



# Caritas Internationalis Annual Report 2016




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Drought left millions hungry in Zimbabwe. Caritas provided money and food to families and schools.  
Isabel Corthier/Caritas

Cover photograph:  
Caritas provided aid to refugees fleeing poverty and war as they reached Europe.  
Lefteris Partsalis/  
Caritas Switzerland



A woman with dark hair tied back, wearing a tan Caritas vest over a blue and black striped shirt, is focused on a craft project. She is holding a red, fringed object. Two young girls are looking at her. The girl on the left wears a pink sweater with a graphic, and the girl on the right wears a purple and white plaid shirt. They are in a room with wooden shelves, cardboard boxes, and a colorful abstract painting on the wall.

Across the Middle East,  
Caritas helps 350,000  
Syrian children continue  
their education.

Isabel Corthier/  
Caritas Belgium

## Who we are

Caritas Internationalis is an institution of the Catholic Church and a confederation of 165 national organisations. These organisations work with compassion to uphold the dignity of all people, of all faiths and of none.

Around the world, in poor countries and in rich ones, Caritas organisations promote charity and social justice, advocate for

a world of peace and love and strive for integral human development. They take care of people living on the margins and seek to improve their lives so that they can thrive as equal members of the human family.

Caritas pursues these goals with inspiration from the Gospels, the teachings of the Catholic Church and

the hopes of people living in poverty. It takes seriously its mission to steward the resources of our common home and to protect them for future generations.

Caritas listens and responds to the call of Pope Francis for personal transformation by renewing and strengthening our bonds with each other and our Earth.



# Leadership message

“There can be no renewal of our relationship with nature without a renewal of humanity itself.”

Pope Francis, *Laudato Si'*

In 2016, Caritas Internationalis gained inspiration from Pope Francis's words, starting our own process of revitalisation and journey of rebirth, strengthening Caritas as a confederation and as a family.

On the first anniversary of the publication of the papal encyclical in June, Caritas described *Laudato Si'* as the “wind in the sails” of the battle against poverty and injustice. It has indeed given us determination and fortitude through another challenging year of major emergencies and efforts to bring peace instead of war to Syria.

Alongside the mission of fighting for people living on the margins, Caritas member organisations have risen to that challenge, spreading the message of *Laudato Si'* through prayers, films, reflections for schools, reports and advocacy. The encyclical encouraged them to tackle climate change, food waste and this modern world of rising inequalities and large-scale migration.

Pope Francis reinforced his message on migration directly to the United Nations at its first ever summit on the issue in September. The pope said, “Dialogue is essential. Instead of raising walls, we need to be building bridges.” This is a call to conversion and a rekindling of how we regard and act towards our fellow humanity.

Senior Caritas leaders also heard the pope's message on migration, which is one of the greatest challenges of our time. Pope Francis received them in the Vatican in November, putting aside his speech in favour of a direct call to action. “Let it be your care to support with renewed commitment, processes of development and paths of peace, in the countries from which these brothers and sisters are fleeing, or have left behind to seek a better future,” he said.

The Caritas delegation had already been reflecting on Pope Francis' teachings and their meaning for faith-based

organisations when they passed through the Holy Door of Mercy at St Peter's Basilica. The pope opened the door – as well as one at Caritas Roma's hostel – to initiate the Jubilee Holy Year of Mercy. Making mercy visible in our intentions, attitudes and actions in everyday life, will transform us – as individuals and as members of the Caritas family.

Looking ahead, our global migration campaign which starts in 2017 will give us a further opportunity to strengthen our global family. Together we will promote the “culture of encounter” and the opening of hearts to the richness of our sisters and brothers.

**H.E. Luis Antonio Cardinal Tagle**  
*President*

**Michel Roy**  
*Secretary General*





# Emergency response

Conflict, natural disasters and the increasing impact of our changing climate made 2016 a very hard year for the people who Caritas serves – poor people living on the edge of society and vulnerable communities struggling to survive.

Migrants trying to escape violence and economic desperation found many borders and hearts closed to them. Emergency responders from Caritas sustained them with practical help, hope and comfort, while working to restore peace, justice and dignity.

Together, members of the Caritas confederation accompanied the people they served, often in daunting conditions, working with them to rebuild their lives and their resilience.

Caritas supported families in Iraq fleeing terror, providing children with safe places to play. Kim Pozniak/CRS





Caritas continued to provide aid in Aleppo, a city wrecked by war.  
Patrick Nicholson/Caritas

## Caritas in Syria and the region

Responding to the humanitarian consequences of over half a decade of war in Syria remained the biggest of Caritas' relief operations.

Inside the country, Caritas Syria continued to provide food, healthcare, education, shelter and counselling under extremely difficult conditions. Despite heavy fighting, most Caritas offices remained open. One was in the city of Hassakeh, which in the summer saw the worst fighting in 5 years. Despite being on the frontline, it remained staffed and operational.

Caritas staff distributed emergency supplies to people forced to live in the open or in abandoned and damaged buildings, offering support and hope to combat the traumatic experiences they had endured. In Damascus, Caritas gave 500 families vouchers for winter clothes and shoes for their children, as well as help with fuel costs in the bitter Syrian winter. Caritas also supported schools, some of which hosted 65 children to a class due to influxes of displaced people.

