

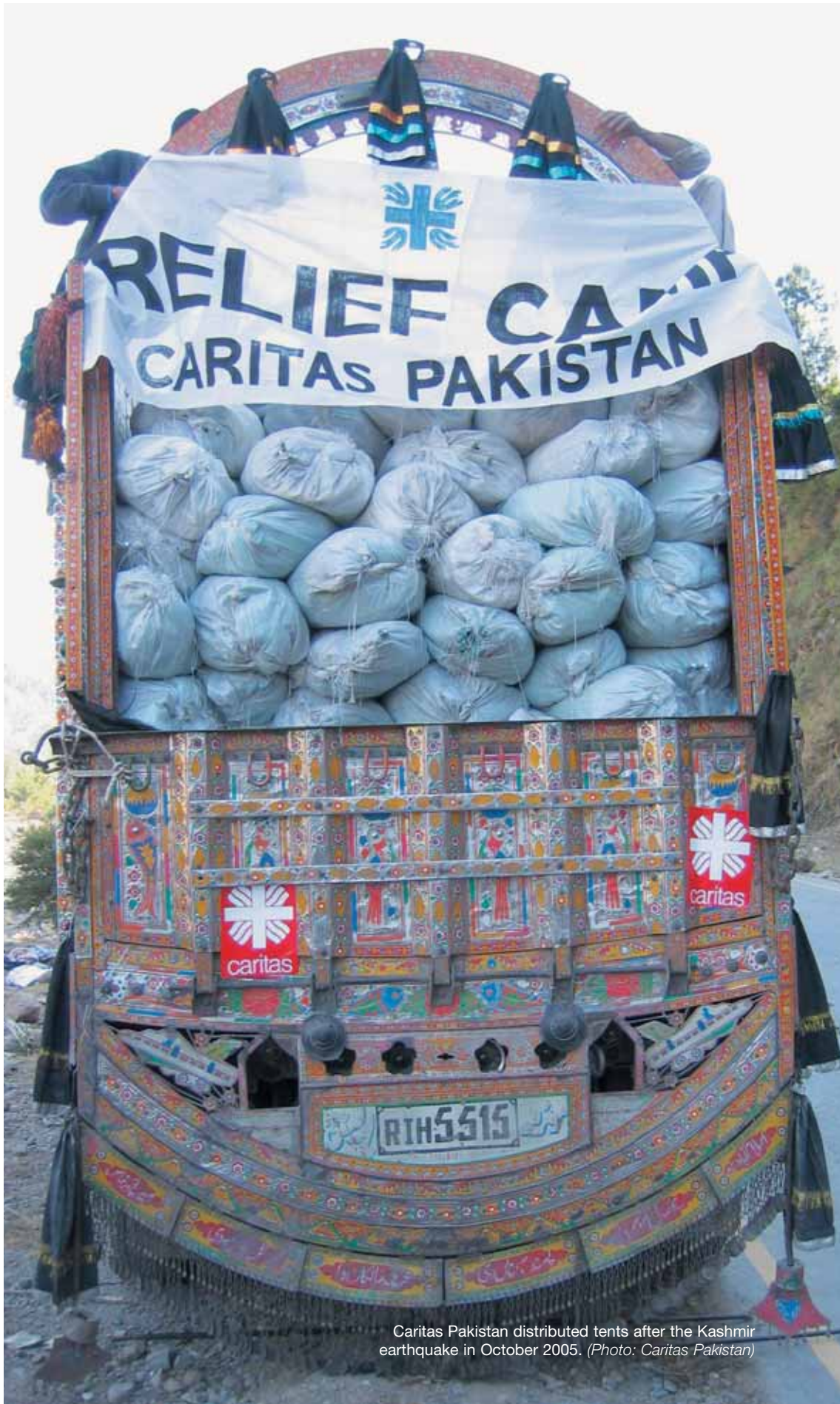


2003-2007

Globalising Solidarity: Caritas Internationalis Activities Report

Table of Contents

Message from the Secretary General	3	Empowerment and People's Participation	31
Humanitarian Activities	7	Strengthening the Confederation	32
International Humanitarian Standards	13	Ecclesial Identity and Relations with the Holy See	34
Advocacy	15	Statutory Commissions	36
Peace-Building and Reconciliation	21	Other Meetings	38
Communications	22	Conclusion	39
Gender	24	List of 2003 Appeals	40
HIV/AIDS	25	List of 2004 Appeals	42
Human Trafficking and Forced Migration	26	List of 2005 Appeals	44
Environmental Justice	28	List of 2006 Appeals	46
Inter-Regional Collaboration	29	List of 2007 Appeals	46
World Social Forum	30	Who We Are	48
		The Confederation	52



Caritas Pakistan distributed tents after the Kashmir earthquake in October 2005. (Photo: Caritas Pakistan)

Message

from the

Secretary General

of Caritas Internationalis

Our mission over the last four years has been to “Globalise Solidarity”. The words of Pope John Paul II have never seemed a more vital guide. Since the last General Assembly, we have witnessed the lives of millions of people made worse by tsunamis and earthquakes, poverty and hunger, wars and conflict, disease and despair. And Caritas agencies have sought to be there with the most vulnerable during their most difficult times.

Our mission has received an important boost from the new Pope with the publication of Pope Benedict XVI’s first encyclical *Deus Caritas Est*. In his reflection on charity, he outlines a vision of Catholic humanitarian agencies on which we seek to model ourselves.

The Holy Father says that we have to be professional, independent of parties and ideologies, and should not proselytise. He writes that we should also work with others serving various forms of need. All of which Caritas has strived towards over the four years and more.

This report tries to give a panorama of the vast and varied work of the Confederation, one of the largest and most effective humanitarian and development networks in the world.

The report shows how we have worked together to consolidate our strategic plan based on the last General Assembly and the new

directions of Caritas Internationalis laid down in “Renewing the Caritas Confederation” from 1999-2003.

The report also highlights how a new world order sets new challenges for us all, and outlines the changes the XVIII General Assembly must make to meet those challenges head on.

In order to foster the globalisation of solidarity, the Confederation has tried to encourage more coordination among members, especially in humanitarian and advocacy work. We have sought to instil peace and reconciliation practice in all our relief, development, and social service work. We have wanted to base all our work on our principle of partnership.

We continue to enhance the position of women within our structures as a matter of human rights and raise awareness of the importance of gender within the Confederation.

Increasing our advocacy voice on campaigns on peace and justice and improving communications both within the network and outside it will be as crucial in the next four years as in the previous four.

At Caritas, we have tried to expand our work on HIV/AIDS at the international, regional, and national level. We have advanced work on human trafficking and migration, environmental justice, and empowerment and people’s participation through our regional structures in Europe, Oceania, and Latin America/Caribbean respectively.

We have reaffirmed our Catholic identity operating in a pluralistic world and improved relations with the Holy See.

In *Deus Caritas Est*, Pope Benedict enters the area of the ‘why’ and points to Caritas workers by saying that they should be distinguished not merely by the fact that they “meet the needs of

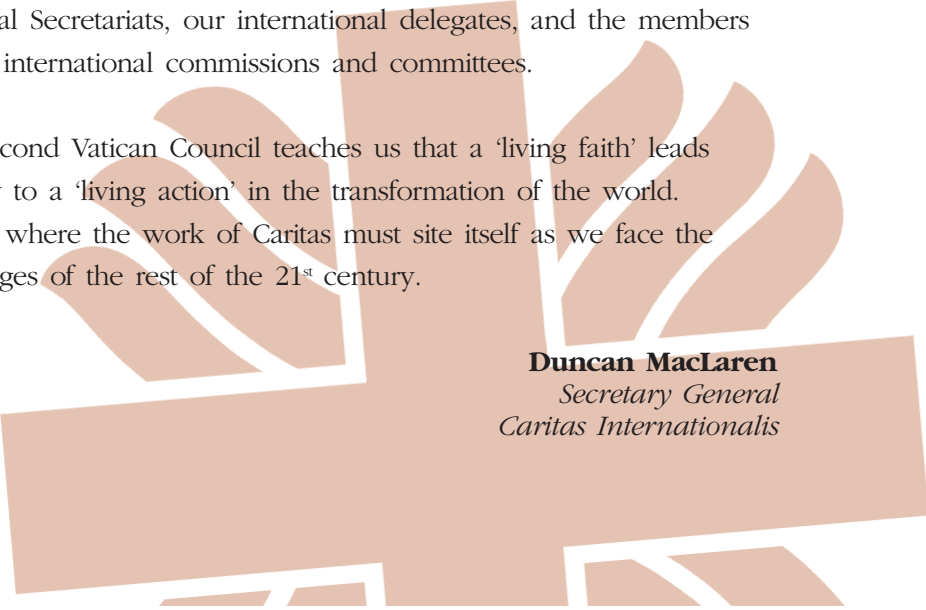
the moment but they dedicate themselves to others with heartfelt concern, enabling them to experience the richness of their humanity”.

Three people who shared their humanity with the poor at the international level of Caritas are no longer with us: our late President, Archbishop Fouad El-Hage, whose courage and wisdom inspired us all; Donna Hanson, coordinator of Caritas North America who is credited with forming it as an active region of the Confederation; and Lynn Yuill, our young Head of Communications in the General Secretariat who helped reshape the way we communicate to the outside world. May they rest in peace and may their work be reflected in the following pages.

In the report to the last General Assembly, we spoke of how the world seemed a darker place than four years before. We cannot say that the world has changed much for the better but, as this report indicates, Caritas, at all its levels, from the parish to the global, has continued to shed the light of Christ’s message in word and deed and continues to express hope to millions of the excluded throughout the world.

I would like to thank everyone who has made that hope possible, especially the current President, Denis Viénot, members of the Bureau and Executive Committee, the staffs of the General and Regional Secretariats, our international delegates, and the members of our international commissions and committees.

The Second Vatican Council teaches us that a ‘living faith’ leads directly to a ‘living action’ in the transformation of the world. This is where the work of Caritas must sit itself as we face the challenges of the rest of the 21st century.



