



# Caritas Internationalis

## Annual Report 2012

Caritas Internationalis is the official humanitarian and development organisation of the Catholic Church. The confederation of 164 national Caritas organisations is dedicated to the promotion of charity and justice and the service of the poor, regardless of race or religion.

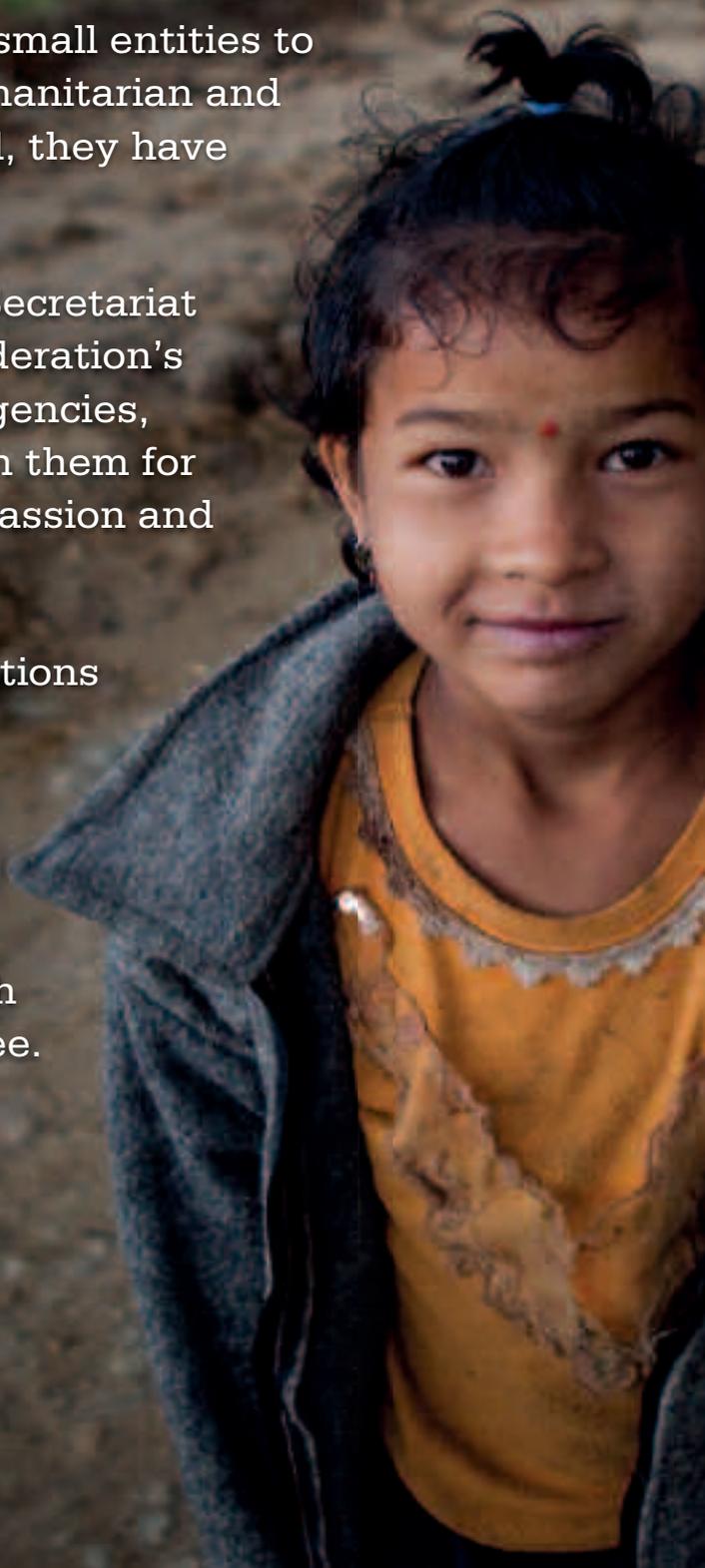
Inspired by Gospel values, Caritas organisations help the Church respond to humanitarian disasters, promote integral human development and advocate on the causes of poverty and violence.

Caritas national members range from small entities to some of the world's largest social, humanitarian and development organisations. Combined, they have over a million staff and volunteers.

Caritas Internationalis has a General Secretariat in Rome, which coordinates the confederation's response to major humanitarian emergencies, supports members and advocates with them for a better world, based on justice, compassion and fraternity.

Caritas Internationalis also has delegations representing the confederation at the United Nations in New York and Geneva. The Caritas delegations work with other international institutions and nongovernmental organisations, in close association with the Permanent Missions of the Holy See.

Caritas Internationalis is made up of seven regions: Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, the Middle East and North Africa, North America and Oceania.





Through awareness campaigns and supporting education, girls in Nepal can be protected from human traffickers.  
Katie Orlinsky/Caritas

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Front Cover: Aminata Mohamed and her twin daughters fled from violence in Mali to safety in Niger, where they received food and shelter.  
Ryan Worms/Caritas

Cardinal Rodríguez at a Caritas meeting with Pope Francis.  
Patrick Nicholson/Caritas



## Foreword

By His Eminence Óscar Andrés Cardinal Rodríguez Maradiaga, SDB, President

This is a world where about 300 children die every hour from malnutrition and where nearly a billion people have no access to clean water. At the same time, there are over 1200 billionaires in the world, the highest number ever recorded.

We are scandalised that millions of our brothers and sisters live in extreme poverty in a world of riches. But we are filled with hope because we are the first generation with the tools to change the system that keeps them poor.

In response to the Gospel's call (Mt 25), the Church has worked for and alongside the poorest people in the world throughout its history. On choosing his name, Pope Francis said St. Francis of Assisi is a symbol of peace, austerity and poverty. The pope said he wanted a poor Church, and a Church for the poor.

Caritas organisations are an expression of the *diakonia* (service) of the Church.

Through our staff and volunteers working at the grassroots, they follow in the tradition of St Francis by providing care to those who are excluded and marginalised.

In 2012, we fed the hungry in West Africa, provided warm clothing for refugees from Syria and new homes in earthquake-hit Haiti. Providing aid is not enough. We must break the cycle of poverty.

Everyone should have equal access to opportunities and services. That is why we're campaigning for greater access for all to food, that migrant workers, especially women, are better protected under law and that we stop the destruction of the Earth and our environment.

The economics of globalisation create winners and losers, exacerbating the inequalities that already exist. However, globalisation is not like the weather. It can and must be shaped and regulated.

In his encyclical *Caritas in Veritate*, Pope

Benedict XVI said, "Only in charity, illuminated by the light of reason and faith, is it possible to pursue development goals that possess a more humane and humanising value."

Pope Francis told the world leaders gathered for his installation, "Let us be protectors of creation, protectors of God's plan inscribed in nature, protectors of one another and of the environment."

Our greatest challenge is not poverty or the economic crisis. It's the growth of secularism in many parts of the world, especially in the richest. When people do not believe in God, individualism triumphs over community and we lose sight of our ethical principles.

Only through living the truth of the word of God can we overcome the spiritual poverty of our age and build a fraternal world in which we live united as brothers and sisters in peace.

# A year in review

By Michel Roy, Secretary General

In 1951, thirteen national Caritas organisations gathered in Rome to agree on how to work together on emergencies and integral human development so they could be more effective in raising the lives of millions of people out of poverty. Six decades later, this spirit of cooperation envisioned by our founders is more urgent than ever before.

Of course, the task of coordinating is bigger: we're now a confederation of 164 members. And we are faced with a new set of challenges including growing inequality, climate change, the rapid growth of cities, an increase in the number of women migrating, the destruction of small-scale farmers as food prices rise and intractable conflict in parts of Africa and the Middle East.

At the same time, power and wealth are shifting from North America and Europe to Asia and Latin America. And with poverty growing across Europe at alarming rates, many of our European members are looking at how to alleviate suffering at home.