In Aleppo, Caritas continued to press for access to all people affected by the siege, standing by ready with emergency help for families fleeing the city.

In Jordan, Turkey and Lebanon – the main countries hosting Syrian refugees – national Caritas organisations ran emergency programmes in health, nutrition, education, psychological support and peacebuilding. In Turkey, safe spaces were created for Syrian refugee children to play, make friends and even plant gardens. Caritas also fully funded schools to enable them to be free for children to attend. Before the war, Syria had a literacy rate of 99 percent, but this fell to 46 percent amongst refugees in Turkey.

In Turkey, as well as in Jordan and Lebanon, Caritas is concerned by the large number of children who are working, instead of being in education. In Istanbul, Caritas found young children slaving from 7am to 10pm in textile factories. In Jordan and Lebanon, Caritas also supported schools and paid children's fees to counter youth employment and marriage for economic reasons.

## Suffering in Iraq

Caught up in the battle to retake territory from the self-declared Islamic State, or ISIS, the long-suffering people of Iraq endured more fear and violence. Caritas Iraq and its partner Catholic Relief Services (CRS is a US Caritas member) quickly distributed cooking and hygiene supplies in the city of Fallujah when government forces and their allies pushed ISIS out in June 2016. Working in collaboration with local Muslim humanitarian organisations, Caritas built shelters for people living out in the open in extreme temperatures.

Caritas prepared well in advance for a flow of up to 1.5 million displaced people following fighting for the city of Mosul. Staff and volunteers were trained and supplies put into place at emergency accommodation sites to prevent a crisis becoming a humanitarian disaster.

In Iraqi Kurdistan, Caritas Iraq and Catholic Relief Services established child support centres where more than 2 000 children learn and play in safety. Many came from minority Christian groups, persecuted by ISIS, who needed a bridge back to normality. Caritas repaired over 1 000 abandoned houses to put roofs over their heads.

Nariman Chamo, 11, attended a Caritas centre to help her overcome the trauma of ISIS's attack on her minority Yazidi village. Nariman spent 8 days on Mount Sinjar with no food or water, but escaped the fate of others, who were massacred. The Chamo family arrived with nothing – only the clothes they were wearing.



## Extreme weather devastates lives

The poorest people in every corner of the world were hit very hard by extreme weather in 2016, with millions suffering the effects of an unusually severe El Niño weather system.

In Zimbabwe and Ethiopia, where two harvests failed, child malnutrition hit its highest in years. Caritas responded with school feeding programmes, where volunteers cook meals. Cash grants of between \$10 and \$25 were also provided to the poorest families. Cash-for-work schemes were set up.

The severity of the El Niño has exacerbated the effects of ongoing political violence in Burundi, where Caritas organisations lent support to Caritas Burundi to aid the victims.

In Madagascar, local chiefs told Caritas Madagascar that food was impossible to find – in one area in the south, people said they had eaten only red cactus fruit for the last 4 years. In that time, there was no rain. Caritas and its partners brought water, beans and rice to remote villages, transported children in advanced stages of malnutrition to their clinics and ran a network of open-air canteens. Caritas supplied ingredients and utensils, as many people had sold theirs for money to buy food. Caritas Madagascar also repaired wells and gave farmers drought-resistant seeds and drought-hardy livestock.

## Boko Haram displaces thousands of people in Nigeria, Niger and Chad



Funding an education for students displaced by Boko Haram.  
Michael Stulman/CRS

The Islamic militant group Boko Haram continued to spread chaos and suffering. Zana and Adama were among its victims, fleeing their Nigerian village when Boko Haram began killing people and burning homes and food stocks. The women found refuge in a camp near Chateau in the Diffa region of Niger, where Caritas distributes emergency household supplies, hygiene kits, clothes and cash transfers. But trauma and fear of the future dominate their existence.

“We lost our father – he was too old to escape,” says Zana. “We are safe here now, but we have seven children in the family and we need more food and bed covers.”

Far more does need to be done. Tens of thousands of people live under trees or in makeshift shelters. Some families have been displaced more than five times. Children have no chance of an education. Support to recover from living in permanent terror is vital.

Alongside practical humanitarian relief, Caritas is raising awareness about the destabilising effect of conflict, training 500 boys and girls in peacebuilding and inter-religious dialogue. As boys and young men are especially vulnerable to recruitment by Boko Haram, Caritas offers them opportunities so that they can earn a living.





Afran and his family  
staying in the Caritas  
hotel on Lesbos.  
Patrick Nicholson/Caritas

## Refugee crisis in Europe

In March, Pope Francis visited the small Greek island of Lesbos. It has seen more migrants and refugees trying to reach Europe land on its shores than anywhere else. He returned to the Vatican with 12 Syrian refugees aboard the papal plane.

"Wake us from the slumber of our indifference," Pope Francis said at a memorial in Lesbos for people who had drowned trying to make the hazardous crossing of the Mediterranean to Greece.

