



**Caritas**  
AFRICA

**Annual  
Report  
2018**



Credit: Paul Jeffrey/Caritas Internationalis.

## Cover picture



Residents of the disputed Abyei region remain displaced in South Sudan.

A young girl pumps water from a well built by Caritas in a camp for displaced people in Agok, South Sudan. Tens of thousands of people in Abyei, a disputed region along the Sudan and South Sudan border, are still displaced in Agok.

Under a 2005 peace agreement, Abyei was supposed to hold a referendum to decide which country it would join, but the two countries have yet to agree on who can vote. In 2011, militias aligned with Khartoum have driven out most of the inhabitants of Dinka Ngok Abyei, pushing them across a river. More than 40,000 Dinka Ngok have since returned to Abyei with Caritas South Sudan, which has drilled wells, has built houses, opened dispensaries and provided seeds and tools to returnees.

However, persistent insecurity means that a larger number remains in Agok, and depends on Caritas and other organizations to obtain food and other aid.

*Photo de Paul Jeffrey/Caritas Internationalis.*

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## Message of Most Rev. Gabriel Yaw Anokye, Caritas Africa President: with the poor for the poor

Dear Brothers and Sisters

Peace be with you!

The charity of Christ constraineth us to meet the poor (2Cor. 5, 14).

Yes, the charity of Christ constrains us! And as you know, Caritas Africa is at the heart of the Church's mission in Africa. Its forty-six (46) Member Organizations and its Regional Executive Secretariat, guided by the evangelical

values, have combined, within and outside Africa, the move of generosity together with the humancapital, to commit themselves out of love in the implementation of actions to enable the poor

**“Caritas Africa was really committed in 2018, with the poor and for the poor, to co-build and share with them paths of resilience and hope.”**

in Sub-Saharan Africa to participate in the improvement of their living conditions, their living environments. Caritas Africa has really invested itself in 2018 in the activities with the

Small steps, which are nonetheless steps, were taken thanks to the generosity of various donors to first meet the men and women whom Caritas serves in Africa, to promote the development of the culture of encounter and sharing, by having a positively look at the men and women who are in need in Sub-Saharan Africa. To remain Christian in being and behaviour by working for the human advancement was once again in 2018, the distinctive signature of the interventions of the member organizations Caritas Africa.

Our sincere thanks go to the people whom Caritas serves and who, on a daily basis, have made tremendous efforts to get out of poverty

Our sincere thanks are also expressed to those who maintain the flame of charity and hope in the Africa Region of Caritas Internationalis. It is thanks to the contribution of each and every one that Caritas in the Africa Region has been able to tirelessly pursue the mission which the Church has entrusted to

them. Here we think of the Caritas staff at the parish, diocesan, national, sub-regional and regional levels.

May God bless you all.

**+ Justice Gabriel Yaw ANOKYE,  
Metropolitan Archbishop of Kumasi, Ghana  
President of Caritas Africa**



Most Rev. Gabriel Justice Yaw Anokye, Archbishop of Kumasi, Ghana - President, Caritas Africa.

poor and for the poor to co-build and share with them the paths of resilience and hope.

# 1. Short presentation of Caritas Africa

## Identity and Mission

In accordance with Article 8 of the Statutes of *Caritas Internationalis* (CI) and Articles 7, 8 and 9 of its Rules of Procedure, the Africa Region is constituted under the name "*Caritas Africa*". *Caritas Africa* is an international non-profit charitable organization governed by the Statutes and Rules of *Caritas Internationalis*. In addition, Caritas Africa has its own Statutes and Rules of Procedure recognized by the *Symposium of Episcopal Conferences of Africa and Madagascar* (SECAM), approved by *Caritas Internationalis* and submitted to the competent dicasteries of the Holy See (Roman Curia) for their recognition. Caritas Africa is also endowed with internal rules to guide its discipline and operations.

*Caritas Africa* is one of the Regions of the seven *Caritas Internationalis* which mission is to promote cooperation and harmonise the work of Caritas members in the region, in line with the priorities set by the General Assembly of *Caritas Internationalis*.

## Vision of Caritas Africa : « Having life in fullness. » (Jn 10:10)

Inspired by the Gospel, the Catholic Social Teaching, social pastoral orientations of our Pastors as well as cultural and religious beliefs of the African peoples, *Caritas Africa* strives to build flourishing communities in Africa, where love, reconciliation, justice, peace and prosperity prevail for all: where each member of the community contributes to the common good, where environmental resources are used responsibly and for the benefit of all, where there is no more corruption, no more violation of human rights, no more exploitation of the poor by the rich, where the dignity of all women, men and children is promoted.

