





world is protected and treated with respect.

achieving their human potential.

vulnerable people in poor or rich countries.

Leadership message

Welcome to the Caritas Internationalis Annual Report for 2017. We use the word 'welcome' very much deliberately this year, as 2017 was one where Caritas made flesh its spiritual response to Pope Francis' call for a 'culture of encounter'. A culture where we welcome rather than shy away from one another.

Caritas' commitment came in the form of the global Share the Journey campaign for migrants and refugees, which was launched by the pope in St. Peter's Square in September. Launching our campaign, this is what Pope Francis said: "Hope is the drive to share the journey of life, as the Caritas campaign which we are inaugurating today reminds us. Brothers and sisters, let us not be afraid of sharing the journey! Have no fear! Let us not be afraid of sharing hope!"

Caritas organisations all around the world held their own campaign launches or even travelled to Rome for the event. It was widely covered by the media and it has had great support from our member organisations, other faith-based partners and the United Nations.

"To work for the culture of encounter, in a simple way, is as Jesus did."
Pope Francis

Now, we are building on this with advocacy work and continued actions from our headquarters, in the dioceses and in the parishes. During the Global Week of Action in June 2018, Caritas and communities across the world will be sharing a meal and promoting activities with migrants and refugees. We will also walk side by side with migrants and refugees on a global pilgrimage towards the end of the year.

2017 was yet another challenging year for our emergency response, with conflict continuing in so many places and climate change contributing to a range of natural disasters. The poor, the vulnerable and the marginalised asked Caritas for help. Caritas was there to accompany them on their journey, to offer a helping hand, to give them reassurance and some comfort.

Together, we are pleased to have been able to make our own journeys to meet so many of our member organisations this year across our seven regions.

We have been able to work alongside them at the Caritas Latin America and the Caribbean's conference in El Salvador, at Caritas Oceania's conference in Australia, at Caritas Asia's conference in Thailand, at Caritas Middle East and North Africa's conference in Jordan and Caritas Africa's conference in Senegal. It has been our pleasure to share this time with you.

H.E. Luis Antonio Cardinal Tagle, President

Michel Roy, Secretary General

Share the Journey

"When I meet a migrant, I think of my own grandfather, a child migrant to the Philippines. So, go out and meet a migrant and think of what contribution they make to your country."

Cardinal Tagle, President, Caritas Internationalis

Cardinal Tagle came to Rome in September 2017 for the launch of Caritas' new global campaign – Share the Journey. Globally, members of the Caritas confederation picked up the challenge with the same enthusiasm, posting photographs of a "Reach Out" gesture – which Pope Francis also performed – and planning activities for the campaign's Global Week of Action in June 2018 and a Global Pilgrimage at the end of the year.

"Hope is what drives the hearts of those who depart," said Pope Francis as he launched Caritas' campaign with a heartfelt call to build relationships between migrants, refugees and local communities. Hope, he said, is "what drives the hearts of those who welcome: the desire to meet each other, get to know each other, to dialogue."

Caritas produced a Guide to Action and many campaign and advocacy resources – print, video, photographic, flyers for sharing on social media and a dedicated website.



Pope Francis launched the Share the Journey campaign in September. Stefano Schirato/Caritas

With the two years of campaigning now well under way, Caritas is following up with advocacy, built from the Caritas grassroots all the way up to the negotiations drafting new international agreements, the UN Global Compacts for Refugees and Migrants.

Caritas has been participating at the thematic consultations at the UN in Geneva in cooperation with other civil society and faith-based groups and the Holy See's diplomatic mission. It has strengthened its ecumenical strategic partnerships, as well as those with other advocates

and faith-based organisations so as to press for fully inclusive and robust agreements to protect migrants and refugees.

Caritas has been present at other global and regional consultations – namely on the return of people and on human trafficking – as well as in support of the inclusion and support of migrant children. Special focus has been given to the protection of both accompanied and unaccompanied children and to advocating for an end to their detention.

Emergency responders

Major humanitarian emergencies engulfed the lives of millions of poor and vulnerable people in 2017. Some were new, sudden onset disasters like the devastating storms in the Caribbean. Others were desperately entrenched crises – made by humans or nature.

The war in Syria, the drought in East Africa and the Horn, the menacing violence in Myanmar. Migrants and refugees continued to experience danger and death and met closed doors and minds.

Hope and practical help was extended by Caritas around the world in 2017. Our emergency teams offered what people needed, where and when they could, acting rapidly and decisively to save lives and restore dignity. They stayed with the people they served, giving them respite, showing them the road to recovery.



Suffering in Syria

The ongoing war in Syria remained the focus of Caritas' humanitarian response work – it's our biggest emergency and the greatest forced displacement since World War II. More than 20 national Caritas organisations supported humanitarian programmes with Caritas Syria.

