Caritas Internationalis

ANNUAL REPORT 2024



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"The poor are not a distraction for the Church, but our beloved brothers and sisters, for by their lives, their words and their wisdom, they put us in contact with the truth of the Gospel"

– Pope Leo XIV, World Day Of The Poor Message, 2025



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A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear brothers and sisters in the Caritas family,

As we reflect on 2024, I am filled with gratitude for the faith, dedication, and unity that guide our Confederation. Around the world, Caritas continues to witness the Church's love, reaching those most in need and standing with communities affected by conflict, displacement, poverty, and climate change.

This year, we deepened our collaboration, listening to all regions as we advanced the Partnership Principles and Modus Operandi. Through our engagement in the Synod on Synodality, we demonstrated that Caritas is a living community of faith and service, walking together with compassion.

Our humanitarian response reached over 1.1 million people across 31 countries, offering food, shelter, and hope. We also launched the 'Turn Debt into Hope' campaign, with the late Holy Father's blessing, calling the world to justice and solidarity. Initiatives on Human Mobility, Health, Food Security, and Climate Change remind us that caring for creation and defending human dignity are inseparable.

As we continue to walk alongside people in most need across the world, let us give thanks for our journey, renew our unity, and continue to be the Church's instrument of love and hope. May the Lord bless all who serve through Caritas and inspire us to walk always with the poor.

With gratitude and fraternal blessings,

Cardinal Tarcisio Isao Kikuchi
President



A WORD FROM THE SECRETARY GENERAL

Dear Caritas friends,

After significant changes in the leadership of the General Secretariat in 2023, 2024 was a year of active listening, closer cooperation, and steady progress across the Caritas Confederation. Guided by our commitment to working together in unity, we continued shaping the Caritas Internationalis Partnership Principles and Modus Operandi, a framework that will clarify how we collaborate as one global family while respecting the roles of each region and member organisation. This work strengthened our shared mission to support people in need through better dialogue and clearer coordination.

Throughout the year, every region and more than 100 member organisations took part in developing the Modus Operandi on partnership. Together, we clarified how we work in practice, outlined responsibilities, improved accountability, and reinforced our shared leadership. Caritas also contributed reflections and case studies to the Synod on Synodality, showing how our community-based service and local leadership reflect a synodal way of working.

Through our Emergency Appeal Mechanism, which represents approximately 15% of the Caritas Confederation humanitarian funding flows, Caritas Internationalis mobilised €39 million, reaching 1.1 million people affected by conflict, economic crises, and climate related disasters across 31 countries. Most notably, Caritas provided lifesaving assistance to displaced communities devastated by conflicts and violence in the Holy Land, Ukraine, Myanmar, Yemen, Sudan and South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Haiti, Venezuela and Syria.

In addition, Caritas accompanied communities recovering from climate related disasters, food crises, and natural hazards in Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Türkiye, Kazakhstan, the Philippines, Bangladesh, Pakistan, the Caribbean, and Brazil. Beyond immediate relief, Caritas strengthened long term resilience through initiatives in health, migration, food security, women's leadership, and climate adaptation, ensuring that humanitarian assistance is not only lifesaving but also transformative for the future.

We deepened our collaboration with the Holy See and Bishops' Conferences to ensure our mission aligns with local Church priorities. The global launch of the 'Turn Debt into Hope' campaign, endorsed by Pope Francis, brought together Catholic organisations and civil society groups to call for urgent debt reform and to continue the fight against poverty. Our coordinated advocacy at the UN made it possible for several member organisations to present reports and organise side-events at international fora, such as the UN Human Rights Council. We conducted strategic advocacy activities at the Commission on the Status of Women and participated in joint Ecumenical activities for peace and dialogue.

On climate change, a strong Caritas delegation participated at COP29 in Baku, including delegates from Latin America and the Caribbean. They advocated for more money for climate finance, including loss and damage, and greater climate justice.

On human mobility, the MigraRed event brought together practitioners and advocates on migration and refugee issues, particularly those involved in the Cartagena process. On human trafficking, the strategic plan 2024-2030 for COATNET was elaborated, ahead of the launch of a new global call to action against human trafficking in February 2025.

On health, we continued our projects with international agencies for supporting essential health services, including work on the prevention and treatment of diseases such as tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS, non-communicable diseases, mental health conditions, and malaria, and the delivery of effective neonatal and childcare.


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Internally, we consolidated our structures and strengthened the way Caritas and member organisations work together. The Caritas Strategic Framework was implemented in full, supported by five Strategic Orientation Committees. The first Committees Forum in Rome, attended by more than 120 delegates, set clear priorities for 2025 and increased shared ownership of our common direction.

We also strengthened our tools for organisational development and provided targeted support to members in fragile contexts, helping them improve governance, safeguarding, and programme management. Safeguarding was further strengthened through the renewal of the mandate of the Complaints Handling Commission, which improves transparency and oversight.

We continued work on promoting women's leadership and supporting young people to represent Caritas at major global platforms such as the UN High-Level Political Forum. A major highlight in 2024 was the publication of the book 'Equality, Encounter, Renewal', promoting women's participation and leadership within the Confederation.

Despite ongoing challenges, especially in conflict-affected and politically unstable areas, the year showed the enduring strength of our Confederation: solidarity rooted in local presence and reinforced by global cooperation.

As we look toward 2025, we will focus on finalising and adopting the Modus Operandi, strengthening collaboration among regions, and deepening our identity as a Confederation in service of the Church and the poor. We move forward with clarity, unity, and hope.

Secretary General



WE ARE CARITAS

Caritas Internationalis is a Confederation of 162 member organisations working in more than 200 countries and territories. Each member organisation is autonomous and responds to its local context, while forming a single, united network that provides emergency relief, supports long-term development, and calls for justice and peace.

Guided by the values and principles of Catholic social teaching and inspired by the Gospel, we work with people facing poverty, exclusion, conflict and the effects of climate change. But our work is not only about reacting when crises happen. We stay, we listen and we act, helping communities to meet urgent needs as they rebuild their futures.

Together, we are a community of hope. Working with people of all faiths and beliefs, we are always guided by humanitarian principles. Support is based on need alone, with no discrimination.

As part of the Church's mission, we promote integral human development and care for creation. In practice, this means serving, accompanying and defending people who are living in poverty or marginalisation, while also working to protect our common home.

We are compassionate in how we work, professional in diverse cultural settings, and act always in cooperation with each other and with the people we serve.


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OUR GLOBAL PRESENCE

162
National Caritas Member Organisations

200
Present in 200 countries and territories

3M
Staff and Volunteers

Nearly half a billion people reached every year

The Confederation is organised into

7 regions



OUR VISION

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

OUR MISSION

Inspired by the Gospel, the teachings of the 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, care for creation, and the restoration of peace and social justice
- Call for a better world, by amplifying the voices of those we serve, and convening people to advocate and act

OUR VALUES

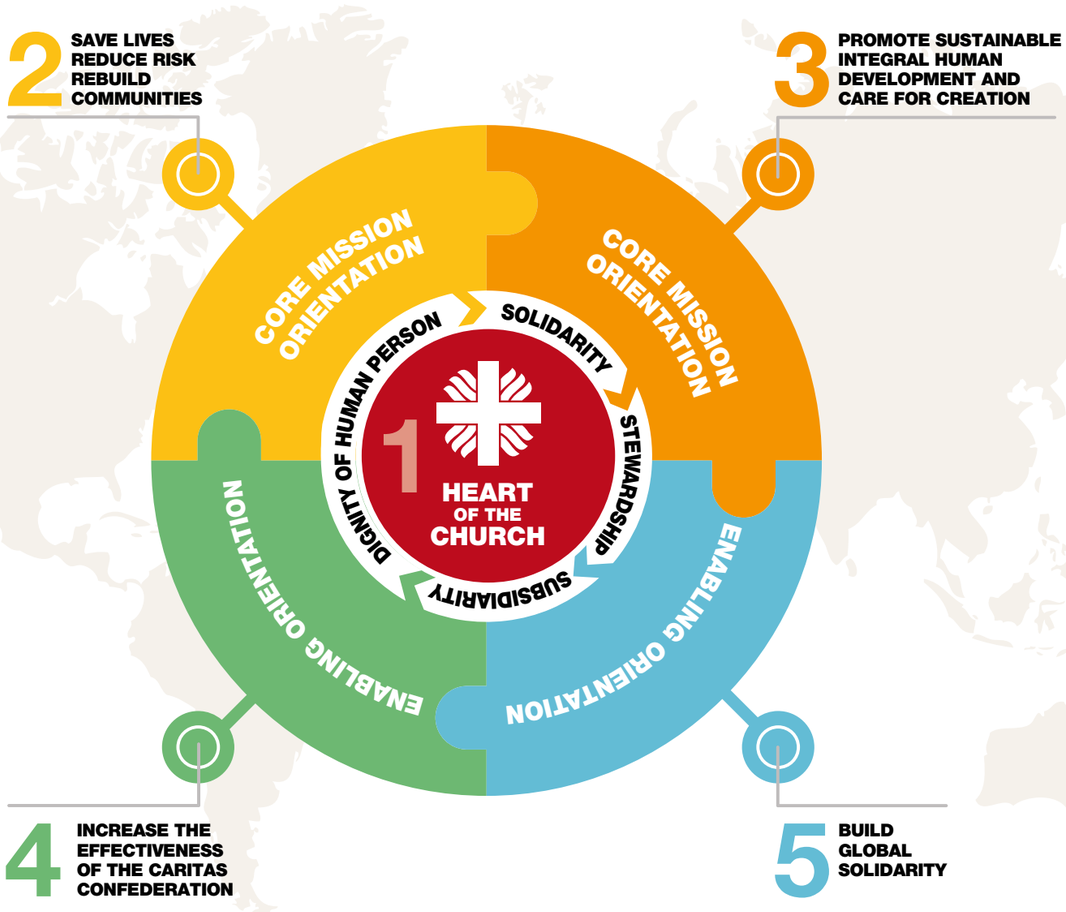
Our core values and principles are firmly rooted in the social teachings of the Catholic Church. While we focus on human dignity, solidarity, subsidiarity and stewardship, an underlying preferential option to help the poorest in society underpins our values. We commit ourselves to combatting the dehumanising poverty that robs people of their dignity and humanity. Our values are brought to life through shared commitments that guide Caritas Internationalis as we work towards our strategic objectives.



