



2025

ANNUAL REPORT



MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

2025 was a year in which demand remained high, needs became more complex and YMCA Malta continued to provide pathways towards safety, dignity and belonging.

Dear Friends, Partners and Supporters,

Throughout 2025, YMCA Malta remained present where vulnerability was most visible and where it was too often hidden: in homelessness, mental distress, family instability, social isolation and the daily struggle to meet basic needs. Our services continued to provide much more than immediate assistance. They created relationships, stability and practical pathways through which people could begin moving forward.

The figures in this report reveal both progress and pressure. Our residential services provided 17,746 bed nights, slightly more than in 2024, while accommodating fewer individuals. This points to longer stays and the increasing difficulty many residents experience when trying to secure affordable housing and sustainable move-on options. At the same time, the Hamrun Drop-In Centre recorded 10,893 visits, demonstrating the continuing need for low-threshold, dignified support within the community.

Our psychotherapeutic service delivered 1,734 sessions, while Youth & Family Services reached 1,421 participants through 156 interventions and activities.



These results reflect a commitment to respond not only to crisis, but also to prevention, wellbeing, learning and belonging.

As we moved closer to YMCA Malta's 50th anniversary, 2025 also invited us to look beyond individual programmes and towards the broader pathways that connect prevention, emergency support, residential care, therapeutic intervention, community participation and independent living. This thinking is helping to shape DAR Pathways 2030 and the next chapter of our organisation.

Every figure in this report represents a person, a family, a conversation or an opportunity to begin again. I thank our staff, volunteers, interns, partners, funders and supporters for making this work possible, and for continuing to believe in the vision of a more just society.

Anthony Camilleri
Chief Executive Officer and National General Secretary
YMCA Malta



2025 AT A GLANCE

A year of sustained frontline demand, growing therapeutic support and wider preventative engagement.

The 2025 figures show that YMCA Malta's work cannot be understood through volume alone. Residential bed nights rose even though fewer people entered shelter, suggesting longer stays and a more constrained route into independent housing. Drop-In Centre visits increased, psychotherapy provision expanded, and Youth & Family Services recorded a substantial widening of programme activity and reach.

17,746	Residential Bed Nights
10,893	Drop-In Centre Visits
1,734	Psychotherapy Sessions
1,421	Youth Participants
156	Youth & Family Activities
56	Successful Move-ons



DAR – DIGNITY, ACCESS & REFUGE

DAR is the Maltese word for home, but for YMCA Malta, it also represents three principles that shape our response to homelessness: Dignity, Access and Refuge.

Dignity means recognising every person as more than their circumstances. Whether someone needs a shower, a meal, therapeutic support or a safe place to sleep, they should be met with respect, compassion and the opportunity to make informed choices about their future.

Access means ensuring that support remains reachable. People experiencing homelessness often face complex administrative, financial and personal barriers. YMCA Malta provides accessible points of entry through the Hamrun Drop-In Centre, residential services, community support, psychotherapy, youth and family programmes, outreach and advocacy.

Refuge means providing more than temporary shelter. It means creating safety, stability and the time required for recovery. Across YMCA Malta's residential services, refuge becomes the foundation from which residents can rebuild relationships, address health and social needs, and work towards independent living.



DAR is therefore not a single service or fundraising campaign. It is the framework connecting YMCA Malta's homelessness ecosystem:

- Immediate, low-threshold assistance
- Safe residential accommodation
- Social-work intervention and case management
- Psychotherapeutic support
- Youth and family services
- Needs Support and material assistance
- Outreach, prevention and advocacy
- Move-on and pathways towards independent living

During 2025, DAR also became a national call to action. Through the DAR campaign and telethon, YMCA Malta brought homelessness into public discussion and invited individuals, companies and communities to become part of the response.

As YMCA Malta approaches its 50th anniversary, DAR provides the foundation for DAR Pathways 2030, a commitment to connect crisis intervention, prevention, recovery, housing and community participation into one integrated pathway towards home.



DAR: DIGNITY, ACCESS & REFUGE

FROM EVIDENCE TO ACTION

Understanding the figures and turning frontline experience into better pathways home.

DAR provides the framework connecting YMCA Malta's services. Evidence allows us to understand how those services are being used, where pressures are growing and where people continue to encounter barriers on their journey towards stable housing and independent living.

The figures in this report have been compiled from YMCA Malta's service records, operational reports and year-end departmental returns. They reflect different forms of engagement and should therefore be understood according to the nature of each service.

Residential referrals represent requests for accommodation received during the year. The number of people sheltered refers to individuals who were provided with residential accommodation, while bed nights measure the total nights of safety and support delivered. Successful move-ons represent residents who progressed from YMCA Malta's residential services into more independent or otherwise appropriate accommodation.