**Its mission can be summed up in these terms: To witness God's love (Acts 1:8)** in order to promote charity and justice with a view to ensuring the integral development of the human being with priority attention to the poor and the most deprived

As an instrument of the Church, Caritas Africa:

- carries out its role of serving, accompanying and defending the poor and the marginalized following the Gospel and the teachings of the Catholic Church;
- works in synergy with other social and pastoral institutions of the Church in Africa to promote the spirituality of the social action in accordance with the teachings of the Church, to respond to emergency situations, to support the development of the communities with the involvement of the people concerned;

- facilitates and coordinates the efforts of its members to ensure that each national Caritas is strengthened in its governance and management systems in accordance with the CI Management Standards;

- supports its members in carrying out their mission of charity and social justice, and facilitates coordination and synergy of action between Caritas members in the Africa Region;

- promotes cooperation and harmonises the work of Caritas members in the Region, in accordance with their priorities defined under the leadership and guidance of the Church authorities and in line with the priorities set by the General Assembly of Caritas Internationalis; and

- encourages communion, collaboration and cooperation by undertaking works related to animation, coordination, representation, advocacy, institutional development and capacity building.



## Value and Principles

Caritas Africa action is guided by the following values and principles:

### Dignity of the human person

*God created man in his own image of God he created him, man and woman he created them (Genesis 1, 27).* Human persons are not objects, they are subjects who collaborate to the pursuit of the work of creation. The poor - or more precisely those who suffer from poverty - should not be objects of pity but subjects of their own development.

## Solidarity/Sharing

This means “a firm and persevering determination to work for the common good; that is for the good of all and everyone because we are all truly responsible for all » (John Paul II, *Sollicitudo rei socialis* n ° 38.4 « Solidarity is the sharing of who we are, what we believe and what we have?”)

## Service

We must place ourselves at the service of “All” and “each individual, each human group and the whole of Humanity” (Paul VI, *Populorum Progressio*) taking into account the complexities and limitations of each one. “Service implies” sacrifice, humility, magnanimity, and also quality and efficiency for rational use of resources and self-promotion.

## Subsidiarity and partnership

The emphasis is on respecting the principle of local autonomy of for all activities carried out at the local level. Subsidiarity, like self-determination, implies, Harmonious cooperation and unity of action, fraternal coopération, mutual support for common good. Caritas works indiscriminately in search of justice for a better world.

## Compassion

Before poverty and global suffering, our fundamental response is compassion rooted in love as suggested by the Parable of the Good Samaritan. Rooted in the Gospel and Catholic Social Teaching. Caritas is based on the preferential option for the poor and seeks to be evangelized by them and to be for them a sign of the “caress of the Mother Church to her children” as Pope Francis constantly reminds us. Caritas stands up against the globalization of indifference and refuses to accept the suffering of our brothers and sisters in a fatalistic attitude.

## Hope

The hope of Caritas’ stakeholders is inspired by the Christian faith and the strength and ingenuity of Caritas partners and the people they serve. Knowing that Christian hope is not passive, they believe that by working together, a better world can and must be realised so that all can enjoy the fullness of life.

## Equality

Caritas believes in the dignity of each person. All women and men are equal in dignity and were created in the image and likeness of God. Caritas Works with all people regardless of race, sex, religion or political choice.

## Justice

Caritas believes that you cannot give something to someone who should already have it as a right. Caritas listens to the cry of the silent poor and enables them to speak for themselves. Caritas works to transform the economic, social, political and cultural structures that are against an equitable society in the spirit of the Gospel and the Catholic Social Teaching for a better world.

## Stewardship

Caritas believes that the planet and all its resources are entrusted to humanity and seeks to act with respect for the environment as true stewards of creation. What is expected from a steward is to be faithful and accountable to stakeholders.



## 2. Achievements

### 2.1. Uphold ecclesial Identity of Caritas in Africa

#### Caritas, an instrument of the Bishops for the Service of Charity

The interventions of Caritas Africa and its Member Organisations were rooted in the Scriptures and the guidelines of the Magisterium that guide its mission as a technical organ of the Church in the organization of the service of charity.



Pope Francis and the african Bishops in the Vatican on the margins of Synod on family.  
(Photo: Pierpaolo S.)

The illustration was administered by the constant reference of Caritas Africa member organizations to the hierarchy of the Church: the Bishops at the level of the Dioceses, the Episcopal Conferences at the national level, the Associations of Episcopal Conferences at the zonal level (sub-regions) and the Symposium of Episcopal Conferences of Africa and Madagascar (SCEAM) at the continental level.

Caritas Africa's actors and actresses had in mind the teaching that: **“concrete action remains insufficient if in it, love for man is not perceptible, a love that is nourished by the encounter with Christ”** (DCE 34).

#### Meetings of the Africa Regional Commission (CRA)

The CRA holds its 2 statutory meetings in February (Ouagadougou/Burkina Faso) and in October (Kigali/Rwanda). Among issues discussed, the CRA recognise the revised Statutes of Caritas Africa which was submitted to the Standing Committee of the Symposium of Episcopal Conferences of Africa and Madagascar for recognition. These statutes were subsequently submitted to the CI General Secretariat.