Inside Syria, Caritas reached around 300 000 people, working out of six main centres in Homs, Damascus, Aleppo, Hassakeh, Latakia and Tartous. From there, Caritas staff, volunteers and many members of the Catholic Church cooperated to offer help and humanity in the very worst of situations.

Caritas distributed vouchers so families could weigh up which of their needs was most pressing. Those who had fled their homes, with only the clothes on their backs, were also

Caritas teams provide food, medicine, blankets and emotional comfort to the elderly in Syria, such as 80 year old widow Yvette Baladi. Patrick Nicholson/Caritas

given the basic tools to start again – stoves, mattresses and blankets. Caritas also helped people pay their rent and to negotiate fair prices. It's not easy in a country where half the population has been forced out of its homes.

With a third of children not in school, Caritas worked to prevent the loss of a generation's education with support to schools and universities in the form of cash grants, stationary, school bags, bus fares and books. It helped young people maintain their dignity. Caritas provided catch-up lessons in Arabic, Maths and English to children who managed to return to school.

The collapse of available healthcare in Syria has been even worse than that of education. Nearly 13 million people need treatment. Caritas distributed medicine and equipment and subsidised care.

In destroyed East Aleppo, local Caritas staff member Magida Tabbakh helped Sama get a prosthetic leg and physiotherapy for her daughter, Amal. The family had fled fighting in Hama, only to be bombed out of their next home. Amal, then a baby, lost a leg and has only been able to walk at age five since she got Caritas' help.

Psychological support is also essential for Syrians plagued by trauma and loneliness. The long siege in Aleppo ended in December 2016, but that year 13 000 bombs fell on 250 000 people living in the eastern part of the city. Caritas' social workers visit survivors like 80-year-old widow Yvette Baladi, bringing food, medicine, blankets and emotional comfort. Yvette was made bed-bound after breaking her hip falling down the stairs when the bombs knocked out the electricity.



Syrians came seeking help from Caritas every day.

Dr Louis Kawa runs the Caritas medical centre in Jaramana out of what was his orthopaedic clinic. Dr Kawa said they had to ask Caritas for aid just so they can eat. "These people used to have homes, families, jobs," he said. "Today they have nothing." Caritas gives them all the help it can, ensuring they are not alone.

Caritas Jordan, Caritas Lebanon and Caritas Turkey all continued to run large humanitarian assistance programmes helping some of the more than 5 million Syrians who have sought refuge there. These national Caritas organisations distributed vouchers for families to buy essential goods, supported schools and offered medical and counselling services. Because the refugees have been there so long, Caritas offered help with training and employment so as make them feel more whole as people. Caritas also gave help to vulnerable members of local host communities.



Staff from across the confederation were deployed to support Caritas Bangladesh in the overwhelming job of caring for the hundreds of thousands of Rohingya refugees who have fled violence in neighbouring Myanmar.

A major focus of Caritas' work is creating child-safe areas because so many children are amongst the refugees – the UN estimates about 60 percent are children.

Caritas teams distributed cooking utensils, bedding and clothing to over 31 000 families – nearly 155 000 people – and around 200 000 people have been given staple foodstuffs.

After running for their lives through jungles and wading through rivers, almost everyone arrived with nothing. Caritas Bangladesh worked on vital infrastructure to help them, putting in drainage channels, water points and latrines, plus fences to offer some protection from wild animals in camps on the Bangladesh flood plain.

Shawkat Ara is movingly grateful. "The food and pans I have received from Caritas are very useful – more than money," she said. "These things have made me feel welcome, to help me overcome what we have been through."

Shawkat's story is harrowing. She lost her parents crossing a river to escape Myanmar's Rakhine State, after the military attacked their village. "It was burning. They asked boys who were around 10 and 11-years-old to stand in a line. Then they chased them with machetes and chopped them in two. One old neighbour of ours was shot. Then, they chopped him with a machete and burned him alive," she said.

Shawkat was five months pregnant at the time and endured a brutally hard journey to escape. She is safe now, but life is hard and the future unknown.

Drought and famine return to East Africa and the Horn

Caritas funded 123 assistance projects for more than 3.5 million people in desperate need as severe drought gripped Somalia, Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda and South Sudan.

Pope Francis expressed his concern at the severity of the situation. "At this time it's more necessary than ever for everyone to not just stop with words, but to take concrete action so that food aid can reach suffering populations," he said.

In February, the world's first famine for six years was declared in parts of South Sudan, with nearly five million people in urgent need of food. Climate change has contributed to longer periods of dry weather and since the middle of 2016, conflict has returned to the world's youngest nation.

Fighting, combined with the two-thirds of South Sudan's roads which become impassable when it does rain, makes it difficult and expensive to deliver humanitarian relief.

Nevertheless, the suffering is so great, Caritas is financing 60 projects helping more than 680 000 people in South Sudan.

