



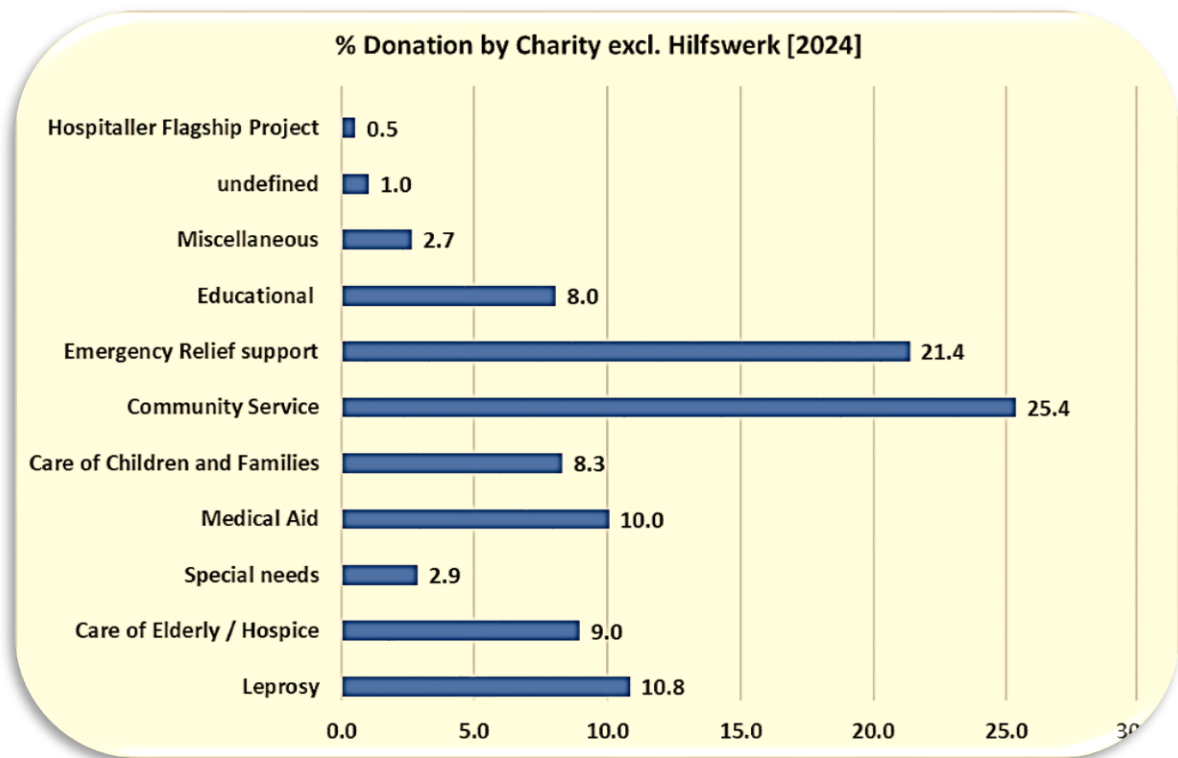
INTERNATIONAL GRAND HOSPITALLER'S SUMMARY REPORT 2024

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Throughout 2024, infection with the *Mycobacterium leprae* has continued unabated. Each year, up to 250,000 around the world are diagnosed with Hansen's disease. While one does tend to believe that the infection is a problem of developing countries such as Asia and Africa, about 225 people are newly diagnosed with the infection in U.S.A. In spite of the fact that Hansen's disease or Leprosy is completely curable if identified and treated early, and the fact that contagion is not as dramatic as was believed in the nineteenth century, these victims of this infection suffer from continuing stigmatization in the communities where they live. This stigmatization transcends day-to-day interrelationships but is often supported by national legislation which unfairly targets these individuals, thus restricting employment, education, and migration. Again, this institutional legal stigmatization still prevails in the highly developed countries such as Australia and the U.S.A.