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OUR STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

(2023-2024)



Our strategic objectives aim to reflect the priorities and activities of the Caritas family working together through local, regional and global Caritas structures. The strategic objectives are statements of intent and shared commitments which could help shape the work of Caritas Confederation member organisations and regions in common directions. They are grouped in five strategic orientations: pathways that reflect our shared priorities. Each of our member organisations also has its own strategic objectives relevant to their local and national context, and to their capacity to serve.

CARITAS INTERNATIONALIS GENERAL SECRETARIAT

The General Secretariat of Caritas Internationalis is based in the Vatican City and coordinates, represents and mobilises the Caritas Confederation throughout the world.

The Secretariat:

- Coordinates responses to major humanitarian crises
- Advocates at an international level
- Supports and accompanies members and regions to strengthen their structures, systems and services.

We are also present in New York and Geneva, where Caritas Internationalis represents the Caritas Confederation at the United Nations (UN).



CARITAS INTERNATIONALIS EXECUTIVE BOARD

The Executive Board is the executive arm of the Representative Council, which leads Caritas between General Assemblies. The Executive Board oversees the ordinary activities of the General Secretariat and helps promote the operational work of the organisation. It provides strategic guidance and oversight, ensuring that activities follow the mission, plans and guidelines that have been approved by the General Assembly and the Representative Council.

His Eminence Cardinal Tarcisio Isao
President

Ms. Philomena Antonio Vice President	**Mr. Patrick Debucquois** Treasurer
Ms. Cristina Calvo Caritas Argentina, Latin America & Caribbean Region	**Mr. Karam Abi Yazbeck** Caritas Middle East and North Africa
Mr. Kidane Bekele Moges Caritas Ethiopia, Africa Region	**Fr. Robert Augustine Twele** Legal Affairs - Commission Chair - Catholic Relief Services, North America Region

THE CARITAS CONFEDERATION AT WORK IN THE WORLD IN 2024



34
EMERGENCY APPEALS

13+
COUNTRIES

BANGLADESH
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO
HAITI
KAZAKHSTAN
LEBANON
MOROCCO
MYANMAR
SOUTH SUDAN
SYRIA
UKRAINE
VENEZUELA
YEMEN
THE HOLY LAND

€39M
MOBILISED

1.1M
PEOPLE REACHED

EMERGENCY APPEALS

Throughout 2024, Caritas Confederation Member Organisations continued to meet the urgent needs of people in emergency situations throughout the world via, among others, 34 Caritas Internationalis Emergency Appeals. This included work in Bangladesh, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Haiti, Kazakhstan, Lebanon, Morocco, Myanmar, South Sudan, Syria, Ukraine, Venezuela, Yemen, and the Holy Land. These appeals mobilised an extraordinary €39 million, enabling us to reach over 1.1 million people with life-saving assistance, shelter, food, medical care, psychosocial support, cash assistance and other resources.



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CARITAS AT THE HEART OF THE CHURCH



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Our identity and mission, founded in Gospel values and Catholic Social Teaching, differentiate Caritas from other non-governmental organisations. In this way, the principle of "Caritas at the Heart of the Church" guides and enriches all our activities. During 2024, Caritas has established a Committee related to Strategic Orientation 1 ('Caritas at the heart of the church'), which has created Task Groups and Working Groups to facilitate its work.

The main operational focus of this Strategic Orientation during 2024 was the development of the Caritas Internationalis Partnership Principles and Modus Operandi, through use of a highly collaborative approach, involving participation of many Caritas Confederation member organisations.

The Modus Operandi Task Group, coordinated by the General Secretariat, worked to draft the Modus Operandi documents, which include a revision and update of the Caritas Internationalis Partnership Principles, as well as a new section on operational guidelines for building and strengthening partnerships between member organisations.

We conducted two Confederation-wide consultations on the Modus Operandi. These consultations formed part of a participatory process that ensured that the voices of Confederation member organisations could be heard and could contribute to the creation of these important documents. This was an important way to incorporate different perspectives and, while valuing the diversity of our Confederation, to identify common points, and unite the network under one shared document.

We also contributed to the Synod on Synodality, collecting many good practices from across the Confederation, developing the document: 'Synod on Synodality: Being a Synodal Church in Mission – Caritas Good Practices', and contributing to the work of Study Group 2 on 'Listening to the Cry of the Poor' coordinated by the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development.

Another important focus was on strengthening relationships and dialogue with Bishops: listening to them during the ad limina visit, or visits to the General Secretariat, and working with them to support the mission of their national Caritas Confederation member organisations.

We also maintained regular contacts and meetings with the Holy See Dicasteries, particularly the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, which is mandated within its Statutes to work closely with Caritas Internationalis, with the Secretariat of State, with the Dicastery for Oriental Churches; and with the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors.



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SAVE LIVES, REDUCE RISK, REBUILD COMMUNITIES



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In a year marked by escalating humanitarian emergencies, including armed conflicts and forced displacement, as well as climate-induced disasters and related refugee crises, Caritas Internationalis remained unwavering in its mission to serve those most at risk. Whether responding to the trauma of war, to the devastation caused by floods or droughts, outbreaks of disease, or the suffering of families uprooted from their homes, those working for members of our global Confederation acted with compassion, courage, and relentless commitment to restore dignity and hope.

During 2024 Caritas Confederation member organisations were involved in the launch of 34 emergency appeals across 31 countries during 2024. Each appeal has provided lifelines for communities affected by the impacts of war, displacement, natural catastrophes, and economic collapse. These appeals mobilised an extraordinary €39 million, enabling us to reach over 1.1 million people with life-saving assistance, shelter, food, medical care, psychosocial support, cash assistance and other resources.

This achievement was not just a testament to our operational capacity. It was also a reflection of the solidarity that binds our global family. Every appeal was powered by the generosity of donors, the dedication of local Caritas teams, and the resilience of the communities we serve.

> “We are working in places where people have lost everything, homes, livelihoods, even family members. Our mission is not just to deliver aid, but to restore dignity and remind them they are not forgotten.”
>
> Caritas-Spes Ukraine, 2024

As we look ahead, Caritas Internationalis remains committed to walking alongside those in need, amplifying their voices, and advocating for justice and peace. Our work in 2024 was relentless, but so is our belief that every person deserves dignity, and every crisis deserves a compassionate and professional response.

SUDAN: RESPONDING TO ONE OF THE WORLD'S WORST HUMANITARIAN CRISES

Throughout 2024 Sudan remained in the grip of one of the world's most severe humanitarian emergencies. The conflict that erupted in April 2023 has continued to devastate lives, displacing over 11 million people internally and forcing a further 3.1 million to flee as refugees to neighbouring countries. Famine was declared across five states of Darfur, exposing up to 9 million people to catastrophic hunger, as a result of the collapse of supply chains, agricultural production, and basic services.

Amid these challenges, the Caritas member organisations CRS, CAFOD, and Trócaire reached over 3.8 million people with life-saving and dignity-restoring assistance.

CRS, operating across 32 localities with 200 national staff and 11 offices, supported 2.5 million people with food, healthcare, nutrition, cash assistance, child protection, education, peacebuilding, economic support, and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services.

In Khartoum, CRS backed the establishment of 157 Emergency Response Rooms and grassroots volunteer networks. These became lifelines for over 307,000 people trapped by fighting and cut off from formal aid.

CAFOD, in collaboration with Caritas Sudan, worked from the south of the country, stood in solidarity with displaced families, refugees, and host communities, providing cash assistance, clean water, hygiene kits, protection services, and psychosocial support. In total, 617,029 people received direct aid, while a further 196,070 were served through advocacy and awareness efforts.

Trócaire's partners ran 17 clinics and dozens of outreach sites offered health care, vaccinations, and nutrition support to displaced families. Their efforts reached almost 700,000 people in need.

Together, these Caritas actors demonstrated unwavering commitment to the people of Sudan, delivering not only aid, but also hope, solidarity, and a pathway to resilience in the face of profound suffering.



© Cafod

CARITAS BANGLADESH: RESPONDING TO CRISIS AND DISPLACEMENT IN 2024

In 2024, Caritas Bangladesh continued its vital humanitarian work amid deepening challenges, from mass displacement to climate disasters and shrinking donor support.

Their work included providing support to Forcibly Displaced Myanmar Nationals (FDMNs) from Rohingya communities, and support for the communities that hosted these refugees. As of November 2024, more than 1 million FDMNs were hosted across 33 camps in Cox's Bazar and on the island of Bhasan Char, to which 36,376 people had been relocated. Amid overcrowding and rising protection risks, Caritas Bangladesh reached 142,000 people, including 114,000 in Cox's Bazar, 20,570 in Bhasan Char, as well as 7,333 members of host communities, providing integrated support in the form of shelter, WASH services, education, nutrition, and livelihood assistance. In June 2024 Caritas Internationalis Secretary General Mr Alistair Dutton visited Bangladesh to see this work in person.

In May 2024, Cyclone Remal severely affected 4.6 million people across 19 districts, and the storm was followed by severe monsoon flooding that impacted 5.82 million people, including 2.3 million children. Caritas Bangladesh responded with emergency aid and early recovery support: 26,251 people received shelter, WASH, and food security assistance; 68,656 people received emergency food and hygiene kits; and, despite budget cuts, 123,764 people were supported with cash grants, resilient shelters, livelihoods, and WASH.

In a year of compounding crises, Caritas Bangladesh stood firm, delivering hope, dignity, and life-saving aid to hundreds of thousands.



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CARITAS LEBANON RESPONSE TO CONFLICT AND DISPLACEMENT

Lebanon continues to face one of the most complex humanitarian crises in the Middle East, driven by war with Israel during 2024, ongoing economic collapse, and new waves of refugees entering the country after being displaced from Syria. During 2024 more than 1 million people in Lebanon were affected by conflict, with tens of thousands displaced, particularly in the South, in Nabatieh, Bekaa, and Mount Lebanon. USAid suspension in early 2025 has further strained humanitarian funding and service delivery across the country.

