

# Caritas Internationalis Annual Report 2018

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Cover photograph: Providing South Sudanese refugees in Uganda with the skills and tools to grow nutritious food has improved the health of their children. Tommy Trenchard/Caritas

Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh built monsoon-proof shelters with materials, skills and tools provided by Caritas.  
Ismail Ferdous/  
Catholic Relief Services

# Who we are

Staff in Gaza worked to fill the gap in healthcare caused by increased poverty, an economic blockade, conflict and a withdrawal of US government funding.  
Asmaa El Khaldi/Caritas



**Caritas is guided by the urgent call to care for creation and the most vulnerable in society, promoting solidarity, justice and for the poor to have the tools to lift themselves out of poverty.**

**Caritas Internationalis is a confederation of 165 national**

**organisations. Each is inspired by Catholic Church teachings and by the Gospel. Caritas provides humanitarian and integral human development programmes alongside other Church agencies and civil society organisations.**

**In countries both poor and rich, our volunteers and staff listen to and work**

**with people and communities facing problems, campaigning for and with them to be treated with dignity.**

**Caritas promotes the participation of people in finding solutions to the issues they face. Globally, Caritas works with the millions of refugees and migrants in our world today.**

# Aspire to be more

Two great spiritual guides became saints in October 2018, marking a very special moment for the Caritas family. Pope Francis described Saint Pope Paul VI as “the great light” and Saint Óscar Romero, assassinated in 1980 while celebrating Mass, as a person for whom being “close to the poor and to his people” was everything. Paul VI inspired the creation of Caritas back in the 1950s and Romero is one of its patrons.

Pope Francis wore the blood-stained belt Romero was wearing when he was murdered and carried the pastoral staff of Paul VI during a ceremony to make them saints in St. Peter’s Square.

In his homily, Pope Francis described them as putting the Gospel “into practice in their lives, without being lukewarm, without calculation, with the passion to risk everything and to leave it all behind”.

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**“Aspire not to have more but to be more”**

**Saint Óscar Romero**

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Canonisation ceremony for Sts Pope Paul VI and Óscar Romero. Mazur/catholicnews.org.uk

Caritas Internationalis celebrated the sainthoods with a vigil mass led by its president, Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle, its former president, Cardinal Óscar Andrés Rodríguez Maradiaga and Cardinal Gregorio Rosa Chávez, a one-time assistant of Romero and influential leader within the Caritas

confederation. A fundraising concert by migrant communities and children and a conference on the two saints were also held in Rome.

“Aspire not to have more but to be more,” is one of Romero’s most celebrated quotes, and it continues to inspire Caritas today.



**“This camp is a cry to the whole world for better politics based on compassion and solidarity”**

**Cardinal Tagle**

## A year in review

Cardinal Tagle visits Rohingya refugees in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh.  
Inmanuel Chayan Biswas/Caritas

As 2018 came to a close, Cardinal Tagle spoke on behalf of the Caritas family. They were simple, resonant words, which we all share. Standing in a camp for Rohingya refugees from Myanmar in Cox's Bazar in Bangladesh, Cardinal Tagle said, “This camp is a cry to the whole world for better politics based on compassion and solidarity”.

Cardinal Tagle could have echoed something similar in many places in our world right now.

Suffering caused by conflict, by climate change, by extreme poverty, by social injustice and by hatred, seems to be even more widespread.

But Cardinal Tagle spoke also for the whole of the Caritas family when he declared, “I'm here to listen to people forced from their homes. If we do that, we might realise that their stories are our stories, their dreams are our dreams, their suffering is our suffering. We share a common path”.

Cardinal Tagle echoed the call of Pope Francis to celebrate a “culture of encounter”. He spoke with hope – to reach beyond ourselves and our own needs, to recognise everyone's God-given dignity and to treat them with respect.

Caritas will look to renew this mission when all its member organisations meet in May 2019 to elect a new leadership and set out new strategic directions at its General Assembly in Rome, entitled One Human Family, One Common Home.

# Share the Journey

Caritas' Share the Journey international campaign to promote Pope Francis' "culture of encounter" with migrants and refugees saw some major milestones in 2018.

Pope Francis appealed on behalf of people forced from their homes as Caritas organisations around the world celebrated a Global Week of Action centred around World Refugee Day in June.

In Rome, Caritas hosted a meal with migrants and refugees at the Caritas soup kitchen next to the main railway station. There were other shared meals in Bangladesh with Rohingya refugees, in Syria with people displaced by war, in Uganda with people who had fled the conflict in South Sudan and in many other places around the world. Caritas in Greece and New Zealand hosted picnics while Caritas Belgium carried out a social experiment with a hidden camera which saw a migrant or refugee inviting themselves to eat with people in a restaurant.

Other community events promoted stronger relationships between people on the move and host communities, inspired by the pope's vision. Cardinal Tagle said, "Our journeys start with a moment of sharing which helps us recognise the bonds which bind the whole of humanity together".



**"Our journeys start with a moment of sharing which helps us recognise the bonds which bind the whole of humanity together"**

**Cardinal Tagle**

A Global Week of Action saw Share the Journey encounters across the world, including in Rome. Stefano Montesi/Caritas

Around the world, Caritas came up with some thought-provoking actions. Caritas supporters in Milan abseiled down buildings and in a project called "My Mirror" asked people to look into a stranger's eyes. Catholic Relief Services, a Caritas member in the United States, developed a travelling

photography exhibition called "Be Unafraid", which brought migrants and refugees together with people from local communities to talk about their fears. CRS also promoted Share the Journey fundraising socks and Caritas Cyprus shared handbags with essential hygiene items for women refugees.

## Global pilgrimage



**“A change in our hearts and in our communities starts with the decision to take one simple step with migrants and refugees”**

**Cardinal Tagle**

In October in Rome, Caritas launched a one million kilometre Global Pilgrimage to encourage communities to walk with migrants and refugees to get to know them better. Cardinal Tagle led a group of migrants, supporters and Caritas staff on a pilgrimage walk through Rome to launch the global initiative.

Cardinal Tagle said in walking together and talking with each other we recognise a sister, a brother, a neighbour and ourselves. “A change in our hearts and in our communities starts with the decision to take one simple step with migrants and refugees,” he said.

When the group arrived in St. Peter’s Square, Pope Francis greeted everyone and said, “I encourage the Share the Journey initiative which is being promoted in many cities and which can transform our relationship with migrants”.