Duncan MacLaren
Secretary General
Caritas Internationalis



A fisherman in India stands next to his boat, provided by Caritas after the devastating 2004 Asian tsunami. (Photo: Stefan Teplan)



HUMANITARIAN ACTIVITIES

Emergency Response

In its relief work, Caritas places the needs of the human person – especially the poor and the vulnerable – at the centre of its concerns and works to empower people to take hold of their own destiny. As a grassroots organisation, Caritas does not enter into an emergency situation and then pull out months later, but rather accompanies communities before, during, and after a crisis. From small-scale emergencies that barely make the news to large-scale disasters that hold the world's attention, Caritas is present, mobilising resources and personnel to deliver crucial relief and to help communities bring about change through long-term development and social work.

As the number of complex emergencies increases, so too does the need for Caritas to improve coordination among its 162 members to ensure a rapid, effective, and professional response. In addition to mobilising and coordinating member organisations' response to major emergencies, the Caritas Internationalis General Secretariat is responsible for facilitating its financial coverage. Nearly 130 Special Operation Appeals (SOAs) were launched by CI from July 2003 to March 2007 in response to crisis situations throughout the world – from Hurricane Stan in Central America to food insecurity in the Sahel to earthquakes in Iran, Pakistan, and Indonesia, just to name a few.

Caritas continues to evaluate and fine-tune existing coordinating mechanisms such as the Emergency Response Support Team (ERST), a short-term crisis management mechanism, and the longer-term Solidarity Team for Emergency Partnership (STEP) and the Facilitating or Accompanying Partner Mechanisms, incorporating lessons learned from each major emergency response. Over the last four years, ERSTs, comprising experts from within the network, were sent to help the local Church and Caritas respond to emergencies in war-torn Liberia, Iraq, and Haiti, in earthquake-ravaged Pakistan, and in tsunami-devastated Sri Lanka, India, Indonesia, and Thailand, among others.

HUMANITARIAN ACTIVITIES

Darfur

More than 200,000 people have died in Sudan's western region of Darfur since 2003, when fighting intensified between the Sudanese government and Darfuri rebels. The Sudanese military forces and the government-backed militias, called Janjaweed, have been widely accused of committing gross violations of human rights against civilians, including executions, sexual violence, village raids, burning, looting, and crop destruction. Two and a half million people have been displaced into camps or host communities in Darfur, and more than 200,000 have taken refuge across the border in Chad. Most Darfuris seeking refuge in camps are women and children.

A peace agreement was signed between Sudan's government and one faction of the Sudan Liberation Army/Movement (SLA/M) in May 2006 after several rounds of talks. However, lack of support for the agreement and local tensions contributed to its failure. Furthermore, government efforts to discourage world attention and to limit the international presence in Darfur have hampered the international response. Sharp increases in insecurity during the latter half of 2006 have led to continued displacement of individuals and communities, with regular reports of atrocities in and around IDP camps and villages. The UN says that out of a population of six or seven million people, some four million people in Darfur are in urgent need of humanitarian aid.

Since July 2004, Action by Churches Together (ACT), the emergency wing of the World Council of Churches (WCC), and Caritas Internationalis have worked together to respond to the growing needs of the people in Darfur. The programme, known as the Darfur Emergency Response Programme (DERO), is the first joint humanitarian response in Sudan involving Protestant, Orthodox, and Catholic Churches and three local agencies: SUDO, SUDANAID-Caritas Sudan, and SCC (Sudan Council of Churches). Harnessing and channelling the resources of some 60 organisations, DERO has become one of the largest humanitarian operations in South and West Darfur, delivering much-needed social services, training in sustainable livelihoods, and peace-building and education with the aim of finding long-term solutions to the conflict.



Schoolgirls study at the Hassa Hissa camp school run by Sudan Council of Churches on behalf of ACT-Caritas in Darfur. (Photo: Gillian Sandford, ACT-Caritas)

Globalising Solidarity

When a powerful tsunami ravaged coastal communities in Indonesia, Thailand, Sri Lanka, and India on 26 December 2004, local Caritas were among the first to respond, helping the injured, consoling survivors, and organising relief goods for distribution. During the initial emergency phase, the Caritas network assisted close to half a million people in the four countries, providing food, clothing, medicines, medical care, water purification, and sanitation. Emergency relief programmes gradually gave way to longer-term projects focusing on shelter, rehabilitation of community infrastructure, improvement of public services, capacity building among local partners, and promotion of community and social harmony. Caritas also responded to needs in less-affected countries such as the Seychelles and Somalia, while in Lebanon, Caritas assisted Sri Lankan and Indian migrant workers to contact family members or return home.

The global response of Caritas to the tsunami disaster has not been without its challenges. Negotiating land availability and legal ownership, locating building materials and local skilled labour, and ensuring that entire communities benefit from rehabilitation and recovery programmes and are involved in the decision-



making process are just some of the issues Caritas is dealing with. Caritas has also learned the importance of emergency preparedness, as well as the need to integrate peace-building into its response, not only in conflict zones such as Sri Lanka and Aceh, but in all areas where lives are disrupted. Details of relief and recovery programmes, implemented by national Caritas and local Church partners, and longer-term rehabilitation plans were highlighted in the CI booklet, *Rebuilding Communities, Restoring Lives, Renewing Hope after the Tsunami*, published in 2005 to mark the first anniversary of the disaster.

A woman plants peanuts as part of a post-tsunami programme run by Caritas Czech in Lamno, Aceh, Indonesia. (Photo: Caritas Czech)

Political unrest flared up in Haiti in early 2004, sparking a social and economic crisis that worsened what was already a dire situation in the Caribbean nation, one of the world's poorest. Caritas Haiti responded by presenting a comprehensive humanitarian aid programme focusing on health care, food aid, legal assistance, counselling, and financial support. Emergency centres were set up in each diocese, while education initiatives on peace-building, human rights, and conflict resolution were intensified. The programme also included early warning systems. The situation in Haiti was made worse when torrential rains lashed most of the country in mid-2004, causing flash flooding and widespread destruction, while Tropical Storm Jeanne ravaged the city of Gonaives and its surrounding areas a few months later in September. Thousands of people lost their lives in the two storms, and many more were left homeless. Caritas responded by distributing food and non-food relief items to those affected by both disasters. An Emergency Response Support Team

Asian Tsunami

Haiti

HUMANITARIAN ACTIVITIES

Haiti

(ERST) made up of members from Caritas Haiti, Caritas Switzerland, Caritas France (Secours Catholique), Caritas United States (CRS), and Caritas Belgium, was sent to help Caritas Gonaives reach out to affected communities in the aftermath of Jeanne.

In 2006, Caritas and CIDSE (*Coopération Internationale pour le Développement et la Solidarité*) set up the Haiti Working Group to support Caritas Haiti's work in pursuing lasting solutions to its country's social ills. The Working Group's brief includes strengthening partnerships between member organisations, strengthening the capacity for coordination of bilateral international cooperation, and strengthening the capacity for coordination of advocacy work on Haiti.

Crisis in the Middle East

In July 2006, rocket and mortar attacks on Israeli military positions and the kidnapping of two Israeli soldiers by Hezbollah forces set off swift retaliation by the Israel Defence Forces (IDF). Israel responded with massive air strikes and artillery fire on targets in Lebanon, an air and naval blockade, and a ground invasion of southern Lebanon.

A 33-day war ensued, resulting in heavy loss of life and injuries in Lebanon, Palestine, and Israel, the displacement of hundreds of thousands of people, and severely damaged infrastructure in Lebanon. Most of the displaced began returning home after a ceasefire was declared on 14 August 2006. Many found their houses and communities uninhabitable, with public and private buildings damaged or destroyed, electricity and water supplies cut off, and unexploded cluster bombs present.

The Caritas Confederation mobilised resources at the outset to support Caritas Lebanon's efforts to deliver food, supplies, and medical assistance to displaced families, primarily in the south of the country and in Beirut. Caritas Lebanon's Migrants' Centre (CLMC) assisted some 14,000 migrant workers and refugees, providing shelter, food, healthcare, counselling, and repatriation assistance, while Caritas Sri Lanka-SEDEC helped Sri Lankan domestic workers caught up in the conflict with air tickets and transportation upon their arrival home. Caritas members also provided emergency assistance to displaced Lebanese in Syria and Cyprus. After the ceasefire, Caritas Lebanon launched a new appeal to provide recovery and rehabilitation support to some 77,000 people over a longer period of time.

Although overshadowed by the war in Lebanon, the humanitarian crisis in Gaza and the West Bank – a crisis marked by insecurity and air raids, shortages of fuel and electricity, unpaid salaries, and restricted movement of medicines and food – continued to be a major concern. Caritas Jerusalem appealed for support in alleviating the suffering of 1.4 million Palestinians, half of them children, and continued to help families cover basic needs and to provide medical treatment, educational support, and job creation.

Globalising Solidarity

CI Emergency Guidelines and CI Emergency Response Tool Kit

The new *CI Emergency Guidelines*, which replace *Our Response to Major Emergencies*, stem from the knowledge the Confederation has acquired over the last several years, particularly in the use of mandated operational support mechanisms. The *CI Emergency Response Tool Kit*, meant to complement the *CI Emergency Guidelines*, offers members practical resources for use during an emergency response including assessment checklists, budget and proposal templates, and other operational formats, which can be adapted to specific contexts and needs.

Emergency Preparedness and Response

The Caritas Confederation is aware of the crucial need for local Caritas members to be trained to respond quickly and effectively to disasters when they strike and to have the necessary resources to help those affected immediately. Through its ongoing work with local communities, Caritas is in a good position to identify those most at risk and to gain insight into traditional coping mechanisms, knowledge that can help to reduce the impact of an emergency when it occurs. Caritas has worked to improve emergency preparedness and response throughout the Confederation over the last several years, supporting training sessions at regional and zonal levels.

