



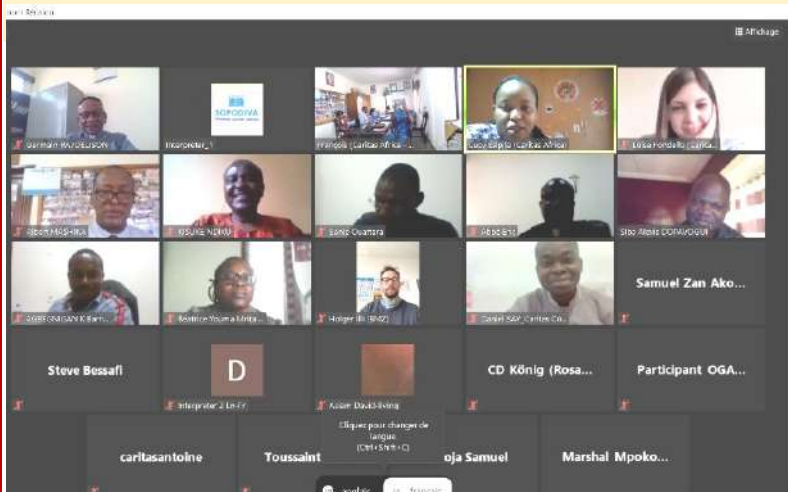
Caritas Africa

Secrétariat Exécutif Régional
Regional Executive Secretariat
Secretaria Executiva Regional

ANNUAL REPORT



A year with two faces: before Covid-19 (top) and during Covid-19 (bottom)



2020

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MESSAGE FROM THE BISHOP PRESIDENT



2020: the service of charity has not stopped

Psalm 136, 1: "Praise the Lord for He is good and His mercy endures forever"

Dear Brothers and sisters,
Peace be with you!

2020 was a challenging year for everyone. No living person has been spared by the Covid-19 pandemic, even if they have not physically experienced the disease in their flesh. It was a year of great anxiety, stress and fragility that made those who were strong vulnerable and even more vulnerable, those who were already weak. In such a context where there was a fear of approaching the other, how could charity be manifested and lived? And yet, this is what thousands of people, doctors, volunteers, aid workers, have done to ensure that the service of charity does not stop. At all levels, it was necessary to overcome this fear and use barrier measures to move forward.

Our organisation, Caritas Africa, was not spared. Most of the planned activities and meetings could not be carried out in person. For the most part, national Caritas workers were forced to stay either at home or in their offices with limited contact with the population.

Despite this lockdown and the restrictions in place, Caritas Africa was able to carry out some of its activities using, like everyone else, the technical means for teleworking and online meetings. It was a good time to put in place certain tools, to strengthen collaboration with other Church's structures (SECAM and Regional Episcopal Conferences in particular), technical and financial partners, sister Caritas (Caritas Europa, Caritas Asia, etc.) and to prepare for the next year with cautious optimism.

We hope that the year 2021 will give us greater room for manoeuvre and freedom of movement to continue this service of charity which, even if it has not been interrupted, has not been less disrupted with the consequences that everyone knows. The challenges of the past year remain intact and even if we may think that things have not changed, we must above all retain our will to move forward because the pandemic has taught us another way of serving and working to improve the living conditions of vulnerable populations. This resilience will, I am convinced, enable us to bounce back and do more and more in the service of charity.

+ Most Rev. Gabriel Justice Yaw ANOKYE
Metropolitan Archbishop of Kumasi, Ghana
President of Caritas Africa



INTRODUCTION



Progress despite difficulties

"... because apart from me you can do nothing" Jn 15: 5

When we compare projections for the year 2020 with the achievements at the end of the year, we cannot help but exclaim like Joseph in Egypt: "It's God! Yes, it is God who has kept us day and night and who has provided us with the necessary resources to carry out the mission that the Church has entrusted to Caritas in Africa! Apart from God, we could do nothing.

Before the end of the first quarter of the year 2020, the Corona virus (COVID-19) paralyzed the world and disrupted not only the practices of the players but also the various factors that influence our work. Caritas Africa's annual planning was affected, resource mobilization could not achieve its objectives and most of the face-to-face activities were organized either virtually or simply postponed to 2021.

This year has been for Caritas Africa an opportunity to set up different Sectoral Reference Groups which constitute for it, important frameworks for sharing experiences, strategic reflection and decision making for synergy of action. These groups are composed of representatives of Caritas Africa. Delegates from the CI General Secretariat, representatives of sister Caritas and other Church structures participate according to their expertise.

This is therefore an opportunity to begin by thanking and sincerely congratulating the African Caritas who, despite the difficulties encountered in mobilizing resources, have honoured their various commitments to both Caritas Africa and Caritas Internationalis! We encourage those Caritas that have not been able to do so to mobilize internally to catch up by 2021.