In addition to the 2 million South Sudanese who have become refugees, there are a similar number of internally displaced people. Those fleeing into towns often cluster inside Catholic Church compounds for protection and in the hope of food, water, medicine and shelter. Fr Moses Peter, Caritas diocesan coordinator, took on the job of compound manager when 13 000 people arrived in the town of Wau. He has had latrines dug and safe play spaces established for children, but the challenge of keeping them alive remains.



In Somalia, fear of famine returned, with great concern about a repeat of the 2011 disaster when over a quarter of a million people died. Competition for scarce resources fuelled insecurity and over 6 million people – half of the population – needed humanitarian assistance.

Caritas funded 15 projects to help 530 000 people in Somalia with food and health care and to treat outbreaks of cholera. "The situation of hunger is particularly serious in Somalia because the natural calamity combines with the human calamity: for 26 years there have been no functioning national state institutions," said Bishop Giorgio Bertin, President of Caritas Somalia.

Another 5.5 million people needed emergency food assistance in neighbouring Ethiopia, where Caritas funded 17 projects to help 1.4 million people. Kenya declared a national disaster in February due to its drought, with 2.6 million people by then needing humanitarian assistance. Caritas organisations opened 22 projects to reach 307 000 people with cash transfers, subsidies for water trucking, livestock feeding and vaccination.

In Uganda, the situation was also grim. In the biggest refugee crisis since that following the Rwandan genocide in 1994, 900 000 refugees from the fighting in South Sudan fled into Northern Uganda. Almost overnight, the largest refugee camp in the world was created at Bidi Bidi.

Uganda welcomed the refugees and provided land for them to farm and shelter. Caritas gave its support, supplying tools and seeds which have allowed some families to already harvest a crop. Vocational training courses have been established and goods are already on sale in local markets. But Uganda also has its own drought-induced food crisis, so Caritas stepped in with programmes to help 600 000 people.

Natural disasters strike the Caribbean

Harsh weather again caused suffering in 2017, with poor and vulnerable people in the Caribbean bearing the brunt of a series of punishing tropical storms.

Hurricane Irma battered Cuba, Dominican Republic and Haiti at the end of August, followed by another storm – Maria – in the middle of September.

Together they inflicted massive damage, especially on smaller nations such as the British Virgin Islands and Dominica. Caritas Antilles worked hard to prepare for the storms as did those Caritas confederation members on the larger islands, sending volunteers out to sick, elderly and disabled people. On Dominica, Caritas Antilles distributed ceramic water filters after the island's water system was all but destroyed. Catholic Relief Services (CRS) from the USA raised funds for emergency shelter, water and sanitation and the setting up of community kitchens.

Caritas Mexico provided emergency assistance to survivors of the earthquakes in both Mexico City on 19 September and in central Mexico 11 days before. More than 400 people were killed by the earthquakes and more than 20 000 homes were destroyed. Caritas paid particular attention to caring for the most vulnerable groups, such as indigenous people and the elderly.



Freezing weather brought misery to Mongolia

Caritas stepped in to help nomadic herders in Mongolia as they and their livestock were struck by harsh weather known locally as a *dzud*. A *dzud* happens when a hot, dry summer is followed by a freezing winter. It's impossible for animals to reach what sparse grass has grown and there's little stored fodder available. Herders lose the vast majority of their livestock, and driven into bankruptcy, they migrate to the city and develop problems such as depression and alcoholism.

Caritas Mongolia provided food to the most vulnerable herders and fodder to their livestock in three provinces, as part of its missions to provide humanitarian relief and to support the victims of climate change. Average temperatures in Mongolia have risen by two degrees, causing less grass to grow. Winters have become colder. Overgrazing, caused by a huge increase in the size of herds which nomads feel give them security, has created environmental degradation.

Gereltsog, a herder who risked losing his 500 animals to the *dzud*, is grateful for Caritas' support. "We felt helpless. We didn't know what would happen to us or how we would live," he said. He received veterinary kits and animal blankets, which were made in a sewing school Caritas Mongolia runs in the capital, Ulaanbaatar, to give skills to nomad women who have been forced to migrate there.

Conflict causes suffering in the Lake Chad region and Democratic Republic of Congo

People living in the four countries around Lake Chad continued to be driven from their homes by the armed group, Boko Haram. The lake used to provide them with decent livelihoods, but 4.5 million people faced food insecurity with 500 000 children severely malnourished.

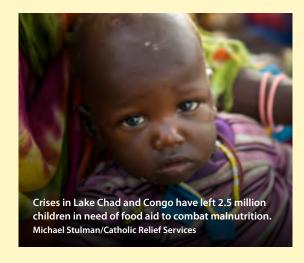
Caritas continued its humanitarian relief programmes in north-eastern Nigeria, northern Cameroon, Diffa in Niger and Bagasola in Chad, helping more than 340 000 displaced people and locals with food, water and sanitation facilities and livelihoods support.