International Cooperation Committee (ICC)

The ICC, which acts as an advisory body to the International Cooperation Department (ICD) within the General Secretariat, met twice a year to review recent Confederation responses to major emergencies, communicate regional concerns and learning, debate issues regarding humanitarian policy, quality, and accountability as well as provide guidance and support regarding current and future work plans for the Confederation on humanitarian issues. In addition to working on the new *CI Emergency Guidelines* and *CI Emergency Response Tool Kit*, the ICC closely followed the Confederation's responses to emergencies, including Caritas' post-tsunami relief and rehabilitation work, and agreed to set up a working group to monitor the emergency situation in the Sahel.



The fighting in southern Lebanon in July 2006 uprooted hundreds of thousands of people, including this girl living in a temporary shelter in Beirut. (Photo: David Snyder/CRS)



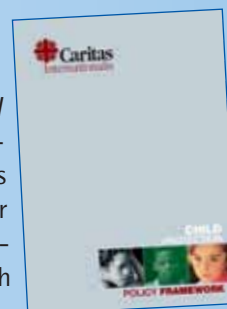
Children on Simeulue Island, Indonesia celebrate a new school built by Caritas after the 2004 tsunami. (Photo: Cordaid)

INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN STANDARDS

Caritas is committed to improving the quality of humanitarian aid and to enhancing its accountability, transparency, and professionalism. This has translated into greater emphasis in recent years on standard setting. CI members are morally bound in their work to uphold the *CI Statutes and Rules*, the *Code of Conduct for the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement and NGOs in Disaster Relief*, the *Sphere Project's Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response*, the provision of gender equity, and the *CI Child Protection Policy Framework*. In addition, the encyclical of Pope Benedict XVI on charity, *Deus Caritas Est*, published in January 2006, reminds us that Caritas workers share not only their skills but also their humanity with those affected by disaster.

CI Child Protection Policy Framework

The protection of children – one of the most vulnerable groups in any society – is a top priority for Caritas. The *CI Child Protection Policy Framework*, translated into the Confederation's three languages and distributed in 2004, provides Caritas members with policy guidelines and concrete tools for the prevention of child abuse and sexual exploitation in humanitarian situations, and useful steps for dealing with such allegations. It is used whenever Caritas members work together as a Confederation, and individual Caritas members are encouraged either to adopt the guidelines or adapt them to fit local circumstances.

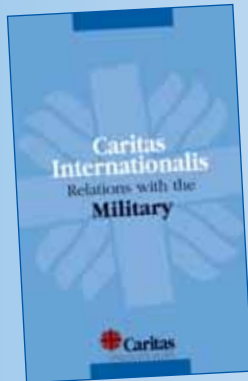


Relations with the Military

The Caritas Confederation has long grappled with the challenge of how to relate to military forces during humanitarian crises. The military has become increasingly engaged in work usually regarded as the exclusive domain of humanitarian agencies. While there are different opinions regarding the appropriateness of military involvement in crises, it is impossible to provide aid in many situations today without some type of relationship with the military. The Confederation recognised the need to define what the appropriate relationship should be, and where the boundaries should lie. The overarching goal of Caritas



INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN STANDARDS



is to ensure that affected populations continue to receive vital assistance in a way that neither undermines the independent nature of humanitarian aid, nor compromises the guiding values and principles of the Confederation. A seminar in late 2003 brought together members from the global Caritas network to share concerns about military relations and to lay down ground rules to help guide the Confederation in dealing with this challenge.

A lengthy consultative process ensued throughout the regions, resulting in the *Caritas Internationalis Relations with the Military* booklet.

Steering Committee for Humanitarian Response (SCHR)

Caritas has been a member of the Steering Committee for Humanitarian Response (SCHR)² since its creation in 1972, and in 2005, assumed the chair. The SCHR brings together the major international humanitarian networks to share information, study and debate issues and policies relating to humanitarian standards, accountability, protection, and security, and conduct peer reviews aimed at enhancing members' accountability and performance. The first peer review revolved around members' policies for preventing sexual abuse in humanitarian situations, which has resulted in greater dialogue and positive changes in policies and practices. The next peer review, from 2007 onwards, will focus on accountability.

Quality and Accountability

Caritas Internationalis is a member of the Sphere Project Board for Minimum Standards in Disaster Response, and continues to follow other initiatives such as the Active Learning Network for Accountability and Performance in Humanitarian Action (ALNAP)³ and the Humanitarian Accountability Partnership International (HAP-I)⁴. Both CI and Confederation member CAFOD (Caritas England and Wales) have actively participated in ALNAP meetings, sharing outcomes of various evaluations that have taken place in recent years including Caritas' tsunami response, the Darfur Emergency Response Operation (DERO), and Caritas' capacity building in emergency preparedness. Caritas members are also involved in the HAP-I initiative on accountability and quality management standard development.

¹ The Sphere Project was launched in 1997 by a group of humanitarian NGOs, including Caritas Internationalis, and the Red Cross and Red Crescent movement, who framed a Humanitarian Charter and identified minimum standards in disaster assistance in each of the five key sectors (water supply and sanitation, nutrition, food aid, shelter, and health services). The first Sphere handbook, published in 2000, features the Humanitarian Charter and the Code of Conduct for the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement and NGOs. Caritas Internationalis is a sponsor of the Code of Conduct. The most recent Sphere handbook was issued in 2004.

² Members of the Steering Committee for Humanitarian Response (SCHR) in 2007: Care International, Caritas Internationalis, International Committee of the Red Cross, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Lutheran World Federation, Oxfam, International Save the Children Alliance, World Council of Churches.

³ ALNAP, created in 1997, is an international sector-wide network that aims to promote a culture of learning across the humanitarian sector in an effort to enhance performance. Caritas Internationalis is a full member.

⁴ HAP-I, established in 2003, works to strengthen the accountability of humanitarian work. Caritas Internationalis participates through CAFOD (Caritas England and Wales).

ADVOCACY

Caritas has increasingly seized opportunities to advocate for policy changes at international level – changes that truly benefit the poor and not just pay lip-service. In turn, Caritas has emerged as a vocal and influential presence in the international debate, weighing in mainly on issues of peace, but also on trade justice and food security, and earning the respect and attention of international decision-makers.

An external evaluation of Caritas' advocacy work at international level was carried out in mid-2006, resulting in a number of recommendations taken up by the Confederation's International Advocacy Committee (IAC). One key recommendation called for a review of the governing structures of the Confederation with regard to advocacy. The need to provide sufficient resources and develop more effective mechanisms was also highlighted.

Peace Campaigns

With the Democratic Republic of Congo's first democratic elections slated for mid-2006, Caritas began putting together a strategy in 2005 to raise awareness of the plight of the Congolese and mobilise international support for the country's political transition. A poster was issued in the Confederation's three official languages, followed by the DVD "DR Congo's Life or Death Transition", targeting international and national policy makers, the media, and CI members. Both were widely distributed throughout the network and to interested partners. CI kept a close watch on the elections in 2006, joining the Congolese Bishops' Conference (CENCO) and Caritas Congo in calling on all to resist violence and see the electoral



Fr Hector Fabio Henao, national director of Caritas Colombia/SNPS, speaks about Caritas' campaign for peace in Colombia during the World Social Forum.

ADVOCACY



process through. Results from the October 2006 run-off vote incited some violent reactions in the country, yet hopes remain high that these episodes will not derail the Congo's return to peace and stability.

In 2004, CI launched its "Campaign for Peace in Colombia" to raise awareness of one of the world's longest conflicts. Nearly four decades of strife have resulted in tremendous suffering for much of the nation, especially the more than two million internally displaced. CI's campaign echoes the position put forward by the Colombian Bishops' Conference that peace can only be achieved through dialogue and sustained by social justice. Phase one of the campaign has sought to educate the

international community about the humanitarian crisis, express solidarity with the victims of the violence, and call for political negotiations, while phase two, launched in September 2006, has focused on finding concrete solutions for the social transformation needed to create a more just society.



Through its "Peace is Possible in the Holy Land" campaign, first launched in 2002, Caritas has continued to press for political action to obtain a just and durable peace that benefits all – Palestinians and Israelis, Moslems, Jews, and Christians. Caritas and the Church believe that peace and justice can be achieved with all people of goodwill who reject violence and build bridges over barriers. Caritas also continues to issue statements each year on 29 November, the UN International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, urging all concerned governments to pursue every path to peace in line with international law and the Roadmap for Peace in the Middle East. The humanitarian situation in the region deteriorated sharply during the 33-day war in the Middle East in August

2006, making Caritas' goal to contribute to a lasting peace in the region all the more urgent.

Economic Justice

A joint Caritas/CIDSE (*Coopération Internationale pour le Développement et la Solidarité*)⁵ delegation travelled to Mali, Burkina Faso, Chad, and Benin in early 2004 to gain a better understanding of how cotton subsidies in the European Union and the United States impact the lives and livelihoods of West African cotton farmers. The impetus for this joint fact-finding mission was the

⁵ CIDSE is an international Catholic network for development policy and development cooperation. Founded in 1967, it promotes cooperation among its members in their efforts to eradicate poverty and establish social justice. CIDSE members share a common vision for advocacy and development programmes based on the values articulated in Catholic Social Teaching. www.cidse.org. Many members of CIDSE are also members of Caritas Internationalis.

Globalising Solidarity

landmark initiative launched by the four West African countries at the 2003 World Trade Organization (WTO) talks in Cancun. The delegation's findings were featured in the report "Unfair Trade and Cotton: Global Challenges, Local Challenges", which aimed to kick-start debate among CI member organisations and to inspire advocacy action on cotton and trade issues at regional and national level. The cotton mission marked the first time that CI's international economic justice advocacy was carried out in such close collaboration with national Caritas members from developing countries. The initiative was well supported by CIDSE and picked up by Caritas Europa and CAFOD (Caritas England and Wales). Their persistent involvement with this issue helped to influence the European Union's decision to cut back its subsidies to cotton growers.