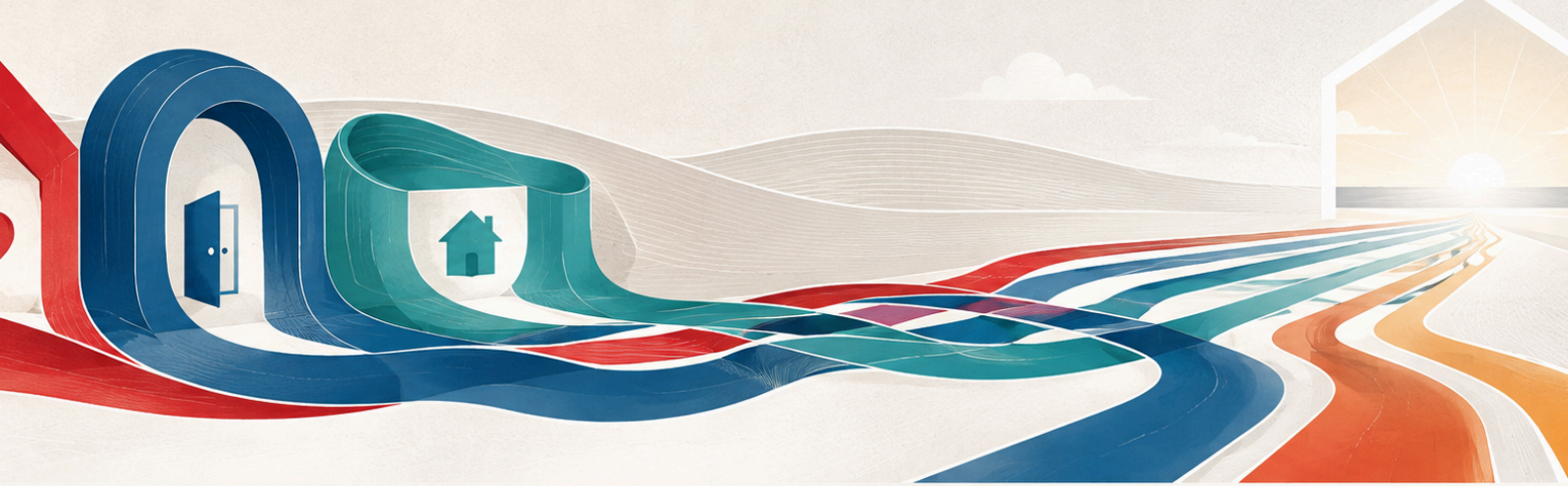
DAR PATHWAYS 2030



Drop-In Centre visits represent recorded entries or service contacts rather than unique individuals. One person may visit the centre repeatedly and may access more than one form of support during the same visit. Meals, showers, laundry services, clothing assistance, telephone calls, digital access and social-work interventions are recorded separately to show the range and intensity of assistance provided.

Psychotherapy figures distinguish between new referrals and therapeutic sessions delivered. Youth & Family figures record programme participation and activities across every intervention. Needs Support Programme figures include people or families receiving assistance on more than one occasion and are therefore described as recorded beneficiaries or instances of support.

These distinctions are important. Service volume alone does not explain the full reality of homelessness. During 2025, YMCA Malta accommodated fewer people than in 2024, but delivered more bed nights. At the same time, successful move-ons decreased. This combination points towards longer stays, reduced residential turnover and increasing difficulty in securing affordable and sustainable accommodation. Comparing 2024 to 2025 there is an increase of 25% bednights and 20% reduction in capacity turnover.



DIGNITY, ACCESS & REFUGE • DAR PATHWAYS

The reduction in referrals should therefore not be interpreted as evidence of an equivalent reduction in homelessness or housing insecurity. Where residents remain in shelter for longer, fewer beds become available for new admissions, even while teams continue operating at sustained intensity.

This evidence has implications beyond YMCA Malta's own services. It highlights the importance of stronger homelessness prevention, accessible housing-navigation support, sustainable move-on accommodation, tenancy-sustainment measures and closer coordination between accommodation, social-policy and community services.

YMCA Malta shares this evidence in the spirit of partnership. Frontline data, professional experience and the voices of people using our services can help public authorities, service providers and communities identify gaps, develop appropriate schemes and invest in pathways that prevent homelessness rather than responding only after a crisis has occurred.

Through DAR Pathways 2030, YMCA Malta is committed to strengthening how evidence is collected, interpreted and translated into action-connecting immediate assistance with prevention, recovery, housing stability and lasting inclusion.



