



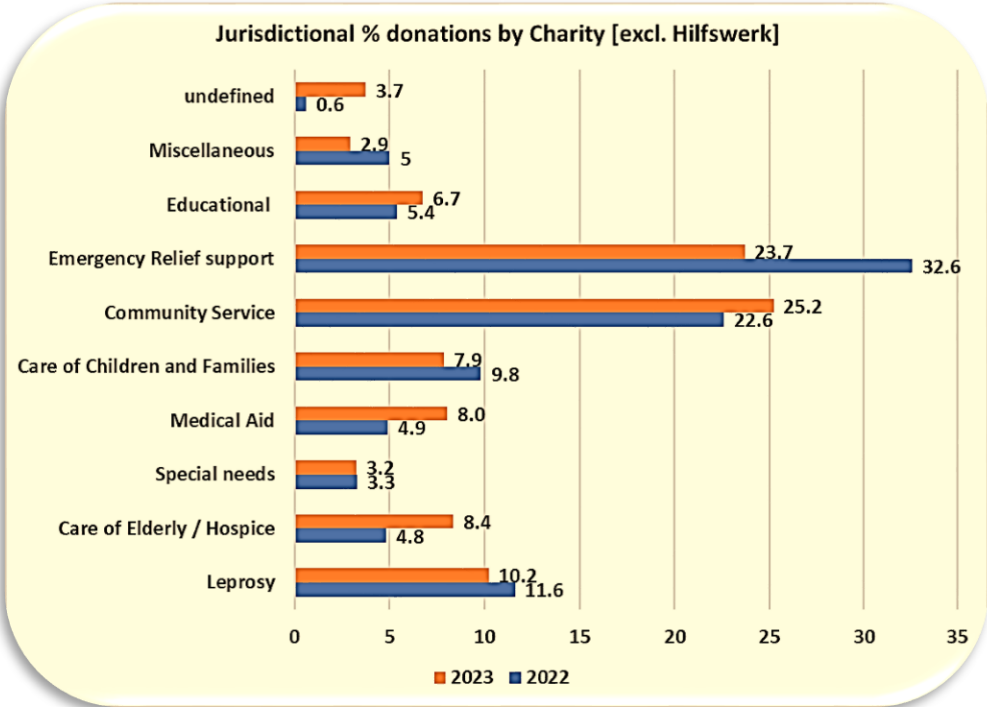
INTERNATIONAL GRAND HOSPITALLER'S SUMMARY REPORT 2023

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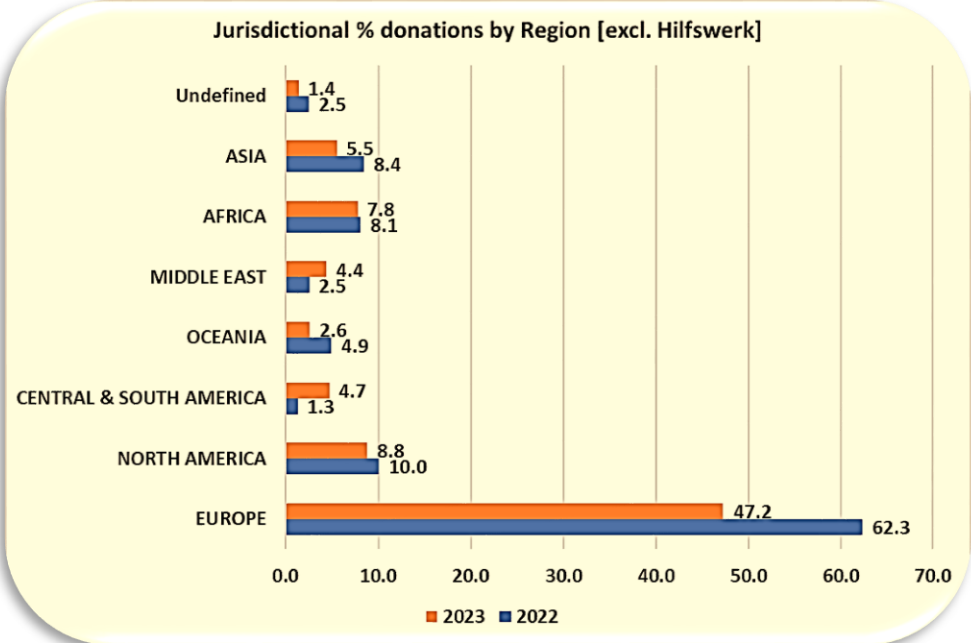
Throughout 2023, the Forces of Evil have, alas, continued to flourish in the World, distracting those of good will from the day-to-day suffering around them. But we should not allow world events to completely dominate our perspective. That is not to say we should ignore the suffering brought about by the various ongoing conflicts of war – conflicts that without doubt bring uncalled for suffering to innocents. While many of the Order's jurisdictions have continued to support the Ukrainian people, it is important to remember that other armed conflicts are ongoing, causing not only direct war fatalities but also indirect ones brought about by disease, malnutrition and health care deprivation caused by the conflict. We must also not allow the media fervour to distract us from supporting the needy individuals or families in our communities. It is easy to concentrate on media-reported events and ignore those without a loud voice. Let us not allow the armed conflicts to put other needy individuals or communities on the backburner of international philanthropy. In the words of the American author Duane Michals, "*We live in a culture where the one who shouts the loudest gets the most attention.*" Throughout 2023, the jurisdictions of the Order have contributed 23.7% of their philanthropic resources towards Emergency Relief support, making this the biggest recipient cause. The highest recipient cause with 25.2% addressed Community Service projects. Donations towards Leprosy relief projects received only 10.2% of the jurisdictional philanthropic efforts.