Caritas Lebanon remains a frontline responder, providing multi-sectoral humanitarian and development assistance across all Lebanese governorates. In 2024, Caritas Lebanon reached over 2.7 million individuals, delivering vital protection, health, education, social assistance, livelihood and development services. Major interventions included food and cash assistance, medical care, psychosocial support, education aid, and safe shelter for internally displaced people, migrants, and detainees. Further challenges arose for the country in autumn 2024 when the war in Gaza led to additional conflict in Lebanon.

Under an Emergency Appeal, Caritas Lebanon has continued to support war-affected communities, bringing relief to thousands of beneficiaries across southern and eastern regions through partnerships with more than 20 sister Caritas organisations, with total funding exceeding US $1.38 million. Key contributors included Caritas Spain, Caritas Austria, Caritas Italy, Caritas Poland, Cordaid, Trocaire, CAFOD, SCIAF, Caritas Australia, and others.

Beyond this Emergency Appeal, Caritas Lebanon's broader humanitarian response was supported through bilateral and multilateral partnerships with UN agencies (UNHCR, WFP, IOM, CERF, ILO), international NGOs, and governmental and private donors. Despite donor fatigue and operational challenges, Caritas Lebanon continues to uphold its mission of serving the most vulnerable through collaboration, transparency, and sustained commitment to humanitarian principles.

PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE INTEGRAL HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND CARE FOR CREATION

Caritas Internationalis has a longstanding tradition of caring for the sick and advocating for equitable access to healthcare for all. Globally, it is actively delivering health services, especially to those in the greatest need. The Confederation is committed to promoting the integral human development of millions worldwide, particularly in the most disadvantaged and marginalised communities.

Delivery of services to safeguard health plays a crucial role in this mission, contributing significantly to the flourishing of individuals and communities in peace and dignity. Across all continents, Caritas member organisations embody a living and dynamic expression of compassionate care for the sick and vulnerable. They provide essential health services for the prevention and treatment of diseases such as tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS, malaria, non-communicable diseases and mental health conditions, as well as providing neonatal and childcare, among other services.

The main objectives of the Caritas Internationalis Health Desk for 2024 were:

- Continue advancing work on paediatric HIV, both through national and international advocacy and through field-level engagement with national Caritas organisations.
- Engage constructively with international health partners to strengthen collaboration and coordination.
- Support internal capacity building within the Confederation.
- Establish a new Health Task Team.

HEALTH DESK COORDINATION OF THE FAITH 2 PROJECT – CARING FOR CHILDREN WITH HIV

In 2024 the Health Desk coordinated the FAITH 2 project (Faith-based Approach to increase Identification and Treatment of HIV+ children – phase 2). This involved the work of four Caritas Confederation member organisations (Caritas Rwanda, Caritas Congo, Caritas Cote d'Ivoire and Caritas Nigeria), and was supported by the UNAIDS/PEPFAR Faith Initiative.

The FAITH project focuses on the role of religious leaders in addressing paediatric and adolescent HIV. In 2024 work continued on awareness-raising to fight stigma and discrimination related to HIV, prevention of HIV infection, screening for HIV, and the care and treatment of people with HIV.

The work of the project contributed to:

- Strengthening the role of faith leaders, youth, religious schools, and faith communities in raising awareness and combating HIV stigma and inequalities.
- Reducing new paediatric HIV infections and addressing gaps in treatment, testing, retention in care, and support for children and adolescents living with HIV.
- Lowering HIV-related morbidity and mortality.
- Enhancing community leadership and fostering collaboration with national stakeholders.
- Advocating for the right of children living with HIV to access comprehensive treatment and other services.

Other achievements of the FAITH project in 2024 included development of training modules and delivery of training sessions for religious leaders and healthcare workers; and the active involvement of religious leaders and community outreach workers to raise awareness of and combat HIV stigma and discrimination. This work included engagement with pregnant women, mothers, and young people; and provision of support to help people with HIV to access treatment. There was a specific focus on Prevention of Mother-To-Child-Transmission (PMTCT) of HIV, including via the Mother Love Party and Baby Shower initiatives.

In addition, a new mobile data application has been developed, to strengthen data collection capabilities.



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COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS TO SUPPORT THE FAITH PROJECT AND RELATED INITIATIVES

Representatives of the FAITH project also participated in a number of national and international meetings and consultations during 2024. These included a regional evaluation meeting at the General Secretariat in Rome, in late November and early December 2024, with representatives from the four national Caritas organisations involved.

Other meetings held with international health partners included a ‘Consultation on the Strategic Engagement of the Faith Sector for Increased Access to Health and HIV Services in Emergency and Humanitarian Crises’ (Geneva, March 2024); a PEPFAR Consultation with Faith Partners: ‘Focus on the Finish Line’ (Nairobi, June 2024); faith-based events linked to the 25th International AIDS Conference (Munich, July 2024), a Communities of Faith Breakfast, ‘Building Partnerships to Sustain the HIV Response through 2030 and Beyond’ (New York, September 2024); and the 55th Programme Coordinating Board meeting of UNAIDS (Nairobi, December 2024).

In December 2024 Caritas organised a webinar on paediatric HIV, to support internal capacity building within the Confederation, which was supported by the UNAIDS/PEPFAR initiative. The webinar highlighted field experiences from the FAITH 2 project and showcased tools developed within the initiative, including the mobile application and training modules. Participants included officials from the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development.

Finally in 2024, a new Health Task Team has been established, to develop a unified Caritas Internationalis health approach, to shape advocacy initiatives aligned with the organisation’s mission, and to identify strategic priorities for the coming years.


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WORK WITH THE CHRISTIAN ORGANISATIONS AGAINST TRAFFICKING NETWORK (COATNET)

COATNET is coordinated by a steering committee of ten Caritas Confederation members. In March 2024, 30 of the organisations within COATNET convened in Bangkok to work on development of a new 2024–2030 Strategic Framework, to be launched in February 2025.

The new Strategic Framework is designed to unite the network around four core objectives: advocacy led by frontline professionals and trafficking survivors, faith-based community mobilisation, strengthened international protection systems; and recognition of survivors’ central role in the Church and society in promoting integral human development.

“With current global obstacles facilitating trafficking, we need to constantly adapt and improve as a unit to take on the challenges at hand – a good start has already been made.”

– Mr. Davit Mosoyan, Armenian Caritas (COATNET member)

HUMAN MOBILITY

Alongside ongoing negative climate impacts, 2024 saw an increase in conflicts and protracted manmade humanitarian crises around the world, which contributed to socio-economic and political imbalances. By mid-2024 these events had forced more than 120 million people to leave their countries of origin according to figures from UNHCR. In this context, rules and policies focused on securing and defending national or regional borders have had a profound and lasting impact on the rights and quality of life of people on the move, especially women and children.

Faced with these challenges, Caritas Internationalis has developed a new strategy and established a Working Group on Human Mobility, with the aim of enhancing the Confederation’s joint commitment to protecting the human rights of displaced people.

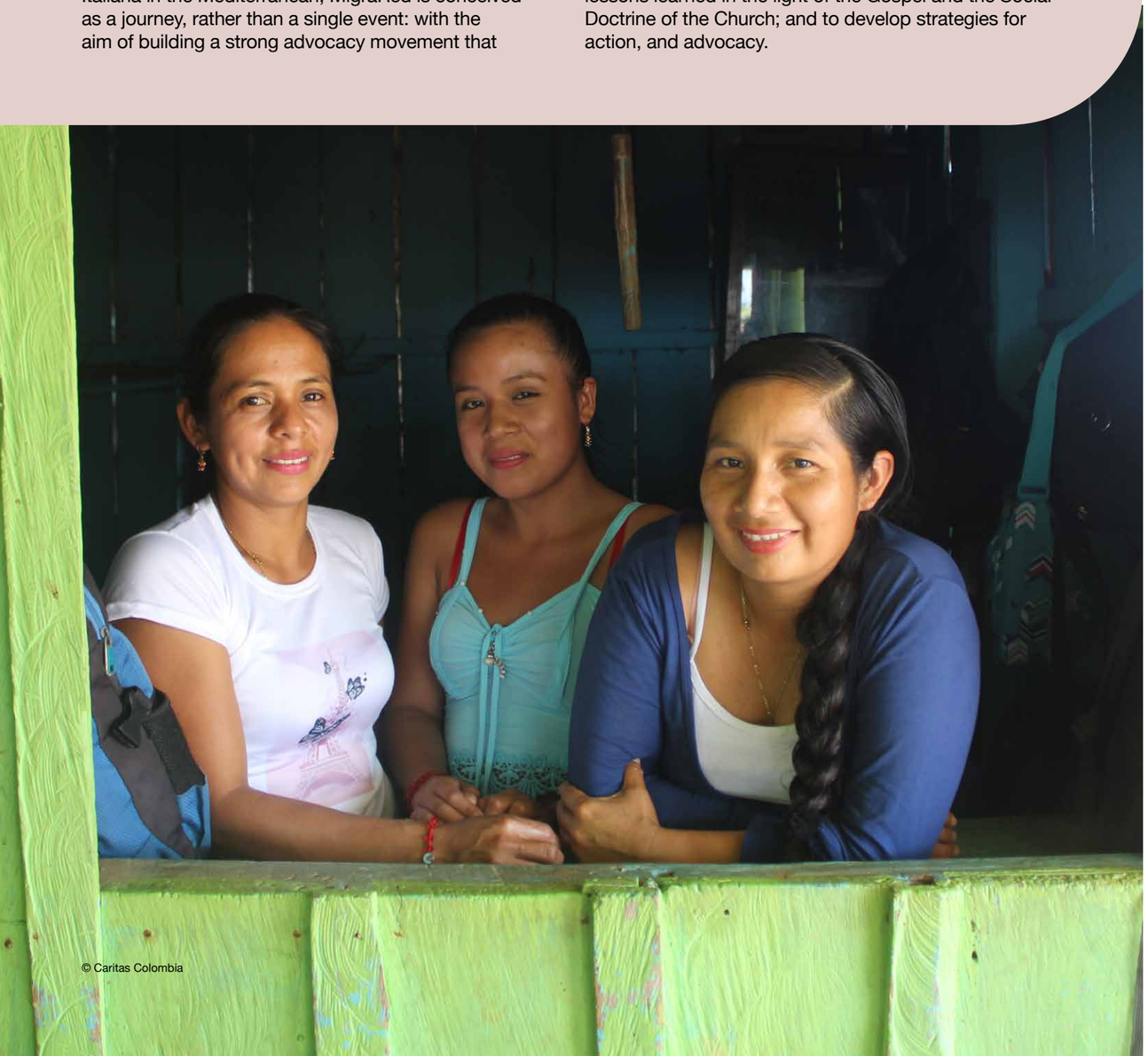

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INAUGURAL MIGRARED MEETING

One focus was the first MigraRed meeting, held in Bogota, Colombia, in late September, which coincided with the 40th anniversary of the Cartagena Declaration; and with the 110th World Day of Migrants and Refugees. The meeting was co-organised by Caritas Internationalis, alongside Caritas Latin America and the Caribbean (SELACC) the Latin American and Caribbean Episcopal Council (CELAM), the Latin American and Caribbean Ecclesial Network on Migration, Displacement, Refuge and Human Trafficking (RED CLAMOR) and the Africa-Europe Network for Human Mobility (RAEMH). It was attended by more than 130 delegates from countries across the globe.

