



# Caritas Internationalis Annual Report 2014





# Contents

Who we are	3
Message from the Caritas Internationalis leadership	4
Emergency responders	5
Voices for change	9
Pope Francis	12
Strengthening Caritas	14
Caritas in the Church and in the world	16
Finances	18

Previous page: Burundian refugees in Tanzania receive help farming. Isabel Corthier/Caritas Belgium

This page: 60,000 children affected by the Syrian crisis went to school in Lebanon thanks to Caritas. Matthieu Alexandre/Caritas





# Who we are

Caritas is a living witness of the love of God for all Creation. Pope Francis calls on us to go to the “peripheries” to serve those in need and to enlighten society towards greater solidarity, fraternity and justice.

Inspired by the Gospels, by the teachings of the Catholic Church and by the hopes and experiences of the poor, Caritas Internationalis strives for a world where the dignity of the human being is upheld and there is no exclusion, discrimination, violence, intolerance or dehumanising poverty.

Caritas is dedicated to serving the poor, responding to disasters, providing social services, promoting integral human development, speaking out against the causes of injustice and violence and galvanising all people of good will.

Pope Francis reflected on the “great light” shone by Pope Paul VI, who was beatified in October. We remember him as a champion of social justice, peace builder, author of landmark Church teachings *Populorum Progressio* and *Evangelii Nuntiandi* and founding father of Caritas Internationalis.

“When we fight poverty and oppose the unfair conditions of the present, we are not just promoting human well being; we are also furthering man’s spiritual and moral development, and hence we are benefiting the whole human race,” he wrote in *Populorum Progressio*.

Blessed Pope Paul VI would see the realisation of his vision in today’s confederation of over 160 national member organisations worldwide, which commits itself to working with and for the poor, irrespective of their religion or race.

Caritas staff in Gaza during a break in the shelling. Caritas Jerusalem

# Message from the Caritas Internationalis leadership

Michel Roy and Cardinal Rodríguez at a conference on the Middle East.  
Caritas Jerusalem

**“We have created a ‘throw away’ culture... the excluded are not the ‘exploited’ but the outcast, the ‘leftovers’... no one is to be ‘excluded’ from God’s love and from our care.”**

Pope Francis wrote in his first Apostolic Exhortation, *Evangelii Gaudium*, about the divisions in our world. Sadly, those divisions have only grown in 2014. Caritas will rise to the challenge, remaining steadfast in

combating social injustice through its humanitarian, integral human development and campaigning work.

The ‘throw away’ culture about which Pope Francis wrote is an issue both at local and global levels. The extremism engulfing the Middle East is a local crisis for those living in its vortex. But it is a global crisis: it has had a profound impact on all of us in our own countries and in our hearts. So too has the plight of migrants around the

world, the Ebola epidemic in West Africa and global hunger afflicting families in countries, rich and poor.

This bleak picture could make us despair. But we can’t afford that luxury. So Caritas organisations pressed on with their work, carried out in the name of the Church.

And out of the darkness, we saw signs of hope. We saw God’s love for all humanity in the welcome given to the millions of refugees from Syria. We found courage in

the actions of those who went to help communities affected by Ebola. And we found solidarity in those who supported Caritas in both richer and poorer countries in our One Human Family, Food for All campaign to end hunger by 2025.

**H.E. Oscar Cardinal Rodríguez Maradiaga,  
President**

**Michel Roy, Secretary General**





## Emergency responders

The number of people under threat as a result of natural disasters and conflict has reached unprecedented levels. Syria, South Sudan, Iraq and the Central African Republic were top priorities and will remain so in 2015. But there are many other places – West Africa, Ukraine, Darfur – where people need our support.

Responding to people's suffering is a shared responsibility. Caritas Internationalis promotes greater coordination among its member organisations to close the growing gaps between needs and resources in the world's most troubled corners.

2014 was an unprecedented year for emergencies, with Caritas helping people caught in crises in the Middle East, the Central African Republic, South Sudan, Ebola-hit West Africa and Ukraine. Caritas Ukraine

## Alleviating misery in the Middle East

2014 saw the tragedy of Syria enter its 4th year. Some 190 000 people have been killed: more lose their lives every day as fighting rages between the government, opposition forces and extremists.

