

22GA/04

2024-2030

Building New Paths
of Fraternity



STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK OF CARITAS CONFEDERATION

ONE HUMAN FAMILY, ONE COMMON HOME



2

SAVE LIVES
REDUCE RISK
REBUILD
COMMUNITIES

3

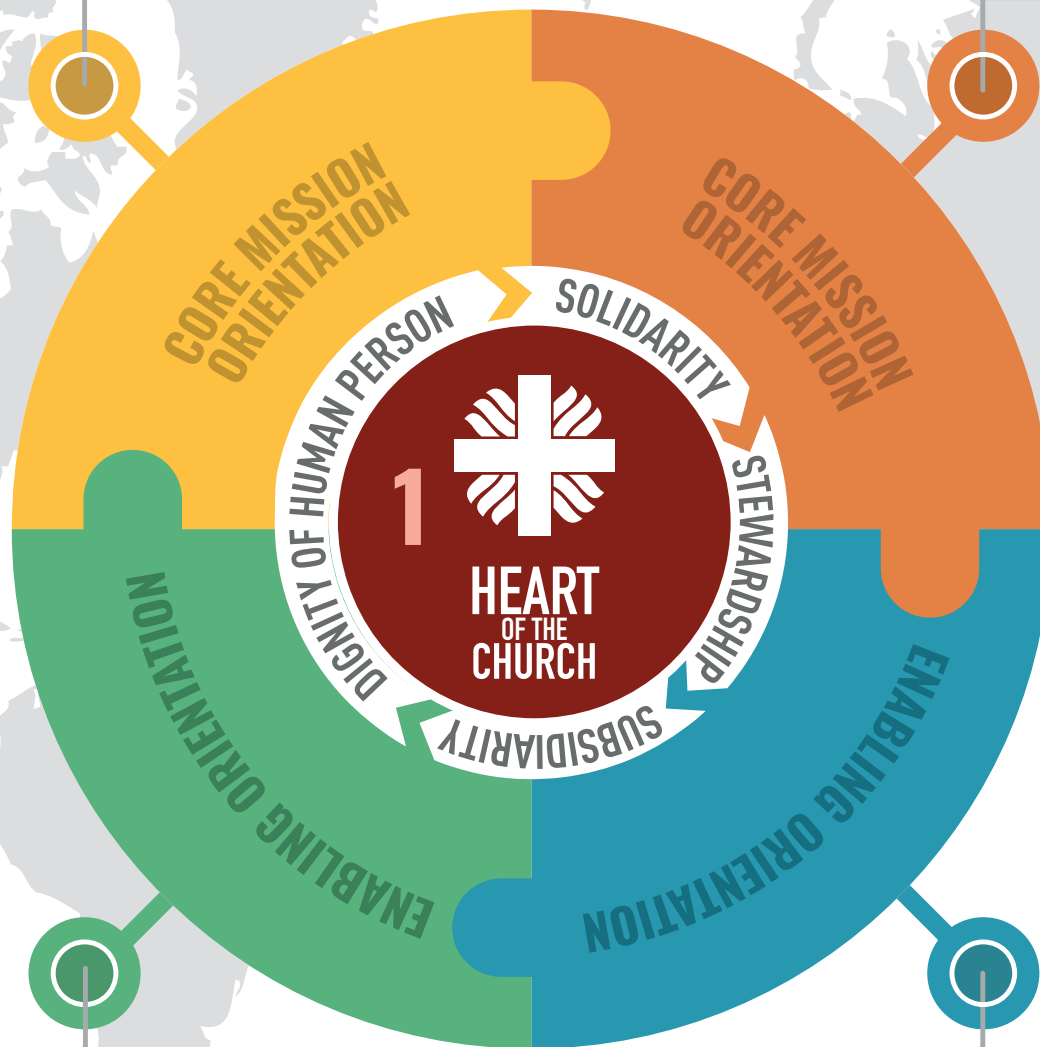
PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE
INTEGRAL HUMAN
DEVELOPMENT AND
CARE FOR CREATION

4

INCREASE THE
EFFECTIVENESS
OF THE CARITAS
CONFEDERATION

5

BUILD
GLOBAL
SOLIDARITY





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FOREWORD

The Caritas Internationalis Strategic Framework 2024-2030 is intended to be a reference tool for directing and coordinating the efforts of the Confederation and its members to fulfil their mission and respond to the signs of the times by working towards reaching common objectives. It reflects the priorities of the Caritas Internationalis Member Organisations working together through national, regional and global structures.

The new Strategic Framework, inspired by the Gospel and Catholic Social Teaching, takes the current global situation into consideration, maintains continuity with the strategic orientations of the previous four years, and defines new strategic objectives as well as renewed and concrete outcomes based on the Confederation's vision, mission and commitments, needs to be met, opportunities to be maximised, standards to be achieved, and risks to be overcome.

