



ANNUAL
REPORT
2020

 **Caritas**
Internationalis



Caritas Internationalis (CI) is a global confederation of 162 Catholic organisations whose work is inspired by the Gospel.

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF CARITAS INTERNATIONALIS

Cardinal Luis Antonio Gokim Tagle

The coronavirus pandemic marked the lives of billions of people across the world in 2020.

This time of universal suffering highlighted our shared human vulnerability. In particular, the pandemic exposed the plight of the poor and the great inequality that reigns in our world today.

However, as people fell sick in one country after another, and as different strains of the virus crossed the globe, we also realised how interconnected we all are. The pandemic showed us that it is only by recognising our interconnectivity and by promoting universal love and creative solidarity on a global level that we will all come out of this crisis.

The Caritas confederation stood united at this crucial moment. It found new ways of working and harnessed its energy to ensure that the poor and most vulnerable were not forgotten at a time when the world seem to be closing in on itself. Staff and volunteers risked their lives by going out to ensure marginalised people were aware of and protected against the deadly virus.

Pope Francis' encyclical letter Fratelli Tutti alerted us to the threats to universal openness and reminded us, as Caritas, that our closeness to the poor is more important than ever.

The COVID-19 pandemic has shown us how desperately our world and the human family need global healing. As we face the future, our Caritas family moves forward, committed to laying the path of faith, hope and love that will help us build a fairer and healthier world together.

“None of our acts of love will be lost, nor any of our acts of sincere concern for others”

(Fratelli Tutti 195)



MESSAGE FROM CARITAS INTERNATIONALIS SECRETARY GENERAL

Aloysius John

The year 2020 was a time of challenge for Caritas Internationalis. Our energy and activities turned to addressing the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic while at the same time continuing to respond to emergency needs around the world.

Service to the poor and needy was our guiding force, and thanks to the commitment and engagement of the whole confederation, Caritas continued its mission effectively. Reflecting on the COVID-19 pandemic during an audience in March 2020, Pope Francis said, "This pandemic marks a change of era, a new beginning. We must prepare the future with creative solidarity."

From the beginning, Caritas Internationalis put a crisis cell in place to track the progress of the pandemic and its effects in order to be able to regularly update member organisations (MOs) on the frontline. Coordination of information and timely communication with the network contributed to the effectiveness of the mission of Caritas. The pandemic revealed our interconnectedness and made all the more evident the need for solidarity. The COVID-19 Response Fund (CRF), created in collaboration with the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, gave the confederation the ability to express immediate solidarity in line with the Holy Father's wishes.

Caritas continued to promote safeguarding policies and guidelines to ensure its commitment to protecting the interests of the most vulnerable whom we serve.

Responding to emergencies and the development of member organisations needing continued support were key priorities.

The protracted crisis in Syria was a serious concern, aggravated by unilateral international sanctions. Caritas stood side by side with these victims, working to protect their human dignity both in Syria and in the refugee camps. Of equal concern was the need to support the Rohingyas, and Caritas volunteers braved many challenges through their work in camps.

The blast in Beirut was a fatal blow, and the Caritas confederation showed unconditional solidarity with and support to the survivors. Caritas Lebanon Youth demonstrated their capacity to mobilise their energy to support the victims.

At the heart of the Church, Caritas continued to witness unconditional love, care and concern for all in the spirit of *Fratelli Tutti*, building living communities of solidarity.

2021 will be another challenging year; however, the confederation will continue to strive to support those most in need.





Caritas at the heart of the Church

LET THE POOR EVANGELISE US

Caritas is at the heart of the Church, and the poor are at the heart of Caritas. Caritas Internationalis staff and volunteers “serve out of love” in many of the forgotten places of the world.

Through our work and by giving ourselves freely, Caritas wants to unite people in solidarity and create a global conscience that enables us to see the poor with our hearts and be transformed by them.

Our member organisations work in communion, and we reach out to form bonds and networks with other Church entities to increase the reach and impact of our mission.

In 2020, the General Secretariat of CI worked more closely with the Holy See, in particular the Secretariat of State and the Dicastery for the Promotion of Integral Human Development, contributing the Caritas perspective to discussions around global issues such as climate change, food security, migration and health.

Caritas joined forces with the Dicastery for the Promotion of Integral Human Development to participate in the Vatican COVID-19 Commission, established at the request of Pope Francis. The Dicastery and CI created a special fund to finance projects in the poorest countries hit by COVID-19. The fund was instrumental in engaging and supporting local Church structures in the most vulnerable communities in their response to the pandemic.

Caritas Internationalis helped strengthen communion and coordination within the Church in the service of charity by encouraging regional commissions and national Caritas to work with their respective Bishops' Conferences. In that regard, the collaborations between Caritas Africa and the African Bishops' Conference (SECAM), Caritas Asia and the Asian Bishops' Conference, Caritas Latin America and the Caribbean and the region's bishops' conference

(SELAM), and Caritas Europa and COMECE have all progressed.