An increasing workload and shrinking finances demand a shift in the way Caritas carries out its work. Caritas Internationalis aims to strengthen its coordination, advocacy and capacity building functions by looking to our members to come up with innovative ways of doing more with less. Only by pooling resources can we hope to face the challenges.

We're also looking to our greatest treasure: the network of dioceses, parishes, bishops, priests, religious and lay people around the world who work tirelessly for and with the poor.

## A voice for change

Poverty continues to grow significantly in Europe. In Spain, the number of people coming to Caritas has tripled to over a million since the financial crisis in 2007 and 2008. Many European countries have policies of austerity and cuts to social



Michel Roy speaking at the UN's humanitarian appeals launch.

Giulio d'Adamo/WFP

services that have pushed people into despair.

The regulation net is growing around conventional banking so that past mistakes may be avoided, but there is still concern around the lack of oversight of the parallel banking industry of hedge funds, private equity firms and other investment companies that grew to a high of \$67 trillion last year.

Caritas looked for solidarity to be embraced at the Rio+20 summit in the summer, but the meeting ended in no innovation and no real advancement. Caritas representatives and other civil society groups present were left with a sense of disappointment in their political leaders.

As inequality grows, more women than ever before are migrating alone in search of a better life. Some find better jobs, education opportunities and greater freedoms. But too frequently on their journey and upon arrival they are cheated, abused or discriminated against. Caritas urged governments to put the systems in place to prevent women migrants from being exploited.

One of the driving forces of migration is climate change. Droughts across West Africa, Hurricane Sandy smashing into North America and the Caribbean, glaciers melting faster than imagined: the impact of extreme

and unusual weather patterns was clearly visible in 2012.

But what was less clear was the political and public will to make the sacrifices necessary to address the driving forces behind global warming and its impact on the poor and vulnerable. Climate talks in Doha finished with governments failing to sign up to cuts in greenhouse gasses and only doing the bare minimum to keep on track a new climate deal by 2015.

## Hope in a crisis

The urgent needs of those affected by conflict and natural disasters continue to grow. Caritas launched 44 emergency appeals last year. But the resources to deal with those in peril fell. Pledges for emergencies dropped compared to the year before.

Caritas believes in local solutions to local problems. Its greatest resource is human. This is evident in the work of our many volunteers, people from the affected communities themselves, who get organised and find innovative solutions to overcoming poverty and exclusion.

With funding from Caritas members worldwide, Caritas Juba in South Sudan mobilised volunteers to construct tents, distribute items like mosquito nets and provide hygiene training to people returning home after years of conflict.

In Syria and its neighbouring countries, hundreds of volunteers provided warm clothing and blankets, food and fuel, care and compassion to those affected by the conflict. Rahaf Al Jaber, a 20-year-old Muslim woman from Damascus, now a refugee in Jordan, is a Caritas volunteer who helped other Syrians. "Here in Caritas, I felt the spirit of love. I felt their mission and it was close to my heart," she said.

If 2012 showed us anything, in a world shaken by poverty, in a world destroyed by greed without reflecting on tomorrow, love is an absolute necessity for the future of humanity.



Caritas volunteers in Jordan give Syrian refugees blankets and hygiene kits.  
Patrick Nicholson/Caritas

## Humanitarian action

It's the permanent presence of Caritas in the world's most disaster-prone areas that makes it able to react quickly when people are in desperate need. The strength of local teams on the ground is reinforced by the ability to call on the wider Caritas confederation to deliver an effective response.

In the Democratic Republic of Congo, there has been a Caritas presence

throughout the country for half a century. It makes all the difference. In Darfur, Caritas is marking a decade of work to reduce the suffering of half a million people despite the enormous difficulties there.

It also isn't easy to operate in South Sudan, where alongside development and emergency projects, Caritas is trying to keep the hard-won peace after decades of war.

The Caritas confederation was part of a global prayer campaign for peace in South Sudan. Caritas supported the Sudan Council of Churches (SCC) in calling on all sides to step back from a return to fighting. Caritas and the SCC view development as crucial because the competition for scarce resources fan the flames of conflict.

Caritas is mindful that long-running wars mean long recoveries. It helps war widows rebuild their lives in Sri Lanka and Palestinians to survive under heavy restrictions.

It is still shameful that in 2012, people yet again died of hunger in Africa, especially in the countries of the Sahel. We have until 2015 to live up to the promises we made in the Millennium Development Goals, such as cutting poverty by half. There may be little chance of reaching them but Caritas does not give up or lose heart. It stands in solidarity with people in need as one human family.



Helping Samburu women prepare for drought in Kenya. Diederik Veerman/Museon (Cordaid)

# Food crisis in West Africa

Hunger stalked millions of people in West Africa's Sahel region in 2012 after drought devastated crops and killed livestock. Then locusts and severe flooding added to the misery. A changing climate has made this a familiar cycle, causing people to be pushed deeper into poverty as they are relentlessly stripped of their assets. A shocking 18 million people needed help.

Caritas is directly supporting over 700,000 people in the Sahel with emergency food distributions. But Caritas also believes in building resilience. Stronger communities are more capable of resisting repeated shocks. Caritas Switzerland has been working with Caritas Chad with the support of the confederation to find drought resistant seeds, donating vouchers for farmers to buy them with.

In the village of Koira Bano, near the border with Mali, Haman Abdou is using his vouchers at a seed fair organised by Caritas. "In the last harvest there was almost nothing," he said. "We ran out of food so I had to give my family my seed stocks to eat.

Now I have these better seeds and I pray for kinder weather."

The story is the same in Niger. Streams have run dry, so Caritas has helped build both new wells and ditches to help retain water when the rains do come. Caritas Niger (CADEV) pays local people for their labour in food when the markets are empty and in cash when there is food to buy so as not to disrupt the local economy.

Speculators, who buy up crops cheaply at harvest time, often manipulate food prices here. To help prevent this, Caritas has built community granaries where people can store what they can harvest in the hope of surviving the lean season. Caritas also trains them in better techniques to restore fertility.

Caritas encourages women in particular to farm together with diversified crops for better yields. "We need to learn as we are so dependent on agriculture," said Zara Muhammed, the president of the women farmer's group in Balama in Chad. "We were living off the fish a generation ago, but now

Lake Chad has receded we are no longer near the water. Caritas has also given us small loans to begin trading. It has made a huge difference."

But in the therapeutic feeding centre in Saga, a suburb of Niger's capital, Niamey, the suffering of others is plain to see. Momeye brought her baby girl Adriera from the countryside for help, but she also needed food herself. Without it, her breast milk would run out. Here, the Sisters of Charity, with the support of Caritas Niger treated Adriera's severe malnutrition and Momeye's hunger.

Niger has one of the world's highest child mortality rates – more than 140,000 die every year from causes related to poverty and malnutrition. Domo Hamani brought her granddaughter Hajara to the Saga centre. "Our food stores have been empty for four months now. People survive by picking leaves from the bushes, but the children can't digest them," she said. "Thank you Caritas and the Sisters for giving us something to eat."



Drought caused a shortage of food for people like Hamani Fodi in Niger. Caritas helped 700,000 people in West Africa with emergency food.

Nick Harrop/CAFOD

## Conflict returns to Congo

"I have never known peace in my life. I have fled so many times with just what I can carry. There is always war here." Chantal, a 32-year-old mother of six, lives in a hut covered with a plastic tarpaulin in the Mugunga camp just outside Goma in the troubled east of the Democratic Republic of Congo. Like the two million other people forced from their homes in the Congo, she is just trying to survive.

Caritas has given Chantal what food assistance it can, but aid appeals for Congo often fall on deaf ears. Donors are becoming as tired of the cycle of conflict as its innocent victims are.

The most recent fighting was between troops of the weak central government and a rebel group known as M23. They attacked and captured Goma in November 2012 prompting yet another flood of displaced people. Armed men constantly prey on civilians here. They commit abuses against children, women and men.