This Strategic Framework is the fruit of a year-long participatory process, which started with the creation of a Task Force in charge of coordinating this work, developing tools to promote a harmonised process, and collating proposals from different stakeholders. With the purpose of ensuring greater participation and ownership at all levels, the process has been characterised by several rounds of consultations with the Caritas Internationalis Strategic Orientations' Committees, Regional Secretariats and Member Organisations in order to gather their inputs and receive specific assessments of the regional contexts.

In this work, we were continuously guided by the principle that due to their Confederation-wide nature, the strategic objectives are mostly aspirational: they are statements of intent which can help shape the work of Member Organisations and Regions in common directions. Members can thus be inspired to develop their own specific objectives and actions which are relevant to their local context, and to their organisational capacity.

We express our sincere thanks to all Strategic Orientations' Committees, Regional Secretariats, Member Organisations and staff of the General Secretariat who have contributed to the development of this strategy.

We express our deep gratitude to all members of the Task Force and the consultant who accompanied this process for their commitment, professional work and valuable efforts made to design the strategy and to ensure that all suggestions were taken into consideration and integrated in a consistent way.

It is now important to strengthen the ownership of these strategic orientations at all levels of the Confederation: the work will continue to enhance regular monitoring, periodic evaluation, a permanent learning process and accountability. We will take all the necessary steps to make this Framework a living document for our organisations and a guide for our common efforts.

As one human family, in our common home, let us walk together to fulfil our mission of building a world of justice, peace, solidarity, and equality, where human dignity of every person is respected, where everyone can participate in building a better future, and where integral and sustainable human development becomes a reality. Let us walk together on "new paths of fraternity"!

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INTRODUCTION

Caritas Internationalis is a confederation of 162 Catholic national relief, development, and social service organisations. We are an expression of the Church's mission to preach the Good News and contribute to the building of God's Kingdom of dignity, justice and love for all. Our mandate comes from the life and words of Jesus Christ and from the vast wealth of Catholic teaching, and in particular the Church's social teaching.

Caritas promotes integral human development and integral ecology by serving, accompanying, defending and listening to people living in poverty, whilst together caring for our common home. We respond to emergencies and natural, human-made and complex humanitarian crises, providing essential and social services, and health care.

We speak out against the causes of poverty and injustice, and work together, as brothers and sisters, advocating and campaigning for a just world built on love, peace, and solidarity. Our work is informed by reflecting on the 'signs of the times' through a 'see, judge and act' methodology.

We strive to bring about a long-term, positive impact to the lives of those we serve. This requires us to be both effective in our work, and good stewards of the resources entrusted to us.

Our times are challenging and complex. Whilst it could be argued that recent decades have seen progress in health and living standards for many people in the world, this has happened at the cost of growing inequality in wealth and power, social fragmentation and environmental degradation, underpinned by an unjust economic system.

***'For us the wellspring
of human dignity and
fraternity is in the Gospel
of Jesus Christ'***

(Pope Francis, Fratelli Tutti)



“A type of development which did not respect and promote human rights – personal and social, economic and political, including the rights of nations and of peoples – would not be really worthy of man”

(John Paul II, Sollicitudo Rei Socialis, 33)

The bond between concern for nature, justice for the poor, commitment to society, and interior peace is inseparable

(Pope Francis, Laudato Si)

In 2015 the global community agreed to implement the ambitious **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**, hoping to address some of these issues in collaborative partnership with others. Caritas contributed to this process and it remains the best path to progress towards sustainable development. Recent events, and a lack of progress and political will, still conspire to frustrate this ambition. Alongside the 2030 Agenda, our confederation remains committed to the International Declaration of Human Rights and the Humanitarian Standards.

Another overarching issue remains **the climate crisis**. Global emissions projected for 2030 will still be twice as high as they need to be in order to limit warming to 1.5C. With promises for prevention and adaptation funding unfulfilled, there is justifiable scepticism about the loss and damage fund.

The ongoing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic comes on top of other major global crises, such as water, energy and food insecurity, global geopolitical tensions, and the rise of populism. Significantly, conflicts within and between countries are now at an all-time high whilst the devastation caused by Russia's invasion of Ukraine is also having a significant global impact on food supply and geo-political security.

The world's socio-economic trends are increasingly concerning, as millions are living in extreme poverty and indebtedness of poorer countries is on the rise once again. Furthermore, the number of forcibly displaced people has doubled since 2010 whilst biodiversity depletion, deforestation and pollution of oceans and lands continues to endanger the natural balance and the capacity of nature to restore.

Caritas understands that we are in an interconnected social, economic and environmental crisis that will impact everyone – with the poorest and most vulnerable hit first and hardest as they often live in the most affected areas and lack the resources needed to respond. It is therefore an imperative that we act with urgency.