On the World Day of the Poor (15th November), we emphasised that it was a special day of the poor rather than for the poor. Caritas members in places such as Brazil, Taiwan, South Africa, North America, Bolivia, Venezuela and Peru, were creative in producing materials for spiritual animation and liturgical celebration involving people living in poverty.

We continued to make our confederation stronger with a specific focus on our shared Catholic identity. Caritas Internationalis' General Secretariat in Rome set up a Catholic Identity Committee with a representative from each region. The Committee is a forum for dialogue, reflection and exchanges about what Caritas stands for and the spirit which inspires its work.

Each region was accompanied in creating a reference group on Catholic identity to support “formation of the heart” and nurture spirituality among Caritas volunteers and staff across the world. The groups also focused on promoting theology and Catholic Social teaching, which are at the roots of Caritas' humanitarian and social development.

“We are called to find Christ in the poor, to lend our voice to their causes, but also to be their friends, to listen to them, to speak for them and to embrace the mysterious wisdom which God wishes to share with us through them.”

Evangelii Gaudium by Pope Francis



Reduce risk,
save lives, rebuild
communities

THE YEAR WHEN A PANDEMIC SWEPT ACROSS THE WORLD

The COVID-19 pandemic presented the world with one of its biggest challenges in living memory. As millions of people were infected with and died from the coronavirus, Caritas member organisations in countries across the world were responding on the frontline of this global emergency.

Even though movement was restricted and funds were tight, local Caritas staff were out risking their own lives to ensure people had food, personal protective equipment and were aware of the dangers of the virus and how to protect themselves from it.

The COVID-19 Response Fund

Together with the Vatican's Dicastery for Integral Human Development, Caritas Internationalis launched the COVID-19 Response Fund. It ensured Caritas' grassroots organisations could provide immediate and effective responses to support communities with hygiene, food, medicines and awareness-raising information about COVID prevention.



In its first round of projects, the CRF injected over €2.7M into 29 Caritas organisations which, as a result of this, were able to help over 11 million people in 29 countries in 2020.





Caritas Bangladesh reaches out to restaurants to feed the hungry during the pandemic

The challenges and restrictions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic called for creativity in serving the poor across the world. People in fragile situations were hit hard by decreased incomes and limited opportunities to work. Millions of people worldwide were pushed further into poverty and lacked the means to pay for food, basic necessities and rent.

As part of the SMILE project, Caritas Chattogram in Bangladesh was already supporting marginalised groups such as people suffering from addiction and those working in prostitution. The project offered them a place to sleep and help with medical and social services, at their drop-in centre.

People such as Moni*¹, who had had a troubled life of abuse and had lost her three children, had turned to prostitution to make ends meet. She was one such person who benefited from Caritas' help. SMILE enabled Moni to receive nutritious food, counselling, and hygiene support, and provided her with training and financial support to start a sewing business.

However, Moni became increasingly isolated and impoverished as the coronavirus pandemic swept across Bangladesh, and the government imposed a 10-week lockdown.

In April 2020, Caritas Bangladesh teamed up with the owners of two restaurants who agreed to serve hot and nutritious daily meals to those who depended on the drop-in centre's help. The restaurant owners showed solidarity by covering half the costs – and not taking any profit – while Caritas covered the other half.

Thanks to this programme, Moni and her husband were able to rely on hot daily meals during the pandemic. They really needed the food as they had welcomed a new child into their lives during the lockdown.

¹ Name changed to protect identity



COVID-19 solidarity in South Africa is the “living Gospel”

In South Africa, the COVID-19 pandemic pushed more than 3 million people into poverty and unemployment in 2020, thus enlarging the gap between the rich and the poor.

A strict lockdown caused unimaginable hardships, particularly for impoverished and marginalised communities. Migrants, refugees, asylum seekers and undocumented people were especially at risk as their residence status excluded them from accessing the South African social system. Their vulnerabilities became more acute if they were single parents trying to support a family.

Caritas South Africa mainly focused on these “forgotten groups” through its CRF programme during the height of the Southern Hemisphere winter months (June to August).

Caritas South Africa assisted more than 12,000 vulnerable people in six dioceses, providing nutritional supplements, food, hygiene products, blankets and winter clothing.

Among the people served by Caritas, there was a mother who had migrated from Angola. “I was praying every day for a miracle so I could feed my six children,” she said. “They were going to bed hungry, and all I could do was give them hot water with sugar. This virus took everything away from my family and me.”

“When I received the phone call from Caritas, my prayers were answered. That evening I knew that my children would not go to bed hungry.”

Many of those helped by Caritas said that they didn't have the means to buy sanitisers, blankets and masks. However, despite the lack of equipment to protect themselves from infection, their main concern was food.

Sr. Maria Rissini, director of Caritas South Africa said, “This support is the living Gospel: I was hungry, and you fed me. I was feeling cold, and you gave me a blanket. I am suffering because of the pandemic, and you gave me sanitisers, soaps and masks to save and protect me!”