Caritas Internationalis, together with CIDSE, continued to promote a justice and pro-poor agenda at major events such as the 2005 World Summit in New York, the various Ministerial Conferences of the WTO, and the G-8 Summit in Gleneagles, Scotland in 2005, pressing world leaders to make decisions that favour greater economic justice and a fairer global trading system. Many Caritas members joined the global "Make Poverty History" campaign, highlighting among other issues, the need for fairer trade, the elimination of debt in the world's poorest countries, and increased efforts at national level to end poverty. Although some progress has been made in recent years, namely in the cancellation of debt for some 18 countries and commitments to reduce the dumping of northern exports onto markets in developing countries and to phase out export subsidies, much more needs to be done.



Caritas is working to galvanise its members to take up the challenges of the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) with their respective governments, recognising that if efforts and resources are not scaled up now, then halving global poverty by 2015, one of the eight goals, will remain elusive at best. To this end, Caritas Luxembourg and Caritas Cameroon developed the "Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) Implementation Kit" for members of Caritas Internationalis. Caritas Internationalis and CIDSE launched the campaign "Make Aid Work. The World Can't Wait" in February 2007, urging leaders of the world's richest nations to keep their promises to increase and improve the quality of development aid to the world's poorest countries, especially in the light of the G8 Summit to be held in Germany in June 2007.

CI, together with the Justice and Peace International Promoters of Major Congregations Based in Rome, also produced a brochure in 2007 that explains and promotes the MDGs through the lens of Catholic Social Teaching. Published in English, Spanish, and French, it has been distributed to all CI members and religious congregations throughout the world.

Caritas and the Asia Partnership for Human Development (APHD) set up a com-

ADVOCACY

mittee to bring issues of sustainable agriculture and farmers' rights to the international level. It is hoped that similar advocacy work can be developed with Caritas members in Latin America and the Caribbean and Africa.



Joseph Donnelly (*right*), CI's international delegate to the United Nations in New York, shakes hands with Kofi Annan, the then UN Secretary-General.

CI has been able to offer a comprehensive series of training and awareness-raising sessions over the last four years on economic and poverty issues and advocacy to Caritas leaders and bishops in many parts of Africa. This has been possible through the cooperation of Secours Catholique (Caritas France) and the commitment and expertise of Jean-Pol Evrard, CI's international delegate in Paris.

International Delegates

Since the acceptance of the strategic plan, CI has transformed its international delegates from being mere representatives of the Confederation at international fora to active advocates for public policy change. The two hubs of the Confederation's global advocacy with the UN system are New York and Geneva.

New York

Joseph Donnelly, CI's permanent delegate to the United Nations in New York, has been instrumental in raising the profile of Caritas' work and building up relationships with the UN and NGO community, particularly on issues related to peace and justice in the Middle East, Colombia, Sudan, Northern Uganda, and Haiti, as well as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Along with the Quakers (the Society of Friends), he co-founded the Northern Uganda Working Group (NUWG) in 2004 to focus attention on the humanitarian tragedy unfolding in Northern Uganda and to press for an end to 20 years of fighting. Facilitated by Caritas Internationalis, Archbishop John Baptist Odama of Gulu, Northern Uganda, spoke before members of the UN Security Council, various missions, and NGOs in New York in early 2006, appealing to the international community for help to end the bloodshed in his country. A ceasefire between the Ugandan government and the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) was declared in August 2006. Although extremely fragile, it has raised hopes that the process of reconciliation and peace can finally begin.

In July 2006, the Canadian Mission to the UN in New York invited the diplomatic members of the "Friends of the Working Group" to a High-Level Panel Briefing on Haiti. Fr Wilnès Tilus, director of Caritas Haiti, was asked by CI's delegate in New York to be a panellist. The meeting, which brought together

Globalising Solidarity

some 18 Member States – several with either permanent or rotating seats on the UN's Security Council – the Haitian Mission to the UN, and experts from the UN Secretariat, provided a chance to discuss the effectiveness of the United Nations Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) as well as strategies for increased security, long-term development needs, and the importance of involving local communities in the decisions affecting their lives.

Geneva

In 2005, Maddalena Occhetta was appointed CI's permanent delegate in Geneva where she is working on developing an initiative that focuses on the needs of women displaced by conflict, especially in Colombia, Uganda, and the Democratic Republic of Congo. Much of the advocacy in Geneva, which is based on the work carried out by national Caritas members and on locally-identified needs, is targeting the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the Human Rights Council.

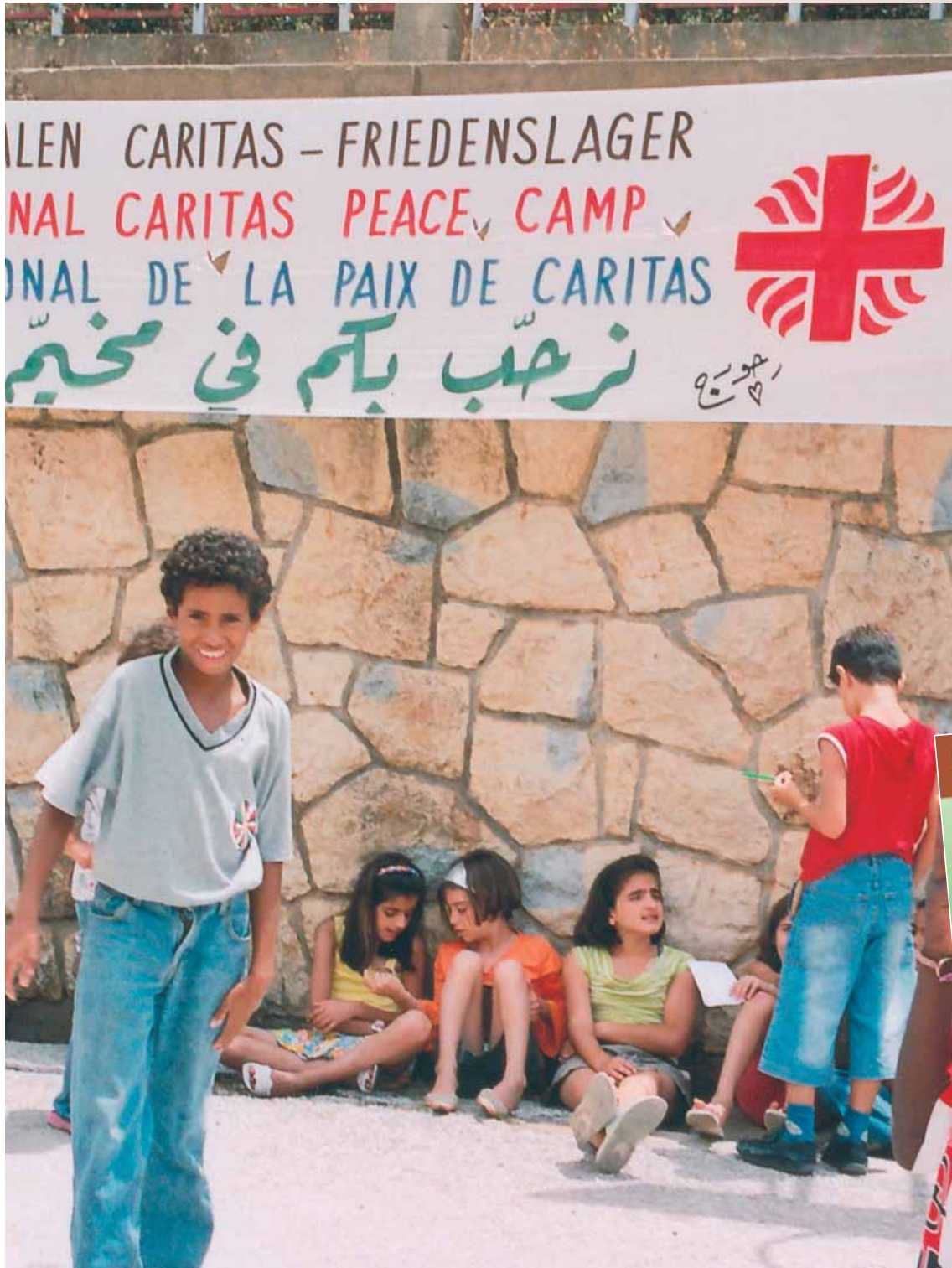
Other International Delegates

Jean-Pol Evrard, CI's international delegate in Paris, continued to maintain good working relationships with international organisations there and report on the activities of UNESCO, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), and the European offices of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Discussions are underway with CRS, one of the members in the USA, to intensify CI's partnership with the UN's World Food Programme (WFP). Close relations are maintained between WFP, for whom, according to the outgoing CEO, James Morris, Caritas is "its most important partner", and the General Secretariat. The CI Secretary General was invited to chair a panel and address the WFP's Biennial Global Meeting of their managers in July 2006 in Copenhagen.

Caritas said goodbye to three international delegates in 2005: Patricia Wohlrab, UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), World Food Programme (WFP), and International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) in Rome; Franz Prüller, UN Office on Drugs and Crime in Vienna; and Jean-Claude Michellod in Geneva. Anna Clemente from Caritas Romana was appointed CI delegate to the FAO in Rome, while in Vienna, Karin Keil from Caritas Austria will follow the work of the United Nations on trafficking in human beings.

In addition, Christel Wasiek was appointed to succeed Mgr Nelson Viola as the representative on Crescendo, a network of Catholic agencies working on the question of the elderly at the international level. CI's President, Denis Viénot, serves on the Executive Committee of the Conference of International Catholic Organisations.



Children take part in the sixth International Caritas Peace Camp in the Middle East, held in Lebanon in 2005.

PEACE-BUILDING AND RECONCILIATION

With peace-building high on its agenda, Caritas made important strides in integrating peace and reconciliation into all its work at international, regional, and national level. Caritas organised numerous training sessions within the regions, and began focusing on courses targeting specific groups such as bishops. A second edition of the widely used *Peacebuilding: a Caritas Training Manual* was issued, providing more tools and resources to support the work of Caritas workers and other NGOs worldwide. The manual is available in all three Confederation languages, as well as Arabic and Russian, while plans are under way to translate it into Portuguese, Bahasa Indonesia, and other languages to further its reach.