OUR VISION AND OUR MISSION

OUR VISION

A just world, transformed to reflect God's kingdom, where all people in our common home experience the love, compassion and fullness of life.

OUR MISSION

Inspired by the Gospel, the teachings of Catholic Church, and the lived experiences of people living in poverty, we are part of the universal mission of the Catholic Church, working in a spirit of fraternal cooperation and partnership to

- Save lives and reduce risk by building resilient communities, and responding quickly and effectively to humanitarian crises
- Transform lives and communities through the promotion of integral human development, the care for creation, the restoration of peace and social justice
- Call for a better world by amplifying the voice of those we serve, and convening people to advocate and act



OUR VALUES

Our values are firmly rooted in the principles within the Social teachings of the Catholic Church. Whilst we focus on human dignity, solidarity, subsidiarity and stewardship, we acknowledge an underlying *preferential option for the poor* that runs through our values. They are brought to life through **shared commitments** that will guide Caritas Internationalis as we work towards our strategic orientations.

DIGNITY OF THE HUMAN PERSON

We believe in the intrinsic dignity and worth of every person. Our faith, and our *preferential option for the poor*, calls us to serve all in need regardless of their ethnicity, sex, age, religion or beliefs to achieve transformation. We seek to celebrate diversity, and the strength it gives us, as we come together and seek justice for all.

We commit to upholding this value by:

- **Ensuring that communities experiencing poverty, vulnerability, and crises, are at the centre of our work.**
- **Exercising accountable and servant leadership grounded in Caritas values, and promoting the leadership of women and young people.**

SOLIDARITY

We strive to work together for the common good, seeking to create a culture of encounter, and walking with the “other” in jointly committing to care for the most vulnerable. We choose to think and act in terms of community (*Fratelli Tutti*, 116).

We commit to upholding this value by:

- **Embracing a Culture of Encounter and actively working with others to promote integral human development, and to achieve transformative change.**
- **Sharing capabilities and promoting a culture of learning within the Confederation, enhancing our knowledge, skills and processes for the fulfilment of our shared mission.**



SUBSIDIARITY

We seek to ensure that power, decisions and responsibility are exercised at the local level wherever possible, and that our efforts as a Confederation maximise and build upon local capabilities and resources. In the spirit of synodality, we value community-led programmes and participatory leadership at all levels.

We commit to upholding this value by:

- **Ensuring that good partnership and fraternal cooperation are central to the way we work together.**
- **Reflecting the principles of synodality in our identity and way of being, and in our decisions and actions as a Confederation.**

STEWARDSHIP

We seek to be responsible guardians of God's creation. To be ethical, accountable and transparent as we care for the gifts God has given us, including the environment, our own personal talents, and other resources.

We commit to upholding this value by:

- **Promoting integral ecology and care for creation through our words and actions.**
- **Demonstrating good stewardship of our resources and talents, measuring the impact of our work, and being transparent and accountable to the communities we serve.**





OUR STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES 2024-2030

Our strategic objectives aim to reflect the priorities and activities of the **Caritas family working together** through local, regional, and global Caritas structures.

They complement the richness and depth of the work of Caritas at a parish, diocesan and national level. This includes peacebuilding, responding to emergencies, healthcare, social services, education, promoting social and just economic models, supporting people with disabilities, the elderly and migrants, and much more. Each of our member organisations has their own strategic objectives relevant to their local and national context, and to their capacity to serve.

Because they are Confederation-wide, **our strategic objectives are mostly aspirational**: statements of intent and shared commitments which could help shape the work of member organisations and regions in common directions. Their development has been participatory and collaborative. Differing realities and priorities have been incorporated through a listening process engaging member organisations, regional offices, and strategic orientation committees of Caritas Internationalis.

They are grouped in five strategic orientations, pathways that reflect our shared priorities in the coming years.

The first reflects our **distinctiveness as the Church's agency** for charity and social justice, shaping our identity and culture.

The second and third are **core mission** orientations that concern the operational work of Caritas as a Confederation, and as individual members.

The fourth and fifth are **enabling orientations**, improving how we work as a confederation: better demonstrating good stewardship of our resources and talents, being accountable to the communities we serve, and ensuring effective internal and external communication.

Strategic Orientation 1

Caritas at the heart of the Church

Caritas and its member organisations are entrusted by the Church with the mission of promoting integral human development, peace, and justice. Working within the Church, and alongside other people of goodwill, we embrace a culture of encounter and a spirit of fraternal cooperation. Together, we build peaceful and flourishing communities, particularly where people live in poverty or in vulnerable situations. Caritas is more than a non-governmental organisation; we are an expression of the organised charity of the Church, putting its values and teaching into action. We promote a truly Synodal Caritas where all levels become true communities of life animated by the Holy Spirit.