#### Bishops' Meetings

The 19<sup>th</sup> Plenary Assembly of the Bishops of the AMECEA Zone held in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia) in July 2018, the preparatory workshop for the launching of the SCEAM Jubilee Year in Kampala (Uganda) in July 2018 as well as the meeting of the Bishops of the IMBISA Zone in Pretoria (South Africa) in October 2018 were moments and opportunities to listen actively to the Bishops and to present the work of Caritas Africa and the challenges it faces in its mission.



Cérémonie d'ouverture de la 19ème Assemblée plénière de l'AMECEA à Addis Ababa.

The participation in the activities of Caritas Internationalis Identity Committee has increased within Caritas Africa staff: “the constant concern to keep alive the fundamental inspiration that constitute the basis of the Church's charitable activities, that is, the logic of service that Christ inspired us” (*Caritas Christi urget nos*).

At the national level, some spiritual retreat has been organised in order to help the staff of Caritas to own more accurately the catholic ethic of the service of the poor and renew its engagement to serv the most destitute with a heart that sees in them the image of Christ Himself, this to distinguish the Caritas action to other actions purely philanthropique. Besides Caritas Africa has mobilised some ressources in order to implement some projects by putting the most destitute at the heart of its interventions with the expression of a special attention to those in need, and the pedagogy that fosters sharing education within and outside the Christian community, to respect and love of neighbour according to the logic of Christ's Gospel.

#### Pastoral collaboration between SECAM and Caritas Africa

Sixteen members organisations of Caritas and CIDSE networks gathered around SCEAM and Caritas Africa in Rome in December 2018 to explore opportunities to strengthen pastoral collaboration and synergy in their actions in Africa.

**As a result, Caritas Africa's actions have differentiated themselves from purely humanitarian**

## 2.2. Consolidate Institutional Development and Capacities Strengthening

### Continuous Professionalisation

The ongoing effort to qualify Caritas Africa member organisations was continued throughout the year 2018 in the framework of the various regional initiatives.

In 2018, remaining Caritas and fully meeting international standards of quality and reflecting professionalism in the field of human promotion were at the centre of this strategic orientation whose culmination was the participatory process for the development of Caritas Africa's regional strategy for institutional development and capacity building. Sustained stewardship efforts of Caritas Africa (internal and external audits, assessment of projects and programmes, accountability to the poor that Caritas serves and to donors) were consistent with the words of Pope Francis: "Let us not forget that we are responsible before God, before the Church, before the donors, and especially before the poor, with whom the Lord himself identifies himself."

Relevant trainings have been organised to increase the capacity of Caritas staff in Africa to offer quality, marked by respect to the people served.



Participants to a training for the capacities strengthening - Caritas Tanzania.

On their part, the Member Organisations have also organized various training sessions. For example, a four-day training session on financial resource management, project development and resource mobilization was organized by Caritas Tanzania. This training was attended by diocesan coordinators, accountants and project managers from the six dioceses of Tanzania.



SS. Le Pape François.

**"Let's not forget that we are responsible before God, before the Church, before the donors and, in particular, in the face of poor, with whom the Lord himself identifies himself. »**

### Progressive ownership of Caritas Internationalis Management Standards

All Caritas Africa member organisations have recognised CIMS as the appropriate harmonised tool for organisational evaluation. Eight self-assessments were validated by the Caritas Internationalis Review Committee (RevCom). Of the eight self-assessments, two were found compliant by the Review Committee. Caritas Internationalis received six improvement plans from member organisations. Other self-assessment reports under development will be sent to the Review committee in 2019.

The continued interest of Caritas Africa member organisations in CIMS was demonstrated by the inclusion of CIMS on the agenda of the meeting of Bishops Presidents of all the nine Caritas of the IMBISA Zone in October 2018 in Pretoria, South Africa, in which the Secretaries General of the Episcopal Conferences, National Directors and Program Officers also took part.

At the end of the first part of the meeting which took place from 29 to 31 October, the Caritas National Directors and their Programme Officers continued the work from 01<sup>st</sup> to 03<sup>rd</sup> November 2018 which concerned the implementation of the Management Standards of CI and resulted in a road map to reinforce their capacity to better carry out their mission and to participate efficiently in the activities of the Confederation and that of the Africa Region.

During the work, Caritas most familiar with CIMS (Lesotho, Swaziland and Mozambique) supported some Sister Caritas in the Zone to better understand the Standards so that they can implement them in their Caritas. This was a concrete stepping stone for peer to peer learning in the IMBISA zone..

All the participants in this meeting, especially the Bishops, benefited from an accelerated training on CIMS provided by a team of CRS/ Southern Africa Regional Office and the General Secretariat of Caritas Internationalis.



