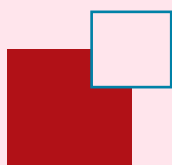




Caritas Africa Regional Executive staff joined the National Caritas and the Diocesan Caritas of Lomé to Mark the World-Day of the Poor.

annual report

a year in review **2023**



Contents

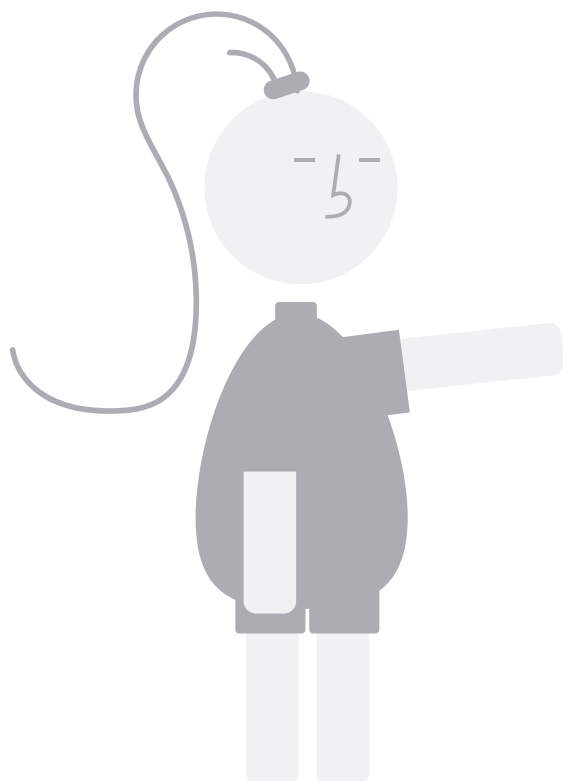
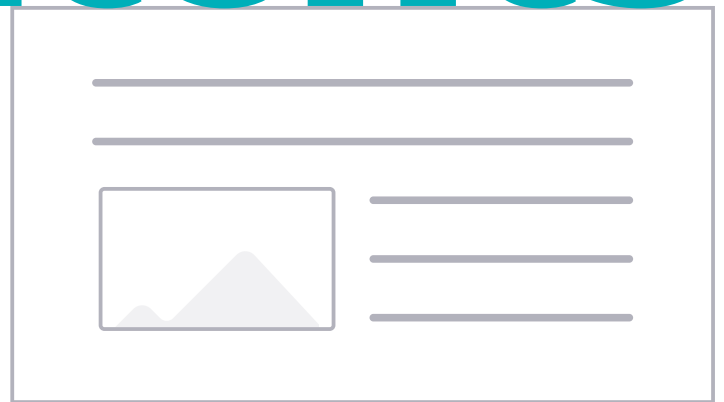


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a word from our president

Msgr. Pierre Ntakobajira Cibambo
President of Caritas Africa



Dear brothers and sisters in Caritas,

Esteemed partners,

Caritas is “Serving out love”, and love is concrete! Through this message, I am delighted to address you, and with great joy and gratitude, invite you to recognise and celebrate significant achievements, fruit of our collective work and efforts in 2023. With the grace of God and like Jesus who went about doing good, we have been able to make a difference in the lives of many men and women in the communities where we are called to witness God’s love for humanity, the whole humanity! That is Caritas and it’s a privilege for us and a responsibility to be part of this mission. I thank the pastors of our respective Churches for their continued support and for their growing recognition of the centrality of the service of charity in their pastoral ministry. Communities and people living in poverty surprised me once again with their sense of solidarity and their generosity as in many places they shared everything they had with the victims of war, forced migration, natural disasters, and as they engaged in initiatives to strengthen their resilience including in areas badly hit by environmental degradation. May all our friends and partners find here the expression of our gratitude for their unwavering support in all the missions undertaken by Caritas Africa last year.

In these volatile times and in a world marked by various ecological and social crises, the work of Caritas in Africa and elsewhere is vital more than never. Our commitment to assisting, accompanying, and defending the poor, the marginalized and the oppressed remains steadfast. It guides us as we navigate complex humanitarian issues and strive to change the lives of the people, we serve by journeying with them and amplifying their voices and calls for justice.

The year 2023 has been challenging worldwide, and Africa has faced its share of difficulties: from natural disasters to conflicts and all forms of exploitation and governance issues that continue to affect the continent. The need to unite as one human family has never been more apparent. At the heart of our achievements lies the dedication and the passion of our team members and volunteers. Together, we have achieved significant milestones, empowering individuals, and communities to build a more inclusive, equitable and sustainable future.