Caritas also trained young people in peacebuilding as conflict between host communities and displaced people over scarce resources remains a concern.

But Caritas struggled to provide the relief it wanted to – funding is hard to come by for this forgotten emergency.

The Congolese province of Kasai was also severely disrupted by the action of armed groups, with Catholic Church parishes recording over 3 000 deaths. In July 2017, the UN said it had already documented 80 mass graves. Rape and mutilation have been rife and hundreds of thousands of people have been forced from their homes.

Conflict erupted in August 2016, but has received little international attention and resources. Food



insecurity is severe as displaced farmers missed three crop seasons. Hunger forced some to return even though it remained dangerous. Caritas focused on supporting them with essential household items and food, especially in the diocese of Luebo, where there was widespread killing and destruction.

Caritas continued delivering humanitarian assistance in other parts of the Democratic Republic of Congo, where armed conflicts have created one of the world's most complex and long-running emergencies. More than 4.5 million people remain displaced and 2 million children are suffering from malnutrition.

Refugees and migrants coming to Europe

Alongside Caritas' Share the Journey campaign, Caritas continued to offer practical help and accompaniment to poor and vulnerable people fleeing to Europe.

Caritas Hellas, the Greek Caritas, provided shelter and life essentials and offered migrants and refugees psychological and legal assistance. It received strong support from Catholic Relief Services from the USA, Caritas Germany and Caritas Switzerland, for its work in Athens, Thessaloniki, Chios and Lesbos.

Interpreters of Farsi and Arabic have been recruited to help migrants and refugees access hospitals and other health care services. An innovative internet platform is being created to help people gain skills and learning and to access job opportunities by linking them with prospective employers.

Caritas Croatia, Caritas Serbia, Caritas Slovakia and others have also continued their help and support – from interpretation to enable access to public services, to language classes, to shelter and legal advice.

As well as support to people on their journey in places such as the border between Italy and France, Caritas advocates for migrant rights. Mattia Vacca/Caritas Switzerland

Voices for change

Caritas advocates on behalf of the poorest and most vulnerable people in the world, putting forward their rights to live in the same peace, freedom, security and justice as the better off. While maintaining a moral conscience for people to live by, Caritas also works to help broker agreements – at grassroots and international levels – to end injustice, discrimination and violence and to care for creation.

It takes time to bring about change.

It also takes belief, patience and determination. But on its side as it advocates, Caritas has the strong, united voices of its worldwide member organisations and their many supporters.





Caritas co-sponsored a major regional consultation on paediatric HIV in Africa. The consultation, held in Abuja, Nigeria in June, brought together more than 140 expert participants from Nigeria, Democratic Republic of Congo and Zimbabwe and led to national plans to prevent children becoming infected and to open up more access to treatment.

The role of faith-based organisations was placed at the forefront of the consultation, whose other sponsors were UNAIDS and PEPFAR – the US President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief. Delegates from Caritas Zimbabwe, Caritas Nigeria and Caritas

Democratic Republic of Congo presented examples of national best practice to strengthen the response of faith-based organisations in their countries.

UNAIDS recognised Caritas' work in support of its "Start Free, Stay Free, AIDS free" strategy, in particular on testing and treatment for HIV positive children and adolescents.

The outcomes of the consultation were presented at a satellite symposium at the 19th International Conference on AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Infections in Africa in December in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire.

Anti-trafficking conference in Brazil

COATNET – Christian Organisations against Trafficking in Persons Network – held its biennial meeting in Brasilia in November. More than 40 people, including representatives of the Anglican Alliance and the Salvation Army, came from Africa, Asia, Europe and both North and South America to attend the meeting, hosted by Caritas Brazil.

Together, they focused on the development of advocacy actions to address the trafficking of women and children for sexual exploitation, the labour exploitation of domestic workers and fishermen and the growing problem of trafficking in countries in conflict. COATNET members also contributed to a report by the UN's Special Rapporteur against Trafficking, reporting on trafficking in conflicts and the early identification of victims.





Caritas Latin America and the Caribbean President Bishop José Luis Azuaje called for urgent outside help to combat the crisis in Venezuela. Bishop Azuaje's video message for Caritas followed Pope Francis' appeal for action and prayer while he was visiting neighbouring Colombia in September. The pope also met with Venezuelan bishops there. At the UN, Caritas drew attention to the economic and health crises in Venezuela.

A survey by Caritas Venezuela in four states, including the capital Caracas, found 54 percent of children under five at risk or already suffering from some level of malnutrition. The World Health Organisation's crisis threshold for child malnutrition is 10 percent but the Caritas survey found 11.4 percent of children suffering from moderate or severe acute malnutrition.