**Meeting of the IMBISA Zone Bishops , organised by Caritas Africa in collaboration with Caritas Internationalis.**

Seven executives from Caritas Africa member organisations participated in the CIMS Coordinator Training of Trainers Session in Bangkok, Thailand in November 2018.



**Training of Trainers for Caritas Internationalis Management Standards Coordinators**

## Immersion Visits, a variant of peer to peer learning

Learning from sister Caritas to strengthen each other and to benefit from shareable knowledge were the objectives of the immersion visits facilitated by Caritas Africa.

The meeting of the Regional Commission of Caritas Africa in Burkina Faso was for the members of this governing body the opportunity to visit the Diocese of Koudougou where OCADES-Caritas Koudougou produces Spirulina. Spirulina is a high-nutrient food supplement. The visit allowed them to acquire information on the production process of Spirulina, the precautions to be taken to obtain a quality product, the nutritional value of this algae and the challenges facing the Spirulina project.



**Spirulina**



**Delegates of Caritas in the IMBISA zone visiting Zambia : Diocese of Monze in March 2018**

Representatives from Caritas from South Africa, Lesotho, Namibia and Swaziland, accompanied by representatives of Caritas Africa and the General Secretariat of CI who visited Caritas Zambia in March 2018, agreed to have found enriching and stimulating exchanges on the structuring of Caritas Zambia, its modes of intervention, the challenges of setting up Caritas Zambia at the national, diocesan (Monze) and the parish level. Visitors were interested in the knowledge generated by Caritas Zambia about Cheeba's sustainable socio-economic enhancement project.



## Regional Initiatives

The two reference groups set up by Caritas Africa (Institutional Development; Humanitarian Action/ Emergency Response) organized a joint meeting in Addis Ababa from 19<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2018 with the participation of six partners: CAFOD, CRS Regional Office in East Africa, Secours Catholique - Caritas France, Caritas Italiana, Caritas Spain and Caritas Internationalis.

The meeting gave participants the opportunity to:

- assess the progress of the work of the two reference groups in relation to their respective roadmaps designed in July 2016 in Kigali;
- redefine strategies that will enable Caritas in Africa to better achieve their mission;
- take ownership of the results of a survey carried out by a consultant of Caritas Africa on capacity-building practices in sub-Saharan Africa.

As a reminder, the objectives of this study that aimed at mapping capacity-building practices were upstream of the development of the IDCS regional strategy. It consisted of the following:

- build a baseline by providing an overview of the capacity-building practices underway within Caritas Africa by identifying the network of partners involved in these Caritas activities;
- draw up a picture of the main risks, in particular, organisational risks, that can hinder the implementation of Caritas actions and
- identify strategic areas in terms of capacity building developed on the basis of the expectations of Caritas member organisations and Caritas Africa's missions and roles.

This Caritas Africa initiative was in line with the dynamics driven by the General Secretariat of Caritas Internationalis. It was also complementary to the capacity-building actions implemented by some Caritas in Africa with the support of sister Caritas of the North.

Caritas Africa representatives within the Committee for Institutional Development and Capacity Building & CIMS of Caritas Internationalis informed the Committee of the willingness of all the Bishops Presidents to see the members organizations of Caritas Africa implement the CIMS and their suggestion to extend the implementation of these Standards to other Church organizations in Africa. In addition, two of them participated in a workshop on the development of the CIMS Training Modules for Trainers for Coordinators and Assessors.

A Human Resources Management Consultant supported Caritas Africa's Regional Executive Secretariat in August 2018 to develop a fair human resources policy, appropriate to the Regional Office and which can inspire other social-charitable organizations of the Church.



Caritas Southern Africa's Institutional Development Project for Caritas' commitment and sustainability was presented to the Bishops of the countries concerned at the October 2018 meeting in Pretoria. They are namely Botswana, Namibia, Swaziland and South Africa. This project is supported by Caritas Japan and CRS/ Southern Africa Regional Office (SARO).

Caritas Africa participated in the work of the A2P-DIRO Phase 2 Stakeholders' Assembly held in January 2018 in Cotonou, Benin. This programme is co-financed by the Catholic Relief Services Fund - Caritas France and the Agence Française de Développement. In view of the transfer of this programme to Caritas Africa, the latter invited Caritas of Ghana, Zambia, Guinea Bissau, Cape Verde and Gabon as observers of this Assembly.

Phase 3 of the A2P DIRO Programme, entitled "APPROACH", led by Caritas Africa. APPROACH will be open to two English-speaking Caritas (Ghana and Zambia) and two Portuguese-speaking Caritas (Guinea-Bissau and Mozambique) and these 4 Caritas have been involved in the planning process of phase 3 of the programme, in the same way as CAFOD, Caritas Spain and CRS.

A meeting in Paris in September 2018 was dedicated to exchanges with Secours Catholique-Caritas France and AFD on the process of transferring phase 3 to Caritas Africa and on the governance of this phase. The Memorandum of Intent of the NGO (NIONG) for Phase 3 of the programme was submitted in July 2018 to AFD and the full proposal in December 2018.