Fighting in eastern Congo forced thousands of people from their homes. They needed medical help, shelter and food. Caritas Congo

Despite a 2006 law against sexual violence, an environment of impunity persists. In the first six months of 2012 alone over 2500 rapes were reported. Over a quarter of them were of children – the youngest aged just 2 – and 745 were men. With financial support from Caritas Australia, Caritas Goma runs centres where victims can come forward for counselling and medical care and advocates for an end to the violence.

"This endless conflict has robbed people of their moral compass," said Taylor Toeka Kakala of Caritas Goma. "The militias also recruit child soldiers and abuse them. We negotiate for their release, counsel them and reunite them with their families."

As part of its peacebuilding programme, Caritas Congo also works with adult former fighters to prevent them taking up arms again.

## Peace in South Sudan

Two million people dead, four million others forced from their homes. The human cost of South Sudan's war is horrifying. Caritas worked to relieve the suffering and to build peace throughout the decades of war. Now, while conflict threatens to return, Caritas remains alongside the people of the world's newest country, even though international attention may be elsewhere.

Caritas continues to advocate for peace: a return to fighting in South Sudan means everybody loses. People like Rita Amone. She returned to her hometown of Isoke in the far south-east of the country in 2006, not long after a peace deal was signed. Rita grew up a refugee in Uganda and had just qualified as a primary school teacher. "When we first returned it was very hard. But we have to build our country. And for that we need peace and a change in attitudes."

Rita teaches in Saint Kizito's, where she sees the problems facing South Sudan every day. While Caritas Belgium and Secours Catholique (Caritas France) have helped with renovating classrooms and building dormitories, keeping girls in school remains difficult. Their dowry in cattle is often seen as more important than their education: a girl in South Sudan has more chance of dying in childbirth than of finishing school.

Rita has been successful in persuading parents to keep their girls in the classroom but she has also come up against the violence and anger of a country still traumatised by war and awash with guns. "One woman was shot dead by her husband when she insisted on her daughters staying in school."

In Torit, another poor area in the south-east of South Sudan, Caritas gives



A woman carries grass to use in building a thatched roof on her home in Abyei.

Paul Jeffrey/Caritas

people seeds to begin farming. Caritas is in it for the long haul. "The challenge for everyone is to build the country from scratch," said Martin Jaberg of Caritas Switzerland in Torit. "We help provide spare parts for the water system. It doesn't sound like a lot, but if the right pipe fittings are lacking, thousands of people go without clean water."

## Haiti rebuilds

Haitians will never forget the 12 January 2010. The massive earthquake killed over 300,000 people, injured many more and left homes, lives and livelihoods in ruins. Haitians still talk of their recent history as either before or after "*le douze*" – the twelfth.

Caritas has been working in Haiti for over half a century. It continued during the emergency. Three years on and with pressing humanitarian crises elsewhere in the world, Caritas is still there.

Caritas Haiti has adopted an integrated approach to the job of reconstruction, often in partnership with other Caritas members such as those from Caritas Latin America and the Caribbean.

When Caritas Haiti works in a community hit hard by the earthquake, it builds schools as well as homes. It makes sure that they have access to clean water and healthcare and that local building materials are used. Farmers are given crops to plant so they can earn a living, not just assistance to get a safe roof over their head.

In Port-au-Prince, Catholic Relief Services (CRS is a US member of the Caritas confederation) is working with the Archdiocese of Port-au-Prince to rebuild Haiti's oldest and most respected hospital, St. Francois de Sales. It was 80 percent destroyed in the quake. As well as providing a 200-bed round the clock service, the new hospital will most importantly serve as a model for providing quality care to the poor. CRS staff member and Haitian physician Dr Herby Derenoncourt said, "We have developed a training programme here which will transform medical care in Haiti."

Cordaid – the Dutch Caritas – has also committed itself to long-term reconstruction in Haiti. It has built or rehabilitated over 6000 earthquake and hurricane-proof houses, home to more than 40,000 people.

During the construction, Cordaid listened closely to what people needed. Jeanna Garreaud lost both her home and small shop in the earthquake. "I asked for the porch to be closed off and a window put in to make a

selling space so I could get my business going again," she said. Jeanna feels safe again and is making enough money to send her children to school.

In the Haitian countryside, Caritas Czech is working with farmers in sustainable agricultural methods and with schools in raising teaching standards. When cholera epidemics took more lives after the earthquake, Caritas Czech began educating families about ways to clean their water supplies and gave them the equipment to do so.

CAFOD (Caritas England and Wales) is delivering safe water messages to children in the capital by using puppet shows. In Peniel school in the Solino area, children make their own puppets to reinforce the learning. Bazil Christophe, a lively 12-year-old, is keen to pass his knowledge on to his family. "I've not had cholera but I've been sick because of dirty water. Now I know what to drink and how important it is to wash my hands," he said.



Children make puppets in Haiti as a way to learn to talk about their trauma after the 2010 earthquake.

Nikola Ivanovski/CAFOD

# War in Syria

Jadaa's son was killed in his bed and another child burned to death when their house was bombed. Saydeh's husband was abducted at a roadblock and tortured to death.

These and many more harrowing stories from Syrian refugees have been told to Caritas workers in Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and Turkey. Caritas is striving to help with food, blankets and medicines. But the number of refugees grows relentlessly.

Even though Lebanon's Bekaa Valley is a poor rural area, local people have taken Syrian refugees in. As George, a Caritas volunteer, points out, "We have known war ourselves. It's our duty to help these people." But the strain is beginning to show. So Caritas Lebanon is including hard-pressed local hosts in its distributions.

Mohammed lives with 25 members of his family in two dilapidated houses. The cost of living in Lebanon is much higher than in Syria and there is virtually no work to be found. One night, rats bit a baby, a toddler and their mother. "We did not have any

money for a doctor," said Mohammed. "But the hospital treated them for free. We have experienced much kindness here, away from the terror."

Caritas Lebanon sends a mobile clinic to provide the refugees with medical assistance. Dr Simon Kolanjian welcomes each one with reassurance. "I know they come in here scared and distraught. I want them to feel safe with our team," he said. "The children are severely malnourished. They eat dirt when they are hungry and drink dirty water. Gastroenteritis is very common."

Caritas Jordan, Turkey and Lebanon carry out home visits to assess the needs of Syrian refugees and bring them words of comfort. It helps Fairuz, who is one of 18 family members crowded into a flat in Mafraq in Jordan. "It's hard to adjust, as for more than a year I kept my children indoors for their safety. Having someone to talk to now is really helpful," he said. Caritas Turkey also uses its home visits to give out practical



Providing help in winter to Syrian refugees in Lebanon. Sam Tarling/Caritas Switzerland

help, like contacting government offices and hospitals.

Inside Syria, delivering help is very difficult. "Everything is enveloped by a sense of ruin and decay. We are suffering and don't know our future," said Bishop Antoine Audo of Aleppo, President of Caritas Syria. "5000 people sleep rough in the university gardens surrounded by stinking rubbish. Every day there are sniper attacks. But we are assisting families from our Caritas centres, distributing food, medicine and clothing. We're doing what we can."

