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Caritas
Internationalis

Annual Report 2022

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Photo Credit - Caritas
Disaster relief assistance in the Philippines

Serving out of love

IDENTITY DRIVING OUR MISSION IN 2022

“The poor you will always have with you” (Mark 14:7)

The year 2022 has been characterised by the gradual recovery from COVID-19, the conflict in Ukraine and many other crises around the world where Caritas has been at service of the most vulnerable communities. Caritas acts with compassion and professionalism to protect the dignity of every person, not only by supporting the people in need but by journeying together with them for a better and more sustainable world.

From the grassroots (through parishes) to the global level (through the coordination role of the Regional Secretariats in Africa, Asia, Oceania, Europe, North America, Latin America and the Caribbean, the Middle East and North Africa, and the General Secretariat in the Vatican City) we are guided by our mission of fighting against poverty, responding to emergencies, promoting development, and advocating for peace and social justice everywhere in the world.

Whenever a disaster happens Caritas, as the social arm of the Church, is already on the field and ready to respond to the needs of affected persons regardless of their race, sex, origin, religion or belief. Caritas is part of the community and therefore accompanies people during and after an emergency happens. Caritas also remains with communities to implement longer-term programmes when needed.

The principles of Catholic Social Teaching are our compass for new and protracted crises in our communications, our advocacy work and in our commitment to increase the Confederation’s effectiveness.

When the war in Ukraine started, the principle of **solidarity** brought the entire Confederation to provide human, technical and financial support to help our Member Organisations respond to the needs of internally displaced persons and refugees within Ukraine and in neighbouring countries. Throughout the year, the principle of solidarity strengthened our work and partnerships, creating opportunities to journey together in fraternity and synodality, and enhancing mutual learning and enrichment within the Confederation.

After a volcanic eruption severely affected local communities in Tonga, we organised our intervention based on the principle of **subsidiarity**, and relied on the local Caritas’ knowledge, skills, preparedness and effectiveness on the field. Our commitment to localisation and our approach to all crises around the world is grounded on this principle.

When the world seems to forget protracted and complex crises like those within the Horn of Africa, the Sahel, the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Central African Republic, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, the Philippines, Haiti, Syria, Lebanon and the Middle East, we share a responsibility to draw attention to these crises, based on the **preferential option for the poor** and the **promotion of peace**, particularly in countries affected by ongoing conflict and violence.

Through our Management Standards we enhance the principle of accountability and, particularly in the area of Safeguarding, we put the principle of **protecting and promoting human dignity** into action when we strengthened and consolidated our work for the organisational development of our Confederation’s Member Organisations.



Photo Credit - Caritas Ukraine - Caritas Odessa providing hot lunches for IDPs on the railway station

Our implementation of the year of awareness in the framework of our Global Campaign TogetherWe for integral ecology was inspired by Pope Francis’s encyclical letters *Laudato Si’* and *Fratelli Tutti* based on the principles of **care for creation**, the promotion of the **common good** and the **just distribution of the earth’s goods**.

Inspired by the principle of **participation**, we strengthened our commitment to women and youth leadership in the Confederation and in society through the initiatives to promote the World Day of the Poor, World Youth Day, and the global conference on Women in leadership for a just society organised at the UNESCO headquarters.

These are some examples of how we put our Catholic identity into action during the last twelve months. You will find in the next pages a deeper description of Caritas’s activities across the world in 2022.

With the keen desire to encourage the renewal of Caritas Internationalis, by means of reviewing its statutes and regulations, Pope Francis appointed a Temporary Administration team to reinvigorate the Church’s ministry with the poorest and most needy. In November 2022, Mr Pier Francesco Pinelli was appointed as Temporary Administrator, and Ms Maria Amparo Alonso Escobar as Temporary Co-Administrator, to support the Confederation’s preparations for the 2023 General Assembly and spur Caritas’s mission to spread charity and justice throughout the world now and in the future.

“Goodness, together with love, justice and solidarity, are not achieved once and for all; they have to be realized each day. It is not possible to settle for what was achieved in the past and complacently enjoy it, as if we could somehow disregard the fact that many of our brothers and sisters still endure situations that cry out for our attention.”

(FT 11)

Caritas in action

CARITAS AT THE HEART OF THE CHURCH

“Let us care for the needs of every man and woman, young and old, with the same fraternal spirit of care and closeness that marked the Good Samaritan”

(FT 79)

The key action undertaken during the year in the area of the Caritas identity and mission was the organisation of the global conference ‘Together, serving out of love - Strengthening our Fraternal Cooperation’ held in November 2022. The aim of the conference was to reflect, as a Confederation, on ways to work in more effective partnership in connection with our values and principles. There was a particular focus on improving internal mechanisms to strengthen local leadership and global solidarity, particularly as ‘localisation’ is a priority for the international community. More than 100 participants from the seven Regions, as well as more than 70 organisations of the Confederation, participated in the two-day meeting.



Photo Credit - Caritas Philippines
Reconstruction works following the devastation of 2020 Typhoon Rai

Throughout the year, the Caritas Internationalis Catholic Identity Committee led the reflection on the mission of Caritas and promoted several workshops with Caritas staff and Church leaders across the Confederation. In Brazzaville Congo, representatives of 15 African countries reflected and learned from their different experiences on how to daily put Caritas identity into action. At the Caritas Africa Partners’ Forum in Togo, a similar exercise was conducted with 25 Caritas staff from different Member Organisation. At the Regional Conference of Caritas Asia, Member Organisation representatives also held a session that explored the theme of identity in relation to our mission and works.

In May, a fruitful exchange on Catholic Identity was undertaken during the Caritas Europa Regional Conference in Athens with the participation of presidents, directors and a group of 15 young European Caritas staff and volunteers. This work highlighted the importance of consolidating efforts in this area through the creation of Regional reference groups, and the development of induction training sessions for new Presidents and Directors.