Inspired by a similar experience promoted by Caritas Italiana in the Mediterranean, MigraRed is conceived as a journey, rather than a single event: with the aim of building a strong advocacy movement that encompasses the different experiences of Caritas member organisations and human mobility networks. It responds to the need to create regular spaces for interaction and the development of common strategies with organisations representing and working with refugees, migrants and displaced persons.

This is achieved through the work of representatives from multiple Caritas regions and human mobility networks, with the participation of experts, policy makers and international agencies. The 'See, Judge, Act' approach enabled participants to understand regional migration contexts, geopolitical developments and the situation on the ground in different locations; to identify common challenges, good practices and lessons learned in the light of the Gospel and the Social Doctrine of the Church; and to develop strategies for action, and advocacy.



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FURTHER COLLABORATIVE WORK ON HUMAN MOBILITY AND REFUGEES

As part of its global advocacy work, Caritas Internationalis also contributed to the 14th Global Forum on Migration and Development Summit, held in Geneva in January 2024. Confederation member organisations and regions also actively participated in consultation and review processes for the implementation of the Global Compact on Migration, as part of preparations for the next International Migration Review Forum, scheduled to take place in New York in spring 2026.

The Caritas delegation that had attended the Geneva summit in early 2024 also attended the third quarterly informal briefing on the Global Compact on Refugees, held in September, to present updates on multi-stakeholder pledges around the theme of 'Inclusion and Self-Reliance'.

On World Refugee Day in June 2024, Caritas joined the Jesuit Refugee Service, the International Unions of Superiors General, the Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation and the Jesuit Curia in launching the 'One Shared Humanity' manifesto. This aims to encourage communities to reject harmful attitudes towards refugees, replacing hostility with openness and empathy.

Caritas co-organised an official side event at the UNHCR Global Consultations with NGOs, held in Geneva in June: 'A life-long perspective for displacement: durable solutions for girls and women of all ages', working alongside the Jesuit Refugee Service and HelpAge International.

Confederation member organisations also contributed to the report of the UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants: 'The socio-economic integration of migrants and their contribution to society'. Confederation members contributed 16 submissions, drawn from Latin America, Europe, Africa, the MENA region, Asia and Oceania, to help inform the Special Rapporteur's report to the 56th session of the Human Rights Council in Geneva.

Elsewhere, Caritas co-organised an important event on the Cartagena + 40 process, working with the Embassy of Chile to the Holy See, the Jesuit Refugee Service, RED CLAMOR, CELAM and SELACC, to share contextual analysis on refugee protection in the Latin America and Caribbean region and on recommendations for the Chile Declaration and Plan of Action 2024-2034.

In December 2024 Caritas marked International Migrants Day by releasing a statement highlighting the importance of education to children and young people on the move, as means of developing their human potential. It called on governments to increase investment in education to ensure access to education for these migrants, in safe environments, with special attention based to the needs of girls and children or youth with disabilities.

In every case, Caritas Internationalis has actively advocated, alongside other faith-based organisations and human mobility networks, for safe and regular migration pathways for people on the move, for the protection of their human rights, access to basic services and work; and for inclusive policies that value their contribution to society and meet their demand for peace, justice and a dignified life.



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HUMANITARIAN ADVOCACY AND POLICY

In 2024 the Caritas Internationalis Humanitarian Policy Task Force continued to take action to improve the humanitarian policy environment, seeking to influence policymakers, and building on regional webinars organised in 2021 and 2022 in response to a COVID-19 response and localisation paper published by Caritas in 2021.

This work included:

- Connecting internal Caritas efforts to strengthen fraternal cooperation on Grand Bargain commitments and donor action, with the aim of promoting accountability for local leadership and quality partnerships, including greater accountability for intermediaries.
- Supporting Caritas Confederation member organisations and dioceses to advocate and collaborate with civil society through networks and platforms in different parts of the world, such as Charter4Change and NEAR.
- Supporting Caritas member organisations in engaging with Grand Bargain National Reference Groups.
- Seeking to influence UN agencies' policies on local leadership and quality partnerships.

HUMANITARIAN IMPACT OF SANCTIONS

Building on the findings of the Caritas Internationalis, World Council of Churches (WCC) and World Evangelical Alliance (WEA) joint report 'Assessing the Impact of Sanctions on Humanitarian Work', developed in partnership with the Geneva Graduate Institute, Caritas has continued to raise concerns about the obstacles caused by sanctions on the ability of humanitarian organisations to deliver humanitarian aid and accessing humanitarian exemptions. Caritas Internationalis and Caritas MONA have also repeatedly called for the immediate lifting of sanctions against Syria.

Caritas has continued to actively engage with the UN Special Rapporteur on unilateral coercive measures. The organisation was invited to speak at a side-event during the 55th Session of the Human Rights Council in Geneva, during March 2024, on 'The Impact of Unilateral Coercive Measures on the Delivery of Humanitarian Assistance'.

The Caritas Geneva delegation also participated in two expert consultations hosted in Geneva by the UN Special Rapporteur on unilateral coercive measures (unilateral sanctions), to help inform the development of the Guiding Principles on Sanctions, Business and Human Rights, due to be adopted in February 2025.


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COUNTRY-BASED ADVOCACY

The Geneva delegation, Caritas member organisations and representatives from its regions were also involved in joint coordination of advocacy actions with the relevant mechanisms of the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva (OCHA and UNHCR) on major humanitarian crises, including in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Sudan, the Sahel region and the Middle East.

For example, in August 2024, Caritas DRC and CORDAID contributed to the pre-session of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) on DRC in Geneva, in preparation for the actual country review of DRC, scheduled for November 2024. The UPR is a unique process that involves a review of the human rights records of all UN Member States. Bilateral meetings with key Permanent Missions to the UN in Geneva were arranged to present Caritas recommendations addressed to the government of DRC ahead of the UPR.

Elsewhere, as part of a collaboration between Caritas Internationalis and ACT Alliance undertook joint advocacy actions in support of the joint Emergency Appeal for Sudan, launched in August 2024. In line with this strategy, we delivered two joint Caritas-ACT statements during the 57th and 58th sessions of the Human Rights Council (in autumn 2024 and spring 2025), to raise awareness about the urgent need for action in Sudan. Caritas also participated in a high-level UNGA side-event, hosted by OCHA in September 2024, at the UN in New York.

Work in relation to events in the Sahel region included Caritas Internationalis, Confederation member organisation CRS and the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Burkina Faso and Niger co-hosting a side-event at the 57th session of the Human Rights Council in September 2024, entitled 'The Growing Threat to Peace and Social Cohesion in the Sahel Region'. The event aimed to shed light on escalating challenges faced by communities in the Sahel region.

Finally, throughout 2024, statements and key messages about the situation in the Middle East were developed in coordination with the CI communications unit. In October 2024 Caritas Internationalis joined more than 150 other NGOs in issuing a call to UN member states, demanding an end to violence afflicting civilians in Gaza, the West Bank and Lebanon.

PEACEBUILDING RESEARCH

As part of ongoing efforts to assess the progress and effectiveness of its peacebuilding programmes, in 2024 Caritas Internationalis hired a research fellow to work for 11 months and compile a report documenting the Confederation's learnings from existing peacebuilding programmes, with a special focus on women.

After completing research including 23 in-depth interviews, our research fellow produced a comprehensive research report, capturing lessons and best practices in peacebuilding in use across the Confederation. Engagement with a wide range of stakeholders ensured that diverse perspectives, including those of women, were represented in the report.

Caritas also convened a workshop with key respondents from across the Confederation to identify priorities and pathways forward; and organised a hybrid event, 'Women and Peacebuilding: Uncapping the Power of Catholic Women Peacebuilders', held in June 2024, to showcase Confederation member organisations' experience and to raise awareness of the challenges involved in sustaining peacebuilding initiatives.

Work completed by Caritas in relation to peacebuilding programmes during 2024 has enabled identification of strategic priorities and actionable pathways to strengthen peacebuilding initiatives within Caritas member organisations. It has also helped to increased visibility of women's leadership in peacebuilding.


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COORDINATION WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS ON IMPROVING FOOD SECURITY

Networking activities based around improving food security with the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), the World Food Programme (WFP), and other like-minded organisations has enabled sharing of experiences and best practices, and the development of strategic partnerships that can enhance collaboration and joint initiatives on food security. This work has helped to strengthen the visibility and credibility of Caritas Confederation members in the global food security space.


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FOOD SECURITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

In 2024, Caritas Internationalis focused on promoting resilient, equitable, and sustainable food systems and advancing climate justice, aligned with its broader strategy of advancing integral human development. The work of Caritas Confederation member organisations has continued to support smallholder farmers and local communities by promoting agroecology, and strengthening food and nutrition security, while the broader efforts of the Caritas Confederation has facilitated rights-based advocacy work, aiming to influence national and international food systems.

Simultaneously, Caritas has championed climate justice by implementing community-based adaptation initiatives; and by engaging in policy advocacy at national, regional, and global levels, with the aim of ensuring that climate action prioritises vulnerable communities and human dignity. These efforts reflect Caritas' vision of building inclusive, just, and sustainable systems that empower communities, protect livelihoods, and safeguard the planet.