Travelling in solidarity with Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I, the spiritual leader of Orthodox Christians, the pope called the crisis "the greatest humanitarian catastrophe since World War II." He met beneficiaries during his visit, including families staying at a hotel run by Caritas to house the most vulnerable.

Afran and his family live at the Caritas hotel. "The way Pope Francis walked among the refugees and spoke to

them made us very happy," he said. Afran is a Kurdish Syrian and a teacher. He lost his leg in a car bomb attack before fleeing to Turkey and then to Greece.

Just before Pope Francis's trip, a deal came into force that would return migrants arriving in Greece to Turkey. Countries in Eastern Europe, including Slovenia and Croatia, tightened their restrictions on migrant arrivals.

Caritas organisations in all of the affected countries of the Caritas Europa region continued with their humanitarian work. In Athens and on Greece's land borders, Caritas Hellas provided extra chemical toilets and distributed food, soap, clothes and nappies to people sleeping in the open. Staff and volunteers from sister Caritas organisations supplied food, accommodation, showers, warm clothing, legal advice and solidarity to many thousands of refugees and migrants.

## Nepal recovery one year after earthquake

Like so many of the world's very poorest people, the Nepalese whose lives were devastated by the earthquakes of 2015 demonstrated enormous resilience. 2016 was a year of determined rebuilding and recovery for them.

In solidarity, Cardinal Tagle travelled to Nepal for the first anniversary of the disaster. Over 9 000 people were killed and 600 000 homes were destroyed in the two main quakes of 25 April and 12 May.

The cardinal attended a conference convened by Caritas to review the progress of the past year and to plan for the next 3 years. Caritas has committed \$38 million to build earthquake-proof homes in partnership with the communities who will live in them.

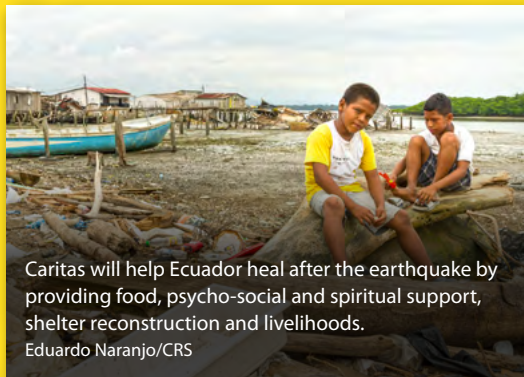
Since disaster struck, Caritas Nepal – with the support of Caritas worldwide – has helped 1.2 million people with emergency food, water, shelter and sanitation. Caritas repaired 400 schools and ran earthquake awareness classes for students. To help people get back on their feet, there were cash-for-work programmes clearing debris and cash grants to boost small businesses.



## Ecuador's worst earthquake in a generation

The 7.8 magnitude earthquake, which struck Ecuador's Pacific Coast on 18 April, was the strongest the country had endured in more than 35 years. Over 650 people were killed. Another 1.2 million were affected, losing their homes or livelihoods and 5 000 suffered injuries.

Caritas Ecuador launched an immediate emergency response, providing temporary shelters and hygiene kits to help prevent the spread of disease. It offered medical help, as 9 hospitals were so badly damaged they had to close. Caritas and its partners worked with the local government to help repair water systems and the Catholic Church set up listening centres to help people process trauma and grief.



Caritas will help Ecuador heal after the earthquake by providing food, psycho-social and spiritual support, shelter reconstruction and livelihoods.  
Eduardo Naranjo/CRS



Emergency kits reached survivors of Hurricane Matthew in Haiti.  
Kelly Di Domenico/Development and Peace


## Haiti and Fiji battered by terrifying storms

Hurricane Matthew stripped Haitians in its path of everything around them – homes, crops, livestock, even birds from their branches. Over 800 people lost their lives. Those who escaped faced the immense difficulties of surviving in the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere. Many lived in homes made of poor materials and so lost all they had to the ferocity of the storm.

Caritas Haiti, with the support of other members of the Caritas confederation, distributed emergency supplies.

Cyclone Winston wreaked similar havoc in Fiji, another poor country. Where the storm made landfall, almost every building was damaged or destroyed. Tanks, which many people use for their drinking water supplies, were toppled and shredded – a harsh blow during a devastating drought.





The Church gave protection and food to those fleeing violence in South Sudan.  
Ilvy Njiokiktjen/Cordaid

## Fighting and hunger return to South Sudan

When fighting flared up in July 2016, South Sudan was already facing its worst hunger crisis since becoming independent in 2011. 2.8 million people – a quarter of the population – needed aid. Caritas South Sudan and confederation members including CAFOD from the UK, Caritas Switzerland, Trócaire from Ireland, Cordaid from the Netherlands and Catholic Relief Service were already running humanitarian programmes.

But the breakdown of the ceasefire between armed factions of the transitional government displaced 35 000 people from their homes in the capital, Juba. Those in surrounding villages walked with whatever they could

carry, their homes and fields burning. On the border with Sudan, instability forced others from their homes, with the loss of their harvests and assets.