“We affirm that Fraternal Cooperation among sister Caritas organisations is more than signing a contract or a Memorandum of Understanding. It requires trust and mutual respect, and it needs to be based on listening to one another, sharing needs and preoccupations, reflecting together, working together and praying together. The way in which our cooperation takes shape must in itself reflect the core values of Caritas and should contribute to the mutual formation of the heart.”

Authentic Fraternal Cooperation/Partnership means a long-term commitment to agreed objectives, based on shared values, strategies and information. It is characterised by honest feedback and joint planning, accompaniment, transparency and accountability on both sides, and a genuine openness and sensitivity to the other’s needs, feelings, expertise, experience, and wisdom. It is based on mutual respect, trust and goodwill.”

Caritas Fraternal Cooperation/Partnership Principles, 2019

“We are Caritas in Moldova, not just Caritas Moldova. In this time, we have been able to show the world what Caritas is at its core, what the love of Christ means in serving the poor. I am grateful because partners jumped in with support right away, they deployed people, expertise and best practices. Some of our procedures still need to be adjusted in order to facilitate actions according to the need of support, but this helps us to learn. We have doubled our staff since the beginning of the conflict in Ukraine, but we will continue to serve the most vulnerable people, in Moldova and from Ukraine, with the support of our partners – who are also our friends.”

Edward Lucaci, Director, Caritas Moldova



Photo Credit - Caritas

Emergencies

REDUCE RISK, SAVE LIVES, REBUILD COMMUNITIES

In 2022, Caritas Internationalis continued to enable collective humanitarian action by supporting members’ capacities, coordination efforts and access to financial resources. Through its Emergency Appeal pooled funding mechanism, over 2M people were helped through 31 life-saving and life-enhancing interventions which mobilized over € 81M. Caritas from five Regions - Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America & Caribbean and Middle East & North Africa - reached out to the confederation to help them respond collectively to major humanitarian crises. These crisis-affected members received contributions from 50 sister Caritas from all of the confederation’s seven Regions, testimony to our wonderful, truly global solidarity.

Ukraine

The conflict in Ukraine has had a devastating impact on the lives of millions of people, who were forced to flee the country or become internally displaced.

The number of people affected by the conflict is staggering. According to OCHA, almost 5.4 M are internally displaced people, more than 8 M refugees from Ukraine are recorded across Europe, and 17.7 M people are in need of humanitarian assistance. The continuous hostilities and violence have caused widespread destruction to homes, schools, hospitals and other civilian infrastructures, critical for the proper functioning of a country and the conduction of a life with dignity.

Since 24 February 2022, the Caritas Confederation has worked tirelessly to help vulnerable persons and communities

affected by the crisis, both in Ukraine and in neighbouring countries. Caritas has been present in Ukraine since before the conflict, and is actively responding to the humanitarian crisis, assisting internally displaced persons, supporting those waiting to cross at the borders, and offering humanitarian supplies and shelter to people in need.

Since the beginning of the war, Caritas in Ukraine have supported over 3 M people, providing a range of high-quality humanitarian services for those in need.

Caritas Ukraine and Caritas-Spes Ukraine launched a total of three Emergency Appeals in 2022, and received pledges for more than 40 M EUR. The solidarity of the entire Confederation has been exceptional, making this response the largest ever delivered in one year.

Other seven Emergency Appeals were launched by Caritas in neighbouring countries soon after the beginning of the crisis: Caritas Moldova (1), Caritas Poland (2), Caritas Romania (2), Caritas Czech Republic (1) and Caritas Slovakia

(1) immediately stepped up to support refugees fleeing Ukraine.

Caritas in neighbouring countries have supported in total at least 2.3 M people, thanks also to the pledges received for the Emergency Appeals from the Caritas Confederation, amounting to almost 18 M EUR.

Due to the magnitude of the crisis and to bolster the support that Caritas in Ukraine and neighbouring countries were called upon to provide, the Confederation set up a humanitarian coordination mechanism, the Emergency Response Support Team (ERST) for the Ukraine crisis, made possible thanks to the cooperation of sister Caritas and the Caritas Europa regional office.

“Unfortunately, the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine will only worsen, and our main task is to respond accordingly: help people living near the front line or in territories that are constantly being shelled, as well as (Ukrainians) who were forced to leave their homes due to the war and often simply have nowhere to return.”

Tetiana Stawnychy, President of Caritas Ukraine

“The war will be ended when we can forgive all of the evil things that we saw, when we restore not just our houses, but our souls, our memory. The medicine of the church is the medicine of love and of hope, and it is our vocation as a Caritas family to share this between people.”

*Father Vyacheslav Grynevych,
Executive Director of Caritas-Spes Ukraine*



Photo Credit - Caritas Ukraine
Supporting IDPs in Caritas Kamyanske



Photo Credit - Caritas-Spes Ukraine
Yablunica refugee house



Photo Credit - Caritas Bozoum
The Bozoum Agricultural Fair is a project of Caritas in CAR

Central African Republic

The Central African Republic (CAR) is one of the poorest countries in the world and ranks at the bottom of the Human Development Index. In 2022, it was estimated that 3.4 million people (over 55% of the population) are in need of humanitarian assistance. Particularly acute are the needs in water, hygiene, food, health and protection.

Over the past decades, CAR has been plagued by armed violence and intercommunity fighting, and it is increasingly exposed to climate change, with heavy floods registered through the rainy season. The situation has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, and by the increase in the price of food and energy over the past year.

Across its eight dioceses, Caritas Centrafrique worked to restore the livelihoods and the well-being of these families, providing support in the areas of agriculture, food, cash assistance, hygiene, and education. It reached out to displaced and host communities, and conducted activities to promote peace and social cohesion.