Strategic Objectives	Outcomes
1.1. In the spirit of synodality, we engage in dialogue, among ourselves and within the whole Church family, together promoting integral human development and the service of charity	1.1.1. Caritas is applying Synodal methodology to its own structures and practices at all levels
	1.1.2. Caritas is working in synergy with local Church communities, with the Holy See, episcopal structures, and other Church organisations to promote integral human development
	1.1.3. Caritas encourages, supports, and works alongside bishops and clergy, to promote the work of charity as a core part of the Churches’ mission, reinforcing the importance of lay leadership, and the special charism of Caritas
	1.1.4. Through sharing expertise and good practice, Caritas members reinforce the commitment of the Church to safeguarding, accountability, equity, inclusion and women’s and youth leadership
1.2. We journey together with people living in poverty, bearing witness to their central role within the Church and society	1.2.1. Caritas systematically listens to people living in poverty, encouraging active participation in the design and implementation of programmes impacting their communities, and promoting local leadership
	1.2.2. Caritas members learn from each other, and from the communities we serve, by sharing best practice and resources



1.3. By deepening our understanding of Catholic identity, spirituality, culture and values, we lay solid foundations for fraternal cooperation

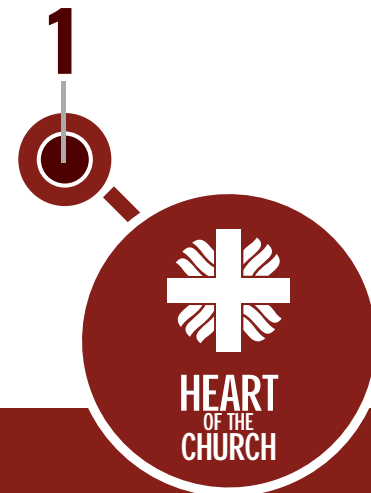
1.3.1. Through formation and training, Caritas' Catholic Identity and values, together with its social teaching, are understood and reflected at all levels of the Confederation, in particular among staff, volunteers and other partnerships

1.3.2. Caritas members uphold their commitment to partnership and fraternal cooperation, founded within a clear theological and ecclesiological framework, and maintained through dialogue and compliance with CI guidelines

1.4. We actively listen to, and work with, agencies of other churches, faith groups, and secular organisations, to increase the impact of our common work

1.4.1. By being confident in our own identity, and building on shared best practice, and understanding common challenges, Caritas is strengthening its working relationships within the wider Church, ecumenically, with other faiths and secular agencies

1.4.2. Caritas is exploring shared priorities between religions and cultures, building strategic alliances at all levels, listening and respecting local contacts



Strategic Orientation

2

Save lives, reduce risk, rebuild communities

Caritas provides safe and dignified, rapid, high-quality and coordinated responses to humanitarian crises. We work to reduce the impact on people - by helping them cope better during the crises, and by helping their communities become better prepared and more resilient. We are committed to fraternal cooperation principles, working with local, national, and regional Caritas to increase capacities and strengthen leadership. The complex challenges faced by vulnerable communities increasingly require 'triple nexus' programming – the development, peacebuilding and humanitarian sectors working together to reduce need, risk and vulnerability.

Strategic Objectives

Outcomes

2.1. We enhance local capacities and leadership to strengthen coordinated emergency response (providing life-saving and life-enhancing actions to the most vulnerable on the basis of need)

- 2.1.1.** Caritas members are empowered to provide rapid, high quality, and well-resourced emergency response for crisis-affected people, applying Core Humanitarian Standards, and collaborating with other agencies where appropriate
- 2.1.2.** Caritas members are supported to implement safe and dignified humanitarian action
- 2.1.3.** Caritas members are able to access financial, human and technical resources to implement necessary and appropriate responses
- 2.1.4.** Caritas adopts a more regionalised approach to crisis coordination and, where appropriate to their context, regional secretariats are strengthened to better deliver emergency coordination. This is reflected in the CI Emergency Response Framework
- 2.1.5.** Caritas members engaged in humanitarian action at diocesan, national, regional and global levels, coordinate their work with other members, government and local authorities and other key actors, including UN agencies
- 2.1.6.** Caritas contributes to local, national, regional and global platforms for humanitarian coordination



2.2. We build the coping capacities of communities to make them more resilient to natural, man-made and complex crises

2.2.1. Caritas-supported communities adopt sustainable local measures and approaches which strengthen their resilience to cope with crises and shocks leading to adaptive and integrated responses linking relief, rehabilitation and social cohesion

2.2.2. Globally and within regions, Caritas members share experiences and resources to ensure consistent, good practice across countries

2.2.3. Caritas' advocacy addresses decision-makers at all levels and includes speaking out on the underlying causes of humanitarian crises. It is evidence-based and is informed by lessons from Caritas' experience.