Secondly, Caritas Africa warmly thanks its partners who supported it technically and/or financially despite the various difficulties they also faced in their respective countries.

Finally, in this annual report, the Regional Executive Secretariat of Caritas Africa reports on what has been achieved by strategic orientation in terms of activities, resources mobilized for this purpose, difficulties encountered and challenges to be met.

May the Good Lord offer us a new year full of peace, joy and good health to enable us to better serve, accompany and defend the most excluded in our society!

Albert MASHIKA
Regional Executive Secretary
Caritas Africa



I. STRATEGIC ORIENTATION 1

PROMOTION OF THE CATHOLIC IDENTITY AND INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND CAPACITY STRENGTHENING (IDCS)

1. Establishment of a Reference Group on Caritas Catholic Identity and Institutional Development and Capacity Strengthening (CI & IDCS)

The CI & IDCS Reference Group has been set up and equipped with working tools (ToR, CA Action Plans, MEAL plan, Results of the survey on the celebration of the World Day of the Poor in the Africa Region...) to enable it to function properly and achieve its objectives. Composed of representatives of Caritas Mauritius, Zambia, Burkina Faso, Rwanda, South Africa and the General Secretary of ACERAC, this group held a virtual meeting to define the priorities for 2021.

2. Promotion of the Catholic Identity

The affirmation of the Catholic identity of Caritas in Africa has been achieved through collaboration with different institutions, the development of working tools and the popularisation of these where they exist. For 2020, the Caritas Africa Executive Secretariat is committed to three areas of work.

2.1. Strengthening pastoral collaboration with SECAM and the Zonal Episcopal Conferences

- 2 virtual meetings CA - SECAM (exchange of documents, identification of joint priorities namely Democratic Governance, Human Mobility/Human Trafficking, Peace, Security and Fragility, Ecclesial Network for the Protection of the Congo River Basin.
- 1 workshop on the integration of the Social Doctrine of the Church in priestly formation in the ACEAC Zone (29 participants including 2 Bishops).
- Exchanges with the GS of ACERAC on the role of Bishops in promoting the service of charity.
- The integration of the AMECEA Zone Integral Human Development Officer into the Caritas Africa Advocacy Reference Group.



2.2. Accompanying the implementation of the Caritas Internationalis Management Standards

The popularization and implementation of the Caritas Internationalis Management Standards (CIMS) have been at the heart of Caritas Africa's actions throughout 2020 by :

- Support and advice to Caritas Namibia (external evaluation and development of its improvement plan) and Caritas Eswatini (self-evaluation);
- Accompaniment of Caritas Gabon in its self-evaluation;
- Holding two virtual meetings with the 18 Caritas approached for the APPROCHE program on the prerequisites required for its effective launch;
- Support to 17 Caritas for the development of their Accompaniment Plans on the APPROCHE program;
- the external evaluation of Caritas Côte d'Ivoire.

2.3. Promotion of Safeguarding

From now on, all Caritas programmes, projects and activities in Africa must integrate the Safeguarding of Children and Vulnerable Adults.

To this end, the following should be noted:

- Caritas Africa staff have taken the online training at <https://kayaconnect.org/>.
- In May 2020, 73 people (12 from the Caritas Africa Executive Secretariat, 25 Directors/General and Executive Secretaries, 36 staff members from 17 French-speaking and 11 English-speaking Caritas) participated in a webinar organized by CI General Secretariat on Safeguarding.
- National Caritas have been sensitised to work to ensure that every staff member knows about Safeguarding and makes it a way of life.
- Caritas Africa vetted the national and diocesan Caritas Directors of the Africa Region by decision of the Representative Council (RepCo) of Caritas Internationalis.
- With the support of Caritas Africa, the 17 national Caritas of the



APPROCHE program have integrated in their respective Accompaniment Plans the training on Safeguarding and the development of a Safeguarding policy.

- Caritas Africa has sensitized the national Caritas to appoint a Safeguarding Focal Point responsible for the implementation of Safeguarding activities and the sharing of information on good practices that will result.
- Caritas Africa also submitted to the CI General Secretariat a project to support the promotion of Safeguarding, women and youth leadership, and CIMS.
- Caritas Africa has asked the regional Episcopal Conferences to provide it with available documents on Safeguarding policies and procedures.

2.4. Statutory meetings

The Africa Regional Commission (ARC) held two statutory meetings; the first face-to-face in March in Accra, Ghana and the second remote (virtual) in November.