By the end of the year, 7.6 million people had been forced out of their homes but still remained in Syria, while 3.8 million Syrians were living in neighbouring countries as refugees. Caritas organisations provided food, rent, clothes, education, counselling, healthcare, skills training, protection and more.

Caritas is one of just a handful of aid agencies that has been able to continue operating independently in Syria. Despite coming under regular bombardment, Caritas Syria continued to assist tens of thousands of people with food, medical help, blankets, clothes, education and counselling.

The rise of extremist militants known as Daesh, the so-called 'Islamic State', made large swathes of Syria inaccessible to Christian or international aid agencies. They took the violence across Syria's borders into Iraq and Lebanon.

Over 1 million people fled their homes in Iraq in 2014 – Christians, Yazidis and



**Caritas provided shelter, food, education, healthcare, counselling and more to 1.2 million people affected by the Syrian and Iraqi crises.** Matthieu Alexandre/Caritas

Shia Muslims – who have been targeted by the extremists. Caritas organisations worked through Caritas Iraq and local parishes to deliver aid to them in Iraqi Kurdistan after they arrived with nothing.

Caritas Jordan partnered with churches across the country to provide the refugees with shelter, converting parish halls into makeshift lodgings. Of particular concern was the large number of children, so Caritas supported school classes for them in the afternoons.

War returned to Gaza – the third in five years between Israel and Palestinian militants. The conflict made life even harder for people there: water is scarce, much of the food comes from humanitarian organisations and the dignity of a job is beyond many people's reach. Caritas supported them with food, healthcare and basic needs, while calling for an end to the cycle of violence.

## On the frontline fighting Ebola

West Africa suffered the worst outbreak of Ebola in history. Teams from Caritas Guinea immediately swung into action, taking motorcycles to rural areas to tell people how to prevent the spread of the virus. They distributed soap, bleach and buckets to more than 100 000 people, urged them to avoid direct contact with people already showing symptoms of the infection and worked with a private company to send mobile telephone text messages about Ebola to more than 1 million.

As Ebola spread to neighbouring Liberia and Sierra Leone, Caritas began prevention work there and trained parishioners about the importance of proper hand washing – the first line of defence. Caritas drew on its years of expertise in raising awareness about HIV and AIDS, using radio stations, posters and community volunteers to educate people and fight stigma.

**Caritas volunteers distributed soap and bleach to communities in West Africa to prevent the spread of Ebola.** Tommy Trenchard/Caritas



**Caritas ran public health campaigns to educate people on Ebola and to fight against stigma.**

Tommy Trenchard/Caritas

Caritas organisations brought in protective clothing for health workers. Caritas also collaborated with the UN's World Food Programme to provide food to quarantined families and supported burial teams when the number of dead became overwhelming.

When schools were closed, Caritas distributed radios to children so they could listen to lessons on the airwaves. In both Sierra Leone and Liberia, Caritas found temporary placements for Ebola orphans whose relatives were reluctant to take them in.

Caritas Internationalis advised the World Health Organisation on how to revise its policy on safe and dignified burials during an Ebola outbreak. The Caritas Internationalis Special Advisor on Health visited West Africa to assist national Caritas organisations and Catholic Church partners as they expanded their operations.





Flood victims in Serbia received essential aid.  
Dirk Auer/Caritas Serbia

## Responding to floods in Europe

In 2014, Serbia, Bosnia-Herzegovina and other parts of south-eastern Europe endured their worst flooding in over a century causing lakes of water to inundate low-lying areas and landslides in the hills.

Thanks to Caritas Serbia, help was given to 13 000 households in the form of emergency relief. Assistance was given in removing dead animals and restoring clean drinking water. Families with one parent – or with young, disabled or elderly members – were afforded special attention. Caritas Bosnia-Herzegovina provided a range of services to over 21 000 people, even though its own offices were badly flooded. Longer-term recovery programmes have been launched in both countries.