Yet, as we celebrate our success, we recognize that our work is not complete, we need to do more, to be more! The road ahead is marked by new opportunities and challenges that will require innovation, creativity, collaboration synergy, mutual support, and sacrifice. As we continue our mission, we remain committed to our core values and principles, ensuring that our efforts are guided by faith, integrity, and compassion.

As we embark into the new year, let us remain united in our shared vision of a world where every individual and community could fulfil their potential. Together, we can turn this vision into reality.

a word from our Coordinator



REMARKS

REGIONAL EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Dear esteemed partners, colleagues, and friends,

I am glad to present the Caritas Africa Annual Report for 2023. The pages that follow narrate the multitude of actions taken by our organization over the past year. It demonstrates the extraordinary work we have done and the collective impact we have achieved by helping and supporting the most vulnerable communities in Africa.

In the face of difficulties and challenges, our organization has stood firm, guided by our commitment to service, justice, and integral human development. The Annual Report is a testament to the hard work of our team, the support of our partners, and the resilience of the communities we serve. The report also demonstrates that our organization's relentless efforts to alleviate poverty within communities.

As a church organization, Caritas Africa has integrated the social teachings of the Catholic Church as a central guiding principle of its actions. In 2023, through strategic initiatives, collaborative efforts, and the spirit of compassion, we have successfully navigated challenges and we emerging stronger. Thanks to the strategic orientations one, two and three, we have become more adaptive and more connected to the needs of the people we serve. The report shows the significant impact of our collective endeavours, illustrating how each project, initiative, program and partnership has contributed to the positive change.

As we go through the details of our annual report, I invite you to recognize the profound impact we have collectively made and to acknowledge the challenges that call for our continued dedication. Working together has provided an opportunity to share successes and learn valuable lessons. May this unique experience help us to remain steadfast in our missions.

My hope is that this report serves as both a reflection on our past achievements and an inspiration for the journey that lies ahead. I express my deepest gratitude to every individual, partner organization, and supporter who has played a role in making this year a remarkable chapter in our organization's history.

Thank you very much for your commitment to our shared mission. I look forward to our continued collaboration as we embark on a new year, embracing the spirit of solidarity, compassion and service.

Lucy Afandi Esipila

Regional Executive Secretary (Coordinator)
Caritas Africa



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Caritas AFRICA is one of the seven Regions of Caritas Internationalis. It includes 46 national caritas organizations from countries situated south of the Sahara and Islands of the African continent in the Atlantic and Indian oceans. These member organizations are further divided into six geographical zones.

This annual report draws inspiration from the “Journeying together for an Africa, Land of Hope Strategic Framework 2019 – 2023”. The accomplishments have significantly contributed to the overarching objective of fostering integral human development by promoting Charity and Justice with particular emphasis on addressing the needs of the poor and most deprived.

The caritas Africa Regional Secretariat is pleased to announce the successful realization of its intended outcomes from the planned three strategic orientations. Under the initiative to build a stronger Caritas at the heart of the Church, Caritas Africa has improved its management standards, with institutional assessment revealing an impressive 80% compliance rate. Throughout the year, 16-member organizations witnessed improvements in their knowledge and understanding of

safeguarding, while 14-member organizations had their capacity strengthened in self-assessment and external evaluation. Additionally, the Ethical Finance Transition Project has positively impacted 13 countries, leading to an enhancement in their financial sustainability.

Under strategic orientation two, focused on reducing the impact of humanitarian crises, Caritas Africa has established a pool of 11 well-trained technical staff from the IMBISA region. These professionals are equipped to train other staff within their zone and communities and can be deployed to other zones when needed. Caritas Africa is also pleased to have established a strong partnership with the African Union DRR Unit. This is a very positive initiative which has already borne fruits; two meetings have taken place focusing on the sharing of best practices and networking.

Under the promotion of integral human development, Caritas Africa has facilitated the signing and sharing of a joint statement by 143 faith leaders. This statement targeted influential entities such as the G7, G20, IMF and World Bank, addressing issues related to debt crisis prevention, concessional

finance, and equal responsibility for debt management, including private lenders. Notably, eight catholic bishops from Africa have emerged as champions, actively engaging in both regional and international policy spaces to advocate for concessional finance, SDRs and IDA resources.

Moreover, two separate petitions were initiated targeting G7 and G20 meetings in June and July, respectively. These petitions were signed by over 55 African Faith Leaders from various countries, all of whom have recognized the significance of SDRs and other debt relief resources.

Caritas Africa has made notable strides in women’s empowerment, including the establishment of a forum for all women leaders within Caritas during the year. This forum serves as a platform for women leaders to exchange knowledge, share experiences, and discuss best practices. Importantly, it has contributed to enhancing the visibility of women-led initiatives in the African region.