Protecting the physical and mental health of the elderly in Bolivia

The elderly, especially people with underlying health conditions, were particularly vulnerable to the coronavirus. They also risked becoming isolated as they often live alone or in care homes.

Four months after COVID-19 had taken hold in Bolivia, reports said that 52.6 per cent of those who had died from the virus were over 60 years old.

Caritas Bolivia received €97,000 from the CRF to boost and protect the mental and physical health of the elderly in Bolivia and reduce the risk of contracting the virus.

In coordination with diocesan Caritas organisations, Caritas Bolivia provided assistance to senior citizens in 19 Catholic-run care homes in the country, focusing on providing healthy food, vitamin supplements, medicines and hygiene items. Staff and residents also received personal protective equipment.

“While the Government was planning public policies to resolve the critical situation of the pandemic, Caritas responded to the emotional and psychological health of our families,” said Marcela Rabaza Valverde, Executive Secretary of Caritas Bolivia.

Depression affected 62 per cent of care home residents and 48 per cent of staff as the virus worsened in the country. Poor mental health also had an impact on physical health, as people neglected their diet and exercise, which affected their immune system.

Caritas sent psychologists to visit residents in 15 care homes to give personal and group therapy to help them deal with the emotional fragility caused by the pandemic.



“The project gave us the opportunity to know how the COVID pandemic was affecting the elderly and generate new techniques and methodologies to reduce the impact on them. It also helped us plan for the future so the elderly would be less affected,” said Marcela Rabaza Valverde.

Country-wide solidarity in Rwanda boosts Caritas' ability to help the needy

A rapidly spreading virus, lockdown and considerable disruption to daily life meant Caritas Rwanda had to think outside the box and act fast when they required increased funding to respond to the challenge of COVID-19.

In April 2020, they called on people in parishes across the country to give cash and in-kind donations to support the poorest people who had very few resources to face lockdown and the resulting lack of work.

The result was astonishing. Caritas supporters gave over €160,000 (160 million Rwandan francs) to provide food and hygiene products, build handwashing stations, and promote health messages to help the neediest people face the pandemic. Caritas staff led by example and gave a regular monthly donation to the Caritas Rwanda Charity Fund to support coronavirus programmes.

Additional concerns for Caritas Rwanda were the short- and long-term impacts of less food and poorer nutrition on young children. Through the Voice for Change programme, they joined other development agencies to lobby the Government to boost nutritional support for children under five. Caritas Rwanda says the main aspects of their success and of their quick and effective response to the coronavirus pandemic were:

- ✓ The Catholic Church's extensive grassroots network through which to share messages;
- ✓ Consistent, powerful and clear communication with communities through social and traditional media;
- ✓ An established social protection framework;
- ✓ Strong governance and a strong partnership between Caritas and the Rwandan Government;
- ✓ Shared values and a common goal.



Emergency Appeals

In 2020 Caritas Internationalis mobilised € 21 million to serve 1,321,831 people facing emergency situations around the world.

When the world was focused on COVID-19, Caritas stayed with the vulnerable and marginalised in the forgotten crises where everyday survival was an ongoing struggle for millions.

Coordination saves lives, and with a grassroots presence in 200 countries and territories, Caritas Internationalis is part of communities before, during and after emergencies.

Such crises included Venezuela's long-term humanitarian and political crisis and the massive exodus of refugees across the region. Between 2018 and 2020, 22 Caritas organisations supported 850,000 Venezuelans both in their land and in neighbouring countries which were providing food, shelter, health and education, among other things, to those who had fled.



YEMEN “The worst humanitarian crisis in the world”

CARITAS IN YEMEN

Caritas member organisations have been supporting people in Yemen for six years through partner organisations, providing food, supporting youth livelihoods, rehabilitating water and sanitation systems, supporting health centres and training young people. These programmes expanded to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 in 2020.

Yemen has been called, also by UN, “the worst humanitarian crisis in the world”. Six years of war and blockades have caused famine for millions and the destruction of homes, hospitals and health infrastructure. Eighty per cent of the population relies on humanitarian assistance.

The arrival of the coronavirus pandemic had a devastating impact on a country where millions already lacked adequate food, clean water and adequate healthcare.

There is no national Caritas in Yemen; however, Caritas Poland opened an office in Yemen in May 2020. Caritas organisations supported 130,000 people in three months in communities in Aden governorate to promote health and hygiene and prevent the spread of COVID-19.

“Access to water, sanitation and hygiene is key to saving lives and boosting the health of the people in Yemen. Half the population doesn't have access to safe drinking water, let alone water to wash their hands and prevent the spread of COVID-19,” said CI's Head of Operations.

“Caritas member organisations have been supporting Yemen for the past few years, but having a physical presence in the country means we can scale up programmes to save more lives in this protracted and often forgotten crisis.”



Caritas' programmes in 2020 included improved access to safe drinking water, establishing handwashing stations and providing hygiene kits in the community, as well as awareness-raising about how to stay safe during the pandemic. A jobs training programme focused on boosting the number of medical professionals and helping them find work.