## Supporting communities in conflict ravaged Africa

The city of Maiduguri in north-eastern **Nigeria** had been called the “Home of Peace” for centuries. But the city and surrounding area was thrown into chaos after intensified attacks by Boko Haram extremists claimed the lives of at least 10 000 people and displaced many more.

Caritas Nigeria responded to an appeal for help from the local diocese, which was overwhelmed by an influx of terrified people from surrounding villages. There was an urgent need for food, medicine, shelter and clothing. Many churches were

destroyed as Boko Haram rampaged through the area.

Caritas was the last aid agency left in the town of Kaga-Bandoro in the **Central African Republic**, where 23 000 people had sought protection in the parish church and the bishop’s house. Rival militias surrounded them. Working with the UN, Caritas provided free health care, food and education.

It was a similar story in other parts of the Central African Republic as government forces and international peacekeepers tried

to re-establish security. Since conflict broke out in 2012, thousands of people have been killed and hundreds of thousands more displaced, either inside or outside its borders. Caritas helped create peace platforms for young people from Christian and Muslim backgrounds and Archbishop Dieudonné Nzapalainga of Bangui and leading Muslim cleric Imam Oumar Kobine Layama continued to travel to hot spots to calm tensions.

Caritas agencies and the Catholic Church in **South Sudan** delivered emergency assistance when conflict returned to the world’s youngest country. Around 4 million people were left reeling. Families lost their homes and loved ones and were forced to seek refuge in overcrowded camps. The ongoing conflict, combined with poor rains and a lack of seeds meant the 2014 harvest was poor. Caritas focused on helping over 40 000 of the most needy people with food, clean water, hygiene, shelter, health and psychological support.

Caritas marked a decade of leading the humanitarian response to Sudan’s **Darfur** conflict, working in ecumenical partnership with the ACT Alliance of Protestant and Orthodox aid agencies. This lifeline of care provides more than 1 million people each year with health care, clean water, sanitation, schools and training.

Healthcare in South Sudan as fighting forced people to flee. Arie Kievit/Cordaid





Caritas Ukraine distributed emergency food, water and other supplies to families affected by the conflict. Caritas Ukraine

## Helping our brothers and sisters in Ukraine and Russia

Almost 200 000 people have fled their homes as fighting continues in eastern Ukraine. More are trying to find ways of escaping the conflict. Caritas Ukraine has helped over 40 000 people with aid. Finding adequate accommodation has been a significant challenge so Caritas Ukraine has been helping repair damaged homes. In western Russia, Caritas South of Russia cared for people who had fled over the border. Food parcels were distributed along with hygiene kits, clothes and blankets.

Caritas Poland brought food, warm clothes, heaters, bed frames and cleaning products for 5000 people in Ukraine. Caritas Ukraine



## Looking back at major emergencies

**One year on:** Super Cyclone Haiyan, known locally as Yolanda, was the largest storm ever to make landfall in the Philippines when it struck on 8 November 2013. Since that date, Caritas has helped almost 800 000 Filipinos whose lives were devastated by this catastrophic event, through emergency relief, improved housing, water and sanitation, psychosocial care and livelihood reconstruction.

Lukasz Cholewiak/Caritas



**Five years on:** Since Haiti's earthquake on 12 January 2010, Caritas organisations from all over the globe have constructed schools, homes and hospitals and have provided vocational training, counselling and much more. Working at the national and diocesan levels, Caritas Haiti assisted over 1.6 million people through food aid, school and house reconstruction, improved water and sanitation, health care and livelihood recovery.

Elodie Perriot/Secours Catholique



**Ten years on:** At least 300 000 people were killed on 26 December 2004 when a cataclysmic tsunami devastated coastal communities across Asia. Caritas responded with a half-billion dollar programme. That money was first used to provide immediate relief for one million people and then on constructing 33 000 permanent homes and rebuilding the lives of 86 000 families in a sustainable way.