Leidy Cordova, a 37-year-old mother isn't unusual. Often they don't eat in a day. "My kids tell me they're hungry," she says. "All I can say to them is to grin and bear it."

Caritas found that hyperinflation had made affording the basic monthly basket of food impossible for many families. Eight percent of households fed themselves by scavenging in rubbish bins. Supplies of medicines, vaccines and clean water dried up, with many people unable to boil water because they couldn't afford fuel. Thousands of Venezuelans have fled to neighbouring Colombia, where they also live in dire conditions, vulnerable to forced prostitution and armed groups.

Caritas Venezuela launched a programme to support food, nutrition, water and health for children under five.

Volunteers worked in community kitchens in dioceses countrywide and measured children at special collection sites to identify the most at risk. But international attention remained scarce and the needs great.



Nine Caritas members from Europe, Africa and Oceania brought the voices of the poor to the UN's COP 23 session on climate change in Bonn in November.

They carried with them the key Caritas message that environmental action has to be accompanied by social justice.

Caritas asked COP 23 delegates to recall Pope Francis' urging in the encyclical *Laudato Si'* for ecological and development problems not be addressed as separate issues. A side event, "Climate, Land, Food", was held with speakers from Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand and Caritas Kenya.

Negotiations between rich and poor nations produced a commitment to address the socioeconomic and food security dimensions of climate change in agriculture. Caritas has been pressing for this for several years and a recent UN report highlights climate change as a main cause of increased levels of food insecurity.

Caritas welcomed COP 23's adoption of the first-ever plan to address the negative impact of climate change on women and girls. Another positive step was the creation of a Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples' Platform.

Caritas Oceania's State of the Environment for Oceania 2017 report described how coastal communities are being forced from their homes by rising sea levels, flooding and erosion in a situation assessed as severe. The report, "Turning the Tide", highlighted the problems being caused by salt seeping into groundwater, mangroves dying and fish being poisoned by environmental abuse. Caritas members in Oceania also took steps to mitigate the effects of climate change on poor communities. Island-dwellers in Tonga, Fiji, Samoa, the Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea have already suffered extreme drought and rising sea levels.

Amazon indigenous rights

The Pan-Amazon Ecclesial network, REPAM, of which Caritas is a founding member, supported indigenous leaders in bringing the damage being done to their communities to the attention of the UN. The indigenous leaders spoke at a series of meetings at the Permanent Forum of Indigenous Peoples in New York in April. They described how mining and other extractive industries are driving human rights abuses and are damaging the Amazon environment.







Caritas working with the United Nations in New York, Geneva and Rome

Caritas' Permanent Delegation to the UN in New York remained active, especially around the issues of peace in Colombia and Palestine.

Working with partners such as Churches for Middle East Peace as well as diplomatic missions, Caritas advocated for an inter-faith approach to the Israel-Palestine conflict, while drawing attention to the 50th anniversary of the Israeli occupation of Palestinian lands and the 100th anniversary of the Balfour Declaration.

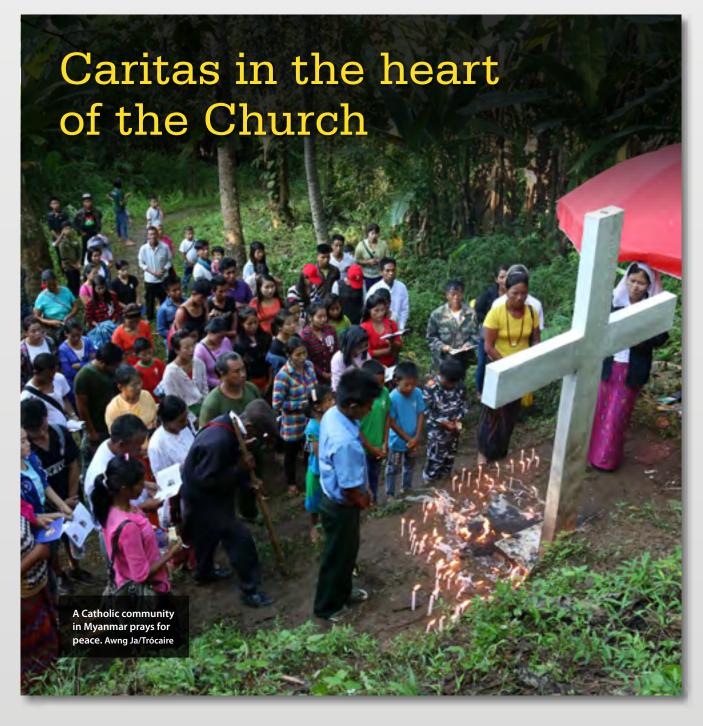
In Geneva, the Caritas Permanent Delegation to the UN held events and delivered written and oral statements to the UN's Human Rights Council on an extremely broad range of subjects – from the right to housing, clean water and sanitation, to access to medicines, to the non-detention of migrant children, to decent work and the protection of people in the informal economy.