Caritas Africa sincerely appreciates the support it receives from its member organizations, Church leadership, and cooperating partners. The organization looks forward to continued collaboration.



Isolated highlights from member organisations

Côte d'Ivoire

Caritas Côte d'Ivoire

Caritas has made significant efforts in improving livelihoods through the “Communauté d’Epargne et de Crédit Interne (CECI)” approach and Financial Education. In addition, the organization has played a crucial role in the reception and socio-economic reintegration of Ivorian refugees and returnees, with valuable support from the UNHCR. Furthermore, Caritas Africa has been actively involved in providing reception and support for the socio-economic reintegration of returning migrants, including Income Generating Activities (IGAs), financial education, family mediation, and psychological support. Moreover, Caritas Africa is dedicated to strengthening the involvement of religious guides in enhancing the identification and early treatment of children living with HIV, demonstrating our commitment to holistic care and support for vulnerable populations.

South Africa

Caritas South Africa

In collaboration with Caritas Africa and Caritas Internationalis, Caritas South Africa at SACBC, implemented an Advocacy project on Migration, Statelessness and Access to Legal Status Documentation in the IMBISA Region. This project addressed the nexus between statelessness and migration in the Inter-Regional Meeting of the Bishops of Southern Africa (IMBISA) zone, which groups together the following nine national Caritas organizations: Angola, Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, São Tomé and Príncipe, South Africa, and Zimbabwe. It was also in line with the Caritas Africa strategic framework outcome on *dignified, rights-based Human Mobility, advantageous to migrants in the countries of origin, transit, and destination*.

Caritas Africa, Caritas Internationalis, Caritas South Africa, and SACBC organized a webinar, which created a space for the Caritas network in Southern Africa to reflect on statelessness, its causes, and its impact, and to identify areas of collaboration with multi-stakeholders to improve the reduction of statelessness and to share achievements and challenges encountered. Various networking collaborators in statelessness attended the webinar, including Caritas Internationalis, Lawyers for Human Rights (LHR), Southern Africa Nationality Network (SANN), UNHCR, SACBC, and the implementing countries in IMBISA as indicated above. The presence of these stakeholders emphasized the need to tackle statelessness from a united front.



Arch. Buti Tlhagale reads the Pledges on behalf of the UNHCR Multi-Religious Council of Leaders during the GRF in Geneva on 14th December 2023

Malawi

Caritas Malawi

In March 2023 Just after the onset of the rainy season, Malawi's southern region experienced heavy rains that caused flash floods across many communities, affecting 14 districts. The Episcopal Conference of Malawi, through its development arm, the Catholic Development Commission in Malawi (CADECOM) issued an emergency appeal through Caritas International for the provision of immediate humanitarian support to vulnerable communities affected by tropical cyclone Freddy in Malawi. Through this intervention, a total of 8,767 households (Comprising 48,216 people) experienced Improved food security and nutrition through the provision of foodstuffs. In addition, 75 households received material support for shelter, and safe and clean water was provided to 32 households through the rehabilitation of boreholes.



In 2023, the Episcopal conference of Malawi represented by Ms,Chimwemwe Sakunda through Caritas Malawi, was recognized as the best in managing emergency response in the country. The Award was presented by the President of Malawi.

Senegal

Caritas Senegal

Caritas has been actively involved in monitoring public policies, ensuring that the organization remains informed and engaged in advocating for positive changes. We have successfully consolidated synergy between the church's social pastoral organization, amplifying the impact of services delivered to poor or vulnerable communities. In our commitment to addressing water accessibility issues, Caritas Africa has established a Water Services Observatory (OSE) to monitor and improve access to water for vulnerable groups. Furthermore, our organization has played an important role in the implementation of the government's social safety net program, specifically family security grants, to provide essential support to those in need. Caritas Africa is also dedicated to promoting the "right to stay" for women and young people in their homelands, emphasizing agro-ecology and addressing climate change challenges. Through these multifaceted initiatives, Caritas Africa strives to create sustainable and positive impacts on communities across the region.

STRATEGIC ORIENTATION ONE:

BUILDING A STRONGER CARITAS NETWORK AT THE HEART OF THE CHURCH.