In January 2022, Caritas Centrafrique launched an Emergency Appeal to improve the living conditions of 3,690 among the most vulnerable households in communities affected by armed violence and exposed to food insecurity. While the programme was fully funded for EUR 349,768.00 and was successful in achieving its goals, for example the resumption of field work thanks to the distribution of seeds and farming tools and the resumption of children's education through school kits, the situation in CAR is still fragile and many vulnerable people remain in need of humanitarian assistance.

Floods in Pakistan

From June-October 2022, devastating floods in Pakistan killed 1,739 persons and affected 33 million of persons in 116 districts out of 160 country's districts. The immediate causes of the floods were linked to the melting of glaciers and severe heat wave linked to climate change.

Caritas Pakistan through CI launched an Emergency Appeal to respond to the needs of the most vulnerable persons affected by the Floods in Pakistan. As over 13,000 km of roads were damaged, travelling and transportation of relief goods remained a highly treacherous undertaking.

Even though these difficult circumstances, Caritas Pakistan was able to help 9,828 households, providing them with food, hygiene, safe drinking water, shelter/NFI kits, health services through medical camps and ensuring access to education to children affected by the floods. Caritas Pakistan received pledges for over one million euros.

Pakistan still needs international support for the rehabilitation phase. There are still 20.6 million persons that need humanitarian assistance and Caritas will continue to help people as they begin recovery efforts.



Photo Credit - Caritas Pakistan
Distribution of food packages for people with disabilities

Syrian refugee crisis

Since the crisis in Syria began in 2011, Caritas Syria has been active in responding to the needs of local communities. Although hostilities have reduced in most parts of Syria, living conditions for most of the population further deteriorated due to significant reductions in the access to and availability of essential services, destruction of housing infrastructure and loss of livelihoods. The impact of sanctions contributed to the rising cost of goods and inflation in the country, and consequently reduced the purchasing power of Syrian households. Moreover, the spread of COVID-19 pandemic throughout the year created additional challenges.

In 2022, through Caritas Syria's last Emergency Appeal, approximately 3,006 individuals in Easter Ghouta (rural Damascus) were able to rebuild their lives and communities through multi-purpose cash assistance, shelter and sanitation infrastructure rehabilitation, and the reconstruction of schools.

Other Caritas around the world also helped Syrian refugees. Programmes both large and small by Caritas Lebanon,

Caritas Jordan and Caritas Turkey are evidence of the Confederation's commitment to solidarity and subsidiarity in supporting those often "unseen" or "forgotten" by the world. However, the negative impact of prolonged civil war continues to affect vulnerable communities and those displaced as a result of the conflict in Ukraine. Consequently, the crisis in Syria among many other across the globe has received fewer support for their life-saving and life-enhancing efforts.

"We were at home; me, my wife, and my seven children. I was taking a nap and suddenly, I felt an explosion that threw me out of my place. Two weeks later, I reopened my eyes, and I was told that my wife and my five children have been killed by a mortar shell. Caritas are providing us with food, bread, detergents, and almost everything we might need. Without God's help and theirs, we would have been going through a real inferno."

Mr. Hamadah



Photo Credit - Caritas Syria
Collecting food kits in Syria

Venezuela

Venezuela has suffered progressive and massive impoverishment of the population between 2014-2022, fuelled by an escalating economic and humanitarian crisis characterised by the total collapse of public services, the dearth of safe water, the ongoing failure of the electricity system, the deterioration of the health system, the shortage of food and medicines, the loss of purchasing power with the highest inflation in the world. Since 2017, nearly 7 million Venezuelans have fled the country (6 million have migrated to neighbouring countries in Latin America).

Caritas Venezuela has been responding to the humanitarian crisis through projects funded by the Caritas Confederation and in close cooperation with the UN Agencies.

Within the framework of its Protracted Crisis Appeal, Caritas Venezuela has been implementing interconnected activities in: food security and cash transfers, nutrition, water/hygiene/sanitation and health in eight dioceses of the country. The intervention is complemented by an institutional strengthening component according to a process of the CI Management Standards.

The key intervention led by Caritas Venezuela is the SAMAN project through which Caritas Venezuela is able to assess the nutritional situation of children under 5 and pregnant or lactating women in all its parishes across 23 states of the country. Caritas Venezuela has also organised on food kitchens and health consultancies in its parishes by reaching more than 240,000 people in 2021/2022.

In neighbouring countries including Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Chile, national Caritas members and dioceses have been helping thousands of migrant Venezuelans with food, shelter and health services supported by other Caritas members, Governments, EU and UN.

Since its formation in 2019, the Caritas Working Group on the Venezuelan crisis, formed by Caritas organisations from Latin America, Europe, and the United States, has maintained



Photo Credit
Caritas Venezuela

a broad approach to this humanitarian response, strengthening spaces of fraternal cooperation and adding capacities in favour of vulnerable Venezuelans inside and outside the country. The Working Group gathered in Caracas on 20-22 November 2022 after two years of virtual meetings due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Working Group assessed the humanitarian response and highlighted the need to address the serious human and social consequences that Venezuelans continue to suffer inside and outside Venezuela. Caritas experts pointed out that "given the scenario of a possible world economic recession, in a Latin America impacted by inequality and poverty, we urge the world to not ignore this crisis and to take anticipatory actions to prevent a worsening of the current situation".

INTEGRAL ECOLOGY

As part of the Holy See's delegation, CI was present at the COP 27 in Sharm el Sheikh. Important preparatory work was done in cooperation with the CI Task Force on Integral Ecology and the Regional Secretariats in relation to the: African Climate Dialogues; Caritas knowledge, experience and good practice at the grassroots level; the development of engagement strategies with MOs and a common position on the COP 27 key themes of adaptation, loss and damage, climate finance and agriculture. At COP 27, CI organised an official side-event in cooperation with other FBOs and likeminded organisations titled 'Addressing loss & damage to deliver climate justice: Human rights, youth & faith leaders' perspectives'.

