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Drinking from a water point in East Pokot, Kenya.

Credit: Joe Gitahi.

Strengthening the Caritas identity

In 2013, Caritas Africa maintained its focus on the identity and mission of Caritas as the socio-pastoral arm of the Church, in the context of the 2011-2015 Caritas Africa Strategic Framework and Organisation Plan, whose overall goal was: “Caritas in Africa, an integral part of the Church, promoting Reconciliation, Justice, Peace and Prosperity.”

Thus in July 2013, the National Caritas Directors / Secretaries General met in Nairobi as a follow-up to the important meeting of Bishops organised in November 2012 in Kinshasa by Caritas Africa in close collaboration with the Pontifical Council Cor Unum. This was an ideal opportunity to reflect on how to implement the Kinshasa Declaration.

At the end of the meeting, the participants issued a Final Declaration stating that they understand that they have a key role to play in ensuring that the exercise of charity, in their respective positions, belongs to the very nature of the Church, under the authority of Bishops, and that it is an integral part of their mission, as clearly stated in paragraph 25a of *Deus Caritas Est*: “For the Church, charity is not a kind of welfare activity which could equally well be left to others, but is a part of her nature, an indispensable expression of her very being.”

To speed up the implementation of the Kinshasa Declaration, the participants felt that it is necessary to disseminate as widely as possible the Kinshasa Declaration and the *Motu Proprio* “*Intima Ecclesiae Natura*” and create a shared understanding of their spirit and contents.

It is comforting to note that Caritas members in Africa are getting more and more conscious that, apart from a few exceptions, they are too dependent on external donors and lack capacity to mobilise adequate resources. The sharing of good practices in resource mobilisation at community level, the development of strategies and capacity to access institutional funding, the promotion of income generating initiatives and self-reliance, the active participation in humanitarian coordination at all levels, and the strengthening of institutional capacity with the support of CI, must be actively encouraged.

“For the Church, charity is not a kind of welfare activity which could equally well be left to others, but is a part of her nature, an indispensable expression of her very being.”
(*Deus Caritas Est*, 25a)



Participants at the Nairobi meeting - July 2013.

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+ Francisco João Silota
President, Caritas Africa

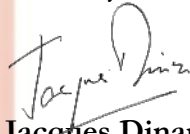


At the heart of the Church's mission in Africa

Caritas Africa, one of the seven regions of *Caritas Internationalis*, a public canonical juridical person dedicated to the service of the poor and to the promotion of charity and justice, regroups 45 national Caritas organisations of sub-Saharan Africa.

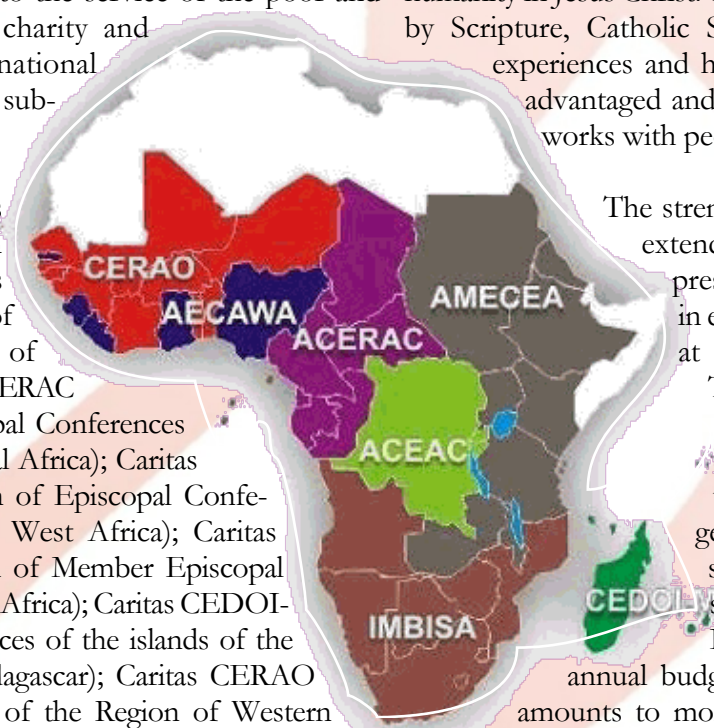
These Caritas members are organised in seven zones, namely: Caritas ACEAC (Association of Episcopal Conferences of Central Africa); Caritas ACERAC (Association of Episcopal Conferences of the Region of Central Africa); Caritas AECAWA (Association of Episcopal Conferences of Anglophone West Africa); Caritas AMECEA (Association of Member Episcopal Conferences in Eastern Africa); Caritas CEDOI-M (Episcopal Conferences of the islands of the Indian Ocean and Madagascar); Caritas CERAO (Episcopal Conference of the Region of Western Africa) and Caritas IMBISA (Inter-Regional Meeting of Bishops of Southern Africa).

On 9 July 2011, South Sudan became independent and Caritas South Sudan has since been constituted. Caritas Africa works closely with Caritas South Sudan, even if it is not yet a member of *Caritas Internationalis*.


Jacques Dinan

Executive Secretary, Caritas Africa

Caritas Africa is at the heart of the Church's mission in Africa. In serving the poor, it is a sign of God's love for humanity in Jesus Christ. The work of Caritas is inspired by Scripture, Catholic Social Teaching and by the experiences and hopes of people who are disadvantaged and are living in poverty. Caritas works with people of all faiths and none.



The strength of Caritas in Africa is its extended network. It is not only present in 46 countries, but also in every country, it works actively at diocesan and parish levels. Thus Caritas members in Africa employ some 13 000 people supported by more than 427 000 volunteers. Altogether, Caritas organisations in sub-Saharan Africa reach out to some 77 million beneficiaries.