The first ever Caritas Peace Forum was held in Colombo, Sri Lanka in June 2006, bringing together 70 peace practitioners from the Caritas Confederation to share best practices and to map out ways for Caritas to intensify its peace-building and reconciliation work. Recommendations made during the Forum suggest that Caritas needs to increase training of its workers at all levels, encourage inter-religious and ecumenical networking, continue work via international and regional peace and reconciliation working groups, and strengthen the role of women as peace-makers. The results of the Peace Forum were fed into the strategic framework process in the lead up to the 2007 General Assembly.

The CI Secretary General and Mgr Hector Fabio Henao, President of the Peace and Reconciliation Working Group as well as Director of Caritas Colombia (SNPS) attended the World Conference of Religions for Peace in Kyoto, Japan in 2006, an event that brought together leaders of different faiths. In a similar vein, Caritas has been linking up with other like-minded organisations including the Community of Sant'Egidio, Pax Christi, Religions for Peace, Islamic Relief, and International Alert to improve dialogue and identify common concerns and action.



COMMUNICATIONS

Good lines of communication – both internal and external – are absolutely essential for the success of a large and diverse Confederation such as Caritas. The CI Communications Department has worked over the years to improve the flow of information within the Confederation and to communicate the Confederation's mission and achievements to the outside world. The Department suffered a setback in 2006 with the sad death of Lynn Yuill, who had been CI's Head of Communications since mid-2000. A new Head of Communications, Patrick Nicholson, joined the team at the CI General Secretariat in early 2007.

Communications Working Group

The 2003 General Assembly agreed to disband the CI Communications Working Group, and set up an ad hoc group to map out an overall communications strategy for the Caritas Confederation. The new communications strategy – a working document that can be adapted to fit the growing needs of Caritas members – was approved by the CI Executive Committee in 2004.



Publications

The General Secretariat produces three core publications each year: the *CI Bulletin* (issued every trimester), highlighting Caritas activities at the international level; *Emergency Calling*, detailing the Special Operation Appeals (SOAs) launched by CI's International Cooperation Department; and the *Activities Report*, offering a glimpse of the work undertaken by Caritas at the international level.



A booklet marking the one-year anniversary of the Asian tsunami was launched in December 2005 during a press conference on Caritas' post-tsunami recovery and rehabilitation work. Other publications produced in the three Confederation languages include: *The Memorandum of Understanding with UNAIDS*; *Partnership Handbook*; *Relations with the Military*; *The Caritas Internationalis Commitment on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings*; *Guidelines on Environmental Justice*; a brochure on what the Caritas Confederation is and does; and a special booklet commemorating Archbishop Fouad El-Hage, CI's late President.

CI Website

The General Secretariat has introduced new elements on the CI website including special "highlights" sections on major emergencies, advocacy campaigns, the World Social Forum, and HIV/AIDS. Statistics show that the website received more than 100,000 outside hits in less than one year. The number of Caritas members registered to use the Extranet – a site for Caritas members featuring minutes from meetings, travel reports, fora for information exchange – has also steadily increased.

Globalising Solidarity

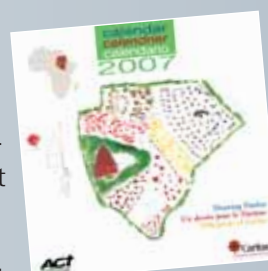
Plans are under way to overhaul the CI website and Extranet, making both easier to use and more relevant.

Media

The Communications Department has intensified its press coverage of Caritas relief, development, and advocacy work globally. Greater visibility of Caritas work has been aided by regular postings on two major humanitarian newswires, Reliefweb and Reuters/Alertnet. In 2006, CI hired a new media officer who, in addition to working closely with the international Catholic press, has been instrumental in building up contacts with local and international journalists and major media outlets, including BBC, CNN, and Associated Press Television News (APTN).

Multimedia

Promotion of CI's DVD on the electoral process in DR Congo in 2006 led to greater awareness among international journalists of the role Caritas Congo and the Congolese Church played in their country's political transition. It also prompted the media on a number of occasions to seek out their views on the situation.



In November 2006, CI's media officer travelled to Darfur in western Sudan with a cameraman to visit projects run by the Action by Churches Together (ACT) International-Caritas Internationalis Emergency Response Operation in Darfur (DERO), interview DERO staff and partners, and film a peace-building workshop. During the workshop, young people were asked to draw images of their lives to help them understand what has happened to them, their rights, and how they can overcome the trauma and work toward peace. The result was a short documentary called "Drawing Darfur", which was widely released in December. The DVD was accompanied by a 2007 calendar made up of the drawings from the workshop.

Children participate in a peace-building workshop run by ACT-Caritas in Darfur.

(Photo: Charlotte Brudenell, ACT-Caritas)



GENDER

During the 2003-2007 period, the CI Gender Working Group (GWG) has focused on advising the Confederation on issues related to gender mainstreaming in Caritas structures and work. The effects of this have largely been achieved through strengthened regional structures and regional working groups on gender, which have been promoted by the GWG members. GWG members have also targeted national and regional levels to support the position of the GWG at international level on promoting gender as a fully integrated theme in the 2007 General Assembly.

In an effort to enhance gender as a cross-cutting issue in the work of Caritas at all levels, the GWG has worked to develop a CI document on gender to serve as a tool for CI members to draw up their own gender strategies and gender policies. This tool also seeks to create a common approach to gender mainstreaming within the Confederation, providing input in the design and implementation of a national gender strategy. It also looks at specific programmatic areas such as health, education, HIV/AIDS, sustainable agriculture, humanitarian assistance, and peace and reconciliation. Furthermore, it offers suggestions for how Caritas can contribute to promoting gender equality in society and the Church at large, as well as coordinating efforts with other Caritas organisations and Church entities to promote a Catholic perspective on gender issues, especially in awareness-raising and training, and in advocating for equal rights between men and women.

Caritas tsunami programmes in India supported the creation of community-based women's self-help groups. (Photo: Stefan Teplan).



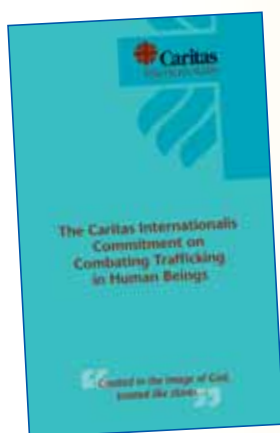
HIV/AIDS

According to reports by UNAIDS and the World Health Organisation (WHO), some 40 million people worldwide are living with HIV. In 2006 alone, an estimated three million people, more than half of them children, died of AIDS-related illnesses and five million became newly infected with the virus. While Sub-Saharan Africa continues to shoulder the greatest burden of HIV, significant increases have been noted both in Southern and Eastern Asia and in Eastern and Central Europe and Central Asia. During recent years, Caritas has increased its efforts to deal with the pandemic, promoting a compassionate response that includes care, support, education, and anti-retroviral treatment. The Catholic Church has long been involved in caring for people living with or affected by HIV, and in recognition of this important work, Caritas Internationalis and UNAIDS signed a Memorandum of Understanding in 1999, which was renewed in 2003. The efforts of Fr Robert Vitillo, appointed full-time CI Special Advisor on HIV and AIDS in 2005 and based in Geneva, have paved the way for greater collaboration and exchange with the Geneva-based UNAIDS, WHO, and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB, and Malaria. Fr Vitillo also serves as chairperson of the Catholic AIDS Funding Network Group (recently re-named the Catholic HIV and AIDS Network) and as co-convenor of the HIV Strategy Group for the Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance in Geneva. CI is a member of the latter, which works to overcome the stigma and discrimination toward HIV-positive people and their loved ones and to advocate for more equitable funding of faith-based action. It is estimated that the Catholic Church provides 25% of the care for people living with HIV, but only receives a fraction of the available funds.



HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Thousands of women and children, usually from politically unstable or economically disadvantaged countries, are trafficked every year and forced to become sex slaves, domestic workers, workers in sweat shops, or agricultural labourers. Caritas Internationalis, with Caritas Europa taking the lead, has intensified its efforts to help put an end to the crime of human trafficking.



The Caritas Internationalis Commitment on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, published in 2005 in the three Confederation languages, encourages member organisations to combat trafficking through prevention and awareness-raising, assistance to trafficked persons, advocacy, and networking.

Caritas has been aided in its fight against trafficking through its alliances with other like-minded organisations, including the Justice and Peace International Commission of the Unions of the Superiors General.

COATNET, the network of Christian organisations against trafficking in women, which operates under the guidance and legal authority of Caritas Europa, continues to expand and currently counts around 45 organisations worldwide.

An Inter-regional Workshop on Anti-Trafficking, held in Rome in September 2005, marked an important step towards greater collaboration among the regions in tackling this issue, while the annual World Social Forum (WSF) has provided an ideal venue for greater networking and discussion among Caritas members and other NGOs and civil society actors. A seminar on lobbying and networking in the fight against trafficking was organised by Secours Catholique (Caritas France), COATNET, and Caritas Europa at the 2007 WSF in Nairobi. The event, which featured a roundtable discussion followed by a workshop, drew around 20 Caritas members and other partner organisations. Participants brainstormed a set of recommendations on the trafficking of children, which included pressuring governments to provide free education; raising awareness among parents in rural areas as well as among exploiters; increasing advocacy, lobbying, and networking; and supporting socio-economic re-integration of victims of trafficking. Recommendations concerning victims of forced prostitution in-



AND FORCED MIGRATION



Thousands risk their lives each year, fleeing their home countries in search of a better life. (Photo: SIR/Siciliani)

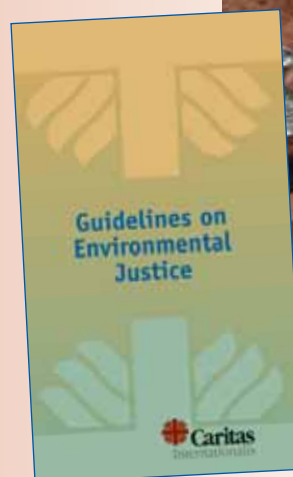
cluded intensifying advocacy and networking efforts; involving traditional community leaders in anti-trafficking advocacy; and raising awareness of existing national legislation on combating trafficking.