Caritas targeted key areas for assistance to combat the misery. In Juba, Rumbek, Yei, Yambio. Malakal and Tambura, Caritas distributed seeds and tools, drilled boreholes and offered medicines and health care. Caritas South Sudan carried out peacebuilding activities such as exchange visits, and broadcast radio messages urging reconciliation. Across South Sudan's southern border, Caritas Uganda helped support the more than 200 000 refugees who fled the upsurge in violence.


## Caritas helps Venezuelans struck by painful shortages

When Venezuela's complex economic crisis first hit, Caritas received medical supplies from local people, which in turn were distributed to out-of-stock hospitals. But as these supplies ran out and the number of people asking for help increased massively, Caritas stepped in with emergency support.

As power was rationed, Caritas introduced handmade water filters to allow families to access safe water – borrowing technology from fellow Caritas organisations in Africa. Caritas opened soup kitchens for malnourished children and created a recipe book to help Venezuelans stretch their food supplies.

But Caritas Venezuela struggled to keep its own cupboards filled. Public donations dried up as people found it hard to feed themselves amid rampant inflation and the uncertain economic future. Manufacturing companies had to end their donations when they were forced to shut down due to lack of ingredients and power.





A Caritas supported conference on human trafficking took place in Nigeria in September. Caritas

## Voices for change

It takes determination, perseverance and belief to bring about change. And it takes time to banish wrongs from the world and ensure that right and justice triumph.

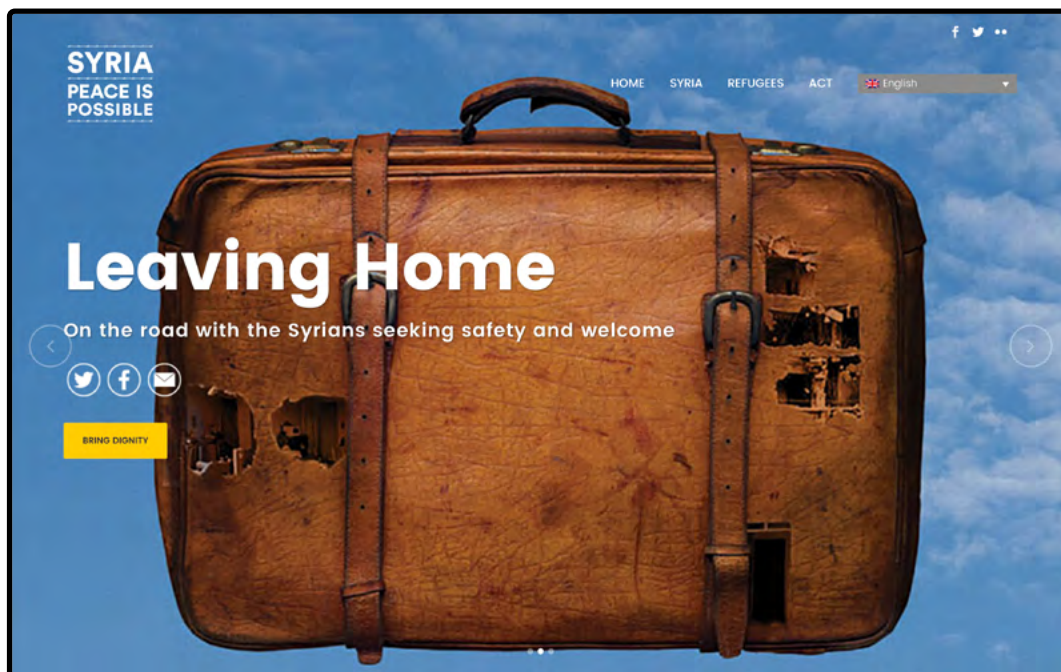
Caritas has the patience and the fortitude to keep pressing for systemic change. In its advocacy work, Caritas

effectively deploys the strong and united voices of its worldwide members and their millions of supporters. We believe that together, promoting dialogue, we can make a difference.

Caritas advocates alongside and on behalf of the poorest people in the

world, to ensure their right to live in peace, freedom, security and justice are upheld. We work to help broker agreements – be it at grassroots or international level – to end violence and inequality and to protect our world for our shared future.





## Syria: Peace is Possible

Through a major campaign – Syria: Peace is Possible – Caritas urged its supporters to put pressure on their governments to ensure all sides come together to find a peaceful solution. The campaign also called for more support, dignity and hope for the millions of people affected by the war.

A new website – [syria.caritas.org](http://syria.caritas.org) – supported the campaign with tools and strategies. It has resources such as an animated film and photo series and moving testimony from Syrians living both inside the country and as refugees.

Regular updates and campaign messages were posted, urging for humanitarian access to people caught on all sides of the conflict. Caritas staff in the Middle East wrote a special prayer for the launch of the Syria campaign. [#peacepossible4syria](https://twitter.com/peacepossible4syria) [@iamCaritas](https://twitter.com/iamCaritas)

Pope Francis lent his active support. In a specially recorded video message in July he called on “all the faithful and all of those who work with Caritas to build a just society.”

## Ecumenical prayers and cooperation for Syria

In October in Sweden, Pope Francis joined the president of the Lutheran Church for a day of prayer, performance and fundraising for the work of Caritas and the Lutheran World Federation in Syria. It was the first such event of its kind, marking the joint Lutheran-Catholic 500 years commemoration of the Reformation.