Other walks took place in Somalia, Honduras, Thailand, Sweden, Greece and Jordan. Some Caritas organisations in New Zealand, Chile, Canada, the US and the United Kingdom had started even before the launch date.

In Iraq, 500 people gathered to run 10 kilometres in a solidarity marathon. Scouts and students joined Caritas Syria in a special walk in November through devastated villages in the formerly besieged enclave of Ghouta near Damascus, revisiting sites where Caritas had distributed humanitarian aid.

Cardinal Tagle and migrants living in Rome make their way to hear Pope Francis during the launch of the Share the Journey Global Pilgrimage. Stefano Montesi/Caritas

# Voices for change



Supporters of Caritas organisation Cafod campaigned at UN climate talks in Poland. Rosie Heaton/Cafod

## Trafficking

Caritas continued its work to combat trafficking, supporting Secours Catholique – Caritas France – in its discussions with the French Human Rights Ambassador and in advocacy at the UN about trafficking in France.

Caritas, which coordinates COATNET – Christian Organisations Against Human Trafficking Network – developed the network's new website and a database on its impact in the fight against trafficking. The database will also focus on emerging trends and in providing inputs for advocacy.



Caritas works to prevent trafficking and help survivors in Myanmar. Patrick Nicholson/Caritas

## Global Compacts

As part of the Share the Journey Campaign, Caritas advocated at local, national and international levels during the process to create and adopt two UN Global Compacts on migrants and refugees.

Caritas was joined by other Christian groups and Buddhist, Jewish and Muslim leaders at an important inter-faith conference in New York in May. The conference was held ahead of a key stage in talks on the Global Compacts and urged governments to improve their responses to the mass movement of people and to reduce their suffering.

Cardinal Tagle said, “Our different religions share a universal message – love thy neighbour”. He said the upcoming UN agreements offered the once-in-a-lifetime chance to challenge the rising tide of xenophobia by respecting the dignity of every migrant and refugee.

Cardinal Tagle was the keynote speaker at an ecumenical event in Geneva to promote the Share the Journey Campaign at the Human Rights Council. He urged a more human rights-focused approach to the two new Global Compacts.

Caritas Uganda and the Church in Latin America contributed with best practices to the shaping of the Global Compact on Refugees.



In mid-December, the Global Compact for Migration was signed by 164 countries at a meeting in Marrakesh, Morocco and confirmed in New York later in the month by 152 countries. Objections were led by the US, with some countries pulling out of the process. Caritas urged them to reconsider their positions.

Caritas participated in the Global Forum on Migration and Development Civil Society Days, which took place in Marrakesh just before the adoption of the Global Compact. Caritas staff from France, Sweden, Switzerland and Germany joined members of the Caritas Internationalis General Secretariat there, while other members including Caritas Ghana and Caritas Djibouti came for the signing of the Global Compact.

The Global Compact for Migration did not include everything that Caritas had hoped for, but it did contain some major achievements. These included commitments to work towards ending the detention of children and safeguarding their rights, expanding channels for regular and safe migration and ensuring decent labour rights.

## World Health Assembly

Caritas was the sole faith-based organisation invited to be part of the Task Team for the World Health Organization’s 71st World Health Assembly, held in Geneva in May. Caritas presented examples of good practice from Latin America and Africa, including its collaboration with the WHO in the Ebola outbreak in West Africa in 2014.

Caritas emphasised the inclusiveness and compassion of faith-based approaches to health care, which are often seen by people in extreme need as “havens of refuge”. It delivered statements on access to treatment and public health innovation and intellectual property.



Miguel Samper/Caritas

## Climate change

In July, the Vatican hosted a major conference to mark the third anniversary of *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis' encyclical on the care of our common home.

Caritas was one of the co-sponsors and Caritas organisations from around the world sent delegates. The conference brought together a broad range of 300 allies – united behind the pope's words, "What kind of world do we want to leave to those who come after us, to children who are now growing up?"

"Climate change is here and now," said Julianne Hickey, director of Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand, as she launched the Caritas State of the Environment for Oceania 2018 Report in October.

The report – Waters of Life, Oceans of Mercy – tracked the impact on people's lives of five key environmental issues – coastal erosion and sea levels, access to food and water, extreme weather, mining and intensive land use, and climate finance. The latter was described as "woefully inadequate". Despite large sums pledged at high-level international meetings, vulnerable communities in Oceania struggled to access simple funding mechanisms for the adaptation necessary to survive.

Later in October, six continental bishops' conferences made a strong appeal for governments to take ambitious action against climate change. Caritas supported the call, alongside the CIDSE and Global Catholic Climate Movement networks.

**"What kind of world do we want to leave to those who come after us, to children who are now growing up?"**

**Pope Francis**



A children's performance begins a Vatican conference on the global climate crisis. Patrick Nicholson/Caritas

The Church leaders highlighted a recent UN report on the urgent need to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees and called on politicians to courageously implement the 2015 Paris climate agreement. They called for a shift to sustainable lifestyles, from fossil fuels to renewable energy, listening to indigenous communities and rethinking agricultural practices.

In December, Caritas expressed its dismay that government delegates to the UN climate change conference – COP 24 in Katowice in Poland – failed

to back strong action to save our common home. Caritas sent a delegation jointly with the Holy See and other partners to the conference. Aside from Caritas Poland, there were Caritas staff from France, the UK, the US, Germany, the Netherlands, Malawi, Ghana, Zambia and Spain present.

Caritas said that hard political stances, which often hid economic interests, meant the outcome was too weak to protect future generations from catastrophe.

## HIV and AIDS

It is crucial for their survival that children with HIV are diagnosed and treated as early as possible. Caritas has long advocated for this and has followed through with practical initiatives on the ground.

In 2018, Caritas launched a new project known as GRAIL with the support of UNAIDS and PEPFAR in Nigeria and the Democratic Republic of Congo. GRAIL stands for Galvanizing Religious Leaders for Accelerated Identification and Linkage to Paediatric Antiretroviral Therapy.

In September, in Kisangani in the northern Democratic Republic of Congo, a three-day workshop organised by Caritas focused on how best to use the influence of Church leaders to ensure parents took their children for testing. Caritas Congo provides around 40 percent of national health services through 47 diocesan

offices. UNAIDS and PEPFAR – the emergency plan for AIDS relief founded in 2003 by former US president George Bush – lent technical and financial support. Within three months of implementing GRAIL in parts of Nigeria, children who tested positive for HIV were already on treatment.