Family photo of the Accra meeting with the delegations of SECAM and Caritas Ghana



3. Institutional Development and Capacity Strengthening

3.1. *APPROCHE Programme*

The Programme d'Accompagnement Personnalisé de Proximité pour le Renforcement Organisationnel, le Changement et l'Engagement des Caritas en Afrique Subsaharienne (APPROCHE) is Phase 3 of the Institutional Development and Organisational Strengthening Programme (DIRO) through which Caritas Africa and Secours Catholique Caritas France (SCCF), with co-funding from the Agence Française de Développement (AFD), Caritas Spain, and Caritas Africa Region, have undertaken to further strengthen the Caritas involved at the organisational and institutional levels. The three-year project directly involves 17 national Caritas (13 French-speaking, 2 English-speaking and 2 Portuguese-speaking).

Four key tasks were accomplished:

- the fulfilment of AFD's prerequisites for the lifting of the suspension of the start-up,
- updating the NGO Initiative Note (NIONG), particularly the Logical Framework, to include activities relating to safeguarding
- the accompaniment of the national Caritas in the elaboration of their respective Accompaniment Plans on the basis of the Global Change Plan and the results of the self-evaluation according to the CIMS,
- contracting with the 17 national Caritas followed by the first transfer of funds for the implementation of their activities.

3.2. *IDEAS Project*

This project has engaged four Caritas organisations in Southern Africa in organisational strengthening and institutional development since 2017.

With technical support from CRS-SARO and financial support from Caritas Japan, Caritas Africa organised a training session on Project Cycle Management and Resource Mobilisation in Pretoria, South Africa for 11 participants from Caritas South Africa(6), Caritas Eswatini(2), and Caritas Namibia(3).

Subsequently, Caritas South Africa and Caritas Namibia used the learning from this training to develop Covid-19 projects which were financed by a fund set up



by the Dicastery for the Service of Integral Human Development and the SG of Caritas Internationalis.



Participants IN the training session of Pretoria on Project Management Cycle of project IDEAS (Institutional Development for the Engagement and Sustainability of Caritas in Southern Africa)

3.3. Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning (MEAL)

Caritas Africa Executive Secretariat has developed a Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning Plan (SERA Plan). To this end, a questionnaire has been developed and sent to all MOs to collect information that will be used to define the baseline situation. Caritas will be asked periodically to provide information that can feed into both the Caritas Africa and Caritas Internationalis General Secretariat SERA plans.



II. STRATEGIC ORIENTATION 2 REDUCTION OF THE IMPACT OF HUMANITARIAN CRISIS ON AFFECTED POPULATIONS

1. Establishment of a Reference Group

Caritas Africa has set up a Humanitarian Reference Group. Composed of representatives from Caritas Burundi, Central Africa Republic, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, South Sudan and Zimbabwe, it has developed its main working tools (ToR, Action Plan, MEAL Plan, etc.)

2. RECHANGE Project

The overall objective of the RECHANGE project (Capacity Building in Humanitarian Actions and Volunteer Management in Francophone Africa) is to strengthen the organizational and technical capacities of the national Caritas of Burundi, Congo, DR Congo, Rwanda, Senegal and Togo to manage humanitarian crises and volunteers.

Coordination is ensured by a consortium of 3 Caritas (Belgium, Austria and Caritas Africa).

The project is co-financed by European Union Aid Volunteer (EUAV) and Caritas Austria. It covers the period from February 1, 2019 to January 31, 2021 (24 months).



In 2020, two workshops took place in Kigali (Rwanda):

- *Exchange and Planning Workshop on Disaster Risk Management (February 10-12, 2020).*

This activity allowed 27 participants to update their knowledge, exchange experiences and plan actions to optimize their emergency response plan by the end of the project.



- *Mid-term review (February 13-14, 2020)*

It brought together 24 participants from the 6 Caritas, representatives of Caritas Africa, Caritas Austria and Caritas Vlaanderen/Caritas in Belgium.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, some activities have been postponed:

- the training of the National Directors and Program Officers of the 6 Caritas and Caritas Africa staff on Safeguarding (scheduled for September 2020 in Lomé, postponed to February 2021);
- the final project meeting (scheduled for October 2020 in Dakar and postponed to April 2021);
- The final evaluation of the project and the capitalization of good practices have also been postponed to 2021.

Caritas Africa carried out three missions to monitor the implementation of the project to :

- ◇ Lomé, Togo, to support the national Caritas and its partners in developing an emergency response plan,



Lomé workshop for the development of the emergency response plan



- ◇ Brazzaville, Congo, for training of the national Caritas in cash transfer and support for the development of the emergency response plan,
- ◇ Kigali, Rwanda, to accompany the national Caritas in the development of an emergency response plan.