2.3. We strengthen national, diocesan and parish leadership role in Disaster Risk Reduction, in particular prevention strategies

2.3.1. Local community actors are equipped and trained to support their communities in times of crisis

2.3.2. Local capacities are strengthened to increase prevention and preparedness mechanisms

2.3.3. Best practices are valued and shared to enhance peer learning within and outside the Confederation through appropriate means (digital platform, on-line and in-presence initiatives, etc.)

2.4. We strongly commit to fraternal cooperation principles in humanitarian response

2.4.1. Caritas members are committed to work together during crises or disasters through sustainable and long-term partnership and the effective application of fraternal cooperation principles

2.4.2. The Partnership and Fraternal Cooperation Guiding Principles are updated and include a regulation/arbitration system in case of non-respect of partnership/ fraternal cooperation principles

2

CORE MISSION
ORIENTATION

Strategic Orientation

3

Promote sustainable integral human development and care for creation

The humanitarian, human development, and peacebuilding work of the Caritas Confederation is vast, reaching and serving communities all over the world. We aim to eradicate all forms of poverty and promote social and economic justice. We seek a just economy that fosters human dignity, serves all of society, and leaves no one behind. We accompany and empower communities by listening to their specific needs and responding in a holistic and coordinated way.

Transforming unjust structures whilst caring for creation requires Caritas and the communities it serves to speak out at every level. We promote collective actions so individuals can engage in developing their own means of livelihood and influence the systems and decisions that affect them. Globally, inspired by integral ecology, we advocate for everyone to have access to essential social services and basic rights within a framework of good governance and sustainable development. We strengthen our message by working with the Holy See and episcopal conferences.

Strategic Objectives	Outcomes
3.1. We encourage and support advocacy that is participatory, evidence-based and informed by the voice and experiences of the most vulnerable people	<p>3.1.1. Globally, decision makers have been informed by the voices and concerns of people living in poverty</p> <p>3.1.2. Caritas' advocacy is targeted, effective and evidence-based, supported by research with appropriate systems in place to measure impact</p> <p>3.1.3. Caritas members are supported to develop advocacy strategies that reflect a human rights-based approach, and highlight the needs of the most vulnerable</p> <p>3.1.4. Caritas members and regional secretariats have increased capacity and are supported to undertake advocacy work to influence policies at all levels</p> <p>3.1.5. Caritas values the experience and knowledge of regional secretariats and other member organisations to lead/coordinate on specific advocacy issues</p> <p>3.1.6. Caritas members participate in platforms and discussions organised by local authorities to provide their expertise to national and local policy development on relevant advocacy issues</p> <p>3.1.7. Caritas promotes responsible and inclusive cooperation among members surrounding advocacy at all levels</p>



3.2. By amplifying the voice of the Church on social and ecological challenges, we build awareness, mobilise and support local communities to influence, challenge and propose innovative solutions to decision-makers

3.2.1. The advocacy of Caritas members makes a distinct and effective contribution by working on common issues with the Holy See and Episcopal Conferences and the others within the Church family. Demonstrating it is 'One Church' in action strengthens its message

3.2.2. Caritas reads the signs of the time and actively advocates on urgent, long-term and emerging challenges, including integral ecology, poverty and inequality, migration, refugees and human trafficking, conflict, peace and reconciliation, and health

3.2.3. Caritas members promote sustainable integral human development, accompanying communities and identifying effective strategies to enhance community engagement in advancement of the Global Agenda 2030

3.2.4. Where necessary, Caritas raises awareness, accompanies and empowers local communities to have agency and play an active role in addressing their priority issues

3.2.5. Shared lessons from Caritas experience inform evidence-based advocacy towards decision-makers at local, national, regional and global levels

3.2.6. Caritas' increases the reach and impact of its advocacy by working, where appropriate, with other Catholic, ecumenical, interfaith and secular partners

3

CORE MISSION
ORIENTATION

Strategic Orientation

3

3.3. We mobilise our Caritas family, Church and civil society through global campaigns to promote care for creation and integral human development for all, and especially for people living in poverty

3.3.1. Caritas supports communities to mobilise and campaign to promote integral human development for people living in poverty

3.3.2. Caritas engages in long-term support for communities, involving them as partners in action and creating new possibilities for their empowerment and civic involvement

3.3.3. Caritas' global campaigns create awareness and build capacity and agency so as to drive transformation in behaviour, attitudes and policies

3.3.4. Caritas members engage with other Church and civil society organisations to strengthen the impact of its global campaigns

3.4. We apply a coordinated and multidimensional approach to integral human development so we can respond to communities' needs more holistically

3.4.1. Caritas advocacy strategies highlight the nexus between emergency response, development and peacebuilding/social cohesion (triple nexus)

3.4.2. In the communities Caritas serves, development, humanitarian, and peacebuilding programmes are better integrated and coordinated