After an ecumenical service in Lund Cathedral, over 10 000 people gathered in Malmö under the theme of “Together in Hope” to listen to inspiring testimonies about the situation in Burundi, Colombia, South Sudan and India as well as from Syria itself. Proceeds supported the work of the Lutheran World Federation with Syrian refugees in Jordan and Caritas’ service to the people of Aleppo.

The two organisations signed a Declaration of Intent to strengthen their collaboration. This follows Pope Francis’s invitation to open ecumenical doors, for which he said “listening” was essential.

At the same time in Damascus and Aleppo, Syrians gathered for a Caritas “Cry for Peace” event, which brought together Christians from all communities.



## Climate change conference in Morocco

After the signing of the landmark agreement on climate change in Paris at the COP21 meeting at the end of 2015, Caritas was keen to advocate for further progress and for promises to be kept.

A delegation travelled to the follow up meeting, COP22 in Marrakesh, to advocate for governments to fully sign up to climate justice initiatives and to follow through on financial pledges.

Caritas organisations in Oceania in 2016 reported 4.7 million people suffering widespread hunger and thirst, with people walking for days to access supplies in countries such as Papua New Guinea and Fiji. Their sufferings were highlighted by the Caritas delegation, as was Caritas' special focus on African countries and communities.

Africans have contributed least to climate change, but suffered greatly, with women farmers facing the greatest challenges. Caritas says that adaptation strategies need to reflect this and that the female face of agriculture needs particular support.

In alignment with its environmental policies, Caritas also increased its commitment within REPAM – the Pan-Amazon Ecclesial Network – and contributed to the establishment of a human rights school for community leaders in the Amazon.

## Road map for HIV/AIDS

Early diagnosis and access to treatment are vital to prevent children infected with the HIV virus from dying of AIDS. Yet, the most recent statistics show that while the number of children receiving anti-retroviral medicines has increased to around 40 percent, this is still notably lower than the number of adults.


Caritas joined with UNAIDS, the US government's PEPFAR initiative and the Vatican's paediatric hospital Bambino Gesù at a conference to develop a 4-year strategic plan to tackle the issues which prevent early diagnosis and treatment.

Working with faith-based organisations from all over the world, Caritas and its partners identified reliable funding, a wider range of child-friendly medications, children staying in school and investing in social services as key markers for the road map. Meetings with senior executives from the pharmaceutical and diagnostic industries were also held.

The conference highlighted the work of faith-based organisations – often major caregivers in poorer countries with weak health structures and in higher-income ones where people with HIV/AIDS remain marginalised.

In Swaziland, the St Philip's Mission targets co-infection with HIV and tuberculosis, while in South Africa, religious sisters sponsor programmes for children living with HIV, working on a school-by-school basis. In Vietnam, the Mai Tam Centre houses adolescents with HIV, giving them access to medicines and better skills to care for themselves, as they become adults.

Caritas Internationalis said a fond farewell to its HIV Special Advisor Msgr. Robert Vitillo. After 30 years of leading Church engagement on HIV and AIDS, and more years with Caritas, he joined the International Catholic Migration Commission as Secretary General.

A photograph of a woman with dark hair tied in a ponytail, wearing a bright yellow t-shirt with 'WIDENER UNIVERSITY' printed on it and blue jeans. She is standing in a dry, grassy field with several children. One child is wearing a red shirt, another a white shirt, and others are in various casual clothes. The background shows tall, dry grass and some green plants.

Marita looks after her nieces and nephews with the support of Caritas Zimbabwe after the family was decimated by AIDS. Isabel Corthier/Caritas





From emergency to development in the Philippines following Typhoon Haiyan with a sustainable agriculture project. Lukasz Cholewiak/Caritas

## Sustainable Development Goals

Caritas organisations travelled to the United Nations in New York in 2015 to witness the adoption of the new development agenda – the Sustainable Development Goals – for which it had advocated hard. 2016 saw Caritas working to achieve those goals.

The 17 SDGs with 169 targets set out the journey necessary by 2030 to banish poverty and inequality. They are a huge influence on governments and donors, who Caritas has pledged to hold accountable for their actions.

Caritas Europa was true to its word in 2016 when it published policy papers focused on how the European Union is responding to the challenges presented by the SDGs. Caritas Europa called for accelerated action and expressed concern at migration management issues taking precedence over development policy. It said resources and

investment must be shifted to allow people to stay at home, building their livelihoods and communities.

Throughout 2016, Caritas advocated for decent working practices through its touring exhibition, “Behind the Barcode.”

Many members of the Caritas confederation – such as Caritas Nigeria, Caritas Ghana and Caritas Kenya – developed strategies to guide their work towards meeting the SDGs and partnered with their governments to achieve this.

As the second SDG focuses on ending hunger and achieving food security, Caritas joined with diverse faith-based organisations and the UN’s World Food Programme to stress co-operation. Together, they held an event called “Breaking Bread” in New York during the UN General Assembly, which was webcast from the ecumenical UN Church Center.