It is estimated that the overall annual budget of all these organisations amounts to more than 236 million euro, of which some 5 million euro are raised locally, combined with the work and resources mobilised and used by individual sub-Saharan Caritas member organisations. This does not include the programmes and budgets of other individual Caritas Internationalis members that support the socio-development in Africa which amount to thousands of millions euro.

Caritas members in Africa employ more than 13 000 people supported by 427 000 volunteers and reach some 77 million beneficiaries.



ACEAC zone

Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo and Rwanda

ACERAC zone

Cameroon, Chad, Central African Republic, Congo, Equatorial Guinea and Gabon

AECAWA zone

Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone and The Gambia

AMECEA zone

Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia

CEDOI-M zone

Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius and Seychelles

CERAO zone

Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea-Bissau, Guinea-Conakry, Mali, Niger, Senegal and Togo

IMBISA zone

Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, São Tomé & Príncipe, South Africa, Swaziland and Zimbabwe.

Caritas Africa Core Values

Compassion

Confronted by global poverty and suffering, the fundamental response of Caritas is compassion rooted in love. Caritas refuses to accept the suffering of brothers and sisters and takes action to alleviate such suffering.



Hope

Caritas' hope is inspired by Christian faith and the strength and resourcefulness of its partners and the people whom they serve. In the knowledge that Christian hope is not passive, Caritas believes that by working together, a better world can and must be achieved so that all can enjoy fullness of life.

Dignity

Caritas sees the poor as dignified human beings not hopeless objects of pity and works with them to build a better future for them. Caritas believes in the intrinsic dignity of every person and that all women and men are equal. Caritas works with all people regardless of race, gender, religion or politics.

Justice

Caritas believes that one cannot make a gift of something a person should already have by right. Caritas challenges economic, social, political and cultural structures that are opposed to a just society.

Solidarity

Caritas works to enhance solidarity with the poor, seeing the world through their eyes, and recognising the interdependence of humanity.

Fraternal Cooperation and Communion

Caritas builds links between communities across the world, acknowledging that all receive as well as give. Caritas works within and beyond the Catholic family seeking justice to change the world for the better.



Stewardship

Caritas believes the planet and all its resources are entrusted to humankind and seeks to act in an environmentally responsible way as true stewards of creation.



Implementing the Kinshasa Declaration

A major activity organised by Caritas Africa in 2013 was the meeting of National Caritas Directors / Secretaries General in Nairobi from 1st to 4 July. It was well attended with the participation of 34 National Caritas organisations of the region in the presence of Bishop Francisco João Silota, President of Caritas Africa. Archbishop Cyprian Kizito Lwanga, Rt. Rev. Philip Arnold Anyolo, Bishop Mbuyu Louis Portella and Bishop Lodu Erkolano Tombe Tongun as well as the Secretary General of Caritas Internationalis, Michel Roy, other Senior CI staff members and partners attended the meeting.

At the end of the meeting, the participants issued a Final Declaration stating that they understand that they have a key role to play in ensuring that the exercise of charity, in their respective positions, belongs to the very nature of the Church, under the authority of Bishops, and that it is an integral part of their mission, as clearly stated in paragraph 25a of *Deus Caritas Est*: “For the Church, charity is not a kind of welfare activity which could equally well be left to others, but is a part of her nature, an indispensable expression of her very being.”

To speed up the implementation of the Kinshasa Declaration, the participants felt that it is necessary to disseminate as widely as possible the Kinshasa Declaration and the *Motu Proprio* “*Intima Ecclesiae Natura*” and create a shared understanding of their spirit and contents.

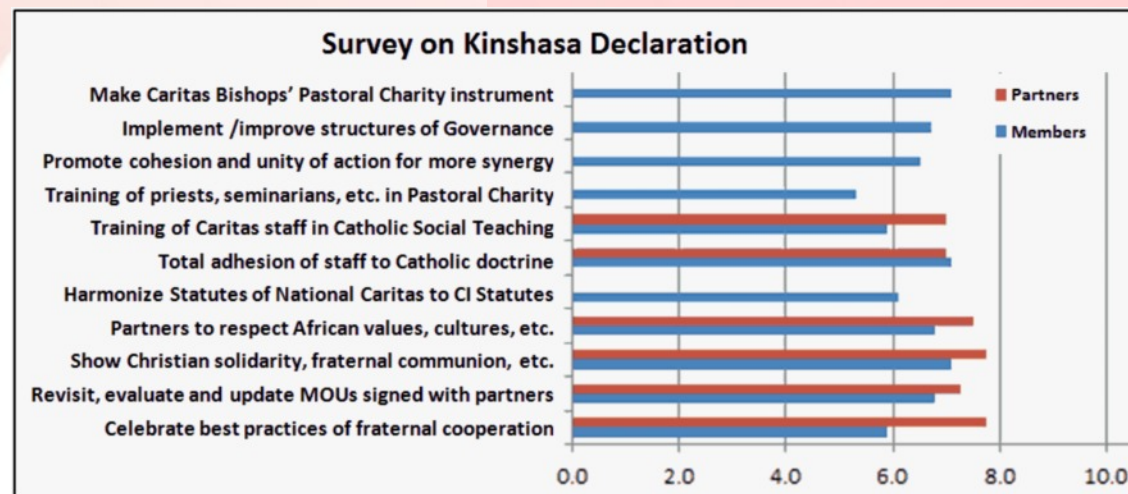
At the end of the year, Caritas members of the Africa region as well as Caritas partners working in Africa were invited to participate in a survey in order to assess to what extent the Declaration has been implemented

during the 12 months that have followed the Kinshasa meeting.

This questionnaire was to be filled in by the National Caritas Director/Secretary General in consultation with the Bishop President of the National Caritas or with the Bishop having closest ties with the National Caritas where the President of Caritas is a lay person.