The APPROCHE Programme will be consistent with the new Strategic Framework 2019-2023 and the IDCS Regional Strategy designed in a participatory manner by Caritas Africa with the support of a Consultant throughout 2018.

## 2.3. Eradicate poverty and promote Good Governance

### Commitment in food security advocacy

From 23<sup>rd</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> April 2018, Caritas Africa jointly launched the PARCAP and RECS Projects. The guest speaker at the launching workshop for both projects was Archbishop Zacchaeus Okoth of Kisumu, who delivered a message of guidance on the role of the Church in the advocacy for food security. Both projects aim at the capacity building of Caritas on advocacy on the right to food for the vulnerable (PARCAP) and on improving community resilience (RECS) in order to eradicate hunger.

Eleven Caritas took part in the joint launching workshop of these two projects as PARCAP stakeholders (Ghana, Guinea, Madagascar, Niger, Sierra Leone and Zambia) and four for RECS (Ethiopia, Kenya, South Sudan and Uganda). Caritas D.R. Congo participated as an observer and for the sharing of its experience. The PARCAP project is funded by Caritas Internationalis in the framework of the Regional Development Fund, while the RECS project is funded by Caritas South Korea.



Most Rev. Zacchaeus Okoth, with participants at the joint-workshop PARCAP-RECS.

The VOX project, which specific objective is also to strengthen the Church's commitment in advocacy in Africa, was financially supported by Caritas Australia. Caritas Africa has started looking for additional funding for its effective implementation from January 2019.

### Human mobility

The theme of "human mobility" is a central theme for the Church. Internationally, the Caritas network launched the "Sharing the Path" campaign, calling for action at the global level as well as at the level of different countries and local communities to promote the culture of encounter. In the framework of the 12<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the GTCIS, member organizations met at the DHI Centre in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso from 22<sup>nd</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2018. This meeting was preceded by a training session on human mobility from

19<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> February 2018. This training was attended by representatives from 20 member organizations of the GTCIS, representatives from other areas of the Africa Region (Kenya, Mauritius and the Great Lakes Africa) and other social and pastoral organizations of the Church and the civil society.



Participants at the meeting of Caritas Internationalis Working Group for Sahel.

Subsequently, Caritas Africa undertook a study on human mobility with two objectives (1) to create a regional picture of the phenomenon of human mobility in Africa in the South of the Sahara and (2) centralize knowledge on mobility activities to serve as a reference center for programme development and advocacy. Twenty-eight Member Organizations are involved in this study.

In its preliminary conclusions, the study on human mobility in Africa led to a rethinking of the idea of the plurality and complexity of migration movements in Africa. About 80% of migration takes place within the African continent. Côte d'Ivoire attracts Burkinabe, Malian, Guinean and Senegalese. Nigeria's oil revenues attract Ghanaians and Beninese in particular. The oil revenue in Gabon and Equatorial Guinea attracts West African nationals. South Africa's booming economy attracts mainly Somalis, Congolese from the DRC, Mozambicans and Zimbabweans. **The 20% of African migrants target Europe at the risk of their lives in the Sahara desert and the crossing of the Mediterranean.**

Caritas Africa member organisations promote a positive vision of migration in relation to biblical teaching. When an emigrant comes to settle with you, in your country, you will not exploit him; this emigrant who has settled with you, you will treat him as an indigenous person, as one of you; you will love him as yourself; for you have been emigrants to the land of Egypt. It is I, the Lord, your God» Lev.19, 34

The leitmotiv of Caritas Africa member organisations is: **the welcoming, the protection, the promotion and the integration of immigrants, as Pope Francis recommends.**

However, the harsh realities of human mobility, such as human trafficking, physical and moral abuse of immigrants... have appealed to many Caritas Africa member organisations. Watching and raising awareness to encourage young people to build their future in their countries have been initiated..

Caritas Niger received a mission from Caritas Europa in November 2018 and was invited to participate in a conference to be held in Brussels in January 2019.

Caritas Senegal organized a colloquium which theme is “Restoring hope to young people so that immigration is no longer the only dream of self-realization”. From 19 to 24 June 2018, Caritas Senegal launched a week of action for migrants and refugees in the wake of the Global Action Week launched by Caritas Internationalis.

Caritas Africa’s Regional Executive Secretariat contributed to the development of a concept note for a project to fight against child trafficking in Southern Africa in the framework of a workshop organized by the CI General Secretariat in May 2018 in Malawi, for Catholic Church organizations from South Africa, Eswatini/Swaziland and the host country.