RESPONDING TO HOMELESSNESS

From immediate survival needs to supported accommodation, therapeutic care and sustainable move-on.

Homelessness is rarely the result of a single event. It is shaped by the interaction of housing costs, poverty, relationship breakdown, domestic violence, health needs, migration status, institutional discharge and limited access to affordable accommodation. YMCA Malta's response therefore extends across a connected service pathway rather than a single shelter intervention.

During 2025, 405 residential referrals were received and 146 individuals were provided with accommodation. Across the year, residents received 17,746 bed nights. Fifty-six people moved on from residential support, while the Drop-In Centre continued to provide a low-threshold point of access for people requiring food, hygiene facilities, practical assistance, social-work intervention and connection to other services.

What the figures suggest

Compared with 2024, referrals and admissions decreased while total bed nights increased slightly. This combination is consistent with longer average stays and reduced throughput.



Indicator	2024	2025
Residential Referrals	453	405
People Sheltered	181	146
Bed Nights	17,583	17,746
Successful Move-Ons	85	56

It should be read in the context of barriers to affordable housing and the complexity of individual move-on pathways, rather than as a reduction in the work undertaken by residential teams.



RESIDENTIAL SERVICES

Safe accommodation accompanied by assessment, casework, daily support and preparation for independent living.

Families and children

Residential Services received referrals involving 28 families and 48 minors. Eight families, including 16 minors, were accommodated. These cases required responses that recognised the distinct safeguarding, educational, developmental and emotional needs of children experiencing housing instability. 1.5% of the referrals received had no nationality information.

Referral Group	Share
Maltese Nationals	50.6%
Non-EU Nationals	37.5%
EU Nationals	10.4%



UNDERSTANDING RESIDENTIAL NEED

Residential referrals during 2025 reflected the diverse circumstances of people experiencing homelessness. Of the 405 referrals received, 283 involved men, 119 involved women and three involved non-binary individuals.

Financial difficulties remained the leading reported driver of homelessness, accounting for 24% of referrals. Other significant factors included substance use (10.9%), the end of a prison sentence (10.3%), family difficulties (7.7%) and housing-related problems (7.1%). These figures demonstrate that homelessness rarely results from one issue alone, but often develops through interconnected financial, social and personal pressures.

YMCA Malta also received referrals involving 28 families and 37 older people. Eight families were accommodated, including 16 minors, requiring support that recognised the safeguarding, educational and emotional needs of children experiencing housing instability.

During the year, 56 individuals moved on from residential services, continuing their pathway towards more independent or appropriate accommodation.



HAMRUN DROP-IN CENTRE

A consistent point of welcome, dignity and practical support for people experiencing homelessness or acute hardship.

Throughout 2025, the Drop-In Centre provided immediate, low-threshold assistance while also creating opportunities for assessment, referral and sustained engagement. The service recorded 10,893 visits, an increase of 4.2% over 2024, and delivered 7,064 meals or food supports.

The centre also facilitated 2,153 showers, 1,025 laundry supports, 1,695 social-work interventions, 688 computer or internet sessions, 774 clothing supports and 612 facilitated phone calls. The Centre also served 8,829 coffees. Each practical service contributed to a broader objective: restoring dignity, maintaining connection and creating an accessible route into further support.

Indicator	2024	2025
Visits	10,458	10,893



Meals	6,939	7,064
Showers	2,151	2,153
Laundry	1,444	1,025
Social Work	2,199	1,695
Digital Access	972	688

The Drop-In Centre also remained an important point of communication and practical assistance. During 2025, the team received or managed 1,307 service-related calls and facilitated a further 612 telephone calls on behalf of service users. Clothing support was provided on 774 occasions. The centre recorded an average of 42 entries per operational day, with demand peaking in October, when 1,079 entries were registered.



PSYCHOTHERAPEUTIC SERVICES

Accessible mental-health support embedded within YMCA Malta's wider commitment to dignity, recovery and personal growth.

Psychotherapeutic Services delivered 1,734 sessions during 2025, representing a 15.0% increase over the 1,508 sessions delivered in 2024. The service combined direct therapeutic provision with professional development, supervision and the formation of emerging practitioners.

During 2025, Psychotherapeutic Services received 153 new referrals and delivered 1,734 sessions, representing a 15% increase over 2024. The service was supported by 39 trainees, four warranted professionals and one supervisor. Operational and clinical development included 25 one-to-one sessions, eight trainee mentoring sessions and monthly group-supervision sessions.