Caritas again worked with UNAIDS, PEPFAR and others to press the heads of major pharmaceutical companies directly for child-friendly medicines and testing tools at affordable prices.

Caritas also signed what was the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria's first agreement with a faith-based organisation. The Global Fund mobilises and invests nearly four billion dollars every year in 140 countries to combat these diseases.

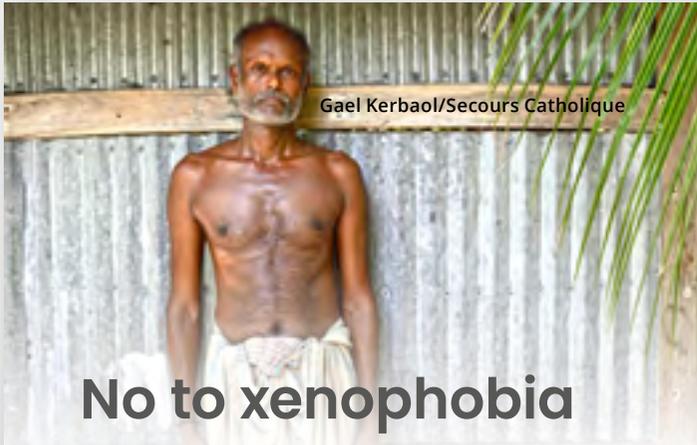


Poverty and HIV go hand in hand in rural Swaziland.  
Michelle Hough/Caritas



## Advocacy guidelines

Caritas also responded to an interest in advocacy from members, supporting them with the publication of new Advocacy Guidelines in all three confederation languages.



## No to xenophobia

The World Congress on Xenophobia, Racism and Populism took place in Rome in September. It was organised jointly by the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, the World Council of Churches and the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity. Caritas Ethiopia, Caritas Rwanda and Caritas Internationalis General Secretariat staff represented the confederation.

The Congress declared that ecumenical cooperation was key to combating the rise of xenophobia and increasing racism towards migrants and refugees.

In that light, Caritas was delighted when the KAICIID Dialogue Centre in Vienna appointed the Caritas Internationalis Special Advisor on Ecumenical and Interreligious Dialogue as a member of its Advisory Forum. The KAICIID Dialogue Centre was established in 2012 by Austria, Spain, Saudi Arabia and the Holy See to enhance understanding and cooperation across cultures and religions.

## Advocacy at the United Nations

In New York, Caritas organised events with the Holy See's Mission to the UN as well as the UN's own departments and agencies. Crises covered included the Koreas, Colombia, Palestine, Israel and Nicaragua.

In Geneva, Caritas continued to press for action around fair finance and responsible business, co-sponsoring events and statements at the Human Rights Council with CIDSE and Franciscans International. They called for transnational corporations and other business enterprises to be legally bound to

international human rights standards. Caritas organisations, including Trócaire and CAFOD, brought campaigners to Geneva to reinforce the confederation's voices calling for change.

The Caritas Internationalis Delegation to the UN in Geneva was again invited to co-organise the regional session on the Americas at the Annual Consultations with NGOs held by the UN's refugee agency, UNHCR.

The Caritas delegations in New York and Geneva celebrated the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in December. An event in Geneva brought together young people to reflect on how human rights affect the lives of the young around the world. Caritas recalled the words of Saint Paul VI back in 1972 – "if you want peace, work for justice".

Caritas continued to work on family farming and food security with the UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation in Rome. To mark World Food Day, Secours Catholique – Caritas France – released a report on agro-ecology.

Secours Catholique also published a report in 2018 calling for urgent reform of the financial sector to avoid a recurrence of the 2008 crash. The report, *Finance to Citizens*, warned that disaster was inevitable given that speculation remained common and rule-making bodies were closed to citizens.





Caritas reports from Papua New Guinea show the impact of the global climate crisis on poor communities.  
Mark Mitchell/  
Caritas Aotearoa  
New Zealand

## Sustainable Development Goals

In July, Caritas urged governments to reinforce the commitments they had made to enact the Sustainable Development Goals Agenda back in 2015. The commitments – known as Agenda 2030 – set out new targets to follow on from the Millennium Development Goals.

Caritas and other advocates for the poor and marginalised were concerned by the declaration government ministers made at the end of a High-Level Political Forum held at the UN in New York. Caritas Lebanon had presented its experience at the main plenary there. Caritas said the

declaration “prompted uncertainty over whether principles will be effectively put into practice”.

Caritas felt there was not enough urgency on the part of ministers and highlighted the need for more focus on three pillars – sharing economic prosperity, ensuring social protection and environmental safeguarding – for progress to be made.

Caritas was closely involved in the negotiations which led to Agenda 2030 – the world’s strongest mandate for bringing about a world without poverty, hunger and inequality. In 2018, it worked

with CINGO – Catholic-inspired groups focused on the right to development in support of Agenda 2030.

Caritas works on the ground to bring Agenda 2030’s commitments into being, providing permanent water supplies to drought-afflicted areas of Tanzania and helping people in Papua New Guinea prevent their land from being taken to grow palm oil.

Caritas Denmark developed partnerships with Danish companies to incorporate green technology into development programmes, producing solar-powered sacks to filter water and solar powered stoves.

# Emergency response

Soro Steward worked for Caritas in South Sudan before he was forced to flee, and now helps his fellow refugees in Uganda.  
Tommy Trenchard/Caritas



**Caritas Internationalis launched 35 appeals during 2018 – for emergencies, rapid responses, and protracted crises – delivering humanitarian help to more than 1.2 million people.**

## Gaza

Caritas Jerusalem appealed for funds to buy emergency cancer drugs and pain relief for Palestinians in Gaza. Many were children. The appeal was made by Sr. Bridget Tighe, director of Caritas Jerusalem, after a visit to health centres in Gaza. Sr. Bridget heard about deepening poverty in Gaza and saw many children begging in the streets.

Caritas concentrated on medical support, including mobile medical teams and emergency trauma clinics. Trócaire funded a project to de-worm 6,000 small children and supply them with fortified biscuits.

At a special session of the Human Rights Council in Geneva in May, Caritas Internationalis expressed concern at the violence at the Gaza-Israel border and said “peaceful protest was a legitimate exercise”.