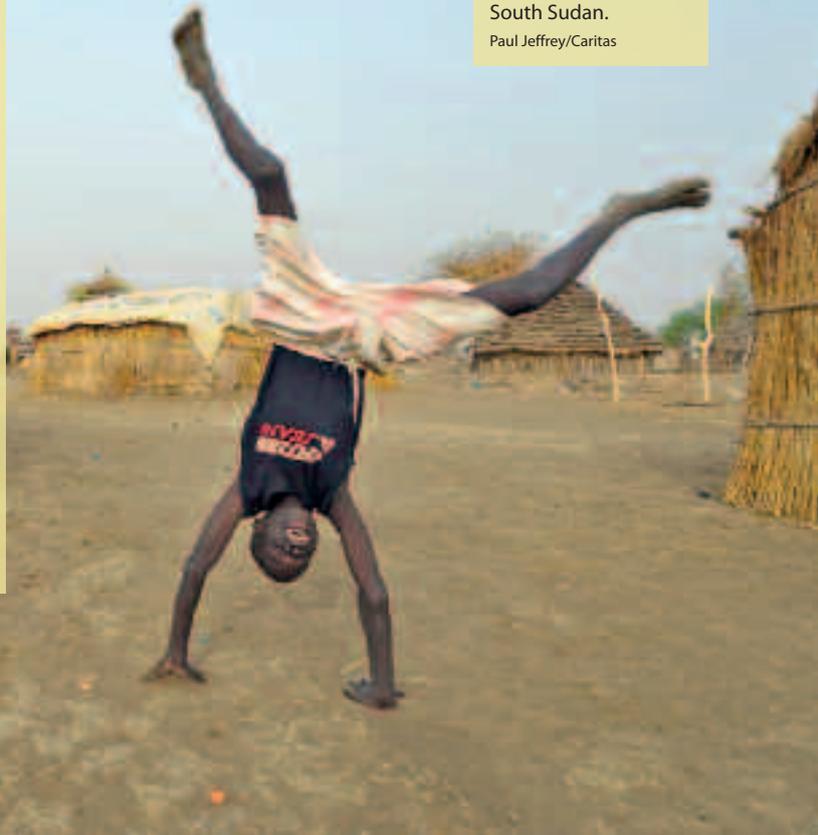


A mobile clinic in Lebanon provides Syrian refugees with healthcare. Evert-Jan Daniels/Cordaid

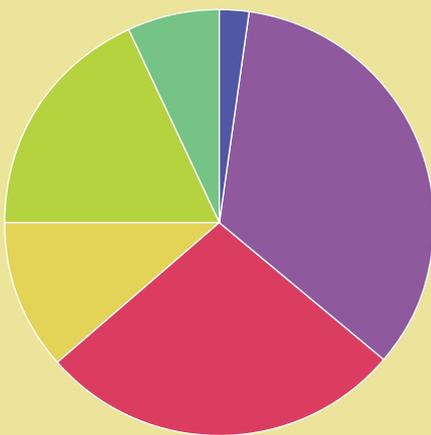
# Emergency Appeals

- A total of 44 Emergency Appeal (EA) programmes were carried out in 34 countries
- Over 3.5 million people received humanitarian support through EAs
- The combined EA budget appealed for was €64,546,760
- 61 percent of appeals were covered
- At least 35 Caritas members provided financial, technical or in-kind support through the appeals
- The total amount pledged in 2012 was over €39 million

Caritas has been working for the last 3 years in Abyei, a contested border area between Sudan and South Sudan.  
Paul Jeffrey/Caritas

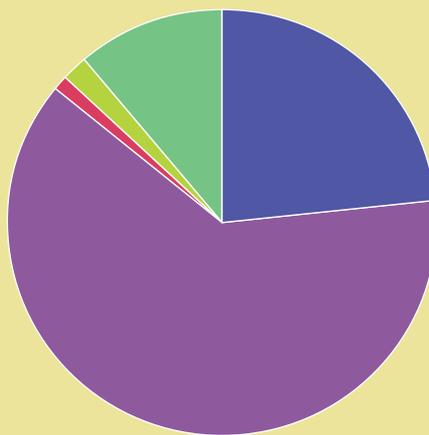


Types of emergency covered by appeals



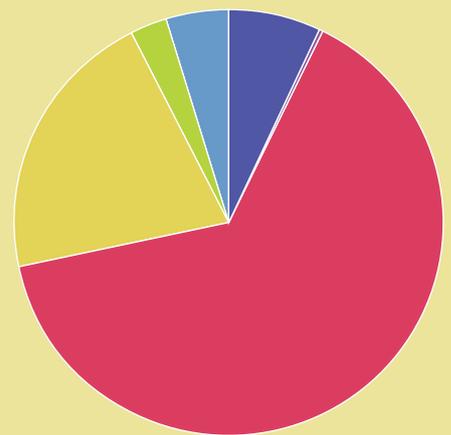
- EARTHQUAKE 1
- CONFLICT 15
- DROUGHT 12
- STORM 5
- ANNUAL FLOOD 8
- PREPARING FOR DISASTER 3

Pledged to regions



- ASIA €9,176,713
- AFRICA €24,418,390
- EUROPE €516,168
- LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN €698,948
- MONA €4,315,628

Pledges from Caritas members



- ASIA €2,114,196
- AFRICA €100,000
- EUROPE €19,546,953
- NORTH AMERICA €6,290,814
- LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN €902,440
- OCEANIA €1,359,880

Caritas took part in a rally at the Rio+20 conference on sustainable development. Elodie Perriot/Secours Catholique



## A voice for change

Caritas believes that persistence pays off. That is why it's stepping up its campaigns advocating for justice, fair treatment and protection for the most vulnerable people in our world. Caritas has raised its voice on the issues of ensuring safety for women migrants, on food security and climate change and in reminding the world of the promises made in the Millennium Development Goals.

In March, a landmark Caritas report, "The female face of migration: Advocacy and best practices for women who migrate and the families they leave behind", documented the challenges faced by some of the more than 104 million women economic migrants and set out a framework to achieve proper legal protection.

In May, Caritas Italy, in cooperation with Caritas Internationalis, organised a conference of the 'MigraMed' network looking at men and women affected by the migration crisis in the Mediterranean. Caritas advocates for flexible migration policies, as it believes that restrictive laws are just

encouraging people to resort to the most dangerous channels for migration.

Caritas Mauritius supported the organisation of the Civil Society Days of the Global Forum on Migration and Development. This is a forum where governments meet to debate migration and development with civil society.

Caritas often partners with others to make its voice louder and clearer when calling for what is morally right. It has joined with the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) to press for the ratification and implementation of the 2011 Domestic Workers Convention.

Caritas was part of the ITUC's 12 by 12 campaign – to have 12 countries ratify the convention by the end of 2012. So far, 7 countries have ratified this convention and the campaign will continue in 2013.

Caritas organisations are also active members of COATNET (Christian Organisations Against Trafficking in Human Beings), which works across borders to stop the trade in

people for the purpose of exploitation. In 2012, Caritas launched a new user-friendly website on behalf of COATNET to help victims get access to help and to support advocacy and public awareness around trafficking.

The Catholic HIV/AIDS Network, CHAN, also benefits from strong Caritas involvement. The Caritas Internationalis office in Geneva serves as CHAN's secretariat and helped produce a report assessing the role of Catholic organisations in stopping new infections in children. The report was presented to the International AIDS Conference in Washington D.C. in July by Msgr. Robert J. Vitillo, Special Advisor on HIV and AIDS for Caritas Internationalis.

The Caritas Internationalis Delegate to the UN in New York briefed UN Security Council members and international experts on crises such as the Democratic Republic of Congo, Somalia, South Kordofan and Syria. The delegate hosted bishops and church leaders as they came to the UN to speak about the issues affecting their countries.

## Female face of migration

When it went viral, the video of Alem Dechasa-Desisa shocked the world. She was dragged, sobbing, by her hair along a Beirut street and into her employment agent's car. More often, the brutality endured by migrant women workers goes unseen.

Staff at the Caritas Lebanon Migrant Centre were already helping Alem with access to medical treatment and legal advice. She had been abused by the family she worked for and was terrified about being forced to return to her home country, Ethiopia, while heavily burdened with debt from her migration. For Alem, it became too much. She hanged herself with a hospital bed sheet.