COP29 PARTICIPATION AND WORK WITH THE HOLY SEE ON CLIMATE FINANCE

Caritas Internationalis led a delegation of 10 Caritas Confederation member organisations at COP29, held in Baku, Azerbaijan, in November 2024. The delegation facilitated engagement in negotiations on climate finance and adaptation, including through close cooperation with the Holy See's delegation, via contributions to strategy discussions and drafting positions on the New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) on Climate Finance.

This work helped to strengthen the partnership between Caritas Internationalis and the Holy See, resulting in endorsement and support for Caritas positions on climate finance and the Loss and Damage Fund.

Thanks in part to the strength of this partnership and the support of the Holy See, Caritas also published a paper on Integral Human Development entitled 'A Holistic Approach to Restoring Dignity'. which outlines a vision for the Loss and Damage Fund.





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OTHER PARTNERSHIPS AND CONSULTATIONS

Networking activities based around improving food
Caritas Internationalis has also engaged with a range of faith-based organisations through the Climate Justice Working Group. This has effectively increased the influence of the organisation and in global climate advocacy, and has increased active participation of Caritas Confederation member organisations in international climate discussions.


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‘TOGETHER WE’ CAMPAIGN

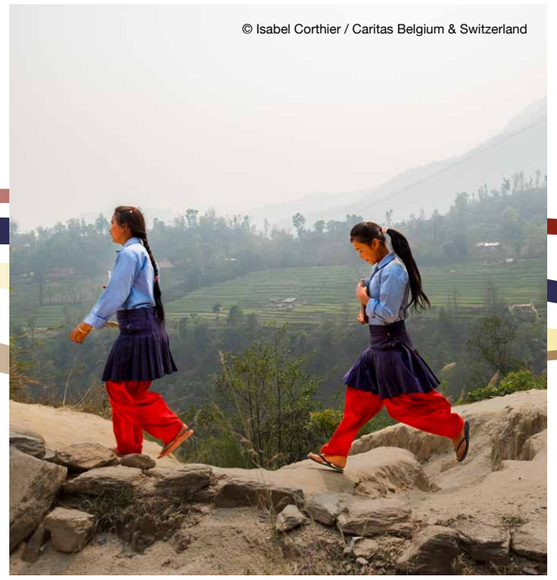
During 2024 Caritas Internationalis worked with representatives from different regions on preparations for a global campaign on debt justice, to be launched in 2025. This work was aligned with Strategic Objective 3.3, to “mobilise our Caritas family, the Church and civil society through global campaigns”. It was achieved by repurposing the pre-existing ‘Together We’ campaign, which had sought to address environmental challenges and demonstrate how Caritas groups across the Confederation could apply the concept of ‘integral ecology’ from Pope Francis’ Laudato Si’ Encyclical (“on care for our common home”).

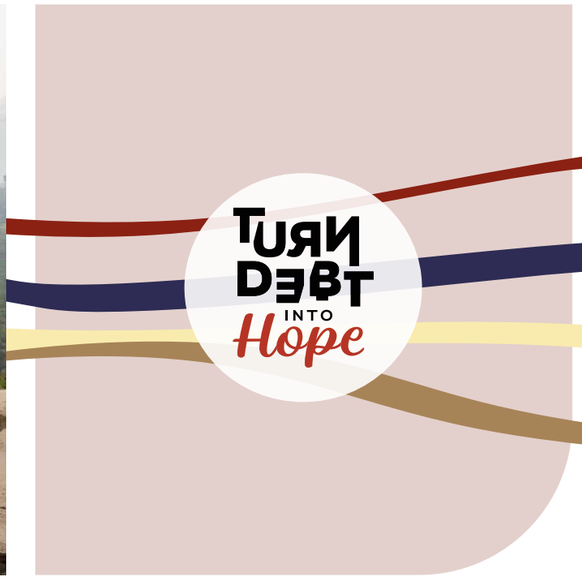
From March 2024 onwards, Caritas Internationalis held regular internal consultations, leading up to a global planning and coordination meeting convened in October at the General Secretariat in Vatican City. This meeting gathered around 60 participants, including representatives from Confederation member organisations, the wider Catholic community, the Holy See Secretariat of State, the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, and like-minded civil society organisations.

The purpose of this meeting was to develop a common campaign strategy rooted in the Jubilee tradition and informed by the links between debt, climate and development. The campaign was designed to frame the debt crisis in the Global South as an issue of justice and human dignity, which should be of concern to all, and to develop a flexible framework for the campaign, adaptable across the diversity of the Confederation and driven by a common global petition.

During this process it became clear there was an urgent need for Regional Jubilee Campaign Leads to implement a global Jubilee debt campaign in the regions most affected by debt. The planning and coordination meeting also produced a grant proposal, which proved successful, with external funding secured towards the end of 2024, enabling the rollout of the Jubilee 2025 Debt Campaign throughout the Jubilee Year.
It is scheduled to run until March 2026.

This preparatory phase culminated in the launch of Caritas Internationalis’ global ‘Turn Debt into Hope’ campaign on 23 December 2024, supported by a dedicated website in English, French and Spanish. The campaign received the public endorsement of Pope Francis on 26 December and his renewed support on World Peace Day, 1 January 2025, consolidating Caritas Internationalis’ visibility on debt justice within the Catholic community and in the wider international debate.


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INCREASING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE CARITAS CONFEDERATION

THE CARITAS INTERNATIONALIS MANAGEMENT STANDARDS (CIMS)

During 2024, work related to Strategic Orientation 4 ("Increase the effectiveness of the Caritas Confederation") has continued, with establishment of a Committee to oversee this work, and creation of Task Groups and Working Groups to facilitate it. This work includes assessing progress in implementation of the Caritas Internationalis Management Standards (CIMS) by member organisations of the Caritas Confederation, and how these standards might be further enhanced, so one of the Task Groups established was the CIMS Review Task group.

Composition of the CIMS Review Special Commission has been renewed and its work has continued, focusing on validation of member organisations' assessment reports against the CIMS and related improvement plans. It has also worked on granting approval of member organisations' and Caritas regions' project proposals, using the framework of the Caritas Internationalis Organisational Development Solidarity Fund (ODSF). This fund has been created to support organisations that have the most urgent need to strengthen their structures, to offer a quality service to vulnerable people and to enhance their longer-term sustainability (see below).

As the CIMS themselves are a living tool, subject to periodic reviews to assess their relevance and effectiveness, during the final quarter of 2024 Caritas Internationalis initiated an evaluation of the CIMS programme, to run into the spring of 2025. This included a Confederation-wide consultation with all regions, CIMS assessors/coordinators, Review Commission members and other Caritas departments, based on interviews and workshops. 136 out of 162 member organisations (84%) responded to the survey and provided feedback on the CIMS programme. In addition, during December 2024 an inter-regional consultation workshop focusing on CIMS and organisational development was held in Istanbul and was attended by 20 representatives of 18 member organisations from six regions.

Throughout the year, staff working on organisational development for Confederation member organisations attended training related to use of CIMS. In January 2024 joint training sessions for CIMS assessors and coordinators representing 20 member organisations were delivered in Chile; while an inter-regional joint training session for CIMS assessors and coordinators held in Manila, Philippines, during April was attended by CIMS coordinators working with 26 member organisations. These training sessions were designed to help guide coordinators through the CIMS implementation processes in their organisations; and to equip CIMS assessors to conduct effective external assessments.



ACHIEVEMENTS IN RELATION TO THE CIMS PROCESS IN 2024

After 10 years of CIMS implementation, the beginning of a review phase is an important step, allowing Caritas Internationalis and Confederation member organisations to take stock of what has been achieved through use of CIMS to date, to apply lessons learned, and to consider future developments, including how processes can be improved and updated; and how to measure the value added by the process.

By the end of 2024, 135 member organisations of 162 within the Confederation had completed the assessment process. This process had been formally concluded and validated for 120 of those organisations by the CIMS Review Commission, with 93 improvement plans submitted. 26 assessments (22% of the total) found member organisations to be fully compliant with the CIMS. In addition, 34 member organisations submitted documents for second round assessments, four years after completing a first CIMS assessment.

The successful completion of the inter-regional training sessions, and the ongoing successful delivery of the CIMS external evaluation process are both examples of effective Confederation-wide, participatory approaches used during 2024. 2025 should also see finalisation of the CIMS external evaluation and the release of a first draft of the revised standards and tools, scheduled to be approved by the Representative Council in May 2026.





INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND CAPACITY STRENGTHENING (IDCS)

Within the framework of work on Confederation Development, the process of Institutional Development and Capacity Strengthening (IDCS) is of great importance, as this is how we support member organisations that require assistance in becoming more resilient. This may be necessary when an organisation is completing internal restructuring or addressing other major institutional challenges.

Caritas Internationalis delivers IDCS through long-term accompaniments and targeted support to organisations, at their request. It does so while respecting the principle of subsidiarity, with any actions to be implemented in coordination with the member organisation, its region and other partners.

We strongly believe in local leadership, so the first and most important step in this process is listening to the needs of the organisation. While tools like CIMS help to assess the organisational situation, we adopt a tailored and personalized approach to IDCS, enabling a contextualised response to the needs of the organisation.

Out of 120 member organisations assessed and validated, 78% had developed an improvement plan to address institutional risks, increase compliance with CIMS, and strengthen their organisational structures. An improvement plan alone is often insufficient: some member organisations have no means, resources or capacity to implement the required actions alone, so require additional support, through a long-term accompaniment. Here, the General Secretariat, in coordination with the respective Regional Secretariat, supports member organisations in relation to specific needs, such as development of a specific policy, assistance when revising Statutes, or the development, evaluation or revision of a strategic plan.

Such assistance may also be provided to member organisations during longer-term restructuring processes, or urgent organisational changes that need to be completed following some type of crisis or short-term disruption. This may include some counselling, coaching or other forms of support provided to the organisation's leadership.

When a member organisation is operating in a challenging situation, the process of accompaniment requires adequate time, dedication, and deep understanding of the context, so results may not be visible for some time.

