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The Hospitaller Order of St. John of God, Juan Ciudad NGO, and the Ebola outbreak

INTRODUCTION:

St John of God (1495-1550) was inspiring and creator of the Hospitaller Order of St. John of God for his life, his religious charisma and hospital action, recognized by Pope Pius V on January 1, 1572.

After the death of San Juan de Dios his work was continued by his disciples; it spread to Spain, Italy and other European nations and in a special way in America, opening hospitals in the likeness of the existing in Granada, Spain. Currently the HOSJG is present on five continents in 53 countries.

THE HOSPITALLER ORDER OF SAINT JOHN OF GOD STATISTICS

The HOSJD is present in 53 countries on five continents with a total of 391 facilities including hospitals, clinics, and centers for the persons with mental illness, disabled, elderly, homeless and at risk of social exclusion.

- **20 million** people assisted annually.
- **82.000 people** attended each day.
- **1.142 Brothers** working in 53 countries.
- **45.000 professional employees** with a working relationship and more than 8.000 **volunteers**



THE HOSPITALLER ORDER OF SAINT JOHN OF GOD STATISTICS IN SPAIN

The HOSJD has 75 centers in Spain including hospitals and social centers, serving about 800,000 people a year through its services in six categories of intervention: general hospitals, elderly, people with disabilities, people with mental illness, people at risk of social exclusion and clinics

- Number of people assisted each year: 800,000
- Number of Workers in Spain HOSJD: 10,825
- Number of people HOSJD volunteers in Spain: 2,689
- Number of facilities and centers in Spain: 75



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Social projects in Spain: the Hospitaller Order carries out about **40 social projects** every year with the grant of Personal Income Tax (Box of Activities of General Interest Social considered in the Income Statement), benefiting **45,000 people**, including elderly people, people with disabilities, people with mental disorders, people with drug addictions, people at risk of social exclusion, children / adolescents and as witnesses of domestic violence or who have suffered sexual abuse, and volunteers.

Foundation Juan Ciudad: The Hospitaller Order of Saint John of God in Spain created in May 7, 1985 Foundation Juan Ciudad (FJC) a non-profit Foundation, with the goal of working in the fields of research, training, assistance and technical cooperation in health and social fields, for human development, life quality and the improvement of prevention, assistance and rehabilitation of those suffering from illness, alcoholism, drug addiction and any kind of marginalization, poverty or at risk of social exclusion, both in Spain and in developing countries.

As its work includes international projection of its activities, the Hospitaller Order of St. John of God established within the Foundation Juan Ciudad an NGO specialized in International Development Cooperation in 1991 called "Juan Ciudad NGO".

Juan Ciudad NGO: Created in 1991 to work in the field of international cooperation for sustainable human development and the defense of human rights, especially the universal right of all people to access social care services in the poorest regions of the world.

Fields of action of **Juan Ciudad NGO** are developing countries in Africa, Latin America and Asia, and it is present in **27 developing countries with 70 hospitals and health centers**.





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EBOLA OUTBREAK IN WEST AFRICA:

The HOSJD has 25 centers in Africa including hospitals and other centers in 13 countries, also in Liberia and Sierra Leone, both affected by the Ebola outbreak.

The **Campaign "Stop Ebola in West Africa"** was launched by the Hospitaller Order of St. John of God and Juan Ciudad NGO on July 11, 2014. Its aim was to publicize what was happening in that region of the world and to raise funds and medical supplies to support the work done by the OHSJD Hospitals in Monrovia (Liberia) and Lunsar (Sierra Leone), for them to be able to continue to provide health services to the people of these countries, which are among the world's poorest.

It has had a significant impact in all countries in which the Hospitaller Order of St. John of God is present.