Secours Catholique, Caritas Albania and Caritas Kosovo contributed to the Delegation's statement on the trafficking of women and children and Caritas Roma was a speaker at a side event on unaccompanied migrant children.

Advocacy with the UN also extended to Rome, where the Caritas' General Secretariat worked alongside the UN's three food agencies which are based there.

There was also coordinated action with the Caritas regions. In Latin America, Caritas Argentina led a delegation of regional Caritas organisations to advocate against child labour. They attended the fourth conference held by the International Labour Organisation in Buenos Aires.





World Day of the Poor

Caritas organisations all over the world organised special events to celebrate Pope Francis' new World Day of the Poor, which in 2017 fell on 19 November.

Pope Francis initiated the day at the end of his Jubilee Year of Mercy, reminding us that Caritas is "the caress of the Mother Church to her children, her tenderness and her closeness."

The World Day of the Poor offered the chance to re-think the existing national, diocesan and parochial 'Caritas Days' with sensitivity to people who are suffering. Special events included celebrating the Eucharist in symbolic locations, organising visits to migrant and refugee centres and taking gifts and donations to hospitals and prisons.





Service of Charity in Africa

Caritas Internationalis President Cardinal Tagle and Secretary General Michel Roy took part in Caritas Africa's important conference on the Service of Charity in Africa in September. Around 80 cardinals and bishops came from across the continent and further afield to Dakar, Senegal, to build on work begun at the first Caritas Africa conference on charity, held in Kinshasa in the Democratic Republic of Congo in 2012.

Cardinal Peter Turkson, Prefect of the Dicastery for the Promotion of Integral Human Development, asked participants to use the opportunity to take stock. Several speakers emphasised the important role of bishops in promoting justice and charity and pledged the fullest support possible to make the service of charity central to the pastoral mission, to promote integral human development and to mobilise all the faithful, in particular the youth.

Caritas in the Church

A new Secretary arrived at the new Dicastery for the Promotion of Integral Human Development from the French diocese of Lyon. Msgr. Bruno Marie Duffé has begun working alongside Cardinal Turkson. Both have visited Caritas Internationalis to pledge deep cooperation and there has already been close work around the creation of the new UN Global Compacts on Migrants and Refugees. Caritas provided ideas for the Dicastery's "Responding to Migrants and Refugees: 20 Action Points".

Tokyo's new archbishop is a dear friend of Caritas. Isao Yama Kikuchi, who was installed as the Metropolitan Archbishop of Tokyo on 16 December, devoted much time and energy to Caritas Japan, serving as its president, as well as president of Caritas Asia.

Five other friends of Caritas were among the new
Cardinals elevated by Pope Francis in June. They are
Bishop Louis-Marie Ling Mangkhanekhoun of Laos,
Archbishop Jean Zerbo of Bamako in Mali, Bishop
Anders Arborelius of Stockholm in Sweden and
Monsignor Gregorio Rosa Chavez of San Salvador,
who also heads Caritas El Salvador. New Cardinal,
Archbishop Juan José Omella of Barcelona, is president
of Caritas in his diocese.

Pope Francis called on the new cardinals to act as servants in a world where innocent people are dying

from war and terrorism and where there is slavery and hellish conditions for refugees.

Caritas Internationalis was also delighted to see so many bishops take up its invitation to be welcomed to its General Secretariat while they were on their *Ad Limina* visits to Rome. Among those who came in 2017 were bishops' conferences from Cambodia, Honduras. Panama and Venezuela.

Members of the Caritas confederation commemorated the 50th anniversary of Pope Paul VI's influential encyclical *Populorum Progressio*, which focuses on the development of people and the importance of the world economy serving all of humanity and not just the few. Caritas Latin America and the Caribbean region organised a congress in El Salvador on the encyclical.

Also in El Salvador, members of the Caritas confederation came together to join celebrations for the life of Blessed Óscar Romero, Archbishop of San Salvador, on the centenary of his birth.

A vocal advocate for the poor, Blessed Romero was assassinated while celebrating the Eucharist on March 24, 1980.

Caritas also built on the cooperation agreement it made with the World Lutheran Federation in Lund, Sweden, during the commemoration of the 500 years since the Reformation.

Kent Truog/Catholic Relief Services





Regional and national action

Caritas Asia and Caritas Africa created development and strengthening activities at their own regional levels. Caritas Africa also held two regional training workshops for its emergency staff in disaster management.