Who accessed therapy

Women represented 55.3% of clients, men 43.5% and other gender identities 1.2%. The largest recorded age group was 25–34 years at 36.3%, followed by those aged 35–44 at 30.1% and those aged 18–24 at 20.5%.



Presenting needs

The most frequently recorded presenting themes were life purpose (14.4%), anxiety (11.3%), family problems (8.1%) and depression (7.5%). Individual therapy accounted for 91.3% of recorded cases, while child and family therapy each represented 3.1%, and couple therapy 2.5%.



YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES

Prevention, participation and belonging across schools, communities and YMCA Malta's homelessness services.

During 2025, YMCA Malta's Youth & Family Services substantially expanded its preventative, educational and community-based work with children, young people and families. A total of 156 interventions and activities were delivered, reaching approximately 1,421 participants, nearly double the reach recorded in 2024.

The programme combined sustained engagement through the YEP Centres and Y' After School Club with educational workshops, detached youth work, support groups, childminding and activities delivered within Dar Niki Cassar and the Ħamrun Drop-In Centre. This enabled the service to meet young people across community, educational and homelessness-service settings.

Activity	2025
YEP Centres & Y' After School	92
Educational Workshops	30



Youth Activities at the Drop In Centre	19
Youth Activities within the Residential Shelters	6
Support Groups	4
Detached Youth Work	3
Childminding	2



NEEDS SUPPORT PROGRAMME: COMMUNITY GENEROSITY IN ACTION

Throughout 2025, YMCA Malta's Needs Support Programme provided food, hygiene products, clothing, household goods and other essential items to individuals and families experiencing financial hardship. Assistance reached people living within the community, former residents rebuilding their independence and residents across YMCA Malta's accommodation services.

During the year, the programme recorded at least 254 instances of support involving adults, children and families. As assistance may have been provided to the same person more than once, the figure represents recorded beneficiaries across the quarterly reports rather than 254 confirmed unique individuals.

2025 at a glance

- At least 254 recorded beneficiaries
- 170 recorded donations and community contributions
- €37,649.88 in tracked support-related expenditure
- Support delivered across residential services, the Drop-In Centre, community clients and former residents
- Regular contributions from businesses, schools, local councils, supermarkets, restaurants, community groups and individual donors



The programme was sustained by an extraordinary network of community support. Across the year, YMCA Malta recorded approximately 170 in-kind donations, Needs Support contributions and food donations from restaurants and confectioneries. Many donors contributed repeatedly, ensuring that food stores remained stocked and essential assistance could be provided throughout the year.

Regular supporters included Black Bull Meat, Benna, the Alfred Mizzi Foundation, Carmelo Delia, Lidl, the Little Sisters of the Poor, Foodbank Malta, Foodbank Lifeline and HSBC Malta. Additional support was received from Maypole, Pizza Hut, Burgers.Ink, Golden Harvest and numerous schools, local councils, companies and individual donors.

The programme also benefited from targeted contributions. Children in Need Foundation donated ten iPads and educational stationery for children residing within YMCA Malta's shelters, strengthening their access to learning and digital participation.

YMCA Malta's year-end support tracker recorded €37,649.88 directed across the Needs Support Programme, the Drop-In Centre, Dar Niki Cassar, Y Communal Home, food assistance and other YMCA services. Of this amount, €21,007.77 was recorded specifically under the Needs Support Programme for residential services and the Drop-In Centre.



During Christmas, the programme brought together companies and community groups to provide gifts, food, hygiene products, children's activities and festive meals. These contributions provided more than material assistance: they helped ensure that people facing hardship experienced dignity, inclusion and a sense of belonging during an important time of the year.

The Needs Support Programme demonstrates what becomes possible when community generosity is connected to an organised and responsive support system. Every donated meal, hygiene product, household item and educational resource became part of a wider pathway, helping individuals and families meet immediate needs while maintaining stability, dignity and hope.



ADVOCACY, REPRESENTATION AND OUTREACH: TURNING FRONTLINE EXPERIENCE INTO A PUBLIC VOICE

Throughout 2025, YMCA Malta strengthened its role as both a direct-service organisation and a public advocate on homelessness, poverty and social exclusion. The realities encountered daily through residential services, the Drop-In Centre and community programmes informed the organisation's participation in national forums, professional networks, community meetings and the media.

2025 at a glance

- 14 Anti-Poverty Forum engagements, including meetings, an AGM and committee meetings
- 23 Homeless Network meetings
- 13 Homeless Network working-group sessions
- At least 10 recorded television and radio engagements
- Community engagement in Valletta, Żabbar and Hamrun
- Participation in international training and exchange
- Public advocacy on housing, poverty, mental health and hidden homelessness

YMCA Malta participated in 11 Anti-Poverty Forum meetings, together with the Forum's Annual General Meeting and two committee meetings.



