



WHS Agenda for Humanity Caritas Internationalis' Commitments

Caritas Internationalis is a Confederation of 165 Catholic Church humanitarian, health and social service, and development organizations, with a moral mandate to respond to humanitarian and other human needs without distinction as to origin, nationality, creed or sex. Caritas plays a pivotal role in humanitarian emergencies and social development. As part of the Catholic Church, Caritas, which is present in more than 200 countries and territories around the world, has dynamically adopted people-centered initiatives to bring about change in the lives of affected and at risk communities.

Rooted in Catholic Social Teaching, Caritas Internationalis maintains humanitarian relief protection and respect of the human rights of the most vulnerable at the heart of its action. Our members on the ground and the local Church are unique actors in the humanitarian community in that they are rooted in the local community reaching out to people in the most remote parts of the world. They are present before, during and after a humanitarian crisis.

The Caritas Confederation welcomes the World Humanitarian Summit as an opportunity to reflect on the challenges confronting humanitarian actors across the world. In the spirit of collaboration, we acknowledge that there is much to strengthen and improve in this field, especially with regard to how we support and respond, with dignity and respect, to those in need.

CORE RESPONSIBILITY ONE – Global leadership to prevent and end conflicts

- Caritas will continue to support and strengthen Catholic/religious leaders' engagement in conflict prevention, mediation as well as peace and reconciliation activities. Caritas will also promote inter-faith collaboration where it can increase protection of people affected by conflict
- Caritas will foster respect for religious diversity and work to eliminate all forms of religious fundamentalism by promoting the right to live in peace
- Caritas will continue to advocate with the UN Security Council and Member States on the prevention and resolution of conflict
- Caritas will strongly advocate in the UN Human Rights Council for strengthening human rights of the most vulnerable and enhancing compliance with international humanitarian law, especially in protracted crisis situations. As a core component of the work of the Caritas Confederation and through concrete actions of its members at local, regional and global levels, key decision-makers will hear the voices of those caught up in humanitarian crisis, influencing and leading to changes in humanitarian

policies and laws, ensure better protection of the most vulnerable and prevent conflicts.

CORE RESPONSIBILITY TWO – Uphold the norms that safeguard humanity

- Caritas commits to maintain and reinforce its promotion and application of humanitarian principles across its network, which are in line with the body of Catholic Social Teaching that serves as the basis of Caritas' mission in humanitarian action
- Caritas commits to build a stronger Caritas Confederation by strengthening the knowledge and adherence of its members to international standards in emergency responses - enshrined in Caritas Internationalis' Management Standards - to ensure accountability to the people we serve

CORE RESPONSIBILITY THREE – Leave no one behind

- *People First.* In line with the preferential option for the poor, Caritas has always put people at the heart of its humanitarian action and will continue doing so to support them to rebuild their lives in full respect of their dignity. In doing so, Caritas will strive to uphold the highest ethical and professional standards of accountability to the people we serve
- We are committed to promoting equal rights and responsibilities of men and women and will promote Security Council resolution 1325, that stresses the equal participation and full involvement of women in all efforts for the promotion of peace and security. It also calls on all parties to take special measures to protect women and girls from sexual abuse in situations of armed conflict.
- We strongly advocate for the protection of refugees and migrants as well as the responsibilities of host governments to recognize and guarantee the right to a secure stay in host countries, with adequate access to safe and dignified services and support

CORE RESPONSIBILITY FOUR – Change people's lives – From delivering aid to ending need

- Caritas will strengthen its network by building the capacity of each organization to effectively identify and respond to needs, developing specific (aid) services, leadership and responsibilities. Each national Caritas will be the point of reference for other member organizations in a given country. This in turn will allow us to empower grassroots to fully participate in decision-making and promote greater resilience of affected communities
- Caritas commits to reduce the impact of humanitarian crisis by promoting programmes aimed at enhancing disaster preparedness and response, and by supporting communities to design and implement appropriate risk reduction strategies, including ensuring adequate resources for risk mitigation
- Caritas commits to advocate for ensuring effective (legal) protection of humanitarian aid workers in conformity with international humanitarian law and human rights law

CORE RESPONSIBILITY FIVE – Invest in Humanity

Caritas recognizes, values and supports local organizations, deeply rooted in local communities, in humanitarian response and commits thus to strengthening local leadership and investing further in local capacities. We specifically commit to:

- Encourage initiatives aimed at improving effective partnership and coordination, and facilitating increased direct access to resources for national and local members to support grassroots' actions
- Support local members to strengthen in-country engagement in humanitarian action
- Harmonize and simplify reporting tools and procedures, and further invest in strengthening joint needs assessments and appeal mechanism
- Be transparent about the full cost of humanitarian action, including the resources we transfer to our members
- Acknowledge cash transfers as an effective humanitarian tool and commit to using or facilitating use of cash wherever feasible and appropriate in humanitarian response
- Invest in quality assurance to demonstrate our adherence to humanitarian standards and good practices, including in how we demonstrate accountability to people affected by crisis, in line with Caritas Internationalis' Management Standards.