Caritas Jerusalem director Sr. Bridget Tighe visits local communities in Gaza affected by worsening poverty.  
John McColgan/Trócaire

# Venezuela



Caritas provided food to children in Venezuela as malnutrition rates rose.  
Caritas

The average Venezuelan lost 10 kilogrammes of weight in 2018. And they also lost at least one family member to another country, forced to join the three million migrants escaping the relentless economic crisis.

“Life in Venezuela has collapsed,” said Janeth Márquez, director of Caritas Venezuela. “No one is left unscathed. Caritas staff members face the same challenges – they too have children who are undernourished. People are kidnapped and a ransom demanded in food, diseases like measles are back and our problems affect neighbouring countries.”

Venezuelans have kept going by selling off anything they can for food, which can double in price overnight, or medicines – 85 percent of which are unavailable. Caritas Venezuela worked to stockpile those it could and to

monitor the weight of children under five. Out of 15,000 children assessed at Caritas clinics for one survey, 65 percent were undernourished.

The Caritas clinics were run by volunteer doctors like Luisa Carlotta Castillo and Albina Rosas, who dispensed nutritionally-enhanced drinks to children and showed their parents how to keep them, and the water they use, clean. Soap has become a luxury and diarrhoea a killer of weak daughters and sons. Such Caritas volunteers doubled to 20,000 in a year in 2018.

In conjunction with local dioceses, Caritas staff and volunteers increased the number of community kitchens. They targeted the most vulnerable – the young and the elderly – left behind in the mass migration. But everyone was welcome – because everyone was hungry.

# Philippines

Super-typhoon Mangkhut affected over one and a half million people when it tore through the Philippines’ main island of Luzon in September. Investment in disaster-preparedness meant Caritas was able to mount a rapid response.

“Immediately, we were able to provide more than 3,000 people with food relief in the six hardest-hit dioceses,” said Fr. Edwin Gariguez, the Executive Secretary of NASSA, Caritas in the Philippines.

Caritas, working alongside other agencies and the government, had trained and rehearsed emergency scenarios and evacuation centres were ready, with emergency relief kits already pre-positioned. Caritas also quickly began transferring cash to disaster-affected families.



Families struggled after severe weather destroyed livelihoods in the Philippines.  
Syrel Espineda/Caritas Philippines

## Cameroon

A devastating crisis engulfed much of the English-speaking south-west of Cameroon in 2018. Communities were devastated and villages emptied as fighting raged between largely Francophone government forces and English-speaking rebels seeking independence.

Caritas Nigeria counted tens of thousands of refugees as they fled over the border to escape what Cameroon's bishops described as "blind, inhuman, monstrous violence". Caritas mobilised its networks throughout Nigeria's border states and within Cameroon to deliver emergency relief.



Aid reached remote areas of Nigeria where people had fled violence in Cameroon.  
Sam Phelps/Caritas



Caritas has made improvements in overly congested settlement areas in Bangladesh to make it safer for Rohingya refugee families living there. Ismail Ferdous/Catholic Relief Services

## Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh

The Caritas family stood in solidarity with Caritas Bangladesh as it wrestled with the massive influx of Rohingya people fleeing ethnic hatred and violence in Myanmar.

By October 2018, Caritas had reached almost 500,000 people with humanitarian relief and had constructed wells, drainage, latrines and lighting in refugee camps. Caritas also developed a programme of "barefoot counsellors" who trained communities in avoiding trafficking and gender-based violence, as the overwhelming majority of the refugees were women and children.

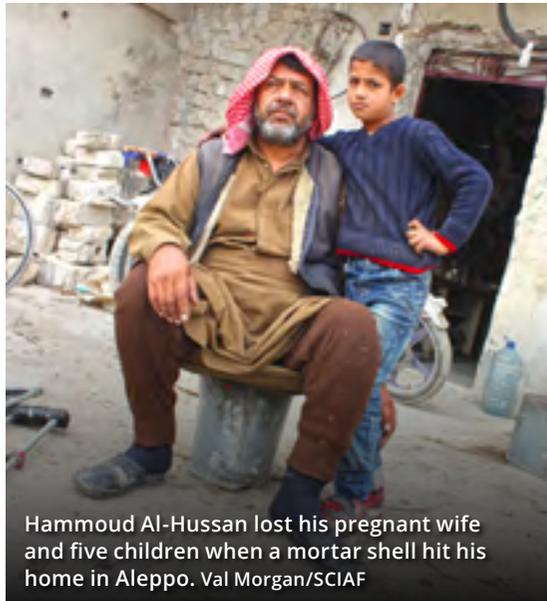
Caritas Bangladesh led a response which put Rohingya themselves at the centre of work to reinforce shelters ahead of the often harsh monsoon season. Caritas' stronger shelters used local materials and refugees were trained to do the construction work themselves.

Fifty-year-old Hasina volunteered to take part. "Caritas experts showed us what to do. First, the rain came through. But we corrected our mistakes and the shelter stood up to it. I'm feeling very proud," she said.

## Syria and Iraq

2018 saw the eighth year of conflict in Syria, with over 13 million people in need of humanitarian assistance. Caritas Syria expanded its work in Aleppo, where basic shelter and services remained precarious as thousands of families continued to return after the 2016 end of the siege. Caritas programmes offered them support to rebuild dignified and resilient lives.

Intense fighting brought five years of siege to an end in Ghouta near Damascus in April. Amid massive destruction, Caritas gave families



Hammoud Al-Hussan lost his pregnant wife and five children when a mortar shell hit his home in Aleppo. Val Morgan/SCIAF

food, fuel, clothes and nappies, working in partnership with the local Muslim charity, Hifz al-Neema, or "Save the Grace".

Syrian refugees in neighbouring countries continued to receive Caritas' support, as did vulnerable local people. Caritas Jordan, Caritas Lebanon and Caritas Turkey provided food, medical help and support with education and skills training. Caritas Cyprus also aided refugees who began arriving on the island from Syria and Iraq.

In Iraq, nearly 1.9 million people remained displaced and the rate of those returning to their homes slowed. Caritas Iraq continued to help them with their emergency needs while increasing its focus on their longer term resilience.

Overall, 28 Caritas organisations are working in or supporting the emergency response in Syria, Iraq and neighbouring countries, where 2,100 staff and 4,100 volunteers help 2.1 million people a year through \$266 million in programming.

Caritas works there with other Church and faith-based organisations and with civil society. The Vatican's Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development brought more than 50 Catholic institutions together in Rome in September to discuss priorities for future work in Syria and Iraq.