These engagements provided opportunities to contribute frontline evidence about the pressures facing low-income households, including rising rents, food and energy costs, insecure employment and limited access to affordable housing.

The organisation also participated in 23 Homeless Network meetings and 13 dedicated working-group sessions. These discussions brought together organisations and professionals working directly with people experiencing homelessness, helping to identify service gaps, coordinate responses and strengthen collective advocacy. Engagement also included dialogue with the Community Police and local community stakeholders.

Media remained an important channel for raising public awareness. YMCA Malta participated in at least ten recorded television and radio engagements during the year. Interviews explored the realities of homelessness that are not always visible, including sofa surfing, overcrowding, housing insecurity and the difficulties faced by working people whose income is insufficient to meet basic living costs.

YMCA Malta also used its public platforms to emphasise the connection between poverty and mental health.



Financial insecurity, housing instability and social isolation do not operate separately; together, they can significantly affect emotional wellbeing, relationships and a person's ability to recover from crisis.

Community outreach extended beyond formal networks. YMCA Malta participated in community meetings, workshops, fundraising activities, the Human Library initiative and engagement with educational institutions. The organisation also worked with corporate and hospitality partners to collect donations and increase awareness of its services.

International participation further strengthened this work. YMCA Malta contributed to the Campacity conference in Germany and Erasmus training in Italy, while staff took part in public-speaking, leadership and community-development training. These experiences supported the team in communicating YMCA Malta's mission more effectively and bringing international learning into local practice.

Advocacy is not separate from YMCA Malta's services; it grows directly from them. Every referral, Drop-In Centre visit, housing barrier and conversation with a service user helps the organisation understand where systems are failing and where change is required. By bringing this experience into public forums, networks and the media, YMCA Malta continued to ensure that homelessness and poverty were discussed not only as statistics, but as urgent matters of dignity, rights and social responsibility.



INTERNSHIPS AND VOLUNTEERING: LEARNING THROUGH SERVICE

YMCA Malta's internship and volunteering programme continued to attract people seeking meaningful experience while contributing their time, knowledge and energy to the organisation's mission. During 2025, the programme connected local and international participants with opportunities across residential services, community programmes, communications, fundraising and organisational support.

2025 at a glance

- 415 applications received
- 73 interns engaged
- 74 volunteers engaged
- 185 applicant interviews
- 72 induction sessions
- 54 completion and farewell meetings
- 23,838 intern hours recorded
- Participants and applicants from across Malta and the international community

Of the 415 applications received, 64 intern applications and 65 volunteer applications were accepted. A further 161 applications were declined, 86 applicants did not respond, 32 withdrew and seven did not attend their scheduled meeting.



A total of 73 interns participated during the year, comprising 11 local and 62 international interns. The programme also engaged 74 volunteers, reflecting the continued importance of voluntary participation to YMCA Malta's services and community presence.

The team conducted 185 online interviews and delivered 72 induction sessions to ensure that participants understood YMCA Malta's mission, values, safeguarding responsibilities and professional expectations. Fifty-four completion and farewell meetings provided space to review each participant's experience, recognise their contribution and gather feedback for future development.

Interns and volunteers contributed across a diverse range of activities. These included supporting services at Dar Niki Cassar, assisting with cooking and community activities, participating in fundraising events, supporting the Charity Shop, creating short promotional videos and helping YMCA Malta communicate its work to wider audiences.

The programme recorded 23,838 intern hours during 2025. These hours represent a substantial contribution to YMCA Malta's organisational capacity while also providing participants with practical experience of homelessness services, youth work, social support and nonprofit operations.



International partnerships remained central to the programme. Placement and educational relationships included YMCA Turku in Finland, Zuyd University of Applied Sciences and HAN University of Applied Sciences in the Netherlands, and Lycée Sainte-Ursule in France. These collaborations strengthened professional exchange and positioned YMCA Malta as a learning environment within a wider European and international network.

The value of the programme extends beyond the number of hours contributed. Internships and volunteering create encounters between people from different countries, professions and life experiences. Participants develop practical and interpersonal skills while service users benefit from additional activities, relationships and perspectives.

Through learning, service and cultural exchange, interns and volunteers became part of YMCA Malta's wider mission: contributing not only their labour, but also their creativity, humanity and belief in a more just society.



HUMAN RESOURCES AND ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT: STRENGTHENING THE PEOPLE BEHIND THE MISSION

During 2025, YMCA Malta continued strengthening its organisational structure, workforce systems and professional-development opportunities. This work recognised that sustainable services depend not only on funding and infrastructure, but also on capable, supported and clearly accountable people.