Alem's story is not an isolated one. Every year, thousands of women leave their children and families behind in their impoverished countries in search of work. Many are inhumanely treated – beaten into working long hours, refused their pay or

forced into prostitution. Caritas advocates for justice and legal protection for migrants. It is part of a network pressing countries to adopt the International Labor Organisation's 2011 Convention on Domestic Workers – a convention it successfully lobbied for, along with others.

While many migrants fled poverty and unemployment, others like Stefani, are trying to escape the terrible violence of their homelands. Stefani, 17, is from Honduras, the country with the world's highest murder rate. A gang kidnapped Stefani's father from their home. His body was found dumped in a street the next day. "I'm expecting a baby in two months and I don't want my child to endure what I have," she said.

Stefani has made it as far as Saltillo in northern Mexico and a reception centre run by Movilidad Humana, a structure of the Bishop's Conference of Mexico. She came by bus, as she couldn't manage what

is known as the 'Train of Death' – the freight train which travels up to the United States, 300 km away. Every year, thousands of undocumented migrants brave criminal gangs and immigration officials to ride the train to what they hope can only be a better life. Stefani's boyfriend Onan is one of them as their money didn't stretch to a bus fare for him.

While she waits anxiously for news of him at the centre, Stefani can have a safe night, a meal and some clothes. Madre Guadalupe Reyes is in charge of new arrivals at the centre. She said, "Crossing Mexico is particularly dangerous for women. Those who make it here are strong or very lucky." While there is good news when Onan arrives, now there are new dangers. People smugglers known as 'Coyotes' are being paid by family members already in the US to take Stefani and Onan across the border. The price is high, but neither safety nor success is guaranteed.



Stefani risked everything to flee violence in Honduras for more opportunities in the USA or Canada. Ryan Worms/Caritas

# International AIDS Conference

Good news can sometimes seem scarce. So, evidence presented at the International AIDS Conference held in Washington DC in July 2012, was very welcome. The active fight against HIV seems to be changing the trajectory of the epidemic.

A Caritas delegation joined over 23,000 people from across the world at the conference to hear that greater availability of antiretroviral therapy (ART) is playing a major part.

For the first time, more people – 58 percent – now have access to treatment than need it. A stronger commitment to eliminating new infections among children and to keeping their mothers alive has also been instrumental. The Caritas HAART for Children Campaign continues to advocate strongly for more research and the development of low-cost medications, adapted for use in low-income countries for children living with HIV and AIDS.

On the ground, national Caritas members



Karuna Bhawan, the 'House of Compassion', is a home for HIV-positive women and children, supported by Caritas. Katie Orlinsky/Caritas

fight the disease at close quarters. Just outside Kathmandu is Karuna Bhawan, the 'House of Compassion'. It's a home for HIV-positive women and children, supported by Caritas Nepal. Mary\*, now 18, lives there, studying and making money from jobs like embroidering saris.

Her father died when she was 8, her mother when she was 10. "That's when I found out I was infected. Maybe they knew

before, but no one told me," she said. She receives antiretroviral therapy at the centre.

Mary's well-off relatives refused to take her in. "It would be a stigma for their own children," said Fr Pius Perumana, director of Caritas Nepal and former head of Karuna Bhawan. "We try to remove the stigma and the shame, which all too often prevents people from seeking treatment."

*\*Name changed*



Elizabeth found out she had HIV during pregnancy. She received treatment from a Caritas partner to prevent transmission of HIV to her baby. Thankfully, Wyclef is free from HIV.

Eoghan Rice/Trócaire



Doina and Smara help warn other teenagers about the dangers of human trafficking in Romania. Laura Sheahen/Caritas

## Human trafficking

Charimaya was drugged and abducted from her village in Nepal. Maria\* was deceived after leaving home in Romania. Both were 16 and forced into prostitution. Adrian\* was simply sold by his impoverished family into slavery in Spain. All were trafficked out of their home countries by men and women who get rich on the misery of others.

National Caritas organisations work to help trafficking survivors start new lives. They also press governments and regional bodies like the European Union to legislate to stop trafficking and to provide more support for victims. Caritas believes that the root causes of vulnerability, such as poverty and unemployment, need to be fought if trafficking is to cease.

Charimaya's story shows how ruthless traffickers are. She was still a schoolgirl

when she rejected offers from employment agents to migrate overseas to work. Charimaya knew that bad things could happen to her. But the men brutally kidnapped her and she was locked in a brothel in India for 22 months until a police raid set her free. Caritas Nepal helped reunite Charimaya with her family and to overcome the stigma of what happened.

It is a challenging task to stop traffickers: they wear many masks and can pretend to be caring friends. Maria's neighbour promised her a job in a hotel in Switzerland, but sent her into sexual slavery in a brothel. She attempted suicide by drinking drain cleaner.

Back in the Romanian capital, Bucharest, an anti-trafficking group called ADPARE, which has itself been threatened by the criminals, cares for Maria. ADPARE's

president Gina\* said, "These people know when to strike, when people are most vulnerable. I met one woman who was sold by the father of her children because the traffickers got to him."

Caritas Bucharest supports ADPARE in training police officers and court workers, teaching them how to talk to and protect victims. "They really change their attitudes," said Gina. "Before they just thought all the victims were willing prostitutes."

Traffickers hunt and threaten their victims and they don't let go of them easily. Adrian was sold into slavery in Spain. He escaped after years of being chained to the floor of a garage when he wasn't forced to work as a thief and a beggar. Now he is back home in Romania, but his traffickers have been looking for him again.

*\*Name changed*

## Rio, food and climate change

Every night, 1 in 8 people go to bed hungry and every 12 seconds a child dies of hunger.

Caritas believes that enduring hunger is an offence against human dignity. It is stepping up its advocacy for the right to food to be accepted as a basic human right and is preparing a campaign about the issue. With the failure of governments to deliver on the promises they made to reach the Millennium Development Goals becoming clear, access to food is ever more important.

In June 2012, Caritas hosted an International Congress on World Hunger and Food Security in Vienna. Delegates were brought together by Caritas Austria, Caritas Europa and Caritas Internationalis. They included policy makers, public authorities, academics, aid agencies and civil society groups. "The causes of hunger are social, economic and political, not a lack of material resources," Caritas Internationalis President Cardinal Óscar Rodríguez Maradiaga told them.

Caritas staff members from around the world took the message of a 'Future without Hunger' to the UN Rio+20 conference on sustainable development later in June. They were disappointed when the conference would end without any major decisions.

Caritas is convinced that a world without hunger is not an utopian dream. In Haiti, it helps people provide their own daily bread with training to get a better yield from their crops. "Now I have a surplus to sell, I have been able to pay for my child's education," said Ariette Tessono. In the Democratic Republic of Congo, Adele and the 60 other women in her co-operative set up their successful market garden with peanut, bean and pea seeds given by Caritas.

Hunger is constant for the 3000 people of the Carteret Islands, a ring of six atolls 50 miles off the coast of Papua New Guinea. It is the hunger of poverty, but also the hunger of climate change. Rising sea levels have reduced the amount of arable land and high – or King – tides cover crops and banana trees with deadly salt water.



Caritas called for justice, equity, sustainability and joint responsibility at Rio+20. Elodie Perriot/Secours Catholique

Seline Netoi will have to leave Huene atoll with her husband and disabled son in the next five years – by then it will be permanently submerged. Seline understands that the rising waters are the result of the pollution produced by rich countries. "Maybe they should help us," she said.

At the Doha climate change talks in November 2012, the Caritas delegation advocated again for rich countries to fund adaptation to climate change in poor ones. For the Carteret Islanders, any action is too late. Moving to the mainland is hard but families are being given land to farm and build new homes on by the Catholic Church.



Rising tides will force the 3000 people on the Carteret Islands to abandon their homes within five years. Patrick Nicholson/Caritas

Caritas has been building schools and supporting education programmes in Myanmar after Cyclone Nargis in 2008.