### Promoting Ethical Finance

Caritas Africa has signed a partnership agreement with Banca Popolare Etica to promote ethical finance in Africa. To make this a reality, Banca Popolare Etica, the Banque Malienne de Solidarité (BMS) and Caritas Africa, in collaboration with Caritas Mali, agreed to hold a regional conference in Bamako in March 2019 to discuss and present how ethical and based banks values can play a role in reference to financial inclusion and sustainable entrepreneurship in Africa to fight poverty today better and more than in the past.

### REBAC, a joint initiative SCEAM, Caritas Africa & JASCNET

In December 2018, Caritas Africa participated in a workshop in Brazzaville, Congo, on the mapping of interventions for the protection of the Congo River Basin as part of a joint initiative called REBAC, set up in Kinshasa in October 2015.

### Peace and peaceful transformation of conflicts

Caritas Africa members have strengthened their capacities in the culture of peace and the peaceful transformation of conflicts by attending the training sessions organized by the Institute for Peace in Africa, initiated by Catholic Relief Services, in September 2018 in Dakar, Senegal.

## 2.4. Enhance humanitarian preparedness and response

### Caritas responses to crisis situations in sub-saharan Africa

The armed conflicts, the shocks caused by climate change,... continue to affect the sub-Saharan African countries. Violent conflicts led to the exodus of millions of people, famine and chaos in some African countries.

The populations of Central African Republic, South Sudan, Eastern DRC, Northern Nigeria, Mali and Somalia have been seriously affected by the attacks of armed groups. The populations of Madagascar, Niger in particular, have experienced the horrors of the manifestations of climate change.

In the countries and sub-regions of Africa affected by violent conflicts, seasonal floods or seasonal droughts, Caritas took urgent care of the affected populations without any discrimination. Food aid, health care, psychological support were provided to the affected populations. **“I was hungry and you fed me” Mat 25:35.**



ACEAC Bishops giving assistance to Burundian refugees

For population recovery, initiatives to promote Income-Generating Activities (IGA) have also been implemented for the benefit of refugees, displaced persons and host populations.

## Regional Initiatives

To increase the capacity for effective emergency response, Caritas Africa initiated the PEOPLE project, which was launched in Nairobi in May 2018. The “*Preparing for Emergency*



Training in the frame of PEOPLE Project in Nairobi - May 2018



Training in the frame of PEOPLE project in Lomé - November 2018

by *strengthening Organisational Procedures, Learning and Exchange* » PEOPLE, project is implemented by Caritas Africa, Caritas Liberia, Caritas Nigeria, Caritas Sierra Leone and Caritas Zimbabwe. It is co-financed by the European Commission and the CAFOD (Lead) consortium, *Secours Catholique-Caritas France, Caritas Africa and Catholic Relief Services.*

The main activities carried out at regional level were: the organization of meetings in Rome and Paris to prepare the start of the project, the launch workshop in Nairobi, the training of trainers workshop on CI tool box devoted to the Emergency and Volunteer Management, the self-assessment of Caritas Africa’s humanitarian capacity and the development of its capacity-building plan in this area.



Training in the frame of PEOPLE project in Monrovia, Liberia

RECHARGE project submitted to the EU was approved in December 2018. RECHARGE will be implemented in seven countries from February 2019 to January 2021: Burundi, Congo Brazzaville, D.R. Congo, Central African Republic, Rwanda, Togo and Senegal and will be co-financed by the European Commission under a Consortium composed of Caritas Austria (Leader), Caritas Belgium (CIBe) and Caritas Africa.

It should also be noted that Caritas Germany and three Caritas from the Africa Region are engaged in an initiative to respond to emergencies in the context of the crises affecting the countries around Lake Chad, namely Cameroon, Nigeria and Chad.

## Regional Solidarity Fund

As shown in the table below Caritas Africa has registered some contributions to the Regional Solidarity Fund (FOSORCA) established by the Bishops to enable the Regional Executive Secretariat to provide initial support to member organizations dealing with crisis situations.

No.	Zone	Number of National Caritas	National Caritas having contributed in 2018	Contributions received in 2018 (euros)
1	ACEAC	3	Caritas Burundi (800 €) Caritas DR Congo (1726€)	2 526
2	ACERAC	6	-	-
3	AMECEA	9	-	-
4	CEDOIM	4	Caritas Mauritius (3 700 €)	3 700
5	IMBISA	9	-	-
6	RECOWA-CERAO	15	Caritas Benin (1 000 €)	1 000
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>46</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>7 226 €</b>

These resources have enabled Caritas Africa to provide modest support to the following Caritas:

No.	Zone	National Caritas having received a support from the Solidarity Fund	Amounts sent (€)
1	ACEAC	-	-
2	ACERAC	-	-
3	AMECEA	Caritas South Sudan	2 165.57
4	CEDOIM	Caritas Madagascar	932.99
5	IMBISA	-	-
6	RECOWA-CERAO	Caritas Niger	932.99
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>3</b>	<b>4 031.55</b>

Caritas Africa has provided technical support to Member Organisations in the development of Emergency Calls (E.A.) submitted to CI and/or other partners.