CI, alongside Caritas Oceania, participated in the UN Ocean Conference in Lisbon, thus promoting their position. On the issues related to food security, in close cooperation with the MOs and Regional Secretariats and the CI Emergency Unit, CI drew attention to the food crisis in the Sahel Region and Horn of Africa through the mechanism in Geneva and New York. In July, together with Caritas Africa, a side event was hosted with the UNHCR to raise awareness on the deteriorating food security situation in those areas. Data has also been gathered from the different Regions on the collateral effects of the Ukraine crisis on the food supply chain. Relationships with WFP and FAO were strengthened through contributions to annual consultations and participation of MOs at those meetings.



Photo Credit - Caritas Internationalis
Caritas delegation for COP 27 in Sharm el Sheikh

HUMAN MOBILITY

The focus of this year was the impact of climate change on migration; a research on this topic was carried out by CI General Secretariat with more than 20 Caritas organisations and experts.

Caritas Internationalis contributed with official joint position papers via the Civil Society Action Committee to the process leading up to the first International Migration Review Forum in New York in May 2022 and to its Progress Declaration, working in synergy with CI Human Mobility Task Force. At the IMRF, CI organised one of the 10 official side events on 'The Cross Cutting Call to protect People and the Planet: experiences and recommendations to address the impact of climate change on human mobility'.

In June, on the occasion of the UNHCR Annual Consultations, CI promoted and co-hosted an official side event on 'The Female Face of Climate Displacement'. CI also organised a panel on conflicts, climate change and forced migration at the Catholic Peacebuilding Network Conference titled 'Catholic Peacebuilding in Times of Crisis: Hope for a wounded world'. Contributions were given to the reports of the Special Rapporteurs on the Human Rights of Migrants and on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in the context of Climate Change with submissions from Latin America, Europe, Africa, the MONA region, Asia and Oceania. Both reports were submitted at the 77th UN General Assembly in New York in September.

On human trafficking, COATNET was reactivated and, thanks to the support of Secours Catholique, an officer at the CI General Secretariat now assists the work of the network to promote strengthened coordination and shared planning.



Photo Credit - AFP Photo/ Matthieu Alexandre
Caritas Internationalis



Photo Credit - Caritas Congo - The GRAIL project was designed and implemented in Congo, Nigeria and Cote d'Ivoire

HEALTH

This year the work on the impact of COVID-19 continued with a specific focus on access to vaccines. A contribution to UN ECOSOC (Economic and Social Council) consultations on “building back better after COVID-19” has been provided with inputs from the Regions and a high-level side event was organised at the ECOSOC Partnership Forum. A Confederation-wide health survey gathered quantitative and qualitative data related to the healthcare services provided by Caritas members across the confederation. Data was gathered from March to May 2022.

CI participated at the International AIDS Conference 2022 in Montreal and participated in the interfaith pre-conference ‘Taking Action to Overcome HIV Stigma & Discrimination Comprehensive, Compassionate Care for All’. CI presented three side-events, including the workshop “Caritas’ GRAIL Project success in stigma reduction and increased uptake of pediatric HIV testing”.

Relationships with UN agencies and international actors working on health has been strengthened, especially through the implementation of the GRAIL project on paediatric HIV/AIDS. GRAIL was designed and implemented by Caritas Congo, Nigeria and Cote d'Ivoire to reinforce the role of religious leaders as key finders of children aged 0-15 potentially living with HIV (with special attention to children 0-5 and 5-10), and to refer them to health clinics supported by Caritas for proper intervention. A regional workshop was organised at Caritas Congo from June 1-3.

On the occasion of the UN General Assembly in New York from 13-27 September, CI organised a high-level event on the role of religious leaders in fighting stigma and discrimination, with the participation of representatives from UNICEF, UN AID and WHO.



Photo Credit - Caritas - Patrick Nicholson
Half-built apartment blocks close to the border of Syria

HUMAN RIGHTS AND HUMANITARIAN POLICY

The Geneva delegation continued to raise awareness on the humanitarian situations and violations of human rights in, Venezuela, Nigeria, Central African Republic, Yemen, Afghanistan, the Sahel Region and Horn of Africa through the participation at the Human Rights Council sessions and regular engagement with human rights mechanisms, including UN Special Rapporteurs and the Universal Periodic Review. The focus on sanctions was maintained through regular collaboration with the UN Special Rapporteur on Unilateral Coercive Measures and the IASC Working Group on administrative impediments, including sanctions, and by promoting a joint research with World Council of Churches and the World Evangelical Alliance in collaboration with the Geneva Graduate Institute on the humanitarian impact of sanctions.

The delegation continues to engage with Geneva-based UN Agencies, especially UNHCR, on localisation and partnership-related issues.

Global Campaign

TOGETHER WE: ACT TODAY FOR A BETTER TOMORROW

Inspired by *Laudato Si'* and *Fratelli Tutti*, the “Together We” (TW) campaign was designed to respond to Pope Francis’ call for ecological conversion. Its overall goal is to promote a change in our mindset and approach to combating poverty, restoring dignity to the excluded, and at the same time protecting nature (*Laudato Si'*, 139) across all Caritas operations.

The TW campaign was created with the support of a multi-country Campaign Committee with representatives from the seven Caritas regions. Launched worldwide on 13th December 2021, the first phase of the campaign was rolled out in 2022 through 13 online awareness-raising initiatives to sensitise, build internal capacity and increase the salience of the issue. There were two global introductory webinars, seven regional workshops, three global thematic workshops on environmental migration, food insecurity and disaster risk reduction, and a live six-hour ‘marathon’ event during a Global Awareness Week.