New Leadership at Caritas Africa for the Period 2023-2027



A group photo of participants at the 10th Caritas Africa Regional General Assembly in Rome, Italy:

The Caritas Africa General Assembly is the highest governing body of Caritas Africa. The 10th Caritas Africa Regional General Assembly commenced on 8th May and continued through 10th May 2023, at the Casa La Salle Hotel in Rome, Italy. The Assembly drew over 90 delegates from 46 countries. During the gathering, the delegates engaged in fruitful discussions on the future of Caritas in Africa and its commitment to promoting the continent's development

Meanwhile, elections for the offices of the President, the Secretary Executive Regional, and the Treasurer were conducted, resulting in Msgr. Pierre Cibambo and Lucy Espila and Philippe Ahouanye emerging as President and Regional Coordinator and Treasurer of Caritas Africa, respectively. It is on the same occasion that the new strategic framework “Building Together Resilient Communities in Africa 2024-2027” of Caritas Africa was approved



Promotion of safeguarding at Secretariat and Member organization level

Caritas Africa strengthened the promotion of safeguarding for children and vulnerable adults within member organizations with support from Caritas Denmark. As a result, 16 Caritas national member organizations were trained as Safeguarding focal points. Additionally, Sub- regional training workshops were conducted for Caritas staff, focusing on capitalization, secure recruitment, and complaint management, aligning with safeguarding CI Tools.

With coordinated efforts alongside Caritas Internationalis, seven (7) IGCI Evaluators participated in the Evaluators' Forum, organized as a means of sharing experiences. This has led to increased awareness of safeguarding among member organizations. Moreover, Caritas Africa member organizations and 14 Coordinators of the NGCI were trained on the implementation process of the NGCII (self-assessment, external evaluation, risk analysis, development, implementation, and monitoring of the improvement plan). Additionally, training covered the CI support mechanism, including the

Solidarity fund, with the aim of harmonizing practices. Caritas Africa achieved a rating of 80%, indicating that its member organizations successfully implemented the management standards. This accomplishment has led to increased reinforcement of staff on Safeguarding the rights and dignity of vulnerable people.

A four-day training workshop was organized in Nairobi, Kenya, targeting Caritas Internationalis Management Standards (CI MS) coordinators from Caritas North Africa and the Middle East (MONA). The workshop equipped participants with more knowledge on the revised CI MS, providing sets of policies and guidelines on five areas: Safeguarding, Laws and Ethical Codes, Governance and Organization, Finance Accountability, and Stakeholder Involvement.



Promotion of Ethical Finance and Ecological Transition among Church Affiliated Microfinance Institutions

The project, facilitated through church-affiliated Microfinance Institutions involved engagement with 13 countries. Microfinance Institutions (MFIs), in collaborating with National Caritas Organizations in Burkina Faso, DR Congo, Ghana, Kenya, Rwanda, Senegal, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Malawi, Namibia, Nigeria, and Ethiopia, actively participated in the African Microfinance week held in Lomé, Togo.

The aim was to enhance efforts in promoting poverty alleviation and addressing income inequalities. By offering financial products and services to the less privileged, particularly women and youth. The project seeks to improve their standard of living and strengthen their socio-economic autonomy in the spirit of financial inclusion and integral human development.

Caritas Africa, in collaboration with Banca Popolare Etica, facilitated increased loan disbursement to microfinance institutions (MFIs), empowering beneficiaries to pursue diverse entrepreneurial activities. Moreover, Caritas Africa's training initiative involved 17 participants from 11 countries, including the DRC, Togo, Burkina Faso, Senegal, Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda, Ethiopia, Zambia, Uganda, and Nigeria. These individuals underwent training in universal standards for Social and Environment Performance Management, equipping them with the skills needed to meet global standards. Caritas Africa's commitment to grassroot communities emphasized sustainable development priorities by enhancing ethical finance principles. This holistic approach fosters collaboration between national initiatives and capacity-building efforts, utilizing tools such as the Holistic Organizational Capacity Assessment Instrument. Moreover, project interventions focus on financial inclusion, specially opening account services/products tailored to target vulnerable populations.



Caritas Africa's participation at the African Microfinance Week in Lomé, Togo, 2023



Some direct project beneficiaries in Uganda are putting the acquired loan to good use through entrepreneurial activities, specifically in vegetable growing for sale in 2023.



The APPROCHE program aimed to strengthen the institutional and organizational capacities of national caritas in these 17 countries: Benin, Burkina-Faso, Burundi, Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea Bissau, Mali, Madagascar, Mozambique, Niger, DR Congo, Senegal, Chad, Togo and Zambia. It relied on personalized support and the autonomy of the actors in these countries. The Program had a significant impact on the life of the network by raising awareness of the significance of belonging to a network. It brought full prominence to the political and strategic steering bodies of Caritas, fostering a gradual awareness among those in charge of their respective roles. It played a pivotal role in creating a real regional dynamic and promoting peer-to-peer learning. Moreover, it contributed to the development of Caritas' awareness of the need to move towards greater professionalization and to have the means to carry out its mission.