Caritas Haiti brought together all its supporting member organisations to reflect on how best it can be accompanied to full organisational growth. Caritas Democratic Republic of Congo ran a workshop to bring risk management into the mainstream of all levels of Caritas' work. A pilot programme to build up a partnership with the World Bank was also begun by Caritas Central African Republic, Caritas Niger (CADEV) and Caritas Guinea.

While the Catholic Church in Tajikistan was celebrating 20 years since coming into modern existence, Caritas Tajikistan celebrated its 10th anniversary.





Humanitarian conference

Caritas organised a humanitarian conference in Freiburg in Germany in November, bringing together over 40 people from across the confederation. Delegates discussed major themes such as big emergencies and how Caritas responds to them.

Participants also looked at progress in reacting to initiatives such as the Grand Bargain, which came out of the UN's own first World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul in May 2016. There it was agreed that the amount of donor funds spent through local organisations will rise to 25 percent by 2020, as part of a process known as 'localisation.'

The workshops and discussions at the Caritas conference produced key action points. Member organisations should also be trained in implementing cash transfer programmes in emergencies and should have support on making their work more local in focus.

Emergency coordination

In 2017, Caritas Internationalis launched 39 Emergency Appeals for €58,492,547. At the end of the year these were 72 percent funded overall with pledges of €40,959,859.

Following on from work carried out in 2016 on the Emergency Toolkit and the Protocols supporting coordination in an emergency response, 2017 saw the "training of trainers" take place. Cote d'Ivoire hosted training for 18 Francophone African Caritas organisations, while Kenya hosted 12 Anglophone members. Caritas Burkina Faso replicated the training for all its dioceses.

Training was also delivered to Caritas Ukraine, Caritas Costa Rica (CAMEX), Caritas Mozambique, Caritas Burundi, Caritas South Sudan, Caritas Spain, Caritas Fiji and other members of the Caritas Oceania region and Caritas Latin America's MAGRE platform. The pool of emergency coordinators in Rome also benefitted from the training.

Caritas Rwanda works in a camp for Burundians fleeing their homes through volunteers coming from the refugees themselves.

Alan Whelan/Trócaire



Communications

The Caritas website was re-launched after a major re-design and upgrade in 2017. It now has an image-rich home page and main sections, which capitalise on expansive photo libraries. The new website is more responsive, working across computers, mobile phones and tablets. A major focus has been on positive storytelling and live campaigns to encourage donations and practical involvement.

To support staff, Caritas' Communications

Department in Rome produced a video guiding



Caritas News was launched in 2017.



Caritas Asia

Member Organisations through Cl's Emergency Protocols to help them increase their surge capacities.

The team also produced a Communications Manual in English, French and Spanish. It offers guidance on strategy, crisis communications, photography, social media and emergency and advocacy communications. Communications training was held in several areas of the world, often alongside training on the newly-redeveloped Caritas internal communications platform, Caritas Baobab.

Caritas Internationalis launched a quarterly newsletter, 'Caritas News', primarily to communicate key information from the General Secretariat in Rome to Member Organisations.

The Communications Department produced material in support of the Share the Journey global campaign including posters, flyers, prayers and social media sharing content. It also helped create coverage of the crises in Syria, Bangladesh and South Sudan.



The Caritas website was re-designed in 2017.

Caritas Youth Forum

Young Caritas representatives from each of the seven confederation regions came together to form a global Caritas Youth Forum. It will integrate youth and young adult groups working with Caritas into existing activities and initiatives.

Work began to make sure the voices of young people meaningfully contribute to Caritas' Strategic Framework by sharing their ideas and experiences and integrating their priorities into those of the confederation.

Other Caritas highlights

January

An Emergency Appeal was launched for Mongolia following a *dzud*, or a very dry summer followed by a very cold winter. The Catholic Church in Mongolia celebrated its 25th anniversary.

February

Caritas participated in the Global Consultation on Migrants' Health in Colombo, Sri Lanka which was co-organised by the World Health Organisation and the International Organisation for Migration.

March

International Women's Day was celebrated by Caritas with six video interviews with women who build peace and spread love and hope in their countries. The inspiring women were; Lee Macqueen, Advocacy Manager, Caritas India; Sr. Norma Pimentel, Executive Director, Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley, USA; Hanna Homeniuk, Project Manager, Caritas Ukraine; Gerardina Cardozo, Community Peacebuilder, Caritas Colombia; Hannan Bali, Project Manager Aleppo, Caritas Syria; Suzanne Yadole, winner of the Caritas agricultural fair in Central Africa Republic.

April

The worst rain to hit Peru in two decades caused catastrophic floods and landslides, sweeping away homes and vehicles as rivers burst their banks and roads collapsed off hillsides. Caritas Peru distributed urgently needed aid throughout the affected dioceses.

May

A Caritas delegation went to the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction conference in Cancun, Mexico. Caritas advocated that efforts to better protect people from disasters must put local communities first. Caritas experts from the USA, Switzerland, India, Mexico, the Philippines, Guatemala, Kenya, Uganda, Germany and Chile made up the delegation.