Caritas Europa is taking the issue of forced migration forward on behalf of the Caritas Confederation. The bi-annual Caritas Europa Migration Forum, organised in Germany in June 2005, examined the nexus between migration and development. In recent years, there has been greater information exchange with the MONA, Africa, and Asia regions on this issue.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

The international community is waking up to the threats posed by climate change and realising that action needs to be taken now if the damage to future generations is to be reduced. Global warming not only endangers the sustainable use of the land and the world's water resources, but threatens the very existence of some countries. The upheaval caused by climate change – loss of arable land, increased drought, heat waves, and rising sea levels – will impact food security, speed up desertification, and hasten the spread of water-borne diseases. Furthermore, the poor will bear the brunt of these effects.

With Caritas Oceania taking the lead on behalf of the Confederation, the Task Force on Environmental Justice was set up to raise awareness of climate change and the link between sustainable development and the environment. The Task Force's remit is to make environmental justice a cross-cutting issue in the development, advocacy, and emergency work of the Confederation. This means stepping up efforts to halt further climate change, living with the already inevitable effects, and planning for new forms of development that take into account both



the climate and sharing of resources. In 2005, Caritas Oceania produced a discussion paper as a springboard for debate within the network, stressing the importance of good governance, global cooperation, and transparency and accountability at all levels. The paper was published in booklet form in early 2007 under the title *Guidelines on Environmental Justice*. Inevitably, environmental justice will figure prominently in the Confederation's future work.



A central water tap was installed in Kottilpadu, India through Caritas' tsunami relief and rehabilitation programme.
(Photo: Stefan Teplan)

INTER-REGIONAL COLLABORATION

The Caritas Confederation has made a concerted effort to strengthen the regions and foster greater collaboration among them. One example of this has been the annual meeting of the Confederation's Portuguese-speaking members, who come together to discuss issues and seek innovative ways for collaboration.

A number of inter-regional forums were organised over the last four years to deepen the Confederation's understanding of specific issues such as

gender and to encourage joint action. A workshop to combat trafficking in humans, which took place in September 2005, aimed to enhance information exchange and harness the potential within the global Caritas network to raise awareness of the problem and to work towards the prevention of trafficking, to protect and assist those trafficked and advocate on their behalf, and to network with authorities and other relevant civil society actors.

WORLD SOCIAL FORUM

Motivated by the rallying call that “another world is possible”, the Caritas Confederation has had an increasingly strong presence in the World Social Forum (WSF) process since the first WSF in Porto Alegre, Brazil in 2001. The WSF, created to counter the reigning global economic system, draws thousands of NGOs, social movements, and civil society actors to its venue each year to exchange information, network, and take action toward building a world that is peaceful, equitable, and inclusive. The 2004 WSF in Mumbai, India was the first time the event was held outside Brazil, while in 2005, the CI General Secretariat took on a coordinating role for the first time, organising activities for its members as Caritas Internationalis. The 2006 WSF, billed as the first “polycentric” forum designed to increase global participation, took place in consecutive venues in Mali, Venezuela, and Pakistan. The national Caritas in those respective countries were active not only in the Forums, but also in the planning processes at national level. Over the years, Caritas members have organised workshops and panel discussions at the WSF on such topics as anti-trafficking, empowerment and participation, peace-building and reconciliation, and trade justice.

The 2007 WSF, hosted by Kenya, saw a strong ecumenical presence, due in large



Caritas delegates call for a more just world at the World Social Forum.

part to the Caritas-All Africa Council of Churches (AACC) Ecumenical Platform. The platform set up two well-visited tents – one for information and the other for presentations, workshops, and concerts – and organised an ecumenical rally before the official start of the WSF, which featured a rousing speech by Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu of Johannesburg, 1984 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate. Some 400 Caritas delegates from around 40 member organisations were in Nairobi for the 2007 WSF.

EMPOWERMENT AND PEOPLE'S PARTICIPATION



Wangari Maathai (*left*), 2004 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, and Margaret Mwaniki, zonal coordinator of Caritas AMECEA, prepare to lead an ecumenical procession through the streets of Nairobi on the opening day of the 2007 World Social Forum.

Caritas continues to work towards building a world where all people, especially the poor, the marginalised, and the oppressed are empowered and have access to the necessary tools and resources to participate fully in all decisions affecting their lives.

The Latin America and Caribbean region was mandated to move forward with the issue of empowerment and people's participation on behalf of the Confederation. The World Social Forum (WSF) has been the most important global venue for the Caritas network to voice its concerns and to accompany grassroots communities in their efforts. Discussions during the Inter-Regional Forum on Empowerment, Par-

ticipation, and Advocacy, held just after the 2005 World Social Forum, aimed to deepen the Confederation's reflection on Caritas identity in advocacy work. Topics touched on everything from globalisation trends that lead to exclusion to increased human rights violations to the loss of sovereignty in many countries.

One key conclusion drawn was the need for the Confederation to support the advocacy initiatives of the excluded themselves.

Capacity building and political awareness-raising at grassroots level, accompaniment, and collaboration with other social groups can contribute to empowerment.

STRENGTHENING THE

Operational Review

A comprehensive organisational review of Caritas Internationalis, including the General Secretariat, regions, and other relevant structures, was commissioned by the 2003 General Assembly. An external consultant undertook the review in 2004, producing an extensive list of recommendations, while an Operational Review Task Force reformulated a set of ideas for changing relations between the General Secretariat and the regions; governance structures; procedures governing accountability, quality, monitoring, and evaluation; and work plans at both international and regional level.

The Operational Review was carried out in two phases. Changes made at the General Secretariat during phase one included: new job descriptions; a performance appraisal and development system; a revised procedural manual; improved IT; an internship programme for young professionals; training courses for the entire staff on interpersonal relations; and training courses for management staff on diversity and time management.

The General Secretariat has been streamlined over the last several years. However, as international work increases, so too does the need for greater capacity. To enhance its professionalism, Caritas has sought innovative ways of working. The International Cooperation Department (ICD), for example, added a number of projectised posts including an Asia Tsunami Emergency Officer, a Darfur Emergency Officer, and an Emergency Officer. The General Secretariat also benefited from short-term secondments, particularly during the Middle East crisis in August 2006, and developed an internship programme.

The Organisational Review also addressed the overall objective of ensuring coherence between the work of the General Secretariat and the regions. Once a year, the seven regional coordinators met with the Secretary General



E CONFEDERATION



Caritas representatives, including the late CI President Archbishop Fouad El-Hage (right), pray for peace during the 2004 Executive Committee (ExCo) meeting.

and senior staff at the General Secretariat to harmonise the work of the Confederation at global and regional levels.

As testament to CI's commitment to being a learning institution, external consultants were commissioned to look at the work of the General Secretariat, regions, governance structures, CI's work with the World Food Programme (WFP), Caritas activities over the last 10 years in North Korea (DPRK), CI's tsunami response, and CI's advocacy work.

ECCLESIAL IDENTITY AND RELATIONS WITH THE HOLY SEE

Relations with the Vatican

After extensive discussions in a committee composed of the Vatican's Secretariat of State, the Pontifical Council Cor Unum, and Caritas Internationalis, CI was granted "public canonical juridical status" in November 2004 in 'During the Last Supper', a *chirografo*, a legal letter signed by Pope John Paul II. The *chirografo* binds Caritas Internationalis closer to the Holy See, bishops' conferences, and the Holy Father himself who "presides over universal charity" (n. 2). Within the Church, the new status increases the authority of the Confederation when it speaks or acts within matters of its competence.

Catholic Identity

Deus Caritas Est, Pope Benedict XVI's first encyclical, was of particular relevance to the work of the Confederation, pointing to the role love or "Caritas" must play in the Church's humanitarian activities. The Holy Father points out that Caritas has to be professional, independent of parties and ideologies, and should not proselytise (n. 31). While "love needs to be organised if it is to be an ordered service to the community" (n. 20), hence the need to establish Caritas at all levels of society, Caritas workers must dedicate themselves to others "with heartfelt concern, enabling them [the poor] to experience the richness of their humanity" (n. 31) and thus being instruments of God's love for the world and its people. Many members undertook studies on the encyclical, which will be highlighted at the 2007 General Assembly.

Ecclesiastical Assistant

In June 2006, the Holy See appointed Fr Hubert-Andrzej Matusiewicz, O.H. former deputy director of Caritas Poland, as CI's new Ecclesiastical Advisor. He replaced Monsignor Nelson Viola of Argentina, who, during his 18 years





Pope Benedict XVI greets CI Secretary General Duncan MacLaren (*left*) and CI President Denis Viénot (*right*) during an audience in November 2005.

with Caritas Internationalis, provided spiritual guidance to the entire Confederation and established important ties with the Secretariat of State and many of the Holy See's dicasteries.

Ad limina Visits

Caritas continued to welcome bishops who came to Rome for their *ad limina* visits to talk about Caritas activities worldwide and within their respective countries.

Visits to the Secretariat of State and Vatican Dicastries

Regular visits to the Secretariat of State and relevant dicasteries were maintained by the President, Secretary General, and Ecclesiastical Advisor to speak about Caritas Internationalis initiatives and share mutual concerns. The delegation, in addition to being received by the Cardinals in charge of many dicasteries, was also received by Cardinal Bertone, the Secretary of State, in 2006. Pope Benedict XVI granted the CI Executive Committee a special place at his General Audience in November 2005, where he welcomed the President, Secretary General, and Ecclesiastical Advisor.

STATUTORY COMMISSIONS

Caritas Internationalis has two statutory commissions: the Legal Affairs Commission and the Finance Commission.

Legal Affairs Commission

The Legal Affairs Commission (LAC) is a service commission for the Caritas Internationalis Executive Committee (ExCo), which conducts studies upon request and makes recommendations to the ExCo on the *CI Statutes and Rules* and other relevant legal matters. Much of the LAC's work over the last period focused on studying the implications of CI's new status, which was conferred by the Holy See. The LAC also focused on suggesting procedures for improving statutory sessions at the General Assembly.