Participants in Kigali workshop during simulation exercise

• *Volunteer Management*

The training of trainers on volunteer management held in 2019 in Brazzaville produced the following initial changes:


- ◇ Caritas delegates have understood the need to structure the sector to better exploit opportunities in terms of human resources, both locally and internationally, for the implementation of their activities;
- ◇ an awareness of the synergies between volunteer management and risk and emergency preparedness and response
- ◇ Accreditation of Caritas Africa as an EU volunteer hosting organisation for the next three years (2021-2023);
- ◇ Caritas Africa, in collaboration with Caritas Europa and Caritas Asia, organised the International Volunteers Day on 5 December. Messages were developed




INTERNATIONAL DAY OF VOLUNTEER 2020
« Together We Can ! »

"During my service as your Bishop president, I have had the opportunity to witness the contributions by volunteers in your Caritas Organisations at the Parish, Diocese, National, Regional and Global level. Important to note that the year 2020 presented to us unique challenges following the outbreak of COVID-19, but you still continued to serve and to show your love through sacrifice. On this day, we celebrate all our volunteers, keep contributing to the Caritas mission, because, whatever you do to the least of your brothers and sisters, you are doing it for Christ our King."

Archbishop Gabriel Justice Yaw ANOKYE
Bishop President of Caritas Africa



#ThankYouCaritasVolunteers
#MissionariesofCaritas
#LeadUsOn
#VolunteerDay
#TogetherWeCan
#VSD2020
#EUAMVolunteers
#WeCanWeAct



INTERNATIONAL DAY OF VOLUNTEER 2020
« Together We Can ! »

"Our colleagues in Jordan aptly put it, "Caritas is not a job, it is a mission..." of love, hope, peace, solidarity, justice and a display of our Christian faith through service. Thank you for committing yourselves to serve the most excluded through the social pastoral ministry of the Church in Africa,"

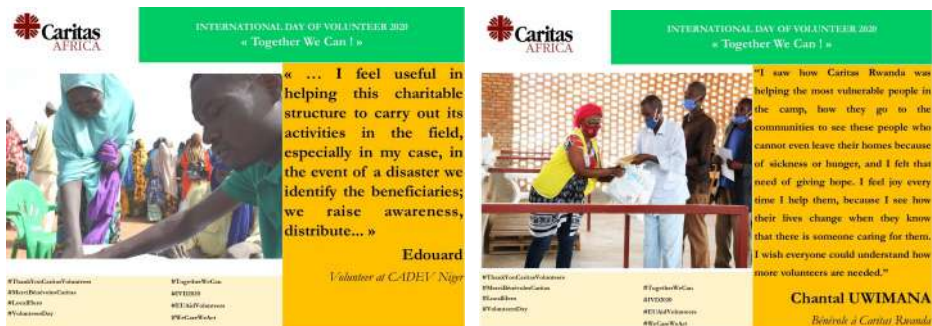
Mr. Albert MASHIKA
*Regional Executive Secretary
Caritas Africa*



#ThankYouCaritasVolunteers
#MissionariesofCaritas
#LeadUsOn
#VolunteerDay
#TogetherWeCan
#VSD2020
#EUAMVolunteers
#WeCanWeAct



and published on Caritas Africa's social networks (Facebook and Twitter).



The messages from CADEV Caritas Niger and Caritas Rwanda

3. PEOPLE Project

A virtual workshop was organised in March 2020 by CAFOD (Lead) to conclude the project which has involved Secours Catholique, CRS, Caritas Africa and the national and diocesan Caritas of the following four countries for two years: Liberia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone and Zimbabwe.

4. Capacity Strengthening in Emergency Preparedness and Response

Two major activities were carried out namely the closing of the PEOPLE project by a virtual workshop in March 2020 and the training of representatives of the Caritas Côte d'Ivoire network on emergency management in Yamoussoukro from 28 to 29 September 2020 with 31 participants including 6 women.



Yamoussoukro workshop (Côte d'Ivoire)



5. Researches

Caritas Africa, with the support of CAFOD, conducted two studies on humanitarian issues in sub-Saharan Africa. The results of these studies will provide Caritas Africa with material for the first Humanitarian Forum it plans to organize in 2021.

5.1. Mapping of humanitarian interventions in Africa

To carry out the mapping, Caritas Africa was supported by CAFOD, which provided its Emergency Response Officer for six months. The objective of the mapping is to understand Caritas Africa's humanitarian programme and to make recommendations on how to improve it.

This includes current disaster profiles by Zone (contexts), key Caritas emergency responses, Caritas Internationalis Member Organisations active in Africa and their general strategies, existing emergency preparedness initiatives, active Caritas country forums and capacity building initiatives.