Sixteen Caritas member organisations of the Africa region and seven partners responded to the questionnaire. Caritas members of the Africa region were asked to answer 11 questions based on the recommendations made by the Bishops in Kinshasa. Six of these questions were also addressed to partners, since they were also concerned by these specific recommendations.

The respondents were required to auto-evaluate, from 0 (*no progress at all*) to 10 (*progress totally achieved*), progress achieved in their respective areas since November 2012. A summary of the responses from both members in Africa and partners is illustrated above and shows the extent of progress achieved one year after the Kinshasa Declaration.



Active participation of delegates during group work.

One Human Family: Food For All

Caritas Africa has actively participated in the launching of the Caritas Internationalis global campaign against poverty and entitled “One Human Family: Food For All.”

As early as September 2013, Caritas Africa gave a boost to the campaign in the Africa region by dedicating the September issue of its e-magazine to the campaign. There were many articles to illustrate the efforts done by Caritas in Africa to ensure food security, combat malnutrition, strengthen the resilience of populations and promote to ensure better living.

At the beginning of December, several Caritas members in Africa actively participated in the launching of the



worldwide campaign by organising activities to sensitise one and all on the issue of food insecurity.

The wave of prayer on Tuesday 10 December 2013 to mark the launching of the campaign did travel across Africa and saw the participation not only of members of the Caritas personnel but also of the public at large and even of civil personalities in some cases.

The worldwide campaign is due to last some 18 months and every effort is done to motivate all the Caritas members in Africa to participate in the CI campaign: “One Human Family: Food For

All” and help reduce effectively food insecurity in Africa and in the world at large.



Campaign Prayer

O God, you entrusted to us the fruits of all creation so that we might care for the earth and be nourished with its bounty.

You sent us your Son to share our very flesh and blood and to teach us your Law of Love. Through His death and resurrection, we have been formed into one human family.

Jesus showed great concern for those who had no food – even transforming five loaves and two fish into a banquet that served five thousand and many more.

We come before you, O God, conscious of our faults and failures, but full of hope, to share food with all members in this global family.

Through your wisdom, inspire leaders of government and of business, as well as all the world's citizens, to find just, and charitable solutions to end hunger by assuring that all people enjoy the right to food.

Thus we pray, O God, that when we present ourselves for Divine Judgment, we can proclaim ourselves as “One Human Family” with “Food for All”. AMEN.

www.caritas.org

Managing and responding to emergencies

Caritas members of the Africa region as well as Caritas partners working in Africa have had to join forces in order to bring relief to the victims of many emergencies in 2013.

There have been major emergencies resulting from man-made conflicts in the Central African Republic and in the Republic of South Sudan. Managing and responding to emergencies in these two countries has been and is still quite difficult given the scope and extent of the crises.

The Caritas Africa Secretariat has taken a very active part in supporting the local Caritas in both countries. The Francophone and Anglophone Caritas Africa Desk Officers have, respectively, been and are still working very closely with Caritas Central Africa and with Caritas South Sudan. Caritas Africa is prioritising the accompaniment of these two Caritas members and is aiming at harmonising the overall response of the Caritas Confederation through the preparation and implementation of Emergency Appeals, among others.

There have been many other emergency situations in Africa in 2013, both caused by man made conflicts and by natural disasters. The consequences are alarming: violence has killed and wounded thousands of people, including children, thousands of families are left homeless and look for refuge either in their own country or abroad, food insecurity is widespread because of droughts, floods have caused heavy damages.

The Caritas Africa Emergency Management and Response Team (CAEMT), composed of representatives of Caritas member organisations from Africa and from

Europe and North America, working in Africa, met twice in 2013. Members are preoccupied by the situation and have made recommendations in answer to two questions: How to be more effective in emergency response? How to develop a work plan for CAEMT?

After lengthy discussions and exchanges the members recommended the following: to have a roadmap so they can see what has been achieved or not; to make a list of things to do; to share information by internet and to collect the feedback of the members of the group; to share the minutes of previous meetings with new members; to have a solidarity fund on the diocesan, national and regional levels; and to support the proposed CI rapid response fund.

The CAEMT has also been promoting the setting up of Country Fora in Africa. The Caritas Country Forum is a space where all Caritas Members and other Church agencies working in/with a particular country meet regularly to coordinate closely and jointly plan their development and humanitarian work, and prepare for foreseeable emergencies, based on shared analysis of the context and needs. The national Caritas animates and coordinates the Country Forum, with support from one of the forum members if necessary. The Country Forum can prepare the response to foreseeable emergencies, based on shared analysis of the context and needs. During times of emergency, the Country Forum are called upon to inclusively coordinate the response of the Confederation in the country. Getting people to work together in synergy is a difficult task and Caritas Africa spares no effort to succeed with this task.



Flooding in Chad.



Organising relief for victims in the Central African Republic.



Strengthening the resilience of populations against drought.

Close collaboration with partners

National Caritas organisations of the Africa region work in close collaboration with no less than some 90 partners, including Caritas members from other regions of the world, Church organisations, Governments, NGOs and international organisations.

At the regional level, Caritas Africa also maintains close contact with its partners and has been working with them in many instances.

Thus, the Caritas Africa Emergency Management and Response Team met twice in 2013. The members of this team include representatives from a number of Caritas organisations in Africa, from a number of partners, including CAFOD, *Secours Catholique Caritas France*, Caritas Germany, Caritas Spain, Trocaire and CRS, and representatives from Caritas Internationalis. The chairperson is Dr Bruno Miteyo from *Caritas Développement Congo*.