CARITAS INTERNATIONALIS ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT SOLIDARITY FUND (ODSF)

The Organisational Development Solidarity Fund (ODSF) is a special fund designed to support member organisations operating in a fragile context. Its two primary objectives are to help organisations begin the process of assessment against the CIMS and to implement measures to address organisational risks. The fund also provides support to implement actions included in the improvement plan. While a member organisation retains primary responsibility for the project, it may be supported by partner organisations, its Regional Secretariat, or the General Secretariat. In particularly complex and challenging situations, implementation of ODSF projects may take longer than might otherwise be expected, and this additional support may be crucial.

In 2024, ODSF projects were presented by and approved for Cameroon, Egypt, Malawi, and Tanzania. There are ongoing projects in Gabon, Kyrgyzstan, Namibia, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay and Tonga.

Further strengthening of the ODSF mechanism is planned, including undertaking an internal evaluation process, with the aim of helping to improve the capability of the system to address major challenges and improve its response to the needs of individual member organisations.

IMPROVEMENTS IN STRATEGY AND USE OF MONITORING, EVALUATION AND LEARNING (MEAL)

During 2024, Caritas Internationalis completed a working structure for implementation of the Strategic Framework for the Caritas Confederation, consisting of Strategic Orientation Committees with relevant Working Groups and Task Groups. The aim of this process is to strategically guide, oversee and implement the Strategic Objectives listed within the five global Strategic Orientations.

This work included organising the first in-person Forum of the five Strategic Orientation Committees, work on induction and planning processes; and development of a MEAL framework to support implementation of the Strategic Framework.

EXAMPLES OF LONG-TERM ACCOMPANIMENT PROJECTS IN 2024.

- Caritas South Sudan went through the second round CIMS assessment and developed an improvement plan. Results of the assessment and key actions included in the plan were shared in a partners' meeting in September 2024. The accompaniment continues, within a challenging environment created by a shortage of resources and the influence of external factors including ongoing socio-political instability.
- Caritas Morocco. After a devastating earthquake hit Morocco during 2023, a national Caritas was created to coordinate emergency intervention in the country, achieved through harmonisation of the work of diocesan offices. Caritas Morocco was accompanied while structuring its first core team, then, once the emergency phase had ended, work began on creating a comprehensive package of policies and systems, on developing relationships between national and diocesan levels, and on strengthening the organisation's structure, while maintaining the autonomy of the dioceses.
- Caritas Haiti. In a very complex and volatile situation, created by political instability, Caritas Haiti, with a new leadership, completed the CIMS assessment, then, with the support of partners, the Regional Secretariat and the General Secretariat, developed an improvement plan. Support continues to be provided, to help the organisation meet challenges related to work in a very challenging local context, with adequate resources and capacities.
- Caritas Mauritania. The Regional Secretariat and the General Secretariat, along with long-term Caritas partners, have assisted Caritas Mauritania in supporting new leadership, revising its strategic plan and consolidating its organisational structure.
- Caritas Turkey. Following the disastrous earthquake that struck Turkey in 2023, Caritas Internationalis activated its Emergency Response Support Team (ERST) mechanism, which supported Caritas Turkey in managing emergency response processes, while strengthening the organisation's national office and creating appropriate channels for communication and collaboration between the national Caritas and the diocesan offices. The work of accompaniment continues, in dialogue with the leadership, with the aim of guaranteeing longer-term sustainability to the organisation.



WORK OF THE FIVE STRATEGIC ORIENTATION COMMITTEES

The five Strategic Orientation Committees were formed with the support of the Regional Secretariats, each of which nominated regional member organisations' representatives. The five committees are: SO1 Caritas Identity and Fraternal Cooperation, SO2 Humanitarian, SO3 Integral Human development and Integral Ecology, SO4 Institutional development, SO5 Communications and Fundraising.

Each Committee's membership includes two representatives per region, a balance of female and male members and at least one youth representative. The aim of this policy is to ensure representativeness, diversity and inclusiveness.

The Committees received a mandate from the Representative Council to:

- Accompany and promote the relevant strategic orientation, by building ownership among the Confederation's member organisations and through advocacy.
- Provide strategic guidance and direction on implementation of the strategic objectives.
- Ensure adherence to our eight shared values and commitments that cut across all our work.

The Committees are accountable to the Representative Council and must report back to the governing body twice per year. Each Committee has established Working Groups and Task Groups to implement various objectives; and each has developed workplans and drafted MEAL indicators to monitor and evaluate implementation of their work.

FIRST IN-PERSON FORUM OF THE FIVE STRATEGIC ORIENTATION COMMITTEES

The First Committees Forum was held in November 2024 in Sacrofano, Rome. Its purpose was to help coordinate efforts of the Committees and Special Commissions in the implementation of the Strategic Framework. There were more than 120 participants, including representatives of the Representative Council, Caritas Internationalis Committees, Special Commissions, regional coordinators and teams, and the General Secretariat.

The main achievements of the Forum included confirming ownership of members' roles and responsibilities within the Committees and Special Commissions, and ensuring that commitments, tasks and their relationships to the Working and Task groups, are well understood. Cross-cutting themes were also identified and work plans put in place to implement activities within and between the Committees and Commissions. Progress indicators for the Committees' and Special Commissions were also drafted.

Caritas Youth guided the spiritual element of the Forum, during the Week of Prayer and Action, on the World Day of the Poor and on World Youth Day. Their contributions were inspiring and dynamic.

It has been decided that a Committees Forum will be organised every second year, with the next scheduled for 2026. In the meantime, a first evaluation of the Strategic Framework will be completed during 2025, and this will inform future strategic revisions and activities.



SAFEGUARDING


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Caritas Internationalis defines safeguarding as our responsibility to ensure our staff, associates and programmes promote the welfare of all people, especially children and vulnerable adults, and do not expose them to harm or abuse. We see this as legal imperative and a moral obligation. The Strategic Objective on Safeguarding aims to strengthen the Confederation's capacities in creating a safe environment for the people with whom we work and for our staff and associates, by building a culture of accountability and constructive collaboration.

We have developed policies and tools to ensure achievement of this objective, in line with international standards endorsed by the UN and international NGOs. This includes development of the Caritas Internationalis Safeguarding Framework, a package of policies, prevention and response measures used alongside MEAL processes, and designed to help all members of the Confederation work towards best practice in this area.

As for December 2024, 118 member organisations had been assessed against the Caritas Internationalis Management Standard (CIMS) on Safeguarding. They are being supported in strengthening safeguarding policies and systems in line with this standard and with our Safeguarding Framework. More than 75% of these member organisations have submitted Improvement Plans outlining how they will strengthen these systems.

Additional assistance is being providing to member organisations operating in particularly challenging situations that are seeking to strengthen their safeguarding systems. This includes provision of additional human and financial resources by the Caritas Internationalis General Secretariat. This ongoing work responds to continuously changing situations in the field, requiring regular adaptation and flexibility on the part of the General Secretariat to maintain support for these member organisations.

In 2024 Caritas Internationalis has also established the Complaints Handling Commission, reporting directly to the Representative Council on sensitive allegations that might impact the work and the reputation of the Confederation as a whole. The Commission comprises seven regional experts and senior leaders of member organisations, who advise the Representative Council and the member organisations.

Caritas has also worked with the Holy See Commission for the Protection of Minors during 2024, contributing case studies of member organisations' work on safeguarding to the Commission's first annual report. Our Safeguarding Framework was featured in a standalone chapter, alongside examples of work provided by the Regional Secretariat of Oceania, Caritas Chile and the diocesan Caritas of Nairobi. These different layers of Caritas structure demonstrated the complex yet aligned impact of the safeguarding framework and policies at the grassroots level.

Caritas has officially endorsed the Common Approach to Protection from Sexual Exploitation, Sexual Abuse and Sexual Harassment (CAPSEAH). This is a global framework that help organisations prevent and respond to harmful behaviours, specifically sexual exploitation, abuse, and harassment (SEAH). Our endorsement of the framework signals our commitment to global best practices, and sends a strong message to our communities, partners, and donors that Caritas prioritises safeguarding and accountability.

Caritas has also signed an agreement with the Core Humanitarian Standard (CHS) Alliance SEAH Harmonised Reporting Scheme. This system enables the collection and reporting of comparable data on SEAH for analysis, allowing a clearer understanding of these issues, and prioritisation of corrective actions and resource mobilisation.

In 2025 Caritas Internationalis will continue to revise safeguarding policies as necessary, and to support member organisations as they seek to comply with the safeguarding standard.

WOMEN



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During 2024 significant progress has been made in work to promote women's empowerment and inclusion. Caritas Internationalis has actively supported this work across the Confederation, while taking a targeted approach to the promotion of women's participation and leadership. Notable occasions during the year included marking the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, in November 2024.

Following publication, Caritas organised a series of workshops and presentations in different regions alongside external stakeholders, involving more than 100 participants worldwide. These included a workshop run alongside the Caritas Africa Regional Commission and women leaders, at Yaoundé in Cameroon in October/November 2024, and online workshops with Caritas member organisations from the Europa region.

The General Secretariat worked with the British and Australian Embassies to the Holy See to coordinate a major day conference on 'Women Leaders: Towards a Brighter Future', held in March at the Jesuit headquarters in Rome. There were around 100 attendees and the event attracted widespread media coverage.

The General Secretariat has also played a foundational role in the formation of a new network of organisations working to promote women's leadership: Donne in Dialogo (Women in Dialogue). Members of this network include a number of Ambassadors and Pontifical universities based in Rome working with the Holy See, and representatives of religious congregations and other Catholic organisations and associations.

Other activities in which Caritas has participated as it seeks to advance the interests of women include a conference on 'Conflict-Related Sexual Violence', organised by the British Embassy to the Holy See and Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) in November; and active involvement in the '16 Days of Activism' in support of women and girls during November and December. The latter included Caritas Internationalis becoming an official signatory of the Declaration of Humanity, on December 5. Caritas also hosted an official side-event at the Commission of the Status of Women in March, 'Fragile context, strong women: the role of religious leaders and faith-based organisations in promoting women's leadership'. It was coordinated with Caritas Internationalis's UN-based officer and the Holy See Permanent Observer to the UN.

Further regional workshops and events promoting the 'Equality, Encounter, Renewal' booklet and encouraging engagement with challenges facing women across the world are planned for 2025.