2025 at a glance

- Three core organisational groups consolidated
- Recruitment across frontline, management, fundraising and project roles
- New digital recruitment processes introduced
- International leadership and professional-development opportunities
- Continued investment in staff wellbeing, compliance and organisational sustainability

YMCA Malta operated through three core groups: Services, Support and Innovation. This model enabled the organisation to bring related functions together while maintaining a clearer distinction between frontline service delivery, organisational operations and future development.



The Services group brought together employees delivering residential, homelessness, community and aftercare services. Human Resources supported this group through recruitment, staff wellbeing, training, safeguarding and service-compliance processes.

The Support group maintained the organisation's operational foundation, including human resources, finance coordination and office management. Work within this area included employment contracts, internal policies, performance processes and administrative compliance.

The Innovation group focused on organisational development, project implementation, workforce planning and future growth. Human Resources supported this work by identifying skills needs, coordinating professional development and helping the organisation manage change.

Recruitment continued throughout the year across social support, community services, project development, fundraising and donor relations. YMCA Malta also introduced a digital recruitment platform through which vacancies could be advertised and applications managed more consistently.



This strengthened the organisation's ability to communicate available opportunities, organise candidate information and support a more structured selection process.

Professional development remained a priority. Staff participated in local and international learning opportunities, including:

- YMCA Camp Europe's Campacity conference in Germany
- YMCA Europe Leadership Academy
- Community Solutions Hub training in Brussels
- Voluntary Organisation Management Training
- Public-speaking workshops
- Erasmus training in Italy
- Youth Unify
- Community-development training in Northern Ireland

These opportunities addressed leadership, communication, mental health, resilience, community development, voluntary-organisation management and the delivery of services to vulnerable populations. International training also enabled employees to exchange knowledge with colleagues from other YMCA movements and civil-society organisations. Participants brought this learning back into YMCA Malta, strengthening both individual practice and the organisation's wider capacity.



Human Resources worked alongside the organisation's leadership to improve sustainability, financial stability and operational efficiency. The year's work reflected a continued shift from informal or fragmented systems towards clearer roles, digital processes, professional development and stronger organisational accountability.

Behind every bed night, therapy session, meal, youth activity and community intervention is a team of people carrying significant responsibility. Investing in that team is therefore not an internal administrative exercise; it is an essential part of protecting service quality, safeguarding vulnerable people and ensuring that YMCA Malta remains capable of responding to the community's changing needs.



INNOVATION AND PROJECT DEVELOPMENT: INVESTING IN STRONGER SERVICES

During 2025, YMCA Malta continued developing new projects, securing external investment and strengthening the physical and operational infrastructure behind its services. Innovation focused on practical improvements that could enhance dignity, service quality, organisational sustainability and opportunities for the people YMCA Malta supports.

2025 at a glance

- At least €32,824.50 in confirmed project funding
- Five funded initiatives across residential, youth and community services
- Investment in Dar Niki Cassar and Y Communal Home
- Vehicle funding secured to support collections and outreach
- Youth Centre facilities and resources strengthened
- Further national and European applications developed

YMCA partnered with Melita Foundation, APS Bank, Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector, Farsons Foundation and Aġenzija Żgħażaġh.



Funding from the Melita Foundation supported improvements at Dar Niki Cassar, after 10 years of operating from these premises, including roofing, aluminium apertures and bedroom curtains. These interventions aimed to improve the shelter's physical environment and provide residents with greater comfort, privacy and dignity.

The Farsons Foundation supported further development of Dar Niki Cassar's outdoor areas. Planned improvements included outdoor furniture, waste-management facilities, plants and the renovation of the therapeutic garden, creating a more welcoming space for residents' wellbeing and social interaction.

APS Bank supported a programme of educational workshops at Y Communal Home. The workshops addressed financial management, emotional resilience, social navigation and personal goal-setting, helping residents strengthen the skills required for sustainable independent living.

Through VOPS 2025, YMCA Malta secured €16,780 for the Aid on Wheels initiative. The funding supported the acquisition of a vehicle for collecting donations, transporting bulky items and strengthening the organisation's ability to deliver material assistance. The vehicle also created the potential to support the future development of Y'Visible street outreach.



BOOST funding from Aġenzija Żgħażaġħ enabled YMCA Malta to improve its Youth Centre. Investment included games, bookshelves, chill-out furniture, stationery, creative materials and CCTV equipment. These additions strengthened the centre as a safe, engaging and welcoming environment where young people could meet, learn and participate.