Another instance that involves the participation of Caritas partners is the CI Working Group on Sahel. The Group met once in December 2013 in Senegal. The meeting was well attended by Caritas organisations of the Sahel region as well as by Caritas partners from the North working in the Sahel region. The participants were CAFOD, Caritas Belgium, Caritas Denmark, *Secours Catholique Caritas France*, Caritas Cape Verde, Caritas Mauritania, CADEV-Niger, Caritas Senegal, Caritas Switzerland, Caritas Italiana, Caritas Spain, Caritas Innsbruck, Caritas Austria, Caritas Guinea Bissau, Catholic Relief Services, Caritas Mali, OCADES Caritas Burkina, Trocaire, Caritas Internationalis and Caritas Africa.

Caritas Africa is most grateful to its partners for their financial support during the year 2013. They contributed a total of € 269 802, including € 57 900 from CAFOD and € 18 737 from Caritas Norway. Without such positive support from its partners, Caritas Africa would not have been able to implement its 2013 Roadmap of Priority Activities.

The Secours Catholique Caritas France continues to support 10 Caritas organisations in Africa through its A2P/DIRO (*Appui de Proximité Personnalisé-Développement Institutionnel et Renforcement Organisationnel*) Programme. Caritas France has entered into an agreement with Caritas Africa and is renting an office in the Caritas Africa Secretariat building in Lomé where it has set up a Coordination Office for the A2P/DIRO programme since 1st February 2012.

Caritas Africa has also entered into an agreement with Caritas Italiana to jointly contribute to the strengthening of the ecclesial identity of Caritas in Africa; support and accompany Caritas members in order to strengthen their organizational and institutional capacity. The two organisations commit to share regularly information on their strategies and their respective plans for the Africa region; facilitate exchanges between heads of churches in Africa and Italy, as well as between ecclesial communities involved in social pastoral care.

The Caritas Africa Nairobi office continues to play a pivotal role in enhancing proactive fraternal cooperation among all the in-country Caritas members particularly those based in Nairobi. The office organises monthly lunch meetings with the Regional Caritas Directors.



The CAEMT members meeting in Addis Ababa - April 2013.

Ensuring zone coordination

Caritas Africa comprises seven zones: ACEAC, ACERAC, AECAWA, AMECEA, CEDOI-M, CERAO and IMBISA zones.

Caritas ACEAC

Caritas ACEAC (Association of Episcopal Conferences of Central Africa) faces the following challenges: insufficient synergy and mobilisation due to lack of communication; lack of professional training resulting in unemployment and poverty; lack of commitment to promote food security; high number of displaced people; violence towards women; insufficient resources allocated to the ministry of Charity; and the over exploitation of natural resources resulting in poverty.

The strategic objectives of the zone are to develop cross-border projects for displaced populations; promote youth vocational training as a means to fight poverty and unemployment; and develop together with ACEAC Justice and Peace common pastoral activities aimed at returnees and migrants, conveying to them messages of peace and reconciliation.

Caritas ACERAC

Caritas ACERAC (Association of Episcopal Conferences of the Region of Central Africa) has faced a number of difficulties and the members themselves have expressed the views that the zone coordination needs to be more effective.

Presently, there is no roadmap and no agreed framework at the zone level. Exchange of information is quite limited between members of the zone.

Caritas AECAWA

Caritas AECAWA (Association of Episcopal Conferences of Anglophone West Africa) regroups members from Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone and The Gambia. Caritas The Gambia is the zone coordinator. The majority of AECAWA countries have been immersed in political, religious, economic and humanitarian crises over the past decades. Collapsed economies, erratic flight schedules and poor communications, religious conflicts compounded by frequent changes of senior Caritas staff seriously compromise the timely implementation of AECAWA activities in the zone. Caritas Africa, with the help of partners, is actively supporting the various national Caritas so that they may be effective in spite of the extremely difficult situations.

Caritas AMECEA

Caritas AMECEA (Association of Member Episcopal Conferences in Eastern Africa) regroups members from Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia. Caritas Uganda ensures the coordination of the zone.

A capacity building workshop was organized in Nairobi from 27 to 29 June 2013 to help Caritas AMECEA members effectively implement their programs, more specifically in leadership/management, disaster preparedness, self-reliance and fundraising. The participants decided to launch a study on cross border small arms infiltration in Kenya, Uganda and Ethiopia jointly with Justice and Peace Commissions of the Conferences in those countries and also to team with Catholic high

(Continued on page 11.)



Participants at the ACEAC meeting - Burundi, April 2013.

Caritas ACEAC

- Burundi (*Coordinator*)
- Dem. Republic of Congo
- Rwanda

Caritas AMECEA

- Eritrea
- Ethiopia
- Kenya
- Malawi
- South Sudan
- Sudan
- Tanzania
- Uganda (*Coordinator*)
- Zambia

Caritas AECAWA

- Ghana
- Liberia
- Nigeria
- Sierra Leone
- The Gambia (*Coord.*)

Caritas ACERAC

- Cameroon
- Chad
- Central African Rep.
- Congo (*Coordinator*)
- Equatorial Guinea
- Gabon

Ensuring zone coordination (Continued)

(Continued from page 10.)

Institutions of learning in those countries. The main purpose of the study was to make a concrete ground assessment of the conflict in regard to cross border proliferation of small arms and light weapons in order to inform the future development of a project geared towards building sustainable peace.

Steps to integrate the Caritas AMECEA Zone with Justice and Peace department at AMECEA Secretariat have been initiated and the AMECEA's Executive decision is expected in March 2014.

Caritas CEDOI-M

The national Directors/Secretaries General of the Caritas CEDOI-M (Episcopal Conferences of the islands of the Indian Ocean and Madagascar) zone met in July and planned the zone activities for the rest of the year. In September, the zone coordinator met the Bishops of CEDOI in Seychelles and organised a training session to help revive Caritas Seychelles. In October, a training of trainers session in adult literacy was organised in Mayotte. The trainer was Josian Labonté of Caritas Mauritius.