## Progress at first World Humanitarian Summit

Caritas welcomed an agreement known as the “Grand Bargain” – a major outcome of the inaugural World Humanitarian Summit, held in Istanbul in May 2016.

The agreement will see the amount of donor funds spent through local organisations rise from 0.3% in 2015 to 25% by 2020. Caritas believes more support to frontline organisations – the first responders in emergencies – will produce greater efficiency and transparency.

CAFOD advocated for this “localisation agenda” to be adopted by the 173 donor governments present. Caritas members such as Cordaid also pressed for greater respect for humanitarian principles to be high on the agenda. But the Summit was less successful there, as the issue of how to prevent and end conflicts appeared to be too sensitive for political leaders.

Almost 20 Caritas member organisations and representatives from the Caritas Internationalis Secretariat attended the Summit. Cardinal Tagle spoke at its special event on religious engagement and a CI paper on faith-based perspectives was presented.

In a special message, Pope Francis called for action alongside words. “No one loves a concept, no one loves an idea,” he said. “We love persons... those faces and names which fill our hearts.”





Catholic and other faith-based organisations gathered in Nigeria to discuss common action aimed at eradicating human trafficking.  
Gabriella Marino/Pontifical Academy of Sciences

## Against human trafficking

Raising awareness about human trafficking from and within Africa and strengthening cooperation between concerned Christian groups to stop it were key priorities in 2016. In September, Caritas Internationalis and the Holy See brought faith-based organisations from over 40 countries to the Nigerian capital, Abuja, to forge agreement on how best to work together to stop this modern day slavery.

The meeting, with the theme “One Human Family, One Voice, No Human Trafficking,” emphasised the need to join forces with organisations from all Christian and other faiths to press governments to ratify and act on existing international protocols and conventions. Trafficking in crisis situations and the role of the maritime industry received special attention.

Survivors gave moving testimonies of being traded as a commodity in a worldwide business. Rebecca described how she was tricked into leaving her home in Nigeria and forced to prostitute herself in Italy to pay off a massive “debt”. Now working for an anti-trafficking organisation, Rebecca emphasised the importance of breaking the fear that if captive people escape, their families will suffer.

## Caritas Youth celebrate their strength in Poland

**“We as young Caritas cannot look away. Now we will start to change the world.”**

Caritas knows that to keep the Caritas confederation healthy and vibrant, the voices and passions of its young supporters must come together in discovery and unity.

In July, young people from all corners of the globe travelled to Krakow in Poland for World Youth Day, to meet and exchange ideas, faith and friendship. Pope Francis paid them a visit, launching and blessing two Caritas projects.

A home for the elderly and a large food warehouse are intended as memorials to the 2016 World Youth Day and to the pope’s visit to Krakow during the special Holy Year of Mercy.

Cardinal Tagle also lent his support, inspiring young Caritas supporters and taking part in a big “selfie” photograph with them in Krakow.

Many Caritas youth shared their experiences of being at the heart of the Caritas family – from helping communities in the South Pacific fight climate change, to building peace in El Salvador, to helping migrant women in Senegal.



Cardinal Tagle with young people for World Youth Day. Caritas



# Strengthening Caritas

## Caritas at the heart of the Catholic Church

Pope Francis has given his strong support to Caritas' work as the expression of the charity of the Catholic Church. This support is helping us reaffirm our identity and to raise awareness of our mission.

A guide to give orientation to Caritas members and partners on Caritas identity is being finalised. Partnership Principles are also being revised to further promote the spirit of "communion" among Caritas members, so as to avoid duplication or competition.

Caritas Internationalis is preparing to commemorate the 50th anniversary of *Populorum Progressio* and the 10th anniversary of *Caritas in Veritate* and is working closely with the Holy See's new Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development.

Pope Francis at a memorial in Lesbos for those lost at sea.  
Caritas Hellas





# Fundraising

The work of the 165 members of the Caritas confederation is coordinated and supported by the General Secretariat, which is funded through membership fees and fundraising efforts. Caritas is thankful to its donors for the donations it receives to achieve this – through bank transfers, online donations and legacy gifts.

Coordination by the Caritas Internationalis General Secretariat during emergencies like the recent earthquake in Nepal helps save lives. Lyell/CRS



International technical staff helped Caritas South Sudan face a major food crisis in the country.  
Mark Mitchell/Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand

## Institutional Development

The programme to strengthen the Caritas confederation continued, with 3 training sessions for Management Standards co-ordinators and 4 for assessors being held. By the end of 2016, 90 co-ordinators had been trained and 100 assessors. Manuals for both were either created or updated as well as 2 videos produced to support them in their work.

The development and implementation of the assessment process has been an important journey for Caritas, so as to raise and safeguard its professional

competence. The process is now embedded in the lives of member organisations, with over 100 either working through it or about to begin.

Work on strengthening capacity also gained momentum, with new staff recruited in response to the growing need. The Africa regional Caritas established a local programme, which is tailored to its needs, while Central Asia created a sub-region, co-ordinated by Caritas Mongolia. The youngest Caritas member – Caritas South Sudan – was supported in its growth and confidence.