The cumulative amount committed in 2018 by the MOs of the Confederation under the EAs and Rapid Responses (RR) in favour of Caritas in Africa, namely South Sudan, Uganda, Nigeria, Rwanda, DR Congo, Burkina Faso, Niger, Madagascar and Cameroon amounted to **Euros 3,833,662.00**.

## 2.5. Develop Ressources Mobilisation

### Regional Strategy on Ressources Mobilisation

The challenge of rapid and quality responses to emergencies or natural disasters in response to the disasters of violent conflicts and sustainable development, require from Caritas Africa member organisations proven capacity to mobilize resources. Meeting this challenge required the implementation of innovative and pre-positioning strategies of Caritas Africa and member organisations in front of the Technical and Financial Partners.

It is in this line that a workshop organized in Nairobi in October 2018 by Caritas Africa in collaboration with the Caritas Internationalis Secretary General resulted in the development of a regional resources mobilization strategy by the CA Reference Group.

### Ressources Mobilisation by Caritas Africa and its Members Organisations

Before and shortly after this workshop in Nairobi, Caritas Africa organized two round tables in Rome, Italy (May and December 2018) with its partners, Sister Caritas of the North, as a forum for exchanging information on funding for the implementation of its new Strategic Framework 2019-2023.

In November 2018, the Bishop-President and the Regional Executive Secretary of Caritas Africa conducted an awareness-raising and mobilization tour in Northern Sisters Caritas in Belgium, the Netherlands and Germany to support Caritas Africa's efforts. On this occasion, he met with two Network Secretariats (Caritas Europa and CIDSE) and 5 sister agencies of the North (CAFOD, SCIAF, CORDAID, Secours Catholique – Caritas France, Caritas Germany and Misereor).

The credibility of the Church, a centuries-old institution, and its real closeness to people who mostly need empathy and relief, also help Caritas Africa become credible in front of the Technical and Financial Partners.

At the country level, member organisations are engaged in the diversification of financial partnerships. Fundraising operations are organized either during the Caritas Day or during Caritas Week in some countries, or during the celebration of the World Day of the Poor, instituted by Pope Francis in 2017 in others.

This is how CADEV-Niger generated the momentum of generosity on the occasion of the National Day of Solidarity.

Caritas Africa member organisations have been able to maintain public solidarity in a visible way. The Church is then perceived as a space that favours the clear expression of solidarity with those in need.

Twenty two (22) member organisations paid their annual statutory fees to Caritas Africa including some arrears and the total amount received amount Euros 34,962.00.

Caritas Africa also received grants from Sisters organisations and from CI General Secretariat as shown in the table below:

No.	Funding Sources	Amount in euros
1	Caritas Internationalis general secretariat	168 900
2	Secours Catholique - Caritas France	98 971
3	Caritas Spain (Support to the 2018-2019 Action Plan)	25 418
4	CAFOD (IDCS Project and Project PEOPLE)	55 271
5	Caritas Korea (RECS Project)	80 437
6	SCIAF - Ecosse (Support to the 2018 Action Plan)	5 507
7	TROCAIRE - Irland (Support to the 2018 Action Plan 2018)	10 000
8	Caritas Japon (IDEAS Project)	25 947
9	Caritas Australia (VOX Project)	15 796
10	CRS / SARO (IDEAS Project)	28 219
	<b>Total</b>	<b>514 466</b>

## 2.6. Promote networking and Communication

### Coordination, animation and representation

Caritas Africa has assumed its coordination, animation and representation roles and remains convinced, with its member organizations, that to make 'The Love of Christ visible, especially to the most vulnerable, we must "be together, act together so that the charity will be a collective action at the parish, diocesan, national, regional and international level to materialize the bonds that are forged between faith and social commitment." To that end, the Regional Executive Secretariat has facilitated the contributions that can be made to each other the member organizations of the network. The message behind networking actions is that "Together, we are stronger and stronger and we can go further."

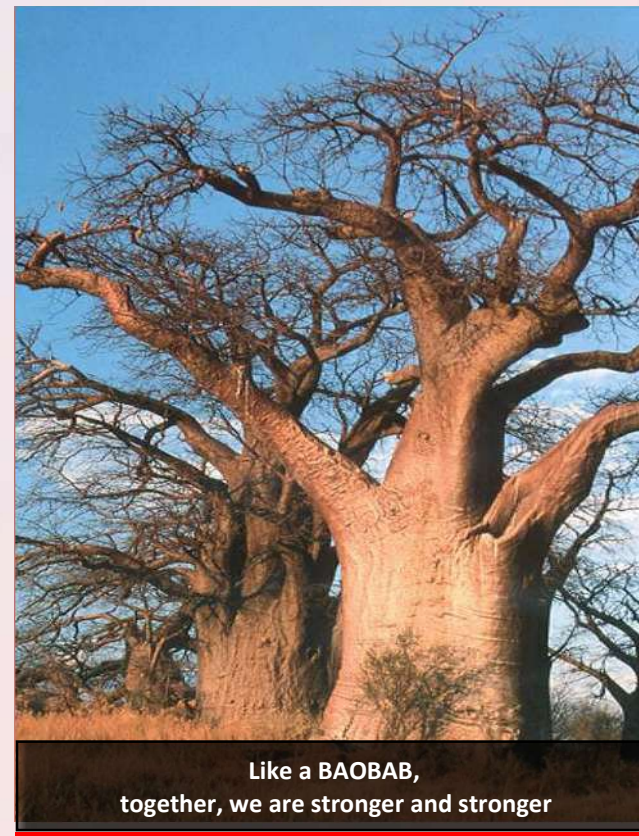
### Solidarity and experience sharing visits