30 Caritas out of 46 Member Organisations (MOs) in the Africa Region as well as key informants such as the Bishop President of CA, humanitarian authorities from CI, CRS, SCIAF, CAFOD and 3 MOs (Central African Republic, Nigeria and DR Congo) familiar with CA's humanitarian work responded to the survey questionnaire in English, French and Portuguese.

The preliminary findings of this survey were discussed and enriched in an online meeting with the Directors and Programme Officers of the MOs.

Recommendations were made to:

1. Caritas Africa

- Recruit a full-time Humanitarian Programme Officer in the short term to coordinate humanitarian work in the Africa Region with the support of the Humanitarian Reference Group.
- Promote information sharing and collaboration in multi-country emergencies.

2. Caritas Internationalis

- To support members, especially in high-risk countries, in the development/



updating of their Emergency Preparedness and Response Plans (EPRP), the organisation of internal coordination forums and the development of skills in learning mapping and documentation, among others.

The mapping exercise also provided data for an opinion paper on aid location. This paper will focus on funding, partnership, capacity strengthening and engagement with other actors through inter-agency forums.

5.2. Localization of the humanitarian aid in Africa

In October 2020, Caritas Africa, in collaboration with CAFOD, conducted an online survey on the ***"Location of Humanitarian Aid and Programming in the Africa Region"***. Five Member Organizations receiving funding from OCHA participated in this survey: Nigeria, Democratic Republic of Congo, Central African Republic, Ethiopia and Southern Sudan. The survey also included Caritas Uganda based on its experience in advocacy on localization.

The survey report draws on the results of the Caritas Internationalis survey on the quality of humanitarian funding among Caritas Internationalis Member Organisations (CIMOs) and broader research on humanitarian programming to:

- Inform the future of Caritas Africa's humanitarian policy advocacy work in its effort to reduce the impact of humanitarian crises in the Africa Region through effective, appropriate, and timely preparedness and response.
- Demonstrate the "realities on the ground" on the dynamics of localization in practice, based on a study of a representative sample of CIMOs and UN agencies.
- Propose recommendations for advancing the implementation of localization commitments in order to provide timely and effective assistance to those in need.

This study was also commissioned to highlight the experiences of the 6 Caritas Africa MOs in the dimensions of localization. This concerns more particularly funding, participation in humanitarian coordination and decision-making processes, partnerships and the quality of relationships, and humanitarian capacity strengthening. The results of the study show that localization can be achieved through a variety of policy changes in the humanitarian system, including: direct aid delivery to the South, reciprocal and mutual transparency between actors, facilitation of adequate administrative support to cover



operational and administrative costs, and consideration of the capacities of local organizations, local communities and faith-based institutions.

The opinion paper produced as a result of this survey will be widely disseminated.

6. Advocacy for Central Sahel

The Government of Denmark, in partnership with the German Government, the European Union and the United Nations, hosted a high-level humanitarian event on the Central Sahel (Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger) on Tuesday 20 October 2020. This event followed a virtual meeting of Senior Officials on 8 September 2020 on operational lessons and forward-looking plans for humanitarian, development and peace efforts, with particular attention to the impact and consequences of COVID-19.

Caritas Africa participated in this virtual meeting of Senior Officials, and in collaboration with CI, Caritas Europa, CADEV-Caritas Niger, OCADES-Caritas Burkina Faso, Caritas Mali, Caritas Germany, Caritas Denmark, CAFOD -Caritas of England and Wales, and Catholic Relief Services-Caritas United States of America, published a position paper on the following priorities:

Promote multidimensional and long-term approaches to development, humanitarian and peace efforts to address the root causes of the crisis in the Central Sahel region.

Promote the role of national and local civil society organizations, as well as community-based approaches, in protection, social cohesion, conflict prevention and peacebuilding.

Strengthen support for the protection of refugees, asylum seekers and

Strengthen coordination between NGOs and the state and ensure that the benefits of flexible multi-year funding reach national and local civil society.

Promote international solidarity and cooperation that invests in internal development capacity, in equitable partnerships between different actors and in rebuilding trust between national governments, local governments and rural communities.



7. Caritas Africa solidarity funds

The countries of the Africa Region have been affected by crises of various kinds: COVID-19, armed conflicts, terrorism, floods and landslides, locust invasion, etc. All these situations have obliged Caritas Africa to mobilize its MOs to help the affected populations as shown in the following table:

Contribution of Caritas to the Solidarity Fund of Caritas Africa in 2020			Support of Caritas Africa to Caritas affected by crisis in 2020		
Zone	Country	Amount €	Zone	Country	Amount €
ACEAC	Rwanda	1 818,18	ACEAC	DR Congo	2 305,73
				Rwanda	2 000,00
			AMECEA	Kenya	2 000,00
IMBISA	South Africa	3 224,84	IMBISA	Namibia	729,99
				Zimbabwe	1 638,84
Total		5 043,02	Total		8 737,56

- The amount spent in 2020 (EUR 8 737.56) also includes the balance of 2019 (EUR 12 925.45).
- The balance available at the end of 2020 is EUR 9 230.91

This table shows that much remains to be done in terms of solidarity between the MOs of the Africa Region.