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youth



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Caritas Internationalis empowers young people to participate fully and authentically in the mission of Caritas, from the grassroots (where they have always been quite active) to new roles created for them in high level decision-making spaces that will help to shape the trajectory and mission of our Confederation. Enabling young people to serve in these roles means Caritas Internationalis and Confederation member organisations can ensure they are making decisions that authentically reflect the people who will carry out our work over the years ahead and are better positioned to respond quickly to our ever-changing world.

February 2024 saw the publication of the Caritas Internationalis Global Youth Report 2023, a comprehensive report on the extent of youth involvement in Caritas Confederation member organisations, including the voices of 425 young staff and volunteers sharing their view on the issues that matter to them, and their hopes for a global Caritas youth movement.

The report's findings show that young people form a large and important group of Caritas member organisations' staff and volunteers, and that they feel the work of those organisations gives them opportunities to make positive contributions to society. The representatives of member organisations surveyed said they value young people for their creativity in particular, as this helps to develop new ways of working that have a greater positive impact on the communities they serve. But it also showed that very few young people occupy high level leadership roles.

A key takeaway from the report is that the engagement and empowerment of young people should be an intergenerational effort and an important focus at all levels of the Confederation. Young people themselves should be given the support they need to be able to contribute high quality work for these organisations, and senior leaders within the confederation also have a responsibility to enable more young people to participate at a higher level, including in decision-making roles.

During 2024, we successfully ensured youth representation within each of Caritas Internationalis' five new Strategic Orientation Committees. These young representatives regularly meet and support each other, along with their fellow youth representatives serving on the Representative Council. This is a concrete outcome for Strategic Objective 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.")

A YOUTH-LED DELEGATION AT THE UN HIGH LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM (HLPF)

An all-youth delegation represented Caritas at the UN High Level Political Forum (HLPF), held in New York in July 2024. Caritas co-sponsored a side event where our delegates shared details of their work with their home organisations; and our delegates also represented Caritas at all other events during the Forum.
The delegation also began to build a connection with the UN Major Group on Children and Youth, whose members were very interested in the work Caritas is doing on youth engagement and empowerment.

Following the event, the young people who had attended the HLPF produced a report, which included six recommended actions for Caritas:

- To maintain regular discussions on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and to attend the HLPF each year.
- To develop reporting mechanisms demonstrating the contribution of Caritas work to the 2030 Agenda.
- Further collaboration with other actors working on the 2030 Agenda to find solutions to common problems.
- To amplify the voices of youth from all regions by sending young people to represent the Caritas Confederation at important international advocacy spaces such as the HLPF and enabling them to lead their own work at these events.
- To allot sustainable funding for youth participation at the HLPF and other international fora.
- To create spaces for peer-to-peer discussions on the 2030 Agenda in order to facilitate information-sharing between young people at grassroots level and the youth who represent Caritas Internationalis in international advocacy spaces.

The work of our young colleagues at the HLPF represented a great achievement for Strategic Objective 4.6.1 ("Young people are catalysts for change in their communities…") and 4.6.4 ("Caritas fosters professional growth …"). It also served as a demonstration of the high level of trust we place in our young staff and volunteers, as they represented our Confederation at an important international event that was not primarily focused on youth issues.

"HLPF gave me the bigger picture regarding climate change and global youth engagement. It was a great source of inspiration!"
– Kristýna Štecová (Caritas Czech Republic)

"I was reminded that 2030 isn't the endgame when it comes to the SDGs [the UN's Sustainable Development Goals], considering solutions to the ecological crisis is a way to ensure Integral Human Development."
– Alice Carwardine (Caritas Australia)

"I was inspired by the energised commitment that young people bring to achieving the SDGs. This has brought hope and joy to my own day-to-day work at Caritas!"
– Brianna Fitzpatrick (Caritas Internationalis)


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WORLD DAY OF THE POOR AND WORLD YOUTH DAY

Caritas Youth animated the Confederation during our fourth annual week of prayer and action marking both the World Day of the Poor and World Youth Day, in November 2024. This initiative gains momentum each year and has become the principal occasion for the confederation to celebrate the contributions made by young people to our mission. Videos produced as resources to support both the World Day of the Poor and World Youth Day were viewed more than 15,000 times on social media.

FURTHER CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR WORK MADE BY YOUNG PEOPLE IN 2024

The Caritas Internationalis Youth Working Group was established in 2024. Alongside the youth representatives serving on our SO Committees, members of this group represent the most significant youth-related collaborative work across the Confederation. The Group's membership includes equal representation across regions, with each region having two representatives, one female and one male, furthering our commitment to gender equality.

We continued to collaborate with the Youth Office at the Holy See Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life throughout 2024, particularly during the World Day of the Poor / World Youth Day week of prayer and action. We also attended the Dicastery Youth Office's International Youth Ministry Congress in May 2024.

Towards the end of the year, planning began for the Caritas Youth Forum in Rome, due to take place in July 2025; and for sending a delegation to the Jubilee of Youth, scheduled immediately after the Forum.

Our work with young people continues to teach us, as an organisation, that when member organisations and regions invest in youth empowerment and inclusion – for example, by bringing youth into their governance structures, investing human resources in youth programming, or including youth-related elements in their strategic planning – we see an increase in participation in and buy-in to our global youth programming.


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BUILD GLOBAL SOLIDARITY

COMMUNICATIONS

In 2024, the Communications Unit continued to advance the strategic priority of strengthening global solidarity across the Caritas Internationalis Confederation. The team focused on amplifying the collective voice of the network and reinforcing unity through coordinated communication efforts.

Responding to Emergencies

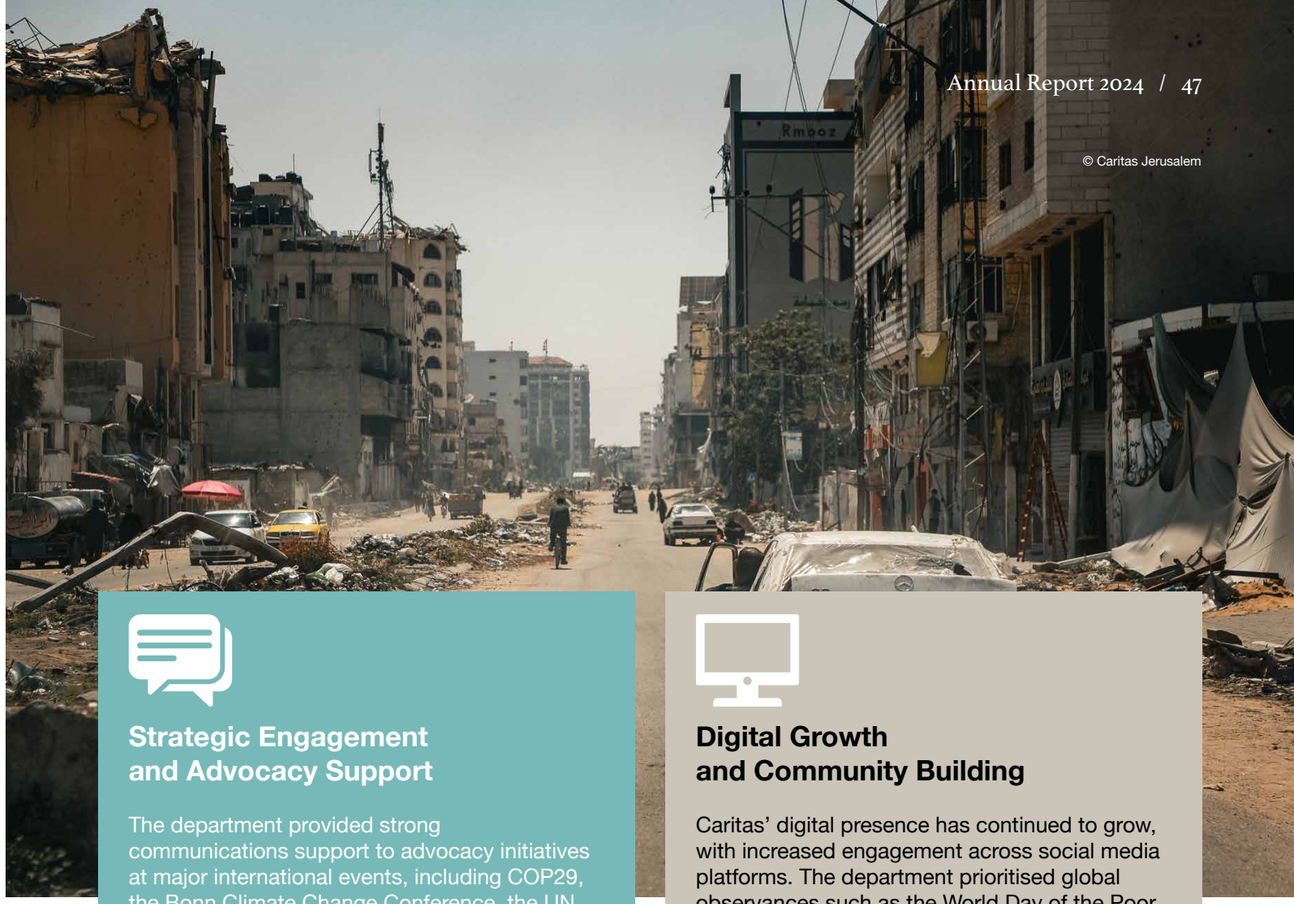
Throughout the year, the department supported communication efforts related to numerous humanitarian crises. This included sustained work on the ongoing conflict in Ukraine, where tailored training was delivered for Caritas Ukraine communicators, war in Gaza, major flooding across Europe and Kazakhstan, and emergencies in Venezuela, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Sudan, Haiti, and among Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh. The team also ensured visibility for recovery efforts following the earthquakes in Türkiye and Syria.

Campaigns

A key milestone was the preparation and launch of ‘Turn Debt into Hope’, a global campaign advocating for debt relief for vulnerable nations. Initiated at the start of the Jubilee Year, the campaign helped raise awareness of the human impact of unsustainable debt and mobilised support across the Confederation.



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Strategic Engagement and Advocacy Support

The department provided strong communications support to advocacy initiatives at major international events, including COP29, the Bonn Climate Change Conference, the UN General Assembly, and Human Rights Council sessions. Through timely content production, messaging support, and media engagement, Communications helped elevate Caritas’s perspectives on climate justice, human rights, and global inequality.