LEBANON



A tragic summer of explosions, economic crisis and a deadly health threat

In August, massive explosions caused by chemicals stored in a warehouse in Beirut's port area killed more than 200 people and left over 300,000 people homeless in their destructive wake.

People were sleeping on the streets, and much of the primary healthcare system was either damaged or destroyed. Caritas Lebanon's help was crucial to supporting the population of a country already facing devastating economic and political crises, as well as the COVID-19 pandemic.

Caritas helped more than 200,000 people affected by the blasts from August to December 2020. It distributed

158,000 meals and provided medical care and medicines to more than 38,500 people in and around Beirut.

The participation of young volunteers in the response was vital. They went into communities, cleaned the streets, fixed up homes and gave out meals and medicines.

"As a volunteer at Caritas, I have experienced the suffering of the victims. We have slept on the streets to ensure that we can respond to all the urgent needs. If you do not sympathise with the sufferers, you can never understand their pain," says Lauren Khoury, a 23-year-old youth volunteer at Caritas Lebanon.

CENTRAL SAHEL -MALI, BURKINA FASO AND NIGER

▶ Caritas promotes longer-term humanitarian, development and peace response in Sahel

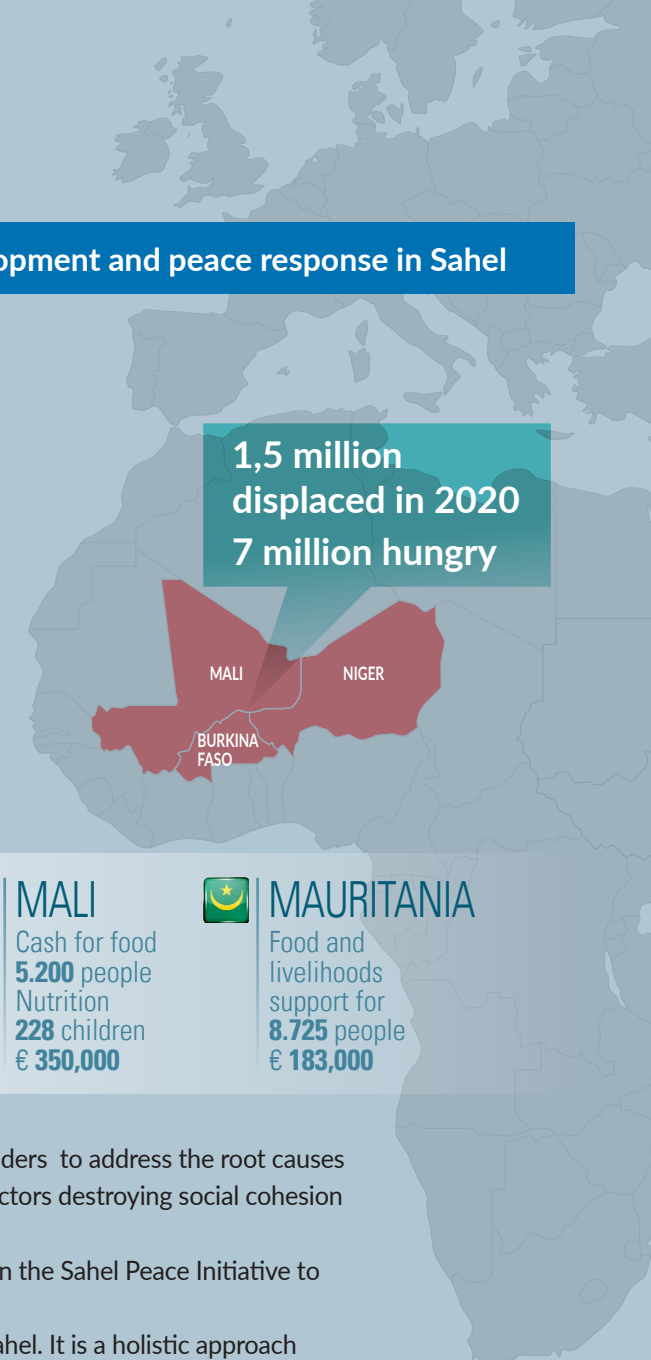
By 2020, the central Sahel crisis had become one of the world's fastest-growing humanitarian crises due to conflict, climate change, hunger and grinding poverty.

The security situation on the borders between Mali, Niger and Burkina Faso, the hardest-hit countries, deteriorated in 2020, causing people to flee their homes.

In January 2020 Caritas once again raised the alarm that more than seven million people in the Sahel would potentially face hunger and desperately needed help. It launched six-month emergency appeals for Niger, Burkina Faso and Mauritania to feed the many people who lacked food because of insecurity and other factors.

Such a protracted and complex situation requires a long-term commitment and funding from Caritas member organisations.