The TW campaign also invited all Caritas member organisations to create new or mobilise pre-existing spaces for dialogue, listening and participatory action, which we call ‘communities of care’, committed to promoting actions that simultaneously reduce poverty and protect the environment.

A comparative analysis of good practices on community-level experiences across the network shows that integral ecology is understood primarily as the attempt to spark profound social change by recognising that poverty alleviation and environmental protection are inseparable elements of the same process leading to integral human development.

With 2022 used as a base year to provide orientation tools, Caritas member organisations are now encouraged to use the proposed tools to take action throughout the second and third phase of the campaign, which spans 2023 to 2024.



Photo Credit - Caritas Phan Thiet Vietnam



CARITAS INITIATIVES AROUND THE WORLD



Communications

BUILDING GLOBAL SOLIDARITY

The Ukrainian humanitarian crisis greatly impacted the work of CI Communications following the outbreak of war on February 24. In total, 26 news reports and stories and 36 videos were published in relation to the humanitarian work undertaken in Ukraine and neighbouring countries. CI organised two press conferences to inform the public about Caritas' work and invited Tetiana Stawnychy, President of Caritas Ukraine, and Father Vyacheslav Grynevych, Executive Director of Caritas-Spes Ukraine, to Rome to directly address the press about the situation in their country.

Throughout 2022, the Confederation's online community platform, known as Baobab, enabled Caritas Emergency Response teams and Caritas communicators from around the world to work in solidarity and coordination with one another. Through this platform, as well as a number of dedicated Whatsapp groups, Caritas communicators – particularly in Ukraine and in neighbouring countries – could more easily share data, news, photos and stories from the ground with each other.

In total, 70 stories and press releases were produced and contributed to the growth of mentions of CI in the media, which had increased from 2,200 in 2021 to 5,006 in 2022. Besides Ukraine, other humanitarian emergencies that received media coverage included the volcanic eruption and tsunami in Tonga, Typhoon Rai in the Philippines, the floods in Pakistan, as well as the food crisis in the Sahel and Horn of Africa regions. In addition, CI Communications published more media releases, videos, and social



Photo Credit - Caritas Poland - Philipp Spalek
Caritas tent near the border in Medyka

media messages to amplify the Advocacy work of Caritas, particularly on the occasions of World Refugee Day, World Hunger Day, World Food Day, the World Day against human trafficking and COP 27. In October, CI Communications continued to support the global campaign 'Together We' through an online Global Awareness Week campaign.

CI's social media outreach also expanded in 2022; the acquisition of 36,600 new followers on social media channels were facilitated by the creation of 480 posts on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn. In addition, over 130 videos were produced and shared through CI's various communications channels.

CI renewed its collaboration with the Holy See's Dicastery for Communications. From June to September, CI partnered with the dicastery for their Young Communicators project titled 'Faith Communication in the Digital World'. Four communicators from Africa, Asia and Europe worked alongside CI to create e-learning modules and a booklet for social media content creation intended for Caritas communicators.

In October, under the patronage of UNESCO, CI co-hosted the 'The Full Face of Humanity: Women in leadership for a just society' conference together with the Holy See. Vatican News streamed the conference on its YouTube channel in English, Spanish and French with more than 26,200 views. Pope Francis also tagged Caritas in a tweet on the promotion of women's leadership with explicit mention of Caritas Internationalis. The conference was also an important moment for CI Public Relations allowing it to establish relations with the permanent delegations to UNESCO and strengthen those with 40 Embassies to the Holy See.

"We thank you for all the support and solidarity we are receiving from you. All of us together as Caritas network work in Ukraine to respond to these immense needs. May God bless you."

Tetiana Stawnychy and Father Vyacheslav Grynevych



Photo Credit - Caritas Bangladesh - Children sit in class in the Caritas-supported Bulakipur Lighthouse school in Dinajpur District

Increasing the effectiveness of the Caritas confederation

FROM THE GLOBAL STRATEGY TO REGIONAL IDCS TARGETED APPROACHES AND PRIORITY OBJECTIVES

The year 2022 has been characterised by the development of targeted Regional approaches in order to respond to the specific needs of the different Regions and Member Organisations' contexts. The open dialogue with and commitment of the Regional Secretariats has been a key element for making progress in increasing the effectiveness of the Caritas Confederation.

Among the key actions promoted at global and regional levels it is important to mention:

- The work with the IDCS Regional Committee of Caritas MONA to update the strategy and action plan 2022-23
- The creation of the Regional IDCS Committee and the organisation of a Regional workshop in the LACar Region in September 2022 with 30 participants from 21 Members (which led to the formulation of concrete action plans for organisations not yet involved in the CIMS and capacity strengthening process)
- The meetings and regular follow-up with sub-regional groups in Asia to increase the ownership of MOs on the ongoing capacity strengthening processes and to strengthen the work on emerging MOs
- The regular monitoring and follow-up work with Europe, Africa and Oceania, with a particular focus on their Members' ownership of the CI Management Standards process.

CARITAS INTERNATIONALIS MANAGEMENT STANDARDS (CIMS)

Thanks also to the work of 45 assessors from the seven Regions, 118 Member Organisations (+36 compared to 2021) out of 162 have been in the assessment process and 96 MO reports have been validated by the Review Committee, the official governing body in charge of overseeing this key process for the Caritas Confederation.

118 Member Organisations in the CIMS Assessment Process

90 Member Organisations developed an improvement plan

The plans address the main organisational areas of risk identified in the assessment.

90 Organizaciones miembro evaluadas respecto al Estándar de Salvaguardia

Four years after the first round of assessments, 15 MOs submitted documents for their 2nd round assessment, as a good practice of the Confederation which becomes an integral part of the life of each organisation.

One of the key achievements of the year was that for the first time, the MOs assessed received an official Caritas certificate approved by the governing body on their level of compliance with the Standards.