Andreas Schwaiger/  
Caritas Switzerland



## Cardinal Rodríguez at the UN

"We look with hope and confidence to young people to seek the truth, to stand up for justice and to discover new ways of doing things. In return, they look to us for support and a sense of purpose. And too often, we are letting them down."

Caritas Internationalis President, Cardinal Óscar Rodríguez Maradiaga, brought a strong message to the United Nations in

New York in September 2012. "We are letting the next generation down – by failing to meet the Millennium Development Goals. The MDGs deadline is 2015 to cut poverty by half, to educate our children, to create jobs for them. We are not going to make it."

A fifth of the world's population is between 15 and 24. Caritas believes that

they must be given the tools to transform society for the common good. But 75 million young people are unemployed.

Cardinal Rodríguez said the casino capitalism system needs to change and economic justice delivered. "In my own country – Honduras – we now have more university graduates. But there are no jobs for them. So they are tempted by the easy money of the drug traffickers and by the lure of the United States where their illegal status makes them vulnerable to abuse. This is not justice," he said.

Many national Caritas organisations run training and education programmes to help young people. Caritas Sri Lanka provides business training for young people who lost their parents in the civil war. Many others worldwide also learn valuable skills and life lessons by volunteering for Caritas.



A resident of in Bilel camp in Darfur says, "I never wrote a letter in Arabic until I was 53." Here he has written his name: Ibrahim Abdullah Hussein. Laura Sheahen/Caritas

Sarah Smith-Pearse/CAFOD

## Strengthening Caritas

On 2 May, Pope Benedict XVI approved the new legal framework for Caritas Internationalis, defining its role as serving the poor and promoting justice and charity on behalf of the Catholic Church. He put Caritas Internationalis at the heart of the

Church's mission saying that the confederation is united with "the Pastors of the Church and, in particular, the Successor of Peter".

The new constitution means Caritas Internationalis remains a confederation of national charities each autonomous under their conferences of bishops and at the same time it's a body of the Universal Church.

The Caritas mission of coordinating and representing the emergency relief and development work of the 164 Caritas national organisations is confirmed. Caritas members continue to work as grassroots organisations, helping vulnerable people irrelevant of their politics, faith or race. The confederation continues to speak out against the global structures that trap people in cycles of poverty.

The revised statutes and rules clarify the working relationship of Caritas Internationalis with the Holy See. They establish Caritas more fully within the Holy

See, with three of the seven members of the new Executive Board appointed by the pope, the other four being elected by Caritas members.

The framework strengthens the relationship with the Pontifical Council Cor Unum, the Vatican office responsible for coordinating and promoting church charity work.

Cor Unum is also further engaged with the work of our seven regional bodies in Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, the Middle East and North Africa, North America and Oceania. Regional staff were pleased to welcome Cor Unum colleagues, including their president Cardinal Robert Sarah, to several meetings throughout the year.

The new constitution helps bring Caritas closer to the Holy See's Secretariat of State, giving the confederation greater opportunities to bring the concerns of the poor to those who work on these issues at the Vatican.



Caritas staff stayed with the people of Sri Lanka throughout the civil war.

Patrick Nicholson/Caritas

## A Caritas in every parish

In December, Pope Benedict said, "The service of charity is a constitutive element of the Church's mission and an indispensable expression of her very being". The statement was part of the recent instructions to bishops, technically known as the *motu proprio: Intima Ecclesiae Natura*, outlining the legal structure of the Church's charitable work.

Pope Benedict praised Caritas, which "has rightly earned the esteem and trust of the faithful and of many other people around the world for its generous and consistent witness of faith and its concrete ability to respond to the needs of the poor."

The pope made very clear that the authority for governance and guidance for Catholic charities has to come from the local bishop. He instructed them to establish a Caritas in every parish under their authority, not only to provide aid to the needy but to educate the community on the basis of Church teaching in a "spirit of sharing and authentic charity".



Cateel town in the Philippines was devastated in a typhoon. The heavily-damaged Catholic church is visible in the background. Jennifer Hardy/CRS

He also wrote of the urgent need for social justice in the world: "We are not bestowing alms on the poor by giving them what they

require; we are but restoring to them what is theirs by right. Far from acting charitably, we are but paying part of our debt."

## Synod of Bishops for the New Evangelisation

In October, over 200 cardinals and bishops from all over the world came to Rome for the Synod of Bishops for the New Evangelisation. Along with the Synod Fathers, there were priests, religious and laymen and women serving as observers and experts.

Caritas was honoured with an invitation

to attend. After consulting Caritas members to prepare an intervention, Caritas Internationalis Secretary General Michel Roy spoke about how in our world in crisis, people look to the Church to show them how society can be renewed with solidarity and care for one's neighbours.

The Synod's final message emphasised this: "A special place is recognised to the poor in our communities, a place that does not exclude anyone, but wants to be a reflection of how Jesus is related to them... The act of charity requires to be accompanied by efforts for justice."

Pope Benedict announced the Year of Faith by urging Catholics to appreciate the gift of faith, deepen their relationship with God and strengthen their commitment to sharing their faith with others. Caritas member organisations are taking part in many activities around the Year of Faith, which runs into 2013.

Celebrations of the 50th anniversary of Vatican II were also launched in 2012. And Caritas took part in events to mark the 50th anniversary of *Pacem in Terris* (Peace on Earth), a papal encyclical issued by Pope John XXIII.



Mass outdoors in Agok with families displaced by violence near the border between South Sudan and Sudan. Laura Sheahan/Caritas

## Regional round up

Caritas Internationalis is made up of seven regions: Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, the Middle East and North Africa, North America and Oceania. Here are some selected highlights from 2012.

**Caritas Africa** organised a three-day meeting in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo, in collaboration with the Pontifical Council Cor Unum to reinforce the identity, mission and organisational structure of Caritas as an integral part of the Catholic Church. At the end of the meeting, the 52 bishops from 34 countries in the Caritas Africa region reaffirmed the ecclesial and spiritual dimensions of Caritas and pledged to improve governance at all levels.

In June, Caritas Internationalis President Cardinal Óscar Rodríguez Maradiaga travelled to Taiwan for **Caritas Asia's** General Assembly. Cardinal Rodríguez warned that the current crisis exposed systemic failures generated by careless speculation for the benefit of a handful of people at the expense of millions of poor families. But he also pointed out that the economic crisis leaves the world a unique chance to refashion globalisation to work for the majority. Caritas Sri Lanka hosted the first sub-regional meeting of five South Asian national Caritas organisations and Caritas Cambodia was awarded a medal from the government for its response to severe floods in the country.

In Europe, the economic crisis and austerity measures cutting social services are hitting the poor and vulnerable disproportionately. **Caritas Europa** members say they are witnessing the increase of a deeper, structural poverty. Caritas continues to serve the poor with concrete help. Caritas Europa members discussed common work and strategic directions at the regional conference in Warsaw, while eight working groups with 100 Caritas staff members from many Caritas members met throughout the year.

**Caritas Latin America and the Caribbean** strengthened ties among Caritas member organisations within the region. It has also been working alongside the Latin American Bishops' Conference and Catholic Relief Services (a US member of Caritas). In its work to promote integral human

### We remember

Sympathies were extended to Caritas Bangladesh when staff members Sheshanto Tripura, Jacob Tripura and Rintu Chakma were killed on 14 January 2012. They died in a bus accident while travelling on a steep mountain road in eastern Bangladesh, where Caritas runs a food security programme.

In April 2012, Caritas friend and colleague Lê Quyên Ngô Đình was also killed in a traffic accident in Rome. A refugee herself, Lê Quyên led Caritas Rome's work with migrants and was well known across



Lê Quyên Ngô Đình at a Caritas meeting on migration.

the confederation. Colleagues from across the world remembered her for her dedication to the poor.

development in the region it has focused on the themes of food security, fair trade, environment, equality and disaster preparedness. Caritas Latin America and the Caribbean has been following up on its work in countries such as Cuba, Haiti, Guatemala and Paraguay, which have been hit by major natural disasters in recent years.