1,5 million displaced in 2020
7 million hungry



How Caritas helped:

 **NIGER**
Food for **25,000** people
€ **680,000**

 **BURKINA FASO**
Food for **11,500** people
€ **600,000**

 **MALI**
Cash for food **5,200** people
Nutrition **228** children
€ **350,000**

 **MAURITANIA**
Food and livelihoods support for **8,725** people
€ **183,000**

In October 2020, Caritas Internationalis urged governments and local leaders to address the root causes of the central Sahel crisis, urging them to find political solutions to the factors destroying social cohesion in the Sahel.

In November, Caritas member organisations supported Catholic leaders in the Sahel Peace Initiative to empower grassroots communities to promote peace and development.

Caritas is now implementing a long-term, multi-faceted strategy in the Sahel. It is a holistic approach which combines a humanitarian response to emergencies with development and peace initiatives to boost social cohesion and ensure that communities can build a brighter future for their children.



Integral Human Development and Care for Creation



Stop poor people paying the price of sanctions

Advocating for the lifting of economic sanctions in the Middle East and Venezuela was a pressing focus of Caritas' advocacy work in 2020.

Sanctions mean organisations struggle to transfer funds even to some of the most desperate humanitarian crises in the world, such as those in Syria and Venezuela, which in turn impacts their ability to help those who are suffering the most.

Working in partnership with other organisations, Caritas brought the issue of sanctions to the top of the international community's agenda, making governments more aware of the impact of restrictions on already-suffering populations. One result of this joint advocacy was the European Commission's creation of a focal point on sanctions during the COVID pandemic to help move the process forward.

“NGOs have to spend too much time on getting funds to Syria and other humanitarian hotspots, and they do not have clear guidelines for doing that. In reality, they should be focused on providing relief and alleviating the suffering of people in need, but the imposed limitations are adding unnecessary bureaucracy.”

Karam Abi Yazbeck, Regional Secretary of Caritas Middle East and North Africa.

Caritas urges the UN to work with grassroots organisations in COVID-19 response



Caritas Internationalis welcomed the launch of the United Nation's humanitarian response plan for COVID-19 in March 2020 and urged recognition of the valuable contribution of local civil society groups, particularly faith-based organisations, in the grassroots response to the pandemic.

Caritas Internationalis pressed the UN to adopt a "whole society approach" to COVID-19 and ensure funds reached organisations working at the community level. Many such organisations were on the frontline of the COVID response – including local Caritas organisations around the world.

Without multilateral cooperation at various levels, Caritas was concerned there would be delays in resources reaching the ground and that local organisations might have to bear a disproportionate burden in the response to the pandemic.

Debt cancellation for developing countries



While the world was dealing with a deadly pandemic, the debt crisis was pushing the poorest nations even further into poverty.

Inspired by Pope Francis' appeal to international organisations, governments and private creditors to cancel the debts of developing countries during the coronavirus pandemic, Caritas Internationalis took its first steps to mobilise the global confederation to take up the fight for debt relief.

A CI task force on debt, with members from Latin America, Africa, the Middle East and North Africa, started to lay the groundwork for a collective global response to this grave systemic injustice.

Enhancing paediatric HIV/AIDS awareness and testing in Nigeria and DRC

GRAIL - Galvanising Religious Actors for better Identification and Linkage to paediatric HIV

The GRAIL project works with religious leaders of local faith communities in Nigeria and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) to help them serve as a bridge within their communities. The project also identifies health centres that can carry out safe paediatric HIV case-finding and testing.

During a one-year pilot implementation of GRAIL, religious leaders reached more than 60,000 women, men and children with appropriate HIV-related messaging and referred 25,000 children aged five and under for proper testing in Nigeria and DRC.

The United Nations' UNAIDS agency and the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) granted GRAIL a two-year budget extension. This boosted actions in Nigeria and DRC and introduced the project to Côte d'Ivoire, Kenya and Tanzania – consequently strengthening the work of the respective national Caritas and Catholic Health Commissions on paediatric HIV prevention, case-finding and response.



Laudato Si': Caring for our planet, our common home

The papal encyclical *Laudato Si'*, published in 2015, made an urgent call to the world to hear the cry of the poor and the cry of the earth, and to come together to care for our common home. The letter highlighted how our lives, the lives of others, and life on the planet are interconnected and how our actions at personal, community and global levels can affect our environment and have a drastic impact on the lives of the poor.



Caritas marked the fifth anniversary of *Laudato Si'* by celebrating how the inspirational document has influenced its work at the grassroots across all continents.

In the first five years following the publication of the encyclical, Caritas organisations across the world saw increased awareness about how our lives and our actions are inextricably tied to the future of the human family on earth. For example:

- Caritas organisations in the Democratic Republic of Congo lobbied the government to stop petrol drilling and preserve forests.
- Caritas Aotearoa New Zealand launched a forest rehabilitation programme with the Maori community.
- Caritas Cambodia created a 'green' school with a solar water pump, a water purification system and an organic vegetable allotment.
- Caritas Poland paired 12 projects at the diocesan level with a 'Laudato Si' Mobile Embassy', which toured the country. The exhibition raised awareness in communities about how living an ecologically friendly life has a positive impact on the lives of the poor.
- Caritas Myanmar promoted a 'Green checklist' to help people make their homes and offices more environmentally friendly.