INTRODUCTION:

WHO declared the Ebola outbreak in Guinea Conakry in March 2014 with 50 deaths. As of mid-December of that year the epidemic was affecting seriously several countries in West Africa, with particular gravity in Guinea Conakry, Sierra Leone and Liberia. Since the outbreak began, **27,741 people contracted the disease in 9 countries and 11,284 of them died**, according to the latest WHO data of July 2015. It is also the first time that Ebola appears in this region of Africa capitals and reaches urban areas and densely populated cities.

The Hospitaller Order of St. John of God has two hospitals, one in Sierra Leone and the other one in Liberia, where a total number of 18 people died from Ebola (adding Brothers and workers). So they had to be closed for disinfection and improvement of security protocols and protection of health workers.

Among the dead are the Brothers of St. John of God Miguel Pajares Martin and Manuel Garcia Viejo, both Spaniards, who were repatriated in August and September respectively, and were treated at the Hospital Carlos III of Madrid where they died from the Ebola virus.



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Saint Joseph's Catholic Hospital of Monrovia (Liberia):

The Saint Joseph's Catholic Hospital was closed on the 1st August 2014 after experiencing several Ebola cases in its facilities. This fact that caused the death of the whole religious community in the month of August: Brother Patrick Nshamdze (Director), Brother Miguel Pajares (Community Superior) and Brother George Combey (Pharmacy Assistance), as well as the Missionarie Sister of the Immaculate Conception, Sister Mutawameme and various workers.

At the end of August 2014 a team of three people (among them, Roberto Lorenzo, Project Coordinator of Juan Ciudad NGO) traveled from Madrid to the Saint Joseph's Catholic Hospital in Monrovia, in order to work in the cleaning and disinfection of the Hospital complex, logistic tasks and reorganization of all the material, medicines and food in the Hospital's warehouse, with the objective of reopening it as soon as possible.

After a hard training work with the staff and the adaptation of the infrastructures in order to meet the security and triage protocols with suspect cases, **the Hospital reopened its doors on the 24th November 2014**, with a Maternity Unit where pregnant women were attended. Since then, 510 deliveries have been registered, from which 40% were C-sections (205) due to their complexity. In short time, the SJCH reached the maximum number of beds initially available and after February, with the support of the ICRC, the number of beds doubled (from 12 to 14).

All the activities carried out in the Saint Joseph's Catholic Hospital Monrovia have been done in coordination with the Liberian Health Authorities, the WHO, UNICEF, the Monrovia Bishop's Ebola Team and ICRC (International Committee Red Cross). The Hospital also received economical resources from the Spanish Cooperation (AECID), the German Cooperation (GTZ) through the Medical Institute and the American Cooperation (USAID) through the Catholic relief Service (CRS).

The Pediatric Service of the Saint Joseph's Catholic Hospital opened on 2 February 2015, a reference service in Liberia that completes the assistance already provided.





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Saint John of God Hospital of Lunsar (Sierra Leone):

The Saint John of God Hospital of Lunsar closed in August 2014 and, although it reopened its doors on the 9th September, it had to be closed again one week after, due to the infection of Doctor and Brother Manuel García Viejo, who finally died in Spain after being repatriated.

While working in the training of staff and the adequacy of the infrastructures, it was set a system towards the attention of the population living in its area of influence. This mechanism involved sensitization campaigns and follow-up of 125 families (around 800 people), isolated in their homes in quarantine, facilitating them food and medicines.

During this period the Hospital worked together with International Medical Corps (IMC), the Italian Cooperation, the World Food Program, CUAMM, Doctors for Africa and counted as well with the assistance of the WHO and the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare. **Juan Ciudad NGO** contributed sending containers with medical supplies and a team of medical professionals who joined the local staff.

The Hospital implemented in December 2014 a Unit to refer Ebola patients called Holding Center, in collaboration with International Medical Corps (IMC) and Oxfam Sierra Leona. **On 6 of January 2015 it reopened its doors again**, beginning with the OPD service in order to continue with the hospitalization. Since then, an average of 300 people has been attended monthly in the outpatient service and admissions.