The closure of this project in June 2023, largely funded by the French Development Agency (AFD), Secours Catholique-Caritas France (SCCF), and Caritas Spain, marked a significant milestone. Sixty national Caritas officials from 17 countries in Africa, south of the Sahara, and in the Indian Ocean Islands gathered for a three-day reflective workshop in Lomé, Togo. The purpose was to take stock of the 42 months of implementation of the APPROCHE program and initiate forward thinking on a new perspective. The meeting, held under the theme “Program APPROCHE: assessment-lessons-perspectives,” included the participation of heads from Caritas Spain, Caritas France, and Caritas Europa. Caritas Africa expressed gratitude for the program, highlighting its role in enabling National Caritas member organizations to reach a sufficient level of structural development to fulfil their missions of supporting and serving the poorest.

Caritas actors demonstrated their distinctive advantage in providing services to vulnerable communities, particularly in terms of health and well-being. They have also recognized a vision of social transformations within the reference framework of social cohesion and peace that was produced.

The inter-Caritas activities, including JPA meetings, trainings, and immersion, have increased networking and collaboration between national Caritas and Caritas Africa, as well as between national Caritas and diocesan Caritas. In some instances, peer learning has played an important role in reinvesting knowledge and the conceptual framework of Integral Human Development.

STRATEGIC ORIENTATION TWO :

REDUCING THE IMPACT OF HUMANITARIAN CRISES ON AFFECTED POPULATIONS IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

Training of Caritas Africa Member organizations on Community Managed Disaster Risk Reduction

Caritas Africa strengthened the capacity of 10 technical (2 women and 8 men) from the IMBISA zone in CDMRR. Consequently, a pool of experts was established as Trainers of Trainers on CMDRR. They will serve as a surge team available to support any other country in Africa when needed.



Engaging the African Union on Disaster Risk Reduction

There was increased networking with like-minded stakeholders in humanitarian work. Caritas Africa established two main networks with the Africa Union Disaster Risk Reduction Unit (AUDRRU) and the Global Network for Disaster Risk (GNDR). The goal of the AU DRR Unit is to prevent and reduce existing disaster risk through the implementation of integrated and inclusive measures across various domains, including economic, structural, legal, social, health, cultural, educational, environmental, technological, political, and institutional. These measures aim to prevent and reduce hazard exposure and vulnerability to disasters, increase preparedness for response and recovery, and ultimately strengthen resilience.

Skills Mapping in Africa Region

Caritas Africa conducted skills mapping research in which a total of 109 participated took part. Areas identified for attention included large-scale humanitarian responses, conducting environmental impact assessments, knowledge in spheres standards, WASH project implementation, developing emergency appeals, and working in protracted crises. On the other hand, strengths were noted in in-kind food distribution, applying protection principles, as well as managing single humanitarian responses.

STRATEGIC ORIENTATION THREE :

STRENGTHENING THE COMMITMENT OF CARITAS IN THE PROMOTION OF INTEGRAL HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

Engaging Faith Leaders and Decision makers in the Africa Inclusive Economic Recovery Campaign



Caritas Africa has been actively engaged in an inclusive economic recovery campaign, collaborating with African Faith-Based Institutions (FBIs) to secure inclusive economic recovery. In the face of the challenges, such as rising debt and limited fiscal space within the region, countries are grappling to shield the most vulnerable from the adverse impacts. This initiative undertaken by Caritas Africa has proven instrumental in involving stakeholders across various levels and forums to address these complex issues.

Faith Leaders and institutions from five countries, in collaboration with the Caritas Africa Advocacy Committee, took part in a webinar addressing public

debt and the G20 Interfaith forum. Additionally, they participated in a Georgetown University webinar that focused on ethical issues related to prioritizing vulnerable communities in global finance. The concerns and voices of African Faith Leaders were further expressed during the WBG-IMF Spring meeting webinar on achieving debt crisis resolution.

The launch of the World Development Report focused on addressing public debt and its implications on development. In parallel, fifteen African Faith Leaders participated in interviews conducted by various media houses across Africa. These interviews delved into issues related to Africa's economic recovery, showcasing the depth of information and knowledge acquired through the project activities.

Caritas Africa in partnership with the Jesuits, and Jubilee USA hosted a two-day meeting in August 2023 in Nairobi, Kenya. The event brought together faith leaders from across the continent, along with both Church and non-Church experts. The focus of the gathering was to explore effective strategies for navigating Africa through the contemporary crises afflicting the entire continent. The press release mentioned the critical role of the Catholic Church in Africa's challenging context, emphasizing its longstanding commitment to promoting social justice and human dignity.