Alongside funded initiatives, YMCA Malta developed further proposals addressing youth participation, homelessness among migrants, staff training, fire safety and domestic and gender-based violence. Applications also supported the organisation's continued engagement with Erasmus+ and the European Solidarity Corps.

Not every proposal submitted during the year was guaranteed funding. However, each application helped YMCA Malta refine its service ideas, build partnerships and develop a stronger portfolio of responses to emerging needs.

Innovation at YMCA Malta is grounded in everyday service realities. It is not pursued simply to create new projects, but to solve practical problems: improving a shelter, transporting donations, equipping young people, strengthening staff skills or helping residents prepare for independence. Through project development and external investment, YMCA Malta continued turning identified needs into practical improvements, building stronger services today while preparing the organisation for the challenges of tomorrow.

DAR

DINJITA | AĊĊESS | RIFUGĠJU

FUNDRAISING AND DONOR ENGAGEMENT: BUILDING A COMMUNITY AROUND THE MISSION

Fundraising remained central to YMCA Malta's ability to maintain essential services, respond to emerging needs and invest in longer-term solutions. During 2025, the organisation combined digital giving, corporate partnerships, community donations, project funding and public campaigns to mobilise support for people experiencing homelessness and vulnerability.

2025 at a glance

- €401,256 reported through the DAR campaign and telethon
- More than €32,824 in confirmed project funding
- Continued growth in online fundraising
- New campaign and donation pages developed
- Strong corporate and community participation
- Extensive in-kind support for residents and community clients

The year's major fundraising initiative was the DAR campaign and telethon, which brought together residents, staff, volunteers, companies, donors and members of the public around the principle that a safe home is a fundamental human need.



The campaign culminated in a reported total of €401,256. Beyond raising funds, DAR created a national platform through which YMCA Malta could speak about homelessness, housing insecurity and the realities experienced by the people using its services.

Television and radio interviews, podcasts, social-media activity and community engagement helped bring the campaign to a wider audience. Residents' experiences and YMCA Malta's frontline work were placed at the centre of the public conversation, helping ensure that homelessness was understood as a structural and human issue rather than an individual failure.

Digital fundraising infrastructure also developed during the year. YMCA Malta continued implementing technology to manage campaigns, online donations and donor relationships more effectively. Dedicated fundraising pages were created for different initiatives, enabling supporters to connect their contribution with a particular service or purpose.

Corporate and community partnerships remained essential. Businesses supported YMCA Malta through direct financial contributions, sponsorships, in-kind donations, staff initiatives, food collections and fundraising activities. Schools, local councils, supermarkets, restaurants, community groups and individual donors also played an important role.



Fundraising during the year was complemented by at least €32,824.50 in confirmed project funding for improvements to residential facilities, youth services, educational programmes and organisational transport. This funding enabled YMCA Malta to invest in specific developments while directing unrestricted donations towards wider service needs.

The organisation's fundraising work was not limited to financial contributions. Food, hygiene products, furniture, clothing, educational resources, equipment and professional services all helped reduce operational costs and ensure that assistance reached people quickly. Every contribution formed part of a wider ecosystem of support. A donation could provide an immediate meal, help maintain a safe residential environment, support a child's education or contribute to someone's journey towards independent living.

Through the DAR campaign, digital giving and sustained donor engagement, YMCA Malta continued transforming public generosity into practical assistance, safe accommodation and pathways forward.



PARTNERSHIPS AND INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT: STRONGER THROUGH COLLABORATION

Partnerships remained fundamental to YMCA Malta's work throughout 2025. The organisation collaborated with businesses, public authorities, educational institutions, civil-society organisations, community groups and international YMCA partners to strengthen services, share knowledge and create new opportunities.

2025 at a glance

- Collaboration with local and international educational institutions
- Active participation in national homelessness and anti-poverty networks
- European training and leadership-development opportunities
- Corporate investment in residential, youth and community services
- International internship and volunteering partnerships
- Continued engagement with the wider YMCA movement

At a national level, YMCA Malta worked closely with organisations addressing homelessness, poverty, food insecurity, mental health and social exclusion. Participation in the Homeless Network and Anti-Poverty Forum enabled the organisation to contribute frontline knowledge while learning from other service providers and advocacy organisations.



Corporate partnerships translated directly into practical improvements. Support from the Melita Foundation, APS Bank, the Farsons Foundation and Agenzija Żgħażaġħ enabled YMCA Malta to improve residential spaces, provide educational workshops and strengthen the Youth Centre. VOPS funding supported the Aid on Wheels initiative, increasing the organisation's capacity to collect and transport donations.