Throughout 2023, the various jurisdictions of the Order made monetary or in-kind donations amounting to a total of €3,589,637 in monetary, in-kind, and volunteer man-hour donations – unfortunately showing a 12.2% decrease from last year's figure which stood at €4,053,957. To this figure, one must add the contribution made by *Lazarus Hilfswerk*, the V/O of the Humanitarian Grand Priory of Europe, estimated at €25,515,000 – showing an 64.9% increase from last year's figure which stood at €13,010,000. Therefore, overall, the philanthropic contribution has actually gone up by 50.9% to a total of €29,104,637 [2022: €17,290,877]. While the overall increase in philanthropic work is encouraging, the decreased contribution by the national jurisdictions is a worrying trend

that needs to be addressed by truly mobilizing our resources and directing these to philanthropy, which is the only relevant *raison d'être* of the Order in today's world.



After excluding the Hilfswerk contribution which mainly targets European charities, the larger part of these jurisdictional donations also support charitable activities in Europe, accounting for 47.2% of the total amount, with Northern American charities receiving 8.8% of the philanthropic share. A total of 22.4% of the philanthropic share was directed to African, Asian, Central & Southern American, and Middle Eastern charities.



The Grand Hospitaller's Flagship Project Scheme was, during 2023, poorly subscribed to with only €4,152 being forwarded by jurisdictions towards the charity chest. This poor contribution makes the Scheme very reliant on a general call for funds when suitable support initiatives present themselves. A decision was made by the GMC in 2023 to automatically transfer a €5 | US\$5 from the annual oblation towards the Grand Hospitaller Fund. This, it is hoped, will serve to augment the 'War Chest'.

The Flagship funds were distributed among four projects that included:



Support given to humanitarian work with Ukrainian refugees carried out by the Grand Bailiwick of the Czech Republic [donation of €1,000 outstanding from 2022 dedicated donations sent by the Grand Priory of Finland].



Support given to the Leprosy Hospital managed by Dr R. Rousselot, Bhubaneswar in India [dedicated donation of €1,000 from Finland]. This support has been ongoing since 2012.



Initiatives have been made to more closely adopt Hansen's disease as one of the major philanthropic targets of the Order – reverting to the original role and focus of the Order – without, of course, diminishing the other philanthropic activities which the various jurisdictions have identified as particularly significant in today's world. These initiatives are encouraged by:

- Subscribing to *InfoLep* which serves as a free Leprosy information service. The monthly newsletter will be circulated to the heads of jurisdiction to be made available to all interested parties within the jurisdiction.
- Providing a resumé of the Order's philanthropic work [past and present] directed at victims of Hansen's disease to the *International Leprosy Association*. This should place the Order on the international map of organizations working in the field of leprology.