Digital Growth and Community Building

Caritas’ digital presence has continued to grow, with increased engagement across social media platforms. The department prioritised global observances such as the World Day of the Poor, World Youth Day, World Humanitarian Day, and international days dedicated to migrants, refugees, and survivors of human trafficking. Communications also provided ongoing support to the FAITH Project and its mobile application, promoting assistance for mothers and children living with HIV/AIDS, as well as to events such as Women Leaders: Towards a Brighter Future, highlighting women’s leadership across the world.

Strengthening Internal and External Communication

The arrival of the new Director of the Engagement Department, unifying leadership of Communications and Fundraising, marked a significant step toward more integrated strategies. Internally, the establishment of a Strategic Orientation 5 Committee and five specialised working groups advanced key priorities. These included refreshed branding, an updated emergency communications toolkit, guidance on the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies, a repository of best practices, and a more coordinated system for data mapping and analysis.

By strengthening collaboration across the Confederation and ensuring that the voices of vulnerable communities remained at the centre of our storytelling, the Communications Unit reaffirmed its commitment to building global solidarity and advancing the mission of Caritas Internationalis.

FUNDRAISING

The work of the Fundraising team serves as a significant contribution to Strategic Orientation 5: Build Global Solidarity. We work hand in hand with colleagues in the communication team to engage people in the mission of Caritas, amplifying voices of the Confederation in ways that build global solidarity, including seeking partnerships and attracting the resources that sustain our work.

In 2024, we were grateful to the more than 4,000 unique individual and private institutional supporters who gave a collective total of €6.3 million towards the mission of Caritas Internationalis.

Private donors contributed more than €3m to help fund General Secretariat core costs and programmes, while €2.7 million was contributed by Caritas member organisations. Private donations, including both unrestricted and restricted funds, have enabled Caritas to pursue a holistic approach to integral human development, and helped to strengthen organisational structures. These generous donations have facilitated programme approaches that ensure the prominence and sustainability of the Caritas Confederation as an important voice in the global humanitarian space, and at the heart of the Church.



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Drought Response Emergency Appeals across Southern Africa were significantly underfunded. Back to back droughts, on top of devastation of agricultural livelihoods from a cyclone the previous year had devastated family assets in Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. Crisis responses were at risk of being scaled back due to insufficient funds. However, private supporters responded to our specific ask to contribute to these country appeals, enabling the funding gap to be closed and the programs to continue without interruption.

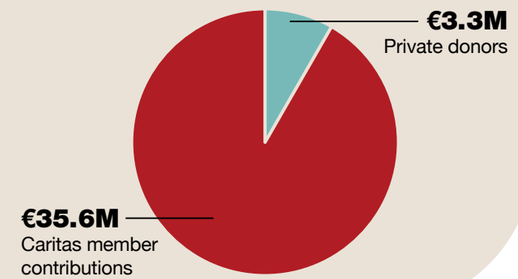
Emergency Appeals

Emergency Appeals (EAs) are the Confederation's principal mechanism for assisting national Caritas offices to respond quickly to a natural or manmade crisis, coordinating all financial and technical contributions made by member organisations within a common program framework.

The fundraising team also promotes EAs across the private donor base, proactively seeking support to fill significant funding gaps. In 2024, Caritas Internationalis mobilised €38.9 million across 34 Emergency Appeals, including Caritas member contributions (€35.6 million) and private donors (€3.3 million). Funding mobilized for Emergency Appeals is transferred to the Caritas member responding to the emergency, so does not appear in the General Secretariat Statement of Activities.

With a small but dedicated team of two, fundraising is at the service of both of the General Secretariat and the Confederation, remaining highly cost-effective and accounting for less than 5% of total Secretariat expenses. In 2024 the General Secretariat spent 97% of funds raised on its mission of love, peace, justice, and respecting and protecting Creation.

Resources Mobilised for Emergency Appeals in 2024



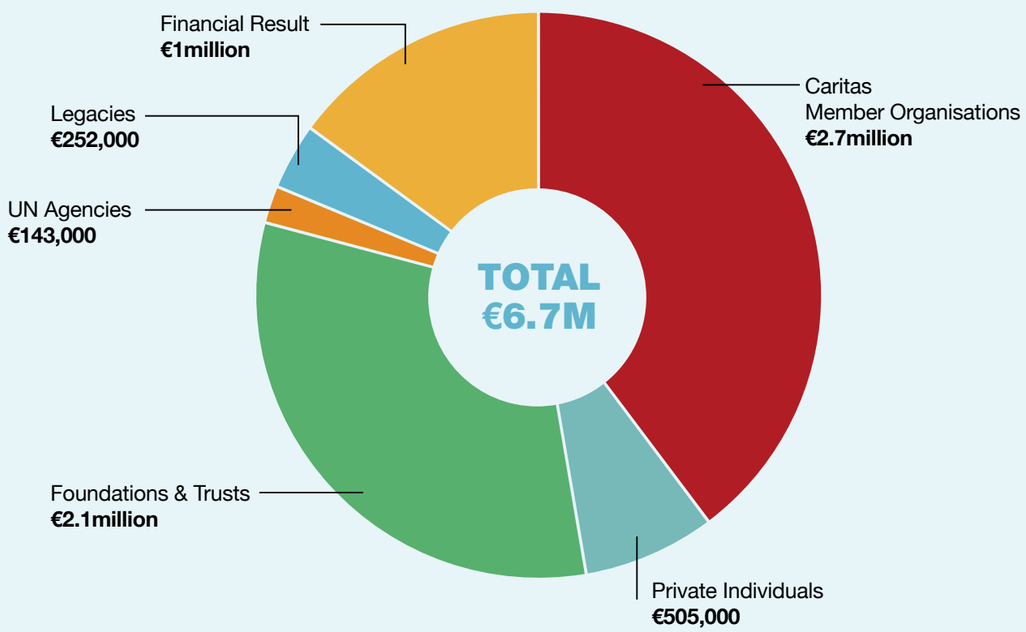
GENERAL SECRETARIAT STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

The following income statement shows the support Caritas Internationalis receives to support its mission. Member organisations provided about 50% of 2024 revenue through membership fees and voluntary contributions, while external donors contributed the remaining 50%. The Confederation's expenditure is entirely at the service of its mission, under which it carries out tasks of coordination, mobilisation, representation and the development of members' competencies.

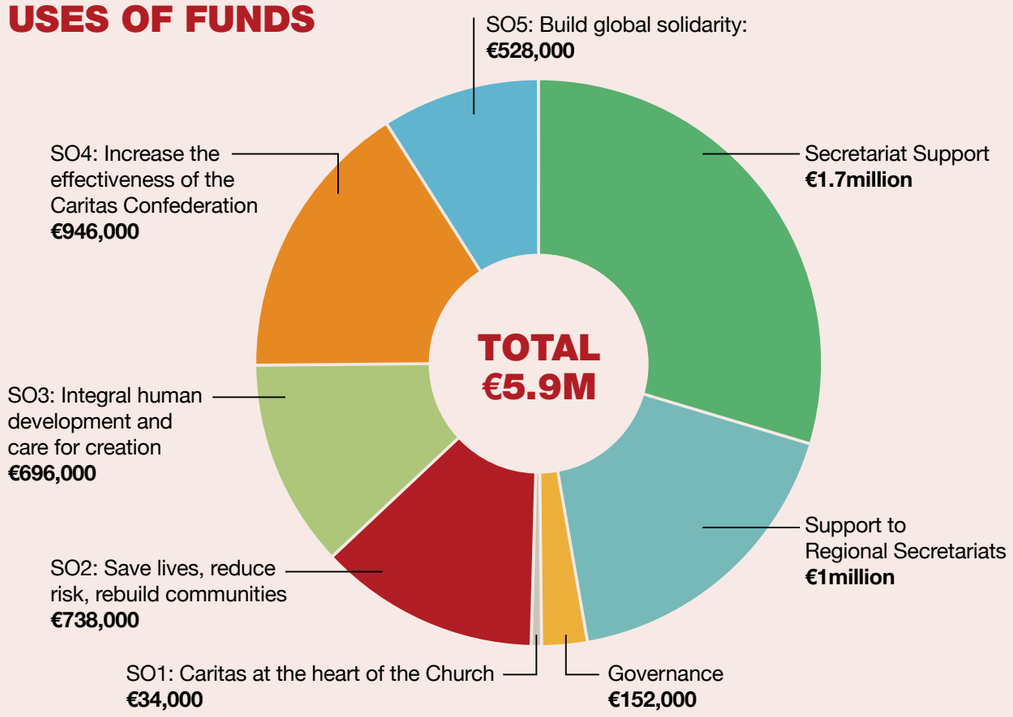
INCOME	2023	2024
Member Contributions		
Membership Fees	**2,406,671**	**2,499,039**
Unrestricted Contributions	0	3,166
Restricted Contributions	70,660	156,894
Total Member Contributions	**2,477,331**	**2,659,099**
Private Donor Contributions		
Legacies	30,000	252,371
Unrestricted Contributions	1,519,631	779,090
Restricted Contributions	1,663,575	1,998,079
Total Private Donor Contributions	**3,213,206**	**3,029,540**
Financial Income		
Realised Financial Income	144,194	187,279
Unrealised Financial Income	461,266	837,024
Total Financial Income	**605,460**	**1,024,303**
TOTAL INCOME	**6,295,997**	**6,712,942**
EXPENSES		
Operational Expenses		
General Secretariat Support Costs	2,145,481	1,738,637
Regional Structures	498,030	1,034,094
Governance Activities	898,539	152,199
SO1: Caritas at the heart of the Church	226,708	33,738
SO2: Save lives, reduce risk, rebuild communities	373,469	737,760
SO3: Integral human development & care for creationn	508,553	696,406
SO4: Increase the effectiveness of the Caritas Confederation	700,747	946,086
SO5: Build global solidarity*	617,667	528,446
Total Operational Expenses	**5,969,193**	**5,867,367**
Financial Expenses		
Realised	23,894	25,034
Unrealised	213,231	0
Total Financial Expenses	**237,125**	**25,034**
TOTAL EXPENSES	**6,206,318**	**5,892,401**
RESULT OF THE YEAR	**89,679**	**820,540**

*Fundraising Costs = €178,574 in 2024

SOURCES OF FUNDS



USES OF FUNDS



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