Caritas CERAO

Caritas CERAO (Episcopal Conference of the Region of Western Africa) faced difficult situations because of growing insecurity in the area and disasters in six of the ten Sahel countries. Insecurity and political instability in Mali have negative economic and social consequences on border countries such as Niger, Burkina Faso, and Senegal. The social situation which nourishes

and maintains a political crisis in Guinea has strong economic repercussions. Meeting in July 2013, the members of the zone have agreed to prioritise the following themes: human resource management, resource mobilisation and household empowerment.

Caritas IMBISA

Following the finalisation and wide dissemination of the Caritas Africa Strategic Plan (2011-2015), Caritas IMBISA (Inter-Regional Meeting of Bishops of Southern Africa) convened a three day workshop, in March 2012, to develop its own. Participants took time to critically look at the partnership issues. It emerged that certain partnership principles as outlined in the CI Guidelines were not being practised in a number of countries. The meeting also identified Resource Mobilisation as a major challenge.

Caritas Namibia has sent out an urgent message for assistance. Currently there is only one person in the office and there has been no significant funding.

Only one support visit was made to a member country and this was to Caritas Swaziland. Communication across the zone continues to be a major challenge.

Caritas CEDOI-M

- Comoros
- Madagascar
- Mauritius (*Coord.*)
- Seychelles
- Réunion (*France*)
- Mayotte (*France*)
- Rodrigues (*Mauritius*)

Caritas IMBISA

- Angola
- Botswana
- Lesotho
- Mozambique
- Namibia
- São Tomé & Príncipe
- South Africa
- Swaziland
- Zimbabwe (*Coord.*)



Caritas CERAO

- Benin (*Coordinator*)
- Burkina Faso
- Cape Verde
- Côte d'Ivoire
- Guinea-Bissau
- Guinea-Conakry
- Mali
- Niger
- Senegal
- Togo



Reviving Caritas Seychelles - September 2013.

Coverage and spread of Caritas in Africa

In order to get as much as possible updated information, for the years 2012 and 2013, from the Caritas member organisations in Africa, a questionnaire was sent to all of them by the Caritas Africa Secretariat at the beginning of 2013 and 2014. Responses have been received from a total of 34 members out of 46 sub-Saharan Caritas organisations.

In the 34 countries, under review, Caritas is present in 375 dioceses, with a total of 12 785 parish Caritas. There are 800 employees working at the level of the National Caritas organisations and some 12 200 working at the various levels of the organisation, at diocesan and parish levels. Caritas is also largely dependent upon the work of volunteers. No less than 427 000 volunteers thus offer their services. The number of beneficiaries taking advantage of the services offered by Caritas in these 34 countries amounts no less than 77 million. The corresponding overall annual budget is more than € 236 million of which some € 5 million are raised locally.

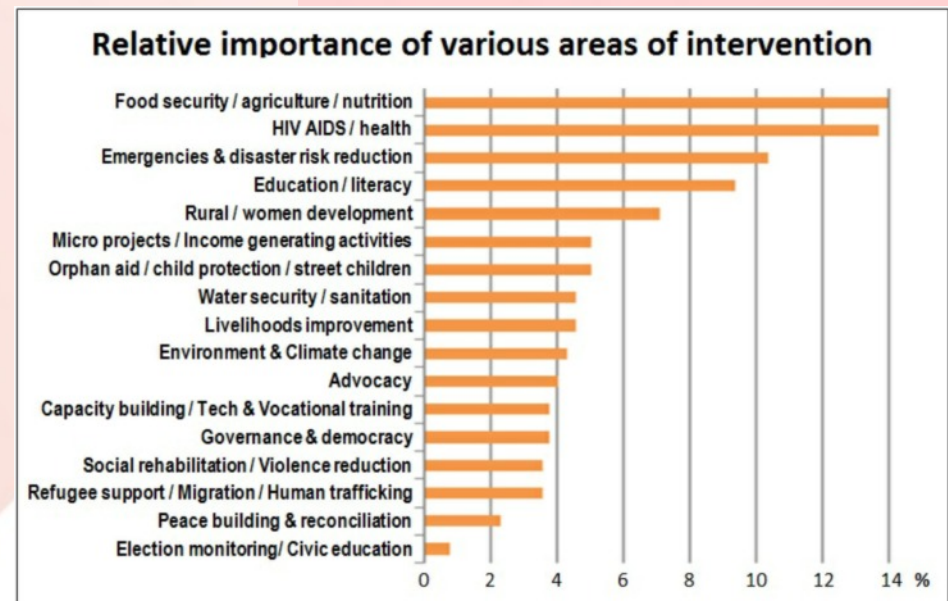
The areas of intervention of Caritas in sub-Saharan Africa are quite varied and cover a very wide scope of activities. The illustration, on the right, shows the relative importance of the various areas of intervention.

Invited to list their main difficulties, most of the Caritas member organisations explain that they badly lack financial resources. They are largely dependent upon funds from external partners and these funds tend to decrease on account of the on-going economic crisis. Hence, the funds available are quite insufficient to meet the needs of the vulnerable members of society.

Many members are therefore looking for ways and means of developing local fundraising in order to set up strong and sustainable Caritas organisations.

Other difficulties include insecurity resulting from cross border incursions and tribal clashes; inadequate professional skills in managing community development and in disaster management; persistent drought due to effects of climate change; high staff turnover; unstable political situation in operational areas sometimes leading to limited access to project participants; poor infrastructure such as very bad road networks; lack of legal status of Caritas in some countries leading to loss of potential support from donors;

lack of commitment by certain governments to provide the basic infrastructures needed by the people; lack of proposal writing ability to enable the diocesan Caritas to raise funds for their projects; inadequate respect for deadlines; poor communication; increased food insecurity situation among the rural population due to climate change related effects of drought and floods; increase in the price of goods and services; unfair competition in the mobilization of resources between local NGOs and agencies and international organizations; lack of volunteers within Caritas organisations; lack of up-to-date office equipment; lack of capacity; limited qualified staff; and reduced donor funding.