In the **Caritas Middle East and North Africa** (MONA) region, the hope of change has been mixed with extremely difficult humanitarian realities. Pope Benedict brought a message of peace and tolerance to Lebanon in September 2012 when he delivered the Apostolic Exhortation, which is the fruit of the Synod for the Middle East. President of Caritas Lebanon Fr. Simon Faddoul said, "The pope conveyed a message of love, peace and reconciliation to non-Christians on one hand, and a call to unity and working together for all Christians so their witness will be one of communion and love."

Other focuses for Caritas MONA over the past year included improving bilateral partnerships, investing in programmes for

young people and creating more coherence around the issue of migration.

**Caritas North America** is a unique region with just three members. They work together to promote the profile of Caritas Internationalis, support one another in various areas of common interest and promote opportunities for collaboration with Caritas Latin America and the Caribbean, holding joint meetings.

**Caritas Oceania** focused its attention on the impact of climate change on the lives of the most vulnerable people. As extreme weather and rising sea levels in the Pacific threatened development gains, Caritas Samoa managed emergency shelters for 3000 people after Cyclone Evan hit. Caritas Tonga carried out a tsunami evacuation drill involving more than 800 people. In October, Caritas Oceania welcomed representatives from Caritas Internationalis and the Pontifical Council Cor Unum to its Oceania Forum in Vanuatu. A governance workshop in New Zealand in November concentrated on establishing civil and legal status for each Caritas member organisation.



Caritas supports war widows in Sri Lanka with new homes.  
Patrick Nicholson/Caritas

## Summary of Emergency Appeals 2012

### JANUARY

#### Philippines

Tropical storm Washi struck the southern part of the Philippines on 16 December 2011, triggering massive landslides and flashfloods. Caritas Philippines (NASSA) launched an appeal to provide 1000 families with shelter. Budget: €1.2 million.

#### Chad

Caritas continued its assistance to Sudanese refugee families. Caritas programmes help maintain hydraulic systems so they have clean, safe drinking water and provide wells and sanitation. Caritas also gives refugees the seeds and tools they need to grow their own crops. Budget: €636,000.

#### India

In the wake of Cyclone Thane in south-east India, Caritas helped families who were not reached by government relief efforts. Working through local dioceses, 4000 people were given food and survival kits

and homes were repaired through a cash for work programme. Budget: €568,000.

#### Mali

When cereal prices rose sharply in West Africa, many families were in danger of going hungry. Targeting over 100,000 at risk people, Caritas Mali distributed corn, millet, rice and sorghum, as well as seeds. Caritas also paid impoverished people with food to work on community projects. Budget: €2.5 million (revised).

#### Democratic Republic of Congo

Another post-electoral crisis had a great impact on many people in Congo. A Caritas programme provided nutritional supplements for 16,000 children, essential medical supplies and laboratory equipment for eight general hospitals and 15 health centres and building materials to 4000 people. Budget: €876,000.

#### Cote D'Ivoire

Caritas repaired homes and gave relocation assistance to people who fled post-election

violence in 2010. As they remained vulnerable to hunger and poverty, Caritas also distributed food stamps and helped farmers recover their livestock and crops. Caritas also supported diocesan reconciliation and peacebuilding initiatives. Budget: €896,000.

### MARCH

#### Myanmar

20,000 people were helped by Caritas after three major crises – armed conflict, an earthquake and floods – struck different regions of northern Myanmar. Budget: €2.6 million.

#### Burkina Faso

Caritas provided food to thousands of people either by free distributions or by subsidising the price of cereals. Caritas also gave medical care and nutrition to malnourished children and supported vulnerable poor farmers. Budget: €2.1 million (revised).



Helping over 100,000 people with seeds, tools and agricultural training in Chad.

Luca Zanetti/  
Caritas Switzerland

**Niger**

Caritas Niger (CADEV) began food and nutrition programmes to help hundreds of thousands of people when over a third of the country's population – about 16 million people – was found to be at risk of hunger. Caritas saved the lives of malnourished children in special centres and distributed drought resistant seeds to help communities weather food-related crises. Budget: €4.5 million (revised).

**Peru**

After floods struck Peru, Caritas helped over 2500 families in remote areas with food, blankets, clothing and water purification kits. Caritas also rebuilt damaged homes, gave impoverished farmers animals and seeds and provided health care. Budget: €456,000.

**Senegal**

To stave off a serious hunger crisis, Caritas distributed food to more than 2500 families during the lean season of June to August. Grain banks were established in 75

villages and nutritional assistance was given to women and children in feeding clinics. Budget: €947,000.

**APRIL**

**Lebanon**

Caritas Lebanon distributed food parcels, blankets and other essential goods to 4500 refugees from the conflict in Syria and their host families. Budget: €860,000.

**Madagascar**

When two tropical cyclones struck Madagascar, Caritas helped nearly 10,000 people in the hardest hit areas with immediate food and medical care. Caritas Madagascar also worked to improve their homes and livelihoods in the longer term through food for work programmes. Budget: €920,000.

**Ecuador**

When heavy floods washed away homes and crops in parts of Ecuador, Caritas

responded with food rations and hygiene kits for 4000 families. Mobile medical clinics run by local dioceses also received support. Caritas helped families repair their homes and restart their farms by providing building materials, seeds and agricultural tools. Budget: €330,000.

**Chad**

As the food crisis in Chad worsened, Caritas Chad partnered with Caritas Switzerland to help over 100,000 people with seeds, tools and agricultural training to boost their resilience. Budget: €1.7 million.

**MAY**

**Democratic Republic of Congo**

Caritas Congo launched an emergency response for thousands of people when renewed fighting displaced them from their homes. Blankets, hygiene kits and food were given to the most vulnerable households. Budget: €1.4 million.



### Sri Lanka

Even though the civil war in Sri Lanka ended in 2009, the needs of affected people in the north of the country remain great. Caritas Sri Lanka provided housing, water and sanitation facilities and schools and worked to support displaced people return to their homes. Budget: €1.16 million.

### JUNE

#### Mauritania

As part of its response to the massive food crisis which threatened thousands of families in West Africa, Caritas programmes addressed chronic food and nutritional crises in the Sahel region. In Mauritania's rural Brakna and Gorgol areas, Caritas gave food to hundreds of families during the lean season, helped rebuild livestock herds and gave seeds to farmers. Budget: €654,000.

### South Sudan

Caritas launched an appeal to support the development of the new Caritas South Sudan – formed when South Sudan became an independent country in July 2011. This is to help combat the severe poverty faced by millions of people and to build the capacity of Caritas South Sudan to respond to emergencies. Budget: €2.5 million.

### Paraguay

Disastrous floods in the Chaco region of Paraguay affected thousands of families. Caritas Paraguay distributed hygiene kits, food, plastic sheeting and blankets and provided medical care. Budget: €312,000.

### Malawi

Caritas Malawi (CADECOM) provided food assistance to vulnerable and chronically ill people to prevent a hunger crisis. Seeds were distributed and food for work and agricultural training programmes taught people in 75 villages about disaster prevention. Budget: €995,000.

### JULY

#### Somalia (Somaliland)

Caritas Switzerland worked to improve water and sanitation facilities for local communities and displaced people fleeing drought and conflict in north-west Somalia. Hygiene and livestock health classes were also provided as well as adult literacy classes. Budget: €908,000.

### Japan

Caritas Japan continued to aid communities devastated by the massive earthquake and tsunami of March 2011. Furniture was given to people moving to permanent or temporary housing, a day service centre for the elderly was built and help given to shop owners, fishermen and farmers to restart their businesses. Psycho-social services were provided as well as meals to the elderly from a mobile kitchen. An indoor playing field was built in a radiation-affected area. Budget: €3.6 million (revised).