3.4.3. Caritas members apply the principles of Integral Human Development to strengthen social cohesion, solidarity, and the promotion of an inclusive and fair society

3.4.4. Caritas promotes sustainable development programmes to combat poverty and inequality which help to create and foster a more human-centred and just economy



3

CORE MISSION
ORIENTATION

Strategic Orientation
4

Increase the effectiveness of the Caritas Confederation

We are building a stronger and more accountable Caritas, based on common standards, to better serve the vulnerable and those living in poverty. We strive to be sustainable, compassionate, and work professionally in diverse cultural settings and in fraternal cooperation with each other, and the people we serve. Caritas supports the training of staff members, with a focus on leadership development, professional skills, and pastoral care. We seek to create an organisational environment where women and young people have strong representation and leadership opportunities. We nurture a culture of safeguarding and embed the necessary processes and training across the Confederation.

Strategic Objectives	Outcomes
4.1. We foster the long-term sustainability of Member Organisations, upholding the Caritas Internationalis Management Standards as a common tool for organisational development	4.1.1. Caritas members, especially emerging and fragile members, are resilient, sustainable, and accountable; and demonstrate a commitment to continual learning
	4.1.2. The Caritas Internationalis Management Standards (CIMS) are regularly reviewed and updated with emerging best practices
	4.1.3. Caritas members, regional and global secretariats are committed to the CIMS as a common Confederation tool for supporting member-led and sustainable organisational development and risk management
	4.1.4. Regional structures are strengthened and appropriately resourced so that they are able to provide quality accompaniment to Members at key stages of their CIMS and organisational development journeys
	4.1.5. Caritas ensures that we do no harm to the environment, taking a positive approach to protecting and restoring the environment, and reducing our Greenhouse Gas Emissions as appropriate
4.2. We promote effective, inclusive and accountable leadership, grounded in our Caritas values and principles	4.2.1. Decision-making processes within the Confederation are transparent, inclusive and reflect synodality and subsidiarity principles
	4.2.2. Training and tools have been developed at all Caritas levels and are grounded in its values
	4.2.3. All Caritas leaders can access development opportunities and build a culture of accountable and inclusive leadership which reflects the diversity of its membership



4.3. We commit to accountability, learning, research, impact measurement and innovation through evidence-driven and results-based practice

4.3.1. Caritas measures and communicates its impact, demonstrating accountability and transparency internally, with the communities it serves, and the wider public

4.3.2. Caritas embraces technology to streamline practice and measure its impact

4.3.3. Caritas is a learning Confederation and promotes peer learning, innovation, and knowledge management through the mapping, identification and dissemination of best practices, and training and monitoring

4.3.4. Caritas members regularly study the signs of the time and use systems for data gathering and research, contributing to good practice and policy linked to its priority issues

4.4. We uphold our commitment to safeguarding by building a culture of accountability and constructive/proactive collaboration

4.4.1. Caritas has embedded a culture of safeguarding at all levels of the Confederation, reflected in good practice systems and processes, and in the awareness and commitment of the staff

4.4.2. Caritas Confederation is committed to a survivor-centred approach, including quality support to victims/survivors of sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment, and timely investigations and sanctions

4.4.3. The Caritas Confederation is a safe, trusted and accountable partner of choice for communities and survivors with whom they work

4.4.4. Caritas Confederation is committed to enhancing accountability and transparency through clear, timely and open communication, regularly reporting internally and externally regarding safeguarding practices

4

ENABLING ORIENTATION

Strategic Orientation

4

4.5. We promote the leadership and participation of women across the Confederation, measuring and communicating our progress

4.5.1. The perspectives, contributions, experiences and competence of women across the Confederation are valued and respected

4.5.2. Barriers to women's participation and leadership are identified and addressed, creating an enabling environment where women can flourish and contribute actively to shaping the Caritas' collective mission. Women's leadership objectives are also integrated in the CIMS

4.5.3. Caritas members gather data and report on women's leadership and participation across the Confederation annually to track progress and maintain accountability

4.5.4. The Caritas Confederation is in active dialogue with the broader Church around the benefits of women's leadership

4.5.5. Leadership pathways are in place for emerging women leaders resulting in increased participation of women in leadership roles

4.6. We encourage and empower young people to participate fully in the mission and development of Caritas, and support our members to give space to, and engage, young people effectively and meaningfully

4.6.1. Young people are catalysts for change in their communities as a result of opportunities, professional development and spiritual formation that they experience with Caritas

4.6.2. Young people have strong and valued representation in decision-making processes, including both governance structures and leadership positions, and help to shape the mission and priorities of the Confederation

4.6.3. Regional Secretariats and Caritas members have the capacities to include youth in their work and to develop youth initiatives in a way that is appropriate to their local contexts

4.6.4. Caritas fosters professional growth and develops career paths preparing youth to assume organisational leadership



4

ENABLING ORIENTATION

Strategic Orientation

5

Build global solidarity

Caritas calls for global solidarity with people living in poverty or suffering injustice. We amplify their voices through coordinated communication, public education, and campaigning. We are seen as a trusted and transformational force of positive social change, speaking out with one voice across the Confederation. Caritas embraces new technology to communicate effectively within the confederation, sharing knowledge and learning and increasing our capacity to mobilise resources, transform the hearts and minds of society, and influence policy.