Patrick Nicholson/Caritas





# Voices for change

Advocacy is one of the foundations of Caritas's work. We firmly believe that misery and injustice can be ended. We seek to persuade people to change the way our world is run. Caritas organisations actively campaigned for the right to development, for more attention to be paid to our changing climate and for decent and respectful work conditions and fair pay.

Pilgrims campaign for an end to hunger at the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City. Caritas Mexico







Caritas monitors the safety of unaccompanied children from Myanmar seeking refuge in Thailand. Patrick Nicholson/Caritas

## Migration and trafficking

Caritas continued to raise its voice to call for decent treatment for migrants – especially for children who have been detained. Caritas supported the Global Campaign to End Immigration Detention of Children. Caritas organisations also took part in the Global Forum on Migration and Development in Stockholm in May.

Christian Organisations Against Trafficking in Human Beings Network (COATNET) – which Caritas co-ordinates – grew to 42 members. Its conference in Madrid in January focused on human trafficking for labour exploitation and trafficking in Africa. COATNET also submitted statements to international organisations on forced labour and transnational crime.

## One Human Family, Food For All campaign

Caritas's grassroots members took the message that we can end hunger by 2025 to governments, parishes and the public in support of the confederation's global campaign. Special workshops, rallies and even cooking competitions to raise awareness about the right to food were held. Initiatives included a Caritas Europa report presented to the European Parliament and a song from Caritas Panama being translated and performed by other Caritas organisations around the world, such as in Japan.

Pope Francis recorded a video message calling on all Catholics to get involved in a special Week of Action for the Caritas campaign. Pope Francis described Jesus's words – "I was hungry and you gave me something to eat" – as telling us today not to turn away, indifferent, when we know our neighbour is hungry. Over 50 Caritas organisations ran special events during the week.

The Women Sowers of Development Prize was launched in March. The prize highlights the contribution of women in ensuring food for their communities.

Caritas provides practical help to small scale farmers and campaigns to improve their right to food.

Isabel Corthier/Caritas Belgium







Educating men and women in Malawi on preventing HIV. Chipiliro Khonje/Trócaire

## Fair access to health and HIV care

Universal access to diagnosis and treatment remains central to Caritas's advocacy work in fighting HIV and AIDS. With this "people first" strategy in mind, the Catholic HIV/AIDS Network (CHAN), which is coordinated by Caritas, organised a faith-based meeting ahead of the 20th International AIDS Conference in Melbourne, Australia. There, scientists who work with Catholic institutions shared their research on new low-cost and low-technology diagnosis and treatment options.

Caritas also continued its work with UNAIDS's Global Plan to end new HIV infections among children by 2015 as well as its HAART for Children Campaign. HAART is a common name for the drug therapy that suppresses HIV. Caritas organisations either directly sponsor or support AIDS programmes in 115 countries.

With funding from the World Health Organisation, Caritas launched a special website on the prevention and cure of non-communicable diseases – like cancer and obesity – and continued to be given special status at the WHO.

## Climate change

The Caritas confederation advocated for pro-poor policies at UN negotiations on climate change. At an interfaith summit in New York in September, Caritas Internationalis President Cardinal Oscar Rodríguez Maradiaga joined other religious leaders in asking for social justice to be at the heart of plans for tackling climate change. In December, 10 Caritas organisations took part in the 20th UN climate change meeting in Lima, Peru, calling for development focused on the poor.

Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand published the report "Small Yet Strong – Voices from Oceania on the Environment," which called for action to help vulnerable people who are battling



Caritas helped families survive after a severe drought hit Pakistan's desert regions.

Caritas Pakistan

the effects of climate change. Caritas organisations working in the Amazon region of South America came together to plan how to defend the environment and poor communities from unethical industrial mining.

## Sustainable development

The UN's anti-poverty targets, the Millennium Development Goals, end in 2015. Ongoing negotiations for a successor global development framework will conclude with an agreement by world leaders in

September 2015. Caritas organisations from 22 countries came together in a 'post-2015 Working Group' to provide a unique Catholic voice and urge poverty eradication to be the centre of the agenda.





