJ Kenya. Following this needs assessment, St John Kenya and Somerset can apply for further funding in order to train St John Kenya staff and volunteers in improved emergency care. For more information on the IHLFS please visit, <http://www.britishcouncil.org/learning-healthlinks> . *The Link* will follow progress and keep you updated - congratulations to all involved!

## Malaysia delegates celebrate St John's Day in London

A delegation of 13 St John volunteers from the State of Perak in Malaysia made a historic visit to London in June to understand more about the organisation and operations here in the UK as well as celebrate St John's Day in St Paul's Cathedral. The delegation made a visit to the International Office, St John in Surrey, St John Supplies and the Order of St John Museum. They also took part in the first ceremonial event to be held at the new headquarters of the Order, St John House - where the Lord Prior presented the delegates with new Colours.

The group organised and funded their trip and the State Staff Officer (Cadets), Kevin Peter said "It was a very fruitful visit. We managed to make new friends and gain new experiences and understandings about St John. I wish to extend our sincere gratitude to everyone for their kind assistance."



## Some people will do anything for St John!

Tim Ferdinand, a huge supporter of the International Office, has gone one step further! In July Tim embarked on throwing himself out of plane eight times - without a tandem (see below)! All in aid of raising funds for the International Office. Not only this, he is running the Nice-Cannes marathon in November. Tim is hoping to raise a very generous £20,000 from both events! The IO would like to thank Tim for his commitment and dedication to the work of St John - we are very grateful. If you want to donate visit <http://www.justgiving.com/Timothy-Ferdinand-Marathon>



## Dates for the diary...

- 14th & 15th Nov - Caribbean Regional Meeting, Barbados
- 21st Nov - St John Advisory Board meeting, London
- 22nd-23rd Nov - Steering Committee meeting, London
- 22nd Dec - 4th Jan - International Office closed for Christmas period

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 St John International Office at [gemma@orderofstjohn.org](mailto:gemma@orderofstjohn.org) or 0044 (0)20 7251 3292