# Humanitarian response

An external evaluation of the response during the European refugee crisis found Caritas had been dynamic, innovative and impactful.  
Meabh Smith/Trocaire

At the request of national members hit by man-made or natural disasters, Caritas Internationalis launched thirty-two Emergency Appeals in 2016. These humanitarian responses mobilised almost €28 million, enabling Caritas organisations across the globe to meet the needs of people and assist them to recover from extreme events and conflict.

The Emergency Toolkit Task Group continued to train Caritas staff to prepare and manage their responses to crises through the Emergency Appeal mechanism. In 2016, five members who were new to this mechanism were able to launch major responses through the user-friendly manual and tools.

Caritas Internationalis launched its Protocol for Coordination in Emergency Response in mid-2016. It also

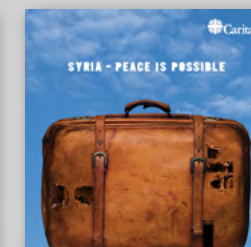
formed a pool of emergency coordinators to enhance working together and to support the confederation-wide response to major humanitarian crises. These practical measures will reinforce Caritas' role as a major humanitarian actor both globally and in individual countries.

Working Groups – on Accountability, Shelter & Settlements and WASH – were established to spearhead Caritas' professional development in key humanitarian sectors and to ensure the rapid deployment of specialist staff to reinforce emergency response. The Working Groups are composed of experts from around the world and are chaired by members expressly selected to lead this two-pronged approach.



## Communications

Filmmakers, artists, designers and communication officers joined together for the Syria: Peace is Possible Campaign. Whether as backdrops to an event with Lutherans in Sweden, or to be given to Pope Francis in the Vatican, their photos, animations, posters, films and stories were widely used. Caritas members around the world incorporated many of them into their public education work.





# Caritas in the Church and in the World

## January


- Caritas launched its 13th annual appeal for its programmes in Sudan's Darfur region. Caritas works in partnership there with the ACT Alliance – remaining on the ground where many other humanitarian agencies have left.
- A special event in Geneva – hosted by the Caritas delegation to the UN and the Permanent Observer Mission of the Holy See to the UN – facilitated reflection and discussion of the papal encyclical, *Laudato Si'*.

## February

- Pope Francis called forced migration “a human tragedy” during Mass on the Mexico-USA border. The pope also turned his attention to economic inequality during his visit, saying God would hold the “slave drivers of our days accountable.”

## March

- Caritas Europa launched a major new report – “Migrants and refugees have rights! Impact of EU policies on accessing protection” – at the European Parliament.
- The Caritas delegation to the UN in Geneva organised events in conjunction with the UN's Human Rights Council about the crises in Myanmar and Burundi. Events were also held in June on the Northern Triangle of Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador, and in December on the Democratic Republic of Congo.



Caritas helped people caught in violence in Burundi.  
Jérémie Sindayikengera/  
Caritas Burundi





Pope Francis launched a special appeal for Ukraine.  
Caritas Ukraine

### April

- Pope Francis asked European Catholic parishes for a special collection for Ukraine. The pope called for peace again in August – the 25th anniversary of Ukraine's independence.
- Caritas Europa presented its report "End poverty in Europe: our solutions to make it happen" to the EU Presidency. The report has 18 recommendations to help the 123 million people living in poverty in Europe.
- The Caritas delegation to the UN in New York co-hosted a side event with the Permanent Mission of Ecuador to prepare strategically for the upcoming major Habitat III conference.

### May

- The Caritas Geneva Delegation to the UN co-organised a week-long seminar on "Sustainable Development and the Future of Work in the Context of the Jubilee of Mercy."

### June

- Caritas celebrated International Domestic Workers Day on 16 June.

### July

- Caritas members in Europe and the Mediterranean issued a new report on human trafficking detailing their work, such as training judicial and police staff.
- The Catholic HIV and AIDS Network held a Catholic pre-conference ahead of the International AIDS Conference 2016 in South Africa. The Caritas Delegation in Geneva facilitates CHAN.



## August

- Caritas Italy launched an immediate emergency response after an earthquake struck Amatrice in central Italy.
- The CI delegation to the UN in New York hosted a conference on peacebuilding at the Catholic University in Washington D.C. in collaboration with the Catholic Peacebuilding Network.

## September

- Over 100 000 people gathered in St Peter's Square for a papal mass to celebrate the sainthood of St. Teresa of Calcutta, who is also a patron saint of Caritas Internationalis. Pope Francis said that everywhere people were likely to still call the nun, "Mother Teresa."
- Caritas Internationalis collaborated in major events at the UN's General Assembly in New York to affirm the role of faith-based organisations in fighting hunger and to call for better protection for migrants and refugees.
- Research by Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand found that migrant workers in New Zealand were made to feel that earning less than the minimum wage was normal.