In a series of activities with the Catholic coalition *Coopération Internationale pour le Développement et la Solidarité (CIDSE)* and the Vatican's Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, Caritas member organisations showed how *Laudato Si'*-inspired projects from around the world were changing people's lives.

With the inspiration from *Laudato Si'* to care for our common home at the heart of our work, our goal is "to become painfully aware, to dare to turn what is happening to the world into our personal suffering and thus to discover what each of us can do about it".



*"The message of *Laudato Si'* resonates with more intensity at this moment when the coronavirus pandemic is shaking humanity. It is time for us to call for a new paradigm in the relationship between humankind and nature. The current crisis calls upon us to also increase our solidarity and efforts towards the most vulnerable."*

Mgrs. Justin, Bishop of Ouahigouya,
President of OCADES-Caritas Burkina.

Building global solidarity



In a global context where the COVID-19 pandemic challenged the world of communications, 2020 was a year of important changes for Caritas Internationalis' Communications Department.

A new Director for Communications arrived with a mandate to modernise Caritas communications both internally and externally. One of the major changes during the year was that the fundraising unit merged with the Communications Department. The Department also strengthened their links with the Dicastery for Communication and the Holy See Press Office.

In 2020, the Communications team bore witness to the Caritas confederation's global response to COVID-19 and gave a voice to those who, because of the pandemic and especially its severe economic consequences, became poorer, more vulnerable, and saw their rights denied.

The team's work found broad coverage in the international media, resulting in about 6,000 mentions of Caritas Internationalis mentions 2020. Several virtual press conferences and virtual meetings with ambassadors to the Holy See were also organised during the year to raise awareness of and draw attention to issues such as debt relief in low-income countries and the lifting of economic sanctions.

A general overview of Caritas' programmes around the world in response to the pandemic was offered in the booklet *Responding with Love During the COVID-19 Pandemic*, which was presented to Pope Francis as a sign of the work being done to fulfil the mission he has entrusted to Caritas.

At the same time, the challenge was to focus on the many other increasingly forgotten ongoing crises in a world where communication seemed to be entirely monopolised by COVID-19.

Fundraising



A GLOBAL NETWORK OF LOVE AND SUPPORT

The CI General Secretariat spends over 95% of funds raised on its mission of love, peace, justice and respecting and protecting creation.

In a context characterised by the global pandemic, Caritas Internationalis reported a meaningful step ahead in its relationships with its benefactors, building global solidarity by sharing how the work of Caritas benefits the most vulnerable people.

The Communications and Fundraising Department worked energetically to help the poorest most affected by the pandemic and by other “silent” crises. The Fundraising team managed resource-mobilisation activities and built relationships with donors to increase their engagement and support. Caritas Internationalis proactively worked on five areas for securing support for its programmes:

1. Promoting and inspiring acts of solidarity among external donors. CI doubled the number of donors involved in 2020 compared to 2019, and online acts of giving tripled.
2. Developing relationships with current donors and promoting unrestricted and recurring donations. Thanks to the generosity of its benefactors, Caritas Internationalis brought in €1,5 million from the private sector in 2020. Additionally, CI doubled the number of benefactors who decided to support us again in 2020 compared to the previous year.

3. Communicating effectively, especially by sharing beneficiary stories and testimonies from the field. CI has also fostered relationships with donors whereby they share their own experiences with Caritas.
4. Paying attention to values and ethics in raising funds; approaching benefactors with transparency and integrity.
5. Improving tools for making solidarity possible through the recently launched regular giving platform, the new data management system and a new marketing communication tool.