CI ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT SOLIDARITY FUND (ODSF)

The Fund became an important instrument to support Members in complex situations and without major partners in their process of organisational development, with two main objectives: help the organisations to start the process of assessment against the CI Management Standards, and implement key activities to address the main organisational risks. 10 projects of 11 MOs from 5 Caritas Regions are being implemented. It is intended to further develop the Fund and reach a higher number of Member organisations.

PMEAL (PLANNING, MONITORING, EVALUATION, ACCOUNTABILITY, LEARNING)

In the development of PMEAL (Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning) we finalised the CI Monitoring mechanism through the support of an online data management platform. PMEAL was created to reflect the global dimension of the Confederation and to collect information on the various milestones reached towards the implementation of the Confederation's Strategic Framework.

This mechanism allows Caritas to monitor how Regional offices and the General Secretariat (and, at times, the achievements of National member organisations) are proceeding towards the achievement of the Confederation's strategic objectives.

Depending on the specific indicator, information is updated every half year or every year. The implementation of the Caritas Confederation's strategic objectives can be viewed according to orientation, region or the total collective effort of the Confederation. PMEAL also has a dedicated page on Baobab, which is Caritas' online community platform dedicated to information sharing and knowledge management within the Confederation.



Photo Credit - Caritas Pakistan
Supporting Afghan refugees in Peshawar

"The member organisations in the MONA region are suffering from different kinds of challenges linked to war, natural disasters, political unrest and economic crises, and they are operating in very complex and sensitive contexts. Many of them lack of resources and expertise. In order to support them, organisational development is a priority. In close coordination with the General Secretariat, we encourage our members to engage in and complete the Management Standards process as a safe method to improve their organisational structures and their operations. For those members who need closer accompaniment, we support them in developing proposals to access the Solidarity Fund. The choice of promoting regional targeted approaches is an added value to adapt the general strategy to the specific needs of each Region and Member organisation and to increase the effectiveness of the work in this sector."

Karam Abi Yazbeck, Regional Coordinator, Caritas MONA

Women

2022 has been a year of growth in work to promote women’s leadership, equality and participation within the Caritas network and with external stakeholders. This has been possible thanks to the high commitment of the Women’s Committee, composed of members representing all regions of the Confederation, and their work at grassroots level. This year has also been punctuated with significant moments of encounter and dialogue to inspire a new model of walking and working together, men and women, as per the invitation of Pope Francis in his encyclical letter Fratelli Tutti.

A survey was carried out to gather data on women’s participation in Caritas. A key recommendation of the survey highlighted the specific need for MOs to have internal mechanisms that ensure a more equal participation of women at decision-making level and particularly in the governing bodies. Other key elements identified include: increasing peer learning; strengthening dialogue with Bishops’ Conferences; developing pathways within the organisations for women to access leadership roles; and improving access to technology.

WOMEN’S PARTICIPATION IN CARITAS

Programme managers: 47% men - 53% women

Senior management: 53% men - 47% women

Directors: 72% men - 28% women

Governing bodies of Member Organisations:
67% men - 33% women



Photo Credit - Caritas

During the month of March, Caritas promoted a series of webinars titled Caritas Celebrates Women, the first of which was held on International Women’s Day and co-hosted by the British Embassy to the Holy See. They focused on women as builders of a new humanity, particularly the pivotal role women play in building dialogue, hope, solidarity, and a different and more sustainable future. A spotlight was put on the powerful testimonies given from Ukraine and the neighbouring countries, just a few days after the outbreak of the war.

With the aim of strengthening dialogue and collaboration with the Church’s institutions, international organisations and civil society, Caritas organised the global conference The Full Face of Humanity: Women in leadership for a just society, co-hosted by Caritas Internationalis and the Holy See, under the patronage of UNESCO, held on 27-28 October at the UNESCO Headquarters in Paris. There were more than 40 contributions from women and men of the Confederation’s seven regions and from external organisations and institutions, including a keynote address by His Eminence Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Secretary of State.

Powerful personal testimonies showed that women continue to experience violence and violations of their fundamental human rights, but they also offered a message of courage and hope through their advocacy against injustice. Good practices and expertise shared during the conference also demonstrated that women’s empowerment, education and participation in leadership and decision making make a concrete contribution to removing cultural, political and institutional barriers and facilitate a culture of encounter in which women’s experiences and expertise are valued and heard.

Following this conference, key actions to promote the leadership of women include: incorporating the protection of women’s rights in the formation of humanitarian workers; mainstreaming the promotion of women’s leadership as a strategic priority in grassroots level development projects, also by allocating specific funds to that purpose; and exploring coordinated actions in the field of education to address the learning crisis and contribute to building a better future for women and girls.

“We are carrying out a deep reflective process, in a culture of encounter with our partners, women, men, leaders and stakeholders in the communities we serve to seek how, through our programming, we are identifying and challenging the systems, structures and social norms that discriminate against women and girls, to bring about empowerment and transformative change. This requires us to look within and see our assumptions related to women and girls’ leadership and our own roles as creators or supporters of structural barriers. What are we doing in practice, both internally and externally?”

Christine Allen, Director, CAFOD

“Women are heroes within the tragic story of Ukraine. On the Polish border the female face of the Ukraine crisis is strong and active, and women are ready to do everything they can to survive and to protect their loved ones. The Ukrainian women have a lot of hope in their hearts which they share with the Caritas volunteers, also giving them the motivation to continue to work together in this mission.”

Dominika Chylewska, Head of Communications, Caritas Poland, 15 March 2022



Photo Credit - Caritas Internationalis - ‘The Full Face of Humanity Women in Leadership for a just society’ - UNESCO / Paris

Youth

If 2021 was about building a strong foundation for youth engagement and empowerment across the confederation, then 2022 saw a structure begin to rise from this foundation.