Achievements of Caritas members in Africa

Caritas member organisations of the Africa region were asked through a questionnaire sent to them to list their main achievements in 2012 and in 2013. There have been quite a lot of positive responses. Hereafter is a sample of these achievements which are very typical of the Africa region:

- Establishing Caritas structures in parishes and dioceses/regions and getting local people involved;
- Providing support to the most vulnerable communities countrywide;
- Ensuring capacity building at diocesan level;
- Organising and celebrating the Caritas Day;
- Successfully implementing emergency appeals;
- Welcoming back returnees and supporting refugees;
- Maintaining the fight against malnutrition and malaria;
- Conducting a Rapid Vulnerability Assessment in collaboration with government on food availability and deficit;
- Responding to emergencies;
- Ensuring access to clean and safe water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH);
- Facilitating vocational training;
- Promoting keyhole gardening;
- Promoting Savings and Internal Lending Communities model;
- Trainings in hygiene and sanitation;
- Increasing food crop yields through improved adaptation techniques;
- Ensuring the distribution of rice seeds, fertilisers and agricultural equipment;
- Promoting reforestation;
- Conducting functional literacy and numeracy programmes for out-of-school children and adults;
- Conducting risk reduction programmes aiming at increased resilience of communities;
- Providing civic education on the electoral process and successfully monitoring Local Government Elections;
- Providing relief assistance to flood victims;
- Effectively contributing to successful presidential and parliamentary elections;
- Improving health, water and education services;
- Setting up capacity building programmes for social workers looking after street children;
- Developing conflict management and peace building programmes in crisis prone regions;
- Training in Life Skills Management;
- Support to households through development of Income Generating Activities;
- Successfully improving HIV AIDS treatment;
- Implementing wells and boreholes in rural areas;
- Promoting Entrepreneur skills among communities;
- Reducing occurrences of water borne diseases through improved access to safe potable water and sanitary facilities;
- Ensuring road rehabilitation;
- Setting up of new projects on food security;
- Contributing to the lowering of new HIV/AIDS infections;
- Reducing malaria morbidity and mortality; and
- Contributing to the realisation of transparency and accountability in the mining sector.



Functional literacy and numeracy programmes for out-of-school children and adults.

Main difficulties met by Caritas members

Invited to list their main difficulties, most of the Caritas member organisations in Africa explain that they badly lack financial resources. They are largely dependent upon funds from external partners and these funds tend to decrease on account of the on-going economic crisis. Hence, the funds available are quite insufficient to meet the needs of the vulnerable members of society.

Many members are therefore looking for ways and means of developing local fundraising in order to set up strong and sustainable Caritas organisations.

Other difficulties include the following:

- Insecurity resulting from cross border incursions and tribal clashes;
- Inadequate professional skills in managing community development and in disaster management;
- Persistent drought due to effects of climate change;
- High staff turnover;
- Unstable political situation in operational areas sometimes leading to limited access to project participants;
- Poor infrastructure such as very bad road networks;
- Lack of legal status of Caritas in some countries leading to loss of potential support from donors;
- Lack of commitment by certain governments to provide the basic infrastructures needed by the people;
- Lack of proposal writing ability to enable the diocesan Caritas to raise funds for their projects;
- Inadequate respect for deadlines; poor communication;

- Increased food insecurity situation among the rural population due to climate change related effects of drought and floods;
- Increase in the price of goods and services;



Very bad road networks make it very hard for some Caritas members to transport foodstuffs and other supplies to internally displaced populations, refugees or victims of natural disasters.

- Unfair competition in the mobilization of resources between local NGOs and agencies and international organizations;
- Lack of volunteers within Caritas organisations;
- Lack of up-to-date office equipment;
- Lack of capacity;
- Limited qualified staff; and
- Reduced donor funding.



Persistent drought due to the effects of climate change considerably hinders the work of many Caritas organisations in Africa.

The Caritas Africa Solidarity Fund

The Caritas Africa Solidarity Fund was launched in 2012 and a concept paper published to explain the objectives of the fund and provide useful information on its principles, procedures and method of disbursement.

The Caritas Africa Solidarity Fund is established with voluntary contributions from Caritas member organisations, of the Africa region and other regions, and other well-wishers. The Fund shall be open for contributions from any other sources approved by the Regional Commission.

Caritas member organisations in Africa have the duty to develop fundraising mechanisms at Diocesan and National levels in order to build up their own solidarity funds and contribute to the Regional Solidarity Fund. This is an important step towards the mobilisation of local communities and groups in Africa to support the work of Caritas, at all levels, especially during emergencies.

Caritas partners, worldwide, and other well-wishers are also invited to contribute to the Caritas Africa Solidarity Fund, which will prove to be a most useful tool in facilitating rapid responses, in an efficient and flexible manner right at the onset of emergency situations.

Whenever financial resources from the Caritas Africa Solidarity Fund will be mobilised to respond to the needs of an emergency, the Fund could be replenished by contributions for that specific emergency through the Caritas Internationalis Emergency Appeal mechanism. Thus, as long as there is an Emergency Appeal launched for the emergency, the Fund could

continually be replenished through a reimbursement mechanism. The Solidarity Fund would help remove one of the obstacles to timely availability of emergency funds.



Archbishop Dieudonné Nzapalainga of Bangui joins Muslims in prayer for an end to the crisis in the Central African Republic.

Credit: Sam Phelps for Catholic Relief Services.