Strategic Objectives

Outcomes

5.1. We speak as one Caritas family and are recognised as a credible and trusted global voice on social, ecological, humanitarian, and development issues

- 5.1.1.** Caritas’ external communication is timely, reliable and solutions-focused, especially when shedding light on crises and social injustice
- 5.1.2.** Caritas has strong connections and partnerships with media building awareness of our mission and identity, and our humanitarian and development programmes
- 5.1.3.** Caritas has a strong common identity which is recognised and trusted by communities with whom it works, as well as partners, media, and members of the public
- 5.1.4.** Caritas utilises communications in a strategic and planned way to better support its advocacy, humanitarian, social and ecological priorities

5.2. We bear witness to the lived experience of people who live in poverty, who are excluded, vulnerable or in crisis, joining in their calls for justice through our communications

- 5.2.1.** People experiencing poverty, marginalisation or crisis are active participants in Caritas’ communication efforts
- 5.2.2.** Caritas’ communication upholds the principles of safeguarding, dignity and truth, ensuring it reflects the lives and realities of people living in poverty
- 5.2.3.** Caritas shares timely and relevant information about its identity, and its work with the communities it accompanies



5.3. We strengthen communications capabilities at all levels of the Confederation, through mutual learning and accompaniment

5.3.1. Caritas Members have appropriate communication strategies, systems and tools in place and are supporting one another by sharing communication knowledge and capabilities, and best practices

5.3.2. Caritas' internal communications processes and systems are accessible, user-friendly, and efficient, and enable timely flows of information within the Confederation

5.3.3. Caritas embraces the opportunities offered by new communication technologies and are able to adapt to the need of various audiences

5.4. In the spirit of solidarity and fraternal cooperation, we mobilise resources for the fulfilment of our collective mission

5.4.1. Caritas Internationalis and Member Organisations have capabilities to mobilise external resources to develop its mission of service and accompaniment

5.4.2. Caritas animates the network for the sharing and mobilisation of internal resources particularly in support of emerging Member Organisations

5.4.3. Caritas mobilises, supports and celebrates its network of volunteers, recognising they bring their time, skills and knowledge to Caritas' mission of service and love



Notes

When we use *Caritas*, we mean all parts of the Caritas Confederation

When we use *Members*, we mean the 162 national relief, development and social service organisations presided over by local bishops.

When we use *regional bodies*, we mean the regional groupings of member organisations and their secretariats.

When we use *The Church* we mean those followers of Jesus within the Roman Catholic tradition, or in communion with Rome. St Paul calls us the Body of Christ. In this image, there is no hierarchy of importance: every other part of the body is of equal importance and is essential to the whole. The church is also a hierarchical *human* institution with inspired teachings, traditionally portrayed as a pyramid with the Pope at the head. Many now see an inverted pyramid, with the laity at the top - the community of believers called to go out into the world. We are supported and served by religious communities, priests, bishops, and the Pope.

When we use *At all levels* we mean local through to national, regional and global. This could apply to the Church from parishes to the Holy See, but also the polity from local authorities to national governments and the UN.

Glossary

Integral human development and Integral ecology

In the 1967 encyclical *Populorum Progressio*, Pope Paul VI introduced the concept of **integral development**: ‘*Development cannot be limited to mere economic growth. In order to be authentic, it must be complete: integral, that is, it has to promote the good of every man and of the whole man.*’

The concept continues to be developed in papal teaching and we can now define Integral human development as concerning the wellbeing and holistic development of the human person, covering all aspects of life: social, economic, political, cultural, ecological, and spiritual. It promotes the dignity of the human person, equality between every person and the common good of all people in the community.

Integral ecology begins with the recognition that humanity now faces existential crises on multiple fronts: extreme economic injustice, resource depletion, a severely degraded natural world and biodiversity which threatens the survival of less resourced communities, failing nation states, and a climate crisis and forced displacement due to it. Drawing upon the wisdom of the Church, Pope Francis in his encyclical, *Laudato Si* in 2015, urges us to listen to both the “cry of the Earth” and the “cry of the poor” and have an integrated and holistic approach to our political, social, economic, and environmental problems. We are urged to work together to protect the earth, our common home and the flourishing of all people

Preferential option for the poor - the use of this term has its roots in the Vatican II Pastoral Constitution *Gaudium et spes* (1965) and refers to a trend throughout biblical texts where a preference is given to people who are marginalised, living in poverty, and powerless. It became a core tenet of liberation theology and was adopted by Latin American Bishops in their conferences in Medellin and Puebla. It has been seen as an important part of modern catholic teaching cited by all popes since Vatican II. In Pope Francis’s apostolic exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium* he notes that “Without the preferential option for the poor, ‘the proclamation of the Gospel ... risks being misunderstood or submerged’.”