The Caritas Youth Committee (CYC) continued to meet regularly to oversee that the 2022-2023 Youth Action Plan continued to contribute to the positive development of both Caritas Youth and the Confederation as a whole (through, for example, promoting professional and spiritual development initiatives for youth, and increased youth visibility and representation in decision-making spaces).

Caritas Youth also collaborated with various external actors in 2022. Notably, we contributed to the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights report 'Human Rights Implications of the [Covid-19] Pandemic on Young People' by sharing data about how Caritas Youth saw young people affected by the pandemic, and how they contributed to pandemic responses. The OHCHR explicitly named in their final report one testimony from Caritas Iraq, which described their youth-targeted psychosocial services, livelihood programs, peacebuilding courses and rehabilitation via skills training. In April, Caritas participated for the first time in the UN's ECOSOC Youth Forum.

During Lent, Caritas Youth animated the Confederation in an initiative called 'Let us not grow tired of doing good', which encouraged people to build a world of justice through simple daily actions. The initiative culminated with an online Stations of the Cross during Holy Week, which included prayers and testimonies from Caritas Youth from across the confederation.

In November, Caritas Youth animated the second-annual World Day of the Poor / World Youth Day week of prayer and action. This year, the theme was 'Growing Solidarity' and we used the analogy of the growth cycle of a tree to encourage people to develop their understanding of how to best serve the poor. Thanks to media promotion by the Dicastery for Laity, Family, and Life this initiative reached

over 26 million users. On social media, the videos that we prepared garnered over 27,600 views.

Preparations also began this year for Caritas' participation in World Youth Day Lisbon 2023, in the spirit of collaboration between Caritas Portugal, Caritas Europa, and Caritas Internationalis. In October, Caritas was invited for the first time to attend the WYD International Preparatory Meetings in Fatima.

"Youth issues cannot only be the responsibility of young people and youth officers – rather, we need everyone on board if we are to provide meaningful engagement and opportunities for youth. I am proud to be an active participant in making sure that youth matters are more present at different levels of CI planning."

Agnieszka Zarzynska, Caritas Europa



Photo Credit - Caritas Ukraine, Ivana Velychko
Formation of food kits by young volunteers

"It has been very beneficial to meet different representatives of youth teams around the world and to apply the culture of encounter that Pope Francis speaks about. Even though we are far away, thanks to technology we can still share the effort and build together."

Anibal Martinez, Caritas Honduras



Photo Credit - Caritas Nepal Dipendra Lamsal
Students showing street drama on domestic violence as an awareness raising activity



Photo Credit - Caritas DRC

Safeguarding

Throughout 2022, organisational safeguarding assessments were conducted for 90 Member Organisations. Improvement plans were developed accordingly in order to support MOs in the process of building/strengthening of their systems. This includes Complaints Handling Procedures, Safe Recruitment policy and tools, Safeguarding policies and procedures, Data Protection Policy, Community Engagement Procedures, Risk Management Procedures, etc.

In order to strengthen CI's response to safeguarding disclosures, an investigators mapping tool was developed with guidance documents. The mapping tool is a database with contact details of SEAH (Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment) investigators for the Caritas Confederation. Its objective is to increase the number of investigators who: investigate SEAH qualitatively well, know humanitarian aid/development cooperation, know the Caritas and Catholic Church contexts, and work in a cost effective way. Currently, 17 internal and external investigators have been identified. Regions have been asked to map existing resources within their network.

As for the reporting of safeguarding concerns, CI increased its effort to promote the SEA reporting across

the Confederation. In 2022, seven targeted dissemination sessions were conducted for MOs in Europe, MONA and Oceania. 42 MOs attended the training on how to use the tool. In addition, CI provided accompaniment and support for 9 MOs in their response to SEAH concerns escalated to the General Secretariat.

A new e-learning platform was developed and officially established as the CI e-learning webpage. It currently hosts the e-learning "Introduction to Safeguarding" which was translated to French, Spanish, Ukrainian, Polish and the Hungarian languages. The platform is open for all audiences and helps target volunteers and external associates. To date, the prevention e-learning course was completed by 336 members from 57 MOs.

The Safeguarding Committee was established, comprised of 8 representatives from the all seven regions. Its aim is to oversee and monitor the activities related to Safeguarding and to advise on the various high-risk concerns faced by the Confederation. Case Management and Escalation procedures were developed to facilitate and regulate its functions.

CI participated in Caritas Europa Safeguarding Learning Path, covering the complaints handling and investigations of Safeguarding concerns. As for the external participation, CI attended the International Safeguarding Conference organised by the Gregorian Pontifical University.

Fundraising

GENEROSITY GROWS IN THE FACE OF GLOBAL SUFFERING BUT NEEDS STILL INCREASE

Unprecedented global crises such as climate change, the economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic and the War in Ukraine impacted the daily lives of each one of us throughout 2022. These crises and their devastating consequences show, now more than ever, how interconnected we are and the need to care for one another.

Severe weather events such as the floods in Pakistan or the drought in the Sahel and Horn of Africa regions, and the blockade of Ukrainian exports, have caused extraordinary food scarcity, increased poverty, forced migration and an economic contraction in Global South. In the Global North, the conflict in Ukraine resulted in rising energy prices, with the additional prospect of an economic recession across Europe and other countries.

In the face of such widespread global suffering, our donors' solidarity represents a light of hope for those in need. The

total amount of donations increased nearly fourfold since the previous year. It is significant to note that 95% of the donations received by CI are spent on bringing about the Caritas family's mission: serving the most vulnerable people. In the seven-decade history of CI, 2022 saw a record-breaking rise in engagement from private donors in response to a humanitarian crisis.