Caritas distributed food to victims of Kerala floods, declared as the Indian state's worst flood in living memory. Patrick Hansda/Caritas India

## India

Caritas distributed food to survivors of the worst flooding in over a century in the South Indian state of Kerala. After months of heavy rain, dams had to be opened in August and half a million homes were submerged, leaving more than two million people displaced. They returned to devastation, with some homes completely filled with mud.

Caritas India began its response to the floods when the rains started causing misery in June. It moved to search and rescue operations and emergency distributions, reaching nearly 40,000 families. "Our teams made it to the most isolated areas where the most vulnerable low-caste and tribal people live," said Fr. Paul Moonjely, director of Caritas India.

Next, a rehabilitation programme began helping victims with shelter, rebuilding livelihoods, access to clean water, reconstruction and job creation. Child-friendly spaces also opened in villages, with baby and sanitary supplies and school-going kits distributed to women and girls.



A cash distribution in a village in Dinajpur district, Bangladesh.  
Tommy Trenchard/  
Caritas

## Cash aid

Caritas pioneered using vouchers for development assistance at an agricultural fair in Uganda in 2001. Since then, member organisations have expanded the use of vouchers – as well as cash – to reach more people, more efficiently. The system gives people more decision-making power, more dignity and more protection for their local markets.

As many donors are now making additional funds available if they are distributed as cash and vouchers, Caritas developed a 2018 strategic framework to further grow this form of programming.

Caritas Ukraine helped 160,000 displaced people with \$22 million stored on cash withdrawal cards. Caritas Switzerland and Caritas Germany supported Caritas Jordan with cash grants for vulnerable Syrian refugees and local people. Caritas Lebanon enabled over 2,000 households to exchange cash and vouchers for food, clothes, household and agricultural supplies.

## Indonesia

The earthquake came first, registering a powerful 7.5 on the Richter scale. The tsunami brought waves that were six metres high. Friday, September 28 was a terrible day for Indonesians living on the island of Sulawesi. Thousands barely escaped with their lives, losing everything else. More than 2,000 people were killed and over 10,000 injured.

Karina, the national Caritas in Indonesia, procured essential food and household items for 6,000 families, as well as nearly 10,000 tarpaulins, for the initial phase of its

emergency response to almost 200,000 people in the first three months.

Indonesia's location in the Pacific "Ring of Fire", led to a month of earthquakes and aftershocks in August on the island of Lombok. More than 500 people were killed. Caritas responded with food, health care, hygiene kits, blankets and sleeping mats.

The year ended with further suffering after volcanic activity caused a tsunami that killed hundreds in December. Caritas provided food and medical aid.



Earthquakes and tsunamis caused widespread destruction in Indonesia.  
Karina



South Sudanese refugees in Uganda received training to set up their own businesses. Tommy Trenchard/ Caritas

## South Sudan

In South Sudan, a fifth year of violence and economic destruction further eroded people's capacity to survive. After October, peace accords did however, rekindle some hope. Over 10,000 people sought protection in the Catholic cathedral in Wau, where Caritas South Sudan helped them. Thousands more fled to other Catholic churches.

Caritas reached over two million people with food and safe water as part of an umbrella of humanitarian agencies striving to provide relief to over six million displaced or very hungry people. Caritas members such as Cordaid built

new infrastructure, which reduced the cost of trucking water overland.

Caritas Uganda also worked with needy refugees from South Sudan, providing training and fast growing seeds, with the result that two-thirds of the refugees it supported had excess produce to sell for income. Caritas helped refugees with training – from welding to tailoring – so they could earn money as well as knowledge to take home with them when it is safe to go. Refugees worked alongside members of the local community in carpentry workshops and in breeding chickens.

## Tonga

Caritas Tonga had to move fast when in February, Cyclone Gita hit the main island of the Pacific nation – Tongatapu – damaging or destroying over 4,500 homes and affecting 80 percent of the population. Caritas Tonga provided emergency relief and social support in partnership with the Tonga National Youth Council. Good use was made of years of disaster preparedness training in the Caritas Oceania region and pre-positioned supplies were already in place, funded by the New Zealand government.

Caritas Tonga also saw the rewards of long-term investment when cyclone resistant houses – built in 2017–2018 as part of a “Build Back Safer” scheme with Habitat for Humanity – came through largely unscathed. Reconstruction programmes following Cyclone Gita will use the same methods and materials while embedding new skills in local communities.



“Build Back Safer” shelter in Tonga came through Cyclone Gita largely unscathed. Martin de Jong/Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand

## Localisation

Caritas pressed ahead with extending what's known as "localisation". A quarter of humanitarian assistance funding should be given through local and national channels by 2020 and local communities will be better organised to respond.

Humanitarian organisations committed themselves to localisation as part of the Grand Bargain which came out of the first World Humanitarian Summit in Turkey in 2016.

In 2018, Caritas published a position paper which formalised its policy of working at the local level, affirming that its international member organisations will act in accordance with localisation principles when competing for core funding.



Nutrition centres in Venezuela are staffed by local volunteers. Caritas



Caritas staff reach worst hits part of the Central African Republic despite the raging conflict. Jiří Pász/Caritas

## Central African Republic

More than one million people were displaced from their homes, nearly two million were food insecure, two thirds of children needed humanitarian assistance and protection. In 2018, Central African Republic remained a very distressed country, with violence once again on the rise.

Caritas provided food, shelter and other life essentials, particularly to people living in makeshift camps. In some areas, Caritas was able to operate mobile clinics and give healthcare training. It ran community reintegration projects for children leaving armed groups and supported 65,000 others to stay at school.

In June, Caritas Internationalis expressed its grief and outrage at the murder of Fr. Firmin Gbagoua, Caritas director for

the diocese of Bambari. In November, two priests, Msgr. Blaise Mada and Fr. Célestin Ngoumbango, were among nearly 50 people killed in an attack on the Catholic cathedral in Alindao.

Religious leaders continued to strive for peace and were recognised with a leading international award for their efforts. Caritas Central African Republic's President, Cardinal Dieudonné Nzapalainga, was awarded the Eliasson Global Leadership Prize jointly with his fellow members of the CAR Interfaith Peace Platform, Imam Oumar Kobine Layama and Pastor Nicolas Guérékoyame-Gbangou.