June

Caritas issued a joint ecumenical statement to mark World Refugee Day on June 20. The Communications Team in Rome produced photos, quotes and a prayer for sharing on social media and for advocacy.

July

A Caritas delegation participated in the UN High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in New York. Caritas and the Holy See's Permanent Mission to the UN in New York organised a side-event reinforcing the church's voice on the UN's Sustainable Development Goals – the SDGs – which showcased the work of Caritas Kenya and Caritas Oceania.

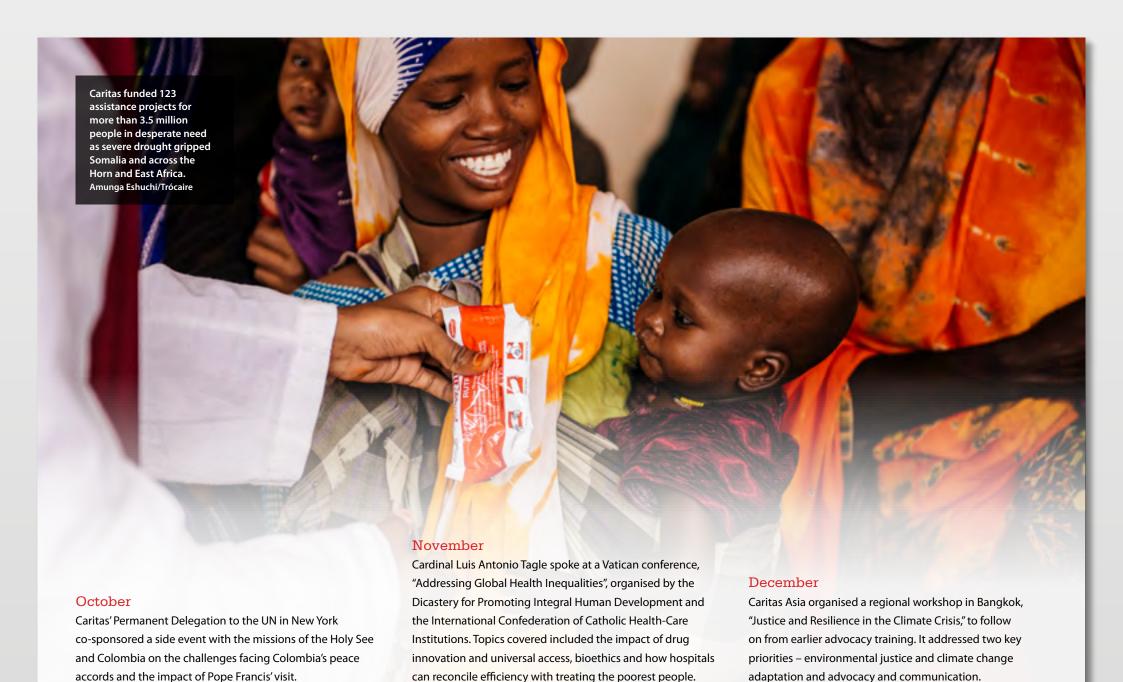
August

Catholic Charities USA responded to Hurricane Harvey in Texas and Louisana, taking action toward assisting in the recovery efforts.

September

Caritas Internationalis presented a statement on behalf of Caritas Ukraine to the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights in Geneva. It called for urgent action from all parties to protect the fundamental human rights and dignity of all Ukrainians.





Finances	Rec	Caritas makes cash grants to flood victims in Bangladesh Tommy Trenchard/Carita
Operational expenditure by Strategic Orientation	Actual 2017 (€)	Actual 2016 (€
Operational expenditure by Strategic Orientation General Secretariat administration & office costs	1,653,441	1,318,853
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General Secretariat administration & office costs Regional structures	1,653,441	1,318,853 424,077
General Secretariat administration & office costs	1,653,441 650,153	1,318,853
General Secretariat administration & office costs Regional structures Governance	1,653,441 650,153 374,688	1,318,853 424,077 378,726
General Secretariat administration & office costs Regional structures Governance 1. Caritas at the heart of the Church	1,653,441 650,153 374,688 122,413	1,318,853 424,077 378,726 161,778
General Secretariat administration & office costs Regional structures Governance 1. Caritas at the heart of the Church 2. Save lives, rebuild communities 3. Promote sustainable integral human development	1,653,441 650,153 374,688 122,413 625,905	1,318,853 424,077 378,726 161,778 582,007
General Secretariat administration & office costs Regional structures Governance 1. Caritas at the heart of the Church 2. Save lives, rebuild communities	1,653,441 650,153 374,688 122,413 625,905 770,859	1,318,853 424,077 378,726 161,778 582,007 852,116



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