In the petition that followed a meeting held in Lomé, Togo on July 14, the leaders of religious denominations in Africa appealed to the G20 to “decree debt moratorium and debt relief initiatives for African countries and take measures, including domestic legislation, to compel full public and private creditor participation and transparency.” Two separate petitions, targeting G7 and G20 meetings in June and July, respectively were signed by over 55 African Faith Leaders from various countries. They have become aware of the importance of the SDRs and other debt relief resources. Furthermore, a total of 143 African faith leaders signed a joint statement targeting the G7, G20, IMF, and World Bank on debt crisis prevention, concessional finance, and equal responsibility for debt management, including private lenders. Additionally, Caritas Africa engaged a media consultant who helped increase outreach, publicity, and visibility through social media engagement. Furthermore, Caritas' ecclesial identity and mission enhanced the promotion of Caritas synodality and interfaith cooperation.



Advocacy on Food Systems and Climate Change

In June 2023, Caritas Africa participated in the climate change conference in Bonn on food systems and climate change. Shared platforms included progress on the Mitigation Work Programme, Modalities for the transitional committee in the loss and damage negotiations, and follow-up on the Sharm- El- Sheikh joint work on agriculture.

As a means to promote access to clean water and sanitation through energy-efficient solutions, in February 2023, Caritas Africa in collaboration with Caritas Internationalis, SUN24, Caritas Niger, Caritas Burkina Faso, Caritas Kenya, Caritas Zambia, and Caritas Uganda, convened a side event at the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development. Key points discussed included experience sharing by faith-based entities on water issues such as water scarcity, water-related conflicts, water resource management, and pollution. The event aimed to demonstrate the role of local communities in the management of water resources and promote partnerships with multiple stakeholders in innovative approaches in the water-energy nexus.

In August 2023 Caritas Africa organized the meeting in partnership with the Jesuit Justice and Ecology Network Africa (JENA) and Jubilee USA Network of faith Leaders. To enhance faith leaders and other Christians entities to amplify the interfaith voice in addressing the various crises that different African countries are grappling with and role of both foreign and local financial agencies in addressing the African crisis. Strategies to promote interfaith voice and recommendations in national, regional, and international decision-making venues to address multiple crises and help Africa emerge better were developed.

Youth Participation

Caritas Africa gathered a total of 30 youths from 21 Caritas member organizations who participated in a Virtual General meeting as a means to enhance active youth engagement and leadership in the region. Basic knowledge strengthening and sharing were key focuses on youth involvement at small Christian community level, which helps needy and vulnerable people at local level, Catholic Social teaching and CI management standards and safeguarding.

Women Participation.

In September 2023, the Regional Coordinator established a Women's Forum, consisting of all women in leadership positions in their national Caritas organization. The countries represented include Angola, Tanzania, Namibia, Sao Tomé é Príncipe, Guinea Bissau, Mauritius, Lesotho, South Africa, Seychelle, Cape Verde, Eritrea, South Sudan, and Malawi, with a staff member from the Regional Secretariat, serving as the representative. This initiative aims to create a platform for women to learn from each other about various leadership models and strategies to lead their national Caritas effectively. A meeting was convened by the Caritas Africa Women Leadership Committee in April 2023, composed of women National Directors, Secretaries General, and senior management staff of CAMO from Caritas Guinea Bissau, Caritas Congo, Caritas Mauritius, Caritas Ghana, Caritas Namibia, Caritas Niger, Caritas South Africa, DR Congo, Caritas Nairobi, Caritas Cape Verde, and Caritas Seychelles. The Regional Executive Secretariat of Caritas Africa and the Caritas Internationalis General Secretariat were also in attendance to reflect on and enhance the visibility of women at all Leadership levels in the Region. In addition, a representation of Caritas Africa on the Caritas Internationalis Women Committee enhanced solidarity in the region.

Knowledge Management

Caritas Africa organized the first conference on knowledge management for change in Africa in July 2023. This event marked the culmination of four months of intensive training involving 25 Caritas representatives from 17 countries, including Benin, Burkina-Faso, Burundi, Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea Bissau, Mali, Madagascar, Mozambique, Niger, DR Congo, Senegal, Chad, Togo and Zambia. The training aimed to empower participants to develop Caritas strategies tailored to the unique needs of their respective countries. The outcomes of this knowledge developed initiatives encompassed various themes, including advocacy, conflict management, peaceful coexistence, resource mobilization, and organizational development.





ADMINISTRATION, FINANCE AND HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

As part of our commitment to transparency and good governance, Caritas Africa's accounts are certified annually by an audit firm. The financial audit conducted satisfactorily in 2023 demonstrates Caritas Africa's commitment and determination to strengthen our internal practices, ensuring the effective and efficient use of the resources entrusted to us. Ultimately, this improves our ability to better serve the communities we support across the African continent.