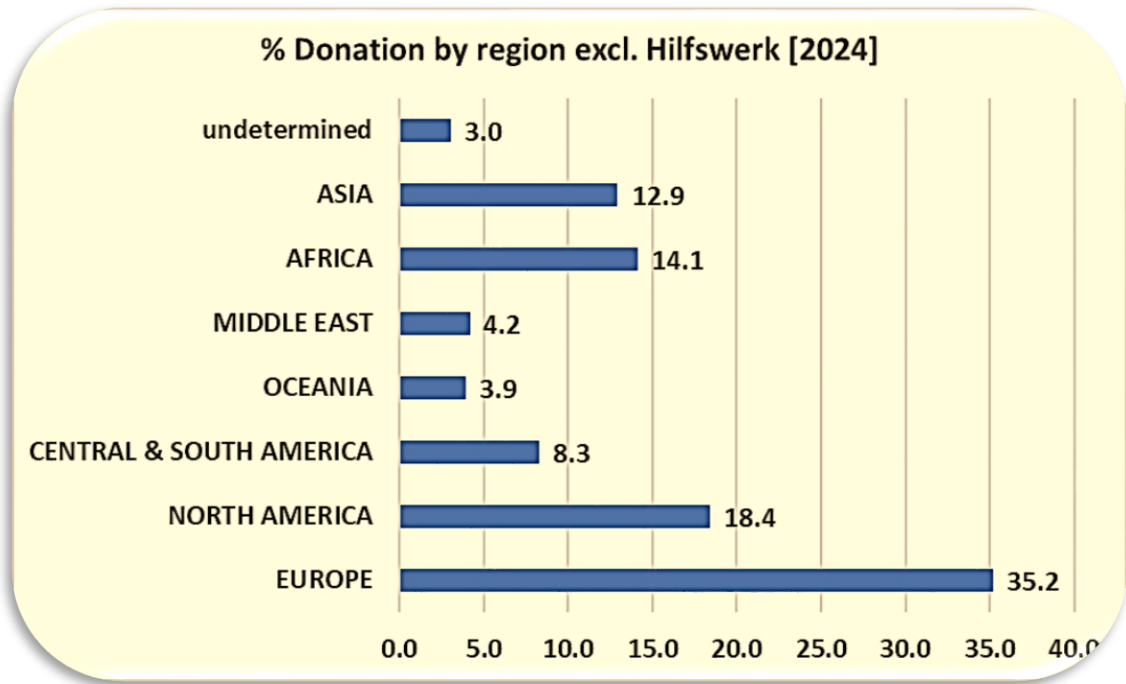
The larger proportion [87.8%] of the philanthropic donations made by the Order target support for the elderly and hospice services. This reflects the modern-day problems faced by the elderly needing support, who are often considered a burden on their families who cannot provide them with suitable day-to-day 24x7 care and attention. Residential care for the elderly, in the form of day-care or long-term facilities, thus becomes an essential need.

Throughout 2024, the various jurisdictions of the Order made monetary or in-kind donations amounting to a total of €4,058,533 – showing a 13.1% increase from last year's figure which stood at €3,589,673. To this figure, one must add the contribution made by *Lazarus Hilfswerk*, the V/O of the Humanitarian Grand Priory of Europe, estimated at €26,082,515 – showing 2.2% increase from last year's figure which stood at €25,515,000. Therefore, overall, the philanthropic contribution has actually increased by 3.6% with a total of €30,141,048 [2023: €29,104,637]. While the overall increase in philanthropic work value is encouraging, the increase is contributed in part by the increase made in 2024 in the value of the voluntary man-hour.



After excluding the *Lazarus Hilfswerk* contribution which mainly targets care of the elderly and hospice services, the main charitable projects targeted by the national jurisdictions appear to relate to community service provisions [25.4%] and emergency relief support [21.4%]. About a tenth of the donations [10.8%] made by the national jurisdictions specifically targeted the victims of Hansen’s Disease – a slightly increased proportion from 2023 donations [10.8%].

Lazarus Hilfswerk contribution targets charities in Europe and thus significantly contributes to the overall 95.7% of philanthropic contributions being directed to that continent. However, even excluding the contribution made by *Lazarus Hilfswerk*, the primary recipient of philanthropic donations still remained Europe receiving 35.2% of contributions, with Northern American charities receiving 18.4% of the philanthropic share. A total of 39.5% 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 2024, again poorly subscribed to with only €5,152 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. The decision made by the Grand Magistral Council in 2023 to automatically transfer a €5 | US\$5 from the annual oblation towards the Grand Hospitaller Fund, which will be fully adopted during 2025, will hopefully serve to augment the 'War Chest'. The Flagship funds were distributed among the following projects that included:



- 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.



- Support given towards the refurbishment project of the Jerusalem St. Louis Hospital managed by the Sisters of St Joseph of the Apparition [donation of €15,000 from Flagship Project fund supplemented by a further €9,000 specifically donated by different jurisdictions. The Grand Bailiwick of Germany supported the project directly with a donation of €65,000].



- The initiatives towards promoting knowledge and sensitivity about Hansen's disease has continued with the regular publication of a dedicated quarterly newsletter '*Leprosy-Info*' aiming to provide relevant medical, social, historical, etc. information to the members of the Order thus empowering them with the tools to combat the continuing stigmatization of those afflicted with Hansen's Disease.
- In addition, the Office of the Grand Hospitaller strove to further sensitize the membership to the suffering of victims of Hansen's Disease [Leprosy] with a campaign to encourage all jurisdictions to embrace WORLD LEPROSY DAY as an important one on their calendar and organize or encourage their members to 'Light a Light for Leprosy' on this specially dedicated day. With this in mind, the Office prepared a reflective PowerPoint presentation to help participants ponder on the stigmatization these victims endure and what our responsibilities as Christians and as members of the Order of St Lazarus are.