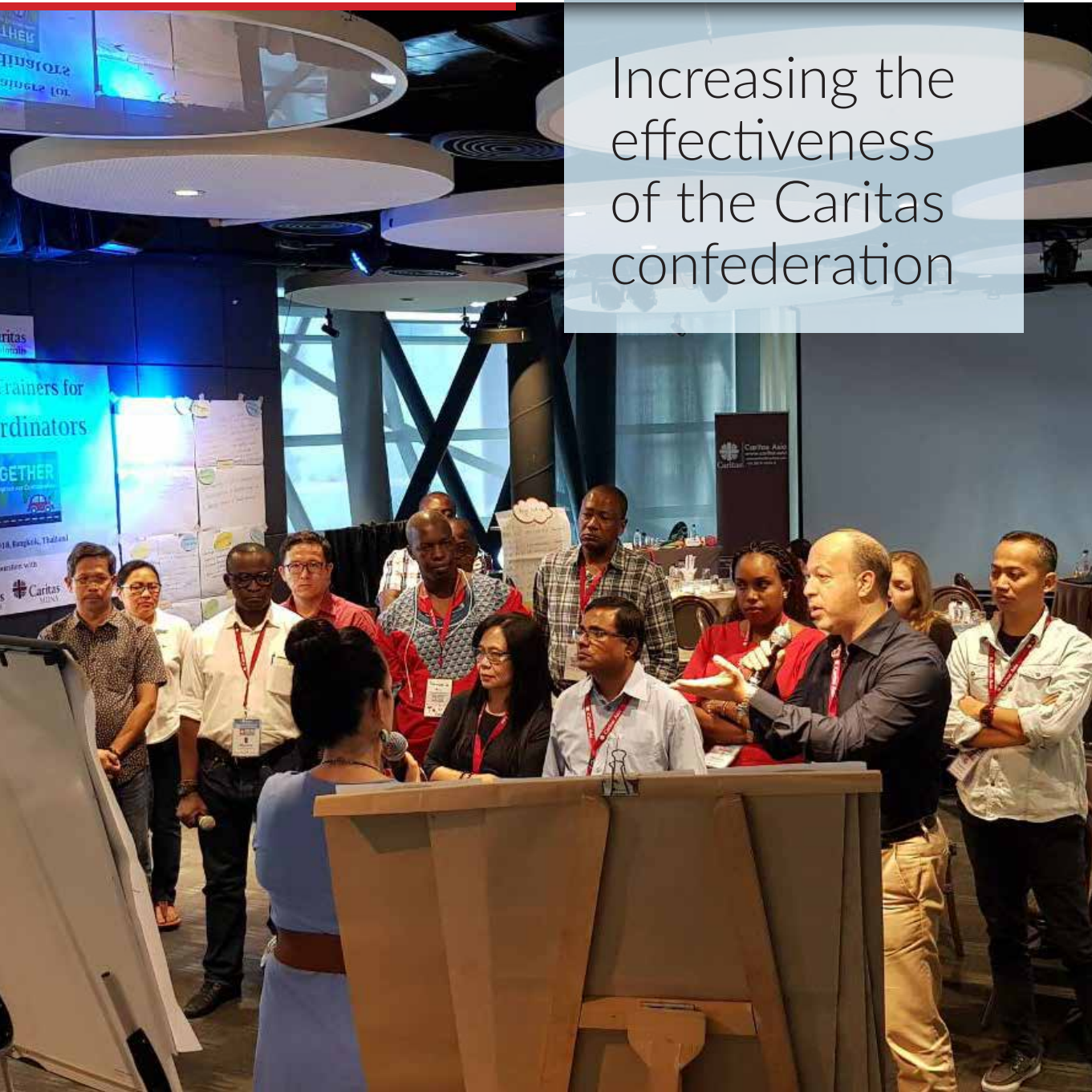
The number of people donating to Caritas Internationalis increased by over 100 per cent in 2020 as the public from around the world stepped up to help the poor through the COVID-19 crisis. This is the highest increase in the number of new donors to CI since fundraising began in 2009.

The Fundraising team therefore acted as a liaison between the world’s most vulnerable and donors, informing the latter and giving voice to the former.

As the world became more uncertain and challenging during 2020, Caritas launched a successful fundraising campaign to finance programmes working to protect vulnerable communities against the pandemic. Donors showed faith in Caritas’ global mission and overwhelming solidarity towards people less fortunate than themselves. As a result, revenue increased by 140 per cent.

Virtual solidarity, in the form of online giving saw a massive increase from €183,000 in 2019 to more than €405,000 in 2020. The most-supported causes were the appeal for Lebanon and the COVID-19 Response Fund.

Caritas offers warm thanks to the donors for their generosity and for making the confederation’s work possible during one of the most challenging years in recent history.



Increasing the effectiveness of the Caritas confederation

“Together we strengthen our confederation”

The COVID-19 pandemic meant it was more urgent than ever to strengthen the resilience and effectiveness of Caritas organisations so they could respond promptly and efficiently to local needs and emergencies. Caritas introduced a fifth Management Standard on safeguarding in 2020. It is a cross-cutting standard and

covers key safeguarding policies, systems, procedures and practices that Caritas member organisations need to have in place to uphold organisational accountability, transparency and protection. It is fully integrated into the Caritas Internationalis Management Standards tool.

Serving the poor with professionalism

The Management Standards were created in 2015 as a set of instruments to promote a high level of professional competency, good governance and accountability in the work of Caritas organisations. This was implemented in answer to Pope Benedict XVI’s call in “Deus Caritas Est” to serve with “professionalism and formation of the heart”.

The revised version of the Management Standards was approved in December 2020 and include:



77 MOs have been assessed and validated since 2016
66 MOs have ongoing improvement plans



Strengthening bonds with regions for a stronger network

Caritas Internationalis considers its seven regional offices key to strengthening the whole confederation.

The regional offices for Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, Middle East and North Africa, North America and Oceania helped develop and participate in the roll-out of global processes such as implementing the aforementioned Management Standard on safeguarding and supporting member organisations most in need.