Caritas Internationalis, in partnership with the World Evangelical Alliance, kept attention focused on the crisis with statements and side events at the Human Rights Council in Geneva.

## East and West Africa

Caritas appealed for urgent assistance for six million people hit by drought in Chad, Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Senegal. Severe malnutrition stalked over one and a half million children.

CADEV/Caritas Niger strengthened the resilience of 1,500 households with cash transfers, while support from Catholic Relief Services enabled a peanut oil processing cooperative to flourish, providing jobs and income.

In Burkina Faso, Abbé Constantin Safanitié Sere, Secretary General of Caritas Burkina, said rising cereal prices and conflict had added to people's suffering. Caritas assisted some of the most vulnerable with food assistance and livelihood protection.

Caritas responded quickly to worsening drought conditions in Ethiopia to prevent hunger.  
Nancy McNally/  
Catholic Relief Services

Caritas Mauritania targeted severe acute malnutrition as rates hit their highest since 2008. It expressed concern that as funding became scarce, suffering would be "prioritised", with authorities facing a choice of who would be allowed to die.

The threat of famine also stalked East Africa and the Horn in 2018, as conflict and drought led to extreme hunger. Caritas strived to respond to the huge demand of up to 35 million people needing urgent food assistance.

Somalia was a priority, alongside areas of southern Ethiopia where Caritas supplemented its humanitarian aid with programmes to help people build resilience in the face of climate-induced disaster. While early action in the face of a crisis was important, so were projects to provide jobs.

Paul Jeffrey/Caritas

## Coordination

Staff from the Caritas Emergency Response Team and the Toolkit Working Group trained 60 staff in Africa, Asia and the Middle East and North Africa Caritas regions to themselves be trainers for the confederation's emergency protocols and toolkit.

In response to the massive humanitarian crises in Bangladesh, India and Indonesia in 2018, another strengthening device – the Protocol for Coordination in Emergency Response – was activated. Technical experts were also deployed to Bangladesh, India, Mongolia and Ukraine through Caritas mechanisms to back up member organisations facing particularly difficult challenges.

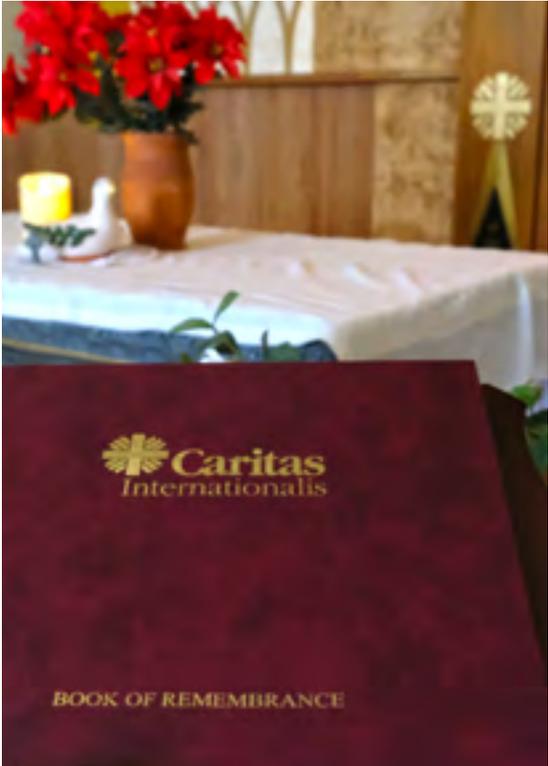
The mapping of crises and the Caritas response to them was greatly developed in 2018, proving an important institutional development tool. Countries and regions mapped included the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, Somalia, South Sudan, the nations around Lake Chad, Syria, Lebanon, Iraq, Jordan, Ukraine and Venezuela and its neighbours.



# Strengthening Caritas

**Caritas continued its multi-pronged approach to strengthening the confederation and building capacity at the national and regional levels.**

Since its registration in 2010, Caritas Nigeria has reached millions of people with the support of Caritas confederation member organisations.  
Sam Phelps/Caritas



The Caritas book of remembrance in our chapel in the Vatican, where supporters can offer prayers for loved ones. Patrick Nicholson/Caritas

## Fundraising

With the message “A Legacy of Love”, the CI Fundraising Team launched a new guide, developed with the Communications Team, which covered how to leave a gift to further the work of Caritas.

## Women in Caritas

The new Caritas Working Group on Women has been carrying out a survey of all women staff for a report on the status of women in Caritas. Male staff members have also been invited to contribute. The Working Group on Women has representatives of all seven Caritas regions and is planning a Women's Forum just before the May 2019 General Assembly.

Caritas supported the World Union of Catholic Women's Organisations at its General Assembly in Senegal in October. Care for creation and trafficking were discussed by 450 women participants. Caritas and WUCWO earlier launched an anti-trafficking project in southern Africa in cooperation with Thalita Kum, the International Network of Consecrated Life Against Trafficking in Persons.



Caritas staff celebrate International Women's Day. Myra Soetandyo/Caritas

Designing safe camps is at the centre of Caritas work for Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh. Ismail Ferdous/ Catholic Relief Services



## Safeguarding and protection

Caritas Internationalis is committed to a working environment free from intimidation, hostility, humiliation and bullying. Caritas is also determined to protect both the people who work with us – and those we serve – from any form of harassment, exploitation and abuse.

Caritas has put in place a comprehensive Complaints Handling Policy and Procedure for its General Secretariat, which also provides a template for member organisations to extend their own existing mechanisms. It encourages the identification and challenging of all improper behaviour and provides assurances that any person reporting wrong-doing is taken

seriously and is supported in total confidence, with no fear of retaliation.

A Complaints Handling Officer post has been created. In addition, the new Caritas Internationalis Children and Vulnerable Adults Safeguarding Policy and the Anti-Harassment Policy were both made compulsory in 2018 for all members, demonstrating our firm commitment to zero-tolerance of sexual exploitation, abuse and fraud.

Caritas is to provide access to expert investigators who member organisations can call on if needed and is helping to develop an inter-agency misconduct disclosure scheme for greater staff screening during recruitment.

## Caritas identity

“It is a story book that invites the reader to join the characters on a pilgrimage. It is a door that welcomes everyone to the heart, mind, soul, hands and feet of a living body”. These were the words of Caritas President Cardinal Tagle, welcoming the publication of a new booklet on the identity and mission of Caritas.