III. STRATEGIC ORIENTATION 3

COMMITMENT OF CARITAS IN THE PROMOTION OF INTEGRAL HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

1. Establishment of a Reference Group

Caritas Africa has set up an Advocacy Reference Group composed representatives of Justice and Peace Caritas Liberia, Caritas Cameroon, DRC, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Rwanda, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia, AMECEA General Secretariat and SECAM Justice, Peace and Development Commission.

It has equipped itself with its main working tools (ToR, Action Plan, MEAL Plan, etc.), held a virtual meeting to validate these tools and actively participated in the main advocacy events organized by Caritas Africa.

2. Promotion of integral human development through Advocacy

2.1. Regional Advocacy Strategy 2020-2023

Caritas Africa developed a 3-year regional advocacy strategy, which serves as a frame of reference in its efforts to facilitate change and engage multiple stakeholders in the formulation and implementation of public policies.

In collaboration with Member Organisations, partners and other Catholic agencies at national, regional and global levels, the strategy will strive to achieve the following objectives:

*Overall Objective. **The 46 Member Organizations strengthen their commitment to promote Integral Human Development in Sub-Saharan Africa by 2023.***

*Specific Objective 1. **Promote democratic governance and leadership that responds to the rights and needs of the population.***

*Specific Objective 2. **Promote innovative approaches to sustainable agricultural practices such as agro-ecology through food systems, climate change mitigation and adaptation to help end poverty, hunger and malnutrition.***

*Specific Objective 3. **Promote dignified and rights-based human mobility that benefits the countries of origin, transit and destination of migrants.***



Specific Objective 4. Participate in peace and security initiatives as part of partnerships to strengthen the role of children, women and youth in development.

Caritas Africa has translated these objectives into an advocacy document designed to address the needs of people in 6 policy areas:

1. democratic governance;
2. food and nutrition security through a sustainable food systems approach;
3. strengthening peace, security, and resilience;
4. strengthening public health systems;
5. safe, orderly, and legal migration;
6. environmental protection in response to Laudato Si.

3. Initiatives to sensitize and mobilize Caritas for Advocacy

3.1 Participation in high level events

a) African Regional Forum for Sustainable Development (ARFSD)

In February 2020, Caritas Africa organized a side event during the 2020 African Regional Forum on Sustainable Development under the theme **"Partnering with Faith-Based Groups to Achieve Sustainable Development in Africa"**. The event brought together up to 60 participants with presentations from the Government of Zambia, the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the Catholic National Commission for Justice and Peace in Liberia and Caritas Zambia.



Group photo of the 6th session of the African Regional Forum. Photo by IISD/ENB | Francis Dejon



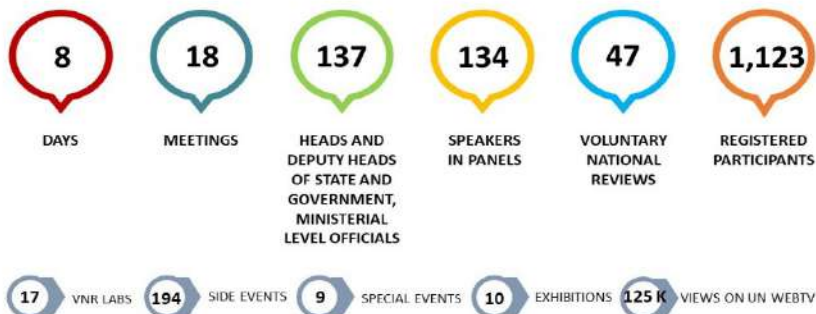
The Caritas Africa delegation to the forum included representatives from the following Caritas organizations: DRC, Liberia, Southern Sudan, Sierra Leone, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.



Following its participation in the regional discussions of the 2020 African Regional Forum for Sustainable Development, Caritas Africa, in collaboration with Caritas Internationalis and with the technical support of Caritas Asia, organized one of the 194 side events of the 2020 High Level Policy Forum on 7 July 2020. The theme chosen for this event was: **The role of religious communities in accelerating action and paths of transformation in the decade of action and achievement for sustainable development.** 200 people registered to take part and 100 actually participated.