## India

After severe floods in the Indian state of Assam washed away many homes, Caritas India worked with the local dioceses to set up medical facilities for more than 12,000 families. Damaged houses were also rebuilt and livestock distributed to the most vulnerable families. Budget: €730,000.

## Bangladesh

Caritas Bangladesh used its extensive experience in flood response to help affected families after heavy rains and landslides. Immediate food aid was given as well as materials to repair damaged houses. Unemployed flood victims were paid to repair roads, embankments and other infrastructure. Budget: €580,000 (revised).

## Nigeria

Caritas Nigeria gave vulnerable households in four northern states food vouchers or cash transfers for five months to see them

through the lean season. Over-planting and a lack of rain meant there was a poor harvest. Budget: €1.1 million.

## AUGUST

### Ethiopia

In drought-stricken areas of Ethiopia, Caritas programmes helped 60,000 farming and herding families to produce more food. Work was also carried out to improve water systems and infrastructure in remote areas. Budget: €2.5 million.

### Kenya

Late rains and massive crop failures made many people vulnerable to poverty and hunger in Kenya. Caritas helped over 110,000 people over a year with water, food and seeds to plant and training in improved farming methods. Budget: €3.4 million.



Water collection and storage in drought-prone Kenya. Diederik Veerman/Museon (Cordaid)

## Lebanon

Caritas Lebanon helped thousands of refugees from the conflict in Syria who often had to flee with nothing. Caritas provided them with food, household essentials and psycho-social care. Budget: €1.7 million.

## SEPTEMBER

### Myanmar

Thousands of homes were washed away by monsoon flooding in south-western and eastern Myanmar. Caritas provided food, shelter, improved access to drinking water and better sanitation to 4500 households. Budget: €400,000.

### Sierra Leone

Caritas Sierra Leone launched an emergency response following a severe cholera outbreak. It also ran a year-long national programme with four diocesan centres to improve health practices for 600,000 people including radio programming, leaflets and school campaigns to tackle the long-term problem. Budget: €600,000.

## OCTOBER

### Somalia

Caritas helped farmers in Somalia who struggled with famine following a long-term drought. 5000 families received food to help them until the January 2013 harvest. Catholic Relief Services (a member of Caritas in the US) headed the project. Budget: €1.4 million.

### Philippines

Caritas helped 6000 families living in temporary shelters after severe flooding. Working with five dioceses, food, hygiene kits and cooking utensils were distributed. Budget: €350,000.

### Pakistan

A three-month emergency programme was launched to help families following severe flooding. Caritas Pakistan provided blankets, food and medical assistance. Budget: €1.1 million.

### Indonesia

Caritas directly helped 6600 people and another 13,000 indirectly to develop resilience in the face of disasters. Budget: €250,000.



Following the conflict in Gaza, Caritas helped with healthcare and counselling. Elodie Perriot/Secours Catholique

### Senegal

When massive flooding in areas of Senegal left people without safe drinking water, Caritas helped them clean their homes and have access to good water. Help with food and non-food items was also given. Budget: €365,000.

## NOVEMBER

### Democratic Republic of Congo

A Caritas programme helped 10,000 households in North and South Kivu which were displaced by armed conflict. Families were provided with food and household items. Budget: €1.2 million.

## DECEMBER

### Sahel (Mali)

Caritas invested in boosting the capacity of Caritas member organisations in the Sahel region over a four-month period. The recent conflict in Mali has uprooted hundreds of

thousands of people from their homes so member organisations need additional skills to better serve the poor. Budget: €3 million (revised).

### Turkey

The main focus of Caritas in Turkey when working with refugees from the conflict in Syria was to help 2000 families. They were provided with food, hygiene kits and blankets and heaters to get them through an unusually harsh winter. Budget: €1.4 million.

### Syria

Up to 1.5 million people are living in difficult and unstable conditions having fled their homes because of Syria's war. Caritas helped vulnerable families prepare for the harsh winter by covering basic needs including housing, heating and blankets. Budget: €637,000.

### Darfur

Caritas helped over half a million people in Sudan's Darfur region, working in a joint programme with the Action by Churches

Together (ACT) Alliance. A big investment in livelihoods was made so that people are more autonomous and communities can become more self-sufficient. Budget: €7.3 million.

### Philippines

When the Philippines government evacuated a million homes as a result of Typhoon Bopha, Caritas focused on first providing 1700 households with survival kits and from then on providing materials for people to repair their homes. Budget: €421,000

### Gaza

Following the war in Gaza, Caritas helped Palestinians with no access to healthcare, who are financially insecure, unprepared for winter and who require psychological support. Budget: €1.6 million.

### Jordan

Caritas Jordan stepped up its humanitarian assistance to both refugees from the conflict in Syria and their poor Jordanian hosts as the situation became more and more difficult. Budget: €1.3 million.

A photograph of Cardinal Óscar Andrés Rodríguez Maradiaga, SDB, speaking at a Caritas Asia meeting in Taiwan. He is wearing a black cassock and glasses, holding a microphone and gesturing with his right hand. In the background, there is a painting of a man with a beard, possibly a religious figure. A white text box in the top right corner contains the caption.

Cardinal Rodríguez at  
a Caritas Asia meeting  
in Taiwan.

## Caritas Internationalis President and Regional Presidents

### **Caritas Internationalis President**

Cardinal Óscar Andrés Rodríguez Maradiaga, SDB.

### **Caritas Africa President**

Bishop Francisco João Silota, M. Afr.

### **Caritas Asia President**

Bishop Isao Kikuchi, SVD

### **Caritas Europa President**

Msgr. Erny Gillen

### **Caritas Latin America and Caribbean President**

Bishop José Luis Azañe Ayala

### **Caritas Middle East and North Africa President**

Mr. Joseph Farah

### **Caritas North America President**

Mr. Michael Casey

### **Caritas Oceania President**

Msgr. Gerard Burns

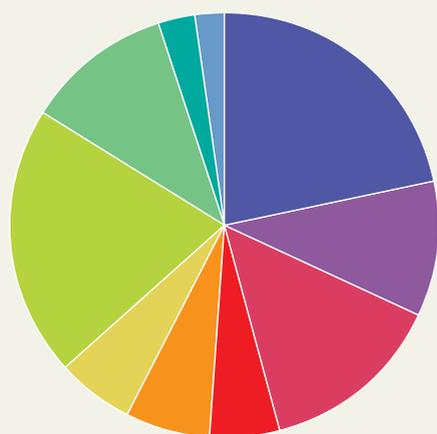
# Financial information

Caritas Internationalis is a global confederation of 164 organisations networked together in 200 countries, as part of the humanitarian and development mission of the Catholic Church. For financial information on individual members please refer to their own websites (links can be found on [www.caritas.org](http://www.caritas.org)).

The Caritas Internationalis General Secretariat (GS) provides coordination and support to the confederation. It is funded by contributions from member organisations and through private donations. Its finances are reviewed annually by an external auditor and a full report is available for download from [www.caritas.org](http://www.caritas.org).

Summary	€
Advocacy and representation	918,166
Administration of confederation and General Secretariat	432,204
Humanitarian coordination	579,834
Capacity building	216,471
HIV/AIDS programme (and CHAN Secretariat*)	268,305
Cooperation within confederation	249,304
Communications	859,958
Support to regional structures	459,959
Fundraising	119,373
Miscellaneous	89,916
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,193,491</b>

**Caritas Internationalis core expenditures: €4,193,491**



- Advocacy and representation
- Administration of confederation and General Secretariat
- Humanitarian coordination
- Capacity building
- HIV/AIDS programme (and CHAN Secretariat\*)
- Cooperation within confederation
- Communications
- Support to regional structures
- Fundraising
- Miscellaneous

\*The Caritas Internationalis office in Geneva serves as the Secretariat for the Catholic HIV/AIDS Network (CHAN).

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