The booklet, *Serving Out of Love*, tells stories and offers guidance alongside answering frequently-asked questions about Caritas. The lives and beliefs of the patron saints of Caritas are detailed as examples to follow. While it is already available in all three languages of the confederation, the booklet is also being translated into other languages including Chinese and Japanese.

In 2018, bishops continued to respond to the open invitation to visit the Caritas Internationalis General Secretariat when coming to Rome on *ad limina* visits. Bishops from Burkina Faso, Pakistan, Nigeria, Myanmar, Iran, Haiti and the Antilles, among others, visited in 2018.

## Caritas Youth Forum

A pioneering Synod for Youth was held in Rome in October to reflect the growing number of young people who – because of their faith – are working for social justice. The Synod focused on their thoughts and how the Catholic Church should respond to them. A Caritas statement on the synod incorporated the main concerns raised by Caritas’ young leaders. These included fostering a caring, welcoming and attractive Church, understanding and promoting young people’s participation

and encouraging them to take part in confederation-wide activities.

The Caritas Youth Forum is a space for young adults, both staff and volunteers, who operate at parish, community, national and international levels. As part of their commitment, young leaders from across the confederation met in Rome to devise a three-year work plan. The Caritas Youth Forum aims to provide a platform to celebrate young people’s action and inspire other youth groups to get involved.



Young Caritas volunteers and Cardinal Tagle in Panama for World Youth Day. Caritas

## Communications

A Caritas photo story featured  
in the National Geographic.  
Katie Orlinsky/Caritas



The Communications Department at the Caritas Internationalis General Secretariat in Rome focused on strengthening the confederation with support to campaigns, advocacy, training and profile-raising alongside media outreach.

Over 50 communications officers from member organisations took part in training in Jordan, Costa Rica and Thailand. Caritas' Communications Manual was revised to include new sections on Social Media and Caritas Baobab.

Strong communications support was given to the Share the Journey Campaign for the Global Week of Action in June and the launch of the Global Pilgrimage Walk with films, a tool kit with campaigning ideas and the creation of an online totaliser where walkers can insert the

distances covered. Caritas collaborated with Vatican News on short films and spreading the word about the campaign.

A film was also made on the life of Caritas' patron, Saint Romero, for his canonisation and continental bishops were supported in their statement on climate change.

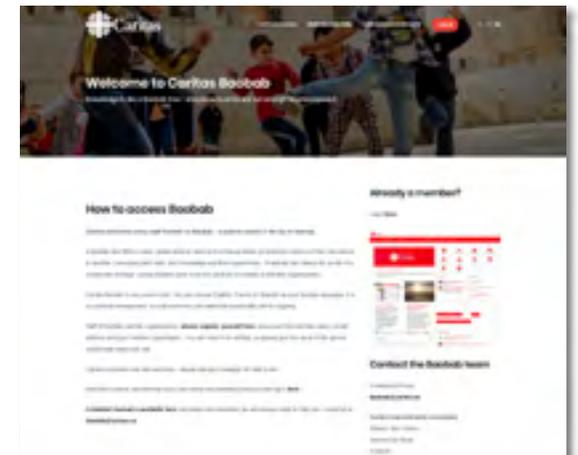
Members of the Communications Team produced material on crises such as the conflict in Kasai in the Democratic Republic of Congo, climate change and migration in Mongolia and Cardinal Tagle's visit to Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh. Media coverage included National Geographic, the Guardian, the BBC, Time magazine, and other national and Catholic publications.

Caritas held a Facebook Live event on International Women's Day in March.

## Knowledge sharing

Caritas' internal communications platform, Caritas Baobab, continued to expand in response to the needs of member organisations. They made 23,000 visits in 2018, uploading 8,500 files and creating 30 new working groups. Users grew by over 700 in 2018 to more than 1,400.

Alongside training on using the platform in the Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean and Middle East and North Africa Caritas regions, a new e-learning course on Caritas' Management Standards was developed. Personalised calendars were created for each Caritas region, as were a mobile app and a new tool which showed up-to-date pledges to emergency appeals.



# Institutional development and capacity strengthening

Four years of applying and tailoring the new Caritas Internationalis Management Standards were concluded with an evaluation and the decision to make them officially effective across the confederation in January, 2019, integrated into the process of capacity strengthening.

By the end of 2018, 49 members completed the process or were ready to be assessed against the standards and 132 had adopted the Caritas Internationalis Code of Ethics and Code of Conduct

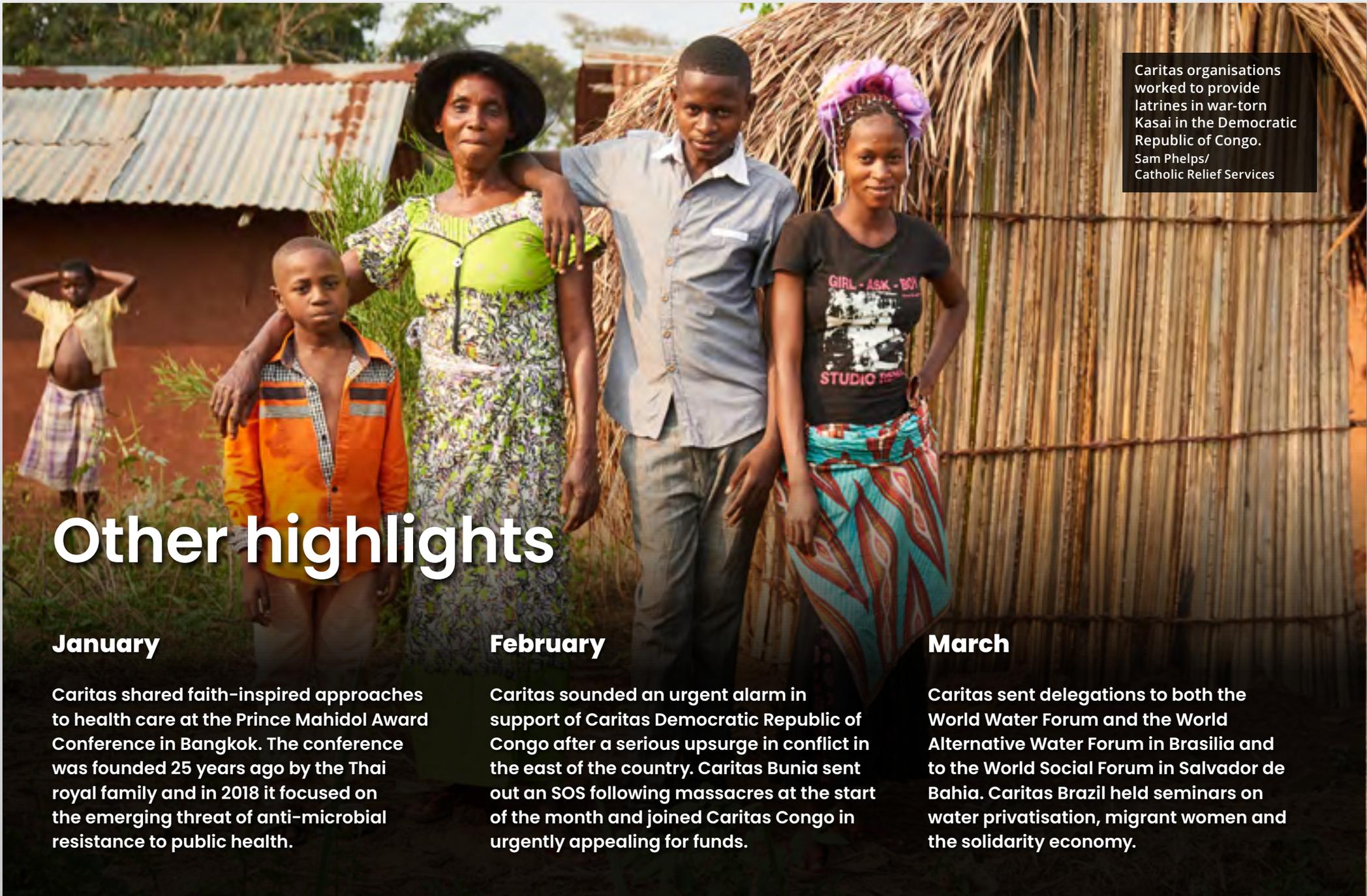
for Staff. Assessments had been successful in almost one-third of members. The assessment tool was itself revised, a risk assessment dimension brought in and the role of the Caritas regions enlarged.