Finances and Finance Commission

The CI Treasurer chairs a Finance Commission comprising representatives from national Caritas organisations with wide experience in financial matters. Its members come from virtually all seven regions of the Confederation. The Commission meets twice a year to review various reports by the Treasurer and Head of Finance and to consider, among other things, proposed annual budgets and performance against the current year's budget. Any proposed changes in policy matters are discussed before being submitted for formal approval to the Bureau.

About 65% of CI's costs, including projects not funded separately by contributions from member organisations and donations from other sources, are funded through annual statutory membership fees from the Confederation's 162 members. It has become increasingly difficult to cover the remaining 35% of expenditure. Therefore, the Budgetary Plan 2007-2010 provides for a mixture of higher statutory fees and income from external funding.

In addition, voluntary contributions from member organisations are sought for the funding of projects, the cost of which cannot be contained within the annual budget. These are listed in a separate





The CI General Secretariat hosts a number of meetings throughout the year including the annual Executive Committee (*above*) and the Tsunami Partners' meeting (*right*).

annual 'projectised expenditure' budget and appeals for funding donations are issued by the General Secretariat.

The Confederation's administrative expenses, distinct from programme costs, account for only about 28% of the annual budget costs and the rest is attributable to the Confederation's Work Plan largely carried out at regional level (excluding special projects, which are funded outside the annual budget through members' voluntary contributions). Independently of this, CI renders financial assistance to five regions that are unable to cover their own regional costs fully without external assistance.

Annual financial statements are audited by an international firm of auditors.

Other Meetings



A meeting of Caritas delegates

Many meetings of an international character are held at the General Secretariat in accordance with its mandate "to be concerned with long term, and serious forms of poverty in the world" (Statutes and Internal Rules Art. 11b). Such meetings have included: the Iraq Working Group to assist our courageous workers in Caritas Iraq with planning their programmes and ensuring solidarity with the Iraqi people; a newly established CI China Platform, which will help foster the diocesan Catholic Social Service Centres in mainland China; and the Korea Working Group, which ensures the continuation of the CI programme in North Korea after the handover as lead agency from Caritas Hong Kong to Caritas Korea in 2007.

Conclusion



This is a report to show how Caritas Internationalis, uniting all its 162 members in a common purpose to rid our world of dehumanising poverty and foster a holistic peace, worked to "globalise solidarity". It can only give a flavour of the work done, the achievements, the progress in some areas and the lack of it in others.

Behind all these facts and figures are people who have sacrificed much, including for some their lives, to serve others. Behind it all is also a way of being *diakonia* in the world based on the Gospel and Catholic Social Teaching. It is best summed up in a story from an area of the world which suffered an earthquake in which over 20,000 people died and where everyone happened to be Muslim. Caritas is still present, two years after the event. An elderly lady came up to one of our workers asking for a Bible. Our worker replied: "I can't give you one as it is against the rule of the land. But you are Muslim – why do you want one anyway?".



The old lady replied: "I want to see what makes you people treat us with such respect and love". In other words, the world will know Caritas not just by our presence or our professionalism but by our passion, our solidarity, and commitment that shine through, as Pope Benedict says in *Deus Caritas Est*, the dedication of ourselves to others "with heartfelt concern, enabling them to experience the richness of [our] humanity" (n. 31). All this is done for the love of God which, in the words of Karl Rahner, "only comes into its own identity through its fulfilment in a love for neighbour". That is the Caritas identity that we attempt to manifest to a suffering world.

Caritas works to promote job opportunities in war-torn Sri Lanka. (Caritas Sri Lanka)

LIST OF 2003

No.	Country:	Emergency:	Launched on:
01/2003	SWAZILAND	Food Security Crisis - Emergency Response and Rehabilitation	07/01/2003
02/2003	ERITREA	Drought 2003	07/01/2003
03/2003	CONGO (DR)	War-Displaced Persons - Repatriation and Family Reunification - Sankuru Region	07/01/2003
04/2003	SUDAN	Emergency Response and Capacity Building for Internally Displaced Persons in South Sudan (Torit and Magwi Counties / Eastern Equatoria, Gogrial County / Northern Bahr el Ghazal)	16/01/2003
05/2003	MALI	National Humanitarian Aid Programme 2002-2003	07/02/2003
06/2003	PHILIPPINES	Armed Conflict in Mindanao	17/02/2003
07/2003	BOLIVIA	Humanitarian Assistance to Populations Affected by the El Niño Phenomenon 2003	17/02/2003
08/2003	PERU	Humanitarian Aid for Flood Victims in Puno, Madre de Dios, Cusco and Apurímac	19/02/2003
09/2003	SRI LANKA	Relief and Rehabilitation Programme to Support Victims of North / East War - 2003	21/02/2003
10/2003	ZIMBABWE	Drought	24/02/2003
11/2003	INDONESIA	Assistance to Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons / JRS Project Proposal 2003	25/02/2003
12/2003	BURMA	JRS Burma Programme 2003	25/02/2003
13/2003	THAILAND	Assistance to Refugees and Detainees / JRS Projects	25/02/2003
14/2003	BURMA	JRS/BBC Burmese Border Relief 2003 Appeal	25/02/2003
15/2003	PAKISTAN	Rain / Storm	25/02/2003
16/2003	LEBANON	Floods	28/02/2003
17/2003	KENYA	Famine	20/03/2003
18/2003	TANZANIA	Refugee Emergency 2003	28/03/2003
19/2003	IRAQ	Conflict 2003	01/04/2003
20/2003	CONGO (DR)	Humanitarian Train Convoy "Peace Train Lubumbashi - Kindu" (South East Congo)	04/04/2003

APPEALS (S.O.A.)

No.	Country:	Emergency:	Launched on:
21/2003	THAILAND	Thai-Burma Border Relief Programme May 2003 - March 2004	16/04/2003
22/2003	NORTH KOREA	Emergency Appeal for the Ongoing Food and Health Crisis in DPRK	28/04/2003
23/2003	SUDAN	Emergency Feeding Programme for Internally Displaced People - Funj (Southern Blue Nile) Region	28/04/2003
24/2003	SUDAN	Chronic Long-Term Emergency - Relief Programmes 2003	30/04/2003
25/2003	TURKEY	Bingöl Earthquake	09/05/2003
26/2003	SRI LANKA	National Peace Programme (NPP) 2003	12/05/2003
27/2003	ARGENTINA	Floods / Santa Fé	14/05/2003
28/2003	SRI LANKA	Floods	22/05/2003
29/2003	ALGERIA	Earthquake	27/06/2003
30/2003	ETHIOPIA	Drought - ECS Emergency Response	10/07/2003
31/2003	SUDAN	Education for Peace	10/07/2003
32/2003	INDIA	Flood 2003 / Assam, Bihar West and Sikkim	18/07/2003
33/2003	TANZANIA	Drought / Emergency Food Aid	23/07/2003
34/2003	ZIMBABWE	Drought Relief 2003	01/08/2003
35/2003	BANGLADESH	Floods 2003	07/08/2003
36/2003	PAKISTAN	Flash Floods 2003	11/08/2003
37/2003	LIBERIA	Emergency Response	01/09/2003
38/2003	ANGOLA	Humanitarian Crisis - Ways of Progress	02/09/2003
39/2003	CONGO (DR)	Humanitarian Aid to crisis-affected population in two Dioceses of Ituri District and one Diocese of North-Kivu	08/09/2003
40/2003	INDIA	Orissa Floods 2003	10/09/2003
41/2003	PAKISTAN	Oil Spillage in Coastal Areas of Karachi / Relief and Rehab.	24/09/2003
42/2003	AFGHANISTAN	Humanitarian Crisis / Caritas Involvement 2003-2004	15/10/2003
43/2003	JERUSALEM	Support for Holy Land Programmes	21/10/2003

LIST OF 2004

No.	Country:	Emergency:	Launched on:
01/04	IRAN	Bam Earthquake	01/01/04
02/04	PHILIPPINES	Landslide and Flooding (Maasin, Butuan and Surigao Dioceses)	13/01/04
03/04	BURMA	2004-2006 JRS Burma Project (BP 0406)	16/01/04
04/04	THAILAND	Immigration Detention Centres - Project Proposal 2004-2006 (IDC-0406)	16/01/04
05/04	THAILAND	Bangkok Refugee Programme - A (BRP-A-0406) Non-Burmese Asylum Seekers and Refugees in Bangkok / JRS Project Proposal 2004-2006	16/01/04
06/04	SRI LANKA	National Peace Programme - NPP (Prevention Programme on Civil Conflict) 2004	27/01/04
07/04	ERITREA	Drought 2004	09/02/04
08/04	SUDAN	Post-War Humanitarian Assistance	24/02/04
09/04	CENTRAFRICAN REP.	Conflict / Socio-Economic Crisis	27/02/04
10/04	ALBANIA	Flood 2004	04/03/04
11/04	INDONESIA	Internally Displaced Persons in Moluccas (MLC-0406)	08/03/04
12/04	HAITI	Humanitarian Crisis	09/03/04
13/04	PAKISTAN	Afghan Refugees Programme 2004 (SOA III)	09/03/04
14/04	UGANDA	Northern and Eastern Uganda Emergency and Child Rehabilitation and Reintegration Programme	16/03/04
15/04	THAILAND	Thai-Burma Border Relief Programme	22/03/04
16/04	PAKISTAN	Nagar Parkar Drought - Rehabilitation	25/03/04
17/04	MADAGASCAR	Cyclones ELITA and GAFILO	29/03/04
18/04	SUDAN	Yirol County, Bahr-el-Ghazal, South Sudan - Joint CI/ACT appeal <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post Peace Agreement Preparedness • Road and Ferry Rehabilitation • Assistance to IDPs / Host Community 	02/04/04
19/04	DEM. PEOPLE'S REP. OF KOREA (DPRK)	A) Ongoing Food and Health Crisis (April 2004 - March 2005) B) Train Explosion	27/04/04
20/04	IRAQ	Emergency Relief Supplies and Medicines	29/04/04

APPEALS (S.O.A.)