In 2013, a total amount of Euro 23 425 has been received, of which Euro 15 000 were specifically contributed by 11 Francophone Caritas Africa members to support Caritas Central Africa and Euro 5 088 were specifically contributed for Caritas Philippines in the aftermath of the cyclone that devastated that country in November 2013. A further amount of Euro 5 000 was made available to Caritas Central Africa to help the local Caritas respond as quickly as possible to the emergency situation in that country.

Funds for the Philippines were forwarded to Caritas Internationalis for the Philippines Fund.

Caritas Africa Solidarity Fund

RESOURCES		EXPENDITURE	
	(Euro)		(Euro)
Balance reported from 31 December 2012	26 035.25	Support to Caritas members	25 088.00
Contributions from Caritas Africa members	23 425.00	Balance as at 31 December 2013	24 372.25
TOTAL	49 460.25	TOTAL	49 460.25

Main purpose of the Fund

The main purpose of establishing the Caritas Africa Solidarity Fund is to mobilise resources and avail a solidarity-based funding mechanism that can assist member organisations towards rapid response during emergencies in a timely and efficient manner and particularly to meet the short-term needs of the affected communities. The Solidarity Fund is limited to rapid response financing during emergency operations undertaken by Caritas Africa members at the national level. The Fund will enable Caritas Africa Member Organisations to respond rapidly on the onset of emergencies and be able to initiate more comprehensive emergency operations with other in-country Caritas members by organising coordination fora, joint needs assessments, situation analysis and establishment of a coordination mechanism for a national Caritas emergency response.

Internal and external communication

Communicating internally and externally across the Africa region is quite a challenge. Some of the objectives in 2013 were to map Caritas members' existing livelihood, health and development programmes for sharing best practices; to collect and share good practices on youth employment and responses to challenges of rapid urbanisation in Africa; to make an inventory of best practices and share information on youth employment, children in the streets, programmes for elderly, women empowerment and offer training on the same.

In order to carry on these activities, it would have been necessary to gather information from the Caritas members in Africa. This is unfortunately a most difficult process given the reluctance of members to respond to questionnaires sent to them. Every effort is done to try to encourage members to communicate more regularly with the secretariat and share their best practices and experience.

A positive note concerns the publication of the Caritas Africa e-magazine. There have been four issues in 2013 and it has thus been possible to publish articles relating some of the best practices in the region. The September 2013 issue of the e-magazine was dedicated to food security in order to sensitize one and all prior to the launching of the CI campaign "One Human Family: Food for All," which was launched on 10 December 2013.

The Caritas Africa e-magazine is exclusively distributed by Internet either by email or on the Caritas Africa website and blog. The distribution of the e-magazine is quite widespread and contributes largely to the

visibility of what the Church does through Caritas in terms of social and development work Africa.

The Caritas Africa website has been totally redesigned and became operational on Christmas eve. It is now more user-friendly, more interactive, more attractive and more informational. Furthermore, Caritas Africa has set up accounts on Facebook, Twitter and Google Plus in an effort to increase visibility and receive more support.

Some of the Caritas members in Africa have organised an annual Caritas day to sensitise the faithful and the populations at large about the work of Caritas in their country as well as around the world and also to fundraise. Much effort still needs to be done to share the experience gathered by those members that have organised such annual Caritas day so that others may join in future and help sensitise one and all on Caritas identity and mission.

Branding is an on-going activity and Caritas members in the region are all the time encouraged to ensure the visibility of Caritas. They are always reminded of the fact that it is essential to let everyone be aware of the work of Caritas. Knowledge of what Caritas does increases the credibility of the organisation and this leads to support, which is much needed in all circumstances.

The CI Baobab extranet is now fully developed and it can be used by member organisations. There is an urgent need to motivate members to use more the Baobab extranet. On the positive side, it must be pointed out that Caritas Africa as well as several Caritas members in Africa have their own websites and thus maintain effective communication.



Caritas Africa Regional Secretariat
Financial Report for the year ending 31 December 2013

RESOURCES			EXPENDITURE		
	Budget (Euro)	Actual (Euro)		Budget (Euro)	Actual (Euro)
1-1. Internal Resources	20 000	17 224	Governance and management Secretariat		
1-2. Statutory fees of members in the region	36 000	30 961	2-1. Personnel	90 000	78 813
1-3. Contribution from CI	140 000	135 000	2-2. Communications	12 000	13 444
			2-3. Overhead expenses	25 000	25 796
			2-4. Financial costs	7 000	9 465
			Governance bodies		
Sub-total	196 000	183 185	2-5. Statutory meetings of the Regional Commission	40 000	43 766
1-4. Provision from 2012 Budget for implementation of Operational Plan in 2013	80 995	80 995	Total Governance and Management	174 000	171 284
1-5. Voluntary contribution from members in the region	10 000	0	Programmes and Projects		
1-6. Contributions to the Caritas Africa Solidarity Fund	50 000	23 425	2-6. Regional animation, representation, capacity building & organisational development for targeted member organisations	50 000	86 668
1-7. Support to projects – Fundraising	119 005	134 802	2-7. Facilitation of exchanges and mutual support at zone level	42 000	24 000
			2-8. Solidarity Fund for immediate support during emergencies	50 000	25 088
Sub-total	260 000	239 222	2-9. Emergency preparedness and response + CAEMT meetings + Training in needs assessment, risk reduction, CI toolkit, programme design, monitoring and evaluation	30 000	30 871
			2-10. Follow-up of Nov. 2012 Bishops' meeting: workshop with National Directors / Secretaries General	100 000	72 885
			2-11. Exchange visits and studies	10 000	0
			Total Programmes and Projects	282 000	239 512
			Provision for February 2015 Caritas Africa Regional Conference		11 611
GRAND TOTAL	456 000	422 407	GRAND TOTAL	456 000	422 407

Annual Budget of all Caritas members in Africa

It is estimated that the overall annual budget of all the Caritas member organisations of the Africa region amounts to more than 236 million euro, of which some 5 million euro are raised locally, combined with the work and resources mobilised and used by each one of them.