HLPF IN NUMBERS
HLPF 2020 -- The FIRST Virtual HLPF



b) Caritas digital workshop on Peace, Security and Fragility at the VENRO Conference

Caritas Africa facilitated a workshop on peace, security and fragility in the framework of the EU-Africa partnership, attended by representatives of Caritas Central Africa Republic, Congo Asbl (DRC), Liberia, Mali and South Sudan, and with the support of Caritas Europa. The workshop was held on 16 October in the framework of the Afro-European Civil Society Conference organised by VENRO, a German network of Civil Society Organisations for Development.



**CIVIL SOCIETY DRIVING CHANGE:
TOWARDS A NEW QUALITY OF THE
AFRICA-EUROPE PARTNERSHIP**

Hybrid Africa-Europe Civil Society Conference 2020

(Image courtesy: Martin Jaeger via Twitter)



3.2. Position papers, Media documents and Statements developed within the year

- ⇒ In March, Caritas Africa in collaboration with Caritas Europa conducted media advocacy around the future of the African Union and European Union relations, through an article that was published by Euro-observer, New York Times, Reuters and Euronews.
- ⇒ In May, Caritas Africa published a joint position paper with Caritas Europa on **"A new strategy that works for people and the planet"**.
- ⇒ On May 28, Caritas Africa made a presentation on the key issues of the Peace and Security Pillar at a webinar organized by Concord Europe, a coalition of NGOs in Europe.
- ⇒ On September 17, Caritas Africa, Caritas South Africa, and Caritas Guinea organized a webinar on **Civil registration and statelessness**, which was attended by up to 56 participants. As a result of this webinar, the following advocacy actions took place:
 - ◆ The United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) captured the event in its newsletter on statelessness.
 - ◆ Caritas Africa's policy and advocacy officer was interviewed by Radio Veritas in South Africa.
 - ◆ On September 21, 2020, on the International Day of Peace, Caritas Africa and Caritas Europa called on European and African leaders to adopt a new framework for African relations that should put people at the heart of local peace and security efforts.

3.3 Marking of the 5th anniversary of Laudato Si

In May 2020, Caritas Africa published a consolidated report on the response to Laudato Si of 17 Caritas in Africa. This information on the achievements of Caritas in Africa in the light of Laudato Si was gathered during a webinar organized for the celebration of this anniversary. Messages, such as the one below, were also disseminated on social networks for a week to increase awareness and ownership of this encyclical of Pope Francis.





Collective action



Photo Caritas Zambia

Human beings too are creatures of this world, enjoying a right to life and happiness, and endowed with unique dignity. So we cannot fail to consider the effects on people's lives of environmental deterioration, current models of development and the throwaway culture.

(LS, 43)

#CaritasAfrica2020I LaudatoSi
#5thAnniversaryofLaudatoSi

3.4. Promotion to use improved fireplaces

With the support of Sun24, Caritas Africa sensitized its MOs to partner with this organization to promote the use of improved fireplaces that consume little wood and produce little smoke. OCADES Caritas Burkina (15 dioceses) and Caritas Cameroon (26 dioceses) have signed agreements with Sun24 for the implementation of this project in their respective countries. Awareness messages developed by Sun24 on this initiative were sent to Caritas of the Africa Region for broadcast on "Radio Maria" stations in their countries.

3.5 Advocacy in emergency situations

In April 2020, Caritas Africa produced a document entitled **Caritas Humanitarian Response and Advocacy to Covid-19 in Africa** in which it identified a number of possible actions (Information-Education-Communication, Humanitarian Assistance, Capacity strengthening of the health personnel, strengthening the equipment of health structures, participation in dialogue and consultation groups) that the MOs can undertake according to their context.

3.6 Mobilization of resources to support the advocacy work

The following partners supported Caritas Africa in its advocacy work:

- **CAFOD:** took charge of the Policy and Advocacy Officer from June 2020 to May 2021.
- **Caritas Norway:** Advocacy on food security and climate change issues within the PASAN-SECAL project.
- **Caritas Australia:** phase three of the VOX program with a focus on the activities of the Advocacy Reference Group (workshop planned for 2020, postponed to March 2021) and the Capacity Building and Advocacy for Disaster Risk Reduction and Governance project (November 2020-May 2021).
- **Caritas Korea:** RECS (Resilience Enhancement and Capacity Strengthening on Food Security) project closed in September 2020 with the production of a capitalization video in three out of four countries.
- **Caritas Internationalis/Regional Development Fund:** PARCAP project: production of a document capitalizing on the experiences of the six Caritas involved in the project (Ghana, Guinea, Niger, Zambia, Madagascar, Sierra Leone) and the closing out of the project.
- In collaboration with **Banca Popolare Etica**, Caritas Africa plans to organize a fundraising event for its advocacy project on governance of disaster risk reduction. A consultative meeting was held in August for this purpose.