☀️ Staff training and Development

The finance team in Caritas Africa benefited from training sessions directly related to their areas of intervention. These training sessions were designed to strengthen their skills and knowledge to better meet the needs of Caritas Africa. Some of the training sessions included:

☀️ Monitoring and Evaluation

Training provided by F3E (Evalueur, Echanger, Eclairer) is a French association. Its aim is to promote improvements in the practices of those involved and to strengthen their skills, in the service of an action whose impact is conducive to social change. The F3E contributes to the agility of organisations in a complex and changing environment. An APPROCHE facilitator benefited from this training.

☀️ New accounting system for non-profit entities

The training provided by the National Order of Chartered Accountants of Togo (ONECA) for the accounting and finance team (Administrative and Financial Manager in charge of human resources management, Accountant, and Assistant Accountant). New accounting system for non-profit entities: Training provided by the National Order of Chartered Accountants of Togo (ONECA) for the accounting and finance team (Administrative and Financial Manager in charge of human resources management, Accountant, and Assistant Accountant). This training on SYCEBNL has enabled us to learn about the new system for processing accounting operations and presenting the financial statements of non-profit entities and its specific features. It will be very useful to us in the transition to SYCEBNL and especially in keeping Caritas Africa's accounts.

☀️ A Seminar on managerial practices

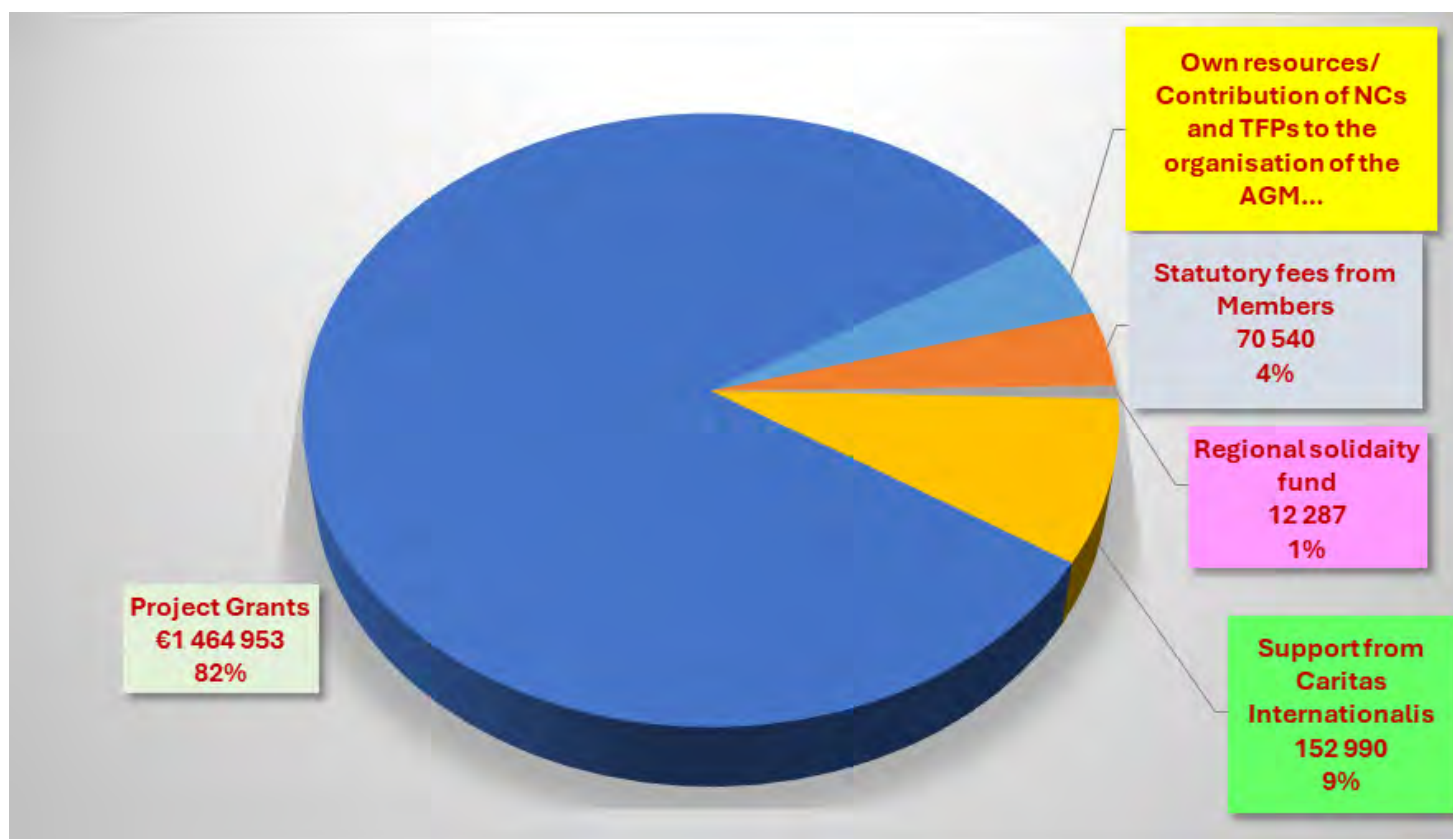
Provided by the VKM EXPERTISE & CONSULTING was attended by the head of Administration, Finance and Human Resources Management, This seminar enabled us to deepen our knowledge of a number of managerial practices that are essential for any manager in order to ensure organisational success, motivate employees, solve problems, foster personal and professional development, and create a positive and productive working environment.