This does not include the programmes and budgets of all the other individual Caritas Internationalis member organisations that support the socio-development in Africa which amount to thousands of millions euro.

Meeting with National Caritas Directors/Secretaries General of the Africa Region

Nairobi, Kenya – 1st-5 July 2013

STATEMENT

Preamble

We, National Directors/Secretaries General of Caritas in the Africa Region, meeting in Nairobi, Kenya, from 1st to 5 July 2013, with the presence of the Bishop President of Caritas Africa, of Bishops representing a number of Episcopal Conferences in Africa, of the Secretary General of Caritas Internationalis and some of our partners, members of the Caritas Confederation, have been reflecting on the November 2012 Kinshasa Declaration of Bishops on the Identity and Mission of Caritas in the light of the encyclical *Deus Caritas Est* with the objective of finding ways and means of implementing that declaration in our respective countries and in the region.

Our interactions during these five days have shown that the implementation of the Kinshasa Declaration has already started, with various degrees of success, even if quite limited at times, and that there is an urgent need to foster further its implementation at various levels.

We understand that we have a key role to play in ensuring that the exercise of charity, in our respective positions, belongs to the very nature of the Church, under the authority of Bishops, and that it is an integral part of their mission, as clearly stated in paragraph 25a of *Deus Caritas Est*: “For the Church, charity is not a kind of welfare activity which could equally well be left to others, but is a part of her nature, an indispensable expression of her very being.”

During the meeting, we also discussed emergency preparedness and response, the humanitarian crisis in the Central African Republic, the CI antipoverty campaign and the proposed CI Minimum Standards, Code of Ethics and Code of Conduct.

1. The Kinshasa Declaration and the *Motu Proprio* “*Intima Ecclesiae Natura*”

To speed up the implementation of the Kinshasa Declaration, it is necessary to disseminate as widely as possible these two documents and create a shared understanding of their spirit and contents, we propose the following:

- 1.1. A letter from the President of Caritas Africa be sent out to all Bishops’ Conferences, reemphasizing their commitment to the Kinshasa Declaration and the *Motu Proprio* for action;
- 1.2. By December 2013, in collaboration with the Bishop President of National Caritas in our respective countries, develop a local and contextualized strategy to disseminate the spirit and the contents of these two documents targeting our local Bishops’ Conferences, our Diocesan socio-pastoral bodies, our parish priests and local Christian communities;
- 1.3. The President of Caritas Africa to pursue discussions with SECAM towards the full integration of Caritas Africa within SECAM structures by the next Caritas Africa Regional Conference in February 2015;
- 1.4. Maintain on-going sharing and discussions on these two documents with Sister Caritas organisations and partners in our respective countries;
- 1.5. Harmonize our Statutes and guiding principles with the *Motu Proprio*, the Kinshasa Declaration and the new CI Statutes by the next Caritas Africa Regional Conference in February 2015.

2. Emergencies

Emergency preparedness and response are often impaired by lack of coordination and unclear roles and responsibilities. We suggest the following:

- 2.1. Finalise and disseminate the document prepared by the Caritas Africa Emergency Management and Response Team on Roles and Responsibilities of all stakeholders involved in emergency response, from parishes to CI;
- 2.2. In collaboration with Sister Caritas members, develop joint emergency preparedness and resilience programmes specially for prone-disaster countries;

(Continued on next page.)

*“We understand that
we have a key role to play
in ensuring that
the exercise of charity,
in our respective positions,
belongs to the very nature of the Church,
under the authority of Bishops,
and that it is
an integral part of their mission.”*

STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

(Continued from previous page.)

- 2.3. Strengthen the leadership of the National Caritas in emergency preparedness and response;
- 2.4. Operationalize the Country Forum wherever possible and ensure mutual support within the zones;
- 2.5. Caritas Africa to effectively accompany affected Caritas members through its Desk Officers, in liaison with CI;
- 2.6. Caritas Africa members to contribute to CI Emergency Appeals;
- 2.7. The Caritas Africa Emergency Management and Response Team to develop a Communication and Advocacy strategy for emergencies in liaison with CI.

3. Resource mobilisation

Apart from a few exceptions, Caritas organisations in Africa are too dependent on external donors and lack capacity to mobilise adequate resources. We therefore recommend the following:

- 3.1. Share good practices in resource mobilisation at community level;
- 3.2. Develop strategies and capacity to access institutional funding;
- 3.3. Promote income generating initiatives and self-reliance;
- 3.4. Actively participate in humanitarian coordination at all levels;
- 3.5. Strengthen institutional capacity with the support of CI.

4. Partnership

In the spirit of communion and fraternal cooperation based on dialogue, mutual support, trust and commitment towards service to the poor:

- 4.1. Develop mechanisms for permanent dialogue and sharing between Diocesan and National Caritas;
- 4.2. Abide by the CI Partnership principles;
- 4.3. Promote the Country Forum;
- 4.4. Work with other Churches and civil society organisations;
- 4.5. Use the Caritas Brand whenever possible to increase our visibility.

5. Central African Republic

We are alarmed by the humanitarian situation which continues to deteriorate in the Central African Republic. We express support to the work of the Church and called upon African Bishops through SECAM to engage in Advocacy on the root causes of this crisis and mobilize their communities to help our suffering brothers and sisters in the Central African Republic.

6. CI antipoverty campaign

We received an update on the Caritas Confederation antipoverty campaign on the Right to Food and we commit ourselves to owning and promoting this campaign in our respective countries.

7. CI Minimum Standards, Code of Ethics and Code of Conduct

We participated in a consultation workshop on CI proposed Minimum Standards, Code of Ethics and Code of Conduct and we gave our input towards the finalisation of these documents.

5 July 2013