CI Fundraising is working to keep up this response of solidarity and engagement with donors by involving them to care for all crises, including "forgotten crises" which are outside of the media spotlight or not considered a priority in the humanitarian agenda. In 2022, CI Fundraising also collected donations for Caritas' life-saving work in other countries including Bangladesh, Pakistan, Palestine, Lebanon, Venezuela and Tonga.

The year 2022 also saw the expansion of our community of benefactors. 10,000 new donors joined CI's community of benefactors, thus enlarging the Caritas network of solidarity with the people we serve. Thanks to the continued trust and support of our benefactors worldwide, CI can continue coordinating Caritas' response to humanitarian emergencies around the world by supporting local Caritas organisations on the ground to respond more promptly and effectively to the needs of the poor we serve.



Photo Credit - Caritas



Photo Credit - Caritas Poland - Philipp Spalek
Caritas tent in Przemysl

Strategic Framework 2024-2030

‘ONE HUMAN FAMILY, ONE COMMON HOME’

The year 2022 was dedicated to the preparatory work for the new Strategic Framework of the Confederation during the period 2024-2030. A new strategy brought the Confederation to evaluate the past, learn from lived experiences and look at the future with a common vision. It was a challenging time for imagining the future. The COVID-19 pandemic, the conflicts in Ukraine and other parts of the world, and climate change have altered global political and socio-economic contexts and are having a major impact on the most vulnerable persons as well as people living at the peripheries. The new strategic framework tries to take all of these factors into consideration and defines the new objectives on the basis of the Confederation’s aspirations, needs to be met, opportunities to be maximised, standards to be achieved, and risks to be overcome.

WHAT IS THE CONFEDERATION’S STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK?

It is a tool for directing and coordinating the efforts of the Confederation and its members to fulfil their mission by working towards achieving common objectives and results. Also, it reflects the priorities of the Caritas Internationalis Member Organisations working together through national, regional and global structures. Because they are Confederation-wide, our

strategic objectives are mostly aspirational: statements of intent helping shape the work of Member Organisations and regions in a common direction.

WHAT IS THE PROCESS?

The process to develop a new Strategic Framework can be represented as a long and complex pathway with highways, obstacles, traffic lights, pit-stops, difficult roads and key road crossings: it is a synodal journey to reflect on the past, discuss the present and plan the future together. With the purpose of ensuring the highest participation and active ownership of all stakeholders, the process of Strategic Framework development was characterised by a number of key steps which allowed Committees of experts in different sectors from the confederation, Regional offices and Member Organisations to provide their inputs and design the comprehensive strategy of the Confederation.

A special **Task Force** representing the diversity of the Confederation facilitated the process through multiple participatory consultations and valued all contributions in a document that will be presented to the General Assembly of Caritas Internationalis in May 2023.

WHAT ARE THE KEY ELEMENTS OF THE FUTURE STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK?

The strategic objectives of the Framework are grouped into five strategic orientations that reflect the Caritas priority areas of work for the coming years:

The first orientation “*Caritas at the heart of the Church*” reflects our **distinctiveness as the Catholic Church’s social arm** for charity and justice, shaping our identity.

The second and third orientations are related to the Confederation’s **core mission**:

- respond quickly and effectively to humanitarian crises by saving lives, reducing risks and building resilient communities, and
- transform lives and communities through the promotion of integral human development, the care for creation, the restoration of peace and social justice, amplifying the voice of those we serve, and convening people to advocate and act.

The fourth and fifth are **enabling orientations** to improve how we work **as a global network**:

- increase the effectiveness of the Confederation by enhancing local leadership, reaching common management standards and adopting common tools to strengthen the professionalism of the Caritas structures; and
- build a global solidarity, by ensuring effective communications internally and externally and mobilising human and financial resources.

Through these orientations, the new Strategy highlights the Confederation’s **commitment** to: strengthen effective partnership and fraternal cooperation; exercise accountable leadership grounded in Caritas values; promote the leadership of women and young people; demonstrate good stewardship of the Confederation’s resources and talents; measure and evaluate the impact of the actions implemented; and to be transparent and accountable to the communities served.

The Strategy will start in 2024, and the Confederation is getting ready to engage in its implementation with particular attention to monitor our efforts, evaluate our impact and be accountable to people we serve.



Photo Credit - CRS
Food assistance in Ethiopia

Financial Statement

INCOME	Actual 2021	Actual 2022
Membership fees	2,092,235	2,243,145
<i>Contributions</i>		
Contributions from Member Organisations	0	0
Contributions from External Donors	1,049,896	1,449,521
Legacies	300,023	1,638,962
Other Income	184	15,696
Total Contributions Unrestricted	3,442,154	5,347,325
Contributions from Member Organisations	58,500	60,550
Contributions from External Donors	1,599,976	1,856,633
Total contributions Temporarily Restricted	1,658,476	1,917,183
<i>Financial Income</i>		
Realized Financial Income	146,931	156,919
Unrealized Financial Income	630,480	219
Total Financial Income	777,411	157,138
TOTAL INCOME	5,878,041	7,421,646
EXPENDITURE		
<i>Operational expenditure by Strategic Orientation</i>		
General Secretariat administration & office costs	1,261,585	1,555,569
Regional Structures	810,748	817,390
Governance	34,114	96,975
1. Caritas at the heart of the Church	100,588	199,720
2. Reduce risk, save lives, rebuild communities	403,874	426,349
3. Promote sustainable integral human development and care for creation	553,957	638,921
4. Build global solidarity	467,357	523,567
5. Increase the effectiveness of the Caritas confederation	467,888	385,343
Total Operational Expenditure	4,100,112	4,643,833
<i>Financial Expenditure</i>		
Realised Financial Expenditure	28,036	23,426
Unrealised Financial Expenditure	0	1,405,968
Total Financial Expenditure	28,036	1,429,394
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	4,128,148	6,073,226
RESULT OF THE YEAR	1,749,893	1,348,420



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