Long-term relationships with food suppliers, supermarkets, foundations and community organisations helped maintain the Needs Support Programme and the Hamrun Drop-In Centre. These collaborations ensured that food, hygiene products and essential items remained available to residents and community clients throughout the year.

Educational partnerships were particularly important to YMCA Malta's internship and volunteering programme. International relationships included:

- YMCA Turku, Finland
- Zuyd University of Applied Sciences, the Netherlands
- HAN University of Applied Sciences, the Netherlands
- Lycée Sainte-Ursule, France



These relationships created opportunities for student placements, professional development, cultural exchange and shared learning. Partner visits also allowed educational institutions to understand YMCA Malta's services, supervision structures and learning environment more closely.

Children in Need Foundation supported children residing within YMCA Malta's shelters through the donation of ten iPads and educational stationery. This partnership demonstrated how international support could respond to a specific local need and strengthen children's access to learning.

YMCA Malta also participated in international training and leadership-development opportunities. Staff attended the Campacity conference in Germany, Erasmus training in Italy, Community Solutions Hub training in Brussels and YMCA Europe Leadership Academy activities in Northern Ireland.

These experiences enabled staff to engage with topics including trauma-informed practice, mental health, resilience, refugee integration, conflict transformation, leadership and community development. Learning was brought back into the organisation, strengthening both individual practice and the wider service environment.



Engagement with the wider YMCA movement continued to provide YMCA Malta with a network of shared identity, knowledge and solidarity. Through international exchanges, staff development and partnership-building, the organisation contributed to and benefited from a movement working across countries and communities.

Partnerships allowed YMCA Malta to extend its reach beyond what it could achieve alone. Whether through funding, food donations, professional knowledge, volunteering or advocacy, every collaboration contributed to a stronger and more connected response to homelessness and vulnerability.



LOOKING AHEAD

Towards YMCA Malta's 50th anniversary and DAR Pathways 2030.

In 2026, YMCA Malta marks 50 years of service. This milestone is not only an opportunity to celebrate the organisation's history; it is a moment to consider what Malta will require from YMCA in the years ahead.

The experience of 2025 reinforces the need for a connected pathway across prevention, low-threshold support, residential accommodation, therapeutic care, youth and family work, move-on support and community participation. DAR Pathways 2030 will provide the framework through which YMCA Malta strengthens these connections and develops a more integrated response to homelessness and social exclusion.

Priorities for the next chapter

- Strengthen prevention and early intervention before housing instability becomes homelessness.
- Increase access to safe, appropriate and sustainable move-on housing.



- Develop the Drop-In Centre as a stronger low-threshold service and pathway hub.
- Embed therapeutic, youth and family support across the homelessness ecosystem.
- Build long-term organisational sustainability through partnership, innovation and social enterprise.
- Use evidence and lived experience to influence housing and homelessness policy.

For five decades, YMCA Malta has adapted to the changing needs of the community while remaining rooted in human dignity, solidarity and hope. The next chapter will build on that legacy, connecting immediate support with lasting pathways home.



HOMEBOUND: THE FIRST STEPS INTO OUR 50TH YEAR

As 2025 drew to a close, YMCA Malta began its 50th-anniversary journey with an extraordinary demonstration of endurance, solidarity and community.

Between Boxing Day and New Year's Eve, endurance athlete Zach Vella undertook the first Homebound initiative: the 6x60 Challenge. Zach ran 60 kilometres a day for six consecutive days, covering 360 kilometres across Malta in support of YMCA Malta's work with people experiencing homelessness.

Each day brought a different route and new people running alongside him. Some joined for only a few kilometres, while others completed their longest-ever distance. Friends, families, athletes, businesses and individuals who had never met before came together around one purpose: turning movement into meaningful support.

The challenge raised €32,000, exceeding its original €20,000 target. Funds were dedicated to two urgent developments: creating a new semi-independent apartment for six people progressing from shelter towards independent living, and expanding YMCA Malta's Hamrun Drop-In Centre to provide greater space for counselling, outreach and daily support.



Homebound was created as more than a single fundraising event. Its vision is to transform physical challenges into lasting social impact, turning miles into homes and bringing people together around the belief that everyone deserves somewhere safe to belong. Homebound.

The final kilometres of the 6x60 Challenge carried YMCA Malta symbolically from its 49th year into its 50th. They marked the beginning of a year that would celebrate not only our history, but also the people, partnerships and acts of courage that continue moving our mission forward.

Every step brought someone closer to home, and every step carried us closer to fifty years of dignity, access and refuge.



EVERYONE DESERVES SOMEWHERE SAFE TO BELONG

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DAR: Dignity. Access. Refuge.

*'Seeking to promote the vision
to build a more just society'*