In 2023, the resources raised from Member Organisations and partners to finance activities related to strategic objectives, programme projects and operations amounted to €1,039,323. The resources obtained in 2022 for the 2023 financial year amounted to €739,337. This brings the total resources available for the financial year to one million seven hundred and seventy-eight thousand six hundred and fifty-nine euros (€1,778,659). The budget coverage rate is 91.38% for resources mobilised strictly in 2023. In relation to the resources received in 2022 for 2023 (€739,337), we note a remarkable performance of 156.38%.

Resource Mobilisation in 2023

N°	Sources	Prévisions €	Mobilisation €	% (RM)
1	RESSOURCES			
	Balance on resources mobilised in 2022/Cash balance	- €	739 336,62 €	42%
1-1.	Own resources			
1-2.	Statutory contributions from regional MOs /(GA + CRA)	153 478,50 €	148 429,85 €	8%
1-3.	Contribution from Caritas Internationalis	145 000,00 €	152 990,00 €	9%
1-4.	Caritas Africa Regional Solidarity Fund	10 000,00 €	12 286,74 €	1%
	Total of internal income	308 478,50 €	313 706,59 €	18%
1.5.	Grants from Projects	828 862,50 €	725 616,15 €	
	a) Sub-total (project grants)	828 862,50 €	725 616,15 €	41%
	B) Sub-total Internal resources	1 137 341,00 €	1 039 322,74 €	58%
	Balance Carried forward from 2022		739 336,62 €	42%
	GRAND TOTAL	1 137 341,00 €	1 778 659,36 €	100%

The amount is presented in percentages in the chart below



Various Sources of Funding	Amount	Percentage %
Internal resources	77 890 €	4,38%
Statutory fees from 46 Member organisations and 507 Dioceses	70 540 €	3,97%
Regional Solidarity Fund (FOSORCA)	12 287 €	0,69%
Contribution from Caritas Internationalis General Secretariat	152 990 €	8,60%
Project Grants	1 464 953 €	82,36%
GRAND TOTAL	1 778 659 €	100%

CONCLUSION

This annual report summarizes key outcomes, impacts, and lessons learnt during implementation of the Caritas Africa Strategic Framework for the period 2022 – 2024. The report demonstrates that Caritas Africa has largely achieved its goal of **contributing to integral human development through the promotion of Charity and Justice, with priority attention to the poor and most deprived**. Additionally, some activities planned for the expired strategic plan ending in 2023 have been carried over to the new strategic plan to ensure continuity.

The report discusses how Caritas Africa has successfully build a stronger Caritas as an expression of charity for the Catholic Church in Africa. It has also contributed to the reduction of humanitarian crises in Africa and emphasizes strengthened commitment to integral human development, coupled with robust advocacy efforts across Africa and beyond. Moreover, the report provides clear insights into how member organizations actively contribute to Caritas' mission through diverse humanitarian efforts in their respective countries.

The Caritas Africa Regional Secretariat extends its sincere gratitude to all 46 member organizations for their dedicated efforts in reaching out to local communities with lifesaving interventions. Special thanks go to our partners for their invaluable financial and technical support, and to the Bishops Conferences for their unwavering spiritual and moral guidance. As we fulfil our role of service, accompaniment, and defence of the poor and marginalized, we remain steadfast in adhering to the Gospel and the principles of Catholic Social Teaching.

Based on the achieved outcomes and recognizing the need for further efforts, as expressed in our new strategic framework, Caritas Africa calls upon cooperating partners to continue supporting our work as we extend assistance to the most vulnerable.

Thank you very much, and we eagerly anticipate continued collaboration as we commence the implementation of our new strategic framework, effective 2024.