The Synodal process - The Church is going through a 2 year process with the theme: “For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, and Mission.” These three dimensions are profoundly interrelated. They are the vital pillars of a Synodal Church. There is no hierarchy between them. The process will allow bishops to consult with all Catholics in a spirit of collaboration and openness.

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SAVE LIVES
REDUCE RISK
REBUILD
COMMUNITIES

3

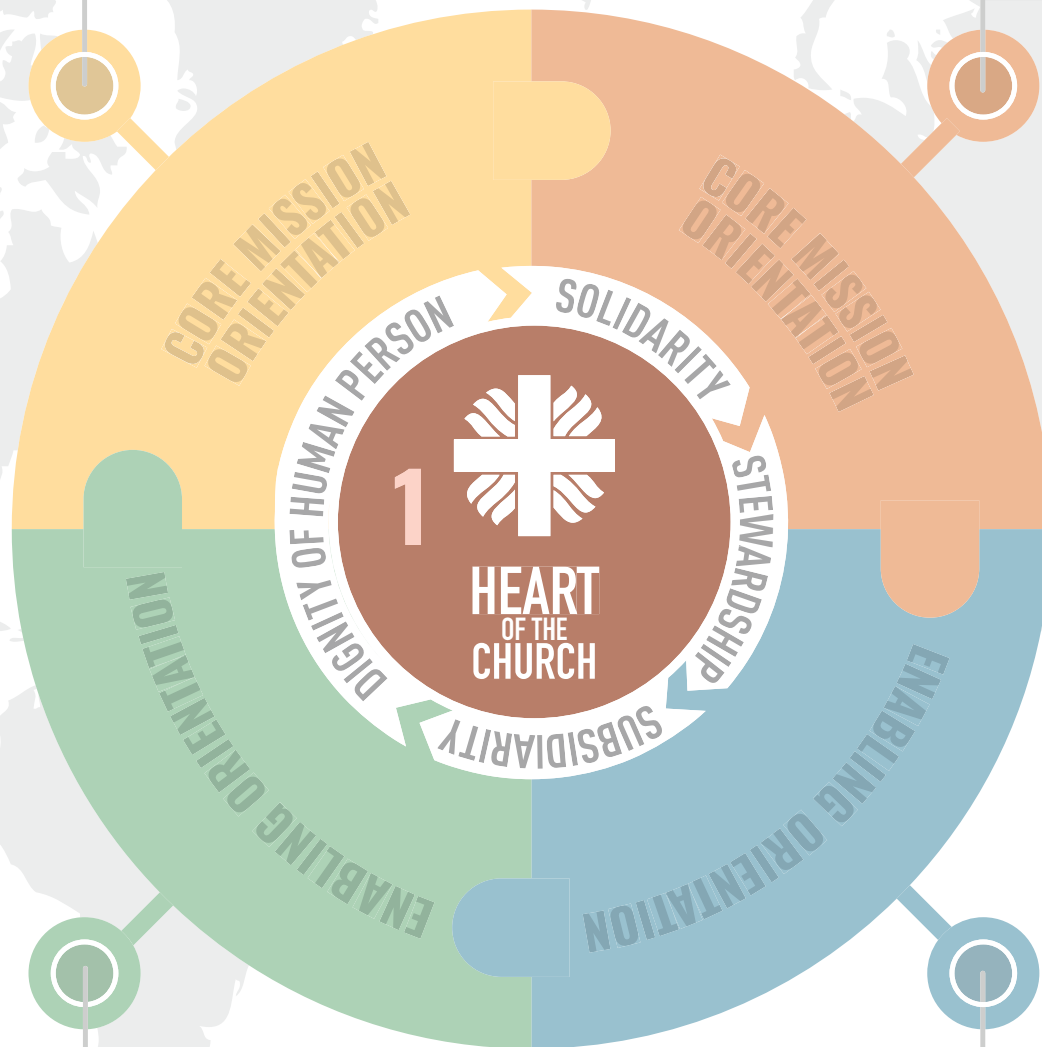
PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE
INTEGRAL HUMAN
DEVELOPMENT AND
CARE FOR CREATION

4

INCREASE THE
EFFECTIVENESS
OF THE CARITAS
CONFEDERATION

5

BUILD
GLOBAL
SOLIDARITY





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