Caritas Iran and Caritas Mongolia were supported through improvement plans. Caritas Africa and Caritas Asia consolidated their work on institutional development, risk management, Catholic identity and capacity strengthening and Caritas Middle East

and North Africa broadened its role of backing up its members.

The ongoing accompaniment of Caritas South Sudan has been successful, allowing it to respond effectively to the humanitarian crisis there. Peer to peer capacity strengthening took place in southern Africa with Caritas South Africa, Caritas Lesotho, Caritas Namibia and Caritas Swaziland taking part in organisational capacity strengthening training in Zambia.





Caritas organisations worked to provide latrines in war-torn Kasai in the Democratic Republic of Congo.  
Sam Phelps/  
Catholic Relief Services

# Other highlights

## January

Caritas shared faith-inspired approaches to health care at the Prince Mahidol Award Conference in Bangkok. The conference was founded 25 years ago by the Thai royal family and in 2018 it focused on the emerging threat of anti-microbial resistance to public health.

## February

Caritas sounded an urgent alarm in support of Caritas Democratic Republic of Congo after a serious upsurge in conflict in the east of the country. Caritas Bunia sent out an SOS following massacres at the start of the month and joined Caritas Congo in urgently appealing for funds.

## March

Caritas sent delegations to both the World Water Forum and the World Alternative Water Forum in Brasilia and to the World Social Forum in Salvador de Bahia. Caritas Brazil held seminars on water privatisation, migrant women and the solidarity economy.



Caritas supports programmes aimed at reducing risks of extreme weather in Bangladesh. Gael Kerbaol/ Secours Catholique

## April

Caritas Internationalis and the Lutheran World Federation World Service held their second annual meeting. A declaration of intent to work together was signed when Pope Francis visited Sweden in 2016 for the ecumenical commemoration of the Reformation.

## May

The Democratic Republic of Congo suffered an outbreak of Ebola, to which Caritas Congo responded as part of a joint mobilisation with the government, the World Health Organization and other agencies. Caritas focused its efforts on prevention education, hygiene and sanitation amid concern that the outbreak had the potential to reach the capital, Kinshasa.

## June

Caritas Internationalis participated at the International Labour Conference in May and June. A joint project – The Future of Work, Labour after *Laudato Si'* – was approved to strengthen Caritas organisations around decent work in connection with caring for our common home.



At a food fair in Chad  
for people fleeing  
Boko Haram  
extremists.  
Michael Stulman/  
Catholic Relief Services

## July

Caritas Internationalis and Catholic Relief Services from the US supported the Vatican's third conference on "impact investing". This is ethical finance which both generates financial returns and addresses issues such as poverty and climate change.

## August

Caritas Fiji gave its credentials to the leadership of Caritas Oceania and is now on its way to becoming one of the newest members of the Caritas family.

## September

The crisis in the Lake Chad region was the focus of an international conference in Berlin. Caritas highlighted the need to protect women and girls from sexual violence and men and boys from forced recruitment.



Working in ecumenical partnership with the ACT Alliance, Caritas provides nutritional and healthcare to people living with HIV in Darfur. Mohammed Nouredin/ACT Caritas

## October

Caritas participated in the General Assembly of the ecumenical ACT Alliance in Sweden in October, which brings together a broad range of churches involved in humanitarian and development work.

## November

Caritas member organisations worldwide joined Pope Francis in marking his second World Day of the Poor on 18 November. The central message for 2018 was, "This poor man cried, and the Lord heard him".

## December

In collaboration with Caritas and others, Cardinal Peter Turkson, Prefect of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, spoke to pharmaceutical and diagnostic companies at the Vatican. Together, the Holy See and campaigners continued to press for the best possible drug formulations and testing tools for children with HIV.

# Accounts

Extreme weather in Bangladesh is forcing people to leave coastal homes.  
Gael Kerbaol/Secours Catholique



	2018 (€)	2017 (€)
General Secretariat administration & office costs	1,388,507	1,653,441
Regional Structures	483,492	650,153
Governance	349,452	374,688
1. Caritas at the heart of the Church	114,241	122,413
2. Save lives, rebuild communities	575,396	625,905
3. Promote sustainable integral human development	691,152	770,859
4. Build global solidarity	650,996	785,639
5. Make the Caritas confederation more effective	564,258	545,254
<b>Total Operational Expenditure</b>	<b>4,817,495</b>	<b>5,528,352</b>



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