The reciprocal contributions that organizations can provide to each other such as to publicize the results of feedback, to forge interpersonal working relationships were facilitated by the Regional Executive Secretariat.

Immersion trips organized in 2018 allowed the sharing of knowledge and know-how from Caritas visited to Caritas visitors.

For example, OCADES-Caritas Koudougou provided members of the Caritas Regional Commission with useful information on the devices needed to produce Spirulina with the required quality: algae with multiple nutritional properties.

Caritas Zambia shared with delegates from four Southern African Caritas organizations the expertise developed for the project to strengthen the socio-economic capacity of grassroots communities in Cheeba, in the Diocese of Monze and its experience in structuring/organizing a Network.



**Like a BAOBAB,  
together, we are stronger and stronger**

Events such as the statutory meetings of the Regional Commission, workshops to launch multi-country and multi-stakeholder projects (PARCAP, RECS and PEOPLE) were used to strengthen the interaction between member organisations of Caritas Africa.

The e-magazine bulletins published during 2018 on a quarterly basis have brought to light experiences carried out by Member Organizations of Caritas Africa with the potential for adaptation or replication.

The experiences and innovations of member organisations are thus made visible and legible.

The networking spirit has also been managed by synchronizing some of the Caritas Africa's training activities with Caritas Internationalis. Caritas Africa has fully participated and contributed to the reflections developed within Caritas Internationalis Committees (DIRC, Advocacy, Humanitarian, etc.) and Working Groups (Health and HIV/AIDS, SDGs, Migration, Women's Forum).

The main illustration of the synchronization of Caritas Internationalis' dynamics with those of Caritas Africa was the joint Caritas Africa-Caritas Internationalis mission in Addis-Abeba in September 2018 whose goal was to get in touch with people-resources based at the headquarters of the African Union and working on issues of interest to CI and CA such as Migration, Advocacy, etc. This proved the imperative of “Working together, acting together”, which is the foundation of every network.

### Fraternal cooperation

Solidarity visits to OCADES-Caritas Burkina, Caritas Congo, Caritas Zambia, Caritas South Sudan, Caritas Côte d'Ivoire (Catholic Church Social Action Forum),



**Solidarity visit of the President and the Regional Executive Secretary of Caritas Africa at Caritas South Sudan**

Caritas RCA, Caritas Rwanda, Caritas South Africa, Caritas Liberia, Caritas Kenya, Caritas Uganda and Caritas DR Congo have been tangible expressions of the desire to work together. The strength of the number, the effectiveness of the field work of member organizations were promoted.

### Openness and reasearch of synergies

Contacts established with the African Union, UNECA and the African Development Bank should be continued and consolidated in 2019. Openness to work with other Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) started with the participation of Caritas Africa (Regional Secretariat, Caritas Kenya, Caritas Uganda and Caritas Tanzania) at a CPDE (Civil Society Partnership for Development



**Les participants à la rencontre sur l'adoption du « Global Compact on Safe and Regular Migration » à Marrakech, au Maroc, en décembre 2018.**

in April 2018 in Kampala, Uganda. The same motivation underpinned the presence of Caritas Africa (Regional Secretariat and Caritas Ghana) at the Global Compact on Safe and Regular Migration adoption meeting in Marrakech, Morocco, in December 2018.

### Transparency and traceability

As in all the past years, an external audit firm audited the accounts and financial operations of Caritas Africa's Regional Executive Secretariat in Lomé. The annual external audit practice is also implemented at the level of each of Caritas Africa's member organisations.

## 3. In conclusion

Caritas Africa expresses its gratitude to the General Secretariat of CI, to the sister organizations of the North, to the Caritas of Africa, to the Regional Offices of the Confederation and to the men and women of good will who, in one way or another, supported it to achieve its mission during 2018.

The journey together to collectively build a Caritas Network strongly committed to serving the poorest, professionally and with a heart that sees, remains a real challenge that we can meet if we continue to support each other, with attention to Caritas in situations of organizational and/or institutional fragility!



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