# Pope Francis

In a video message to Caritas staff in North America, Pope Francis said, "You are the engine of the Church that organises love – Caritas – for all believers to work together to respond through the corporal works of mercy. You set the pace for the Church to be in the world each day. You help others change the course of their own lives."

Pope Francis thanked Caritas staff for their work during his visit to the Holy Land in May. Caritas Jordan





## Calling for peace in the Middle East

Pope Francis's visit to Israel and the Palestinian territories in May has been described as a "tale of two walls." In Bethlehem he reflected at the wall built by Israel to separate Jews from Palestinians and in Jerusalem he pressed a prayer between the stones of Judaism's holiest site, the Western Wall. Pope Francis's message was simple: "All of us want peace."

The pope also travelled to Jordan where he celebrated mass and met refugees from the conflicts in Syria and Iraq who are supported by Caritas. He praised Jordan for the "generous welcome" its people had given to the refugees.

"I think too of the charitable work undertaken by Church institutions such as Caritas Jordan and others, who assist the needy regardless of their religious beliefs, ethnic origin or politics; in this way they reveal the radiant face of Jesus, full of kindness and love," said the pope.

## Focus on families

The word "synod" means a walk or a journey together. Pope Francis led more than 250 bishops at the Synod of the Family at the Vatican in October on a journey of debate and inquiry. The journey was into the problems facing the family today amid the great joy which family life can bring.

Prior to the synod, Caritas Internationalis and the Pontifical Council for the Family hosted a seminar on the role of the family in the global economic crisis. Around 150 people from the Vatican, Caritas organisations, pontifical universities, religious congregations and Italian dioceses looked at how Caritas, as the charitable arm of the Church, can work through families to better promote development.

Paul Haring/CNS





# Strengthening Caritas

We are living in times of great change where the gap between the rich and the poor is growing. Social justice has never been more important. As competition for resources to solve the problem is stronger than ever, Caritas is working hard to ensure it is as effective as possible in facing these challenges.

Community planning in Bolivia. Elodie Perriot/Secours Catholique





Pope Francis shared our photo of Yazidi children helped by Caritas Iraq to his followers on social media.  
Hawre Khalid/Metrography for Catholic Relief Services

## Emergency coordination

Caritas Internationalis responded to 38 major emergencies in 2014 with a budget for Emergency Appeals of €64m, reaching over 2 million people in 28 countries. With many crises spilling across national borders, Caritas Internationalis encouraged national Caritas to

plan and prioritise together. Humanitarian staff from across the confederation and the wider Church came to Rome in September to discuss a regional response to conflict in the Middle East and again in November on the Ebola epidemic in West Africa.

## Growing together

Caritas Internationalis approved several important policies to further strengthen the confederation. These are the confederation-wide Code of Ethics, Code of Conduct for Staff and Management Standards. All were effective from January 2015. It is a strategic priority for Caritas to be as professional and accountable as possible in its mission of delivering charity on behalf of the Church.



Local staff and volunteers discuss the crisis in the Central African Republic.  
Arie Kievit/Cordaid