## October

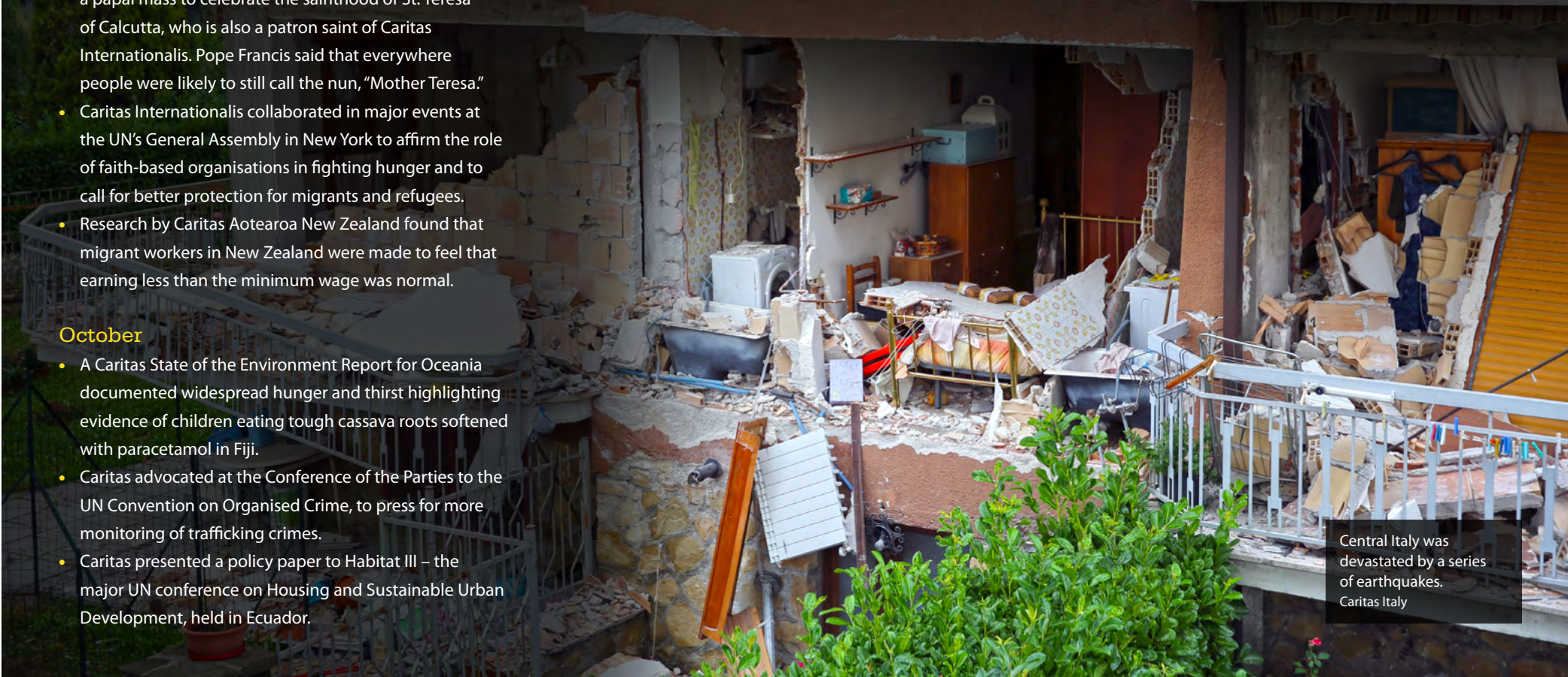
- A Caritas State of the Environment Report for Oceania documented widespread hunger and thirst highlighting evidence of children eating tough cassava roots softened with paracetamol in Fiji.
- Caritas advocated at the Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention on Organised Crime, to press for more monitoring of trafficking crimes.
- Caritas presented a policy paper to Habitat III – the major UN conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development, held in Ecuador.

## November

- The President of Caritas Central African Republic, Archbishop Dieudonné Nzapalainga, was made a cardinal – the first ever from CAR.
- On 20 November, Caritas marked the 27th anniversary of the passing of the UN's Convention on the Rights of the Child with a call to especially protect migrant children.
- The Caritas delegations at the UN in both New York and Geneva supported church leaders from the Central African Republic during several policy and peace forums.

## December

- Colombia formally ratified a peace agreement with the FARC rebel movement to end over 50 years of war. Caritas long advocated for peace in the country. Its president, Juan Manuel Santos became this year's Nobel Peace Prize laureate.
- Caritas co-organised a workshop with the US State Department and Georgetown University on the spread of antimicrobial resistance. The workshop in Rome sought to create a model for faith-based organisations to address the threat to public health.



Central Italy was devastated by a series of earthquakes.  
Caritas Italy





# Finances

An international external auditing firm reviews the accounts of Caritas Internationalis annually. 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)

Operational expenditure by activity	2016	2015
Governance	378.726	265.377
General Management	193.790	245.639
Emergency Response Coordination	892.094	916.984
Advocacy	877.843	826.068
Integral Human Development	511.064	403.312
Confederation Coordination & Capacity Building	862.070	555.203
Internal Communications	401.768	316.232
External Communications	429.382	379.604
Regional Structures	424.077	300.211
<b>Total Operational Expenditure</b>	<b>4.970.814</b>	<b>4.208.629</b>

Caritas has helped 1.2 million people with food, water, shelter and sanitation in the 12 months following a major earthquake in Nepal. Matthieu Alexandre/Caritas



Caritas provided assistance as part of its El Nino response programme in Papua New Guinea.  
Mark Mitchell/Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand







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