Their role is crucial to ensure processes are adaptable to different parts of the world and to take into account different contexts and cultural sensitivities. By tailoring institutional development and capacity strengthening (IDCS) processes to the local and regional contexts, all stakeholders are “first actors” in the process and play a key role in endorsing and disseminating the process across the confederation. In this way, they also enhance opportunities for peer-to-peer learning.

“Through peer-to-peer support, we enhance south-south cooperation and create opportunities for permanent learning through field visits, sharing of best practices and mutual support.”

Albert Mashika,
Regional coordinator of Caritas Africa.

Organisational Development Solidarity fund

Empowering local Caritas organisations is a long-term strategic objective for the Caritas confederation. It increases their autonomy and efficiency and also means they can be effective participants in global solidarity.

In 2020, CI worked together with the regions to lay the groundwork for the Organisational Development Solidarity Fund. The fund is a way to support localisation efforts and strengthen the capacities of organisations acting in fragile contexts, enabling them to be better equipped to respond to the needs of their communities.

Priority consideration for funding is given to member organisations facing sustainability issues and those which do not have other sources of funding outside of the confederation.

“With the creation of this fund, we have taken a further step forward in the IDCS process globally: not only do we support and accompany member organisations during the assessment process, but also in the development and implementation of their improvement plan, keeping the members most in need at the centre of our concern.” Gabriel Hatti, President of Caritas MONA and the Review Committee.

By supporting and accompanying fragile and emerging member organisations, CI promotes the resilience and long-term sustainability of local organisations and encourages fraternal cooperation within the confederation.



Safeguarding



A culture of safeguarding and protection

In 2020, Caritas Internationalis ramped up its efforts to ensure the confederation exemplified a culture of safeguarding and protection.

Caritas produced guidance to promote safe recruitment across the confederation and has also implemented the Representative Council's decision to require the retroactive vetting of national and diocesan directors. In 2020, 128 national Caritas organisations did background checks on directors, guided by CI's procedures.

Caritas also maintained a focus on the problem of sexual abusers moving undetected within and between organisations. It has continued to actively promote the Inter-Agency Misconduct Disclosure Scheme of

the Steering Committee for Humanitarian Response (SCHR) across the confederation.

Caritas developed safeguarding training modules for staff and management in member organisations worldwide to encourage leadership and a proactive learning culture regarding protection within the confederation.

As the COVID-19 pandemic prevented in-person meetings, Caritas organised a series of webinars for management and safeguarding focal points. They focused on the challenges to safeguarding presented by the COVID-19 pandemic. A total of 111 Caritas member organisations joined the webinars, reaching a total of 318 participants and 25 regional secretariat staff.



Income statement Caritas Internationalis 2020

The mission of Caritas Internationalis is to promote cooperation among its 162 member organisations, so that they join forces in their work of assisting the poorest and most vulnerable people in the world in a spirit of charity and justice.

The following income statement shows the support Caritas Internationalis receives which enables it to fulfil its mission. Member organisations provide almost 50 per cent of the income through membership fees and voluntary contributions, while external donors contribute the other half.

The confederation's expenditure is entirely at the service of its mission, under which it carries out tasks of coordination, mobilisation, representation and the development of members' competencies.

The Rome-based CI General Secretariat's primary mandate is to convene its members, both informal governance bodies, and working structures which facilitate collaboration in different areas and topics to represent the confederation and its members at the global level and to ensure close cooperation with the Universal Church.

The second central task of the General Secretariat is to coordinate the implementation of the confederation's strategic plan, which is organised along the five strategic orientations outlined below.

Euro	2020	2019
Membership fees	2,029,628	1,933,637
Contributions		
Contributions from member organisations	3,553	4,528
Contributions from external donors	915,606	479,390
Legacies	170,244	956,537
Other Income	2,769	184
Total contributions unrestricted	3,121,800	3,374,274
Contributions from member organisations	293,777	301,113
Contributions from external donors	1,278,302	1,228,266
Total contributions temporarily restricted	1,572,079	1,529,379
Financial income		
Realised financial income	70,695	165,714
Unrealised financial income	251,538	6,599
Total financial income	322,233	172,313
TOTAL INCOME	5,016,112	5,075,967

Euro	2020	2019
Operational expenditure by strategic orientation		
General secretariat administration & office costs	1,429,014	1,675,659
Regional structures	468,890	548,073
Governance	13,500	65,355
1. Caritas at the heart of the Church	94,845	115,678
2. Reduce risk, save lives, rebuild communities	850,192	583,606
3. Promote sustainable integral human development and care for creation	629,545	691,494
4. Build global solidarity	461,727	802,343
5. Increase the effectiveness of the Caritas confederation	308,676	402,787
Total Operational Expenditure	4,256,390	4,884,995
Financial Expenditure		
Realised financial expenditure	24,502	4,708
Unrealised financial expenditure	116,241	0
Total financial expenditure	140,742	4,708
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	4,397,133	4,889,703
RESULT OF THE YEAR	618,979	186,263



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