## Communications

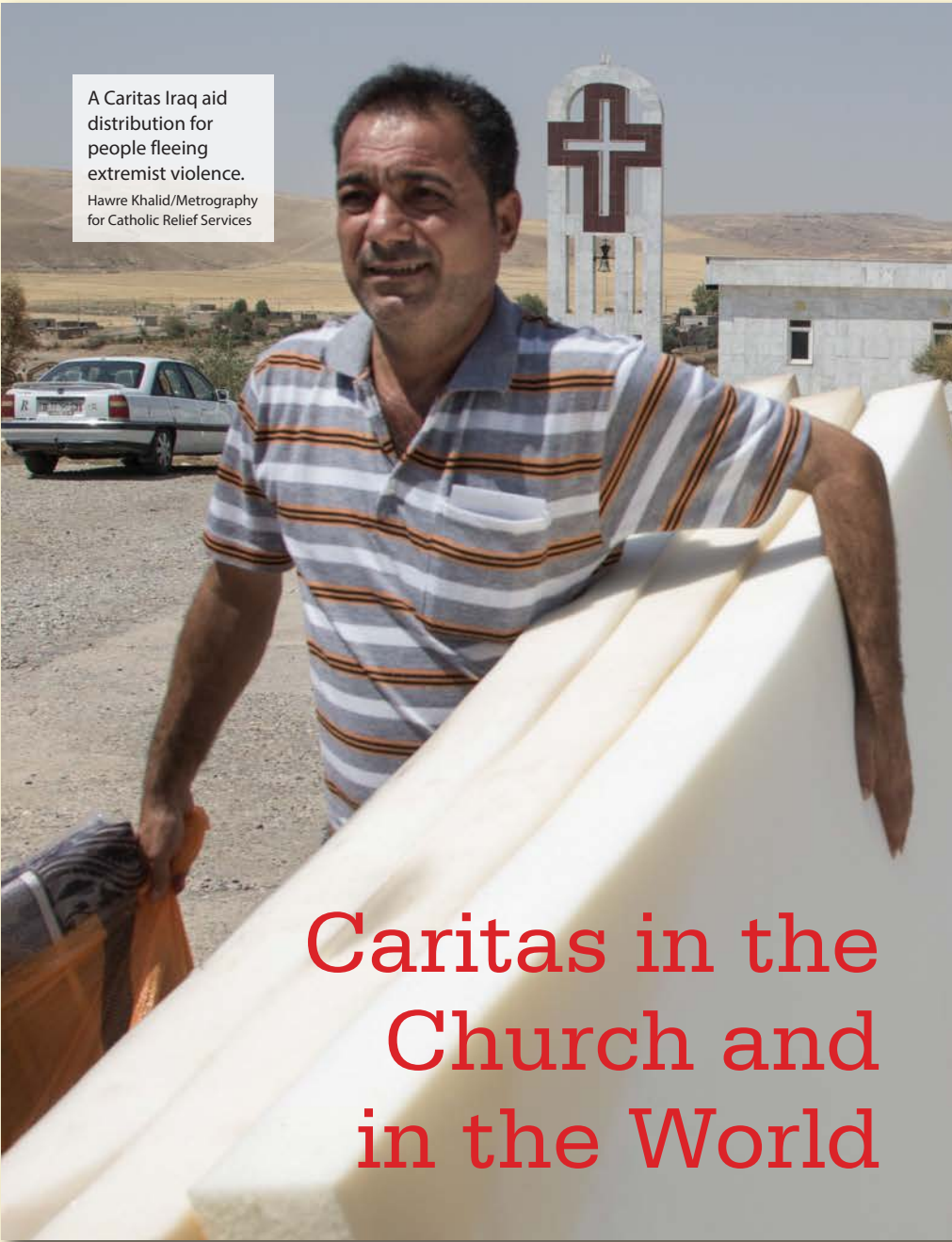
Over 60 member organisations contributed to articles, films, photo reports and social media initiatives in support of the confederation. Regional workshops on communications took place in Asia with support from Caritas Africa and Oceania. For the One Human Family, Food for All campaign, an animated video based on the "long spoons" allegory gained 14 million views in the first 4 months after its September launch. By the end of 2014, Caritas social media platforms had rapidly expanded,



Cardinal John Onaiyekan from Nigeria being interviewed at a Caritas conference on HIV in Rome in February.  
Michelle Hough/Caritas

adding 2 million unique visits to its photo sharing site and 70 000 followers on its other outlets.





A Caritas Iraq aid distribution for people fleeing extremist violence.

Hawre Khalid/Metrography for Catholic Relief Services

# Caritas in the Church and in the World

## January

- A Caritas centre in the Syrian city of Aleppo received a direct hit from a rocket. Nobody was hurt in the attack, but one of the offices was badly damaged.

## February

- Caritas jointly hosted an ecumenical consultation with UNAIDS in Rome to plan a road map for greater access to treatment for HIV and AIDS.