No.	Country:	Emergency:	Launched on:
21/04	CHAD	Sudanese Refugees	04/05/04
22/04	SRI LANKA	Relief, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Programme to support the victims of the North/East War – 2004	04/05/04
23/04	HAITI	Floods 2004 / South	28/05/04
24/04	DOMINICAN REP.	Floods / Emergency Relief and Rehabilitation	15/06/04
25/04	CONGO (DR)	Bukavu / Assistance to Conflict Victims	15/06/04
26/04	SUDAN	Darfur Emergency Response Programme - Joint ACT / Caritas Appeal	25/06/04
27/04	MOROCCO	Al Hoceima Earthquake / School Reconstruction	09/07/04
28/04	INDIA	Floods in Assam and Bihar / Emergency Relief	14/07/04
29/04	BANGLADESH	Floods 2004	26/07/04
30/04	UKRAINE	Rainstorm	29/07/04
31/04	SUDAN	Malakal – Displaced Persons / Emergency Response	29/07/04
32/04	KENYA	Famine Relief Appeal – August 2004 – February 2005	27/08/04
33/04	ANGOLA	Humanitarian Crisis – Ways of Progress II	27/08/04
34/04	SENEGAL	Desert Locust Invasion	06/09/04
35/04	GEORGIA	Emergency Assistance to Groups of IDPs from South Ossetia	06/09/04
36/04	HAITI	Hurricane Jeanne / Floods Artibonite, North – Northeast	23/09/04
37/04	SUDAN	Returnees / Rapid Response Fund	30/09/04
38/04	CONGO (DR)	Re-integration of Angola Expellees in Popokabaka, Luebo and Luiza Dioceses	25/10/04
39/04	COLOMBIA	Cold Wave - Montería Diocese (Córdoba Department)	28/10/04
40/04	MAURITANIA	Drought and Desert Locusts in Aftout, Gorgol and Trarza Regions / Emergency Programme 2004-2005	05/11/04
41/04	GRENADA (ANTILLES)	Hurricane Ivan	16/11/04
42/04	SRI LANKA	National Peace Programme 2005	23/11/04
43/04	PHILIPPINES	Typhoons Unding, Violeta, Winnie and Yoyong	01/12/04

LIST OF 2005

No.	Country:	Emergency:	Launched on:
01/05	CONGO (DR)	Returnees Kanyabayonga / North Kivu	11/01/05
02/05	INDONESIA	Tsunami Response	14/01/05
03/05	SRI LANKA	Tsunami Relief and Rehabilitation Programme	17/01/05
04/05	INDIA	Tsunami Appeal 2005 / Relief and Rehabilitation	17/01/05
05/05	PAKISTAN	Rains/Floods – Pasni / Balochistan Province	25/02/05
06/05	IRAN	Earthquake / Zarand Region	04/03/05
07/05	THAILAND	Tsunami Response Programme / Diocese of Suratthani	08/03/05
08/05	NIGER	Drought / Locusts – Food Security Support Programme	15/03/05
09/05	THAILAND	Thai-Burma Border Relief Programme	18/03/05
10/05	CHAD	Sudanese Refugees	22/03/05
11/05	DPRK	Ongoing Food and Health Crisis (April 2005 – March 2006)	14/04/05
12/05	SUDAN	Rapid Response Fund 2005	04/05/05
13/05	BENIN	Togolese Refugees	04/05/05
14/05	MALI	National Humanitarian Aid Programme 2005	16/05/05
15/05	BURKINA FASO	Assistance to Families affected by Locust Invasion and Food Shortage due to Drought	19/05/05
16/05	CAPE VERDE	Drought / Food Shortage	10/06/05
17/05	GEORGIA	Floods and Landslides 2005	23/06/05
18/05	RUSSIAN FED.	Floods in Eastern Siberia and Far East 2005	28/06/05
19/05	SRI LANKA	Relief and Rehabilitation Programme to Support the War Victims (1 April 2005 – 31 March 2006)	01/07/05
20/05	INDIA	Floods 2005	11/07/05
21/05	PAKISTAN	Floods 2005	11/07/05
22/05	LIBERIA	Rehabilitation Programme for Resettlement of Returnees 2005-2006 (1 year)	28/07/05

APPEALS (S.O.A.)

No.	Country:	Emergency:	Launched on:
23/05	CONGO (Brazzaville)	Assistance and Resettlement Programme for the Population of the Pool Department	29/07/05
24/05	ROMANIA	Floods in Eastern Romania	01/08/05
25/05	MAURITANIA	Drought and Desert Locusts in Aftout, Gorgol and Trarza Regions / Continuation of 2004-05 Programme, starting August 2005	01/08/05
26/05	ERITREA	New SOA 26/2005 - ERITREA - Humanitarian Crisis - Supplementary Feeding	05/08/05
27/05	MALAWI	Humanitarian Crisis - Emergency Relief and Rehabilitation	31/08/05
28/05	ETHIOPIA	ECS Emergency and Recovery Intervention 2005-2006	08/09/05
29/05	UGANDA	Northern Uganda Emergency Response to LRA Activities (Oct 2005 - Sept 2006)	19/09/05
30/05	EL SALVADOR	Iamatepec Volcanic Eruption and Hurricane Stan	07/10/05
31/05	INDIA	Kashmir Earthquake	20/10/05
32/05	PAKISTAN	Earthquake in North-East Pakistan	27/10/05
33/05	GUATEMALA	Tropical Storm STAN	31/10/05
34/05	ZAMBIA	Food Shortage - 2005/06 Emergency Relief Proposal	31/10/05
35/05	COLOMBIA	Cold Wave / Tropical Storm Beta	04/11/05
36/05	TANZANIA	Emergency Food Aid Response and Rehabilitation (December 2005 - July 2006)	08/11/05
37/05	IRAN	Queshm Island Earthquake	02/12/05
38/05	SUDAN	Darfur Emergency Response Operation (DERO)	07/12/05
39/05	SRI LANKA	National Peace Programme 2006	13/12/05
40/05	ALBANIA	Floods - December 2005	14/12/04
41/05	CONGO (DR)	Emergency Humanitarian Assistance to the Victims of Clashes in North Katanga	19/12/05
42/05	MEXICO	Hurricanes Stan and Wilma - Rehabilitation/Reconstruction	22/12/05

LIST OF 2006

No.	Country:	Emergency:	Launched on:
01/06	NIGER	Community Rehabilitation after Food Crisis	18/01/06
02/06	NEPAL	Education for Repatriation (Bhutanese Refugees Education Program)	18/01/06
03/06	KENYA	Famine Relief	20/01/06
04/06	BOLIVIA	Floods in Santa Cruz, Beni and La Paz Departments	13/02/06
05/06	RWANDA	Drought	14/02/06
06/06	NEPAL	Humanitarian Support to Conflict Induced IDPs and Children	14/02/06
07/06	PHILIPPINES	Housing Project for Landslide Victims in the Diocese of Maasin (Southern Leyte)	02/03/06
08/06	IRAN	Lorestan Earthquake / Rehabilitation	18/05/06
09/06	JERUSALEM	Emergency Support for Palestine	19/05/06
10/06	INDONESIA	Yogyakarta Earthquake – Relief and Rehabilitation	12/06/06
11/06	EAST TIMOR	Emergency Relief, Peace-Building and Reconciliation Programme	14/06/06
12/06	CONGO (DR)	Humanitarian Assistance to 7,500 Displaced Families Victims of Armed Violence in Ituri, Bunia Diocese	14/06/06
13/06	CHAD	Improvement of the Living Conditions of Sudanese Refugees in SECADEV camps (Farchana Et Kounoungou) and Neighbouring Populations	05/07/06
14/06	ERITREA	Supplementary Feeding – August-December 2006	05/07/06

LIST OF 2007

No.	Country:	Emergency:	Launched on:
01/07	KENYA	Floods Emergency Recovery Programme	11/01/07
02/07	PHILIPPINES	Typhoon Durian (Reming) – Rehabilitation Housing Project	29/01/07
03/07	BURUNDI	Floods / Emergency Agricultural Assistance to 36,500 Vulnerable Families Facing High Food Insecurity in Makamba, Ngozi and Ruyigi Provinces	01/02/07

APPEALS (S.O.A.)

No.	Country:	Emergency:	Launched on:
15/06	LEBANON	Conflict / Emergency Support A) Displaced Families in S. Lebanon B) Migrant Workers and Refugees C) Sri Lankan Migrants in Lebanon D) Lebanese Displaced in Cyprus E) Lebanese Displaced in Syria	17/07/06
16/06	ECUADOR	Mt. Tungurahua Volcanic Eruption	28/07/06
17/06	INDIA	India Floods 2006	10/08/06
18/06	LEBANON	Conflict Recovery Support	12/10/06
19/06	BANGLADESH	Cyclonic Storm and Waterlogged Flood 2006	12/10/06
20/06	PAKISTAN	Floods in Punjab and Sindh Provinces/ Relief and Rehabilitation	19/10/06
21/06	SRI LANKA	Floods 2006 / Emergency Relief	31/10/06
22/06	CONGO (DR)	Humanitarian Assistance to 7,500 Displaced Families Victims of Armed Violence in Manono, North Katanga	08/11/06
23/06	KENYA	Floods (Preliminary Appeal for Rapid Response Phase)	30/11/06
24/06	PHILIPPINES	Typhoon Durian (Reming)	04/12/06
25/06	PANAMA	Floods / Landslides	05/12/06
26/06	CONGO (DR)	Humanitarian Assistance to 7,500 Flood Affected Families in Isangi and Kisangani	11/12/06
27/06	SUDAN	Darfur Emergency Response Operation (DERO) 2007	13/12/06

APPEALS (S.O.A.)

No.	Country:	Emergency:	Launched on:
04/07	INDONESIA	Massive Flooding in Jakarta	09/02/07
05/07	PERU	Floods	26/02/07
06/07	BOLIVIA	Floods	26/02/07
07/07	MOZAMBIQUE	Floods / Zambezi Valley	09/03/07

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51

2003-2007 ACTIVITIES REPORT

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