3.7 Promotion of ethical finance in Africa

Caritas Africa and Banca Popolare Etica, are engaged in a partnership aimed at promoting ethical finance in sub-Saharan Africa. As part of this partnership, GRAINE SARL Burkina Faso and CAURIE MF Senegal obtained loans to support their inclusive finance activities. The cases of RIM / Rwanda, SOLUTI Finance / Uganda and IFOD SARL/ DR Congo are on track to obtain credit in 2021. The role of Caritas Africa will be to organize training sessions on ethical finance for these MFIs.



IV. FINANCIAL REPORT

The table below shows the level of resource mobilisation in relation to the ambitions of the Regional Executive Secretariat and the level of compliance with commitments made to partners.

Libellés	Prévisions €	Mob./Réal. €	Taux % par rapport Mob.
Balance carried forward 2019		- 98 365	-9,94%
Budget for 2020	1 700 573		
Fundings received from partners	1 471 673	896 786	90,60%
Statutory contributions	85 200	56 918	5,75%
CI Grants	128 700	128 700	13,00%
Solidarity Funds	15 000	5 043	0,50%
Financial incomes	400	702	0,07%
Total funding available		989 784	100,00%
Expenses to Dembre 2020		922 230	93,17%
Balance of funding		67 554	6,83 %

NB. The % rates are expressed in relation to the available funding

Table of partners' contributions for the year 2020 (in Euro)

Designation	Contrib. 2020	Designation	Contrib. 2020
Secours Catholique TRANSITORY Project DIRO-APPROCHE	2 450	Caritas Australia VOX Project	15 537
Secours Catholique APPROCHE Programme	588 459	Caritas Australia D.R.R. & Governance	15 492
Secours Catholique Support to PEOPLE Project	865	Caritas Japan IDEAS Project	18 146
Caritas Spain APPROCHE Programme	25 000	CRS - SARO IDEAS Project	6 137
National Caritas APPROCHE Programme	17 655	Support of SG - CI RDF PARCAP Project	21 074
CAFOD Support to advocacy	46 833	Banca Popolare Etica+CEI Ethical Finance	20 000
CAFOD Support to resource mobilization	44 838	Caritas Autria RECHANGE Project	34 047
Trocaire Caritas Ireland Support to the 2020 Action Plan	8 000	SUN24, Inc Promotion of renewal energies	8 806
Caritas Norway PASAN Project	23 448	Total mob. partners	896 786



CONCLUSION

There is no need to recall the particularly difficult context in which Caritas has worked to carry out the mission entrusted to it by the Church in Africa.

The achievements of 2020 are practically a feat whose merits are to be shared among the various actors who have supported Caritas Africa. From another perspective, this report has shown once again the fragility of Caritas Africa since most of the resources it has used have come from outside.

This situation calls for in-depth reflections on some fundamental issues such as :

- The rooting of Caritas in the communities to ensure its ownership at different levels since it is true that a pot only starts to boil naturally from the bottom;
- the prerequisites that should enable the Regional Executive Secretariat to effectively carry out the missions that are statutorily assigned to it, particularly with regard to Member Organizations in fragile situations, since no Caritas can be left behind;
- innovative strategies for resource mobilization to reduce the financial fragility of Caritas;
- the strengthening of the Regional Solidarity Fund to enable Caritas Africa to provide initial support to Member Organisations in crisis situations in order to save lives;
- The responsiveness of MOs expected by the Secretariat when it comes to issues that concern the functioning of the entire network.

All these very important questions raise the question of the very existence of the Caritas Africa network and the sustainability of its various functions (animation, representation, capacity strengthening, advocacy and communication) beyond the programmes/projects.

At a time when the voice of Caritas Africa is increasingly heard on the international scene, clear and precise answers to these questions about the future of the organization within the Caritas Internationalis Confederation deserve to be given.



Thanks to



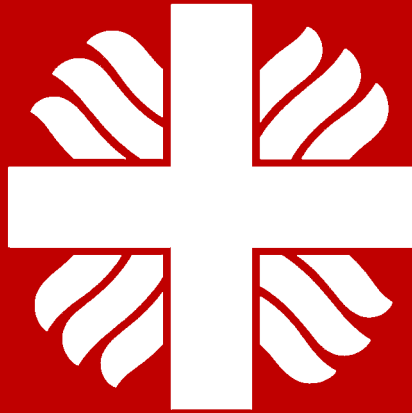
and to all **Member Organizations** (MOs) of
Caritas Africa

Cover photos

1. Project RECHANGE. Disaster Risk Management Exchange and Planning Workshop, (10-12 February 2020) in Kigali (Rwanda) - face-to-face

2. Caritas Africa Digital Workshop on Peace, Security and Fragility at the VENRO Conference (16 October 2020) - virtual meeting





Caritas Africa

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