## March

- Caritas Europa launched its Crisis Monitoring Report 2014 in Athens, highlighting disturbing levels of poverty in the seven EU countries worst hit by the economic crisis: Cyprus, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Portugal, Romania and Spain.

## April

- Decent work was top of the agenda at a two-day seminar in Rome sponsored by the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace and the International Labour Organisation, with support from Caritas.
- The Canonisation Mass for Popes John Paul II and John XXIII was celebrated in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican.



Caritas provided food, shelter, mosquito nets and healthcare in the Central African Republic. Arie Kievit/CORDAID

## May

- Caritas Internationalis held its Representative Council meeting in Amman, Jordan, with the crisis in the Middle East as its major theme. Caritas leaders had gone on a pilgrimage to biblical sites prior to the meeting, to pray for peace.

## June

- A Caritas event in Rome highlighted the plight of migrant workers who lose their pensions if they return home.
- Religious leaders from the Central African Republic gave testimony to the UN's Human Rights Council in Geneva on the tragedy unfolding in their country.



## July

- Caritas Uruguay supported the One Human Family, Food For All Campaign by creating a video spot during the 2014 Brazil World Cup with the chef of a football team.
- Caritas Burundi delivered immediate emergency relief to 2 500 households in poor areas of the capital, Bujumbura, after disastrous flooding.

## August

- Caritas held a right to food workshop at the UN in New York to remind leaders of their commitments to eradicate hunger.
- Caritas Middle East and North Africa region held a 10-day meeting in Lebanon for over 50 young volunteers from Egypt, Iraq, Jerusalem, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria.

## September

- The work of Caritas Lebanon and Caritas Sri Lanka in protecting migrant domestic workers was presented at the UN in Geneva.
- After flooding caused by heavy rains, Caritas Pakistan helped thousands of people in Azad Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab with shelter, clean water, food and medicine. Caritas India helped other victims in India's state of Jammu and Kashmir.

## October

- On World Food Day, global events were held to highlight the One Human Family, Food For All campaign. Caritas Pakistan fed brick makers' children; in Luxembourg, Caritas held a big rally; in Rome Caritas Internationalis supporters did a hunger run.
- Caritas organisations from 23 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean gathered in Colombia to discuss justice, solidarity and the right to food.

## November

- To celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, Caritas organised a debate with Vatican Radio about migrant children who are detained.

## December

- Caritas delegates participated in the UN meeting on climate change in Peru. Pope Francis sent a letter stressing that climate change was an ethical and moral responsibility.

A Caritas-supported relief camp in Juba, South Sudan. Paul Jeffrey/Caritas







# Finances

Caritas Internationalis is a confederation of over 160 national organisations. It consists of seven regions: Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, the Middle East and North Africa, North America and Oceania. It has delegations at the UN in New York and Geneva and a General Secretariat in the Vatican.

Coordination, communication, advocacy, representation and capacity building for the confederation are funded through contributions from Caritas national organisations and private donations.

Every year an international external auditing firm reviews the accounts of Caritas Internationalis. Financial information on individual Caritas national organisations can be found on their websites. Links to these are at [www.caritas.org](http://www.caritas.org)

Expenditure	2013	2014
Administration of confederation and General Secretariat	474,072	470,653
Humanitarian coordination	742,127	799,620
Advocacy	706,529	834,833
HIV/AIDS and human trafficking network programmes	300,675	416,963
Cooperation and capacity building	407,173	407,132
Communications	649,324	654,551
Support to regional coordination	362,118	395,276
Miscellaneous	12,095	3,481
<b>Total expenditures</b>	<b>3,654,114</b>	<b>3,982,509</b>

**“Every person is worthy of our giving.”**

**Pope Francis**

Caritas promotes sustainable farming in Tonga. Mark Mitchell/Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand





In Darfur, Caritas provides 1 million people each year with healthcare, clean water, sanitation, schools and training.  
Annie Bungeroth/Caritas



# www.caritas.org



Palazzo San Calisto  
V-00120  
Vatican City State  
+39 06 698 797 99

[CONTENTS](#) 

[◀ PREVIOUS PAGE](#)